

180

MAY
to
AUG. 2016

Right on cue, Cats deli

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KILKENNY 2-7
GALWAY 0-7

Kilkenny kept the best wine until last, and they ended up celebrating a 12th national success.

The Cats produced a riveting performance in Thurles on Sunday to dethrone defending champions, Galway in the Division 1 National Camogie League final.

If the Kilkenny performance in general was better than the team had played all season, then the decisive goal was perhaps the score of the year to date. It was the second Kilkenny goal in the 51st minute.

The slotar was worked over and back across the Semple Stadium pitch by the busy Anna Farrell, Denise Gaule and sub Michelle Quilty before it was returned to the lady who started the move around mid-field, Julie Ann Malone.

The forward charging Mullinavat attacker got a

glimpse of the goal at the town end, and from 20 metres she unleashed a whistling, rising shot to hang up the ball in the top right corner of the net.

"That was definitely our best performance of the season," admitted thrilled Kilkenny manager, Ann Downey afterwards.

"The girls worked really hard, and their hurling and use of the ball was terrific. It was a nice way to round off the campaign.

"There are huge tests ahead in the championship, but it is nice to know we are heading in the right direction in terms of building the team."

Before the ball was even thrown-in the winners suffered a loss when goalie, Emma Kavanagh was forced to cry off.

Her place was taken by Ann Marie Lennon, who made her debut in the competition.

Young Lennon turned in a flawless performance, even if she did get superb cover from a crisp

tackling and neat defence.

The excellence of the defensive unit was reflected in the fact that Galway scored just once from play.

Galway opened backed by the wind, but they were behind from as early as the second minute after Sarah Ann Quinlan set-up Julie Ann

Score of season
The creation and execution of the second Kilkenny goal made it a wonder score, one to cherish



FAB FOUR! Kilkenny's Jacqui Frisby, Davina Tobin, Player of the Match Anna Farrell and Collette Dormer celebrate with the trophy after beating Galway in the National Camogie League Division One final in Semple Stadium on Sunday.
Photos: Ryan Byrne/INPHO

Malone for the opening score.

THEY ROARED ON

On the Cats roared. By the 11th minute they were 1-3 to no score clear, thanks to points from Anna Farrell and Denise Gaule (free) and a 10th

minute goal from Ann Farrell, with an assist by her sister, Shelly.

Indeed, were it not for a class save by Galway goalie, Shauna Burke, from a well struck Shelly Farrell effort in the sixth minute the divide

would have been even greater.

The losers eventually got off the scoring mark in the 15th minute when Niamh McGrath punished a foul on the direct running Ailish O'Reilly.

The Kilkenny chasing and harassing was akin to what the hurlers are renowned for, plus the support play and clever use of the hand-pass had the opposition in all sorts of trouble at times.

BEST POSITION

The best position attained by Kilkenny was a seven point lead, which was gained in the 28th minute when Denise Gaule pointed a free from 58 metres.

That brought the score to 1-6 to 0-2, which was the scoreline at half-time.

To be fair to Galway, they took over the game from the start of the new half. With centre-back, Rebecca Hennessey driving them on and McGrath, Lorraine Ryan, Clodagh McGrath and Aoife Donoghue getting more traction in the game, they won the lion's share of possession.

Still the Kilkenny defiance remained utterly defiant, with Collette Dormer, Edwina Keane and Sarah Kent producing outstanding moments and crucial deeds.

A push in the back on Molly Dunne earned Galway their first score of the half from McGrath's stick in the 32nd minute.



The Kilkenny squad following their victory in the the National Camogie League Division One final in Semple Stadium on Sunday.

ver best performance

It took Kilkenny eight minutes to trouble the score-keeper. They did so after Sarah Ann Quinlan pointed to finish off a lovely flowing move that had involved Sarah Ann Quinlan, Denise Gaule and Miriam Walsh (1-7 to 0-3).

ONE MORE SCORE

The Cats scored just once more during the remaining 22 minutes. The oppositions scored four times through McGrath, but they also missed chances.

As already said, the Kilkenny goal in the 51st minute was the deciding one. It left the score at 2-7 to 0-6 and stopped a Galway run of three scores.

Six minutes from the end the losers were awarded a penalty when sub, Orlaith McGrath was unceremoniously dragged to the ground as she bore down on goal. Rebecca Hennelly's well struck shot was saved.

There and then the title was gone on Galway.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Julie Ann Malone, Anna Farrell (1-1 each); Denise Gaule (0-3, frees); Ann Dalton, Sarah Ann Quinlan (0-1 each). Galway - Niamh McGrath (0-6, frees); Aoife Donoghue (0-1).

Kilkenny - Ann Marie Lennon (Blacks and Whites); Collette Dörmer (Paulstown Goresbridge); Davina Tobin (Emeralds); Jacqui Frisby (Ballyhale Shamrocks); Stacie Quirke (St Martin's); Edwina Keane (St Martin's); Sarah Kent (Danesfort); Kelly Ann Doyle (Piltown); Ann Farrell (Thomastown); Ann Dalton (St Lachtain's); Julie Ann Malone (Mullinavat); Denise Gaule (Windgap); Shelly Farrell (Thomastown); Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan); Sarah Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands). Subs - Claire Phelan (Lisdowney) for S. Quirke 35th min; Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat) for KA Doyle 45th min; Sarah Crowley (Mooncoin) for Kent 57th min.

Galway - Shauna Burke; Siobhan Coen, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney; Ann Marie Starr, Rebecca Hennelly, Lorraine Ryan; Shauna Healy, Clodagh McGrath; Niamh Kilkenny, Niamh McGrath, Aoife Donoghue; Aoife Callanan, Molly Dunne, Ailish O'Reilly. Subs - Orlaith McGrath for M. Dunne 44th min; Noreen Coen for A. Callanan 46th min; Tara Kenny for S. Coen 52nd min. Referee - Cathal Egan (Cork).

STATS

Kilkenny frees 13 - 9 and 4; Galway 17 (7 and 10). Kilkenny wides 4 (2 and 2); Galway 9 (3 and 6).

THE TITLES

Kilkenny's winning years in the Camogie League included a four in-a-row at one stage. They won the title in - 1978, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 1990, 1993, 2008, 2014, 2016.



CAN'T STOP THIS CAT! - Shelly Farrell (Kilkenny) shrugs off the challenge from Galway's Heather Cooney as she charges towards goal during Sunday's National Camogie League Division One final in Thurles. Photo: Ryan Byrne/INPHO

The lift in confidence winning can bring will be a huge plus - Downey

With the National Camogie League title in the bag, Kilkenny will now try to drive on in the championship.

The county hasn't won the senior camogie All-Ireland since 1994.

It contested and lost six finals since that glory day in Croke Park, but the winning class of 2016 will spare nothing in the pursuit of victory.

That was the promise from Kilkenny manager and former star, Ann Downey, when the Cats beat defending champions, Galway in Sunday's League final.

"Kilkenny have been knocked for so long because the county hasn't won an All-Ireland," she said.

"The girls are forced to carry a bit of baggage because of that.

"It is a long way from May 1

to All-Ireland day, which is our aim, but we will work hard.

"These girls have to believe now that they have what it takes to be winners. There is only so many times you can tell players they are brilliant hurlers.

"Now they can start believing. They have made themselves winners, and now they should try and drive on in the championship."

The manager felt the team played very well. She described the first half showing as excellent and at the end of it the Cats led by 1-6 to 0-2.

They expected a storm from Galway in the second half, and they got it.

"We spoke about it at half-time in the dressing-room that Galway were going to come at us," Ann explained.

"They did, and strongly, but the defence held up well. I

saw Galway against Limerick earlier, and they upped their performance there in the second half just as they did against us.

"We lost our shape during the opening five minutes or so. We pulled things together after that and we were pretty comfortable all the way home from there."

Work was the key to everything, the 12 times senior All-Ireland medal winner maintained.

ALL ABOUT HARD WORK

"It is all about work, hard work with us," the manager continued. "The girls were prepared to work hard today and that made all the difference.

"We haven't won for a while. Winning is a good habit to develop and it builds confidence.

"You can't beat winning. It is a habit we want to develop

it. We will build from here.

"We still have a lot of work to do before the championship starts."

Squad members are still nursing injuries. Goalie Emma Kavanagh, the regular No. 1, was concussed and missed Sunday's final.

Aine Gannon had a virus and couldn't start. Meighan Farrell is nursing an injury, while Grace Walsh is only coming back after injury.

"Ann Marie (Lennon) stepping into the goal today for her first League game and she was brilliant," Ann beamed. "I am delighted for her. She epitomised the spirit in the group.

"The performance was all about the use of the ball. We didn't play badly against Tipperary in the semi-final. We hit 15 wides, and we didn't use the ball well.

"The girls were trying to do

the right thing with the ball, but it didn't happen.

"We worked on that. Paddy (Mullally), Conor (Phelan) and Liam (Egan) - the backroom team - worked on it and it all came right today.

"That has to be our best performance of the entire League, and not because we won the title. We played well against Cork, but this was better.

"We could or should have beaten Cork. We hit five wides during the closing five minutes when we had an opportunity to level, and we were beaten by a point.

"We played well that day as well. I am happy. I am happy where we are at the moment.

"This win can be a great stepping stone going into the championship. We go back to training now and the players will have a pep in their step, which is no bad thing."

Disappointing display sees Tribeswomen tamely surrender league crown

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| KILKENNY | 2-7 |
| GALWAY | 0-7 |

DARREN KELLY
AT SEMPLE STADIUM

THE next month will be a period of reflection for Galway camogie after they surrendered their league title following a disappointing, lacklustre display last Sunday. Goals for Anna Farrell and Julie Ann Malone saw Kilkenny crowned National Senior Camogie League champions, but they were always one step ahead over the hour.

The result won't hurt the Tribeswomen. Their season won't be defined on winning league titles. But the nature of their defeat will have Ollie Bergin and his players scratching their heads ahead of the championship in June.

Quite simply, Galway didn't show up! Or it felt like that. Kilkenny hit the ground running, building up a match winning advantage as the maroon and white struggled to find shape and beat their opponents to the breaking ball. And Ann Downey's side were allowed to control the contest.

That being said, Galway can't be faulted for their character to make a fight of it and they continued battling until the final whistle. Again, like last year's All-Ireland final, they needed a break that never came but, at least they have seven weeks to put things right.

Galway had the first attack when Niamh Kilkenny's effort drifted wide and it was a surprising decision to see the Pearses captain deployed at full forward before being moved out to the wing within two minutes. It would be the quarter hour before Galway did open their account when Niamh McGrath split the posts but already Kilkenny were in the ascendancy.

Despite having won this title in 2014, the Noreiders looked hungry to put one over their opponents. They broke ball smartly in midfield while their defenders crowded any Galway player fancying their chances.

Malone opened the scoring in the third minute before the Far-

rell sisters combined three minutes later with Shelly setting up Anna for a point and Kilkenny led 0-2 to 0-0. Galway would spend the afternoon playing catch up.

Galway's defence contained plenty of experience but found themselves pulled apart on occasions. Sarah Ann Quinlan started an attack, putting Shelly Farrell free but Shauna Burke showed bravery in closing down the shot.

The Craughwell custodian has had a solid league campaign but she suffered one of those unfortunate goalkeeper moments on 11 minutes. Anna Farrell was dominating around the park all afternoon, but her most defining impact was when a delivery aimed for the posts deflected off Burke's hurley and over the line for Kilkenny's first goal.

It was a blow for the defending league champions and Denise Gaule added a free to make it 1-3 to 0-0 before McGrath finally opened Galway's account.

Even though they did succeed in the semi-final, Galway are not known for coming from behind and the margin stretched to 1-6 to 0-2 by half-time. Dalton and Gaule (2) added to Kilkenny's tally while Aoife Donohue finished off a fine Galway move involving Coen, Starr and McGrath for Galway's second score.

Despite being outplayed, Galway looked more energised for the second period and started strongly. But they didn't make an impact on the scoreboard. McGrath missed a straight forward free before making amends with a superb effort from an acute right angle on 32 minutes. But other Galway attacks were breaking down as their overall wide count reached nine.

Kilkenny were happy to defend their lead with Quinlan coming out to the middle and rewarded with a point on 37 minutes. Kilkenny maintained this 1-7 to 0-3 advantage despite Galway's grafting but Bergin's charges finally made inroads when a hat-trick of McGrath frees left just four between them with 10 minutes remaining.

However, Kilkenny's patience finally paid off with a sublime, textbook move producing a de-



Galway goalkeeper Shauna Burke bravely denies Kilkenny's Shelley Farrell in the opening-half of Sunday's National Camogie League final in Thurles. PHOTO: RYAN BYRNE/INPHO

serving winning goal. After a Galway attack broke down, the Leinster side countered and captained Michelle Quilty picked out the unmarked Malone who left Burke no chance with the strike. Kilkenny were 2-7 to 0-6 clear and Galway's title hopes extinguished.

Still, they battled until the end. An Aoife Donohue clearance with six minutes left bounced nicely for Orlaith McGrath who won the penalty after being fouled by Jacqui Frisby. Rebecca Hennelly stepped up but Frisby atoned with a good stop to deny Galway a green flag.

And 60 seconds later, a snapshot from Ailish O'Reilly was blocked by keeper Emma Kavanagh. It just wasn't Galway's day and Niamh McGrath concluded with her sixth free in injury time.

In the end, a day that Galway will quickly want to forget. The concession of their league crown won't leave any lingering scars but their performance will be a cause for concern.



Galway players Lorraine Ryan, Ann Marie Starr, Clodagh McGrath, Heather Cooney and Aoife Donohue, in front, show their dejection after losing to Kilkenny.

Heather Cooney, Hennelly, Lorraine Ryan, Healy, Kilkenny, McGrath and Donohue were Galway's top players. On July 16, Galway will face Kilkenny again in Nowlan Park and will be looking for a better display.

Galway: S. Burke; H. Cooney, S. Derivan, S. Coen; AM Starr, R. Hennelly; L. Ryan, S. Healy, C. McGrath; A. Donohue (0-1), N. McGrath (0-6, all frees), N. Kilkenny, A. Callanan, M. Dunne, A. O'Reilly. Subs: O. McGrath for Dunne (45 mins), N. Coen for Callanan (46 mins), T. Kenny for Coen (53 mins). Kilkenny: E. Kavanagh, J. Frisby, D.

Tobin, C. Dormer; S. Quirke, E. Keane, S. Kent; KA Doyle, A. Farrell (1-1); D. Gaule (0-3, all frees), JA Malone (1-1), A. Dalton (0-1); SA Quinlan (0-1), M. Walsh, S. Farrell. Subs: C. Phelan for Quirke (35 mins), M. Quilty for Doyle (46 mins), S. Crowley for Kent (58 mins). Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork)

MAY
2016

ALL-IRELAND MINOR CAMOGIE FINAL REPLAY

No joy for Galway in replay loss to talented Tipperary

■ Second half goals kill off Tribesgirls' hopes

TIPPERARY 4-0
GALWAY 2-6

DARREN KELLY
IN BIRR

THREE second half goals killed off Galway's All-Ireland minor camogie championship dreams in Birr last Saturday as Tipperary repeated their under 16 victory from two years ago.

Despite trailing by five points at half-time, Galway got back into contention with a Leanne Freaney goal reducing the deficit to 1-7 to 2-3 on 42 minutes. But goals from Caoimhe Purdue, Orla O'Dwyer and Sinead Meagher ensured the Premier county their first minor crown since 2011.

After forcing a replay seven days earlier, Galway came into this contest full of confidence. Lorraine Larkin's charges had chances to win the first day but after being 12 points short in 2014, the opportunity for 60 more minutes represented significant progress.

Again, the Tribesgirls had to withstand an early Tipperary onslaught with the Munster side registering five wides before Carrie Dolan opened with a Galway free on seven minutes. Even though the scoring was low, it was another tactical battle with defences to the fore and Aisling Downey was excelling at full back for Galway. But Tipperary eventually pointed through Sinead Buckley before O'Dwyer made it 0-2 to 0-1 on the quarter hour.

Galway were succeeding in getting their inside line involved and reaped the reward on 20 minutes. The move was started by Downey, with the hard working Ava Lynskey and Mairead Dillon also involved, allowing the ball to break for Siobhan McGrath. Taking the sliothar first-time, the Sarsfields corner forward needed no invitation to charge towards goal before strik-

ing to the net.

It should have been the catalyst for Galway but they only added a Sarah Spellman point before half-time. Grace O'Brien and Keely Linehan scored for Tipperary before Buckley levelled affairs making it 1-2 to 0-5. But Tipperary delivered on their threat in the 26th minute.

Coming from a Galway attack breaking down, Buckley took the ball deep in her own half before sending it down the other end. O'Dwyer was a menace over the hour and made her presence felt, setting up substitute Caoimhe Purdue who found the net. O'Dwyer and O'Brien added white flags before half-time and Tipperary led 1-7 to 1-2.

The rain descending on St. Brendan's Park had rescinded before throw-in but a strong wind was affecting the high ball. While still in Galway's favour for the second period, the breeze was now swirling and last year's under 16 winners would need to take their chances.

With ten of the team eligible again in 2017, Galway's future looks bright and lessons will be learned

They got a major lift on 35 minutes with their second goal. A Leanne Freaney free out right descended towards the square. With pressure applied by the presence of Elisha Broderick and Dolan, the ball deflected off a Tipperary defender for the green flag. Seven minutes later, Shannon Ridge passed to Freaney and Galway's deficit was just 1-7 to 2-3.

The momentum should have been with Galway but it proved to be the closest they came. Tipperary's next attack on 43 min-

utes put daylight between the teams again and resulted in the blue and gold pulling away.

Tipperary's front six were rampant in space and had tested Sarah Healy four times in the opening few minutes of the second half. But there was nothing the St. Thomas' keeper could do when Tipperary made the breakthrough - O'Dwyer again did most of the work as Bill Mullaney's team sought the opening before Purdue was on hand to strike her second major.

Four minutes later came number three. Sinead Meagher wasn't allowed the space in these two games she'd become accustomed to, but still finished with a major impact. A long effort from the Kildangan player looked destined for a point only to bounce off the crossbar. O'Dwyer was quickest to react catching the defence off guard and beating Healy to find the net and Tipperary were 3-7 to 2-3 clear.

Dolan arrested the slide with a Galway point on 49 minutes and she added a second on 56 minutes, but points for O'Dwyer and Meagher cancelled them out. And any doubts about the destination of the All-Ireland trophy were settled in the final minute when Meagher broke through to hand pass for the fourth goal.

Freaney sent over Galway's last free in injury time to leave

nine between them but hopes of a first minor title since 2012 will wait another 12 months.

With ten of the team eligible again in 2017, Galway's future looks bright and lessons will be learned. It was a step-up from under 16 level and it showed in this young side but their development continues at a promising pace.

Healy in goal; Downey, Siob-

han Skehill, Freaney, Lynskey and Dolan did best for Galway and the intermediate championship will give some a further chance for some of them to shine this year.

Galway: S. Healy; E. Gaffney, A. Downey, S. Skehill, S. Cannon, R. Black, L. Helebert, N. Lawless, L. Freaney (1-2, 1-1 frees); A. Lynskey, S. Spellman (0-1), M. Dillon, E. Broderick, C. Dolan (0-3, one free), S. McGrath (1-0). Subs: S.

Ridge for Lawless (HT), T. Moloney for Broderick (37 mins), S. Brehony for Gaffney (46 mins), C. Harley for Cannon (46 mins).

Tipperary: C. Burke; E. Murphy, C. Mullaney, M. Ryan, H. McAuliffe, K. Kennedy, E. Loughman, C. Maher, O. O'Dwyer (1-3); K. Linehan (0-1), S. Buckley (0-2), E. McDonald, J. Kelly, S. Meagher (1-1), G. O'Brien (0-2, both frees). Subs: C. Purdue (2-0) for McDonald (21 mins), C. Condon for Maher (56 mins), M. Bourke for O'Dwyer (60 mins).

Referee: O. Elliott (Antrim).



Galway's Leanne Helebert eyes up her options against Tipperary in the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Final replay in Birr on Saturday.

PHOTOS: KEN SUTTON/INPHO



Galway's Siobhan McGrath celebrates after scoring her team's first goal against Tipperary.

Minor Camogie team crowned champions

TIPPERARY 4-9
GALWAY 2-6

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Last Saturday, April 30th 2016 will go down in the history books of Tipperary Camogie as the day this bunch of young ladies came to St Brendan's Park in Birr, County Offaly and delivered a devastating performance that Galway just had no answer for and walked away All-Ireland minor champions.

Tipp looked more focused on the job in hand the second time round and from the throw-in were causing the Galway defence all sorts of problems, but it was Galway who got the first score of the game from a free in the seventh minute and it wasn't until the 13th minute that Tipp got their first score through Sinead Buckley.

Two minutes later Tipp struck again with a good point from player of the match Orla O'Dwyer, but Galway replied with a goal and moments later Caoimhe Pardue was introduced and straight away was making her presence felt.

Points from Grace O'Brien, Keely Lenihan and Sinead Buckley helped settle



Catherine Neary (President of the Camogie Association) pictured presenting joint-captains Karen Kennedy and Ciardha Maher with the Cup following Tipperary's 4-9 to 2-6 All-Ireland minor Camogie final replay win over Galway at St Brendan's Park in Birr on Saturday. Photo: M Ryan



Catherine Neary (President of the Camogie Association) pictured presenting Orla O'Dwyer with the player of the match award following Saturday's All-Ireland minor Camogie final replay at St Brendan's Park in Birr. Photo: M Ryan

things down for Tipp and in the 26th minute super sub Caoimhe Pardue got Tipp's first goal.

Points from Orla O'Dwyer and Grace O'Brien before the break put Tipp into a commanding position with the half time score reading 1-7 to 1-2 in favour of Tipperary.

Five minutes into the second half Galway got their second goal and followed that up with a point, but then Caoimhe Pardue got in for Tipperary's second goal and six minutes later Orla O'Dwyer got the third goal and two minutes later added another point.

Sinead Meagher, who

battled hard all day, also added 1-1 to close out the game for Tipperary.

Congratulations to the management and all concerned, especially to the girls themselves for being crowned All-Ireland champions.

It is no more than they deserve for their hard work, commitment and loyalty to the jersey. No doubt we will see more days like this in the future with this talented bunch of young ladies.

UNDER-14 BLITZ

The Tipperary under-14 girls travelled down to Ennis last Monday to compete in

their second blitz of the season. Conditions were terrible, but well done to both sets of panels who gave their all on the day.

The B team made it to the semi-final, but were unlucky to lose out to Galway and the A team were in hard luck in a couple of games to lose by a single point and draw another.

Hard luck to both teams, but well done on the effort. It can't have been easy to play Camogie on what was a very wet and windy day.

CLUB RESULTS

Senior League Final: Drom & Inch 0-8 Annacarty 0-5.

Intermediate League Final: Drom & Inch 5-11 Nenagh Eire Og 3-11.

Congratulations to Drom & Inch Camogie club on both wins.

Junior B Semi-Final: Botherlahan 3-11 Ballina 1-6.

Under-16B: Clonoulty 2-1 Holycross 5-6.

Under-14B: Brian Borus 5-4 Rockwell 0-1.

Under-14C: Kickhams 7-3 Arravale Rovers 4-1, Fethard 4-10 Moyle Rovers 0-0, Kilruane 1-1 Kildangan 3-1.

Under-12: Cahir 6-2 Holycross 1-0, St Cronan's 5-2 Nenagh 0-0, Moyle Rovers 8-1 Carrick 0-0, Annacarty 6-3 Holycross 1-0.



At the Cork Supreme Youth Sports Star of the Year Awards were County Mayor, Cllr. John Paul O'Shea; Hall of Fame recipient, Linda Millerick; Roger Russell, general manager, Metropole Hotel; Supreme winner, Connor Ellis; John Buckley, John Buckley Sports; Lord Mayor, Cllr Chris O'Leary; Lady Mayoress Angela O'Leary, and guest speaker, Valerie Mulcahy.

2016

Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



Valerie is right, women's GAA deserves better

WHEN Valerie Mulcahy spoke recently about women's GAA players being treated like 'second class citizens' compared to our male counterparts, it struck a chord with me.

I know exactly what Valerie was talking about, those barriers and challenges that make it so difficult for women in the GAA.

I played inter-county camogie with Cork for more than 12 years – and I loved every minute of it – but I'm not going to lie and say it was all wonderful, because some of what I experienced in my playing days still frustrates me. It wasn't good enough. Player welfare was non-existent.

Many inequalities still exist between men and women in the GAA. Why is there one rule for one and another for others? Why is there one standard for one (men) and another for others (women)?

By speaking out about her own experiences, Valerie has helped shine a spotlight on the differences that exist within the GAA for men and women. It's when players like Valerie stand up and highlight these issues that, hopefully, we can start to make a difference and forge a better future for the next generation. Our voices need to be listened to and lessons need to be learned.

Being afforded the opportunity to play in Páirc Uí Chaoimh over the years was an absolute honour for me as a proud Cork sportswoman. It was special to be involved with the Cork senior camogie team of 2014 and have a photo taken there just weeks before it was about

to be knocked down ahead of its ongoing makeover.

But the truth is we very rarely had the chance to play in Páirc Uí Chaoimh despite our success. I can count less than ten times I toggled out to play there in my career and training there would only happen if you were about to play an All-Ireland final.

Ladies football and camogie players should have regular access to a facility like this. We are high achievers in Cork and the ladies have been more than successful. To continue being successful, players need to gain access to the best of facilities. Not just on the big occasions, but on a regular basis – but this basic need is not being met.

Castle Road pitch, our county camogie field, is a fantastic ground, but relying on dressing rooms in the form of prefab units means our home games have to be played elsewhere. Again, we need to ask for these pitches, there is never an offer to accommodate us.

As for getting the big venues around the country for important championship games, the girls and I often arrived at venues where we were forbidden from simply stepping onto the field to have a brief puck-around before the game as we were in danger of, somehow, cutting up the pitch we were about to play a full 60-minute game on. It doesn't make sense. I wonder would men experience the same treatment before their championship matches? I thought not.

Hot showers are a luxury in the many locations we get to play senior inter-county matches. I remember one Munster championship fixture, not even

three years ago, where we had to travel to Tipperary to play the Munster semi-final. It remains a crystal-clear image in my head to this day of the daisies growing on the field, a huge slant from one side of the pitch to the other and weeds popping up here and there.

The dressing rooms could fit about half a panel of 26 and the shower area was in such bad condition that you would fear to step one foot in there. This was a recent experience but, sadly, more often than not it's a reality for camogie players throughout the country.

But it's not just about the facilities or lack of them, it's about how female players are facilitated while playing for their county. I spoke to a lady from Monaghan recently and she talked about the distances women's players travel to and from training. What about expenses, you ask? You must be joking. I can relate to her story – I regularly drove the 240-mile round trip from home in South Armagh to training in Cork, and there were no travel expenses. But it's not only the money side of it, it's about looking after the wellbeing of your players too.

The most this girl received after a training session was a free bottle of water as she made her return journey back to Belfast – a three-hour round trip two to three times a week. There's no such thing as a hearty meal after training for her and this was the case for me when I played with Cork also. A sandwich or two was the most we received after our trainings. Remember, the girls currently train three times a week.

Then look at the male inter-county players who are given meals after every training session. This is a reality up here in Monaghan. I know because my friend cooks a big main course for the men three times a week. They deserve it, they work hard for it, but don't the women train



Recently-retired Cork ladies footballer Valerie Mulcahy made headlines lately when she spoke of her experiences as a women's GAA player, admitting her frustration at being a 'second-class citizen' in the sport she loves.

just as hard and give endless dedication too? It just doesn't seem right that this is still happening today.

We were never handed out gear at the start of the year, ever. Not even a t-shirt. We generally only received gear a few days before an All-Ireland final – it was like our reward for getting there. There may have been an exception once or twice in my career where we were rewarded with training gear with the help of a players fund set up by parents of the players.

I never had a hurley given to me for free by Cork county and there were many hurleys broken in my playing career. I understand this is a common complaint for many inter-county camogie teams around the country because the funding

simply isn't there.

When I think long and hard about the differences between men's and women's GAA, it does sometimes make you think about your motivation to have played so long. What drove you on while you faced getting very little back in return for all your efforts?

I didn't play camogie at the highest level for financial gain. It was my decision to fund my own appetite for the game. It wasn't for the major homecomings you experience on South Mall when you win an All-Ireland, as it sometimes left you disappointed that more support didn't come out to greet you home (even though you really did appreciate seeing the dedicated people who were with you every step of the way). And it re-

ally wasn't to have the limelight and glory and feature on TV every championship game and be a star, like many male GAA players now are.

It was sheer pride in my county, a love of the game and playing for my team-mates and for my family that allowed me to take my mind away from the many barriers that made it difficult to play as a female.

It's certainly difficult to be upbeat and dismissive of how female players are treated when you draw a comparison to the men in the game. I hope that we begin to hear more stories of other female athletes who too felt hard done by or unequal in the sporting arena. It's time to stand up and acknowledge that it's not right. Maybe then it will start to change.

'I remember one Munster championship fixture three years ago ... there were daisies growing on the field, a huge slant from one side of the pitch to the other and weeds popping up'

Juniors are within touching distance

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW
Munster Junior camogie final
Cork v Clare,
South Liberties,
Limerick, 1pm

HAVING knocked out holders Kerry, Cork will make a bold bid to take the Munster Junior title when they meet Clare tomorrow.

The title was won by Cork in 2014 and Donie Daly and his fellow selector Suzanne Deasy have put in a huge work with their side and they will be hoping silverware will come their way.

Preparations have been good with challenge games against the Cork U16s and club sides played, and Daly is hoping it will all come together on Sunday.

"The girls have been excellent and have really put in huge effort and a win on Sunday would be a just reward for the huge commitment they have shown. The clubs that supplied players to us have been hugely supportive as well and that means a lot."

Cork have a nice blend of youth and experience in their line out Lydia Cunningham was impressive in the full-back berth last day out and with Christine O'Neill and Michelle Browne also impressing contributing 1-7 of the total tally of 1-11 between them, Cork overcame the challenge posed by the champions.

Former Minor captain Aisling Wallace impressed when introduced at half-time.

Captain Therese McCarthy leads a side that also includes Jessica Swaine, Courtney O'Keefe and Gillian O'Leary and the determination in the sides against Kerry was impressive.

Clare overcame the challenge of Limerick to book their final spot and like Cork they field a team with plenty of experience up front.

Ciara Doyle will pose a big challenge to the Cork defence having contributed 1-5 to her sides tally against Limerick she is one to watch.

Laura Solan having started the game in attack moved to take up goalkeeping duties at half time and it remains to be seen if Clare will retain her in that role or revert to starting her in attack.

MINOR LEAGUE FINALS

Castle Road hosts three league finals today in what is a busy afternoon of minor camogie.

At in the Minor D final Castle Lyons and Rockbawn clash at 2pm, at 3.30pm its and all city meeting of Na Piarsaigh and St Finbarr's in the Minor B decider and the big one is at 5pm when Milford/Ballyhea and Sarsfields clash to decide the destination of the A league title.

On Saturday next we will have reports on all three finals here on our Evening Echo Camogie page.

Sars advance to represent Cork

Féile na nGael

■ Mary Newman

Sarsfields 3-5
Ballinora 3-2

SARSFIELDS will represent Cork in Tipperary in the Division 1 National Féile Na nGael after they withstood a strong challenge from a determined Ballinora side in Castle Road.

Ballinora edged out Aghabullogue 0-7 to 1-2 in the semi-finals, while Sarsfield's overcame Enniskeane 5-7 to 1-0.

A close opening quarter saw both defences holding firm, and it took a pointed Cliona Lynch free for Sarsfield's to open the scoring. Ella Woods added to their tally with a point but with the excellent Cliona Dooley and Rose Murphy driving them on Ballinora settled with a Dooley point.

Ballinora got a firm grip on proceedings forcing Sars keeper Fay Loneragan into making three excellent saves before Rose Murphy drilled a great shot to the net. Inside a minute they stretched their lead, Aoife Quirke finishing well after the Sars defence continued to absorb huge pressure.

Sars regained their composure. Rachel O'Gorman pointed a free before McAllen and Ella Woods grabbed a goal apiece to edge them back into the lead and with O'Gorman confidently pointing a 45 Sars held a three-point lead 2-4 to 2-1 at the break.

Ballinora were back on level inside two minutes of the restart, Murphy finishing to the net.

Six minutes in Cliona Lynch pointed to give Sars the lead and they grabbed a vital goal when a long range free was deflected across the goal mouth. Woods was on hand to score.

With 10 minutes remaining Kate O'Shea pointed to narrow the gap to three points and from her to the finish both sides squandered several scoring opportunities.

As the clock ticked towards full-time, Ballinora pushed for an equaliser but it wasn't to be as Sars held out to record a three-point victory.

Ballinora's Sarah O'Keefe was named Player Of The Match after a tremendous effort for her side.



The Sarsfields camogie team that will represent Cork at the National Féile in Tipperary-Waterford on the weekend of June 17-19.

Mary O'Sullivan, chairwoman of the juvenile camogie board, presented her with the award, while treasurer Tracy Sheehan presented the Féile trophy to her own club's captain Nicki Barry.

Credit must go to both teams who battled through to the final and to the juvenile board who organised a great programme of games in three divisions.

Scorers for Sarsfields: E Woods 2-1, O McAllen 1-0, R O'Gorman 0-2 (0-1 45, 0-1 f), C Lynch 0-2 f.
Ballinora: R Murphy 2-0, A Quirke 1-0, C Daly 0-1, K O'Shea 0-1 f.

SARS: F Loneragan, McNamara, R O'Gorman, L Twomey, S Desmond, C Irwin, A Mc Allen, A Mullins, A O'Regan, N Barry, O McAllen, G Cashman, E Woods, C Sheehan, C Lynch.

BALLINORA: O O'Shea, D Murphy, C Murphy, A Murphy, J Linehan, M Murphy, K A Crean, R Murphy, N Maher, C Dooley, O O'Brien, A Quirke, K O'Shea, S O'Keefe, B Holmes.

Meanwhile, Nemo Rangers and Ballinascarty made it to the Féile Division 3 final due to be played last evening whilst the Division 2 final will feature Ballygarvan and Killeagh.



