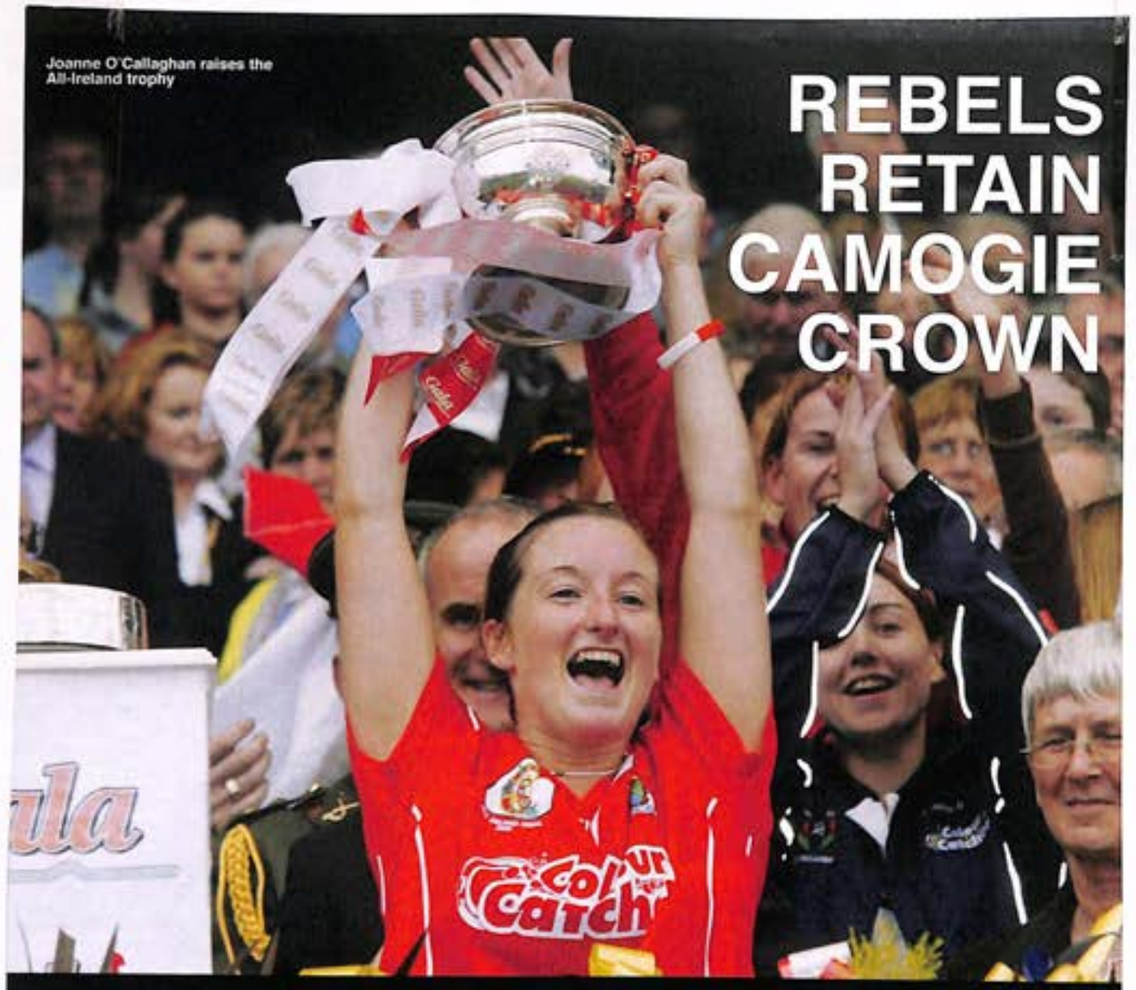
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2007

REBELS RETAIN CAMOGIE CROWN



Cork were in control throughout as they eased to a 0-12 to 0-4 victory over Tipperary in the 2006 All-Ireland senior camogie championship final at Croke Park.

The defending champions completely bossed proceedings against a Tipp side that seemed to let the enormity of the occasion get to them in front of 20,000 spectators.

Midfielders Gemma O'Connor and Breege Corkery provided an exhibition of stickwork and industry for the winners, who are clearly the best camogie side in the country on the evidence of this display.

This is the 22nd time that Cork have won the senior All-Ireland camogie title and it's the second consecutive year that they've overcome Tipp in the decider.

After a tentative opening from both sides, Cork's Emer Dillon opened the scoring with a great point over her shoulder on the stroke of five minutes.

In the tenth minute, Jennifer O'Leary burst through the Tipp defence but her goalbound shot was brilliantly saved by Tipp goalie Jacinta Delaney, who diverted the sliothar over the bar for Cork's second point.

Centre forward Emily Hayden popped over Tipp's opening score on eleven minutes after drifting out towards the right but Cora Hennesy's attempt at an equaliser dropped shot into the grateful grasp of assured Rebel County custodian Aoife Murray.

Midfielder Breege Corkery shortened her grip to extend Cork's lead and O'Leary – with another splendid long-range effort - made it 0-4 to 0-1 in favour of the defending champions with 17 minutes played.

Magnificent Tipp No.9 Joanne Ryan closed the gap with a fine Tipp point but O'Leary's third point of the game (24) sent the Leesiders three points clear, 0-5 to 0-2.

Gemma O'Connor became the third midfielder to score clipped over Cork's sixth point from the left wing but All Star Emer McDonnell was on hand to boost the Premier girls with a fabulous point from play.

In the last minute of the first half, Dillon fired wide at the end of a period of very scrappy play and the half-time whistle sounded across GAA HQ with the 2005 champions leading their predecessors by double scores, 0-6 to 0-3.

With Tipp attempting to interrupt Cork's momentum, Hayden received a yellow card for a challenge on Corkery but it was still the Rebel girls who got the first score of the second half when Rachel Moloney clipped over from close range at the end of a flowing move.

Una O'Donoghue claimed the winners' eighth point ten minutes after the turnaround, 0-8 to 0-3, and Dillon came central to grab her second point for the dominant Reds in the 44th minute.

The entire second half was being played inside the Tipperary half and Cork led deservedly by six points with twelve minutes left.

Tipp almost forced a goal on their first meaningful attack of the half but they were denied by a combination of full back Catriona Foley and outstanding goalkeeper Murray. Eight minutes from the end, 2002 winning captain O'Donoghue fired over her team's tenth score and O'Connor's second point of the decider made it 0-11 to 0-3 in favour of the runaway winners.

Top scorer O'Leary pointed a free into the Hill end from an acute angle in the last minute of normal time (the game's only point from a free) and Hayden supplied Tipp's only score of the second half in the third minute of stoppage time.

Cork: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; G O'Connor (0-2), B Corkery (0-1); R Moloney (0-1), A Walsh, J O'Leary (0-4); E Dillon (0-2), U O'Donoghue (0-2), E Burke. Subs: S O'Donovan, O Cotter



Tipp lost out to Cork for a second successive year



Cork's Grainne O'Connor brushes past the challenge of Tipp's Michelle Shortt



The All-Ireland winning Cork senior squad

DEC. 2006

ALL-IRELAND GLORY FOR DOWN GIRLS

Down captured the 2006 All-Ireland minor 'B' camogie championship by virtue of a stunning 5-8 to 6-4 defeat of Ulster rivals Antrim in an enthralling national decider at Casement Park on Friday September 1. Hogan Stand caught up with team mentors Kitty Fegan and Lillian Tinnelly to acknowledge a remarkable success.



Down celebrate a thrilling victory in the national decider



Those lucky enough to have been there are still talking about it. The 2006 All-Ireland minor 'B' camogie championship final between Down and Antrim was, quite simply, one of the most captivating contests witnessed in the history of the ladies' small ball code and a match that's destined to become part of GAA folklore. From start to finish, both sides gave everything and it was the Mourne girls who led by the narrowest of margins when the final whistle sounded at the end of a pulsating contest.

The action was intense, fast and highly skilled; the entertainment supreme. Antrim got the first score on the board but Sara Louise Carr replied for the winners at the end of a sweeping move. Goalkeeper Joanna Sloan prevented what looked a certain Antrim goal but the Glensgirls surged four clear with a goal and point. Carr fired a low shot over the bar and the outstanding Karen Tinnelly began to take control at centrefield, creating and taking scores.

The winners closed the gap to one and then went ahead with an excellent Stephanie O'Hare goal. Amazingly, Antrim fired another goal just before the short whistle to take a narrow interval lead, 2-2 to 1-4.

After some inspirational words from the backroom team, Down came out for the second half like girls possessed and duly moved back in front with an exquisite soccer-style goal from Aoibhne O'Neill two minutes after the restart. When Clare Quinn followed up with a third Down goal, things were looking good for the Ulster champions.

O'Neill added another major and Down led by eight points with six second-half minutes played. When Antrim hit another goal, Tinnelly replied by slotting over a '45'.

Antrim closed within a point and Tinnelly converted a free after a purposeful solo run had been halted illegally. Two points from the excellent Carr brought her tally to five and sent Down back into a four-point lead.

But Down were stunned when Antrim fired two quick goals to lead by two points with only minutes remaining. Right at the death, Player of the Match Karen Tinnelly and Lisa McPolin combined to set up Carr for a dramatic winning goal. Down heroically survived three minutes of injury time to win a titanic battle and claim All-Ireland glory.

Manager Kitty Fegan and her assistant Lillian Tinnelly have been working with this crop of players for three years now, leading them to an Ulster U16 championship success in 2004. Lillian (who is Karen Tinnelly's mother and a former camogie player with Ballyholland) says: "We knew they were an exceptional group of players. We knew their strengths and the minor championship presented us with an ideal opportunity to get them together again."

Down beat Tyrone in the Ulster final on July 15, having accounted for Antrim and Derry prior to that. The opener against Antrim was billed as a provincial final in all but name, and that's how things turned out. It was hardly a major surprise when the same two teams met again in the All-Ireland final: "We couldn't have asked for a more difficult match and I think it's fair to say that both teams were excellent in the final. Both sets of players deserve the utmost credit for the entertainment they provided. Everyone who was in Casement Park that day agrees that it was one of the best matches they've ever seen."

Though camogie was the real winner on the day, Kitty was delighted that her charges managed to come out on top: "Antrim got a goal to go ahead four minutes from the end and we scored the winning goal in the 59th minute. The drama during the three minutes of extra time was almost unbearable but we were relieved to hold on and the girls fully deserved the win. They're a brilliant bunch and they gave everything all year, right down to the last seconds. The final was so fast and intense. It was a perfect advertisement for the game of camogie."

Kitty knew the players first hand from playing with and against them on a regular basis at club level. "We set our marker down at the start of the year and I knew there was an All-Ireland in them," says the Clonduff player. The Down team was drawn from six clubs in the south of the county, an interesting statistic as neutrals would probably assume that a Down camogie team would hail almost exclusively from the Ards peninsula.

After the All-Ireland final, the team enjoyed a great celebration in the Canal Court Hotel and a special presentation night was in the planning stage at the time of writing. Did the team's exploits receive much local coverage? As All-Ireland winners, did the girls get the coverage they deserve? "In fairness, the win has been well documented in the local press and it has been super. We're all over the moon because we have achieved what we set out to achieve.



Aoibhne O'Neill netted twice in the All-Ireland final

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MALLOW CHAMPIONS

IT took extra time to separate Mallow and Courcey Rovers in an entertaining Minor B county final on Sunday last.

At the finish a goal from Kathleen O'Brien with less than a minute remaining decided the destination of the title. It was all square 0-5 to 1-2 at the half time whistle, with all but one score coming from frees. Aisling Twomey's goal eight minutes from the break edged Courcey's ahead after Michelle Brown had given Mallow and early lead but Brown levelled matters before the half time whistle.

Through the second half both defences worked hard and it was Mallow who opened up a three point advantage 20 minutes into the second half. Courcey's applied severe pressure and it was soon all square, Ursula Quinn striking a 45 metre free to the net. A pointed 45 from Quinn with 30 seconds of normal time remaining looked to be enough to give Courcey's the title but Mallow's Aoife O'Rourke struck an equaliser with two minutes of added time played. Conditions deteriorated rapidly with driving rain and wind continuing to blow cross field as two visibly tiring teams battled for a winner. It looked as if a replay was on the cards but Kathleen O'Brien's last gasp shot went over the heads of the Courcey's defence into the roof of the net to give her side the title. Both teams are to be complemented on their displays in conditions made difficult by the strong wind and rain while the Inniscarra Camogie Club must be complemented on the superb condition of their pitch in Ballyanley.

Dungourney champions

DUNGOURNEY captain Evelyn Ronayne led by example as she contributed 4-3 to her sides tally as they were crowned County Minor C Camogie Champions, Ronayne contributing 2-1 in the opening 30 minutes. Evelyn Rohan was also on target with two goals as Brian Dillon's battled to get into the contest. Carolyn Motherway added a Dungourney point to give her side a 4-2 to 1-0 interval advantage. Brian Dillon's Gillian O'Connell and Claire Dooley reduced the margin with goals as they battled to contain the Dungourney girls. O'Connell and Dooley added points to the Brian Dillon score line as they put the Dungourney defence under pressure. Evelyn Ronayne continued to be a constant threat adding 2-2 to her first half tally. Further goals from Ella Ryan and Caroline O'Neill put the title beyond Brian Dillon's reach.

Bride Rovers take title

BRIDE ROVERS took the under 16 D Championship title with four points to spare over Sarsfields. Three Grace Kearney first half points gave Bride Rovers an interval lead of 0-3 to no score. Sarsfields worked hard through the opening 30 minutes as they battled for an opening score. A close second half saw Sarsfields up the pace and come more into the game. Ten minutes into the half Melissa Power struck for a Bride Rovers goal to stretch their advantage but it was to be their only score of the half as the Sarsfields defence stood firm. Sarsfields continued to pressurise the Bride Rovers defence and two pointed free's from Aisling Whooley cut the deficit. Sars pressed for a goal but the Bride Rovers defence held firm to the finish with Captain Melissa Power and Grace Kearney impressing. Sarsfields captain Aisling Whooley was named as player of the match following an impressive and consistence performance through the hour.

Ballygarvan book final place

A CLOSE encounter in Ballygarvan saw the home side emerge with two points to spare as they booked their place in the Under 16 B County League Final. Ballygarvan opened the scoring with a Kate O'Sullivan point and a goal from Aisling Byrne saw them hold their advantage. Sarah Carroll and Donna O'Leary pointed for Blackrock but Ballygarvan held their 1-1 to 0-2 lead to the break. Mary Ellen O'Donovan pointed two Ballygarvan frees to extend their advantage and keep on the pressure. O'Donovan struck a free to the Blackrock net. Blackrock battled hard and a Roisin De Faoite point was followed by a Kate O'Brien goal. Points from Lorraine Browne and substitute Rebecca Murphy helped the Ballygarvan girls open up a five point lead with five minutes remaining. Blackrock kept the pressure on the Ballygarvan defence and a Sarah Carroll goal put just two points between the sides. The Ballygarvan defence had to withstand strong pressure from the Blackrock forwards as they hung on to book their place in the final. They will meet Glen Rovers on Sunday next at the Glen Field at 1.30pm.

Camogiechat

With **Mary Newman**



Cork Camogie President Sile Golden presents Mallows Michelle Brown with the Minor B championship trophy

St Catherine's retain crown

ST CATHERINE'S brought the curtain down on 2006 as they retained their County Minor 'A' Camogie Championship title defeating Ballincollig on Sunday last. Added to their senior B crown, which they won three week ago, the victory was another big one for the progressive Conna club. St Catherine's led from the start a point from Deirdre Twomey before Orla Cotter found the net. From then until half-time St Catherine's added to their lead. Twomey, Cotter and Aileen Hogan all contributed points as they led 1-7 to 0-1 at the break, Ballincollig's Denise Cronin pointing five minutes from the break. St Catherine's maintained the pressure through the second half Orla Cotter pointing as Ballincollig applied the pressure. Two points from Claire Ryan and Denise Cronin gave Ballincollig a life line but St Catherines regained their composure a Karen Murphy point and a goal from Finola Neville ensuring the champions retained their crown.



Paul Olden, who was coach to Rena Buckley during her Sciath na Scol days at Berring's N.S., making a presentation to her on her recent visit to the school with the All-Ireland Camogie and Football trophies and her dual All Star Awards. Included are Fr Peadar Murphy CC, Liam Walsh (principal), Frank Honohan (Donoughmore Ladies Football Club), Helen and Tim Buckley. BELOW: Rena Buckley poses with Colm O'Mahony and George Lynch during her visit to her former school in Berrings. Picture: Mike English

Rena a great role model for young people

STAFF and pupils at Berring's National School gave past pupil Rena Buckley a great reception when she visited the school last week with the All-Ireland Camogie and Football Cups as well as her All-Star award trophies, **writes Mike English**.

Principal Liam Walsh said it was an honour to welcome an All-Ireland winner to the school.

Particularly a talented star like Rena, who annexed so many trophies and awards this year, including selection on the International Rules team for their clash against the Aussies.

He said that Rena was a great role model for young people, both on and off the field.

Fr Peadar Murphy praised Rena for once again bringing honour to her family, club, locality and school.

A presentation was made by Paul Olden, who coached Rena in the skills of hurling and football during her Sciath na Scol days at the school.

Inniscarra star Rena advised the children to practice diligently if they hoped to progress in camogie and gaelic football. She said that not everyone was talented in field games so she urged everyone to develop their own talents to the best of their ability.

All the classes were photographed with Rena and these will adorn the school walls for years to come.





Jenny Duffy, St Finbarr's; Lucy Hawkes, Valley Rovers; Seán Kelly, guest of honour; Eimear O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig and Deirdre Delaney, Freshford.



Cork senior camogie player Briege Corkery, from Aghinagh, holding up the Brendan Martin and O'Duffy cups at the Seachange Gala Sports Dinner in Moran's Silversprings Hotel. More see pages 42/43. Picture: Richard Mills.

Cork All-stars and Cork Camogie Rene Buckley visits St. Aloysius



St. Aloysius Senior Camogie Team with All-star Rene buckley.

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Donncha O'Callaghan, Angela Walsh and Mick O'Driscoll at the Sea Change Gala Sports Dinner, Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Cork. Pictures: News Digit



Cathriona Foley and Briege Corkery at last night's Sea Change Gala Sports Dinner in Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Cork. Picture: Neil Danto

DEC. 2006

Ballygarvan book their spot in final

By MARY NEWMAN

U16B league final

Ballygarvan	2-5
Blackrock	2-3

A CLOSE semi-final clash saw Ballygarvan emerge with two points to spare as they booked their place in tomorrow's U16 B County League final following a very close encounter with a strong Blackrock side on Saturday in Ballygarvan.

Kate O'Sullivan pointed to open the scoring with a Ballygarvan point.

A goal from Aisling Byrne extended their advantage as they made all the early running.

Blackrock settled and kept pace up, opening their account with points from Sarah Carroll and Donna O'Leary.

With scores at a premium throughout the half it was Ballygarvan who led 1-1 to 0-2 at the interval.

Both sides battled for supremacy from the restart.

It was Mary Ellen O'Donovan with two pointed Ballygarvan frees who extended her sides advantage as the Blackrock defence came under pressure.

Mid-way through then half O'Donovan struck a free to the Blackrock net as Ballygarvan maintained their advantage.

Blackrock kept the pressure on and with Roisin De Faoite pointing and Kate O'Brien finding the net from a 45m free, it was all to play for.

Lorraine Browne and substitute Rebecca Murphy helped the Ballygarvan girls open up a five point advantage with five minutes to go.



Sile Golden, president Cork Camogie Board presents Michelle Browne, Mallow captain, with the Minor B championship trophy.

But Blackrock still had plenty in reserve.

Jennifer Lehane and Sarah Carroll linked up for Carroll to shoot to the net.

With just two points separating the sides, both battled for a place in the final.

The Ballygarvan defence had to stand firm under strong pressure from the Blackrock attack, but to their credit they were more that capable as they hung on to book their place in the final where they will meet Glen Rovers tomorrow at the Glen Field at 1.30pm.

BALLYGARVAN: A Keohane, L O' Callaghan, B Keohane, M O' Donovan, (1-2) F O' Halloran, R Byrne, K O' Sullivan (0-1), M Moynihan, C Murphy, A Byrne (1-0), S O' Mahony, L Browne (0-1), R Keohane, S Quilligan, L Kennefick.
Subs: R Murphy (0-1) for S O' Mahony, A Walsh for S Quilligan.
BLACKROCK: S Naughton, T Dunne, V Norberg, F Norberg, AM Lehane, A Murray, E Murphy, K Fleming (C), K O'Brien (1-0), D O'Leary (0-1), R de Faoite, (0-1), C Barry, J Leahy, S Carroll (1-1), J McSweeney.
Sub: J Lehane for J Leahy.
Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers).

FIXTURES

TODAY

U16 B County Championship semi-final: Eire Og v Courcey Rovers, Ovens, 11am.

U16A County League final: Inniscarra v Milford, Ballyanly, 12noon.

Junior A League final: Rockban v Newtownshandrum, Newtownshandrum, 2pm.

TOMORROW

Junior Shield Championship Final: St Finbarr's v Barryroe, Venue TBA, 1pm.

U16 B County League Final: Glen Rovers v Ballygarvan, Glen Field, 1.30pm.

U15s and the remainder were U14s to U12s so the task of retaining the title was always going to be difficult.

A cross-field wind and heavy underfoot conditions didn't spoil the game as both teams adapted well to the conditions.

Bride Rovers opened the scoring with a point in the second minute from a free. It was another 10 minutes before they got their next point.

We had a number of scoring chances from play but did not get the breaks that our tenacious play deserved. Aisling Whooley came very close to scoring on two occasions from frees but was unlucky in the windy conditions. Bride Rovers added another point to finish the half 0-3 to 0-0 ahead.

We opened the second half in a very determined way but could not pull back the deficit. Bride Rovers struck a killer blow with a goal 10 minutes into the second half.

Aisling Whooley and Aine Barry continued to play out of their skins and their advances on goal were rewarded with frees from which Aisling scored two points. Unfortunately, these were our only scores of the game. The final score was 1-3 to 0-2. Every one of the girls gave their all and can feel very proud of their never-say-die attitude.

At the presentation of the trophy to the winners, there was consolation for Sars when Juvenile Board Chairperson, Tracy Sheehan, presented the Player of the Match award to Aisling Whooley who justly deserved it. Congratulations to Bride Rovers on winning the title.

Sincere thanks to Seamus Comerford and Gillian O'Callaghan for all the hours of preparation spent in getting the team to the final. Seamus was also involved with Bryan O'Leary in bringing our under14s to Feile victory. Fourteen members of the under16 panel won Feile medals last June.

Panel : Sarah Cummins, Meadhbh Costello, Mairead O'Farrell (Capt), Maeve Kelleher, Laura Barry, Edel Meaney, Nicole Hickey, Aine Barry, Aisling Whooley, Orlaith Keane, Amy Flannery, Niamh O'Callaghan, Siobhan O'Keeffe, Karen Comerford, Trina O' Mahony, Aisling O' Callaghan, Orla Quinn,

Caoimhe Crowley, Megan O ' Leary Sinead Gaffey, Barbara O' Mahony,

Eimear O Connell.

We played Brian Dillon's on the all-weather pitch in Riverstown.

This was the first match for six of our new members and they all certainly enjoyed the experience.

Brian Dillon's went ahead with a goal mid-way through the first half and stretched their lead with two points so Sars had a lot of work to do in the second half.

They rose to the challenge and Aoife O'Sullivan scored a goal. Sars piled on the pressure and Aoife scored the vital last minute winning goal.

Panel: Chloe Aherne, Elaine Connolly, Amy Cooney, Shannon Croker, Sarah Fahy, Mary Fleming, Emma Gillivan, Emer Gilroy, Kasey Marnell, Lisa Mullins, Hannah McCarthy, Saoirse O'Connell, Aoife O'Sullivan,

Niamh Sherman, Jenny Connolly, Lydia Maguire, Katie Walsh.

Please note that we will be taking a six week break from training this year. Sat.16th Dec will be our last training session of 2006 and we promise that there will be a special surprise on that day!

The officers and players of Sars would like to offer sincere condolences to Seamus Comerford on the sudden death of his father.

ST CATHERINE'S

On Sunday last in Castleyons, our U18 team met Ballincollig in the County camogie final and defeated them on a 2 -9 to 0-3 scoreline. Our captain, Aileen Hogan won the toss and we elected to play with the wind in the first half. At half time it was difficult to know if we had made the right decision as our lead at that stage of 1-7 to 0-1 did not seem huge given the strength of the wind.

While we had played well enough in the first half Ballincollig were playing with great determination and proving very tough competitors.

Our first half goal came from an excellently struck side-line cut by Orla cotter which deceived the Ballincollig keeper and went all the way to the net. Deirdre Twomey and Aileen Hogan were our other first half scorers.

We need not have wondered if our half time lead was enough or not as our girls put in a truly magnificent second-half performance. When playing against a gale force wind we limited Ballincollig to just two points while adding a goal and two points ourselves.

Denise Leahy dealt comfortably with everything that came her way and her lengthy puck outs gave us great relief. At corner back Fiona Cotter probably had her best game ever in a St. Catherine's jersey. Aisling Hartnett was rock — solid at full back and one of her second half catches and clearance lifted the whole game. In the other corner Ciara O Brien had an outstanding game giving absolutely nothing away. Deirdre Mulcahy had a brilliant game at wing — back covering huge amounts of ground in the process. Orna Neville was outstanding at centre-back, her lengthy clearances a feature of the game. Aisling O Keeffe had another great game at wing — back where her work rate was huge.

Orla Cotter had a great second half and her first minute point struck a big psychological blow for the Cats girls.

Jill Hurley's work rate was enormous and she hurled herself to a stand still in the second half. Aileen played the captain's part showing great leadership; she had an excellent game as did Maeve O Keeffe at centre — forward where she kept one of Ballincollig's top players extremely busy. Karen Murphy worked extremely hard at wing — forward and had a great game.

Ciara Kearney had a fine game in the corner and her second half goal was very well taken. Once again Deirdre Twomey came up trumps with five excellent points while Finola Neville in the other corner, worked hard throughout.

At various stages of this Championship, which began back in April, all our panel including Laura Kearney, Aoife O ' Brien, Siobhan Gallagher, Aine Collins, Ciara Clancy, Nicola O ' Donoghue, Fiona Feeney and Catherine Twomey made valuable contributions.

In congratulating our team we must also congratulate their selectors Ann Galvin, Annemarie Hayes, Lisa Higgins and Marie Clancy. This win which puts together back to back county titles and is a great boost as we join senior ranks next year.

A special thanks to Matt Harpur of B & H Tree Services who sponsored a meal for the team and mentors afterwards.

Team: — D.Leahy, F. Cotter, A. Hartnett, C. O' Brien, D. Mulcahy, O. Neville, A. O 'Keeffe, O. Cotter, J. Hurley, A .Hogan (c), M.O' Keeffe, K. Murphy, C. Kearney, D. Twomey, F. Neville

Subs S. Gallagher for F. Neville, A. Collins for C. Kearney, C. Clancy, N. O 'Donoghue, F. Feeney, C. Twomey

Scorers D. Twomey 0 — 5, O. Cotter 1 — 3(2f), C. Kearney 1 — 0, A. Hogan 0 — 1

Under 13 Imokilly Twelve — a — side Final

Our Under 13 team will play Killeagh in the Final of this competition on Saturday next at a time and venue yet to be fixed

ST. VINCENT'S

On the 27th of December there will be a ladies long puck competition. It's three members per team and the cost of entry is €30 starting times will be posted in the near future.

TRAINING TIMES:

MONDAY :5- 30pm to 6. 30pm U12S

TUESDAY:5 pm to 6pm U8S

WEDNESDAY:5pm to 6pm U10S

WEDNESDAY:6pm to 7pm U14S

THURSDAY:8pm to 9pm:U16S/JUNIORS

ST FINBARR'S

We hope to add the Cork Junior Shield title to the Cork Senior Championship crown when we meet Barryroe in the final at Brinny tomorrow at 1pm.

It would be a tremendous finish to the season but Barryroe will present stiff opposition. They looked good when eliminating Inniscarra. The danger girl will be Rosarie Holland who won an All-Ireland senior medal with Cork in 2005.

She has returned from Australia and interestingly in playing at centre-forward rather than in her usual fullback role. She will take some careful minding.

We have a hardworking outfit who have successfully dealt with what has been put before them so far the strongest sector of our side is the defence.

Aileen Clarke is a very capable goalkeeper she receives good cover from her sister Deirdre. Lisa Towler and Ciara Sargent in the fullback line. Susan Kennefick, Linda Fitzgerald and Dara Banks will cut off ball coming through in the half-back line and send the Barrs on the attach.

Niamh McKenzie and Karen Buckley should get a grip in midfield. Niamh Cooke continues to improve and works so hard for her team her contribution will be vital on Sunday Beside her will be two skilful players, Ellen Crowley and Valerie Hosford. Rachel O' Regan, Barbara Ann Corcoran and Pauline Murphy will be ready to bounce on any chance that comes their way. We are the holders of this trophy and it will take a huge effort to retain it but the side is capable of rising to the occasion and pulling it off, Best of luck girls.

COLOUR CATCHER SUPPORTERS JERSEYS

Supporters may wish to note that the Cork Camogie Colour Catcher Jersey is now available to purchase in the office at Pairc Ui Rinn Monday to Friday. Jersey Sizes are from age 5-6 upwards to age 13-14 and are available for €25. A limited number of Adults size jerseys are still available €30. The jerseys can also be purchased at the county board meetings and will also be available at the senior board conventions on Wednesday next. The jersey is an ideal Christmas present for all aspiring young Camogie players and can be worn to support our county teams in all codes.

WATERGRASSHILL

Last Saturday saw the last match for the year for the camogie club. The U18 team lost the county semi-final to a strong Dungourney side. On a cold day in Watergrasshill, the Hill girls did their best to hold off the strong opposition.

The full-back line of Emma O'Keeffe, Niamh Mulholland and Fiona Foley continued to drive out ball after ball which was further worked at by the half back line of Danielle O'Reilly, Edel Murphy and Laura Barry while Kekeletso Moleli had an excellent game in goals under constant pressure. Despite their best efforts, the Hill girls were down 1-7 to 0-0 at half time.

However, their never give up attitude was evident in the second half as the girls continued to try their best holding off the opposition. Michelle Buckley had an outstanding game at midfield tackling every ball. Louise O Reilly and Grace McCarthy came into their own in the second half making every effort to break down the Dungourney backline.

The forwards of Tracey O' Regan, Elaine Dorgan and Erica Bracken continued to keep the ball moving when they got just reward with Fiona O'Keeffe scoring two girls and Helena O'Neill scoring two points.

The final score of 3-12 to 2-2 was disappointing but there are great prospects for this bunch of girls in the future hoping they will all continue playing next year.

After a year of hard work, the junior girls lost the County final to a stronger Rockbán side. The final score was 6-8 to 2-4 so there was no argument as regards the best team.

However the spirit and commitment the Watergrasshill girls portrayed in this match gives great hope for the future and the attitude showed after the match has every one looking forward to 2007.

The Hill girls may not have won the match but they drowned their sorrows in style in the once off Club Hut night. Thanks to the Hut Bar for providing the entertainment on the night.

Finally the Juniors would have got nowhere without the superb work put in by the trainers Johnny Desmond and Don Kearney who also survived the barrage of constant chat at every training session. Here's looking to 2007!!!

Thank you

On behalf of the club officers, we would like to thank everyone that supported the club earlier in the year on the "Chicks on the Run" Race night and also to those who donated money to the club for the county final. Finally thanks have to go to all the trainers of each team from Under 10 to Junior A. The club would not survive without the help given by all these people.

The AGM will take place on Friday 1st December at 8pm in the clubrooms looking forward to seeing all club members and parents of underage girls there.

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The Bride Rovers U16D team who were crowned county champions last weekend.

Bride avenge last year's final defeat

Bride Rovers	1-3
Sarsfields	0-2

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

BRIDE ROVERS turned the tables and reversed last year's result as they defeated holders Sarsfields to be crowned U16D county champions.

It was a case of third time lucky for Bride Rovers as they lost out in the two previous finals.

The Bride girls were determined to take their first county crown.

At the finish four points separated the sides, but credit to Sars who battled to the finish before relinquishing their title.

A goal from Melissa Power mid-way through the second-half finally put the title beyond Sars reach.

Grace Kearney opening the scoring with a pointed free inside the first minute.

She stretched the advantage with a second point in the ninth minute.

With their defence holding a tight reign on the Sars inside line Bride Rovers continued to set the pace.

They added a third point from Grace Kearney in the 20th minute.

Sars did enjoy plenty of possession, but failed to convert two score able frees as they searched for their opening score.

Sarsfields were left off the hook when a Grace Kearney pile driver looked destined for the net but it skimmed the upright and it remained at 0-3 to 0-0 in Bride Rovers favour at the half-time whistle.

Both defenses tightened up considerably throughout the second-half with the Bride Rovers defense superbly marshaled by Katie Roche and Shauna Lane who ensured no way through for a determined Sars forward line.

In the 12th minute of the second-half Bride Rovers grabbed the only score of the second period.

It was to be a vital score as it gave them breathing space and put the title beyond the reach of the Sars girls.

Captain Melissa Power finished to the Sars net from close range.

Two pointed frees from Aisling Whooley gave Sars hope as they searched for that vital goal to bring them back into contention, but Bride Rovers held their composure.

Captain Melissa Power and Grace Kearney impressed during this spell.

They had plenty in reserve to take them to the final whistle, despite severe Sarsfields pressure.

Sarsfields captain Aisling Whooley was named as player of the match following a superb display and was presented with her trophy by Tracy Sheehan.

BRIDE ROVERS: E Dee, K Roche, S Lane, T Power, L Murphy, E Ahern, L Finnegan, S Walsh, L Power, L Dillon, G Kearney, (0-3), M Power, (1 goal), AO' Flynn, AM Kearney, O Murphy.
Subs: M Barry for L Dillon, L Fitzgerald for A O Flynn, M O' Keeffe for AM Kearney.
SARSFIELDS: S Cummins, M Costello, M O' Farrell, M Kelleher, L Barry, E Meaney, N Hickey, A Barry, A Whooley, (0-2), O Keane, A Flannery, N O' Callaghan, S O' Keeffe, K Comeford, T O' Mahony.
Referee: M O' Kelly (Ballyhea).

AGHABULLOGUE

AGHABULLOGUE Camogie Club AGM was held in the GAA pavilion in Coachford where Julie Roche, outgoing chairperson, opened the meeting and spoke of the achievements of the club for the year 2006.

She mentioned both the highs and the lows experienced by the club for the year to date.

Julie thanked her fellow officers and the committee members for their support and their contribution to the running of the club throughout the year. Finally she wished the club every success for the year 2007. #

The following appointments were made for the coming year, 2007: president — Johnny Buckley, vice-president — Fr. D Roberts, chairperson — Eileen Healy, secretary — Mairéad Twomey, treasurer — Patsy Daly, PRO — Marian Twomey and Ciara Murphy. Trainers for each of the teams/age-groups were appointed and many thanks is due to the officers and trainers/selectors for accepting their appointments.

BALLINCOLLIG

THE U18 county final day was not to be our day as we lost out to a St. Catherine's side that were on top of their game. We are a very young team and it was a great achievement for the team and the club to reach a county final.

We would like to thank Mary and Micheál Ó Chrualaoi for the beautiful curry (which went down a treat); Teresa Morrissey and Tom Weste, great job in the kitchen; Ritchie and the bar staff in the club; everyone who made sandwiches; all those who put up flags and bunting; Ronnie for umpiring; Tina for doing the line; and all those who came to support us, not only last Sunday but for every match.

A big thank you has to go to John Purcell, who always had a pitch for us when we needed it.

Thanks to Brian Quinlan for erecting bunting at Ballincollig GAA club; thanks to Celia for the flags and signs and Ronnie for putting up the signs. We'll have them out once again for the U16 county final.

Finally we would like to wish our U16 team the best of luck in the upcoming county final.

Under 16B: Training continues for the team on Tuesdays and Thursdays; keep up the good work.

BALLYGARVAN

We progressed to the U16 B final on Saturday last following a very close encounter with a very determined Blackrock side. After 10 minutes of end to end play we opened the scoring with a point from Kate O'Sullivan followed by a goal from Aisling Byrne to lead by 1-1 to 2 points at half time. Two points from frees from Mary Ellen O'Donovan and a third free that found the back of the net ensured we kept our half time lead despite a further goal from Blackrock. Two further points from Lorraine Browne and substitute Rebecca Murphy gave us a five-point lead with five minutes to go. But one has to admire Blackrock who never gave up and were rewarded with a late goal in the dying minutes. Credit to our defence who with stood strong pressure to win by two points on a 2-5 to 2-3 scoreline.

We go on to meet Glen Rovers in the final on Sunday. These two teams have met twice this year already with a win apiece from these two encounters so we can be guaranteed a good close game next Sunday.

Training has finished for the year for the younger age groups and they had an enjoyable trip to Mc Donald's last week where they were presented with their U11 south-east runners up medals for 2006. Well done girls. Training will resume indoor in the New Year and girls will be contacted then.

BLACKROCK

BLACKROCK lost out narrowly to Ballygarvan in the semi final of the U16B league on Saturday last. Best for Blackrock were the full back line-especially the two Norberg's Valerie and Fiona and centre back Aine Murray.

BRIDE ROVERS

A CASE of try, try and try again and eventually you will succeed. This was certainly the case for Bride Rovers U16 D camogie team (pictured) as we captured the U16 D county title after losing the two previous finals. At Rathcormac on Sunday last the dream was finally realised with a hard fought victory over Sarsfields. A repeat of last year's final when Sars won by the minimum, but this time the Rovers made no mistakes and a goal from team captain Melissa Power midway through the second half finally secured a title that this group of girls have worked very hard for over the last number of years.

Rovers were quickly into their stride with Grace Kearney opening the scoring with a pointed free inside the first minute. The same player added another point in the ninth minute this time from play after Eleanor Ahern burst out of defence and her delivery to Catherine Power found Kearney for a great score.

It was Grace Kearney again who split the uprights in the 20th minute from an acute angle after being set up by Orla Murphy to put her team three points to the good. In between Sars missed two scoreable frees, which left us off the hook.

In one of the best moves of the game, Ahern intercepted a Sars' move and slipped the ball to Laura Murphy whose crisp strike found Sinead Walsh and this talented player strolled at the heart of the Sars defence to release Grace Kearney and her low drive skimmed the outside of the post. A short time later the referee blew the half time whistle as we led 0-3 to 0-0.

If the first half was tough the second half was tougher with both defenses giving little away. The Rovers full-back line of Katie Roche who excelled at corner back and over the hour gave her marker a torrid time, Shauna Lane who was excellent at full back and left the Sars full forward no space.

Treasa Power played the game of her life in the other corner and cleared her lines on several occasions, her best game in the championship. Elaine Dee was unbeaten in goals and handled everything with confidence. Eleanor Ahern was again a commanding figure at centre back with Laura Murphy displaying what a very good wingback she is with her excellent marking and crisp shooting. Lisa Finnegan completed the halfback line and hurled very confidently and was on top over the hour. Scores during the second half were scarce but this did not take from the excitement and passion of the game as the ball travelled up and down the field. In the 12 minute of the second half we registered our only score when a ball broke around the Sars goalmouth and team captain Melissa Power was quickest to react and lash a great ball to the Sars' net to put us in control.

Sars added two points from frees but that was as close as they got.

In a year when camogie in the club has come on leaps and bounds, the future is very bright. The U12 team reached their county final losing narrowly to Millstreet and the U11 A team defeated Killeagh in the East Cork Championship final. The junior team, only competing in competition for the first season, were crowned County C Champions after defeating Blarney in the final and now with the success of the U16 team. It's upwards and onwards from here on.

DUNGOURNEY

Having been denied victory by a point in last year's final the girls came back this year with more determination under the guidance of coach Paddy Cullinane and new coach Kenneth Kelleher. They managed to devastate all opposition on route to yesterday's final against Brian Dillon's at their home ground as Ballinlough pitch was deemed unplayable Brian Dillon's eventually came up trumps by offering their pitch as an alternative and a huge band of supporters having travelled up from Dungourney to cheer the team to victory.

Our girls were a little nervous to begin with against a strong opposition, but were soon put at ease once captain Evelyn Ronayne batted a goal to the net after just five minutes.

She soon followed this with a point. Evelyn Rohan had a tenacious battle with her opposite number and was rewarded with a goal which she matched with a further goal before the half-time whistle. When it looked like Brian Dillon's had a chance of scoring their first goal, Karen Fitzpatrick broke through the challenge with a great clearance and took the ball right down to Evelyn Ronayne who availed of the opportunity to score a second goal.

A tight rein on Carolyn Motherway didn't deter her from breaking through on several occasions and she added a point before half time.

Caroline O'Neill played well in goal for the first half with a few excellent saves before she then moved to forward being replaced by Aoife O'Neill in goal. Caroline scored a great goal in the second half. Half time score of Dungourney 4-2 to Brian Dillon's 1-0

We faced a cutting breeze in the second half but Carolyn Motherway broke through their defence to get her second point of the match.

This was duly followed by a goal from Evelyn Ronayne. Cliona McGovern and Niamh Kelleher were strong in the half back line while Evelyn Collins and Susan Rohan showed excellent speed all four kept pushing the ball forward. Denise O'Riordan was also strong against a tough partner and kicked the ball clear on one attack. Brian Dillon's put up a gallant fight in the second half but Ella Ryan added to our score with a swift goal before the final whistle.

There was no denying it was our day and well done girls for a great teams effort. Brian Dillon's showed true grit and will be a force to be reckoned with for the next few seasons.

A sincere thanks to their committee for the wonderful hospitality after the match also. Thanks to the referee for a very fair match. Final Score Dungy.8-6 Brian Dillon's 2-2

GLEN ROVERS

Tomorrow is a big day for us as our U16B team contest the county league final against Ballygarvan. We will host the game at our new pitch on Ballincollie road. Already this year we have met Ballygarvan twice and with one victory each under the belts Sunday promises to be a thriller. With pitches at a premium the county board decided to toss for venue and we were lucky enough to win the toss so the game goes ahead at the Glen Field at 1.30pm. We are urging everybody to come along and support the girls in their quest for honours.

Our U13 team, not to be left behind, have qualified for the final of the Seandún championship where they will meet Douglas. We await news of a date and venue for this eagerly awaited encounter.

Training continues through the winter months and again everybody is welcome to attend details below

We extend best wished to Emma O Sullivan who recently had an appendix operation and is recovering

Good luck to John O'Halloran and his boys who contest the final of the U13 football this Saturday afternoon in Ballincollig at 2pm

We wish to extend best wishes from everybody in the club to Tom Luby who will be setting sail next week due to his work commitments. Tom has done huge work within the club and will be sadly missed, hopefully he will be back and forth and when on dry land will be along to keep a watchful eye and help out as usual with the training and matches.

A reminder that the club shop is open every Friday evening from 7pm and on Sunday mornings during training times the new camogie jersey is now available for sale in the shop, Maureen will be only too happy to help you out.

Tickets for our annual Christmas draw have now been circulated to all club members they are also available in the club bar and in local shops for just €2 support welcome.

TRAINING

AGE 6 YEARS OF AGE TO 12:

Sunday mornings from 11.45 to 1pm (indoor and outdoor sessions held on Sunday pending Weather)

Tuesday evenings 5.45 to 7pm (Indoor Session) Reminder that the indoor league continue here

AGE 13 TO 16YEARS

Training Monday and Wednesday at 6.30 pm and Saturday at 12 noon

UNDER 18'S TO JUNIOR AND SENIOR

Training Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm

SARSFIELDS

We travelled to Rathcormac on Sunday last to play the home team Bride Rovers in a repeat of last year's final.

The lineout was considerably changed from our victorious 2005 team having lost six players from last year.

This year's team had only four U16s, four

DEC. 2006



Cork's Grainne O'Connor brushes past the challenge of Tipp's Michelle Shortt

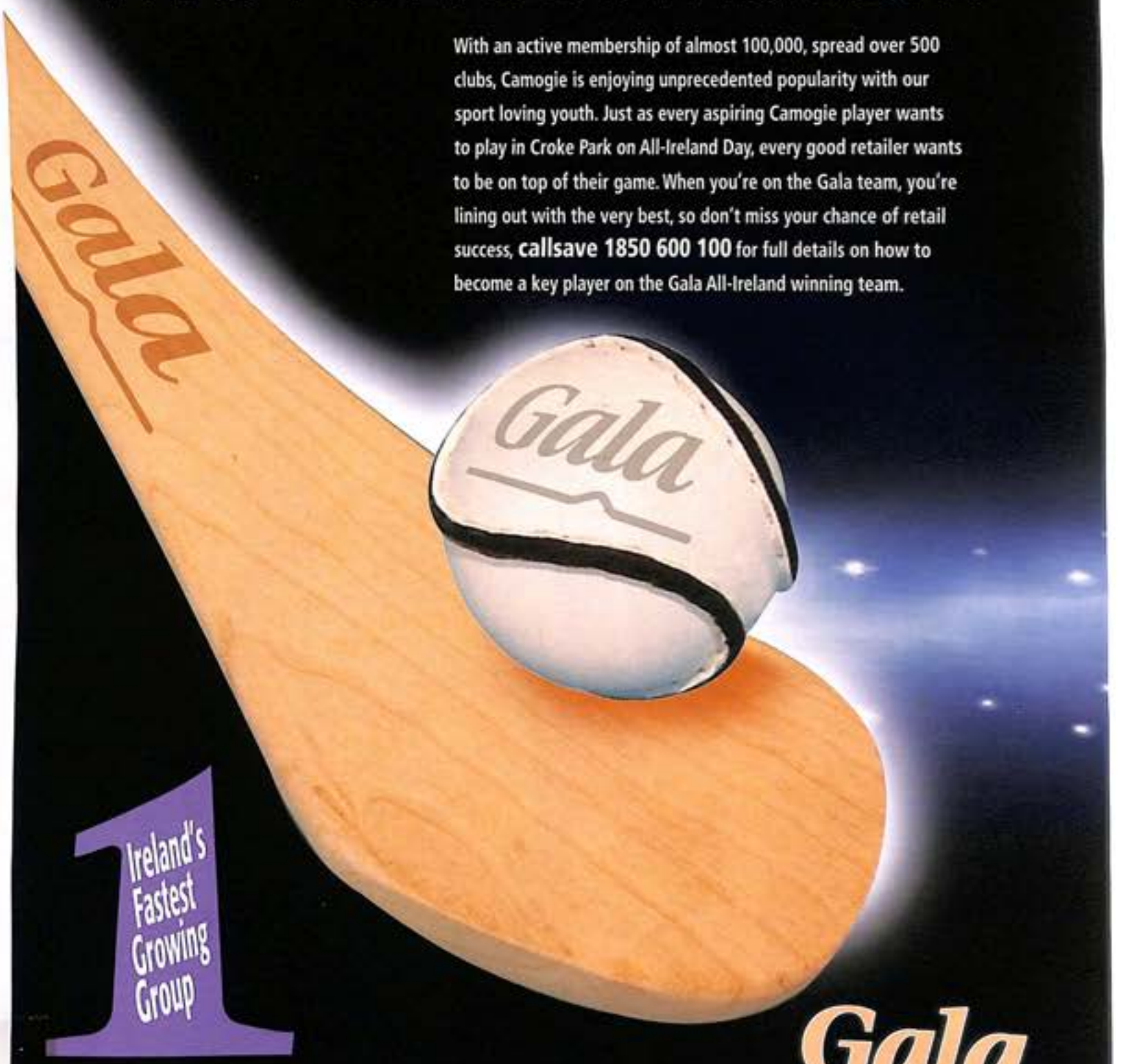
St Marys Secondary School

St Marys Senior Camogie team are through to the Munster Senior Championship semi-final after beating Borrisoleigh in the Quater final last week. St Marys will play the winners of Clonakilty and Tulla in the semi-final. The Nenagh girls are also through to the Munster senior league semi-final having beaten Colaiste Muire Ennis and St Flannans Ennis in the early rounds of the league. St. Marys have a very Promising team this year and hopes are high that they will make further Progress in both competitions. Panel of Players - Aishling Whealan, Martina Gleeson, Sinead Quinlan, Laura Greene, Emma Louise Coffey, Geraldine Stapelton, Patrica Sutton, Fiona Kennedy, Cliona Ryan, Catriona Kennedy, Bonnie Kennedy, Laura Power, Ciara Ryan, Aoife Mc Loughney (capt), Orla Williams, Mariead Devaney, Laura Reid, Amy Kennedy, Anna Marie Quigley, Laurna Bergin, Lisa Shoer, Nicole Whelan, Elisha Slattery, Hazel Harty.

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DEC. 2006

Late point gives Eire Óg place in semi-final

Eire Óg	2-2
Courcey Rovers	2-1

by Mary Newman

A point separated the sides in a close, under-16 B county championship semi-final in Ovens on Saturday.

Aoife Scally's late point gave Eire Óg their place in the final. The home side laid the foundations for victory with two first-half goals, the first from Ciara O'Keeffe. Elaine Ryan kept Courcey Rovers in touch, with a point.

Aided by the wind, Eire Óg kept the pressure on the Courcey Rovers defence, and an Elisa Corkery goal stretched their advantage as they led at the break, 2-0 to 0-1.

Ciara O'Keeffe led the way for Eire Óg from the start of the second half, scoring a point to stretch their lead, but her team found the going tough against an improving Courcey's defence.

Karen Crowley cut the arrears with a well-taken goal for Courcey Rovers.

Eire Óg's defence endured strong pressure, before Elaine Ryan scored the equaliser for Courcey's.

With a semi-final place still a prospect, both sides battled for the winner, and both enjoyed plenty of possession, but Aoife Scally scored the vital point, putting her side into the decider, where Eire Óg will face their fellow divisional colleagues, Ballincollig.

EIRE ÓG: L Stack, D Twomey (C), A McCarthy, D McAuliffe, R Murray, C O'Connor, E Kelleher, K McCarthy, C Meaney, M Gleeson, A Scally, M Hennessy, E Corkery, A O'Keeffe, C O'Keeffe.

COURCEY ROVERS: A O'Brien, A Ryan, S O Reilly, K Collins, N Finn C O'Neill, C Crowley, C Hayes, E O'Regan, C O'Driscoll, Y Rohan, C Collins, A McCarthy, E Ryan, K Crowley, C O'Reilly for K Collins.

Inniscarra claim U-16 A league title

Inniscarra	4-08
Milford	2-03

by Mary Newman

INNISCARRA defeated Milford to take the Under 16 "A" league title on Saturday last. In an entertaining contest Niamh Dilworth scored an early Inniscarra point and a Catherine O'Brien goal helped extend their lead.

A point from Clara Curtain got Milford on the score board but Inniscarra stretched their advantage with points from Niamh Dilworth and Aoife Kavanagh.

Milford upped the tempo pressurising the Inniscarra defence but they met strong resistance with Aisling Punch, Karen Jones and Marie McCarthy standing firm. Milford's Sarah Fitzgibbon finally beat the Inniscarra defence with a well taken goal and with Milford midfield duo of Clara Curtain and Sinead O' Flynn gaining the upper hand they enjoyed plenty of possession but failed to convert it into scores. Three Inniscarra points, two from Fiona O'Connell and one from Niamh Dilworth, saw them open up a five points lead at the break, 1-5 to 1-1.

Inniscarra brought goalkeeper Emma Kingston to midfield for the second half and she quickly linked up with Niamh Dilworth to set up Inniscarra's second goal in the opening minute. Two minutes later Aisling O'Keeffe put the game beyond Milford with her sides third goal. To their credit Milford battled back with an Aisling Thompson point and when Clara Griffin hit back with a goal the Inniscarra lead was down to seven points. They battled to further reduce the arrears but when Catherine O'Brien struck for a fourth Inniscarra goal it put paid to Milford's ambitions.

Niamh Dilworth, with a point in the closing minutes, ensured Inniscarra completed a league and championship double.



In jubilant mood after Inniscarra completed the u16 A camogie double last Saturday in Ballyanly were: Betty O'Mahony (mentor), Katie O'Mahony (centre field) Billy Downey, Rita Kavanagh (mentor), captain Aoife Kavanagh and Nina Downey. Picture: Tim Buckley

INNISCARRA: E Kingston, M McCarthy, R O'Mahony, A Punch, N Keating, F O'Connell0-2 K Jones, K O'Mahony, A Kavanagh,0-1 J Casey,0-1 N Dilworth 1-4 C O'Brien,2-0 A O'Keeffe,1-0 J Farmer, E O'Connell.
Subs: A Ní Riain for K O'Mahony, A Twohig for E O'Connell, J Gannon for J Farmer.
MILFORD: S O'Flaherty, T O'Mahony, R Finn, M Geary, N O'Brien, O O'Mahony, E Brown, C Curtain, 1-2 S O'Flynn, C Mullane, A Thompson 0-1, L O'Flynn, S Fitzgibbon,1-1 C Galvin, K Galvin.
Subs: B O'Connor for K Galvin.
Referee: C O'Mahony St Finbarr's.

SUPPORTERS JERSEYS

Supporters may wish to note the Cork Camogie Colour Catcher Jersey is available to purchase in the office at Pairc Ui Rinn Monday to Friday. Jersey Sizes are from age 5-6 upwards to age 13-14 and are available for €25. A limited number of Adults size jerseys are still available, priced €30. The jerseys can also be purchased at the county board meetings and will also be available at the senior board conventions on Wednesday next.



Rachel Moloney of Ballinspittle, Co Cork; and Suzanne Boland from Douglas, who received MSc degrees in Nutritional Science at yesterday's conferrings. Picture: Neil Danton

... and double ditto for Rockbán

Rockbán	4-7
Newtownshandrum	2-6

by Mary Newman

ROCKBÁN have added the junior "A" league title to the county championship, defeating the challenge of a young Newtownshandrum.

Playing conditions were hard on both sides, given the gale force, driving wind, but the excellent condition of the Newtownshandrum venue compensated. Rockbán, aided by the elements in the opening half, led 2-7 to 0-1 at half time. Through the opening quarter, Newtown closed down the Rockbán attack, but points from Margaret Howard, Sile Burns, and Valerie Mulcahy gave Rockbán a 0-3 to 0-1 lead, before Sile Burns scored a goal for Rockbán, after blocking an attempted Newtown clearance. A second goal, from Margaret Howard three minutes later, gave Rockbán the upper hand, and a point, from Catriona Foley, and three, from Sile Burns, helped Rockbán build up their interval lead.

A goal, from Maria Reidy inside a minute of the restart, brought Newtown back into the game, and, when Paula O'Connor converted a free, they continued to put the Rockbán defence under pressure. Rockbán battled hard and were back in control with two goals inside as many minutes, Sara Coleman striking the first after two saves from Marie O'Connor in the Newtown goal. Rockbán struck a second goal within a minute: Sile Burns rounding the Newtown defence before scoring. Now 3-7 to 1-3 in arrears, Newtown seemed to be in trouble, but they fought on, driven on by captain Paula O'Connor, who scored a magnificent, long-range point, before Niamh Bowles evaded the Rockbán defence to strike a much-needed goal. Two Paula O'Connor points reduced the deficit to seven, as they continued to pile the pressure the Rockbán defence.

With Catriona Foley superbly marshalling their backline, Rockbán held their composure to add the league title to their championship.

Rockbán: E Harte, M Burns, C Foley, C Drinan S Ryan, C Foley (0-1), D Foley, L Crowley, E Casey Conway, V Mulcahy (0-1), A Geaney, S Burns (2-4 :0-4 frees)), S Coleman, (1-0), M Howard(1-1), M O'Keeffe. Subs: T Howard for A Geaney (5min inj), D Murphy for M O Keeffe (45min), A Foley for T Howard (50mins).

Newtownshandrum: Marie O'Connor, S Herlihy, E O'Mahony, C Giltinane, S O'Regan, E Reidy Herlihy, Michelle O'Connor, D O'Flynn, M Reidy(1-0), N Bowles(1-0), S Reidy, A Morrissey, PO Connor (0-6: 0-2 frees 0-1 45"), M O'Mahony.

Referee: M Butler, Buttevant.

Holders UL open Ashbourne Cup defence against Garda

by Brendan O'Brien

THE Ashbourne and Purcell Cup draws took place in Croke Park yesterday.

Last year's winners, UL, take on the Garda College in the first round while UCD, last year's beaten finalists, will meet WIT on their home ground.

Association president Liz Howard said: "The third level competitions are extremely important in the promotion of our game as the young women playing at this level are the future leaders and shapers of society in Ireland. Both the Ashbourne and Purcell are prestigious competitions and all players competing will want to win a coveted medal."

Meanwhile ten camogie players received third level bursaries supported by the Irish Sports Council.

Ashbourne Cup Draw : UL v Garda, UCC v NUIG; UUJ v CIT, WIT v UCD.

Purcell Cup Draw: 1. St Pats 2. GMIT v LIT/ Carlow IT; 3. DCU v Tipp IT; 4. Sligo IT v Trinity ; 5. Queens v Cavan IT; 6. St Mary's / Tralee IT v DIT / NUIMaynooth ; 7. Athlone IT ; 8. Mary I; Winners of 1 v Winners of 2; Winners of 3 v Winners of 4; Winners of 5 v Winners of 6; Winners of 7 v Winners of 8.

Bursary Recipients: Anna Geary, (UL); Catriona Power, (TCD); Bronagh Keenan, (QUB); Louise Codd, (UCD); Aine Lyng, (UL); Therese Muldowney, (UCC); Katie McAuley, (St Mary's); Maria O'Sullivan, (DCU); Stephanie Griffin, (Sligo IT); Susan Keane, (WIT).

DEC. 2006

Strong 'Collig side to take a first title



St Catherine's delegate Rena O'Leary with GPC member Claire Donegan.

By MARY NEWMAN

Today, U16 B County C'ship final, Eire Óg v Ballincollig, Ovens, noon.

THE last game before the Christmas break takes place this afternoon between fellow divisional sides Eire Óg and Ballincollig as they battle it out for the U16B county championship title.

Ballincollig will be hoping to take their first championship crown at under age level.

At the start of the season, Ballincollig were graded A and participated in the league competition. They sought re-grading for the championship and it was granted.

From the start they have been favoured to take the title. Their path to this afternoon's decider confirms this tag.

They defeated Erin's Own in the opening round before defeating Glen Rovers in the quarter-final.

In their semi-final clash with Carrigaline they met strong resistance before finally shaking of their challenge.

They are a strong well-balanced side who have enjoyed plenty of under age league success.

Breda O'Callaghan, Claire Ryan, Orla Ni Chasaigh, Victoria St Ledger and Allison Coughlan are top performers and they will cause plenty of problems for Eire Óg.

Their backroom team of John Kearney, Mary O'Donoghue, Kathleen Healy, Mary Crualaoí, Niall O'Connor and Gareth Irish have kept their charges on their toes as they awaited a date for this decider.

They played a challenge game against a strong Douglas side last weekend.

They recorded a big victory which is sure to have boosted them as they face the strong challenge Eire Óg will pose this afternoon.

Always strong championship campaigners Eire Óg are determined to take the U16 B title.

In 2004 they were crowned U16A county champions, but later in the season lost out in the league final to Ballincollig.

They lost out in the A final of 2005 to Buttevant, but were re-graded to B status this year.

They have looked strong all through their campaign.

Underage camogie is strong in the club with a plentiful array of titles having come their way in recent years.

On their path to the decider they had to be at their best to overcome the challenge posed by Clonakilty in their opening round, before advancing to defeat Blackrock at quarter-final stage.

On Saturday last they had to call on all their experience to hold off the stiff challenge posed by Courcey Rovers.

A point three minutes from full time secured victory in a low scoring contest.

They have plenty of experience in their line-out and manager Con Malone will be very determined to put one over on their fellow divisional colleagues.

Cork U16 players, Aoife McCarthy and Ella Kelleher have already played at senior level with the club.

Both have plenty of experience, while Ciara O'Keeffe, Elisah Corkery, Aoife Scally and Roisin Murray have all preformed well in their campaign date.

At this time of year weather can play a huge part in deciding the destination of titles.

Eire Óg have home advantage and will be hard to beat.

Ballincollig will have a huge band of supporters making the short skip out the road to cheer on their side.

The tag of favourites sits well with Ballincollig who are physically strong.

Many of the Eire Óg girls are still underage in 2007, but what they lack in strength they will make up for in determination.

A very hesitant nod would go to Ballincollig, but it would be silly to write off Eire Óg.

Ballincollig do so at their peril.

EIRE OG: Louise Stack, Marie Gleeson, Aisling O'Keeffe, Deirdre Twomey, Roisin Murray, Katie McCarthy, Deirdre McAuliffe, Ella Kelleher, Ciara O'Connor, Claire Meaney, Aoife McCarthy, Ciara O'Keeffe, Aoife Scally, Eilise Corkery, Meabh Hennessy, Aoife Hennessy, Orla Boyle, Ashling Cronin, Emma Crowley, Natasha Toole.

BALLINCOLLIG: Ashleen Sheehan, Rebecca O' Callaghan, Elizabeth Harrington, Lisa O' Sullivan, Eimear Nolan, Kate O' Donoghue, Breda O' Callaghan, Sarah Buckley, Patricia Buttimer, Holly Coomey, Claire Ryan, Orla Casey, Victoria St Ledger, Alison Coughlan, Lisa O' Callaghan, Jennifer Ryle, Samantha Coomey, Eimear O' Sullivan, Aoife Hickey, Laura Barrett, Nicole McDonagh, Laura O' Donoghue, Jennifer Bowen, Cliona Irish, Maeve Crowley, Alison Henchin, Tara O' Leary, Shannon O' Sullivan, Ashling Walsh, Orla Jennings, Karen Haussmann.

CLUB NOTES

BALLINCOLLIG

U16B Championship Final

Our U16 team take on Éire Óg in Ovens today Saturday December 9 at noon with the B championship title up for decision. Well done to the team and their management for getting to the final, it's a great sign that the club is contesting championships finals, even if it does extend the year deep into December. It's been a particularly long year for this group, who first got together last November 2006. The league campaign at the A grade was a huge disappointment but thankfully the team have rallied together since regrading to the B grade for championship and are now 60 minutes away from winning the club's first championship title.

Hopefully there will be a huge crowd of supporters from Ballincollig to make the short journey out the road to cheer on the team this Saturday. Everyone should still have their flags and colours from the U18 final just two weeks ago so let's put them to use. The club is in enemy territory for the final and Éire Óg will be sure to have a passionate home crowd behind them so it's up to Ballincollig to better that.

The selection committee for this year's championship is John Kearney (who thinks he is the manager), Mary O'Donoghue (the real bainistreás we're told), Kathleen Healy, Mary Crualaoí, Niall O'Connor and Gareth Irish.

The panel is: Aisleen Sheehan Rebecca O'Callaghan Elizabeth Harrington (c) Lisa O'Sullivan Emer Nolan Kate O'Donoghue Brea O'Callaghan Sarah Buckley Patricia Buttimer Holly Coomey Claire Ryan Orla Ni Chasaigh Victoria St Ledger Alison Coughlan Lisa O'Callaghan Jennifer Ryle Laura Barrett Samantha Coomey Nicole McDonagh Emer O'Sullivan Aoife Hickey Laura O'Donoghue Cliona Irish Maebh Ní Chrualaoi Alison Henchin Tara O'Leary Shannon O'Sullivan Ashleen Walsh Orla Jennings Karen Haussan

The side had a successful challenge match last weekend (despite some questionable time-keeping!) and after some tough training are shaping up well for the final, since a semi-final in awful conditions. Everything is in place, so with good support and a bit of luck, they should become the first championship winning Ballincollig camogie side this weekend. Go n-eiri an t-ádh libh.

Ballincollig Camogie Club AGM and Underage Disco:

The club's AGM is on this Sunday December 10th starting at 2pm — don't worry we'll keep it short to save energy for the club disco afterwards. The AGM is followed by a disco from all Under 12 players from 4pm to 6pm, and then a disco for the 12 to 18 year old players from 6.30pm to 9pm. Hopefully we'll have plenty to celebrate following Saturday's match!

BLACKROCK

Club Awards Night: Blackrock Camogie Club held our annual awards night on Sunday, December 3.

Three players were acknowledgement for being part of the Seandún U16 panel that won the interdivisional Championship earlier this year.

The girls involved were, Róisín de Faoite, Áine Murray and Cliona Ní Chatháin. It was noted that they were the first players from Blackrock to win an interdivisional medal.

The U11 team were presented with their runners up medals from the city final. The panel was as follows: Sally Roberts(captain), Hayley Ryan, Niamh Wedel, Katie O'Brien, Katherine Ronayne, Carl Ryan, Katelyn Hickey, Sarah Hennessey, Clodagh O'Keeffe, Grace Marum, Kate Leneghan, Michelle Murphy, Aideen Nagle, Laura Wyse, Shannon O'Callaghan, Fiona Deegan, Emer Fahy, Shannon White, Ailbe Crowley, Orlaith Nation, Eva Nolan, Kelly O'Brien, Meghan Hourican, Sarah Ryan, Elizabeth O'Brien.

Members of the year were chosen for their commitment to the club throughout the year at various levels in the club. The winners were as follows: Katelyn Hickey, Annemarie Lehane, Michelle Nagle, Áine Murray, Teresa Cummins and Doireann Ní Mhuirí.

The overall Club Person of the Year was Liam O'Brien.

Liam was presented with the Cup, which was kindly sponsored by Kevin Cummins of Cummins Sports.

Kevin Cummins then presented a set of jerseys to the junior captain, Doireann Ní Mhuirí on behalf of the team. We would like to thank Kevin for his generosity throughout the year.

AGM

The Blackrock Camogie Club AGM will take place tomorrow Sunday 10th December @ 1pm in the club hall. All members, parents and supporters of the club are welcome to attend.

DOUGLAS

Douglas Camogie Club held the AGM recently at Douglas GAA Club. The outgoing chairperson Shirley Dunlea congratulated all concerned in what was a very successful year for the club and expressed that she had enjoyed her three years in office.

Incoming chairman Mr Conan Duggan the took the chair where he congratulated his incoming officers and he looked forward to his term of office and hoped that he and his new officers would do their utmost to support all those who work so hard on the pitch front and keep Douglas Camogie Club as vibrant a club ever.

The incoming officers for 2007 are: Chair Conan Duggan, Vice Chair, Joe Long, Secretary Fiona Shine, Treasurer Jerry Benan, Registrar Therese Lynch, and P.R.O. Tina Sheehan. Senior Board Delegate Tina O'Regan & Tina Sheehan, Juvenile Board Delegate Helen Duggan with one more to be appointed.

As Christmas is drawing near all teams will be take a well-earned break shortly, details of return to training will appear at a later date as we look forward to 2007, starting with our U13A final and the outcome of U13B games yet to be decided by the newly elected Seandún Board early in the new year.

The U15 Seandún Blitz which did not get played this year will also now happen early in the New Year. At county level our U16 team are to play Na

Piarsaigh in the semi-final but while Na Piarsaigh were still involved in championship and bad weather taking over the last two weekends this game is now gone to mid-March and our seniors have the semi-final of the B league for the new year.

Next week will see a round up of all our activities on the pitch for 2006

Should you require any information on our club on training times, where they take place etc you can ring the club phone on 087 1344651.

ÉIRE ÓG

Glad to be able to tell you that we came out on top in the U16 B championship semi-final by one point in a very exciting game won purely by fighting hard.

The team was changed around a bit but mainly as follows: Louise Stack, Deirdre Twomey, captain Aoife McCarthy, Deirdre McAuliffe, Roisin Murray, Ciara O'Connor, Ella Kelleher, Katie McCarthy, Claire Meaney, Marie Gleeson, Aoife Scally, Maeve Hennessy, Eilise Corkery, Aisling O'Keeffe, Ciara O'Keeffe. Subs: Orla Boyle, Emma Crowley, Aoife Hennessy, Aisling Cronin.

Scorers: Ciara O'Keeffe 1-1, Eilise Corkery 1-0, Aoife Scally 0-1.

GLEN ROVERS

Gael force winds played spoil sport for our U16 girls as our county league final was postponed by the officials early on Sunday morning. Our new pitch on Ballincollie road was in top condition and playable despite the huge amount of rainfall and everybody was geared up and ready to go

DEC. 2006

Scally's point just enough for Éire Óg

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 B championship camogie

Éire Óg	2-2
Courcey Rovers	2-1

JUST a point separated the sides at full-time in this highly entertaining U16 B championship semi-final played in Ovens on Saturday.

Aoife Scally's late point, three minutes from full time, helped Éire Óg book their place in the final where they will meet Ballincollig (see preview).

With suitable venues hard to come by due to the appalling weather conditions the excellent state of the Éire Óg's pitch was a credit to the club and made for a good contest.

This situation was helped by the fact that both sides were totally committed to the task in hand as they sought their place in the final.

Éire Óg won the toss and from the start of the game pressurised the Courcey defence and they laid the foundations for victory with two first-half goals.

Ciara O' Keeffe set the trend with the first, as her side took an early lead.

Elaine Ryan kept Courcey Rovers in touch with a point and aided by the wind Éire Óg kept the pressure on the Courcey Rovers defence who absorbed the pressure until an Elisa Corkery goal stretched the Ovens girls' advantage further.

That second goal helped her side to lead at the break 2-0 to 0-1.

From the start of the second-half it was nip and tuck.

Courcey applying strong pressure as they battled to get into the contest.

Up front the Éire Óg girls worked hard and it was Ciara O'Keeffe who again led the way for Éire Óg as she pointed to stretch their lead.

Throughout the second-half Éire Óg found the going tough against an ever improving Courcey's defence.

Driven on by Christine O'Neill and Elaine Ryan, they maintained the pressure and it eventually paid-off.

Karen Crowley cutting the arrears with a well taken Courcey Rovers goal.

Now it was Éire Óg's defence that had to withstand strong Courcey pressure.

The equaliser they pressed for arrived shortly after with Elaine Ryan getting the vital strike for Courcey.

Both enjoyed plenty of possession and it was sheep determination and spirit that saw the Éire Óg girls secure a winner.

Aoife Scally grabbed the vital score with three minutes remaining on the stop watch striking a point to put her side into the final where they will face their fellow divisional colleagues Ballincollig this afternoon (Saturday) in Ovens at 12 noon.

ÉIRE ÓG: L Stack, D Twomey, A McCarthy, D McAuliffe, R Murray, C O'Connor, E Kelleher, K McCarthy, C Meaney, M Gleeson, A Scally, M Hennessy, E Corkery, A O'Keeffe, C O'Keeffe.

COURCEY ROVERS: A O' Brien, A Ryan, S O' Reilly, K Collins, N Finn, C O' Neill, C Crowley, C Hayes, E O' Regan, C O' Driscoll, Y Rohan, C Collins, A Mc Carthy, E Ryan, K Crowley.

Sub: C O' Reilly for K Collins.



Éire Óg's Ciara O'Connor, a member of the U16 B championship semi-final winning side at Ovens.



Cork Camogie Board officers with a display of trophies won during 2006.

Festive fun for all through Christmas

By MARY NEWMAN

Christmas activities

DESPITE several clubs having already started their winter break, activities are still underway in several clubs.

Already two clubs have notified us of their activities over the Christmas break.

With the turkey barely digested the hurleys will be back in action in at least two clubs up in the northside of the city.

Ross Corcoran up in St Vincent's tells us that his club are organising a ladies long puck competition on Wednesday December 27.

It will be teams of three and the starting time is 10am from the club rooms on the Blarney Road.

Entries will be taken on the day and the club are ensuring a fun day with plenty if food and craic back in the club afterwards.

Glen Rovers are shaking the cob webs off a day earlier and are holding their long puck on St Stephen's day.

It is a joint club effort with females and males taking part in what is promises to be an even better day than last year.

The club are holding different sections with something for everybody, families, all male or all female and mixed team will be the order of the day.

Signing-in takes place at the Glen Rovers club from 10am to 2 pm and transport will be provided to the starting point and back again.

Further details can be got from Joe O'Shea on 087-9972194.

Any other clubs holding event over the holiday break can email us on marynewman2006@hotmail.com.

however the committee in charge decided in the interest of safety the game would not go ahead.
It was a disappointment for both teams but we still have a big day to look forward to. So it's back to the grindstone as training continues today and next week on the usual nights of Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm
Our U13 girls are also through to the Seandun U13 final and training continues as above for them.
We congratulate Diarmuid O' Donovan from our football and hurling club who on Tuesday evening last took up the position of chairman of the county juvenile GAA board.
Diarmuid's wife Anne is a former player and officer of our camogie club and we wish him well in his new role.
Everybody is reminded to return their Christmas Draw tickets before December 16. the draw takes place in club on December 17.
A reminder also to anybody joined the GAA club's draw and paying quarterly that the next quarter of €24 is now due for payment.

The club shop is open every Friday evening from 7pm and on Sunday mornings during training times. The new camogie jersey is now available for sale in the shop, Maureen will only be3 happy to help you out.
Training, 6-12
Sunday mornings from 11.45am to 1pm (indoor and outdoor sessions held on Sunday depending on teh weather).
Tuesday evenings 5.45pm to 7pm (indoor session). Reminder that the indoor league continue here.
12-16: Training Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm and Saturday at noon.
U18S, junior and senior : Training Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm.

ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsor Cork Builders Providers.
U13 Imokilly 12-a-side East Cork final
St Catherine's 3-5 Killeagh 3-1
On Saturday last, December 2 in a wet and windy Pilmore pitch our U13 team met Killeagh in the Imokilly final and we ran out winners. This was a great performance from these young girls who are obviously being influenced by the exploits of their older counterparts in the club. We knew coming down that this would be a close game as at U12 level last year we lost out to the same team in an East Cork final by just one point. We were not to be out done this year and held out for a four-point victory. This team is backboned by two very experienced players in Fiona Cotter and Finola Neville who a week earlier were part of the U18 county winning team and both players again had excellent games on
Saturday.
Our full-back line of Edel Murphy Carol Keniry and Clodagh McAuliffe defended excellently in front of Leanne Bumster who had a great game in goals.
At midfield, captain Shauna Barry Rachel O'Callaghan and Jane Mangan worked extremely hard throughout.
While our inside line of Kate Mellerick, Emma Neville and Aileen Hurley all hurled extremely well.
Panel members Grainne Walsh, Aisling Doyle, Rachel Spillane, Katie England, Laura Aherne, Stacey Cronin, L. Leahy, H. Leahy and Maeve Mulcahy all played important parts throughout this competition.
Team: L. Bumster, E. Murphy, C.Keniry, C. McAuliffe, F. Cotter, S. Barry (Capt.), R.O' Callaghan, J. Mangan, F. Neville, K., Mellerick, E. Neville, A. Hurley. **Subs:** G. Walsh, A. Doyle, R. Spillane, K. England, L. Aherne, S. Cronin.
Scorers: F. Neville 1-4, F. Cotter 1-1(f), K .Mellerick 1-0.
A special word of thanks to Maeve and Aisling O'Keeffe, Jill Hurley and Anne Marie Hayes who took time out to decorate our parish with those support signs for our recent county finals. It was a great boost especially as we were victorious on both occasions. In mentioning both county finals we would also like to thank Dermot O'Leary, Kevin Hayes, Tom Power and Matt Harpur who sponsored after match meals for both county winning teams and mentors.
Final congratulations of the year to Orla Cotter, who rounded off a memorable season when she lined out at midfield for the victorious Inch Rovers team in the All-Ireland Intermediate Ladies' Football final in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on Sunday last.

ST VINCENT'S

To just recap on what was mentioned last week, the long puck will be taking place on December 27 and it is €30 per team of three. There is no limit on the amount of teams that can enter and it will be a great laugh and we hope everyone will come to show support.
TRAINING TIMES
MONDAY :530-630 U12S
TUESDAY:5-6 U8S
WEDNESDAY:5-6U10S
WEDNESDAY:6-7 U14S
THURSDAY:8-9:U16S/JUNIORS
Supporters may wish to note that the Cork Camogie Colour Catcher Jersey is now available to purchase in the office at Páirc Ui Rinn, Monday to Friday. Jersey sizes are from age 5-6 upwards to age 10-11 and are available for €25. The jersey is an ideal Christmas present for all aspiring young camogie players and can be worn to support our county teams in all codes.

DEC. 2006

Dilworth is the inspiration as Inniscarra romp to league title

By PJ AHERN

U16 A camogie league final

Inniscarra	4-8
Milford	2-3

INNISCARRA held all the aces as they defeated Milford to lift the U16 A camogie league title in Inniscarra on Saturday.

The key to success for the champions was a quick fire start and a number of key positional changes on either side of half-time added much needed balance.

This was a thoroughly entertaining contest and Milford battled hard but they struggled to recover from the early blows and even though they did enjoy possession they were unable to exploit it.

Inniscarra opened proceedings with an exceptional point from Niamh Dilworth. Their early start was added to by a Catherine O'Brien goal.

Dilworth was central to Inniscarra's play at centre-forward as she was the juncture through which the majority of the attacks flowed through. On top of this their midfield had a big part to play in their progress up the pitch.

Despite Aisling Thompson proving to be an early danger, Milford struggled to make territorial gains into the Inniscarra half but they did get on the board with a fine point from distance by Clara Curtain.

Inniscarra did stretch their advantage with points from Dilworth and Aoife Kavanagh but they lost the services of midfielder Katie O'Mahony and it hampered their ambitions. Inniscarra temporarily lost their balance and it prevented them from scoring for 20 first-half minutes.

Milford upped the tempo and pressured the Inniscarra back-line but strong clearances from Aisling Punch, Karen Jones and Marie McCarthy aided them to escape relatively unscathed.

Milford's Sinead O'Flynn latched onto a clearance and she supplied a defence splitting pass to Sarah Fitzgibbon who drilled the ball low into the net.

Milford continued to apply pressure through contributions from the midfield duo Clara Curtain and Sinead O'Flynn, while Louise O'Flynn also caused problems.

However, they were unable to add to their goal and they finished the first half without adding to the scoreboard.

Having weathered the pressure, Inniscarra struck a psychological blow by scoring a hat-trick of points on the stroke of half-time with a brace of frees from Fiona O'Connell and one from Dilworth. It left Milford ruing missed chances and they trailed by five points at the break (1-5 to 1-1).

At the break, Inniscarra switched goalkeeper Emma Kingston to midfield and a number of other positional changes reintroduced balance to the champions.

In the second half, Kingston's impact was immediate as she supplied Dilworth with the possession she needed to score her side's second goal in the opening minute.

The game was all but over as a contest, two minutes later, when Inniscarra's Aisling O'Keeffe found the net as well.

To their credit, Milford never surrendered and they battled back with an Aisling Thompson point.

Soon after their player of the match, Clara Griffin took hold of the sliothar and she unleashed a fierce drive to the top corner of the net.

That reduced the margin to just seven points and Milford had an outside chance of producing an unlikely comeback (3-7 to 2-3).

But their ambitions were put to bed, when Catherine O'Brien pounced to score her second goal of the game.

Dilworth rounded off the scoring with a point and at the final whistle, Inniscarra were ecstatic as they completed a league and championship double.

Scorers for Inniscarra: N Dilworth 1-4, C O'Brien 2-0, A O'Keeffe 1-0, F O'Connell 0-2 (0-2f), J Casey and A Kavanagh 0-1 each.

Milford: C Curtain 1-2 (0-1f), S Fitzgibbon 1-1, A Thompson 0-1.

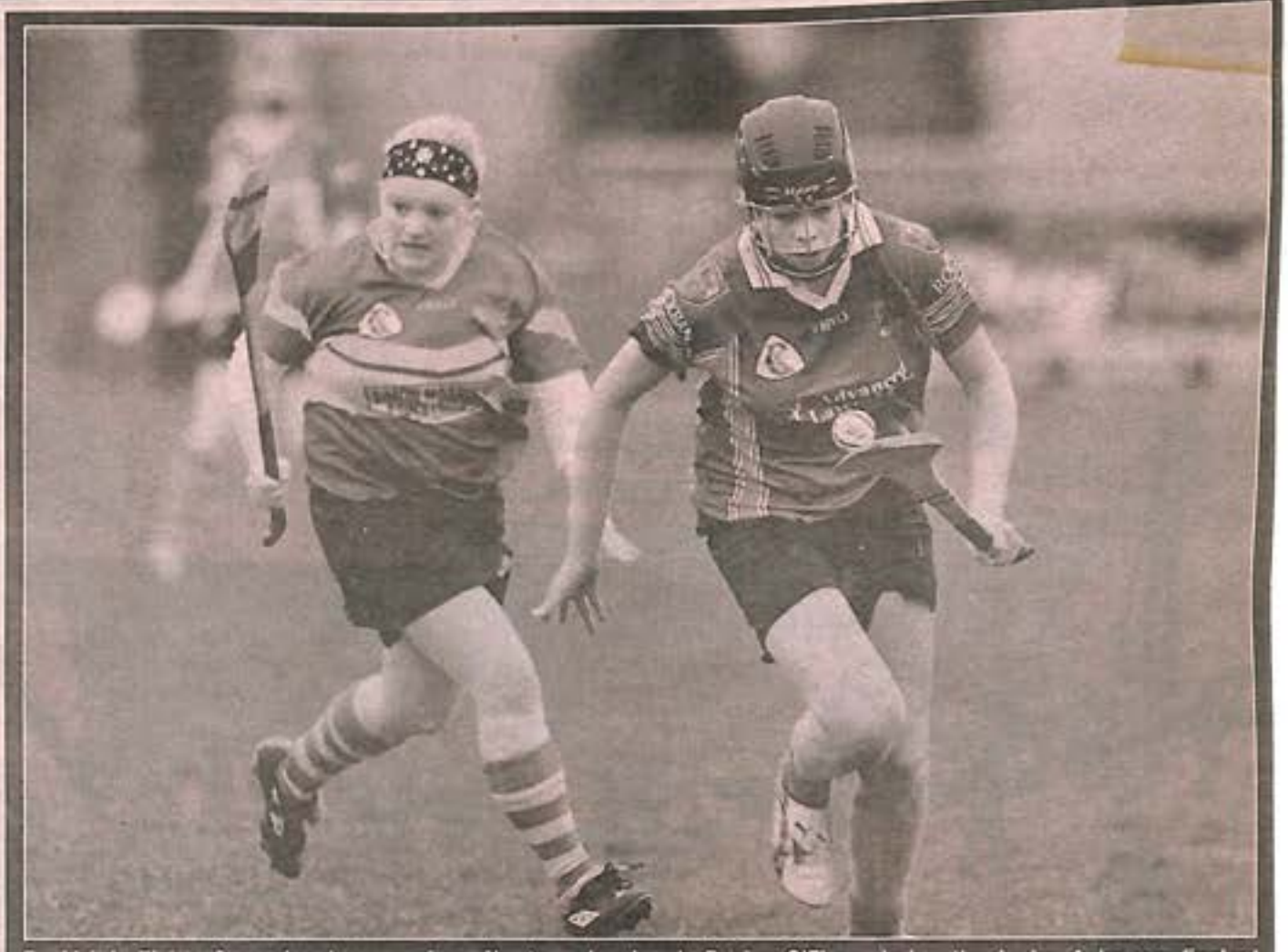
INNISCARRA: E Kingston, M McCarthy, R O'Mahony, A Punch, N Keating, F O'Connell, K Jones, K O'Mahony, A Kavanagh, J Casey, N Dilworth, C O'Brien, A O'Keeffe, J Farmer, E O'Connell.

Subs used: A Ni Riain for K O'Mahony, A Twohig for E O'Connell, J Gannon for J Farmer.

MILFORD: S O'Flaherty, T O'Mahony, R Finn, M Geary, N O'Brien, O O'Mahony, E Brown, C Curtain, S O'Flynn, C Mullane, A Thompson, L O'Flynn, S Fitzgibbon, C Galvin, K Galvin.

Subs used: B O'Connor for K Galvin.

Referee: C O'Mahony (St. Finbarr's).



Rockbán's Elaine Casey breaks away from Newtownshandrum's Denise O'Flynn during the junior A league final at Newtownshadrum. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Rockbán do the double

Rockban	4-7
Newtownshandrum	2-6

By MARY NEWMAN

Junior A League Camogie final

A JUNIOR "A" league and championship double for Rockbán but they were made earn it in Saturday's league decider on Saturday.

The excellent surface of the Newtownshandrum venue compensated somewhat for the horrific conditions as the gale force wind made it trying for both sides and spoiled the game as a contest.

Rockbán aided by the elements in the opening half led at the break 2-7 to 0-1 although it must be said that Newtown through the half certainly created plenty of scoring chances.

At the finish it was two goals in the second half that proved crucial for Rockbán as it allowed them breathing space to withstand the strong rally from the young Newtown side.

The opening quarter was a close affair as Newtown played a defensive game, closing down attack after attack.

Rockbán, thanks to points from Margaret Howard Sile Burns and Valerie Mulcahy had opened up a 0-3 to 0-1 lead before Burns struck for a fortuitous goal, cleverly winning possession after blocking down an attempted clearance.

A second goal from Howard three minutes later saw Rockbán take control and piling on the pressure they struck four points without reply one from Catriona Foley while Burns converted three frees.

Newtown started the second half in determined fashion and aided the strengthening wind had a goal from Maria Reidy inside a minutes.

Paula O'Connor converted a free as they continued to put the Rockbán defence under pressure but they were dealt a killer blow when Sara Coleman grabbed a Rockbán gaol after two excellent saves from Marie O'Connor in the Newtown goal.

Rockbán struck for a second goal inside a minute Burns leaving the Newtown defence in her trail before finishing low to the net.

Now 3-7 to 1-3 in arrears, all seemed lost but credit Newtown who showed plenty of character driven on by captain O'Connor, Aoife Morrissey and Niamh Bowles they pressurised the Rockbán defence Paula O'Connor striking a magnificent long range effort over the bar before Niamh Bowles skilful evaded the Rockbán defence to strike for a much-needed goal.

Two Paula O'Connor points had them within seven points and as they piled on the pressure the Rockbán defence had to be at their best but with Catriona Foley superbly marshalling them they held their composure to the finish to add the league title to their championship crown.

Having lost out to the same opposition earlier in the season by a huge margin, Newtownshandrum captain Paula O Connor was pleased with her side's display.

"We are disappointed to lose but our girls turned in a great display here today, earlier in the season we lost out comprehensively to Rockbán but today we were in it to the finish, a few decisions didn't go out way and we are disappointed with that but we have a very young side and we have something to work on for next season."

Rockban coach, Denis Burns was pleased with his side's performance: "The going was extremely tough out there today and certainly very hard to play hurling in but we laid the foundations in the first half and the two goals we got in the second half were vital.

"Newtownshandrum are a good side and they fought to the finish we were just glad that we had enough in reserve to get us to the final whistle and were thrilled to add the league title to the championship its been a good year."

Scorers for Rockbán: S Burns 2-4 (0-4 frees), M Howard 1-1, S Coleman1-0, C Foley, V Mulcahy 0-1 each

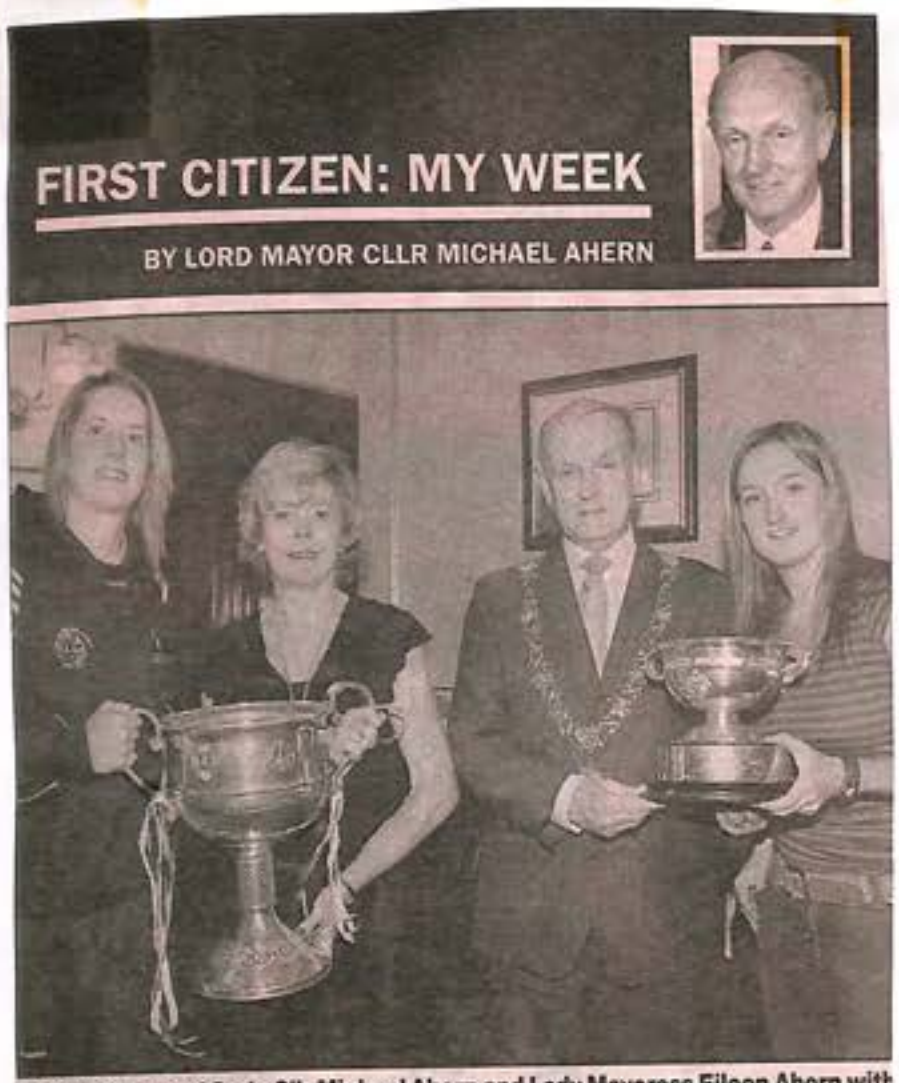
Scorers for Newtownshandrum: P O'Connor 0-6 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45), M Reidy, N Bowles 1-0 each

ROCKBÁN: E Harte, M Burns, C Foley, C Drinan S Ryan, C Foley, D Foley, L Crowley, E Casey Conway, V Mulcahy, A Geaney, S Burns, S Coleman, M Howard, M O'Keeffe.

Subs: T Howard for A Geaney (5min inj), D Murphy for M O'Keeffe(45min), A Foley for T Howard (50mins)

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM: Marie O'Connor, S Herlihy, E O Mahony, C Giltinane, S O'Regan, E Reidy Herlihy, Michelle O'Connor, D O'Flynn, M Reidy, N Bowles, S Reidy, A Morrissey, P O'Connor, M O'Mahony.

Referee: M Butler (Buttevant)



The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Michael Ahern and Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern with team captains Juliet Murphy and Joanne O'Callaghan, with the Cups
Picture: Larry Cummins

A double delight for GAA girls

THE Cork camogie players and the Cork ladies football team were given a civic reception for their magnificent achievement of winning All-Irelands in 2005 and 2006.

These achievements have never been put together by any teams before and it is unlikely that it will be done again except, perhaps, by the current two teams if they continue on their winning run.

A special medallion was commissioned to mark the occasion and they were presented to the players from each team.

Present at the occasion were the chairman of the camogie board, Marion McCarthy; chairman of the Ladies football board, Tom Luddy; football coach Eamonn Ryan; hurling coach John Cronin; football captain Juliet Murphy and camogie captain Joanne O'Callaghan as well as Gerry O'Sullivan, vice chairman of Cork County GAA board.

DEC.

2006

Tipperary news County Convention

(2006-12-12)

Tipperary County Convention

County Convention

Last week's County Convention (Tuesday 5th) held in Young's, The Ragg saw a big change around at the top table with the chairperson, secretary, registrar and PRO all standing down.
Outgoing chairperson Stephen Fitzgerald, Fethard cited work commitments for inability to remain on and the unanimous choice to succeed him was Lar O'Brien, Drom-Inch.
Ann Fogarty, Thurles fills the vice chair vacancy created by Lar's promotion. Ann defeated Mossie Finn, Burgess (29 votes to 25). Joan Harkin, Drom-Inch stepped down as secretary after six years in office,
an office that will now be filled by Lisa Carroll, St Cronan's, Roscrea
who was unopposed.
Rose Mannion, Lorrha remains as treasurer, a unanimous choice too, while following Margaret Kennedy's decision to step down as registrar,
Bernie O'Dowd, Thurles was elected, unopposed. Mossie Finn didn't seek
re-election as PRO, Suzanne Kelly, Toomevara now filling the role. She
will have assistance from Eimear Ryan, Moneygall who defeated Denis Aherne, St Cronan's (27 to 24) for the position. Margaret Skehan, Thurles continues as Munster Council delegate.
The Fixtures committee will comprise Sally Duggan, Stephen Fitzgerald,
Patsy Carroll, Suzanne Kelly, Martin McCullagh, Linda Grogan, John Harkin, Johnny Kirwan, Ann Cahalan, Jim Simmons, Deirdre Keogh and Ailish Maher. Elected to the Development Committee were Rose Mannion, Bernie O'Dowd, John O'Connor, Tadhg Whelan, Donie Shanahan, Liam Mannion, John Harkin, Lar O'Brien, Margaret Skehan, Martin Fitzpatrick.
It was decided to hold over election of the Referees Committee until the adjourned Convention on January 9th.
The meeting learned with regret the decision of Paddy McCormack, Thurles to stand down as senior team coach. T.J. Connolly, Cashel was also nominated for the position but he too declined, the decision of Convention then being to send out nomination papers for the filling of
the post at the adjourned Convention. Other coaches elected were as follows; Senior B - Stephen Fitzgerald; U18 (Minor) - Pat McLoughney; U16 - Patsy Carroll; U14 - Donal Kelly.
On the financial front an opening balance of E5,378.39 as at November 3rd 2005 on the senior team supporters account was seen to have been reduced to E3,833.86. The board's current account showed income

exceeding expenditure by E249.38. However, there were a number of items
still not settled, financially, and the treasurer was of the opinion that a sum of E10,000 would be required to make good this deficit.
There were thirteen motions in all on the agenda from six clubs. Because both the chairperson and secretary were newcomers to their respective positions, it was decided to defer consideration of all motions to the adjourned Convention.
Convention was also addressed by Sheila O'Donoghue of the Association's Management committee who highlighted the Association's financial position and the need for an increase in self-generated income. The adjourned AGM will take place on January 9th 2007. Clubs wishing to contact the new secretary may do so on 087 6250267.



2006 CAMOGIE ALL-STARS

Back row, from left, Imelda Kennedy, Kilkenny, Joanne Ryan, Tipperary, Louise O'Hara, Dublin, Jennifer O'Leary, Cork, 2nd row from back, from left, Rena Buckley, Cork, Veronica Curtin, Galway, Regina Glynn, Galway and Briege Corkery, Cork, 2nd row from front, from left, Gemma O'Connor, Cork, Kate Kelly, Wexford, Anna Geary, Cork and Suzanna Kelly, Tipperary, with front, from left, Philly Fogarty, Tipperary, Guest of Honour and Sydney Swans footballer Tadhg Kennelly, Liz Howard, President, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Mary O'Connor, Cork and Jovita Delaney, Tipperary.

DEC. 2006

Doing it on the double

Cork's dual stars to be honoured at City Hall reception



Cork's Angela Walsh, in action against Galway earlier this year, will be among the dual stars honoured by the Lord Mayor tonight.

IT'S been a story of two dreams, linked by seven exceptional people.



MARY WHITE

Tonight, that story continues when the Lord Mayor welcomes Cork's All-Ireland camogie and ladies' football champions to City Hall for a civic reception, honouring their double-double with specially commissioned medals, as was done for the warriors of 1990.

Among them will be the Magnificent Seven who stole the headlines for playing their part in both finals over Tipperary and Armagh respectively.

Catriona Foley, Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery, Angela Walsh, Elaine O'Riordan and Regina Curtin, are those who created a magical moment of history in the autumn of 2006.

And one would think the celebrations have continued ever since. But, they haven't.

For Angela Walsh, the celebrations are only beginning such is the life of a dual star.

On September 15, the Killeagh native should have enjoyed her 21st birthday.

Instead, competing in the international rules series and the journey to winning the intermediate All-Ireland club title with her club Inch Rover's last Sunday, has meant the party has been delayed by three months.

But finally, on Saturday week, Mahony's of Killeagh won't know what hit it.

"Don't talk to me. I've had to put the celebrations on hold twice – first for the football final and the second time because the club was involved in the Munster final against Co-oraclare.

"The fact that its three months down the line is frustrating alright, but that's all part and parcel of being a dual player I suppose. You have to make sacrifices. I'm sure we'll make up for the three months wait though," she laughs.

Having re-grouped with both codes in January, it's scary to think that Walsh's season will officially only finish tomorrow night, December 9.

For the inaugural ladies football Underdog's team play Cork in Páirc Uí Rinn, and Angela's cousin and Inch Rover's team mate, Ann Marie, will be hoping to knock the champions from their pedestal, as an Underdog.

"Ya, tomorrow night should be a great night. The fact the money is going to the Hope Foundation makes it all the better too.

"I'm not sure about playing against Ann Marie though. She was in great form for us in the All-Ireland on Sunday, and if she shows that kind of form

DUAL CODES: Cork players that proved their



NAME: Angela Walsh
AGE: 21
HOME: Killeagh
HONOURS IN 2006: Six All-Ireland titles; National League camogie. National League football, Ashbourne Cup with University Limerick, camogie championship, football championship, intermediate All-Ireland, an intermediate Munster club title and a back-to-back football All-Star at full-back.



NAME: Rena Buckley
AGE: 19
HOME: Inniscarra
HONOURS IN 2006: Five All-Ireland titles, national league camogie, national league football, O'Connor Cup medal with UCD, camogie championship, football championship, senior Munster football title, and camogie and football All-Stars.



NAME: Catriona Foley
AGE: 20
HOME: Carrignavar
HONOURS IN 2006: A national league camogie, national league football, back-to-back camogie and ladies football All-Ireland titles, junior A club championship and league titles, and MVP of the junior A championship final.

DEC 2006



Dual All-Ireland medallists Caitriona Foley, Rena Buckley and Angela Walsh relax after a very busy season. Picture: Larry Cummins

again then we'll be in big trouble."

The PE teacher in Glanmire Community College topped off what was a remarkable season — winning camogie league and championship titles, back-to-back football league and championship titles, an O'Connor Cup medal, All-Star nominations in both codes, winning the football full-back slot for the second year running, and culminating with winning the intermediate All-Ireland final against Naomh Mearog of Dublin.

"Some kids asked me the other day how many All-Irelands had I this year, up until then I actually had thought about it. And when it added up to six it really hit home how great a year it was."

Her boyfriend, Kevin, and the social life will need a little TLC and with the next few weeks off, all should return to equilibrium again.

For Rena Buckley, it's more or less the same scenario.

The Inniscarra camogie player and Donoughmore footballer has only found time off in the last three weeks, of which the majority has been taken up with studying for physiotherapy exams in UCD.

"Going up and down from Dublin was a good bit tiring alright, but that's all part of it. I think when you have had the little time off you don't have as much spring in your step for a little while.

"It's easy to keep going when you're winning, losing doesn't sicken you or leave a bad taste for training. You just enjoy it and it's easier to keep going.

"What really hit me the other day though was that, you would see the other dual girls nearly every night of the week, and then all of a sudden it just stops and there's no contact. That's kind of hard."

But with two former dual players at the helm of both codes for the past two years – Fiona O'Driscoll in the camogie camp, and Eamonn Ryan in the football camp – the burden as regards making every training has become some what easier.

"With Eamon and Fiona involved it's definitely been that little bit easier. All the time they make sure you're fresh and that makes a huge difference, for both codes.

"I think football got a very raw deal in the past, and camogie was always the sport to come first, but now the two codes are viewed in an equal light, and that takes the pressure off a little, in that you can give equally to both much more now."

Time management is the ultimate skill for the dual star, but it's a habit which Rena feels can be quite a selfish one at times, with family and friends taking a back seat for more or less the entire year.

"When you're a county player, there's no doubt you'll sacrifice time with your family and friends. You get very selfish with your time. People ask you to do things, but genuinely you can't and that's frustrating. In fairness, most understand but it's very tough to have to turn around and say no.

"Having holidays is another thing you miss. Having won last year there were the team holidays but it's very hard to explain to a coach and your teammates that you're going away for a weekend or you're going to a concert for a night, so you just don't have that luxury."

With a fabulous year out of the way, and a niggling knee injury which needs a little attention, a sojourn is Spain may be in the pipeline for the lady who won All-Stars in both



Rena Buckley in action against Waterford.

codes in November, along with her former Donoughmore clubmate Mary O'Connor.

However, with whispers of three-in-a-row double whammys in 2007 on everyone's lips, Rena is already feeling the pressure. But just a little.

"Obviously there's going to be a little bit more pressure next year, you can't say there won't be, but playing at senior level, it doesn't take too long to get used to pressure so hopefully it won't be too hard to deal with.

"Three is a scary number and I know it's a cliché but we will be going out as we have always done, and take each game as it comes."

For Rockbán's Catriona Foley, the pressure gauge increased somewhat this season when she started for the first time in a senior All-Ireland camogie final.

But agreeing with Rena, it's all part and parcel of competing at the highest level.

"Starting in any position in an All-Ireland final is daunting but at full-back it's perhaps even more so.

"The girls around me had already played in last year's final and they were hugely supportive which made it a lot easier for me.

"We had built up a good bit of trust between the backs prior to the final and that probably had a lot to do with the fact that it was easier to get stuck in."

And having tasted the fame that comes with success, and perhaps even more so because of her dual player status, Catriona feels tonight's presentation really hits home what the Magnificent Seven achieved in 2006.

"To get the recognition, such as tonight's medal ceremony by the Lord Mayor, makes everything sink in that little bit more.

"When you're going for so many months you don't get time to think, you just do it, and it's nice to take time out and look back on a night like tonight."

Like the others, however, things haven't calmed down too much so far, with charity functions, delayed birthday parties, college and catching up with friends, and finally tomorrow night's Underdog test.

"I think the whole Underdogs idea is a very interesting one, and I suppose it gives girls a chance to perhaps get seen by their respective inter-county coaches which is very good.

And so with their medals from the Lord Mayor in tow tomorrow night, the All-Ireland football champions and the duals in Cork's crown will be put on display collectively for the first time in more than two months.

It's been a while, but by the sounds of all the running and racing, even after their historic dual double whammy, this trio are able for anything.

Roll on a magnificent 2007.

ability at the highest level in both games



NAME: Regina Curtin
AGE: 22
HOME: Rockchapel
HONOURS IN 2006: Four All-Ireland titles — national league camogie, national league football, camogie championship and football championship.



NAME: Elaine O'Riordan
AGE: 20
HOME: Liscarroll
HONOURS IN 2006: Four All-Ireland titles — national league camogie, national league football, camogie championship and football championship.



NAME: Mary O'Connor
AGE: 29
HOME: Killeagh
HONOURS: Five All-Ireland titles national league camogie, national league football, camogie championship, football championship, intermediate All-Ireland club title, MVP for intermediate final, camogie and football All-Stars.



NAME: Briege Corkery
AGE: 20
HOME: Carrigadrohid
HONOURS IN 2006: Four All-Ireland titles — national league camogie, national league football, camogie championship and football championship.

Compiled by Mary White



Skerries Harps Girls on All-Ireland Winning Junior Camogie Team – Jean Murphy, Ciara Durkin and Sinead Cunnane.



The 6 Dublin players who helped Leinster take the Provincial title from Munster in the Gael Linn Intrprovincial Tournament played in Navan. Left to Right. Eimear Butler, Eimear Barannigan, Louise O'Hara, Aine Fanning, Andrea Fitzpatrick and Anne McCluskey.

DEC. 2006

Cork's 96fm & 103fm

CORK'S 96&103FM GAA SPORTS STAR AWARDS 2006

2006 WINNER

MARY O'CONNOR



DEC. 2006

Camogiechat

With **Mary Newman**

Inniscarra make it a double

INNISCARRA rounder off their season in style by adding the Under 16 "A" league title to the championship crown which they annexed four weeks ago. In an entertaining contest which they also hosted on their splendid camogie pitch in Ballyanley the Inniscarra girls took an early lead thanks to point from Niamh Dilworth.

Catherine O'Brien had extended their lead with the first goal of the game before a Clara Curtain point got Milford on the score board. Inniscarra continued to set the pace and stretched their advantage with points from Niamh Dilworth and Aoife Kavanagh.

Milford began to settle and began to pressurising the Inniscarra defence but they met strong resistance with Aisling Punch, Karen Jones and Marie McCarthy standing firm. A Sarah Fitzgibbon goal helped Milford and their midfield duo of Clara Curtain and Sinead O'Flynn gaining the upper hand they enjoyed plenty of possession but again it was in front of goal they met resistance the Inniscarra defence closing down several scoring attempts.

Three Inniscarra points two from Fiona O'Connell and one from Niamh Dilworth saw them open up a five points lead at the break 1-5 to 1-1.

Inniscarra brought goalkeeper Emma Kingston to midfield for the second half and she quickly linked up with Niamh Dilworth to set up Inniscarra's second goal in the opening minute.

Inniscarra's third goal came minutes later as Aisling O'Keeffe was on target; to their credit Milford battled back an Aisling Thompson point and a goal from Clara Griffin reducing the Inniscarra lead to seven points.

Milford worked hard to further reduce the arrears but Catherine O'Brien struck for a fourth Inniscarra goal it put the title beyond Milford's reach. Niamh Dilworth with a point in the closing minutes ensured Inniscarra completed the league and championship double.

FIXTURES

JUST one game down for decision as the under16 B championship final takes place on Saturday in Ovens at 12 noon Ballincollig meet Eire Og in what promises to be an exciting clash.



"We are each of us angels with only one wing and we can only fly by embracing one another."



Cork's 96 & 103FM GAA Sports Star of the Year, Mary O'Connor pictured with her camogie board colleagues (l-r) Mary Newman, Sheila Golden, Marian McCarthy, Mary O'Connor, Kay Dunne, Mary Bulger and Joanne O'Callaghan. Picture, Tony O Connell Photography.

SPORTS STAR SUPREME

A GREAT night for camogie on Monday evening last as Killeagh and Cork player Mary O Connor was named as the winner of the 96/103fm Rochestown Park Hotel supreme sports star for 2006.

Earlier in the season Mary was chosen as the winner of the May award for her achievement in winning national league medals in both camogie and football during the month. She went on to add duel All Ireland medals and duel

All star awards as the season progressed finishing off by winning an Intermediate club football medal last weekend. Mary is employed by the camogie association as Munster development officer and over a long career has won honours with Limerick club Greangh Ballingarry before returning home to line out with Killeagh where she started her career.

It was a wonderful occasion with the camogie board well represented by its officers and GPC members as well as several of the players with senior captain Joanne O Callaghan and senior B captain Miriam Deasy.

Rockban add league title to championship crown

A LEAGUE championship doubles for Rockban as they held of the challenge posed by a young Newtownshandrum side in the league decider on Saturday in Newtownshandrum.

Conditions were trying as the gale force wind made it almost impossible for both sides and spoiled the game as a contest. Rockban aided by the elements in the opening half led at the break 2-7 to 0-1.

The opening quarter was a close affair as Newtown played a defensive game eventually Rockban got on the score board with points from Margaret Howard Sile Burns and Valerie Mulcahy. Sile Burns extended their lead with a goal before a second goal from Margaret Howard three minutes later saw Rockban take control. From here to the half time whistle they kept the pressure on the Newtownshandrum defence and four points without reply one from Catriona Foley and three frees from Sile Burns saw them lead, Paula O'Connor having pointed for Newtownshandrum in the early stages of the half. Newtown started the second half in determined fashion a goal from Maria Reidy inside a minutes boosted their confidence.

Paula O'Connor converted a free as they continued to put the Rockban defence under pressure but they were dealt a blow when Sara Coleman grabbed a Rockban goal after two excellent saves from Marie O'Connor in the Newtown goal. Sile Burns struck for a fourth Rockban goal inside a minuet as she left the Newtown defence in her trail before finishing low to the net. Now 3-7 to 1-3 ahead it looked a formality for Rockban but all credit to Newtownshandrum who rallied and showed plenty of spirit driven on by captain O'Connor, they pressurised the Rockban defence.

Paula O'Connor struck a magnificent long range point before Niamh Bowles skilful evaded the Rockban defence to strike for a much needed goal. Two Paula O'Connor points had them within seven points and as they piled on the pressure the Rockban defence had to be at their best but it was here they help the aces Catriona Foley superbly marshalling her side breaking up attack after attack.

As Rockban held out to the final whistle to make it a double in their last game in the junior grade before they elevate to Senior B for 2007.

Eire Og book final spot

A POINT from Aoife Scally late in the second half was enough to secure an under 16 B final place for Eire Og and set up a meeting with fellow divisional side Ballincollig on Saturday next.

Eire Og with two first half goals the first from Ciara O'Keeffe took and early lead as Elaine Ryan kept Courcey Rovers in touch with a point. Aided by the wind Eire Og kept the pressure on the Courcey Rovers defence and an Elisa Corkery goal stretch their advantage as they led at the break 2-0 to 0-1.

Ciara O'Keeffe again showed her skill striking for her second goal at the start of the second half and she further stretched her sides lead with a point.

Karen Crowley cut the arrears with a Courcey Rovers goal and with the Eire Og defence having to withstand strong Courcey pressure the equaliser arrived, Elaine Ryan on target for Courcey's. As both sides' battles for a winner possession was vital and with three minutes remaining Aoife Scally pointed to put her side into the decider.

MARY WINS

DEC. 2006

IT was only fitting that given the outstanding year she has had that dual star Mary O'Connor should become the 96/103 FM GAA Sports Star of the year in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel and the acclaim she received on the announcement proved conclusively that the judging panel got it spot on.

The Gala Banquet was a huge success again showing the popularity of the award scheme as it enters it fourth year.

GAA President Nickey Brennan was the guest of honour and was fulsome in his praise for the joint sponsors during the course of his address where a lot of what he said struck a chord with many of the four hundred plus in attendance.

Brennan made a strong plea for County Boards to take into consideration the needs of the club players when setting out their fixture programme at the start of the season, "while I accept that the inter-county teams deserve to be accommodated in terms of preparation there is at times to much concentration on this area to the detriment of clubs and maybe it was time for those in higher authority to take action to ensure club players are catered for."

The President also had words on the dual player issue, while he did concede that players can no longer play both games at inter-county level, it must be retained at club level, continuing he said "clubs have always been built on dual players and while it does create problems, asking club players to choose one code over another would have far reaching consequences for our clubs and it is my hope that such a scenario would never occur, some of our most outstanding players have always played both games and hopefully that will continue to be the case."

In congratulating all the monthly winners Nickey said it was an outstanding event and look forward to seeing who would follow in the footsteps of Ben O'Connor and John Allen the first two recipients of the overall award.

Deputy Lord Mayor of the County Cllr Maura Cal McCarthy and Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Aherne also spoke and expressed delight at been present and paid due tribute to 96/103 FM for their coverage of GAA matters and also acknowledged the role of the Rochestown Park Hotel in promoting the scheme.

Sean Lehane Managing director of the Rochestown Park Hotel gave a wonderful address the majority in our native tongue that was easy to understand, Sean a huge supporter of the awards said "it is a two way thing with these awards because we here in the hotel get tremendous support from the GAA clubs and boards which we greatly appreciate and we see no

port as it pays due recognition to so many and both 96/103 FM and the Rochestown Park Hotel are to be commended for their wonderful efforts over the last three years and hopefully we will be back again in the coming months honouring the stars of our game.

There was a nice sense of anticipation in the room as the monthly winners were introduced by way of video clips, expertly put together by Eoin Daly, and they waited anxiously for the formal announcement.

Eventually Mary O'Connor was proclaimed the winner and when you collect two National League medals, two All-Ireland medals and two All-Star awards in a ten month period you deserve to be acclaimed as Cork's supreme GAA Sports Star for 2006.

Mary has enjoyed an outstanding career particularly in Camogie and in more recent years displaying her talent with the Cork Ladies Football team and on Sunday won an All-Ireland Intermediate club medal with Inch Rovers along with the player of the match award, of course Mary works for the Camogie Association and is the Munster Development Officer and is working hard at promoting the game in the weaker counties and hopefully he work will bear fruit in the coming years.

Having recovered her composure Mary thanked the judges for picking her from among such a highly talented group, "it has been a great year for both Camogie and Ladies Football teams and so many people helped make it possible, I would like to thank everyone for their help and especially my parents who have given me great support throughout my career."

It was a proud night for the family who were delighted at Mary been chosen and it was nice that playing colleagues on both teams were present as were John Cronin and Eamonn Ryan who coached the Cork teams to All-Ireland wins.

Camogie Board officers were in attendance led by Chairperson Marion McCarthy, Sharon O'Keeffe of the Ladies football board, Peter Dennehy of the Handball Board, Frank Murphy, Jerry O'Sullivan, Pearse Murphy, Bob Ryan and Con Murphy of the GAA Board, Christy Cooney and Dan Hoare former officers of the Munster Council all attended along with John Allen the outgoing Cork hurling Coach, joined by his son Shane, while newly appointed boss Gerald McCarthy was also present.



Cork camogie and Ladies footballer, Mary O'Connor, with her parents, brothers and sisters at the Rochestown Park Hotel after receiving the 2006 Cork 96 & 103 FM GAA Sports award.

Picture: Tony O'Connell

DEC. 2006

TOP AWARD



At the Cork 96 & 103 FM GAA Sports Star Awards 2006 in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel, Kieran McGeary, CEO 96 & 103 FM, presenting the Award to Cork Camogie and Ladies Footballer Mary O'Connor in the company of (l-r), Finbarr McCarthy, Cork Independent & 96FM; Nickey Brennan, President of the GAA; Sean Lehane, MD, Rochestown Park Hotel; Mick Dolan, Chairman Cork County Board and all the monthly recipients for 2006.
Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography.

O'Connor honoured at award ceremony



Cork camogie and Ladies footballer 2006 Cork 96 FM GAA Sports Star Mary O'Connor with her Cork Camogie Board colleagues, l to r, Mary Newman, Sheila Golden, Marian McCarthy, Kay Dunne, Mary Bugler and Joanne O'Callaghan.
Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

THERE were no complaints last night as the outstanding dual player Mary O'Connor was honoured for a quite magnificent year with the 96/103 FM GAA Sports Star of the Year Award for 2006.

The Killeagh native achieved a number of remarkable feats over the past 12 months including back-to-back camogie and ladies football All-Irelands and All-Star awards.



EAMONN MURPHY

It's been an amazing weekend for O'Connor; she was awarded the player-of-the-match bauble on Sunday as Inch Rovers won the All-Ireland club intermediate crown, and last night her brilliance was recognised at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Also saluted was the Legend, Brian Corcoran, who was given an award for outstanding achievement the day after the final bell tolled on his career in the Gaelic Grounds.

A moving reel of highlights charted the Erin's Own giant's progress from mullet wearing hero of the '90s to Cork goliath and three-time senior All-Ireland medallist.

Corcoran acknowledged the achievements of the Cork ladies football and camogie sides in his speech and finished with a stirring *Corcaigh Abú* and a message of good luck to incoming manager Gerald McCarthy.

The voice of Cork for 96/103 FM sport, Finbarr McCarthy, was *compere* for the night in front of a packed attendance at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

GAA President Nickey Brennan was the guest of honour as over 500 GAA enthusiasts gathered for one of the most prestigious award ceremonies in the Cork GAA calendar.

Every month one of the top stars in GAA on Leeside is recognised by 96/103 FM and among the monthly winners for 2006, and favourites for the overall award, were Donal Óg Cusack and Ger Spillane.

Mary O'Connor was a deserved winner however and both ladies football and camogie are firmly in the ascendancy on Leeside.

DEC. 2006

Third level stars get chance to shine on big stage



Rena Buckley, will be one of the main players when favourites UCD begin thir attempt to capture the Ashbourne Cup.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie draws

THE thoughts of club and county players is now focused on their well-earned Christmas break as they finally get the chance to unwind after a hectic season.

But third level camogie players' minds are very much focused on the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions.

They are without doubt the most prestigious of camogie competitions in college life and will take place in late January and February.

The long awaited draws took place in Croke Park on Wednesday last and they have thrown up some interesting clashes for us to look forward to in the months ahead.

Last year's winner's, University of Limerick, take on the Garda College in the first round and with the Limerick girls hoping to make it three in row they will need to be at their best to hold of the challenge which is sure to come from a Garda College side, who recorded a recent victory in the Ó Maolagáin Shield.

UL will be backboned by Cork All-Ireland medal-winning duo Anna Geary and Angela Walsh and Kilkenny's Aine Lyng, while Garda can call on Tipperary's Michelle Shortt and Kilkenny's Marie O'Connor.

Last year's defeated finalists UCD will face Waterford IT in a game which should be well worth keeping an eye. UCD will be one of the sides who could very well take ultimate honours.

They have top-class players in Wexford's Louise Codd and Mary Leacy and Cork's Rena Buckley. UCD have been knocking on the door for some time, beaten finalists for the last three years they will go in as favourites to capture the prestigious cup. Ursula Jacob, Susan Keane and Ger Kinnane should backbone a strong WIT challenge.

UCC have been pitted against NUIG in their opening game, and the Galway outfit will be looking to St Catherine's duo the Twomey sisters. Denise and Deirdre. to plot the downfall of UCC.

The Cork side will always be one of the stronger teams in the Ashbourne, and when one glances at their panel, we can see why.

They are laden with intercounty players such as corks Emer Dillon, Colette Desmond and Catriona Foley and Sara O'Donovan while Tipperary's Jill Horan and Lorraine Burke make up a formidable lineout and no doubt they will be fancied to advance and should be there abouts at the final shake up.

Cork will have plenty of interest in the competition with Cork Institute of Technology coached by Aidan Crowley, who guided the county to their first Senior B All-Ireland title pitted UUJ.

CIT have been busy and are putting in huge preparation, Cork players Jenny Duffy, Gillian Harrington and Lucy Hawks are in their ranks and they will fancy their chances to advance to the semi-final stages.

As interest continues to grow there will be a record number of teams competing in the Purcell Cup. Sixteen sides in all will battle it out for the title and the competition promises to be the most competitive in a number of years.

Hosts St Patrick's, DCU, Queens and Trinity will be leading contenders to capture the title.

Among the attendance at the draws was president of the Association Liz Howard. She said it is hugely supportive of colleges competitions.

"Third-level competitions are extremely important in the promotion of our game as the young women playing at this level are the future leaders and shapers of society in Ireland. Both the Ashbourne and Purcell are prestigious competitions and all players competition want to win a coveted medal.

The competitions usually signal the return to activities and we look forward eagerly to them starting early in the new year."

Ten camogie players received third level bursaries supported by the Irish Sports Council, amongst the recipients were Cork senior player Anna Geary University of Limerick.

The full list of bursary winners was as follows: Anna Geary UL, Catriona Power TCD, Bronagh Keenan Queens, Louise Codd UCD, Aine Lyng UL, Therese Muldowney UCC, Katie McAuley St Mary's, Maria O'Sullivan DCU, Stephanie Griffin Sligo IT, Susan Keane WIT.

ASHBOURNE CUP DRAW 2007

U. L. v Garda; UCC v NUIG; UUJ v CIT; WIT v UCD.

PURCELL CUP DRAW

1 St Pat's; 2 GMIT v LIT v Carlow IT; 3 D.C.U v Tipp IT; 4 Sligo IT v Trinity; 5 Queens v Cavan IT; 6 St Mary's / Tralee IT v DIT / NUI Maynooth; 7 Athlone IT; 8 Mary I

St Pat's V Winners of 2; Winners of 3 V Winners of 4; Winners of 5 V Winners of 6; Athlone IT V Mary I.

Interesting fare to look forward to as the Colleges competitions help lift the winter gloom.

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

GLEN ROVERS

This afternoon our underage section will hold their annual Christmas Party at club beginning at 2pm, the afternoon promises to be an exciting one where our U11, 13 and 15 teams will be presented with their medals for the Seandun competitions which were completed early in 2006.

We hope to have a visit from the senior A and B All-Ireland trophies the O'Duffy Cup and the Corn Sean McGrath which were won by the Cork camogie teams earlier this year. We are also hoping for a visit from our own Patrick Horgan who led the club to the premier minor championship title and who also captain the Cork minor side that took the Munster hurling championship so everyone is advised to bring their cameras.

Next on the agenda is our Christmas Draw which takes place in the club on Sunday night. A reminder to all who have not returned their tickets to please do so before the draw, you can drop them into the club this evening or tomorrow.

On Thursday Friday and Saturday of next week we will be bag packing at Caulfield's Super-Valu Merchants Quay packers are reminded to check their times in the coming week and to wear their club gear on the day.

Again a reminder about the clubs Long Puck which takes place on St Stephens's day starting at the club start is from 10am to 2pm so no excuses about having a rest!

It's open to both females and males and with different sections there is something for everybody, families, all male or all female and mixed team will be the order of the day, transport will be provided to the starting point and back, again it promises to be a great day out for all participants, entries will be taken on the day and further details can be got from Joe O'Shea on 087-9972194.

The club shop is open every Friday evening from 7pm and on Sunday mornings during training times, the new camogie jersey is now available for sale in the shop, Maureen will only to happy to help you out.

No training for the coming week as players and mentors take a well earned rest.

PASSAGE WEST

Passage Club will hold a Children's Christmas Bingo Session on Saturday next December 23rd at 5.30pm at the clubhouse it promises to be good fun for all the family. St Peter's U16 camogie team have reached the final of the Munster Colleges Camogie after defeating Blarney in the semi final. The score was St Peters 2-4 Blarney 1-1.

The game was played in dreadful conditions and praise on both teams for their gallant efforts. This is a great achievement for Passage girls and all are looking forward to the Munster final in the New Year. St Peter's defeated Killenaule and St Aidan's in earlier rounds.

ST FINBARR'S

Less than three months in existence the Juvenile Committee staged a highly successful indoor blitz for the 7-11 age groups last Saturday. Fun and participation

DEC. 2006

Camogie board pays its tributes

STOCK-TAKING time as the Cork camogie board held their annual convention recently.

The senior board looked back on what was a very successful season for camogie in Cork as the senior team retained the O'Duffy cup with a comprehensive victory over old rivals Tipperary, while the Senior B side completed a historic double with a victory over Galway. Cork became the only county to take two senior titles in the same year.

Chairperson Marion McCarthy was loud in her praise for the 56 clubs who competed in competitions through what was a busy season, she had special words for the victorious clubs and paid tribute to the many clubs who battles it out with little success.

Inter-county teams and their selection committees were also singled out for special mention.

Two senior All-Ireland titles, Senior National league and three Provincial trophies as well as two Féile na nGael titles found homes Leeside the successes are in no small way a tribute to the hard work put in at ground level by hugely committed and dedicated mentors and players.

The chairperson also had words of praise for the work being done by Cumann Camogaíochta na nÓg under the chairmanship of Tracy Sheehan; Marion praises the officer board for the efficient manner in which they are promoting camogie for the younger players.

Whiles the chairman thanked everybody who had put their pitches at the boards disposal in 2006 there was continued good news on the position with the camogie boards own pitch development on which huge progress continues.

Its hopes that the pitch will be ready for use in summer 2007the next phase is the erection of goal posts and a perimeter fence the board hope to have this completed by Spring. From here development will go into another stage with the eventual plan the development of a camogie complex.

Exciting time certainly lie ahead for Cork camogie in the next twelve months but as delegates were warned this dream needs to be financed, while a grant of €175,000 was secured earlier this year there has been a further application and hopes are high for further funding.

In the New Year a major fundraising drive is to get under way with a finance committee driving the project ahead as they comes a step closer to their dream of a home of their own for Cork camogie.



New Cork County Camogie Board childrens' officer Noreen Daly (left) with Ballygarvan club delegate Yvonne Lane at the recent convention.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie convention

It was not all glad tidings as the chairperson issued a stern warning to those who step out of line by showing indiscipline on and off the playing field, abuse of referees will not be tolerated and clubs were urged to address this matter at club levels.

Marion also urged clubs to help recruit new referees and promised a coaching course in the season ahead for those interested taking up the whistle.

With all outgoing offices returned unopposed their was one new position to be filled Noreen Daly from the Ballygarvan club taking up the role of Child Welfare officers, Noreen has been a member of the boards General purposes committee and is medical officer to the Cork senior team, she brings a vast amount of experience to her new position where I am sure she will do an excellent job.

Lillian Zinkant and John Cronin continue as senior selectors and they will be joined by a representative from county champions St Finbarrs who we believe will be Mary Moran.

Ollie Hallahan who had served for four years in the role of senior selector retired from the position and did not seek re election.

There will be changes also to the senior B committee with Kay Dunne defeating out going Pat Murray she joins Sile Golden and Willie O Regan who helped guide the fortunes of the side to All-Ireland honours in 2006.

At junior level outgoing selectors Willie O'Regan Clonakilty and Brendan Coleman Valley Rovers continue and they will be joined by a representative from Junior A county champions Rockban.

The U16 selection committee will be a new one as Cork bid to regain control at underage level on the inter county scene, outgoing coach and selector George O'Callaghan and selector Rose White lost out to Ger Sheehan Douglas and Tracy Sheehan Mayfield, they are joined by Betty O Mahony who will represent county U16 A championship Inniscarra, last year's selector Paddy Corkery did not seek re election to the U16 committee.

At minor (under 18) level changes also with long serving selector Sile O'Brien losing out to her club mate Paddy Corkery and Ann Marie Healy who has served as a selector for the last three years.

Six members were elected to the general purposed committee as follows Noreen Daly, Claire Donegan, Sheila Golden, Kathleen Mc Carthy, Sheila O Brien and Christine O'Regan.

There were just three motions down for discussion two propose by the GPC ,the first dealt with clubs who fail to fulfil their league fixtures, after short debate the motion was carried to fine and disqualify clubs who fail to fulfil two league fixtures.

The second motion proposing to fine clubs who enter and fail to field in competitions was also carried.

A motion from the juvenile convention to be ratified by the senior section evoked lively and lengthy debate the motion from Sarsfields was seeking to get under age clubs who field more than one team in the same grade to name the players in each team, thus eliminating players hopping from team to team.

As at the juvenile convention many delegates again sought clarification on certain aspects of the motion. Eventually it was carried.

For the first time in a number of years there were a record number of transfer requests thirty players in all seeking to change their allegiances. All but three of the clubs released the players and these transfers were passed.

Two transfers one from Dungourney to Killeagh which was held up in the post and the second from Buttevant to Grenagh were deferred and will be dealt with at the first meeting in January whilst a transfer from Brian Dillon's to Sarsfields which was not signed by the club was put to the floor and passed.

With convention concluded the chairperson set a date of January 29 for the first meeting of the county board.

were the keynote features of the day and it was obvious that the youngsters enjoyed themselves.

Thirty-two players took part in a number of matches and all were winners.

Great credit is due to the Juvenile Committee under the leadership of Janice Duffy.

They got done to business immediately and rounded in additional helpers who are obviously doing great work. The benefits of their efforts were clearly visible at the blitz. Even at their tender age, some players with definite potential for the game could be identified.

The players eagerly contested the matches. All-Star Gemma O'Connor was on hand to present medals. An unannounced visit by Santa, loaded down with boxes of goodies, gave the event a festive feeling and sent the young players, who were cheered on by a large number of family members, home happy.

A Victory Dinner to celebrate our historic win in the Cork Senior Championship will be held at the Club on Saturday, January 13. With the legendary Joe Mac providing the music, a lively night will be guaranteed. Tickets, costing €30, may be had from committee members.

The traditional St Finbarr's Long Puck will be held on December 27.

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

ST VINCENT'S

As promised last week we now have dates and times for our long puck competition confirmed.

It's taking place on Wednesday, December 27. Check in is at 11am at St Vincent's hurling and football club, Blarney Road.

Entry is €30 per team of three.

Entry is strictly 11 girls per team and you are guaranteed a great day.

Please come and show your support, great prizes are also offered on the day

Training Times:
Monday :530-630 u12s
Tuesday:5-6 u8s
Wednesday:5-6u10s
Wednesday:6-7 u14s
Thursday:8-9:u16s/juniors

WATERGRASSHILL

We had our AGM on Friday, December 1, with all outgoing officers returned unopposed for the coming year. The camogie club, in conjunction with Watergrasshill Juvenile club are holding a Long-Puck competition on St Stephens's day in Moanbawn Forest. It is located two miles outside Watergrasshill village towards Leamlara.

Starting time is at 11am. Teams of teams of three, with €10 per adult, and five per child as entry fee.

A great day is guaranteed with refreshments afterwards in Horse & Hound, Watergrasshill.

We hope to see large support at what promises to be a great day out. Happy Christmas.

AGHBULLOGUE

Aghabullogue Camogie Club are having a mass said in memory of the deceased members of Aghabullogue Camogie Club in Aghabullogue church on Thursday, December 28 at 8pm.

All former/current members, supporters, players, family members, friends and everyone else are invited to attend and join in the mass ceremony.

DEC. 2006



Alison Coughlan of Ballincollig drives the sliothar goalwards in the U16B Camogie County final against Éire Óg at Ovens. Picture: Kieran Boyde

Ballincollig make history

Ballincollig	1-3
Éire Óg	0-4



THERE were jubilant scenes at the full-time whistle in Ovens on Saturday as Ballincollig camogie club celebrated its first county title.

After a tough and tight hour of committed camogie played on heavy underfoot conditions, Ballincollig were narrow winners over a spirited Éire Óg side in a classic Cork County U16 B Camogie Championship final.

The victory was a huge achievement for the club, made all the sweeter as it was on the home turf of their local rivals and coming on the back of defeat in the Minor A county final two weeks ago.

Victoria St Ledger flicked the decisive goal to the net, but Claire Ryan, Brea O'Callaghan, Kate O'Donoghue and Sarah Buckley played equally important parts in winning the U16B crown.

And the management team of John Kearny, Gareth Irish, Niall O'Connor, Kathleen Healy, Mary O'Donoghue and Mary Ui Crualaoi will forever be remembered as the first to guide the club to a championship.

The maiden championship win will be seen as further sign of the progress made by the thriving and growing club in Ballincollig. They have expanded rapidly in recent years and have contributed a number of players to Cork underage sides, but until Saturday were without a championship at any level.

This was an honest, hard fought battle between two magnificent sides and the difference between the sides was a Victoria St Ledger goal in 40th minute of the game. It came at a crucial juncture of the game when Éire Óg were pushing hard and had just retaken the lead through a Marie Gleeson point.

But from the puck out, Ballincollig broke down the field and despite pressure, Sarah Buckley threaded a beautiful ball into St Ledger and she pulled first time to find the net.

It shattered Éire Óg's momentum and it left them struggling to advance out of their own half.

In the final 20 minutes the Collig half-back line of Emer Nolan, Kate O'Donoghue and Brea O'Callaghan were crucial in denying the opposition. And sweeping back from centre-forward, Claire Ryan was imperious, winning and clearing a mountain of ball; in the dying seconds she brilliantly flicked up the sliothar from a ruck of players and cleared with Éire Óg chasing a winning goal.

Prior to the game, Ballincollig wore the favourite's tag, but it appeared in the early stages as if that mantle weighed too heavily around their neck as they fell behind to two early points from brilliant Éire Óg corner-back Marie Gleeson.

The champions finally found their stride mid-way through the first-half with a pointed free from Claire Ryan and four minutes later, Holly Coomey, who was full of energy and running throughout, floated the ball over the bar to restore parity.

But led by defenders Deirdre Twomey, Aisling O'Keeffe and Katie McCarthy the home side resisted Ballincollig's attempts to move ahead.

Meanwhile, in attack, they were inspired by Aoife Scally and Ella Kelleher and there was little between the teams.

Scally proved a handful for the Ballincollig back-line and she was regularly shackled by two or more defenders. With half-time approaching, the corner-forward was denied by the width of a goalpost from handing her side the initiative.

Despite their possession, Ballincollig failed to build on their two points and the sides remained level at the interval.

Ballincollig went ahead for the first time with an outstanding Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh point soon after the restart.

But Éire Óg improved their performance and began to attack with intent. Despite a blanket defence, Aoife Scally found a way through to point under pressure before Éire Óg snatched back the lead with a Marie Gleeson point.

However, rather than propelling the home side to victory, the score inspired Ballincollig and the St Ledger goal arrived at a perfect moment.

Ballincollig never stopped pushing to put the result beyond doubt, but they were denied more goals as Éire Óg's Louise Stack, Marie Gleeson and Deirdre Twomey all cleared off the line.

With time running down and Éire Óg struggling to break beyond the half-way line, Ballincollig were crowned champions.

Ballincollig had heroes in every line and Patricia Buttimer, Sarah Buckley and Alison Coughlan worked tremendously hard.

Scorers for Ballincollig: V St Ledger 1-0, C Ryan (free), H Coomey and O Ni Chathasaigh 0-1 each.

Scorers for Éire Óg: M Gleeson 0-3 frees, A Scally 0-1.

BALLINCOLLIG: A Sheehan, R O'Callaghan, E Harrington, L O'Sullivan, E Nolan, K O'Donoghue, B O'Callaghan, S Buckley, P Buttimer, H Coomey, C Ryan, O Ni Chathasaigh, V St Ledger, A Coughlan, L O'Callaghan.

Subs Used: J Ryle for O Ni Chathasaigh, S Coomey for V St Ledger.

ÉIRE ÓG: L Stack, M Gleeson, A O'Keeffe, D Twomey, R Murray, K McCarthy, D McAuliffe, E Kelleher, C O'Connor, C Meaney, A McCarthy, C O'Keeffe, A Scally, E Corkery, M Hennessy.

Referee: G Sheehan (Douglas).

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Ballincollig's U16 camogie side celebrate their county final win over Éire Óg at Ovens last weekend.



Treacy Sheehan, Cork County Camogie Board, presents Ballincollig U16 captain Elizabeth Harrington with the cup at Ovens last weekend.

Title joy for 'Collig heroes



Claire Ryan, Dan McCarthy, Elizabeth Harrington, Helen Down, Barry Down (club sponsors), Lisa O'Callaghan and Aisleen Sheehan celebrate Ballincollig Camogie Club's U16B county final win.



Ballincollig Camogie Club's U16 panel and mentors show their happiness after their county final win as they pose outside the clubhouse in Ballincollig.

DEC. 2006



Ryan's heroes: Eamonn Ryan and Professor Gerry Wrixon, president, University College, Cork with UCC students who were players with the All-Ireland winning Cork ladies football, camogie and hurling teams at UCC in 2005. (front from left) Regina Curtin, Colette Desmond, Ronan McGregor, Jennifer Browne, Laura Power, and Caoimhe Creedon and (at rear L to R) Pat Price, PE Officer, Stephen Manning, Athletics Union, Eamonn Ryan, UCC GAA Development Officer and Cork ladies football coach, Kevin Hartnett, Tom Kenny, Gerry Wrixon, President UCC; Rachel Maloney, Sarah O'Donovan, Eimear Dillon, Cathriona Foley, Christine O'Donovan, and Shane O'Neill.

Millstreet Camogie celebrate success

Historic year for club teams



MILLSTREET Camogie club acknowledged outstanding achievement on the playing field at a victory function hosted in the Wallis Arms Hotel. Players, parents and supporters convened to pay tribute to all those associated with the growing interest of camogie.

From a diverse year, success culminated on Millstreet claiming a sciath na scoil title in addition to a county U12 camogie championship title for the first time. This came after a tremendously exciting victory over Bride Rovers.

In a fast and open contest, Millstreet's better play won the day, whipping into every challenge with unrelenting commitment and decorating their work with marvellous skill. When the East Cork side mounted a second offensive in a bid to haul themselves back into the fray, Millstreet hung in, their brand of determination and skill had to be seen to be believed.

Club Chairperson Joan Looney commended all the teams on their participation and the growing interest in the sport was confirmed on Millstreet fielding a junior team for the first time.

Elsewhere, Millstreet selected teams at U11/12/13 and the interest at U9 level augurs well for the future.

Ms Looney lauded the contribution of her officers, committee colleagues and trainers before she encouraged further involvement.

"Without these people, no club would survive. These are the people who give of their time so willingly. In order to maintain the success rate of our club with the increasing number of girls, the trainers need extra help. Recruitment will commence shortly and I'm sure, we will have an influx of applicants," she said.

The Chairperson added thanks to the clubs many sponsors and the support of parents on forming a rota with trainers.

"This is a vital part nowadays in the running of a club. And the parents are always available to ferry the girls to training and matches."

Special guest Rena Buckley offered encouraging words to the young stars of Millstreet camogie and took the opportunity to autograph jerseys.

The successful Millstreet panel that lifted the county title consisted of Leanne Daly, Ellmarie Cronin, Laura Dennehy, Jessica Dunne, Rachel O'Brien, Allannah Barry, Kellie Murphy, Orlaith Kiely, Kayleigh Sheahan, Shauna O'Sullivan, Muireann Murphy, Kate O'Keeffe, Maura Buckley, Aideen Buckley, Emer Twomey, Lydia O'Reilly, Maura Ellen O'Connor, Edel Breen, Ellie Dineen, Niamh Sheehan, Siobhain Sheehan, Leanne Smith, Saoirse McMahon, Sophie O'Leary, Leanne Kelleher, Muireann Buckley and Mary Singleton.

Above: Members of the Millstreet u12 camoige team enjoying the club victory function at the Wallis Arms Hotel.

DEC.

2006

O'Connor wins supreme award

by Mary Newman

A GREAT night for Mary O'Connor recently as the Killeagh and Cork camogie and ladies football player was named as the winner of the 96/103fm Rochestown Park Hotel supreme sports star for 2006.

Earlier in the season Mary was chosen as the winner of the May award for her achievement in winning two national league medals in camogie and football during the month.

She added dual All Ireland medals when the camogie side defeated Tipperary as they comprehensively retained their crown. Mary was also a key player in the ladies football side as Cork defeated Armagh to also retain the crown they had won for the first time in 2005.

When the All Star awards were handed out Mary picked up her second camogie accolade and two weeks later added a football All Star. As the season drew to its conclusion a great 2006 on the playing fields was rounded off by winning an Intermediate club football medal with Inch Rovers.

Mary is employed by the camogie association as Munster Development officer, and over a long career has won honours with Limerick club Greangh Ballingarry, before returning home to line out with Killeagh where she started her camogie career. Mary had for many years lined out with Donoughmore before moving to Inch Rovers.

Senior camogie captain Joanne O Callaghan led a strong camogie contingent that included Cork Senior B captain Miriam Deasy who led the county to a historic camogie first All Ireland captain.

Football captain Juliet Murphy was unable to attend, but Nollaigh Cleary, who picked up the October award, was on hand to fly the football flag, as was Eamonn Ryan and Jim Mc Evoy.

Camogie board reflects on great year

by Mary Newman

THE annual convention of Cork camogie board took place recently at Douglas GAA club. A big display of trophies was testament to a great year for the game in Cork where the county recorded a historic double by becoming the first county to take two All Ireland senior titles in the same year with the annexing of both crowns

Chairperson Marion McCarthy thanked all who had helped make it a special year for Cork camogie. Two Senior All Ireland titles, Senior National league and three Provincial trophies, as well as two Feile Na nGael titles, helped make it a year to remember. She also paid tribute to the hard working official at club and county level for their huge commitment and



Marion McCarthy: good news on pitch front.

dedicated shown by all.

The chairperson thanked the officers of Cumann Camogaiochta Na nÓg under the chairmanship of Tracy Sheehan for their promotion of under age camogie in the county. And there was good news with the camogie board's own pitch development on which huge progress continues. It's hoped the pitch will be ready for use in summer 2007. The next phase is the erection of goal posts and a perimeter fence. The board hope to have this completed by spring. From here development will go into another stage with the eventual plan the development of a camogie complex.

But this dream needs to be financed. While a grant of €175,000 was secured earlier this year there are high hopes for further funding. In the New Year a major fundraising drive is to get under way with a finance committee driving the project ahead.

Marion also urged clubs to help recruit new referees and promised a coaching course in the season ahead for those interested taking up the whistle.

With all outgoing offices returned unopposed there was one new position to be filled, Noreen Daly from the Ballygarvan club taking up the role of child welfare officers. Noreen has been a member of the board's general purposes committee and is medical officer to the Cork senior team.

Lillian Zinkant and John Cronin continue as senior selectors and they will be joined by a representative from county champions St Finbarrs who we believe will be Mary Moran. Senior selector Ollie Hallahan did not seek re election. There will be changes also to the senior B committee with Kay Dunne defeating outgoing Pat Murray. She joins Sile Golden and Willie O Regan who helped guide the fortunes of the side to All Ireland honours in 2006. At junior level outgoing selectors Willie O'Regan, Clonakilty, and Brendan Coleman, Valley Rovers, continue and they will be joined by a representative from Junior A county champions Rockban.

The under 16 selection committee will be a new one as Cork bid to regain control at under age level on the inter county scene, outgoing coach and selector George O'Callaghan and selector Rose White lost out to Ger Sheehan Douglas and Tracy Sheehan Mayfield. They are joined by Betty O'Mahony who will represent county under 16 A championship Iniscarra.

At minor (under 18) level changes also with long serving selector Sile O'Brien losing out to her club mate Paddy Corkery and Ann Marie Healy who has served as a selector for the last three years.

Six members were elected to the general purposed committee as follows Noreen Daly, Claire Donegan, Sheila Golden, Kathleen Mc Carthy, Sheila O Brien and Christine O Regan.

A motion that clubs who fail to fulfil two league fixtures be fined and disqualified was passed.

The second motion proposing to fine clubs who enter and fail to field in competitions was also carried.

For the first time in a number of years there were a record number of transfer requests thirty players in all seeking to change their allegiances. All but three of the clubs released the players and these transfers were passed.



Lt John Gaffney and Cork camogie player Gemma O'Connor, who is a soldier in the Irish Army, at a Cork City Council Civic Reception honouring the Cork Senior Camogie and Cork Senior Ladies Football Teams, winners of both the 2005 and 2006 Senior All-Ireland titles.

Ballincollig take U16B title

by Mary Newman

Ballincollig	**1-3**
Éire Óg	**0-4**

THE long-awaited championship title finally arrived but Ballincollig had to be at their best to deny fellow divisional side Eire Og in an excitingly contested Under16 B championship final in Ovens on Saturday.

A Victoria St Ledger goal in the 40th minute of the second half gave Ballincollig the crown.

Despite being pre-match favourites, Ballincollig found the going tough against a tenacious Éire Óg side with two early points from Marie Gleeson settling the Ovens girls. Ballincollig got on the score board midway through the opening half with a pointed free from Claire Ryan. Four minutes later Holly Coomey took her side level with a point. Éire Óg keep the pressure on the Ballincollig defence and the score remained level at the interval at 0-2 apiece.

Ballincollig took the lead with an early point from Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh just after the restart but Éire Óg enjoyed plenty of possession and put pressure on the Ballincollig back line with Aoife Scally levelling the score with a point before Éire Óg regained the lead thanks to a Marie Gleeson point.

Éire Óg absorbed pressure from an ever improving Ballincollig who suddenly sprung to life, with Victoria St Ledger striking for a goal that boosted the Ballincollig girls' ambitions. Now leading, Ballincollig strove to put the result beyond doubt but they were denied further scores by an Éire Óg side that had excellent performers in Louise Stack, Marie Gleeson and Deirdre Twomey.

Éire Óg battled to the finish to grab the goal that would give them the title but with their club's first championship crown in sight Ballincollig were not to be denied.

All through Eire Og battled to take the title, with Aoife McCarthy, Ciara O'Connor and Deirdre McAuliffe all to the fore. For new champions Ballincollig, Patricia Buttimer, Lisa O'Sullivan and Alison Coughlan were superb.

Ballincollig: A Sheehan, R O'Callaghan, E Harrington, L O'Sullivan, E Nolan, K O'Donoghue, B O'Callaghan, S Buckley, P Buttimer, H Coomey(0-1), C Ryan(0-1), O Ni Chathasaigh(0-1), V St Ledger (1goal) A Coughlan, L O'Callaghan. Subs: J Royle for O Ni Chathasaigh, S Coomey for V St Ledger.

Éire Óg: L Stack, M Gleeson(0-3), A O'Keeffe, D Twomey, R Murray, K McCarthy, D McAuliffe, E Kelleher, C O'Connor, C Meaney, A McCarthy, C O'Keeffe, A Scally(0-1) E Corkery, M Hennessy.

Referee: G Sheehan (Douglas).



Olan, Martin, Cian, and Susan Harrington and Lil Daly, at the Cork Colleges GAA All-Stars reception at the Evening Echo, Lapps Quay. Picture: Cillian Kelly / News Digita

Jim Kilty is new Wexford trainer!

(2006-12-06)

WEXFORD senior star Bróna Furlong has her sights set on two sporting ambitions, to win a senior All-Ireland medal with the county and also to make it to the Olympics in athletics. Jim Kilty, the well known athletics coach is the one man who is going to be involved with Bróna in both codes as he has been appointed as trainer to the Wexford senior camogie team for next season. She may well become the first camogie player to represent her country in the Olympics yet!

The Slaney side have not appeared in a senior All-Ireland final since loosing to Kilkenny in 1994 and it is something they hope to rectify in the new season.
Willie Carley who was manager for the past two seasons stepped down as did selector Peggy Kelly, thus Jim came on board.Kilty is no stranger to Wexford hurling or camogie as both his parents come from Kilanerin, north of the county.He was also involved as trainer to the Wexford hulers last season. Being Bróna's personal athletics coach in UCD the camogie scene was not entirely new to him either.

With Wexford's opening League game against Cork on February 25th in Wexford it is understood that the management team have already been in action! For the first time in a number of the years the Wexford 'B' team will also train with the seniors thus providing a total panel of 46, with one excpetion from last season. Orla Hernan who was there in 1994 has announced her intercounty retirement, a wonderful player, she showed great loyalty to the county and in fact played championship the day after her wedding two years ago. Wexford's joint managers will be Alan Aherne, who had the role of selector last season and Stella Sinnott who has plenty of experience having played in three senior All-Ireland finals. She will however be hoping to divert her personal All-Ireland heart breaks into glory for the Purple and gold. Also involved with the camogie team will be Eddie Flynn and it is rumoured that other well known names may also lend a hand during the season! Other counties watch out.

It has been argued in the past couple of years that Wexford have some of the finest players, but seemed to lack the right experience at the vital stages and so this complete change in the Wexford management are hoping that they are the side who can get the purple and gold shinning again.

Orla may have retired but there are plenty of young aspiring players ready to wear the purple and gold such as young teenager Katrina Parrock who was nominated as an All-Star last month. Also this coming Saturday FCJ Bunclody Secondary School who were big in camogie some years ago are back in the limelight when they take on Castlecomer Secondary Sch on Saturday next in the Leinster senior 'B' Colleges final while the 'C' Final will see Tullamore's Sacred Heart face St.Brendans of Birr in what will be an all Offaly final.

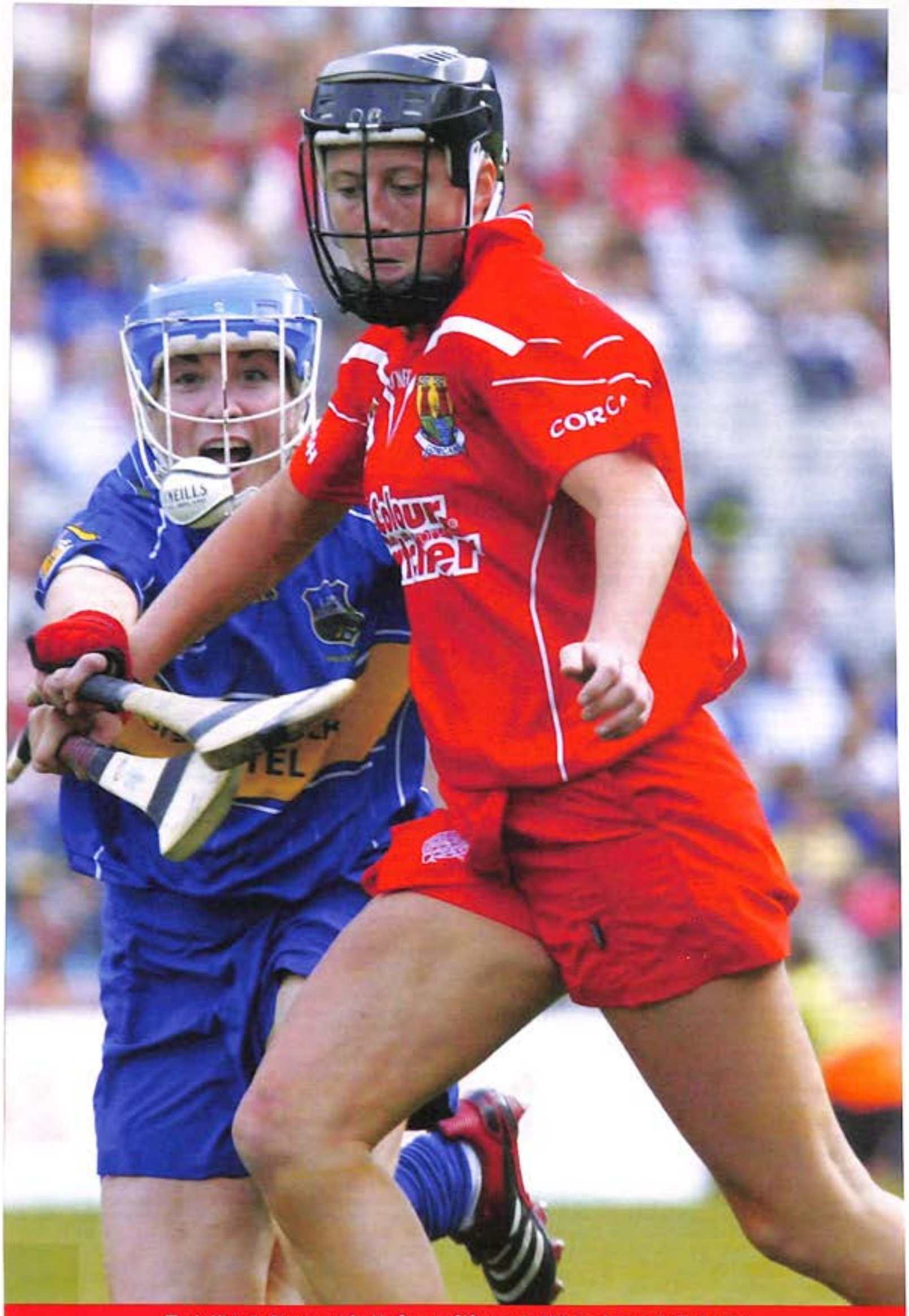
Meanwhile, Dublin who won back to back junior All-Ireland titles for the past two seasons are still seeking a new manager and time is vital there as they too will see action early in the new season, in the senior garde for the first time in a number of years.

Wexford convention news

(2006-12-16)

It was well attended and the delegates were very positive in their comments.
President Eileen O'Brien welcomed everyone and congratulated those who had won County titles this year and encouraged all others to keep going.
Chairperson Ray Quigley thanked all the clubs for their cooperation during the year and although we had no silverware on the inter county front he now looks forward to a better 2007 season.
A presentation was made to the delegates by Sheila O'Donoghue from Croke Park on finance which was followed with a question and answer session.
The reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and P.R.O. were then presented before the election of officers.
It was mainly a case of same as last year with two exceptions.
Ray Quigley elected Chairman for second successive year.
Aidan O'Brien vice chair stepped down and the position has been filled by Eilish Kavanagh.
Secretary Rachel Hogan with Assistant Martina Donnellan
Treasurer Rose Breen
P.R.O. Barbara Ryan Under age P.R.O. Martha Kehoe
Registrar Claire Swaine.
Adult Fixtures Secretary Jacinta Roche.
Underage Fixtures Secretary Sinead Dwyer has stepped down and her position is filled by newcomer Mary O'Reilly, Sinead will however continue on the fixtures committee.
Another newcomer to the fixtures committee is Alan Aherne who needs no introduction. Alan has been involved with fixtures for many years when he was an Officer with the old style Bord na nOg in Wexford and he has also been GAA Co. P.R.O. for many years and brings a wealth of experience with him. It was really encouraging to see people coming forward to offer their services and augers well for the future of camogie in Wexford.
The County Team Managers for the coming season were then ratified. Stellah Sinnott and Alan Aherne take the helm with the Senior A and Senior B Co. teams, Larry Dunne is in charge of the U18s, Noel Wilson takes the U16 role and Enda O'Sullivan has the U14 Co. Team. Chairman Ray Quigley wished them all the best of luck.
There were two presentations made during convention, Brigid Doyle representing Wexford Supporters Club presented a cheque to the Camogie Board and Chairman Ray Quigley presented the Club of the Year award to Aisling Moran from Oulart/The Ballagh and congratulted them on their outstanding success this year at club level.
Ray Quigley also thanked the GAA for the use of their pitches and facilities during the year. Without their cooperation we would indeed have no place to either train or play our matches and this has to be acknowledged.
Barbara Ryan

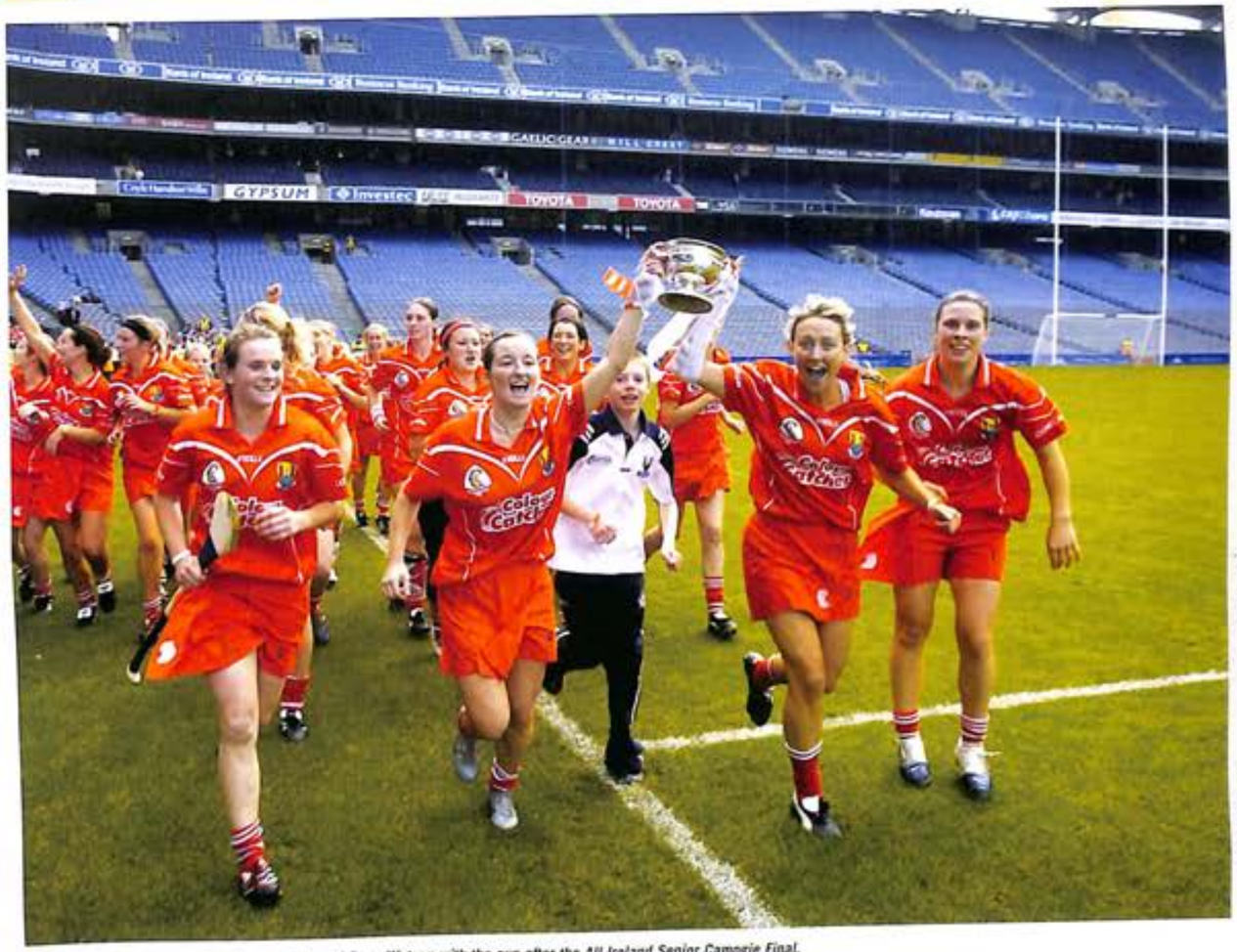
DEC. 2006



Tipp's Michelle Shortt and Cork's Gemma O'Connor in All-Ireland camogie final action

Rebels DOUBLE DOUBLE

She's one of the marquee names in ladies football and in her first love, camogie, but for one of the most successful performers in female sport in this country, there's little chance of the success going to Rena Buckley's head.



Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan, left, and Emer Watson with the cup after the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

To note that the 2006 season has been a busy one for the Cork dual star would be an exercise in understatement. She was one of seven Cork ladies who played both codes during the year – a tall task by any stretch – but ultimately it was worth the extra toil. For the second season in succession, the year was to end with All Ireland glory for the two Cork sides in both codes.

"It has been an unbelievable year," says the Inniscarra club woman. "There was a lot of pressure on us going into the season, having won the double last year, but thankfully everything worked out well for us."

This season, the county's camogie stars went one better than their hurling compatriots in retaining the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title, after an impressive 0-12 to 0-04 victory over their Munster rivals Tipperary. In a one-sided affair, John Cronin's charges dominated the occasion from start to finish at GAA headquarters, but when the final whistle sounded, the score was the last thing on Buckley's mind.

"I suppose the final was a bit of a disappointment from a spectator point of view, but we were just delighted to get the win," recalled Buckley, who picked up the Player of the Match Award for her tireless defensive efforts in the final.

In the first half, 2005 All-Star, Jennifer O'Leary hit three fine points to grant Cork a three point cushion going in at the half time interval. Only Joanne Ryan, Emily Hayden and Eimear McDonnell registered scores for the Premier girls, as they trailed 0-6 to 0-3.

Disappointingly, after Aoife Murray had thwarted a number of their goal attempts, Tipp's fourth point arrived in injury-time from the hurl of Hayden, a full 35 minutes after their third.

"Tipp didn't perform to their potential and, for us, I suppose it was a bit disappointing that the game wasn't the cracker it could have been," said the double all-star winner.

The two sides have met in every senior camogie decider since 1999, apart from the 2001 final which saw Tipp beat Kilkenny, and with this in mind, it's easy to see how the Munster rivals could cancel each other out.



The Cork and Tipperary rivalry is the camogie equivalent to the competition between the Rebels and Kilkenny in hurling. Each has taken their respective sport to a new level over the past five years or so. Unlike in hurling, Cork have a slight edge over their closest rivals in camogie however.

The sheer familiarity between the game's top teams, with league and championship clashes already behind them earlier in the season, meant that the final was never going to be a high-scoring clash. Defences were on top, and no line more so than the Cork half-back unit, where Buckley, Mary O'Connor and Anna Geary reigned supreme.

"I think the whole defence did well really and it was from here that we were able to build on," said Buckley. "I suppose the defence is the foundation for the team, you mightn't get a lot of headlines but there's a job to do there too."

Four of the starting 15; Buckley, O'Connor, Breige Corkery and Angela Walsh, as well as three other members of the panel, all claimed a unique 'double double' three weeks later when the Rebel footballers defeated Armagh in the All-Ireland senior final.

Late in the game, Cork came from behind to secure a 1-07 to 1-06 victory and spoil Armagh's first ever appearance in a senior final. The Orchard ladies performance was one of the success stories of the ladies football season. Having emerged from junior ranks the previous year, Armagh came close to a memorable success but ultimately fell short to the Rebelette's greater All Ireland final experience.

Cork trailed by five points at one stage in the first half, but, drawing on their knowledge of big games on the big stage at headquarters, they managed to outscore the Ulster champions by 1-04 to 0-02 in the second half. The Leesiders appeared for the second half with renewed determination, and had a clinical edge to their game in the latter stages. With six minutes of play remaining, they moved two points clear, 1-07 to 1-05.

Geraldine O'Flynn then kicked what turned out to be Cork's final score of the game, and with that, broke Armagh hearts.

The final whistle sparked mass celebrations as the red tide won out and it was left to Juliet Murphy to retrace her steps in the Hogan Stand, with Buckley and crew in tow. After collecting her second All Ireland final in two seasons,

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2006 Championship Review



Eimear McDonnell, Tipperary, is tackled by Rena Buckley.

Buckley then went on to line out with Ireland in the International Rules Series and claims that, contrary to the negative publicity garnered by the equivalent men's series, playing alongside the best in the country was one of her greatest sporting memories.

"It was a super experience," she said. "Training with all of those top players was unbelievable and it was just a pity that the Tests weren't a bit closer." Ireland defeated the semi professional Australians heavily in both Tests.

Following international duty and a hugely successful sporting year for the 20 year old, Buckley was honoured with both camogie and football All Star Awards last month. In 2005 she also received the double honour, but after such a thrilling season, the

Cork star was delighted to accept the awards.

"It was a lovely personal achievement, especially for my club and my family, and after such a great year," said Buckley, who is currently resting up ahead of next year's bid for the three in a row.

"There will be even more pressure on us going into next season and we'll have to be really in top-form to take a third title in either code. Hopefully the hunger will be there again though, that's the all important thing."

Camogie and ladies Gaelic football are booming at present, with big money sponsorship deals and live television coverage now the norm. Camogie's move to fifteen a side, full size pitches was an inspired one and it has seen the sport's profile grow rapidly in the space of a few years. UCD student Buckley is indicative of the new breed of camogie, and for that matter ladies football, player – young, athletic, confident and hungry for more success.

It has been a fantastic year for Cork ladies and one that Rena Buckley, now a 'double double' All-Star and All-Ireland champion, won't forget in a hurry. For her, next it's back to the slog of fitness and core work before the next tilt at the big time. Will any team win the battle with the Rebels next year? The 2007 season script is set to be released soon.



CAMOGIE RESULTS

2006 was another hugely positive year for the sport of camogie. Championships were run in a massive number of grades, and there was a decent spread of titles, with some of the northern counties beginning to come to the fore particularly in the underage grades.

CAMOGIE RESULTS 2006:

Senior A	Cork 0-12	Tipperary 0-4
Senior B	Cork 2-9	Galway 1-7
Junior	Derry 1-7	Dublin 0-12
Minor A	Galway 2-5	Kilkenny 4-10
Minor B	Antrim 6-4	Down 5-8
Under 16 A	Cork 0-4	Kilkenny 2-10
Under 16 B	Armagh 1-2	Derry 3-3

Camogie/Shinty International
Ireland 3-0 Scotland 4-8



LEAGUE WINNERS

Division	Winners	R/Up
Senior A	St Vincents	Good Counsel
Senior B Division 1	Raheny	St Judes
Senior B Division 2	N Fionnbarra	Oliver Plunketts
Inter Division 1	Good Counsel	Crumlin
Inter Division 2	N Padraig	N Mearnog
Junior Division 1	Kilmacud	Trinity Gaels
Junior Division 2	St Marks Cuala	

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Division	Winners	R/Up
Senior A	Ballyboden	St Vincents
Senior B	Raheny	St Judes
Intermediate	St Judes	Crumlin
Junior	Na Fianna	Kilmacud

SHIELD WINNERS

Division	Winners	R/Up
Senior A	N Mearnog	Na Fianna
Senior B	Lucan Sarsfields	Oliver Plunketts
Intermediate	N Mearnog	Liffey Gaels
Junior	Trinity Gaels	Lucan Sarsfields

SUMMER CUP WINNERS

Divisions	Winners	R/Up
Senior A	St Vincent's	Ballyboden
Senior B Division 1	Raheny	St Johns
Senior B Division 2	Oliver Plunketts	Ballyboden
Inter Division 1	Good Counsel	Clann Na Gael
Inter Division 2	St Judes	Raheny
Junior Division 1	Trinity Gaels	Round Towers
Junior Division 2	Na Fianna	Good Counsel



Geraldine O'Connor; All-Star, Glenn O'Connor, Coláiste Chríost Rí; Gemma O'Connor, the Barrs and Cork camogie player, and Donal O'Connor at the Cork Colleges GAA All-Stars reception. Picture: Cillian Kelly / News Digital



Dublin's All-Star Louise O'Hara celebrates with her team mates at the All-Stars Gala Banquet in Citywest Hotel





Above: Fiona Fogarty (St. Vincents) receives player of the under 12A championship final from Cathaoirleach of the Minor Board, Brendan Cooper.

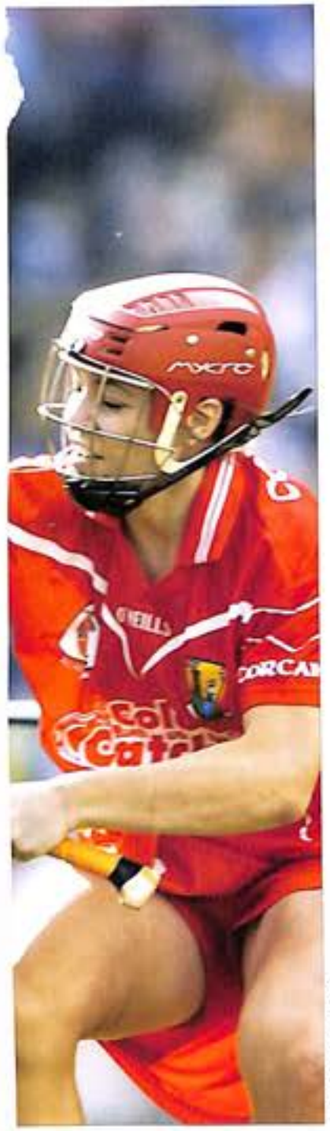
Left: Peter Lucey Camogie Manager of the Year with selectors L. to R. Pat Fanning, Doirin Golden, Peter Lucey and Caroline Duggan

10 September 2006. Croke Park, Dublin
Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final

Rebelettes raise the bar in trouncing tepid Tipperary



Cora Hennessy, Tipperary, in action against Catriona Foley, left, and Anna Geary, of Cork



Matt Browne/SPORTSFILE



The Cork squad pose before the start of the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final

Cork	**0-12**
Tipperary	**0-4**

Another shot at a successive 'Rebel Treble' may be gone, but Cork's double dream is still very much alive for seven of their women after their stunning and comprehensive Gala camogie title defence in Croke Park yesterday.

Dynasties come and go in every sport, and the reigning champions' assured display, which astonishingly contained Tipperary to just a single point in the second half – and then only in injury-time – indicated that the Rebelettes, winning their 22nd title, are set to be camogie's new standard-bearers.

Their half-backs in particular lived up to the sort of vaunted reputation usually reserved for their male counterparts. But every single one of their defenders, from goalkeeper Aoife Murray to wing-back Anna Neary, provided the platform which forced Tipperary to make the sort of sporting history they'll want to forget.

Only in 1944, when Antrim were kept completely scoreless by Dublin, has a losing side scored less in a senior camogie final. You have to go back a full 26 years to find out the last team to score only four times (Limerick's 2-2 in 1980) in camogie's blue riband.

Tipperary famously set the standard in the last decade, contesting the last eight finals and winning five of them, but yesterday proved that the loss of five of their marquee players to retirement was too much to bear in the heat of All-Ireland battle.

Pairing the match with the men's U21 final improved the attendance to 20,685 from last year's 14,350 but affected it as a spectacle. Compared to the curtain-raiser it lacked sparkle and scores, and was actually the first goalless final in the game's 75-year history.

But that is testament to some brilliant defence on both sides, and only one of the game's 16 scores – Jennifer O'Leary's forth and final point for Cork – actually came from a free.

The big question beforehand was whether Tipperary's transitional side could summon the hunger to do to Cork's champions what Kilkenny had done to their men a week earlier.

The Rebel women answered it emphatically by showing not a whiff of complacency. They looked fitter, faster, sharper and hungrier throughout, and were still hunting in defensive packs right to the final whistle.

The game finally opened up a little in the fourth quarter as Tipp were forced to chase goals, but on every occasion heroic keeper Aoife Murray and her defenders shone.

Her counterpart Jovita Delaney had to pull off a super save when Jenny O'Leary bore down on goal just nine minutes after throw-in, and the game still looked finely balanced at half-time when Cork led by 0-6 to 0-3.

With three points by the break, O'Leary was the game's only forward allowed take early flight, but Cork should have been more ahead at half time. They had wasted the more obvious chances (three wides), but Tipperary were guilty of dropping a lot of shots short.

Tipp could have not asked for more of their own full-back line, nor centre-back and captain Philly Fogarty or tireless midfielder Joanne Ryan, who had a mammoth and fascinating tussle with Briege Corkery.



Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan lifts the cup after the game

Matt Browne/SPORTSFILE

But on resumption, with Briege Corkery and Gemma O'Connor – whose switch in last years final had proved vital – bossing midfield, Cork coolly pulled six points clear with better outside shooting before the game's only real fireworks.

First Delaney made another good save from O'Leary and then, with ten minutes left, came a series of heroic blocks in the Cork goalmouth, with shots from Trish O'Halloran and another from Emily Hayden scrambled away in a frenetic finale.

Even in the dying minutes, Cork's defenders forced out two '45s from which goal chasing Tipp could not score and meanwhile, all Cork's forwards had to do was wait for the clearances and take their scores sensibly, which Una O'Donoghue did twice.

It was only in the 63rd minute that Emily Hayden finally got Tipp's fourth score, and for that every one of Cork's defence – but especially Caitriona Foley, Rena Buckley and Anna Geary – must take huge credit, while their midfield of dual star Corkery and Gemma O'Connor provided the engine throughout.

Cliona Foley

Report courtesy of the Irish Independent

Cork A Murray; J O'Callaghan (capt), C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; G O'Connor, B Corkery; R Moloney, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, U O'Donoughue, E Burke. **Subs** S O'Donovan for Burke (36 mins), O Cotter for Walsh (49).

J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kirwan; M Short, P Fogarty (capt), S Nealon; C Grogan, J Ryan, J Horan, E Hayden, C Hennessy; E McDonnell, L Young, G Kinnane. **Subs** L Bourke for Young (half-time), T O'Halloran for Hennessy (45), M Ryan for Horan (48).

Ref F MacNamara (Clare)

DEC 2006

CAMOGIE world

with Olhausen

by Maire Ui Scolai



The Leinster Gael Linn squad

KERRY ESTABLISH FIRST EVER CAMOGIE COUNTY BOARD

Kerry have established their first Camogie County Board. The board is made up of members from four of the five clubs that have been established in Kerry.

Wayne Doyle from Laune Ranges has been elected to Chairperson, while Helen Maunsell from Abbeyleix is the Vice-Chairperson. Also elected were Maureen Spillane to Secretary, Helen Harington to Fixtures Secretary, Mary Joe Murphy to Treasurer, Julie O'Connor to PRO, Alice Molyneux to Registrar and Mary Dowling to Integration Officer.

Huge steps in the promotion of camogie have taken place in Kerry in recent times and there are now five clubs in the county, Laune Rangers, Abbeyleix, Cillard, Causeway and Duagh.

Camogie Development Officer Mary O'Connor believes this is another big move for camogie in the area. "Having a county board now brings a lot more structure to the game in Kerry. There is certainly the passion here for camogie and now hopefully we will see plenty of interest in joining the five local clubs and grow from that," O'Connor said.

Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association also hailed this new development in Kerry. "The formation of a county board is a milestone in the development of the game of camogie in the Kingdom. It follows the revival of the game at primary school level and the establishment of clubs and I take this opportunity to thank the GAA County Board in Kerry for their support. It is my hope that the elected officers led by Wayne Doyle will work hand in hand with the Hurling Board in Kerry to promote and grow the games of camogie/hurling and I wish them every success," Howard said.

The development of camogie in Kerry has been made possible through a special budget measure granted to the Camogie Association by Minister for Sport, John O'Donoghue, TD through the Irish Sports Council.



The Connacht Gael Linn squad

OUR GAMES
ÁR gCLUICHÍ FÉIN

CAMÓGAÍOCHT

BUSY YEAR AS GAME EXPANDS

It was a busy year both on and off the pitch for the Camogie Association. The introduction of the new National League and Championship structures saw an increase to 230 intercounty games from U16 to adult level, an increase of over 100%. The new structure added immensely to the game and provided a platform for players of all skill levels. It was a busy year for administrators, referees, coaches, managers who give so willingly of their time fulfilling an ambitious fixtures calendar.

On the commercial front Gala came on board as the first commercial sponsor of the senior championship succeeding Foras na Gaeilge. The new sponsorship brought an added zest to the Championship.

FIVE GAMES

The Gala Championship was a great success with each competing team playing a minimum of five games. Cork and Tipperary contested the All Ireland final in Croke Park. Cork retained the O'Duffy Cup in a skilful final against Tipp. The quality of their play in the final was awesome. While Tipperary brought the game to a new level in the late nineties they have to go back to the drawing board after this year's defeat. The Camogie Association and the GAA joined forces to stage the Gala Senior Camogie final and the Erin U21 Hurling Final.

WINNERS ALL

While Cork dominated the Gala Senior Championship ranks, Dublin won their second successive Junior All Ireland defeating a gallant Derry side by 2 points. Dublin will play in the Gala Senior Championship in 2007. Cork won the inaugural Senior B Championship, while Kilkenny took home the U16A and Minor Championship trophies. Ulster took their share of the spoils also with Down winning the Minor B championship. Derry the U16B championship and Armagh won the inaugural Nancy Murray Cup. An extremely successful championship blitz was held in September for emerging counties including Mayo, Donegal, Monaghan, Louth and Westmeath. The Westmeath team emerged victorious. Mary Henry a member of the Westmeath team, claimed the Martin Donnelly Poc Fada title earlier in the summer in the Cooley Mountains.

EXPANSION

Thirty new clubs were founded this year. New clubs are emerging in Kerry, Mayo, Donegal, Longford and Leitrim, Caroline Murray and Mary O'Connor, the two dynamic Regional Development Co-ordinators played a big part in supporting this progress. It is interesting to note that there are now also three camogie clubs in Sydney as well as clubs in the USA, UK, mainland Europe, Dubai.

INTERNATIONAL

The third Ireland v Scotland Shinty International took place in November. This year the Irish team was drawn from Donegal, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan and Westmeath. The Scots recorded their first win but the Irish players acquitted themselves well.

NEW PRESIDENT

Away from the playing fields Offaly's Miriam O'Callaghan completed her very successful three-year term as President of Cumann Camógaíochta. Liz Howard from Tipperary was elected to succeed her.



Anne McCluskey (Baile Átha Cliath) lifts the cup after beating Derry at the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final at O'Connor Park, Tullamore.

ALL-STARS

The Camogie All Stars in association with O'Neills was a glamorous event held in CityWest on November 11th. The fifteen All Stars were worthy winners of their awards along with Manager of the Year, Peter Lucey of Dublin and the Young Player of the Year, Marie Dargan of Kilkenny. Guest of Honour, Tadhg Kennelly of Kerry and Sydney Swans fame, was a huge hit with all of the guests. A glamorous and fitting end to a successful year in camogie.

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2006



The Cork squad which defeated Tipperary in the Gala All-Ireland Camogie Final

Back row (l-r): Emer O'Farrell, Lucy Hawkes, Jenny Duffy, Sarah O'Donovan, Sarah Hayes, Sinéad Corkery, Amanda O'Regan, Angela Walsh, Anna Geary, Rena Buckley, Jennifer O'Leary, Caitríona Foley, Ellen Clifford.

Front row (l-r): Marie O'Neill, Orla Cotter, Mary O'Connor, Emer Dillon, Rachel Moloney, Briege Corkery, Jemma O'Connor, Una O'Donoghue, Elaine Burke, Colette Desmond, Emer Watson, Regina Curtin.

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Second Queen's Camogie Schools' sevens takes place

The second Queen's Camogie schools' Sevens in association with Queen's Sport, Club Energise and O'Neill's sports-wear took place on Saturday at the Malone Playing Fields. Cross & Passion

Ballycastle emerged victorious over last year's champions St Patrick's Maghera in the final on a scoreline of 4-2 to 2-1

Eilish Connor and Emma Connolly each bagged two goals in the final and were ably assisted by Grainne McShane and Emma McHenry with the point taking duties.