Kilmeen NS girls relaxing at Mini Sevens Camogie Finals in Ballygarvan.

Players put through their paces for Féile selection

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

a point.

The jab, lift and strike skill has 80 points going and it is here that the eventual winner will most probably excel. Four sliotars are placed on the 20-metre line eight metres apart and contestants must jab life into the hand and strike the ball on the run all these done on the right-hand side. The skill is then repeated from the left-hand side. The important thing to note here is a point must be scored while doing the skill.

The fourth skill is a lift, solo and goal and here just two sliotars will be placed on the 45-metre line, 10 metres either side of centre. The player must run from the 50-metre line and jab lift the ball onto the hurley without catching it and solo forward as far as the flag just outside the 30-metre line, here the player

must take the ball in the hand and strike from firstly the left and then repeat the drill on the right-hand side. Fifteen points are awarded for each of the drills done correctly.

Skill number five is the long puck and here there are 60 points to be picked up. Four sliotars must be struck from the hand from the end line and the distance is measured from where the ball bounces first. If the shot reaches 60 metres five points are awarded, 60 to 70 metres scores 10 points and over 70 metres 15 points.

Last skill is another that is a joy to watch and that is the ground cut or as we call it the sides line cut, three sliotars are placed on the 20-metre lines on the centre of goal, one 10 metres to right and the other to the left. Sliotars must be cut over the bar and scoring is marked as follows, 10 points for a point from the centre sliotars and 20 points from both the left and right sliotar bring a total of 50 points.

CAMOGIE CLUB DETAILS

SARSFIELDS:

Sarsfields Win First Féile County A Title: Sarsfield lined out against Ballinora in the 2016 Féile A final held at Castle Road on Sunday May 1st last. It was Sars who opened the scoring with a Cliona Lynch pointed free after just three minutes. Shortly after Ella Woods added with a point from play. Ballinora started to come strongly into the game and during a three minute purple patch notched up an impressive 2-01 without reply. After just ten minutes on the clock the Sars two point advantage quickly became a five point deficit. Other teams might have become despondent after conceding 2 goals so quickly, but to their credit Sars knuckled down and worked hard all over the pitch to reduce the 5 point lead. Rachel O'Gorman pointed a '45 on 13th min and just two minutes later Olivia McAllen followed with a well taken goal to close the gap to a single point. The Sars forwards continued to apply pressure and were rewarded when Ella Woods broke free to score Sars' 2nd goal on the 19 minute mark. Rachel pointed a free just before half time to leave the score at the break 2-04 to 2-01 in favour of Sars.

Having played with the wind in the first half, Sars had an uphill battle facing into the 2nd half, especially as Ballinora struck for a goal on the resumption to draw level. It was game on again! Both sides threw everything at their opposition with tremendous displays of camogie from two talented teams. The deadlock was broken when Cliona scored a point from a free mid way through the half and this was followed by a crucial goal from Ella to give Sars a 4 point lead. Ballinora got the last point of the game to leave just a goal between the sides, but it was Sarsfield who hung on tenaciously to their lead to clinch an historic first Cork Féile Division A title for the Club.

Final Score: Sarsfield 3-05 Ballinora 3-02 **Panel:** F. Lonergan, A. McNamara, R. O'Gorman, L. Twomey, S. Desmond, C. Irwin, A. McAllen, A. Mullins, A. O'Regan, K. Crowley, N. Barry, O. McAllen, S. Long, G. Cashman, E. Woods, L. Fitzgerald, C. Byrne, O. Roche, E. McMahon, J. Kelleher, E. Mulcahy, C. Lynch, K. Sheehan, Q. Mullins.

Scorers: E. Woods 2-01, O. McAllen 1-0; R. O'Gorman & C. Lynch 0-02 (0-025) each.

Referee: Dave O'Connell (Glen Rovers) Sarsfields Minors Reach League Final:

Playing 12-a-side in this Minor A League semi-final, it was Sarsfield who made the better start when Meabh Mullins registered 1-02, and younger sister, Clare notched up 3 points. Sarah Costello added her haul of 2-01 to proceedings to display a sharp Sars attacking unit up front. Edel Lonergan was rarely beaten, and was ably assisted by Kelly & Jessie Lyons. The half time score showed Sars well ahead with 3-08 to Aghabullogue 0-03. The strong lead allowed Sars the opportunity to introduce young blood and they weren't found wanting with Rionna O'Mahony & Fiona McCann taking their opportunities well. The second half was a closer affair with Aghabullogue's Cliona Healy causing major headaches for the Sars defence, however, it was Sars who registered the win on a scoreline of 5-11 to Aghabullogue's 2-09.

Team: M. Lynch, E. Lonergan, J. Lyons, C. O'Sullivan, K. Lyons, M. Mullins, R. McCarthy, L. Kelly, D. Kerrigan, C. Mullins, S. Costello, A. O'Brien, F. McCann, J. McAllen, S. O'Brien, G. Jones, E. Twomey, E. Walsh, R. O'Mahony **Scorers:** S. Costello 2-01, M. Mullins 1-02, F. McCann & R. O'Mahony 1-0 each, D. Kerrigan, L. Kelly, E. Lonergan 0-1, A. O'Brien 0-1 each **Referee:** Dominic Rooney Next up: Minor A League Final v Milford/Ballyhea U16A League:

On Wednesday April 27th we were away to Carrigaline and came out second best 2-07 to 1-07. However the mentors were delighted with the team's performance recovering from a six point deficit to almost coming away with a share of the points. However, Carrigaline scored a late goal to seal victory. Grace Jones & Clara Mullins played exceptionally well. We have one remaining game v St Finbarrs.

Junior B: We hosted Inniscarra on Thursday April 28th and won on a scoreline of 3-07 to 1-04 - with Orlaith, Sarah & Emily getting the important goals. Chloe A, Jessie, Mairead, Clara & Julie all stood out.

Senior A: We entered a team in the Courcays 7's by the Sea on Saturday April 30th. Although beaten in all three section games to Inniscarra, Ballinhassig & Courcays the girls enjoyed the day and didn't come away empty handed - Chloe Casey won the Long Puc competition! Well done Chloe!

U12A: Thank you to Inniscarra for organising a great blitz on Saturday April 23rd. Great skills on show from all teams.

GCC: Congratulations to GCC's U16 1/2 school team on their recent Munster Final victory.

NEMO RANGERS:

Nemo progress to Camogie Féile final:

Nemo Rangers was the venue last Saturday for qualifying group B of the U14 C Cork County Camogie Féile Competition. Teams in the group were Nemo Rangers, Erins Own, Rockbawn and Bride Rovers.

First up for Nemo was Erin Own. There was a very tight opening half to this game. Gemma Heaphy opened the scoring with a point for the home team. Erins Own equalised soon afterwards. Gemma added another point early in the second half, with Kate Fleury and Gillian O'Leary adding goals for Nemo before Erins Own got a goal back. Gemma Heaphy added a third point to finish the scoring. Nemo won 2-03 to 1-01.

Next up for Nemo was Rockbawn. Again this game was a very close encounter. With both teams already having won their first match both sides gave it their all in their endeavours to secure a second group win. All over the pitch the girls matched each other for skill levels and determination. Rockbawn got the first score of the game when they goaled midway through the first half to go ahead. As the game neared the half time whistle, Gillian O'Leary goaled after some intense pressure from the Nemo side. The second half continued with some excellent skills on display, and Rockbawn went ahead again with another goal. Robin Fraher brought the sides level with a well taken goal. As the second half progressed Nemo put more pressure on the Rockbawn defense which resulted in two goals from Suineica Walsh sealing victory for Nemo on a score of 4-0 to 2-0. Next up was Bride Rovers, and Nemo knew that victory here would see them progress to the semi-finals. Nemo started brightly and goals from Eabha O'Neill, Robin Fraher, Kate Fleury and Gillian O'Leary put Nemo in control of the fixture which they won 5-03 to 1-02.

Three wins from three saw Nemo advance to the semi-finals on Sunday to play the winners of group 3 - Brian Dillons. The game was played on Sunday afternoon in Nemo. There was a tense opening to the game in a keenly contested match. Nemo's Gemma Heaphy pointed 14 minutes in followed a minute later by a Gillian O'Leary goal. Half time score 1-01 to 0-0 in favour of Nemo. Alison O'Connell pointed for Nemo but it was quickly cancelled out by Brian Dillons. Gemma Heaphy pointed to leave the score 1-03 to 0-01 in favour of the home



The Nemo Féile camogie team. The club was only formed in recent years, but is already making huge strides on the southside of the city.

side. Nemo advance to the final where they will play Ballinhassig.

This was an all-round performance from the Nemo Girls who have worked hard over the winter to progress their skills. All squad players played over the course of the four games and all contributed to their victories.

This is a tremendous achievement given that this group of players are only playing camogie two years when Camogie made a return to Nemo after a gap of over forty years. Best of luck to them in the final.

Nemo Squad: E. Fitzgerald, M. McCarthy O'Donovan, K. Horgan, R. Russell, A. Mulcahy, R. Fraher, G. Kearney, G. Heaphy, E. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, K. Fleury, E. O'Neill, A. O'Connell, G. O'Leary, R. Treacy, A. O'Connell, S. Walsh, D. Meehan, A. Walsh, C. Lynch, S. Lynch.

YOUGHAL:

U18: Youghal with home advantage over Barryroe on Friday April 29th, put up a great performance from start to finish taking on a very strong Barryroe team in the quarter final of the Minor C League. Youghal settled into the game with a great point from Clara O'Brien followed shortly after with two from the stick of Clara Crowley, and one from Shauna O'Connell. Barryroe, however, got into the game with a goal that left just a point between the teams. Youghal began to pull away when we registered 2 more points, but Barryroe found the net to level the score for the first time in the game. With both teams having fought hard throughout the first half it ended with Youghal ahead by just three points 0-10 to 2-01.

The second half left much to fight for with some great scores coming from Clara Crowley and Caitriona O'Keefe. When pressure was put up on the Youghal backs, some great play from Louise Dempsey and Eimear Farrell proved to the Barryroe players that the Youghal defense were up for the challenge. Youghal continued to put the pressure on and with a goal from Chloe Delaney, it sealed the game for Youghal and we closed out the game on a scoreline of 1-16 to 3-02. Youghal now progress to the semi-final where we will meet Slabha Rua.

Team: R. Arthur, L. Dempsey, C. Delaney, A. Flavin, C. Landers, E. Farrell, C. O'Keefe, S. O'Connell, C. Crowley, M. Lucey, E. Galvin, C. O'Brien, A. Flavin.

Scorers: C. Delaney 1-0, C. Crowley 0-10, C. O'Keefe 0-2, E. Galvin, S. O'Connell, C. O'Brien, A. Flavin 0-1 each.

FR O'NEILL'S:

Senior Camogie Team back to winning ways: On Friday 29th April Fr O'Neills hosted Mallow in their second league game of the season. Due to work commitments Fr O'Neills only had 12 girls available to start the game, however, Mallow matched this number at the throw in and the game proceeded with 12 aside. From the start Fr O'Neills had the ball over the Mallow crossbar and almost immediately Mallow introduced 2 extra players, one as a third midfielder and the second into their full forward line. The pressure was now on O'Neills, but the team didn't panic and readjusted by moving Aoife Higgins into the full back line to pick up the extra Mallow player, and Sarah Harrington moved to pick up their third midfielder. This left us with two in the forward line against a defense of four Mallow players. Remarkably Fr O'Neills lead at half time on a score line of 1-05 to 1-03. The work rate from the O'Neills players was immense. An opportunist goal from Keelagh Cullinane 5 minutes before half time brought us back into the game and gave us a great moral boost going in at half time 2 points up. Our Backline were sublime fighting and harrying and supplying great ball to our midfielders.

Clara O'Doherty and Niamh Cowhig fought tirelessly in the forward line and were more than a handful for their four markers. Kate Harrington arrived in time for the second half and helped to balance things out a bit. Mallow started the stronger and for the next 15 minutes, bombarded us, and turned a 2 point deficit into a 4 point lead.

As dusk approached Linda Hayes arrived and then the tide turned. For the next 10 minutes the entire O'Neills team stepped up a gear and took the game to Mallow. We were camped out in their half for that entire period. The girls clawed the score back to a one point game, and with 3 minutes remaining we drove forward looking for that equalising point, however, in so doing we did the impossible and instead of the point we sought we got a superb goal to go two points up. However, Mallow weren't finished and attacked the O'Neills goal looking for the winning score.

The last 3 minutes of this game was played inside the O'Neills 21 yard line. Between the posts Nicola Nagle was incredible and throughout the game her puck outs always found an O'Neills player. At the stroke of fulltime Mallow got a 14 yard free and every O'Neills player was in the goal. However it was not to be Mallow's night as the resulting point was the last play of the game. To go in leading at half time playing 12 against 14 is a story in itself but to come back from 4 points down in the second half and win is surely a testament to the resolve of this team.

Team: C. O'Neill, C. McGrath, E. O'Keefe, K. Harrington, S. Harrington, L. Hayes, S. Murphy, Y. Murphy, L. Lawton, K. Cullinane, N. Cowhig, A. Higgins, N. Nagle, C. O'Doherty.

KILWORTH:

Mallow prove too strong in League tie: JCL R3 - Kilworth 1-0 Mallow 5-4: Our junior Camogie ladies took on Mallow last on Wednesday April 27th in Kilworth on a cold, crisp but bright evening in round three of this year's league. There was a great crowd in attendance and the final score on the night read 5-04 to 1-0 in favour of very strong Mallow side, Anna Dunne with the goal for us in the opening half. All of our girls gave it everything once again, they are all doing great, so the key thing here is to keep on going and to never give up! We are credited far and wide for our great heart and determination on and off the pitch and that is something you should all be proud of! And don't worry, in time the wins will follow too!

Panel and Scorers: S. Heggveit, J. Coyne, E. Henebery, K. McCarvey, W. Carey, E. Murphy, L. Sheehan, B. Horgan, A. Dunne (1-0), M. Tobin, E. Clancy, S. O'Brien, N. Sheehan, C. Kenneally, K. Aherne, A. Cremin, S. Cremin, D. Hayes, B. Kenneally, J. O'Mahony, C. Sisk, E. Murphy, T. O'Donoghue C. Riordan.

Appeal to Parents: We would like to again appeal to parents to please get involved in the training sessions on Thursday nights. We have the coaches but we still need a few more parents at the training sessions to help out, we'd love to see you there!

Appeal for equipment: Some of the girls looking to play this year will be playing for the very first time and as a club we don't have our own equipment just yet. We are hoping that people may be able to donate any old helmets or hurleys or any other equipment lying around at home that you no longer are using. Please contact any executive committee member about this should you have anything you can donate and we thank you for your help in advance.

COURCAYS ROVERS:

U14 Camogie Féile:

Well done to our U14 Camogie team who participated in their section of the Féile competition in Ballincollig on Saturday April 30th. Courcays met stiff opposition in Ballinora, Ballincollig and Erins Own.

Courcays 7's by the Sea:

Courcays Rovers Camogie & Ladies Football Club hosted a very successful 7 aside camogie competition on Saturday April 30th. The inaugural 7's by the Sea kicked off with teams competing from Inniscarra, Kibrittain, Clonakilly, Sarsfields, Ballinhassig and Courcays who entered two teams. The weather helped to create a lovely atmosphere and great fun was had by all over the course of the day. In the Senior A competition teams fought it out for the Tommy Cahalane Perpetual Cup presented by his wife Margaret Cahalane. Inniscarra emerged victorious in a very heated final against Ballinhassig on a score of 4-11 to 4-07. In the Senior B competition it was the home team who claimed victory over near neighbours Kibrittain and family members of local legend Nellie O'Sullivan were on hand to present the Nellie O'Sullivan Memorial Cup to team captain Linda Collins. The final score in that competition was Courcays Rovers 11-03 Kibrittain 4-08. The Long Puc was awarded to Chloe Casey of Sarsfields of who struck a distance of 90metres, and the Ball Wall was won by Claire Cronin of Inniscarra who scored 1470 points. Well done to Eimear O'Sullivan of Ballinhassig who won "Player of the Tournament" which was presided over by County PRO Shirley Moloney. Everyone enjoyed a BBQ and refreshments throughout the day. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our very first 7's by the Sea such a memorable occasion and to Martin Ryan of Rhino Print Kinsale for sponsoring our new club banner.

Aoife Downey Blitz: Courcays Rovers travelled to Douglas on Monday May 2nd to compete in the annual and much loved Aoife Downey blitz competing against Douglas and St. Fin-

barrs. Courcays reached the Cup Final against Douglas losing by one point in extra time. Huge congratulations to our very own Saoirse McCarthy who was awarded "Player of the Tournament" for the second year in a row. Courcays Rovers would like to thank Douglas Camogie Club for such a great day.

U14 Well done to Siobhan O'Donovan and Ellen McGuire who played on the Cork U14 team in their blitz in Ennis on Monday May 2nd. Cork won the blitz out. Congrats to all.

BALLINCOLLIG:

Car Boot Sale: We will be holding a car boot sale in Ballincollig GAA Club carpark on Sunday May 29th from 10am-4pm. The entry fee is as follows: Car €10, Van €15, and customer entry is €2. To book your place please contact Noreen on 085-1621207 or email ballincolligcamogie@yahoo.ie. Please support.

U14: Well done to our U14 Collig girls who did there club & Families really proud in the féile on Saturday last, unfortunately narrowly beaten by ballinora but our girls showed great skills & got fantastic scores well done to everyone involved. Congratulations to Sars on winning Cork Féile 2016. Well done to Anna Cremin Butler & Eabha O'Mahony who represented Cork in the U14 intercounty blitz in Clare on Monday last, well done girls unfortunately they were beaten in the semi-final by Offaly.

Junior: The next three Junior matches will be arranged as soon as possible, best of luck in these matches girls... keep up the good work.

Senior: Well done to our Senior girls who beat Cloughduv on Wednesday last, good performance by all, well done to everyone involved. Best of luck in ye're matches for the coming week.

BRIAN DILLON'S:

U8: Our U8 team travelled to play St Vincents on May Day. A great hour of fun was had by all and we were warmly welcomed by St Vincents. Even though it was their first match, Eva, Maedbh and Molly were not overawed by the big crowd. A big cheer greeted Saoirse's puck out which cleared the half way line.

U14: What a fantastic day at the Tank on Saturday with six great games in the Féile which saw Dillons win out and progress to the semis on Sunday. We have a squad of 25 which is fantastic and they were well coached to win all three matches in great style. First up it was St. Fanahans of Mitchelstown. We won that well on a scoreline of 3-6 to no score. Olivia was awesome. Next up it was the fancied Valley Rovers from Innishannon. A fierce battle right to end which we won 2-3 to 2-0. Rebecca with a rocket of a goal to win it late on.

Our third and final game was against St.Colums of Bantry. Once again we won comfortably 2-4 to no score with Sofie scoring two goals. We had some fantastic individual performances. Alanna, Mary and Ellen were outstanding but it was Olivia that stole the show, what a player this young lady is. She really put on a show in front of our supporters who turned out in great numbers. A big thank you to everyone who helped out to get the Tank ready for the event.

The place was immaculate and a huge thanks to our fantastic Committee under Chairperson Veronica and Secretary Yvonne who organised it all. There were plenty of sandwiches, cakes, biscuits for all our visitors who were very impressed and they expressed their gratitude which is nice. When Dillons put on a big event, they do it better than anyone else. Well done to all. After our brilliant performance on Saturday we travelled to play Nemo in the Semi Final of the Féile. We played well but were beaten on the day by 1-2 to 0-1, our point being scored by Olivia. Our opponents were stronger and better than us but we kept fighting to the end. Rebecca, Mary, Jasmine and Ellen were excellent. Megan made one excellent save and U12 players Zoe, Sophie and Ruby showed great promise. It was a great achievement to reach the Semi Finals.

Senior: Our Seniors travelled to Enniskeane to play in the Senior B league. We were missing some first team players and we had a number of injuries as well. The first half was very tight and at H.T Enniskeane were 0-3 to 0-1 up, our point came from Shauna from play. We had the wind in the second half but couldn't capitalise. Our Captain Amanda who was struggling with an injury played at full forward got two impressive points from play. A late goal from Sinead wasn't enough. FT score was 1-3 to 1-8. We lost Emma Sharpe to an injury in the second half and that hurt us badly. The one big positive of the match was the performance of Shannyn who was outstanding at wing back.

Cork will be too strong for Tipp on home turf



Galway's Heather Cooney battles with Kilkenny's Shelly Farrell in the league final.

SUNDAY

Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final: Cork v Tipperary, Castle Road, 2pm.

BUOYED by what they would consider a healthy league campaign and their All-Ireland minor success last weekend Tipperary will feel they have the credentials to overcome Cork in Sunday's Munster championship semi-final.

Cork used the league for what they intended, giving key seasoned players a leave of absence and experimenting with new blood. A first round defeat to Limerick followed by wins over Derry, league champions Kilkenny and Waterford forced a playoff situation with Limerick where they again suffered defeat and exited the league for 2016.

It's fair to say that Cork without Aishling Thompson, Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, Eimear O'Sullivan and Julia White, struggled. Any team without five or six seasoned campaigners would struggle but what is clear is how effective Cork's positioning on the field is when at full strength.

Their set-up, and the opposition's failure to counteract it, masks vulnerabilities. Trademark 15-on-15 Cork could get caught in certain positions.

The opposition primarily persist with trying to drag out Cork's half-back line. But Cork don't venture beyond their 45-yard line, comfortably sweep up and set up attacks. Midfield can get a bit bottlenecked

“Trademark 15-on-15 Cork could get caught in certain positions.”



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

but on a big open pitch Cork still have plenty of leeway to break away and use their speed. So with Cork's full squad back at training expect the side to ease back into the system they've used for two years now.

Aoife Murray made a welcome return to the panel this week. However, she is unlikely to start on Sunday.

Amy Lee will possibly guard the net with Pamela Mackey, who is in flying form, and Laura Treacy sure to sit in Cork's first line of defence. Gemma O'Connor will start and take up her usual commanding presence at centre-back.

Hannah Looney is certainly enjoying her time at midfield and will no doubt partner Aishling Thompson, as Orla Cotter moves inside to give her a chance to recover from a recent virus. Katrina Mackey is using her pace to good effect recently.

Julia White only commenced light work recently on the training ground as she recovers from an operation to her Achilles tendon.

It is expected that it'll be July at least before she has any chance of competitive action.

Amy O'Connor and Brieghe Corkery should be the two full-forwards left inside to capitalise on the space as Orla Cotter will probably float out around the 40.

So as anticipated Cork are coming along nicely six weeks ahead of the All-Ireland championship, their full compliment almost available to them for selection.

They'll need to be winning at this stage now though and so a win Sunday is important, not just because it's a Munster championship game, but because of the bigger picture ahead.

Tipp won three and lost two league games to finish second in their group, six points adrift of leaders



Cork's Meabh Cahalane breaking between Limerick players Deborah Murphy, Muireann Creamer and Karen O'Leary during the camogie league play-off in Mallow.

Picture: Dan Linehan

Galway and 44 points behind on scoring difference.

They gave Kilkenny a scare in the semi-final, losing by four points in the end after extra time but not before giving their Leinster rivals a bruising lesson.

That game did the Cats the world of good and undoubtedly played a part in their final success last weekend.

Tipp failed to beat Galway or Wexford with their three victories coming from weaker opposition such

as Clare, Offaly (both narrowly) and Dublin.

So it wasn't a campaign that should have Tipperary sticking the chest out.

However, their All-Ireland minor title won last Saturday is well deserved. An excellent team, they should be blending some of that talent into the senior side soon.

Tipperary's minors brushed Cork aside. Having seen Cork play both Galway and Tipp I was surprised that

Galway and Tipp drew the final, with Tipp securing the late equaliser.

But anything can happen in a final. Tipp, however, made no mistake in the replay winning out on a more expected result of 4-9 to 2-6, making up for their All-Ireland final defeat of 2015.

If Cork were playing Tipp in the Ragg they could be in for a tough hour but in the vast Castle Road home venue they should see this game out fairly comfortably.



GO FOR IT - Kilkenny full-forward Miriam Walsh only has eye for the goal as Galway's Sarah Dervan tries to stop her during the Camogie National League final at Semple Stadium on Sunday. Photo: Ryan Byrne/INPHO

MAY
2016

Camogie

Kilbrittain-Timoleague senior camogie team were at home in the league on Monday, May 9th, against Enniskeane. At half time, Kilbrittain-Timoleague were ahead by 0-7 to 1-3, in dreadful conditions. They held on and won on a final score of 0-13 to Enniskeane's 2-5.

Team: Amanda Desmond, Ciara Guinevan, Eileen O'Neill, Sinead O'Sullivan, Mairead Dullea, Maeve O'Sullivan, Caitlyn Walsh, Lorraine Dinneen, Marian Murphy, Sarah Burke, Amy O'Sullivan, Orla Fahy, Michaela Holland, Lisa Mooney, Sarah O'Sullivan and Aine O'Mahony.



The Galway players didn't deliver in the league final. Picture: INPHO

Galway and Kilkenny are unlikely to make an impact as they stand

IT WAS Wednesday before I got to sit and watch the league final between Kilkenny and Galway, won by Kilkenny last Sunday, 2-7 to 0-7.

Once again Galway blitzed their way through the group stages. Once again talk was rife about how good Galway were. Without yet seeing them in action this year I was going to take some convincing of that. I said before last year's All-Ireland final that they wouldn't beat Cork because I just don't rate them highly.

Last Sunday they were awful. Even I was surprised they were that bad.

They made a very young Kilkenny team look good. They may have had an off day but one point from play and a handful of attacks... There wasn't a spark of passion amongst them.

Looking at both sides, Galway had no pattern to their play. Their striking was very poor and their midfield and half-forward line were completely outplayed. In fact, they won few personal battles.

I felt neither side was getting great distance with their striking. Kilkenny, in particular, looked very young and therefore the striking strength isn't there but they were better than their opponents in searching for the moving player and finding them out on the wings.

Long-distance striking is something both teams should spend a bit of time on over the coming months.

The blocking was good. I liked Kilkenny's work-rate. And again Galway as they do, tried to run the ball close to goal and were closed down every time.

The standard has dropped in many counties and you would have to worry about that. Cork's management won't like me saying this, but if they keep their heads screwed on this could be their handiest All-Ireland yet.

Colette Dormer did in the first half what Kilkenny have been lacking for a long time; she used her physicality well on Ailish O'Reilly coming through and Jacqui Frisby took down a player in the square rather than let her in on goal. Both picked up yellow cards but just a point was conceded from the combined incidents.

There was a large crowd in attendance and considering that neither Waterford or Clare had a team in the camo-

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

gie final that was encouraging. But they failed to get excited with what was a dour game and that's disappointing.

A total of 2-7 to 0-7 is very poor at senior level with Kilkenny's first goal a poor error by Galway keeper Shauna Burke. She did make up for that with some fine saves.

Looking ahead to the senior championship next month 11 teams participate.

Cork, in their opening game, face Waterford, where they will be hoping to get off to a good start for the summer ahead.

Clare meet Offaly where they certainly need a better run in championship than they did in the league. Limerick have made it to the semi-finals for the past two years and will be hoping that they can push on further in the coming months. Their All-Ireland campaign opens with a match against Wexford. Offaly will have a lot of work to do with their first game against Clare.

After being promoted to Division 1 Waterford found the top tier tough. They would have preferred an easier championship baptism than Cork.

Wexford endured a tough campaign in the league this year, failing to reach the final stages of the competition. They face Limerick in the first round. Derry take on league champs Kilkenny in their opening match of the championship in what will be a tough game for them.

For Dublin, much training and preparation will be needed for this year's championship with their opener against Kilkenny.

Galway will have to pick themselves back up for this year's championship. They last won the O'Duffy cup in 2013. They should bounce back against Tipperary.

Kilkenny received a huge boost with their league victory. In their opening match against Derry they will be hoping to continue moving in the right direction. Tipperary had what they would consider a successful campaign which ended in a loss to Kilkenny.

Looking forward to the championship race this Tipperary side will have a strong test against Galway.

Murray decides to give it one more year

CAMOGIE

■ Shirley Moloney

AFTER announcing her retirement earlier in the year Aoife Murray is making a return to the inter-county scene, and this was prompted by her recent trip to Ethiopia with ChildFund Ireland.

"The trip made her re-think and appreciate the opportunities she has a little bit more," and, thus, she has decided to give it "one more year".

This will be welcome news to her sibling and Cork manager Paudie Murray who will also be seeking to resurrect Cork's form, after a run which saw his charges bow out of the League campaign at the hands of Limerick in a quarter-final playoff last month.

However, her return will be just in time for Cork to mount a defence of their Championship title with an away fixture to Waterford on June 18, and initiate a pursuit of the elusive three-in-a-row.

Lining out in the red and white of Cork on a make-shift pitch in rural Ethiopia, Murray felt as though she was lining out with her comrades back home such was the competitive aura generated by her five small local charges. After a brief synopsis on the game of camogie, inhibitions were discarded and competitive traits sharpened when Murray's charges faced up to a Mags D'arcy led Wexford six.

She explained that once the whistle sounded it was like playing at home! The girls took no prisoners, and after being shown just once how to hold a hurley they played like it wasn't their first encounter with our native game.

Murray and the ChildFund team travelled to the rural village of Ropi located 216km south of the capital Addis Ababa and one and a half hours' drive to the west of Shashamane, a town that lies on the Trans-African Highway 4. On the ground she met with an "amazing team" of ChildFund area managers who work with the local population to empower them to work in Community partnership.

Furthermore, she met with her sponsor child and was able to witness first-hand how sponsor funds are utilised locally. Through sponsoring a child the money does not specifically go to the child, rather it is given to the community. Principally, the external components necessary to complement her education are provided with the sponsorship money. For example, a school teacher, clean water supply in the school and, through the assistance of ChildFund, a bike to get to school safely.

The valuable, good work carried out with such professionalism by ChildFund in Ethiopia, as well as, the positive sense of community and camaraderie witnessed amongst the local people will stay with Murray for a long time to come.

Camogie champions



The Galway A camogie team which won the Munster Inter County Tournament by defeating Cork in the Final after overcoming Tipperary, Limerick, Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary in their group games. Back row, left to right: Shauna Smith, Katie Hunt, Alan Kelly, Aoife Brennan, Katie Manning, Rachel Burke, Lisa O Grady, Grace McCarty. Middle row: Katlyn Lyons, Jennifer Hughes, Sinead Coleman, Leah Crotty, Niamh McPeak, Niamh Niland, Aine Keane. Front row: Aoife Nic Donnocha, Sarah McCarty, Zoe Gilligan, Ainsling Donnellan, Tara Lawless, Nessa Kelly.



The Galway B camogie team which was also successful in their competition after defeating Offaly in the final. Back row, left to right: Sinead Lohan, Melissa Walsh, Aoife Gillane, Sarah Corcoran, Chloe Glynn, Megan Wall. Middle row: Leah Daniel, Megan Higgins, Clara Murray, Roisin Starr, Maeve Muldoon, Aoibhine Gardner, Joanne Daly. Front row: Jasmine Scully, Niamh O Callaigh, Fola Ni Breannach, Siofra Ni Mharta, Jacki Anderson, Chloe Farragher.

Pointing way for Rebels

Orla Cotter has been on Cork panel since 2006 and despite a bulging medal haul remains as hungry for success as ever as she looks forward to a potentially groundbreaking summer ahead, writes **Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Orla Cotter has participated in 11 pre-seasons, 11 National Leagues and is now readying herself for an 11th Championship.

In that period, she has garnered five All-Irelands, four leagues and three All Stars. Yet she remains one of the lesser-spotted species, going about her business quietly and effectively, earning the admiration and respect of friend and foe alike along the way without media or many supporters noticing.

An Irish and PE teacher in Middleton College, it is only in the last couple of years, as she inherited the role of free-taker, that those outside of Cork in particular began to become aware of her. "I just play camogie. I'm not doing it for a profile" says Cotter, the ultimate team player.

"I suppose I only started taking frees in the last two years since Jenny O'Leary stopped playing. The free-taker sometimes gets a bit more glory than they should. Others often do the work for them. You're just hoping they go over."

The Ballynoe native's technique might not be found in any coaching manual but it does evoke memories of Joe Deane, the hurling legend from nearby Killeagh. Left hand over right as a ciotóg but striking off her right side, it looks strange but the results are what matter and Cotter, like Deane, is razor-sharp from placed balls.

Awkward

"I'm left-handed but I take the frees off the right-hand side. I just feel it's my more accurate side. I dunno. It's been said to me alright, it's awkward looking or whatever."

"I remember when I was playing under-14 with Cork, I used to catch with both hands and change my grip around but one of the trainers got me into the habit of keeping my left hand on top of the hurley so I would catch more with my right."

"The free-taking just happened as the years went by. You get used to something and if it keeps working, you stick with it."

She doesn't over-think the process. Although ensuring the stance is right and her hands loose, and visualising the sliotar clearing the bar and the umpire waving the flag, her confidence is derived from the homework done. Mentally, she puts much more into her general game.

Cotter was called into the senior panel in 2006 as a 17-year-old. The training regime



Eye on the ball:

Orla Cotter's free-taking technique evokes memories of Cork great Joe Deane

put in place by former Cork star Fiona O'Driscoll under John Cronin's management provided a huge eye-opener but the St Catherine's sharpshooter loved it. Former heroines were now team-mates.

An All-Ireland/league double came that initial year and there were two more All-Irelands in the next three seasons. Then, what amounted to a famine by the Lee - five years in the wilderness before a return to the top table in 2014.

"When you win then, that makes it all the sweeter. It doesn't happen all the time but when it does, you make the most of it."

Despite the significant increase in the demands placed on an intercounty player since she started, Cotter remains hungry. Past success has never dulled that appetite. She will be 28 later this year but sees no reason to call time on her career yet.

"I'm a teacher and you'd have

Tale of the Tape Senior Camogie Championship

| Group 1 | Group 2 |
|-----------|-----------|
| Clare | Derry |
| Cork | Dublin |
| Limerick | Galway |
| Offaly | Kilkenny |
| Waterford | Tipperary |
| Wexford | |

Qualification

Group winners advance to the semi-finals. Second- and third-placed finishers after the round-robin stages will take part in two quarter-finals, with second from Group 1 playing third in Group 2, and second in Group 2 playing third in Group 1.

the summer off. For the last few years I've said I'll take the year out but when it comes around, you don't want to miss it. So you say 'one more year'. We'll see what happens. As long as I'm enjoying it I'll keep playing it."

"It's your choice to do it. It's not a sacrifice. You do whatever it takes to be at the top of the game but you do need the hunger and desire. Otherwise you're at nothing."

Attitude

"Maybe our attitude wasn't great in our last two league games. That's something to look at now after a disappointing campaign. We'll put the head down, train away and hope we find what we need to find so we can bring it come championship time."

There is much talk of a three-in-a-row but Cotter's policy of staying in the present means that it cuts no ice with her. Having been involved as

Cork failed to achieve the feat in 2007 and 2010 might have something to do with that but in her eyes this is a new campaign, with everyone starting off on a level footing.

What's more, with Limerick and Tipperary having such an impact in the league and Waterford's ascension from intermediate making it an 11-team competition, this is probably the most competitive championship in history.

"Every year you go into it thinking from the league campaign that someone's after improving. Last year Dublin came on and were a top side. Now you have Limerick and Tipperary, young sides coming through. You'd never write off Wexford, Kilkenny, Galway... it's anyone's game."

"It's definitely getting more competitive and it's a good step forward for camogie. The more teams and the more competitive it is, the better for the game."

Impressive Cork book another final date

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Cork | 2-17 |
| Tipperary | 1-10 |

CORK'S impressive support play led them to another Munster final at Castle Road yesterday. Trailing 0-4 to 0-1 after 16 minutes they settled into the game and with Ashling Thompson dominant at midfield and Katrina Mackey firing on all cylinders led 0-9 to 0-5 at half time.

Again one has to question the tactics of the opposition. Tipperary were outnumbered in attack. Regularly viewing six Cork backs on two forwards inside Cork's 45-metre line unless Tipperary were going to point from 50 metres out they were doing their two inside forwards a complete injustice.

Tipp didn't score from long distance. Amy Lee often gathering comfortably in the Cork goal and setting up attacks as Cork worked the ball out from defence with impressive off the shoulder running and delivery.

Outfield and defensively Tipperary then outnumbered Cork but, as predicted, Cork still had enough space and speed to overlap and dominate. Tipperary's handling was good with some good striking, but their tactics were never going to win the game.

Orla Cotter hit two great points with a swirling wind in between two Nicole Walsh frees after the break and Cork took off. Rena Buckley drew three players before offloading to Maeve Cahalane who in turn found Ashling Thompson for Cork's 13th point entering the final quarter and it epitomised Cork's play throughout. With their work-rate top class, it was Cork's best performance of the year.

All over the field they were in a different mind-set. They're in championship mode and the performance was excellent. With Amy O'Connor a constant threat, her goal on 19 minutes was well deserved. Brieger Corkery followed it up with Cork's second within a minute after a high Thompson delivery.

Cork were playing with flair, Nicole Walsh's free going all the way to the net with time almost up only putting a better reflection on the scoreboard for Tipp.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (0-4 f), K Mackey 0-5, A O'Connor 1-2, A Thompson 0-2, B Corkery 1-0, E O'Sullivan, H Looney 0-1 each.

Tipperary: N Walsh 1-6 (1-5 f), M Ryan 0-2, M Camplin, A McGrath 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, P Mackey, L Treacy, L Coppinger, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, H Looney, A Thompson, E O'Sullivan, K Cronin, K Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cotter, B Corkery.

Subs: F Neville for H Looney (51), L O'Sullivan for R Buckley (52), K Hickey for B Corkery (53), A Murray for B Corkery (57).

TIPPERARY: S Larkin, J A Bourke, A Eviston, C Walsh, A McGrath, C Maher, G Grace, E Fryday, M Teahan, R Cahill, S Fryday, Mary Ryan, Megan Ryan, N Walsh, R Howard.

Subs: M Camplin for S Fryday (45), S Quirk for R Howard (56).

Third Level Camogie All-Stars to be honoured

By Camogie Association
Posted 09/05/2016



Third level Camogie All-Stars to be honoured next weekend

Stars of the Ashbourne, Purcell and Fr. Meachair competitions will be honoured in the Hudson Bay hotel Athlone next weekend at a special ceremony.

The inaugural joint Colleges All-Star Awards in conjunction with the higher education colleges of Ladies Football supported by the WPGA has now become the most prestigious award a third level Camogie or Ladies Footballer can be awarded.

The joint Colleges All-Star Awards will be a collaboration between the higher education colleges of Ladies Football and Camogie. The award acknowledges the outstanding individual performance by a player throughout the Colleges season for their skills, commitment, attitude, teamwork and work rate.

On the night players from nine counties will be represented including premier junior team Kerry, where Patricia Diggins will be awarded for her phenomenal performance with UL this year. Cork dominate the team with five awards with Cork senior stars the Mackey sisters collecting more silverware to their collection.

The All-Stars will be presented on May 14th at 7pm. Tickets are available for €30 on the door or email info@camogieallstars.com.

The 2016 All-Star team is:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----|
| 1. Amy Lee | QT | Cork | | | |
| 2. Fiona Morrissey | Mary I | Waterford | | | |
| 3. Laura McMahon | UL | Clare | | | |
| 4. Laura Treacy | WIT | Cork | | | |
| 5. Pamela Mackey | UCC | Cork | | | |
| 6. Sarah Ann Fitzgerald | WIT | Laois | Links | Community | Sch |
| 7. Linda Bower | QT | Wexford | | | |
| 8. Patricia Diggins | UL | Kerry | | | |
| 9. Eirene Fryday | UL | Tipperary | | | |
| 10. Niamh Mallon | UUJ | Down | | | |
| 11. Aisling Maher | Trinity | Dublin | | | |
| 12. Chloe Morry | NUG | Clare | | | |
| 13. Amy O'Connor | UCC | Cork | | | |
| 14. Katrina Mackey | UCC | Cork | | | |
| 15. Sarah Fryday | UL | Tipperary | | | |

HEART STOPPING! Clon school wins county title



Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty captured the Cork colleges' senior B camogie cup in style recently against a strong Carrigaline CS outfit, winning 4-11 to 3-7. Having won the senior C cup last year, Sacred Heart moved up to the B grade this year so great credit is due to the team and to their coach Brian Daly. Pictured, back from left, Brian Daly (coach), Hannah Whelton, Albhe Dowling, Kellie Scannell, Rebecca McCarthy, Ciara Ryan, Orla Fahy, Orla Lowney, Rachel Sheehy, Caitlin Walsh, Karina Lavery, Becky Harrington, Leanne Calnan and Katie Sexton. Front from left, Hannah O'Hea, Meabh Deasy, Ashling Sheehy, Clara Crowley, Meabh Sexton, Lorraine Dineen, Elsa Harte, Hannah Sexton and Gwen McCarthy.

Rebels set up Munster final against Limerick

MUNSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE

CORK 2-17
TIPPERARY 1-10

BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

CORK sent out a strong message as they qualified for the Munster senior camogie final by seeing off Tipperary at Castle Road last Sunday afternoon.

Even though it took the home team 11 minutes to register their first score through a Katrina Mackey point, there was no denying that this Cork outfit meant business when they meticulously disposed of Tipperary in clinical style on a fast and slippery surface.

Nicole Walsh was unerring in her free-taking for Tipperary and opened the scoring with a well-taken point from play before adding another two through pointed frees.

When Sarah Fryday pointed from play it left Tipperary three points ahead of Cork inside the opening quarter, but a brace of points from Amy O'Connor and Orla Cotter helped Cork to draw level by the 20-minute mark.

Tipperary registered one more point from a Nicole Walsh dead ball on the 21st minute before Cork racked up four unanswered points from the notable Eimear O'Sullivan, Orla Cotter from a

placed ball and two from the industrious right half forward Katrina Mackey to leave it 0-9 to 0-5 at half-time.

Cork really got into their stride in the second half, and played a very impressive running game that really put it up to Tipperary, the visitors' defence struggling with the relentless waves of Cork attacks.

With Cork dominating all over the pitch they racked up five unanswered points in a five-minute spell before Amy O'Connor blasted to the back of net on the 49th minute to leave the score 1-16 to 0-7.

Immediately after O'Connor's goal, Breige Corkery poached one of her own. After Sabrina Larkin batted down a high testing ball delivered in from long range by Ashling Thomp-

son, Corkery coolly slotted the sliothar back past Larkin.

Dual stars

Cork introduced Finola Neville, Leanne O'Sullivan and Katelyn Hickey to replace the dual stars of Hannah Looney, Rena Buckley and Breige Corkery after their remarkable victory over Mayo in the national football league final the day before. Cork also introduced Aoife Murray in place of Amy Lee between the posts after she announced last week that she was 'un-retiring'!

Tipperary added a further 1-2 before Katrina Mackey closed out the scoring to see Cork through to a place against Limerick in the Munster final on Saturday, May 21st, with time and venue

to be decided.

Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (4f), A O'Connor 1-2, K Mackey 0-4, B Corkery 1-0, A Thompson, E O'Sullivan 0-2, H Looney 0-1.

Tipperary: N Walsh 1-6 (1-4f, 0-145), S Fryday, A McGrath, M Ryan, M Camplon 0-1 each.

Cork: A Lee, P Mackey, L Treacy, L Coppinger, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, H Looney, A Thompson, E O'Sullivan, O Cronin, K Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cotter, B Corkery.

Subs used: F Neville for Looney (50), L O'Sullivan for Buckley (52), K Hickey for Corkery (53), A Murray for Lee (56).

Tipperary: S Larkin, JA Bourke, A Eviston, C Walsh, A McGrath, C Maher, G Grace, E Fryday, M Teehan, R Cahill, S Fryday, Mary Ryan, Megan Ryan, N Walsh, R Howard.

Referee: P Dee (Limerick).

2016

Championship still priority for Cork



Camogie

Linda
Mellerick

IN 2014 Cork's attitude towards the national league changed.

They had won the 2012 and 2013 titles under Paudie Murray, the 2013 title coming on the back of a final win over All-Ireland champions Wexford. They subsequently lost the 2012 All-Ireland final to Wexford and the 2013 All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny.

Had they peaked too soon? Of course, many counties over the years have won both league and championship, with Cork one of the leaders in this regard.

Cork go out to win every game, give me a county that doesn't, but with long seasons between club, intercounty and third level competitions rolling into one, Paudie Murray over the past couple of seasons has given players he feels need it a break and has used the league to blend in youth. It has worked so far with back to back All Ireland titles tucked away.

Cork's momentum at training doesn't really pick up until about now. Most of them have the winter slog done through third level and gym programmes, but the hurling really only gets going in April-May and the intensity really only deepens now, with championship around the corner. The squad's hunger picks up with a visible difference on the field of play.

Cork lead the honours list with 26 All-Ireland titles. They have 15 national league titles and a staggering haul of 58 Munster championships. The latter doesn't surprise me.

Cork never lost a Munster championship game during the 1980s and '90s. They've dominated since 1934. In 1973, 1992, 1993 and 2000, the championship wasn't played. The Munster championship is down the pecking order with regards status; its primary function for inter-county teams at this stage is as mere challenge games for the All-Ireland series.

Cork begin the defence of their All-Ireland crown on June 18. Their schedule is: June 18, Waterford v Cork; June 25, Cork v Clare; July 2, Cork v Offaly;



James Moynihan, chairman of the Munster Camogie Council, presents the Player of The Match to Cork's Lydia Cunningham after her side's victory in the Munster Junior final over Clare.

July 9, Wexford v Cork; July 16, Cork v Limerick.

I don't see any problems here for Cork with their first three outings. In truth I don't see Wexford, particularly with the retirement of Ursula Jacob, being a major stumbling block either.

Cork and Limerick will meet for the fourth time on July 16. They meet next Saturday in the Munster final. With two victories over Limerick, to date the Rebels hold the advantage going into next weekend's game. Based on their performance against Tipperary last Sunday, Limerick will have a different game on their hands.

If Cork are disciplined and the referee is sensible, Niamh Mulcahy's influence on the game will be significantly curtailed and that will have a

big bearing on the outcome. One has to commend Limerick's league performances and they could well come out second in their group. Cork will top Group 1.

Group two is very predictable, with Galway and Kilkenny in there.

It was refreshing to see Cork's performance last Sunday against Tipp, and it was uplifting to see hunger and a purpose back in the side. The girls looked as if they were enjoying themselves.

I question the effort other senior inter-county managers are putting into their attempts for All-Ireland glory. I've no doubt their commitment to training is of the highest order but it takes a lot more than just managing your own house to take down All-Ire-

land champions, particularly when all sports have become so tactical.

Tipperary deserved their 2-17 to 1-10 defeat last weekend for the way they lined out alone. Teams are packing their defences to try and stop Cork from scoring. You have to attack a game to win it. Leaving two or three players inside on six defenders; it doesn't take science to work out the chance of success there, particularly when very few teams are capable of scoring from great distance.

Cork developed a game plan after the opening round defeat to Wexford in 2014. What they did isn't rocket science, but they haven't looked back since. Huge credit to them for that. They've used it for two years now and no other manager has counteracted it.

St Finbarr's hold off late push by Piarsaigh

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

St Finbarr's 0-11
Na Piarsaigh 1-6

THIS all-city clash in the minor B League final was a thriller.

St Finbarr's went into the game as hot favourites having recorded comprehensive victory in the early stages of the league but this time out Na Piarsaigh were different side and they made the Barrs fight to the finish.

Rain and wind made conditions hard on both sides and St Finbarr's made the better start with three points in row. Keeva McCarthy at full-forward pointing twice and with Megan Fitzpatrick adding one.

Na Piarsaigh's persistence paid off as they forced a 45 which Emily Buckley dispatched to the back of the net to level matters at the end of the opening quarter.

Playing with huge confidence Na Piarsaigh hit the front with an Emily O'Sullivan point but with danger-woman Keeva McCarthy adding three from play and one from a free St Finbarr's were three points clear at the interval, 0-7 to 1-1.

An early McCarthy point settled St Finbarr's into the second half but the next 15 minutes belonged to Na Piarsaigh as they applied continuous pressure on the St Finbarr's defence, who were forced to concede three frees which Emily Buckley duly converted. Fifteen minutes in Kelsey O'Donovan had the sides level.

Ciarra Keating broke the deadlock with an excellent point as St Finbarr's edged back in front but Na Piarsaigh stuck to their task and almost grabbed a goal when O'Donovan bore down on goal but was taken down by a defender at the expense of a penalty. Emily Buckley opted to tap the ball over the bar.

From the puck-out Na Piarsaigh attacked but failed to grab the lead and rallying St Finbarr's grabbed the initiative with McCarthy pointing before she converted a free to edge her side two clear.

Finbarr's had to defend with everything as Piarsaigh battled for a goal twice they came close but good defending helped St Finbarr's clear their lines as they held firm.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: K McCarthy 0-9 (0-4 f), C Keating E Fitzpatrick 0-1.

Na Piarsaigh: E Buckley 1-4 (1-0 pen 0-4 f), K O'Donovan, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

ST FINBARR'S: O Keane, A O'Mahony, A Egan (c), C Cotter, C Cotter, G Cahillane, R O'Sullivan, C Keating, A Shannon, T Callaghan, I Keegan, M Fitzpatrick, N Hayes, K McCarthy, B Mupada.

Subs: N Rooney for N Hayes (45), L McCarthy for I Keegan (50), L Sweeney for G Cahillane (in 62).

NA PIARSAIGH: K Murphy, C Tobin, S Warren, K O'Connor, H Fitton, L Twelvig, S O'Donovan, E Buckley, C Buckley, E O'Sullivan, K O'Donovan, C McCarthy, C Coleman, C O'Connor, E Guest.

Sub: E Dunne for C O'Connor (50).
Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Sars' rally too late as Milford/Ballyhea win minor A title

Milford/Ballyhea 2-5

Sarsfield's 1-6

THE minor A league final failed to live up to expectations. Both sides struggled, until the closing stages, when Sarsfield's finally got into contention.

By then, Milford/Ballyhea had done enough, but only just, as Sars rallied late, scoring 1-2 without reply. With both sides fielding 13-a-side, the format of all games in this competition before the decider, it was hard to cover the huge expanses of Castle Road and, as a result, the game was drab and hindered by rain.

Sarsfield's scored first, with Lucy Kelly converting an early 45, but a goal from Milford's Laura Stack gave the combination side the upper-hand and they were in control from here to the half-time whistle.

Roisin Killeen pointed a 45 and, with Chloe Dundon and Rachel Harty adding points, they led 1-3 to 0-

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

1. Donna Kerrigan pointed twice in the closing minutes to ensure Sars only trailed by a goal at half-time, 1-3 to 0-3. Rachel Harty continued to be the dominant figure, as Milford/Ballyhea set about closing out the game. Within 10 minutes of the restart, Harty had fired home a goal and a point, without reply.

Maebh Mullins pointed a Sarsfield's free, but Chloe Dundon replied, to keep the score board ticking over for Milford/Ballyhea. With eight minutes remaining, Sarsfield's suddenly sprung to life. Maebh Mullins's shot deflected off a defender and went into the back of the net. Now, it was all Sars and we wondered if they could they pull it off. There were five points between them with eight minutes remain-

ing. It was not impossible. Lucy Kelly found the range with a pointed free and, firing another one over from play, just two separated the sides. Sars battled for a winner, but Milford/Ballyhea stood firm.

Scorers for Milford/Ballyhea: R Harty 1-2, L Stack 1-0, C Dundon 0-2, R Killeen 0-1 45.

Sarsfield's: M Mullins 1-1 (0-1 f), L Kelly 0-3 (0-1 45, 0-1 f) D Kerrigan 0-2 (0-1 45).

Milford/Ballyhea: C Keogh (Ballyhea), A Galvin (Milford), R O'Connor (Ballyhea), M Fitzgibbon (Milford), R Killeen (Ballyhea), B Flanagan (Milford), M C Carroll (c, Ballyhea), B Flanagan (Milford), E O'Callaghan (Milford), A Cronin (Ballyhea).

Sub: S Sheehan (Milford) for C Dundon (51).

Sarsfield's: M Lynch, E Loneragan, C O'Sullivan, J Lyons, K Lyons, L Kelly, E Twomey, R McCarthy, D Kerrigan, M Mullins, G Jones, A O'Brien, S Costello.

Subs: R O'Mahony for A O'Brien (22), C Mullins for R O'Mahony (in 0), R Morgan for S Costello (43).

Referee: Dave O'Connell (Mallow).

CAMOGIE CLUBS NEWS, RESULTS, FIXTURES

Ballincollig

We will be holding a car boot sale in Ballincollig GAA Club carpark on Sunday May 29th from 10am-4pm. The entry fee is as follows - Car €10, Van €15, and customer entry is €2.

To book your place please contact Noreen on 085-1621207 or email - ballincolligcamogiepro@yahoo.ie. Please support.

U14: Our U14s are training in preparation for their rescheduled league game v Milford. Well done to Alana O'Sullivan and Miriam Healy who were in Nenagh on Saturday May 7th with cork development squads.

Senior: Unfortunately our senior team had a 2 point defeat by Courcy Rovers on Wednesday last May 4th in their league game played in Ballincollig. The team are preparing for Championship when they take on Ballinhassig, however, date have yet to be confirmed.

Best of luck in Championship 2016 to everyone involved- #colligabu #upthelife.

Well done to our own Chloe O'Halloran who won silver team medal in U18 girls road bowling on Friday May 6th, and bronze team medal in Dutch Moors bowling on Sunday May 8 in Holland. We look forward to seeing Chloe back to Camogie soon.

Courcy Rovers

Courcy Rovers Camogie & Ladies Football Club would like to congratulate the Cork Junior Camogie team on their Munster Final Victory over Clare. Cork emerged victorious on a score line of 1-11 to 0-8 at South Liberties GAA Club in Limerick on Sunday May 8th and our very own Christine O'Neill played an impressive role in securing this fantastic win.

Christine who runs a very popular "Boot Camp" locally is very active in the Club and we congratulate her and all the team on their great win.

Felle Skills Well done to Ellen McGuire and Siobhan O'Donovan who took part in the Felle Skills Competition in Castle Road on Monday, May 9. Some of the skills performed included ground striking, free taking, jab lift, jab lift and strike, solo and goal long puck and ground cut. Well done to those who got through and to all involved.

Eat to Excel Courcy Rovers Camogie and Ladies Football Club hosted a very successful talk on healthy eating and the benefits to training, on Friday night May 6th in the Community Centre in Ballinspittle. Speakers included Jon Hynes, Karen Ward, Julie Scanlon and a very special guest Timmy Ryan of D'Unbelievables fame, aka Jon Hynes in disguise!

The night opened with "Timmy" who broke the ice with a great comedy sketch on the benefits of toughening up! Jon Hynes who is a member of our Senior Camogie coaching team and who organised the event spoke about his experience in sport and how healthy eating, adequate hydration, rest and a positive mental attitude saw him achieve some major successes in sport. Jon who has been sea kayaking since the age of 11 and his friend Sean Cahill Sea Kayaked around Ireland in 34 days in the summer of 2015 and have created a moving documentary which can be seen on YouTube called "Sea Kayak Around Ireland" which chronicles the adventure. Jon has also had success in the area of mountain bike racing and mountain bike marathons. The next speaker was Julie Scanlon who is studying nutrition in CIT and is on placement with a company called Nutrilife who specialise in managing athletes diet programs. Julie gave some very interesting insights into leading a healthy and balanced lifestyle and how in doing so it improves our athletic ability. Karen Ward of Optimum Health then gave some demonstrations on how to make some delicious and nutritional smoothies for pre or post workouts. Karen is a qualified Nutritional Therapist and Asyra Health Screening Practitioner. The evening concluded with a raffle. We would like to thank everyone who attended and to anyone who helped out in any way!

Rise and Shine Walk & Run Our now annual fun run and walk will take place on May 28th at 10.00am. Registrations will take place from 9.00 am at the Clubhouse in the grounds of Courcy Rovers GAA. Last year proved very successful and the sun shone as participants took on the 7km course over lovely terrain passing the stunning Garretstown beach on the Wild Atlantic Way! Entrants are invited to a breakfast bbq following the event back at the Clubhouse! This event caters for everyone from families to walkers to more serious athletes who might fancy testing a bit of speed work ahead of an upcoming road race so please spread the word and support what promises to be a great fun filled morning out!

Kilworth

Clonakilty grind out narrow win over juniors JCL R4 - Kilworth 2-02 Clonakilty 2-04 Our Kilworth junior camogie team made the long journey to Clonakilty on Friday night last May 6th, where they took on the home side in the fourth round of this year's junior league.

Expectations were high in the camp that a good performance was on the cards following the improvement that was seen in each league game to date and as always the girls did not disappoint. This was a closely fought contest throughout with our own Emma Clancy opening the scoring with a well take point.

However, this was quickly cancelled out by Clonakilty a few minutes later. The first goal of the game came in the 20th minute when Ellen Murphy found the back of the oppositions net to put Kilworth ahead, 1-1 to 0-1.

Clon got two points back to reduce the gap before Emma Clancy tapped over her second point of the game on the brink of half time to leave two points between the teams, 1-2 to 0-3. Clonakilty closed out the scoring of the first half with an in-



Midleton's young stars enjoyed field games including mixed games, skills challenges, rounders, long puck and crossbar challenge last week.



Chloe Garde, Rachel McSweeney and Caoimhe Walsh at the Midleton Lá na gClubanna.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

jury time point, and at half time Kilworth led by a point, 1-02 to 0-4. Kilworth were very worthy of that lead with the entire team playing their heart out and putting in a great individual, as well as, team performance.

The second half resumed but unfortunately for our girls it was Clonakilty who dominated the early stages, getting two goals to turn a one point deficit into a five point lead, 1-2 to 2-4. But our wonderful bunch of players didn't back down, and never once gave up.

Marian Tobin struck for the games fourth goal and Kilworth's second to reduce the gap to two points, 2-2 to 2-4. This was as close as we came, however, and this is how the game eventually ended, a defeat by two points. The girls had a real chance of winning this game as it could easily have gone in our favour had we taken more of our scoring opportunities. However, it is all a learning curve and that

win we are all craving is getting nearer and nearer. We look forward to your next outing against St. Vincent's. Well done as well to the management and selectors of Brian, Chris, Tim and Joe.

Team and Scorers: Shauna, Sarah, Winnie, Kim, Laura, Emma, Julie, Jessica, Ellen M (1-0), Niamh, Emma C (0-02), Marian (1-0), Trish, Kate and Sinead.

Subs Used: Teresa and Caoimhe. Subs: Kelly, Michelle, Bebhinn, Anita, Sarah, Clare, Deirdre. Fixtures JCL R5 - Kilworth V St. Vincent's. (Time and date to be confirmed.) Juvenile Training Juvenile training continues tonight at 7pm.

It was wonderful to have all the different age groups training in the GAA pitch last Thursday night and we will see the same again tonight. It created a great atmosphere and it is one we hope to continue.

We look forward once again to seeing all of our eager juveniles there later on, ready to learn

some more but most of all have fun!

Follow us on Social Media Keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the club by following us on Twitter, @KilworthCamogie or add us as your friend on Facebook by typing in the name "Kilworth Camogie". The more followers we get the better so please spread the word!

Main Sponsor: J Kenneally Construction.

Midleton

Fé 12 22 of our under 12 panel took to the field on Friday evening last May 6th, to play a challenge match V Cobh. It was a rare beautiful summers evening and the girls were delighted to play on home ground. Thanks to Gobh for travelling, and well done to all the girls involved.

La na gClubanna Midleton Camogie along with Midleton GAA Hurling & Football Club and Midleton Ladies football Club celebrated La na gClub-

banna on Sunday last May 8th, with field games including fun games for the younger groups, mixed games, skills challenges, rounders, long puck and cross bar challenge.

This was followed by refreshments in the clubhouse and the official launch of phase two of the healthy clubs initiative.

The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all despite the not so favourable weather. Well done to all involved.

Training times for the week ahead:

U6, U8, U10: Friday evening 7.15pm -8.15pm, Midleton GAA Club U12 & U14: Tuesday 7-8pm, St Coleman's & Friday 7.15-8.15pm, Midleton GAA Club.

New members welcome: girls age 6 (or will be 6 this year i.e. born 2010) up to age 14.

For information contact 0876822916, email midletoncamogiepro@gmail.com. Follow us on facebook: Midleton Camogie Club.

All-Star awards for five Rebels

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

FOR many camogie players in third level education, last Saturday night was their final occasion as colleges players.

For others it was the next step in their colleges career and marked their arrival on the scene in a special way as the stars of the Ashbourne Cup, Purcell Cup, and Fr Meachair Shield competitions were honoured at a special ceremony.

The Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone, was the venue as colleges players gathered for the inaugural joint Colleges All-Star Awards, the most prestigious award a third level camogie player or ladies footballer can be awarded.

The joint Colleges All-Star Awards will now in future be a collaboration between the higher education colleges of Camogie and Ladies Football and the award will acknowledge outstanding individual performance by a player throughout the Colleges season.

On the night, camogie players from nine counties were honoured including premier junior team Kerry as Patricia Diggins was awarded for her tremendous displays for UL this year in both the Ashbourne Cup and league campaigns.

Diggins has shown superb ability since coming to the fore with Kerry in their short existence playing camogie and at colleges level this year she continued the superb progress she is showing.

Cork features strongly on the camogie team with five awards as Cork senior stars Katrina and Pamela Mackey picked up awards to add to their ever growing collection.

Also honoured was goalkeeper Amy Lee who lined out with CIT and had a tremendous season as CIT captured the Purcell Cup. Cork full-back Laura Treacy was selected for her exploits with UL as was Cork forward Amy O'Connor who lined out with UCC.

Also honoured were two Tipperary sisters, Eirena and Sarah Fryday, who helped UL capture the Ashbourne Cup. Waterford's Fiona Morrissey, a student in Mary Immaculate College, the Clare duo of Chloe Morey and Laura McMahon were also amongst the 15 players honoured. Wexford's Linda Bolger from CIT flew their flag with WIT represented by Laois intercounty player Sarah Ann Fitzgerald, Niamh Mallon from UUJ and Down, and Trinity and Dublin's Aisling Maher made up a prestigious line-up.

The evening was hugely successful as colleges players and mentors enjoyed a special occasion to mark the end of another successful colleges season. Come September for many it will be a return to studies whilst for some it was slán to colleges camogie but a nice way to bow out.

Wexford fly in under the radar



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT JUST goes to show how casual many counties take the league when you look at the transformation of Wexford over the past few weeks.

Wexford stunned national league champions Kilkenny at O'Kennedy Park, New Ross last weekend, winning 2-19 to 2-9, to move into the Leinster senior championship final against Offaly on June 5.

The Slaneysiders welcomed Kate Kelly and Mary Leacy back to the fold and their experience, mixed with youthful exuberance, helped their side give Kilkenny the run-around for large spells of this tie.

Now, maybe Kilkenny took Wexford for granted but I did state after the league final that a very poor Galway team made a young Kilkenny team look good. Cork defeated Kilkenny earlier in the league, 1-9 to 0-11 with Cork missing five or six players. Kilkenny themselves had a few injuries and weren't at full strength but the players that the likes of Cork and Wexford had to come back into their championship sides are superior to Kilkenny's.

I was happy to see the 2-19 score for Wexford. Not because I want Wexford to be big competition for Cork mind but I have concerns about the poor scoring return in many senior championship games now. With teams playing so defensively we've had dismal scoring and as I mentioned in last night's preview, senior inter-county teams should be registering at least 20 points a game with a couple of goals thrown in.

The National League final score was Kilkenny 2-7, Galway 0-7. That's pitiful in hurling terms.

There was little impressive scoring throughout the league. The most attractive score was in the Cork v Waterford game — 3-18 to 2-9. Now that's a score you'd expect at senior level, from the 3-18 perspective anyway. The reason we got that is because Waterford, being new to the senior grade, haven't yet adopted a defensive mentality.



The Cork Féile camogie skills winner Caoimhe Buckley, centre, with second-placed Daire O'Brien and third-placed Caoimhe O'Leary.

Wexford did most of the damage in the first half of their semi-final victory and went in at the interval 2-11 to 0-4 up. It had been going well enough at 11-4 heading into added-time but Kate Kelly's 31st-minute hand-pass to the net was soon followed by a Una Sinnott pulled goal to make the interval advantage 13.

Wexford did enough to keep ticking along in the second half. Goals from Julie Ann Malone and Ann Dalton did make the scoreline more respectable but Kilkenny never came close to making a charge back into the game.

Kate Kelly finished with 1-09, with Wexford scoring 2-11 from play. Ann Dalton is a crucial player for Kilkenny. She finished the game with 1-7 (0-7 from the dead ball) meaning the Cats scored just 2-2 from play. Galway scored a point from play in the league final.

You know, looking through the Wexford line-up last weekend, they still

have a lot of household names there, names that won the three in a row from 2010-2012.

They looked a stale, tired, obsolete team last year. Yet they came very close to defeating Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Had they won it, would they have given Cork a better game in the final? Who knows!

Ursula Jacob has retired and undoubtedly she is a loss. Kate Kelly must be mid-thirties at this point, yet if she hits form Wexford will have a spring in their step. Mags Darcy, Karen Atkinson, Mary Leacy, Siona Nolan, Deirdre Codd, Stacey and Shelley Kehoe (hugely impressive), Kelly, and Linda Bolger remain. Una Leacy was named in the subs.

Have Wexford enough to challenge Cork this year? They'll meet each other on July 9 and that will give us a strong indicator.

Meanwhile, the Munster panel for Sunday's senior inter-provincials has

been announced with five counties represented; Tipperary, Waterford, Kerry, Clare, and Limerick. I'm assuming that no Cork player was interested. That's a pity. I used to love playing the inter-provincial competition.

It was a no-pressure competition yet one you wanted to win and it was great to line out with players that you were normally in opposition with. When they're on your side, they're on your side.

I used to have murder with Áine Hilary of Galway when we were on opposite sides and one time during a Kilkenny v 'Rest of Ireland' selection I nearly dug out a Kilkenny player because they took her down. Áine was in such a shock afterwards, not because of the drag down but because I had her back. When you wear the same jersey, you wear the same jersey!

Good luck to the Cork girls today in their bid for their 59th Munster senior title and four in a row.

Cork's Caoimhe geared up for Féile skills competition

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The only daughter in a family of three Caoimhe's parents Elaine and Kevin are originally from North Cork but put down roots in Berrings, where their two sons Liam and Niall, along with Caoimhe are all members of the Inniscarra club. Kevin himself played junior football with Kilshannig, while Elaine's aunt Sheila Casey was a founding member of the St Fanahan's camogie club in Mitchelstown where Elaine is a native of.

Caoimhe is a young lady who has already carved out her own niche, as a member of the Coláiste Choilm camogie team that took All-Ireland Junior B honours recently. She started camogie in the local Cloughroe primary school where she was a member of

the school side that won two Sciath na Scol titles. She joined the Inniscarra club when she was five.

She gave up the game for a while, but returned when she was eight and has thrown herself into it since and is now enjoying exciting times.

She lines out in goal with the club's under-16 team but is playing in a forward role on the U14 club team. The family are busy as both Liam and Caoimhe are on county development squads with Liam on the U17 hurling squad and Caoimhe on the Cork camogie under-14 squad.

Younger brother Niall already has huge ambition to make it onto a Cork squad. As recently as Thursday last when Elaine was speaking to me he was busy getting used to his new hurley which had arrived all the way from Dromina.

The second place in the skills went to Ennis-keane's Daire O'Brien with Cliona O'Leary, Ballygarvan, in third.

CAMOGIE CLUBS NEWS, RESULTS, FIXTURES

BALLINCOLLIG

Car Boot Sale: We will be holding a car boot sale in Ballincollig GAA Club car park on Sunday May 29th from 10am-4pm. The entry fee is as follows: Car €10, van €15, and customer entry is €2.

To book your place please contact Noreen on 085-1621207 or email ballincolligcamogie-pro@yahoo.ie. Please support.