Sarah Kerr and Leanne Day scored the goals for Maghera who will have a chance for revenge when the teams meet this Thursday in the Colleges' Senior League.



St.Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt

CAMOGIE

The Senior team won the Ulster final and were beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final, after a replay, by Athenry.

The Junior A team won the Ulster championship beating Cross and Passion in the final. The team were beaten in the all-Ireland semi-final by Portumna.

The 7-a-side team won the Ulster Title and represented the province in the All Ireland Competition in Dublin. They were beaten in the All-Ireland final by Charleville

GAELIC FOOTBALL

The Year 9 team won the D'alton Cup competition beating St.Pius X in a thrilling final attended by a crowd of 800 people.
The MacRory Cup team was beaten by Abbey CBS (Hogan winners) in the semi-final of the competition. The team did, however, win the McCormick Cup and in doing so became the first team in the school's history to win a Senior 'A' Ulster title. Six of the team went on to represent Derry in the Ulster minor championship with a number of others making the panel.

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

For the first time in the school's history St.Mary's competed in competitions for Ladies football. The school entered 3 competitions and enjoyed great success.

U14 GIRLS - won the Derry Championship defeating Limavady in the Final, after successful league campaign.

U16 - won the Derry Championship defeating St Pius' in the final. They went on to claim a first ever Ulster title by a Derry team. In the semi final they won a hard fought victory against Keady, followed by a brilliant win against St Mary's Newry in the final. Beaten by Dunmore, Galway in the All Ireland Semi final.

U19 - won the Derry Championship by beating St Pius' in the final. The team were unlucky to lose against St Comgall's Lisnaskea in the Ulster semis.

HURLING

The Year 10 team reached the final of the McFarland Cup where they played Loreto Coleraine. The team recorded a comfortable victory in winning St.Mary's first ever Ulster Colleges' hurling title.

St.Mary's won 7 Ulster titles in our 4 sports.

The following captains are seen receiving the respective cups at a special awards ceremony held in the school.

St. Mary's
Grammar School, Magherafelt.

CAMOGIE:
Senior-Michaela Convery
Junior-Cathy Carey
7-a side-Sinead McLaughlin

GAELIC:
D'alton Cup-Aaron Devlin
McCormick Cup(senior)-Gary Mulholland
Ladies Football:
U16-Roisin O'Boyle

HURLING:
McFarland Cup-Emmett McKillion

COACHES:
John McElholm, Tony Collins, Orla Donnelly, Vincent Cassidy, Gerry Maynes.

Also pictured :
Mr.David Lambon - Principal



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All Ireland Titles For Ulster

By Séamas Mac Giolla Fhinnéin

2006 saw a re-vamp of competition at All-Ireland level and the new structures proved both problematic and beneficial for Ulster teams. On the plus side, four Ulster counties enjoyed the build-up to an All-Ireland final and two of the new titles came to the province. Derry and Armagh battled it out in the All-Ireland under 16B final, with a narrow Oak Leaf victory on the day. Armagh responded by winning the new Nancy Murray Cup for the Junior Shield, beating Laois by 0-7 to 0-1. But the best final of the year had to be the new Minor B decider played in Casement Park - a game of end-to-end action, superb goals and a really exciting conclusion seeing Down's Sara Louise Carr bury a late goal to quash Antrim's hopes.

This competition also highlighted some of the problems of the new structures with Antrim having to play midweek away games in the midland counties including one that they won by 30 points. The distance and timing were unsatisfactory while the margin of victory indicated that even where attempts are made to bring counties on a second tier closer together there can still be a huge gap between their abilities. Another problem - despite the Camogie Association's efforts to bring the game to a wider audience - was the onus it put on some units with double-header finals. Armagh and Derry will surely argue that both counties could have been better served with a venue closer than Portmarnock, while the staging of the club finals in Portlaoise last month was rightly interpreted as an insult to Keady and Rossa.

Back to the new structure and they gave the Minor B winners the opportunity to enter the Minor A at the quarter-final stage. Although Down were well beaten by Tipperary, this is still a laudable effort and should be extended to all the B level competitions. Another Ulster side to make progress was Derry. Former Down coach

Pádraig Ó Mianáin took over and they reached the National League Division 2 final where they were narrowly beaten by Clare, made the All-Ireland Junior final - again narrowly beaten this time by Dublin who join the Senior ranks in 2007 - and they trounced Down in Ballybofey to claim the provincial Junior crown. Captain Claire Doherty picked up the Ulster GAA Writers' Award, while Katie McAuley and Gráinne McGoldrick were nominated for All-stars. Another player to make the All-star shortlist was Gráinne Connolly who was part of the Rossa side that consolidated their position in the province by winning a third successive league and championship double and then scored a glorious 3-11 to 2-11 All-Ireland semi-final victory over Athenry. Unfortunately they fell short in the final last month by a two-point

margin. Perhaps next season will see them collect the Holy Grail.

Keady beat All-Ireland Junior champs of the past two years Liatroim Fontenoys in the Ulster semi-final and went on to reach the All-Ireland. But like Rossa they just came up short in the final against Harps of Laois. At the top table, it's still the same. More Cork v. Tipperary finals and Cork retain the O'Duffy and the League as well as picking up most of the All-star awards. Leinster shocked Munster though to take the Gael Linn, while Waterford made huge strides winning the new Division 3 league crown and reaching the All-Ireland Junior semi-final.Kilkenny are also making waves again, retaining the under 16 and collecting the minor titles, while St. Lachtain's made it three-in-a-row at club level. UUJ won the Purcell Cup, but the main Colleges' title went again to Charleville and the Ashbourne to UL.

St. Mary's Magherafelt won both the main Colleges' competitions in Ulster - but Cross & Passion Ballycastle look to have overtaken Maghera. Ballycastle club returned undefeated from the National Féile for the third year in succession - but this time they were denied the Division 1 title by score difference. They and Loughgiel are still driving under-age success in Cross and Passion and with Antrim. Nothing much changed with the club championship in most counties – although Castledawson recorded a notable first in the Derry final with a late Katie McAuley goal overturning Lavey.

What does 2007 hold?

The process for integration into the GAA at all levels will be the main focus over the next couple of years. This move has been slow and painful for some, but couldn't come fast enough for others. There will not be a significant shift in the power-base within most counties. It will be a surprise if Rossa, Liatroim, Keady and Eglish don't appear on the Ulster map again with Derry perhaps a bit more open with Castledawson joining Lavey and Swatragh as the main contenders. The big schools' finals will feature Magherafelt and either Ballycastle or Maghera and the under-age inter-county competitions should be sorted by Antrim and Derry.

Nationally Kilkenny could replace Wexford as the main challengers to the big two - while Derry is the best-placed Ulster side for success at Junior level, provided that they can build on the work done in 2006.



St Mary's Magherafelt



Antrim U14 Blitz champions

Best team performance of 2006:
Rossa v. Athnery
(All-Ireland club semi-final)



Cross & Passion

Best game I saw:
Down v. Antrim
(All-Ireland Minor B final)

Best player from Ulster:
Jane Adams.

Under-age player to look out for:
Niamh Mallon
(Portaferry under 12s).

The 2006 All-star team reads:
Jovita Delaney (Tipp), Regina Glynn (Galway), Suzanna Kelly (Tipp), Rena Buckley (Cork), Philly Fogarty (Tipperary), Mary O'Connor (Cork), Anna Geary (Cork), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Joanne Ryan (Tipperary), Breige Corkery (Cork), Jenny O'Leary (Cork), Imelda Kennedy (Kilkenny), Louise O'Hara (Dublin), Veronica Curtin (Galway).

Young Player of the Year:
Marie Dargan (Kilkenny)

Manager of the Year:
Peter Lucey (Dublin).

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Anne McCluskey
- A major year on and off the field

Máire Uí Scolaí pops the questions to the Dublin camogie captain



Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, with Dublin captain Anne McCluskey and Derry captain Claire Docherty at a photocall ahead of the All-Ireland Junior camogie Final 2006 between Dublin and Derry

Picture: Damien Eagers, Sportsfile

Question: ***As captain of the Dublin team what were your thoughts as you heard the final whistle in Tullamore this year?***

Answer: Relief! Derry were really pressing hard and we knew we had the ability to win but one mistake could lead to disaster. This was not only our title we were fighting for but our chance to go up Senior. Once the whistle went and I realised that we had achieved our goal, pure exhilaration took over. I was so proud that I had captained a great Dublin to their second All Ireland in a row.

Q: ***How did you hear you were chosen to become the Dubs captain?***

A: Peter Lucey rang and asked to meet me. I hadn't a clue why he wanted to see me, I was actually wondering if he was meeting me to tell me face to face that I was dropped for the coming season. As you can imagine I was very touched and honoured that they were asking me to captain Dublin, but I was also very relieved that I wasn't being dropped!

Q: ***How were you introduced to camogie?***

A: My family, especially my Dad Noel. My Dad and my two older brothers played in the club and I used to play on the road with my hurl. Then when I was seven, Dad brought me down to join the club and I haven't looked back since.

Q: ***Who were the biggest influences on you?***

A: My family, Mick and my Erins Isle club mates. I think my family have travelled to nearly every county to see me play at this stage. They've always been there for me, through the good and the bad, being selected and not being selected. Their final words to me as I go out the door to every match are "Just do your best, that's all we can ask for." My Erins Isle club mates have also influenced me. In my opinion Erins Isle are the best Dublin supporters and you know that every match you play for Dublin, no matter where, you're guaranteed to see the green and black tracksuits in the stands.

Q: ***Did you play in school?***

A: No, I went to St. Mary's in Glasnevin and during the time I was there they never fielded a camogie team. Since I left though they've started one up.

Q: ***How did you come to play with Erins Isle?***

A: Erins Isle was only a ten minute walk from my house and nearly every kid on my road played in the club. My Dad and two older brothers played in the club also so it was just the natural choice.

Q: ***Do you find it hard to combine full-time work and top class camogie?***

A: From September to June yes, July and August No. I'm a primary school teacher so when Championship season is in full flight I'm off school on summer holidays. But during the school months it can sometimes get quite tiring between club and county training and work. But you just get on with it for the love of the game. The clubs and the county team worked well this year and credit has to be given to the club managers. When Dublin really needed it we were released from club training and concentrated solely on Dublin.

Q: ***Where do you teach and what age children?***

A: I teach Senior Infants in Holy Family N.S. in Rathcoole.

Q: ***Do you play other sports?***

A: Yes I play Hockey for Swords Hockey Club.

Q: ***How do you maintain your fitness?***

A: I play hockey from September to March and at the moment I'm doing Kai bo classes.

Q: ***How do you see Dublin camogie going from here now?***

A: Dublin camogie is on the up. People are starting to sit up and take notice of us. We have proved ourselves at Junior level and this year we will be up in both Senior A league and Championships. It will be a hard challenge but one which we are all looking forward to. That is what it is all about, playing and competing against the best. The team at present is still very young and there are still more girls to come so I know that very soon the O'Duffy cup will be coming back to the Capital.

Q: ***How many in your family, any sporty ones?***

A: Five in total. Mam, Dad and two older brothers Chris and Paul. Both my brothers play Hurling and Football in the club. My Husband Mick O'Donovan also plays hurling and football for Erins Isle. My Dad played for St. Vincent's when he was younger and then took up playing for Erins Isle when he moved out to Finglas when he got married. Mam cycles when she can, she completed the Maracyle a while back, cycling from Dublin to Belfast back to Dublin in two days.

One can see sense from this that Anne McCluskey will be around for sometime to come!

Louise O'Hara – the Parish All-Star...

MÁIRE UÍ SCOLAÍ, National PRO

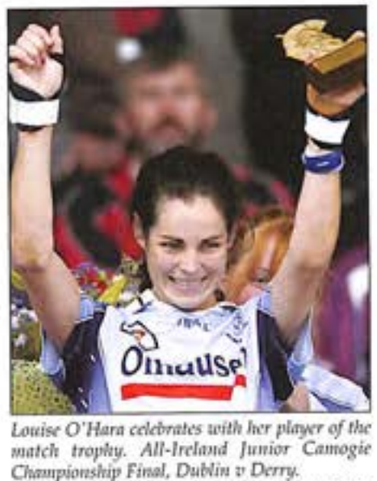
SITUATED in Dublin 11 is a place well known as The Parish, it is an area well known for it's GAA club Erin's Isle. Over the years the residents of the area have become well accustomed to seeing the green and black track suits and jerseys in the area – a sure sign of sporting activity.

This year the Northside club had a lot to be very proud of when Anne McCluskey became the first girl from the club to captain a winning Dublin All-Ireland team while later on in the year another star player Louise O'Hara became Dublin's second All-Star and Erin's Isle first camogie All-Star following in the footsteps of Dublin footballers Charlie Redmond and Mick Deegan.

A classy forward she notched up 1-20 in this year's championship which saw the Dubs retain the junior All-Ireland something they had not managed to do since 1970 and 1971. It appears that camogie and Louise have always gone hand in hand as she once told me that the very first day she went to school she actually played camogie, what is the saying start them young!

JOINS ERINS ISLE

It so happened one day that her school team was short for players and her teacher of the time Ms O'Malley called upon the young O'Hara child to play. These days we are very used to seeing Louise in the forwards but that day she lined out in the last line of defence-goals. Delighted to be asked to play, it did not even bother her that she did not know the rules! She did not even know you could take the ball into your hand so after every save (she appears to have been good there too!!) she balanced the ball on the stick and "just ran"! Some would say she probably ran from the goals towards her now customary position – the forwards. However, it was a good run as some weeks later on the advise of her teacher she joined Erins Isle, something she has never regretted to this day.



Louise O'Hara celebrates with her player of the match trophy. All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Dublin v Derry.

Picture: Matt Browne, Sportsfile

ALL-STAR

When she was called upon on Saturday night November 11th 2006 to accept her first All-Star award in City-West Hotel her companions at the table were just delighted for her, but perhaps none more so than Natasha Ward. You see Natasha coached the young child up to the age of 16 and so she was fully entitled to shed tears of joy in CityWest that night. Natasha never had much trouble in locating Louise as they were next- door neighbours growing up!

As she was becoming more efficient in her skills the natural progression was that one day she would play for her native Dublin. That dream was hers at the age of 13! Playing with the Dublin U14 team she went seven up the very first day – scoring 7-7. Such was her delight at being picked to play for Dublin she recalls not passing the ball to anyone as she did not want anything to take from that first day!! She appears to have done something right, because Louise has gone on to become an almost household name in camogie these days.

As the teenager grew, her mentors changed and she was greatly influenced by Eddie Fitzpatrick and then as she says in her own words " the great Peter Reaney" who was also in City-West that famous night of nights. According to Louise "Peter thought me all my camogie skills and coached me to my first senior 'A' Championship medal which was and will always be very special to me".



Louise O'Hara receives her All-Star award from Tadhg Kennelly, footballer with the Sydney Swans, in the company of Liz Howard, President, Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael at the 2006 Camogie All-Star Awards in City West.

Picture: Brendan Moran, Sportsfile

PROFILE

Getting to know the Dubs All-Star of 2006 – Louise O'Hara

- *The camogie player you most admire in Dublin:* Clare Reaney, if you saw her play you would understand why, her commitment on the pitch is fantastic.
- *The camogie player you most admire outside of Dublin:* Gemma O'Connor, she's a class act.
- *How do you relax after a game:* Sleep I guess, I love to sleep particularly during the day!
- *Your best sporting memory:* Winning this year's All-Ireland and becoming an All-Star.
- *Your camogie ambition:* My ambition is to win a senior All-Ireland medal with Dublin.
- *The Dublin hurler you most admire:* Keith Dunne, (Erin's Isle)
- *The hurler you most admire outside of Dublin:* Henry Sheflin- he's amazing on the pitch.
- *Your favourite camogie skill:* Flicking the ball from someone as they are about to strike in the air.
- *Favourite food:* Curry and chocolate: mmm!!!
- *The best book you ever read:* Last year's Dublin GAA Year Book of course!



Dublin Junior All-Ireland Champions 2006

Back row, from left – Elaine Ryan (Good Counsel), Sinead Cunnane (Skerries Harps), Aisling Jordan (St. Vincents), Sarah Ryan (Good Counsel), Eimear Brannigan (St. Vincents), Louise O'Hara (Erins Isle), Elaine O'Meara (Na Fianna), Eimear Butler (St. Vincents), Siobhan Curran (Raheny), Sylvia Hanks (Good Counsel), Gemma Flynn (Good Counsel), Sinead Hardy (St. Vincents), Ciara Durkan (Skerries Harps). Front row, from left – Muireann O'Gorman (Na Fianna), Julie Draper (Erins Isle), Caitriona Power (Naomh Mearnog), Niamh Taylor (Naomh Mearnog), Ciara Lucey (Ballyboden St. Endas), Anne McCluskey (Erins Isle), Jean Murphy (Skerries Harps), Andrea Fitzpatrick (Naomh Mearnog), Aine Fanning (St. Vincents), Anne Griffin (Ballyboden St. Endas), Síle nic Coitir (Ballyboden St. Endas).

COLÁISTE PHÁDRAIG

BALLYBODEN ST ENDAS

Championships mark anniversary year

New arrivals in Fitzgibbon, the College senior hurlers marked their presence with fine league and championship displays, the Camogie senior team captured All-Ireland league and championship honours.



Mairéad Morrissey & Caitríona Phelan in happy mood following Camogie win in Limerick

Camogie was also back in the headlines with a dramatic senior A (P. J. Donohue, Ciara Hayes, Brian O'Regan, Sinead Caulfield) championship win over St. Vincents with literally the last puck of the match when captain Ciara Lucey goaled from a free in a manner reminiscent of the club's first win in 1999 when the then captain Irene Kirwan goaled from a placed ball. The Under-16 camogie team (Clarinda Noonan, Sheila O'Shea, Micheál Glynn) gladdened the hearts of all who witnessed a thrilling championship win over St. Vincents in the Phoenix Park. While the Under-11B team (Robert Lambert, Emma Seery, Muriel Falconer) also had a championship and league success. The Under-12B team (Gerry O'Sullivan, Angela O'Connor) took the inaugural Mini All-Ireland at Bray Emmets with the Under-13 team (Sinead McNeela, Jane Hogan, Ceara Nic Coitir) finishing as championship runners up and league winners.

The Senior B camogie team (Mona O'Sullivan, Martin Donohue) made their own piece of history when they became the first camogie team from Ireland to play the game against a team from mainland Europe when they travelled to take on the Brussels team. Margaret Francois Jnr whose mother Margaret helped to establish camogie in the Boden is the secretary of the Brussels club. The Irish Ambassador to Belgium, Brian Nason honoured the occasion with his presence.



Senior A Camogie Champions



Ballyboden St. Endas Senior A Championship winners 2006.

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GALWAY CAMOGIE- 2006
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Senior A – Ann Hardiman

Galway Senior camogie team turned heads in the early part of the 2005 season when they swept the board in the League campaign and took home the Division 1 title for the third time ever in their history, courtesy of a one goal win over old rivals Cork. The omens looked good for the tribeswomen but their bubble was burst when they went down in the championship group matches and as a result failed to qualify for the All-Ireland Senior Semi-Finals.

Questions were asked.....Did the girls peak too early? What was the reason for the failure to qualify for the semis even after winning the league? Where was it all going wrong?

So a new approach was applied, the league became less of an importance, the championship was the main aim for the team and nothing less than bringing the O'Duffy cup across the Shannon was ever going to be good enough.

So for their first encounter in the league the team headed off down the winding Kilkenny roads to the Waterford border and a little place called Piltown.

It was a cold March day and there was a strong breeze across the field. It took Galway a while to settle and at half time the sides were deadlocked on 1-2 apiece. The Galway goal coming from the ever reliable Veronica Curtin, with Lourda Kavanagh and Aine Hillary tapping over the points. Throughout the second half, the lead was exchanged at numerous times until the last 10 minutes when Kilkenny took control and ran out winners on a scoreline of 2-07 to 1-05.

Day two involved old rivals Cork, on a bitterly cold day in Duggan Park on St Partricks weekend.Galway pressed hard from the beginning of this contest and threw everything they had at the current All-Ireland champions. By the 14th minute Galway were ahead 3 points to 2 in a very low scoring contest. Then Galway seemed to lose concentration and let Cork take control to leave the visitors in the lead at half time on a scoreline of 1-05 to 1-03. The Galway girls emerged with more determination in their play in the second half and after 10 minutes they were level after Lourda Kavanagh scored 1-2. But this reply just wasn't enough and Cork showed why they were All-Ireland Champions by calmly taking control of the game despite the efforts of Brenda Kerins, Aislinn Connolly and Kavanagh who all pointed and Cork eventually ran out as winners on a scoreline of 3-8 to 1-8.

With two matches down and no points on the board their next outing was a trip to Tipperary. This was a match the Galway contingent would probably prefer to forget.Despite playing with the wind in the first half Galway trailed by four points at half time on a scoreline of 0-7 to 0-3 with Veronica Curtin getting two points and Gemma Kelly scoring another. Galway only managed a single point in the second half from midfielder Aoife Lynskey. In the end, the Galway ladies were sent home with a scoreline of 0-4 to 1-11 . Three matches played and still no victory for the league champions of the previous year.

April 16th came and along with it a journey to Wexford Park. Galway travelled the 150 mile treck with high hopes of registering those long awaited points in the league and it looked good for the western women when they retired at half time with a 5 point to 1 lead, the five points coming from Lourda Kavanagh (2), Veronica Curtin (2) and Deirdre Burke. Galway supporters might have thought the Galway girls had finally woken up in the league but their advantage wasn't long lived- Wexford managed to slot in two goals early in the second half and by the 10th minute of the half Galway were trailing for the first time in the game. Galway managed a further 6 points in the second half courtesy of the stick of Lourda Kavanagh who got 5 and Brenda Hanney who converted one from play. However Wexford kept the pressure on and were victorious on a scoreline of 3-5 to 11 points.This was the end of Galway involvement in the league and the beginning of true championship training. So off the girls went back to the training field.

Championship 2006

With the championship commencing at an earlier date this year due to the new format where every team had to play each other, the girls had less time to rectify their shortcomings of the league. Knowing that they had concentrated their preparations on the championship, Galway had nothing to fear and nothing to lose. And nothing like a crack at Tipperary to get the summer's camogie off to a flying start!

May 27th on home ground: The Galway girls took on hot favourites Tipperary in an enthralling encounter in Portumna. This was one Galway could not afford to lose, they had prepared for this for nearly a year. And sure enough Galway hit the Tipperary side so hard they were left reeling. Damien Coleman's mile runs were definitely paying off... Galway seized the initative and got off to the perfect start leading 1-8 to 0-1 at half time.The icing was put on the cake when Curtin pounced for a Galway goal just before half time to leave a confident Tipp stunned. The second half was a true test of character for this Galway team who had to battle against a strong breeze as well as a persistent opposition. So much so that by the 50th minute Galway's lead was reduced to just 3 points, but the determination of the Galway girls paid off and with five minutes left Orla Kilkenny pointed to leave four in it, then the lively Brenda Kerins tapped over two points in the last 3 minutes to ensure Galway would take the spoils. On the day Stephanie Gannon was solid in goals, Sinead Cahalan at full back moved the threat from the danger area, Hanney excelled at midfield and Curtin, Kilkenny and Kerins were exceptional in the forward line..Roll on the next encounter.

Round two: The next challenge for the might of the Galway team was the Limerick ladies and this meeting was a feeble meeting for Galway. The game was over as a contest as early as the 11th minute when Galway went into a 2-6 to no score lead. Galway kept piling on the pressure and by the end of the hour they ran out easy winners on a score of 5-17 to 1-5. On the day Stephanie Gannon and Sinead Cahalan were assured in defence, sharpshooter Curtin got 2-6, Brenda Kerins shot 1-3, Anne-Marie Hayes managed 1-1, substitute Jessica Gill hit a goal, while Lourda Kavanagh registered 4 points and Hillary and Hanney tapped over a point apiece.

With Galway on a roll after getting maximum points from their first two matches they set off to Wexford on the Saturday evening in preparation for the next contest that lay ahead. And their opponents Wexford, in Wexford park, the 8th of July. If Galway could win this they were guaranteed a place in the Semi finals in August. With that in mind they took to the field. This was always going to be a tight contest and in the end the physical strength of Wexford ensured they secured a victory. Galway created more scoring opportunites than their opponents and were unfortunate not to have at least secured a draw from the Gala championship group tie. In the first minute Galway were rattled by a Wexford goal, yet the showed their experience and managed to gain the lead in the 15th minute after Veronica Curtin, Lourda Kavanagh (2) and Stephanie Gannon managed points. However Wexford finished the half better off despite the best efforts of Kavanagh who pointed two frees for Galway to leave it Wexford 2-3 to Galway's 0-6. After the break Galway emerged more determined and looked like they could turn the score abound when Kavanagh (3) and Kerins scored. With 12 defeated Galway ladies, scoring a total of nine scores in all, (0-6f).

A goal midway from Therese Maher sparked the Galwegian's resurrection as it only left a point between the sides, Athenry 1-8, Rossa 1-9. Disaster then struck for Athenry when two minutes later Rossa top scorer Jane Adams got her side's second goal. Further disappointment came for Athenry when All -Star nominee Gráinne Connolly made it goal number three just a minute later. With two minutes remaining Athenry gave their supporters real food for thought when Noreen Coen goaled for the Galway champions but time was not on their side and so, for the first time since 2000, an Ulster side will feature in the Club All-Ireland final. Athenry have a young talented side which has emerged as a result of diligent work within the underage structure. No doubt they will be a force in Galway for some time.

Congratulations also to all those who participated in the Kilmacud sevens competition, particularly to the Killimor Club who reached the final and to Susan Keane on her display which earned her player of the tournament in this highly respected competition.

BUSY YEAR FOR GALWAY CAMOGIE CLUBS

By Pauline Mitchell

Club Juvenile

On behalf of the County Board I would like to congratulate all teams that participated in our juvenile competitions in 2006. We congratulate those who won County Championships, many for the first time, also the runners up in these championships. There were many close games and exciting matches in the group stages, all finals were keenly contested. Only a minority of our players will have contested the championship finals, a greater number will have a sense of achievement and increased level of self esteem by participating and belonging to a group/club. We must never equate losing with failure; we should not develop a preoccupation with medals and trophies with young impressionable players.

All clubs, players and team mentors must be complemented for the positive way they embraced and adhered to our first fixtures calendar. This was due mainly to the superb organisational skills of our Fixtures Co-ordinators, many of whom had assumed roles of responsibility within the County Board for the first time. We are indeed greatly indebted to all of those Juvenile Fixtures Co-ordinators named above, in particular we express sincere thanks to Joe Maguire who co-ordinated the Feile championship which required neutral referees for all games. The under 10 competitions took a new format this year, the overall feedback to this new format has been generally positive, thanks is due to the many venue coordinators who hosted the various blitzs, team managers for their support and co operation, also special thanks to Sean Geraghty overall Co-ordinator for all his work in grading teams and seeing the blitzs through to a successful conclusion.

Congrats to Deirdre Ward on her successful representation of Galway at the Féile Skills competition and also to Niamh McGrath who won sliver at National level in the Puc Fada competition. Ardrahan were beaten Semi finalists at Féile na Gael and this same U14 team competed in the National Community games final in Mosney where they were very unlucky to be beaten by one point after extra time by Douglas of Cork. Congrats to all players and mentor concerned for their time and efforts

Club Scene- Pam Boyle

The Galway camogie calendar was full of exciting and hard fought battles again this year with Athenry ending a 20 year wait for the Co. Senior camogie title. Bus Eireann sponsored both League and Championship again this year and Co Champions Athenry took both titles in a clean sweep at senior level. The St Thomas club rejoined the senior grade defeating Killimordaly in a highly entertaining curtain raiser to the senior tie, while Mullagh hung onto their senior status in their relegation battle with Castlegar on a scoreline 1-8 to 0-07. Junior A Champions Mountbellew made up for their defeat in last years final, overcoming Carnmore, and also stole the silverware in the league campaign. There were dual titles up for grabs at Junior B level with Oranmore the champions in the 15 aside competition, while Ahascragh were crowned the new 12 aside champions.

Five time All Ireland champions Pearses faced a young and eager Athenry side in the Bus Eireann Senior Final, and the Athenry ladies curbed a spirited Pearses performance in the final quarter of the game. Athenry went on to represent Galway in the All-Ireland Semi Final against Ulster champions Rossa who recorded their 1st every semi-final victory on a scoreline of 3-11 to 2-11 in Drumlane, Cavan. Both sides showed early nerves with the winners going in at the break leading 1-6 to Athenry's 0-6, the Antrim goal having come from Maureen Stewart. Laura Linnane was on top of her free taking for the

JUVENILE ROLL OF HONOUR 2006

CATAGORY	WINNER	RUNNER UP	Co Ordinator
Un. 10 Div A	Oranmore	Clarinbridge	Sean Geraghty
Un. 10 Div B	Carnmore	Killimor	Sean Geraghty
Un. 10 Div C	St. Thomas's	Kinvara	Sean Geraghty
Un. 10 Div D	Craughwell	Ahascragh	Sean Geraghty
Un. 12 A	Sarsfields	Oranmore	Bernie Menton
Un. 12 A1	Ardrahan	Killimor	Maria Cribbin
Un. 12 B	Clarinbridge	Cappatagle	Mary Murphy
Un. 12 C	Shamrocks	Eyrecourt	M.ODubhghaill
Feile	Ardrahan	Carnmore	Joe Maguire
Un. 14 A	Sarsfields	Mullagh	Joe Maguire
Un. 14 B	St. Thomas's	Killimordaly	Olivia Forde
Un. 14 C	St. Colmans	Saltill	Geraldine Kelly
Un. 16 A	Carnmore	Mullagh	Ryanagh Mannion
Un. 16 B	St. Thomas's	Cappatagle	Noel Kelly
Un. 16 C	Eyrecourt	Clarinbridge	Geraldine Kelly

CLUB SENIOR 2006- ROLL OF HONOUR

Category	Winner	Runner Up	Co Ordinator
Senior Champ	Athenry	Pearses	J. Keane
Senior League	Athenry	Killimor	H. Huban
Interm Champ	St. Thomas's	Killimordaly	A. Kearney
Intem Shield	Eyrecourt	Cappatagle	A. Kearney
Interm League	Ardrahan		A. Kearney
Interm Shield Lge	Cappatagle	Clarinbridge	A. Kearney
Junior A Champ	Mountbellew	Carnmore	M. Molloy
Junior A League	Mountbellew	Kiltormer	M. Molloy
Junior B Champ.	Oranmore	Turloughmore	P. Lohan-(15 aside)
Junior B Champ	Ahascragh	Cois Fharraige	P.Lohan-(12 aside)
Junior B League	Oranmore	Turloughmore	P.Lohan

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minutes remaining the teams were deadlocked. But it was not to be for Galway and Wexford picked up their game again and ran out winners on 2-7 to 0-10. Top performers on the day included Therese Maher, Regina Glynn, Nicola Gavin, Brenda Kerins, Veronica Curtin and the ever reliable Kavanagh.

After the disappointment of their loss to Wexford, Galway had only a week to pick themselves up for their clash of the championship....They owed Cork one from last year when they pinched victory from Galway's grasp. Galway took to the field in Ballincollig on July 15th with revenge being the only thing on their minds.(And of course the wedding of Veronica and Damien the following week!) Galway dominated the opening half and were ahead 1-4 to 0-3 going in at the break after Veronica Curtin slotted over two early points followed by a Lourda Kavanagh goal when she got onto a long delivery to smash the ball to the Cork net. Aine Hillary then added two points to this to leave Galway in a comfortable position at half time. Cork came out in the second half with all guns blazing they weren't going to take defeat easily and managed to turnaround the game and take the lead with time almost up but Brenda Kerins answered the call and sent over a point four minutes into injury time to ensure Galway weren't stung by the rebelettes two years in a row. And so it ended 1-7 to 0-10.

Galway had secured their place in the Gala Championship semi final after their drawn match with Cork but their opposition Kilkenny had all to play for on August 5th in Kenny Park, Athenry. For Galway this was a game they could've won but the desire just didn't seem to be there for the tribeswomen. On the day the Kilkenny backline soaked up any pressure Galway applied with ease and in the end the cats won the game 3-5 to 0-10. At half time the cats were leading by the smallest of margins 2-02 to 0-7, Galway were playing well and putting together some nice sequences of play, they had a greater percentage of possession but Kilkenny's ability to score goals was a telling factor in the contest. By half time Galway had kept in touch courtesy of points from Hanney, Kavanagh, Curtin (3), Aoife Lynskey and an inspirational effort from captain Therese Maher. From the word go in the second half, Kilkenny took control and Galway only managed 3 points in the second half from Curtin. The Cats secured their place in the semi-finals with a result of Kilkenny 3-5 to Galway's 0-10.

Gala All-Ireland Semi-Final Galway v Cork August 12th 2006

After the two sides had drawn in the group stages of the championship the clash of Cork and Galway in the Gala All-Ireland semi-final was always expected to be a close fought game and so it was with just four points separating the sides. Cork winning 1-7, to Galway's 0-6.With so much at stake, the two sides played it very tight in the first half and it was nineteen minutes before the crowd saw their first score- a Cork free which was promptly answered back by a '45 from Galway's Lourda Kavanagh. Cork suddenly stepped up and two minutes later recorded the only goal of the game putting the reigning All-Ireland champions ahead 1-1 to 0-2. Cork never lost that lead and left Galway trailing from there on in. Following that goal it was Cork who went in leading at the break, 1-3 to Galway's 0-3, Lourda Kavanagh being the lone Galway first half scorer. Galway's first score of the second half did not come until Veronica Curtin sent over her first point eighteen minutes into the half to leave it, Cork 1-7, Galway 0-4. This was to be Cork's last score and Galway were still in with a shout and not going to give up without a battle they sent over two further points, a Lourda Kavanagh free and with one minute of normal time remaining, substitute Ann Marie Hayes sent over Galway's last point of the day. The goal that Galway so badly needed did not come and so they will have to wait another year to reap revenge. The manager Sharon Glynn, coach Damien Coleman and their selectors PJ Molloy and Pamela Boyle will know that more than most that this set of players who have achieved so much at underage level have the ability to bring the O'Duffy cup across the Shannon for the first time since 1996 and it's not a matter of if.....but when.....

All Stars 2006

Galway had a total of 5 All Star nominations this year, 4 senior A , 1 Senior B, and a nomination for young player of the year. Ailbhe Kelly, Regina Glynn, Brenda Hanney, Veronica Curtin Susan Keane and Noreen Coen all attended a glittering function at the City West Hotel on November 11th. Galway took two of the coveted All Star awards, Galway Bay player of the year Regina Glynn at Left Corner Back and sharp shooter Veronica Curtin at No 15 , a first for both players and richly deserved on both counts.

Senior B- Bertie Keane

The Galway Senior B camogie squad had a year of mixed fortunes. They struggled in the early stages of the year to field a team and having said that they were unlucky for a finish to be beaten in the final by a Cork team who had players in their ranks that won All-Ireland A Championship medals a few short weeks before because of a stupid rule which to quote people in other codes "could only happen in camogie."

Managed by Bertie Keane, Coach, Mockey McCormack, Selectors, Ann Kearney, Des Coen, Nurse, Mary Fahy, Physio, Elaine Conroy. Portumna's Eugene McEntee came on board during the year and made a huge contribution to the squad. The panel had players from all eight senior clubs and players from Intermediate and Junior also a total of fourteen clubs involved. The overall feeling after the defeat to Cork in the final was very positive several players from this squad are well capable of the step up to the A Panel and the future looks very bright.

The management team were delighted that two members of the panel received special nominations, Noreen Coen of Athenry got nominated for the Young Player of the Year and Killimor's Susan Keane got an All-Star nomination. Congrats to both girls. Well done

Co Minor– Kevin Kelly

2006 was a mixed year for the Galway Minor Camogie team. Going down in the history books as the first ever U18 Minor championship and falling into line with the GAA counterparts, the Galway ladies hopes of becoming the 1st title holders of Corn Sighle Nic Ultaigh were dashed by a superb Kilkenny side in Nenagh on October 15th

The pathway to Nenagh saw Galway in their first outing against Tipperary which resulted in Galway running out easy winners on a scoreline of 7-20 to 1-3. Onto Limerick in the second round at na Piarsaigh grough once more saw Galway achieve yet another easy victory 4-15 to 1-2.

Third round was the meeting with close neighbours Clare. Clare provided a sterner side for 30 mins. Galways skill came to the fore in the second period on a scoreline of 3-12 to 1-5. Onto the clase with arch rivals Cork in the semi final at the Glenrover grounds in Cork. The second half saw the Galway girls take complete control over the rebels finishing on a socreline of 2-12 to 1-5.

This result set up the meeting with Kilkenny in McDonagh Park, Nenagh.

Hopes were high going into the game but Galway were no match for the superb Kilkenny team and lost out on a scoreline of 4-11 to 2-5. Panel of players were:

Stephanie Gannon, Emer Haverty, Mary Ward, Aisling Hobbins, Julie Brien, Sarah Noone, Niamh Kilkenny, Lorraine Ryan, Paula Kenny, Jessica Gill, Catriona Cormican,(Capt) Marian Farragher, Noreen Coen, Martina Conroy, Richelle O Brien, Gemma Lohan, Heather Cooney, Tara Rutledge, Claire Lawlor, Michelle Glynn, Loraine Mahon, Aoibheann Mahon, Edel Holland, Aisling Tuohy, Jennifer Coone, Loraine Crowe, Elaine Brudar, Gemma Starr, Louise Callanan, Paula Raftery, Maria O Brien, Lisa Smyth.

Co U16 Team – John Keane

There was an unfortunate situation for our U16 panel this year in that there were no candidates for this team at the 2005 AGM. At the February meeting I agreed to take the job as no nomination was forthcoming. The format for the 2006 championship had been changed from knockout to league, therefore there was only a few short weeks to put a panel together. Trials were held at different venues throughout the county, and with the harsh February weather progress was difficult. However a panel was formed to face Cork in Buttevant in our first game of the year. It was a closely fought contest that Cork won by 4 points, goint on to contest the final.

The second outing for the team was against Tipperary in Killimor, and there were a number of injuries to members of the Galway panel at the time. Although we led by six at the break, we were defeated narrowly in the end, and the loss of both our midfielders to injury on the day played a vital part.

As many of our panel were exam tied we requested postponement of our Fixture V Clare until after the Junior Cert, similar to the Cork request. However our request was not met and we had to play without Captain and leader Noreen Coen, Full Back Aisling Hobbins and Forward Alison Clarke. We lost heavily to Clare.

Despite being out of the championship race, we fulfilled our last fixture against Limerick. We used that game as an opportunity to field U16 players who would be eligible to compete at this grade in 2007. We look forward to the coming year in the knowledge that we will have a management team put in place at the AGM so that this team can compete on an even footing with all other counties next year.

Co U14 Team – Emer Kearney

Trials started in March for the Co. U14 team and over 100 girls were called in for trials. It was a difficult job in picking the panel as the standard of camogie was very good but in the end a panel of 33 was chosen from 21 clubs. The panel was as follows:

Kathy McDonagh (Capt) (Mouthbellew), Siobhan Kelly, Aoife Donohue, Brenda Cahalan (Mullagh) Adelle Grealish, Michelle Murphy, Niamh Fox, Ailbhe Manning (Carnmore), Amanda Dillon (Clarinbridge), Katie Kelly (Kilconieron), Siobhan Carey (Ballinsloe), Aoibhean Linnane (St Colmans), Serena Hansberry, Mairead Linnane, Carmel Walsh (Turloughmore), Niamh McGrath, Catherine Kelly (Sarsfields), Claire Ryan, Niamh Briscoe, Laura Shiel (Davitts), Nicola Muldoon (Portumna), Noreen Murphy (Ardrahan), Sharon Barrett (Pearses), Finola Keely, Rebecca Howley (St Thomas), Michelle Skehill (Cappataggle), Laura Mitchell (Killimordaly), Gayle Curley

(Shamrocks) Aine Mannion (Ahascragh), Bridie Scully (Athenry), Karen Brien, Chelsea Starr (Killimor), Claire Kavanagh (Kinvara).

Competitions: The U14 team played in Limerick, Cork and Galway Blitz. In the Limerick Blitz the Galway youngsters were understrength due to the Féile semi-finals on the same weekend. The girls who played in Limerick gave it their all. In the Cork Blitz they defeated Clare, Cork County, Kildare and lost to Tipperary. In the Semi-final they played Cork Colleges and were defeated.

The girls gave their all.

The New Galway U14 Blitz

The Father Higgins cup took place on July 9th in Ballindeeren GAA Ground. Cork, Tipperary, Clare and Galway were the teams that took part in the blitz. Every team playing each other. Galway were top of the group having won all there games. Tipperary came out second.

Galway and Tipp in the final and what can I say. It was one of the best games of Camogie I have seen all year. Finola Keely from St Thomas went on a solo run from the 45m line and put the ball into the back of the net to put the game into extra time. In extra time Galway got off to a great start with 2 points from Niamh McGrath and just before the half time whistle Claire Ryan got a goal. Tipperary had no answer and Galway ran out winners.

Captain Cathy McDonagh from Mountbellew lifted the cup. It was very fitting that Cathy was to lift the cup as Fr Higgins came from Mouthbellew. A great day was had by all. Roscommon, Limerick and Galway B took part in the B section. Limerick won this trophy by beating Galway B in the final.

A special note of thanks to Noel Kelly and Gerry Kearney (Trainer)



Connacht Post-Primary School's Senior "B" Camogie Champions 2006. Back row left to right: Elaine Reynolds, Brenda Cahalan, Claire Ryan, Catherine Spaight, Laura Gaynor, Áine Callanan, Lisa Headd, Aisling Hobbins, Lisa Porter, Claire Kelly, Alison Clarke, Louise Geraghty, Tommy Coen (manager). Middle row left to right: Claire O'Donnell, Michelle Finnerty, Claire Lawlor, Maria Hardiman, Jennifer Coone, Therese Manton (captain), Niamh Mahony, Edel Holland, Lyndsey Mahony, Chloe Finnerty. Front row: Colleen Finnerty, Amy O'Leary, Louise Ryan, Riona Daly.

DEC 2006

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SHE'S THE DOYENNE OF CLARE CAMOGIE AND HAS BEEN FOR AS LONG AS SHE CARES TO REMEMBER. **MAURA SHEEDY** TALKS ABOUT HER LIFETIME INVOLVEMENT IN THE GAME WITH GERRY McINERNEY

MAURA . . . the doyenne of Clare Camogie



Maura Sheedy takes a deep drag of her cigarette and then exhales. With her next breath, she ponders and asks herself why? Why has she devoted her lifetime to Clare camogie? What's the magnetism that keeps attracting her back?

But Maura doesn't have to rack her brains too long before proffering a response. The questions bring forth the same answer – "a fanatical interest and love of the game" And said with total conviction may I add.

Maura's involvement spans the decades and goes back to her childhood days when she pucked around at school in Portumna. In her own words her playing days were fun days but it was at administrative level that she became a recognised figure.

"When I was young we played a small amount in school, nothing competitive like it is now. We weren't serious about it. It was only fun" she says.

But all that changed when she moved to the other side of Lough Derg, to the Ogonnelloe shores. "The late an t-Athair Seamus O'Deá came to the parish. He was a brilliant GAA man, very involved with the youth. He was the primary mover behind the setting up of a camogie club in the parish. He wanted others involved and I was one of those people. He just told me I had to do it and, in truth, I didn't hesitate".

"Things just took off from there. Ogonnelloe enjoyed a lot of success in those early years but then were forced to amalgamate with Scariff. We just hadn't the numbers to compete on our own. But that trend has reversed once again. About five years ago we went solo and won a junior league title inside two years" Maura explains.

While camogie has enjoyed a chequered existence in Ogonnelloe, Maura believes parallels can be drawn across the county. And with virtually an unbroken twenty year involvement at county board level, she's better placed than most to pass judgement.

"Certainly, camogie has gone through phases and a lot of clubs have struggled with numbers. Things have levelled out a bit and the club scene in Clare has never been as strong in that we now have eight senior teams".

"As other counties go, that's a fairly strong representation. However, the only downside is that in the last twenty years the senior championship has been dominated effectively by a few clubs. Sixmilebridge were the team back in the 80's, then Wolfe Tones took over. Kilnamona won a couple in between but now Newmarket have emerged as the team" she says.

While actively involved with Ogonnelloe, particularly at underage level, this is Maura's third stint as County Board Chairperson. She returned this year to succeed Orla Hayes. Previously she served as Treasurer and PRO while at provincial council she is a past registrar and PRO.

"Maybe I'm an awful clown. I suppose I took on the jobs because there was nobody else there to take them" she says modestly. "But I just love the game, love being involved. I'm fortunate in that we have very good people on the Board and involved with teams. Basically they are the people running the show, not me".

And her vision of the future for Clare camogie? The answer is two pronged – spread the game back west and acquire their own county grounds.

"Clare Camogie Board certainly needs its own grounds. At the moment, through the good graces of the County Board, we have use of Ballyline. That's for all our county teams, under 14 up to junior. It can be chaotic there at times. Without Ballyline we'd have nowhere to train" she stresses. When Clare GAA launched plans of their ambitions 30 million sports academy at Caherlohan, Chairman Michael McDonagh extended the hand of friendship to Clare camogie, inviting them to come on board. Had they taken up that offer?

"I've spoken with Michael McDonagh and he has assured me that there was a pitch in the overall development for Clare camogie. We didn't go into discussion in great detail because he said further and formal meetings would follow.

"However, it could be three or four years down the road before that comes to pass so, in the interim, we have an arrangement with the Wolfe Tones Club in Shannon for use of their playing pitch which they've recently developed.

"But the bottom line is that we need our own facilities as distinct from being dependent on others" she remarks.

On spreading the camogie gospel west of Kilnamona, Maura says she will avail of the services of the full time development officers - Mary O'Connor (Cork) and Lynne Kelly (Galway) - to do so.

"My ambition is to see camogie played all over the county, not just in pockets. And we, the County Board has to give the lead even if it will take a bit of time".

"We have no clubs up north and in Kitty McNicholas' time, Ennistymon were a very active club. We plan to get the full time development officers into Clare and hopefully we see clubs up and running in places like Kilrush, Ennistymon and Lisdoonvarna. I'd love to start camogie in those towns".

"Munster camogie has gone into Kerry in an effort to promote the game and is doing so successfully. There was never camogie in Kerry before and now it has taken off. Hopefully, they'll come into Clare and achieve similar results. That's my wish' Maura adds.

Sean Kelly introduced an innovative scheme during his GAA presidency. He decided to honour people, many of them unsung heroes, for their lifetime contributions to the Association. A case of parading foot soldiers in the public conscience.

If his camogie brethren were to adopt a similar scheme, seek out those who shun the limelight but voluntarily give of their time working behind the scenes, then Maura Sheedy would be entitled to take her place in the queue.



Kilnamona – Camogie Senior County Champions 2006

Back row: Martin lafferty selector, Una Lyons, Sarah Kelly, Jennifer Griffin, Deirdre Hegarty, Edel OBrien, Aislinn Dill[illegible] Gerard Ryrne Manager, Siobhan Commane, Sonia Maher, Amanda Perrill, Deirdre Mullins, Bernadette Mullins, Ciara [illegible] (mascot), Anne Keane. Front row: Patricia Ryan, Fiona Lafferty, Catherine O'Loughlin, Ciara O'Loughlin (mascot), Mairead[illegible] Siobhan Lafferty, Marie O'Halloran, Jacinta O'Grady, Mary Roseingrave, Clora O'Connor, Patricia Moloney and Margare[illegible] from photograph Carina Roseingrave.

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LADIES ALL-STARS - 2006

ATHENRY

CAMOGIE.

Athenry's Senior camogie team under manager Midge Glynn, bridged a gap of ten years when they won the 2006 Galway senior camogie championship. In the group games Athenry had wins over Pearses, Killimor and Mullagh, in the semi final they defeated Kinvara, which set them up for a final against Pearses. In the final played at Loughrea, Athenry were on the back foot for the opening half and trailed at the break by 5 points. However in an excellent second half performance they outscored Pearses by ten points to win by 1 – 14, to 1 – 9. In the All Ireland Semi Final Athenry were defeated by Belfast side O' Donovan Rossa. At time of writing Athenry are through to the minor final against Killimor.

Off the field, Athenry's Regina Glynn won a camogie All Star, and Noreen Coen was nominated for young Player of the Year.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

In football in 2006 Athenry fielded teams in Junior A, B, and C, in both the league and championship. They also fielded



Co Senior Camogie Champions Athenry



Regina Glynn and Veronica Curtin pictured after receiving their All-Star awards for Camogie.



Chairman John Keane presents the Catherine Donnellan Cup to the Bus Eireann County Camogie Champions Captain, Sarah Donohue of Athenry



KILLANENA – Junior Camogie County Champions 2006.

Back row (l to r) : Alan McNamara, Louise Leonard, Brigette Houlihan, Ciara McNamara, Michelle Flaherty, Ann Marie Moroney, Pauline McNamara, Deirdre Collins, Aoife Collins, Róisín Loughnane, Martin Smyth. Front row (l to r) : Bridget Jones, Sinéad Flaherty, Claire Canny, Amanda Flaherty, Niamh O'Connor, Grainne McNamara (capt.), Joanna O'Brien, Leona Leonard, Laura Flaherty, Alanna Moroney, Eveleen Glynn.

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Camogie in Clare in 2006

Camogie approached 2006 with hopes of success and an opportunity to build on the progress of the past few years. The County Junior Team had reached the Junior Championship Final in Croke Park in 2003 and 2005. It was hoped that some benefit would come from our near success in these competitions.

The all Ireland League commenced in March where Clare were drawn against opposition from Down, Armagh and Offaly.

Clare had their first trophy and were 'League Champions' when they defeated Derry by one point in the final at Navan by the score of 1-14 to 3-7. The late point by Fiona Lafferty was worth its weight in National League Silver. A lot of hard work had paid off.

From May to August Clare were involved in Championship matches going down to Dublin in the semi-final by 2-12 to 1-12.

It was back to club championship action for the players.



Clare Camogie Team 2006.
Front row (L-r): Cathy Hally (Wolfe Tones), Laura Linnane (Athenry), Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilnamona), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley), Claire Commane (Corofin), Aoife Ryan (Newmarket on Fergus), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney). Back row (L-r): Edel Keating (Corofin), Deirdre Corcoran (Celbridge), Jane O'Leary (Newmarket on Fergus), Siobhan Lafferty (Kilnamona), Fiona Lafferty (Kilnamona), Marie Whelan (Clarecastle), Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Sharon McMahon (Newmarket on Fergus)

CLARE 0-11
DOWN 3-2

Clare Junior Camogie were unlucky to only come away with a point from their first game in the league. They travelled to Down for this match. They got off to a good start and were leading by 0-7 to 1 goal at half time. Down were a physically strong team and drew level three minutes after the restart. Deirdre Murphy and Laura Linnane dominated at midfield and Clare again had a led of four points with ten minutes remaining. In windy conditions Down secured a point and goal from a free at the finish to snatch a draw. Cathy Hally, Deirdre Corcoran and Jane Scanlan played well also.

CAMOGIE JUNIOR LEAGUE 2B PLAYOFF

CLARE 2-13
DOWN 3-8

Clare led from the start in this match, had to defend a two point lead at the end to win Camogie Division 2B playoff at Whitegate.

They were leading 1-10 to 1-2 at half time with a goal from Catherine O'Loughlin after 20 minutes.

Down got their goal just before the interval. Clare played their best camogie during this period in beautiful hurling conditions and deserved their lead against a physically strong and skillful Down team at the break.

The northern girls fought their way back into the game scoring 1-4 without reply mid way through the second half. With Clare's lead at 5 points approaching injury time, Catherine McGourty had a Goal for Down. Clare defended well to hold out for a merited win.

Both teams started without influential mid field players through injury. Clare had to start without their captain Deirdre Murphy.

Laura Linnane was magnificent for Clare, Jane Scanlan, Cathy Hally, Deirdre Corcoran played well also.

Clare were into the Junior League division 2 Final on Sunday May 7th against Offaly.

CLARE 3-13
OFFALY.....1-7

Clare had to work hard to overcome a determined Offaly in the quarter final of the Junior Camogie All-Ireland Championship at Rath, Offaly on Saturday 22nd July. Clare led 1-7 to 1-4 at half time. Offaly drew level ten minutes after the restart with three good points. Goals from Fiona Lafferty and Catherine O'Loughlin in the final quarter put Clare in control to the final whistle.

CAMOGIE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

KILLANENA.....1-4
FEAKLE 1-1

Killanena were made to work hard to win the County Junior Camogie Championship for 2006 at Roslevin.

Killanena lead 1-2 to 0-1 at half time. The goal came from Graine McNamara and a point each from Evelyn Glynn and Louise Leonard. Marie Keane who was prominent throughout had a point for Feakle.

A second half goal by Aoibhann Donnellan for Feakle provided for a very tight finish and with good defence Killanena just about held out for a win.

Goalkeepers Pauline McNamara and

INTER-COUNTY MATCH RESULTS 2006

National League

Down	3-2	Clare	0-11
Clare	8-17	Armagh	1-6
Clare	2-13	Down	3-8 (playoff)
Clare	1-14	Derry	3-7

All-Ireland Championship

Clare	7-17	London	1-0
Down	0-7	Clare	0-15
Clare	3-13	Offaly	1-7
Dublin	2-12	Clare	1-12

CLUB RESULTS

Under-12 A:	Newmarket on Fergus 4-2 Wolfe Tones 1-1
Under-12 B:	*Broadford*
Under-12 C:	Ballyea 5-3 Feakle 4-0
Under-14 A:	Sixmilebridge 3-6 Wolfe Tones 2-4
Under-14 B:	St. Josephs 5-4 Clooney 1-4
Under-14 C:	Kilkishen 2-8 Feakle 1-3
Under-16 A:	Newmarket on Fergus 6-5 Clarecastle 1-6
Under-16 B:	Kilmaley 3-6 Whitegate 2-3
Under-16 Shield:	Kilkishen 4-8 Killanena 6-0
Under-18 A:	Newmarket on Fergus 2-10 Tulle 0-3
Under-18 B:	
Junior Championship:	Killanena 1-4 Feakle 1-1
Intermediate League:	Whitegate 1-4 Corofin 1-1
Intermediate Championship:	Clooney 1-12 *Clarecastle 0-4*
Senior League:	Kilnamona 6-9 Kilmaley 0-3
Senior championship:	Kilnamona 2-8 Kilmaley 2-4

CLARE CAMOGIE CONVENTION



■ (Above) Mary Hogan, secretary, Maura Sheedy, chairperson and Michael Maher, treasurer were all returned for 2007.



■ (Right) Mary O'Connor, munster camogie development addressed the convention.

Photographs by Arthur El

Board reports small balance

CLARE camogie reported a deficit of €3,545.31 for the 2006 season, but when the figures from a fundraising draw run in July are factored into the accounts, there is a balance of €5,704.69.

These figures were presented at last Thursday's convention in the Auburn Lodge Hotel by treasurer, Michael Maher, who spoke of the costs involved in running the board. The total income for the year amounted to €26,359 with €12,867 coming from gate receipts, while affiliations and registration amounted to €6,900.

The running of the county teams cost a total of €18,365 which included €8,260 for overnight stays and food, €5,760 for bus hire and €1,672 for hurling balls, with players travelling expenses costing just €420.

Disappointing attendance

THERE was a disappointing attendance, with only 12 clubs represented, at the camogie board convention.

A total of 28 motions were debated, mostly to do with competition structures, on an night when the board failed to fill the position of public relations officer.

Secretary Mary Hogan and chairperson Maura Sheedy reviewed the season's activities in their reports to the meeting.

They both paid tribute to the county junior team on winning the division two league title for the first time and also on winning the Munster intermediate championship title, while expressing disappointment for all involved in the team's defeat by reigning All-Ireland champions, Dublin, in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The secretary listed the various competition winners including paying tribute to those who qualified to represent Clare in Féile and those who were chosen on representative teams.

2007 executive

THE following have been re-appointed for the coming year: president, Fr Liam Murra (Whitegate); chairperson, Maura Sheedy (Ogonnelloe); secretary, Mary Hogan (Tulla); assistant secretary, Martha Sheedy (Ogonnelloe); treasurer, Michael Maher (Kilmaley); registrar, Orla Hayes (Broadford); delegates to Munster convention, Bridie O'Looney (Newmarket) and Maura Sheedy; delegate to Munster council, Bridie O'Looney; youth officer, Ann Marsh McMahon (Broadford); Irish officer, Anne Marie Arthur (Newmarket); integration officer, Maura Sheedy; delegates to congress, Seamus O'Sullivan (St Josephs) and Michael O'Halloran (Corofin).

Championship format

A PROPOSAL from Tulla to have the championship in both the senior and intermediate grades on a knockout basis was lost.

Tulla argued that by reverting to a knock out format, "it would make for a better championship and better camogie and all teams would have to produce 100% effort every day".

A proposal from Clooney that 'in all championship games up to and including minor level, the home team would provide the referee and the same to apply for senior, intermediate and junior league matches' was defeated.

The fixtures committee is to examine a Broadford proposal that the senior, intermediate and junior leagues be organised in one group for each competition and be played on a single round basis, with four rounds to be completed before May 1 and recommenced after a break for state exams.

The first four teams in each competition will then contest the semi-finals, with the next four playing in a secondary competition.

A Tulla motion calling for promotion and relegation 'in all competitions' was carried, as was a motion from Killanena asking that the fixtures committee hold regional meetings with clusters of clubs at the beginning of the year, to discuss gradings for the season.



County Camogie Board Chairperson Maura Sheedy presents the Michael McMahon & to joint County Camogie captains 2006 Catherine O'Loughlin and Patricia Ryan.

DEC. 2006



Santa paid a surprise visit to the Barrs underage camogie section at Christ The King School.



Young members of the Barrs camogie section show off the senior championship trophy. Included are Barrs' inter-county star Gemma O'Connor and Marie Santry, Barrs camogie section.



Barrs' inter-county player Gemma O'Connor, left, and Colette Cronin hand out medals to the kids.



Claire Barry, and Janice McCarthy presents medals to young members of the club.

Barrs' camogie club are building for future

YOUNG members of the Barrs underage camogie section received a special Christmas treat recently.

Santa Claus dropped in at the youngsters' final coaching session before the Christmas break at Christ The King School in Turner's Cross.

And they there was a double treat for the kids when Barrs senior and Cork camogie star brought the senior chamiponship trophy which the club won for the first time this year.

The budding stars, who range from ages 5-11 all received medals on this special day and Gemma was on hand to help make the presentations..

Training for the underage section has taken a break for the moment, but it will resume on January 27 from 11 to noon in Christ The King School, Turner's Cross.

Training outdoors at the club's grounds in Togher will resume at a later date.



Members of the Barrs' U11 camogie team at their last training session before Christmas.



Some of the younger members of the Barrs' camogie section with their medals.







Young members of the Barrs underage camogie section take time out from their last coaching session before Christmas which saw Santa arrive.

Year of camogie success in Carrig



Cork senior player Catriona Foley (right) makes a presentation to her sister Colleen at the Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar awards night.

THE CAMOGIE teams in Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar enjoyed a hugely successful season.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

This was reflected in their GAA awards evening at the college on Wednesday.

An impressive array of trophies found their way to the progressive college during the year.

In a busy camogie-playing season, the school entered eight competitions.

They won three and hopes are high that there is one more to come later this month as there is still a Junior B final to be played.

A large gathering of parents, pupils and representatives from the various clubs listened as MC for the evening, Frank Lombard listed off the achievements of the various teams.

In camogie the first year's won the Cork Colleges B blitz, while the minor team, which was made up of first and second years pupils won the Cork College minor C championship crown.

The junior team rounded off a successful season by winning the Cork Colleges Junior C championship.

Joining the ladies on the victory rostrum were the boys, who brought honours to the school by winning the Munster senior hurling title.

They also won the Corn Mic Ruaidhri for the first time in 20 years.

The ladies footballer also brought a trophy to the school.

The evening got off to a perfect start as guests were entertained by an impressive video of the year's activities on the playing fields put together by teacher Mr Lewis.

After that the medal presentation took place and the college were delighted to welcome Cork camogie star and full-back on the All-Ireland winning senior team, Catriona Foley to present the medals.

One of the players to receive medals was Colleen Foley, a sister of Catriona's.

In all eight teams were presented with medals, a tribute to the hard work and dedication shown by the teachers.

In his address to the gathering, Frank Lombard paid tribute to the teachers who give freely of their spare time to coach and guide the players.

He paid special tribute to Principal Edmund O' Donovan, who is hugely supportive of sport within the college.

While many tributes were paid on the nigh special mention was reserved for camogie coach, Prionsias O' Criodain.

He is the driving force behind the college's camogie success.

In replying, Prionsias thanks his players for the wonderful commitment they have shown to camogie in the college.

He also had huge praise for the clubs with whom the players play and he thanked them for their co operation and flexibility.

Prionsias had special words of praise for the junior team, who on winning the C title last year were promoted to B grade this year where the acquitted themselves well.

They are now qualified for the final where they will meet Coachford in January.

Proud captains, Diane Kelleher, first year team, Margaret Dunacliffe, minor and junior captain, Margaret Howard led their sides to the stage for their presentations.

A total of 12 clubs were represented on the college's teams.

The college were well represented on the Cork Colleges U14 team with three players, Michelle Healy, Sinead Dilworth and Colleen Foley playing their part as Cork took the James Hurley memorial trophy.

Orla Bourke was a member of the Cork juvenile board U14 team who also took honours in 2006.

Players such as Sinead Dilworth, Margaret Howard, Diane Kelleher, Denise Luby, Clare Walsh, Orla Burke and Colleen Foley have all caught the eye regularly.

Before the conclusion of the evening Leaving Cert student Tyrone Kennedy replies on behalf of the players.

This was greeted by huge applauds from pupils and parents alike.

Already sights are set firmly on further glory with pupils and coaches eagerly looking ahead to 2007 and more silverware on the table.



Cork senior player Catriona Foley with members of the victorious Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar camogie teams.

Camogie

GLEN ROVERS

Our underage section enjoyed a great afternoon before the Christmas break when we held our annual party.

We had many visitors on the day, all of whom received huge rounds of applause and support from the young players.

Our senior club captain Niamh Goulding, who was member of the All-Ireland-wining senior B panel brought along the All-Ireland trophy while we also had the O'Duffy cup on display. We were also joined by senior B player Clodagh Deasy from the Valley Rovers club, who receive a huge welcome form our eager underage players all who kept the girls busy signing autographs and posing for photographs with the trophies. Our victorious Cork minor hurling captain Patrick Horgan dropped in with the Munster minor trophy and the premier minor county championship cup won by our hurlers recently.

Without the biggest cheer of the day went up when we had a surprise visit from Santa who dropped in unexpectedly having contacted our club manager Sean O'Leary to tell us he was on his way.

Santa joined in the fun entertaining our young player and handing out presents to the U9s while he was also busy presenting medals to out underage teams for the various competitions which were held during the year. He had an able helper in the medals presentations in Niamh, Clodagh and Nicole Cummins. A special presentation to mark her captaincy of the clubs Féile na nGael team was made to Sinead Gallen on behalf of the U14 team by senior captain Niamh Goulding.

Many thanks to Eddie Farrell who made the afternoon such an enjoyable occasion for our young members and to Eddie McGrath and Denis Lynch for their support.

Our senior girls held their night out which they enjoyed in the club where we also held our Christmas draw again. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors and to all who supported our draw by selling or buying tickets. The honour of selling the winning ticket for first prize went to Claire Walsh. The full list of winners is on display in the

JAN 2007

St Aidan's return to the colleges fold

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

INTEREST in camogie continues to grow in both schools and clubs throughout the city and county.

There was further good news on the colleges front this week with the news of the return to the playing fields of St Aidan's Community college, Dublin Hill.

They recently made a welcome return to competitive action following several years of inactivity.

For several years their neighbouring primary school, Scoil Oilibeir, Dublin Hill have been to the fore in gaelic games, setting the trend in the early days of the Scith Na Scoil competition when they annexed the Division One camogie title on numerous occasions.

The trend continued for several years with many of the pupils progressing to secondary education next door, thus ensuring a steady stream of camogie players to St Aidan's. Many of the community colleges former pupils have gone on to win All-Ireland honours including Emer O'Farrell and Niamh Goulding, who were both members of the Cork senior B side this season. Current pupil Lydia Cunningham was a member of the Cork U16 team that took provincial honours this year.

For a number of years St Aidan's did not compete in Cork Colleges competitions, the main reason the shortage of personnel available.

Eighteen months ago Liam Ahern took up the position of principal and endeavoured to get camogie back on track, but again huge work commitments made his task a hard one.

Recently the appointment to the staff of John Rea, who hails from the Kilworth club has heralded new enthusiasm in St Aidan's.

With interest high amongst the pupils, John has gathered together his charges and they are now up and running. Recent games against Passage and Coachford have proved that the Dublin Hill girls certainly have plenty of ability.

They lost out by the narrowest of margins to Passage in their first game.

They regrouped to record a good victory over Coachford in the Junior C championship on Tuesday last.

Driven on by their Cork U16 player Lydia Cunningham, the younger players on the Dublin hill side answered the call when needed most.

Prominent on the day were Sinead Gallen, Sarah Clifford and Aisling O'Keeffe.

"Hopefully more of the girls will come along after Christmas and the momentum will grow," John Rea said.

"It's all about getting out there and enjoying the game and today our girls certainly did just that.

"They are very determined about having camogie in St Aidan's and hopefully, I will be able to guide them in the right direction.

"I am hoping that word will spread and a lot more of our pupils who are playing club camogie will come along and join in the school team."

Cork Colleges camogie organiser, the hard-working Rob Lotty expressed delight to have St Aidans back playing camogie.

"It's great to see them back in Cork Colleges competitions.

"We are working hard to get camogie played in every school in Cork.

"John Rea is a huge asset to the game as he has huge commitment and hopefully, the girls in St Aidan's will respond and turn out to training and matches."

There is a great tradition of camogie in the area with Glen Rovers and Delany's fielding teams.

Hopefully, camogie will go from strength to strength in St Aidan's and certainly if the enthusiasm that was shown on Tuesday last by both pupils and coach can be built upon bright days lie ahead for the Dublin Hill community College.

● Anybody interested in joining the school team can contact John Rea.



Cork's Catirona Foley with captains (L to r) Michelle Healy, Sinead Dilworth, Coleen Foley and Prionsius O'Croidian at the Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar awards night



Catriona Foley with Cork Colleges U14 players at the Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar awards night



Colleen Foley, Claire Walsh and Denise Luby with Cork player Catriona Foley at the Coláiste An Chroi Naofa, Carrignavar awards night.

club notes

club or in local shops. Thanks to Colm Lyons and his management team in Caulfield's Super Valu Merchants Quay who once again afforded us the opportunity to do bag-packing recently. Well done all who participated in the club long puck and to Denise, Lydia and Ciara who took the ladies' prize.

BLACKROCK

Indoor Match: Our U8s and U6s played Sarsfields in a challenge match this was the first match for some of these girls and they did very well. Thanks to Sars who came in at short notice for the games.
Training for the U8s and 6s resumes on Friday, January 12 @6pm.

Winter Mini-League: The Mini-League for the U11 group comences on Friday, January 12 in Ashton School @ 6pm. All players have recieved team lists and fixtures. These lists are also available online @ www.blackrock-camogie.com

Camogie Shop: We would like to remind everyone that the club shop that runs every Friday from 5-7pm will re-open on Friday, January 12. The Blackrock Camogie Jersey is now in stock in most sizes.

ST FINBARR'S

A Victory Dinner to celebrate our historic win in the Cork Senior Championship will be held at the Club on Saturday, January 13.
With the legendary Joe Mac providing the music, a lively night will be guaranteed. Tickets costing €30 may be had from committee members.

ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsor: Cork Builders Providers

Annual General Meeting: Our AGM is scheduled to take place on January 19, 2007.

Scór: Congratulations to the St. Catherine's Ballad group who won this year's county final recently. Well done to Jill Hurley, Ciara Clancy, Fiona Feeney, James Moroney and Stephen Mills and we wish them the best of luck in the Munster competition.

JAN. 2007

MARY NEWMAN TAKES A LOOK BACK AT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A GREAT

Camogie enjoys a



Alison Coughlan of Ballincollig drives the sliothar goalwards in the U16 B Camogie County final against Éire Óg at Ovens. Picture: Kieran Boyde

HAPPY New Year to camogie players and mentors through the city and county, here's hoping 2007 will be as good if not better that 2006.

Most clubs are still enjoying a well deserved break from activities and a chance to recharge the batteries for what is sure to be another busy season ahead. In the coming weeks I invite you to take a brief look back at some of the stories that made the camogie headlines in 2006.

The season got off to an early start as the youngsters from Douglas captured the 2005 Under 11 "A" Seandun title with St Vincent's taking the B title, Douglas retained the U13 "A" crown while Blackrock took the U13 B trophy.

There were celebrations for St Mary's Charleville who retained their Munster Colleges "A" crown as Mallow took the U16 C league title, continued success for Douglas as they defeated Éire Óg in the U16 A league final.

University of Limerick host the Ashbourne Cup and shield competition as holders of the prestigious Ashbourne Cup title and there were celebrations for UL who made it back to back titles. Amanda O'Regan was named as player of the tournament while Anna Geary, Angela Walsh, Rena Buckley Rachel Moloney, Colette Desmond and Jenny Duffy who were selected on the Combined Ashbourne team. CIT won the Ashbourne shield, defeating Garda College in an exciting final.

Seandún took the Interdivisional U16 title halting bolders Muskerry's bid for four in a row. Six divisions participated in the competition which was played on a round robin basis. Seandun recorded a 2-9 to no score victory over Imokilly in their opening game before winning a hard fought contest against Avondhu on a 1-3 to 0-1 score line. Muskerry defeated Carrigdhoun 2-1 to 0-4 and Carbery 3-4 to no score and so the scene was set for the final.

In a thrilling contest Ellen Crowley Denise Luby Niamh O'Donovan and Lee Ann O'Shea led the way as Seandun took the title National League action began with Cork fielding teams in Division 1A and Division 2A. In division 1 A Cork were grouped with Limerick Tipperary, Wexford, Kilkenny and league champions Galway with the top two teams to meet the final.

In Division 1 B the second team from the counties participating in Division 1 A took part with Dublin replacing Limerick who only fielded one team.

It was a weekend of mixed fortunes for Cork as the league got under way at the magnificent St Catherine's grounds in Ballynoe, the All-Ireland champions recorded a victory over Limerick as the division 1B team went down by three points to All-Ireland Junior champions Dublin, a result that ultimately cost the B team a place in the league play-offs.

Cork and Glen Rovers were in mourning with the death of former Cork camogie star Peggy Dorgan.

A member of the Glen Rovers side that recorded seven Cork County championships in a row from 1962 to 1968, Peggy wore the colours of Cork with distinction making her debut in 1963 against Kerry and she won an All-Ireland medal in 1970 when the county ended a 29-year gap, defeating Kilkenny in a thrilling final. Peggy was married to well-know referee Willie Horgan.

Later in the same week camogie followers were saddened by the death of another former inter county players with the passing of Old Aloysius player Mary Fitzgerald who won All-Ireland Senior medals with Cork in 1939, 1940 and 1941.

Mary captained Cork in 1942 and served as Vice-Chairman of the Cork County Board for three years she won nine Cork Senior Championship medals with Old Als.

Over the last two weekends in February

JAN. 2007

YEAR FOR CORK CAMOGIE AT INTER-COUNTY AND CLUB LEVEL

superb year



Aoife Murray, left, and Una O'Donoghue celebrate victory in the Camogie National League Division 1A final over Tipperary in Semple Stadium.

Ballinhassig hosted a very enjoyable U11 and U12 indoor blitz in Riverstick. The blitz has now become a regular date in the under age calendar and the event was again a huge success.

In a thrilling U12 cup final Ballinhassig edged out Courcey Rovers in a game which went to extra time to find a winner the golden goal eventually deciding the issue. Glen Rovers took the plate title defeating Ballinhassig 2 in a superb final with three goals to spare. In the U11 competition Valley Rovers took the cup with the plate going to the host club.

Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig made history as they took the All-Ireland College's Senior C title as they defeated Gort. At half-time Ballincollig turned to face the galeforce wind, having to defend a four-point lead. From the off they showed determination, hunting and chasing as they put the Gort attack under pressure.

It was 18 minutes before the first score of the half arrived, Ballincollig's Ashley Lovett pointing as Gort threw everything at Coláiste Choilm. They met resistance but eventually the goal arrived as Aoibhinne Linnane burst through to finish to the net with just five minutes of normal time remaining.

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

To the final whistle Ballincollig gave it their all as they held on to be crowned champions and take the schools first ever All Ireland Camogie title.

Sacred Heart Clonakilty who took the Cork Colleges Senior B championship and Munster Senior "A" league title in the space of four days, Sharon Whelton, Aoife Deasy and Wanita Brennan were all in top form as their side defeated Coachford.

Niamh Dilworth and Nicola Moynihan helped keep Coachford in contention through the hour. But Clonakilty despite losing the services of their captain Carol Fleming and Ann Marie O'Regan through injury played with determination to be crowned champions.

With just the weekend to rest it was back to the action when they took on Nenagh in the Munster Senior "A" league final. From the throw in Clonakilty were under pressure but they hung in there despite trailing 0-4 to 1-0 at the interval, Martina O Brien having grabbed the all important goal in reply to four Nenagh points.

From the start of the second half the Clon defence tightened up considerably confining Nenagh to just one point in the second half to seal a tremendous victory for the Liam Nash coached side.

Cork continued their unbeaten run in Division I A of the senior league with a victory over Galway in Ballinasloe while the Division I B team recorded their first victory also defeating the home side. A point minutes into added time saw the All Ireland colleges senior "A" final end all square and it's was a huge disappointment for the Charleville girls who looked to have the title secured.

Having played well Charleville led 2-4 to 1-2 at the interval but inside eleven minutes of the restart Athenry were back in the game and level before Lisa Fitzgerald pointed to give the Cork side a much-needed boost.

Charleville were dogged and determined but the eight minutes of injury-time finally took its toll and Athenry eventually got their reward when Jessica Gill showed nerve of steel to point a free from the half way line to earn Athenry a replay.

Twenty members of the All-Ireland winning team headed to the sun when they took a well deserved break in Egypt, the holiday a reward for the side who brought the O Duffy cup back to Cork the previous September, the holiday came about thanks to the huge fund raising efforts of the team.

St Mary's Charleville were crowned Junior "A" Colleges All Ireland champions as appalling weather condition failed to dampen the enthusiasm of St Mary's and Portumna.

In a close contest Rosemary Rea Annette Mc Auliffe, Ashling Thompson and Erin Reidy shone as Charleville set the pace. .



Tipperary's Liz Howard who was elected president to succeed Miriam O'Callaghan.

Camogie President elected at congress

THE camogie association held a very successful congress in Tullamore, electing Tipperary's Liz Howard as president to succeed Miriam O'Callaghan. Ms Howard defeated Dublin's Pat Rafferty who previous held the position from 2000 to 2003.

Liz is a well-known official, having previously served in the role of Tipperary GAA PRO. In her address following her election she said: "The strategic plan is one of our main aims and I look forward to the challenge the role will bring.

Congress opened with a Civic Reception on Friday evening which was held by Tullamore Town Council, It was formally opened by President Miriam O'Callaghan who touched on the highlights of her three-year term, in particular events held during the Centenary Year in 2004.

Nicky Brennan, incoming GAA president, addressed delegates and expressed his wish to have a camogie representative on the GAC, the National Coaching and Games Development Committee, the Hurling Development Committee and to continue its representation on the Overseas Committee.

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

Congress was also addressed by Sean Kelly, outgoing Uachtarán of the GAA. Motions passed included the compulsory wearing of helmets with face guard for all players under the age of 18.

Playing rules were also passed, including one in relation to a player taking the ball into her hand, to bring it in line with that of the GAA; and the introduction of the yellow card. A Central Disciplinary Committee was also be elected.

ST FINBARR'S CELEBRATE SENIOR COUNTY TITLE WIN WITH SPECIAL DINNER

Camogie queens celebrate in style

CORK'S senior camogie champions marked their victory at a celebratory dinner in Togher at the weekend.
Up to 250 people attended a special dinner held for St Finbarr's senior camogie team at the club's pavilion in Togher on Saturday night.
St Finbarr's won the Tower View Senior A County Camogie title for the first time in the club's history last October.
The team was coached by Cork hurling boss Gerald McCarthy.
Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern and his wife, Eileen, along with the Bishop of Cork and Ross Dr John Buckley, were guests of honour at the celebratory dinner.
During a speech commending the talents of the players, selectors and coaches, the Lord Mayor also congratulated the team's most experienced player, Colette O'Mahony, who celebrated her 21st year as a senior player for the club with a county medal.
The club's Player Of The Year was also announced on the night, and the award went to the talented Claire Kirby.
Claire Barry, the club's chairperson, said the evening helped revived the memories of the club's historic win.





Above, members of St Finbarr's senior camogie team in high spirits at the dinner to celebrate their victory in the county final, and left, Orla O'Sullivan, Bill O'Connell, team personal trainer, and Susan O'Connell at the dinner to celebrate the Barrs senior camogie team's victory. Picture: Kieran Boyde







From above left: Barrs players Colette Kirby, Colette O'Mahony, and Claire Kirby; Valerie Hosford, Catriona Myers, Mary Collins, Aoife McCarthy and Claire Harrington; and above right, Marian McCarthy and Claire Barry of Cork County Camogie Board, Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern, Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern with Joan Doolan, and Mary Moran of Cork County Camogie Board at the celebration. Picture: Kieran Boyde

COLAISTE AN CHROI NAOFA AWARDS NIGHT

CAMOGIE in Colaiste An Chroi Naofa Carrignavar enjoyed a season and this was celebrated recently when they held their awards night.

An impressive array of trophies were on display after a busy camogie playing season eight competitions were entered with three trophies already safely tucked away and hopes are high that their will be more trophies in the cabinet as there is still a mater of a Junior B final to be taken care of.

A large gathering of parents pupils and representatives from the various clubs listened as MC for the evening Frank Lombard listed off the achievements of the various teams, in Camogie the first years won the Cork Colleges B blitz, while the minor team which was made up of first and second years pupils annexed the Cork College minor C championshiop crown, the Junior team rounded off a successful season by winning the Cork colleges Junior C championship. Joining the ladies on the victory rostrum were the boys who brought honours to the school winning the Munster senior hurling title and bringing the Corn Mic Ruaidhri to Carrignavar for the first time in twenty years.

Guests watched an impressive video of the year's activities on the playing fields put together by teacher Mr Lewis; the clips showed action from the training fields to the games. It was then down to the medal presentation and the college were delighted to welcome Cork camogie star and full back on the All Ireland winning Cork senior team Catriona Foley to present the medal to the victorious teams. Amongst the players to receive medals was Colleen Foley a sister of Catriona's who plays an important role in camogie activities in the college.

In his address to the gathering Frank Lombard paid tribute to the many teachers who give freely of their spare time to coach and guide the players he paid special tribute to Principle Edmund O Donovan who is hugely supportive of sport within the college, while many tributes were paid on the night special mention was reserved for Camogie coach Prionsias O Criodain who without doubt



Catiron foley with captains: (l-r) Michelle Healy, Sinead Dilworth, and Coleen Foley and camogie coach Prionsius O Criodain

is the driving force behind the colleges camogie success.

"He is the one who get everything organised and he is the driving force behind the games success here it's a tribute to his hard work tha the camogie team have enjoyed such success."

In replying Prionsias thanks his players and their clubs for their co operation and flexibility he had special word of praise for the junior team who on winning the B title were promoted to B grade where the acquitted themselves well and are now qualified for the final where they will meet Coachford. Captains, Diane Kelleher first year team Margaret Dunacliffe minor and junior captain Margaret Howard led their sides to the stage for the presentations.

A total of twelve clubs were represented on the college's teams and on the evening representatives from the various clubs were in attendance to pay tribute to their charges.

Camogiechat
With Mary Newman

ST FINBARRS CELEBRATE

MANY camogie clubs and colleges are enjoying the break from game with celebrations and medal presentations and no exception are St Finbarrs who enjoyed a great night on Saturday last when they celebrated their first senior county championship title with a function at their club.

The function was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Michael Ahern, Bishop John Buckley and Sheila Golden, President of the Cork Camogie Board.

Many tributes were paid to the players and their mentors for bringing the Punch Cup to the Club for the first time. A warm round of applause was reserved for Colette O' Mahony who toiled for twenty-one years to win her county medal. A Club Person of the Year Award was inaugurated last year to commemorate the late Betty Mohally, a life-long camogie enthusiast and outstanding club member.

This year's winner was Claire Kirby and the announcement was met with thunderous applause. Club officers, Joan Doolin President and Claire Barry Chairperson congratulated and thanked all whose who contributed in any way to the success including Team Manager, Gerald McCarthy, Jerry Murphy and Bill O'Connell and selectors, Claire Barry and Marian McCarthy.



Lynda O'Connell, Cork Intermediate Camogie Team Captain, Rachel Myers and Claire Spelman of the Barr's Senior Camogie team, enjoying the dinner to celebrate their victory in the Tower View Developments Senior A County Final. Picture: Kieran Boyde

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Barr's camogie team presented with medals

A HUGE crowd gathered at Neenan Park in Togher on Saturday for the presentation of medals to the victorious St Finbarr's camogie team. The team captured its first-ever premier county title last year. Huge praise was heaped on the players for their effort by their then coach, and current Cork senior hurling manager, Gerald McCarthy, who said the girls' commitment was outstanding.
Team captain Lynda O'Connell thanked the manager and selectors on behalf of the team. There were plaudits paid also to long-serving Colette O'Mahony, who finished off her trophy and medal haul with the elusive county title and who played an integral role in the team's successes last season and down the years.

Barrs senior camogie team turn on the style to celebrate their county final victory



Members of the Barrs senior camogie team at a celebratory dinner to mark their victory in the County Final. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Susan Kennefick and Niamh Cooke of the Barrs senior camogie team enjoying the celebrations. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Lynda O'Connell, captain, with Rachel Myers and Claire Spelman. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Gemma O'Connor, new Cork Captain, Ber Maher and Vivienne Harris, members of the Barrs senior camogie team, at the celebratory dinner following their victory in the County Final. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Ellen Clifford and Catherine Barrett of the Barrs senior camogie team at the event. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Bill O'Connell, team personal trainer, with Orla O'Sullivan and Susan O'Connell. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Colette Kirby, Colette O'Mahony and Claire Kirby, members of the Barrs senior camogie team. Picture: Kieran Boyde



Barbara-Anne Corcoran and Maria McCarthy of the Barrs senior camogie team at the dinner. Picture: Kieran Boyde

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Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern making a presentation to Claire Barry, chairperson of St Finbarrs Camogie Club, Cork County 'A' camogie champions 2006.
Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography.

City Hall honour for Barr's girls

THE Cork County senior camogie championship was won, for the first time, by St Finbarr's in October last.

The camogie players are the latest members of the St Finbarr's club to win a county championship.

Their success has meant that three different branches of the club have opened their county title accounts in three different centuries. The hurlers won their first in 1899; the footballers were crowned champions for the first time in 1956 and the camogie players first title was celebrated in 2006.

I was really pleased at the number of players and mentors who attended a civic reception on Thursday last. They are a great bunch of players and a credit to their club. They represent the game of camogie with great distinction.



Pictured at City Hall for the Civic Reception to Honour members of the St Finbarrs Senior Camogie Team, Cork County Champions 2006. Lord mayor Cllr Michael Ahern making a presentation to Captain Lynda O Connell in the presence of Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern, Patricia Hourihan, Cork City Council and Gerald Mc Carthy, Cork Senior Hurling Manager. *Picture: Tony O Connell Photography*

fordable units in the Knocknaheeny area.

City hosts reception for Barrs team

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Michael Ahern, and Cork City Council hosted a civic reception in the Council Chamber, City Hall for the victorious St Finbarr's Senior Camogie Team.

St Finbarr's were well deserving winners of the 2006 Cork County Senior Camogie Championship and this civic reception served to mark their success and achievements.

Speaking at the event, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Michael Ahern paid tribute to the team and the club for their continued success, "you have by your achievement put the St Finbarr's Club on a new level by uniquely winning Senior County Championships now in the three codes of hurling, football and camogie. You have also completed a cycle of winning first titles in each code across three centuries.

"You followed the Barrs Hurling team who won their first county title in 1899 and the footballers who won theirs in 1956 by winning the 2006 title in camogie".

Concluding, the Lord Mayor also paid tribute to the backroom team who, he said, were the driving force behind all victorious teams, "on your behalf I would like to thank your selectors, mentors, trainers, and last but not least your families, for the support, advice and encouragement they have given and continue to give you. May you all continue to enjoy the game and continue to be successful" he added.

College competitions resume

A BUSY weekend is in store on the college's front with three Munster finals down for decision.

Tomorrow Friday St Peter's Passage travel to Youghal to take on the home side in the Under16 Munster championship final it's a great achievement for both side to be contesting a provincial final. Passage with Lisa and Natasha o Sullivan, Jemma Cooney and Muireann Doyle will be hoping to take their first provincial crown but they will meet strong resistance from a Youghal side that will include Sarah and Hate Harrington and Emma Swaine in their line out, throw in at St Ita's GAA grounds is at 1.30pm

On Saturday Munster and All Ireland champions St Marys Charleville put their titles on the line when they face the challenge which will be posed by St. Caimin's Shannon.

Always strong championship contenders the Charleville girls will not be overawed by the big occasion and they will look to experienced campaigners Darina O Callaghan, Orla O Mahony, Rebecca Finn and Cliona Galvin to see them through. St. Caimin's are determined to put one over on the holders, Throw in is at 1pm in Feenagh.

Later in the day at 2p, in Mallow Coachford will be hoping to bring the Junior B provincial title to Mid Cork when they face a strong challenge from Ursulines Thurles backboned by Emma Spillane, Catriona Shortt, and Laura Dwane the Tipperary girls will be going all out for victory but Coachford with Catherine and Michelle Healy, Ciara O Keeffe, Aoife Barry Murphy and Catherine o Brien in their line out should have enough power to bring home the title.

CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

A HUGE crowd is expected to turn out tomorrow Friday to pay tribute to the girls and their mentors who brought so much glory to the county in 2006 when the Victory dinner dance and medal presentation takes place in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Another successful season on the playing fields will be recalled as the county honours it teams from under 16 to Senior, the annexing of provincial titles in three grades, a senior national league and two senior All Ireland titles certainly plenty to be proud of.

In it inaugural year the capturing of the Senior B All Ireland crown has given Cork the prestigious honour of being the only county to have won two senior titles in the same season and the senior B team will be duly honoured on Friday next when they will be led by their captain Miriam Deasy to the victory rostrum.

Joanne O Callaghan led the county to Senior National league and All Ireland success defeating Tipperary in both finals and she will proudly display both trophies on Friday next as she and her team mates bask in the limelight for the last time before thoughts turn to the season ahead and the three in a row bid.

The under 16 side having captured the provincial crown made it to the final of the All Ireland but had to give way to holders Kilkenny however Dawn O Keeffe and her side will proudly step up to receive their medals as will the county minor team who won the Munster title but lost out at semi final stage to Galway.

With the junior All Ireland championship open draw series only confined to junior counties it was left to Cork to just participate in the provincial competitions and her they came out on top captained by Marie Corkery they defeated Clare to take the honours.

Amongst the guest list will be Lord Mayor Cllr Michel Ahern, Bishop John Buckley, National Camogie president Liz Howard and Munster council chairman Eamonn Brown.

A limited amount of tickets for the event can still be obtained by contacting county chairperson Marion Mc Carthy or any board officer or player or club officials

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



At City Hall Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern making a presentation to Claire Barry, Chairperson St Finbarr's Camogie Club, Cork County A Camogie Champions 2006, included in picture Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern and Patricia Hourihan, Cork City Council.

Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers in final

SUNDAY seem a return to club action for Glen Rovers and Ballygarvan as they meet to decide the destination of the county under 16 B league crown.

Postponed before Christmas due to adverse weather condition both clubs will be anxious to get the game decided as it has been a long season for all concerned. Already the sides have met in both league and championship and with a victory each under their belts there is little between the sides. 1.45pm is the throw in at the new Glen Rovers pitch on Ballincollie road.