U14: It has been a busy but successful week for our U14's. They overcame Milford/Ballyhea 6-11 to 1 point in a league game and followed this up with a 7-6 to 4-2 victory over Carbery development panel. Both were excellent team performances. Well done girls keep up the good work.

Junior: It has been a very busy weekend for this team trying to fit in three matches in five days. However our game against Sarsfields on Friday night May 6 went very well, the girls played a great game and particularly shone in the second half, coming out with a fantastic win of 4-4 to 1-10 victory.

Unfortunately we had an injury to Clodagh Donovan and wish her a speedy recovery. Our girls showed their strength on Sunday evening May 8th away to Carrigaline; again this was a well fought game in the first half and went well in the second half with a final score of 4-7 to 1-10 in favour of Ballincollig.

After being defeated by Glen Rovers on Tuesday May 17th we have ended our League campaign on equal points with Glen Rovers, and will have to play them in a play-off to determine who goes through from our group. As this is a very busy time for all ladies involved, we wish you all the very best in your exams and continued success on the playing field.

BLACKROCK

U13 Seandun League: Blackrock 4-00 Bishopstown 3-00 We were probably very fortunate to come away with a win in this game. Both teams had periods of dominance and it was the return of 3 goals by Kate Smith in the last 10mins of the first half that got us over the line. It was a lovely evening for a game and the pitch was in great condition.

This was the first time that most of our girls played on a full sized pitch, but you wouldn't think it! Erin Curtin in goal had a super game and at just 11 years old is a big name for the future. All our backs gave big performances and they kept Bishopstown scoreless in the first 30mins. Sarah, Orla and Rachel all cleared their lines while under severe pressure.

Emma got our first score on 10mins after a long range effort dropped over the Bishopstown goalie's reach. We played well at midfield and Tamara played her part in winning the 50/50 ball. Clara, Alex and Zoe all got stuck in as well. With the first half nearing completion up came Kate Smith and delivered three unstoppable goals with much of the balls being broken for her by Lia and Shannon.

The second half was an altogether different affair as Bishopstown got more into the game. However, our work rate didn't drop and Oonagh, Juliet and Chloe were excellent for the second half. Robin and Andrea also made a difference when introduced. We just about held out and can now look forward to our next game against The Glen. Well done Donal, Michelle and Brian.

BRIAN DILLON'S

U15: Our U15 team played Blackrock at the Tank on Wednesday May 11th. It was a great contest and our work rate was excellent. Blackrock are a very strong team and they won 3-7 to 1-2. We had no complaints as our girls gave it everything. Abbie and Eve in particular were outstanding.

Senior

Our Senior team were awesome at home to Agabullogue in the league. Despite missing some first team players, we were well up for this game as we knew we were in with a shout of qualification for the league quarter finals. We were dominant in all areas of the pitch. Our distribution was excellent and we scored some quality points from distance.

The Dooleys produced their 'A' game and Susan and Shauna were pure class. We used our three subs but our attitude remained solid. In the second half Amanda was the star as she scored at will. She scored a total of 4-2 which is very impressive. Full time score Brian Dillons 6-15, Agabullogue 1-2.

Cork are Munster Junior Champions following an impressive 1-11 to 0-8 win over Clare in the final which was held in Limerick. Emma Sharpe was wing back for Cork and everyone in our Club are delighted with her success.

Emma is a class player with an incredible determination and she is a role model for all our underage players. Well done Emma.

COBH

Big congratulations to our Junior Captain Chloe Smith who was part of the Cork junior camogie team who won the Munster Final in Limerick on Sunday 6th May. The girls beat Clare on a score line of 1-11 to 0-8. Congrats Chloe!

U8, 9, 10, 11, 12s

Huge numbers are turning out each Sunday morning to our underage training for u8, 9, 10, 11, & 12's. These teams will be beginning league and blitz tournaments over the next few weeks with the u9 and 11's travelling to Glen Rovers on Sunday 15th May. Thanks to all the older players who come along each week and help the coaches with the training.

U12: The U12 team are continuing their preparation for the league and the improvement in skills is evident from week to week. This group of girls are a very committed team and represent the club with pride.

They finished their preparations for the league with a win over Middleton in a challenge match in on May the 6th. Both teams displayed great skills



The Newtownshandrum U11 camogie team who recently played Milford in the Avondhu League.



The Glen U12 camogie team that enjoyed the trip to Thurles recently.

on the night. The team now faces a strong Douglas team in the first round of the league.

U14: Our U14s took part in the Féile Competition on 30th April beating Castlemartyr in the opening round.

U16: The U16 girls are also continuing preparation for the championship and showed some good form in the league.

Minor

The Minor team drew against St Vincent's in the quarter final of the league. They are also busy taking part in an inter club blitz on Monday nights with the final taking place in Cobh in July. A lot of these girls are also an integral part of our adult / junior team.

Junior: The junior team got their season off to a great start with two wins over Ballincollig and Sarsfields. This team is an example of how the dedication of coaches and mentors over the last few years is now paying the club in a strong position at adult level. They face Glen Rovers and Carrigaline over the next week in the final group stages of the league.

Thank You Finally the club would like to thank all those who helped recently with the Great Island 10 and also to members of our U16/minor team who took part in the run.

COURCERY ROVERS

U14 Camogie League: Our U14 Camogie team met Ballinacathry on home ground on Tuesday May 10. Well done to both sides as they put in a

fantastic display of camogie.

The torrential rain did not dampen the skill and commitment. Our own Siobhan O'Donovan opened the score with a goal but Ballinacathry responded a minute later.

Courcеры dominated for the majority of the first half with three more goals from Siobhan in quick succession and Ellen McGuire scoring a point from a free.

Ballinacathry responded with a goal from a free and another point heading into half time but the team work of Siobhan O'Donovan and Orlagh O'Mahony paid off with Siobhan scoring two more goals and Orlagh rocketing the back of the Ballinacathry net. The score at half time read Courcеры 7-1 Ballinacathry 3-2.

Once proceedings resumed Ballinacathry had a mission in mind and truly gave a spirited performance to become the "come back kids" scoring 1-6 before Courcеры responded with yet another goal from Siobhan.

However, Ballinacathry started to crowd in on the Courcеры mid field and defence scoring another point to bring the sides 8-1 to 5-9. Our mid fielders and defenders showed tremendous spirit and had to work exceptionally hard at this point to keep the Ballinacathry attack at bay.

Ballinacathry eventually broke through to score another point and draw the sides' level in the rain. The final score read Courcеры 8-1 Ballinacathry 5-10.

Scorers: Siobhan O'Donovan 6-0 Orlagh O'Mahony 2-0, Ellen McGuire 0-1. Well done to every single player. From defence to midfield to attack all on both sides worked hard - to quote the Ballinacathry coach if that display has anything to go by it says a lot about the standard of Camogie this side of the county!

Senior Camogie League: Our Senior Camogie team visited Ballygarvan on Wednesday May 11 and were defeated by just a point 1-7 to 1-8 but head towards the League Semi Final on May 25th. Best of luck to all involved and please go and support our team!

Courcеры Rovers Camogie & Ladies Football Club's Rise & Shine Walk and Run Courcеры Rovers "Rise and Shine" will take place on May 28.

Come on down to Ballinspittle and take on a fantastic course which will appeal to all and enjoy a delicious breakfast BBQ once you have worked up an appetite! The 7K Run will take place in a scenic route which starts at Courcеры Rovers GAA Clubhouse and then heads up toward Garretstown beach.

From there the race follows the perimeter of the beach, before returning into the back of Ballinspittle village and back to the Clubhouse. Registration will take place from 9am. €10 Adults, €5 U16's, €20 Families.

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM

U11: Our U11 Camogie team played Milford in

the U11 Avondhu league on Monday May 16th in a very entertaining game to watch. This was always going to be very close encounter with our rival neighbours. Melanie Hayes pulled off some great saves in goal and also assisted in the back line later in the game. Jessie Hogan, Clara O'Halloran and Emma O'Donoghue displayed some great skill in the full back line with Danielle Finucane keeping the Milford Centre forward at bay.

Our trio at centre field were Claire O'Brien, Holly Bowles and Chloe O'Leary. These girls were relentless in their efforts against a very strong Milford line up.

Chloe's lightning speed resulted in her burying a goal from the 20-yard line in the closing quarter. Bláithín O'Connor showed great ability at centre forward where she faced a very experienced Milford centre forward, matching her ball for ball each time.

Sarah Minahane at corner forward put Newtown on the score sheet in the first 15 minutes, with Emily Gammel and Aisling McHugh fighting tirelessly for every ball that came their way. Holly Bowles added 2 further goals to the Newtown score sheet before the end of the game. Chloe Cromwell and Lucy Healy added greatly to the line-up when brought on.

Newtown were very unlucky not to score another few goals before the game ended. Very well done girls, you did your Club so proud!

Focused Cork won't be caught

MAY
2016



Camogie

Linda
Mellerick

TOMORROW

Munster senior championship final:
Cork v Limerick, Kilmallock, 3.30pm

YOU would expect any side who meets a particular opponent in any given season for the third time, and on the back of two defeats to that same team, that the odds are heavily stacked in their favour this time around.

That is certainly the expectation as Cork take to Kilmallock on Saturday in the Munster senior final against Limerick.

Not alone for the reason mentioned above and the motivation that brings but the fact that Cork have moved up a notch in terms of preparation and have many of their seasoned campaigners back.

The referee will play a big role tomorrow. Their influence will determine how effective Niamh Mulcahy is. That isn't to say that Mulcahy is a one-dimensional player; she isn't.

Her overall influence on a game can't be denied. Limerick would be in a lonely position without her. Paudie Murray has publicly stated that if there was a transfer market she'd be the first player he'd chase. But the accuracy of Niamh's top-class free-taking was a major contributor to Limerick's progression to the last four of the national league.

Take that away and Limerick scored just 2-10 from play against Cork in their two previous victories out of a total of 2-22 (co-incidentally scoring 1-11 per game). But Cork only scored 0-16 in total - 0-7 of that from frees. That's an awful return.

With teams lining out so defensively now, scoring has reduced. At senior inter-county level we should be seeing up to 20 points a game minimum, with a couple of goals thrown in. What we're witnessing is often single digit point-scoring with many of those from placed balls. It's not doing the game any good. But that's for another day.



Amy O'Connor, Cork and St Vincent's, is stopped by Waterford defender Mairead Power during the league. Her goal-threat is a key element of the Rebel attack.
Picture: Larry Cummins

In their previous two outings Limerick's desire far outweighed Cork's. One could possibly understand that as Limerick strive to become serious senior contenders under new manager John Tuohy. It clearly meant a lot to Limerick to take the scalp of the All-Ireland champions and justifiably so. Without sounding patronising it is to Limerick's credit the zest they brought to the league.

Let's be honest though, everyone outside of Limerick expects things to be a lot different come championship. Limerick, based in group one with Wexford, Cork, Waterford, Offaly and Clare, have a chance of making the quarter-finals.

For the moment, they'll look at taking Cork for the third time. I expect Cork to take the game this time

around. They'll be up against it in Kilmallock with Limerick sure to have a large local support but if they display the same hunger and work ethic that they did against Tipperary two weeks ago then they should prevent Limerick from winning their first ever Munster senior title.

Based on the great players they have had over the years and the success of Granagh Ballingarry it's hard to believe they haven't won it to date.

Limerick won through to their second Munster final of recent years with a 3-15 to 2-8 win over Waterford.

Earlier this week there were doubts about the availability of Ashling Thompson, Rena Buckley and Amy O'Connor. Thompson was ill, Buckley picked up a slight hamstring strain in Cork's opening football championship

game last Saturday and O'Connor picked up an ankle injury. But it is hoped that all three will start.

Cork have trained hard over the past few weeks with their June 18th championship opener against Waterford in mind. They haven't relaxed their training regime ahead of tomorrow's game and they're right not to. These are critical weeks, a month ahead of championship when the hard work must be done. With the All-Ireland series games running week in and week out, there is very little you can do midweek between June 18 and the end of July.

They could show signs of tiredness tomorrow but I don't expect that to be the case. If the minds are right Cork should win their 59th Munster championship title.

Controversy surrounds Cork's Munster final win

Cork 0-12
Limerick 0-10
Munster senior
camogie final

Joel Slattery
Kilmallock

There were angry scenes at the end of the Munster senior camogie final as Cork hit two points in the sixth minute of injury time to defeat Limerick in Kilmallock.

With over 35 minutes played in the second period, Katriona Mackey picked up a loose ball and shot over the bar to edge her side in front. Limerick failed to win their own puck-out and Mackey shot her third

point to seal the victory for Paudie Murray's side.

Limerick boss John Tuohy was furious with referee Martin O'Shea, who played nearly eight minutes' injury time in a second half that was, for the most part, without incident.

"It seems very unfair," Tuohy said as Limerick's wait for a first crown continues. "It's very hard to explain to a group of players after training so hard to be treated so badly like that."

The Shannonsiders were also upset with the Tipperary official in the opening stages which led to the referee warning Tuohy about his conduct.

"At that stage it was 12 frees to four and we had certainly had three blatant frees. I felt

this game was going to go away from us if he kept giving frees to Cork," said Tuohy.

"I respect referees but it seems the bigger counties seem to get the rub of the green all the time and we don't."

For Cork, it was a first win in three attempts over the Treaty county after two reversals in the league. Captain Aisling Thompson said: "It's nice to come back and get a win over them. It was at the start of the year (when they beat us) and we were missing a few players but we had those players back and they still put it up to us which says a lot about their character."

Cork led by a point at the break (0-7 to 0-6) but it should



Referee Martin O'Shea is confronted by angry Limerick supporters after the game.
Picture: Gareth Williams

have been more as they hit six wides in the opening half, many of which were from

scoreable positions.

The visitors were dominating in the middle of the field, with Thompson leading the way, but Limerick were quicker out of the blocks, racing into a 0-3 to 0-1 lead after 10 minutes. Cork hit five points in a row, the pick of which an effort by the impressive Eimear O'Sullivan as they got a strong grasp on the game.

The second half didn't produce the same quality as the first as both teams began to look nervous as a tight finish was on the cards. Cork were ahead for most of the period before two Niamh Mulcahy scores (a '45 and a free) levelled the game. It looked like the game would be a draw. However, up stepped

Mackey to hit two late points to break Limerick hearts and give Cork momentum heading into the All-Ireland championships.

Scorers for Cork: O. Cotter (0-5, 0-3fs); O. Cronin, K. Mackey (0-3) each; E. O'Sullivan (0-1)

Scorers for Limerick: N. Mulcahy (0-8, 0-4fs, 0-2 '45s); F. Hickey, C. O'Brien (0-1 each)

CORK: A. Murray, R. Buckley, L. Treacy, L. Coppinger, M. Cahalane, G. O'Connor, P. Mackey, O. Cotter, A. Thompson, H. Looney, E. O'Sullivan, O. Cronin, A. O'Connor, B. Corkery, K. Mackey.

LIMERICK: C. Keating, M. McCarthy, M. Creamer, J. Mulcahy, S. Enright, N. Richardson, F. Hickey, K. O'Leary, N. Mulcahy, D. Murphy, M. O'Callaghan, C. Costelloe, C. O'Brien, N. Ryan, J. Noonan.

Subs: C. Lane for R. Noonan (52); N. Barry for M. O'Callaghan (60) Sent off: F. Hickey (second yellow, 57).
Referee: M. O'Shea (Tipperary)

Experience is the key for Cork

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|----------|------|
| Cork | 0-12 |
| Limerick | 0-10 |

CORK retained the Munster Senior Championship crown in dramatic fashion after an entertaining contest in Kilmallock on Saturday.

Limerick put the foot to the pedal but Cork held their nerve and carved out a victory as they patiently worked the ball to their inside line, where two late points from the hard-working Katriona Mackey as the game entered the sixth and seventh minutes of added time helped get them over the line. This ever-improving Limerick side has beaten Cork twice this year but, this time, the more experienced Cork came out on top, as Limerick had to play out the closing 12 minutes with 14 players after losing defender Fiona Hickey for a second yellow. The game ended in controversy as Limerick mentors and supporters were infuriated by the amount of added time. But, to be fair, on two occasions in the added time, Limerick had opportunities to grab a winner. Cork went to the dressing room leading 0-7 to 0-6 and would have been happy with that after a half where they were well in control. The opening quarter was even as the sides traded points. Gemma O'Connor was superb at centre-back for Cork and with Orla Cotter pointing twice and Eimear O'Sullivan hitting one Cork opened up a three-point lead. Limerick dug deep and began to gain a grip. Chloe O'Brien and Katriona Mackey swapped scores before Niamh Mulcahy pegged the Cork lead back to a point with two back-to-back points.

As thunder rumbled overhead, the second half got under way at lightning pace. Orla Cronin had two fast points as Cork settled into the half and looked as if they were going to take control. But they had to wait 16 minutes for their next score as the Limerick defence grew in confidence and gained the upper hand closing down any attempts Cork had.



Cork players celebrate their win over Limerick in the Munster final at Kilmallock.

Pictures Credit: Gareth Williams / Press 2

Niamh Mulcahy pointed a 45 before adding a long-range effort from play as Orla Cronin kept Cork in front with another good score under pressure.

Despite winning a lot of possession, Cork squandered several chances, thus allowing Limerick stay in the game.

Mulcahy was on target twice from a 45 and a free, and they were back on level with four minutes of normal time remaining. Driving at the Cork defence, they again won a free but amazingly Mulcahy opted to go low instead of slotting over, and it was a huge let-off as Cork cleared their lines. Twice Cork won frees but also failed to convert.

As the clock ticked into the sixth minute of injury time, Cork worked the ball well out of defence and Katriona Mackey struck two points to give Cork victory.

Referee Martin O'Shea did not enjoy a good day at the office, his persistence in not implementing the advantage rule frustrated players and mentors alike, and some of his decisions for both sides were at times mystifying.

For Cork it was title number 59, but a lot of work remains to be done with a championship game against Waterford looming on June 18.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-5 (0-3 f), O Cronin K Mackey 0-3 each, E O'Sullivan 0-1.

Scorers for Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-8 (0-4 f, 0-2 45), F Hickey C O'Brien 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L Copping, R Buckley, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, O Cotter, A Thompson (c); H Looney, E O'Sullivan, O Cronin, A O'Connor, B Corker, K Mackey.

LIMERICK: C Keating, M Mc Carthy, M Creamer, J Mulcahy, S Enright, N Richardson, F Hickey, K O'Leary, N Mulcahy, D Murphy, M O'Callaghan, C Costello, C O'Brien, N Ryan, R Noonan.

Subs: C Lane for R Noonan (52), N Barry for M O'Callaghan (58).

Referee: Martin O'Shea (Tipperary).



Cork Captain Aisling Thompson shows off the trophy

'It's nice to have won but the hard work starts now'

CORK captain Aisling Thompson paid tribute to opponents Limerick for a superb performance and said they will be a team to watch come championship. "It's great for camogie for Munster to have counties like Limerick coming up and establishing themselves at senior level, it brings huge competitiveness to the championship and it is great that no longer are three or four teams mentioned at the start of the year as championship contenders," Thompson said.

Whilst paying tribute to their opponents the Cork captain had huge praise for her own side.

"We really had to hold the heads to fashion out a victory today, when it was level it could have gone either way they had two chances but to be fair we weathered the storm, they could have grabbed a goal but Briega got in a superb block and denied them at a crucial stage.

MATCH REACTION

"I think we showed our experience and never panicked and we waited for the opportunity and no better girl than Katriona Mackey, her two points at the end were superb."

The Cork captain said that after losing twice to Limerick, Cork were determined not to let it happen again.

"We are just going to take it one game at a time but certainly today was a good game for us and we're happy to be going home as winners. From here on now it is championship that is our focus."

Cork manager Paudie Murray was happy with Cork's two-point victory but knows his side have a lot more work to do.

"I suppose at half-time we were happy enough having played against the wind to go in a point

ahead. We were hurling well even though we missed a good few scoreable chances. For some reason in the second half we didn't continue where we left off and we allowed them into the game but we held our heads and fashioned out a victory. Katriona Mackey struck two great points, the first in particular was magnificent and worthy of being a match winner any day and we are happy to have got over the line.

"Championship now is our main focus, we have plenty of hard games and they will be coming thick and fast. Wexford are a team to watch this year and we will have to travel to them. We will also face Limerick again, this time in Cork, so certainly we will have to be at our best.

"We're happy to be Munster champions and it is nice to have won today but now the hard work begins," he added.



BACK TO BACK

In 2014, the consensus – somewhat uncharitably – was that Cork's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship win, the county's first since 2009, had come somewhat against the head.

When you do win, though, the expectation levels increase and so Cork went into 2015 expected to challenge again, even with the departures of as many as 13 players. There was at least a good omen in that the county's previous four O'Duffy Cup wins had come in two pairs – 2005-06 and 2009-10 – and they carried the confidence from 2014 into the national league, winning all four of their games in Group 2 with a combined scoring difference of 23 points.

Limerick provided the opponents in the semi-final in April. An early Amy O'Connor goal settled Cork but by and large the game was a shootout between the two free-takers, Cork's Orla Cotter and the Shannonsiders' Niamh Mulcahy. When it came down to it, O'Connor, new captain Ashling Thompson and sub Breige Corkery all had positive influences, giving Cork a 1-12 to 0-10 win in the end.

The winning run came to an end against Galway in the final, however. The damage was done in the first half, goals from Niamh McGrath and Molly Dunne giving the Tribeswomen a 2-10 to 0-5 half-time lead, but the second-half response was spirited. Katriona Mackey goalied for Cork straight after half-time and O'Connor also raised a green flag but, despite Cotter's accuracy from frees, Paudie Murray's side had allowed too much of a gap to bridge, 2-15 to 2-12 the final score.

Perhaps helpfully, there was no time for Cork to feel sorry for themselves, with the Munster championship semi-final against Clare taking place just a week later. In Sixmilebridge, Cork went for experience as Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor returned to the side and a positive approach paid off as Clare filled their defence with bodies. The hosts would only register one point from play and six in all, with Cork posting a tally of 1-15, Mackey with 1-5 and Joanne Casey – another to miss the Galway game – scoring four points.

Tipperary had beaten Limerick on the other side and would stand in the way of Cork's hopes of a third successive provincial title. Having not won Munster in five years, the Premier County looked well-placed to end that wait when they led by 0-10 to 0-3 after playing with the wind at half-time, thanks to good performances from Cáit Devane and Anne Eviston. Cork, despite missing dual players Corkery and Rena Buckley as well as the exam-tied Julia White, had a rousing response. Amy O'Connor, Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin drew fouls as a result of running at the Tipp defence and Cotter was on hand to convert all of the frees. She finished with 10 points, Casey and Mackey getting the others as they clawed out a 0-12 to 0-11 victory.

Cork had a month to prepare for the All-Ireland championship, with their opening game a chance to avenge the league final defeat to Galway. As the end of the game in Tullamore neared, it looked like that would be achieved as O'Connor, Cotter, Cronin and Thompson pointed to put them 0-12 to 1-7 in front, but Galway had a strong finish. They scored the game's final four points, Niamh McGrath with three and Niamh Kilkeny with the other, and Cork had begun with a defeat.

They bounced back in their second outing against Limerick in Kilmallock, Cotter again on form from frees and while Limerick rallied in the second half, Mackey's goal quelled any fightback, Cork triumphant by 1-14 to 1-10. Cotter and Mackey were again the most menacing threat against Offaly in Páirc Uí Rinn, as a quarter-final spot was booked with a 0-13 to 0-6 victory.

Sarsfields was the venue for the final group game, against Wexford, who were no doubting gunning for Cork after the All-Ireland semi-final replay defeat in 2014. Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock starred for the visitors and while Cotter got seven points for Cork, Mackey (with three) was their only other scorer as they went down on a 0-13 to 0-10 scoreline. It would mean a clash with Tipperary in the quarters.

This was a far easier win than in the Munster final, though. While Tipperary began well, Amy O'Connor's goal just before half-time meant that Cork turned with a 1-6 to 0-8 lead and Mackey augmented that with another goal straight after the restart. O'Connor was really on song, with Corkery and Mackey causing damage too, and the 2-17 to 0-10 victory didn't flatter them at all. Kilkeny, who had topped Group 2 with four wins from four, lay in wait in the semi-finals and looked like they might be the ones to dethrone the champions.

Michelle Quilty's goal helped them to establish a 1-6 to 0-2 lead but Cork settled and then took over. Points from Amy O'Connor were added to by a goaled free from Cotter, whose point then put the Rebels into a 1-7 to 1-6 half-time lead. While Katie Power and Denise Gaule had Kilkeny points on the resumption, Cork seized the advantage thanks to a point and then a goal from Mackey before Cotter added another major to leave Kilkeny shellshocked. O'Connor added a fourth goal and, with player of the match Pamela Mackey exceptional in defence, Cork weren't to be denied a 4-10 to 1-10 win. Back in the final, it would be Galway who stood between them and back-to-back titles.

Having already lost twice to the Connacht side, Cork were in no mood to let it become three times. It was truly a team effort, with Gemma O'Connor, Cotter, captain Thompson and Laura Treacy all putting in huge displays. Cork were far better in the first half, building a lead of 0-8 to 0-4 by the turnaround. Galway couldn't get to the pitch of the game, certainly nowhere near their previous two wins over Cork, and Gemma O'Connor was able to showcase her skills to the maximum from centre-back.

Cotter was her usual reliable self, aided by Corkery and Thompson, but Galway were expected to up their game in the second half and so it proved. Niamh McGrath sent over three frees, including one from the 65m line, and all of a sudden there was just a point between the teams. Lorraine Ryan had built up a head of steam at midfield for Galway and Heather Cooney made a couple of important interventions in defence for them. When Julia White's goal was ruled out for an infringement in the small rectangle, Cork might have wondered if they were going to be denied but Cotter ended their drought and that relieved the pressure valve.

When Brieghe Corkery intercepted a Galway clearance and strode forward before finishing to the net, Cork were safe. Thompson landed a huge point and Mackey added another, with 1-13 to 0-9 the final score. For Corkery and Buckley, the win meant 15 national senior All-Ireland medals, with that tally rising to 16 a fortnight later when Cork won the ladies football title. For the camogie team, the sights now turn towards trying to achieve a three-in-a-row.

It's a tall order – the great Cork team of the 1990s couldn't do it and the county hasn't managed it since the four-in-a-row of 1970-73 inclusive – but this current team have proved the doubters wrong enough times for us to know better than to write them off.

Two-goal blast secures fifth Interprovincial Cup for Connacht

By Camogie Press
Posted 22/05/2016



Connacht won just their fifth Interprovincial Cup and their first since 2008 when they trumped Leinster by 2-7 to 1-6 in an entertaining senior interprovincial camogie final at the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown.

In the semi-finals, Leinster were much too strong for a Munster side that did not have the benefit of being able to select any player from All-Ireland champions Cork and cruised to a 1-21 to 0-10 victory.

Patrice Diggin (Kerry), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick) and Chloe Morey (Clare) tried hard for Munster but they had no answer to a Leinster unit that had heavy scorers in Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Denise Gaulé (Offaly) and Melissa Lyons (Kildare), while Anne Dalton (Kilkenny) plundered a late goal.

Meanwhile, Connacht were pushed all the way and had to withstand a late rally by Ulster before edging through by 2-10 to 2-8.

They led by 10 points with time running out but were left breathing a sigh of relief at the final whistle, when they had just two points to spare.

By virtue of those results, it was a star-studded Leinster unit that held the favourites' mantle but two second half goals secured the honours for the westerners.

The first half was very cagey, with the conditions making it difficult at times. In such circumstances, a steady hand at the tiller was required and Niamh McGrath (Galway) provided it, scoring four of her five points as Connacht led by 0-5 to 0-3 at the interval.

Gaulé and Morkan were responsible for Leinster's scores but they didn't manage one from play until Stacey Kehoe (Wexford) raised a white flag four minutes into the second half.

That was in response to another McGrath point but when Morkan slotted her second point, there was just the minimum between the sides.

Connacht win the Senior Interprovincial Final

By Camogie Results
Posted 22/05/2016



Senior Interprovincial Final

Connacht 2-07 Leinster 1-06

Connacht Scorers: N. McGrath 0-05, A. Donoghue 1-00, N. Coen 1-00, N. Kilkenny 0-01, A. Callanan 0-01

Leinster Scorers: D. Gaulé 1-03, M. Morkan 0-02, S. Kehoe 0-01

Senior Interprovincials Semi Finals

Leinster 1-21 Munster 0-10

Leinster Scorers: M. Morkan 0-07, D. Gaulé 0-04, M. Lyons 0-04, A. Dalton 1-01, S. Farrell 0-02, O. Beagan 0-01, E. Reilly 0-01, C. Donner 0-01, S. Kehoe 0-01

Munster Scorers: P. Diggin 0-02, N. Mulcahy 0-02, O. Duggan 0-02, C. Costello 0-01, C. Morey 0-02, B. Canton 0-01

Connacht 2-10 Ulster 2-08

Then came the key period, as Galway pair Noreen Coen and Aoife Donoghue struck for the goals that gave Connacht vital breathing space and a seven-point lead with 13 minutes remaining.

Gaulé did give Leinster some hope with a goal to bring her tally to 1-3 but Connacht had enough in hand to take the silverware.



Inniscarra's Rebecca Keane and Courceys' Jacinta Crowley.

Picture: Des Barry

Casey and Buckley inspire Inniscarra to title with strong second-half against Courceys

Inniscarra 1-14
Courceys Rovers 0-12

CAMOGIE

DIGGING deep and rallying under second-half pressure, Inniscarra won the senior league title, in Castle Road, last night, but not before receiving a stern test from Courceys, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The introduction at half-time of Cork senior, Rena Buckley, was crucial for Inniscarra. She steadied them, and scored an excellent point to put them two clear with five minutes remaining.

Both sides worked hard. The impressive Julia Mulcahy, at full-forward for Courceys, was dangerous, while Jacinta Crowley, at midfield, was dogged. Joanne Casey was prominent for Inniscarra, whilst Niamh McCarthy, Erin Looney, and Rosie O'Mahony contributed enormously.

O'Mahony, in particular in the closing stages, did huge work in defence, dropping deep to police the threat posed inside by Mulcahy and clearing her lines with intelligent play.

With a lot of stoppages for frees, it was a scrappy opening half, and just a point separated them, as Inniscarra led 0-9 to 0-8. Three Joanne Casey points gave Inniscarra a three-point lead as half-time neared, but two excellent points from Julia Mulcahy brought Courceys back.

On three occasions in the third quarter the sides were level, although it took an ex-

cellent save from Sinead Ni Riain to deny Saoirse McCarthy a goal that would have given Courceys the lead.

There were a lot of frees in the second-half, keeping Joanne Casey and Jacinta Crowley busy. Casey nudged Inniscarra ahead, before stretching it to two with a superb effort. Courceys battled back, as Crowley converted a close-in free after Inniscarra had weathered an attack on goal.

With a point between the sides, it needed something special, and Rena Buckley was the one that provided it, winning possession in her own defence. She drove forward and struck a long-range effort between the posts.

Inniscarra push to finish the game, and when Erin Looney's strike, from distance, deceived the Courceys' keeper and ended in the net, the title was secured.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-9 (0-5 f), E Looney 1-1, N McCarthy, A Sheehan, R Buckley, M Cosgrave 0-1.

Courceys Rovers: J Crowley 0-8 (0-6 f), J Mulcahy 0-3, C O'Neill 0-1.

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, R Quigley; C Looney, R O'Mahony, A Sheehan; L Brennan, A Kavanagh; R Keane, E Looney, K O'Mahony; J Casey (c), M Cosgrave, N McCarthy.

Subs: R Buckley for L Brennan (h-t), C Healy for R Keane (h-t).

COURCEYS ROVERS: C Duggan; E O'Regan, K Keohane, C Mulcahy; O Twomey, A Moloney, E Moloney; S McCarthy, J Crowley; C Hayes, C O'Neill, A O'Reilly; S O'Reilly, G Hannon, J Mulcahy.

Sub: S Hayes for S O'Reilly (h-t); Referee: Diarmuid Kirwin (Eire Og).

Inniscarra victorious with a late blitz

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Inniscarra 3-12
Douglas 0-9

INNISCARRA reversed the result of last season's league final when they overcame the challenge posed by Douglas to advance to this season's decider in Ballyanley last night.

A sharp and focused Inniscarra showed they will be a force to be reckoned with come championship as they set about securing themselves a league final spot.

Three points separated the sides at the interval: Joanne Casey was on target with four points while Niamh McCarthy and Margaret Cosgrave kept the Douglas defence busy as they slotted over points.

Douglas relied heavily on Katriona Mackey to keep the scoreboard ticking over and with Sarah Fahy also finding the range, it was 0-7 to 0-4 at the half-time whistle.

Goals win games and Erin Looney grabbed the first of the home side's three inside a minute of the restart after Niamh McCarthy picked her out with an excellent delivery. Joanne Casey, continuing to cause the Douglas defence a lot of bother, had Inniscarra's second goal ten minutes into the half.

Douglas battled hard: Mackey was their main threat up front and kept the scoreboard ticking over, but a close-marking Inniscarra defence held the upper hand.

Rebecca Keane, Joanne Casey, the excellent Niamh McCarthy, and Katie O'Mahony picked off points as Inniscarra held the upper hand and with McCarthy finding the net with nine minutes remaining, the Mid Cork girls were on their way to their second final in a row.

Inniscarra will now meet Courceys Rovers in the league final next Wednesday.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-5 (0-3 f), N McCarthy 1-4, E Looney 1-0, K O'Mahony, M Cosgrave, R Keane 0-1 each.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-7 (0-5 f's), S Fahy 0-2.

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, R Quigley; K Looney, R O'Mahony, A Sheehan; L Brennan; A Kavanagh; R Keane, E Looney, K O'Mahony; J Casey, M Cosgrave, N McCarthy.

Sub's: R Buckley for R Brennan (h-t), C Healy for M Cosgrave (54), C Cronin for L Hayes (55), E Mc Elhinney for R Keane (56).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; A Curtin, P Mackey, S Long; J O'Rourke, A O'Brien, L O'Regan; C Nason, E Kavanagh; G Mc Namara, J O'Mahony, S Fahy; K Mackey, C Kavanagh, J Donegan.

Subs: J Leo for S Long (h-t), R Swanton for J Donegan (50), C Olden for G Mc Namara (55).