COUNTY BOARD RESUMES

A reminder to clubs that the county board will hold the first meeting of the year on Monday next January 29 in Paire Ui Chaoimh at 9pm,, clubs are requested to have their delegates present



At the Civic Reception for the St Finbarrs Camogie Team, Cork County A Champions 06 were: (l-r) Bill O Connell, Team Trainer, Joan Doolan, Camogie Club President, bernadine Maher, Team Member and Donie Doolan.

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Pictured at City Hall for the Civic Reception to honour Cork County Camogie Champions St Finbarrs. Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern honours Colette O Mahony, St Finbarrs Camogie Club, Colette has 21 years service. *Picture: Tony O Connell Photography.*



Geraldine Murphy and Kay Collins, from Togher,

ASHBOURNE AND PURCELL CUP

HAPPY New Year to all camogie players and mentors who I am sure are still relaxing as clubs through the county enjoy a well earned rest and recharging the batteries after a hectic season.

Not so for camogie players in the third level camogie colleges whose thoughts are now firmly focused on the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions.

The most prestigious of camogie's competitions in colleges camogie, the Purcell cup takes place on the weekend of February 10/11 and will take place in Dublin while the Ashbourne takes place a week later on the weekend of Feb 17/18 in Galway.

Last year's Ashbourne Cup winner's University of Limerick take on the Garda College in the first round of the competition and here the Limerick girls hoping to make it three in row.

Last years defeated finalists UCD will face Waterford IT in a game which should be well worth keeping an eye. UCD beaten finalists for the last three years they will go in as one of the favourites for ultimate honours

UCC have been pitted against NUIG in their opening game, while the other focus from a Cork point of view will be on Cork Institute of Technology who face UUJ.

As interest continues to grow there will be a record number of teams competing in the Purcell Cup. Sixteen sides in all will battle it out for the title and the competition promises to be the most competitive in a number of years. Hosts St. Patrick's,

DCU, Queens and Trinity will be leading contenders to capture the title. Amongst the attendance at the recent draws was President of the Association Liz Howard who said

" Third Level Competitions are extremely important in the promotion of our game as the young women playing at this level are the future leaders and shapers of society in

Ireland. Both the Ashbourne and Purcell are prestigious competitions and

all players competition want to win a coveted medal. The competitions usually signal the return to activities and we look forward eagerly to them starting early in the New Year. "

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



Camogie players from Colaiste an Chroi Naofa Carrignavar with Cork senior Catriona Foley at their awards night recently

Glen Link severed

OVER the Christmas holiday a link with the Glen Rovers team of 1934 was severed with the passing of Rita Barrett.

Better known as Rita Hegarty she lined out with the clubs first team to win a title in 1934. Rita was married to the famous Batna Barrett who won eight county senior championship medals in a row with the club.

A superb player with the club she had resided with her daughter Margaret and her family in Ovens for the last ten years but she never lost her love for Blackpool and the big crowd at her funeral was testament to her popularity.

Rita has passed on her skills to her granddaughters Ellen and Margaret o Herlihy who play their camogie with the Eire Og club and both have worn the Cork colours with distinctions.

May she rest in peace

Purcell Cup Draw

1 St Pat's
2 GMIT v LIT v Carlow IT
3 D.C.U v Tipp IT
4 Sligo IT v Trinity
5 Queens v Cavan IT
6 St Mary's / Tralee IT
v DIT / NUI Maynooth
7 Athlone IT
8 Mary I

St Pat's V Winners of 2
Winners 3 V Winners 4
Winners 5 V Winners 6
Athlone IT V Mary I

Interesting fare to look forward to as the Colleges competitions help lift the winter gloom.

College Bursaries

TEN camogie players recently received third level bursaries supported by the Irish Sports Council, amongst the recipients were Cork senior player Anna Geary University of Limerick. The full list of bursary winners was as follows Anna Geary UL, Catriona Power TCD, Bronagh Keenan Queens, Louise Codd UCD ,Aine Lyng UL Therese Muldowney UCC Katie Mc Auley St Mary's Maria O'Sullivan DCU Stephanie Griffin Sligo IT Susan Keane WIT



Dron -Inch U-18 A Champions - Back Row;John Harkin (Selector),Joan Harkin (Selector),Rita Flanagan (Physio), Eimear Shanahan, Aisling Butler, Brid Flynn, Catriona Kennedy, Sinead O'Meara, Elaine Sweeney, Therese Shortt, Eileen Harty, Maria Eviston, Fiona McGrath, Christina Kenneally, Patricia McGrath, Martin Flynn (manager). Front Row; Eugene Shortt (Coach), Ella Stapleton, Sinead Corcoran, Catriona Shortt, Ciara Johnson (Capt.), Siobhan McGrath, Antoinette Kennedy, Olivia Flynn, Orla Ryan, Nicola O'Brien.

Amanda O'Regan

WHILE there is a natural cross-over between basketball and ladies football, Amanda balances camogie with Douglas and Cork and basketball with Team Montenotte Glanmire.

An All-Ireland medallist in '05-'06 with the Rebels and a SuperLeague winner last year with Glanmire, victory on Sunday would enhance a collection that also includes basketball and camogie honours with UL. She graduated as a PE teacher in 2006 and teaches in South Pres. Her basketball career started with Blarney from U15 to U18. She spent a year with Cobh before moving to Glanmire four years ago.



O'Regan is a tough but cool defender with Cork and has played every position for Glanmire. The O'Regan household provided plenty of inspiration for Amanda, with both her parents' holders of All-Ireland medals with Cork (Michael at U21 football, Christine at Junior camogie).

Tipperary Camogie

DROM CLINCH U18A FINAL

Drom & Inch 3.8
Toomevara 0.0

In atrocious weather conditions Drom faced Toome in the U18A final in the Ragg Camogie grounds on Sunday last. Both teams must be commended in lining out in such conditions but it was Drom who adapted best.

Within two minutes they had the dream start when Therese Shortt found the net. Play moved laboriously through the field with both teams battling for possession. Droms Sinead Corcoran was on hand to slot over a point followed by another by Therese Shortt. Despite some probing attacks from Toome Droms defence stood firm led by centre back Patricia McGrath. Droms captain Ciara Johnson had the final say of the half witha pointed free, putting her team in a comfortable 1.4 to 0.0 lead at halftime.

The outfield contest for possession continued well into the second half. The deadlock was finally broken when Marie Everiston opened Drom's account the seventeenth minute with a point. Toome now began to put on pressure aided by the breeze however they failed to convert their chances and it was Drom who finished the game much the stronger taking all their scoring chances.

Therese Shortt added two more points to her tally and Ciara Johnson proved unerring from the placed ball converting a 45 in the 29th minute. The game was now well into the final minutes and it was Drom who asscerted their dominance. Catriona Shortts low driving ball found its way to the net and substitute Orla Ryan rounded off the days action with another goal four minutes into injury time.

As the cliches would have it the scoreline did not truly reflect the game. Toomevara fought hard all the way through with some outstanding saves from goalie Aoife Shanahan. Her fullback line of Sandra and Christina Dunne, and Shauna Rabbitte along with centre back Fiona Young put in a good hours camogie. Up front the lacked the scoring prowess of Bonnie Kennedy who was unable to start, however it was Droms day and to their credit their attacking style saw them through on the day and worthy winners with sturdy performances from Ciara Johnston, Patricia McGrath Therese and Catriona Shortt. Again the general consensus by all present that it was a shame to ask players to field for championship at this time of the year. But it is only with the cooperation of all clubs in the association that there will be any serious chance of addressing this issue. Chairman Lar O Brien congratulated both teams on a sporting game and commended all on the level of skill and commitment shown.

Drom & Inch: K Kenneally, S O Meara, C Kennedy, E Harty, E Sweeny, P McGrath, O Flynn, S McGrath, C Johnston, C Shortt, A Kennedy, M Eviston, A Butler, T Shortt, S Corcoran, N O'Brien, F McGrath, O Ryan, B Flynn.

Toomevara A Shanahan, S Dunne, S Rabbitte, C Dunne, N Kelly, F Young, A Shanahan, L Young, E L Coffey, A M Quigley, A Whelan, A Brislane, M Devanney, A Murphy, N Stapleton, H Harty, M Ryan, S Ryan, N Ryan, N Whelan, K Duigan, S Kennedy.

U18 B County Final:

SILVERMINES ADD TO SILVERWARE

Silvermines U18 team rounded off what has been a great year for the club by winning the U18B final on Saturday last in wintery conditions in Templetouhy. Opening their account was Fiona Kennedy with a 45 in the forth minute. Silvermines were quick on the attack again aided by the breeze with Ciara Ryan adding another point. Geraldine Stapleton was sweeping up at centre back and launching plenty of attacking ball.

A long range free for the mines in the 6th minute dropped short causing a goalmouth scramble which eventually saw the ball forced over the Holycross line leaving the mines 1.2 to 0.0 in front. Holycross now began to force their way back into the game but their attacking shots were matched by Rachel Greene in the Silvermines goals. A clever cross field sideline ball from Fiona Kennedy was latched onto by Ciara Ryan who slotted over her second point to stretch the lead to 1.3. Holycross again attacked and forced a 45 taken by midfielder Sandra Dwyer, she saw her shot drop short and cleared and to the disappointment of Holycross they had some further wides. Silvermines moved the ball up the field again and Danielle Slatterys low driving shot was saved by the Holycross keeper but it was the 'mines forwards who reacted quickest and they pounced for their second goal.

Now in attacking form Silvermines continued to pile on the pressure and driving runs from Fiona Kennedy and Helena Ryan set up Joanne O Brien to lash home a third goal. Silvermines went into the halftime break in the enviable position 3.3 to 0.0 up at halftime.

It was Holycross aided by the swirling breeze who were first into attack in the second half as Sandra O Dwyer converted a free. With underfoot conditions poor both teams had to work very hard for possession. Play moved throughout the field but no scores were yielded until late into the second half. The Silvermines halfback line of Laura Greene, Geraldine Stapleton and Martina Gleeson let little pass them in the hour and the midfield dynamo of Fiona Kennedy lauched several attacks for the 'mines. Holycross players Margaret Shanahan, Sarah Ryan, Sandra Dwyer and Linda Fanning did all they could but found no way through an airtight Silvermines defence. Helena Ryan added a late point for Silvermines and their victory was sealed by Danielle Slatterys goal in the 28th minute after a scintilitating run by Laura Power. The overall balance of the Silvermines team stood to them on the day and despite their best efforts Holycross were unable to match them.

Both teams were commended by Chairman Lar O'Brien for their commitment and standard of play despite the time of year. He also thanked the grounds men and Templetouhy GAA who graciously provided the field for the final.

Silvermines:R Green, T Chadwick, M Ryan, N Slattery, L Green, GStapleton, M Gleeson, F Kennedy, E Kennedy, C Ryan, L Power, C Kennedy,

D Slattery, H Ryan, J O Brien, E Slattery, M Kennedy, M O Leary, F Kennedy, R Slattery, L O Dwyer, R Forde.

Holycross: MR Flanagan, R Clegg, M Shanahan, K O Gorman, L English, S Ryan, L Medeley, S Dwyer, L Dwan, L Fanning, K Fennessy, S Stakelum, E Spillane, L Dwyer, C Dunne, K English, K Dieva, I Fitzgerald.

Munster Schools Final

It is an all Tipperary camogie affair next Saturday 27th when St Marys Nenagh take on Cashel in the Munster Schools final in Leahy Park Cashel at 2pm. Best of luck to all concerned.



Aoife McLoughney is captain of St. Mary's, Nenagh senior camogie team that will play Cashel in the Munster Colleges Final at Leahy Park Cashel on Saturday

Funds to boost Leinster camogie plan

CAMOGIE: Leinster Camogie has been given a grant of €35,000 a year over the next three years by Comhairle Laighean (CLG) to help implement the strands of the Leinster Strategic Plan.

The intention is to include national and secondary school development along with administration needs and the marketing of Camogie within Leinster.

The allocation was announced at the Leinster Camogie AGM, which took place in the Aras Laighean GAA Offices in Portlaoise last Saturday.

The AGM also saw the introduction of a new board with Ray Quigley from Wexford voted Chairperson, Joan Dunphy from Laois as Vice-Chair and Mairin Fulham from Westmeath the new secretary.

New Leinster Camogie Board: Chairperson, Ray Quigley (Wexford); Vice-Chair, Joan Dunphy (Laois); Secretary, Mairin Fulham (Westmeath); Treasurer, Marie Woods (Kildare); Registrar, Brigid Carney (Meath); PRO, PJ Fulham (Westmeath); Ard Comhairle Delegate, Mary Connor (Louth).

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St. Mary's, Nenagh in Munster Final

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ST. MARY'S, Nenagh will take on Cashel Community School in the Munster Senior B camogie final in Leahy Park, Cashel on Saturday next January 27th at 2pm.

The all Tipperary final is a coincidence with both teams disposing of Cork and Clare opposition in the earlier rounds.

Cashel had by far far the tougher side draw beating Carrigoline from Cork in the first round and Christ the King from Cork city in thr quarter final.

They then accounted for a fancied St Flannans Ennis in the Munster semi final.

In the meantime the Nenagh girls got a bye in the first round and had big wins over Borrisoleigh and Tulla on their way to the fina, both of which were plaed in Nenagh.

Saturday's final promises to be a very exciting encounter with both schools anxious for success.

St. Mary's were last in the final two years ago when they lost to Ursuline Thurles.Many of the girls who played in that final will again be in action again next Saturday.

St. Mary's are now older and stronger and have six Leaving Certs on the team and the younger girls are blending in very well with the more experienced players.

The side have played well in all their matches this year and are also through to the Munster Senior A league semi final having beaten St Flannans and Colaiste Muire in the earlier rounds of the league.

Full forward and team Captin Aoife Mc Loughney is St. Mary's scorer in chief.Fiona Kennedy is playing really well at mid field this year and Nenagh have excellent defenders in Geraldine Stapleton ,Sinead Quinlan and

Laura Green.

Cashel community school are backboned by a number of girls from Cashel and Kickhams camogie clubs.

Playing at home is an advantage to Cashel and a very close contest is expected on Saturday next.

St. Mary's Nenagh Panel of Players

Aishling Whelan, Toomevara, Martina Gleeson, Silvermines, Sinead Quinlan, Burgess,Laura Green,Silvermines, Emma Lousie Coffey, Toomevara, Gearldine Stapleton, Silvermines,Laura Power, Silvermines, Fiona Kennedy, Silvermines, Cliona Ryan,Moneygall, Catriona Kennedy, Silvermines, Bonnie Kennedy, Toomevara, Amy Kennedy, Burgess, Ciara Ryan, Silvermines, Aoife Mc Loughney (capt), Shannon Rovers,Orla Williams, Kilruane, Patrica Sutton, Moneygall, Mariead Devaney, Toomevara, Laura Reid, Burgess, Anna Marie Quigley, Toomevara, Lisa Shoer, Kilruane, Lorna Bergin, Moneygall, Elisha Slattery, Silvermines, Hazel Harty, Toomevara, Nicloe Whelan, Toomevara.



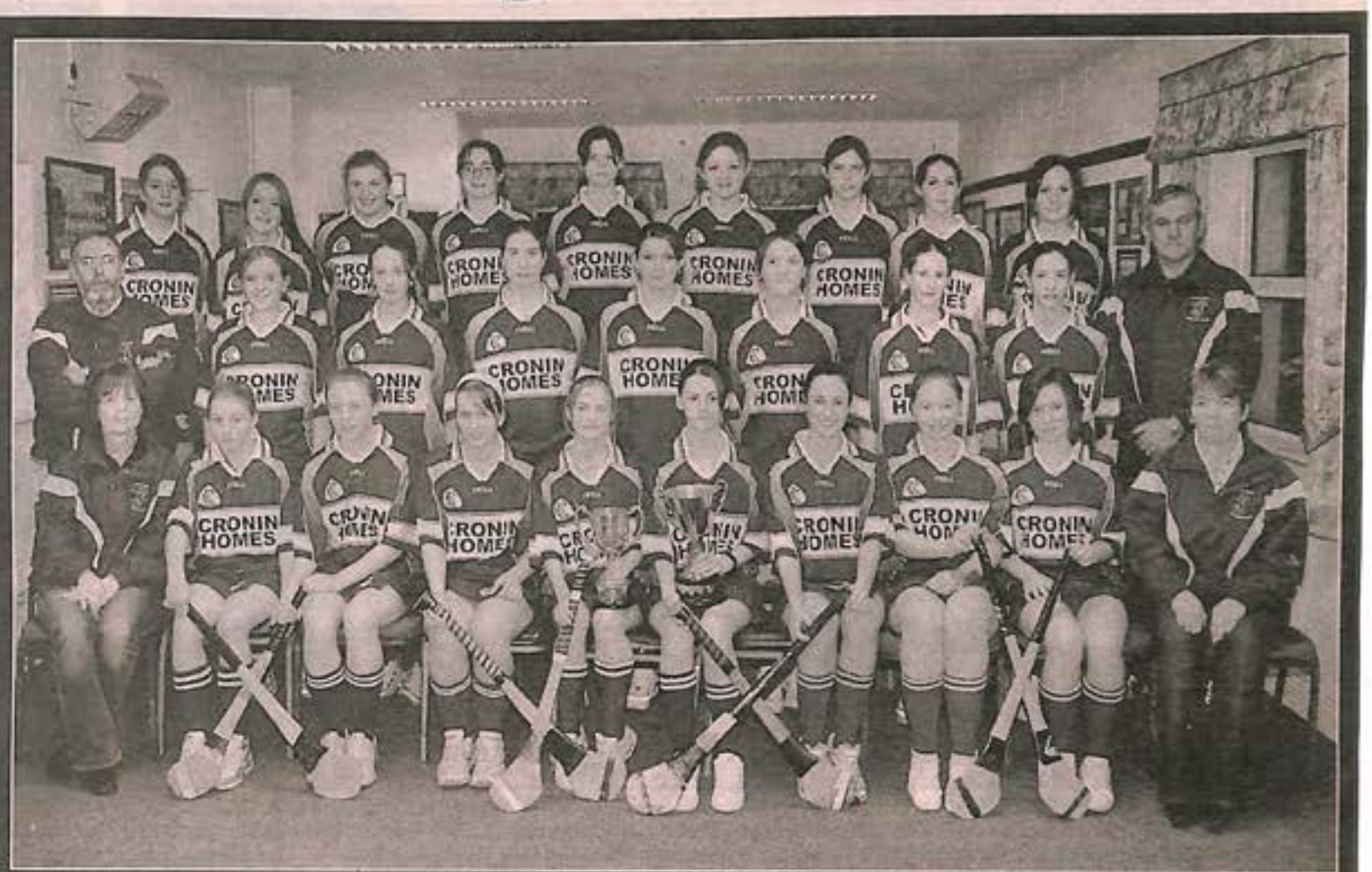
Lar O Brien presenting Drom Captain Ciara Johnston with U18A Trophy



Successful Toomevara camogie captains Shauna Rabbitte (St Joseph's College, Borrisoleigh), Aoife Ryan (U-12 County champions) and Emma Louise Coffey (U-16 County champions) at the club's Presentation Function in Toomevara Hall.

Mary's enjoy

Continuing our review of the camogie year, we look to April, May and June, and as the evenings lengthened clubs began their preparations for championship



The Inniscarra U16 Camogie team, winners of the Cork County League and Championship 2006. Included are Aoife Kavanagh (Captain) with selectors Patsy O'Connell, Betty O'Mahony, Rita Kavanagh and Terry Mc Mahon. Picture: Mike English



The Inniscarra U14 camogie team, winners of the Cork Feile na nGael competition and runners up in the All-Ireland final, losing to Douglas. Included are Aine Ni Rinn (Captain) with selectors Mary Kingston, Gwen Sheehan, Rita O'Brien and Emma Dineen. Picture: Mike English.



The Inniscarra Camogie Club's U15 squad who were Muskerry Blitz winners in 2006. Their captain was Catherine O'Brien. Picture: Mike English

By MARY NEWMAN
CAMOGIE

DOUBLE FOR CHARLEVILLE

ST MARY'S, Charleville made it an All-Ireland double as they defeated Presentation Athenry in the replay of the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A final.

This time out there was no mistakes, Charleville totally dominant, taking the title on a scoreline of 1-9 to 0-4. Ten of the junior panel were involved with the senior side, making it double celebrations for those lucky girls.

TITLE FOR UCC

In third level camogie UCC were crowned Division one league champions after a nail-biting clash with UCD. In a game that went to extra-time UCC were victorious on a 1-13 to 0-13 score line.

HISTORIC FIRST TITLE FOR COMBINED CORK COLLEGES

Cork Colleges of Further Education recorded an historic first, taking the Meagher Shield, under the guidance of former inter-county hurler Bertie Óg Murphy.

CORK PROVINCIAL U16 CHAMPIONS

The Cork U16 team were crowned Munster champions thanks to a superb second-half display against a determined Clare side.

Captain Dawn O'Keeffe was presented with the Munster championship trophy by Eamonn Brown.

DOUBLE FOR DOUGLAS

Their last game in the junior grade was one of celebration for Douglas as they defeated Sarsfields to take the 2005 league title.

DOWN TO THE WIRE FOR SENIOR

The script could not have been written for a better finish to the division 1A league, with all four teams still in contention on level points, battling for a place in the final.

A good victory over Tipperary ensured that Cork's next game against Wexford would in effect be a semi-final, with the winners from the Tipperary/ Kilkenny game also going through to the final.

GOOD START FOR CORK U16 SIDE

A victory in the first championship game in the round-robin series gave Cork the two points on offer against Galway, running up an impressive 3-17 to 3-7 winning margin.

Two more points in the round-robin series were secured for the side as they carved out a hard earned victory against Limerick to keep their championship aspirations on course.

LINKS SEVERED WITH PASSING OF CORK STARS

Another link with the Glen Rovers seven in-a-row county champion wining team of 1962 to 1968 was severed with the untimely passing of Maura Walsh, nee Coleman.

Maura won many honours in the game, both with Cork, with whom she had won two senior All-Ireland medals, and with Glen Rovers and Carrignavar. Her club and inter county colleagues were shocked at her untimely death.

Weeks later the club were in mourning again as Glen Rovers and Cork's finest camogie player, Siobhán O'Brien, went to her eternal reward.

Siobhan led the Glen to their first senior county championship title in 1950 and had the honour in 1952 of leading Cork back to the inter-county playing fields after a lapse of eight years.

SENIORS ARE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Another meeting with old rivals Tipperary awaited the Cork senior division 1A side, who recorded a 2-9 to 0-5 victory over Wexford in their league semi final clash.

Goals from Sarah Donovan and Briege Corkery helped ensure the final spot was booked, as Tipperary proved too strong for Kilkenny in the second semi final.

The county's 13th national league title was annexed as Cork overpowered Tipp in a final which failed to live up to expectations.

JUNIORS ADVANCE

The Cork junior team recorded a good victory over Waterford in Killeagh.

Ciara Healy was to the fore as they booked their place in the provincial decider.

CORK FEILE SEMI-FINALS

The county board held a successful Cork Feile competition with 16 teams participating.

The semi-finals took place in Ballinlough.

Douglas and Inniscarra served up a thrilling final and then had to do it all again as it ended all square.

NEW SPONSOR

Big news for camogie was the announcement that the Senior All-Ireland had a new sponsor.

At the launch in Croke Park, national president Liz Howard welcomed the Gala group on board and expressed delight at their support.

CORK SKILLS CHAMPION

A perfect performance from Ballygarvan's Mary Ellen O'Donovan ensured she was crowned Cork feile Na nGael skills winner for 2006.

Grace O'Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club was second, while Inniscarra's Joanne Casey was third.

GOOD START TO GALA ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

A good start as the senior team opened the defence of their All-Ireland crown with a victory over Wexford.

Elsewhere, in the group Galway defeated Tipp while Kilkenny- Limerick had to be postponed due to weather conditions

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it on the double



Some of the Inniscarra players who represented Cork at various grades in 2006. Included are Fiona O'Connell, Aine O'Connor, Joanne Casey, Aine Ni Rinn, Laura Mc Carthy, Emma Kingston, Claire Kingston. Missing from photo were Rosie O'Mahony and Niamh Dilworth. Picture: Mike English



Inniscarra's successful camogie captains in 2006 were Aoife Kavanagh (U16), Aine Ni Rinn (U14) and Catherine O'Brien (U15). Picture: Mike English



Inniscarra's camogie captains for 2006 Aoife Kavanagh, Aine Ni Rinn and Catherine O'Brien are congratulated by club chairman, John Lane on a job well done. Picture: Mike English



Inniscarra U14 Camogie selectors, Mary Kingston, Gwen Sheehan, Rita O'Brien and Emma Dineen with team captain Aine Ni Rinn. The team had a successful 2006 season, winning the Cork Feile na nGael competition. Mike English



Aoife Kavanagh, captain Inniscarra U16 camogie team, winners of Cork County League and Championship double pictured with selectors Rita Kavanagh, Betty O'Mahony, Terry McMahon and Patsy O'Connell. Picture: Mike English

SENIOR B TEAM RECORD GOOD WIN

From the throw in Cork always held the upper hand on a young, inexperienced Wexford side in the All-Ireland Senior B game, which preceded the main game in Páirc Uí Rinn.

15 minutes into the game Cork led 2-5 to 0-1 and by the break had stretched their advantage further. Wexford, with two of their starting fifteen still eligible to play at U16 level, were never in contention against a strong Cork side.

CORK FEILE TITLE FOR INNISCARRA

Inniscarra were crowned Cork Feile Na nGael champions after an exciting replay as two determined sides battled it out for the title.

Inniscarra took an early lead, but Douglas worked hard and battled to get back into the game as Inniscarra led 3-2 to 0-1 at the break.

From the start of the second-half Douglas applied pressure, but solid defending kept them at bay as Inniscarra held on to take the honours.

CORK COLLEGES RETAIN TITLE

A wonderful day's camogie in Ballyanley as the Cork Colleges hosted their annual James Hurley memorial U14 tournament.

Ten teams battled in out in the sweltering sunshine through the afternoon before four teams emerged from their respective groups to make it to the semi final.

Cork Colleges and Kilkenny faced each other in the final. After the game Joan and Jim Hurley, parents of the late James Hurley, presented the magnificent trophy to Cork Colleges captain Joanne Casey.

CORK LOSE OUT TO CLARE

Clare laid the foundations for victory with a superb opening 30 minutes which in the end enabled them to record a victory over Cork in the Munster intermediate championship.

THREE-IN-A-ROW FOR DOUGLAS

Feile Na nGael returned to Cork and again it was a superb spectacle.

The parade on Friday evening and the non stop games through Friday and Saturday made it a weekend never to be forgotten for player and mentors alike.

When the dust had settled Douglas retained their Feile Na nGael division one camogie title and made it three in-a-row, as they overcame the tag of underdogs to defeat Cork Feile champions, Inniscarra in the final.

It was a tribute to Cork camogie that both finalists in Division one, came from the rebel county.

WELL DONE SARS

Sarsfields took the division four Feile title. Five clubs participated in Section Four of Feile Na nGael, which was played on a league basis over the Friday and Saturday.

Meath representatives Ratoath and Sarsfields had to hold off stiff opposition before qualifying for Sunday's final. In a close contest Sarsfields had to call on all their resources before holding off the challenge of the Meath girls.

UNDER AGE ACTION

The first under age final of 2006 saw Douglas take the U12 A league title with a victory over a gallant Valley Rovers side.

Rockbán and St Vincent's played out a draw in an exciting U12 B decider.

Camogie Fixture

SUNDAY JANUARY 28

U16 B county league final: Glen Rovers v Ballygarvan, Glen Rovers 1.45pm

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Draws whet appetite for camogie cup action



County Juvenile Camogie Board Officers Siobhán O'Callaghan, Tina Sheehan Tracy Sheehan and Ger Sheehan pictured at their recent county convention at Mayfield GAA club.

by Mary Newman

THE recent draws in the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions have thrown up some interesting clashes to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

Holders University of Limerick have been drawn to meet Garda College in the first round. The Limerick girls will be focused on making it three-in-a-row but the Garda College side, who recorded a recent victory in the Ó Maolagáin Shield, will be equally as determined.

Last year's defeated finalists UCD will meet Waterford IT in a game which should be well worth watching. UCD are a side to keep an eye on with top-class players such as Wexford's Louise Codd and Mary Leacy and Cork's Rena Buckley. They have been knocking on the door for several years. They were beaten finalists for the last three and will go in as favourites to capture the prestigious Ashbourne Cup. Ursula Jacob, Susan Keane and Ger Kinnane should backbone a strong WIT challenge.

UCC have been pitted against NUIG in their opening game, and the Galway outfit will be looking to St Catherine's duo, sisters Denise and Deirdre Twomey, to help bring down UCC. Always strong Ashbourne campaigners, UCC are laden with inter-county players such as Cork's Emer Dillon, Colette Desmond and Catriona Foley and Sara O'Donovan while Tipperary's Jill Horan and Lorraine Burke make up a strong line.

Cork will have plenty of interest in the competition with Cork Institute of Technology — coached by Aidan Crowley, who guided the county to their first Senior B All Ireland title — pitted against UUJ. They have been putting in huge preparation and with Cork players Jenny Duffy, Gillian Harrington and Lucy Hawks in their line out, they will fancy their chances to advance to the semi-final stages.

As interest continues to grow there will be a record number of teams competing in the Purcell Cup. Sixteen sides in all will battle it out for the title and the competition promises to be the most competitive in a number of years. Hosts St Patrick's, DCU, Queens and Trinity will be leading contenders to capture the title.

The coming weeks promise some interesting clashes as we look forward to action resuming on the playing fields.

Ashbourne Cup Draw 2007

UL v Garda; UCC v NUIG; UUJ v CIT; WIT v UCD.

Purcell Cup Draw 1 St Pat's 2 GMIT v LIT v Carlow IT 3 DCU v Tipp IT 4 Sligo IT v Trinity 5 Queens v Cavan IT 6 St Mary's/Tralee IT v DIT/ NUI Maynooth 7 Athlone IT 8 Mary I

St Pat's V winners of 2; winners of 3 V winners of 4; winners of 5 V winners of 6; Athlone IT V Mary I.

Coachford College book place in semi-final

by Catherine Ketch

Coachford College	**4-3**
Pres, Bandon	**2-5**

COACHFORD College defeated rivals Pres, Bandon, in the Cork Colleges ladies senior B semi-final at Bandon in a competitive game on a heavy pitch.

Bandon had the Muskerry side in disarray when Elaine Ryan and Grainne Cronin pointed after three minutes. Sinead O'Callaghan added a goal and Catriona Collins converted a 45 to put the home side seven points ahead.

Coachford moved Niamh Dilworth and Siobhan Gleeson to midfield and both began to have an immediate impact.

Dilworth pointed after good interchange play with Rosie O'Mahony and the impressive Ciara O'Keeffe. Christine O'Neill and Katie McCarthy were winning good ball for Bandon, but a dogged Coachford side in touch. A Marguerite Vaughan clearance was fielded by Aine O'Connor who found Nicola Moynihan on the edge of the square and she found the net. That goal meant only four points separated the teams at the interval.

On the resumption, Coachford switched Emma Kingston from netminder to centre back, thus allowing Rosie O'Mahony to push forward. Michelle Healy switched to the full backline to curb the lively Brid Coleman.

Dilworth converted a long range free and, with full back Catherine O'Brien dominating proceedings, Coachford found the net again through Jo Casey. The sides were level and two further substitutions from Coachford created more space for the elusive Casey who dutifully doubled on another ball over her shoulder for a lead point.

Therese McCarthy, Mary Ann Hawkes and O'Callaghan did try to remedy the situation for Bandon, but a free from Dilworth ended up in the net. Bandon responded immediately with a superb goal from Collins.

The West Cork side were unable to raise their game and Coachford progressed to meet the winners of Fermoy and Coláiste Choilm in the final.

Coachford: E. Kingston, Y. Twomey, C. O'Brien, C. Dennehy, M. Healy, S. Gleeson (c), M. Vaughan, A. Twomey, R. O'Mahony, A. O'Connor, N. Dilworth (2-2), C. O'Keeffe, N. Moynihan (1-0), J. Casey (1-1), M. McCarthy. Subs: N. O'Carroll, C. Kiely, M. Ronan, D. Twomey, M. O'Connell, E. O'Callaghan.

Bandon: L. O'Sullivan, A. Keane, A. O'Riordan, A. Lynch, A. Coughlan, M. Hawkes, C. O'Neill, S. O'Callaghan (1-1), T. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, G. Cronin (0-1), E. Ryan (0-1), B. Coleman, C. Collins (1-2), E. Crowley. Sub: S. McCarthy.

Successful year at under age for progressive Inniscarra Camogie Club

THE story of Inniscarra Camogie Club since its inception in 1967 by Mary O'Callaghan from Dripsey, aided and abetted by a number of local enthusiasts including Fr. Twohig who was the first president, has been one of steady progress.

Indeed the securing of their own playing field ,which was officially opened in 2004, could be described as unique in camogie circles. The year gone by was one of the most successful at under age level for the club and the officers and selectors can be proud of their achievements.

Pride of place goes to the under-16 squad who captured the 'A' championship and league titles with wins over Douglas and Milford respectively. They were lucky to get past the first round of the championship as it was a last minute score which gave them a draw against Ballinhassig. The replay saw the Inniscarra girls safely through and they went from strength to strength to complete a very successful season.

The team was captained by Aoife Kavanagh and the selectors were Betty O'Mahony, Rita Kavanagh, Terry McMahon and Patsy O'Connell.

The under-14s had mixed fortunes during the year. This team had a number of experienced Cork Colleges players and were worthy winners of the Cork Feile na nGael competition, beating old rivals Douglas in the final.

However, the same opponents turned the tables on the Inniscarra girls in the All-Ireland final of the competition, winning by a single point. This team was captained by Aine Ni Rinn and the selectors were Mary Kingston, Gwen Sheehan, Rita O'Brien and Emma Dineen.

The Muskerry Blitz competition was won by the club's under-15s, captained by Catherine O'Brien.

A number of the Inniscarra girls represented Cork at various levels during 2006. Included were Fiona O'Connell, Rosie O'Mahony, Niamh Dilworth, Aine O'Connor, Joanne Casey, Aine Ni Rinn, Laura McCarthy, Emma Kingston and Claire Sheehan.

The 2006 officers were as follows: chairman, John Lane; Margaret O'Sullivan, hon. secretary; Betty O'Mahony, treasurer, and Gwen Sheehan, vice-chairman.

No doubt about it, Inniscarra will be up there in the race for honours in the years ahead.

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Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD this week announced Ireland's Track sensation Derval O'Rourke as the 2006 Irish Times Vhi Healthcare Sportswoman of the Year at an Awards ceremony held in the Westin Hotel. Picture shows September winner Briege Corkery with Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD. *Picture: Jason Clarke*

Camogie star Briege Corkery was honoured on Friday, January 12 at the 2006 The Irish Times Vhi Healthcare Sportswoman of the Year Awards.
The award, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, is aimed specifically at women in sport, recognising their achievements and creating greater awareness of their sports.
Briege is pictured receiving her award for Sportswoman of the Month for September from Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin TD at the awards ceremony hosted by Des Cahill of RTE in the Westin Hotel, Dublin.

Cork star awarded

CORK camogie star Briege Corkery was honoured on Friday, January 12 at the 2006 when she received the Irish Times Vhi Healthcare Sportswoman of the Year Awards.

The Award, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, is aimed specifically at women in sport, recognising their achievements and creating greater awareness of their sports.

Briege received her award for Sportswoman of the Month for September from Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin TD at the Awards ceremony hosted by Des Cahill of RTE in the Westin Hotel Dublin.



Galway GAA stars Niamh Fahy and Veronica Curtin, at the Gaelic Telecom launch in the Meyrick Hotel, Eyre Square, Galway. The campaign will raise money directly for local GAA clubs and schools throughout Galway. Picture: David Mahe

Munster Colleges camogie Results:
U16 1/2 A @ Youghal. Fri 1.30pm. Youghal 2-2 1-6 St. Peter's, Passage. Ref: Cathal Egan
Senior B @ Cashel. Sat 2pm. St. Mary's, Nenagh 3-6 1-3 Cashel Community. Ref: Jack McGrath
Senior C @ Roscrea. Sat 2pm. Carrig On Suir 3-8 0-3. Ref: Lisa Carroll
Junior A @ Feenagh. Sat 2pm. St. Mary's, Charleville 2-2 2-2 St. Caimin's, Shannon. Ref: Eamonn Browne.
Junior B @ Mallow. Sat 2pm. Coachford College 2-2- 0-1 Ursuline's, Thurles. Ref: Cathal Egan.

Fixtures:
Senior A Final @ St. Catherine's. 1pm. Loreto, Fermoy v St. Mary's, Charleville. Ref: Cathal Egan
Intermediate B Final @ Doon. 2pm. Doon v Midleton or Carrignavar.
Intermediate C Final @ Dromcollogher. 2pm. Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher v Colaiste Daibhéid or St. Patrick's.
Junior C Final @ Venue TBA. 2pm. Colaiste Choilm v Borrisokane.
Robb Lotty

Camogie stars to mark a successful season

AN evening of celebration will occur on Friday as Cork camógie players and mentors gather in the Rochestown Park Hotel to mark the 2006 season with a victory dinner dance and medal presentation.

Another successful season will be recalled as the county honours it teams from under-16 to senior age groups, the annexing of provincial titles in three grades, a senior national league and two senior All-Ireland titles. There is plenty of which to be proud.

The winning of the Senior B All-Ireland crown in its inaugural year has given Cork the prestigious honour of being the only county to have won two senior titles in the same season and the senior B team will be duly honoured on Friday next, when they will be led by their captain, Miriam Deasy, to the victory rostrum.



Cork Junior team munster Champions, who will be presented with their medals on Friday evening at a function in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Joanne O'Callaghan led the county to senior national league and All-Ireland success, defeating Tipperary in both finals, and she will proudly display both trophies on Friday next.

The under-16 side, having captured the provincial crown, made it to the final of the All-Ireland, but had to give way to holders, Kilkenny. However, Dawn O'Keeffe and her side will proudly step up to receive their medals, as will the county minor team, who won the Munster title, but lost out at the semi-final stage to Galway.

With the junior All-Ireland championship open-draw series only confined to junior counties, it was left to Cork to just participate in the provincial competitions, and, here, they came out on top. Captained by Marie Corkery, they defeated Clare to take the honours.

Amongst the guest list will be Lord Mayor Cllr Michel Ahern, Bishop John Buckley, Camogie president, Liz Howard, and Munster council chairperson, Eamonn Brown.

A huge crowd is expected to pay tribute to the girls and their mentors and tickets for the event can be obtained by contacting county chairperson, Marion McCarthy, or any board officer, or player, or club official.

Munster & All-Ireland Champions 2006



Senior A All-Ireland Champions



Senior B All-Ireland Champions



Junior Munster Champions



Under 18 Munster Champions



Under 16 Munster Champions

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Angela Walsh, Killeagh Junior A team and Rachel Maloney, Courcey Rovers Senior A team and below: Ella Kelleher, Cork U-16 and Denise Cronin, Cork Minor A team, at the dinner. Picture: Jean Curran





Clodagh Deasy and Hazel O'Regan at the Cork Camogie Awards dinner at the Rochestown Park Hotel last night. Picture: Jean Curran/News Digital

Cork camogie stars honoured at awards

By GARETH NAUGHTON

MORE than 130 of Cork's top performing sportswomen were feted at an awards dinner last night.

Five cup winning camogie teams collected their medals at the dinner in the Rochestown Park Hotel last night, including the Senior team who won the All-Ireland and the national league last year.

The county's Senior, Senior B, Minor, Junior and Under-16s camogie teams turned out in force for last night's award ceremony.

In a bumper year for camogie in Cork, both Senior teams won national titles, while the other teams took home provincial trophies. The Cork team won a historic first by taking the inaugural Senior B All-Ireland final.

Cork Camogie Board PRO Mary Newman said: "It has been a great year for camogie in Cork.

"The winning of the two senior titles is a historic first and a great achievement for Cork".

Among those in attendance at last night's honorary dinner were the President of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard; the chairman of the Munster Council Eamon Brown; and the Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Aherne accompanied by his wife the Lady Mayoress Eileen Ahern.



Linda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy, Cork Senior B team at the dinner. Picture: Jean Curran

Corkman Sports Stars awards

THE seventh annual Corkman Sports Stars awards ceremony will take place at Springfort Hall, Mallow on Friday, February 9 when 16 sports men, women and teams will be honoured for top class achievements in 2006.

Once again recognising the staggering array of sporting talent Cork has to offer, Sports Star awards will be presented to county, Munster, national and world champions across 13 different disciplines. This has been the case since the inception of The Corkman awards where each year has thrown up a fresh crop of Cork sporting stars.

Throughout 2006, the team of seven judges, predominantly made up of local sports writers, have kept eagle eyes on established and emerging sports people drawn from The Corkman circulation areas of Avondhu, Duhallow and Muskerry. "Really, there are enough and sufficient quality of sports stars in these areas to select an entirely different crop of award winners and still do Cork proud," said Corkman editor Brendan Malone.

"What it comes down to is honouring the achievements of local people across a very broad range of sports and at very high levels of competition in their individual disciplines.

"I think the winners selected this year reflect the greatest sporting achievements we have seen locally in 2006 as well as honouring people, such as managers and sports officials, who make huge contributions to sport."

Uniquely, this year the Tom Mills Hall of Fame award winner is still actually competing in his sport. 2007 marks Millstreet runner Willie Neenan's 56th year in athletics as he now pounds the track in the veteran class.

The other award winners include Irish champions, the Charleville Pierce Purcell Shield golf team; Munster junior hurling champions Kilworth; the Mallow rugby squad who are twice Martin O'Sullivan Cup and divisional champions; world silver medal rower Gearoid Towey, Fermoy; world handball champion Tony Healy, Ballydesmond; Curraheen Park's leading trainer (three years in a row) John Lenihan, Blarney; camogie All-Star Anna Geary, Milford; dual All Star Rena Buckley, Donoughmore; national basketball title winner Marie Breen, Mallow; leading amateur jockey Richard Harding, Castletownroche; National Forestry Rally Championship winner Eoin Murphy, Ovens.

The highly respected referee, coach and administrator John O'Mahony, Kanturk, is to receive the Sports Official award while world boccia silver medallist Johnny Cronin, Mallow, gets the Special Achievement award.

Meanwhile, the judges hit a deadlock trying to choose the manager's award and eventually decided to double it up and selected both Cork senior ladies football manager Mary Collins, Rockchapel and Cork intermediate hurling manager John Keane, Liscarroll.

All that remains is to choose the John Joe Brosnan Supreme Sports Star on the night.

As ever, a glittering night is in prospect at the awards ceremony in Springfort Hall on February 9, with tickets on sale via The Corkman offices in Mallow and Fermoy, and from judging panel chairman Liam Ware in Mallow – further details will follow next week.

All conquering Rebels set to celebrate 2006

CAMOGIE: Cork's triumphant camogie teams will celebrate their historic year in 2006 at a gala dinner tonight in the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork.

The Rebels won the Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship, Division One of the National League, the All-Ireland B Championship as well as under-age provincial titles.

The Cork Senior Team also picked up six All-Star awards. President of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard, will be in attendance at the event.

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Eimear Healy, centre, was one of the stars for St Mary's, Charleville with a goal and a point.

O'Callaghan sends epic tie to replay

St Mary's Charleville	2-2
St Caiman's Shannon	2-2



THE piercing final whistle in Saturday's Junior A Camogie final in Feenagh, Limeick was an unwelcome sound.

After a frenetic five ten minutes of action no-one wanted the game to end. It was that climactic a finish.

Shannon school St Caiman's had looked to have done just about enough to claim the title but a concerted push by the Charleville girls that yielded 1-1 for their impressive centre forward Darina O'Callaghan had the tie level and poised on a knife edge.

The action was non-stop, sweeping from one end of the field to the other as the combatants went in search of that illusive winning strike.

It was wholly absorbing, every eye in the tidy crowd glued to the action when the shrill sound of the whistle broke through the concentration and signalled the end to the contest.

Justice was probably done at the finish because, clichéd as it may be, neither side deserved to lose this encounter.

In a low scoring game the action was top class with some marvellous players on display.

Most notably the performances of Orlaith O'Mahony, Eimear Healy and O'Callaghan were barometers for St Mary's well being while midfielder Roisin McMahon was in a class of her own for St Caimans.

As well as dominating the midfield battle McMahon also chipped in with two excellently taken points, the first the game's opening core when she scored a great point from 50 yards just on five minutes.

McMahon's score brightened up a very cold afternoon but it was Charleville who reacted better to that opening score.

They were back on level terms through a Healy after nine minutes before they took the lead in emphatic fashion.

After showing her accuracy with that first free when Healy stepped up for another free, 15 yards from goal after 14 minutes everyone expected an easy tap over for her.

The corner forward had other ideas however and she took the St Caiman's goalkeeper and defence by surprise when she drilled a low ball to the back of the net for as opportunistic strike as you are ever likely to see.

It was a piece of individual magic from Healy but St Caiman's were far from out of the contest.

Indeed they reacted in the best possible fashion just five minutes later when levelling proceedings.

Centre back Chloe Morey sent a long ball from deep in her own defence up the field and when the sliotar broke in the danger area Marie McGrath was quick to react and she slammed the ball to the back of the net.

Spurred on by that goal St Caiman's finished the half very strongly when McMahon scored her second point of the afternoon to leave St. Caimans leading 2-1 to 1-1 at the turn-over.

St Caiman's started the second half brightly when Chloe Neylon grabbed a second goal.

Charleville were now faced with having a mountain to climb and they responded in the best possible fashion.

With O'Callaghan O'Mahony and Rosemary Rea beginning to exert some form of control on proceedings they began to eat away at Shannon's confidence.

Their persistence was rewarded on 50 minutes when O'Callaghan scored a great point to leave just a goal separating the sides.

O'Callaghan was at this stage loosely positioned at corner forward but she was enjoying a freer role and this freedom led to the levelling score.

After being engaged in a battle for possession around the half forward line O'Callaghan drifted towards the St Caiman's goal.

This proved to be a magnificent decision as when Healy dropped in a free minutes later O'Callaghan was on hand to bat the ball to the back of the net and tie the scores.

There was still a couple of minutes remaining and both sides tried valiantly to snatch the win at the death but when the final whistle went with the sides level there was a sense of justice about it as, truly, neither side deserved to lose.

They will now meet in the Munster Final replay in a fortnight's time.

Scorers St Mary's E. Healy 1-1 (frees), D. O'Callaghan 1-1

St Caimin's: M. McGrath 1-0, R. McMahon 0-2, C. Neylon.

ST MARY'S: K. Biggane, C Galvin, R Finn, S Fitzgibbon, L Potter, O O'Mahony, S. O'Flynn, R Rea, K Brosnan, K Curtin, D O'Callaghan, C Kelleher, E Healy, M Reidy, A McAuliffe.

Subs: F Moloney for Brosnan.

ST CAIMAN'S: L Duggan, C Whelan, C O'Leary, V Mulready, L Boyle, C Morey, C Danagher, R McMahon, G McInerney, S Chaplin, N Corry, C Neylon, M McGrath, A O'Shea, R O'Brien.

Subs: S. Fahy for Mulready, R. O'Halloran for O'Brien, R. Whelan for Neylon.

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary)

SEE TOMORROW NIGHT'S ECHO FOR A REPORT FROM THE GLEN ROVERS U16B LEAGUE WIN

Casey to the fore as Coachford claim win

By MARY NEWMAN

Colleges' camogie

Coachford College	2-2
Ursulines Thurles	0-1

JOANNE CASEY may have been the toast of Coachford College as she notched up of all their scores in this Munster colleges' Junior B decider in Mallow on Saturday but it was the backs-to-the-wall display at the other end of the field which ultimately earned the title.

Captain Michelle Healy was inspirational at centre-back, leading by example. Such was the determination of the Coachford girls that it was only with the second last puck of the ball that Ursulines got their names on the score board.

Inside three minutes, lively corner forward Casey had hand passed to the net and six minutes later she fired over a point from close range to extend Coachford's lead.

Ursulines worked hard to make progress and, driven on by Maggie Collins, Emma Spillane and Catriona Shortt, they pressurised the Coachford defence but could find no way through.

Coachford enjoyed plenty of possession and nine minutes before the break, Casey's dipping shot ended up in the net to extend their advantage.

She subsequently pointed to give her side and eight-point lead at the interval.

With Ursulines captain Jennifer Tierney the busier of the goalkeepers through the opening half, we expected a similar pattern through the second half but it failed to materialise.

With the Thurles girls upping the pace considerably they began to enjoy all the possession and now the Coachford defence had to be at their best but they answered the call.

Catherine O'Brien, Emma Kingston, Michelle Healy and Joanne Casey, now operating in defence, broke up attacks and cleared up field where their inside line seldom enjoyed the same possession against a much improved Ursuline defence where Spillane and Collins excelled.

Twice Ursulines came ever so close to grabbing a goal but some how the Coachford defence scrambled to safety, before finally they got on the score sheet fittingly their most impressive player Emma Spillane finding the range.

Coachford coach Lotty expressed relief at the full time whistle.

"They came at us like steamrollers through the second half but we were prepared for them our half backline was superb never giving them any chance to settle on the ball while the full back line worked them selves to a standstill to close them down, we got the brake in the firs half and took our scores.

"I am thrilled for the girls because we worked very hard for this and it's great to be Munster champions."

COACHFORD COLLEGE: M Gleeson, L MC Carthy, C O Brien, E Mc Carthy, S Buckley, M Healy ©, E Kingston, C O Keeffe, R O Mahony, A O Connor, C O Connor, A Barry-Murphy, E O Mahony, E MC Swiney, J Casey (2 -2)

Subs M Hennessy for S Buckley (inj 23mins), J Farmer for E O Mahony, (h/t), L Burke for J Farmer (inj 53mins), S Mc Carthy for L. Mc Carthy (55mins)

URSULINES THURLES: J Tierney, M Ryan, S O Meara, B Flynn, A Carroll, E Spillane (0-1), D Fogarty, C Shortt, L Dwan, M Collins, A Butler, A Fogarty, P Coffey, C Brennan, S Corcoran Subs : S Hennessy for A Fogarty (25mins) O Fitzgerald for C Brennan (50mins)

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers)

● In the Munster Under 16 1/2 final played on Friday, St Peter's Passage recorded a one point victory 2-2 to 1-4 over Pobalscoil Na Trionóide (Youghal)

CAMOGIE

U16 B Cork County League Final: Glen Rovers 5-6 Ballygarvan 5-1

Munster Colleges camogie

U16(1/2) A: Youghal 2-2 St. Peter's, Passage 1-6.

Senior B: St. Mary's, Nenagh 3-6 Cashel Community 1-3.

Junior A: St. Mary's, Charleville 2-2 St. Caimin's, Shannon 2-2.

Junior B: Coachford College 2-2 Ursuline's, Thurles 0-1.

COACHFORD COLLEGE 2-2 URSULINE'S, THURLES 0-1

Coachford College defeated a fancied Thurles side in the Munster Colleges Junior B Final played at Mallow on Saturday. Referee Cathal Egan stated that the resolute half backline of Ciara O'Connor, Emma Kingston and the superb Michelle Healy along with full back Catherine O'Brien were excellent. Indeed, the defensive unit proved impermeable to the Tipperary side with Susan Buckely, Laura and Eimear McCarthy also defending well throughout the hour.

The Muskerry side got off to a dream start when a Kingston clearance found Aine O' Connor in the clear. Her incisive pass allowed the elusive Joanne Casey to billow the net from close range. Some good approach work by Elaine O' Mahony, Emer McSwiney and Ciara O' Keeffe gained Coachford a free which Casey duly converted. Thurles center back Emma Spillane was under immense pressure with Rosey O' Mahony getting the measure of Tipp Minor Catriona Shortt at midfield and a constant supply of ball to the Coachford forward division yielded a second goal. Aoife Barry Murphy, whose tussle with Deborah Fogarty was a highlight of the game, managed to squeeze the ball through a group of players to Casey who hand passed the ball calmly beyond Thurles Captain and goalkeeper Jennifer Tierney.

Laura Dwan, Meave Hackett and Aislinn Butler tried to rally the Ursuline's girls side with Maggie Collins doing well on the forty but the sweet striking of Healy allayed with the aggressive defending by Kingston and O' Brien meant Marie Gleeson had a quiet day between the posts. Joanne Casey added another point with Emma Spillane getting the Thurles score after a fine save from Gleeson in the dying minutes. Coachford must travel to Connaught junior winners on Saturday 3rd March.

Joanne Casey, Emma Kingston, Catherine O' Brien, Rosey O' Mahony and Michelle Healy were a class apart for the victors whilst Catriona Shortt, Emma Spillane, Maggie Collins and Laura Dwan tried hardest for the losers.

Teams:
Coachford: M. Gleeson, L. McCarthy, C. O' Brien, E. McCarthy, S. Buckley, M. Healy (C), E. Kingston, R. O' Mahony, C. O' Keeffe, A. Barry Murphy, A. O' Connor, C. O' Connor, E. McSwiney, J. Casey [2-2], E. O' Mahony. Subs: M. Hennessy for S. Buckley (Inj), J. Farmer for E. O' Mahony, L. Burke for J. Farmer (Inj), S. McCarthy for L. McCarthy.

Thurles: J. Tierney, O. Fitzgerald, S. O' Meara, B. Flynn, M. Hackett, E. Spillane [0-1], D. Fogarty, C. Shortt, L. Dwan, M. Collins, A. Butler, A. Fogarty, P. Coffey, C. Brennan, S. Corcoran.
Rob Lotty

Passage edge past Youghal in decider

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie News

St Peter's Passage	2-2
Pobalscoil Na Trionóide Youghal	1-4

LAST Friday was an historic day for St Peter's Community School, Passage West as they took the Munster U16½A Colleges title, edging out Pobalscoil Na Trionóide Youghal.

In a close encounter, Passage were victors by the narrowest of margins but Youghal can take heart and look ahead confidently as the majority of their side are underage again for the season ahead.

Passage opened the scoring with a well-taken goal from Karen Twomey, but Youghal settled and kept the pressure on the Passage defence who, to their credit, kept a clean sheet for the opening half.

Early in the second half Passage extended their lead with Karen Twomey kicking over a point but, aided by the strong wind, Youghal responded with a well-taken point before Sandra Smiddy pounced for a goal to bring them back into contention.

Now level and with the title up for grabs, both teams worked tirelessly to gain the upper hand.

Natasha O'Sullivan lifted the Passage girls with a super solo run that ended with a superb goal and with Sinead O'Reilly added a point, Passage held the advantage.

Youghal upped the tempo and three points from Kate Harrington put the pressure back on the Passage girls.

With Youghal throwing everything into attack the Passage defence had to dig deep for the final quarter.

Emma Lydon in goal made some outstanding saves to keep Passage in the game as Youghal pressed relentlessly for an equaliser.

It was not to be, but they came close with a long range shot which rebounded off the upright and back into play.

At the finish it was Passage who hung on to record a narrow victory after an exciting contest but both teams are to be commended on their superb display.

St Peter's were coached by Una McCarthy, a daughter of Waterford senior hurling coach Justin McCarthy.

Scorers for Passage: K. Twomey 1-1 N. O'Sullivan 1-0 S. O'Reilly 0-1.
Youghal: S. Smiddy 1-1 K Harrington 0-3.
PASSAGE: E. Lydon, E. Hyde, G. Cooney, L. O'Brien, E Twomey, Lisa O'Sullivan (C.) , C O'Brien, Laura McCarthy, Karen Twomey, C. Doyle, N. O'Sullivan, S Jordan, Laura McCarthy (Shanbally), Sinead O'Reilly, T. McMahon.
YOUGHAL: L O Sullivan, R Cronin, M Ahern, A Griffin, E O Connell, S Harrington, A Motherway, K Harrington, N Quill, K Rohan, S Swaine, E Swaine, S Harnedy C Ni Siocru, A. Barry.
Subs. S Smiddy for Ciara Ni Siocru, J Meade for K Rohan, C Daly for A. Motherway.
Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers).

Luby switch pays off in Glen title win

Glen Rovers	5-6
Ballygarvan	5-1

A SUPERB team display ensured Glen Rovers were crowned County U16B county league champions, overcoming Ballygarvan in a great advertisement for camogie.

The condition of the playing surface at the new Glen Rovers venue ensured the ball moved quickly from end to end.

At the finish, the sheer hunger to win was enough to see the Glen girls take the crown.

Ballygarvan took the lead inside a minute with a goal from Rachel Keohane after the Glen girls had hit four wides in succession. Karen O'Connell opened their account with a point which was quickly followed by one from Sinead O'Halloran.

Sabrina O'Mahony extended the Ballygarvan lead with her side's second goal after good work from Aisling Byrne, but the Glen girls battled away and never panicked, the switching of captain Lydia Cunningham to centre-back and Denise Luby to half-forward paying huge dividends as both immediately put their stamp on proceedings.

Glen settled, upped their game and cut the deficit to a point thanks to a superb goal from corner-forward Sinead O'Halloran.

Ballygarvan battled to contain the lively Glen inside line, where Sarah Clifford and Hayley Keane did huge work but it was O'Halloran and Luby who did all the damage, linking twice in as many minutes.

Luby laid off two excellent passes for O'Halloran to blast to the net as Glen Rovers opened up a three-point lead.

Ballygarvan worked hard with Aisling Byrne and Rachel Keohane prominent. He found the going hard against a defence where Alice Keating, Ciara O'Keeffe and Clare Walsh were on top.



Lorna Crowley of Glen Rovers controls the sliothar as Kate O'Sullivan of Ballygarvan closes in during their U16B Camogie League final at the Glen. Picture: Kieran Boyde

By MARY NEWMAN
camogie

Karen O'Connell helped Glen open up a six-point lead as she grabbed a fourth goal before she struck a superb long-range effort over the bar, with the half-time whistle looming. Ballygarvan clawed their way back with Mary Ellen O'Donovan confidently striking a close-in free to the net as Glen turned around 3-4 to 3-0 ahead.

Ten minutes into the second half Glen held a 10-point advantage after Denise Luby and Sinead O'Halloran grabbed a goal each.

It looked as if the floodgates would open, but all credit must go to Ballygarvan who continued to work hard. Rosanne Byrne, Maeve Moynihan and Rachel Keohane battled to salvage the game with Aisling Byrne cutting the arrears to seven points with a well-taken goal.

Glen, driven on by Cunningham and the hard-working Sinead Gallen, responded as Karen O'Connell and Luby pointed to steady the ship.

Refusing to let their heads drop, Ballygarvan battled to get something back as Aisling Byrne grabbed her second goal three minutes into injury-time before pointing but it mattered little as the day belonged to a Glen Rovers side that on the day were worthy winners.

After the game Denise Luby was named as Player of the Match following a superb display and she was presented with her trophy by chairwoman Tracy Sheehan.

GLEN ROVERS: E Dunles, L Egan, Z Buckley, C O'Keeffe C Walsh, D Luby (1-2, 0-1 free), A Keating, L Cunningham (c), S Fahy, K O'Connell (1-2), S Gallen, L Crowley, H Keane, S Clifford, S O'Halloran, (3-2).
Subs: A Murphy for L Egan (inj), S Busteed for H Keane, A Rea for S Clifford
BALLYGARVAN: A Keohane, L O'Callaghan, B Keohane, F O'Halloran, K O'Sullivan, M E O'Donovan,(1-0 free), L Kennefick, M Moynihan, C Murphy, R Ni Sé, R Byrne (c), A Byrne (2-1) S O'Mahony(1-0), R Keohane (1-0), R Murphy.
Subs: S Quilligan for S O'Mahony , L Browne for F O'Halloran, C White for L Kennefick, A Walsh for L O'Callaghan (50mins)
Referee: G Sheehan (Douglas)

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All your Ulster colleges reports

(2007-01-29)

Corn Uan Uladh Ulster Colleges' Senior A camogie final :
St. Mary's Magherafelt 3-9 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 0-6
A first half hat-trick of goals from full-forward Sinead Mclaughlin denied Cross & Passion Ballycastle the chance to close a 43 year gap to their last Ulster Colleges' Sneior success.
The St. Mary's Magherafelt full-forward was in brilliant form and added two points in the second half for good measure - but those strikes in the 6th, 10th and 21st minutes did most to secure an eighth title for the south Derry seat of learning.
Overall Magherafelt - in their 15th successive final - proved too experienced for the young Ballycastle side, although the north Antrim girls fought until the end.
They played with the breeze in the first half, but didn't take advantage as Magherafelt's tactic of using a corner-forward to sweep behind mindfield paid dividends and created the space for Sinead McLaughlin's goals.
Points from Rebecca Walsh, Emma Connor and Louise McKeown were a poor return from wind advantage and Cross & Passion found themselves 3-3 to 0-3 behind at the turn-over.
St. Mary's remained in control during a hard-fought second half with Aileen McCusker a towering presence at the back and they added six further points to retain their title.
St. Mary's : Natasha McEldowney, Danielle McCrystal, Aileen McCusker, Sarah Lennon, Eimear Laverty, Christine McKenna, Aileen Kearney, Cathy Carey, Attracta McPeake 0-2, Sarah O'Kane 0-1, Keelin Bradley 0-2, Michaela Convery 0-1, Eimear McKenna 0-1, Sinead McLaughlin 3-2, Eleanor Mallon.
Subs: Claire Laverty for S O'Kane, Niamh Doyle for A Kearney.
Cross & Passion : Claire McNeill, Dervla Donnelly, Catherine McAuley, Eileen McFarland, Éilis Connor, Emma Connolly, Natasha McGinn, Kerrie Smyth, Rebecca Mooney, Emma Connor 0-1, Emma McMullan 0-1, Samantha McKillen 0-1, Emma McHenry, Rebecca Walsh 0-2, Louise McKeown 0-1.
Subs : Gráinne McShane for E McHenry, Sarah Anne McGarry for E McFarland, Claire Neill for N McGinn.

played 20th Jan Ulster Colleges' Fr Davies' Cup final (Senior B) :
St. Louis, Ballymena 4-6 St. Patrick's, Dungannon 1-0

St. Louis Ballymena have picked up the Fr Davies' Cup for the fifth time in nine seasons, comfortably easing past St. Patrick's Academy Dungannon in Saturday's final in Ballinascreen.
Stronger in most areas of the pitch, St. Louis' key players were Lucia Dowds at centre-half back, the midfielders Brigid Scullion and Sarah McNicholl with the McAleese cousins really pressurising the Academy defence throughout and Katie finishing top-scorer on 1-4.
Dungannon 'keeper Eimear O'Hagan was very busy throughout and pulled off a number of fine saves, while centre-half back Roisin O'Neill also did well.
St. Louis played against the strong breeze in the first half but still managed to control the play, with Katie McAleese finding the net in the opening 10 minutes.
Helena McAllster added a second goal but Dungannon lifted their game with Ursula Corey pulling a goal back soon after. They enjoyed a good spell for the next 10 minutes or so until Julie McFerran rifled home a goal to leave it 3-3 to 1-0 at the break.
Ballymena's expected avalanche of second half scores didn't materialise, but Julie McFerran did fire home a cracking goal around the midway point and fittingly Katie McAleese, the youngest player on the side, fired over the final point for a comprehensive enough victory.
St. Louis Grammar : Brona McIntyre, Joanne McKeever, Aine Sherrin, Maire Therese McMullan, Sinead Boyle, Lucia Dowds, Gemma McKeever, Brigid Scullion, Sarah McNicholl capt, Louise McAleese 0-1, Shannon Graham 0-1, Joanne Campbell, Julie McFerran 2-0, Helena McAllister 1-0, Katie McAleese 1-4.
Subs : Justine Boyle for S Graham, Sherrin Weir for J McFerran, Paula O'Neill for G McKeever, Sarah McAleese for A Sherrin.
St. Patrick's Dungannon : Eimear O'Hagan, Michelle Clancey, Michelle O'Neill, Michelle Fitzgerald, Laura McGonigle, Roisin O'Neill, Antoinette Cambell, Shauna Jordan capt, Emma Fitgerald, Emma McErlain, Brid O'Hagan, Niamh Hughes, Lorna Canavan, Riona Lester, Ursula Corey 1-0.
Subs : Laura McMullan for R Lester, Nichorra McKenna for M Clancey.

played 28th Jan Ulster Colleges' Senior Medallion Shield final (Senior C) :
Our Lady's Newry 3-5 St. MacNissi's Garron Tower 1-2
This tense tough Ulster Colleges' Senior Medallion Shield final seemed destined for a replay with about 10 minutes remaining.
Our Lady's Newry found it very hard to break down the high intensity tackling of the Garron Tower girls but had edged ahead with a point from Sarah Louise Carr at the three-quarter stage.
The Tower were keeping the pressure up but then lost their captain and inspiration Brianna Doherty to injury in the 52nd minute. They managed to hold their shape for a further five minutes until Karen Tinnelly pointed a free and followed it up in the next minute by forcing home a great individual goal.
That broke the north Antrim side's resistence and in injury time Sarah Louis Carr added a goal and a point for a nine point victory for Our Lady's.
However Garron Tower will rue a few missed goal efforts in the opening half. They took one early on through Terri-Marie McNaughton after 5 minutes but only managed to add a pointed free before the break.
On the re-start Sarah Louise Carr fired home a goal to tie the game at 1-1 each, but Siobhan McAlister responded with a fine solo point to put the Tower back in control and there was really nothing between them until those action-packed final 8 minutes plau injury time.
Mentors from Birr Community School in Offaly watched the action and are sure to have been impressed by Karen Tinnelly who was Player of the Match. She got great support from her midfield partner Aoibhne O'Neill, Sarah Farnon, Lisa McPolin and from full-forward Carr.
The Tower concentrated more on a high work-rate team effort with Brianna Doherty the main driving force. They created a few chances and it put pressure on Our Lady's throughout.
Our Lady's : Eimear Mooney, Shanna Leonard, Fionnuala Bradley capt., Hannah O'Reilly, Sara Farnon, Leonna Quinn, Marianne Savage, Karen Tinnelly 1-3, 0-2 frees, Aoibhne O'Neill, Anita Quinn, Lisa McPolin, Ciara Murphy, Yasmin Mackin, Sara Louise Carr 2-2, Fiona O'Neill.
Subs : Patricia Murphy for L Quinn, Megan O'Reilly for Y Mackin, Claire Savage, Leanne Sweeney, Grace Brown.

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St. MacNissi's: Ciara Campbell, Alex McLaughlin, Joanne McErlaine, Anne Burke, Seana Cosgrove, Cliodhna McKillop, Aoife Connolly, Brianna Doherty capt. 0-1 free, Bronagh Heggarty, Terrie-Marie McNaughton 1-0, Tessa McDonnell, Maeve Connolly, Mairi Mulvenna, Maria McManus, Siobhan McAlister 0-1.
Subs : Ashling Ward for B Doherty, Caitriona McKay, Patricia Abram, Bernadete Convery, Danielle Scally, Lynn Johnstone.

130 Cork camogie players celebrate All Ireland and



Áine Moynihan and Valerie Browne, U18 players, Ballygarvan, at the Cork Camogie Awards in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Gerard Bonus





At the Cork Camogie Awards in the Rochestown Park Hotel were Mary O'Connor and Gemma O'Connor, Cork senior captain 2007, and Brid Twomey, Cork U18 player, Aghabullogue, and Briege Corcoran, Cork senior, Cloughduv .
Picture: Ger Bonus

Camogie stars party in style

THE stars of Cork camogie were in celebratory form at the weekend.

By GARETH NAUGHTON AND EAMONN MURPHY

And who can blame them with no less than five teams winning All-Ireland or provincial finals last year to establish the county as the dominant force in camogie.

Team members, coaches, selectors and families came together to celebrate the achievements of more than 130 of Cork's top sportswomen at the Cork Camogie Awards held in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Chief among those celebrating were the Cork Senior team who were not content with taking their second All-Ireland in a row but also won the national league title as well last year.

A total of five cup winning camogie teams collected their medals at the dinner. These included Munster title winners in the Minor, Junior and under-16s camogie competitions.

The county's Senior B team was also well represented having won the first Senior B All-Ireland last year. The win means that Cork is the first county ever to win two All-Ireland senior camogie titles in the same year and will secure a place in history for all involved.

The sportswomen were joined for the celebratory dinner by the president of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard; the chairman of the Munster Council Eamon Brown; and the Lord Mayor Cllr Michael Ahern accompanied by his wife the Lady Mayoress, Eileen Ahern.

Cork County Board chairwoman Marian McCarthy paid tribute to the efforts all the players, and of course, the management teams before the medals presentation on the night.

"We're very proud of the efforts of all the players and their selectors. To win two senior titles in one year is an amazing achievement and when you consider the county won three Munster titles at the U16, minor and junior grade as well, 2006 was a year to remember," said Marian.

St Catherine's young star Orla Cotter was singled out for special praise as she was a member of the Minor, Senior B and Senior sides over the course of an epic season.

Marian also paid tribute to the seven players who were members of the successful double winning camogie and ladies football teams — the stars will be on the three-in-a-row trail this year.







At the Rochestown Park Hotel for the event were (from left) Linda Mellerick and Rose Keane; Moira O'Donovan, Niamh O'Donovan and Leanne O'Shea, Cork U16 player, Douglas; and Leah West, Bishop of Cork and Ross Dr John Buckley and Maria O'Donoghue, Ballincollig.
Picture: Gerard Bonus

provincial victories at the Cork Camogie Awards ceremony



Enjoying the celebrations at the Rochestown Park Hotel were (from left) Jennifer Lynch, Tracton; Catriona Collins, Ballinhassig; Ella Kelleher and Aoife McCarthy, Eire Óg Under-16. Picture: Gerard Bonus



Kevin Walsh and Angela Walsh, Cork senior player. Picture: Gerard Bonus



LEFT: Colette Desmond, Rachael Moloney and Sarah O'Donovan, Cork seniors from Newcestown; Coursey Rovers and Ballygarvan.
RIGHT: Denise Cronin, Deirdre Coomey and Leah West, Ballincollig and Ballinhassig. Picture: Gerard Bonus





Aileen Hogan, member of Cork U18 team, and Kevin Dineen. Picture: Gerard Bonus



LEFT: Miriam Deasy, senior B captain; Orla Cotter, U18 captain; and Joanne O'Callaghan, senior A captain.
RIGHT: Officers Sheila Golden, president; Mary McSweeney, treasurer; Mary Newman, PRO; Marian McCarthy, chairperson; Mary Bugler, vice chairperson and Kay Dunne, registrar. Picture: Gerard Bonus





Ann Marie Healy, selector Cork U18, Cloughduv Camogie Club, with her mother Kathleen Healy. Picture: Gerard Bonus







Enjoying the event were (from left) Marian McCarthy, chairperson, Cork Camogie County Board, Christine O'Regan, GPC, and Mary Newman, PRO; Liam Forde, Evelyn Kearney, Grace Kearney, Cork U16 player, and Shane and Kathleen Kearney, Bride Rovers; and Colm Herlihy and Aoife Myler, DFDS Transport, U16 sponsors. Picture: Gerard Bonus

Honours for the Clare National League team and Kitty Mc Niochalas

(2007-01-25)

Clare Camogie Board Honours National League Champions and Kitty McNiochalas

Maura Sheedy, the County Chairperson, hosted a large attendance at the Auburn Lodge on Friday evening to honour the Junior team who won Clares first ever national league title in 2006 and also the Munster Intermediate championship. Presentations were also made to the U14 team who won the Munster competition hosted by Cork.
The medals were presented by guest of honour the former Chairperson, trainer and manager Kitty McNiochalas.
Maura in welcoming the teams and guests played tribute to the superb achievements of the Junior team who in the past 4 years had won our first national league, 3 Munster Junior titles, intermediate Munster title and contested two All – Ireland finals. By any standards the team has given great value and they richly deserved to win an All Ireland and they were so unlucky to fail after two replays.
She paid tribute to the management team of Eugene McMahon, Francie McMahon and Michael Murphy for their commitment and enthusiasm while operating on a shoe string budget. It was critical that more resources were available to adequately fund the Board if ultimate success was to be achieved.
It was heartening to see the U14 succeed in Cork and certainly their success was a good omen for the future of Camogie in the county. She thanked their mentors Sean Crowe, Mary Kelly, and Monica 0' Loughlin for their efforts and she enjoyed being part of the team.
Maura, then made a presentation to Kitty McNiochalas who served as a board officer mostly as chair for over 33 years. Her contribution was enormous and she was recognized for her extraordinary innovation and progressiveness that brought so much success to the county,
It must be remembered that Kitty was a playing member of the winning 1974 team and selector with the winning Junior teams of 1981 and 1986 and Intermediate teams of 1993 and 1995. It was a great honour for her to see her daughter Maura captain the team in 1986 having been the team mascot in 1974.
She as a player with the all conquering Eire Og Team of the 70s won 7 county championships and traveled to America.
Her commitment to youth was emphasized when she organized school camogie and this structure continues to bring success to the county. Her administrative skills were evident also in raising funds for development and day to day expenses and she brought many new activists to the game. The FAS initiative helped with ground maintenance
Concluding Maura said, she was proud to salute a great gael , a superb camogie woman that was a credit to the game and whose contribution will never be forgotten. She also thanked her husband Jim for his 25 years as PRO of the board.
A presentation of a inscribed GENESIS piece was made

Munster Convention show faith all officers

(2007-01-29)

Munster Council Re elect All Outgoing Officers

History was made when all six counties were represented at the Munster Convention held in the Cahir house Hotel, Co Tipperary on Sunday.
The convention welcomed the Croke Park representative former President Mary Moran who congratulated the Council on their excellent work and the quality of their reports.
She emphasized the need to build solid foundations for growth and to optimize the potential benefits of integration.
Finance was essential and all units of the organisation needed a guaranteed revenue stream to ensure development could be planned and delivered. The benefits of dedicated full time development people is evident in the super results delivered in Munster by Mary O'Connor and additional personnel will accelerate the benefits right down to club level.
She appealed to all to support the membership fees of €20 for adults and € 10 for juveniles as this would provide the essential cash resources for Croke Park, Provincial Councils and indeed county boards to deliver their strategic plans.
Marion Graham in a detailed report reviewed the activities if the year and congratulated all who won All Stars, All Irelands, and Provincial titles.
She said it was critical that coaching and development was prioritized in counties such as Limerick, Clare and Waterford to compete with Cork and Tipperary and generally raise the profile of Camogie.
Eamonn Browne in his Chairman's address acknowledged the work of Mary O'Connor and her help in delivering a key objective of revitalizing Kerry Camogie. It was wonderful to have Kerry in attendance and four clubs up and running and the high potential exists to add a further 3 clubs in 2007.
He said priority for 2007 would be focused development in all counties supported by coaching and foundation courses and the development of a solid platform of trained referees.
He stressed that the greatest game available to women can only progress with adequate finance and he appealed for support for the motion on finance coming before congress.
He also appealed to all counties to support the Golf Classic which has the potential to double the 2006 income of €13,900.
Delegates were of the opinion that referees were a priority and a key starting point was proper esteem be given to existing people. No appreciation was evident at the All Stars banquet, the Congress report 2006 and indeed the method of appointment for high profile games. It is critical that referees who give exceptional service are adequately supported with Development support and recruitment.
The need to appoint a dedicated development subcommittee was agreed as an agenda item for the first meeting of the new council.

Officers Elected were:
President; Josephine McNamara, Waterford
Chairperson; Eaonnn Browne, Tipperary

Vice- Chairperson; Morgan Conroy, Waterford
Runai: Marion Graham, Tipperary
Cisteoir:Jean Hayden, Tipperary

P.R.O.; Seamus O'Sullivan, Clare
Central Council: Rose Malone, Cork
Central Council Fixtures: Marion Graham

Douglas too good for Glen

Douglas	4-4
Glen Rovers	2-0

A WEEKEND of camogie in the Seandún division saw Douglas emerge victorious in the *Evening Echo* "A" grade U15 final (2006), defeating Glen Rovers in an exciting contest.

On Saturday Douglas and Glen Rovers emerges victorious from their respective groups to qualify for the semi-finals, where the Douglas first team defeated their own second team, while Glen Roves had a victory over Passage.

Captain Tracy McCarthy gave Douglas the perfect start with a goal inside four minutes after she confidently grabbed Moira O'Donovan's line ball before turning and striking to the net.

Two pointed 45 inside the 10th minute from Moira O'Donovan gave Douglas the upper hand, but the Glen girls battled hard and were rewarded when Sinead O'Halloran struck for their opening score six minutes from the interval.

Driven on by Moira O'Mahony and Jill Kelleher, Douglas extended their advantage before the break when Karen Horgan reacted quickest after a mistake in the Glen defence to goal.

Maintained their lead to the half-time whistle Douglas led 2-2 to 1-0.

From the restart the Glen came in search of scores, but they found the going tough again a strong Douglas defence where Moira O'Donovan, Emma Jordan and Cianna O'Driscoll were on top of their game.

Clare Kavanagh struck for a third Douglas goal five minutes into the second-half and two points from Julia White, who was well policed by Alice Keating up until then saw the gap widen even further.

The Glen with Sinead Gallen, Karen O'Connell and Keating working hard battled to get something back.

Substitute Nicole O'Brien struck a superb goal after good work by Denise Luby.

Again when it seemed Glen might be back in the game, Douglas responded with Clare Kavanagh flicking to the net after two superb saves from keeper Emma Dunlea.

Moira O'Mahony had the final say with a Douglas point to ensure they retained their title.



Douglas's Tracy McCarthy about to clear the ball past Glen Rovers' Ciara O'Keeffe during the Evening Echo Seandún U14 A camogie final at the Glen. Picture: Richard Mills

By MARY NEWMAN
Seandún camogie

DOUGLAS: J Dempsey, C O Driscoll, L Nason S Long, M O' Donovan (0-2), E Jordan, J White (0-2), C Murphy, M O' Mahony (0-1), J Kelleher, C Clarke, T McCarthy, (1 goal) C Kavanagh, (2 goals) K Horgan (1 goal).

Subs: N Leo for C O' Driscoll, C Murphy for K Horgan.

GLEN ROVERS: E Dunlea, L Egan, L Crowley, C O' Keeffe, A Murphy, S Callanan, D Luby, A Keating, S Gallen, K O' Connell, Z Buckley, S Fahy, H Keane, S Clifford, S O' Halloran (1 goal).

Sub: N O' Brien (1 goal) for S O'Halloran, D Noonan for L Egan.

Referee: D Daly (Sarsfields).

Douglas triumph as Claire Shines

Douglas 2nds	1-8
Passage	0-2

DEFEATED semi-finalists in the A grade Passage and Douglas 2 contested the plate final yesterday ***writes*** **MARY NEWMAN.**

It was the Douglas girls who took the honours.

Pamela Mackey, Claire Shine and Aileen O'Donovan struck first-half points, to which Amy Costello replied for Passage as Douglas held the interval advantage.

Throughout the second half, Passage battled hard to stay in contention, but found the going tough against a Douglas side that had the strength in depth.

Aileen O'Donovan Pamela and Mackey caused numerous problems for the Passage girls, who battled to contain the constant pressure from Douglas.

By the three-quarter stage O'Donovan and Mackey had extended Douglas's lead with points before Natasha O'Sullivan pegged one back for Passage from a free.

Claire Shine struck for a magnificent goal six minutes from full-time for Douglas before skilfully striking a long-range point to seal victory for her side.

DOUGLAS 2: A O' Donovan, S Bevan, E O' Sullivan, L McCarthy, R Casey, Aileen O' Donovan (0-3), P Mackey (0-3), S Duggan, C Lynch, L Jackson, H Bradley, J Kavanagh, D Cotter, C Shine (1-2), C O'Driscoll.

Subs: A Peate for C O' Driscoll, L Olden for D Cotter, R Baxter for H Bradley, E Shine for L Mc Carthy, C Duggan for L Jackson, L Horgan for C Shine.

PASSAGE: E Layton, E Hyde, G Cooney L O' Brien, E Twomey, L O' Sullivan, C O' Brien, L McCarthy, A Costello (0-1), S O Reilly, G Foley, N O' Sullivan (0-1), T McMahon, J Power, E McMahon.

Sub: L McCarthy for J Power.

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers)

● The Seandun divisional board and committee are to be complimented on the organisation of the competitions as are the host club Glen Rovers, who hosted and co-ordinated the entire event on Saturday and Sunday.

RESULTS

GROUP 1:
Passage 4-4 Bishopstown 0-0 Douglas '1' 6-87
Bishopstown 0-0 Douglas '1' 5-3 passage 0-1

GROUP 2:
Douglas 2 0-1 Blackrock 0-0 Glen Rovers 2-2
Douglas 2 0-0 Glen Rovers 1-4 Blackrock 0-0.
Semi-finals: Douglas '1' 3-3 Douglas '2' 0-1; Glen Rovers 1-6 Passage 0-0.

Moynihan on the mark for Piarsaigh win

By MARY NEWMAN
Seandún camogie

Na Piarsaigh	3-6
St Vincent's	1-2

JUST two teams took part in the Seandún *Evening Echo* -sponsored U15 B grade competition.

Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's went directly to contest the final.

Two Danielle Moynihan points gave Na Piarsaigh an early led, before Aoife Moynihan stretched their lead with a third.

Na Piarsaigh continued to keep the St Vincent's defence busy.

Kate Delea and Emer Kelly kept applying the pressure, but the St Vincent's defence stood firm.

With the half-time whistle approaching, St Vincent's got the break they were looking for.

Amy Wilson finished to the net, leaving matters level between the sides at the interval.

The strength of the Na Piarsaigh side was evident in their performance in the second half.

Orla Bourke edging them back in front, before two goals from Danielle Moynihan and one from Emer Kelly put the game beyond the St Vincent's girls.

Delea and Moynihan had further points, before Emma Healy struck two late points for the St Vincent's girls.

NA PIARSAIGH: A O' Connor, N Ahern, C Allen, N Kelly, S O' Regan, O Bourke, (0-1); D Kelly, D Moynihan (2-3), M Coleman, J Dunlea, K Delea, (0-1), R O' Rourke, E Kelly, (1goal); L Ahern, A Moynihan, (0-1).

Subs: V O' Connor for M Coleman, N Connery for E Kelly.

ST VINCENT'S: L Connolly, N Cahill, C Anderson, A Waters, L Corkery, L Carroll, G Dowling, A O' Connell, AM O' Keeffe, S King, N Creane, L Coffey, S Carroll, E Healy (0-2), A Wilson (1 goal).

Referee: G Sheehan (Douglas).



Na Piarsaigh girls celebrate their victory over St Vincent's. Picture: Richard Mills

CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
FIONNBARRA NAOFA

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2006

Two events, the winning of the Cork Senior A Championship and the setting up of the Juvenile Committee, were the highlights of the season. The first was the climax of years of work and the second a foundation stone for the future.

Senior

The vastly experienced Gerald McCarthy took the reins and guided the team along the road to success. Bill O'Connell put the players through a rigorous fitness programme that stood to them when the going got tough. Selectors Jerry Murphy, Marian McCarthy and Claire Barry made the right decisions.

Galway girl, Claire Spellman arrived and settled into the side before the championship commenced. Colette O'Mahony was coaxed out of retirement to make one last bid to capture a senior county medal. The championship draw matched St. Finbarr's with the reigning county champions, Cloughduv, which meant that we had to be up to speed on day one.

A highly entertaining game with passages of brilliant play ended with St. Finbarr's two points in front. Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Aghabullogue and Muskerry fell in turn as we progressed to the final. East Cork divisional side, Imokilly were installed as favourites for the county final in Páirc Uí Rinn. Each and every Barrs' girl played heroically. The commitment and workrate was exceptional as the team chased and achieved the prize.

The memory of many disappointments over the years evaporated as fans rushed to hail the new Cork champions. Many were moved to tears as Marian McCarthy presented the cup to Lydia O'Connell.

Six days later, the Barrs made their debut in the Munster Club Championship against the Clare champions, Kilnamona. As the game entered the closing stages, we were comfortably ahead and seemed destined for a semi-final place. But the effects of the efforts of the previous weekend took their toll. Tiredness set in and concentration was lost. Kilnamona availed of their opportunity and snatched victory from our grasp.

The senior league is ongoing. Victories were recorded over Aghabullogue, Ballygarvan and Barryroe but points were dropped to Milford.

Presently, the senior panel is fund-raising for a well-deserved holiday.

Junior

The Junior B team set out in defence of their Junior B Shield title in early September. Victories over Kilbrittain, Valley Rovers and St. Catherine's and draws in games against Inniscarra and Ballygarvan secured a place in the final. Bad weather prevented this competition from being finalised before Christmas. The final against Barryroe will be re-scheduled as soon as a pitch becomes playable.

Considering that seven of last season's winning panel had either moved up to the senior squad or were otherwise unavailable, reaching the final for the second year running is quite an achievement. Well done to team mentors, Marian McCarthy and Claire Barry.

Under 18

The Under 18 side has defeated Valley Rovers and Ballinascarthy to qualify for the quarter-final of the competition. Here they came up against a strong Glen Rovers side and made their exit from the competition. I would like to thank Joan Doolan, Toinette Santry and Billy Collins for their good work with this age group.

Under 16

A very young panel of players gained worthwhile experience during the season. However, the match results were poor and a defeat by Carrigaline ended their interest in the competition. The time that Joan Doolan, Toinette Santry and Billy Collins put into this squad will reap rewards in the future.

Under 14

St. Finbarr's were grouped with Milford and Killeagh in the Cork Féile and were unable to progress further. In the National Féile, which was staged in Cork, we shared a section with Sliabh Rua, Erin's Own and Lismore (Waterford). St. Finbarr's opened well with a decisive win over Erin's Own. Lismore, winners of the Division Two title in 2005, took the points off us but not before a commendable struggle. In the third game, Sliabh Rua and St. Finbarr's finished all square after a close exciting game.

St. Finbarr's were disappointed that they did not host a visiting club in the competition. The team was very well turned out and looked the part as they paraded through the city.

Colette O'Mahony, Deirdre Clarke and Barbara-Anne Corcoran worked hard to pass on their skill and experience to the U14 panel. These girls organised a group of young players to travel to support Cork in the All-Ireland Finals.

Cumann Camógaiochta Barra Naofa, Neenan Park, Togher, Cork
Phone: 021 4961951

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Under 12

Ellen Clifford and Ger O'Connor took charge of the Under 12s and did a good job. Their team defeated Rockbán, Coursey Rovers and Glen Rovers, drew with Ballygarvan but lost to Brian Dillons.

St. Finbarr's withdrew from the Seandún Blitz as insufficient players were available on the day.

Juvenile Committee

At a special meeting on 29th August, a Juvenile Committee was formed to concentrate on the players from 11 years of age downwards. Janice Duffy, Mary Cooke and Dolores O'Sullivan filled the positions of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

In the short time that they have been in existence, the Juvenile Committee has done wonderful work. They organised training sessions for the youngsters. New equipment purchased was introduced to provide variety and improve skill levels.

A "Meet the Champions" session was organised when our juveniles met the newly crowned Cork Senior A Champions. A special poster of the team and a goodie-bag was available to each child while the senior players signed autographs for their new fans.

A blitz organised for the juveniles in Turner's Cross school in December was an outstanding success. 32 players took part in a number of games in front of excited family members. The young girls obviously enjoyed themselves. To cap it off, they met Santa and went home with a medal and a goodie-bag.

Social Events

Of course the social event of the year was the victory dinner held on 13th January at the club. A large crowd gathered to pay tribute to the victorious senior team and their officials. We were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Michael Ahern, Bishop John Buckley and Sheila Golden, President of the Cork Camogie Board. The girls made a huge effort in dressing up adding style and elegance to the occasion.

We invited the winning 2005 Cork senior team to the club in July and the victorious 2006 Cork Senior A and Senior B teams in October to recognise their outstanding achievements.

Promotion and Publicity

Contact has been maintained with the schools in our catchment area to encourage young girls to join the club. The Juvenile Committee welcomes these potential players and provides coaching. The increased use of club jackets and tops and the issue of posters featuring the winning team promoted the image of the club.

Good print coverage was provided to our championship run. Special club events, i.e. the after match celebrations, the juvenile blitz, the victory dinner and the Lord Mayor's reception, received merited pictorial coverage.