Referee: Mike O'Kelly (Ballyhea).

June
2016

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

WHILE Cork will be happy with their victory in Kilmallock on Saturday as they captured the county's 59th provincial title, they know a lot more work needs to be done if they are to retain their All-Ireland crown.

Limerick, having defeated Cork twice already this year, went into Saturday's contest with little fear of their opponents, and to their credit they were in it until the final whistle, inexperience costing them in the end.

When the chips were down, Cork kept their composure, confidently and patiently working the ball up field to Katrina Mackey, who fired over the lead point as the game entered the sixth minute of injury time.

Not happy to sit on their narrow lead, they went at Limerick again and it was Mackey who slotted over another vital score to seal a hard-earned victory over a Limerick side over-reliant on the excellent Niamh Mulcahy.

It was close all through and neither side looked like grabbing a winner.

As the clock ticked towards 30 minutes the best chance fell to Mulcahy, who seemed to lose her nerve at a crucial stage, opting to go low with a free that would have given her side the lead for the first time in the game.

Even when Cork went two ahead, Limerick could have snatched a winner but Brieghe Corkery, who was named as player of the match, got in a vital block down to deny them a certain score.

This rallied Cork, who sensed a let-off and drove on.

Corkery was again one of Cork's stand-out players.

Busy

Her work-rate around the pitch was huge, and while she didn't get on the scoresheet, she was busy and buzzing around, ensuring that Limerick were kept on their toes watching her as she roved from full forward down the field at times, battling for possession in defence.

Cork welcomed back Aoife Murray in goal and although she didn't get much to do, her puck-outs were as always superb and ensured Cork kept the pressure on.

Free-taking was again hit-and-miss, with Cork guilty of some bad wides, but this is something Paudie Murray and his backroom team will work on and no doubt get right.

With Gemma O'Connor majestic at centre back, Cork held a firm grip in defence but up front they didn't pose any real goal threat, with the Limerick goalkeeper Clara Keating never really troubled.

The main talking point of the game was the seven minutes' injury time played.

Rebels made to work for Munster title



Ashling Thompson of Cork comes under close attention from Karen O'Leary of Limerick in the Munster Senior Championship Camogie Final in Kilmallock.

Pictures: Gareth Williams/Press 22

Limerick mentors and supporters were furious with referee Martin O'Shea afterwards, and they let him know in no uncertain terms what their thoughts were.

To be fair, there were a few stoppages, but seven minutes did seem a lot, while his insistence on not allowing the advantage rule was another thing that upset both camps.

Cork have done a lot of intense training in recent weeks and no doubt it's now full steam ahead for the championship, with Waterford first on the agenda on June 18.



Action from Cork's Munster Senior Championship Camogie Final against Limerick in Kilmallock.

Murray: We have a lot to do before championship

MUNSTER CAMOGIE

CORK 0-12
LIMERICK 0-10

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

HE'S happy to have won some silverware, but Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray insists that the All-Ireland champions have a lot of work to do ahead of the championship throw-in next month.

Katrina Mackey had the final say as her two late points claimed Munster senior camogie glory for Cork in Kilmallock on Saturday.

Extra time loomed, with the

sides having shared 20 points, but two-time All-Star Mackey ensured a fourth provincial title in a row and a 59th in all.

'Over the last few years we have treated this competition seriously because, firstly, it's a knock-out and, secondly, it's only four weeks to the championship so this is ten times better than playing challenge games at this time of the year,' Murray said, before admitting that there's a lot of work to do ahead of the group stage opener against Waterford in mid-June.

'We're a long way off competing for All-Ireland titles at this

stage. We're looking to get out of the group stage. If that means finishing third, then so be it and we'll work from there.

'We have massive improvement to do. People will say that we did it last year but that doesn't necessarily mean we will do it this year. Can we show the same level of improvement as we did last year?'

In Saturday's Munster final Niamh Mulcahy had opened the scoring for Limerick, the first of eight of their total of ten. It took Cork seven minutes to open their account with a pointed free from Orla Cotter but Limerick responded through Fiona Hickey and that set the tone for most of the first half.

While Cork pushed three

clear with points from Mackey and Eimear O'Sullivan - Mackey might have had a goal too but play was brought back for a free - Chloe O'Brien and Mulcahy were on target to leave Limerick just one behind, 0-7 to 0-6, at half-time.

Enniskeane's Orla Cronin was on song early in the second half, scoring two excellent points, but Limerick couldn't be shaken off. While Mulcahy wasn't as deadly from frees as usual, she did get two more to make it a one-point game again.

Again, Cronin responded to make it 0-10 to 0-8 with ten minutes left. Limerick kept at it though and Mulcahy with a 45 and then a free tied matters. Cork had chances go abeg-



Forward thinking: Cork's Orla Cronin, from Ballineen, scored 0-3 against Limerick in last Saturday's Munster final.

ging as the game moved into injury time, but when it mattered Mackey had her shooting sights set.

There was also West Cork interest in Bantry Blues' Libby Coppinger, who played her second game for the Rebels.

'We want to give her a run. All I am looking for is a step forward in every game and if

she does that she won't be far off it. She's after two games and hasn't done anything wrong so we're happy enough,' Murray said.

Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 0-5 (4f); O Cronin, K Mackey 0-3 each; E O'Sullivan 0-1. Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-8 (5f, 245); F Hickey, C O'Brien 0-1 each.

Latest trend to sweep the game



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE furore over the sweeper system deployed in the game in Thurles last Sunday surprised me.

If Cork had managed the system well and had given Tipperary a test, would it have drawn so much attention? I think not.

Yet, I'm glad that it did, because, from a camogie point of view, I've been negative about it over the past number of weeks. It was only last Saturday that I wrote: "I have concerns about the poor scoring return in many senior championship games now. With teams playing so defensively, we've had dismal scoring".

Camogie often mirrors whatever developments/trends or styles are hot in hurling. The amount of female inter-county teams playing the sweeper system against Cork is alarming.

I call it alarming, because none of them have mastered it. Not only are they pulling out a forward to play as a sweeper, but many teams, such as Tipp, pull out an additional two forwards to crowd midfield. I find it mind-boggling to look up the field and see two or three forwards on six Cork defenders. I say that you have to attack a game to win it.

The Cork girls have it mastered. The back-six hold their positions, but, instead of pumping the ball up the field to the free player and crowded attack, they run with it, draw the opposition, and create overlaps and, thereby, space, with fast and accurate distribution.

Many of the post-hurling match analysts were right; the above system requires huge work rate.

But it also needs high levels of movement off the ball. It isn't an easy system to master.

Cork got it right towards the latter part of 2014. With a number of retirements in 2015, they were at sixes and sevens, again, throughout the league and the early-championship stages. Slow to deliver the ball, they were often dispossessed by taking it too far, and up against hardworking opposi-



The Courcey Rovers team that impressed in a league win over St Catherine's last weekend. They're now into the decider against Inniscarra, who got the better of Douglas in the other semi-final.

tion. Often, the over-carrying further back the field was due to a lack of options from a relatively new forward division that was too static. But in plenty of games, they got it right, winning their second All-Ireland title last September.

I'm amazed that teams are persisting with this: Firstly, because they don't have players like Padraic Maher or Gemma O'Connor to dominate when they, by default, also become sweepers, and, secondly, because they don't have the capability to score from greater than 50 metres.

Last Sunday, the hurlers' biggest downfall was, at times, rushing the clearance into the man they had left free, or into the open space. Sweepers can read a game well and they'll always be in that open space.

I missed the Munster camogie final, between Cork and Limerick, due to a family communion. I was surprised

that the game was so close. The feedback I've received is that Cork hit a significant number of wides, particularly in the opening half. Limerick felt hard-done-by because of the six minutes' additional time.

But the game was a draw at normal time and Limerick never led during the additional time, so it's not as if they were caught in the sixth minute by a winning Cork point. Maybe they felt extra-time, at the sixty-minute mark, would have suited them best. One has to compliment their progress this season.

There was something different about them, throughout the league, and they've carried it forward. They have belief, even when they take on the likes of Cork.

Belief goes a long way. I still don't believe they'll reach an All-Ireland final, but any side would be foolish to underestimate them.

As with most sides, Limerick begin their campaign on June 18, with an away game to Wexford.

That'll be an interesting one. They follow it up at home to Waterford, away to Clare, home to Offaly, and away to Cork on July 16.

I was sorry to hear of the passing of Joe McDonagh last week. Joe was GAA president from 1997 through to 2000. We won two All-Ireland senior camogie titles during that time and Joe was a very strong supporter of the game. I met him on a few occasions. He was very charismatic, a lovely man.

He had great presence and you could listen to him for hours.

Joe was also CEO of Foras na Gaeilge. Under his leadership and support, they sponsored the All-Ireland senior camogie championships for several years, including in 2004, our centenary year.

He will be missed by many.

St Catherine's cruise past Rovers to set up league decider against Inniscarra

Courcey Rovers 3-16
St Catherine's 0-17

CAMOGIE

■ Shirley Moloney

A HIGHLY-ENTERTAINING game was served up in this league semi-final decider between hosts Courcey Rovers and St Catherine's on a fine sod in Ballinspittle last night.

It was Courceys who got out of the blocks the quickest when they racked up four unanswered points inside the opening seven minutes. Linda Collins proved to be a handful

for Catherine's full-back Carolyn Motherway racking up 1-6 over the course of the hour. With Ashling Moloney marshalling a tight Courcey defence from centre back it took St Catherine's nine minutes to register their first score through a placed ball from Orla Cotter.

On the quarter mark Finola Neville picked off a fine effort

from a tight angle, quickly followed by an Aoife Hurley point.

With 18 minutes on the clock Courceys struck for the first of three goals when the lively Julie Mulcahy latched on to a long-range clearance. Catherine's were rewarded with three hard-earned points inside the last 10 minutes of the first half through Neville to leave the half-time score 1-09 to 0-6.

Inside the opening minute of the second-half Catherine's

had two points on the board through the hardworking duo of Neville and Cotter. Courceys second goal came after a Collins goal-bound effort was half blocked on the line and fumbled over by the keeper, however, Catherine's quickly responded with a point from Michelle Tobin.

In the 35th minute after a searching long range ball was delivered into the square by Collins, the keeper collected but was quickly relieved of the ball with a deft flick from op-

portunist forward Sara Hayes. With Crowley unerring from frees, and the hard working Saoirse McCarthy impressing at centre-field, the hosts closed out the game with eight points to spare to book a place against Inniscarra, who overcame Douglas in the other semi-final.

Scorers for Courcey Rovers: L. Collins 1-06, J. Mulcahy 1-01, S. Hayes, 1-01, J. Crowley 0-07 (0-02f, 0-01 45), S. McCarthy 0-01

ST CATHERINE'S: F. Neville 0-06, O. Cotter 0-05 (0-04f), A. Hurley 0-02, F. Noonan, M. Tobin, R.

O'Callaghan, J. O'Keefe 0-01 each.
COURCEY ROVERS: C. Duggan, E. O'Regan, K. Keohane, C. Mulcahy, O. Twomey, A. Moloney, E. Moloney, J. Crowley, S. McCarthy, C. O'Neill, C. Hayes, R. Crowley, S. O'Reilly, L. Collins, J. Mulcahy.

Subs: G. Hannon for R. Crowley, S. Hayes for S. O'Reilly (half time), A. O'Reilly for C. O'Neill (45 mins).

St Catherine's: F. Noonan, AM. Rohan, C. Motherway, Y. O'Neill, M. O'Regan, E. Ronayne, M. O'Keefe, O. Neville, O. Cotter, M. Tobin, F. Neville, L. Hayes, E. Walsh, R. O'Callaghan, A. Hurley.

Subs: E. O'Keefe for M. Tobin (40 mins), J. O'Keefe for E. Walsh (45 mins).

Referee: Cathal Egan, Glen Rovers.

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Holy Cross, who beat Sunday's Well to win the Allianz Roinn C Urban title at Pairc Ui Rinn, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan

McCarthy gets hat-trick as Holy Cross beat Sunday's Well to claim Roinn C Urban title

Holy Cross 3-3
Sunday's Well 1-0

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

AFTER a close and exciting encounter, Holy Cross, Mahon, claimed the Allianz Roinn C Urban title yesterday, at Pairc Ui Rinn.

Ciaira McCarthy was the hero for her team, scoring three great goals in the second-half, to complete a memorable hat-trick.

The first-half was close, with both teams battling hard. Emily Peyton, Ali White, Mogan Turner, and Mary Coffey impressed for Sunday's Well, while Chelsea Delaney, Tamara Geasley, Natalie Collins, and Ciara McCarthy stood out for Holy Cross.

It took 14 minutes for the game's first score. Sophie Burns struck to the back of the net to give Sunday's Well the lead.

However, Holy Cross closed the gap to just a point, before the break, with two well-taken points, from frees scored by Geasley.

It was 1-0 to 0-2 at the break, in favour of Sunday's Well.

In the second-half, as the

heat got to some players and with the exit of Sunday's Well key player, Emily Peyton, due to injury, Holy Cross drove on and finished comfortably. With a hat-trick of goals from Ciara McCarthy, and with another point from Geasley, Holy Cross won by 2-3 to claim the title.

Scorers for Holy Cross: C McCarthy 3-0, T Geasley 0-3

Sunday's Well: S Burns 1-0

HOLY CROSS: Holy Cross: L Scannell, S Olanrewaju, C McCarthy, B Raub, C Delaney, A Agoro, T Geasley, N Collins, E Hurley, D O'Reilly, N Ansbro-Daly, C Hogan, K Hogan, M O'Donovan, J Hogan, R Gough, S White, C Nugent, A Santry, M Keenan, J Dondolo.

SUNDAY'S WELL: E O'Driscoll, S Burns, M Paszkiewicz, A White, C Seery, C O'Donovan, E O'Driscoll, S T Chi, E Peyton, A Rodriguez, E O'Callaghan, K Lane, D Burlagadatan, L Walsh, H Kidney, M Turner, M Coffey.

Referee: D Horgan (St Patrick's).

Riverstown double it up



Double win for Riverstown. Roinn C2 winners, Amy McNamara and Cliona Lynch and Roinn H2 winners, Conor Healy and Adam Finn, all Riverstown, with the trophies. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Riverstown 6-5
Bunscoil Youghal 1-1

Sciath na Scol

Barbara O'Connell

IT was double celebrations for Scoil Iosaf, Riverstown as the girls claimed the Allianz Roinn C2 title at Pairc Ui Rinn yesterday with a win over Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal.

The boys had earlier secured victory over Bishopstown.

Scoil Iosaf proved too strong for Bunscoil Mhuire as they lead by 4-3 to 0-0 at the break dominating the majority of possession. Cliona Lynch and Saoirse Desmond excelled in the midfield area scoring 1-3 between them. Other scorers were Lauren Murphy and Tara Elliott with a goal a piece.

Saoirse Desmond opened the scoring with a beautiful strike over the bar followed by a bullet to the back of the net from a tight angle scored by Lynch.

This widened the gap to 5-4 to no score. Great credit to Bunscoil Mhuire who never gave up with Kate McCarthy, Eimear O'Regan, Cassie Irwin, Vicky Machie and Aisling Kenneally working very hard and were rewarded with a superb goal scored by Emma Delaney to put her side on the scoreboard for the first time.

Riverstown managed to get further scores with Lynch scoring 2-1 which

widened the gap once again.

However it was Bunscoil who finished the stronger side.

A lovely strike over the bar from Avril Cashman was followed by a real team effort from the Youghal side who battled hard to the end.

Although Bunscoil enjoyed the majority of possession in the final few minutes they left it a little too late and Riverstown secured a deserved victory.

Scorers for Riverstown: C Lynch 4-2, L Murphy and T Elliott 1-0, S Desmond 0-3.

Bunscoil Youghal: E Delaney 1-0, A Cashman 0-1.

RIVERSTOWN: C Byrne, Z Callanan, E O'Brien, C Galvin, A McNamara, O Roche, S Desmond, E Twomey, C Lynch, E McMahon, L Murphy, T Elliott, M Murphy, Eve Hogan, Emily Hogan, K Elliott, K Hackett, A Brennan, C O'Mahony, G Seaward, A Barry, R Leahy, L McGarry, A O'Driscoll.

BS MHUIRE: E O'Regan, A White, K McCarthy, V Machie, C Irwin, C Hanna, Avril Cashman, Alex Cashman, S Kilgannon, E Delaney, A Kenneally, E Ahearn, H Stock, L Hayes, J Kelly, N Kilgannon, N Golebiewski, M Joshy, C Malone, N Delaney, E Joyce, M Kelly, L Cooper, R R Bullard, C Delaney, J Coleman.

Referee: C O'Callaghan (Summercove).



Saoirse Desmond, Riverstown gets her shot away. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Sunday's Well GNS fill their goal against Holy Cross in their Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí oinn C Urban Camogie final at Pairc Ui Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Riverstown, celebrate after the game against, Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Berrings girls are on the ball



Berrings celebrate their win against Scartleigh at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Berrings | 3-4 |
| Scartleigh | 0-0 |

BERRINGS proved a little too strong for Scartleigh as they claimed the Allianz Roinn DC3 title yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Berrings opened the scoring after eight minutes when Aobha Dromey struck over from a tight angle. They should have widened the gap even further when Claire Horgan blasted her shot towards goal however her shot was excellently blocked by the impressive Kate O'Brien.

Berrings continued to put a lot of pressure on the Scartleigh defence in the opening ten minutes with Horgan, Fiona O'Reilly and Niamh Dinan looking dangerous however Scartleigh's Rachel Leahy and Kate O'Brien did superbly to break down every attack.

Berrings did manage to double their lead when a long range effort was put over by Fiona O'Reilly. This was followed with a goal scored by Julie Lyons and a point from Claire Horgan to give Berrings a 1-3 to no score lead at the break.

Berrings started the second half as they finished the first on the attack right from the whistle. Their lead was extended with a goal by Deirde Foley. Scartleigh continued to battle hard with Niamh Codd and Ashling Geary getting more involved



Sciath na Scol

Barbara O'Connell

however solid defending by Berrings' Lena Daly and Niamh McSweeney denied Scartleigh from getting on the scoresheet. At the other end Berrings continued to put pressure on with Fiona O'Reilly showing great skill however excellent defending by Kate O'Brien denied her.

A point and a goal from O'Reilly and Katelyn McSweeney respectively finished the scoring giving Berrings a well deserved victory.

Scorers for Berrings: D Foley, J Lyons and K McSweeney 1-0, F O'Reilly 0-2, C Horgan and A Dromey 0-1 each.

Scartleigh: H Whalley, C Fitzgibbon, K O'Brien, S O'Connor, A Geary, N Codd, I Barry, R Leahy, K Smith, E O'Driscoll, R O'Sullivan, S Murphy, R O'Callaghan, M Murphy, K Curtin, S O'Driscoll, C Dawson Bennett, A Murphy, A Lee, E Ryan, E Hennessy, B Smith, S Whyte, S Killen.

Berrings: L Murphy, K Horgan, C O'Connell, A Ring, L Daly, N McSweeney, A Brislane, K Kempa, A Dromey, C Horgan, F O'Reilly, D Foley, N Dinan, E Bourke, J Lyons, S Somers, R Wood, K McSweeney, E Hughes, O O'Donoghue, M Kempa, A Whelton, T Hayes, K O'Keefe, L Buckley, L Murray, M O'Connell, A Cormack, L Morley and S Grimes.

Referee: A McSweeney (Sunday's Well).



Niamh McSweeney and Rachel O'Sullivan tussle for possession.



Julie Lyons, Berrings, tries to block Kate O'Brien, Scartleigh.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

June 2016



Bunscoil Chríost Rí players celebrate their victory in the C4 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane

Chríost Rí secure camogie title after hard-fought victory over Ballinora

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Bunscoil Chríost Rí | 3-3 |
| Ballinora | 2-2 |

SCIATH NA SCOL

Bunscoil Chríost Rí had a hard fought victory over the girls from Ballinora to win the C4 Allianz Sciath na Scol Camogie Final at CIT.

It was only in the final ten minutes that the Turner's Cross girls wrapped up this game scoring 1-2 without reply in the closing stages.

Meabh Murphy played an outstanding game for Ballinora getting all their scores, while Olivia Gibson gave an excellent performance for the winners and finished as their top scorer with 2-2.

Murphy put Ballinora ahead inside the opening minute with a point but Gibson levelled two minutes later, having hit two wides previously one after an excellent solo run and the other from a side line cut. On 10 minutes, Orla O'Leary gathered a long ball from Gibson turned her opponent and found the net.

Murphy showed her skills from the placed ball striking a wonderful point from distance before repeating the exercise a minute later but this time the sliotar was in the net to leave her side 1-2 to 1-1 ahead after 13 minutes a lead they held to half time.

Gibson had to retire shortly

after with a hand injury and her side began to lose their grip on the game before she returned for the second half.

Ciara Hurley was marshalling the Chríost Rí defence to keep them in the game as Ballinora hit four wides in the opening eight minutes of the second half.

Ten minutes into the second half, there was a three goal blitz.

Sophie Cotter played Gibson in for a goal, but Ballinora responded with a Murphy goal from the edge of the square.

A Cotter goal bound effort was blocked on the line but Gibson hit the rebound into the net to put Chríost Rí two points in front. The Turner's Cross girls finished the stronger, with points from Gibson and Megan Murphy making the game safe.

Scorers Bunscoil Chríost Rí: O Gibson 2-2, O O'Leary 1-0, M Murphy 0-1.

Ballinora: M Murphy 2-2.

Bunscoil Chríost Rí: C Cambridge, S Purcell, E Fitzgerald, K O'Connor, S Murphy, C Hurley, S Mealy, Z Waters, O Gibson, S Cotter, M Murphy, A Byrne, O'Riordan, J Sampson, K Twohig, O O'Leary, D Meenan, P Cassels.

Ballinora: K Farrell, E Keohane, E O'Donoghue, J Doyle, K O'Riordan, A O'Driscoll, M Murphy, G Lenihan, E Mahigan, E Shinnick, S Treacy, C Buttner, E Wolfe, E Murphy, C O'Brien, H Murphy.

Referee: Cathal Ó Murchú (Carrigrohilla BNS).



Bunscoil Chríost Rí's Olivia Gibson trying to block down a clearance by Scoil Bhailenóra's Ellen Keohane in the C4 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane

June
2016



Kilbrittain celebrate their win over Upper Glanmire in their Roinn DC1 Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí clash at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Murphy shows the way

Kilbrittain 2-3
Upper Glanmire 2-2

AFTER the narrowest of margins, Kilbrittain, inspired by Ellen Murphy, claimed the Allianz DC1 title with a one point victory over Upper Glanmire yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The first half was a close encounter with both teams battling hard. Kilbrittain opened the scoring with a point from Mary Butler. A moment later Ellen Murphy who was impressive throughout had a superb strike on goal but was denied through an excellent save from Olivia McCarthy.

Upper Glanmire were a threat going forward with Olivia McAllen and Lily O'Riordan in fine form however excellent defending by Kate O'Neill and Etain Coughlan kept them at bay. Olivia McAllen did level terms when she pointed over from a free however it was Kilbrit-



Sciath na Scol

Barbara O'Connell

tain who took the lead at the break when Ellen Murphy blasted to the back of the net to make it 1-1 to 0-1.

Ellen Murphy continued as she finished the first scoring a superb point having got at the end of a lovely ball sent in by Kate O'Neill. Cashman got the next point to close the gap to a goal. Olivia McAllen levelled terms at 1-2 a piece however it was Ellen Murphy who blasted over to put Kilbrittain in the lead again. From here Kilbrittain pushed on and widened the gap with a well worked goal from Nicola Tuthill with four points now separating the sides. Upper Glanmire did manage to score a goal through Gaby Cashman in



Ciara Moore, Kilbrittain, in action against Upper Glanmire. Picture: Jim Coughlan

the final minute however it was a little too late and Kilbrittain secured the one point victory.

Scorers for Kilbrittain: E Murphy 1-2, N Tuthill 1-0, M Butler 0-1.

Upper Glanmire: O McAllen and G Cashman 1-1 Upper Glanmire: O McCarthy, E Kelleher, J Kelleher, M Lynam, L Kelleher, A McAllen, P Cronin, G Cashman, L O'Riordan, A O'Connell, O McAllen, O Kiely, A O'Sullivan, A Cashman, C McCormack, E Collins, O McNally, Y Magabill, R Ahern, E Murphy, A Coughlan, C Millard, J Murphy.

Kilbrittain: C McCarthy, D Gailigan, K O'Neill, E Burke, C Crowley, C Moore, N Tuthill, R Butler, E Nagle, K Ryan, E Murphy, C Hogan, E Butler, E Hayes, N Lacey, M Butler, I Bergin, L Quinlan, E Coughlan, L Conlon, S Walsh, A Crowley, J Sheehy, K O'Donovan.



Kilbrittain's Kate O'Neill and Caitriona Hogan with the trophies at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Courceys book their place in camogie final

Moloney, J Crowley, S McCarthy, C O'Neill, C Hayes, R Crowley, S O'Reilly, L Collins, J Mulcahy. Subs used: G Hannon for R Crowley, S Hayes for S O'Reilly (ht), A O'Reilly for C O'Neill (48). St Catherine's: F Noonan, AM Rohan, C Motherway, Y O'Neill, M O'Regan, E Ronayne, M O'Keefe, O Neville, O Cotter, M Tobin, F Neville, L Hayes, E Walsh, R O'Callaghan, A Hurley. Subs used: E O'Keefe for M Tobin (40), J O'Keefe for E Walsh (45). Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

game with eight points to spare. In the other semi-final Inniscarra overcame Douglas.

Scorers: Courcey Rovers: L Collins 1-6, J Crowley 0-7 (21, 1-45), J Mulcahy 1-1, S Hayes 1-1, S McCarthy 0-1. St Catherine's: F Neville 0-6, O Cotter 0-5 (41), A Hurley 0-2, F Noonan, M Tobin, R O'Callaghan, J O'Keefe 0-1 each. Courcey Rovers: C Duggan, E O'Regan, K Keohane, C Mulcahy, O Twomey, A Moloney, E

range clearance, and headed goalward to rattle the back of the Catherine's net. Scores from Orla Cotter and Fiona Neville kept St Catherine's in touch, but they trailed 1-9 to 0-6 at half time.

Wednesday evening last (May 25th), with Linda Collins - a thorn in the side of the St Catherine's defence - in scoring form right from the start, she finished with 1-6.

With Ashling Moloney marshalling a tight Courcey defence, it took St Catherine's time to find their range. After 18 minutes Courceys struck for the first of three goals when the lively Julie Mulcahy latched on to a long-

In the second half, goals from Collins and Sara Hayes gave Courceys breathing space, and with Jacinta Crowley unerring from frees and the hard-working Saoirse McCarthy at midfield, the hosts closed out the

senior 'A' camogie final where they met Inniscarra at Castle Road on Wednesday night (too late for print deadline). It was Courceys who got out of the blocks the quickest when they racked up four unanswered points inside the opening seven minutes of this semi-final at Ballinspittle on

SENIOR A CAMOGIE LEAGUE

COURCEY ROVERS 3-16
ST CATHERINE'S 0-17

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

TWO second-half goals helped Courcey Rovers see off the challenge of St Catherine's and advance to the county league

900 girls enjoy day at Semple Stadium

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THIS time around the weather was kind as Caman to Thurles finally got up and running. The disappointment of having it postponed in April was banished as buses and cars wound their way to one of the GAA's most prestigious venues.

The whole event was under the guidance of Caroline Murray who was the main organiser with Munster development officer Kathleen Egan and both put huge work into ensuring everything went smoothly from early morning.

With 45 clubs taking part, it took a lot of pre-planning and organising to ensure clubs arrived at a scheduled time and not all converge on Semple Stadium together. It was estimated that 900 girls under 12 took part on the day.

Some clubs arrived with more than 20 players and with each playing three games they balanced it out to ensure every girl got to play on such a special day for her club.

This was a day all about participation, ensuring every girl got plenty of game time and enjoyed the whole occasion. Every club had to bring a referee and most clubs used the opportunity for their young referees to enjoy a chance of officiating in such a prestigious venue.

Proceedings got under way at 10am, the first 16 clubs having arrived at the venue at 9.30am as in advance they had been organised into four groups of four teams with each group allocated an arrival time and pitch colour where they were situated for their three games. It was a wonderful sight to see the superb surface divided into four pitches and everybody had plenty of room.

Each group of four was allocated a group coordinator who ensured everybody was ready to go at the same time. Each game was 17 minutes in duration and with no half-time break it was all go.

Matches were played under the Go Games rules and on a 12-a-side basis with continuous substitutions.

The Cork clubs that took part were Blackrock, Castle Lyons, Bride Rovers, Charleville, Millstreet, Aghada, Castlemartyr, Bishopstown, Glen Rovers, Inniscarra and Fr O'Neill's.

My own club was one of the lucky ones to be chosen and it was a superb occasion to be part of. Players really enjoying playing in Semple Stadium and being part of such a huge day for Munster camogie.

An added bonus was the glorious weather and afterwards clubs stopped off to enjoy a picnic. The superb location of Holy Cross Abbey was a popular choice and the youngsters enjoyed a fun-filled hour in the fantastic park opposite the abbey.

Tired and weary, every club headed home with memories that will last forever.

Camogie event in its fourth year

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

MAYFIELD gardai held a very pleasant function recently to launch the fourth Annual Mayfield Garda under-13 Camogie tournaments which will take place on Saturday, June 11.

Now in its fourth year the competition has gone from strength to strength so much so that clubs are now asking to be included in it as Garda John O'Driscoll explained: "The idea came to organise an event on a similar line to the John Kerins tournament which the Gardai hold each year for boys under 13.

"Our Superintendent at the time Tom Myers who is hugely involved with camogie in the Brian Dillon's club suggested we organise it for camogie and the idea took off from there.

"We met with some of the local clubs and they showed great enthusiasm for it. The first year was a learning process and we have gone on from there and to say it has been a success is an understatement."

Inaugural

The inaugural year was hosted by Brian Dillon's and it moved to Glen Rovers for year two and back to Brian Dillon's in year three.

This year the event will be back in Glen Rovers where they will host the twelve participating clubs.

Superintendent Mick Comyns himself a member of the St Finbarr's GAA Club and a cork minor football selector Club welcomed representatives from the 12 participating clubs to the launch and introduced the community gardai in attendance to the young audience their mentors and parents.

Superintendent Comyns in his address to the guests explained the thoughts behind the event the Mayfield divisional gardai have very strong links with sport in the community and gardai work closely with local clubs the idea came to organise something for youngsters and camogie was the chosen sport.

Community gardai work with young people to help them enjoy sport and to give them something to aim towards and to help them on the right path in life and they are delighted to be organising this inaugural tournament.



Back: Eimear O'Donoghue, Ballinora; Ailish Allen, Na Piaras; Maeve O'Sullivan, Carrigaline; Kelly Ronan, Brian Dillon's; Aishling McAllen, Sarsfield's; Alana O'Sullivan, Ballincollig; Emily O'Meara, Glen Rovers; Katie Lee, St Finbarr's. Front: Ailbhe Cronin, Bishopstown; Sara Daly, Blackrock; Supt Mick Comyns, Mayfield Garda District; Evelyn Nelligan, Ballinora; Kate Twomey, Douglas, in Mayfield Garda Station for the Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz Launch 2016. Picture: Derek Connolly

nising this inaugural tournament.

The feedback that the gardai have got from the clubs since the first tournament has been superb and they are looking forward to a great day's camogie in Glen Rovers GAA who will push the boat out in this their Centenary Year.

John O'Driscoll juvenile liaison gardai is one of the main organisers of the event and he outlined to everybody present what will be happening on the day.

Twelve clubs will participate and they will be divided into two groups of six, games will be 12 minutes aside and will be played under camogie rules, unlimited substitutions will be allowed the top two teams in each section will contest the semi finals.

On the day refreshments will be provided whilst it is hoped the weather will stay kind as a BBQ is being organised.

The clubs participating are Brian Dillon's, Na Piaras, Glen Rovers, Carrigaline, Douglas, Sarsfield's, Blarney, Blackrock, St Finbarr's, Bishopstown, Ballincollig and Ballinora. Garda O'Driscoll explained how the event has really taken off since the inaugural tournament.

"Such is the prestige of this camogie tournament that we now have clubs contacting us to participate, at present we have a waiting list of club in the event of anybody drooping out.

Success

"It has been huge success and we are really delighted with this. Brian Dillon's and Glen Rovers have been hugely supportive to us in their hosting of it and we have no doubt but that our day in Glen Rovers will again be a wonderful occasion."

Mary Sheehan, chairperson, Glen Rovers Camogie club, said her club is

looking forward to hosting this year's event: "We are honoured to be asked to host again this year, it is a special year for Glen Rovers.

Our hurling section celebrated 100 and of course being county hurling champions as well we are delighted to be to the fore with our Gardai who give wonderful support to Glen Rovers Camogie Club.

Our community gardai, Enda O'Dwyer, is a great friend of our club and we are looking forward to repaying all the great help they give us by putting on a good day for our eleven visiting clubs."

On the day, the gardai will bring garda horses from Dublin, the rapid response unit and the garda dogs will all be there to add the occasion.

The young players in attendance showed huge enthusiasm for the forthcoming event and it most defiantly will be a day not to be missed.

What a season – Coachford put icing on cake with treble

Coachford 3-3
Carrigaline CS 2-4

Coachford added to their Cork Colleges Senior A and Junior A titles when they recorded a narrow victory over Carrigaline CS in the First Year B final.

Playing against a strong breeze in the first half Coachford stayed in contention, thanks to excellent goalkeeping from Leah Cooney and with Emer Barry-Murphy, Sinead McSweeney and Marguerite Lyons in control they held their lines and were a point in front at the interval.

Ellen Finnegan, Aisling Gaffney and Zoe O'Herlihy were to the fore for Carrigaline but Caroline Barrett converted a free for Coachford before Caoimhe O'Shea grabbed a goal.

Carrigaline responded as Rachel Crowley converted a 45, with Aisling Gaffney added to their tally.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Carrigaline hit the front with a Rachel Crowley goal but in response Marguerite Lyons equalised before Caroline Barrett added to the tally to leave just a point between the sides. Aisling Gaffney finished to the net after Leah Cooney had made a good save. Caoimhe O'Shea struck for a goal to edge her side ahead.

Strong

With five minutes remaining Aisling Gaffney won a penalty but strong defending denied Carrigaline. Coachford then swept up field and it was team captain Caroline Barrett who showed leadership as she got past three defenders to finish the ball to the net.

Carrigaline converted two frees as they chased the title but Coachford held on to record a two point victory to add to their impressive collection as the school year grinds to a close.

The season has been a superb one for Coachford College and the hard work going on in the local clubs is being carried on in the college. Three titles in the same season sums up the huge commitment, dedication and determination of all concerned. They should be hugely proud of all they have achieved.

Scorers for Coachford: C O'Shea 2-0, C Barrett 1-2; M Lyons 0-1; Carrigaline: Rachel Crowley 1-4, A Gaffney 1-0.

COACHFORD: L Cooney, E Barry Murphy, S Mc Sweeney, M Lyons [0-1], R Martin, M Twomey, B Cotter, C Barrett, C O'Shea, A O'Riordan, M Barrett, E Foley, L Casey, A Desmond, K Noonan, K Condon, J Cotter, H Roche, E O'Sullivan, E Doyle, A McCarthy.

CARRIGALINE CS: E Herlihy, E Dwane, K Dorney, C McCarthy, C O'Sullivan, M Moe, A Gaffney, A O'Regan, R Crowley, E Finnegan, Z O'Herlihy, S Farrelly, C O'Donovan, A Doyle, I Daly, F Kenny.

Blackrock edge it late on in a classy final

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Blackrock 0-15
Enniskeane 2-8
(after extra time)

WITH thunder, lightning and torrential rain to contend with at times, Blackrock and Enniskeane served up a tremendous Intermediate league final last Sunday in Castle Road.

It was nip and tuck all through as both sides battled to gain the edge and it took extra time and a point from Katelyn Hickey deep into added time of extra time to give Blackrock the title, their first at this level since the clubs reformed.

It was level pegging inside 10 minutes of the throw-in Grace Mulqueen with one and Katelyn Hickey with two free kept Blackrock in touch, Rochelle Scannell hit two for Enniskeane and with Orla Cronin also on target the sides were deadlocked.

Danielle Curtin finished to the net to give Enniskeane the momentum and with Orla Coughlan pointing they led 1-5 to 0-5 at the break.

Rochelle Scannell stretched Enniskeane's lead with an early second-half point but Blackrock tore into the game and six unanswered points from Katelyn Hickey put them in control. Enniskeane rallied with an Orla Cronin pointed free, and with seven minutes remaining Siobhan O'Driscoll finished to the net to edge he side in front.

Both sides worked hard and with two minutes on the stop-watch Aine Kearney had Blackrock level and extra time loomed as it ended Blackrock 0-13 Enniskeane 2-7.

Tiredness began to creep in as the sides resumed battle. Megan O'Regan denied Blackrock with an excellent save but with Kaitlin Hickey converting a free Blackrock led at the break in extra time.

Scores were scarce as the second period of extra time Orla Cronin had Enniskeane on level with a pointed free before they missed a chance to take the lead. Just when it looked as if would take a reply to decide the outcome Haley Ryan delivered a perfect hand pass to the Katelyn Hickey who converted to seal victory for Blackrock.

Scorers for Blackrock: K Hickey 0-12, A Kearney 0-2, G Mulqueen 0-1.
Enniskeane: O Cronin 0-4, S O'Driscoll, D Carroll 0-2 each, R Scannell, O Coughlan 0-2 each.

BLACKROCK: C Coughlan; T Cummins, C Ryan, S Hennessey, M Murphy, R de Facio, A MacCurtain; A O'Farrell, K O'Brien (c); H Ryan, K Hickey, A Kearney; S Carroll, G Mulqueen; M Moynihan.

Subs: A Hurley for S Hennessey, S Cunniff for M Murphy, M Brennan for S Carroll, E Ahern for M Moynihan.

ENNISKEANE: M O'Regan, A Crowley, D Carroll, A Everard; S Curtin, C O'Mahony, C O'Donovan, O Cronin, S O'Driscoll, C O'Donovan, O Coughlan (c), R Scannell; D Curtin, K Buttner, L Duggan.

Referee: Dave O'Connell (Mallow).

600 battle it out in Mallow blitz

A TOTAL of 20 U14 teams, representing nine counties, will participate in a competition today in Mallow which commemorates the memory of the late James Hurley who was a former chairperson of the Cork Colleges committee.

The competition is eagerly looked forward to by young players and is now in its 17th year. James Hurley was Cork Colleges chairman and came up with the idea to organise a blitz competition, inviting teams from other counties to participate.

Sadly James passed away just 12 months after the first blitz had been held in 1999 and it was such a success his colleagues in Cork colleges led by his good friend and teaching colleague Rob Lotty decided to honour his memory and name the competition after their former chairman.

Each year the event invariably signals the start of the school break for secondary school players and it has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration.

The trophy which the sides will compete for in the main competition was presented to the colleges by the Hurley family and it commemorates a wonderful worker for colleges camogie who was a teacher in St Aloysius Shanahan Crawford Street at the time of his death.

From little acorns have grown big trees and this is very much the case with this competition, such is the growth in participation that most of the counties participating now send more than one team. Cork, Clare and Dublin have three teams, Galway, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Limerick, and Waterford each field two sides, whilst Offaly will send one team.

Teams will also participate for the James Hurley plate and a shield competition is also run off.

With such a huge volume of teams and games there is more than one venue Mallow GAA, Mallow School and Mallow Town Park are the three venues with games getting underway in all at 10am.

With weather conditions promising to be favourable, a trip to Mallow is well worthwhile.

Games will be played on a round robin series and during the day with so games going on there will be little or no breaks to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Banteer cap their remarkable journey with an A title

Banteer 2-6
Na Piarasigh 1-8

IN what is a superb achievement for the Banteer they took the Junior A league title just two years after annexing the C championship and league titles.

Last season they were champions in the B grade in championship and league and they have continued their astonishing progress as they now sit atop the Junior A grade after taking their first league title in the grade.

Karen O'Keefe and Lisa Howard had points to give Banteer an early lead and Rosie Twohig stretched their advantage with a goal as they set a lightening pace in the opening quarter. Na Piarasigh got on the score sheet with points from Trisha Coleman and Orla Connolly and settling into the game they hit three points without reply to get back on level after a shaky start.



The Kilbree U14 camogie team who played Tracton recently.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Over 600 girls will participate and all are eagerly looking forward to a great day's camogie. Games commence at 10am and run through the day. It promises to be an exciting day for the future stars of camogie.

Cork A Panel:

(St Finbar's) Lisa O'Riordan (Glen Rovers), Aine Mullins (Sarsfields), Aine O'Driscoll (Killeagh), Ali Smith (Midleton) Alma Jones (Charleville), Aoibhe O'Brien (Eire Og), Ciara Irwin (Sarsfields), Claire Kingston (Ballinacorney), Claudia Keane (Inniscarra), Cliona Dooley (Ballinora), Cliona O'Leary (Ballygarvan).

Clodagh Finn (Fr O'Neill's), Elena Keller (Killeagh), Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), Isobel Sheehan (Eire Og), Kaitlyn Dineen (Kilbrittan/Timoleague), Maeve Kelly (Eire Og), Nikki Barry (Sarsfields), Rose Murphy (Ballinora), Siobhan O'Donovan (Courcey Rovers), Ciara Sheehan (Eire Og), Eabha O'Mahony (Ballinacorney), Zara Bowles (Castlemartyr).

Cork B Panel:

Caomhe Buckley (Inniscarra), Anne Cremin-Butler (Ballinacorney), Brid Cotter (Aghabullogue), Caitlin O'Brien (Charleville), Caroline Barrett (Aghabullogue), Ciara Beechiner (Eire Og), Clodagh Mulholland (Castlemartyr), Eabha Walsh (Youghal), Ella Foley (Aghabullogue), Jennifer Whelan (Rockban), Kaela O'Driscoll (Ballinacorney), Kate Dorney (Ballygarvan), Kate O'Shea (Ballinora), Kathleen O'Reilly (Charleville), Leah Dineen (Aghabullogue), Marguerite Lyons (Inniscarra), Niamh O'Regan (St Car-

therine's), Rachel Crowley (Ballygarvan), Rebecca Sheehan (Eire Og), Sinead Lyons (Ballygarvan), Sinead O'Donnell (Newtownshandrum), Tara McCarthy (Glen Rovers), Rachel O'Gorman (Sarsfields), Sarah O'Keefe (Ballinora).

Cork C Panel:

Ellen Maguire (Courcey Rovers), Aisling Gaffney (Carrigaline), Aisling Hegarty (Blackrock), Aisling Walsh (Douglas), Alison Bell (Tracton) Anna Flynn (Ballinacorney), Anna Lucey (Blackrock), Anne Golden (Blackrock), Annie Condon (Ballinacorney), Aoife Casey (Blackrock) Ava O'Regan (Sarsfields), Ciara Harty (Ballyhea), Daire O'Brien (Enniskeane), Ella Woods (Sarsfields), Emma Good (Tracton), Kate Liddy (Charleville), Katie Bowen (Carrigaline), Keira Cooney (Aghabullogue), Mairead Crowley (Kilbree), Mary Leahy (Aghada), Megan Lehan (Millstreet), Robyn Martin (Aghabullogue), Sarah Roche (Killeagh), Amy O'Herlity (St Finbar's), Lucy Desmond (Inniscarra), Clara Sheehy Newtownshandrum.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Leona Crowley pointed two frees and Orla Connolly adding one from play but it was Banteer that finished the half stronger to lead by two points Aine Cott and Gemma Cashman edging them into a 1-4 to 0-5 half time lead. Leona Crowley pointed a 45 to bring Na Piarasigh to within a point but Banteer stood strong as they held on for life to their advantage despite Na Piarasigh being on top. Eleanor Twohig and Leona Crowley exchanged points before Banteer stretched it to two points with a Gemma Cashman point after good work from Aine Cott.

Na Piarasigh kept working away and they hit the front for the first time in the game when Leona Crowley sent the ball to the net but the lead was short-lived as Linda Dunlea connected first time on a

dropping long-range free to the net to restore Banteer advantage.

Banteer were clinging to a two-point lead as Piarasigh giving it everything won a close in free deep in injury time keeper Amy Lee came out to have a go but her effort glanced narrowly over the crossbar.

Scorers for Banteer: R Twohig, L Dunlea 1-0 each, G Cashman 0-2, K O'Keefe, L Howard, A Cott, E Twohig, 0-1 each.

Na Piarasigh: L Crowley 1-4 (1-0, 0-2, 0-2, 0-2), O Connolly 0-2, Coleman, A Lee (0-1 each).

BANTEER: I Vaughan, Y Coleman, E Murphy, E Donovan, A Foley, K O'Donoghue, O Roche, M Twohig, G Cashman, U Twohig, A Cott, E Twohig, K O'Keefe, R Twohig, L Howard.

Subs: L Dunlea for Y Coleman (25), M Buckley for L Howard (37), V Withers for K O'Keefe (50).

NA PIARASIGH: A Lee, H Fitton, S Warren, S O'Donovan, L Twohig, O Bourke, E Buckley, R Rourke, N Kelly, G Buckley, O Connolly, T Coleman, L Crowley, E Buckley, A O'Sullivan.

Subs: V O'Connor for R Rourke (16), K O'Donovan for C Buckley (37), S Roche for L Crowley (58).

Fixture list leaves little room for clubs



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

PREVIEWING the inter-county senior championship fixtures during the week I wondered not for the first time how in God's name our clubs are going to see any activity throughout the summer months.

What a hectic schedule Paudie Murray has as manager of both Cork's senior and intermediate squads. Ten weeks ends on the trot he faces if both teams advance to the semi-finals, and there is every chance of them doing so.

The only weekend where there might be a chance of a break is if the seniors top their group and avoid a quarter-final play-off. If they are placed second, then they'll have that playoff on July 30th.

The senior championship starts on June 18th, the intermediate July 2nd. On July 2nd and the 9th both sides are in action. The first date sees them both enjoying home advantage which always brings a sigh of relief to the management team.

The 9th however sees the seniors away to Wexford while the intermediates travel to Meath. That's a nightmare. Wexford will prove a handful at home and Paudie will want his full squad available to him. However, many of the squad are eligible for the intermediate side so to keep them would deny the second tier side key players and risk dropping points.

Back to our club scene however. Below are the fixtures for both championship sides.

Cork Seniors

- Sat 18th June: Waterford v Cork
- Sat 25th June: Cork v Clare
- Sat 2nd July: Cork v Offaly
- Sat 9th July: Wexford v Cork
- Sat 16th July: Cork v Limerick
- Sat 30th July: Quarter-finals
- Sat 13th Aug: Semi-finals
- Sun 11th Sept: All-Ireland final
- Cork Intermediates:
- Sat 2nd July: Cork v Kildare
- Sat 9th July: Meath v Cork
- Sat 23rd July: Galway v Cork
- Sat 6th Aug: Cork v Down
- Sat 20th Aug: Semi-finals
- Sun 11th Sept: All-Ireland final

To be fair Paudie has informed the board that he has no problem releasing any player outside of his named 20 to play with their clubs, however that still won't fix the issue.

Any of those players not named on the senior twenty will of course be lining out with the intermediates so that significantly narrows the opening. It only takes one player to hold up two clubs. In the above scenario and the off chance that two clubs could go ahead and play it could mean the board giving notice of the fixture at the eleventh hour.

Of course 'provisional dates' could be put on games and have it a case of 'let's wait and see' but that's almost a worse position to be in. Your training regime is geared towards a particular



Finola Neville of St Catherine's being tackled by Ashling Moloney of Courcsey Rovers, along with Clara Mulcahy and Edel Moloney, in the recent league semi-final, which Courcseys won.



Rena Buckley, Cork, celebrates with her Inniscarra U10 club members after the Munster final win over Limerick. Picture: Gareth Williams/Press 22

date and it genuinely does throw things well off course if that game is postponed.

Light training has been a waste of a week and your preparation is up and down. In addition, you have management and players trying to take a holiday break, planning their vacation around match dates, only for the re-fixture to now clash.

So what's the answer? Our clubs are suffering year after year.

We are losing players to other sports, or worse still, to nothing. It gets harder and harder to keep the girls motivated. Many of them drop off as the season drags out.

I'll ask the question - what's more important? Do we as a county have to have an inter-county team represented at every level?

Or should we be happy with U16, minor and senior? I kept in U16 as I believe that is a necessity for players' minor days ahead.

I totally understand and appreciate the pride in the opportunity for the player, not making the senior squad, to wear the Cork jersey at intermediate level and represent their county. I'm not taking away from that and what it means at all.

But something's gotta give.

It doesn't have to be all about winning inter-county titles. Those that have the opportunity of doing so are in the minority.

There's a far greater number of players being let down. This isn't me having a go at our county board by the way. They have to deal with the fixtures headache year after year.

"It doesn't have to be all about winning at inter-county. Those are in the minority."

Taking just this season and the fixtures above, not having an intermediate squad would free up three weeks July - August if the seniors top their group.

That is a significant amount of time. All club first rounds and back doors could be run off. And if the senior manager agreed to release all players outside their named twenty then that would free up greater time again.

I'm not saying it's the answer. It's a big call to make.

But it is something that should possibly be opened to a wider member discussion and thereafter, decision. The ordinary club player upon which lays the strength of our organisation needs to be heard.

They need to be more than just an afterthought.

Cobh hold off a late rally from Ballincollig

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Cobh | 4-7 |
| Ballincollig | 2-8 |

COBH and Ballincollig battled it out under glorious summer sunshine in Castle Road on Monday evening in a bid to annex the Junior B league title.

Earlier, in the round robin part of the series, the sides met with victory going to Cobh and this time out Ballincollig were determined to give it their all in a bid to overturn that result.

A close opening half saw Cobh lead at the interval by two points 1-6 to 1-4.

The crucial score, a goal, came on the stroke of half-time as Cobh battled to get to grips with a Ballincollig side determined to put them under pressure.

Cobh settled early though with Kate Ronan and Aileen Tallon pointing.

Olivia O'Leary replied with two for Ballincollig before Katelyn Quinlan edged Cobh back into the lead.

Olivia O'Leary grabbed the game's opening goal to put Ballincollig back in front but Cobh worked hard and Kate Ronan with two points had them on level.

Ballincollig dug deep Olivia O'Leary and Mia Cronin edged them two clear before Ronan struck for the goal that sent Cobh to the dressing room leading.

On the resumption Ballincollig again cut the deficit and got them on level Lauren Cooper pointed a free before Kate Greene added a second point from play.

Cobh's response was superb Chloe Smith struck for two goals as her side pushed to put the game beyond brave Ballincollig girls.

Erica Field added a point before Chloe Smith grabbed her third goal.

Now with a mountain to climb, Ballincollig needed a response.

Olivia O'Leary added a point before finishing to the net.

Claire Ryan again converted a placed ball but the rally came too late as Cobh with their second half goal blitz had done enough to take the title.

Scorers for Cobh: C Smith 3-0, K Ronan 1-3 K Quinlan 0-2 (0-1 45, 0-1 6), E Field, A Tallon 0-1 each.

Ballincollig: O O'Leary 2-3 C Ryan 0-2, O, M Cronin, K Greene, L Cooper 0-1 each.

COBH: N O'Sullivan, A Richardson, M Moyrhan, R Edmunds; N Meaney, A Tallon, A Harte; L Varvoj, A Higgins; E Field, K Ronan, E Spriggs; K Quinlan, C Smith (c), C McGrath.

Subs: M Foley for P Edmunds (h-4), C Cashman for A Richardson (36), R Crotty for C McGrath (45).

BALLINCOLLIG: K Jones; A O'Leary, E Murphy, L Murphy; F O'Brien, M Tarnaud, K Greene; E O'Sullivan, M Cronin; C O'Riordan, C Hennigan, O O'Leary; C Ryan, L O'Leary, L Cooper.

Subs: C O'Donovan for E O'Sullivan, L Barry for F O'Brien.

Referee: Dominic Rooney (Carrigrohilly).

Clon crowned queens of West Cork camogie

CAMOGIE SENIOR B FINAL

CLONAKILTY 2-11
KILBRITTAIN/TIMOLEAGUE 0-13

COIS FARRAIGE REPORTS

CLONAKILTY earned the camogie bragging rights for West Cork when they survived a staunch comeback by fellow West Cork side, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, to lift the county senior B league title in sun-splashed Bandon on Friday evening last.

This was Clonakilty's first-ever senior title and they earned it the hard way, leading for all but the opening two minutes and having to withstand some fierce Kilbrittain pressure in the second half.

Three times the Black and

Amber closed the gap to a single point in a thrilling second half but each time the Clon girls responded to hold onto their lead and in the closing minutes they bounced back for the match-clinching scores.

Instrumental for Clon in keeping a vital clean sheet was the goalkeeping of Cork minor shot-stopper Mary Hurley, who brought off some great saves and was rock-steady all through. Her opposite number Amanda Desmond also distinguished herself between the posts in the second half, denying Clon a third goal on more than one occasion.

There was little between the sides in a well-contested first half as Sinead O'Neill and young Orla Lowney fought a great midfield duel with Marian and

Caroline Murphy. An opening point by Kilbrittain's Lorraine Dineen was answered by Clon full forward Aoife Deasy, whose strength was causing problems for the opposing defence.

Sinead O'Neill put Clon in front, a lead they were never to lose subsequently, and the first goal arrived in the sixth minute when Clon combined well with lively centre forward Marie O'Donovan finishing to the net.

Marian Murphy's fine free-taking was a strong feature of Kilbrittain's challenge and she pointed the first of her five placed balls, with speedy corner forward Orla Fahy adding a point from play.

Clon, with slightly less possession, were more economical up front, where Deasy, Juanita Brennan, Aine O'Leary and Marie O'Donovan were to the fore and they struck for a second goal in the 15th minute when Orla Lowney first-timed the sliotar to the net through a crowd of players.

It was looking good for Clon now, five points to the good entering the second quarter, especially when goalkeeper Mary Hurley brought off a superb save from Kilbrittain's Michaela Holland.

Murphy pointed the resulting 65 and then pointed a free to cut the lead to three. Points were swapped, subsequently, by Aoife Deasy and Marie O'Donovan for Clon and by Amy O'Sullivan and Orla Fahy for Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

Dominant midfielder Sinead O'Neill and the hard-working Sarah Hayes again opened a five-point gap for Clon but Kilbrittain had the final say of



The calm before the storm: Pictured before the senior B county league final were Clonakilty captain Aoife Deasy, referee Andy Larkin, and Kilbrittain-Timoleague captain Maeve O'Sullivan.

the half with a point from Sarah O'Sullivan. It was Clon, minus four regulars on the day, in front by 2-6 to 0-8 at the break.

The second half saw a much more determined Kilbrittain side beginning to dominate play, with the full-back line of Mairead Dullea, Aine Crowley and Sinead O'Sullivan really putting up the shutters.

Caroline Murphy opened the second-half scoring to narrow the lead but it took a great save from Amanda Desmond to prevent another Clon goal. When Marian Murphy pointed a 65 and impressive wing back Maeve O'Sullivan scored from play, the lead was down to the minimum and it was looking much better for the Black and Amber.

It was now Clon's turn to show their resolve and Juanita Brennan, who had a marvellous last quarter, pointed a free to ease the pressure. Murphy pointed another free to again close the gap to the minimum but Clon were now operating a sweeper very effectively in front of a full-back line of Suzie Forristal, Aileen McCarthy and Aoife O'Neill whose blocking down was straight from the top

drawer all through.

Brennan converted a difficult Clon free to double the lead but back came Kilbrittain with a point from Orla Fahy and once more Clon were hanging on by the slimmest margin.

With Louise Collins, Maeve Deasy and Niamh Desmond Collins showing great defensive ability, Clon hung on to their lead and in the closing minutes, they got their second wind, with Juanita Brennan emerging as the central character.

Aine O'Leary raced through for a superb point to lift the Clon spirits and then Brennan pointed a free and added an insurance point from play to bring the curtain down on a most enjoyable contest in which Kilbrittain may have shaded the possession stakes but Clon were more economical in front of goal.

Scorers

Clonakilty: Marie O'Donovan 1-1; Juanita Brennan 0-4 (3f); Aoife Deasy, Sinead O'Neill 0-2, Aine O'Leary, Sarah Hayes 0-1 each.
Kilbrittain/Timoleague: Marian Murphy 0-5 (3f, 2 65s); Orla Fahy 0-3; Maeve O'Sullivan, Caroline Murphy, Amy O'Sullivan, Lorraine Dineen, Sarah O'Sullivan 0-1 each.
Clonakilty: Mary Hurley; Suzie

★ OUR STAR

JUANITA BRENNAN (CLONAKILTY)

Lots of fine performers on both teams, especially Sinead O'Neill, Mary Hurley and Aine O'Leary of Clon and Marian Murphy, Eileen O'Neill and Orla Fahy of Kilbrittain/Timoleague but the Clon wing forward had a great game all through, showing tremendous battling qualities, and her surge of scoring won the game for her side in the closing stages.

Forristal: Aileen McCarthy, Aoife O'Neill; **Maeve Deasy:** Louise Collins, Niamh Desmond Collins; **Orla Lowney:** Sinead O'Neill; **Aine O'Leary:** Marie O'Donovan, Juanita Brennan; **Sinead Maher:** Aoife Deasy, Sarah Hayes.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague: Amanda Desmond; **Mairead Dullea:** Aine Crowley, Sinead O'Sullivan; **Maeve O'Sullivan:** Eileen O'Neill, Caitlin Walsh; **Marian Murphy:** Lorraine Dineen, Amy O'Sullivan, Sarah O'Sullivan; **Orla Fahy:** Lisa Moloney, Michaela Holland.

Referee: Andy Larkins (Shamrocks).



Well deserved: Clonakilty captain Aoife Deasy is presented with the league plaque from county board chairperson Mary McSweeney.

Late Inniscarra goal dashes Courceys' dreams

CAMOGIE SENIOR A FINAL

INNISCARRA 1-14
COURCEY ROVERS 0-12

BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

COURCEY Rovers pushed Inniscarra all the way in the senior A county camogie league final at Castle Road last week.

Julie Mulcahy got proceedings underway when

she pointed either side of two Joanne Casey points inside the opening six minutes. Not to be outdone, Casey put in a solid hour's work, not just through play but also on free-taking duty and she accounted for nine of Inniscarra's 14 points.

Mags Cosgrave nudged Inniscarra ahead after 12 minutes, however the hard-working Jacinta Crowley slotted over

two scores to nose Courceys in front by the minimum. This was quickly cancelled out by Inniscarra wing back Aileen Sheehan, who levelled proceedings.

The sides were level six times in the opening 20 minutes before Joanne Casey scored three points to put a goal between the sides for the first time in the game.

The lead was quickly reeled in by two fine points from Mulcahy and Crowley to leave just one between them at half time, 0-9 to 0-8. With the in-

roduction of Cork senior Rena Buckley at half time and Casey in good form in attack, Inniscarra began to take a hold of the game.

However, two pointed frees from Jacinta Crowley kept Courceys within a point of Inniscarra.

With little separating the sides it was going to take something extra to separate them - that came in the form of a goal when a long delivery deceived the Courceys' defence and ended up in the net to

put Inniscarra ahead. With Inniscarra now five points clear and full time looming Courceys had to dig deep to try and salvage a result. Mulcahy and Crowley pointed to bring them to within three, however, Looney and Casey responded to see Inniscarra hold out with five to spare.

Scorers

Courcey Rovers: J Crowley 0-6 (5f), J Mulcahy 0-4, C O'Neill 0-1.
Inniscarra: J Casey 0-9 (6f), E Looney 1-1, N McCarthy, R Buckley

A Sheehan, M Cosgrave 0-1 each.
Courcey Rovers: C Duggan; E O'Regan, K Keohane, C Mulcahy; O Twomey, A Moloney, E Moloney; J Crowley, S McCarthy; C O'Neill, C Hayes, A O'Reilly; S O'Reilly, J Mulcahy, G Hannon.

Subs used: S Hayes for S O'Reilly (ht).
Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, R Quigley; C Looney, R O'Mahony, A Sheehan; L Brennan, A Kavanagh; R Keane, E Looney, K O'Mahony; J Casey, M Cosgrave, N McCarthy.

Subs used: R Buckley for L Brennan (ht), C Healy for R Keane (ht), A O'Reilly for M Cosgrave (59).

Scoil Mhaoiliosa atone for football heartbreak

Therese O'Callaghan
Sciath na Scol

Scoil Mhaoiliosa Knockavilla 3-1
St Mary's Enniskeane 1-3

After the heartbreak of losing the football final, Scoil Mhaoiliosa bounced back in tremendous fashion to take the Allianz Sciath na Scol Roinn DC4 title at Cork IT yesterday.

Second-half goals from Aisling O'Donovan (2) and Kate Lynch helped them take control but outstanding goalkeeping from Ciara Taheny was also crucial.

St Mary's surged four points clear after a lively opening half, Saoirse Fleming hitting a pair of points while Lauren Corcoran notched a goal for the Enniskeane side to lead at the break, 1-2 to 0-1.

However, it wasn't long before the Knockavilla outfit put their stamp on proceedings.

They built on a great goal from Aisling O'Donovan after she connected with a Kate Lynch free three minutes after the restart and they pushed on hereafter to record what was a fine win.

Scorers for Scoil Mhaoiliosa: A O'Donovan (2-0), K Lynch (1-0), C Flynn (0-1).

Scorers for St Mary's: L Corcoran (1-0), S Fleming (0-3).

Scoil Mhaoiliosa: C Taheny, S Kenny, H Twomey, E O'Donovan, Aisling O'Donovan, Aoife O'Donovan, C Sullivan, C Flynn, F Twohig, M Lynch, A Ryan, A Ennerhassett, K Lynch, H R O'Sullivan, M O'Kane, McCarthy, M Kelleher, S Ullmann, A Cullinane.

St Mary's: S O'Donovan, S Fleming, L Corcoran, L Ullmann, K Mannix, L Hennessy McCarthy, R O'Donovan, M O'Boyle, E O'Driscoll, O Moore, A Bradfield, E Corcoran, K Hurley, C Collins, A Hurley, C Hennessy, T Kenny, J Crowley, E Hurley, L O'Leary.

Bunscoil Chríost Rí 3-3
Ballinora 2-2

Joy for Bunscoil Chríost Rí in the Roinn C4 decider after a marvellous display against an equally hard-working Ballinora. Two goals from the superb Olivia Gibson and one from Orla O'Leary ensured victory.

The Bunscoil opened brightly courtesy of O'Leary's goal but terrific work by Meabh Murphy handed the mid-Cork school a narrow advantage at the change of ends, 1-2 to 1-1.

While Ballinora battled bravely, Murphy - who nailed all of their scores - included, the winners had too much. Gibson, along with Ciara Hurley in defence, were key figures in an extremely polished team performance.

Scorers for Bunscoil Chríost Rí: O Gibson (2-2), O O'Leary (1-0), M Murphy (0-1).

Scorers for Ballinora: M Murphy (2-2).

Bunscoil Chríost Rí: C Cambridge, S Purcell, E Fitzgerald, K O'Connor, S Murphy, C Hurley, S Mealy, Z Waters, O Gibson, S Cotter, M Murphy, A Byrne, O'Riordan, J Sampson, K Twohig, O O'Leary, D Meenan, P Cassells.

Ballinora: K Farrell, E Keoghane, E O'Donoghue, J Doyle, K O'Riordan, A O'Driscoll, M Murphy, G Lenihan, E Mehigan, E Shinnick, S Treacy, C Buttner, E Wolfe, E Murphy, C O'Brien, H Murphy.

Ballinora 4-9
Rathpeacon 2-4

Two goals and three points in the space of the opening four minutes went a long way to deciding the Roinn H6 final, as a slick Ballinora side turned around with a 2-4 to 1-2 interval lead. They went on the attack again in the second-half, despite the best efforts of plucky Rathpeacon.



Sinéad Herlihy, Ovens NS and Saoirse Ni Dhuinneacha, GS Na Duglaise battling for the ball in yesterday's DC2 camogie final at the Sciath na Scol. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

Strong down the middle, full-forward Adam Twomey found the net three times while Michael Quirke scored six excellent points, and it was David Collins' green flag after just two minutes that set them on their way.

Goals in either half from Cian Barrett threw Rathpeacon a lifeline, and while they upped their game and worked hard defensively, they had to give way to the greater all-round strength of Ballinora.

Scorers for Ballinora: A Twomey (3-0), M Quirke (0-6), D Collins (1-0), S Kingston (0-2), L Lyons (0-1).

Scorers for Rathpeacon: C Barrett (2-1), A O'Donovan, S Downey and P O'Donovan (0-1 each).

Ballinora: C O'Flynn, N Davis, P O'Halloran, R Quirke, P Mayer, I Quirke, D Dineen, R Murphy, L Lyons, O Dineen, S Kingston, M Quirke, A Twomey, D Holmes, A McAllen, S Forde, D Collins, E Murphy, A Lavery, J Connolly.

Rathpeacon: R O'Mahony, P O'Connor, A O'Donovan, C O'Connell, D Murphy, R O'Connor, C Sexton, C Barrett, S Downey, L Dunlea, S Ring, P O'Donovan, C Clarke, G Walsh, C Crowley, G Harrington, J O'Sullivan, B O'Connell, C Cooke, D Murphy, A Murray, C Murphy.

Referee: Cathal O Murchú (Carrigrohilly BNS).

Cloghroe in command

Olan Allen
Allianz Sciath na Scol

Cloghroe 6-4
St Catherine's 3-2

Cloghroe won the Allianz Sciath na Scol C1 Camogie title, defeating St Catherine's in yesterday's final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Cloghroe's Rachel Murtagh pounced for their first goal. Clíodhna Prendergast added 1-1 from play before Molly Hickey tagged on a point for the Bishopstown side. Aida Murphy drilled home a goal from a free to give Cloghroe a 3-1 to 0-1 interval lead.

St Catherine's lifted the siege with goals from Emma Wigginton-Barrett, Rachel Mackey and Hannah Clune. Cloghroe's Prendergast scored her second goal from a free, with Rachel Murtagh and Lucie Nolan each further goals.

Scorers for Cloghroe: C Prendergast (2-3, 0-1 free), R Murtagh (2-0), A Murphy (free), L Nolan (1-0 each), R Murphy (0-1).

Scorers for St Catherine's: E Wigginton-Barrett (1-1), R Mackey, H Clune (1-0 each), M Hickey (0-1).

Cloghroe: S Lee, A McCarthy, G Gleeson, L Doyle, M McCarthy, C Prendergast, A Harty, A Murphy, R Murphy, T Ryan, A Power, R Murtagh, C O'Keefe, L Nolan, A Logan, A O'Sullivan, J Lyne, A O'Keefe, S Murphy.

St Catherine's: B Kearney, R Mackey, C Maloney, S Forde, C Henchy, M McCarthy, N Murphy, L O'Shea, S Healy, G O'Mahony, E Wigginton-Barrett, M Hickey, O Boland, A Nagle, J O'Leary, H Clune, A Carroll, D Carroll, G Murphy.

Referee: O Murray (Togher NS)

Ovens 5-6
GS Na Duglaise 0-0

Ovens easily won the Allianz DC2 Camogie title by beating GS Na Duglaise at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The Muskerry side led 3-1 at the break with goals from Niamh O'Shea, Patrice Holmes and Maeve O'Callaghan. The Douglas Gaelscoil did have their moments, but the Ovens' defence held firm. Ovens again controlled matters in the second-half as O'Callaghan

han scored her second goal within two minutes of the restart. Abbie Coughlan scored the Mid-Cork side's fifth goal two minutes later.

Scorers for Ovens: M O'Callaghan (2-0), A Coughlan (1-1), N O'Shea, P Holmes (1-0 each), E O'Donovan, A Desmond (0-2 each), A Goulding (0-1).

Ovens: R Murphy, E Foley, S McGoldrick, E Murphy, N Herlihy, E Coffey, C Gleeson, N O'Shea, E O'Donovan, A Desmond, A Goulding, P Holmes, M O'Callaghan, A Coughlan, S Herlihy, A O'Donoghue, E O'Leary, R Leahy, S O'Connell.