The Saturday night Club Notes on the Echo give another outlet for club news.

Congratulations

- to Gemma O'Connor on her third All-Star
- to Gemma O'Connor and Ellen Clifford on winning All-Ireland Senior A medals
- to Lynda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy on winning All-Ireland Senior B medals.
- to Jenny Duffy on being named an Ashbourne All-Star
- to Susan Kennefick on winning an All-Ireland Colleges Senior medal
- to Claire Kirby on being named the Club Person on the Year and on the occasion of her marriage.

Condolence To Claire Spellman and Colette O'Mahony on their sad bereavements.

Thanks

I wish to pay tribute to all who give so freely of their time to promote camogie within the club in a variety of ways. In particular, I commend those who pass on the skills of the game to our young players and look after them on match days, Colette O'Mahony, who referees so many games and my fellow officers Joan Doolan, Claire Barry and Marian McCarthy who do so much work behind the scenes.
I special thanks to those who made the Christmas Draw an outstanding success. Thanks also to Central and the Ladies Committee, the Bar staff and the groundsman for their assistance during the year.

I look forward to another great year in 2007.

Maire Ni Mhorain. Runai

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LEINSTER SCHOOLS CAMOGIE FINAL



Colaiste Bride reclaimed the Leinster Schools senior camogie 'A' championship crown when overcoming Borris Vocational School in Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow on Saturday afternoon last. Pic: John Walsh.

Colaiste Bride regain throne

COLAISTE BRIDE	4-8
BORRIS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	1-10

by **RONAN FAGAN**

THE PAIN of having missed out on glory in last year's final was plainly evident in the conviction which Colaiste Bride brought to last Saturday afternoon's Leinster Schools senior camogie 'A' championship decider at Dr. Cullen Park in Carlow, as the Enniscorthy outfit overcame the tenacious challenge of debutantes Borris Vocational School, to get their hands on the silverware for the ninth time within the space of the last 13 years.

Colaiste Bride have contested the final every year since 1994, and they had established quite a formidable reputation between 2003 and 2005, when they achieved the All-Ireland senior 'A' three-in-a-row, while also bagging its junior equivalent in 2004.

A somewhat off-colour performance 12 months ago in the provincial decider against Callan left Colaiste Bride heavy-hearted and with no All-Ireland adventure to look forward to. But they have since channelled such devastation in a positive direction, and while showing great hunger, they certainly had to demonstrate their commitment against a quite game Borris outfit that was eager to avenge their 13-point loss to Colaiste Bride in an earlier qualifier game.

The Borris girls certainly aren't any mugs, having won the All-Ireland junior 'B' championship last season, when they built upon a fortunate provincial final win over Loreto Wexford. The maroon clad contingent had seven of that history-making side (it was the first national camogie title of any description to come to Carlow) on duty against Colaiste Bride, who, after a sprightly start, soon found the going tough against their uncompromising rivals.

Indeed, the Colaiste Bride 'keeper Leanne Nolan emerged as the undoubted 'player of the first-half', as the Oulart-The Ballagh player showed a tremendous command of her square in collecting and clearing a whole variety of attempts on her goal.

Enniscorthy corner-back Eimear O'Connor also caught the eye, and the Rathnure girl made a truly outstanding tackle shortly after Borris had gained a 0-2 to 0-1 advantage in the 19th-minute, when she timed her hook on opposing full-forward Emma Ryan to perfection, just as the latter prepared to unleash a powerful, close range shot on goal.

Shortly afterwards - the 22nd-minute to be exact - another of Enniscorthy's top-raters, corner-forward Shelly Kehoe inspired her colleagues with the focus she displayed in retrieving the ball after seeing an original shot blocked away from goal, before quickly regaining possession and blasting past full-back Caroline O'Brien to the net, for a lead which Colaiste Bride absolutely refused to let go of thereafter.



Ace Colaiste Bride corner-forward Shelly Kehoe hand-passes the sliotar to the Borris net shortly before half-time in last Saturday's provincial decider. Pic: John Walsh.

They had led earlier, when Ciara Storey pointed a '45 in the second-minute, before Borris turned the tables with points from corner-forward Roisin Byrne and Emma Carroll.

The Enniscorthy 'keeper was alert to deny a Borris threat immediately after Kehoe had pick-pocketed the tight Borris defence. Ciara Storey ('45) then saw her second personal point negated, before her club-mate Shelly Kehoe added to her already high-rating when bagging another goal.

Storey had been left seething after picking-up an extremely harsh yellow-card, when she simply rose to defend herself having been hit by a Borris player as the Oulart ace lay prone on the ground after being fouled. Impressively Storey made good use of the torment she was clearly feeling, as she split the Borris defence with a wonderful pass inside to Kehoe, who proceeded to expertly hand-pass to the town-end net, for a 2-2 to 0-3 advantage a minute into injury-time.

The Enniscorthy players in general were now performing with even greater purpose, and full-forward Ciara Garahy received a pass from wing-forward Sinead Jordan before being fouled at the expense of a penalty. Ciara Storey was unlucky to see her attempt from the 'spot' tipped over the crossbar by a combination of the goalie and full-back.

Nevertheless that score added to Colaiste Bride's interval lead (2-3 to 0-3), and they resolved to put Borris to the sword on the resumption.

Things were working out nicely in that regard during the early stages of the closing-half, as Colaiste Bride stretched into a 3-4 to 0-5 lead after seven minutes.

Louise Hore accounted for their third goal, when what appeared to be a point-scoring attempt from the Rapparees' player spilled through the grasp of the Borris 'keeper and into the net. That score was sandwiched between a couple of points from Borris, before Ciara Storey added a fourth personal point from a free won through the honesty of the second of the Kehoe twins, Stacey, to put eight points between the sides.

Colaiste Bride seemed to take their foot off the pedal at this stage, and rather worryingly Borris quickly capitalised, as they shot four unanswered points - three from frees - between the 38th and 43rd minutes to narrow the gap to 3-4 to 0-9.

The eventual winners went close with another goaling effort just before Storey provided some relief, as she pointed another free, earned this time by no-nonsense midfielder Lorraine O'Connor (3-5 to 0-9).

However, Borris really rattled Enniscorthy's cage when they pulled back a goal in the 47th-minute. This was a highly dubious score though, with one of the Borris attackers having clearly arrived into the square before a speculative shot from the much advanced centre-back Collette Dormer dropped in and went all the way to the net (3-5 to 1-9).

When the Enniscorthy appeals died down they quickly set about putting Borris at arm's length on the scoresheet, and Storey notched another couple of frees either side of playing a key role in Sandy Carr eventually squeezing a close range shot to the country-end net in the 52nd-minute (4-7 to 1-9).

Borris really raised their effort for the remainder. But they were left resorting to desperate measures, with one of their number hitting a free low but harmlessly wide of goal.

Sandy Carr made it 4-8 to 1-9 to Colaiste Bride with a well taken point, prior to a neat delivery from the wing by classy centre-back Stacey Redmond leading to Shelly Kehoe forcing a save at the expense of what proved to be a fruitless '45.

Collette Dormer had the final say, with a pointed free during injury-time. Enniscorthy added another couple of wides, before they celebrated their return to the provincial throne, with the Stewart Cup being returned to them via joint-captains Louise O'Leary and Lorraine O'Connor, with the competition's Secretary, Colm O Cathain making the presentation amid a chorus of cheers.

Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy – *Leanne Nolan (Oulart-The Ballagh), Eimear O'Connor (Rathnure), Louise O'Leary (Rathnure, joint-capt.), Siobhan Morris (Marshalstown), Maeve Frayne (Rathnure), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh), Laura Sinnott (Oulart-The Ballagh), Sandra Carr (Rathnure, 1-1), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate, joint-capt.), Stacey Kehoe (Oulart-The Ballagh), Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-7, 2 '45s, 1 penalty, 4 frees), Sinead Jordan (Marshalstown), Louise Hore (Rapparees, 1-0), Ciara Garahy (Monageer-Boolavogue), Shelly Kehoe (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-0).*

Subs: *Emma O'Connor (Rathnure) for Louise Hore; also, Sinead Kehoe, Aoife O'Connor (Oulart-The Ballagh); Johanna Creane, Martina Frayne (Rathnure); Rena Codd, Anna Rackard (Duffry Rovers); Sara O'Neill (Cloughbawn); Emma Dwyer, Emer Darcy (Monageer-Boolavogue).*

Borris Vocational School – *Anne-Marie Lennon, Grainne Nolan, Caroline O'Brien, Celia Culleton, Gillian Nolan, Collette Dormer (capt., 1-2, 0-2 frees), Eileen Murphy, Sinead Kelly, Teresa Meaney, Emma Carroll (0-1), Catherine Walsh (0-1 free), Niamh Quirke (0-2), Roisin Byrne (0-1), Emma Ryan (0-3, 2 frees), Aoife Drennan.*

Sub: *Deborah Foley for Roisin Byrne.*

Referee – *Willie Barrett (Tipperary).*

Cashel Community School

Munster Camogie Final

After an heroic effort on the field of play, Cashel Community School came away from the Munster Camogie Final with the bitter taste of defeat. The final scoreline shows a Nenagh victory by a margin of 3 – 6 to 1 – 3 that in no way reflects the closeness of the contest. At the mid-point of the second half the two teams were locked on level scores. St. Mary's, Nenagh, broke the deadlock with a well taken goal, then won the puckout and pounced for a second green flag. Although Cashel continued to compete with full vigour they just could not bridge the big gap that had opened.

Nenagh were first off the mark with a pointed free in the opening minute.

Both back lines were dominant in the first quarter and so fifteen minutes went by before the next score came – a point from a free for Cashel by Sheena Ryan. For Cashel, Sheila O'Donnell, Marie Horan and captain Deirdre Ryan were hurling well in defence while up front Tracey Flanagan at centre forward was causing problems for the opposition. In a short spell before the interval St. Mary's scored three points while Sheena Ryan answered with one from a free after she was fouled. Half time saw St. Mary's ahead by four points to two.

Immediately after the start of the second half Beth Ryan shot the Community School into the lead with an opportunist goal, following a surging run by Tracey Flanagan. This goal ignited the entire Cashel team. In defence, Aisling Crowe, Aisling Slattery and Sharon Hayes were in the thick of the action, as was Averyl Fryday at midfield. Up front, Eimear Crowe, Brid Higgins, Ereena Fryday and substitute Brid Ryan added to the threat posed by Tracey and Sheena. As the play swung from end to end, scores were hard to come by. Two pointed frees added to St. Mary's tally while Sheena Ryan responded with a wonderful white flag struck from a difficult angle near the sideline.

Then disaster struck when Nenagh raided for two rapid goals. There was little goalie Orla McEniry could do about either of them. Full credit goes to the girls for fighting their corner right up to the final whistle that sounded just after St. Mary's poached a third goal in injury time.

The girls wore the school colours with distinction throughout the championship. They will be disappointed with the outcome but they can be proud of their performances. They are a young team. Roll on, 2007/08!

Team: Orla McEniry (New Inn), Marie Horan (Cashel), Sheila O'Donnell (Cashel), Aisling Crowe (Kickhams), Aisling Slattery (Kickhams), Deirdre Ryan (Cashel), capt.; Sharon Hayes (Cashel), Averyl Friday (Kickhams), Beth Ryan (Kickhams), Sheena Ryan (Kickhams), Tracey Flanagan (Boherlahan), Eimear Crowe (Kickhams), Brid Higgins (Kickhams), Mary Anne Hayes (Kickhams), Ereena Fryday (Kickhams).

Sub used: Brid Ryan (Kickhams). Subs: Fiona Falvey (Boherlahan), Orla MacCullagh (Boherlahan),Tracy Fitzpatrick (Boherlahan), Sinead Cahill (Kickhams), Sarah Fogarty (Boherlahan). Coaches : Ms. Niamh Sheehan and Ms. Jacinta Fahy.

Visit to Mountjoy

On Thursday, 18th January, 5LCA and 6LCA visited Mountjoy Prison.

They were accompanied by two of their teachers. The entire trip had been organised by Marty Ryan and Paddy Bourke (6LCA) as part of their Contemporary Issues Task.

The warden who welcomed and escorted the students was Matthew. He told very frankly about prison life : what little the prisoners could buy in the shop; education opportunities; personal visits; how drugs got into the prison, and much else. He asked for a volunteer to try on the handcuffs he applied when travelling with a prisoner outside the gaol – and the group's very own Martin Cahill (much laughter) volunteered. With Martin's co-operation, warden Matthew demonstrated the knack of disabling a prisoner.

Students got the chance to speak with some male prisoners and to step into a typical cell. It was very small. A prisoner could be there alone for eighteen hours. Showers were limited to one per week, but if you went to the gym you could avail of the showers there. It was all pretty bleak. The reality of prison life hit home when Matthew said that no matter what you were allowed to do or buy in prison the bottom line was that you had lost your freedom.

The school group then visited the new female prison. It was like a campus village : beautifully laid out with houses divided into en-suite rooms(so different from the men's prison). Here too the students were able to walk through one of the houses, visit a room and talk to some prisoners.

When leaving the house the group passed through the kitchen and got a huge shock, for, sitting across from them, drinking tea at the kitchen table, was one of the "scissors sisters"!

The students viewed the trip as one of the best ever! They got a real picture of the rawness of prison life. On the way home, everyone felt quietly thankful that they had homes and families to return to.



Cashel Community School Camogie Team

CAMOGIE

National League Division 1B: Limerick 4-12 (V Sheehan 2-3, E O'Brien 1-5, (0-4f), S Mc Auliffe 1-2, M Keating, N Carroll 0-1 each) Dublin 0-2 (C Cooney, E Brannigan 0-1 each)

Division 2B: Laois 6-12 (T Cuddy 2-1, E Delaney 1-5 (0-4f), E Mahony 1-2,A O' Callaghan 1-1,M Dalton 1-0,S Moylan 0-2, L O'Callaghan 0-1) Carlow 1-2 (M Coady 1-0, V Crean, C Mullen 0-1 each).

Division 3: London 2-6 (B Grennan 1-2, H Collier 1-0, E Quigley 0-2, S Keatley, A Deasy 0-1 each) Tyrone 1-2 (J Logan 1-0, C Ogle, B Burke 0-1 each)

Munster Colleges Senior A Championship Final: St Mary's Charleville 3-7 (M Walsh 1-3, M Reidy 1-0, D O'Callaghan 1-0, L Fitzgerald 0-2 (0-1f),F Morrissey, R Rea 0-1 each) Loreto, Fermoy 1-6 G Kearney 0-6 (0-6f), O Cotter 1-0.

Inter 'B' Final: Doon, Limerick 2-5 Midleton 1-5.

Junior 'C': Colàiste Choilm, Cork, 2-7 Borrisokane 2-2.

Munster Colleges Senior A Final: Loreto, Fermoy 1-6 St. Mary's, Charleville 3-7.

Intermediate B Final: St. Joseph's, Doon (Limerick) 2-5 1-5 St. Mary's, Midleton 1-5.

Junior C Final: Colaiste Choilm, Ballincollig 2-7 Borrisokane VEC 2-2.

Seandun Evening Echo U15A championship:

Group 1: Douglas I 6-8 Bishopstown 0; Douglas I 5-3 Passage 0-1; Passage 4-3 Bishopstown 0.

Group 2: Douglas II 0-1 Blackrock 0; Glen Rovers 2-2 Douglas II 0; Glen Rovers 1-4 Blackrock 0.

Semi finals: Douglas I 3-3 Douglas II 0-1; Glen Rovers 1-6 Passage 0-0.

Final: Douglas I 4-5 Glen Rovers 2-0.

Plate final: Douglas II 1-8 Passage 0-2.

Seandun Evening Echo **U15B championship final:** Na Piarsaigh 3-6 St Vincents 1-2.

Munster Colleges Senior A final: St Mary's Charleville 3-7 Loretto Fermoy 1-6.

Intermediate B final: St Joseph's Limerick 2-5 St Mary's Midleton 1-5.

Junior C Final: Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig 2-7 Borrisokane VEC 2-2.



John O'Leary, Brian Dillon's selector, with his wife Karen O'Leary.

FEB 2007

Loreto set their sights on Mary's title in final

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie preview

TOMORROW
Munster Colleges Senior A final,
St Mary's Charleville v Loreto, Fermoy
at St Catherine's, 1pm.

ALL-IRELAND Senior A Colleges champions St Mary's put their title on the line Saturday when they travel to St Catherine's grounds for a meeting with Loreto Fermoy in what is an all-Cork provincial decider.

Both sides have been very much to the fore in colleges camogie. Fermoy made the step up to A grade three seasons ago after annexing the B All-Ireland crown.

Charleville need no introduction to camogie followers.

Their incredible record speaks volumes for the work put into the game in the north Cork academy, where Vincent Harrington has done incredible work.

Last weekend their junior team contested the provincial decider, where they finished level with St Caimin's.

In their path to Saturday's final, the St Mary's girls had to be at their best to hold off the stiff challenge posed by St Caimin's senior side.

Two late goals decided a tough contest on a 4-2 to 2-2 score line. Darina O' Callaghan, Maria Walsh, Sarah Sexton and Rebecca Finn are experienced campaigners.

All have performed on the inter-county stage with Cork.

Dual All-Ireland senior camogie medallist, and team captain Orla Cotter will lead Loreto's challenge for honours.

She will be joined by Aileen Hogan, Orna and Finola Neville and Orla's younger sister Finola Cotter.

They recorded a 3-11 to 2-3 victory over Bandon recently.

Their ability to pick off points vital in all their outings to date is a key reason for their success.

Turning attention to local camogie, Seandun hold their *Evening Echo* sponsored U15 championship (2006) at the Glen Rovers on Saturday and Sunday.

Six teams will participate in the A grade with the hosts joined by Douglas 2 and Blackrock in one section.

Douglas 1, Bishopstown and Passage are in the other section.

The two top teams in each section will contest the semi-finals with the defeated semi-finalists going into a plate final.

The B final will be between Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's.

Proceedings get under way at 11am on Saturday, with finals also scheduled for Sunday beginning at 1.30pm.



Michelle Casey: part of the Limerick defence which held Dublin to two points in Adare yesterday

Casey inspires Limerick to victory

by Máire Ui Scolaí

LIMERICK appeared to put last year behind them, yesterday in Adare, as they overcame Dublin 4-12 to 0-2 in the opening round of the National Camogie League Division 1B, and newly appointed manager Ciarán Carey will be happy with the result.

The final result might have been closer were it not for the brilliant defensive play from 2006 All-star nominee Michelle Casey who time and again denied the visiting Dubs a sniff of the ball. By half time the game was out of Dublin's reach as the home side led 4-6 to 0-0, thanks to goals from Vera Sheehan (2-0), Sinéad McAuliffe and a second-minute goal from Eileen O'Brien.

A further six points in the second half guaranteed a Limerick victory and will set them up nicely for their next outing against Galway on March 4.

London made their visit to Clonoe in Tyrone pay off with a 2-6 to 1-2 victory in Division 3. A yellow sliotar was used to overcome the intense fog, and the visitors got off to a dream start with a first minute goal from Brid Grennan. Tyrone goaled through Julie Lagan to trail 1-1 to London's 1-2 at the break. The visitors got another superb start with a Helen Collier goal after just two minutes and after that there was no disputing the result.

Meanwhile, Laois set a high standard with a 6-12 to 1-2 over Carlow in Division 2B in Durrow. Five first-half goals from Elaine O'Mahony, Eimear Delaney, Trish Cuddy (two) and Amy O'Callaghan meant the O'Moore county were well in control by half-time, 5-6 to 0-0. Carlow tried hard in the second half, but despite a Margaret Coady goal midway it was not enough on the day and Laois were worthy winners.

The Derry-Offaly match was called off due to ground conditions, and Meath-Westmeath game did not go ahead either.

St Mary's, Charleville overcame Loreto College, Fermoy 3-7 to 1-6 in the Munster Senior 'A' Colleges Final on Saturday.

Charleville's Marie Walsh goaled after just two minutes and five minutes later they went a second goal up thanks to Maria Reidy.

Loreto fought back with a goal from Grace Kearney just before half-time. However, they were largely dependent on Gala senior All-Ireland medal winner Orla Cotter who finished the day with 0-6, (all frees). Sheer determination that earned holders Charleville another All-Ireland semi-final spot against the Connacht champions in a few weeks' time.

FEB. 2007

More gains for senior camogie side

THE START of the National League is only a month away, and while the Wexford senior camogie side suffered a 4-9 to 2-8 defeat to University College Dublin (UCD) in their latest pre-season game, at Bunclody on Sunday afternoon last, the gains for the Slaneysiders far outweighed the actual result, ***writes Ronan Fagan.***

Wexford had been successful in all their previous challenge matches, including one a few weeks earlier against UCD. But, with the third-level colleges' coveted Ashbourne Cup competition now only around the corner, the students have been getting through quite an amount of good work since that earlier clash, and they made it tell against Wexford.

That said, four of the Wexford panel were central to the UCD win, with Mags D'Arcy of St. Martin's making some good saves (including one to deny Kate Kelly in the second-half), while Louise Codd (Duffry Rovers) and Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh) impressed in the half-backs. The latter's younger sister Una, meanwhile, punished her purple-and-gold colleagues when shooting 2-1 from her full-forward berth.

The game also saw the Wexford selectors welcome three more players back to action, and one of same, namely corner-back Deirdre Codd (Duffry Rovers) emerged as one of their best players on the day. It was also good to see Bernie Holohan (Rathnure) resume duties in defence, and Brona Furlong (Duffry Rovers) complete her lengthy recovery from a hamstring injury, when she was introduced as a substitute.

The star-studded UCD women started strongly, as following an opening exchange of points between Cork ace Rena Buckley (free) and Wexford wing-forward Michelle O'Leary, the students pulled clear by 0-4 to 0-1 courtesy of three points from Kildare player Susie O'Carroll.

Shortly afterwards Wexford lost their centre-forward Rose-Marie Breen through injury. Lenny Holohan replaced her, before team-mate Ciara O'Connor cut Wexford's deficit to 0-4 to 0-2 after 20 minutes.

Unfortunately the purple-and-gold suffered a couple of sucker-punches in the 22nd-minute, when Una Leacy hit a good goal for UCD, before midfielder Rena Buckley won the resultant puck-out and drove the sliotar back into the Wexford net. A fourth personal point from Susie O'Carroll then extended the margin to 2-5 to 0-2 in the 26th-minute.

Wexford made up some ground before half-time with points from Ciara O'Connor (2, including one free) and Lenny Holohan, while opponent Julianne Woodcock (Kilkenny) hit back with a similar score, to help UCD break with a 2-6 to 0-5 advantage.

Brona Furlong was introduced for the second-half, and came in at midfield, with Kate Kelly switching to corner-forward as Gretta Heffernan made way. Wexford made an encouraging start to the closing period, when Michelle Hearne goaled within a minute of the resumption, as she doubled on a high delivery from her St. Ibar's colleague Bridget Curran to rattle the net.

A pointed free by Ciara O'Connor a few minutes later saw Wexford narrow the gap to 2-6 to 1-6.

But UCD soon had Wexford at arm's length once more, with Susie O'Carroll poking the ball to the net in the 44th minute (3-6 to 1-6).

However, a committed purple-and-gold side came back strongly, boosted once more when Kate Kelly hammered straight to the net in the 48th-minute from a free 25 metres out, which had been won by Michelle Hearne.

Wexford were actually shaping-up quite well, and they sandwiched a point from Una Leacy for the students with similar scores by Michelle O'Leary and Aine Codd (who had now switched from wing-back to centre-forward), to cut the gap to two points (3-7 to 2-8) with just six minutes remaining.

But UCD, who are considered as joint-favourites together with University Limerick to win the Ashbourne Cup, pulled comfortably ahead in the closing stages, with points from Susie O'Carroll and Rena Buckley coming either side of Una Leacy hand-passing to the Wexford net in the 67th-minute for a clinching goal.

Wexford were due back in action last night (Tuesday) against the Waterford Institute of Technology in Bunclody, while they have another warm-up match against the Garda College pencilled in for February 10th.

Wexford – *Helena Jacob, Bernie Holohan, Catherine O'Loughlin, Deirdre Codd, Noeleen Lambert, Aoife O'Connor, Aine Codd (0-1), Siona Nolan, Kate Kelly (1-0 free), Ciara O'Connor (0-4, 2 frees), Rose-Marie Breen, Michelle O'Leary (0-2), Bridget Curran, Michelle Hearne (1-0), Gretta Heffernan.*

Subs: *Lenny Holohan (0-1) for Rose-Marie Breen (inj); Claire O'Connor for Bernie Holohan; Brona Furlong for Gretta Heffernan; Diane Ryan for Bridget Curran (inj); Lucey Clooney for Helena Jacob; Avis Nolan for Lenny Holohan; Aisling Moran for Siona Nolan; Frances Doran for Noeleen Lambert.*

TITLES FOR GLEN GIRLS

CELEBRATIONS in my own club Glen Rovers last weekend as the girls finally buried the hoodoo and captured the Under 16 B county league title. So often the bridesmaids in competitions from under 11 to 16 losing out in final after final we finally at last got to enjoy our day in the sun.

From the throw in it was a cracking final as both sides gave it their all, we had ten goals and seven points from two teams who were a credit to their mentors. Ballygarvan got a great boost and hit the front with a Rachel Keohane goal from the throw in. Karen O'Connell opened the Glen account with a point which was followed by one from Sinead O'Halloran. Sabrina O'Mahony extended the Ballygarvan led with her side's second goal but Denise Luby now operating in the Glen forward line began cause problems for the Ballygarvan girls and when Sinead O'Halloran struck for a superb goal inside fifteen minutes of the half Glen hit the front. Twice Denise Luby and Sinead O'Halloran linked up as Glen opened up a three point lead thanks to two goals from Sinead. Ballygarvan worked hard with Aisling Byrne and Mary Ellen O'Donovan giving it their all but the strong Glen defence stood firm. Karen O'Connell struck for a third goal before striking an excellent long rang effort over the bar but Ballygarvan battled back Mary Ellen O'Donovan showing skill in blasted a close in free to the net. Both defences came under pressure through the second half but again O'Halloran and Luby linked up this time Denise Luby finding the net from close range and from the puck out Glen attacked again a long ball from Luby finished to the net by the in rushing Sinead O'Halloran after a good save from keeper Aine Keohane. Ballygarvan upped their game and drove at the Glen defence, Aisling Byrne finishing to the net to cut the arrears to seven points, now it was the Glen who responded Sinead Gallen and Sinead Fahy putting the pressure on Ballygarvan.

Karen O'Connell who through the hour was a constant danger to Ballygarvan struck another long rang effort over the bar before Denise Luby pointed a forty five. Ballygarvan battled to get something back Aisling Byrne grabbing her second goal three minutes into injury time before pointing a free to cut the lead to five points before Ger Sheehan sounded the final whistle to signal a Glen victory. .



After the game Glen Rovers Denise Luby as named as the Player of the game following on a superb display and she was presented with her trophy by chair person Tracy Sheehan. Ballygarvan are to be compliments on their superb effort and discipline while their backroom team led by Michael Moynihan were as ever sporting to the finish.

To my own club mentors Dave O'Connell, Donal O'Halloran, Tom Luby and Kelly Newman congratulations on a job well done, through thick and thin you stuck with the girls and the club, we had our share of bad days but Dave always said to his charges "Your day will come yet" gladly it finally has !! Well done to you all.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

Colleges titles for Coachford & Passage

WELL done to Coachford College who took the Munster Junior "A" tile defeating Ursulines Thurles Joanne Casey the heroine notching up all of the Coachford scores.

St Marys Charleville and st Caimen's will have to meet again in the Junior A final after it finished all square in Feenagh. Well done also to st Peters Passage who captured the Munster Colleges under 16½ tiles with a point to spare over Youghal well done to coach Una McCarthy who is following in the footsteps of her father Justin.

All roads lead to Fermoy on Saturday when Loreto Fermoy take on All Ireland champions St. Marys Charleville in the Munster Senior "A" final at 1pm

Seandun U16 Championship

IT MAY be early days yet but already Seandun are holding their under 16 competition and over the weekend they have pencilled in busy schedule of games.

This year it's the turn of Glen Rovers to host the games and on Saturday action begins at 11am with the semi finals down for decision around 2.45. On Sunday the finals get under way at 1.30 when the losing semi finalists from Saturday play for the plate the B final has Na Piarsaigh meeting St Vincent's at 2.30pm with the "A" final down for 3.30pm.



St Mary's captain Aoife McLoughney receiving the cup from Mattie Finerty, West Board Chairman.

Tipperary Camogie:-

St. Mary's Power to Munster final

St Marys Nenagh . . .3-6
Cashel Community College 1-3

Two goals by Laura Power sealed St Marys victory over Cashel Community College in an all Tipperary affair in the Colleges Senior B Munster Final at the weekend in Leahy Park Cashel.

In an entertaining hours camogie St Marys were first off the mark with a point from full forward Aoife McLoughney after some good defensive work by Emma Louise Coffey. Cashel were quick to assert themselves and forced Nenagh into a defensive mode, after a number of attacks Nenagh conceded a long range free. Sheena Ryan pointed from the placed ball to draw the sides level. Both teams swept the ball into the danger zones but failed to convert their scoring chances. In the eighteenth minute Cashel introduced Brid Ryan for Mary Anne Hayes.

With twenty one minutes gone the sides were deadlocked with one point each. Laura Powers clearance found Amy Kennedy who in turn linked up with Aoife McLoughney who converted Nenaghs second point. Cashels reply came from Sheena Ryan from a 30m free to draw the sides level again.

Catriona Kennedy supplied a quality ball to full forward Aoife McLoughney who slotted over a point to edge Nenagh in front. Late in the first half a driving run from Nenagh midfielder Fiona Kennedy resulted in a free and although from an acute angle Aoife McLoughney deftly lofted the free over the bar to leave the half-time score 0.4 to 0.2 in favour of Nenagh.

Cashel were afforded a dream start to the second half when Sheena Ryans free was blocked on the Nenagh line, Beth Ryan was quickest to react and lashed the ball to the back of the net putting the Cashel side one point ahead. The tempo of the game now raised with both teams playing with great determination. Bonnie Kennedy was fouled as she attacked the Cashel goal and Aoife McLoughney was on target to draw the sides level once again. Both sides now engaged in attacking camogie much to the delight of the enthusiastic supporters. Cashel defenders Deirdre Ryan and Sharon Hayes were prominent while their Nenagh counterparts of Geraldine Stapleton and Cliona Ryan propelled St Marys attack. Wing forward Amy Kennedy showed some fine touches for St Marys considering the conditions and when she was fouled, the resultant free was put over the bar by the unerring Aoife McLoughney. Cashel were quick in their reply as Sheena Ryan converted her third pointed free.

St Marys introduce Patricia Sutton for Orla Williams and a positional switch saw her play at wing back with Laura Power moving to wing forward. It proved to be an inspirational move as within minutes Power drove through the Cashel defence on one of her trademark attacking runs and unleashed a shot which found its way to the back of the Cashel net.

Within a minute the same player turned provider when her long delivery was latched onto by Aoife McLoughney and flicked home for Nenaghs second goal to leave the score St Marys 2.6 to Cashels 1.3. With fourteen minutes on the clock there was still plenty to play for and Cashel stuck to the task admirably. They found little from a resolute Nenagh defence led by Geraldine Stapleton aided by the midfield duo of Fiona Kennedy and Cliona Ryan. With the game well into injury time Laura Power was on hand to seal Nenaghs victory with her second goal to leave the final score St Marys 3.6 to 1.3.

A truly entertaining game which saw two talented teams give it their all for the hours camogie. St Marys were fortunate to convert their goal chances which saw them through to the final whistle and they now go on to face the Connaght champions in the All Ireland semi final.

St Marys: A Whelan, M Gleeson, S Quinlan, L Greene, E L Coffey, G Stapleton, L Power, F Kennedy, C Ryan, C Kennedy, B Kennedy, A Kennedy, C Ryan, A McLoughney, O Williams, P Sutton, M Devaney, L Reid, A M Quigley, L Shoer, L Bergin, E Slattery, H Harty, N Whelan.

Cashel: O McEniry, M Horan, S O Donnell, A Crowe, A Slattery, D Ryan, S Hayes, A Fryday, B Ryan, S Ryan, T Flanagan, E Crowe, B Higgins, M A Hayes, E Fryday, B Ryan, F Flavey, O MacCullagh, T Fitzpatrick, S Cahill, S Fogarty.

RESULTS

Munster Colleges Senior B Final:-

St Marys Nenagh . . . 3.6
Cashel Community College 1.3

Munster Colleges Junior B Final:-

Ursuline Thurles 0.1
Coachford 2.2

Munster Colleges Senior C Final:-

Colaiste Phobal Ros Cré 0.2
Carrick on Suir 3.8

Knockavilla Camogie Club Fundraiser

Knockavilla camogie club presents Tommy Fleming in Concert in Dundrum House Hotel March 1st at 8pm. Ticket details 087 6802000.

Camogie side are boosted by late goals

WEXFORD	4-9
WATERFORD I.T.	1-13

by **RONAN FAGAN**

A COUPLE of late goals saw the Wexford senior camogie squad return to winning ways, as they scored their fourth win in five pre-season games when overcoming the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) at Bunclody on Tuesday night of last week.

The Wexford management made numerous substitutions, as they looked to give every player at least 30 minutes action in a fixture which was contested over two periods of 40 minutes each.

Wexford, who are due to open their National League senior 'A' and 'B' campaigns at home against Cork on February 25th next, began impressively against the WIT, as Shelly Kehoe pointed before her Oulart-The Ballagh colleague Emma Moran goaled in the fifth-minute.

Waterford responded to narrow the gap to 1-2 to 0-3 after 20 minutes, with Aisling Moran having added a point to the Slaneysiders' account.

Wexford All-Star Kate Kelly was being tried out at centre-back, and the regular midfielder was doing quite well before she unfortunately sustained a minor hamstring injury, which necessitated her being replaced by Aine Codd.

Shelly Kehoe's second personal point improved Wexford's position (1-3 to 0-3), before one of their own, namely Model County captain Ursula Jacob inflicted some damage on the purple-and-gold. She pointed a couple of '45s while assisting Waterford (for whom Jacob's Oulart team-mate Sharon Kehoe operated from left wing-back) to help level matters on 1-3 to 0-6.

But Wexford got their noses back in-front by half-time, as Blackwater ace Mary Walsh pulled on a cross from Shelly Kehoe to fire to the Waterford net, and establish a 2-3 to 0-6 margin at the change-of-ends.

Walsh also resumed the scoring with a well taken point, just prior to another player being added to the Wexford treatment table, when Caroline Murphy (Ferns St. Aidan's) was forced off, leaving Noeleen Lambert of St. Martin's to take over.

Waterford, meanwhile, produced a strong scoring burst between the 53rd and 58th minutes, when they shot 1-3 without reply (including a third personal point from Ursula Jacob via a free) to turn the tables by 1-9 to 2-4.

The sides twice exchanged points – the free-taking of Wexford substitute Ciara O'Connor being matched by that of Jacob – before Wexford regained parity on 2-8 to 1-11 thanks to points from play by Rose-Marie Breen and Ciara O'Connor by the 67th-minute.

After a further trading of minors – a Jacob free being cancelled out by another from play by Breen – the Wexford selection made its vital breakthroughs, as St. Ibar's colleagues Bridget Curran and Michelle Hearne netted in the 72nd and 74th minutes respectively to establish a six-point lead (4-9 to 1-12).

Ursula Jacob had the last say, when adding a seventh personal point via a free, with Wexford claiming the spoils to further boost morale ahead of the impending league.

The playing of the third-level colleges' Ashbourne Cup camogie championship over the next couple of weeks means that Wexford have just one more challenge – on Saturday at Horeswood against the Garda College (6.30p.m.) – before launching their competitive season against Cork.

Wexford – *Helena Jacob, Brona Furlong, Avis Nolan, Karen Atkinson, Stacey Redmond, Kate Kelly, Siobhan Cullen, Caroline Murphy, Aisling Moran (0-1), Siona Nolan, Rose-Marie Breen (0-2), Shelly Kehoe (0-2), Mary Walsh (1-1), Michelle Hearne (1-0), Emma Moran (1-0).*

Subs: *Sara Nolan for Siona Nolan; Aine Codd for Kate Kelly (inj); Claire O'Connor for Avis Nolan; Diane Ryan for Michelle Hearne; Frances Doran for Rose-Marie Breen; Bridget Curran (1-0) for Brona Furlong; Ciara O'Connor (0-3, 2 frees) for Aisling Moran; Deirdre Codd for Siobhan Cullen; Bernie Holohan for Stacey Redmond; Lenny Holohan for Shelly Kehoe; Colleen Atkinson for Karen Atkinson.*

Noeleen Lambert for Caroline Murphy (inj); Gretta Hefferan for Emma Moran; Catherine O'Loughlin for Aine Codd; Michelle Hearne for Mary Walsh; Rose-Marie Breen for Frances Doran; Avis Nolan for Sara Nolan; Stacey Redmond for Diane Ryan; Brona Furlong for Claire O'Connor; Aisling Moran for Lenny Holohan; Shelly Kehoe for Ciara O'Connor; Siobhan Cullen for Bridget Curran.



Liz O'Mahony and Anne Cooney share a laugh at the Brian Dillon's victory celebrations.



Siobhan Cullen, Ciara Storey and Una Leacy attended the Oulart The Ballagh annual dinner dance in the Riverbank House Hotel on Friday night. Photo: Jim Campbell.

Clonakilty Camogie Club annual dinner



Clonakilty camogie team, photographed above, celebrated their successes of 2006 at their dinner dance at the Quality Hotel, Clonakilty, on Saturday night last. They won the county junior B league and championship double last year. Guests of honour were Miriam Deasy, Kilbrittain, Cork senior B camogie team, and Jennifer O'Leary, Barryroe, Cork senior A camogie team and All-Star.

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Jennifer O'Leary (second from left at front), Barryroe and Cork camogie star, seen at the Celtic Ross West Cork Sports Star of the Year gala banquet in Rosscarbery with – front from left – Ann Murphy, Deborah O'Leary and Paddy Murphy. Middle row: Frank Drake, Michael O'Leary and Jennifer's father, Joe O'Leary. Back: Joe O'Leary junior, Alan Dolan and Damien O'Leary.



Joanne O'Callaghan (left), captain of the All-Ireland senior camogie champions, Cork, pictured with Dr. Mary Hannon at the annual dinner and social of Kilmurry GAA Club at the Riverside Park Hotel, Macroom.



The St Mary's secondary school team which defeated Cashel recently in the colleges Senior B Munster final.

Ciaran Carey, becomes Limerick's new manager

(2007-02-04)

Ciaran Carey appointed Limerick Camogie Manager

LIMERICK camogie got a great boost at the weekend with the news that Ciarán Carey, the former star hurler is to take over the senior Limerick camogie team. What a start the girls gave him with a huge 4-12 to 0-2 victory over the visiting Dubs in Adare on Sunday in the openig round of the National League Div 1B.

This was very much a team effort from Limerick as from full-back and All-Star nominee of 2006 Michelle Casey to forwards Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien they hurled throughout the hour. Add in fourteen year old teen star Naoimi Carroll who scored one point and one begins to think that Limerick may well be on the way back. In fairness to Dublin they were always going to be up against it, as this is Limerick's first choice, while this is Dublin's second side, but no doubt the experience will stand to them in future games and it will give them a guide as to the possible standard in the 'B' Division.

The final result may have been much higher were in not for the brilliant defensive play from 2006 All-Star nominee Michelle Casey who time and time again denied the visiting Dubs a sniff of the ball. By half time the game was well out of Dublin's reach as the home side led 4-6 to 0-0, thanks to four fab goals from Vera Sheehan (2-0), Sinéad Mc Auliiffe and a second minute goal from Eileen O'Brien which set the scene for the green and white shirts.

This victory was not however just about one person as young Sinéad Mc Auliffe put in a great display at midfield and constantly supplied forwards Vera Sheean and Eileen O'Brien with plenty of ball who put it to good use.

Limerick may have taken the foot slightly off the pedal in the second half but despite a nineth minute point from Dublin's Clodagh Conney it was not enough to spurr the young Dubs to a comeback as they had to wait until four minutes from time for their second and only other score a point from a penalty taken by Emer Brogan.

A further six points in the second half certified a Limerick victory and will set them up nicely for their next outing against Galway on March 4th in Galway.

Elsewhere, London made their visit to Clonoe in Tyrone pay off with a 2-6 to 1-2 victory in Division 3. Such were the weather conditions that a yellow sliotar was used to overcome the intense fog that prevailed there all day. The visitors got off to a dream start with a first minute goal from Brid Grennan, however a very close opening half prevailed following a Tyrone goal from Julie Lagan just beyond the midway stage. Despite the Tyrone goal, they trailed 1-1 to London's 1-2 at the break. As in the opening half the visitors got another superb second half start with a Helen Collier goal after just two minutes and after that there was no disputing as to who might be the winners on the day.

Meanwhile, Laois set a high standard with a 6-12 to 1-2 over Carlow in Division 2 B in Durrow. Five fab first half goals from Elaine O'Mahony,Eimear Delaney, Trish Cuddy (2-0) and Amy O'Callaghan meant there was no doubt at the break as to who the winners would be as the O'Moore county were well in control by then 5-6 to 0-0. Carlow did try hard in the second half, but despite a Margaret Coady goal midway it was not enough on the day and so Laois ran out worthy winners.

The Derry vesus Offaly match was called off due to ground conditions while the Meath versus Westmeath game did not go ahead either.

St.Mary's Charleville overcame Loreto College Fermoy 3-7 to 1-6 in the Munster Senior 'A' Colleges Final on Saturday. A dream start came Charleville's way when Marie Walsh goaled after just two minutes and five minutes later they went a second goal up thanks to Maria Reidy. Loreto, fought back with a goal from Grace Kearney just before half time. However, they were largely dependent on Gala senior All-Ireland medal winner Orla Cotter who finished the day with 0-6, (all frees). In the end it was the sheer determination that earned the holders Charleville another All-Ireland semi-final spot against the Connacht champions in a few weeks time.

Details:

Nat. League, Div 1B:
Limerick: 4-12: V Sheehan 2-3, E O'Brien 1-5, (0-4f), S Mc Auliffe 1-2, M Keating, N Carroll 0-1 each.
Dublin 0-2: C Cooney, E Brannigan 0-1 each.

Div 2B:
Laois: 6-12: T Cuddy 2-1, E Delaney 1-5 (0-4f), E Mahony 1-2,A O' Callaghan 1-1,M Dalton 1-0,S Moylan 0-2, L O'Callaghan 0-1.
Carlow: 1-2: M Coady 1-0, V Crean, C Mullen 0-1 each.

Div 3:
London: 2-6: B Grennan 1-2, H Collier 1-0, E Quigley 0-2, S Keatley, A Deasy 0-1 each.
Tyrone: 1-2:J Lagan 1-0, C Ogle, B Burke 0-1 each.

Munster Colleges c'ship finals:
Sen. 'A'
St.Mary's Charleville: 3-7: M Walsh 1-3, M Reidy 1-0, D O'Callaghan 1-0, L Fitzgerald 0-2 (0-1f),F Morrissey, R Rea 0-1 each.
Loreto, Fermoy: 1-6: G Kearney 0-6 (0-6f), O Cotter 1-0.

Inter 'B' Final:
Doon, Limerick 2-5
Midleton 1-5

Jun. 'C'
Coláiste Choilm, Cork, 2-7
Borrisokane 2-2

Leinster Colleges c'ship finals:
Jun. "B':
St.Dominics, Cabra, Dublin, 3-10
Brigidines,Mountrath, Laois 1-2

Jun. 'C':
De La Salle, Carlow 2-5
Banagher, Offaly 3-1.

Ulster colleges nes

(2007-02-04)

Corn Eimhear Camogie final

Cross & Passion, Ballycastle 5-7 St. Patrick's Maghera 2-8
Cross & Passion have put the disappointment of so many Corn Eimhear final defeats behind them by producing a superb second half in Dunloy on
Saturday to eclipse St. Patrick's Maghera and take the Cup to the north Antrim resort for the first time in 52 years.

They got off to a brilliant start with goals from Emma McMullan, Samantha McKillen and Emma Connor putting them 3-2 to 0-0 up after 8 minutes.
Maghera though battled back with three points before the break and then were really in the game at the start of the second half when goals from
Carolann Murphy and Grainne McNicholl closed it to 3-4 to 2-5 with the wind in Maghera's favour.

Ballycastle needed to step up a gear - and they did just that with captain Emma McMullan showing the way with two brilliant points.
Aisling McFadden then buried two goals and they were back in control, and they never looked like slipping up despite three late Maghera poins

Cross & Passion : Louise Watt, Aoibheann Gormley, Claire Neill, Laura Connolly, Natasha McGinn, Emma Connor 1-0, Aine Connolly, Kerrie Smyth,
Rebecca Mooney 0-1, Samantha McKillen 1-0, Rebecca Walsh 0-4, 0-3 frees, Emma McMullan capt. 1-2, Aisling McFadden 2-0, Louise McKeown, Laura
Dallas.
Subs : Aoife Laverty for A Gormley, Michaela Beattie for L Dallas, Niamh
Donnelly for N McGinn, Nicole Dobbin, Nicole McKeown, Caoimhe McShane, Francine McFarland.

St. Patrick's : Niamh McQuillan, Kathleen Kielt, Gráinne O'Kane, Elizabeth Corbett, Áine Kelly, Aislin Cartin, Teresa McElroy, Clodagh Mc Peake,
Siobhán McKaigue 0-3 frees, Eilís Cassidy 0-3, 0-1 free, Karen Kielt, Cara Cassidy, Carolann Murphy 1-1, Oonagh Devlin, Gráinne McNicholl 1-1.

Liatroim Fontenoys Cup final :
St. Louis Ballymena 4-4 St. Pius X Magherafelt 2-2
It proved third time lucky for St. Louis Ballymena in the Liatroim Fontenoys Cup final in Dunloy on Saturday with Katie McAleese lifting the
trophy for the school.
Katie also had a big say in her side tasting victory for the first time, with her dominance of midfield and three excellent points in the first half. But they were very nervous at the start and it took fully 15 minutes before Noreen Graham's effort crept into the net for the opening score. They faced into the second half breeze with only a 1-4 to 0-0 lead that Kerrie Graham immediately reduced with a long-range point.

However the game was won in the next three minutes when Hannah Devlin and Caoimhe McAleenan both finished to the net. Despite Orla Wilkinson pulling one back for St. Pius' in the 41st minute, the mid-Antrim side now had the bit between their teeth and they contained their opponents

well until Noreen Graham blasted the goal of the match to make it more comfortable for the winners over the last 8 minutes.

St. Louis : Amanda O'Neill, Ailise Boyle, Helen Brogan, Dervla McBride, Sinead Boyle, Brónagh McIntyre, Raisa McMullan, Ciara Molloy, Katie McAleese 0-3, Hannah Devlin 1-0, Una McNaughton, Brónagh McAlonan 0-1, Noreen Graham 2-0, Eileen Lynn, Caoimhe McAleenan 1-0.
Subs : Eimhear Fitzsimons for D McBride, Kellie McCloskey for , Aimee
Dillon, Orla Doherty, Casey Woulahan, Niamh McCollum, Marie-Claire Reid, Noeleen McShane, Katie Gribben, Emma Kennedy, Oonagh Martin.

St. Pius X : Sarah Martin, Enya Dunkerly, Kerrie Graham, Colleen McAleese, Ciara Rocks, Dania Donnelly, Megan Larkin, Caoimhe McCoy, Rebecca Forbes,
Seanin Caldwell, Eimear Conway, Martine Crilly, Geardine McIvor, Orla Wilkinson, Tracey Lawn.
Subs : Karen Bell for T Lawn.

New Carbery awards scheme to be launched

CORK: A new West Cork sports awards scheme will be inaugurated in the Dohenys Pavilion, Dunmanway, on Friday night.

Open to all Carbery teams under the jurisdiction of the Cork County Board, the South West Junior Board, the Cork County Ladies Football Board and the County Camogie Board, it is hoped this new scheme will promote the playing of Gaelic games in the local area and add to the reputation of the games in the division.

Each month, one team will receive an award for their performance on the field of play and by the end of the year it is hoped that the recipients will reside in 12 different locations throughout the division.

Buckley Financial Services will sponsor the event and a wide range of personalities past and present, will assemble at the Dohenys GAA Pavilion on Friday for the official launch of the scheme.

Brendan Larkin

Toome star Delaney named new Tipp boss

CAMOGIE: Toomevara stalwart Tony Delaney has been installed the new manager of the Tipperary senior camogie team.

The appointment of Delaney, 35, brings an end to a long search for Paddy McCormack's successor, which has dragged on since last September's All-Ireland final defeat against Cork.

Delaney will line out at full back for Toomevara in Saturday's All-Ireland Club Hurling semi-final against Ballyhale Shamrocks before getting stuck into his new role.

He revealed: "I've been involved with a couple of club teams on and off and although I wasn't going to take on any role this year, you don't get offered these jobs too often. It will be a challenge for me but I have a big interest in training teams.

"We have a lot of work to do to catch up to Cork. Wexford have improved and will improve even more with Jim Kilty and then you have Galway and Kilkenny coming back into the frame. There are four teams with not much between them but we have to look at catching up on Cork."

Delaney met his new charges for the first time last Friday night and took them for their first training session on Sunday. Delaney will be assisted by clubmate Paul Delaney, Martin O'Dwyer and Marion Graham. The Tipperary players have been handed a stamina programme which must be completed in five weeks before ball work begins.

Jackie Cahill

New camogie club sponsorship

THE Galway Camogie Board have revealed new sponsors for all competitions for 2007. John Curley of Curley Furniture is backing the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior A and B Leagues.

The Senior, Intermediate, Junior A and B and Under 18 championships will be sponsored by Paul Connolly of Honeyglen Homes. The Under 16 championship is sponsored by Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe.

The Under 14 Feile and championship will be supported by Hennelly Auctioneers, Oranmore with the U12 championship being sponsored by Michael Finn of Finn Properties.

The following team managements have also been selected. Senior A and B: Michael Kelly, Bertie Keane, Liam Gannon, Sheila Coen and Helena Huban.

Under 18: Michael Broderick, Jimmy Cooney, Ann Fahy and Pauline Mitchell. Under 16: Johnny Keane, Emer Kearny, Gerry Kearny and Aoife Lynskey. Under 14: Noel Kelly, Emer Kearny and Gerry Kearny.

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O'NEILL (Cork and Dunloy, Co. Antrim): On February 5, 2007, unexpectedly, at home, Farranlea Road, RITA (nee McFerran) (late of PBC, Mardyke, Cork), dearly loved wife of the late Liam (ex Cork Utd.) and much loved mother of Larry, Mary and Anne. Sadly missed by her loving family, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. Lying in repose at the Wilton Funeral Home, Sarsfield Road of Jerh O'Connor Ltd. Removal on tomorrow (Wednesday) evening at 7pm to Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross. Requiem Mass at 1pm on Thursday. Funeral afterwards to St. Oliver's Cemetery, Model Farm Road.

May she rest in peace.

MEEHAN (Trooley, Caltra, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway) — Jan. 31, 2007, Mairead (peacefully) at home, in the loving care of her family, after a long illness borne with great dignity

Thousands mourn Máiréad Meehan

THE untimely death of Máiréad Meehan at twenty five years of age at the residence of her parents, Tycooley, Caltra, last week was the source of heartfelt grief.

This was reflected in the estimated 10,000 people who attended over the three days as she Reposed at her home, and at the Funeral Mass in Caltra.

Máiréad had battled her illness bravely for seven years, with great dignity, courage, strength and determination. Despite her illness, she completed her studies at D.C.U. and was Conferred with the H.Dip. in NUIGalway. She then took up a teaching appointment in the Presentation College, Athenry.

Many people travelled long distances from around the country and some from overseas for her funeral.

The large attendance of GAA people, referees, players and officials was led by GAA President, Nicky Brennan, while the O'Shea brothers from the Gaeltacht in Kerry were amongst the county players from around the country who attended.

The President of the IFA, Mr. Padraic Walsh, attended, as did many people from the local and national sports media.

Neighbours, friends and the Gardaí acted as stewards to cater for the traffic and parking. Extended family and friends provided catering for the many visitors.

A Guard of Honour was provided by the students of Castlefrench National School. The attendance included Sean Boylan, of Meath, and John Joe Halloran, Galway Football Board, and the Caltra GAA Club, led by Chairman, John P. Kelly, and Senior Manager, Gabriel Naughton.

The church was packed to overflowing and loudspeakers had been installed to relay the Ceremony to the estimated 2,000 people outside.

Chief Celebrant, Fr. Micheál Donnelly, C.C., Caltra welcomed all and extended sympathy to the family on the death of Máiréad.

Fr. Brendan Dunning delivered a moving Homily and said that most died in the winter of their lives, but she was to die in the springtime of her life. He recalled her academic achievements, he sporting achievements at national school level in Castlefrench and the winning of seven All-Ireland medals in camogie with Holy Rosary Secondary School, Mountbellew, Pearse's (Gurteen-Ballymacward) and with Galway County Camogie teams.

He spoke of illness and how she had battled with it, never complaining, and, how right through her illness Máiréad still showed her great wit and humour. Fr. Dunning recalled in the Homily her great Faith and how it had carried her through her illness. He paid tribute to her loving boyfriend, Kieran Fitzgerald (Belclare) who he said was Máiréad's rock right through her difficulties, and thanked him for the great love and help he had given her.

Fr. Dunning paid tribute to her parents, her brothers and her friends for their support to her over her short but fulfilled life and he recalled her great pride in her six brothers winning the Club All-Ireland with Caltra in 2004 and her pride in seeing her brothers, Tomás and Declan, winning All-Ireland's in 1998 and 2001.

Family members participated in the Offertory Gifts, the Readings, Prayers of the Faithful and the Ceremony was enhanced by the Caltra Church Choir, the singing of Blaithín Walsh, and a Choir from Presentation Secondary School, Athenry.

A beautiful Communion Reflection was delivered by Kieran Fitzgerald, while her brother, Seamus, thanked all who had helped the family in many ways, including doctors, nurses, the Hospice, the neighbours, friends and extended family and all who had visited their home.

He spoke of the great love shown by Máiréad to her parents and brothers and completed his tribute to her with the old Irish proverb "Ní bheidh a leithéad arís ann."

Main Concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Micheál Donnelly, C.C., Caltra, Very Rev. Fr. Eugene McLoughlin, P.P., Roscommon, Rev. Fr. Brendan Dunning, S.M.A., Claregalway, Rev. Fr. John McCormack, C.C., Moylough, Rev. Fr. Gerry Byrne, Athenry and Very Rev. Fr. Oliver Hughes, P.P., Corofin. They were joined by a large number of other priests and others from religious life.

Máiréad was laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery.

She is survived by her parents, Michael and Ann, brothers, Seamus, Enda, Declan, Tomás, Noel and Michael, her loving boyfriend, Kieran Fitzgerald, sisters-in-law, Caroline and Lisa, Godchild, Niamh, girlfriends, relatives, neighbours and many friends.

The Caltra GAA Club and Ladies' Football Club provided refreshments in the local dressingrooms after the funeral. Many local clubs adjourned meetings and functions as a mark of respect and the Galway Rally cancelled its Greenville-Killasolan Stage as a mark of respect to the Meehan family.

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Colleges go in search of Purcell Cup glory

CAMOGIE: Eight Colleges will compete in Athlone this weekend for the Purcell Cup and Shield. The semi-final line up for the Purcell Cup pits hosts and three time winners, Athlone IT, against NUI Maynooth, Carlow IT, who defeated St. Pat's in the preliminary round, take on the winner of either DCU or Trinity College in the other semi.

Queens University Belfast play Mary Immaculate, while St. Pat's face DCU or Trinity College in the Shield semi-finals.

Focus on Seandun u-15 championship finals

On Saturday and Sunday last Glen Rovers became the centre of activities in the Seandun division as the club hosted the Evening Echo sponsored grade Under 15 championship finals for 2006.

Douglas	**4-5**
Glen Rovers	**2-0**

On Saturday six team contested the A grade competition with Douglas 1 and Glen Rovers topping their respective groups and qualifying to meet Passage and Douglas 2 in the semi finals. Glen defeated Passage on 2-2 to 0-0 to make it to the decider while the first Douglas team defeated their club colleagues 3-3 to 0-1 to make it through.

There was consolation for the defeated semi-finalists who qualified for the plate final, and with all finals down for decision on the following day it was back to Glen Rovers again where the action got under way at 1.30 with the Under 15 A player final. It was then the turn of the B players in the division, and here, with just two clubs graded B, it was Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's who battled it out for the honours, before the A decider got under way.

Douglas 1	**4 — 5**
Glen Rovers	**2 — 0**

Douglas 1 had the perfect start thanks to an early goal from their captain Tracy Mc Carthy and two pointed 45 metre frees inside the 10th minute from Moira O'Donovan settled Douglas. The Glen Rovers girls battled to get into the game and a goal from Sinead O'Halloran six minutes from the interval had them back in the contest. Douglas extended their advantage before the break when Karen Horgan reacted fast after the Glen defence failed to clear a simple ball into the square, and they maintained their 2-2 to 1-0 lead to the half time whistle

Glen came in search of scores through the second half, but they found the going tough against a strong Douglas defence. Clare Kavanagh struck for a third Douglas goal five minutes into the second half and two points from Julia White, who was well policed by Alice Keating through the game, saw them stretch their lead.

Glen working hard battled to get something back. Substitute Nicole O'Brien struck low to the corner of the net for goal after good work by Denise Luby, but Douglas responded Clare Kavanagh flicking to the net after two good saves from keeper Emma Dunlea. Moira O'Mahony with a Douglas point ensured victory for her side.

Douglas: J Dempsey, C O'Driscoll, L. Nason S Long, M O'Donovan (0-2), E Jordan, J White (0-2) C Murphy, M O'Mahony(0-1), J Kelleher, C Clarke T Mc Carthy ©, (1goal) C. Kavanagh, (2goals) K Horgan (1goal). Subs: N Leo for C O'Driscoll, C Murphy for K Horgan

Glen Rovers: E DunleaO, L Egan, L Crowley, C O' Keeffe, A Murphy,

S Callanan, D Luby, A Keating, S Gallen, K O'Connell, Z. Buckley, S Fahy, H Keane, S Clifford, S O'Halloran (1 goal) Sub N O'Brien (1 goal) for S O'Halloran, D Noonan for L Egan.

Referee D Daly (Sarsfields)

Na Piarsaigh	**3 — 6**
St Vincent's	**1 — 2**

With just two teams participated in the Seandun Evening Echo sponsored Under 15 B grade competition Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's went directly to contest the final. Two points from Danielle Moynihan saw Na Piarsaigh take an early led before Aoife Moynihan hit their third point. Na Piarsaigh continued the pressure on the St Vincent's defence who held their lines despite severe pressure. With the half-time whistle approaching St Vincent's got the break they were looking for when Amy Wilson finished to the net to level matters and so it was at the interval

The strength of the Na Piarsaigh side was evident as they quickly extended their advantage, Orla Bourke regaining control with a point before two goals from Danielle Moynihan and one from Emer Kelly put the game beyond the St Vincent's girls. Kate Delea and Moynihan had further points before Emma Healy pointed twice for two St Vincent's.

Na Piarsaigh: A. O'Connor, N Ahern, C Allen, N Kelly, S O'Regan, O Bourke (0-1) D Kelly, D Moynihan (2-3), M Coleman, J Dunlea, K Delea (0-1), R O'Rourke, E Kelly (1 goal), L Ahern, A. Moynihan (0-1). Subs: V O'Connor for M Coleman, N Connery for E Kelly

St Vincents: L Connolly, N Cahill, C Anderson, A. Waters, L Corkery, L Carroll, G Dowling, A. O Connell, A. M. O Keeffe, S King, N Creane, L Coffey, S Carroll, E Healy (0-2), A. Wilson (1 goal)

Referee: G Sheehan Douglas

Douglas '2'	**1 — 8**
Passage	**0 — 2**

Defeated semi-finalists in the 'A' grade, Passage and Douglas 2 contested the plate final, and with Pamela Mackey Claire Shine and Aileen O'Donovan striking first half points Douglas held the lead from the start. Amy Costello replied with a Passage point, but it was Douglas who had the interval advantage.

Through the second half Passage battled to get into the game, but Douglas had the strength in depth, Aileen O'Donovan and Pamela Mackey causing numerous problems for the Passage girls who battled to contain the constant pressure from Douglas. By the three quarter stage O'Donovan and Mackey had extended their lead with points before Natasha O'Sullivan pegged one back for Passage pointing a free. Claire Shine struck for a magnificent goal six minutes from full time before skilfully striking a long range point to seal victory for her side.

Douglas '2': Aine O'Donovan, S Bevan, E O Sullivan, L Mc Carthy, R Casey, Aileen O Donovan (0-3), P Mackey (0-3), S Duggan, C Lynch, L Jackson, H Bradley, J. Kavanagh D Cotter, C Shine (1-2), C O'Driscoll Subs: A Peate for C O'Driscoll, L Olden for D Cotter, R Baxter for H Bradley, E Shine for L McCarthy, C Duggan for L Jackson L Horgan for C Shine

Passage: E Layton, E Hyde, G. Cooney L O'Brien, E Twomey, L O'Sullivan, C O'Brien, L McCarthy, A Costello (0-1), S O'Reilly, G Foley, N O'Sullivan (0-1), T McMahon, J Power, E McMahon Subs: L Mc Carthy for J Power

Ref: C Egan Glen Rovers

Results

GROUP 1
Passage 4-4 Bishopstown 0-0
Douglas "1" 6-87 Bishopstown 0-0
Douglas "1" 5-3 passage 0-1
Group 2
Douglas "2" 0-1 Blackrock 0-0
Glen Rovers 2-2 Douglas "2" 0-0
Glen Rovers 1-4 Blackrock 0-0
SEMI-FINALS
Douglas "1" 3-3 Douglas "2" 0-1
Glen Rovers 1-6 Passage 0-0

ST. MARY'S MUNSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONS

ST. MARY'S	**3-7**
LORETO, FERMOY	**1-6**

St. Mary's retained their Munster senior crown at St. Catherine's, Ballynoe on Saturday with a well deserved victory over a fancied Loreto, Fermoy side. Even though Loreto had the player of the game in Orla Cotter (Cork senior) who gave an outstanding performance, they were over reliant on her, whereas Charleville were a more balanced side showing much better team work.

Maria Walsh, who was St. Mary's main danger woman in the full forward line, had the first goal of the game for Charleville. She also contributed three other first half points. Mariah Reidy added another goal which came as a result of a misfortunate mistake by the Loreto full back line. Lisa Fitzgerald scored a point from a free and added another from play, with Fiona Morrissey and Erin Reidy working very hard to secure possession. All the Loreto scores came form the stick of Orla Cotter from placed balls, leaving the half time score 2-5 to 0-3.

While Loreto's main threat came from Orla Cotter, half forward Grace Kearney also made some incisive runs, and all through the game she had a great dual with Sarah Sexton. But Sarah's outstanding skill and nerve under pressure gave her the upper hand and she, along with the other defenders Rebecca Finn, Ashling McAuliffe and the new centre back, Dubliner Amy Sheehy, made life very difficult for the Loreto forwards.

Rosemary Rea did trojan work in midfield just like she did last week for the junior team. Eileen Hanley made two great saves and in the second half St. Mary's were fortunate to see two great chances for the opposition go straight across the goals and wide. Darina O'Callaghan raised another green flag in this half and Fiona Morrissey (free) and Rosemary Rea scored a point each leaving St. Mary's with a winning margin of 7 points.

They now face an enormous challenge next Saturday when they face the Connaught champions Athenry in the All Ireland semi-final. Of course Athenry were the opposition in last year's All Ireland final when it required a replay to finally gain victory and they have almost the same starting line-out.

St. Mary's with home venue, will need to build again on their Munster final victory and play out of their skins as this one will surely go down to the wire.

Team: Eileen Hanley, Orla Carroll, Rebecca Finn, Ashling McAuliffe, Michelle O'Connor, Amy Sheehy, Sarah Sexton, Fionnuala Dore, Rosemary Rea, Fiona Morrissey (captain), Lisa McAuliffe, Erin Reidy, Mariah Reidy, Maria Walsh, Darina O'Callaghan. Subs: Kerrie Brosnan for Mariah Reidy.

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Miriam Deasy, Kilbrittain, Cork camogie senior B team, and Jennifer O'Leay, Barryroe, Cork camogie senior A team and All-Star, celebrated with Clonakilty camogie teams at their victory dinner dance at the Quality Hotel in Clonakilty on Saturday night last.



Ursula Jacob, Caroline Murphy and Liz Murphy were pictured at the Oulart The Ballagh annual dinner dance in the Riverbank House Hotel on Friday night. Photo: Jim Campbell.



Pictured at the Oulart The Ballagh annual dinner dance in the Riverbank House Hotel on Friday night were Mary Leacy and Stephen Stamp. Photo: Jim Campbell.



At the Oulart The Ballagh annual dinner dance were Vanessa leacy (Under 16 camogie captain), Fr. Dermot Gahan, Kerrie Dunne (under 18 camogie captain), Garry Fortune (under-21 captain), Ger Doyle (Chairman County GAA Board), Ray Quigley (Chairman County Camogie Board), Diane Ryan (Senior camogie captain) and Margaret Leacy (Club Chairperson). Photo: Jim Campbell.

Pearses anniversary



Pearses Camogie Club celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their first All-Ireland Club title recently. Photo shows the 1996 team and management. Back row: Jennifer Burke, Aggie Burke, Shauna Ward, Eileen Hannon, Veronica Sweeney, Michelle Glynn, Mike Donnellan, Pat Burke, Mike Kennedy, Sharon Glynn, Tracey Laheen, Louise Curry, Paula Naughton. Front row: Majella Dwyer, Carmel Hannon, Karina Donnellan, Martina Donnellan, Collette Deely, Martina Carr, Ann Forde, Áine Hillary, Anne Earls, Carol Screene, Shirley Keating.

Pearses Camogie Club review year's activities

THE Pearses Camogie Club held their Annual General Meeting recently in the clubhouse in Ballymacward. The outgoing officers gave comprehensive reports on the events of 2006.

Secretary Jacinta Flannery congratulated all the teams that represented the club. She also thanked the managers and selectors of the various teams, especially the U-13 and U-16 teams which won their respective North board titles.

She urged more parents to get involved and complimented those that gave of their time especially now as people have so many other commitments.

Treasurer Patricia Burke gave an excellent report in which she thanked all those who continue to support the club financially. The Chairperson Majella Dwyer reiterated the sentiments of her fellow officers and again thanked all those involved in the club from supporters to team management and, more importantly, the players.

The following committee was then elected – Presidents: Fr. Slattery and Fr. Sweeney; Chairperson: Majella Dwyer; Vice-Chairperson: Sharon Glynn; Secretary: Jacinta Flannery; Assistant Secretary: Collette Walsh; Treasurer: Tricia Burke; Assistant Treasurer: Shauna Ward; PRO: Collette Walsh.

Team Managers – U-10: Paula Naughton; U-12 & U-13: Michelle Glynn; U-14: Sharon Glynn; U-16: and Minor: Michael Kennedy; Junior: Jacinta Flannery; Senior: Collette Walsh.

The Finance Committee: all officers, team managers plus Marion Flannery, Mary Kilkenny, Mary Flood, Brid Hogan, Mairéad McDonagh, Helen Killary, Valerie Higgins, Áine Hillary and Caroline Cunniffe.

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Camogie: Tipperary round-up

Senior A Management in Place: Tipperary Camogie has announced Tony Delaney Toomevara as Senior A manager for the forthcoming year his selectors will be Martin O Dwyer and Marion Graham. Management had a very positive meeting with the panel of players on Friday last and outlined the plan for the year. We wish Tony and his team every success for the forthcoming season.

Senior B News: This panel are now well into their training schedule and also are having a great response to training. Team manager John O Donnell Ballinahinch also has his selection committee in place they are Michelle Seymour Kiladangan, Dan Greed Bournea and PJ O Rourke Newport. Clubs are urged to send eligilble players to join this panel and all are wished the best of luck for 2007.

Minor Camogie News: Minor camogie trials on Sunday 18th in the Ragg at 11am. If not available please contact one of the committee of Paula Ryan, Catherine Shortt, Kevin Fox and Pat Mc Loughney before Sunday 11th of February.

The following have been selected for trials:

DROM:Kristina Kennelly Therese Shortt Siobhan Mc Grath Catriona Shortt Patricia Mc Grath Eimear Shanahan Antoinette Kennedy Catriona Kennedy

SHANNON ROVERS: Aoife Mc Loughney Marion Ryan

CASHEL: Deirdre Ryan Sarah Morrissey Sharon Hayes Rita Mc Grath Marie Horan

SILVERMINES:Geraldine Stapleton

KNOCKAVILLA:Sheena Ryan Niamh O Connell Avril Fryday Beth Ryan

MOYCARKEY: Catriona Walsh

TOOMEVARA: Bonnie Kennedy Fiona Young Aine Brislane Laura Young Aoife Shanahan Shauna Rabbite

TEMPLEMORE:Catriona Maher Norah Costigan Ailish O Connell Sarah Nolan

SLIEVENAMON:Mary Gleeson

NEWPORT:Aoife Shinnors

KILDAGAN:Karen Seymore

BOHERLAHAN: Tracey Flanagan Sara Dwyer

ANNACARTHY: Marie Dalton Bridget Barry Siobhan O Neill Catherine Kelly

MONEYGALL:Cliona Ryan Margaret Kirwan

BURGESS: Ruth Barry

ROSCREA: Louise O Brien

HOLYCROSS: Laura Medley

KILRUANE:Marie Ryan

U16 Team News: A number of players were brought together on Sat last to begin the process of formulating an U16 panel. Management were delighted with the response from the players especially the level of skill on display and outlined their hopes of holding a large panel together as a development squad. They will meet again next Sunday at 11am in the Camogie Grounds in the Ragg.



St Mary's Nenagh who contest the All Ireland Colleges semi final this weekend against Gort Community College.

Colleges Camogie

Munster Junior C Final Result

Colaiste Choilm Cork 2-5 Borrisokane 2-1

Borrisokane just failed to claim a Munster final win in New Inn at the weekend. Scorers on the day were Aisling Carroll 1-0 Louise Hogan 1-0, Elizabeth Claffey 0-1.

Fixtures

All Ireland Semi Final: St Marys Nenagh face Gort Community College in the All Ireland Semi Final on Sunday next in Dolla at 2pm. The advantage of playing at home should add to St Marys hopes to secure a place in the final. We wish all involved the very best of luck and urge all camogie supporters to attend the game.

Third Level Colleges Competition: Purcell Cup 10th - 11th Feb in Athlone Institute of Technology. A number of players from Tipperary will line out with their respective colleges this weekend in the Purcell Cup competition.

Cup Teams

National University Ireland Maynooth: Aine Shanahan Toomevara Doireann Moran Lorrha; Athlone IT; Dublin City University: Eimear Ryan Michelle Kirwan Moneygall Triona Butler Drom

Shield Teams

Queens University of Belfast; Mary Immaculate College of Education: Claire Grogan; Trinity College Dublin.

Final teams will be decided between winners of St Pats Dublin vs Carlow. Winners will play in cup losers will play in shield.

Ashbourne Cup Qualifers

Wednesday 7th

Garda vs UL in UL at 1pm

WIT vs UCD in WIT

A number of Tipperary camogie players are in also in action this week in Ashbourne qualifers. The winners of the games will contest the Ashbourne Cup on 17th/18th of February while the losers will contest the Ashbourne Shield on the same weekend which will be hosted by NUI Galway.

Camogie: Club round-up

Lorrha

Training for U/16, U/18 and Junior A panels will take place in Moatefield on Saturday 10th February at 5pm.

All girls interested in playing this year must attend.

Kilruane McDonagh

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the club takes place on Friday 16th February at 8pm in the Pavilion in Cloughjordan. It is expected that all junior players, the parents of all juvenile players and all those interested in promoting camogie in the parish will attend. The Junior B player of the year for 2006 will also be presented on the night.

Under 8 and 10: Indoor training for under 8's and under 10's continues every Wednesday night from 6.45 to 7.45pm. Many thanks to Jimmy Cahill, who gave an excellent training session to the 19 girls last week. New players always welcome.

Borrisokane Community College: Well done to the many Kilruane girls who played with Borrisokane Community College junior camogie team in their Munster final last weekend. The club was well represented by Niamh Williams, Ann-Marie Quinlan, Aisling Enright, Patricia Hogan, Noreen Maher, Claire Kennedy, Katie Kennedy, Orla Murphy, Joyce Tooher and Louise Hogan. Although the girls put up a good performance they were narrowly defeated on the day.

Toomevara

Poker Classic: Many thanks to all who supported our Poker Classic in Youngs on Friday last. We had a huge response on the night with players squeezed in all available spaces. Due to the great response from patrons a number of substantial cash prizes were given out. First was Teresa Burke Upperchurch, second Ray O Neill Toomevara, third Frank McCormack Toomevara, fourth Sean O Dwyer Kilkeary further prizes were given for the minor placings of fifth to eighth. A massive thanks to the main organisers of Donie Shanahan and Margaret Young and the club members who attended on the night, thanks also to Pat and Maura Young who were very hospitable hosts for the event.

All Ireland Colleges Semi Final: Best wishes to Ger Dullea all involved with St Marys Nenagh in their bid to reach an All Ireland final on Sunday next. They face Gort Community College in Dolla at 2pm on Sunday we hope that all our members will make every effort to support the girls.

Purcell Cup: The third level colleges competition takes place this weekend in Athlone IT. We wish Aine Shanahan the best of luck with the NUI Maynooth team who take part in the Purcell Cup competition.

Scor success: Congratulation to Noirin Stapleton who had a Munster final success with her Novelty Act group at the weekend, best of luck to all concerned in the forthcoming All Ireland in two weeks.

Cross County: Well done to Elaine Martin who finished 1st and Noirin Stapleton 2nd in the schools cross country competition recently.

All Ireland Club Hurling Semi Final: Best wishes to all involved in the hurling club in their forthcoming Club semi final vs Ballyhale Shamrocks on Saturday at 1pm in Portlaoise.

Silvermines

Dinner Dance: Our first annual dinner dance was held on Saturday night last in conjunction with the Silvermines Hurling Club. We would like to thank the hurling club for all their hard work and support. There was a great attendance and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. We were honoured to have the President of Cumann Camogaiochta Na nGeal, Liz Howard and also the County Chairman Lar O'Brien and his wife Nora, we would like to thank them for their attendance.

Several presentations were made on the night including ones to Martin Griffin and Eoin Brislane for all their hard work with the club over the last year. Presentations were made to former trainers Tina Young, Martin Ryan and Liam Toohey for their great contributions. Outgoing officers Rosemary Power, Tina Shanahan and David Green were also given gifts for their roles in the club.

The Intermediate panel received their County medals from Liz Howard. Medals were presented to: Emma Dunlea, Rachel O'Doherty, Mairead O'Donoghue, Mary Coughlan, and Geraldine Stapleton. Siobhan McCarthy(Capt), Laura Green, Fiona Kennedy, Siobhan O'Doherty, Joanne Nolan, Maura O'Doherty, Claire O'Sullivan, Ciara Ryan, Teresa Timmons and Helena Ryan. Subs: Martina Gleeson, Margarite Ryan, Deirdre Keogh, Cathriona Kennedy, Laura Power, Marcella McKelvey Yvonne Griffin, Carmel Ryan, Mairead Berkery Aileen Ford.

Our under 18's also were presented with their County medals by Liz Howard the team were as follows: Rachael Green, Tara Chadwick, Maria Ryan, Niamh Slattery, Laura Green, Geraldine Stapleton, Martina Gleeson, Fiona Kennedy (Capt), Elizabeth Kennedy, Ciara Ryan, Laura Power, Cathriona Kennedy, Dannielle Slattery, Helena Ryan, and Joanne O'Brien, Subs: Elisha Slattery, Maria Kennedy, Fiona Kennedy, Roisin Stanley, Leanne O'Dwyer, Mairead O'Leary and Rachel Forde.

Congratulations were extended to the under 12's who completed the hat trick of titles won by the Mines Camogie Club this past year. Liz Howard commended the club on all its accomplishments and praised the officers for all their efforts. Presentations were made by Fr. Moloney to the hurling club for their many achievements for which the Camogie club would like to congratulate them.

We would like to wish Eoin Brislane and the Toomevara team all the best of luck in the semi-final of the club championships this Saturday in Portlaoise. We would also like to extend our best wishes to St. Mary's Secondary School who compete in the All Ireland Colleges semi-final. The girls will play Gort in Dolla at 2.00p.m. this Sunday, we hope that everyone will come out and support them.

Meet The Corkman Sports Stars 2006

Dedicated to giving a top performance every time

Ann Geary Milford Camogie





Anna Geary in action against Galway last August in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, semi-final. Photo: Matt Browne

By Pat Ryan

ANNA GEARY has had a litany outstanding achievements in her sport of camogie.

A member of the Milford club, she started off at Juvenile level in the early '90s. The Milford club soon found its feet and were B winners in 1997.

Anna had a lot of success with the club, winning every title from Under 12 upwards. She won five underage county camogie championships in a row, as well as five in a row at Under 18 level.

At school level Anna won 10 All Ireland medals with her school, St Mary's in Charleville, and she collected three All Ireland Minor medals in 2001, 2002 and 2003; she captained the 2003 side to success.

From 2001 to 2005 Anna won five Munster Under 18 medals, being captain in '05 when Cork beat Tipperary in the final.

Meanwhile, Anna has lined out with the Milford Senior camogie side for the past four years. They have reached the semi-final or final each year since, though the county Senior title has eluded the club.

Currently studying Business Studies as a second year student in University of Limerick, Anna collected her third Ashbourne Cup medal in 2006.

She has also played camogie for Munster for the past two years and won an interprovincial medal in 2005. And she captained the Ireland team in 2004 when they defeated Scotland in the shinty final.

Anna was a national ambassador in the camogie centenery year of 2004, and she won the All Ireland Club Pan Celtic Senior A Championship title in 2005 when Milford beat another Cork side, Cloughduv, in the final.

In her short playing career she has won numerous awards, including an Irish Examiner National Junior Sports Award in 2005, Player of the Match in the All Ireland Senior Camogie final against Tipperary in 2006 in Croke Park.

She has been honoured with two All Star Awards, in '05 and '06 as well as two All Ireland medals in those years, also.

Wing back is her favourite position with Cork while playing with the club could mean she could be playing anywhere on any given day.

Anna trains very hard — six out of the seven nights during the summer. At the moment she trains three times per week, all outdoors.

One of her hopes for 2007 is that Cork could win the All Ireland for the third time in a row.

Having already won three Ashbourne Cup titles, she is aiming for four in a row also this year.

However, to win a first county Senior title with her club, Milford, is her main aim.

North Board camogie officers

THE Annual General Meeting of the North Board Camogie Under-Age League took place in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe.

The Chairperson Dermot Connolly looked back on the highlights of 2006. The Secretary Mary Crehan gave an account of all competitions held in 2006 and expressed gratitude to all who were involved in teams.

The following officers were elected for the upcoming year 2007:

Chairperson: Dermot Connolly; Vice-Chairperson: Des Jennings; Secretary: Josephine Conneely; Vice-Secretary: Paula Naughton; Treasurer: Rynagh Mannion; Vice-Treasurer: Martina Egan; PRO: Mary Cunniffe.

The Board's next meeting is on February 22nd when fixtures for the upcoming year will be compiled.

OUT AND ABOUT



Sharon Glynn presents the Petie Glynn Trophy for Pearses Senior Club Player of the Year to Aine Hillary.

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Dublin appoint new camogie senior manager

(2007-02-10)

David Kennedy is Dublin Camogie's Senior Manager.

David Kennedy has been appointed to lead Dublin into Camogie's Senior ranks for the coming season. David's abilities, leadership and ambition will be welcomed and appreciated by Dublin's dedicated, enthusiastic young players who have every intention of being successful at the highest level.

David hails from Tipperary. He is steeped in hurling and camogie. His dad was manager of Toomevara Camogie team. His sister, Noelle Kennedy plays for Toomevara and Tipperary. She has won numerous senior county championships and 5 Senior Munster club titles. She is the proud holder of 5 Senior All-Ireland medals. David himself played his hurling with Silvermines.

David is currently managing UCD's Senior Camogie team and he has high hopes of capturing the prestigious Ashbourne Cup next weekend.

David had his first training session with the players tonight, Friday, 9 February in Naomh Mearnog after which he had a very positive and fruitful meeting with them.

We wish David and the players every success as they prepare for the National League Div. 1A games against Kilkenny, Wexford, Cork, Tipperary and Galway. David has set his sights on having the players in peak condition for the Gala Senior Championship, the O'Duffy Cup, later in the year.

COLLEGES CAMOGIE

Congratulations to Colaiste Bride, Enniscorthy on re-gaining the Leinster Senior Colleges title recently. This was the ninth Leinster Senior Colleges title to be won by the Enniscorthy school in thirteen years, with three All-Ireland titles won between 2003 and 2005. Oulart-The Ballagh players who featured on the team were Leanne Nolan, Stacey Redmond, Laura Sinnott, Stacey and Shelley Kehoe, Ciara Storey and substitute Aoife O Connor. The team will have home venue, possibly Bellefield, when they contest the All-Ireland semi-final against the Ulster champions. Check official fixtures for details.

Wexford chief Ray moves into provincial seat

THE Wexford County Camogie Board wish to congratulate its Chairman, Ray Quigley, on his election as Chairman of the Leinster Council.

Ray takes on this three-year term of office from outgoing Chairperson Breda Byrne from Wicklow following a closely contested vote.

One of the main priorities over the next three years will be the development of camogie in both primary and secondary schools, with appropriate coaching plans put into operation. This action-plan has received a significant boost, with Leinster Camogie receiving a grant of €35,000 a year over the next three years to help to achieve the targets set down in the GAA's Strategic Plan.

Ray also wishes to progress the integration plan during his term of office. We wish Ray the best of luck.



Ray Quigley, new Leinster Camogie Chairman.

The new complete Leinster Camogie Board is: *Chairman, Ray Quigley (Wexford). Vice-Chairman, Joan Dunphy (Laois). Secretary, Martin Fulham (Westmeath). Treasurer, Marie Woods (Kildare). Registrar, Brigid Carney (Meath). PRO, PJ Fulham (Westmeath).*

A multi-talented lady with ambition to burn

Rena Buckley Berrings Football\Camogie

By Peter Ledwith

ALL IRELAND medals don't come easy. To win one in a lifetime is a major achievement – to win two in the space of three weeks is incredible.

Throw in All Stars for camogie and ladies football in the same year and you have the sporting super star that is Rena Buckley.

Rena represents Inniscarra in camogie, Donoughmore in ladies football and Cork at both.

Her remarkable achievements stretch all the way from the playing fields of Inniscarra to the Mecca of Croke Park and beyond.

Her versatility is illustrated by her appearances for Ireland against Scotland in shinty/camogie and Australia in the international rules series. She has also played with the Ladies Football All Stars in Singapore.

The seeds of Rena's success were born in her homestead in Berrings in mid Cork. "From an early age I played games with my twin sister, Mary, and brother, Jerry. Encouraged by mum and dad (Helen and Tim) we went on to join our local clubs," says Rena. "Jerry played hurling with Inniscarra, and Mary is still active with the camogie team.

Emma Buckley, who has actively been involved in coaching Inniscarra teams for a number of years, recalls Rena's early days at the club.

"It was oblivious from the start that she had great potential," says Emma. "She was a good listener – always willing to learn. It's no surprise that she has developed into the fine player she is today."



Rena Buckley in action in the Ladies National Football League, Division 1 Final against Meath last May. Photo by Brendan Moran

Rena, who is currently studying for a BSc in Physiotherapy in UCD, came to prominence in 2001, winning two All Ireland U14 titles — with Cork in football and camogie with Cork Colleges.

In the years that followed, her haul of All Ireland medals reached 12, including two senior club titles with Donoughmore.

Rena also boasts several county and provincial honours with club, college and county.

She owns two TG4/O'Neill's 'Ladies Football All Stars' awards and was named on the All Ireland Colleges 'Team of the Century' during the camogie centenary year in 2004.

Rena's greatest strength is her total dedication to both sports. Eamon Ryan, Cork ladies football trainer, explains: "As a top class dual player Rena maintains a hectic schedule. But she looks after herself, both on and off the field.

"She is also a tremendous athlete and is a huge asset to whatever team she represents."

Rena, who reaches the ripe old age of 20 in April this year, still has many goals to achieve, saying "my burning ambition is to win a county camogie title with Inniscarra. Another All Ireland football medal with Donoughmore would be nice."

With a glint in her eye, she went on to say "to help the Rebel's cause in winning three in a row, in both in camogie and football, would be the ultimate."

There are few that would bet against her fulfilling all her ambitions.

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(captain Connacht Gael Linn team), Brenda Hanney (captain senior team)

Underage camogie

THE COUNTY under-16 camogie team is having a challenge match next Saturday at 1.30p.m., in Bunclody against Naomh Eanna. The girls are putting in a lot of effort and manager Noel Wilson is pleased with their progress to-date.

Meanwhile, the under-14 county trials which took place in Bellefield last Saturday saw 46 girls involved with others unavailable because of illness or prior commitments.

Because so many girls came along, it has been decided for trials to be split in two to give everyone a fair chance. So on Saturday next at a venue to be confirmed from 10.30a.m., to 11.30a.m., girls from North Wexford should attend, and South Wexford girls from 11.30a.m., to 12.30p.m.

Anyone who was there last week will receive a text message with the venue. For anyone that could not make it last week, please text team manager Enda O'Sullivan on 087-9188546 for venue details.

Rathnure's Evelyn aids the Exiles

RATHNURE AND recent Wexford senior camogie player Evelyn Quigley made quite a fine impression in her first outing with London at the weekend.

The well-regarded attacker registered two points from play and also contributed in rich measure in general play, as the Exiles scored a 2-6 to 1-2 win over hosts Tyrone in the opening round of Division 3 of the National Camogie League.

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MALLOW CAMOGIE ANNUAL SOCIAL

Photos by M. Carroll



Katie Buckley and Aoife O'Connor who represented Mallow on the Cork Co. U/14 team, with Tracey Sheehan and Esther O'Leary, selectors.



Mallow Camogie Committee with guests Anna Geary, Cork camogie star and Mayor Jerry Mullally at their annual social in the Hibernian Hotel last weekend.



Michelle Browne received Munster camogie medals with the Cork junior and minor teams. Michelle was presented her medals by Marion McCarthy, Chairperson of the Senior Camogie Board.



Rachel Doody and Kate Nyhan taking time out to smile for the camera.



Shona Fitzgerald (U/14 Most Improved Player) and Maura O'Connell (U/12 Most Improved Player) pictured with their awards.



Emma Forde being presented with the U/16 Most Improved Player Award by Esther O'Leary.



Claire Long was delighted with her win in the raffle at the social.



Emer O'Riordan and Aoife Barry who play on the U/16 team and minor team for Mallow camogie.

SEANDUN U15 CHAMPIONSHIPS

IT MAY have been a little early for camogie but the players from the Seandun division certainly enjoyed themselves last weekend as Glen Rovers hosted the *Evening Echo* sponsored Under 15 championship blitz (2006)

Traditionally played on the last weekend in January the weather always seems to be favourable and last weekend was no exception the winter sunshine making players and supporters eager for the weekend's games. Teams were divided in to two sections with games commencing at 11am and credit to the first teams out Bishopstown and Douglas who took the field on schedule ready to go. At the end of the day Douglas "1" and Passage emerged from section 1 while Glen Rovers and Douglas "2" came through from section 2. Two close semi finals saw the Glen girls hold off the tough challenge posed by Passage to book their place in the final, both Douglas sides battling for a place in the final with team "1" coming through. Sunday saw the defeated semi finals play off for the plate competition and here in an exciting contest it was the second team from Douglas that emerged victorious.

Pamela Mackey Claire Shine and Aileen O'Donovan had early points as Douglas took an early lead. Amy Costello replied with a Passage point but it was Douglas who led at the break 0-4 to 0-1. Passage battled bravely to get into the game but they were denied by a strong Douglas defence, Aileen O'Donovan and Pamela Mackey driving them on as Passage battled to contain the pressure. Aileen O'Donovan and Mackey extended the Douglas lead with points before Natasha O'Sullivan got one back for Passage pointing a free. Claire Shine sealed victory with a goal six minutes from full time before striking a point to ensure the plate for Douglas.

Only two team were graded B and contested the Under 15 B competition therefore Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's directly contested the final. Points from Danielle Moynihan and Aoife Moynihan helped Na Piarsaigh set the trend. They continued the pressure on the St Vincent's defence who had to be at their best despite severe pressure. With the half time whistle approaching St Vincent's got the vital break Amy Wilson finishing to the net to level matters and so it stayed to the half time whistle. The strength of Na Piarsaigh was evident as they extended their advantage Orla Bourke's point helping them regaining the lead before two goals from Danielle Moynihan and one from Emer Kelly put the game beyond the St Vincent's girls. Kate Delea and Moynihan had further points before Emma Healy pointed twice for two St Vincent's.

The main action of the day the Under 15 "A" finals saw Douglas and Glen Rovers battle it out for the title. Douglas "1" thanks to an early goal from their captain Tracy McCarthy and two pointed forty fives metre frees inside the tenth minuet from Moira O'Donovan settled quickly. Continuing to apply the pressure they kept the Glen defence busy but the home side battled hard to get into the game and a goal from Sinead O'Halloran six minutes from the interval had them back in the contest. Both sides missed chances at either end before Douglas extended their advantage when Karen Horgan reacted quickly after the Glen defence failed to clear a simple ball into the square. Douglas maintained their 2-2 to 1-0 lead to the half time whistle and it was all to play for in the second half. Glen came in search of scores but they found the going tough again a strong Douglas defence, Clare Kavanagh struck for a third Douglas goal five minutes into the second half and two points from Julia White stretched their lead. Glen working hard to try and get something back substitute Nicole O'Brien struck low to the corner of the net for goal after good work by Denise Luby but Douglas responded Clare Kavanagh flicking to the net after two good saves from keeper Emma Dunlea. Moira O'Mahony with a Douglas point ensured victory for her side.

Well done to all concerned on most enjoyable weekend's camogie and to new Seandun chairperson Ross Corcoran and a well organising event.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



Seandun Chairperson Ross Corcoran presents Jessica Kavanagh Douglas 2 Captain with the trophy after her sides victory in the plate final

Cork senior meet Limerick

LAST season Limerick and Cork failed to get their provincial senior final played despite numerous dates being pencilled in finally a suitable time has been arranged and the sides meet in Charleville on Saturday next to decide the destination of the title.

Its Corks first game since last September's All already victory and no doubt Limerick under the guidance of former hurler Ciaran Carey will be hoping to continue the good form they showed in defeating Dublin in last weekends Division 1 B league game, cork open their league campaign with an away game to Wexford



Silvermines U-18 County champions with mentors, club officials and special guests. Seated: (l to r) - Mary Hogan (Treasurer), Martha Gleeson, Laura Green, Fiona Kennedy, Camogie Association President Liz Howard (special guest), Ciara Ryan, Laura Power, Niamh Slattery, Libby Slattery (Secretary). Middle: Caitriona Kennedy, Rachel Green Helena Ryan, Geraldine Stapleton, Joanne O'Brien, Martin Griffin (Manager). Back row: Michelle Ryan, Danielle Slattery, Rachel Forde, Elizabeth Kennedy, Elisha Slattery, Fiona Kennedy, Maria Kennedy, Mairead O'Leary. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



Elisa Ryan, Yvonne Ryan and Siobhan O'Brien enjoying Silvermines Camogie & GAA Dinner Dance at Nenagh Abbey Court Hotel. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

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Press Release

7th February 2007

Colleges launch Purcell Cup weekend

This weekend will see eight colleges from across the country compete for Camogie's Purcell Cup and Shield. The competition, which was launched by players from Trinity, DCU and Athlone IT at the Old Library in Trinity College, takes place in Athlone IT on Saturday and Sunday.

The semi final line up for the Purcell Cup will see the hosts and three time winners, Athlone IT, take on one of the favourites, NUI Maynooth.

The other semi final has Carlow IT, who defeated St. Pat's in the preliminary round, take on DCU. DCU defeated Trinity 1-09 to 1-03 yesterday afternoon in DCU.

Sliotar Agus Caman . . . Sliotar Agus Caman . . . Sliotar Agus Caman

By Séamas Giolla Fhinnéin

Ulster Colleges Fr Davies Cup Final

St. Louis, Ballymena 4-6 St. Patrick's, Dungannon 1-0

St. Louis Ballymena have renewed their quest for an All-Ireland title in camogie. And it has left coach Harry Graham with a few headaches for the second weekend in February.

The Ahoghill clubman, who takes the team along with Cathy McCollum, is double-booked for the All-Ireland semi-final weekend as he also takes Clooney Gaels, hurling side and they are down to play Skenana of Galway in the All-Ireland Junior semi-final on February 11th.

"The hurling will be in Mullingar on the Sunday and the camogie is likely to be on the Saturday " but they are two important games and everything needs to be carefully sorted for both teams to perform to their uptimum," says the ICT teacher who has also taken successful football and hurling teams in the school.

At the end of January he saw the senior camogie side pick up the Fr Davies, Cup for the fifth time in nine seasons. They beat last year's Medallion Cup champions St. Patrick's Academy Dungannon by 4-6 to 1-0 in the final played at Ballinascreen.

Indeed that margin of victory could have been a lot more emphatic but for the heroics of Dungannon keeper Eimear O'Hagan who pulled off a number of fine saves. Another player who did well was centre-half back Roisin O'Neill but

Sarah McNicholl, Captain





overall the Tyrone side found the step-up in grades from last season just a bit too much.

St. Louis, had a few very experienced inter-county players sprinkled through their team and the coach feels that this experience can be crucial when they head south to take on the Leinster champions on February 10th.

Players with experience make the right decisions when they are under pressure and we expect to be under a bit of pressure when we play the next game," said Graham who has Cathy McCollum for help along the line.

"Last year St. Patrick,s Keady had a few girls who had picked up a lot of experience with the Keady club and also the Armagh county side and they reached the final - and probably were a bit unlucky to lose that final."

St. Louis key players this year are Lucia Dowds at centre-half back, the midfielders Brigid Scullion and Sarah McNicholl and Shannon Graham and the McAleese cousins up front - although there is a worry over Shannon as she had to retire at half-time on Saturday.

By that stage however St. Louis had the game practically in the bag, leading by 3-3 to 1-0 with wind advantage to come. The early goals all came from the full-forward line of livewire Katie McAleese, Helena McNaughton and Julie McFerran.

The second half avalanche of scores didn't materialise however, although McFerran did fire home a cracking goal around the midway point.

"In fairness to Dungannon, they closed us down well in the second half and their goalie (Eimear O,Hagan) pulled off some terrific saves. We would need to be putting a lot more of those chances away if we want to get through the next game."

ST. LOUIS GRAMMAR:
Brona McIntyre, Joanne McKeever, Aine Sherrin, Maire Therese McMullan, Sinead Boyle, Lucia Dowds, Gemma McKeever, Brigid Scullion, Sarah McNicholl capt, Louise McAleese 0-1, Shannon Graham 0-1, Joanne Campbell, Julie McFerran 2-0, Helena McAllister 1-0, Katie McAleese 1-4.

Subs: Justine Boyle for S Graham, Sherrin Weir for J McFerran, Paula O'Neill for G McKeever, Sarah McAleese for A Sherrin.

ST. PATRICK'S DUNGANNON:
Eimear O'Hagan, Michelle Clancey, Michelle O'Neill, Michelle Fitzgerald, Laura McGonigle, Roisin O.Neill, Antoinette Cambell, Shauna Jordan capt, Emma Fitgerald, Emma McErlain, Brid O'Hagan, Niamh Hughes, Lorna Canavan, Riona Lester, Ursula Corey 1-0.

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Players who represented Killimor in the Gael Linn camogie tournament pictured at the club's social. Back row, left to right, Martina Conroy, Anne Marie Hayes (Captain), Claire Conroy, Annmarie Starr, Front row, Brenda Hanney, Julie Brien, Helen Campbell and Serena Brien.

CAMOGIE

MUNSTER SENIOR C'SHIP
Final of 2006: Cork 2-12 (D Twomey 1-3, E O'Farrell 1-1, G O'Connor 0-3 (0-2'45), R Moloney 0-2 (0-1f), M O'Neill, B Corkery, E Burke 0-1 each) **Limerick 1-4** (M Keating 1-0, E O'Brien 0-3, S Mc Auliffe 0-1)
PURCELL CUP
Semi-final: DCU 0-6 (E Ryan 0-3 (0-2f), A Jordan 0-2, C Durkan 0-1) **Carlow IT 0-3** (C Bowes 0-3 (0-3f).
2ND LEVEL COLLEGES
Semi-finals: Senior 'A': Presentation, Athenry 2-7 (N Coen 1-3, D Ryan 1-0, L Walsh 0-2, J Gill 0-2 (0-2f) **St Mary's, Charleville 0-7** (L Fitzgerald 0-3 (0-2f), A Thompson 0-2 (0-2F), M Walsh, E Healy 0-1 each.)
Senior 'C': Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir 9-11 (K Power 5-7, G Culleton 1-2, N Moore 2-0, N Grace 1-1, R Waters 0-1) **St Killian's, New Inn 2-3** (M Tierney, S Bu[illegible] 1-0 each, N McCarthy 0-3 (0-2f).

Tony Delaney to manage Tipp team

By Gerry Slevin

Tony Delaney's immediate priority may well be to be in tip top shape for Saturday's All-Ireland club semi final against Ballyhale Shamrocks but as last weekend proved there was still plenty left in the tank to commence a training schedule for the members of the Tipperary senior camogie panel.

Yes, the long-serving Toomevara defender is the new manager of the Tipp team and his recent appointment has been immediately followed by the devising of a training schedule which he presented to his new charges at meeting on Friday night.

Expressing to *The Guardian* his delight at his new appointment this week, Tony said he was particularly looking forward to the season ahead for which he will be joined in selectorial duties by Marion Graham, Littleton and Martin Dwyer, Boherlahan. Marion was a selector during Raymie Ryan's regime when All-Ireland titles were won in 2003 and '04.

Unlike any of his predecessors the Toomevara man enters this new phase in his life with more than a nodding acquaintance with the game of camogie and with the players, having been a keen supporter since Tipp's emergence from the wilderness. His initial meeting with the squad was on last Friday night. Prior to that he had met up with his selectors when a panel of players was selected.

"I would be hoping to have a big panel, maybe up to forty players and already quite a number of newcomers have been brought in. We begin the league in two weeks (w/e February 24th/25th) and we will be hoping to use the league to give us a fair idea of where we stand for the championship in May," he says.

Asked if any regulars had opted out Tony said that so far, he had heard nothing in that regard although there might be question marks over one or two.

Prior to the commencement of the league, it is hoped to have a challenge game against the All-Ireland junior champions Dublin while the Ashbourne Cup will give them an opportunity to throw an eye over some more players.

"The response so far has been good. We know we have a bit to do but we know too the girls are willing to put in the work. That showed at the week-end. I gave them a list of what's expected from them on Friday night. Each has nine sessions to do on her own in five weeks along with the panel sessions with me. At present, a lot of it is based on stamina work and when we get that out of the way we will concentrate on the hurling. I would hope to vary the training as much as possible and keep it interesting. It is a challenge for me too," he says.

Thirty two girls attended Friday night's meeting and that was followed by a good training session on Sunday morning. A session will be held in Toomevara on (this) Thursday evening. As for the league, while it will be the intention to go out and try and win every match they can, at the same time it will be used for experimentation. Tony realises that they are probably a bit behind other teams at present by way of preparation etc and he sees the league as a stepping stone to the championship.

"I would see the league as an opportunity to build on fitness, also to nail down a couple of key positions, positions where they struggled a bit last year, especially at mid field and in some forward positions. I'd also hope to try to get more out of some of the girls who mightn't have given as much last year as they are capable of," says Tony.

Tony says it took him a while before committing himself to the project. What prevented him from giving an outright reply was consideration of his own hurling future. In that regard he has decided to wear the green and gold for one more year and in taking charge of the camogie team he looks upon it as something he would like to do but might not get the chance of so doing again.

"Once I made up my mind I was happy I am doing the right thing and having given the commitment I will give the job 100%," says Tipp's new manager.

With all due respects to the female wearers of the blue and gold, the male wearers of the green and gold will be occupying Tony Delaney's thoughts for the rest of this week – at least! Well realising the task that lies ahead of Toome on Saturday, he sees an element of hope still there that Paul McGrath will be free to line out. At the same, time preparations have to go ahead as if the defender who lines out to Tony's immediate left will not be there.

"I'd be confident enough that we can do it on Saturday. We have a lot of experience in the team and provided we put it to good use, then I think we are in with a great shout," her says.

So whether it's with male colleagues or female charges Tony Delaney is in for a busy season ahead. Neither are tasks that ought to faze him too much so, hopefully, 2007 will see Tipperary camogie through his instigation, back at the top once more. If Toomevara's hurlers continue to be the dominant force in Tipperary, then that accomplishment might well be a further boost in pushing his recently acquired camogie panel that extra step or two in the furtherance of the cause of regaining the O'Duffy Cup and reclaiming the top rung of the camogie ladder.



Toomevara defender Tony Delaney is the new manager of the Tipperary senior camogie team. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

CHARLEVILLE CAMOGIE

CORK AND LIMERICK FACE OFF IN CHARLEVILLE

Saturday February 10th sees the All Ireland Senior Camogie Champions Cork take on a resurgent Limerick in the 2006 Munster Senior Camogie Championship Final. The throw-in is fixed for 1pm and it promises to be a cracker.

Cork will be favourites going into the match though Limerick confidence will be high after a great win over Dublin last weekend. A win on Saturday would be the perfect start for new Limerick coach and former Limerick star, Ciarán Carey. Cork will have a host of stars on display including the newly crowned 2006 The Irish Times VHI Healthcare Sportswoman of the Year Briege Corkery.

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Mary Newman concludes our review of the camogie year of 2006

Ladies had



In the All Ireland Senior B championship two Emer O'Farrell (pictured) goals helped Cork defeat Galway.

BOTH Cork senior teams travelled to Kilkenny and won crucial All-Ireland championship games.

Munster Title for Juniors

Cork defeated Clare to take the Munster Junior Camogie Championship crown.

U16s book All-Ireland final spot

The Cork U16s recorded victories over Clare Tipperary and Dublin to book their place in the All Ireland final. Always in control, Cork had to weather a storm when Dublin came from behind for a one-point lead 20 minutes into the opening half.

Senior Championship

The Tower view Developments Senior County championship began with first-round games, a strong display from Aghbullogue ensuring their place in round three as they defeated Fr O Neills who faced a back door meeting with Seandun.

A late Colette O'Mahony goal ensured St Finbarrs consigned county champions Cloughduv to a back door meeting with Carrigdhoun. A similar fate awaited Inniscarra, who faced Avondhu having lost to debutants Ballygarvan.

Muskerry and Carbery played out a thriller before Muskerry edged Carbery out of the championship in the only preliminary round game. Muskerry advancing to meet Courceys, who lost out to Kilbrittan. Milford defeated Barryroe.

Ballinhassig took the points in the Senior B championship round robin game against Carrigaline, Valley Rovers held the upper hand to beat neighbours Newcestown, and there was a winning start for St Catherine's, too strong for Ballinhassig

Seniors keep unbeaten record

A strong Galway 15 were a little unlucky not to have gained the points on offer in this Gala All-Ireland senior championship clash with Cork. Despite leading from the throw-in, they were lucky to grab a late equaliser to keep their interests alive in the championship.

In the All-Ireland senior B championship, two Emer O'Farrell goals helped Cork maintain their 100% record, beating a Galway side that turned in a tremendous second half display after trailing at the break.

Sports grant

Cork camogie received a welcome boost with the announcement of a grant of €175,000 towards the development of their new playing pitches in Mahon.

Senior Championship hots up

It took a last-minute save from 14-year-old goalkeeper Joanne Casey to keep Inniscarra in the championship when she denied Avondhu a certain goal, which would have given the divisional side their place in the quarter finals.

Muskerry had to call on all their resources to hold off Courcey Rovers, who at one stage trailed by 13 points.

Champions Cloughduv put their defeat by St Finbarr's behind them to beat Carrigdhoun in a second-chance game. Imokilly sent out a strong statement of their intentions when they defeated Barryroe and Ballygarvan, St Finbarrs with Vivienne Harris outstanding at mid field held off the challenge of a tenacious Kilbrittan /Timoleague.

Junior and Senior B Championships

In Senior B round robin series Éire Óg recorded a victory over Glen Rovers, Valley Rovers defeated Carrigaline. Douglas had a goal to spare over Bishopstown.

In the junior A championship round robin series, Killeagh defeated Watergrashill, Sarsfields got the better of Newtownshandrum, and Blackrock defeated Tracton while Rockban proved too strong for Ballyhea. In Junior B championship Dungourney bowed out at the hands of Mallow while Kildorrey defeated Brian Dillon's. Na Piarsaigh defeated Delaney's while Sliabh Rua proved to strong for Kildorrey, Ballincollig got the better of Buttevant to set up a semi final game against Clonakilty who defeated Mallow.

Busy bank holiday

August weekend was the busiest camogie weekend for years, with four Cork teams in action.

The county minor team made the journey to Dublin, where they recorded a victory over the home side in the opening game in the round robin section of the All Ireland championship.

In the last game in the round robin series of the Gala All-Ireland senior championship, Cork and Tipp met Templemore, with both counties already assured of their places in the All Ireland semi-finals.

Both counties also met in the Senior B game and again it was a case of both teams already through to the semi-finals before the ball was thrown in.

The big camogie game of the weekend was the All-Ireland U16 final, where Cork clashed with holders Kilkenny.

There was disappointment as Cork lost out to a stronger Kilkenny side.

It was always a battle from the start as Cork struggled to stay with the champions. Sharper and more confident, Kilkenny showed more experience to retain their crown.

Down to four

The race for the Tower View Developments Senior county championship title was down to four following the quarter finals.

In a thriller, pre-match favourites Cloughduv had to rely on an injury time goal from Una O Donoghue to defeat a spirited Seandun side by the narrowest of margins.

Divisional side Imokilly held off the challenge of Milford, Muskerry held the upper hand from the start as they recorded a victory over Inniscarra, while St Finbarr's were always in control, advancing at the expense of Aghabullogue

In the Senior B championship, Newcestown got their championship quest in the round robin series back on track, beating Ballinhassig, while Bishopstown had to be at their best to hold off the challenge of a young Glen Rovers outfit.

Clonakilty and Sliabh Rua to meet in final

Clonakilty gave a superb performance to book their place in the final of the Tower View Developments Junior B championship final as they defeated a fancied Ballincollig side, while former Sliabh Rua defeated Na Piarsaigh to book their place.

Sarsfields and Watergrasshill shared the points in their Tower View Developments Junior A championship clash, Sarsfields went on to beat Newtownshandrum, Watergrashill lost out to Killeagh. Tracton recorded their first victory in the championship round robin series with a win over Ballyhea.

St Catherine's had a second victory in the Tower View Developments Senior B championship with a victory over Carrigaline, while Éire Óg turned in another 100% performance to maintain their hunt for the title as they recorded a win over Bishopstown

Senior B team book place in final

The Cork Senior B team booked their place in the All-Ireland final with a victory over Tipperary, while the minors' title ambitions remained on course after a stern test from a determined Wexford side.

Championship put on hold

The Cork Camogie Board took a decision to postpone all championship games involving members of the county senior team in preparation for the defence of the All Ireland title again Tipperary.

Title retained in style

The senior team turned in superb display to retain their All-Ireland crown. From the throwin the girls were focused and determined and taking the game to Tipperary they led from the start.

Through the game the players gave it their all, and with the Cork half-back line totally closing down the Tipp attack there was no way through. Just three points separated the sides at the half-time whistle, and from the start of the second half Cork picked off their points.

Anna Geary, at half-back, worked tirelessly, and it came as no surprise to see her named as Player of the Match. On a day when nothing went wrong, Cork had stars all over the field, with Emer Dillon, Briege Corkery Gemma O Connor, Jennifer O'Leary and Rachel Moloney all contributing to the scoresheet.

A measure of Cork's dominance was that Tipperary had to wait until the two minutes into injury-time to record their first score of the second half. Captain Joanne O'Callaghan was a wonderful leader both on and off the field, efficiently handling all the pressure the role brings always

a fantastic year



The Cork team that defeated Clare to take the Munster Junior Camogie Championship crown.

presenting herself well and turning in a super display in the corner-back position.

Minors book place in provincial final

Cork minors booked their place in the provincial decider, beating Limerick.

Sides level

A battling Newcestown played out a deserved draw with championship favourites St Catherine's in the round robin series of the Senior B championship.

Rockbán recorded their second win in the junior A championship, defeating Tracton, while Killeagh had a victory over Sarsfields.

Senior B team make it a double

The senior B team added the inaugural B title to the senior one annexed earlier in the season as Cork made history by becoming the first county to take two senior titles in the same year.

Galway had twice pegged back Corks lead to level matters but with Captain Miriam Deasy leading by example Cork had set the trend with a goal three minutes into the game.

Seven minutes into the second half, Emer Watson stretching the Cork lead but Galway began applied the pressure three points without reply inside five minutes had them level, but Cork came at Galway.

Emer Watson doubled Orla Cotter's long-range free to the net. Cotter pointed free with 11 minutes remaining and from here to the finish there was only going to be one winner. A great day for the seven players who were members of the senior panel that defeated Tipperary in the senior final and for Orla Cotter who made history by becoming the first players to play in both senior final in the same year.

First for Barrs

St Finbarr's took their first Tower View Developments Cork Senior county Championship title defeating divisional side Imokilly on a day when weather conditions were appalling. Vivienne Harris, Gemma O'Connor Colette O'Mahony and Rachel Myers helped Barrs lead at the interval, but through the second half they had to withstand strong Imokilly pressure.

But their defence stood tall Claire and Colette Kirby, Aoife McCarthy and Linda O'Connell all excelled as they held off the strong challenge posed by Imokilly to run out deserving winners.

The Barrs lost out to Clare side Kilnamona in the first round of the Munster Club championship

Junior a title for Rockbán

Rockbán defeated Watergrashill to take the junior A championship crown before they added the league title, defeating Newtownshandrum

Clonakilty take junior B title

A powerful display from Clonakilty ensured they were crowned Tower View Developments Junior B champions as they defeated Sliabh Rua in a contest played in dreadful weather condition they went on to add the league title later in the season.

Cork lose out

No joy for the Cork minor team as they failed narrowly to Galway in the All Ireland minor championship semi-final.

Munster title for cork

The inter-county minor season drew to its conclusion with a victory over Tipperary in the provincial decider. The victory was just reward for the side who had suffered the disappointment of losing out to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final the previous week.

St Catherine's retain crown

St Catherine's retained their County Minor A Camogie Championship title, defeating Ballincollig. It took extra time to separate Mallow and Courcey Rovers in an entertaining Minor B c Newtownshandrum were victorious in the U14C final, defeating Brian Dillon's.

In the county final, at the finish a goal from Kathleen O Brien with less than a minute left gave Mallow the title

Underage finals decided

Cloughduv took the under 14 twelve a side title proving too strong for a Castleyons who took the twelve a side U12 crown.

Douglas added the County U14 A league title to National Féile title, recording a victory over Ballygarvan.

Mallow were crowned U14 B County league champions with a strong performance against a spirited Carrigaline side.

Newtownshandrum were victorious in the U14C final, defeating Brian Dillon's, Kilbrittan took the U14 D crown, edging out Enniskeane in an exciting contest., St Vincent's took the U12 B league title, beating Rockbán in a replay. The C title went to Buttevant, and a first one for Millstreet as they took the D honours.

Dungourney captain Evelyn Ronayne led by example as she contributed 4-3 to her sides tally as they were crowned County Minor C Champions defeating Brian Dillon's.

Bride Rovers took the U16 D championship title with four points to spare over Sarsfields.

Inniscarra rounded off their season in style by adding the U16 "A" league title to the championship crown.

Ballincollig annexed their first championship title winning the U16 B championship Mallow taking the C title. Glen Rovers Denise Luby was the star of the show as they defeated Ballygarvan to take the U16 B league title.

Sports stars supreme

A great night for camogie as Killeagh and Cork player Mary O'Connor was named as 96/103fm Rochestown Park Hotel supreme sports star for 2006.

Earlier in the season Mary was chosen as the winner of the September while in June Joanne O Callaghan was honoured. Six Cork players picked up All Stars awards.

Convention time

Stocktaking very much the order of business as both the senior and juvenile county boards held their annual conventions recently. With all officers returned unopposed at senior board level convention went ahead smoothly, Noreen Daly from the Ballygarvan club became the board's first Child Welfare officers.

The juvenile committee reviewed a very busy season at their annual convention where we had changes in officers, Chairperson Tracy Sheehan was re elected and current senior panellist Ellen Clifford become the first inter county player to becomes an officer of the juvenile board as she took the role of vice chair, Tina Sheehan continues as secretary Siobhan O'Callaghan taking over the role of treasures. John O Leary fills the role of registrar while Ger Sheehan and Esther O Leary continue in their roles of PRO and child welfare officer respectively.

Looking ahead

And so another successful season drew to a close, already clubs are back training and college's games are under way.

I look forward to updating you with all the camogie news as the season 2007 unfolds.

MALLOW CAMOGIE CLUB

Social
Mallow Camogie Club players and supporters gathered at the Hibernian Hotel in Mallow last Saturday night. After a wonderful meal the attendance was addressed by John O'Leary, Chairperson of Mallow Camogie Club; Marian McCarthy, Chairperson of Cork Camogie Senior Board; Tracey Sheehan, Chairperson of Cork Camogie Juvenile Board and the Mayor of Mallow, Cllr. Jerry Mullally. Guest of honour on the night was Anna Geary of Milford and Cork. Anna also addressed the gathering and presented medals to our U/13 team who were runners-up in Avondhu U/13 A League; the U/14 team who won the U/14 B County Championship; the U/16 team who won the U/16 County Championships; and the U/18 team who won the U/18 B County Championship.

Mallow Camogie Club wish to thank Catherine Gyves and her staff at the Hibernian Hotel for making the night a success.

The most improved players presented with awards were: U/12 Maura O'Connell; U/14 Shona Fitzgerald and U/16 Emma Forde.

For representing Cork at U/14 Katie Buckley, Aoife O'Connor, selector Esther O'Leary and minor Michelle Browne were presented with awards.

The President presented his annual Player of the Year Award to Karen O'Halloran.

AGM
Our AGM will take place at Mallow GAA Clubhouse, Carhookeal on tonight Thursday February 8th at 8pm. All parents are asked to attend.

U/12 Training
Training for our U/12 team will commenc on Saturday 10th February at 2pm in Carhookeal, weather permitting. All players are asked to attend.

U/16 County League Final
Our U/16 County League Final is provisionally fixed for Sunday 18th February. Time and venue to be fixed.



Esther O'Leary, selector on the Cork Co. U/14 camogie team being presented with an award from Tracey Sheehan, Chairperson of Juvenile Camogie Board, at the Annual Social last weekend.
Photo by M. Carroll

AVONDHU CAMOGIE BOARD

On January 25th at Charleville G.A.A. Pavilion the A.G.M. was held. It was well attended with representatives from all clubs. Chairman John Barry welcomed everybody to the meeting and reported on proceedings for the year. It was with much regret that he announced to those present that he was stepping down as chairman. He was most efficient, courteous and good humoured as chairman, and thankfully he stated that he would continue to be actively involved with Avondhu, which was good to hear.

The following is a brief summary of the secretary's report for 2006.

The year began with U/16 inter divisional blitz which was held at Newtownshandrum G.A.A. Grounds on February 26th. Avondhu were narrowly defeated by Seandun who went on to win the competition.

Newtownshandrum G.A.A. were thanked for the use of the facilities. The coach was Pat Spratt assisted by Augusta Waters, Phil Healy, Esther O'Leary and Sheila Thompson.

Avondhu Juvenile Competitions
U/9 Blitz: Mallow and Buttevant hosted a most successful blitz for U/9 teams.
U/11 A winners Newtownshandrum, runners-up Buttevant.
U/11 B winners Milford, runners-up Charleville.
U/13 A winners Milford, runners-up Mallow.
U/13 B winners Kildorrery, runners-up Milstreet.
U/15 A winners Milford, runners-up Buttevant.
U/15 B winners Charleville, runners-up Ballyhea.
Churchtown G.A.A. hosted most of the finals and Avondhu were very grateful for that. Charleville hosted the U/15B final with Kildorrery hosting the U/13 B final. It is a bonus to have the use of wonderful facilities in the Avondhu area. We are also fortunate to have the availability of referees locally. To Mike Sheehan, Mike Kelly and Mossie Fitzgibbon, we are very grateful for your co-operation. Overall it was another successful year on the juvenile front.

We entered a senior team for senior league. They competed in July against a strong Inniscarra team. They were narrowly defeated by a mere 1 point. It was a great achievement as a very young team represented us. Pat Spratt was coach for this team.

Panel: Valerie McCormack, (Kildorrery), Darina O'Callaghan (Buttevant), Michelle Walsh (Ballyhea), Elaine Murphy (Buttevant), Emer Harrington (Buttevant), Sarah Breen (Buttevant), Vera Hennessy (Ballyhea), Emer Healy (Buttevant), Ciara Lynch (Kildorrery), Orla Carroll (Ballyhea), Sharon Sheehan (Buttevant), Emer Galvin (Kilshannig), Orla Johnson, (Buttevant), Dawn Farrell (Buttevant), Rachel Waters (Buttevant), Deirdre Looney, (Millstreet), Kathryn Coakley (Mallow), Niamh Walsh (Buttevant), Kathleen O'Brien (Mallow), Mairead O'Connell (Kilshannig), Jacinta Buckley (Kilshannig), Janina Taylor (Millstreet), Christine O'Carroll (Millstreet), Norma O'Donovan (Kilshannig), Joan Ann Kelleher (Kilshannig), Noreen O'Sullivan (Kilshannig).

It was noted that many clubs in Avondhu represented their county at U/14, U/16, U/18, junior, senior B and senior A level. these clubs were Milford, Buttevant, Mallow, Ballyhea and Newtown. Avondhu were also fortunate in having George O'Callaghan, Buttevant, as the county U/16 coach. He had a very successful year taking the team to the All Ireland Final. They were unfortunately beaten by Kilkenny on the day. We thank George for flying the Avondhu flag and doing a wonderful job during the year. We also had a camogie All Star for the second year running with Anna Geary picking up this award.

In any club sponsorship is very important. Charleville Credit Union were generous in sponsoring us, O'Neills sponsored camogie socks for our Avondhu U/16 team and Dunnes Stores gave us the use of their facilities for bag-packing. It is hoped that in 2007 a finance committee will be in place to maintain a healthy bank balance.

The following officers were elected for 2007: chairperson Pat Spratt, vice chairperson John Moloney, secretary Sheila Thompson, assistant secretary Joan Casey, treasurer Angie Doyle, P.R.O. a delegate from Charleville and Mallow, welfare officers - Esther O'Leary and Joan Herlihy, fixture secretary John Barry.

2007 has begun with the U/16 Avondhu panel already training for the inter divisional blitz on March 3rd in Newtownshandrum. The team is coached by Pat Spratt, John Moloney, Phil Healy and Sheila Thompson. We wish all clubs every success for the year.

The next Board meeting is on Thursday 22nd February in Buttevant at 8p.m.

Cork Senior Game
Cork senior camogie team will play Limerick in last year's Munster competition on Saturday, 10th February in Charleville G.A.A. pitch at 1p.m. We would like to see some of our girls supporting their county on the day.

FEB 2007

Ashbourne Qualifier – Feb 7th

(2007-02-08)

UCD 2-9
WIT 0-3

On Wednesday February 7th UCD travelled to Waterford to take on WIT in the Ashbourne Camogie qualifier. Both sides had put in tremendous preparation for this encounter and from the very first whistle they gave 100% in search of victory. The game started at a great pace with a fine tussle emerging early in the game between WIT's midfield pairing of Susan Keane and Pauline Cunningham and UCD's Rena Buckley and Julianne Woodcock. After 5 minutes on the clock the ball broke to WIT's Deirdre Dunne who swung a beautiful shot over the bar. WIT continued to apply the pressure early on in the game but failed to capitalise on this early dominance with scores. Moments later a quick ball into UCD's full-forward line found Una Leacy who turned her player and finished the ball into the back of the WIT net. WIT kept the heads and great work from Aine Fahey and Grainne Brennan kept UCD at bay. However at the other end despite the best efforts of Jennie Simpson who was causing trouble for the UCD backline and Aoife Fitzpatrick WIT were guilty of overcrowding in the forwards and Mairead Luttrell and Clodagh Flanagan were on hand for UCD to clear the ball. At the other end of the field a ball broke for Una Leacy who once again showed her killer instinct in front of goal as she raised a second green flag. WIT responded with a pointed free from Ursula Jacob after some good work by Jennie Simpson but UCD showed their worth when they moved the ball quickly up the field and Una Leacy was on hand to finish with a point. So UCD went in at the interval leading 2-1 to 2 points despite the fact that WIT playing with a strong wind had enjoyed the majority of possession. In the second half UCD grew with confidence and with the help of a strong wind started to really exert pressure on the WIT defence. Two long range frees were pointed by Rena Buckley to increase the Dublin college's lead. Aoife Fitzpatrick was continuing to have a great battle with UCD's Mary Leacy while WIT's Aine Fahey gave a fantastic display at centre back. UCD's midfield pairing of Rena Buckley and Julianne Woodcock worked very hard in midfield and supplied their corner forward Susie O'Carroll who made no mistake in firing over a great point. Minutes later Susie pointed once again this time from a close in free. At the other end WIT had their chances but luck was not on their side and in the end they had to settle for a pointed free from Ursula Jacob. Una Leacy added two more points for UCD while Rena Buckley finished the scoring with a fine point from 50 metres. And so it was UCD's day as they celebrated at the final whistle booking their place in the Ashbourne Cup semi-final.

Cork add Munster title as Limerick ladies levelled

by Máire Ui Scolaí

MORE silverware for Cork camogie, with the Rebels claiming the 2006 Munster Senior Championship crown with a 2-12 to 1-4 victory over Ciarán Carey's Limerick in Charleville on Saturday.

The All-Ireland champions hit two first-half goals from Eimear O'Farrell and Denise Twomey to open a 2-5 to 1-2 interval lead, with Marie Keating firing home Limerick's goal.

John Cronin's side upped the intensity on the restart, with points from Allstar Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, Elaine Burke, Briege Corkery and Twomey all on target in a devastating display.

But it wasn't all sweetness and light for Cork camogie as St Mary's Charleville lost the All-Ireland Senior A Colleges title in Saturday' semi-final to Presentation Athenry (2-7 to 0-7).

The Galway side, bidding for their first All-Ireland senior title since 1978, were three points ahead (1-4 to 0-4) at the break, with Darina Ryan's lobbed goal the difference between the sides.

Midway through the second half, Noreen Coen had Athenry's second goal and there was simply no way back for the champions.

Athenry will face St Mary's Magherafelt, who overcame Coláiste Bride of Enniscorthy 2-9 to 0-7 in the second semi-final. Next month's Senior 'C' Final will be between St Brendan's Community College Birr who defeated Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry (4-6 to 1-4) while Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir defeated St Killian's New Inn (Tipperary) 9-11 to 2-3, with Kilkenny teen star Katie Power scoring a massive 5-7.

Athlone IT won their fourth Purcell Cup yesterday when they defeated DCU 2-6 to 0-6 in Athlone. Two lucky first-half goals from Leanne Lyons after nine minutes and a second from Sharon Mannion, following a deflection off DCU and Dublin star goalkeeper Emer Butler, proved the difference.

Queens of Belfast overcame Trinity College 4-1 to 1-3 in the Purcell Shield final, also played in Athlone, with Meave Boyle (2), Karen Gribben and Niamh McGeown goalling for the winners.



Cork's Rachel Moloney scored some vital points for Cork in their Munster Championship final against Limerick on Saturday.

2006 ends on a high for Cork

Cork	2-12
Limerick	1-4

By MARY NEWMAN
Munster Final

THERE was a successful conclusion to the matters of 2006 for Cork, as they captured the Munster Senior championship title with victory over Limerick in Charleville on Saturday.

Lining out minus several regular due to Ashbourne Cup commitments, Cork had plenty of strength in depth and this was the main reason they succeeded. Rosarie Holland returned from 12 months in Australia to take up her familiar role at full back and she showed she has lost none of her sharpness.

There were starts also for Denise Twomey in the right corner forward role where she helped herself to 1-3, while young Marie O'Neill and Emer O'Farrell showed they have plenty to offer both getting on the scoresheet, while in defence Regina Curtin fitted in well.

While it has been well documented that Limerick have struggled over the last number of years, there has been resurgence recently. Graded Senior B for 2007, they are under the guiding influence of Inter county hurler Ciaran Carey and already he has made his mark.

They were well organised on the sideline and an efficient approach was the order of the day and this augurs well for the game in the county.

O'Farrell finished to the net ten minutes into the game and this helped Cork take control after Eileen O'Brien had replied to Cork's opening points from O'Farrell and Rachel Moloney.

When Twomey finished the net three minutes later we assumed the game would follow a similar pattern to previous meeting between the counties but Limerick fought back good work from their defence enabling Marie Keating leave the Cork defence in her wake before shooting to the net.

With Niamh Mulcahy and O'Brien working hard, Limerick matched the Cork girls step for step; Sinead McAuliffe pointing to cut the deficit before points from Twomey and Marie O'Neill had Cork 2-5 to 1-2 ahead at the break.

On the resumption Cork upped the pace and now Limerick struggled, the All Ireland champions showing signs of the hard work which they have being putting in over the last six weeks.

Stronger and fitter, they out hurled their opponents with Jemma O'Connor leading the way with a magnificent point before three in a row from Rachel Moloney, Denise Twomey and Elaine Burke widened the gap.

Limerick driven on by Mulcahy O'Brien and Vera Sheehan tried to match Cork, O'Brien pointed a free at the three-quarter stage but they had to wait until four minutes from full time for their next score.

Mary O'Connor, boosted by the announcement of her new position as Camogie's first national organiser, enjoyed a superb game, while Amanda O'Regan, Joanne O'Callaghan all impressed.

Eileen O'Brien hit a late point for a visibly tired Limerick who no doubt will have benefited enormously from the game but in between the class of Cork shone through Breige Corkery, O'Connor and Twomey all on target as they ensured a clean sweep of titles for the Rebels.

Cork will open the defence of the national league title with a trip to Wexford on Saturday, February 24 and they will no doubt have been well pleased with the performances given by the new recruits while the old reliable showed the hunger and determination is still as strong as ever.

CORK: A Murray, J O Callaghan © R Holland, A O Regan, S Hayes O Connor, R Curtin ,B Corkery,(0-1) G O Connor(0-3, 0-2 45mtr frees 0-1 play), U O Donoghue, M O Neill (0-1), E O Farrell(1-1), D Twomey(1-3), R Moloney (0-2) E Burke(0-1). **Subs:** O Cotter for M O Neill (h/t), M O Neil for B Corkery (45mins) E Clifford for A Murray (50mins)

LIMERICK: S Moynihan, A Mc Namara, R Collins, J Garvey, G McNamara, M Kelly, A White, N Mulcahy, C Davis, E O Brien(0-3, 0-1 free), M Keating(1-0), O Curtin, K Colbert, S Mc Auliffe(0-1) **Subs:** N. Collins for J Garvey (40mins) A O Reilly for A mc Namara, 45mins) S Enright for S Mc Auliffe 46mins) M Corkery for K Colbert (49mins) M Mc Grath for O Curtin (51mins)

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary)

Athenry side prove too strong for Charleville

Presentation College	2-7
St Mary's	0-7

By JOHN REDINGTON
School camogie

THE recent history of schools camogie has been dominated by St. Mary's Charleville and Presentation College Athenry and, when they met in Saturday's All-Ireland senior semi-final in Feenagh, the rivalry was as intense as ever.

This time, however, there could be no doubt as to the outcome as the sharper and more composed Connacht girls won comfortably on the day.

An early goal helped matters; another just after the break gave them enough daylight to withstand anything their opponents could throw at them on a misty afternoon. And even when they did break through a mean defence, the Charleville strike force came up against the inspired goalkeeping of Deirdre Ward.

But even without those strikes, Athenry would always have had enough in reserve as they possessed the game's two most priceless assets in the gigantic clearances of centre-back Jessica Gill and the speed and accuracy of quicksilver wing-forward Noreen Coen. While St. Mary's enjoyed as much possession as their opponents, their movement up front was never as crisp and they relied heavily on frees to keep them in contention.

Although Charleville started with the breeze behind them, Ahenry made the early impression as Gill and Ciara Kennedy stopped anything moving into their half and set their forwards in motion. Coen opened the scoring inside a minute and was quickly followed by a Gill free and Laura Walshe's strike from the left. St. Mary's stemmed the tide with a Lisa Fitzgerald free but were rocked in the next attack when Darina Ryan soloed past three challenges and looped her 25-yrad shot into the corner of Eileen Hanley's net.

As the wind picked up, Charleville came more into the game, drew another free for Fitzgerald to convert and had their first from play from Maria Walsh.Gill hit back with a monster free from halfway only for Fitzgerald to reply following a sustained attack.

With Aisling Thompson coming into her own in the middle, Charleville dominated the entire second quarter but, taking too much out of the ball and failing to take advantage of placed balls, they were held by a determined Presentation defence.

Ward denied Maria Walsh an equalising goal coming up to the break as the Cork school were unable to narrow the margin of 1-4 to 0-4.

They poured forward again on the restart but Athenry, led by resolute full-back Katie O'Dwyer, kept them out and, once the initial fury was spent, Coen went to work at the other end. Pointing off the break from a sideline cut, she then soloed from midfield to blast a rocket past a helpless Hanley and St. Mary's goose was cooked when Laura Walshe bagged her second score at the end of a lightning attack.

As Lorraine Ryan's midfield dominance faded, Thompson came back into the game to pick off two frees and sub Eimear Healy made the scoresheet soon after her introduction.

But that was as close as the Munster champions came before Coen rounded off the scoring.

PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY: D Ward; R Waldron, K O'Dwyer, A Seoighe; L Callanan, J Gill (0-2), C Kennedy; L Ryan, D Ryan (1-0); M Carr, S O'Dwyer, N Coen (1-3); L Walshe (0-2), R Walshe, L Loughnane. **Subs:** A Healy for M Carr, R Kenny for R Walshe.

SAINT MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE: E Hanley; O Carroll, R Finn, Ashling McAuliffe; M O'Connor, A Sheehy, S Sexton; A Thompson (0-2), F Dore; F Morrissey, L Fitzgerald (0-3), E Reidy; Annette McAuliffe, M Walsh (0-1), D O'Callaghan. **Subs:** E Healy (0-1) for Annette McAuliffe, C Galvin for O Carroll, M Reidy for F Morrissey.

Referee: J O'Donnell (Limerick).

FEB 2007



Rosarie Holland, back from Australia...still as sharp as ever.

Cork cap a fine season with provincial title

Cork 2-12
Limerick 1-4

THE 2006 season ended on a high note for the Cork senior team as they added the provincial crown to their trophy haul of All-Ireland and National League trophies last Saturday in Charleville.

The selectors were without several regulars due to Ashbourne Cup commitments and they took the opportunity to introduce new faces to the senior intercounty fray.

Denise Twomey at right corner forward role notched up 1-3 while young Marie O'Neill and Emer O'Farrell also showed they have plenty to offer, while in defence Regina Curtin fitted in well.

Rosarie Holland, returned from a 12-month stint in Australia, took up her familiar role at full back and she showed she has lost none of her sharpness.

Early points from Emer O'Farrell and Rachel Moloney gave Cork an early led and but Eileen O'Brien quickly replied with a Limerick point.

Ten minutes into the game, Emer O'Farrell finished to the net after good work from Elaine Burke and three minutes later Denise Twomey scored another goal.

It looked as if Cork were going to over run Limerick, but they showed plenty of fighting spirit as they fought back.

Marie Keating held her head on a one to one with Cork keeper Aoife Murray to shoot to the roof of the net. Limerick dug deep and matched the Cork girls as Sinead McAuliffe pointed to cut the deficit.

Points from Denise Twomey and Marie O'Neill helped Cork to lead 2-5 to 1-2 at the half time whistle.

From the start of the second half, Cork upped the pace and Limerick began to feel the pinch as Cork showed their class. Points from Jemma O'Connor Rachel Moloney, Denise Twomey and Elaine Burke widened the gap.

Limerick still battled hard and O'Brien pointed a free at the three quarter stage. Eileen O'Brien hit a point as Limerick replied to Cork points from Briege Corkery, Jemma O'Connor and Denise Twomey.

Limerick have struggled over the last number of years, but it was good to see there has been a resurgence recently. Graded Senior B for 2007 they are under the guiding influence of inter-county hurler Ciaran Carey and he has already made his mark.

On Saturday they were also without players due to Ashbourne Cup duties and certainly they will be a force to be reckoned with come championship time.

Cork will open the defence of the national league title with a trip to Wexford on Saturday, February 24, and they will no doubt have been well pleased with the performances of the new recruits and the experienced players.

Team **Cork**: A Murray, J O Callaghan © R Holland, A O Regan, S Hayes O Connor, R Curtin ,B Corkery,(0-1) G O Connor(0-3 0-2 45mtr frees 0-1 play), U O Donoghue, M O Neill (0-1), E O Farrell(1-1), D Twomey(1-3), R Moloney (0-2) E Burke(0-1). Subs: O Cotter for M O Neill (h/t), M O Neil for B Corkery (45mins) E Clifford for A Murray (50mins)

March 10th will feature Presentation Athenry and St.Mary's Magherafelt

(2007-02-11)

this year's All-Ireland senior 'A' Colleges final on March 10th will throw up new champions as the reigning All-Ireland colleges champions St.Mary's Charleville were defeated by a stronger Presentation Athenry side 2-7 to 0-7at the weekend. Aiming for their first All-Ireland senior title since 1978, Athenry were fast of the mark with a point from star of the match Noreen Coen. They were already making their intent known but in true Charleville style Lisa Fitzgerald levelled the game five minutes later with the first of her three first half points.

The turning point of the first half came just nine minutes into the game when Darina Ryan who was out on the corner sent in a high lobbing ball which somehow sailed over the Charleville defenders and goalkeeper to leave it, Presentation Athenry 1-4 to St.Mary's 0-4 at the break.

Midfield was a real battle as both sides fought hard with Charleville's Rebecca Finn in top form as were first cousins Darina and Lorraine Ryan for Athenry. With Jessica Gill in her usual commanding centre half back position time and time and time again she was the instigator of many forward attacks which Charleville found hard to counter act.

The Athenry sideline jumped for joy when they saw top scorer of the day half forward Noreen Coen score her side's second all-important goal of the day midway in the second half. Charleville possibly sensed then it was not to be their day as further points from Laura Walsh and Noreen Coen sealed a famous victory for Athenry.

Athenry's opponents in next month's final will be St.Mary's Magherafelt who overcame Coláiste Bride of Enniscorthy 2-9 to 0-7 in the second semi-final.This will St.Mary's first ever senior All-Ireland appearance. Senior 'A' :
Presentation, Athenry 2-7: N Coen 1-3, D Ryan 1-0, L Walsh 0-2, J Gill 0-2(0-2f).
St.Mary's Charleville 0-7: L Fitzgerald 0-3 (0-2f),A Thompson 0-2(0-2F),M Walsh, E Healy 0-1 each.

St.Mary's Magherafelt 2-9, Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy 0-7

Athlone take their fourth Purcell Cup title

(2007-02-11)

Athlone IT won their fourth Purcell Cup yesterday'(Sun) when they defeatead DCU 2-6 to 0-6 in Athlone. Two lucky first half goals from Leanne Lyons after nine minutes and a second from Sharon Mannion following a deflection from DCU and Dublin star goalkeeper Emer Butler. Playing with the backing of a very strong first half gale the winners went in leading 2-3 to 0-3 at the break.

Athlone's full-back Linda Gohery was in top form and she was well assisted by fellow Galway player Sarah Noone at centre back. However, the Athlone forwards knew it was not easy to get goals against the brilliant DCU goal Emer Butler and twice in the opening half she brought off two point blank saves.

Athlone found the going tough in the second half and were confined to two just three points, but it was enough to see them win their first Purcell Cup since 2004.

Meanwhile Queens of Belfast overcame Trinity College 4-1 to 1-3 in the Purcell Shield final also played in Athlone. Trinity College got off to a dream start with a fourth minute goal from Dublin senior player Jean Murphy. However, Queens responded immediately with a goal from their full-forward Anita Mc Nicholl. Both defences played it tight with Wexford player Siobhán Cullen together with Dublin star Caitriona Power in superb form for the Dublin college throughout and who made life as difficult as possible for the Ulster forwards.

However, a further two goals from Meave Boyle and a third two minutes from time from Down star Karen Gribben put Queens in the driving seat by the break, 3-1 to Trinity's 1-2. This was a solid team display from Queens and they have their defence of Ann Mc Guigan and Aideen Mullan to thank for denying Trinity much ball in the second half. Following their semi-final victory over Mary I of Limerick which went to extra time on the Saturday their star midfielder Edel Henry put in a great display over the weekend. She in turn kept turning the ball into the forwards where Antrim player Claire Dallat used up any opportunity that came her way.

The winning goal came four minutes from time when Niamh Mc Geown made it back to back victories for the Ulster College.

Purcell Cup Final:
Athlone IT: 2-6: L Lyons 1-1, S Mannion 1-0, K Kennedy 0-3 (0-3f), M Dunne 0-2
DCU: 0-6: E Ryan 0-4 (0-3f), A Jordan, A Fitzpatrick 0-1 each.

FEB. 2007

Ashbourne Preview

(2007-02-14)

CAMOGIE's oldest competition the prestigious Ashbourne competition hots up this weekend in host college, NUIG when the semi-finals go ahead on Saturday while the finals take place on Sunday.

Many eyes will be watching the much awaited intruiging semi-final clash between three in a row winners UL and arch rivals UCC while UCD who have lost the last four titles take on CIT who are appearing in their first ever Ashbourne Cup semi-final having won the Shield competition last season.

Co-managing UL for the past two years are Clem Smith and Séan Óg Herbert who is very upbeat about Saturday's semi-final, " there is a healthy rivalry between ourselves and UCC, and we know following the quarter final victory over Garda College that we need to up the tempo a lot if we are to succeed on Saturday, but I feel the girls have more left in the tank!". On paper they certainly have the quality players to deny the Rebels victory on Saturday, but UCC never like being out of Ashbourne finals for too long!

Going for her fourth Ashbourne medal in a row is UL captain Aislinn Connolly, daughter of the famous Galway hurler John Connolly, who will be ably assisted by a further five players,Roisin Corcoran, Sheila O'Sullivan, Deirdre Burke,Moira Dooley and Aoife Sheehan both from Limerick who are also seeking a fourth Ashbourne medal.

As well as these players the squad also includes other players who have won three, two or one medals over the past years and therefore shows the experience that lies in this team. UL welcomed star player, Áine Lyng of Waterford this year who has been a tremendous asset to the side as they bid for their fifth title in all this weekend. A very accomplished forward she is also the side's sharp shooter and perfects her free taking long after people are headed off from training sessions.

When the sides meet at 2-00pm on Saturday three Cork players, Angela Walsh, Anna Geary and Sheila Burns will have to forget county loyalty as they will come face to face with fellow intercounty players, Sarah O'Donovan and Emer Dillon. A close game it is expected there will only be a puck of the ball between these two very eager sides.

The second semi-final also has the hallmarks of being very close as UCD bid to make amends for last year's heart break final defeat. Manager Dave Kennedy is a busy man these days as he has just been appointed the new Dublin senior Camogie manager. Tipperary man Dave is confident that the Dubs can leave last year behind them and is of the opinion that if the girls stick to the game plan then they could very happily be in Sunday's Final and maybe bring home the beautiful Ashbourne trophy for the first time since 1988 (1988).

UCD are lucky to have some real quality players such as Cork's Rena Buckley, sisters Mary and Úna Leacy of Wexford, Kildare duo, Susie O'Carroll and Clodagh Flanagan. If their half backs can instigate plenty of attacking movements and their midfield play to standard and supply their forwards with plenty of the sliotar who knows what may happen over the weekend! The Dublin college are lucky to have very experienced forwards in full-forward Úna Leacy who has a real killer instinct while she will be well assisted by the powerful Clodagh Flanagan and Susie O'Carroll.

It will be interesting to see if CIT can manage the big occassion on Saturday, while it would be a major shock if UCD were to exit on the first day.

The Shield semi-finals will feature host college NUIG against Garda College and UUJ against WIT who have a number of experienced intercounty players such as Galway's Susan Keane, Kilkenny's Áine Fahy and the Waterford duo of Pauline Cunningham and Jenny Simpson. Host colleges are always keen to grab some silverware and with Clare intercounty stars Siobhán Lafferty and captain of the side Claire Mc Mahon NUIG might just be able to make it to the final for Sunday.!

UL six aiming for four in-a-row

Camogie

Máire Ui Scolai

THE prestigious Ashbourne Cup competition hots up this weekend in host college, NUIG, with the semi-finals on Saturday and the finals on Sunday.

The first semi-final sees three-in-a-row winners UL face arch-rivals UCC while UCD, who have lost the last four titles, take on CIT who are appearing in their first semi-final having won the Shield competition last season.

Going for her fourth Ashbourne medal in a row is UL captain Aislinn Connolly, daughter of the famous Galway hurler John Connolly, who will be ably assisted by a further five players, Roisin Corcoran, Sheila O'Sullivan, Deirdre Burke, Moira Dooley and Aoife Sheehan who are also seeking a fourth Ashbourne medal.

When the sides meet at 2.0 on Saturday three Cork players, Angela Walsh, Anna Geary and Sheila Burns will have to forget county loyalty as they will come face to face with fellow intercounty players, Sarah O'Donovan and Emer Dillon.

The second semi-final looks to be a more clear-cut affair with UCD — managed by newly appointed Dublin manager Dave Kennedy — favourites to overcome CIT.

The Dublin college are lucky to have very experienced forwards in Una Leacy who has a real killer instinct while she will be well assisted by the powerful Clodagh Flanagan and Susie O'Carroll.

The Shield semi-finals will feature host college NUIG against Garda College and UUJ against WIT.

CIT book spot in Ashbourne semis

By MARY NEWMAN

Ashbourne Cup

CIT	**4-7**
UUJ	**1-6**

THIS was a great achievement for the camogie players from CIT as they booked their place in the last four of the Ashbourne cup competitions defeating Jordanstown in their preliminary round game.

CIT got off to a great start and led 4-4 to 0-2 at the break.
Galway's Breda Hanney, Eimear O'Sullivan Deirdre Delaney and Charlotte Kearney were all on target for CIT as Marie Larkin and Briege Connery kept UUJ in touch with points.
Throughout the opening half the CIT defence were superb, closing down the Jordanstown attack at every opportunity, but the second-half proved a different affair as UUJ tore into the game from the start with a renewed sense of determination.
The UUJ defence closed down the CIT attack at every opportunity confining them to just two points.
Up front they battled to cut the CIT lead. Shona Hogan grabbed a UUJ goal, while points from Marie Larkin and Maggie Kelly helped cut the deficit, but CIT held their lead and having done enough in the first-half they booked their place in the semi-final for only the second time in their history.
CIT will meet UCD in this weekend's semi-final, while UCC will face holders UL who are aiming for four in a row.

CIT: G Harrington, M Smiddy, B Browne, L Hawkes, C McKenna, J Duffy, M O'Brien, D Delaney, S Cunningham, S O'Donovan, U Day, E O'Sullivan, C Kearney, B Hanney, J McGrath.

UUJ: S Henry, S Wilson, M Maginn, G O'Hanlon, M Graham M Larkin, B McKinley, B Connery, M McCrickard, A Ferron, J Carey, C McGourty, A Laverty, S Hagan, M Kelly.

Ashbourne press Release

(2007-02-12)

FEB. 2007

Iognaid O Muircheartaigh, President of NUI Galway with Lizzie Glennon and Ciara Moran of the Garda College and Collete Gill of NUI Galway



Colleges meet to launch Camogie's Ashbourne Cup and Shield

This weekend, the 17th and 18th of February, will see Ireland's top colleges compete for Camogie's Ashbourne Cup and Shield.

The competition, which was launched today by players from NUI Galway and Garda College, is being hosted by NUIG and will see some of the countries top Camogie players in action for their respective colleges over the weekend.

The Ashbourne Cup will see CIT take on all time record winners UCD in the first semi final. The Dublin college have won the competition 35 times but have not lifted the cup since 1988.

The second semi final will see UCC take on the holders UL, who are going for a fourth title in a row.



Pictured at yesterday's launch of this year's Ashbourne Cup camogie competition at NUI Galway were (l to r): Claire McMahon (NUI Galway), Neasa O'Donnell (President, CCIA) and Denise Twomey (NUI Galway). RAY RYAN/SPORTSFILE

Shock cup victory for Coachford

Coachford College	**3-2**
Loreto, Fermoy	**1-7**

COACHFORD College created a shock in Colleges Camogie by capturing the Cork Colleges County Senior B Camogie cup, defeating Loreto Fermoy by the narrowest of margins. Captain Siobhán Gleeson elected to play with a strong breeze in the first half and Coach Jessica Heaphy must have been elated to see Michelle Healy's ground stroke flash past keeper Denise Leahy.

Niamh Dilworth converted a close in free after good tackling by Aine O'Connor and Ciara O'Keeffe.

Fermoy's Orna Neville and Caroline O'Brien tried to stem the Coachford onslaught but with Brid Twomey, Rosie O' Mahony and Marguerite Vaughan winning vital possession around the middle of the park the Loreto girls were unable to prevent Dilworth from blasting home another goal after 10 minutes.

Fermoy changed tactics and employed a sweeper, and were rewarded with a point from a free by Cork senior star Orla Cotter.

Siobhán Gleeson struck a point for Coachford, but Fermoy replied with a point from the promising Finula Neville.

Coachford altered their shape in the second half to adapt to the difficult conditions. Ciara O'Keeffe was employed as a third midfielder with Healy and Dilworth switching to assist the half back line. The space available to the Fermoy forward division was limited, but Joanne Casey, Aine O'Connor and Dilworth were tenacious enough to hold possession when the ball came their way and thus relieve the outstanding full backline of Twomey, McCarthy and the irrepressible O'Brien.

A long range free from Orna Neville was superbly finished to the net by her younger sibling Finula thus setting up a frantic final quarter. A goalline block by Coachford's Catherine O'Brien was well cleared by Nicola Moynihan, whose strategic puck outs were crucially placed throughout the afternoon. Coachford's Michelle Healy and Siobhan Gleeson were having a great battle with Kate Feeney and Aileen Hogan and, when Aine O'Connor's through ball landed at the feet of Niamh Dilworth on the 21, the Inniscarra star made no mistake to give the victors some breathing space.

A series of well taken points from Cotter in the final 10 minutes left two points between the sides, but the determination from the Coachford side was epitomised by Catherine O'Brien when, after intercepting another Fermoy delivery, she carried the sliotar a full 60 metres from defence to clear her lines.

In a nail-biting finish Loreto were awarded a 21 metre free which narrowly flashed over the bar to leave the narrowest of margins between these arch rivals. Coach Jessica Heaphy was delighted with the determination exhibited by her team, particularly Yvonne Twomey, Siobhan Gleeson, Maire McCarthy and Nicola Moynihan, but stated that conditions did not favour Fermoy whose best performers were Orla Cotter, Aileen Twomey, and Orna Neville.

O'Connor appointed as Director of Camogie

(2007-02-13)

FEB. 2007



Press Release
13th February 2007

O'Connor appointed as Director of Camogie

Cork camogie player Mary O'Connor has been announced today as the Camogie Association's new Director of Camogie.

O'Connor has been working with the Camogie Association since 2005 as Regional Development Co-ordinator. Prior to this she had worked as a GAA Coaching and Development Officer in East Cork and as the GAA Games and Promotions Officer with Limerick IT.

Her new role as Director of Camogie will involve driving the development of the game and maximising participation at all levels. She will work to develop effective coaching and refereeing structures in line with the Association's strategic plan.

It will see her take charge of two Regional Development Co-ordinators, which will rise to five in the coming months due to recent funding from the Irish Sports Council, in promoting and developing camogie nationwide.

O'Connor's record on the field is second to none. She is one of only two women to have won an All-Star Award in both Camogie and Ladies Football. She has also won five All-Ireland Senior Camogie medals with Cork including back to back titles in 2005/06, along with eight National League titles and two All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club medals with Granagh/Ballingarry.

She has also had great success in her coaching roles. While at Limerick IT O'Connor coached sides to glory in both the Purcell Cup and Ryan Cup in Camogie and hurling and to the Trench Cup in football.

"To be appointed the Director of Camogie is a huge honour for me. I am excited about the opportunities that this job will give me to bring camogie to a new level and I look forward to working with the thousands of volunteers around the country to help develop the game across the board", O'Connor said after the announcement.

Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, believes this is another step in the right direction for the sports. "I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mary O'Connor as Director of Camogie. Mary is one of the icons of the modern game and her track record in coaching and games development equals that of her prowess on the field. I am also happy that she will lead a very focused and energetic team to progress camogie at all levels", she said.

O'Connor in director's chair

Cork's Mary O'Connor is the camogie association's new director of camogie. O'Connor has been working with Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael since 2005 as regional development co-ordinator.

Her new role will involve driving the development of the game and maximising participation at all levels. She will work to develop effective coaching and refereeing structures in line with the association's strategic plan. It will see her take charge of two regional development co-ordinators, which will rise to five in the coming months.

O'Connor is one of only two women to have won an All Star award in both camogie and women's football. She has also won five All-Ireland senior camogie medals with Cork, including back-to-back titles in 2005/06, along with eight league titles and two All-Ireland senior camogie club medals with Granagh/Ballingarry.

Limerick's brave camogie champi

Munster senior camogie championship:

Cork 2-12, Limerick 1-4

In Charleville on Saturday 10th Feb All Ireland champions Cork took the 06 Munster title back Lee side when they over came Limerick on a score of 2-12 for Cork, Limerick 1-4. This game was to be played in October 06 but was deferred for a number of reasons. From the throw in Cork looked to be in control of the game, from outstanding point taken ability by their forwards. Limerick fought hard for every break of the ball but unfortunately the scores just didn't seem to come their way. Sheila Moynihan in goals saved limerick on a number of occasions and she was well guarded by her backs. The mid field players covered a lot of ground and never gave up As did the forwards who were very unlucky not to have a few more scores on the board. 100% commitment was witnessed by all the supporters and the girls in green can be very proud of themselves for putting up such a battle. Playing against a team like Cork is never going to be a walk in the park but these girls gave it their all. This was manager Ciaran's first match in charge and we wish them the best on their next game in the National league v Galway on March 4th

Limerick panel: Sile Moynihan, Aideen McNamara, Rose Collins, Janet Garvey, Alison White, Mairèad Kelly, Grace McNamara, Niamh Mulcahy, Catriona Davis, Eileen O Brien, Marie Keating, Orla Curtin, Kadie Colbert, Vera Sheehan, Sinead McAuliffe,

Subs: Marie Crockery, Marie McGrath, Aine O Reilly, Norma Barry, Karen Mulane, Tara Power, Zara Fitzgibbon, Siobhan Enright, Nora Collins

Manager Ciaran Carey, Liasion Officer Noreen Culhane Selector Joe o Donnell

UCC and CIT carry Cork hopes in Ashbourne Cup

A BUSY weekend ahead as NUIG host the prestigious Ashbourne Cup competition and there will be huge cork interest as UCC and CIT contest the semi finals some of the countries top Camogie players battle it out for respective colleges

Holders University of Limerick are aiming for four in row as they defend one of Camogie's oldest and most prestigious titles

Last season University of Limerick made it three in a row when they defeated U C D in a thrilling contest just one point separating the sides at the final whistle, the previous year it was a similar story UCD again losing out in the final. UCC take on the holders in what is a repeat of last year's semi final. UCC are aiming for their thirty second title but 2003 was the last time they tasted success this time out with Inter county players such as Emer Dillon, Colette Desmond, and Catriona Foley Lorraine Burke they are determined to succeed. In their path to the semi final UL were pinned to their collars to hold off the strong challenge posed by Garda College while UCC had a victory over N.U.I.G

The girls from CIT have made huge strides since their victory in last season Purcell cup to now contest the last four of the Ashbourne. They had a compherehensive victory over UUJ last weekend and are going all out for victory. Coached by Aidan Crowley who guided the county to their first Senior B All Ireland title last season they have worked hard and are looking forward with confidence to the weekend Deirdre Delaney, Brenda Hanney and Marie O Brien have plenty of experience having lined out at senior inter county level with Tipperary Galway and Clare respectively while Eimear O Sullivan, Gillian Harrington Jenny Duffy Lucy Hawks have all worn the Red and White of Cork a and they will give it their all to make it a historic first Ashbourne Cup title for CIT.

UCD having contested and lost the last three finals and while they head the roll of honour with thirty five titles it's been 1988 since their last success. They have top class players in Wexford's Louise Codd and Mary Leacy and Cork's Rena Buckley and they are coached by Tipperary native David Kennedy who was recently appointed manager of the Dublin senior side, they defeated WIT to reach this the last four this time out.

The Ashbourne Shield will also be keenly contested. Newly promoted Garda College, who gave UL a scare in the preliminary round, take on hosts NUIG in the first semi final, while WIT will take on UUJ in the second match. We wish all the cork participants the best of luck.

NEW ROLE FOR MARY O CONNOR

CONGRATULATIONS to Cork and Killeagh camogie player Mary O'Connor on the double this week. First the announcement of her appointment as the Camogie Association's new Director of Camogie , and then being named as Vodafone Camogie player of the year.

Mary has been working with the Camogie Association since 2005 as Regional Development Co-ordinator. Prior to this she had worked as a GAA Coaching and Development Officer in East Cork and as the GAA Games and Promotions Officer with Limerick IT. Her new role as Director of Camogie will involve driving the development of the game and maximising participation at all levels. She will work to develop effective coaching and refereeing structures in line with the Association's strategic plan.

It will see her take charge of two Regional Development Co-ordinators, which will rise to five in the coming months due to recent funding from the Irish Sports Council, in promoting and developing camogie nationwide. Marys is the holder of All-Star Awards in both Camogie and Ladies Football. She has also won five All-Ireland Senior Camogie medals with Cork including back to back titles in 2005/06, along with eight National League titles and two All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club medals with Granagh/Ballingarry. The appointment is welcome one and a huge step forward for the association.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



Coachford College who capturing the Cork Colleges County Senior B title.

Title for Coachford

WELL done to Coachford College who created somewhat of a shock by capturing the Cork Colleges County Senior B title as they defeating Loreto Fermoy by the narrowest of margins.

Aided by the strong breeze in the first half Michelle Healy gave Coachford an early lead and with Niamh Dilworth converting a close in free Coachford set the pace. Niamh Dilworth had a second goal ten minutes into the game as Fermoy hit back with an Orla Cotter point. With Orla Cotter unerring from free Fermoy settled. Siobhán Gleeson and Finola Neville traded points before Fermoy were denied when Orla Cotter's penalty was saved by the full back Catherine O' Brien on the line. Fermoy gained in confidence with a long range free from Orna Neville was finished to the net by her younger sister Finola thus and again they were denied as Coachford again blocked and cleared on the line. Niamh Dilworth was again on target as Orla Cotter put just two points between the sides but the Coachford side were not to be denied despite a late Loreto free skimming the cross bar as Coachford held on to record a well deserved victory

O'Connor appointed Director of Camogie



Cork star Mary O'Connor has been appointed Director of Camogie.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie latest

CORK and Killeagh camogie star Mary O'Connor has been appointed as the new Director of Camogie.

This was a new position created this year by the association.

Mary is seen as a welcome choice to fill the post.

She brings to the it a vast amount of experience. gained mainly from her employment by the Camogie Association since 2005 as its first Regional Development Co-ordinator in Munster.

Prior to taking up this post she has had worked as a GAA Coaching and Development Officer in East Cork and as the GAA Games and Promotions Officer with Limerick IT, where she guided the fortunes of colleges sides to titles in the Purcell Cup and Ryan Cup in camogie and hurling and to the Trench Cup in football.

She is a current inter-county player and is the holder of five senior All-Ireland medals and a winner of eight camogie national league titles.

Mary also played a huge role in helping the ladies football side capture All-Ireland and national league honours.

In her new role as Director of Camogie she will work to develop effective coaching and refereeing structures in line with the Association's strategic plan.

Her role will also involve driving the development of the game and maximising participation at all levels.

She will take charge of two Regional Development co-ordinators, whose numbers will rise to five in the coming months.

Mary is looking forward to the challenges that her new role will bring.

"To be appointed the Director of Camogie is a huge honour for me," Mary O'Connor said.

"I am excited about the opportunities that this job will give me to bring camogie to a new level and I look forward to working with the thousands of volunteers around the country to help develop the game across the board."

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Camogie
The Harps Camogie Club

The Harps Camogie Club is from Cullohill/Durrow area of County Laois. It was formed in 2004 and up to 2006 had won many underage titles but had never won the Junior County title despite having contested same on many occasions. 2006 was definitely a memorable year for their junior team – winning the Laois Junior County Final for the first time on the 7th October against St. Brigids. They decided to compete in the first round of the Leinster Club Championship the following day as a result. They won the Leinster Club Championship defeating a very good Celbridge team. They were crowned All Ireland Club Champions on Sunday 19th November defeating the Ulster champions Keady from Armagh. In November one of their players, Aine Mahony, was awarded Leinster Express Camogie player of the year for 2006 for her contribution to The Harps and St. Fergals College, Rathdowney who also won an All Ireland title in 2006. The club was honoured with a Civic Reception by Laois County Council last year.



Dual star Rena Buckley, Berrings, reciepient of The Corkman Supreme Sports Star Award.



Winners all round: The recipients of the Corkman Sports Stars Awards 2006 in association with Springfort Hall Hotel pictured with Corkman MD Mike Brennan, Editor Brendan Malone, Springfort Hall MD Paul Walsh, adjudicating panel chairman Liam Ware, MC Finbarr McCarthy and special guest Cllr Jerry Mullally, mayor of Mallow.

Photos by Patrick Casey

Cork sports stars can take their pl among the best in the country and

John Tarrant puts the achievements of The Corkman Sports Stars in context with Irish sport in 2006

IRISH sport enjoyed amazing success during the past year with highlights including the emotional victory of the Europe Ryder Cup side on Irish soil, the sensational Irish rugby triple crown win and Munster's triumphant performance in the Heineken Cup.

Cork sportsmen and women contributed in no small measure to an unforgettable trail of glory and are recognised in the eight annual Corkman Sport Star Awards in association with Springfort Hall. Indeed, Cork teams and individuals put forward the passion and pride evident from Cheltenham to Croke Park.

Ultimately, the diverse silverware collected has glistened long into the winter and spring. Indeed, both individual and team competitors made a huge impact at national and international pursuits and made a name for themselves in elite company. In doing so, Cork representatives communicated a passion and pride in sporting excellence.

The excursions to Croke Park continued into the autumn for supporters of ladies football and camogie. Ladies football is among the fastest-growing sports in the country and that's confirmed in Cork. In 2005, Cork added a new name to the roll of honour to collect the All-Ireland senior football championship for the first time.

For good measure, Cork continued their domination into 2006, when enthusiastic fans voiced their appreciation as captain fantastic Juliet Murphy lifted the coveted Brendan Martin Cup. A slick Cork performed with a swagger and confidence that proved a lethal concoction that a brave Armagh had no answer to during the closing stages of a rousing decider.

Team manager Mary Collins offered cool and astute leadership as she instilled a tremendous spirit and determination within a talented squad to achieve back-to-back triumphs.

And Cork also firmly established themselves as the leading lights in camogie by retaining the All-Jreland senior camogie championship. Cork's voracious appetite for silverware was evident once again. Put simply, Cork wanted victory more and triumph was no more than they deserved on claiming their 22nd national senior title.

Boosting Cork's cause was outstanding defender Anna Geary, and the side also featured a number of dual players, among them Rena Buckley – chosen as double All Star recipient and a fitting recipient of the Corkman Supreme Sportstar of the Year.

Hurling in Cork enjoyed heady heights during 2006 and who will ever forget Kilworth's march to the county junior hurling championship title and the Avondhu champions followed up to add a provincial title.

Meanwhile, inter-county success was confined to Cork regaining the All-Ireland Intermediate hurling championship, culminating with a victory over Kilkenny in the concluding game. Nobody typified Cork's spirit and efficiency better than team coach Johnny Keane, who was so influencial to Cork becoming a dominant force in this grade in more recent years. He was joined by Mary Collins as the joint recipient of the manager award.

The quitely spoken young jockey Richard Harding belied his young years to hit stunning form at Cheltenham's Prestbury Park to boot home double wins at the rewarding odds of 33/1.

International success earned Gearoid Towey and his fellow lightweight four colleagues victory in the World Cup series and bronze medals in the World Championship.

Ballydesmond native Tony Healy savoured gold in the World Handball Championships.

Charleville's terrific win in the Pierce Purcell Shield came in a remarkable year in golf and proof of Mallow's rugby emergence was confirmed with their dominance of the Martin O'Sullivan Cup and divisional champions.

Curraheen Park's leading trainer John Lenihan from Blarney won recognition while national basketball cup winner Marie Breen was a dashing dynamo towards Glanmire's outright success.

Looking to the future, Eoin Murphy is one to watch, gaining dramatic strides in rallying and triumphant in the Billy Coleman award series.

Meanwhile, the Special Achievement Award belongs to Johnny Cronin, who gained a silver medal at the world boccia championships in Brazil.

The sports officer award recipient was versatile Kanturk sportsman John O'Mahony and the Tom Mills Hall of Fame Award goes to Willie Neenan of Millstreet, who has competed in athletics for 57 years.

Looking at the 2006 selection, success has encapsulated the sporting current that flows through Cork sporting veins and rightly acknowledged by the Corkman and Springfort Hall.

The achievements of teams and individuals ensures that the future of Cork sport remains in good hands.



Master of ceremonies at The Corkman Sports Star Awards Finbarr McCarthy pictured with his wife, Mary Newman, at the presentation ceremony in Springfort Hall.
with his ready wit and keen knowledge and insight into Cork sport, Finbarr played the proverbial 'blinder' on the night.



Rena Buckley, Berrings, recipient of John Joe Bresnan Supreme Sports Star Award pictured with her parents, Tim and Helen Buckley, at the awards night in Springfort Hall.

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Siobhan Brosnan (left) with Corkman managing director Mike Brennan presenting the John Joe Brosnan Supreme Sports Star Award 2006 to dual player Rena Buckley, Berrings at The Corkman Sports Stars Awards 2006 in Springfort Hall, Mallow on Friday night last — see awards coverage on pages 9-11. Photo by Patrick Casey



Paul Walsh, manager, Springfort Hall Hotel presents a Corkman Sports Star Award for camogie to Anna Geary, Milford.

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Cork ladies football captain Juliet Murphy, left, and Cork camogie star Mary O'Connor, who were presented with the Vodafone GAA Player of the Month Awards in Dublin yesterday. Picture: Sportsfile

O'Connor to continue in Cork dual role

by Jim O'Sullivan

MARY O'CONNOR, named this week as the new Director of Camogie, is determined to maintain her dual inter-county career with Cork.

Yesterday, she was honoured in Dublin's Westbury Hotel along with team-mate Juliet Murphy as the winners of the Vodafone camogie and ladies football awards for 2006.

Centre-back on the camogie team and full-forward in ladies football, Mary was also chosen on both Allstar teams last year. Juliet Murphy captained Cork to victory in both the League and All-Ireland finals.

Said O'Connor of her new role: "It's a huge challenge, going from eight counties to covering the whole country. There's a long road ahead and I'm well aware of that.

"There's a lot going for camogie, it's a fantastic game that we're trying to sell and market. It will be about getting down to the grassroots and trying to get the structures right. If we can do that, all will go well for camogie."

She disagrees with claims that camogie faces growing competition from ladies football. "We both want to see more girls playing sport. I wouldn't see ladies football as a threat. We're trying to work side by side, number one promoting sport and healthy living, and after that social interaction between girls at a young age.

"Camogie can exist along with ladies football. Cork is testament to that. We've got 57 camogie clubs in the county and about the same number in ladies football. A lot of them are dual clubs. That shows both sports can survive."

Murphy and O'Connor win top awards

By MARY WHITE
Ladies Football

CORK comrades Juliet Murphy and Mary O'Connor were today announced as Vodafone's female GAA players of the year.

Juliet Murphy, captain of the 2006 and 2005 All-Ireland-winning football teams, was honoured with the Vodafone Ladies' Footballer of the Year award, while her colleague Mary O'Connor received the respective camogie accolade at a special lunch in the Westbury Hotel in Dublin this afternoon.

The presentation sees both awards return to Leeside for the second year running. Rockbán's Valerie Mulcahy and St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor received last year's crystal.



Juliet Murphy and Mary O'Connor, named GAA players of the year for football and camogie.

Dual star Mary O'Connor was worthy of her award, having helped the camogie contingent lift back-to-back All-Ireland titles, while also being crowned with a football and camogie All-Star.

The Killeagh native also won the intermediate football All-Ireland title with her club Inch Rovers, and the 96FM and 103FM Sportsperson of the Year award last December.

Murphy was selected for her dominating appearances in midfield for the Rebels, and it's a special bonus for the Donoughmore woman, who was unforgivingly not awarded an All-Star this year.

Juliet will return to Cork straight after the ceremony to play her part in tonight's national basketball league showdown between Donoughmore Singleton's Super-Valu and Castleisland in Kerry.

● **More ladies football news on page 58.**

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::College All -Stars named >> 164 read

The all star team is as follows:
1.Mags Darcy (UCD) (Wexford)
2.Clodagh Flanagan (UCD) (Kildare)
3.Jennifer Browne (UCC) (Cork)
4.Mairead Luttrell (UCD) (Tipperary)
5.Mary Leacy (UCD) (Wexford)
6.Fionnuala Carr (UUJ) 9Down)
7.Catriona Foley (UCC) (Cork)
8.Rena Buckley (UCD) (Cork)
9.Julianne Woodcock (UCD) (Kilkenny)
10.Claire Mc Mahon (NUIG) (Clare)
11.Brenda Hanney (CIT) (Galway)
12.Aine Lyng (UL) (Waterford)
13.Susie O' Carroll (UCD) (Kildare)
14.Ursula Jacob (WIT) (Wexford)
15.Maria O Connor (Garda) (Kilkenny)

UCC aim to end their four-year

By MARY NEWMAN
Ashbourne Cup preview

THIS weekend sees some of the countries top camogie players in action for their respective colleges as NUIG host the prestigious Ashbourne Cup competition.

Holders University of Limerick set out in their quest for four in a row.

This is one of camogie's oldest and most prestigious competitions.

It's hugely competitive and is without doubt the highlight of college sporting life.

Last season University of Limerick made it three in a row when they defeated UCD in a thrilling contest with just one point separating the sides at the final whistle.

The previous year it was a similar story, UCD again losing out in the final.

In this year's semi-final UL will face a UCC side they defeated at the same stage last year.

This time out the UCC girls are determined to reverse that result as they aim for their 32nd title.

It's been 2003 since UCC last tasted success, but with inter-county players such as Emer Dillon, Sarah O'Donovan, Colette Desmond, and Catriona Foley and Tipperary's Jill Horan and Lorraine Burke in their line out they are a side to be reckoned with.

In their path to the semi-final UL had to be at their best to hold off the strong challenge posed by Garda College, while UCC had a victory over NUIG, whose captain is Aislinn Connolly, daughter of the former Galway hurler John Connolly, who is aiming for her fourth Ashbourne cup medal.

Waterford's Áine Lyng is seeking her first medal and she has been a tremendous asset to the side as they bid for their fifth title.

Two Cork senior players, Angela Walsh and Anna Geary will be putting rebel loyalties aside for this weekend as they come face-to-face with fellow inter-county players who line out with UCC.

It's a huge occasion for the students from CIT, who contest the last four of the Ashbourne Cup having recorded a victory over UUJ last weekend.

Coached by Aidan Crowley, who guided the county to their first Senior B All-Ireland title last season they have been putting in huge preparation and will not be overawed by the occasion.

With players of the caliber of Kilkenny's Deirdre Delaney, Galway's Brenda Hanney and Cork players, Jenny Duffy, Gillian Harrington, Lucy Hawks in their line out they will fancy their chances.

Titles don't come easy and UCD will vouch for that having contested the last three finals and lost.

They have top-class players in Wexford's Louise Codd, Una and Mary Leacy, Cork's Rena Buckley and Kildare's Susie O'Carroll and Clodagh Flanagan.

Coached by Tipperary native David Kennedy, who was recently appointed manager of the Dublin senior side they have high hopes of capturing the prestigious title.

The Ashbourne Shield will also be keenly contested.

Newly promoted Garda College, who gave UL a scare in the preliminary round, take on hosts NUIG in the first semi final, while WIT will take on UUJ in the second match.

ASHBOURNE CUP SEMI-FINALS
Tomorrow
CIT v UCD Pitch 1, Dangan NUIG 12noon
UL v UCC Pitch 1, Dangan 2pm
ASHBOURNE SHIELD SEMIS
NUIG v Garda College — Pitch 2, NUIG 12noon
WIT v UUJ — Pitch 2pm
Sunday, February 18
Ashbourne Cup final: 2pm Dangan
Ashbourne Shield final: 12noon Dangan

UCD deny UCC in cup

UCD 2-12
UCC 1-4

Disappointment for UCC as UCD finally brushed aside their Ashbourne Cup hoodoo to be crowned champions ***writes*** **MARY NEWMAN.**

Defeated in the last three finals by UL the UCD girls were determined to make this their year, a victory over CIT in Saturday's semi final setting up a final meeting with a UCC side who showed great determination as they dethroned the champions UL and in the process halted their bid for four in a row.

Goals from Lorraine davis and Emily Darmody laid the foundations for the UCD victory. Cork inter county star Rena Buckley displayed her accuracy from frees striking over five with Susie O'Carroll and Una Lacey all contrubuting as UCD led all the way.

UCC battled to the finish Sarah O'Donovan striking a goal for the Cork students, while three points from Emer Dillon and one from Colette Desmond were not enough to deny UCD.

wait for Ashbourne Cup success

UCD end long wait for Ashbourne

UCD won the Ashbourne Cup for the first time since 1988 by beating UCC 2-10 to 1-4 in the fina yesterday.

The Dublin college, who had lost the previous four finals, may have had to wait 13 minutes for their opening score, but once Cork ace and 2006 All-Star Rena Buckley converted the first of her six frees they never looked back.

UCC tried hard, but they never managed to reproduce the drive as showed on Saturday when they defeated UL, the holders, in the semi-finals.

The Dublin college got the all-important first goal midway through the first half when Lorraine Davis pounced on hesitancy in the Cork defence.

UCD led 1-5 to 0-3 at the break and three points in the opening minutes of the second half put them firmly in command.

Meanwhile, Kilkenny star Marie O'Connor hit a hat-trick of goals as Garda won the Ashbourne Shield for the first time, defeating UUJ 3-9 to 0-6 in a most exciting curtain-raiser.

ASHBOURNE CUP FINAL — UCD 2-10 (L Davis 1-1, E Darmody 1-0, R Buckley 0-6 (6f), S O'Carroll 0-2 (1f), U Leacy 0-1. **UCC 1-4** (S O'Donovan 1-0, E Dillon 0-3 (1f), C Desmond 0-1). **SHIELD FINAL — Garda 3-9** (M O'Connor 3-3 (1-0pen), L Young 0-5 (4f 1'45), G Kelly 0-1), **UUJ 0-6** (A Lverty 0-4 (4f), F Carr 0-1 (f), B Conwery 0-1)

Ashbourne Cup final victory for impressive UCD

CAMOGIE: UCD landed camogie's inter-varsity title, the Ashbourne Cup, with an impressive 2-10 to 1-4 win over UCC in Ballindereen yesterday.

A goal after 15 minutes from Lorraine Davis helped the Dublin College to a five point interval lead (1-5 to 0-3).

Rena Buckley, Susie O'Carroll and Una Leacy extended the UCD lead while 18 minutes elapsed before Cork star, Emer Dillon hit UCC's first point on the second half.

Moments later Julianne Woodock fired to the net for the Dubliner's second goal to put the result beyond doubt. UCD last won the title in 1988.

Further history was created when Garda won their first Ashbourne Shield final defeating UUJ 3-9 to 0-6 in a most exciting curtain raiser.

Kilkenny star Marie O'Connor was the heroine with a hat trick of goals.

Máire Uí Scolaí

CUP WINNERS UCD students show pride



Cork players on the Ashbourne Cup winning UCD team were Marie O'Connell from Inniscarra, Emma Dunne from Cloghduv and 2007 John Joe Brosnan Supreme Sports Star winner Rena Buckley last week end in Galway.

FEB 2007

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL UNITING SPORT AND EDUCATION



The First year Camogie team that play in the Cork Colleges first year championship.

Picture: Ger Bonus

Camogie fortunes on rise



DARRAGH MURPHY

OLLIE TROY'S passion for all things with a camán involved is not new.

Kindled in his home town of Lismore, County Waterford, the english and chemistry teacher's love of hurling has, for the past five or six years, been passed on to the camogie-mad girls of Carrigaline Community School.

As so often found at the school, a gap in the camogie coaching market was amply filled by someone only too happy to keep in touch with his boyhood sport.

"I played hurling, played a lot when I was younger with Lismore," Troy says.

"And I just kinda wanted to keep the interest going. And they were looking for someone to help out with the camogie here, and I jumped in. Coaching two sets of camogie players, he gets a helping hand from other keen enthusiasts.

"I've two teams now, first years and seniors, and Leona Foran and Vince Kelly have the junior team." Overall we probably have 33 in first year, in second year another 33 ... we probably have just over 150 girls on the whole.

"It's just after school, so an hour in the afternoons is not much.

Everyone is invited to take part.

"I take in everyone in first year, complete beginners and everything.

"It's a case of 'have a go', you know? There's no prerequisites. We leave them all at it.

He outlines the goals for the current season for the school.

"I suppose the focus is getting as far as we can in the competition for the first years. This year we've won a bit, just keep them going now for the championship."

"And the seniors' aims are the Munster championship and the Cork championship."

Troy finds the potential of the various teams ebb and flow from year to year. He hopes for both present and future success.

"We've a good senior team this year.

"They're are quite young, and they're after losing three leaving cert players this year who would be quite talented," he adds.

"But we've a big group of players coming through in that junior team now, so next year again, maybe two years' time, we'll be strong again. And we've one of our best first year groups in a long time," O'Mahony adds.



Gráinne O'Keeffe, captain of Junior Camogie team who made it to the Munster semi-finals.



Suzanne Lynch, captain of the senior Camogie team which made the Cork County semi-final.

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL UNITING SPORT AND EDUCATION



The Junior Camogie team, pictured here, won the Cork Colleges B last year.

Picture: Ger Bonus

"As for the juniors, they won the county last year, so a lot of those players are overage for this year. So we're kind of building for our junior team to maybe challenge in another two years time."

"We're strong at the moment, certainly we're one of the top schools at first year, senior we're probably one of the top six or eight in Munster, and in junior we're in around the top dozen in the province.

Preparation is key for all teams in the schools says the coach.

"We go training maybe two, three days a week, depending.

Like, with the weather at the moment, we're not doing a lot. We can't really.

Troy is amply assisted in the Carrigaline Community School camogie set up by Leeside local Leon Foran and Vincent Kelly, a Galway man. They train the Junior Bs.

And Foran is looking forward to her side taking on Kinsale in the Munster Championship.

"The last game the Junior Bs lost was to Carraig na bhFear. Last year they got to the quarter-final and next up they play Kinsale in the Munster championship.

They started training way back in September, every Wednesday. But, in a school where a large and increasing number of pupils and teachers have some vested interest in a given sport, finding a space to squeeze into in the school calendar can be an exercise in itself says the juniors' coach.

"It's tough to get pitches here, on one day we had to share a pitch but that's the way it goes in a school that is so interested in sports."

But Foran considers it all worthwhile.