GS Na Duglaise: O Ni Aileachain, E Chapman, C Ni Mhathuna, E Scott, S Ni Dhuinneacha, C Ni Andriú, E Ni Laocha, N Ni Chroinin, A Ni Bhriain, M Ni Urmholtaigh, L Ni Aodha, E Halligan, E Ni Mhuir, B Ni Eidhin Nic Lochlainn, E Ni Shuilleabhain, M Nic Charthaigh, E Ni Cholmain, E Ni Urmholtaigh, O Ni Shuilleabhain, K Ni Shuilleabhain, A Ni Charra, M Ni Eidhin Nic Lochlainn, C Ni Cheallachain, E Ni Nic Cionnaith Ni Chearúil.

The U14 camogie team continued their good run of form in the league last Monday evening when they defeated St Colum's, 7-7 to 0-0, in Rossmore.

The Kilbree half-back line dominated from the outset, preventing St Colum's from scoring throughout this game. Some great displays of skill by Mairead Crowley, Leanne Sheehy, Emily O'Donovan, Kate O'Donovan and Caoimhe Murphy ensured the Kilbree girls stayed on top.

Nemo provide the next opposition for this group of girls. The U12 girls have Kilbrittain/Timoleague as the opposition in their next league outing.

Team: Heather Brimble, Sarah O'Donovan, Jessica O'Driscoll, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan, Emily O'Donovan, Leanne Sheehy (1-1), Mairead Crowley (1-3), Rebecca Hurley, Caoimhe Murphy (1-0), Ailse O'Neill (1-1), Rachel Deasy (1-1), Alison Collins (1-0), Mary Murphy (1-1), Oriagh O'Neill Callanan, Niamh McCarthy.

Congratulations to Mairead Crowley who captained Cork in the James Hurley All-Ireland Blitz in Mallow, last Saturday. This team won all their games.

West Cork teams clash in derby final to decide destination of camogie title

CAMOGIE B LEAGUE FINAL

BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

THIS Friday in Bandon will see a local derby to determine the destination of the county senior B camogie league title as Clonakilty clash with Kilbrittain/Timoleague (7.30pm).

Kilbrittain/Timoleague, who have been competing in the senior B grade for the last ten years after a brief flirtation with the top flight in the mid-2000s, will line out with a blend of youth and experience in their ranks.

This year saw a combining of the intermediate and senior B grades in the league to provide more competitive games for the intermediate grade, where only

five clubs reside.

En route to the final, Kilbrittain/Timoleague were in a group that contained senior B newcomers Brian Dillons, Aghabullogue, Carrigaline and intermediate side Enniskeane. Having finished on equal points with Dillons, Kilbrittain/Timoleague won out in a play-off fixture to book a place in the quarter-finals against Fr O'Neills.

With a comprehensive win over the East Cork side, they faced a much tougher challenge from last year's beaten championship finalists, Éire Óg, but a four-point win was achieved to book their place in the senior B

league final for only the second time.

The side will be looking to experienced campaigners Marion Murphy and Mairead Dullea in defence as well as Maeve O'Sullivan, while up front they have a lively attack comprised of Sarah Burke, Áine Crowley and Caroline Murphy, who have come through from their U16 county final winning team of 2013.

In contrast Clonakilty, had stiff competition with Éire Óg, local rivals Barryroe and two South-East intermediate outfits in the form of Tracton and Sliabh Rua in their group.

However, with victories over three of the sides and a defeat to Éire Óg, Clon saw themselves second in their group and through to a quarter-final spot

against a young Enniskeane.

Securing a win with five points to spare, Clon went on to account for seasoned campaigners Valley Rovers in the semi-final to book their place in a maiden final.

Since arriving on the senior B scene in 2011, Clonakilty have secured two championship final spots but were pipped in a replay by local rivals Barryroe in 2012 before succumbing to Ballygarvan in 2014.

Clon will be without the services of seasoned campaigner Hazel O'Regan, who is absent through injury, however they will be looking to the experience of Cork senior camogie player Libby Coppinger, Ciara Ryan, Cliona O'Regan, Sara Hayes and Mary Hurley between the posts.



Injured: Hazel O'Regan



Ovens NS, celebrate their win over GS Na Duglaise in their Sciath na Scol final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Ovens prove far too good

Ovens NS 5-6
GS Na Duglaise 0-0

OVENS NS proved too strong for GS na Duglaise as they claimed the Allianz DC2 title at Pairc Ui Rinn yesterday.

With a superb team performance Ovens dominated throughout. However, great credit is due to the Douglas school who battled hard right throughout the game. Eimear O'Donovan opened the scoring with a superb point.

This was followed by a well taken goal from Niamh O'Shea. Patrice Holmes and Maeve O'Callaghan added two further goals to make it 3-1 to 0-0 at the break.

In the second-half Ovens continued to dominate with Sadbh McGoldrick solid in defence while Eimear O'Donovan and Patrice Holmes dominated midfield. Abbie Coughlan got the opening two scores of this half with a goal and a point. This was followed by a point from Eimear O'Donovan.



Sciath na Scol

Barbara O'Connell

van. Abbie Coughlan added her second goal while Eimear O'Donovan added another point to her tally making it 5-4 to 0-0. GS na Duglaise continued to battle hard and with superb performances from Caoimhe Nic Aindriu, Mia Ni hUrmholttaigh and Ellie Ni Mhuiri, they tried hard to curb the Ovens attack. However, in the final few minutes two further points scored by Aoibhinn Goulding and Aisling Desmond finished the scoring for Ovens. Seven scorers for Ovens showed the depth of their talent on the squad which gave them a well deserved victory.



Niamh Herlihy Ovens NS in action during the Sciath na Scol final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Scorers for Ovens NS: A Coughlan 2-1, M O'Callaghan, P Holmes and N O'Shea 1-0 each, E O'Donovan 0-3, A Desmond and A Goulding 0-1 each.

Ovens NS: R Murphy, E Foley, S McGoldrick, E Murphy, N Herlihy, E Coffey, C Gleeson, N O'Shea, E O'Donovan, A Desmond, A Goulding, P Holmes, M O'Callaghan, A Coughlan, S Herlihy, A O'Donoghue, K O'Leary, E O'Leary, R Leahy, S O'Connell.

GS na Duglaise: O Ni Aileachain, E Chapman, C Ni Mhathuna, E Scott, S Ni Dhuinneacha, C Nic Aindriu, E Ni Laocha, N Ni Choinin, A Ni Bhriain, M Ni hUrmholttaigh, L Nic Aodha, E Hannigan, E Ni Mhuiri, B Ni Eidhin Nic Lochlainn, E Ni Shuilleabhain, M Nic Carthaigh, E Ni Choinin, E Ni Aolain, E Ni Mhurchuigh, O Ni Shuilleabhain, K Ni Shuilleabhain, A Ni Charra, M Ni Eidhin Nic Lochlainn, C Ni Cheallachain, E Jayne Nic Cionnath Ni Cheanail.

Referee: O Murray (Togher).



Cloghroe celebrate their win over St Catherine's in their Sciath na Scol final at Pairc Ui Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cloghroe take the spoils despite standout show by St Catherine's star Wiggington-Barrett

Cloghroe 6-3
St Catherine's 3-2

SCIATH NA SCOL

DESPITE a standout display from Ella Wiggington-Barrett, St Catherine's fell short to a more physical Cloghroe side who claimed the Allianz C1 final yesterday at Pairc Ui Rinn.

Barrett hit a hat-trick of goals and one point to make her the best player on show, though Cloghroe were the better team.

Cloghroe dominated the first-half with Rachel Coburn getting the opening score of the game as she blasted to the back of the net after three minutes.

This was followed by a lovely strike over the bar from Cliodhna Prendergast, who followed up with two superb strikes to the back of the net. Meabh McCarthy did manage to get on the scoresheet for St Catherine's to make it 3-1 to 0-1 at the break.

A superb second-half performance by St Catherine's, inspired by captain Ella Wiggington-Barrett made the game much more competitive. Both Wiggington and vice captain Caoimhe Henchy battled hard throughout.

However, it was Cloghroe who opened the scoring once again with a superb goal from Lucie Nolan. Ella Wiggington-Barrett closed the gap again when she scored two superb goals to make it 4-1 to 2-1.

Prendergast pointed to

double the scores but the St Catherine's captain went on another superb run and blasted to the back of the net from long range to make it just four points between the sides, 3-1 to 4-2.

Although St Catherine's had got on top for a period, Cloghroe always looked dangerous and Prendergast added to her tally with a superb point. In the final few minutes, Cloghroe managed to get a goal and a point by Rachel Coburn and Prendergast with Ella Wiggington-Barrett finishing the scoring with a lovely point. However, the three goals in the first-half was always going to be difficult to recover from.

Ella Wiggington-Barrett, Caoimhe Henchy and Rachel Mackey impressed for St Catherine's, while Reidin Murphy, Rachel Coburn and Anna Logan excelled for Cloghroe.

Scorers for Cloghroe: C Prendergast 3-3, R Coburn 2-0, L Nolan 1-0.

St Catherine's: E Wiggington-Barrett 3-1, M McCarthy 0-1.

CLOGHROE: S Lee, A McCarthy, G Gleeson, L Doyle, M McCarthy, C Prendergast, A Harby, A Murphy, R Murphy, T Ryan, A Power, R Murtagh, C O'Keefe, R Coburn, L Nolan, A Logan, A O'Sullivan, J Lyne, A O'Keefe, S Murphy.

ST CATHERINE'S: B Kearney, R Mackey, C Maloney, S Forde, C Henchy, M McCarthy, N Murphy, L O'Shea, S Healy, G O'Mahony, E Wiggington-Barrett, M Hickey, O Boland, L McGarry, A Nangle, L Murphy, J O'Leary, H Clune, A Carroll, E Cronin, D Carroll, G Murphy.

Referee: O Murray (Togher).



Emily Coffey and Aoibhinn Goulding, Ovens NS, with the trophies after their victory in the Sciath na Scol final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Erin Murphy, Senior Infant, Abbie McCarthy, Sinead Lee and Katie Nolan, Junior Infant, Cloghroe NS, with the trophies.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Scoil Mhaolios, Knockavilla, players celebrating their victory in the DC4 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane

Villa snatch victory

Scoil Mhaolios Knockavilla 3-1
St Mary's NS Enniskeane 1-3

KNOCKAVILLA were crowned Allianz DC4 Camogie champions after a blistering second half comeback.

The Enniskeane side looked the better side throughout the game but tired at the finish and were hit bit by two late goals that saw Knockavilla take the trophy.

This victory made up for the football defeat the Knockavilla girls suffered back in October.

Lauren Corcoran and Ciara Collins were posing problems for the Knockavilla defence in the opening minutes.

Saoirse Fleming opened the scoring with a point for Enniskeane to reward their early pressure.

Clare Flynn put her mark on the game and was rewarded with an equalising point on five minutes, Knockavilla's only score of the opening half.

The Enniskeane forwards were pep-

SCIATH NA SCOL

■ Olan Allen

pering the Knockavilla goal mouth and their pressure was eventually rewarded when Lauren Corcoran ran through the defence to hit the sliothar into the back of the net after nine minutes.

Saoirse Fleming hit her second point a minute before the interval to leave Enniskeane leading 1-2 to 0-1.

Fleming struck a wide in the opening minute of the second half but Knockavilla responded when a free from Kate Lynch was struck to the net by Aoife O'Donovan.

Fleming hit her third point in the nineteenth minute to extend her side's advantage to two points, but the west Cork girls faded after this and failed to register a score for the remainder of the game.

Molly Lynch and Cara O'Sullivan were battling hard for Knockavilla and were rewarded eight minutes from time when

Lauren Corcoran of St Mary's NS, Enniskeane, solos downfield chased by Clare Flynn of Scoil Mhaolios, Knockavilla, in the DC4 final in the Sciath na Scol at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane

April Blennerhassett set up Kate Lynch for a goal. Corcoran tried hard to save the game for Enniskeane but Knockavilla defence held firm before Aoife O'Donovan hit the ball to the net after a goal mouth scramble.

Scorers Scoil Mhaolios: A O'Donovan (2-0), K Lynch (1-0), C Flynn (0-1).

Scorers St Mary's: L Corcoran (1-0), S Fleming (0-3).

SCOIL MHAOLIOS: C Taheny, S Kenny, H Twomey, E Ronan, Aisling O'Donovan, Aoife O'Donovan, C O'Sullivan, C Flynn, F Twomey, M Lynch, A Ryan, A Blennerhassett, K Lynch, H R O'Sullivan, M O'Kane, M McCarthy, M Kelleher, S Ullman, A Cullinane.

ST MARY'S: S O'Donovan, S Fleming, L Corcoran, L Cullinane, K Mannix, L Hennessy McCarthy, R Lordan, M O'Boyle, E O'Driscoll, O Moore, A Bradfield, E Corcoran, K Hurley, C Collins, A Hurley, C Hennessy, T Kenry, J Crowley, E Hurley, L O'Leary.

Referee: Cathal O'Murchú (Garrigwohill Boys NS).



Ellie Hurley and Chloe Hogan, Holy Cross, with the trophies after the win against Sundays Well GNS. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Roinn DC1, Kilbrittain v Upper Glanmire: Caitriona Hogan, Kilbrittain captain, lifts the cup. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Scoil Mhaolios, Knockavilla players, twins Molly (left) and Kate Lynch, captain and vice-captain, respectively, with the trophy after winning the DC4 final.



Heartbreak for the Dungourney NS girls.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Cliodhna Predergast, Cloghroe NS, under pressure from and Molly Hickey, St. Catherine's. Pic: Jim Coughlan



Roinn C3, Gaelscoil Uí Riordain V's Scoil an Spioráid Naoimh Girls: Ella Beth Nic Charthaigh, Gaelscoil Uí Riordain and Abbie Ahern, Scoil an Spioráid Naoimh Girls.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Cliona Lynch and Amy McNamara, Riverstown, lift the trophies after the win over Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Megan Murphy, Riverstown, and Ciara Hanna, Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal battle for the ball.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Elizabeth Tuohy and Beth O'Neill, Ballintemple NS with the trophies.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Niamh Herlihy, Ovens NS, is closed down by Ellie Ní Mhuiri, GS na Duglaise.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Tara Elliott, Riverstown, and Cassie Irwin, Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal compete for the ball.

New ticket scheme to benefit supporters

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ONCE again the Camogie Association has introduced an exciting ticketing package scheme for all of the All-Ireland senior and intermediate championship games and this will be of huge benefit to supporters and give them great value for money.

The ticket is called 'The Cairde Camogie Ticket' and it is in the form of a season ticket/loyalty ticket which is a pre-bookable and entitles the holder to admission to all the Liberty Insurance Senior Intermediate and Junior Championship games at all venues. The ticket can also be used for the All-Ireland semis and finals and represents huge value.

Given admission costs to games are always a sore point, anybody who purchases the ticket is certainly going to get plenty use out of it. Adult admission prices to an All-Ireland Championship round robin game is €10 and when one considers that in last year's championship when Cork reached the final anybody who had purchased a Cairde Camogie ticket saved €70 on admission charges.

This represents huge value for money. The price alone of a ticket to the All-Ireland finals was €30 last year so a fan will most certainly get excellent value for money if their county progresses to the final.

The cost of the ticket is €40 and when you consider that the Cork senior and intermediate sides will play eight championship games before hopefully reaching the semi-final and final stages which could include another four-game the ticket is superb value for money.

An added incentive is that 20 percent of all tickets sold in each county will go back directly to the county board so the incentive is there for each county to sell the tickets and generate extra revenue.

The Camogie Association are promoting the sale of these tickets and are endeavoring to get the word out to as many supporters as possible as in the last two years a lot of supporters were unaware of the existence of the ticket and lost out and purchasing.

The tickets are easily accessible and can be purchased in almost all Centra or Super-Valu stores or by going online to the GAA ticket sale website. The tickets can also be got directly from the county board by contacting the relevant officers who will help you with your purchase. Anybody purchasing online will also be helping the county board as ticket sales are credited to the area where the purchaser is resident which will show up when the purchase is made.

With the Cork seniors opening the defence of their All-Ireland title today week when they host Waterford now is the time to get out there and get your ticket and save on admission prices.

Clon battle to hard-fought title

Clonakilty 2-11
Kilbrittain/Timoleague 0-13

THIS Senior B league decider drew a lot of interest as neighbouring clubs Kilbrittain/Timoleague and Clonakilty battled it out at the picturesque Bandon venue in soaring temperatures.

Despite the extreme heat, both sides gave it everything they had in a classic encounter. Clonakilty hung on to take the title but not before a huge Kilbrittain/Timoleague effort that just saw them fall short as Clonakilty ran out winners with four points to spare.

Two Clonakilty goals in the opening half just seven minutes apart gave them a cushion to lean on when Kilbrittain/Timoleague turned on the pressure.

At the interval the same margin separated the sides and Clonakilty had to cling on tight in the second half as Kilbrittain/Timoleague managed to get within a point as the Clonakilty defence crucially denied them a goal.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague got the game off to a good start with the opening score courtesy of Lorraine Dineen. Leading by example, Clonakilty captain Aoife Deasy had her side quickly on level terms and they hit the front with a Sinead O'Neill point three minutes later.

The first of the Clonakilty goal blitz came six minutes in when Marie O'Donovan finished to the net. Marion Murphy replied pointing a Kilbrittain/Timoleague free and with Orla Fahy adding to their tally with a point from play they were going nicely as they chased a two-point Clonakilty lead.

Clonakilty, applying a lot of pressure on the Kilbrittain/Timoleague defence, struck a killer blow 13 minutes in when Sinead Maher grabbed their second. Again Kilbrittain/Timoleague settled back into the game, Marion Murphy pointing a 45 and a free to claw them back to a three-point gap.

Twice the sides exchanged points as Clonakilty held their lead and two in a row from Sinead O'Neill and Sarah Hayes brought a reply from Sarah O'Sullivan before the break where Clonakilty led 2-6 to 0-8. The goals proved vital to their cause on a night when the mercury hit 23 degrees as the sides battled it out in ferocious heat.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague came out



Clonakilty captain Aoife Deasy, referee Andrew Larkin, and Kilbrittain-Timoleague captain Maeve O'Sullivan before last week's league final.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

fighting in the second half and dominating the early stages they cut the Clonakilty lead to a point, Caroline Murphy, Marion Murphy, and Maeve O'Sullivan were all on target from play as the Clonakilty defence were now feeling the full force of the Kilbrittain/Timoleague challenge.

Both sides were now battling to gain the upper hand and Clonakilty were clinging on to their lead under severe pressure but they never allowed Kilbrittain/Timoleague get level as their defence held their composure. Juanita Brennan steadied the Clonakilty

nerves converting a free to stretch the lead back to two points but again Marion Murphy showed her accuracy with a free but still Kilbrittain/Timoleague could not break down the Clonakilty defence.

Juanita Brennan again pointed a free but Clonakilty could not afford to breathe easy as Orla Fahy kept the pressure on with a Kilbrittain/Timoleague point and with minutes remaining just one point separated the sides.

The game was there for the taking and it was Clonakilty who upped the pace to grab it. Aine O'Leary pointed to put two points between them before Juanita Brennan pointed a free and added one from play to secure victory for Clonakilty.

Both sides must be complimented

for serving up a classic in such trying weather conditions and both of these sides will be ones to watch out for come championship as they will surely have big says come the business end of proceedings.

Scorers for Clonakilty: J Brennan 0-4 (0-3 f), M O'Donovan 1-1, S Maher 1-0, S O'Neill, A Deasy 0-2 each, S Hayes, A O'Leary 0-1 each.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague: M Murphy 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-2 45), M O'Sullivan, O Fahy 0-2 each, A O'Sullivan, S O'Neill, C Walsh, M Murphy, C Murphy, L Dineen, A O'Sullivan, C Murphy, L Dineen 0-1 each.

CLONAKILTY: M Hurley, A O'Neill, A McCarthy, S Forrestal, N Desmond-Collins, L Collins, M Deasy, S O'Neill, O Lowrey, M O'Donovan, J Brennan, A Deasy (c), S Hayes.

KILBRITTAIN/TIMOLEAGUE: A Desmond, M Dullea, A Crowley, S O'Sullivan, M O'Sullivan (c), E O'Neill, C Walsh, M Murphy, C Murphy, L Dineen, A O'Sullivan, O Fahy, M Holland, L Moloney, S O'Sullivan.

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Douglas).

Castlelyons beat dogged Ballinora to win Junior C title

Castlelyons 4-9
Ballinora 2-10

CASTLELYONS and Ballinora played an exciting Junior C league final in superb weather in Castle Road.

Kate Doocey settled Ballinora with two early points, but three in a row, from Melissa O'Sullivan, edged Castlelyons into the lead. Siobhan O'Regan pointed a Ballinora free, but Castlelyons, putting the Ballinora defence under huge pressure, quickly extended their advantage. Isabel Fenton pointed, before Emily Sexton scored the game opening goal. Aisling Hartnett added a point and Castlelyons went five points clear.

Hartnett added a second Castlelyons goal before the break. Siobhan O'Regan scored a point to keep Ballinora in touch and Castlelyons held a seven-

point interval lead. From the start of the second-half, Ballinora dug deep. Siobhan O'Regan pointed a free, but with Aisling Hartnett adding to Castlelyons' tally, they held their lead.

With Lisa O'Shea and Kate Doocey and O'Shea adding points, the Castlelyons lead was cut.

Lisa O'Shea grabbed a goal to narrow the gap and, at 2-7 to 1-7, the game was there for the taking.

Gemma Hourihan scored a Ballinora goal to tie the sides, but Castlelyons responded well, Megan McNulty, Teresa O'Connor and Aisling Hartnett on target, as they kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Aisling Hartnett again stretched the Castlelyons lead, with a goal and a point, but Jen Murphy replied with a Ballinora point, as they battled with all their

might to stay in contention.

Maeve Murphy added a Ballinora point, as they refused to give in, but a late Castlelyons goal, from a Melissa O'Sullivan free, sealed the title for Castlelyons, but not before a superb contest played out by two committed teams.

Scorers for Castlelyons: A Hartnett 2-3, M O'Sullivan 1-3 (1-1 f), E Sexton 1-0, I Fenton, M McNulty, T O'Connor 0-1 each.

Ballinora: L O'Shea 1-1, K Doocey 0-3, S O'Regan 0-3 (0-2 f), G Hourihan 1-0, J Murphy 0-1, M Murphy 0-1, CASTLELYONS: N Barry, S O'Sullivan, A O'Brien, R Murphy, B Shanahan, N Barry, L McGann, M O'Sullivan, C O'Flynn, MT Murphy, A O'Sullivan, T O'Connor, I Fenton, E Sexton, A Hartnett.

Subs: G McCarthy for I Fenton, M McNulty for E Sexton, A Greaney for L McGann.

BALLINORA: C Hourihan, S Donoghue, J Scorsen, N McCarthy, N Nic Abhaird, A Murphy, K O'Halloran, A Nic Abhaird, S O'Regan, P Dooly, L O'Shea, L Walsh, J Murphy, G Hourihan, M Holmes.

Subs: J O'Donnell for K O'Halloran, A McGrath for S Donoghue, M Murphy for M Holmes.

June
2016

RTÉ to broadcast camogie semis

Seandún girls host an U10 event

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THIS year's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship has received a huge boost with confirmation that both senior semi-finals, as well as the All-Ireland Finals, will be broadcast live on RTÉ television.

The news was revealed by the Camogie Association at the launch in Croke Park on Thursday of this year's championships, with Liberty Insurance announcing that it will run an innovative summer campaign — 'Squad Goals' — designed to find Ireland's most skilful Camogie squad.

Both 2016 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-finals will be broadcast live from Nowlan Park on Saturday, August 13.

That's a welcome development. Often the semi-finals are better spectacles than the final and we need more than one game televised a year to promote our game. What TG4 has done for ladies football is immense.

Launching this year's championship, Camogie Association President Catherine Neary said that live TV coverage of the semi-finals for the first time underlined the growing appeal of Camogie on the national stage.

"Camogie is one of the fastest-growing games in the country right now, with more people watching and playing than ever before. Live coverage of the semi-finals is not only a huge additional carrot for the quarter-finalists but an extra opportunity for TV viewers to enjoy the thrilling spectacle of top-level Camogie.

"We expect that the additional investment by the Association and Liberty Insurance in TV coverage in conjunction with RTÉ will continue to raise the profile of this year's championship and further showcase the skills of the game and the dedication of our players," she added.

"We're also lucky and extremely grateful to have Liberty Insurance partnering with us again this year, helping to promote women's sport with some fantastic ideas to boost attendances and participation."

Certainly Liberty Insurance is a tremendous national sponsor. Many companies put money into national teams and fail to back that support afterwards.

Whatever the revenue generously handed over it requires an equivalent supporting value for marketing and promotion, primarily driven by the sponsor, who typically have marketing departments with innovative ideas.

One such initiative announced at Thursday's event where Liberty Insurance revealed details of its nationwide 'Squad Goals' campaign, will give two Camogie teams the opportunity to play at half-time in Croke Park on the occasion of the Senior All-Ireland final in September. Speaking at the launch Deirdre Ashe, Director of Personal Lines for Liberty Insurance, said:



Tipperary's Sarah Fryday, Galway's Rebecca Henelly and Cork's Amy O'Connor at the premier of the 2016 'Our Game, Your Game' video with further details of the campaign's development over the coming months. Picture: INPHO/Billy Stickland



The newly-qualified 'Camogie For Teens' group at the U10 Blitz which they organised in Castle Road.

"We're delighted to continue with this year's #supportersport campaign which was so successful last year.

"Our research has confirmed that female participation in sport is strongly influenced by attending sporting events at a young age so we're again encouraging parents and the wider public to bring their daughters, granddaughters, nieces, cousins or friends to this year's camogie championship.

"We're excited too about this year's 'Squad Goals' Challenge that will inspire Camogie teams and players throughout the country to get involved, with the opportunity to step onto Croke Park on All-Ireland Finals Day and win funding for their clubs, adding to the campaign's appeal. Details will be available on our social media channels from June 20 and remember to #supportersport!"

Also at the championship launch,

the Camogie Association premiered the 2016 'Our Game, Your Game' video with further details of the campaign's development over the coming months.

"The focus for this year's campaign is on the / off the pitch preparation side to the game," said Catherine Neary.

"We're working with five high-profile Camogie ambassadors who explain what it takes to reach the top level and how a strong and healthy body and mind help players to achieve their full potential."

The Camogie Association also confirmed that it and the LGFA have reached a reciprocal agreement to avoid major fixture clashes in this year's championship, including avoidance of a previously recurring clash between the All-Ireland Camogie championship and the Ladies Football Munster final, as well as the All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship

"We'd put our own game first but we try to look at what's pragmatic as well."

semi-final and Ladies Football All-Ireland quarter-final. Finally!

The opening round of the senior championship is next Saturday 18. All games have been rescheduled to 5.15pm to avoid a clash with the Ireland v Belgium European championship game, kicking off at 2pm. Catherine Neary explains the reason behind their decision.

"We just thought that the soccer is on and so many people are involved in soccer and want to see the games so we thought we'd do our best to avoid a clash. "Hopefully it'll work out for us and we'll still get attendances. It's not that we don't value our games, we certainly do. But we just wanted to try and have the best of both worlds. We all want to support our country as well."

"We try to be flexible as an organisation. "We'd put our own game first but we try to look at what's pragmatic and practical as well."

EIGHT weeks of hard work, months of planning, and five interesting modules later the final piece of the jigsaw fell into place in glorious sunshine in Castle Road as the Seandún division hosted an U10 blitz under the guidance of their girls who very successfully completed the 'Camogie for Teens' Programme.

The 29 participants had, as previously reported here on our *Evening Echo* camogie pages, gone through six different modules and over the weeks picked up foundation level coaching certificates, qualified as Go Games referees, and learned a lot about the work that goes on behind the scenes.

One of the main topics on the schedule was the very big task for the 29 young participants to organise and run and oversee one big U10 blitz for all of their clubs. Such was the enthusiasm of clubs within the division that the blitz was thrown open to the entire city and even those clubs that did not have their teenagers participating in Camogie For Teens entered teams.

It was not simply a case of the girls turning up and everything falling into place on the day, outside of the nights when they participated in the modules within the course the girls had to meet and plan out a schedule for the U10s' big day. Firstly every club had to guarantee the participation of their U10s and when this was established the youngsters had the task of sorting out a timetable of games. With 10 clubs in the division, some with enough for two teams, everything had to be organised to perfection. Huge credit to the girls as they ensured everything was sorted.

For these girls this would not have been an easy task. These are young players who are used to turning up to training in their clubs and used to turning up to matches where everything is organised by their mentors and club officials. Now the shoe was on the other foot and they were the ones in charge.

It was an early start for them as they arrived at Castle Road two hours before the youngsters, pitches had to be laid out measure and marked, each pitch had to be clearly visible to the club mentors and the girls did this by colour coding them all. As the clubs arrived the young Camogie For Teens girls greeted each group and showed them to their area. Earlier the clubs had been sent a schedule of games in advance all of which was done out by the girls and this helped keep the morning moving along swiftly.

The whole experience was a superb one and huge credit must go to Seandún and in particular to their secretary, Louise Weldon, who was the driving force behind the whole concept.

Sheehan on fire as Brooklodge beat Dungourney to lift title

Brooklodge 3-2
Dungourney 1-1

SCIATH NA SCOL
Barbara O'Connell

A superb team display gave Brooklodge victory over Dungourney to claim the Allianz C5 title yesterday at CIT.

A close first half saw Brooklodge open the scoring when standout player Katelyn Sheehan pointed over from a tight angle. She followed with a superb long-range strike that saw the ball drop to the back of the net.

Dungourney got on the scorersheet soon after when their best player Aine O'Callaghan struck over after a superb run. For the remainder of this half, both teams battled hard but it was Sheehan who widened the gap, as she pointed over to give Brooklodge a four point lead at the break, 1-2 to 0-1.

Sheehan resumed the second half in scoring fashion with a strike that hit the back of the net. This was followed with another superb goal from

Orlaith Mullins to make it 3-2 to 0-1. With time running out, Dungourney deservedly closed the gap with a goal from Joanne Crowley, as she reacted quickest to a scramble in the box.

However, it was too late and Brooklodge claimed the title.

Scorers for Brooklodge: K Sheehan 2-2, O Mullins 1-0.

Dungourney: J Crowley 1-0, A O'Callaghan 0-1.

BROOKLODGE: N Treacy, A Kelleher, L Moriarty, K Graham, S Hurley, O Mullins, K Sheehan, M Sheehan, I O'Sullivan, K McSweeney, G O'Brien, S Nolan, M Agberra, N O'Callaghan, E O'Halloran, E Croker, C Deane.

DUNGOURNEY: C Barry, K Voronins, K Montgomery, V Bulinauskaitė, M O'Brien, J O'Donovan, A O'Callaghan, A Smiddy, A Montgomery, A Moriarty, T Doocey, A McGrath, J Crowley, C McCarthy, C McGrath, S Doocey, K Hennessy, I Hickey, S Joyce, M Leahy, G McGuckian, K O'Riordan, A Hickson-Mahony, R Bryan, R Hickey.

Referee: J Anderson (Sunday's Well BNS)



Brooklodge players celebrate their win over Dungourney in the Sciath na Scol final at CIT.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.



PRIMED FOR BATTLE: Tipperary's Sarah Fryday, Cork's Amy O'Connor and Galway's Rebecca Henelly, at the launch of the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship in Croke Park.

Picture: Billy Stickland

Camogie chiefs vow to learn from 2015 controversies

Ciarán Gallagher

Camogie Association president Catherine Neary is confident that this year's championship will not be hit by the same controversies that dogged last season's competition after taking steps to rectify a number of high-profile issues.

The 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship was formally launched in Croke Park yesterday with confirmation that this year's semi-finals and final will be broadcast live on RTE One television.

The championship commences next weekend with Cork opening the defence of their title against Waterford in Walsh Park in one of five senior fixtures scheduled for Saturday (June 18).

Neary and the association will hope for a smoother season than last year when the competition was bogged down by a number of disputes.

The 2015 championship was nearly derailed by the coin-toss controversy over who would progress between Dublin and Clare, while dual players in Clare and Cork were later upset by fixture clashes before a disallowed 45 in the Wexford-Gal-

way semi-final led to yet another unwelcome dispute. Neary insists that the Camogie Association have moved to address and avoid such controversies.

"These things happen and the GAA have it at the moment with regard to the Christy Ring final last weekend," said Neary. "The issue with Wexford was resolved through the formal mechanisms that are there. The coin toss was a bit more problematic."

"As administrators, the big thing is to learn and to listen to what you're actually hearing."

"While you might want to do something there and then, it's a matter of bringing that into the following year to make sure you don't structure everything the same way again because you're likely to fail if that happens," added Neary, who insisted that particular steps have been taken in an effort to avoid a repeat of the Dublin-Clare controversy where the fate of the counties was set to be decided by a coin toss before a play-off was belatedly scheduled.

"I think ultimately what will happen if we end up, there will be a play-off if we can't separate the teams, but I think the fact that we've

introduced the three points for a win and one point for a draw will lessen the chances."

"What we've decided to do is learn the lessons of the past but also try to bring as many criteria in place to lessen the chances," said Neary.

Tomorrow week's senior games have all been scheduled for a 5.15pm throw-in in an effort to avoid a clash with the Republic of Ireland soccer team's Euro 2016 match against Belgium earlier that afternoon and to ensure attendances do not drop.

"We'd put our own game first but we try to look at what's pragmatic and practical as well," said Neary, who has also worked with the Ladies Football Association in an effort to avoid conflicting schedules for dual players.

This year's All-Ireland senior camogie semi-finals will take place on a Saturday (August 13) to avoid another clash with the ladies football Munster SFC final and both fixtures will alternate between a Sunday date every second year.

"What we want to do is make sure the players ultimately win on that, so that our dual players don't have to play two games in four or five hours," added Neary.