"It's enjoyable, the hard work is well worth it.

"The kids are great."

Leona is in her first year at Carrigaline CS. Originally from the Commons Road, Leona played with Na Piarsaigh as a junior at the age of 16, and has recently gone back playing after a gap of six years.

Since arriving she's been warmed by the school's atmosphere.

"It's lovely, like a community," she says. "The students are not afraid to talk to you here."

Before she came, two male coaches were in charge but she feels that the arrival of a female coach has had a positive affect on playing numbers.

"A female coach has helped things," she says.

"But picking 22 from a panel of 30 isn't any easier whether the coach is male or female. "You feel like you're leaving people out."

Foran picks out some especially hard-working players: "Patti and Grainne O'Keeffe, and Marie Moran, were great the last day, and Deirdre O'Leary is a good wing-back."



The Senior Camogie team who made it to the semi-finals of the Cork County Championship.

Picture: Ger Bonus



Holly Clarke, captain, first year Camogie team.

FEB. 2007

Pictures by Eddie O'Hare

Belles of



Members of Ballincollig U10 team with Aisling and John Duff at the medals presentation at the club.



Laura O'Donoghue, captain Ballincollig U15B camogie team, winners of the Muskerry tournament.



Members of Ballincollig U16C camogie team. From left; Nicola Young, Emma Donovan, Keely Sheehan and Elaine Hogan, captain.



Ballincollig U16 B camogie team, County championships at their medals presentation at the club.



Elizabeth Harrington, captain and Lisa O'Callaghan, vice captain of the Ballincollig U16 B camogie team.

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Ballincollig



Members of Ballincollig camogie team, officers and committee at their medals presentation at the club. Included are seated, Celia Ryan, PRO, Mairead Donovan, chairperson, Siobhan O'Callaghan, secretary and Linda Lenihan, treasurer.



Denise Foley and Leah Weste at the Ballincollig medals presentation.

Pictured at the Ballincollig U16 B camogie team, County championships medals presentation at the club, were from left; Danile McCarthy, Mairead Donovan, chairperson, Nell Hennigan, president and Barry and Helen Downs, Downs supervalu, sponsors.





Rebecca O'Callaghan and Máire Ni Chrualaoi, members of the Ballincollig U16B camogie team.



Members of the Ballincollig U16 B camogie county championship team at their medals presentation at the club. From left; Alison Coughlan, Karen Houssmann, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley and Patricia Buttimer.

Ashbourne victories for UCD and Garda

FEB 2007

(2007-02-19)

From Máire Ui Scolai:

UCD danced with joy at the final whistle following their 2-10 to 1-4 victory over UCC in the Ashbourne Cup Final which resulted in the Dublin college winning their first Ashbourne Cup since 1988. UCD may have had to wait thirteen minutes for their opening score, but once Cork star and 2006 All-Star Rena Buckley got the first of her six frees the Dublin college who had lost the previous four finals never looked back after that.

UCC tried hard, but somehow or other they could not match the same drive as they possessed on the Saturday when they defeated Ul the holders in the semi-final. UCD had a slightly easier game in the semi-final against CIT.

The Dublin college got the all important first goal midway. A breaking ball in from midfield which hung around the Cork square until half forward Lorraine Davis seized the opportunity to bang it in from the left to leave it 1-2 to 0-1 after just fifteen minutes.

The pitch conditions may have been heavy but two very determined sides made the most of but at half time it was UCD who went in smiling 1-5 to 0-3.

UCC did not go in at the break, UCD did and what ever Manager Dave Kennedy said to them at half time it must have been strong words as immediately the Dublin college went three points up thanks to Rena Buckley, Susie O'Carroll and Una Leacy inside the opning five minutes. It was the perfect start for the Dublin college, but Cork were stunned and it took them eighteen minutes to recored their first score of the second half - a point from Cork star Emer Dillon.

Despite the scoreline at this stage UCC were still very threatening, but they did not have sufficent finishing power up front and they were punished for that. The UCD winning goal nine minutes from time. Kilkenny player Julianne Woodcock made the perfect pass for fellow Kilkenny player Emillie Darmody who smashed the ball to the net. The UCD line and subs jumped for joy, they knew they had it in the bag then, UCD were silenced. Any time that UCC forwards tried to go for goal the UCD defence defended as id their lives depended on the winning of this game.

A late consolation goal from Cork player Sarah O'Donovan with one minute of normal time remaining put a better picture on it for UCC, but on the day there was no denying as to who the winners could be. When captain Mary Leacy went up to accept the cup from honoury President of the third level colleges Bridin Ui Mhaolagáin the joy was etched across her face as she had her sister Úna also on the team who made a vital contribution to the victory.

Meanwhile further history was created in Ballinderreen, Galway yesterday (Sun) when Garda won their first ever Ashbourne Shield final defeating UUJ 3-9 to 0-6 in a most exciting curtain raiser. Kilkenny star Marie O'Connor was the hero with a hat trick of goals, one in the first half and a further two in the second. However she was not alone as this was very much a team effort with half backs Michelle Short and Michelle Casey time and time again starting vital movements that ended up in the forward line.

Captain Sheena Howard was a tireless worker at midfield. Garda, led from the twelfth minute of the game following Louise Young's first free. Despite Garda leading 1-6 to 0-2 at the break, UUJ had a superb player in Fionnuala Carr, daughter of former Down duel player Ross who did not always make life easy for the eventual winners. Fionnuala did not keave Galway empty handed as she won the Puc Fada competition on the day. On the day there was simply no denying Garda their victory as they showed more grit and determination at vital stages of the game.

Details:
Ashbourne Cup Final:
UCD: 2-10:L Davis 1-1, E Darmody 1-0,R Buckley 0-6f, S O'Carroll 0-2 (0-1f), U Leacy 0-1.
UCC: 1-4: SO'Donovan 1-0, E Dillon 0-3 (0-1f),C Desmond 0-1.

Ashbourne Shield final:
Garda: 3-9: MO'Connor 3-3 (1-0 penalty), L Young 0-5 (0-4f, 0-1'45), G Kelly 0-1.
UUJ 0-6: A Lverty 0-4f, F Carr 0-1f,B Convery 0-1.

Dubs aim to rattle Cats cage

Camogie

Máire Ui Scolai

THE National League starts in earnest this weekend with reigning champions Cork in action as well as last year's finalists, Tipperary.

While Dublin will take to the senior field for the first time in over three years when they travel to Kilkenny.

Cork, who are flying out to Lanzarote on Sunday, will be hoping to get their League campaign off to a sunny start in Wexford, trained now by Jim Kilty, on Saturday.

Having made a clean sweep last year of League, Championship and Munster titles, counties will be trying to bring Cork down a peg or two, but the return of Rosarie Holland will strengthen the defence further.

Other new senior players include Sheila Burns, Denise Twomey, Emer White and Eimear O'Sullivan.

Tipperary have appointed a new manager,Tony Delaney, from Toomevara, whose tenure begins on Sunday when they host Galway.

The other Division 1A game on Sunday is between Kilkenny and Dublin. Kilkenny will be without the Freshford players as the All-Ireland club champions jet off to Barcelona for a break.

Stepping down as selector is 12-times All-Ireland winner Ann Downey.

This will be a new venture for Dublin whose new manager, David Kennedy enjoyed Ashbourne Cup success last weekend as manager of UCD.

Without the Freshford players the Dubs may give Kilkenny a second fright within a week.

CAMOGIE

SATURDAY — NHL Div 1A: Wexford v Cork, Piercetown St Martins, 2.45; **Div 1B:** Wexford v Cork, Piercetown St Martins, 1.0. **Div 3:** London v Cavan, Ruislip, 2.0.

SUNDAY — NHL Div 1A (2.30): Kilkenny v Dublin, Bennettsbridge; Tipperary v Galway, The Ragg. **Div 1B (1.0):** Kilkenny v Dublin, Bennettsbridge; Tipperary v Galway, The Ragg. **Div 2A:** Derry v Antrim, Derry, tbc; Clare v Kildare, Shannon, 1.0. **Div 2B (2.30):** Armagh v Waterford, Pairc Tailteann, Carlow v Roscommon, Borris. **Div 3 (1.0):** Meath v Tyrone, Pairc Tailteann; Louth v Westmeath, Stabannon.

Clubs turn out in style for Avondhu Camogie Board meeting

AVONDHU CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

THERE was a great turnout with nine North Clubs represented at the Avondhu Camogie board meeting on February 22 last.

This year it was decided to run U9's in blitz format. All clubs are encouraged to participate even if you have trouble making up a full team. Teams can be created on the day between girls from different clubs.

The U11s will be the same format as last year. All clubs will have the chance to play each other and in the end the top four will contest the U11A championship and the bottom clubs will contest the U11B. The teams are as follows; Newtownshandrum, Buttevant, Mallow, Milstreet, Milford, Kildorrery, Charleville, Ballyhea and Banteer.

The U13s were divided into A and B grades. U13A will include the following clubs, Milford, Newtownshandrum, Milstreet, Buttevant and Mallow. The B grade will include, Kildorrery, Charleville, Banteer and Ballyhea. The U13 championships will be 13 a side.

The U15s were also divided into A and B grades and both will be 15 a side. The U15A teams are Milford, Mallow, Buttevant and Newtownshandrum. The U15B teams are Charleville, Ballyhea, Kildorrery, Milstreet and Banteer.

■ Note: It was also agreed that agenda items for all board meetings this year should arrive no later than one day before the date fixed for each meeting. Agenda items submitted on the night of a meeting will go onto the following meeting's agenda.

The next meeting is fixed for March 22 and on that night the fixtures for the following four weeks will be announced.

U16 INTERDIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

ON March 4 the U16 interdivisional championships will come to Avondhu and will be hosted in Newtownshandrum. Registration is fixed for 1030 and it is expected the first throw in will be 11am. The six divisions are divided into two groups with Avondhu, Imokilly and Carrigdhoun in group one and Carberry, Muskerry and Seandun in group two.

Clubs will be represented by girls throughout the division and it is a great opportunity for the girls hoping to one day play for Cork. We would encourage as many people as possible to come out and give them all the support they need.

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St Mary's Nenagh book place in final

St Mary's S.S. 2-8
Gort Community School 1-3

St Mary's Nenagh the stronghold of colleges camogie in the 90s asserted their strength again at the weekend overcoming Gort Community School in the All Ireland B Colleges semi final.

Playing with a strong breeze in the first half Nenagh fans had only three minutes to wait for the opening score. After a darting run by Ciara Ryan, Bonnie Kennedy was on hand to scramble home an opening goal for St Mary's. Midfielder Clionadh Ryan linked up with Aoife McLoughney whose pass in turn found Bonnie Kennedy who was again on target for a point from a very acute angle. St Mary's now suffered from some inaccurate shooting and did not score again until the 17th minute. The wily Amy Kennedy dodged her way through Gorts defence to score a point.

After a good delivery from Laura Greene from St Mary's defence found Amy Kennedy again who pointed leaving the score 1-3 to 0-0.

Gort made good use of playing their corner forward as an extra defender in order to combat playing against the breeze.

In contrast to this St Mary's forwards had to work very hard for possession. This workrate paid off for Ciara Ryan in the 29th minute as she added another point. One minute into injury time saw the ball break to Bonnie Kennedy to raised another white flag for Nenagh leaving the half-time score 1-5 to 0-0.

St Mary's opened their second half account with a point from Amy Kennedy after a passing movement involving Fiona Kennedy and Aoife McLoughney. Gort however continued to battle gamely and broke forward.

Noreen O'Connor carved open the St Mary's defence with a blistering solo run her shot was saved by Aisling Whelan but the momentum carried O'Connor through and she finished the rebound to the net. Minutes later Gort applied more pressure and Rebecca Hennelly was well on target to add a point.

Nenagh now had to do all in their power to absorb the Gort pressure and their reply was swift. Amy Kennedy again took on the Gort defence finding Orla Williams who laid off an inch perfect pass to Aoife McLoughney who made no mistake from close range blasting the ball to the net to put Nenagh 2-6 to 1-1 in front. Gort again fought their way up the field and worryingly cut through Neagh's fullback line to bear down on goal, there however they were matched by keeper Aisling

Whelan who denied them a certain goal. Gort Captain



St Mary's Nenagh defeated Gort Community School to book their place in the All Ireland B Colleges final.

Stephanie Taaffe was on hand to flick over her sides second point. Gort added a further point from Noreen O'Connor to claw back further into St Mary's lead. St Mary's introduced Patricia Sutton for Orla Williams in the 27th minute just as Aoife McLoughney pointed a long range free. Playing against the breeze certainly brought out some exceptional defensive work rate by St Mary's especially in their forward line. Bonnie Kennedy epitomised this and the breaking ball from her block down came to Amy Kennedy who duly supplied Aoife McLoughney who pointed to cement St Mary's 2-8 to 1-3 lead.

Outstanding defence from Geraldine Stapleton at centre back was the foundation for St Mary's success, this was built upon by Bonnie Kennedy, Amy Kennedy, Ciara Ryan and Aoife McLoughney up front. Gort to their credit fought bravely throughout but could not match the better balanced St Mary's side.

St Mary's now progress to the All Ireland final on March 10th. They will face a very strongly fancied Castlecomer side from Kilkenny who have the luxury of calling on last years 'young player of the year' Marie Dargan and several other Kilkenny minors. Little will be left to chance by their manager Teddy Browne. However Ger Dullea is no stranger to finals and his charges have shown their teamwork and work ethic is good enough to manage any opposition. We await what should be an enthralling final on March 10th.

Team: A Whelan, M Gleeson, S Quinlan, L Green, E L Coffey, G Stapleton, L Power, F Kennedy, C Ryan, C Kennedy, B Kennedy (0-4), A Kennedy (0-4), C Ryan (0-1), A McLoughney (1-2), O Williams, P Sutton, M Devaney, L Reid, A M Quigley, L Shoer, L Bergin, E Slattery, H Harty, N Whelan.

Borrisokane win Munster Intermediate A camogie title

Borrisokane CC 4-6
Carrig on Suir 2-5

In atrocious conditions Borrisokane Community College overcame Carrig on Suir to win the Munster Intermediate A camogie league.

Despite the conditions in Durlas Og pitch this proved to be a very competitive and exciting game, both teams battled hard to the final whistle.

Carrig on Suir got off to a better start, they immediately went on the attack and registered 2 points without any reply from the Borrisokane girls. It took almost 15 minutes for them to settle down but the backline held strong against the Carrig on Suir forwards who always looked to be a threat. Karen Seymour was a big loss to the backline, missing due to injury.

The first point from Michelle Ryan came from a lovely pass from Antoinette King. Shortly after this Sinead Cahalan fought hard, gained possession and struck a lovely pass to Michelle Ryan who rattled the net with a fantastic goal. This score settled the Borrisokane girls. Carrig on Suir replied with 2 consecutive points but unfortunately put 2 frees wide.

Niamh Williams gained possession almost 50 yards out, she rounded her player and headed for the goal, she struck a tremendous point from a very acute angle. Niamh caused a lot of problems for the Carrig on Suir backs throughout the game.

At half time Borrisokane were leading by 4 points but Carrig on Suir had the advantage of a light breeze and slight downhill slope in the second half. Carrig on Suir had the majority of possession throughout the second half putting huge pressure on the Borrisokane back-line. But the girls held strong and defended with pride. Superb performances in swamp conditions from full back line of Ann Cordial, Ann Cleary and the youngest player on this senior team Claire Kennedy. The halfbacks were always on hand to make needed clearances. Mikaela Morkan played a pivotal role along side Marian Ryan who moved to centre field and dominated the second half carrying a lot of ball and feeding the forward line.

Captain Fiona Ryan filled her role tremendously clearing off the half back line and orchestrating many scores from centre field position. Fiona scored a great point herself when it was badly needed in the second half. The Ryan sisters Marie and Kathleen



Borrisokane Community College who overcame Carrig on Suir to win the Munster Intermediate A camogie league. Front row Left to right: P.Hogan, C.Kennedy, A.King, N.Enright, S.Cahalan, N. Williams, E.Mulqueen, A.Enright, J.Hodgins. Back row Left to right: S.Gleeson. F.Ryan, M.Ryan, A.Cordial, M.Morkan, K.Ryan, A.M.Quinlan, M.Ryan, M.Ryan, A.Cleary. Missing from photo: K.Seymour.

connected well together and gave fine displays of camogie.

The swamp conditions made it difficult to score or to make decent clearances.

Borrisokane forwards made great use of the little possession they had in the second half. Niamh Enright gained a lot of possession upfront and gave a lot of passes to orchestrate scores from Ann Marie Quinlan and Sinead Cahalan, which were badly needed and gave the back line a deserved break.

Unfortunately Michelle Ryan got injured and was replaced by Aisling Enright. Aisling came into the full back line adding strength and fresh legs to a tiring side.

In the last 15 minutes of the game Carrig on Suir really put pressure on the full back line. Goalie Emma Mulqueen made some fine saves to keep Borrisokane ahead. Emma has been a dependable and calm goalie throughout this tournament and is a young player with a promising future. Congratulations to the Borrisokane girls on a well deserved victory.

CAMOGIE world

with

Olhausen

by Maire Ui Scolai

ANOTHER SEASON PACKED WITH MOUTH WATERING GAMES

This season's National League kicked off earlier than usual this season on February 4th and will continue on until May 6th when the Division 1A and 1 B go ahead with the O'Duffy Cup kick starting just one week later! From Máire Ui Scolai.

Without doubt the camogie fan can expect many mouth watering games in the months ahead. National League champions Cork will begin their defence of their title with a duel against Wexford on February 25th, the same date that Dublin face top flight camogie with a clash against Kilkenny. The same day Tipperary have Galway at home.

In between the start of the League and the 25th two very important weekend events will take place, namely the Purcell Cup and the Ashbourne Cup, the oldest competition in the game, and a medal lots of players feel is as precious as an All-Ireland medal.

No doubt, some players who were involved in club championship will possibly take a break from the intercounty scene for part of the league – which leads to questions about retirement, but then as we all know once the bright evenings appear the thoughts of championship looms and players forget about hanging up the boots for another year at least!



The Barnacarroll camogie side

LOUTH BACK IN

For many players from Louth, who are back into League competition after a break of four years, 2002 being the last year they competed, this will be the season they have being looking forward to for so many years. With seven clubs in the county they have come on in leaps and bounds since this time last season when they were not able to field a team. However, the introduction of a Division four National League Blitz day last year saw Louth take part and they certainly learnt a lot that day as they reached the final, but in the end they had to be happy as the bridesmaids as a plucky Monaghan side denied them victory in the dying moments of the final. That game was played on a seven a side basis and then last September the same teams took part in the Division 4 championship which was upped to a twelve a side game and so Louth now have the distinction of being the first county to emerge from that experiment.

This year's team will be co-managed by Jim Mc Guinness who was there in 2002 while Tipperary man Joe Kennedy who stepped in last August to manage the team for the Division 4 championship will also be on board. Fielding a panel of thirty they are already looking forward to the championship when they will have other players available to them who are presently caught up with college. According to Joe there is great eagerness in the county about this venture: "The girls can't wait to get going ever since last September they have been asking to play for their county and so their big day will be February 4th against Cavan."

While it is 1982 since Louth won their first and only All-Ireland junior title the girls that wear the county jersey this year will have taken one major step towards restoring pride in the county. The side that will take on Cavan, Westmeath, Tyrone, London and Meath in the Division 3 League comprises a blend of youth and experience. They will have the experienced goalkeeper Karen Quigley who was between the posts in 2002 while their youngest player will be fifteen year old Denise Moynagh who plays college camogie with Dunleer Technical School.

Four lucky girls from the Wee County had the honour last year of wearing the Irish jersey when they were chosen to play for Ireland in the Annual Compromise Tournament. They were Eilish Mulholland, Ann Marie Kane, Kevina Kenny and Julie Ann Finnegan. No doubt they will add their experience to this year's side. If they can maintain the eagerness and interest in the county throughout the competition the Division 3 League final of April 29th might be well within their grasp. The men of Louth may be catching some of the limelight, but be ware the girls may be just about to steal some of it in the near future!


Snugboro girls who participated in the indoor camogie/hurling tournament

MAYO

However, the League is about lots of counties and this year like last season a Division four League Blitz will again take place on May 5th. This year, Donegal, Mayo, Monaghan will take part and who knows with the rate of work going on in Kerry at present, largely due to Regional Development Officer Mary O'Connor, we may well see Green and Gold shirts on that day. Mayo are also advancing well again thanks to the great work that Caroline Murray is doing especially among the younger age groups. With much work going on among Cumann na mBunscol in places like Tooreen and Barnacarroll in Mayo, it may not be too long until Mayo are heading up clubs there.

DUBS BACK AGAIN

While it is great to see some of the so called weaker counties coming into the action, one must acknowledge the great work done in the Capital over the past few years and how the camogie has become cool again in Dublin. When Peter Lucey, who was chosen Manager of the Year in 2006 at the All-Star Banquet, took over the Dubs in late 2003, it was not an easy job, but he saw a challenge and took to it like a duck to water. He not only won back to back All-Ireland junior championship titles, but he brought the team back to senior status and restored pride in the county. They may find the going tough in their first season but if they can compete the experience will stand to them over the next few years.

LIMERICK'S MULCAHYS

Over the past few years, Limerick have not enjoyed the best of camogie seasons, but this year they are attempting to put structures in place and build with a young team. Having young teenagers like Naoimi Carroll, Niamh and Judith Mulcahy on the side gives them great hope for the future.



The Toureen side that took part in the Cumann na mBunscol tournament held in Mayo

On the Limerick panel are three famous sisters, the Mulcahys. Claire, at 20 is the eldest, then comes seventeen year old Niamh while Judith is just fifteen. They are the grand nieces of the legendary Mick Mackey and grand children of another great, John Mackey. While they have all played for the county at different levels the three have not played together as yet! Their parents, Ger and Vera also played for the county, the latter having won a junior All-Ireland with Limerick in 1977.

With so many games in both League and championship from February 4th right up to the All-Ireland club championship finals on November 18th there will be plenty of talk as to who will win what and it will leave the camogie fan with plenty of games to choose from. All these fixtures are not even including the colleges championships at second level which provide us with further brilliant games. There is no excuse to be sitting on the couch on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon from now on! For all up to date fixtures and results please check the Camogie Web Site at: www.camogie.ie or as always page 248 or 247 on Aertel.

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Awards ceremony leaves Dargan 'in bits'

■ **CAMOGIE:** There was little rest for camogie winner Marie Dargan who left the event shortly after its conclusion so as to reach training in Kilkenny at 8pm.

However, her mother admitted that Marie's feet "were in bits" following an afternoon in high heels at the Berkley Court.

TV: Highlights of the award ceremony will be broadcast on OB Sport on RTÉ 2 television tomorrow night from 7.30pm.

CAMOGIE: MARIE DARGAN

CLASSY CAT

THESE are busy times for Marie Dargan. Even if All-Ireland senior camogie titles are in short supply around Kilkenny nowadays, the young girl from Castlecomer still manages to shine. Showing a nerve for the big occasion, she will be best remembered for her sensational contribution to the Black and Amber in last year's All-Ireland senior semi-final against Tipperary. Introduced as a sub, the then 16-year-old almost single-handedly turned the game in the Cats' favour. Although, in the end, they lost the match by a mere couple of points, it was probably the only real disappointment she had to encounter in a remarkable 2006.

Coached by Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer, Dargan was already shaping her future last season when she collected her second successive All-Ireland U16 medal. Then, she gave a match-winning performance when helping her county secure All-Ireland minor glory.

She impacted again when Kilkenny tasted All-Ireland senior B national league success; she garnered an Inter-provincial senior Gael Linn medal with Leinster, and she is the holder of a seven-aside All-Ireland medal.

Ted Browne (husband of the legendary Angela Downey) is her mentor at Castlecomer Community School and along with Brendan Williams the pair guided Kilkenny to that memorable minor success. Having watched the fifth-year student steadily progress over the years, Browne believes she is a player of considerable note, and compares her to one of the county's greatest names ever: "She has brilliant vision, a bit like DJ Carey," he says. "She can anticipate the play before it happens, so she is always a pace or two ahead of everybody else — a rare ability. Last year, we picked her at wing-forward, but in the final we moved her into full forward and before we knew it she had us two goals up.

"In fact, she is an all-round athlete, good at a lot of sports. She is always involved in some activity, be it ladies football, soccer or basketball. At the moment, we are preparing for the All-Ireland senior B College's camogie final on Saturday week against Nenagh. It will be a difficult task for us, but it would be another great boost for camogie in Kilkenny if we could pull it off."

Dargan says playing a team sport has a certain feelgood factor to it. And despite enduring lots of hard nights of training, this is overridden by the immense satisfaction she derives from playing.

"Teamwork and team spirit are very important to me," she says. "I usually train five or six days a week and what I love most is the camaraderie and knowing the girls you are playing with are really good friends as well."

Dargan's love for camogie dates back to primary school where Sheila and Danny Lawlor taught her everything she needed to know about hurling. When she joined the Castlecomer club, Shem Delaney was the man at the helm. Recently, the Ballycomey native transferred to the St Martin's club, as Castlecomer do not yet field at adult level. However, there is one significant memory she will always hold dear — the fantastic achievement of having represented Castlecomer on the 2006 All-Ireland senior Kilkenny panel.

Now, Dargan's main aim is to try and get that same Kilkenny outfit back on the map.

"I would love to win something at senior county level," she says. "Last year was a bit of a learning curve. I made a lot of friends on the Kilkenny team and I love training with the squad. You realise there is a lot more to the game when you move up to the top level, and I know I will continue to learn as the season moves on."

Her heroes include such household names as Henry Shefflin, Ann Downey and Mary O'Connor. She describes the Ballyhale Shamrock's man as "deadly" — a word that could well be used in relation to the teenager herself before the year is out.

Kilkenny senior manager Bobby Jackman was none too surprised to see Dargan crowned Young Player of the Year last November at last year's All-Star awards. He is looking forward to watching her progress in 2007.

"She really impressed us last year," he says. "Basically, she is talented at everything. She stuck out a mile in most games. Her touch is unreal. Everybody saw that when we brought her on against Tipperary. She scored a great goal and she had two more chances. Only for Jovita Delaney and a little bit of inexperience she could have been a hero. We wondered if she was too young on such a big day but she showed no fear whatsoever. Herself and Edwina Keane (another young star) were both included in the selection.

"It is probably too early to say how we will do in the coming year. We've brought along a good few of the All-Ireland minor team, but we must remember they are still very young to be playing senior inter-county camogie. Marie has impressed us all the way through. We hope to play her outfield — half forward or midfield appears to be her best positions. Either way, these young players are the future of Kilkenny."

■ Interview: **Therese O'Callaghan**



Marie Dargan gave a match-winning performance for Kilkenny in last year's All-Ireland minor hurling final.

FACTFILE: Marie Dargan

With three All-Ireland titles to her name, Marie Dargan is well on the way to success.

She recently joined the St Martin's Club in Kilkenny, but up to last year played underage with Castlecomer. In 2006, she gave match-winning performances to collect her second U16 All-Ireland medal and an All Ireland Minor title where she scored 2-1. She scored a crucial goal with the Kilkenny senior team that went within two points of beating Tipperary in the All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final. Dargan also won a Senior B National League medal with Kilkenny, a senior Inter-provincial Gael Linn medal with Leinster and a 7-a-side All-Ireland title.

FEB 2007

Meath side take the honours in mini league

BLACKROCK Mini League 2007

THE final of the mini league took place this week.

All teams put in a huge effort throughout the league.

There were outstanding performances by all teams over the five weeks. Cork and Kildare put in huge efforts, Kilkenny looked strong with Grace Marum and Clodagh Coughlan on form and were unlucky to finish third in the end.

It was Kerry and Meath who qualified for the final.

The decider was a keenly fought contest, both teams putting in great displays.

Kate Leneghan had chances early on for Meath but Emer Fahy in the Kerry goal was in superb form.

Meath began to take control of the game but Kerry kept in touch with goals from Katherine Ronayne and only a goal separated the sides at the break.

Katelyn Hickey and Michelle Murphy had a tough battle in the middle of the field, both players showing great skill and commitment throughout.

Kerry found it hard to pass Katie O'Brien who was very solid at the back for Meath and, despite great work from Michelle Murphy, lost out to a very strong Meath side.

The finalist were presented with their prizes by Blackrock star Roisin de Faoite, who played in the All-Ireland U16 final in 2006

Special thanks go to under 16 players, Kate O'Brien and Sherelle Naughton who refereed the leagues.

MEATH: Katelyn Hickey, Shannon White, Sarah Ryan, Kate Leneghan, Katie O'Brien.

KERRY: Michelle Murphy, Emer Fahy, Katherine Ronayne, Clodagh O'Keeffe, Hayley Ryan, Meghan Hourican.

Interdivisional: Congratulations to Aine Murray, Kerri Fleming, Sherelle Naughton, Donna O'Leary and Sarah Carroll who were selected on the **Seandun Under 16 panel.**

We wish them the best of luck in the interdivisional blitz on **March 4.**

We wish our under 13B team the best of luck in the city final on March 4. Check www.blackrockcamogie.com for updates, fixtures, results, etc.

Meeting for Muskerry

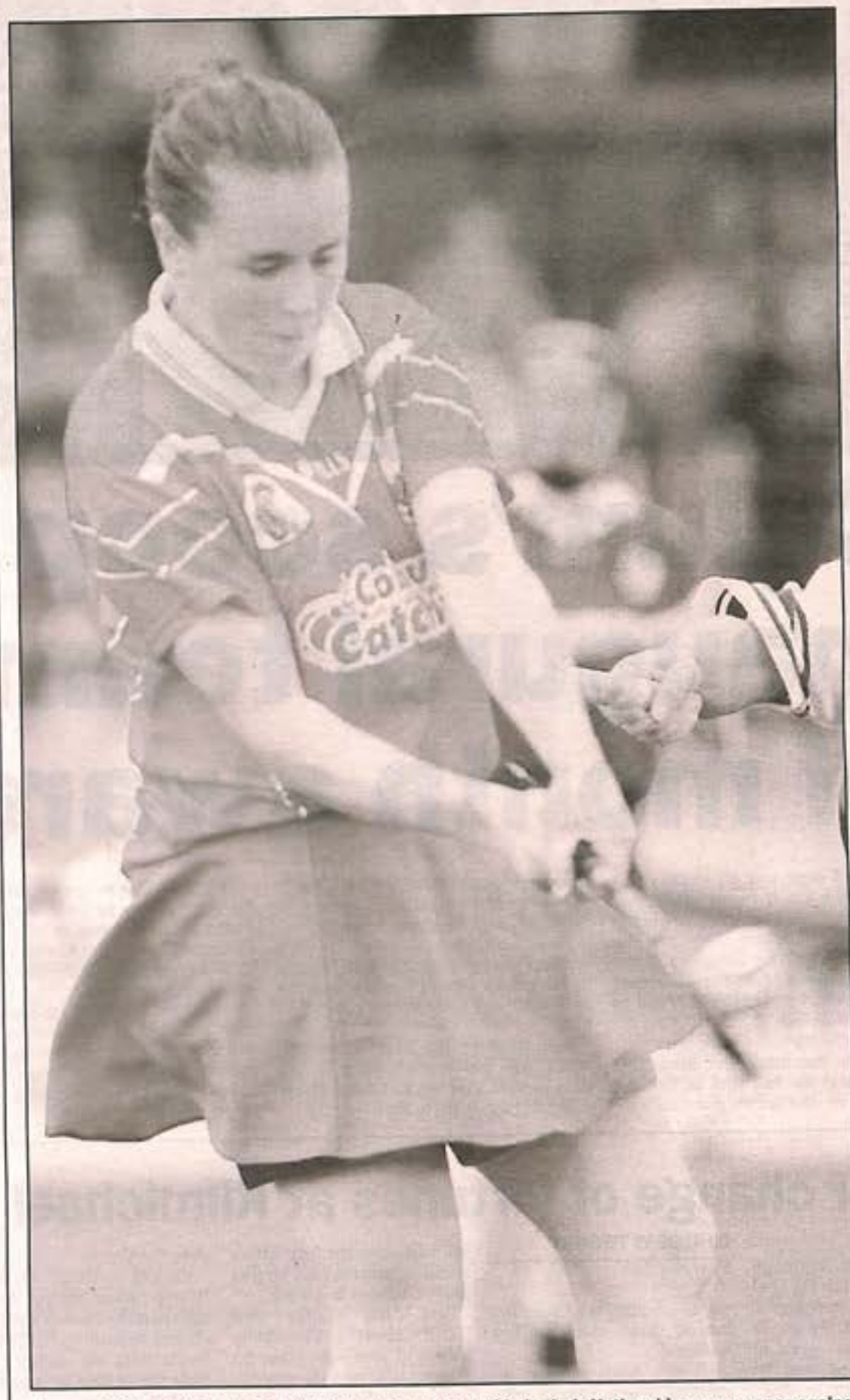
THE Annual General Meeting of the Muskerry Camogie Division will take place at the Éire Óg GAA Pavilion on Thursday, March 1, at 8.30pm.

All clubs in the division requested to send delegates.

The following is the Muskerry panel for the U16 County Board Blitz due to take place on Sunday, March 4:

Michelle Healy and Sarah Dineen, (Aghabullogue); Julianne Martin, and Lisa O'Shea (Ballinora); Yvonne Horgan (Blarney); Ashleen Sheehan, Alison Coughlan, Brea O'Callaghan, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Patricia Buttimer, Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh, Eimear Nolan, Cliona Irish, Rebecca O'Callaghan (Ballincollig); Ciara O'Connor, Ciara O'Keeffe, Aoife McCarthy, Aoife Scally, Marie Gleeson, Katie McCarthy, (Eire Óg); Michelle Sexton, Andrea Sheehan (Grenagh); Aine Ni Riain, Aine O'Connor, Claire Sheehan, Catherine O'Brien, Amana Twohig, Joanne Casey (Inniscarra).

Rebels ready



Gemma O'Connor is set to captain Cork's Division 1A side in their National League opener against Wexford tomorrow.

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

IT'S back to the inter-county playing fields this weekend, as Cork open the defence of their National league title with a trip to Wexford tomorrow afternoon.

Following changes to the structure of competitions in 2006, Cork fielded a second team who participated in division 1B of the senior league and in the Senior B championship.

Junior competitions at national level were confined to junior counties only, and this proved a huge success, with weaker counties participating on a level playing pitch thus enjoying their day in the limelight.

It's a similar story again this season as Cork field two teams in the senior national leagues, in the Division 1A Cork must name their first 15 players and name a separate panel for the division 1B competition, again there will be an All-Ireland competition in both grades.

In Division 1A the All-Ireland champions are joined by Dublin Kilkenny, Galway, Tipperary and Wexford, while in Division 1B, Cork are in a section that includes the second teams from the same counties with the addition of Limerick.

Through last season's league and championship campaign Limerick struggled and at one stage it was feared not be competing in the coming season. Their request to regrade to Senior B was granted and the game received a huge boost with appointment of former intercounty hurler Ciarán Carey, who has taken over the senior team. Already they have got their league campaign off to a winning start with a victory over Dublin.

Given the right circumstances and with a bit of self belief they could be a force to be reckoned with, they have outstanding players in Michelle Casey, Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien while 14-year-old star Naomi Carroll is one to watch for the future.

It's a tough opener for both Cork sides as they travel to Wexford for a double meeting. Last season in Division 1A the sides met in the last game in their group where both were on level points. On the day Cork proved much to strong recording a 10-point victory to book their place in the league final where they disposed of old rivals Tipp.

There are changes a plenty this year in Wexford with former intercounty senior player Stella Sinnott taking over as manager from Willie Carley. Stella will be assisted by Alan Aherne and Noel Ryan with Jim Kilty and Eddie Flynn on board in a coaching capacity.

The appointment of Stella Sinnott, a well-known former inter-county player from the Buffers Alley club is seen as a very positive one as Wexford work to take that big step forward.

She will have overall control of both the Division 1A and 1B sides who, it's expected, will work hand in hand through the year with an

Glen quartet are picked for Seandún

By MARY NEWMAN
Glen Rovers

IT WAS a busy few days for several of our members, who successfully completed a foundation level coaching course under Brendan O'Driscoll.

Everybody enjoyed the course and we look forward to seeing them put their skills into practice in the coming weeks. It was great to see our younger members, male and female willing to get involved in the months ahead.

Congratulations to four of our players, Karen O'Connell, Sinead Gallen, Alice Keating and Denise Luby, who have been selected on the Seandun U16 panel.

We wish them the best of luck in the forthcoming inter-divisional championship, which takes place on the weekend on March 4.

Our U13 A team are also looking forward to the same weekend when they meet Douglas in the Seandun U13 championship final.

A venue for same will be advised as soon as it comes to hand.

A reminder to our young under age girls that Sunday morning camogie training has started again at the usual time of 11.45am in the Glen field and hall, and on Tuesday nights at 6pm.

Senior, junior, U16 and U18 players will train on Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm in the Glen Field.

The U6 to U12s will train on Sunday at 11.45am and on Tuesday at 6pm in the Glen Field.

The U13 and U14 teams will train on Friday at 5.45pm in Glen Resource centre, and on Monday and Wednesday as above.

New members are welcome to come down and join in all the above sessions.

for league



Rosarie Holland has returned from her travels abroad to the Cork set-up and has already shown she is back to top form.

Cork's National League fixtures for 2007

Division 1A: February 25th v Wexford in Wexford; March 11th v Tipperary in Cork; March 25th v Galway in Cork; April 8th v Kilkenny in Cork; April 22nd v Dublin in Dublin.

Division 1B: February 25th v Wexford in Wexford; March 11th v Tipperary in Cork; March 18th v Limerick in Cork; March 25th v Galway in Cork; April 8th v Kilkenny in Cork; April 22nd v Dublin in Dublin.



St Finbarr's Linda Dorgan is likely to start for Cork in their Division 1B clash also against Wexford this weekend.

expected big overlap of players.

While this is Stella's first year in the role of manager she has been a selector with the Senior A team since June 2005 a member of the. Wexford team beaten in the All-Ireland Senior finals of 1990, 1992 and 1994 she is the holder of All-Ireland club medals.

With Oulart-the Ballagh having won five All-Ireland Féle na NGael titles in row and the huge success enjoyed by college side Coláiste Bride much has been expected of Wexford but to date they have failed to deliver. In 2004 just the width of the cross bar denied them a place in the All-Ireland final while in 2005 Tipperary had to withstand a fierce rally to hold them at bay.

It came as a huge disappointment to them not to make it to the semi-final stage of last year's All-Ireland series. They were without many familiar faces and brought in younger players who they hope will have learned from the experience.

Aoife O'Connor has rejoined the panel having returned from a stint in Australia while Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob, Catriona Parrock, Lacey sisters Una and Mary and Louise Codd should all be part of a strong Wexford line out, the only absentee is Orla Hernan who has retired.

Cork had an outing two week ago when they beat Limerick to take the provincial crown for 2006;the selectors must have been happy with the display of newcomer Denise Twomey, who showed plenty of ability, grabbing 1-3 from corner forward.

Rosarie Holland, also returned from her travels abroad, showed she not lost her touch in the full-back position, while Emer O'Farrell and Marie O'Neill also fitted in well.

Gemma O'Connor captains the side following on her club St Finbarr's success in the senior county championship and she will be expected to be joined by several regulars, including new camogie development officer Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan as Cork open the defence of their title.

Changes in the backroom set-up see John Cronin and Lillian Zinkant joined by Mary Moran in selecting the team, replacing Ollie Hallihan who retired. Fiona O'Driscoll continues as coach.

The division 1B side will be build around the 2006 side as just seven of the players who were members of the A panel are ineligible this season, while last years captain Miriam Deasy has retired.

Last year just one defeat in the league cost them a place in the final and this season they will be wiser and more determined to go the full distance.

Whilst the selectors have not as yet names a panel amongst the players expected to be in contention for starting places will be Tina Roche Ger Collins, Linda Dorgan, Lucy Hawkes, Eimear O'Sullivan and Catherine Corkery. Aidan Crowley continues as coach with Síle Golden, Willie O'Regan and Kay Dunne selecting the team.

When the side met in last year's league series Wexford fielded a young inexperienced side but with both of their teams preparing side-by-side much improvement is expected.

Wexford are in a similar position to Cork as they to will be dependant on the players available from their senior A squad.

In-form Cats facing a test from champs

By MARY NEWMAN

National League round-up

IT'S a return to Division 1A for the Dublin girls who, having won back to back All-Ireland championship titles in 2005 and 2006, now make the step up to senior grade.

Tipperary native David Kennedy takes over the role of manager for the coming season — a native of Toomevara he is currently managing UCD's camogie side.

Dublin's first outing in the National League Div 1A will be away to Kilkenny on Sunday while their second team which will be managed by Eoin Ryan also met Kilkenny.

Players to keep an eye out for in the navy and blue include Eimear Butler, Ciara Durkan, Aisling Jordan and Andrea Fitzpatrick.

In Kilkenny the mood is a positive one as they look towards the league and championship, having annexed the U16 and minor All-Ireland titles last season the feeling is that they are close to making the big breakthrough.

Having lost out narrowly to Tipperary in last season's All-Ireland semi final there is a huge determination in the camp.

Bobby Jackman and selectors Tom Dorney and Dermot Fennelly are looking forward to what they feel is a make or break year for camogie in the county as they strive to regain the glory days of the 1980's.

Another county whose panels are working hand in hand the one management team looking after both senior teams.

There are plenty of changes in Tipperary with Paddy McCormack having stepped down after two years in charge Tony Delaney taking over the manager role.

The selectors are Martin Dwyer, father of full-back Una, Marion Graham who acted as selector when the county won three All-Irelands in a row and Paul Delaney who is in his first season as an intercounty selector.

Losing out last year in both the national league and All-Ireland finals to Cork, Tipp are determined to regain control, they will be hoping to reach the concluding stages of the league and make a positive statement of their intentions regarding their championship aspirations.

They lost out at semi-final stage to Cork in the Senior B All-Ireland series also year and with John O'Donnell taking charge this season they will be looking for a much improved performance from the county's second team.

The disappointment was huge in Galway last season having promised so much under the guidance of Sharon Glynn they had hoped to improve on the annexing of the national league title of 2005 and go on and take the All-Ireland crown.

Indications were good through the early stages of the league but they came a cropper in a lack lustre championship semi-final where Cork never looked in danger as they recorded a four point victory.

Glynn and her management team have called it a day with Mike Kelly taking over the management duties. Kelly has brought in his own backroom team with former junior manager and selector síle Coen Bertie Keane Liam Gannon and Helena Huban guiding the fortunes for 2007.

While Kelly has not had a lot of experience at camogie level he has managed the county U16 and minor hurling sides and has vast experience.

It remains to be seen if he can build on the foundations laid by Glynn which saw Galway take their first National League title in 2005, no doubt he will be looking for that little bit extra from players such as Lourda Kavanagh, Veronica Curtin, Therese Maher and Veronica Curtin.

The other opening round games in Division 1 A has Kilkenny hosting Dublin and Galway travelling to Tipperary, with the same teams meeting in the division 1 B league also its a weekend off for Limerick.

Here's hoping for another exciting league campaign!

Éire Óg AGM looks back on successful year

By MARY NEWMAN

Eire Óg

THE camogie club held their Annual General Meeting recently.

We reflected on a reasonably successful 2006 season with a number of items debated at length.

Pride of place went to our U13 team, who won the Muskerry Division Championship.

The senior team reached the semi-final of the B Championship and were narrowly beaten by Valley Rovers.

The U16, U14, U12 and U11 teams, whilst not winning any competitions, nevertheless had a good year.

We took part in the Feile Na NGael competition in June and hosted a team from Down.

Our senior team won the camogie tournament in Glasgow and enjoyed the weekend.

The following Officers were elected: Chairman: Con Malone, Vice-Chairman: Ciara McKenna, Runai: Jacinta O'Keeffe, Treasurer: Helen Walsh, PRO: Martina Hutchinson, Registrar: Breda O'Leary, President: Rose Malone, County Board Delegate: Sheila O'Brien, Muskerry Board Delegates: Lisa M O'Mahony, and Ella Kelleher.

Membership for the year was set as follows, at U14 to U25 €25, everybody else must pay €40.

National League opens on the double for Cork

Camogiechat
With Mary Newman



Camogie correspondant Mary Newman (centre) with Rena Buckley (left) and Anna Geary at the recent Corkman awards presentation night in assocaition with Springford Hall hotel

A RETURN to inter-county activities this weekend as the Division 1A and B teams travel to Wexford to open their respective campaigns.

The structure of competitions was changed in 2006 with Cork's fielding a second team who participate in division 1B of the senior league and in the Senior B championship. Again the structure remains for this season the Division 1A team are joined by Dublin Kilkenny, Galway, Tipperary and Wexford while in Division 1B Cork are in a section that included the second teams from the same counties with the addition of Limerick in each the two top teams come through to contest the final s so a victory in every game is vital.

Junior competitions at national level are again confined to junior counties only with weaker counties participating against teams of a similar standard.



Cork selector Idillian Zinkant left with Aoife Cronin, Jack mc carhjty and Cork senior captian Joanne O Callaghan at the Cork camogie victory dinner at the Rochestown Park Hotel

In the Division 1A Cork must name their first fifteen players and name a separate panel for the division 1 B competition, again there will be an All Ireland competition in both Division Senior and Senior B grades.

Cork will not be under any illusions when they meet Wexford in both games, last season in Division 1A the sides met in the last game in the group where both were on level points. Cork going on to recording a ten point victory to book their place in the league final where they disposed of old rivals Tipperary.

Three weeks later Cork and Wexford met again this time in the Gala All Ireland championship and again Cork came out on top. Failure to make it to the semi final stages of the championship was a disappointment to Wexford but they have re grouped and are looking ahead with confidence.

Former inter-county senior player Stella Sinnott has taking over as Manager from Willie Carley with Alan Aherne, Noel Ryan with Jim Kilty and Eddie Flynn looking after the coaching duties.

In what is a huge vote of confidence the management will also look after the fortunes of the counties Division 1B sides who it's expected will work hand in hand through the year with an overlap of players? While this is Stella's first year in the role of manager she has been a selector with the Senior A team since June 2005 a member of the. Wexford team beaten in the All-Ireland Senior finals of 1990, 1992 and 1994 she is the holder of All-Ireland Club medals with Buffers Alley. Aoife O Connor has rejoined the Wexford panel having returned from a stint in Australia and much will be expected of their younger players such as Kate Kelly Ursula Jacob and Louise Codd.

Cork defeated Limerick two weeks ago to take the provincial crown for 2006, while they fielded minus several regulars due to Ashbourne cup commitments the selectors took the opportunity to introduce new faces Denise Twomey Emer O Farrell Regina Curtin and Marie O Neill all acquitting themselves well while Rosarie Holland now returned from her travels abroad was her usual reliable self in the full back position.

The division 1B side will be build around the side that captures the counties second All Ireland in 2006 just seven of the players who were members of the A panel ineligible this season while last years captain Miriam Deasy has retired.

Whilst the selectors have not as yet names a panel amongst the players expected to be in contention for starting places will be Tina Roche Marie Corkery, Lucy Hawkes, Eimear O Sullivan and Catherine Corkery. Aidan Crowley continues as coach with Sile Golden Willie O'Regan and Kay Dunne acting as selectors. Last year Wexford fielded a young inexperienced in the Division 1 B competition but with both of their teams now preparing side by side much improvement is expected. Losing out to Dublin in their opening game last year proved costly for Cork as it ultimately cost them their place in the final , this year they know what is expected and Aidan Crowley will leave no stone unturned as Cork bid for a unique national league double.

Slow starting Cats roar to victory

CAMOGIE

Kilkenny.....1-8

Dublin.....1-5

THEY were slow off the mark, but once talented Kilkenny got going they powered to a fine win over Dublin when Division 1A of the National Camogie League swung into action in Piltown on Sunday.

The high spirited and wind assisted visitors raced 1-2 to no score in front after 18 minutes, and they were looking good.

However, from there to the end they were comprehensively outscored by 1-8 to 0-3 as Kilkenny clicked into vibrant action.

Looked bad

Niamh Taylor shot a brace of points for the visitors during the opening 11 minutes. When a long range effort from Ciara Durkin ended in the Kilkenny net, things looked bad for the score-shy home team.

In the 20th minute the Cats got a huge boost. Miriam O'Keeffe and Michelle Quilty did the damage. They pieced together a sweeping move which ended with O'Keeffe palming the ball to the net.

A quick point from Marie Dargan followed. She shot a second one also, but a late reply from a free by Niamh Taylor left Dublin interval leaders by 1-3 to 1-2 after shooting four wides against their opponents two.

Five minutes into the new half Marie Dargan pounced for another point. Niamh Butler then landed one from 45 metres, and suddenly the Cats were motoring.

Winning post

A Dargan pointed free was followed by a like score from Julieanne Woodcock (1-6 to 1-3).

Niamh Taylor interrupted the flow when she grabbed a point, but a double reply from Marie Dargan put the home side within touching distance of the winning post.

This was an ideal start for the Noresiders,who will be away to Galway in the next round on March 11.

Scorers: Kilkenny - Marie Dargan (0-6, two frees); Miriam O'Keeffe (1-0); Niamh Butler, Julie Ann Woodcock (0-1 each). Dublin - Niamh Taylor (0-4, one free); Ciara Durkin (1-0); Louise O'Hara (0-1).

Kilkenny - Catriona Ryan, Kate McDonald, Aine Fahy, Kelly Anne cotterell, Elaine Aylward, Aoife Neary, Niamh Butler, Julieanne Woodcock, Marie Dargan, Lizzie Lyng, Miriam O'Keeffe, Jackie Frisby, Caterine Doherty, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, Brid Aylward, Laureena Murphy, Edwind Keane, Grainne Brennan.

Dublin - E. Butler, E. O'Meara, J. Murphy, S. Curran, E. Brannigan, C. Lucey, C. Power, L. O'Hara, A. Fanning, J. Draper, A. Jordan, A. Griffin, N. Taylor, S. Ryan, C. Durkin, S. Hardy, M. O'Gorman, E. Reid, G. Flynn, E. Ryan.



Loose sliotar - Kilkennys' Aine Fahy holds back the challenge of Dublins' Niamh Taylor as she tries to gain control of the loose sliotar during their clash in the Senior 'A' Camoige League. Photos: Eoin Hennessy

Short, sharp burst downs Dubs

CAMOGIE

Kilkenny 5-11

Dublin.....2-8

A LUCRATIVE blast of 1-3 between the 34th and 45th minutes put Kilkenny in the driving seat and they motored to a good win over Dublin in Division IB of the National Camogie League at Piltown on Sunday.

The exchanges during the opening half were hard and close. The minimum divided the sides at the break when the advantage lay with the home side.

However, Kilkenny stepped up a gear afterwards to claim a victory and get the season off to a flying start.

Dublin opened smarly and early points from Ashling Chaney and Emer Brogan from a 45 metre free helped them settle. Kilkenny hit back for a goal in the fourth minute.

Laureena Murphy sent in a head high ball which was taken by Lucinda Gahan. The latter had her back to goal, but she turned smartly before shooting the ball to the net.

The visitors got back level with a score from Emer Brogan (1-0 to 0-3) and they took up the running again when Paula Malcolmson sent the white flying.

A pointed free by Claire Aylward squared the issue as the 13th minute was reached. It was nip-and-tuck for a while afterwards, but when Kilkenny engineered a late goal they took over leadership.

Laura Kavanagh won possession around 14 metres out, and she hand-passed the ball to the better placed Emily Dermody. The latter cracked the ball into the net, and Kilkenny into an interval lead of 2-4 to 1-6.

A point from Stacy Duff earned the Dubs parity in the 32nd minute. Shortly afterwards Kilkenny hit the scoring highway.

First Laureen Murphy pointed. Then she converted a free. Laura Kavanagh bagged a minor before Siobhan Fahy netted (3-7 to 1-7).

The one-way scoring express continued when Emily Dermody and Laureena Murphy added points. At this stage Dublin has lost touch, and there was no way back for them.

Scorers: Kilkenny - Emily Dermody (3-0); Laureena Murphy (0-5); Siobhan Fahy, Lucinda Gahan (1-1 each); Claire Aylward (0-2); Laura Kavanasgh, Fiona Phelan (0-1 each). Dublin - Stacy Duff (1-1); Emer Brogan (0-4, two frees); Joleen Hoary (1-0); Paula Malcolmson, Aishling Chaney, Siobhan Keogh (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Brid Aylward, Leanna Fennelly, Grainne Brennan, Keeva Fennelly, Sara Shore, Noreen O'Keeffe, Georgina Culleton, Fiona Phelan, Karen Duggan, Claire Aylward, Laureena Murphy, Siobhan Fahy, Laura Kavanagh, Lucinda Gahan, Emily Dermody, Siobhan Murphy, Sinead Long.

Dublin - S. Carthy, S. Wade, L. Twomey, Z. Cole, A. Kirwan, C. Clooney, L. Hyland, A. Murphy, T. Egan, P. Malcolmson, E. Brogan, J. Hoary, S. Duff, A. Chaney, S. Keogh, K. Connelly, C. Fallon.

CAMOGIE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Div 1A: Wexford 2-4 (M Hearne 2-0, M O'Leary 0-2, U Leacy, K Kelly 0-1 each) **Cork 0-9** (J O'Leary 0-6 (3f), U O'Donoghue 0-2, G O'Connor 0-1).

Div 1B: Cork 2-6 (R Meyers, H O'Regan 1-0 each, A Thompson 0-4 (4f), M Jago, D Twomey 0-1 each); **Wexford 2-5** (M Walsh, G Hefferman (1-0f, 0-1f) 1-1 each, S Kehoe, S Nolan, B Ryan 0-1 each.

Div 3: London 3-8 (K Hickey 1-3, E Quigley 1-2, H Collier 1-0, S Deasy 0-2, H Muldoon 0-1); **Cavan 2-2** (M McBride 1-1, A O'Reilly 1-0, M Smith 0-1).

FEB. 2007

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

National League 2007

Loch Garman B v Corcaigh B
1pm
Referee: M. Conroy (Waterford)

Loch Garman A v Corcaigh A
2.45pm
Referee: D. Noble (Dublin

St. Martins GAA Grounds,
Piercestown, Wexford

FEB. 2007.

CAMOGIE
National League
Division 1A: Tipperary 2-13 (E McDonnell 2-2, C Grogan 0-6 (3f), M Short 0-2, G Kinnane, J Horan, J O'Halloran 0-1 each); **Galway 0-7** (V Curtin 0-4 (1f), C Kelly 0-2, E Kilkenny 0-1).
Kilkenny 1-8 (M Dargan 0-5, M O'Keeffe 1-0, N Butler, J Woodcock, M Quilty 0-1 each); **Dublin 1-5** (C Durkan 1-0, N Taylor 0-4, L O'Hara 0-1).
Wexford 2-4 (M Hearne 2-0, M O'Leary 0-2, U Leacy, K Kelly 0-1 each); **Cork 0-9** (J O'Leary 0-6 (3f), U O'Donoghue 0-2, G O'Connor 0-1).

Division 1B: Galway 5-11 (S Tennion 2-0, A Hayes 1-2, P Kerins (0-1f), M Devine 1-1 each, V Curtin 0-3, M Flanagan 0-2, A Hughes, S Griffin 0-1 each); **Tipperary 4-8** (S Ryan 3-5, K Kennedy 1-0, C Johnston, J O'Connor, N Flanagan 0-1 each).
Kilkenny 5-11 (E Dermody 3-2, S Fahy, L Gahan 1-1 each, L Murphy 0-3, C Aylward 0-2, F Phelan, N Kavanagh 0-1 each); **Dublin 2-8** (S Duff, A Chaney 1-1 each, E Brogan 0-4, P Malcolmson, S Keogh 0-1 each).
Cork 2-6 (R Meyers, H O'Regan 1-0 each, A Thompson 0-4 (4f), M Jago, D Twomey 0-1 each); **Wexford 2-5** (M Walsh, G Heffernan (1-0f, 0-1f) 1-1 each, S Kehoe, S Nolan, B Ryan 0-1 each.

Division 2A: Clare 5-16 (F Lafferty 1-9 (0-8f), C McMahon 1-1, C Commane, F Lanigan, S Moloney 1-0 each, K Rosengrave, A Ryan, S O'Loughlin 0-2 each); **Kildare 0-5** (S O'Carroll 0-5 (2f).
Derry 2-17 (A Wilkinson 1-2, C Doherty 1-1, G McGoldrick 0-5, K O'Kane, S Cassidy, P Murray, A Lafferty 0-2 each, A Diamond 0-1); **Antrim 2-3** (D McCaul, J Adams 1-1 each, E Dowds 0-1). Down 4-9; Offaly 0-4.
Division 2B: Carlow 1-7 (T Ralph 1-0, V Crean 0-3 (3f), T Meaney 0-2, M Doyle, M Cody 0-1 each); **Roscommon 1-2** (T Fallon 1-0, C Curley 0-2 (1f). **Waterford 0-6**
Armagh 1-5.
Division 3: Meath 6-14 (D O'Carroll 5-2, J Dolan 1-4, E Lynch, A Donnelly 0-3 each, L Donoghue, S Holden 0-1 each); **Tyrone 0-6** (S Jordan 0-2, A Carr, H Jordan, E Fitzgerald, C Collin 0-1 each. **London 3-8** (K Hickey 1-3, E Quigley 1-2, H Collier 1-0, S Deasy 0-2, H Muldoon 0-1); **Cavan 2-2** (M McBride 1-1, A O'Reilly 1-0, M Smith 0-1).
Westmeath 2-6; Louth 0-1.

Wexford score win over Rebels

CAMOGIE: Wexford made a tremendous start to their Division 1A National Camogie League campaign at Piercestown yesterday.

Goals in either half from Michelle Hearn were to prove decisive as Jim Kielty's Wexford claimed a rare 2-4 to 0-9 victory over All-Ireland champions Cork.

Wexford held a slender 1-1 to 0-3 interval lead and although Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray gave an excellent second-half performance and Jennifer O'Leary helped to execute a comeback from the Rebels with four points.

However, a late save from Wexford 'keeper and UCD Colleges All Star Margaret Darcy ensured the win.

Cork's B side made up for the A defeat by snatching a 2-6 to 2-5 win over the Model women as a 45th-minute goal from Hazel O'Regan proved the decisive score.

Corcaigh A

National League 2007

Loch Garman A

1. Aoife Murray

2. Joanne O'Callaghan | 3. Rosarie Holland | 4. Amanda O'Regan

5. Sarah Hayes | 6. Mary O'Connor | 7. Orla Cotter

8. Gemma O'Connor | 9. Briege Corkery

10. Una O'Donoghue | 11. Elaine Burke | 12. Jennifer O'Leary

13. Denise Twomey | 14. Rachel Moloney | 15. Eimear Watson

Colette Desmond

Substitutes

16. Ellen Clifford
17. Cathriona Foley
18. Rena Buckley
19. Anna Geary
20. Colette Desmond
21. Eimear O'Farrell

Bainisteoir:

John Cronin
Fiona O'Driscoll
Lilian Zinkant
Mary Moran

22. Marie O'Neill
23. Jenny Duffy
24. Eimear White
25.

1. Mags D'arcy

2. Noeleen Lambert | 3. Catherine O'Loughlin | 4. Deirdre Codd

5. Aine Codd | 6. Mary Leacy | 7. Aoife O'Connor

8. Kate Kelly | 9. Brona Furlong

10. Bridget Curran | 11. Rose-Marie Breen | 12. Michelle O'Leary

13. Ciara O'Connor | 14. Una Leacy | 15. Michelle Hearne

Substitutes

16. Helena Jacob
17. Bernie Holohan
18. Louise Codd
19. Stacey Redmond
20. Siona Nolan
21. Aisling Moran
22. Lenny Holohan
23. Katrina Parrock
24. Ursula Jacob
25. Claire O'Connor
26. Josie Dwyer

Bainisteoir

Stellah Sinnott
Alan Aherne,
Noel Ryan,
Eddie Flynn
Jim Kilty

Reiteoir:
Damian Noble



Cork captain Gemma O'Connor closed the gap to one point near the end, but the Rebels could not find an equaliser against Wexford in their National Senior A League opener on Saturday.



Regina Curtin pushed Cork on to claim victory over Wexford in their National Senior B League opening clash.

Cork fall to a shock defeat

Wexford	2-4
Cork	0-9



LINDA MELLERICK

CORK got off to a dismal start in their first round National Senior A League game in St. Martin's GAA Grounds, Wexford on Saturday afternoon.

It was a very poor Cork performance and as the team began a week's holiday in Lanzarote yesterday they are only too aware that they played well below par.

Playing on a better conditioned and wider pitch than their B counterparts had experienced, Cork can have no excuses as the strong cross wind so evident earlier had eased somewhat.

Cork looked fairly lively in the opening 10 minutes and appeared eager for the encounter. Jennifer O'Leary, one of Cork's better players on the day, pointed a free inside the first minute and Una O'Donoghue hit over on four. That point was to be Cork's only score from play in the first half and their last score until the 21st minute when O'Leary converted another free.

Seven minutes in and against the run of play at the time Michelle Hearne pushed her way through the Cork defence to goal. Surprisingly this too was to be Wexford's only score from play in the first 30 minutes and Cork can thank the excellent Aoife Murray for that. Wexford could have been out of sight at half time but for some magnificent saves from the Cork net minder.

Despite some great passages of play from the home side the game became lack lustre due mainly to over use of the whistle by Dublin referee Damian Noble.

It was all Wexford in the last 10 minutes of the opening period as they camped in Cork's half of the pitch. Orla Cotter, showing no signs of the 'second season syndrome' broke up many a Wexford attack.

The Rebel side found themselves only a point behind at the break and on balance, very happy to be so.

Again Cork started the second period lively and it looked as if the half time talk would come to fruition.

The tempo upped considerably on both sides. O'Leary and O'Donoghue each pointed by the second minute but this was cancelled out when Murray, having won possession, made her only mistake of the day. An attempted hand pass to get out of trouble was intercepted and the resulting ground stroke finished in the back of the net. Wexford now led by two as the home crowd roared their side to victory against the reigning All Ireland and National League Champions.

Wexford drove on and three points in the seventh, 12th and 16th minutes gave them a four-point lead.

Cork introduced two substitutes, Anna Geary and Rena Buckley, and Buckley in particular added spice to the Rebel cause. Again it was the speedy left half forward O'Leary to the forefront as two points, one from play, narrowed the gap to two.

Captain Gemma O'Connor brought it to one with a minute of normal time left on the clock.

The dying minutes were vigorously fought for by both sides but it was Wexford who triumphed and it was no more than they deserved.

Scorers Cork: J O'Leary 0-6 (0-4f's), U O'Donoghue 0-2, G O'Connor 0-1.
Wexford: M Hearne 2-0, M O'Leary 0-2, K Kelly 0-1(f), U Leacy 0-1.
CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, R Holland, A O'Regan; S Hayes, M O'Connor, O Cotter; G O'Connor, B Corkery; U O'Donoghue, E Burke, J O'Leary; C Desmond, R Moloney, E Watson.
Subs: A Geary for C Desmond (43min), R Buckley for E Burke (46min)
WEXFORD: M D'arcy; N Lambert, C O'Loughlin, D Codd; A Codd, M Leacy, A O'Connor; K Kelly, B Furlong; B Curran, R M Breen, M O'Leary; C O'Connor, U Leacy, M Hearne.
Subs: K Parrock for C O'Connor (41min), S Redmond for B Furlong (56min).
Referee: D Noble (Dublin)

Cork do just enough to open league with victory

Wexford	2-5
Cork	2-6

By LINDA MELLERICK
National Senior B League

HEAVY underfoot conditions and a strong, swirling wind didn't lend itself to fast open play in this first round National Senior B League tie in Piercetown, Wexford on Saturday afternoon.

The home side took full advantage of the wind with a pointed free in the first minute.

A dogged, battling Wexford, in particular Bernie Holohan, Louise Codd and Stacey Redmond, put it up to Cork who took a while to shake the long journey from their limbs.

When Diane Ryan pointed Wexford's second point on eight minutes, the visitors were beginning to settle.

Aisling Thompson hit over Cork's first score with nine minutes recorded. Despite Emer O'Sullivan, Lynda Dorgan and Regina Curtin driving Cork forward it was Wexford who edged further ahead when Mary Walsh blasted over from close range.

Rachel Myers replied when she collected a long ball in from Dorgan and made no mistake to leave a point between the sides.

A lack of concentration pushed Cork four points behind at the break as a free which looked to be going over dipped under the crossbar.

With the wind now in their favour, Cork began to dominate but scores were hard to come by as Wexford pushed back and kept the home side in contention right to the final minute.

Two frees from Thompson and a Deirdre Twomey point left the minimum between the sides with 19 minutes left on the clock before Marian Jagoe levelled it.

When Myers hit the net and Thompson scored her fourth point, it looked as if the floodgates would open but Wexford ploughed on. A goal and a point on 21 minutes left the minimum between the sides again.

The home side battled hard for the equaliser but Cork held firm to take the first two points of this year's National Senior B League campaign.

Scorers for Cork: A Thompson 0-4(0-2fs), R Myers and H O'Regan 1-0, D Twomey and M Jagoe 0-1 each.

Wexford: M Walsh 1-1, G Heffernan 1-0(f), S Nolan 0-2(fs), D Ryan and S Kehoe 0-1 each.

CORK: G Harrington; AM Fleming, N Mulcahy, D Hayes; L O'Connell, L Hawkes, E O'Sullivan; R Curtin, L Dorgan; A Thompson, M Corkery, H O'Regan; M Jagoe, R Myers, D Twomey. **Subs:** S Sexton for D Hayes (38min), T Roche for M Jagoe (57min)

WEXFORD: H Jacob; K Atkinson, N O'Connor, C Atkinson; B Holohan, L Codd, S Kehoe; S Redmond, A Moran; D Ryan, S Nolan, F Doran; L Holohan, M Walsh, G Heffernan.

Subs: S Kehoe for D Ryan (43min), C Storey for L Holohan (44min), K Parrock for F Doran (52min).

Referee: M Conroy (Waterford).

Cork shade win in opening game

Wexford	2-5
Cork	2-6

by Mary Newman

CORK had a good start to their campaign they came out on top in a close Division 1B senior national camogie league clash with Wexford in Piercetown.

Wexford made full use of the wind advantage in the opening half with points from Stacy Keogh and Diane Ryan. Aisling Thompson replied for Cork nine minutes into the game but Wexford edged ahead with a well taken goal from Mary Walsh.

Cork were dealt a blow when Grainne Heffernan's long range free looked to be going over the bar, but dipped under the crossbar to leave Cork trailing by four points.

With the wind in their favour for the second half, Cork began to dominate, but found the going hard against a Wexford defence who were working hard to hold their advantage.

Two pointed frees from Aisling Thompson and a point from Deirdre Twomey left the minimum between the sides and Cork were back on level thanks to a Marian Jagoe point.

Cork, now gaining the upper hand pressed for home. A goal from O'Regan was followed by an Aisling Thompson point and it looked as if Cork were about to over power the home side, but Wexford fought back. With nine minutes remaining just a point separated the sides. Wexford battled hard for the equaliser but Cork held their lines to take the points after an exciting contest.

Cork: A Thompson 0-4(0-2f's), R Myers and H O' Regan 1-0, D Twomey and M Jagoe 0-1 each.

Wexford: M Walsh 1-1, G Heffernan 1-0(f), S Nolan 0-2 (frees), D Ryan and S Kehoe 0-1 each.

Cork: G Harrington; AM Fleming, N Mulcahy, D Hayes; L O'Connell, L Hawkes, E O'Sullivan; R Curtin, L Dorgan; A Thompson, M Corkery, H O' Regan; M Jagoe, R Myers, D Twomey. Subs:-S Sexton for D Hayes (38min), T Roche for M Jagoe(57min).

Wexford: H Jacob; K Atkinson, N O'Connor, C Atkinson; B Holohan, L Codd, S Kehoe; S Redmond, A Moran; D Ryan, S Nolan, F Doran; L Holohan, M Walsh, G Heffernan. Subs:-S Kehoe for D Ryan (43min), C Storey for L Holohan(44min), K Parrock for F Doran(52min).

Ref: M Conroy (Waterford).

FEB.

2007

Second-string edged out

CORK	2-6
WEXFORD	2-5

by **NOEL HOLOHAN**

WEXFORD'S second-string camogie side went agonisingly close to beating the current senior 'B' All-Ireland champions Cork last Saturday in Piercestown, when the minimum separated the sides following a very entertaining National League Division 1B opener.

When these sides met in last year's championship, Cork handed out a mauling to Wexford. But with both Wexford squads training together this season it seems to be bringing about a definite all-round improvement in the Model County charges.

Wexford had advantage of the elements in the first-half, with the wind in their backs, and Gretta Heffernan pointed an early free for the home-side. Lenny Holohan then set up Diane Ryan to point from play as Wexford found space in the Cork rearguard to open-up a 0-2 to 0-0 lead.

Aisling Thompson replied with Cork's first score of the game, when she pointed a free. But Thompson grew frustrated along with her colleagues as Helena Jacob proved to be outstanding in the Wexford goal, saving but also looking very confident under the high ball, and the goal was a position in which the Wexford second-string suffered badly last year, when no recognised substitute goalkeeper was available for many games.

Lenny Holohan, meanwhile, was again the provider in setting up the game's first goal, as Holohan burst onto a ball on the wing and carved through the Rebel County defence at will, before laying off a crisp pass to Mary Walsh, for the Blackwater star to lash home a blistering goal.

Cork responded strongly, however, as it was a goal of their own that immediately cut the advantage to a single point once more. Rachel Myers caught a great ball and wasted little time in forcing the sliotar over the goal-line.

Wexford had the final say of the opening-half, when Gretta Heffernan connected sweetly with a 30 yard free that whizzed into the top corner of the net, to leave the half-time score standing at 2-2 to 1-1 in favour of Wexford.

Cork out-pointed Wexford by four points to one in the opening minutes of the second-half, with Mary Walsh's effort for the home-side coming in response to three Aisling Thompson points and a similar effort from Marian Jagoe for the visitors.

Cork hit the front for the first-time when Hazel O'Regan connected on a low ball to score the second goal for the visitors, and Aisling Thompson pointed moments later, as the Rebels stretched their lead to three points with the game entering its final furlong.

Wexford didn't relent though, and battled the game out with determination. Substitute Shelly Kehoe pointed, and her white-flag effort was quickly followed by a pointed free from Siona Nolan to further boost the purple-and-gold.

Wexford continued in search of an equaliser. But they were eventually left to rue missed chances in the first-half, during when they hit several wides that probably cost them at least a draw, something which they would have fully merited on the day.

Cork - *Gillian Harrington, Ann-Marie Fleming, Noreen Mulcahy, Hazel O'Regan (1-0), Deirdre Hayes, Linda O'Connell, Lucy Hawkes, Eimear O'Sullivan, Linda Dorgan, Aisling Thompson (0-4, 2 frees), Marie Corkery, Regina Curtin, Marian Jagoe (0-1), Deirdre Twomey, (0-1), Rachel Myers (1-0).*

Subs: *Sarah Sexton for Deirdre Hayes; (temporary, Deirdre Hayes for Thompson).*

Wexford - *Helena Jacob, Karen Atkinson, Niamh O'Connor, Colleen Atkinson, Bernie Holohan (Capt.), Louise Codd, Sharon Kehoe, Stacey Redmond, Aisling Moran, Diane Ryan (0-1), Siona Nolan (0-1 free), Frances Doran, Lenny Holohan, Mary Walsh (1-1), Gretta Heffernan (1-1 frees).*

Subs: *Shelly Kehoe (0-1) for Diane Ryan; Katrina Parrock for Frances Doran; Ciara storey for Sharon Kehoe*

Referee - *M. Conroy (Waterford).*



Wexford's new captain Mary Leacy clears her lines against Cork's Rachel Maloney during last Saturday's National Senior Camogie League Division 1A tie at Piercestown, in which the home-side prevailed by 2-4 to 0-9. Pic: Jim Campbell.



Wexford scored a superb win over defending champions Cork in the opening round of the National Senior Camogie League Division 1A campaign at Piercestown on Saturday last. Back row (l-r): Mary Leacy (capt.), Catherine O'Loughlin, Michelle Hearne, Kate Kelly, Rose-Marie Breen, Deirdre Codd, Brona Furlong, Mags D'Arcy, Bridget Curran, Una Leacy, Aoife O'Connor, Aine Codd, Bernie Holohan. Front row (l-r): Louise Codd, Siona Nolan, Stacey Redmond, Noeleen Lambert, Ciara O'Connor, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Katrina Parrock, Helena Jacob, Lenny Holohan, Aisling Moran. Match report on page 48. Pic: Jim Campbell.

Champs Cork pipped by Wexford

Wexford	2-4
Cork	0-9

by Mary Newman

A WEEKEND of mixed emotions for the county senior A and B sides as the camogie national league campaigns kicked off over the weekend. For the Division One A side and defending champions, it was a disappointing start, as they lost by the narrowest of margins to a determined Wexford side.

Jennifer O'Leary pointed a free inside the first minute and with Una O'Donoghue adding another minutes later, Cork looked to be settling quickly. Wexford had other ideas and with their defence gaining the upper hand they contained Cork to such a degree that it was the 21st minute before they registered another score from play, with O'Leary converting a free.

Wexford hit the front in the 7th minute when Michelle Hearne got past the Cork defence to goal; this was to be Wexford's only score from play in the first half. Cork's Aoife Murray denied Wexford with some magnificent saves to leave Cork trailing by a point at the break. Cork started the second half well with points from O'Leary and Una O' Donoghue restoring their lead but this was cancelled out when an attempted hand pass from keeper Murray was intercepted and finished to the net, putting Wexford ahead by two.

Cork battled on but Wexford opened up a four-point lead. Two points from O'Leary narrowed the gap to two, with captain Gemma O'Connor bringing it to one with a minute of normal time left on the clock. Cork battled to gain a share of the spoils and fought hard but Wexford hung on to record a victory and gain two valuable league points.

Cork: J O'Leary 0-6 (0-4f's), U O'Donoghue 0-2, G O'Connor 0-1.

Wexford: M Hearne 2-0, M O'Leary 0-2, K Kelly 0-1(f), U Leacy 0-1.

Cork: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, R Holland, A O' Regan, S Hayes, M O'Connor, O Cotter; G O'Connor, B Corkery; U O'Donoghue, E Burke, J O'Leary; C Desmond, R Moloney, E Watson.

Subs: A Geary for C Desmond (43min), R Buckley for E Burke (46min).

FEB.

2007

Tipperary off to a fine start

(2007-02-26)

National Senior League
New Tipperary Senior manager Tony Delaney got the league campaign of to a positive start with a win over Galway on Sunday last. In tricky conditions the Tipp girls held out for a 2.13 to 0.7 win. They now face Cork on March 11th in round two.
The Senior B team were less fortunate in their opening league game which served as a curtain raiser to the A game. Galway were afforded a large halftime lead which they clung onto to take the points. To their credit the Tipp girls second half performance brought them right back into the game and they will be anxious to take that form through to their next game against Cork also on March 11th.

Minor
In an early start to their season the Tipperary Minor team will face Cork on Sunday next in the opening round of the Munster championship in the Ragg at 2.30pm. This will be a stern test for Pat McLoughney and his selection team, Tipperary narrowly overcame Cork two years ago at under 16 level in a nail biting encounter. The winners of this game will go through to a Munster semi final. Tipperary will be looking to some of their experienced players Therese Shortt, Aoife McLoughney and Geraldine Stapleton to guide them through. This Munster championship is a seperate competition to the All Ireland series, however Tipp will endeavour to lay down a good marker for the forthcoming championship.

Club Fixtures
U14C League Final Boherlahan vs New Inn Sat 3rd March 3pm Ragg Camogie
Grounds.

County Board Meeting
The next meeting of the County Board will take place on Tuesday 6th of March.

National League
Senior A
Tipperary 2-13 Galway 0-7

Tipperary got their senior camogie season off to a good start in The Ragg on Sunday when in the opening round of the National League Tony Delaney's charges had twelve points to spare over their Galway rivals.

In looking back on this match, the new manager will surely reflect more on the first than the second half in terms of productivity. Tipp were on fire in that half building up an interval lead of 1-8 to 0-3
-
Eimear McDonnell getting the goal after nineteen minutes. The 2nd half became somewhat ragged, Tipp mentors deciding to blood a number of players but at the same time, never looking to be in danger. For all its possession the Galway attack was found wanting in the scoring department and a second Eimear McDonnell goal two minutes from time sealed a well deserved win for the home side.

Tipp lined out with nine of the side that began last year's All Ireland final and, generally, it was an encouraging performance against a Galway side that was rather depleted and which was forced to call on several players who had already played in the 'B' game which preceded this encounter and which Galway won by 5-11 to 4-8.

Tipp were well served by Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon and Trish O' Halloran in defence with Philly Fogarty and Michelle Shortt on top at mid field. Farther in Eimear McDonnell was a constant threat in the inner line and was well supported by Geraldine Kinnane, Claire Grogan (team captain) and Jill Horan.

Tipperary – Rose Kenneally, Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell, Julie Kirwan, Sabrina Larkin, Trish O'Halloran, Sinead Nealon, Philly Fogarty, Michelle Shortt (0-2), Joanne Ryan, Jenny O'Halloran (0-1), Claire Grogan (0-6, 4 frees) (captain), Eimear McDonnell (2-2), Jill Horan (0-1), Geraldine Kinnane ((0-1).

Subs – Marie Tynan for Sinead Nealon, Lizzie Woods for Suzanne Kelly, Linda Grogan for Philly Fogarty, Cora Hennessy for Joanne Ryan, Trish Ryan for Julie Kirwan.

Senior B National League

Galway 5-11 Tipperary 4-8

In the 'B' game, a dire first half performance when playing into a very strong wind saw Tipp behind by sixteen points at the interval (3-8
to 0-1). But what a second half transformation and even though it wasn 't enough to bridge the gap, still they scored 4-7 in that half to end up only six points in arrears, their confidence greatly boosted for the tests ahead.

Tipp owed so much to full forward Siobhan Ryan, who having notched Tipp's only first half point from a free at the end of the first quarter, proceeded to dominate the second half scoring from as early as the opening minute. Then, having been fouled going through, she belted home the resultant penalty and Tipp were motoring. Several positional switches and the introduction of a number of substitutes seemed to give more shape to a Tipp side that had been over run by their more methodical Galway opponents. Galway had to 'poach' Veronica Curtin from the 'A' side to help restore their superiority and while there was never any doubting their entitlement to the points, Tipp did battle very hard to the end, restoring much honour in the process.

Tipperary – Mary Needham, Paula Ralph, Noelette O'Dwyer, Sheena Ryan, Sinead O'Donnell, Julie Delaney, Niamh O'Connell, Lena Woods, Siobhan O'Doherty (captain), Elaine Haugh, Jackie O'Connor (0-1), Karen Doheny, Marie O'Doherty, Siobhan Ryan (3-5), Denise Ryan.

Subs … Katie Kennedy (1-0) for Marie 0'Doherty, Noreen Flanagan (0-1) for Karen Doheny, Ciara Johnson (0-1) for Siobhan O'Doherty.
Tipperary PRO, Suzanne Kelly

Division 1 National Camogie League Roundup

(2007-02-26)

Two goals from Michelle Hearne in either half ensured that Wexford got Division 1A of the National Camogie League off to a great start on Saturday with a rare 2-4 to 0-9 victory over All-Ireland Champions Cork at Piercestown.

The Jim Kielty trained Wexford side held a slender 1-1 to 0-3 interval lead and although Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray gave an excellent second half performance and Jennifer O'Leary helped to execute a comeback from the Rebels, with four second half points; a late save from goalkeeper Margaret Darcy ensured a Wexford victory.

Despite the absence of their Freshford players, Kilkenny were strong enough to overcome a resilient Dublin challenge to register a three points win at Piltown by 1-8 to 1-5.

Dublin had led by a point at the interval with Ciara Durkin taking a 20th minute goal but the free taking accuracy of Marie Dargan ensured the homeside held out for victory.

Tipperary were always in control against Galway at The Ragg yesterday with Eimear McDonnell finding the net in either half to ensure a 2-13 to 0-7 win.

In Division 1B Cork made up for the disappointment of their A counter by snatching a 2-6 to 2-5 win over Wexford with a 45th minute goal from Hazel O'Regan the decisive score, Kilkenny recorded a firm 5-11 to 2-8 win over Dublin.

FEB
2007

Nominee: Mallow Camogie Club Under 18 Team
Mallow Camogie Club Under 18 team were crowned County Champions after the final against Coursey Rovers in November 2006. They defeated Glen Rovers in the County Semi Final, and played their way into the County Final for the first time. The County Final against Coursey Rovers was a titanic battle but they won during extra-time.
Nominee: Michele Browne, St. Mary's Secondary School
Achievements: Played with the Cork Minor and Junior Camogie teams in 2006. Won a Munster medal with the Minor team, scoring 1-1 v Tipperary. Also won a Munster Junior medal scoring 1-3 v Clare. Won the Individual title.

Tipperary Camogie

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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The Senior B team were less fortunate in their opening league game which served as a curtain raiser to the A game. Galway were afforded a large halftime lead which they clung onto to take the points. To their credit the Tipp girls second half performance brought them right back into the game and they will be anxious to take that form through to their next game against Cork also on March 11th.

MINOR

In an early start to their season the Tipperary Minor team will face Cork on Sunday next in the opening round of the Munster championship in the Ragg at 2.30pm. This will be a stern test for Pat McLoughney and his selection team, Tipperary narrowly overcame Cork two years ago at under 16 level in a nail biting encounter. The winners of this game will go through to a Munster semi final. Tipperary will be looking to some of their experienced players Therese Shortt, Aoife McLoughney and Geraldine Stapleton to guide them through. This Munster championship is a seperate competition to the All Ireland series, however Tipp will endeavour to lay down a good marker for the forthcoming championship.

CLUB FIXTURES

U-14 'C' League Final — Boherlahan v. New Inn, Saturday, 3rd March, at 3pm, in The Ragg Camogie Grounds.

COUNTY BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the County Board will take place on Tuesday, 6th March.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Senior A

Tipperary 2-13
Galway 0-7

Tipperary got their senior camogie season off to a good start in The Ragg on Sunday when in the opening round of the National League Tony Delaney's charges had twelve points to spare over their Galway rivals.

In looking back on this match, the new manager will surely reflect more on the first than the second half in terms of productivity. Tipp were on fire in that half building up an interval lead of 1-8 to 0-3 -Eimear McDonnell getting the goal after nineteen minutes. The second half became somewhat ragged, Tipp mentors deciding to blood a number of players but at the same time, never looking to be in danger. For all its possession the Galway attack was found wanting in the scoring department and a second Eimear McDonnell goal two minutes from time sealed a well deserved win for the home side.

Tipp lined out with nine of the side that began last year's All-Ireland final and, generally, it was an encouraging performance against a Galway side that was rather depleted and which was forced to call on several players who had already played in the 'B' game which preceded this encounter and which Galway won by 5-11 to 4-8.

Tipp were well served by Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon and Trish O'Halloran in defence with Philly Fogarty and Michelle Shortt on top at midfield. Farther in Eimear McDonnell was a constant threat in the inner line and was well supported by Geraldine Kinnane, Claire Grogan (captain) and Jill Horan.

Tipperary – Rose Kenneally, Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell, Julie Kirwan, Sabrina Larkin, Trish O'Halloran, Sinead Nealon, Philly Fogarty, Michelle Shortt (0-2), Joanne Ryan, Jenny O'Halloran (0-1), Claire Grogan (0-6, 0-4 frees) (captain), Eimear McDonnell (2-2), Jill Horan (0-1), Geraldine Kinnane ((0-1). Subs – Marie Tynan for Sinead Nealon, Lizzie Woods for Suzanne Kelly, Linda Grogan for Philly Fogarty, Cora Hennessy for Joanne Ryan, Trish Ryan for Julie Kirwan.

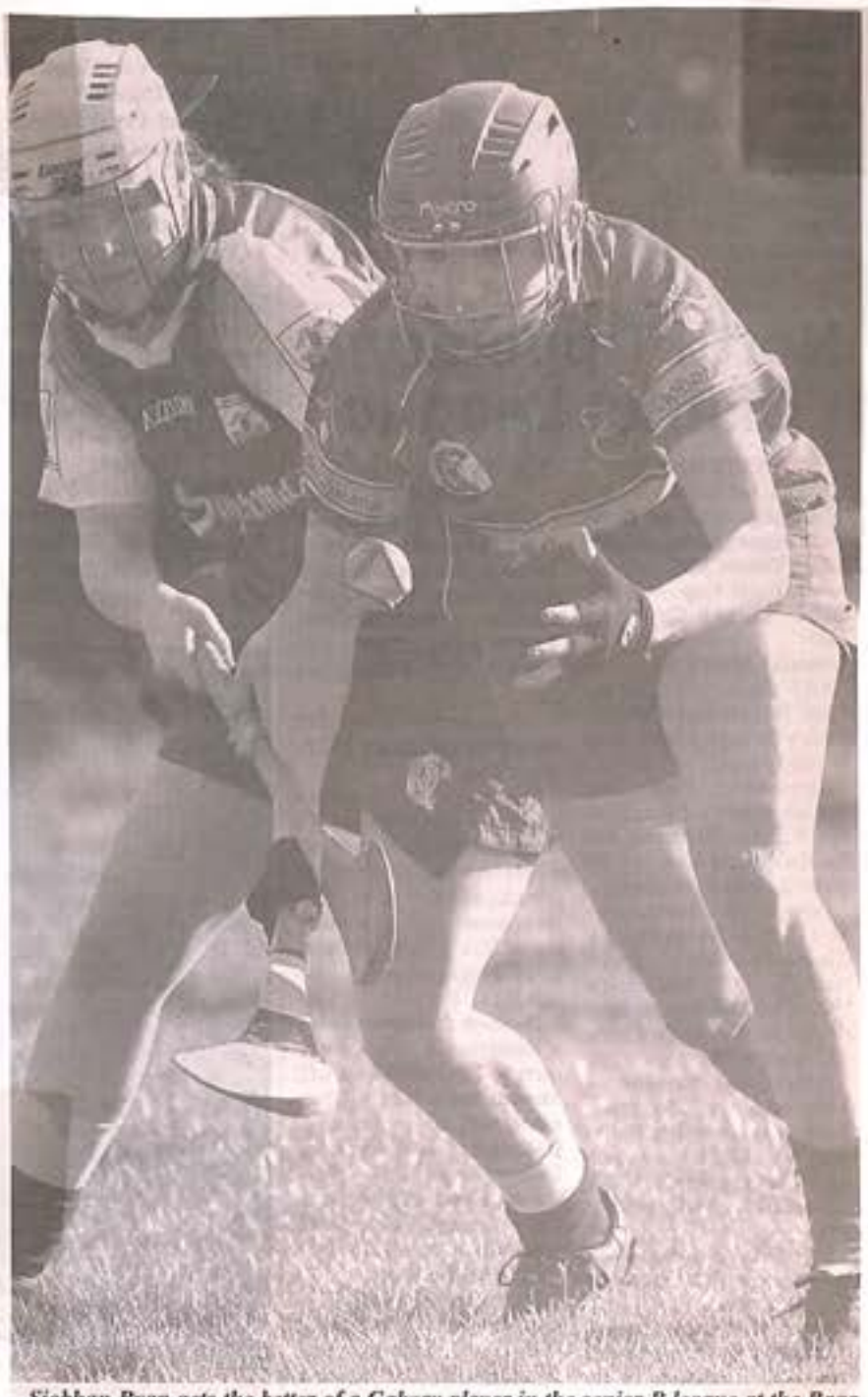
B NATIONAL LEAGUE

Galway 5-11
Tipperary 4-8

In the 'B' game, a dire first half performance when playing into a very strong wind saw Tipp behind by sixteen points at the interval (3-8 to 0-1). But what a second half transformation and even though it wasn't enough to bridge the gap, still they scored 4-7 in that half to end up only six points in arrears, their confidence greatly boosted for the tests ahead.

Tipp owed so much to full forward Siobhan Ryan, who having notched Tipp's only first half point from a free at the end of the first quarter, proceeded to dominate the second half scoring from as early as the opening minute. Then, having been fouled going through, she belted home the resultant penalty and Tipp were motoring. Several positional switches and the introduction of a number of substitutes seemed to give more shape to a Tipp side that had been over run by their more methodical Galway opponents. Galway had to 'poach' Veronica Curtin from the 'A' side to help restore their superiority and while there was never any doubting their entitlement to the points, Tipp did battle very hard to the end, restoring much honour in the process.

Tipperary – Mary Needham, Paula Ralph, Noelette O'Dwyer, Sheena Ryan, Sinead O'Donnell, Julie Delaney, Niamh O'Connell, Lena Woods, Siobhan O' Doherty (captain), Elaine Haugh, Jackie O'Connor (0-1), Karen Doheny, Marie O'Doherty, Siobhan Ryan (3-5), Denise Ryan. Subs: Katie Kennedy (1-0) for Marie O'Doherty, Noreen Flanagan (0-1) for Karen Doheny, Ciara Johnson (0-1) for Siobhan O'Doherty.



Siobhan Ryan gets the better of a Galway player in the senior B league at the Ragg camogie grounds. Picture: Bridget Delaney.

FEB. 2007

Encouraging start for Dublin in first round of the Div 1A.

(2007-02-26)

Although Dublin lost to Kilkenny on a score line of 1-8 to 1-5, it was an encouraging start for Dublin in first round Div 1A of the National League. Dublin played with the wind in the first half of this exciting game played at Piltown on Sunday, 25 February. Some good Dublin pressure resulted in Dublin's opening point from Niamh Taylor who took a well timed pass from Aine Fanning. She added another point from free before Ciara Durkan scored Dublin's goal. Dublin were ahead 1-2 to 0-0. But Kilkenny responded with a goal from Miriam O'Keeffee and two frees from Marie Dargan who had a big game in the middle of the field. Niamh Taylor added a pointed free just before half time to leave the score at the interval Dublin 1-3 Kilkenny 1-2.

Assisted with the wind, Kilkenny scored 4 unanswered points at the start of the second half. Another Niamh Taylor pointed free for Dublin was answered by two points from Maire Dargan for Kilkenny. Louise O'Hara finished the scoring when her attempted goal shot sailed over the bar. Final score Kilkenny 1-8 Dublin 1-5. Overall Kilkenny were the sharper team and deserved to win this game.

This was Dublin's first game at Senior level for three years and they acquitted themselves well. Players and new manager, David Kennedy while not happy at losing today's game will be greatly encouraged by today's efforts. Lessons will be learned by the young Dubs - their first touch must be consistently good, skill levels must be consistently high and the sliotar must be moved with speed and accuracy. Still an encouraging start to the competitive season.

Scorers for Dublin Niamh Taylor 0-4 (3from frees), Ciara Durkan 1-0. Louise O'Hara 0-1
Scorers for Kilkenny: Marie Dargan 0-6 (4 from frees), Miriam O'Keeffee 1-0, Julia Ann Woodcock and Niamh Butler 0-1 each.

Eimear Butler(St. Vincents) Elaine O'Meara(Na Fianna) Jean Murphy(Skerries Harps) Siobhan Curran(Raheny) Eimear Brannigan (St. Vincents) Ciara Lucey(Ballybooden St. Endas) Caitriona Power (Naomh Mearnog) Louise O'Hara (Erins Isle)Aine
Fanning(St. Vincents) Julie Draper (Erins Isle) Aisling Jordan(St. Vincents) Anne Griffin (Ballyboden St.Endas) Niamh Taylor(Naomh Mearnog) Sarah Ryan(Good Counsel) Ciara Durkan (Skerries Harps)

Substitutes used: Muireann O Gorman (Na Fianna) for Julie Draper. Claire Donnelly (St. Vincents) for Anne Griffin
Rest of substitutes:Sinead Hardy (St. Vincents) Edel Reid (Good Counsel) Noelle Comyn (Ballyboden St. Endas) Elaine Ryan (Good Counsel))



Séan Kelly (left), Guest of Honour and Dermot Graham from AIB Bank Mallow present a Mallow Sports & Leisure Award in the Junior Awards Section to Michelle Brown from the Mallow Camogie Club U18 Team.

FEB. 2007

Senior camogie outfit holds out for fine opening victory

WEXFORD	2-4
CORK	0-9

by **NOEL HOLOHAN**

WEXFORD COULD not have asked for a better start to the 2007 camogie season, when the first-string carved out a one-point victory over the current All-Ireland championship and National League title-holders Cork in the first round of the Division 1A league at Piercestown last Saturday.

Wexford had not beaten Cork since a famous triumph over the Rebel County three years ago in a league semi-final. So last Saturday's victory marks a great improvement, and while the standard was not always the best, the heart and determination of the Wexford players was the key to success.

Wexford, under the guidance of Stellah Sinnott, Alan Aherne and Noel Ryan have been training extremely hard since last November, and their diligent work showed, as the home-side looked fitter and sharper than the Rebels.

While accepting that no inter-county silverware is won in mid-February, this success may provide the springboard for a major Wexford breakthrough this season.

The foundations for the opening round success were laid during the early stages of both halfs, when ace attacker Michelle Hearne twice found herself in the right place at the right time to slot home the all-important goals.

It was the visitors who were first off the mark though, as Jennifer O'Leary pointed a free in the second minute, while her ice-breaker was quickly followed by a wonderful point from team-mate Una O'Donoghue.

Wexford then gained a great tonic. Ciara O'Connor collected possession on the wing, and showed a clean pair of heels to her marker as she bore down on goal, before the Rathnure player spotted Michelle Hearne inside. After O'Connor dispatched to the St. Ibar's star, Hearne punished Cork as she slotted home the game's opening goal after seven minutes.



Wexford midfielder Brona Furlong charges away from Cork pair Rachel Maloney and Briege Corkery in Saturday's league opener at Piercestown. Pic: Jim Campbell.

Rose-Marie Breen almost raised a second green-flag for Wexford only to see her shot well saved by Cork netminder Aoife Murray.

Scores were hard to come by, with wind-assisted Wexford guilt of not using the elements properly. In fact, only for some heroic defending by Aoife O'Connor and captain Mary Lacey, who inspired at centre-back, Cork may have hit more scores in the opening-half.

Cork did draw level after 21 minutes, when Rachel Maloney was fouled en route to goal for a free which was easily pointed by Jenny O'Leary.

Kate Kelly was more than capable of doing likewise for Wexford, and her pointed free two minutes before half-time gave Wexford the interval lead, as the score at half-time read: Wexford 1-1 Cork 0-3.

Some were guilty of thinking that a one point lead was enough to carry Wexford to victory. But when Cork hit a point seconds after the restart through Jennifer O'Leary the Munster women were looking favourites for victory.

Michelle Hearne had other ideas though, and she was on hand to force the ball over the 'line and into the net after initial efforts from Rose-Marie Breen had been blocked out.

The All-Ireland champions responded in great fashion with two points inside three minutes, as Una O'Donoghue and Jennifer O'Leary pointed to again close the gap to a single point.

Wexford didn't wilt under the pressure though, and they probably played some of their best camogie in recent seasons in a ten minute spell that yielded three points for the locals. Michelle O'Leary, who is back in the fold after a year's absence, was keen to impress on her return, and she landed a point after great battling by Kate Kelly.

O'Leary landed a second personal point moments later, when she cut in from the right wing to send a crisp shot over the 'bar. Una Lacey, fresh from her Ashbourne Cup success with University College Dublin was the next Wexford player on the scoreboard, as Bridget Curran turned provider, with Curran producing a fantastic second-half performance.

But a point from play and a pointed free by Jennifer O'Leary saw the Wexford lead halved, as the Cork ladies closed to within two points again with six minutes remaining.

It was to backs to the wall stuff for Wexford from there to the finish, as Cork made several efforts to nick a goal. But they encountered a mean Wexford defence, which snuffed out everything thrown at them.

A late save by Wexford 'keeper Margaret D'Arcy epitomised Wexford's attitude in the second-half, as the St. Martin's netminder bravely dived on a loose ball to win a free-out when it had looked as though Rachel Maloney was about to sink a killer goal for Cork.

Gemma O'Connor did hit a super point for Cork to leave the minimum between the sides. But that was to be all that Cork could master in the closing stages, as Wexford held out for a much deserved victory.

In those last five minutes the discipline of the Wexford players was superb, as they absolutely refused to concede the free from which Cork could have forced a draw.

All in all this result is very pleasing to the camogie followers on Slaneyside. Certainly judging on last Saturday's performance there is a great freshness about the Wexford team this year. Let's just hope that the next outing against Dublin in two weeks time will see Wexford build on this result, and make a serious push towards the knockout stages of the league.

Wexford - *Mags D'Arcy, Noeleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin, Deirdre Codd, Aine Codd, Mary Lacey (Capt.), Aoife O'Connor, Kate Kelly (0-1 free), Brona Furlong, Bridget Curran, Rose-Marie Breen, Michelle O'Leary (0-2), Ciara O'Connor, Una Lacey (0-1), Michelle Hearne (2-0).*

Subs: *Katrina Parrock for Ciara O'Connor; Louise Codd for Brona Furlong.*

Cork - *Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Rosemarie Holland, Amanda O'Regan, Sarah Hayes, Mary O'Connor, Catriona Foley, Gemma O'Connor (0-1), Briege Corkery, Una O'Donoghue (0-2), Elaine Burke, Jennifer O'Leary (0-6, 4 frees), Denise Twomey, Rachel Maloney, Eimear Watson.*

Subs: *(temporary, Anna Geary for Catriona Foley); Anna Geary for Denise Twomey; Rena Buckley for Catriona Foley*

Referee - *D. Noble (Dublin).*



Wing-back Aoife O'Conhor blocks a shot by Cork's Una O'Donoghue. Pic: Jim Campbell.

Evelyn maintains good form

WHILE WEXFORD'S senior 'A' camogie side was making a terrific start to their National League campaign last Saturday, with victory over defending champions Cork, one of their colleagues was maintaining her good form with London.

Indeed, Evelyn Quigley, daughter of the great Dan who captained Wexford to All-Ireland senior hurling glory in 1968, was again on the scoresheet for the Exiles in their second round league fixture against Cavan.

The former Rathnure star posted a personal salvo of 1-2 in London's 3-8 to 2-2 home win over the Breffni County in Division 3, having also found the target in her adopted side's opening round win away to Tyrone.

Avondhu camogie board AGM

AVONDHU Camogie Board AGM took place at Charleville GAA Pavilion. There was a good attendance present.

Chairman John Barry, who announced that he was not seeking re-election, presided. He expressed thanks to all for supporting him during his term of office.

In his address, he welcomed everyone and reported on the proceedings for the past year.

The reports of the secretary and the treasurer were adopted. Officers elected:

Chairman, Pat Spratt, vice do, John Moloney; Secretary, Sheila Thompson, assistant do, Joan Casey; Treasurer, Angie Coyle; PROs Esther O'Leary, Joan Herlihy; fixture secretary, John Barry.

Selectors: Pat Spratt, John Moloney, Sheila Thompson, Phil Healy.

*The U16 team is currently training for the blitz in Newtown on March 3.

CAMOGIE

All Ireland Colleges Junior semi-finals

Junior A: Cross And Passion, Ballycastle v Loreto, Kilkenny at Ballycastle 12 noon; Portumna Community School, Galway v St. Caimins, Shannon at Portumna, 3.30pm

Junior B: St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena v St Dominic's College, Dublin at Dunloy, 2.30pm ; Holy Rosary, Galway v Coachford Community College, Cork at Ballinasloe, 1.30pm

Junior C: St. Columbans College, Co. Down v Pres De La Salle, Carlow at Kilkeel, 2pm; Colaiste Na Coiribe, Galway v Colaiste Cholm, Cork at Renmore GAA Grounds, 2pm

Mairéad a heroine

MULLINAHONE

THIS week we salute 18-year-old Mairéad Luttrell of Poulacapple. Mairéad is a first year engineering student in University College, Dublin. Last weekend UCD won the Ashbourne Cup, the supreme camogie trophy for third level colleges for the first time since 1988.

Mairéad played at full-back on the team. She was also chosen on the Ashbourne All-Stars team which was picked at the end of the tournament. This was the first time that Mullinahone ever had a camogie player win such a prestigious award.

To put the matter in context the parish was delighted when such as Brian O'Meara, Paul Curran and Eoin Kelly won similar awards with WIT and LIT in hurling so well done Mairéad. In her under-12 and under-14 days Mairéad was an excellent footballer and hurler with the local juvenile club. At under-16 and minor level she moved to ladies football and camogie, playing in an All-Ireland schools final last year with Mercy Convent, Callan. That day in defeat Mairéad was outstanding at centre back.

Mairéad is currently on the fringe of the Tipperary senior camogie team. Last summer a serious injury deprived Mairéad of the chance to win a place on the All-Ireland final camogie team. It is great to see that Mairéad who is a very brave player has recovered and is back to top form. Well done Mairéad.

Rena's supreme efforts continue to draw accolades

Blarney

RENA WOWS AGAIN Corkman Supreme Sports winner at the Corkman Sports Awards 2006, Rena Buckley, continues to pick up the honours. She scored six points in U.C.D's Ashbourne Camogie Cup final victory over U.C.C.

Her performance earned her 'Player of the Tournament' and a midfield berth on the 'Colleges All-Stars' fifteen. Local players Marie O'Connell (Inniscarra) and Emma Dunne (Cloughduv) were also members of the victorious U.C.D. team. On their way to the decider U.C.D. accounted for W.I.T., C.I.T. and U.L. (who were going for four in a row). Cork teammate Catriona Foley, who represented U.C.C., was named left half back on the 'College All Stars'. Rockbán's Síle Burns was also a member of the U.C.C. team.

Meanwhile, 2005 Corkman Supreme Sports Award winner Valerie Mulcahy is showing outstanding form with Cork ladies' football team. The talented Rockbán sharp shooter contributed 2-2 the 'ladies in red' National League round three 3-12 to 1-5 victory over Meath. She also chipped in with 1-4 and 0-5 in the two previous rounds wins against Monaghan and Donegal respectively. Rockbán's Elaine Harte keeps goal for the reigning All-Ireland champs.



US basketball star Marverly Nettles and Cork camogie and football winner Briege Corkery are urging people to sign up for the marathon. Picture: Digipix Ireland

Marathon with a difference

CORK sports stars lined out yesterday to promote the relay element of the city's rejuvenated marathon.

Munster hooker Frankie Sheahan encouraged people to get teams together and get involved in running part of what will be the first Cork marathon in 21 years.

"Running is sometimes seen as an individual sport," said Sheahan, "but this event gives people the opportunity to build a team and take part in something really special."

He was joined by Marverly Nettles, of national champions The Montenotte Hotel Ladies Basketball team, and Cork duel camogie and football player Briege Corkery.

Up to five people can enter as a relay team with the five stages in the race being in the range of four to seven miles. Teams of two, three and four can run with some members running consecutive stages.

"The relay will be a race within a race, but it is all about participation," said event manager Gina Johnson.

The Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, is also looking for teams to run for their cause.

The Montenotte Cork City Marathon takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, June 4. Relay teams can enter by downloading the entry form on www.corkcitymarathon.ie or picking forms up at gyms, leisure centres and clubs around the country.

FEB

2007

MIXED FORTUNES FOR CORK SENIORS

A WEEKEND of mixed emotions for the county senior A and B sides as the National league campaigns got under way last weekend. For the Division 1 "A" side it was a disappointing start losing out by the narrowest of margins to a determined Wexford side.

Through the opening half corks Aoife Murray had to be at her best to deny Wexford and with both sides battling for supremacy just a point separated them a the half time whistle as Wexford led. Turning to play with the aid of the wind Cork looked to be in a good position. Cork started the second half well and points from Jennifer O'Leary and Una O' Donoghue restored the lead but this was cancelled out when an attempted hand pass from keeper Murray was intercepted and finished to the net by Michelle Hearne to put Wexford two points ahead. Cork battled on as Wexford opened up a four point lead and the introduction of substitutes Anna Geary and Rena Buckley helped Cork as two Jennifer o Leary points narrowed the gap to two. Captain Gemma O'Connor had it down to one to one with a minute of normal time left on the clock but as Cork battled to gain a share of the spoils Wexford hung on to record a victory and two valuable league points. While it will be a disappointment Cork now know they will have to up their performance when they face Tipperary on March 11th in Cork.

Interdivisional U16 Championship

ON Sunday next the inter divisional under 16 championship takes place in Charleville and Newtownshandrum.

And with the weeks ticking away the Cork Under 16 selectors will be keeping a sharp eye on proceedings before naming their panel of twenty five for the season ahead.

Six divisions will vie for the title with teams divides into two groups of three holders Seandun are paired in section 1 with Carbery and Muskerry, while in section 2 Avondhu are joined by Imokilly and Carrigdhoun.

In last season final Seandun and Muskerry played out a thriller the city representatives holding out to the finish withstanding a strong Muskerry challenge to deny the Mid Cork girls four in a row. With all six divisions having put in huge preparations this year competition promises plenty of interesting games. Games are fifteen minutes a side ion the top team in each contesting the final. The draws for the running order was made by the juvenile board. The venues are Charleville for Section 1 and Newtownshandrum for section 2, the venue for the final which is pencilled in for 2.30 will be either Charleville or Newtownshandrum this will be announced on local radio on Sunday. The running order is as follows

11am in Charleville Seandun v Carbery: In Newtownshandrum Avondhu V Imokilly

11.50am in Charleville Carbery v Muskerry: in Newtownshandrum Imokilly v Carrigdhoun

12.45pm in Charleville Muskerry v Seandun in Newtownshandrum Carrigdhoun v Avondhu, Final 2.15pm venue to be announced.



Rose Malone and Mary Casey Eire Og at the Cork camogie victory Dinner dance a the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Cork v Tipp Under 18

INTER county action begins on Sunday when the Cork under 18 team travel to the Ragg to meet Tipperary in the opening round of the Munster championship.

With the All Ireland competition played on an open draw basis much of the gloss has gone out of provincial competition but this season Munster have decided to play their competition before the All Ireland series to give the counties an opportunity to prepare their teams and Cork as holders will be hoping to get their campaign off to a winning start.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

COACHING

THE National Coaching Development Committee is now delivering a new Level one Coach Education Course and they have set out a Coach Education Course Calendar for the year. During 2007 they plan to hold a total of seven Level 1 Coach Education Courses.

Topics covered enhance coaching of all ages anyone wishing to attend the course can secure a place by booking through the relevant booking co-ordinator who is a member of the National Coaching Committee. At present the Foundation Level Course is under review and will be included in the 2008 Coaching Calendar. Level One Coach Education Course Content:

Theoretical Units Role of the Coach-Communication How Children Learn Best Planning & Appraisal Good Practice Strategy & Rules Motives and Needs Principles of Play & Decision Making Practical Unit swarm-Up Activities Skill Development Small Sided & Conditioned Games Physical Fitness Activities/Games to Develop Decision Making & Principles of Play Participant must be a minimum of 18 years and must have completed a Foundation Level Coaching Course in Camogie or Hurling and have at least one years coaching experience.

Places are limited to twenty four per course and places will be issued to those meeting all prerequisites on a first come first served basis. Should more than twenty four people apply a waiting list will be compiled.

To secure a place, complete application form which can be downloaded from the camogie web www.camogie.ie site or from the gut from county secretary should be return along with €70/£50 to the relevant Booking Co-ordinator. Erins Own club will host the Munster course which is held over three days on Friday, March 30 6:30pm-10pm Saturday, March 31 10am-5pm Saturday, April 21 10am-5pm.

Booking to be returned to Mary O' Connor, Regional Camogie Development Co-ordinator.

INTER DIVISIONAL UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIP

(2007-03-01)

MARCH

2007

By Mary Newman

A return to the playing fields is signalled this weekend when the Inter divisional under16 championship takes place on Sunday next in Newtownshandrum and Charleville.

Holders Seandun will face a tough battle as they strive to hold onto their crown in a competition which will be played on a round robin basis with two sections with three games in each section the top team in each contesting the final.

The draws for the running order was made at last Monday night's juvenile board GPC meeting and are as follows

Two sections:
Section 1: A Seandun, B Carbery, C Muskerry
Section 2: A Avondhu, B Imokilly, C Carrigdhoun

Seandun v Carbery

Avondhu V Imokilly

Carbery v Muskerry

Imokilly v Carrigdhoun

Muskerry v Seandun

Carrigdhoun v Avondhu

The venues are Charleville for Section 1 and Newtownshandrum for section 2, the venue for the final which is pencilled in for 2.30 will be either Charleville or Newtownshandrum this will be announced on local radio on Sunday.

The running order is as follows

11am in Charleville Seandun v Carbery: In Newtownshandrum Avondhu V Imokilly

11.50am in Charleville Carbery v Muskerry: in Newtownshandrum Imokilly v Carrigdhoun

12.45pm in Charleville Muskerry v Seandun in Newtownshandrum Carrigdhoun v Avondhu, Final 2.15pm venue to be announced.

IMOKILLY:

Lisa Finnegan, Catherine Power Sinéad Walsh (Bride Rovers) Melissa O'Sullivan (Castleyons) Evelyn Rohan Carol Cullinane (Dungourney)Niamh O'Keeffe Caoimhe O'Callaghan Ciara Murphy (Erins Own)Eanna O'Neill Stephanie Beausang, Samantha Swayne (Killeagh),Annette Griffin, Kate Harrington Yvonne Murphy Sarah Harrington Emma Swayne (Fr O Neills) Mairead O'Farrell Aisling Whooley Sarah Cummins Edel Meaney (Sarsfields) Fiona Cotter, Fiona Neville Ciara Clancy Aisling O'Keeffe (St Catherines) Edel Murphy (Watergrashill) Niamh Quill Chloe Daly Susie Fitzgibbon Amy Motherway (Youghal)

AVONDHU : Karen Burke, Nuala Crowley, Helena Coughlan, Amanda Walsh, Darina O Callaghan Emer Healy, Sonya Buckley, (Buttevant) Kate Keane (Charleville) Emma Forde (Mallow) Maria Reidy,(Newtownshandrum) Ann Carroll Anna Jean O Reilly (Millstreet) Rebecca Finn, Emma Brown, Cliona Galvin, Orla O Mahony, Elaine O Flynn, Maireaid Geary, Cliona O Mullane, Sarah Fitzgibbon, Rebecca Finn, Clara Curtin (Milford)

CARBERY: Cloe Collins, Jennifer Cashman, Lisa O Neill, Carina Twohig, Maireaid Coughlan, Hope Hickey (Kilbrittan)Claire O Dwyer, Donna O Donovan Rachel Mc Carthy, Jennifer White (Barryroe), Sinead O Neill, Amy Hayes, Noreen Hayes, Aoife O Donovan, Mary Beamish, Maireaid Connolly, Niamh Deasy,(Clonakilty) Elaine O Brien, Kelly Hennessy, Siobhan Hennessy, Caroline Sugrue Mary Ann Mc Carthy (Ballinascarty)

MUSKERRY

Michelle Healy and Sarah Dineen, (Aghabullogue) Julianne Martin, and Lisa 0`Shea (Ballinora) Yvonne Horgan (Blarney) Ashleen Sheehan, Alison Coughlan, Brea 0`Callaghan,Kate 0`Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Patrice Buttimer, Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh, Eimear Nolan, Cliona Irish, Rebecca 0`Callaghan(Ballincollig) Ciara 0`Connor, Ciara 0`Keeffe, Aoife McCarthy, Aoife Scally, Marie Gleeson, Katie McCarthy, (Eire Og) Michelle Sexton, Andrea Sheehan (Grenagh) Aine Ni Riain, Aine 0`Connor, Claire Sheehan, Catherine 0`Brien, Amana Twohig, and Joanne Casey(Inniscarra)

SEANDUN

Aine Murray, Kerri Fleming, Donna O'Leary, Sherelle Naughton Sarah Carroll (Blackrock) Denise Luby, Karen O'Connell, Alice Keating, Sinead Gallen (Glen Rovers) Lisa O'Sullivan, Natasha O'Sullivan Sinead O'Reilly (Passage) Ellen Crowley (St. Finbarrs) Maeve Scannell (Bishopstown) Leanne Carroll (St. Vincent's) Susan Kate Brosnan , Claire Dooley (Brian Dillon's) Orla Burke Kate Delea (Na Piarsaigh) Moira O' Donavon Julia White Aileen O'Donovan Catriona Mackey Pamela Mackey, Jill Kelleher Moira O' Mahony Emma Jordan Semma Long Jessica Kavanagh Clara Kavanagh (Douglas)

CARRIGDHOUN

Rachel Keohane, Mary Ellen O'Donovan, Lauren Kennefick .Kate O'Sullivan
Maeve Moynihan Aisling Byrne Christina Murphy (Ballygarvan) Jennifer Lynch
Rosarie Walsh, Ciara Lynch Aoife Kiely Roisin Lyons(Tracton) Sinead O'Reilly
Ciara Hayes, Karen Crowley Niamh Finn Aine Ryan (Courcey Rovers).Ena Coughlan
Aisling Glavin, Tessa Hawkes, Sinead O'Shea, Mary Anne Hawkes (Valley Rovers) Marie Moran,
Deirdre O'Leary, Sarah Cotter Grainne O'Keeffe Donna Smyth (Carrigaline) Aisling McCarthy
Aisling Coleman .Aisling Whitnell Mary Claire Daly
Chloe Sheehan (Sliabh Rua), Lisa Jordan Fiona Murphy, Catriona Collins
Aileen O'Leary (Ballinhassig)

Loreto advance

CAMOGIE: Lorteo Kilkenny are through to the junior A All-Ireland Colleges final later this month following their 5-6 to 2-4 victory over Cross and Passion College Ballycastle

A handpassed goal after just five minutes from Loreto's Laura Hennessey set the kittens up for a half time lead of 3-5 to Ballycastle's 0-1.

Ballycastle who won the toss but elected to play against the wind in the opening half got a much better start to the second half with two goals within the opening three minutes from Aisling Mc Fadden and Kerry Smyth.

However, with Nicola Butler and and Claire Phelan playing a tight, defensive game for Lorteo, Ballycastle could not get through and a further two goals from Loreto pair Niamh Byrne and Aisling O'Grady sent the Kilkenny school into the final where they will meet Portumna CS, who had a two point win over St Caimins of Shannon.

MARCH

2007

National League preview

(2007-03-01)

ON Sunday next, the hurlers of Limerick and Galway will be sharing the Gaelic Grounds with their senior camogie team as Limerick and Galway do battle in Division 1 B of the National League.

Very often when the same county is in action in both hurling and camogie it can divide families at times, but on Sunday that will not be the case for the Mc Namaras as Grace is expected to line out at half back or midfield while her brother Wayne is a member of the hurling panel!

Limerick camogie is buzzing at the moment following the appointment of the former star hurler Ciarán Carey who took over the Limerick camogie team earlier this year. This is Carey's first experience of intercounty camogie and when he was approached by the county board he saw where there was potential in the team and he decided that he would take the job and try and get the " best out of the girls".

So far the Patrickswell man has not done bad at all, their first game against Dublin resulted in a big victory, while they also put on a polished performance against Cork in the Munster final (held over from last year)

Carey is cautious and is taking each game as it comes, he will try out as many players as possible and with a panel of thirty three he can afford to throw in subs during the League. It is obvious that the former hurler has the future in mind as he is looking at very young players as well as the more seasoned and experienced players like Vera Sheean and Michelle Casey who both played in the recent Ashbourne games. On the panel are the three grand nieces of the legendary Mick Mackey, Claire, Niamh and Judith Mulcahy while Ciarán can also call on fourteen year old Naoimi Carroll whom we may hear more about later on.

Any manager knows that all teams want to do well in the League and so Galway who won their opening game against Tipperary will be just as anxious as Limerick to make it victory number two. Galway manager Mike Kelly is also in his first year as manager and he will be hoping for a repeat performance from Sandra Tannion who scored two vital goals last Sunday while Ann Marie Hayes and Paula Kerins also knocked in goals at crucial stages.

The day could be made more exciting should Galway choose to play Veronica Curtin as her sister Orla is on the Limerick panel, but should they both play sisterly love would have to disappear for an hour! This would be a major boost to Limerick camogie for the forthcoming championship if they could pull of a win on Sunday and if they buckle down to the game from the start they may well be singing at the end.

Meanwhile, London who have won both their National league games to date entertain Meath this weekend in Division three and should make it a hat-trick of victories. Wexford's Evelyn Quigley has been making a name for herself on the London team scoring in both games to date. If London are to make it another victory they may need a very good defender marking on the Royal's Dervla O'Carroll who knocked in 5-2 on Sunday last!

Colleges All-Irl jun semi-finals

(2007-03-01)

Sat.March 3rd:

Colleges All-Irl. jun. c'ship semi-finals:

Jun. 'A'
Cross And Passion Ballycastle - - - Loreto Kilkenny,Ballycastle,12-00, Ref. Una Kearney
Portumna Community School Galway - - - St. Caimins Shannon,Teenagh

Jun.'B'
St. Louis Grammar School Ballymena - - - St Dominic's College Cabra Dublin,Dunloy, 2.30pm. Ref. Colm Cunning
Holy Rosary Mountbellew Galway - - - Coachford Community College Cork,Mountbellew,2.30pm
Ref. Joe O Donnell

Jun.'C'
St. Columbans College Kilkeel Co. Down - - - Pres De La Salle Bagnelstown Carlow, Kilkeel, 2pm
Ref. Julie O Neill
Colaiste Na Coiribe Galway - - - Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig Cork, Renmore GAA Grounds, 2pm
Ref. Liam Davitt

Four provinces in camogie finals

by Máire Ui Scolai

THIS year the four provinces will be represented in the All-Ireland Colleges finals in both senior and junior following Saturday's junior All-Ireland semi-finals.

Representing Leinster will be Loreto Convent, Kilkenny, who overcame Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle (Antrim) 5-6 to 2-4 in the junior 'A' semi-final, while their opponents in the final will be Galway's Portumna CS who beat St. Caimins of Shannon 1-6 to 0-7.

Loreto were early on their way to victory when Laura Hennessey put her side a goal up after just five minutes. Two further goals from Aisling Dunphy and Claire Phelan left them comfortably at the break, 3-5 to 0-1.

The Ulster side rallied in the second-half with a brace of goals from Aisling McFadden and Kerry Smyth, but Loreto kept their cool with two further goals from Niamh Byrne and a late goal from Aisling O'Grady.

Loreto will meet Galway side Portumna in the final. They had a match winner in Tara Rutledge, who finished with 1-4 (0-3f).

Dublin college St. Dominics, Cabra reached the final after a 1-12 to 1-3 victory over Antrim's St. Louis of Ballymena. The Dubs will meet Cork college Coachford, who beat Holy Rosary Mountbellew of Galway 4-7 to 0-1 in the second 'B' semi-final.

St. Dominics will be hoping to bridge a 23 year gap since an All-Ireland title came to the capital. The visiting Dubs had a match winner in Rachel Costelloe who finished with a total of 0-8.

This was very much a team effort, but the Dubs will have to play out of their skins the next day if they are to overcome Coachford of Cork who had a match winner in Emer McSwiney who knocked in a total of 3-1, all from play.

This year's All-Ireland junior 'C' Final will be between De La Salle, Carlow, who beat Down's St. Columbans of Kilkeel 4-3 to 0-3, and St. Colm's, who defeated Galway's Coláiste na Coiribe 7-9 to 2-2.

Carlow's De La Salle now find themselves in their first ever Junior 'C' All-Ireland final later this month.

De La Salle will play St Colm's, Ballincollig in the final.

CAMOGIE
All-Ireland Schools championships (semi-finals):
Junior A: Loreto, Kilkenny 5-6: C Phelan 1-3(0-2f),L Hennessey, A O'Grady 1-1,each, N Byrne, A Dunphy 1-0, each,A Curran 0-1.
Cross and Passion, B'castle: 2-4: A Mc Fadden, K Smyth 1-0 each, E Mc Mullan 0-3,L Mc Keown 0-1.
Portumna Com. Sch. Galway 1-6: T Rutledge 1-4 (0-3f),A Lynch, N Mc Cleam 0-1 each.
St.Caimins, Shannon 0-7: C Morey,A O'Shea 0-2 each,R Mc Mahon,0-1f,C Danaher, N Corry 0-1.
Junior B: Coachford Com.Sch.Cork: 4-7: E Mc Swiney (Swiney) 3-1, M Hennessy 1-0, J O Casey 0-2, C O'Connor, A O'Connor,A Barrymurphy, E Kingston 0-1 each. **Holy Rosary Mountbellew, 0-1:** C Fox 0-1.
St.Dominics, Cabra Dublin 1-12: L May 1-4,R Costelloe 0-8 (0-3f, 0-1'45) **St.Louis, Ballymena 1-3:** K Mc Aleese 1-3 (0-3f).
Junior C: Ballincollig Com. Sch. Cork: 7-9:A Mc Carthy 3-3, S Cooney 2-0, K O'Donoghue, O Ni Casadaigh 1-0 each, T Buttimer 0-2, S Buckley 0-3 (0-1f), A Scally 0-1.**Colàiste na Coirbre, Galway 2-2:** C Ni Laoi 2-1, C Ni Chonaill 0-1.
De La Salle, Bagnelstown, Carlow 4-3: L Bambrick 2-0, E Brennan 1-2 (0-2f), E Flavin 1-0 each, M Murphy 0-1.**St.Louis, Kilkeel, Co. Down 0-3:**S Mc Comb 0-3

National League
Division Three: Meath 3-10 (J Dolan 1-2, A Donnelly C O'Brien 1-1,each,S Hackett,L Lynch, E Oakes) London: 1-3 (S Deasy 1-0, K Hickey 0-3 (0-2f, 0-1'45).
Cavan 4-5 (M Brady 1-4 (0-1f), L Smith, L Mc Fadden,M Mc Intyre 1-0 each, N Clegg 0-1) Louth 1-5 (A Mulholland 1-2 (1-2f), E Mc Nulty,AM Kane,B Callan 0-1 each).
Cork U16 Inter Divisional Championship blitz: Carrigdhoun 2-2 Imokilly 1-0; Seandun 1-1 Muskerry 0-3; Avondhu 2-0 Imokilly 0-1; Seandun 4-3 Carbery 0-0; Muskerry 8-9 Carbery 0-1; Carrigdhoun 3-3 Avondhu 0-1; Final, Seandun 1-4 Carrigdhoun 1-2.

MARCH 2007



The Coachford College camogie team who captured the Cork Colleges senior B title recently.

Cork look to take revenge

TOMORROW
Cork v Tipperary,
Munster U18 Championship,
The Ragg, 2:30pm.

By MARY NEWMAN
Cork preview

PROVINCIAL inter-county action begins this Sunday when Cork minors travel to the Ragg to meet Tipperary in the opening round of the Munster championship.

For the first time last season, the U18 championship was upgraded in status and renamed minor, with competitions going all the way to All-Ireland level.

Previously, U18 competitions were only held on provincial level, with U16 competitions termed minor. Since the change, there has been huge interest. This was seen with the inaugural competition, where Kilkenny took the title by defeating Galway.

With the All Ireland competition on an open-draw basis, much of the gloss had gone out of the provincial competition. However, this season Munster have decided to play their competitions before the All-Ireland series, allowing the counties prepare their teams.

Cork will be hoping to get their campaign off to a winning start tomorrow but they will be wary of the threat that will be posed by a Tipperary side that defeated them two years ago in the Munster U16 final. They went on to reach the All Ireland final, where they lost out to Kilkenny. Pat McLoughney has continued up the line as manager of the Tipp side and he has several members of that victorious U16 panel in his lineout.

Cork selectors Annemarie Healy and Paddy Corkery are to be joined by a third selector who has yet to be elected, however, they are working away and have assembled a strong panel including several of last season's U16 squad.

Aine Moynihan of Ballygarvan, Deirdre Twomey of St Catherines, Niamh Dilworth of Inniscarra, Siobhán Gleeson of Eire Óg, Aisling Thompson of Milford and Sinéad O'Callaghan of Ballinhassig are amongst the players named on their panel.

Two years ago, Tipperary snatched victory at the death in a thrilling U16 Munster decider with virtually the same players facing each other again.

Cork will look to avenge that defeat as they strive to get their provincial campaign off to a winning start.

CORK PANEL

Aine Moynihan, Ballygarvan; Siobhán Gleeson, Eire Óg; Lisa Marie O Mahony, Eire Og; Erin Corkery, Eire Óg; Deirdre Twomey, St Catherines; Brid Twomey, Aghbullogue; Aileen Twomey, Aghbullogue; Lydia Cunningham, Glen Rovers; Maria Walsh, Ballyhea; Aisling Thompson, Milford; Sinéad O'Callaghan, Ballinhassig; Christine O'Neill, Courcey Rovers; Roisin de Faoite, Blackrock; Dawn O'Keeffe, Buttevant; Denise Cronin, Ballincollig; Leah Weste, Ballincollig; Sharon Whelton, Clonakilty; Sinéad O'Brien, Clonakilty; Niamh Dilworth, Inniscarra; Kathleen O'Brien, Mallow; Ellen Healy, Enniskeane; Caroline Motherway, Dungourney; Mairéad Foley, Rockbán .

Coaching courses unveiled

THE National Coaching Development Committee recently announced a new Level One Coaching Education Course and they have set out a Coach Education Course calendar for the year.

During 2007, they plan to hold a total of seven Level One Coach Education Courses in different locations through the country.

The Munster region course will be held in Cork at the Erin's Own club, with the topics covered enhancing coaching of all ages.

Anyone wishing to attend the course can secure a place by booking through the relevant booking co-ordinator, who is a member of the National Coaching Committee.

At present, the Foundation Level Course is under review and will be included in the 2008 coaching calendar.

Level One Coach Education Course Content: theoretical units, role of the coach, communication, how children learn, best planning and appraisal, good practice, strategy and rules, motives and needs, principles of play and decision-making, practical units, warm-up activities, skill development, small-sided and conditioned games, physical fitness, activities/games to develop decision-making and principles of play.

Participants must be a minimum of 18-years-old and must have completed a Foundation Level Coaching Course in camogie or hurling and have at least one year's coaching experience.

Places are limited to 24 per course and places will be issued to those meeting all prerequisites on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should more than 24 people apply, a waiting list will be compiled.

To secure a place a complete application form, which can be downloaded from www.camogie.ie site or acquired from the county secretary, should be return along with €70/£50 to the booking co-ordinator.

Erin's Own club will host the Munster course which is held over three days on Fri, March 30, 6:30pm-10pm; Sat March 31, 10am-5pm; Sat April 21, 10am-5pm.

Bookings to be returned to Mary O'Connor, regional camogie development co-ordinator.

CLUB NOTES

BALLINHASSIG

Once again we held enjoyable U11 and U12 indoor blitzes recently in Riverstick. Sponsored by Walsh Traders, eight teams competed. Ballinhassig, the hosts, had two teams. Also competing were Ballygarvan, Ballincollig, Carrigaline, Cloughduv, Courcey Rovers and Valley Rovers.

In the U11 blitzes, Ballinhassig B, Cloughduv, Carrigaline and Ballincollig got through to the semi-finals of the plate with Carrigaline beating Cloughduv in the final. In the semi-final of the shield Ballinhassig A, Courcey Rovers, Valley Rovers and Ballygarvan got through with Valley Rovers beating Ballinhassig A in the final.

In the U12s Courcey Rovers, Ballinhassig B, Ballygarvan and Ballinhassig A got to the semi-final of the plate with Ballinhassig A beating Courcey Rovers in the final. In the shield Valley Rovers, Ballincollig, Carrigaline and Cloughduv got through to the semi-final with Valley Rovers digging deep to beat Carrigaline by a golden goal in the final.

GLEN ROVERS

Bad weather failed to dampen enthusiasm of our U14 players. The Glen hosted Eire Óg last weekend. Despite the weather minor hurling, senior football and camogie games took place but the huge attraction was the Cork senior hurling team, who trained at the Glen last weekend. When the girls were finished admiring their heroes, it was down to their own game and, in a close contest, the Glen emerged victorious.

Bad weather forced the postponement of the city U13 A Championship final against Douglas which was to be played this weekend. The game will now go ahead on Monday, March 19 at a venue to be named.

The main focus of attention this weekend is in the U16 inter-divisional championship, in Charleville and Newtownshandrum. We wish our representatives on the Seandun panel and our selector Cathal Egan the best of luck in striving to retain their crown. Best wishes also to Lydia Cunningham on her selection on the Cork minor panel. We wish her and the Cork team best wishes against Tipperary on Sunday in the Munster championship.

We extend sympathy from the camogie club to football club treasurer Denis Leahy on the recent death of his father, Denis.

A reminder to our underage girls that Sunday morning camogie has started back on Sundays at the usual time of 11:45am at the Glen Field and Hall, and on Tuesday nights at 6pm. Senior, Junior, U16 and U18 players, Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm, Glen Field. U6 to U12s, Sunday 11:45am and Tuesday 6pm at The Glen Field and Hall. U13s and U14s Friday at 5:45pm in The Glen Resource Centre, and Monday and Wednesday at 6:30pm in The Glen Field.

IMOKILLY

We had a very successful season, reviewed at our recent AGM. The highlights were St Catherine's victory over Valley Rovers in the County Senior 'B' Championship. The Imokilly seniors, contesting the senior county, lost to St Finbarr's. There were county titles for Castlelyons U12s, Bride Rovers U16D, St Catherine's U18A and Dungourney U18C, while Bride Rovers won the Junior 'C' County Championship.

At national level, Sars won the D Féile na nGael title. The inter-divisional U16 blitz took place in Newtownshandrum at the end of February. Twenthy-five players took part against Seandún and Avondhu mentors.

Great effort was put into the Imokilly senior team in 2006, with Killeagh and Cork's Mary O'Connor acting as player/coach. Selectors included Lillian Zincant (Sarsfields), Marie Clancy (St. Catherine's), Tommy Seward (Killeagh) and first aid Bridget Cotter (St. Catherine's),

Congratulations to Mary O'Connor on winning the 96/103 FM Rochestown Park Hotel Supreme Sports Star of the Year and also winning dual All-Star awards.

Our divisional U13 and U11 leagues and championships were held. This was a new venture for the division as in previous years it was U14 and U12. The idea behind this was to prepare teams for the higher ages.

Victory in U13 went to St. Catherine's, who overcame Killeagh. In the U11 final, Killeagh gave way to a fine Bride Rovers side. At the final whistle a goal separated the teams. All in all a very successful year for Imokilly. One would have to congratulate the excellent work of outgoing chairman Billy Neville of St. Catherine's. With the very efficient Margaret Hyde of Fr. O'Neill's as secretary and Sheila Spillane of Killeagh as treasurer, the division was in very good hands. A big thanks also to our sponsors.

The U16 inter-divisional team, which contests the inter-divisional championship next Sunday is managed by Billy Neville, Margaret Hyde and Sheila Spillane.

Officers for 2007: Chairperson: Valerie O'Neill (Watergrasshill), Vice-Chairperson: Paddy Cullinane (Dungourney), Secretary: Margaret Hyde (Fr. O'Neill's), Treasurer: Sheila Spillane (Killeagh), PRO: James Ahern (Bride Rovers).

ST CATHERINE'S

Well done to club members Noreen Mulcahy, Deirdre Twomey and Oria Cotter, who were involved with Cork Senior A and B teams last weekend, when they played Wexford in the first of this year's league games.

The Ashbourne Shield competitions were held in Galway recently. Denise and Deirdre Twomey were involved with NUIG, Andrea Mangan with WIT and Faith Noonan and Elizabeth Power were on the winning Templemore Garda team. Well done to all.

ST VINCENT'S

Sponsor cards have now been given out for the St. Patrick's fun run that will be held. It is important that all the players who have not already collected their sponsor cards get them and as soon as they are filled in return them to the club as soon as possible.

Training times:
Monday: 5:30 — 6:30pm, U12s.
Tuesday: 5pm — 6pm, UBs. 7:45-9:00pm, U16s — Juniors.
Wednesday: 5pm — 6pm, U10s.
Wednesday: 6pm — 7pm, U14s.
Thursday: 8pm — 9pm, U16s — Juniors.

Ballinhassig U11s triumph at Riverstick

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

A GREAT day of camogie was had by all the U11 camogie players from the club's in South East Cork recently when the division held their indoor competition at the Riverstick Community Centre.

The competition was divided into two sections.

Ballinhassig 1 proved to be a very strong side as they defeated Ballygarvan and Valley Rovers one, while Courcey Rovers did well to record two victories over Sliabh Rua and Carrigaline.

Ballinhassig defeated Sliabh Rua in the first semi-final with Courcey Rovers victorious over Valley Rovers in the second.

Ballinhassig recording a victory on a five goals to one scoreline.

Ballygarvan were victorious in the shield final over Carrigaline on a three goals to one scoreline.

In Section B Ballinhassig 2 and Sliabh Rua 2 made it to the final, with the Ballinhassig girls again to the fore.

Chairperson of Carrigdhoun Camogie Board Noreen Quinn presented the medals following the three finals and expressed thanks and appreciation to all officials, who helped make the day a huge success.

The teams participating were as follows:

COURCEY ROVERS: Leah O' Sullivan, Anna Hannon, Caitrióna O' Reilly, Linda Collins, Leah Murphy, Aisling O' Reilly, Eimear Crowley, Fiona O'Donovan.

BALLINHASSIG 1: Kate Crowley, Niamh Sheehan, Mary Mc Guane, Laura O' Leary, Amanda Palmer and Ciara O'Brien.

BALLINHASSIG 2: Edel Crowley, Sinead Murray, Cliona Tyers, Teresa O'Sullivan, Anna Harrington, Emma Mahon.

CARRIGALINE: Eimear O'Sullivan, Niamh O'Sullivan, Lorraine Dwane, Rebecca O'Neill, Lucimai O' Leary, Janelle Mulcair-Stanton, Eimear Doyle and Yvonne Drake.

VALLEY ROVERS 1: Lydia Crowley, Mary Ellen O'Sullivan, Eimear Cummins, Patrice Kennedy, Emily Palmer, Maróg Murphy.

VALLEY ROVERS 2: Niamh Lordan, Megan O' Brien, Elizabeth Keogh, Ciara Richardson, Róisín Egan, Kate O Mahony.

BALLYGARVAN: Lorna Bateman, Eilis Kavanagh, Lilly Dineen, Caitríona Keohane, Ciara O'Sullivan, Mairead Twohig and Gemma Downing.

SLIABH RUA 1: Una Mc Carthy, Chelsea Campbell, Cathy O'Mahoney, Nicola Coleman, Aisling Rice.

SLIABH RUA 2: Edel Mc Sweeney, Marianne Bernard, Mary O'Mahoney, Sheila Ann O'Meara, Catherine O' Riordan, Hannah Hughes.

MARCH 2007

Divisions are ready to battle

By MARY NEWMAN

Inter-divisional U16 Championship

THE FIRST underage camogie competition of the season takes place Sunday with the U16 Inter-divisional Championship taking place in Charleville and Newtownshandrum.

Over a number of years, the competition has proved to be a resounding success with participation from every camogie club in the county and has been of huge benefit to the Cork U16 selectors as they make their championship preparations. Over a number of weeks, trials have been held and the selectors will no doubt be casting an eye with interest over the weekend's proceedings before they announce their panel.

The divisions are divided into two sections with the top team from each section qualifying for the final and with all games taking place on the same day it's sure to be a test of endurance.

Six divisions will vie for the title, with teams divides into two groups of three holders. Seandun are paired in Section 1 with Carbery and Muskerry, while in Section 2 Avondhu are joined by Imokilly and Carrigdhoun. With all six divisions having put in huge preparations, this year's competition promises plenty of interesting games.

Games are 15 minutes a-side in the top team in each contesting the final. In last season final Seandun and Muskerry played out a thriller the city representatives holding out to the finish withstanding a strong Muskerry challenge to deny the mid-Cork girls four-in-a-row.

Holders Seandun will be determined to retain their crown and they will be boosted by the inclusion of eleven players from the successful Douglas sides who have taken honours at national Féile na nGael and local championship while Glen Rovers who recently took the U16 B county league title supply four players to the panel. Muskerry will be backboned by players from county U16 A league and championship winners Inniscarra while Ballincollig who took the U16 B championship title also are well represented.

Imokilly always strong contenders will have players from the victorious Bride Roves U16 D winning while Feile na NGael division four holders Sarsfield's supply four players to the panel.

U16 C winners Mallow are amongst the clubs who will back bone the Avondhu challenge.

The draws for the running order was made by the juvenile board. The venues are Charleville for Section 1 and Newtownshandrum for Section 2, the venue for the final which is pencilled in for 2.30pm will be either Charleville or Newtownshandrum this will be announced on local radio on Sunday.

The running order is as follows 11am in Charleville Seandun v Carbery: In Newtownshandrum Avondhu V Imokilly

11.50am in Charleville Carbery v Muskerry: in Newtownshandrum Imokilly v Carrigdhoun

12.45pm in Charleville Muskerry v Seandun in Newtownshandrum Carrigdhoun v Avondhu, Final 2.15pm (venue to be announced).



Aoife Scally of Éire Óg breaks from Brea O'Callaghan of Ballincollig, in their U16 B Camogie County Final match last December, both players will team up in the Muskerry team to play in the inter-divisional Championship.



Ballincollig keeper, Ashleen Sheehan will be playing her part for Muskerry in the Inter-divisional Championship.

Divisional sides

MUSKERRY

Michelle Healy and Sarah Dineen, (Aghabullogue), Julianne Martin, and Lisa O'Shea (Ballinoral), Yvonne Horgan (Blarney), Ashleen Sheehan, Alison Coughlan, Brea O'Callaghan, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Patrice Buttimer, Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh, Eimear Nolan, Cliona Irish, Rebecca O'Callaghan(Ballincollig), Ciara O'Connor, Ciara O'Keeffe, Aoife McCarthy, Aoife Scally, Marie Gleeson, Katie McCarthy, (Eire Ogl, Michelle Sexton, Andrea Sheehan (Grenagh), Aine Ni Riain, Aine O'Connor, Claire Sheehan, Catherine O'Brien, Amana Twohig, and Joanne Casey (Inniscarra)

SEANDUN:

Aine Murray, Kerri Fleming, Donna O'Leary, SherElle Naughton Sarah Carroll (Blackrock), Denise Luby, Karen O'Connell, Alice Keating, Sinead Gallen (Glen Rovers), Lisa O'Sullivan, Natasha O'Sullivan Sinead O'Reilly (Passage), Ellen Crowley (St Finbarr's), Maeve Scannell (Bishopstown) Leanne Carroll (St. Vincent's) Susan Kate Brosnan , Claire Dooley (Brian Dillon's) Orla Burke Kate Delea (Na Piarsaigh) Moira O'Donavon Julia White Aileen O'Donovan Catriona Mackey Pamela Mackey, Jill Kelleher Moira O' Mahony Emma Jordan Semma Long Jessica Kavanagh Clara Kavanagh (Douglas).

CARRIGDHOUN:

Rachel Keohane, Mary Ellen O'Donovan, Lauren Kennefick Kate O'Sullivan Maeve Moynihan Aisling Byrne Christina Murphy (Ballygarvan), Jennifer Lynch Rosarie Walsh, Ciara Lynch Aoife Kiely Roisin Lyons(Tracton), Sinead O'Reilly Ciara Hayes, Karen Crowley Niamh Finn Aine Ryan (Courcey Rovers), Ena Coughlan, Aisling Glavin, Tessa Hawkes, Sinead O'Shea, Mary Anne Hawkes (Valley Rovers), Marie Moran, Deirdre O'Leary, Sarah Cotter Grainne O'Keeffe Donna Smyth (Carrigaline), Aisling McCarthy Aisling Coleman, Aisling Whitnell Mary Claire Daly Chloe Sheehan (Sliabh Rua), Lisa Jordan Fiona Murphy, Catriona Collins Aileen O'Leary (Ballinhassig)

IMOKILLY:

Lisa Finnegan, Catherine Power Sinéad Walsh (Bride Rovers) Melissa O'Sullivan (Castleyons) Evelyn Rohan Carol Cullinane (Dungourney) Niamh O'Keeffe Caoimhe O'Callaghan Ciara Murphy (Erins Own) Eanha O'Neill Stephanie Beausang, Samantha Swayne (Killeagh), Annette Griffin, Kate Harrington Yvonne Murphy Sarah Harrington Emma Swayne (Fr O'Neill's) Mairead O'Farrell Aisling Whooley Sarah Cummins Edel Meaney (Sarsfield's) Fiona Cotter, Fiona Neville Ciara Clancy Aisling O'Keeffe (St Catherines) Edel Murphy (Watergrasshill) Niamh Quill Chloe Daly Susie Fitzgibbon Amy Motherway (Youghal)

AVONDHU:

Karen Burke, Nuala Crowley, Helena Coughlan, Amanda Walsh, Darina O'Callaghan Emer Healy, Sonya Buckley, (Buttevant) Kate Keane (Charleville) Emma Forde (Mallow) Maria Reidy, (Newtownshandrum) Ann Carroll Anna Jean O'Reilly (Millstreet) Rebecca Finn, Emma Brown, Cliona Galvin, Orla O'Mahony, Elaine O'Flynn, Maireaid Geary, Cliona O'Mullane, Sarah Fitzgibbon, Rebecca Finn, Clara Curtin (Milford)

CARBERY:

Cloe Collins, Jennifer Cashman, Lisa O'Neill, Carina Twohig, Maireaid Coughlan, Hope Hickey (Kilbrittan), Claire O'Dwyer, Donna O'Donovan Rachel McCarthy, Jennifer White (Barryroe), Sinead O'Neill, Amy Hayes, Noreen Hayes, Aoife O'Donovan, Mary Beamish, Maireaid Connolly, Niamh Deasy, (Clonakilty), Elaine O'Brien, Kelly Hennessy, Siobhan Hennessy, Caroline Sugrue Mary Ann McCarthy (Ballinascarty).

MARCH 2007

Seandun	1-4
Carrigdhoun	1-2



Seandún captain, Denise Luby (left) scored some vital points in their U16 inter-divisional victory over Carrigdhoun.

Another title for Seandún

BACK-TO-BACK titles for Seandún as they captured the U16 inter-division title for the second year in a row, defeating Carrigdhoun in a thrilling final in Charleville yesterday.

By MARY NEWMAN
U16 Camogie

From early morning, six divisions battled it out for a place in the final as games got under way at the excellent Newtownshandrum pitch.

Seandun defeated Carbery while Avondhu got the better of Imokilly as the opening shots were fired early in the morning. In round two Muskerry proved much too strong for Carbery while Imokilly found Carrigdhoun too much to handle, down to the last round and Carrigdhoun continued to impress as they dismissed the challenge posed by Avondhu to secure their place in the final with 11 points to spare.

It was a different story as Seandun came from behind to defeat Muskerry by just one point. With the teams all set to contest the final we had a venue change to Charleville.

The heavy underfoot conditions made life harder for two visibly tired teams. Carrigdhoun dominated the early proceedings. Aided by the galeforce wind they pressurised the Seandun defence from the throw -in. Catriona Collins pointed and continuing to cause problems for the Seandún girls Collins drove her side forward and was involved in their early goal her lobbing shot first timed to the net by Mary Ellen O'Donovan after the Seandún defence hesitated in clearing.

Gráinne O'Keeffe extended the Carrigdhoun led with a point eight minutes into the half as Seandun battled to stem the tide but from here on it slowly began to turn in the city girls favour as they began to find their feet. Getting to grips with the conditions they battened down the hatches their defence now getting plenty of help from Ellen Crowley and Catriona Mackey who dropped back to lend a hand, while captain Denise Luby had a roving defensive role from full-forward.

Carrigdhoun were left off the hook when Karen O'Connell's shot hit the upright and bounced back into play to be cleared to safety by Maebh Moynihan. Seandún got on the scoresheet with the next attack, captain Denise Luby, striking a superb 45-metre free against the wind confidently over the bar to open their account two minutes from half-time whistle as they turned trailing Carrigdhoun 1-2 to 0-1.

On the turn over Seandun had to stand firm against two early Carrigdhoun assaults, but with Moira O'Donovan and Áine Murray confidently clearing their lines, Seandún got into their stride Natasha O'Sullivan and Denise Luby narrowing the gap with points inside five minutes of the restart.

Continuing to apply the pressure Seandun attacked again Karen O'Connell setting up Denise Luby whose shot for goal was excellently saved by Carrigdhoun keeper Tessa Hawkes, but quick as lightning Natasha O'Sullivan buried the rebound and the city girls were ahead for the first time in the game.

Carrigdhoun dug deep and came in search of an equaliser but the Seandun defence as a unit held firm under pressure. Clinging to their lead, Seandun came in search of an insurance score but Aileen O'Donovan's goal was thrown to the net and was disallowed. However they pressurised the Carrigdhoun defence again and, forcing a 45-metre free, it was left to captain Denise Luby to have the final say, confidently striking over the bar to ensure her side retained their title.

After the game county juvenile board chairperson named Carrigdhoun Catriona Collins as player of the championship following on three tremendous displays from the Carrigdhoun forward.

A word of praise for the Newtownshandrum and Charleville GAA clubs, who ensured the games went ahead when so many fixtures were postponed due. And also to the Newtownshandrum ladies who ensured everybody was well looked after on what was again a hugely successful day for underage camogie in Cork.

SEANDUN: J Kavanagh (Douglas), S Long (Douglas), M O'Donovan (Douglas),A Murray (Blackrock) L O'Sullivan (Passage), P Mackey (Douglas), D O'Leary (Blackrock), E Crowley (St Finbarrs), C Mackey (Douglas), K O'Connell (Glen Rovers) S O'Reilly (Passage), J White (Douglas), A O'Donovan (Douglas) D Luby (0-3) (Glen Rovers) (c), N O'Sullivan (1-1) (Passage).

Subs: J Kelleher(Douglas) for S O'Reilly (9 mins) S O'Reilly for S Long (inj 26mins).

CARRIGDHOUN: T Hawkes (Valley Rovers), M Moynihan (Ballygarvan) , D Smyth (Carrigaline), S O'Shea (Valley Rovers), S Cotter (Carrigaline), M Moran (Carrigaline) K Mc Carthy (Ballinhassig), J Lynch (Tracton) M A Hawkes (Valley Rovers), M E O'Donovan (1-0) (Ballygarvan) , C Murphy (Ballygarvan) , G O'Keeffe (0-1) (Carrigaline), A Byrne Ballygarvan, C Collins (0-1) (Ballinhassig), C Hayes (Courcey Rovers)

Sub: S O'Reilly (Courcey Rovers) for A Byrne.

Referee: Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's)

Joanne is on target as Coach drive on to decider

By MARY NEWMAN
Colleges Junior B Camogie

Coachford College	4-5
Holy Rosary Mountbellew	0-1

NO DOUBT about the result here, as Joanne Casey inspired Coachford College to victory over Connacht champions Holy Rosary Mountbellew in the All-Ireland Colleges Camogie Junior B semi-final at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe.

The Coachford girls, inspired by Casey, held all the aces from the throw-in as they ran their opponents ragged. All over the field they were on top and had their place in the decider booked long before the final whistle.

Aided by the strong wind in the opening half, Coachford laid the foundations for victory Casey striking over and early point to give her side the lead.

Coachford held the upper hand and, piling on the pressure the scores came fast and furiously, Casey displayed all her skills during the opening 30 minutes.

The first goal came three minutes into the game and the second on five minutes a hand passed effort after rounding the full back, the third after she left the Mountbellew defence flat footed before shooting to the net.

The Mountbellew defence tried valiantly to stem the tide but with Kingston pointing two further frees it ended the game as a contest.

All over the field Coachford held the upper hand and as their forwards and centre fields dominated their defence had little to do. Holy Rosary tried in vain to get on the score board but their persistence paid off when Ciara Fox pointed in the closing minuet.

Coachford now meet St. Dominic's, Dublin in the final after the Dublin side defeated Ballymena 1-12 to 1-3 and no doubt it will be an entirely different prospect altogether for the Coachford girls.

COACHFORD: M. Gleeson, L. McCarthy, C. O' Brien, J. Farmer, S. Buckley, M. Healy (C), E. Kingston, C. O' Keeffe, R. O' Mahony, A. Barry Murphy, A. O' Connor, C. O' Connor, M. Hennessy, J. Casey (4-7, 0-3 frees), E. McSwiney.

Subs: E. Donovan for S. Buckley (inj), E. O' Mahony for J. Casey, L. Stack for E. McSwiney (inj), L. Burke for A. Barry Murphy (Inj), N. O' Carroll for R. O' Mahony.

MOUNTBELLEW: C. McGee, E. Conneely, L. Donnellan, S. Mulryan, L. Smyth, K. McDonagh, S. Barrett, F. Brehony, K. Sommers, O. Bergin, C. Fox (0-1), S. Mannion, A. Mannion, A. Reilly, M. Burke.

Aoife on song as Coláiste Choilm march into final

Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig (Cork)	7-9
Colaiste Na Coiribe (Galway)	2-2

By MARY NEWMAN
All Ireland colleges junior C

A STRONGER Coláiste Choilm side booked their All-Ireland colleges junior C final place, beating Coláiste Na Coiribein, Renmore on Saturday.

The Ballincollig school had many heroines through the hour. Aoife McCarthy helped herself to 3-3 while Samantha Coomey, Sarah Buckley and captain Brea O'Callaghan all impressed in a superb team effort.

The scoreline tells the tale of Ballincollig's supremacy. In truth they should had won by more, but wayward shooting cost them.

At the half time whistle Coláiste Choilm were full value for their lead of 3-6 to 0-1. Samantha Coomey dug the foundation for victory with a goal inside the first minute. And with Patricia Buttimer driving forward at every opportunity, Coláiste Choilm quickly extended their advantage.

By midway they had increased their lead thanks to free-taker Sara Buckley, while Patricia Buttimer and Aoife Scally struck excellent points.

The younger Galway girls battled to stay with their opponents, Cáit Ni Chionaill and Catriona Ni Laois doing trojan work. But any glimmer of hope was quashed when Katie O'Donoghue and Samantha Coomey grabbed goals for Ballincollig.

The second half was all Coláiste Choilm, Aoife McCarthy availing of every opportunity. To their credit Coláiste Na Coiribe never gave up and their spirit was epitomised by Cartiona Ni Laoi, who helped herself to two goals and a point in the second half. However she needed much more support, and her side did not possess players of the quality required, as Orla Ni Chathasaigh grabbed goal number seven to seal victory.

Coaches Hilda Kenneally and Conor Kinsella can look forward to a final meeting with De La Salle of Carlow who defeated Down side St. Columban's of Kilkeel 4-3 to 0-3, and on this performance the Ballincollig girls will be favourites to take ultimate honours.

Former Cork intercounty players Hilda Kenneally expressing delight at her side's success.

"The girls are a pleasure to work with had and they were determined to make it to the final, they took the long journey in their stride and gave a superb display."

Commenting on their huge amount of wide's Kenneally admitted the back room team were a little concerned.

"Yes we did have a huge amount of wide's but that's something we will have to get right for the final as no doubt we will not be able to afford to be as wasteful"

COLÁISTE CHOILM: A Sheehan, A O'Keeffe, A Coughlan, L O'Shea, E O'Sullivan, B O'Callaghan, S Buckley (0-3), K O'Donoghue (1-0) O Ni Chathasaigh (1-0) P Buttimer (0-2), A Scally (0-1), S Coomey (2-0) A McCarthy(3-3), H Morgan.

Subs: N O'Toole for H Morgan, S Ni Carthaigh for A Scally, O Coleman for S Coomey.

GALWAY: M Ni Glynn, S De Burca, R Ni Clonan, S Ni Uhidir, A Ni Congine, S Ni Dhubhgoille, J Ni Ghoill, C Ni Laoi (2-1), E Ni Kennealla, S Ni Siochain, C Ni Chonaille (0-1), E Ni Murchú, E Ni Ceallaigh, T Ni Kennealla, C Ni Chrotaigh

Sub: R Ni Faha for C Ni Murchú.

Avondhu girls see off challenge of Imokilly but fall to Carrigdhoun

AVONDHU was proudly served by its U-16 camogie team last Sunday. In driving rain and howling gales the girls never gave less than one-hundred-percent throughout the two matches played on the day. Led by Mairead Geary, the girls finished the day with one win and one loss.

In game one, Avondhu faced Imokilly. Winning the toss the girls decided to play into the strong wind. It proved to be the right option with Eimear Healy pointing two frees to go in level at the break at two points each. Avondhu started the second half in style with a great point from the lightening fast Mariah Reidy. Eimear Healy stepped up and coolly took her first goal four minutes in and again after eleven minutes netted her second with a great strike off her left. Mariah Reidy knocked over her second point on 14 minutes followed by another from Eimear Healy and captain Mairead Geary finished it off with a great point to leave the final score 2:6 to 0:2.

County Inter Divisional U-16 Camogie C'ship

Great play from the backs in Rebecca Finn, Cliona Galvin, Emma Brown and centrefielders Orlaith O'Mahony and Klara Curtin in the first half really set up the second half for the win. Overall, it was a great performance from the goalie to the subs who came in.

In the second game Avondhu faced Carrigdhoun who had also beatin Imokilly. Punters on the ditch had Avondhu favourites going into the match. However, lady luck went to the girls from Carrigdhoun and in the end they progressed to the final to face Seandun.

Similar to the first game, Avondhu faced into the very strong wind and from the start came under intense pressure, which resulted in fine points from distance from the Carrigdhoun girls. Two goalmouth melees, unluckily for Avondhu, resulted in goals for Carrigdhoun. So before Avondhu could get a grip on the wind and the game they found themselves 3:3 to no score down. Despite the odds, the girls finished the first half with great heart and were unlucky not to score a goal themselves. Mariah Reid did knock over a great point to get Avondhu on the board and though 3:2 down Avondhu went in believing they could turn it around.

The second half started well with Avondhu putting Carrigdhoun under tremendous pressure. Credit to Carrigdhoun they fought hard and kept Avondhu out. Cliona Mullane on at half time gave her all to get Avondhu back in the game. Three minutes into the 15 minute half the heavens opened and that combined with the very strong wind effectively finished the match. Despite the best efforts of the Avondhu girls, Carrigdhoun held firm and held on to win the match. Credit to Carrigdhoun, they showed great heart and determination and deservedly won the group on the day.

Avondhu Team and subs

1. Emma Forde, 2 Helena Coughlan, 3 Rebecca Finn, 4 Amanda Walsh, 5 Karen Burke, 6 Cliona Galvin, 7 Emma Browne, 8 Orlaith O'Mahony, 9 Klara Curtin, 10 Sinead O'Flynn, 11 Darina O'Callaghan, 12 Sonia Buckley, 13 Eimear Healy, 14 Mairead Geary, 15 Mariah Reidy, 16 Nuala Crowley, 17 Cliona Mullane, 18 Sarah Fitzgibbon, 19 Kate Keane, 20 Ann Carroll, 21 Rebecca Sheehy, 22 Ann Jean O'Reilly

■ Special Thanks and Appreciation

The Avondhu Camogie board would like to extend a special thank you to Newtownshandrum GAA for providing the pitch and facilities on the day. Given the recent weather we are very grateful indeed.

In addition, the board would like to say a big thank you Joan Herlihy, Liz Moran, Denise Flynn, Nollaig Flynn and Angie Doyle who kept six teams, coaches and selectors supplied with tea and sandwiches throughout the day. Indeed, it was a feat as great as the girls out on the field. Over the last couple of months the whole panel, coach Pat Spratt, selectors John Maloney, Augusta Waters, Phil Healy and Sheila Thompson gave up a lot of time and were very unlucky not to have pulled it off.

■ Coming Soon

In the next week or so we hope to feature the new Senior Avondhu Camogie coach for 2007 and hear his views on what's in store this year. Also, we will be introducing the U-16 Avondhu girls who are on the Cork panel for this year aiming to bring the All Ireland back again to Cork after the narrow defeat last year.

The Avondhu Camogie Board would like to thank Charleville GAA for the use of their facilities and for hosting the Inter Divisional Final on Sunday last.

MARCH

2007



Coachford College are through to the All-Ireland Colleges Camogie Junior B semi-final after defeating Holy Rosary, Mountbellew, at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe over the weekend.

Casey leads Coachford College to victory

Two Tipperary schools hope to bring All-Ireland colleges back home

(2007-03-05)

> Tipperary Schools bid for double
>
> St Marys Nenagh and Carrick on Suir will be bidding to take two titles
> next weekend in the All Ireland Colleges finals. St Marys will face
> Castlecomer Kilkenny in the B final while Carrick on Suir take on Birr
> in the B final.
> St Marys Nenagh are bidding to return their school to the former
> glories of the 90's when they dominated the colleges scene winning
> Junior and Senior A All Ireland titles.
> Notably their last victory at All Ireland level was the Colleges A title in
> 2000 with a team that
> featured Tipperary star Eimear McDonnell. They have progressed through
> this competition growing in confidence in each game. They face a well
> balanced Castlecomer sprinkled with Kilkenny Minors including 'Young
> Player of the Year' Marie Dargan. Nenagh are backboned with players
> from Silvermines, Burgess, Kilruane, Toomevara, Moneygall and
> experienced team captain Aoife McLoughney from Shannon Rovers. Team
> manager Ger Dullea is certainly no stranger to finals and he will be
> doing all in his power to steer his charges to a win. A lot will be
> expected from centre back Geraldine Stapleton who has been the basis
> for much of St Mary's success while up front Aoife McLoughney, Bonnie
> Kennedy and Ciara Ryan should pose the main scoring threats for St
> Marys.
>
> Carrick on Suir have eased through their competition and will be
> favourites to take the C title against Birr on Saturday. Team manager
> Brendan O Dwyer finds himself in a unique geographical position which
> allows him to call on Kilkenny minor star Katie Power to lead his
> attack. His team is further bolstered by Lisa Phlean Windgap and
> Charlene Norris Piltown. Rachel Waters from Carrick Swans will
> represent a Tipperary club interest. This is Carricks first time to
> appear in the Colleges final stage and they will be anxious to create
> history for their school.
> Both finals take place on Sat 10th March in Drom & Inch Hurling field.
> With the senior C game between Scoil Mhuire, Carraig na Siúire and
> Pobalscoil Naomh Breandáin, Birr at 1pm followed by the B final
> featuring St. Mary's, Nenagh and Castlercomer CS at 2.30pm. Tommy McIntyre,
> Antrim
> will ref the C final while Paul Beecher will take control of the B
> final. All camogie supporters in the county are urged to come out and
> support both teams in their quest for All Ireland glory.
>

JOANNE Casey inspired Coachford College team comprehensively defeated Connaught champions Holy Rosary Mountbellew in the All Ireland Colleges Camogie Junior B semi-final at a windswept Duggan Park, Ballinasloe on Saturday.

Electing to play with the elements in the first half, Susan Buckley dispossessed Galway attacker Oonagh Bergin and her pass found Rosie O' Mahony whose incisive delivery was converted to a point by Joanne Casey.

The half forward line of Aoife Barry Murphy, Ciara and Aine O'Connor won the lion's share of possession, and with Ciara O'Keeffe and player of the match Rosie O'Mahony dominating proceedings at midfield, it was inevitable that Casey add to her tally.

Casey displayed all the skills in the game during that first half. Her first goal on the third minute taken on the run from her right side, the second goal on five minutes a hand-passed effort after rounding the full back, the third from an acute angle on her left where her speed allowed Casey the opportunity to leave the full back standing and keeper Clodagh McGee furious at the porosity of her backline.

Sharon Barrett, Laura Smith and Emma Conneely tried valiantly to stem the tide, but two further frees ended the game as a contest.

Maeve Hennessy, Emer McSwiney and Emma Kingston also impressed on an afternoon when the Coachford defence had little to do. Selector Rita O' Brien introduced five substitutes near half time but the home side failed to score until the final whistle when Ciara Fox scored a point.

Coachford now meet St. Dominic's, Dublin in the final on March 24 in Kilkenny. They beat Ballymena 1-12 to 1-3 in Ulster and, bolstered by their five Dublin under 16 stars, will be an entirely different prospect altogether for the Muskerry side.

St. Caimin's, Shannon lost out to Portumna by 2 points in the Junior A semi-final whilst Colaiste Choilm had a facile 7-9 to 2-2 victory over Colaiste Na Corribe in the Junior C.

Coachford: M. Gleeson, L. McCarthy, C. O' Brien, J. Farmer, S. Buckley, M. Healy (C), E. Kingston, C. O' Keeffe, R. O' Mahony, A. Barry Murphy, A. O' Connor, C. O' Connor, M. Hennessy, J. Casey (4-7, 0-3 frees), E. McSwiney. Subs: E. Donovan for S. Buckley (inj), E. O' Mahony for J. Casey, L. Stack for E. McSwiney (inj), L. Burke for A. Barry Murphy (inj), N. O' Carroll for R. O' Mahony.

MARCH 2007

Three provinces's will be represented in this year's junior All-Ireland colleges finals

(2007-03-04)

This year three provinces will be represented in the forthcoming All-Ireland colleges junior finals later this month following all the junior semi-finals at the weekend.

Representing Leinster will be Loreto Convent Kilkenny who overcame Cross and Passion College of Ballycastle (Antrim) 5-6 to 2-4 in the junior 'A' semi-final while their opponents in the final will be Galway side Portumna Community school who beat a fancied St.Caimins of Shannon 1-6 to 0-7. Dublin college St.Dominics of Cabra have become the first Dublin side to reach an All-Ireland since the famed Maryfield college won the senior All-Ireland final in 1984 following their 1-12 to 1-3 victory over another Antrim side St.Louis of Ballymena. The Dubs will meet Cork college Coachford who beat Holy Rosary Mountbellew of Galway decisively 4-7 to 0-1 in the second 'B' semi-final.

This year's All-Ireland junior 'C' Final will be between first time All-Ireland finalists De La Salle of Carlow who beat Down side St.Columbans of Kilkeel 4-3 to 0-3, while the second semi-final was a victory for Cork side,Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig school 7-9 to 2-2 for Galway college Coláiste na Coiribe.

Lorteo were early on their way to victory when Laura Hennessey put her side a goal up after just five minutes when she hand passes to the goal. Two further goals from Aisling Dunphy and Claire Phelan set the young kittens up comfortably at the break, 3-5 to 0-1 for Cross and Passion, the Cross and Passion point having come from Emma Mullan, niece of former Antrim star Grace Mc Mullan.

Cross and Passion won the toss at the start but elected to play against the wind and that may have cost them the game as the Kilkenny side took full advantage of the first half strong wind. The Ulster side rallied better in the second half with a brace of goals from Aisling Mc Fadden and Kerry Smyth within the opening five minutes, but Loreto kept their cool with two further goals from star centre forward Niamh Byrne and a late injury goal from Aisling O'Grady. Loreto will meet Galway side Portumna in the final later this month who had a real match winner in Tara Rutledge who finsihed the day with 1-4 (0-3f).

St.Dominics of Dublin will be hoping to bridge of twenty three years since an All-Ireland title came to the capital. The visiting Dubs had a real match winner in Rachel Costelloe who finished with a total of 0-8 and she repeated the same performance yesterday (Sun) when she was on the Dublin U16 team that beat Offaly 3-9 to 2-6 in the opening game of the Leinster U16 championship. This was very much a team effort, but the Dubs will have to play out of their skins the next day if they are to overcome their opponents Coachford of Cork who had a real match winner in Emer Mc Swiney (Swiney) who knocked in a total of 3-1, all from play!

Carlow side De La Salle have already written themselves into the history book this year by appearing in their first ever leinster final and winning same and now find themselves in their first ever Junior 'C' All-Ireland final later this month. Two first half goals from Laura Bambrick within the space of five minutes left a smile on the Carlow faces at the break as they led 2-2 to Kilkeel's 0-0. With full-back Emma Staunton and Karelle Clarke at wing back the Carlow girls did not allow the half time lead get to them as they denied the forwards any sniff of the sliotar in the second half and so Carlow will now play in their first ever All-Ireland colleges final this month against Cork side Ballincollig who had eight players getting their name on the score board with Aoife Mc Carthy being the top scorer of 2-3.

Details:

Junior 'A'
Loreto, Kilkenny: 5-6: C Phelan 1-3(0-2f),L Hennessey, A O'Grady 1-1,each, N Byrne, A Dunphy 1-0, each,A Curran 0-1.
Cross and Passion, B'castle: 2-4: A Mc Fadden, K Smyth 1-0 each, E Mc Mullan 0-3,L Mc Keown 0-1.

Prtumna Com. Sch. Galway 1-6, T Rutledge 1-4 (0-3f),A Lynch, N Mc Clearn 0-1 each
St.Caimins, Shannon 0-7. C Morey,A O'Shea 0-2 each,R Mc Mahon,0-1f,C Danaher, N Corry 0-1

Jun. 'B'
Coachford Com.Sch.Cork: 4-7: E Mc Swiney (Swiney) 3-1, M Hennessy 1-0, J O Casey 0-2, C O'Connor,A O'Connor,A Barrymurphy, E Kingston 0-1 each.
Holy Rosary Mountbellew, 0-1: C Fox 0-1.

St.Dominics, Cabra Dublin; 1-12: L May 1-4,R Costelloe 0-8 (0-3f, 0-1'45)
St.Louis, Ballymena 1-3: K Mc Aleese 1-3 (0-3f).

Jun. 'C'Coláiste Choilm,
Ballincollig Cork: 7-9:A Mc Carthy 3-3,S Cooney 2-0,K O'Donoghue, O Ni Casadaigh 1-0 each, T Buttimer 0-2, S Buckley 0-3 (0-1f),A Scally 0-1,
Coláiste na Coirbre, Galway 2-2: C Ni Laoi 2-1, C Ni Chonaill 0-1.

De La Salle, Bagnelstown, Carlow 4-3: L Bambrick 2-0, E Brennan 1-2 (0-2f), E Flavin 1-0 each, M Murphy 0-1.
St.Louis, Kilkeel, Co. Down 0-3.S Mc Comb 0-3 (0-2f)

St. Mary's Camogie coach to be given Presidents Award

As he prepares his charges for an All Ireland Final on Saturday, Ger Dullea's work with regard to camogie in St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh will be rewarded nationally after he was announced as a recipient of a GAA Presidents Award.

The Awards were first presented in 2004 to acknowledge the achievements and commitment of individuals throughout the Association by providing formal recognition of their work for and dedication to the GAA. Among the winners are former players, coaches and officials from across the country who have contributed extensively to the GAA as well as to handball, ladies football, Rounders and camogie.

GAA President, Nickey Brennan, extended his congratulations to the winners of the awards and paid tribute to their outstanding contributions to the Association in various capacities.

He said: "This year's winners have demonstrated in their own individual capacities the true spirit of volunteerism through their involvement at Club, County or Provincial level. The Association has always been fortunate to possess outstanding individuals who have served the Association with distinction and these awards are an opportunity to recognise the dedication and commitment of our members in a formal manner."

Ger along with the 16 other recipients of the award will receive their accolades at a function in Croke Park following the club finals on St. Patrick's Day.

manageable 3-5 to 2-3 with 18 minutes left.

However the visitors upped the ante and Niamh Hennessy's 48th minute goal probably made the game safe. There was only a point for each team until deep in injury time Aisling O'Grady stabbed home from close range to give Kilkenny a rather flattering 5-6 to 2-4 victory.

Loreto will play Portumna Community School in the final after the Connacht champions beat St. Caimin's Shannon by 1-6 to 0-7.

Cross & Passion : Aisling McFadden 1-0, Kerri Smyth 1-0, Emma McMullan 0-3, Louise McKeown 0-1.

Loreto : Claire Phelan 1-3, Laura Hennessy 1-1, Aisling O'Grady 1-1, Aisling Dunphy 1-0, Niamh Byrne 1-0, Aine Curran 0-1.

In Ahoghill, St. Louis Ballymena looked like being completely overrun by St. Dominic's of Dublin as Rachel Costelloe hit 6 points to build up a 0-7 lead before St. Louis opened their accaount with a Katie McAleese free in the 28th minute.

Then Katie's long ball in trickled over the line and she also added a point in injury time to reel the visitors in to 0-7 to 1-2 at the break.

That lifted them for the third quarter, but they couldn't add scores and eventually Costelloe got the visitors going again with two points and then Lisa May took over adding 1-3 to a Katie McAleese point. Final score : St. Louis 1-3, St. Dominic's 1-12.

In the other semi-final, Coachford of Cork easily took out Mountbellew 4-7 to 0-1

St. Louis : Katie McAleese 1-3.

St. Dominic's : Lisa May 1-4, Rachel Costelloe 0-8.
Seamas Mc Aleenan

Dublin record first c'ship win in Leinster

(2007-03-04)

Dublin's Rachel Costelloe had a busy but very fruitful weekend as on Saturday she travelled to Antrim with her school St.Dominics and played a vital role in securing their place in the Colleges All-Ireland junior 'B' Final later this month, on Sunday she journeyed to Offaly to again play with the Dublin U16's against Offaly in the opening round of the Leinster U16 championship which Dublin won 3-9 to 2-6.

Along side Rachel was Orlagh Egan, daughter of former Tipperary star player Deirdre Lane who finished the day with 2-1 while Rachel slotted over 0-5 (0-2'45, 0-1f), This was a game that Offaly could have won had they seized all their goal chances especially in the second half, but it was Dublin's hunger and determination that held out for the visitors on the day. Dublin were well in control at the break leading 2-6 to Offaly's 0-2, the Dublin goals having come from Leagh West after just five minutes and the second midway from Orlagh Egan.

Offaly put in a much better performance in the second half, but the goals they needed just did not come their way as Jenny Russell in defence and Rachel Costelloe and Aisling Fogarty at midfield performed very well for Dublin. Up front the Offaly defence were kept busy trying to tight mark full-forward Orla Egan and right half forward Aoife Burke. This was no bad performance from Offaly and they can very much stay in touch in this championship with a bit more work.

Leinster U16 c'ship:
Dublin: 3-9:O Egan 2-1, L West 1-1, R Costelloe 0-5 (0-2'45, 0-1f),E Sweenry, M Moynihan 0-1 each.
Offaly:2-6: J Brady 2-0, S Flynn 0-4 (0-3f, 0-1'45), E Fogarty, N Scully 0-1 each

Seandun retain U16 crown

SEANDUN retained the Under 16 Interdivision championship as they defeated Carrigdhoun. They had a victory over Carbery while Avondhu defeated Imokilly and Muskerry proved too strong for Carbery as Imokilly had to give way to Carrigdhoun. Carrigdhoun continued to impress defeating Avondhu to secure their place in the final with eleven points to spare while Seandun had to call on all their resources as they came from behind to shake off the challenge of the strong Muskerry side by just one point. A venue change for the final was forced at the last hour as Newtownshandrum officials had to deem their pitch unplayable with the goal mouths cutting up badly and it was everybody off to Charleville.

Two totally committed sides gave it everything in quest of honours Carrigdhoun dominated the early exchanges aided by the gale force wind Catriona Collins pointed an early free with Mary Ellen O'Donovan finished well to the net after the Seandun defence failed to clear a shot from Collins. Grainne O'Keeffe extended the Carrigdhoun led with a point eight minutes into the half as Seandun battled to get into the game. Slowly they began to find their feet their defence getting on top and their mid field pairing of Ellen Crowley and Catriona Mackey falling back to lend a hand while captain Denise Luby played a roving defensive role despite holding down the full forward spot. Karen O'Connell's shot for goal hit the upright and bounce back into play to be cleared to safety by Maebh Moynihan Seandun opened their account two minutes from the break captain Denise Luby striking a superb forty five metres free against the gale force wind over the bar as Carrigdhoun led 1-2 to 0-1



Rival captain Maria Moran Carrigdhoun with Denise Luby Seandun and referee Colette O'Mahony.

Two early Carrigdhoun attacks were quashed by Seandun Moira O'Donovan and Aine Murray leading the defence as Seandun held firm. Natasha O'Sullivan and Denise Luby narrowing the gap with points and continuing to apply the pressure Seandun hit the front Karen O'Connell setting up Denise Luby whose shot for goal was excellently saved by Carrigdhoun keeper Tessa Hawkes but the in rushing Natasha O'Sullivan made no mistake finding the net as the city girls took the lead. Carrigdhoun dug deep and came in search of an equaliser but the Seandun defence as a unit held firm under pressure. Holding their lead Seandun came in search of an insurance score but Aileen O'Donovan's goal was deemed to have been thrown to the net and was disallowed, however they pressurised the Carrigdhoun defence again and forcing a forty five metre free it was left to their captain Denise Luby to have the final say confidently striking over the bar to ensure her side retained their title.



Seandun under 16 team who took the inter divisional chamspionship on Sunday last.

Carrigdhoun Catriona Collins as player of the championship following on three tremendous displays from the Carrigdhoun forward.

Well done to the Newtownshandrum and Charleville GAA clubs who ensure the games went ahead on what was a bad weekend weather wise also to the Newtownshandrum ladies who catered superbly and ensured everybody was well looked after on what was a successful day for under age camogie in Cork.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

Coachford into final

IT was a good weekend for college camogie in cork as Coachford College and Colaiste Choilm advanced to the junior B and C All already finals.

Both sides had to make the long journey to Galway but it failed to deter the determined students of both schools. Joanne Casey inspired Coachford College to victory over Connaught champions Holy Rosary Mountbellew the Coachford girls held all the upper hand from start to finish as they set the pace from the throw in. Aided by the strong wind in the opening half, Coachford led by Casey opened with an early point.

They piling on the pressure as the scores mounted up and their first goal came three minutes into the game and the second on five minutes a hand passed effort after Joanne Casey rounding the full back, the third after she left the Mountbellew defence behind her before shooting to the net.

The Mountbellew defence tried valiantly to stem the tide but with Kingston pointing two further frees it ended the game as a contest. All over the field Coachford held the upper hand and as their forwards and centre fields dominated their defence had little to do.

Holy rosary tried in vain to get on the score board but their persistence paid off when Ciara Fox pointed in the closing minuet. Coachford now meet St. Dominic's, Dublin in the final after the Dublin side defeated Ballymena 1-12 to 1-3.

National league resumes

CORK against Tipperary on the double on Sunday as the second rounds of the national leagues take place in Clonghduv at 3.30pm. In division 1A Cork senior will be anxious to gain their first league points having lost out narrowly to Wexford while Tipp had a first round victory over Galway and will be determined to gain further points. The division 1B Cork side defeated Wexford and they are anxious to get one over on a Tipp side that lost out to Galway in their opener

Brennan's tribute to outstanding work of various award winners

by Colm O'Connor

THE winners of the 2007 GAA President's Awards were announced yesterday.

The Awards were first presented in 2004 to acknowledge the achievements and commitment of individuals throughout the Association by providing formal recognition of their work for, and their dedication to the GAA.

Among the winners are former players, coaches and officials from across the country who have contributed extensively to the GAA as well as to handball, ladies football and camogie.

GAA president, Nickey Brennan, extended his congratulations to the winners of the awards and paid tribute to their outstanding contributions to the Association in various capacities.

He said: "This year's winners have demonstrated in their own individual capacities the true spirit of volunteerism through their involvement at Club, County or Provincial level.

"The Association has always been fortunate to possess outstanding individuals who have served the Association with distinction and these awards are an opportunity to recognise the dedication and commitment of our members in a formal manner."

The Awards will be presented at a Banquet in Croke Park on Saturday March 17 at 5.30pm.

Award winners: Lulu Carroll (Timahoe GAA Club, Laois), Willie Corbett (Corofin GAA Club, Clare), Liam Cheasty (Waterford), Johnny Biesty (Ballyhaunis GAA Club, Mayo), Eamon Carney (Dromard GAA Club, Sligo), Br Bosco Mulhare (Laois and Carlow), Pat Holland (Annaghminnon GAA, Louth), Gerry Buckley (Westmeath), Podge Butler (O'Loughlins GAA, Kilkenny), Ger Dullea (Tipperary), Seamus Mc Grattan (Ballygalget GAA Club, Down), Tommy O Brien (Talbot's Inch Handball Club Kilkenny), Sean Hughes (Erne Eagles Rounders Club, Cavan), Tommy Barrett (Tipperary), Naul McCole (Dungloe GAA, Donegal) and Frank Kennedy (Tyrone).

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Former Offaly Hurling Goalie Damien Martin, An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D., Miriam O'Callaghan and Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association all pictured at the Offaly Association Dublin Golden Jubilee Dinner in the Regency Airport Hotel Dublin last Friday night.



Award winner Marie Dargan (camogie) with Sports Editor Tony Leen and Editor Tim Vaughan at the 'Irish Examiner' National Junior Sports Stars awards at the Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin. (Photo: Dan Linehan)