Orlaith Mullins and Katelyn Sheehan, Brooklodge NS, with the trophies.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Berrings celebrate their win against Scartleigh. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Aoife Buckley, Ballintemple NS, during the team presentation.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

CAMOGIE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Derry camogs hoping to make All-Ireland senior mark

The Oak Leafers will be hoping to get their national senior campaign off to a good start against Kilkenny

LIBERTY INSURANCE PREMIER
SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
DERRY V KILKENNY
Saturday, Swatragh, 5.15pm

BY ALAN RODGERS

TOP flight camogie is now the challenge beckoning Derry as they prepare to take their place among the sport's elite counties in this year's All-Ireland Championship.

It's hoped that the re-appearance of an Ulster county on the national stage will focus attention on the progress that has been made in terms of promotion during recent years.

But the Oak Leafers will be concentrating their full attentions on the task of making their mark at senior level.

First up for them this Saturday are Kilkenny. They also play recent All-Ireland champions, Galway, as well as Dublin and Tipperary. A place in the All-Ireland Quarter Finals is the ultimate target for Ciaran Cunningham and the players.

"Kilkenny are the Division One champions," he said. "Teams like them and Galway represent the benchmark of where we want to reach and we're under no illusions about the challenge facing us."

"In last Sunday's Ulster Final we probably had about 80 per cent of the play, yet still lost because our missed chances. If we miss those same opportunities this weekend, then Kilkenny will punish us much more severely."

"We met them in the National League earlier this year, but to be honest I wouldn't place too much importance on that tie. The team was picked by the county board officials and our management team was only

in the job literally one day.

"This is a big opportunity for us and I've no doubt that we're capable. There's exceptional talent within the county and this squad, they're very skilful and we've been trying to instil more self-belief."

"One of the big tasks is to encourage the players to realise that they deserve to be playing at this level. They have moved on from the Junior ranks, they're a Division One team and have the potential and skill to make a good impression."

Preparations for the tie, though, have been upset somewhat by a number of injuries. Five players are expected to be missing from the side which will face the Cats.

Maria Mooney, Kelly-Marie Hegarty, Amy Devlin and Sinead Faulkner are all ruled out due to injury and other reasons.

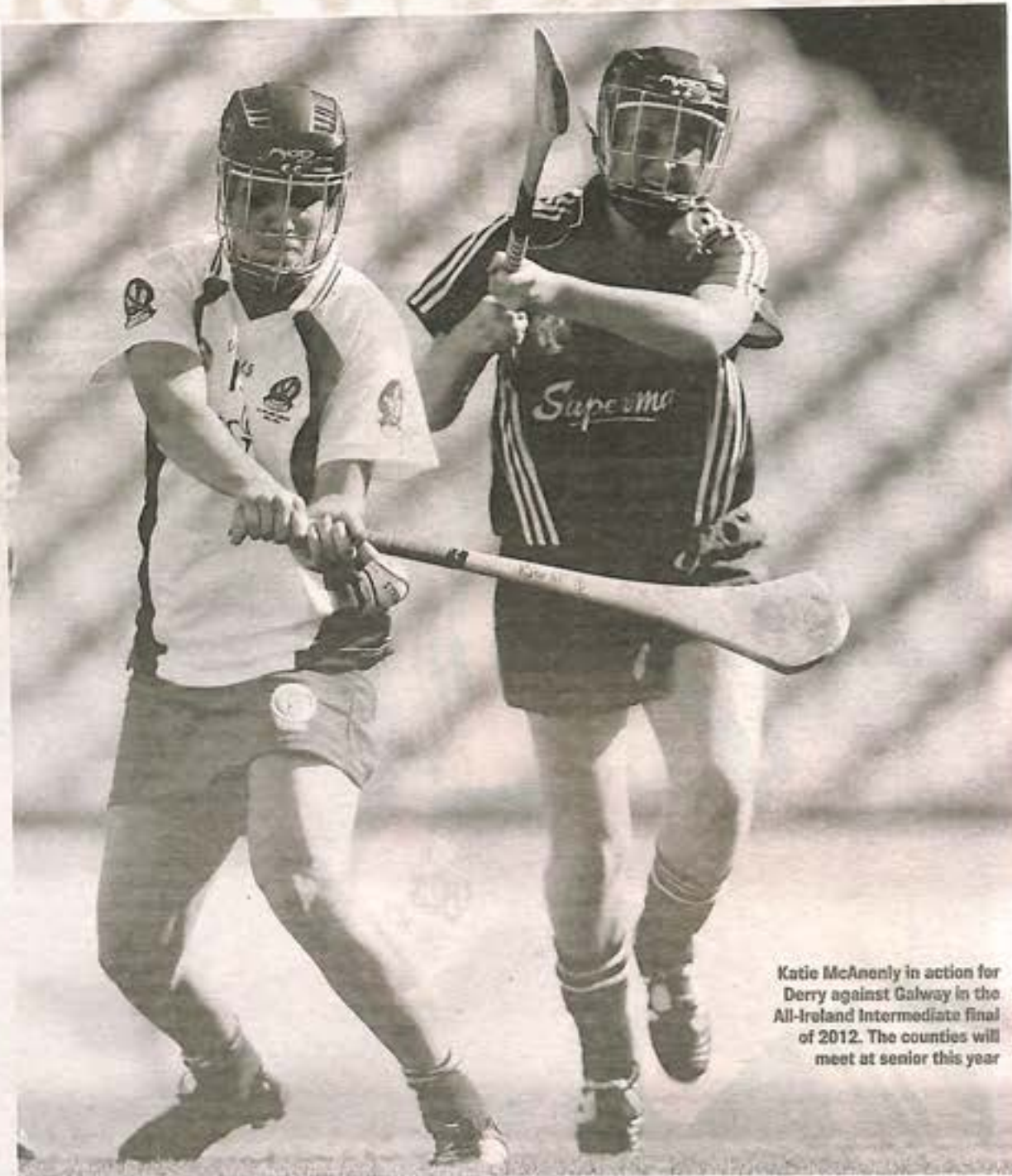
Nevertheless, there is hope that the Derry girls can raise the profile of camogie in the county and the province by producing a strong display.

"Obviously we have to be realistic and know that Kilkenny and Galway are two of the top teams in the country and will be extremely difficult to defeat," added Ciaran Cunningham.

"We're only in this job a matter of months, whereas they've been developing their teams for four or five years."

"The games against Tipperary and Dublin are ones which we are targeting and I believe that we can get something from them. If we do achieve good results, then there's an All-Ireland Quarter-Final place within reach for us."

"But playing at this level has always been the target, it's the benchmark for us and an opportunity that we're determined to capitalise on."



Katie McAnenly in action for Derry against Galway in the All-Ireland Intermediate final of 2012. The counties will meet at senior this year

CAMOGIE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Orchard braced for the Dubs clash

Ciara Donnelly was one of the stars of Armagh's league campaign and they can be confident of downing the Dubs

LIBERTY INSURANCE PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
ARMAGH V DUBLIN
Sunday, Ballymacnab, 2.30pm

BY NIAL GARTLAND

CIARA Donnelly has hailed the turnaround in the fortunes of the Armagh camogs after the travails of last season.

Their ace sharpshooter is preparing for Sunday's Junior Championship opener against Dublin at Ballymacnab (2.30pm), whom they have already beaten twice this season in the league.

The most significant of those two results was a narrow defeat over

Dublin in the Division Three semi-final, which was duly followed by victory in the league final over Roscommon by 3-11 to 2-9.

Donnelly was a deserved Man of the Match against the Rossies with a personal contribution of 1-6 and she has paid tribute to the influence of management team Paddy McArdle and Jim McCormack, who came on board in the middle of last season when things were at an especially low ebb in Armagh.

"They're great, they really have turned things around. Last year, when we went to Roscommon, before they were involved, only 10 players turned up."

"It nearly had to hit rock bottom but it could built back up again," she

said.

"They came in halfway through the year and we weren't going to make waves last year, it was just a matter of finishing it out but we did field which in itself was an achievement."

"They've just brought the belief back in between the mix of experience and the youth they have coming through. Everybody has the same goal and we're all pushing towards it."

Donnelly actually lives in Tyrone village Eglis, the homeplace of her father.

Assuring that she's an Armagh woman through and through, she has seen recent improvements at club as well as county level.

"My daddy's a Tyrone man, he's

originally from Eglis and I think it's now seven or eight years we've been living in Eglis."

"I'm originally from Granemore and still playing with Armagh - I obviously couldn't turn counties. The competition in Armagh club-wise has really come on in the last while."

"Years back there would've been the same teams winning the senior championship over and over again but in the last two or three years there have been new clubs winning which is great to see."

"They're putting a lot of effort into the underage set-up which is showing with the amount of talent coming through from the minor team."

Donnelly lines out alongside her sister Leanne, who pledged loyalty to

Armagh later in the day.

"It's nice, she would've played for Tyrone for a while."

"She knew more girls in Tyrone but getting older she wanted to play alongside me, that's why she has started playing in Armagh which will hopefully be a good help in the future."

Armagh come into Sunday's match following their Ulster Championship loss to Derry but their league form should be a more accurate gauge of their prospects against the Dubs.

Joint-manager Paddy McArdle described Dublin as the toughest team they faced in Division Three, but there's no reason why the Orchard ladies can't continue their upward path at Ballymacnab.

Come hurl with me

THE idea for "Come Hurl with me" came about by the phenomenal growth of younger players joining camogie clubs at an earlier age over the last few years.

With the surge of new clubs and new players there has been increasing demand for guidelines and advice on how to get new parents involved in coaching.

The overall aim of "Come Hurl with Me" is that by parents and their daughters learning the skills of camogie and playing the game, it will facilitate the long-term involvement of parents in the club and girls in the game of camogie to train and play together.

The focus of this programme is skill development and coaching. We see the "Come hurl with me" Programme as preparation for a parent to attend a foundation camogie coach

education course.

Each parent will be encouraged to coach each skill to the child at home between each session; this will ensure consistent feedback to the child and reinforce the idea of practice at home.

Also the likelihood of developing poor technique habits is reduced; therefore the child's skill development will increase along with the parent's coaching confidence.

The programme contains simple and effective tips on how to break-down skills and provide fun drills and activities to help everyone master their skills. The course should run as follows, the course will be held on the same night as underage training in the club.

The parents will be with the tutor learning the teaching points of a new skill every week, whilst the daugh-

ters are working with their coaches. For the final 20 minutes of the course each mother will get a chance to coach the new skill to their child while the tutor monitors the coaching technique.

Once the technique is perfected both parent(s) and daughter advance to the unopposed drill and in turn to the semi opposed exercise.

At the end of each session the tutor will give each mother and daughter drills to work on between sessions.

To ensure that the coaching technique is consistent a coaching card with the key coaching points on it will be handed to each mother to refer to.

"Come hurl with me" programme focuses on the core elements of basic camogie coaching, when followed, will provide a practical, effective and most importantly, fun and safe environment for girls to play Camogie.

In addition, this programme demonstrates that coaches should know why they need to coach young players and to be clear on their coaching philosophy.

They should recognise that young players have special requirements and be aware of how they learn skills.

Ultimately this programme will provide many benefits to clubs:

- Early recruitment outlet for clubs
- Organise activities suitable for young girls
- Emphasis on development of basic motor skills
- Provide positive learning experience for young girls
- Social aspect of meeting other children and cooperating together.

Keep an eye on the Ulster Camogie website for details of this programme and others: <http://www.ulstercamogie.ie/>



SWINGING WHEN THEY'RE WINNING...The Ulster Council is delighted with the uptake in camogie by girls throughout Ulster

Camogie Association Welcomes €1m Government Funding Announcement

By Camogie Association
Posted 15/06/2016



Camogie Association Welcomes €1m Government Funding Announcement

The Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, today announced a two-year agreement, commencing in 2017, to provide support for Inter-County Camogie and Ladies Football players. Minister O'Donovan announced that he will be providing funding of €500,000 in 2017 and 2018, through Sport Ireland, to support programmes included in a joint proposal by the Camogie Association, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and the Women's Gaelic Players Association (WGPA).

A Steering Group comprising of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Sport Ireland, the Camogie Association, the LGFA and the WGPA has been established to agree the details of the two-year funding programme. The Steering Group is currently establishing the logistical and administrative arrangements that will underpin the two-year agreement and the disbursement of the funding of €500,000 for each of the two years. The financial support will be aimed towards programmes such as injury prevention and medical cover, maximising player and team performance, and access to training facilities.

Catherine Heary, President of the Camogie Association said: "I warmly welcome this significant Government funding of €1m over two years towards supporting women in Gaelic games at the highest levels. This funding is a very strong affirmation and recognition of the commitment by inter-county Camogie and football players in pursuit of high athletic standards. It is also a recognition of the additional financial support needed so that women Gaelic games players and teams can benefit from the appropriate specialist supports and expertise that is available and required to maximise team performance at representative levels."

Our inter-county Camogie players showcase the game at its best through their own dedication and with the support of their clubs and county boards. These funds will positively impact on clubs and communities throughout the country through the reach and profile of the players locally and nationally. The Government and the Minister's commitment to make available these new monies, at a time when participation, interest and standards of Camogie were never higher, is a significant milestone for Camogie and a strong vote of confidence in its future development. "I would like to thank the Minister, the Government, Departmental

officials, Sport Ireland and my colleagues in the LGFA and WGPA for their collaboration and co-operation in this step forward for women in sport."

Minister O'Donovan said "I want to take this opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution that our Inter-County Ladies Football and Camogie Players make to Gaelic games. Their success is important, not just at a sporting level, but also on the ground level, where they inspire young women to become involved in ladies football or Camogie, and stay involved throughout school and into their adult life."

Minister O'Donovan emphasised the positivity of the two-year agreement, saying that "the funding allocation shows the confidence held by the Government in the success of our Inter-County Ladies Football and Camogie Players, and that it recognises the role of the teams, the volunteers and the supporters in forming strong community spirit throughout the country".

Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson of Sport Ireland commented: "Government support for inter-county Ladies Gaelic Football and the Camogie Association players, distributed through Sport Ireland, is an indicator of the recognition that exists at national level for the unique contribution the players make as the leading exponents of our indigenous national games, the contribution that players make to the economic and social fabric of the nation and their commitment to play the game at highest level possible. I would like to acknowledge the Minister, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association and WGPA in supporting the scheme."

June
2016



Cork camogie stars Rena Buckley, front, with Leanne O'Sullivan, Jennifer Hosford, Orla Cronin, and Niamh Ni Chaoimh, at Maryborough Hotel, Cork, for the announcement of New Ireland Assurance's new sponsorship agreement with Cork camogie. Picture: Diarmuid Greene

Mulvey: Women's grant deal will lead to new GPA payout

Ciarán Gallagher

A new Government funding scheme for female inter-county players is likely to lead to a renewed grants scheme for the men's Gaelic Players Association (GPA), according to Sport Ireland chairman Kieran Mulvey.

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Patrick O'Donovan yesterday announced a two-year deal that will see senior inter-county ladies footballers and camogie players funded to the tune of €1m in a joint initiative with the Women's GPA, the Camogie Association, and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Of this, €500,000 will be allocated in 2017 and 2018 and distributed to ladies football and camogie county boards on the basis of how many teams compete in their respective top inter-county competitions.

Unlike previous Government grant programmes for male inter-county players allocated through the GPA, the women's funding will not

be distributed directly to players, but monies will instead be given to county boards to spend on team preparations, including injury and performance support.

With the men's GPA Government grants scheme in limbo, the initiative for female players seems likely to hasten the introduction of a new deal for male players.

The original Government funding scheme for the men's GPA was introduced in 2007-2008, with €3.5m distributed annually to players to cover expenses before drastic cuts saw the amount reduced to €900,000.

When asked if he believes the GPA grant scheme will be continued, Mulvey said: "I would. My view is that probably this [deal for female players] underpins that [GPA] funding... In the sense that it would now be almost impossible to reverse that type of funding without creating further difficulties down the line. I think it's money well spent," added Mulvey.

The *Irish Examiner* revealed last April that the GPA were pushing for a dramatic increase in funding, possibly up to double the original €3.5m amount.

Mulvey said he does not know if an increase is on the cards, while Minister O'Donovan indicated that there is "ongoing dialogue between ourselves and the GPA".

The WGPA's success in securing a funding scheme comes just 18 months after its establishment. Chairwoman Aoife Lane admitted it was a key objective, adding: "I think the big difference between the men's and the women's [funding] is that this is a team grant that's ring-fenced for the county players [on] the top senior team... and it's ring-fenced around

Kieran Mulvey: Women's deal underpins GPA funding.



certain performance supports for that team, so that was quite novel. That's what the players wanted. They said from the outset 'we just want a chance to be our best and a chance to reach our potential'."

Lane describes the allocation of funds — to be split evenly between competing teams — as a "partnership" between players, their county board, and management.

"This is definitely the way forward for us, because, unfortunately in ladies football and camogie, you mightn't have consistent access to strength and conditioning or video analysis, which would

be basic expectations in the men's game," said Lane, who took advice from the GPA and praised the input of former Clare star Deirdre Murphy. Kerry defender Ciara Murphy also welcomed the scheme.



Big boost: Cork camogie players, from left, Orla Cronin, Meabh Cahalane, Niamh Ni Chaoimh, Jennifer Hosford, Ashling Thompson, Leanne O'Sullivan, Eimear O'Sullivan and Amy O'Connor pictured on Wednesday as New Ireland's three-year sponsorship agreement with Cork camogie was announced at the Maryborough Hotel, Cork. (Photo: Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile)

We're not where we want to be right now, admits Thompson

Ciarán Gallagher

It may be an exaggeration to say their season starts here, but Cork captain Ashling Thompson is quick to admit that the All-Ireland champions were looking to shake off the cobwebs from the spring.

A relatively indifferent National League campaign saw them lose twice to Limerick before they overcame their neighbours with a contentious injury-time win in the Munster final last month.

Their inconsistent bid for consistency was not necessarily a deliberate approach, but Thompson can see the benefit in tailoring their season around the All-Ireland championship and the defence of their title, which starts today with a group opener in Waterford's Walsh Park (5.15pm).

"I think you're better off losing a few games than winning on the trot the whole

time," claims Thompson. "I know it's great to make winning a habit, at the same time everyone wants that but sometimes it's good to put you back in your box."

"We always seem to pull it together around quarter-final stages, but maybe some year that's not going to be enough, we might get knocked out in the group stage."

"It's not that we do it purposely - we just seem to pull it together at the right time."

"We're not where we want to be right now, we're kind of going through the motions at the minute so hopefully we can go out and get our first win against Waterford," continues Thompson, who agrees that the league was a transitional period for the All-Ireland champions.

"You come from winning an All-Ireland but when you go back to training, it's back to basics. It is a fresh year, a new start and there's always going to be some sort of a



Ashling Thompson at the launch of Red Bull Longest Day at Kilkenny Castle. Picture: Morgan Treacy

change so I think that's the best way to describe it - it's transitional and we're trying to find our feet. We haven't yet but hopefully we do that in the [championship] group stages."

Thompson goes so far as to describe Cork's league campaign as "poor", despite the

fact that the two losses to Limerick were their only defeats, while they claimed three group wins including a one-point victory over eventual champions Kilkenny.

Thompson recognises the benefits of winning regularly, however.

She is part of a Milford side

with a formidable record and the Cork captain admits that she is amazed by the county's all conquering Ladies Football side.

"Some teams are just different," she gushes. "The ladies footballers as well, I genuinely don't know how they do it. They're made of I don't know what, but you see that's been the same team for the last 10 years."

"There has been drop-outs here and there, like Valerie Mulcahy only retired this year but she's been there for those 10 years, so it's about that bonding together and I think the team we have now with Cork, if that escalates into the next 10 years, we might be winning games on the trot like they are."

"It's about that togetherness and doing things for each other, not as an individual. I think that's why they always seem to come out on top, they just die for each other and that's what's the most im-

portant thing."

Having won back-to-back All-Irelands, similar expectations are piled on Thompson's side with Cork priced as 9/4 favourites by the bookies to retain their title in September.

While they have not been hit by any retirements since their success last year, the Rebels captain claims that their team has yet to settle while name-checking the likes of Hannah Looney, Méabh Cahalane, and Libby Coppinger as stars on the rise. She insists three-in-a-row talk has not been entertained in the dressing room, however.

"We're not focusing on the three in a row, that's kind of been the talk but we don't focus on that at all," says Thompson. "It's a new year, a new set-up, a new team, a new layout. It's totally fresh... we focus on what's in front of us and that's the first round against Waterford."

Murray wants fast start to O'Duffy Cup defence

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ALL-IRELAND senior camogie champions Cork have targeted a fast start in the defence of their crown.

Paudie Murray's team take on Waterford in their opening Group 1 game of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship this Saturday evening at Walsh Park (5.15pm) as their bid for a third O'Duffy Cup in a row gets underway.

Following the trip to Waterford, Cork are home to Clare (June 25th) and Offaly (July 2nd) before an away game against Wexford (July 9th) and home tie with Limerick (July 16th), with the last two games decisive to see if the Rebels will advance to the knock-out stages of the All-Ireland.

"This is a game we will be expected to win because it's Waterford's first game at this level. They are All-Ireland intermediate champions, they'll be coming with a lot of confidence and a lot of desire, so we need to match them in those departments," Murray told *The Southern Star*.

"It's a very important game for us. We are in a tricky group and we need to win our first three games to have a chance of qualifying for the knock-out stages. We have Waterford, Clare and Offaly before we play Limerick and Wexford. For us to have a chance at qualifying we need to win those first three games. You don't want to go into your last two games needing two results to qualify."

"We were beaten in the first

round by Galway last year and it did put extra pressure on us. Sometimes it's not a bad thing as it helps focus the minds, but it's not a position we want to find ourselves in again."

Cork head into this championship off the back of their recent Munster final win against Limerick and the boost that six-time All-Ireland winning goalkeeper Aoife Murray (Paudie's sister) has come out of retirement, but attacker Julia White is unlikely to line out for the Rebels this season as has gone travelling for the summer; she missed the league with an Achilles injury.

West Cork interest will centre around Enniskeane's Orla Cronin who has established herself in the Cork attack, while Libby Coppinger (St Colum's), Hazel O'Regan (Clonakilty), Caroline Sugrue (Ballinasclough) and Lisa Lynch (Valley Rovers) are all involved in the inter-county set-up.

"I'm managing two teams - senior and intermediate. There are approximately 40 to 45 girls involved in the set-up," Murray explained.

"During this group stage I will keep the senior squad to the bare minimum to try and strengthen the intermediate squad. If a player plays one game senior then they are out of intermediate for the rest of the

year. In some cases, we might make the decision for a player to play in as many intermediate games as possible to help develop her game and confidence for the latter end of the championship."

"Over the last three years, I have tried to have a level of experience within the intermediate team but use it as a development squad that will feed into the seniors. A good run at intermediate level is better than getting five minutes as a sub at senior. Look at it this way, last year we used just two subs at senior level."

At the recent launch of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship, it was announced that the All-Ireland semi-finals will be broadcast live on RTÉ One this year for the first time.

"Having those games on TV has to be a positive. If we're going on the semi-finals from the last few years, some of them have been better than the final. The more games that are televised, the better," Murray said.

"The media coverage is increasing all the time. You'd like to see more of it but we have to be happy with what has been done this year. The main thing now is to improve the quality of the game. That has to be the next step because there is improvement to be made."



Local interest: Cork's Orla Cronin, from Ballineen, will be an important player for the Rebels in their All-Ireland title defence.

Cork's path to glory

Competing teams in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship are split into two groups.

In Group 1, Cork, Clare, Limerick, Offaly, Waterford and Wexford will compete, while there will be five teams in Group 2 - Derry, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

The second and third place teams from each group advance to the quarter-finals (second place Group 1 v third place Group 2), and the winners of these two games join the group winners in the All-Ireland semi-finals.



Sarsfields celebrate with the trophy after their victory over Thomastown Sarsfields in the Camogie Féile Division 1 final at Fraher Field.



Cork camogie manager will be hoping for a big win over Waterford in Walsh Park tomorrow.

Waterford's baptism of fire



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance All Ireland championship group 1 series, Waterford v Cork, Walsh Park, 5.15pm

It's a senior championship baptism Waterford would prefer not to have, as the All-Ireland Senior Championship sets off in full swing tomorrow.

Waterford host Cork, in Walsh Park, at 5.15pm, with the visitors raging-hot favourites to pick up easy first-round points. Waterford, as intermediate All Ireland champions, step up to the senior grade, against the senior champions. Waterford will likely be in for an uncomfortable hour.

The sides met in the league, when a half-strength Cork won 3-18 to 2-9. While Waterford have improved in the interim, Cork have their full complement and are also in championship mode, so the gap will be bigger.

Waterford secured just one win from a possible four in their league campaign, losing to Cork, Kilkenny and Limerick, but winning away to Derry.

But it's difficult to see Cork dropping points here, even if they play below-par.

Trish Jackman is Waterford's star player. She is only 24. It's uncommon for players from lesser counties to become household names, yet the name Trish Jackman is familiar nationwide.

Her dedication to her club, Gailltír, and to Waterford camogie, is indisputable. Currently midway through a PhD in sports psychology, in the University of Lincoln, in the UK, Trish makes regular trips home for training and games. She says that "I can't make all of the training sessions, but if we have a match coming up, then I'll try and get to the last training



This year's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championships have received a huge boost with confirmation that both senior semi-finals, as well as the All-Ireland Finals, will be broadcast live on RTÉ One television.

session before that."

She said: "It's a six-hour round trip to Waterford, which can be pretty expensive. Otherwise, I have to fly to Dublin and get a bus from there, but that can take nine-and-a-half or ten hours, altogether. On average, I'm home every fortnight. I think, in the last calendar year, I took 48 flights, so 24 trips. It's not always for camogie, but generally it is, so last season I think I did at least 20 trips home for camogie." Trish pays for the flights and was recently granted a WPGA Scholarship, which should "be a huge help financially."

Cork were shown-up in defence during their league encounter, too easily rounded by faster Waterford players, and weren't physical enough. Cork looked to be heading for a comfortable win, when Amy O'Connor tapped home Cork's third goal, six minutes after the break, to lead 3-10 to 1-4, but a 1-5 to 0-2 return, inside nine minutes, from Waterford, after Beth Carton burst through Cork's defence to find the net, narrowed it significantly.

Cork upped the tempo and six excellent points, shared between Orla Cotter and Katrina Mackey, saw them finish

strongly. Gemma O'Connor, Rena Buckley, and Laura Treacy come back into Cork's defence for tomorrow, so Waterford shouldn't get through as easily.

Aoife Murray is between the posts. Orla Cotter has had a number of recent games in at full-forward. I don't think she is as effective inside as she is at midfield. Winning a number of 'Player of the Match' awards from the middle of the park, Orla reads a game well and roams, always making herself available to defenders and forwards. She may start outfield tomorrow.

Much will be expected of Katrina Mackey, now a leader in this Cork side. If she has space, despite close attention, she can get clear and if she's anyway close at all, a goal is uppermost in her mind.

It's important that Cork notch up two or three goals tomorrow. They should be getting majors against the weaker senior counties. The championship feel is here. And it's pretty full-on from here on in, with five group games.

Top-of-the-group heads straight to the semi-final. Second and third place will go into a quarter-final play-off.

A good start for Cork is expected.

Cotter leads the charge for Cork in Waterford

CAMOGIE

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Cork | 2-16 |
| Waterford | 0-9 |

THERE were no surprises in Walsh Park in Cork's opening senior championship game on Saturday, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Leading 1-8 to 0-7 at the break, Cork were the far more threatening side as Waterford relied on the top class free taking of Patricia Jackman to keep them in the hunt.

Waterford were lively, particularly Aoife Landers, Jackman and Niamh Rockett but threatened little, two rather ambitious long distance attempts by Rockett sailing left of the post.

Jackman and Ashling Thompson promised to be an exciting battle in the middle of the Park but Jackman fell back defensively and it was Thompson who was more prominent on the ball, making a number of runs freely through the middle. While the pass may have gone astray at times, it was notable how easy it was to create significant openings.

Gemma O'Connor was back commanding at centre back and unmarked, cleaned up, with Pam Mackey on top class form at left corner back.

Breige Corkery low kicked Cork's opening goal on 13 minutes after good work by Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin.

There were six Cork backs on two Waterford forwards as Niamh Rockett tried to get something out of their first attack of the second half. Needless to say, she made little headway.

Cork's workrate was strong all over the field, closing Waterford down whenever they had possession. Their challengers had the same approach.

Waterford took off right half back Aoife Landers on 40 minutes as Cork bombarded Waterford with attacks. She seemed to me to be more prominent than others.

A free by Cotter from circa the 55m line dropped onto goalkeeper Tracey Kiely who swung to bat outwards and missed leading to Cork's second goal entering the final quarter.

Waterford failed to get Beth Carton into the game but leaving her inside against a numerically advantaged Cork didn't help their cause.

Physically stronger, Cork found each other well at times, picking off some nice points.

Waterford managed just two points from play during the hour with seven of their eight points coming from the stick of Patricia Jackman. Aoife Murray had a quiet afternoon between the posts.

There's a sense of the unknown with an opening championship game as you wait to get the show on the road and see how you perform. While there may be areas to work on Cork did more than enough. A comfortable performance overall with bigger days ahead.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 1-8 (ft), B Corkery 1-1, E O'Sullivan 0-2, K Mackey 0-2, O Cronin, H Looney, A Thompson 0-1 each.

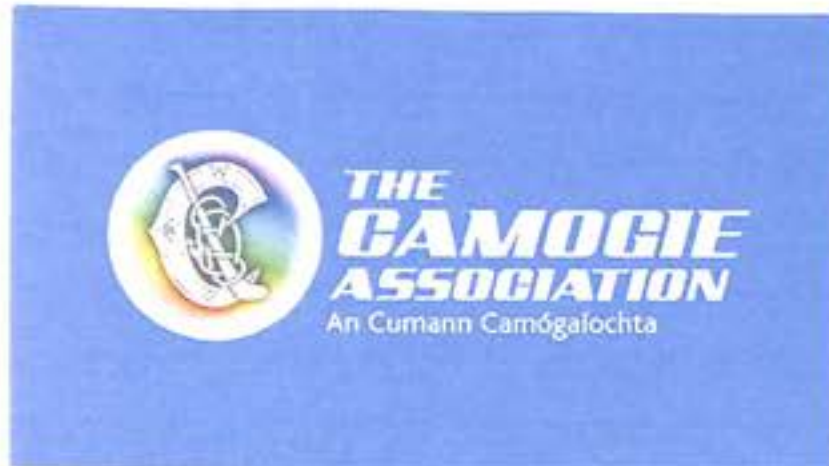
Waterford: P Jackman 0-8 (0-7f), B Carton 0-1
CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley, O Cotter, A Thompson, E O'Sullivan, O Cronin, K Mackey, A O'Connor, B Corkery, H Looney.

Subs: J Hordford for E O'Sullivan (59),
WATERFORD: T Kiely, K McMahon, C Maher, M Power, A Landers, S Kiernan, I Helleman, F Morrissey, P Jackman, L Bray, N Rockett, C McGlone, B Carton, J Simpson, A Power.

Subs: J McCarthy for J Simpson (41), C Whyte for A Landers (41), S Pendergass for M Power (53), C Murphy and N Aherne for L Bray and A Power (59).

Sarsfields, Cork win Division 1 Cup at Feile na nGael

By Camogie Results
Posted 19/06/2016



Div 1 Cup Thomastown Kilkenny 0-3 v 1-3 Sarsfields Cork

Div 1 Shield Knockavilla Donoskeigh Kicksams 2-6 v 1-1 Éire Óg Annacarty Donohill Tipperary

Div 2 Cup Wolfe Tones Bettlaghy Derry 1-5 v 0-3 Ballina Tipperary

Div 2 Shield St Anne's Waterford 1-4 v 2-5 Michael Davitts Swatragh Derry

Div 3 Cup Naas Kildare 1-3 v 1-1 Myshall Carlow

Div 3 Shield Camross Laois 1-3 v 0-4 Fethard Tipperary

Div 4 Cup Cill Ard Kerry 2-7 v 2-4 English Tyrone

Div 4 Shield Burgess Tipperary 2-0 v 0-5 Westport Mayo

Div 5 Cup San Francisco 2-0 v 4-4 JK Brackens Tipperary

Div 5 Shield St Eunan's Donegal 1-2 v 0-0 Cappoquin Waterford

Wily Wexford win a thriller

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

The Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship began with a bang as Innovate Wexford Park hosted Wexford's thrilling win over Limerick (3-17 to 1-16).

Wexford inflicted most of the damage in the first half and goals from Kate Kelly and Una Leacy saw them streak into an 11-point lead. Limerick steadied the ship somewhat, with Niamh Mulcahy providing quality leadership, and went in at the break trailing by 2-9 to 0-6. When Leacy plundered her second goal the gap grew to 13 points but Mulcahy showed her class with a goal and a series of points that saw the margin reduced to six before Kelly converted a late free.

There were two other Group

1 encounters and champions Cork got their bid for a three-in-a-row under way with a convincing 2-16 to 0-9 defeat of last year's intermediate victors Waterford at Walsh Park.

Thanks to six points from Trish Jackman, the Déise girls trailed by just four at the interval, 1-8 to 0-7.

Jackman actually landed the game's first two scores from prodigious distances but Cork gradually settled and a goal from Brieghe Corkery, along with five points from Orla Cotter gave them the edge. Cotter continued to find the target in the second half, while skipper Ashling Thompson thundered into the fray. Cotter found the net from a long range free to seal victory.

Clare found Offaly too hot to handle. A Tina Hannon goal after 12 minutes, followed by points from Lorraine Keenan

and Arlene Watkins pushed the visitors clear and though Chloe Morey stopped the rot from a free, a hat-trick of points by Watkins helped Offaly to a 1-12 to 0-5 interval advantage.

A Morey goal from a free and an Aoife Keane point cut the deficit to five but it finished 1-16 to 1-11.

League finalists Galway were pushed very hard by a resurgent Tipperary and after Jenny Grace brought Brian Boyle's crew to within a point of the westerners with six minutes of normal time remaining, it needed points from Aoife Donoghue and Niamh McGrath to see them home on a 1-13 to 1-10 scoreline.

Kilkenny defeated Galway in the league decider and they were resounding victors against Derry in Swatragh by 5-24 to 2-3.

Hennelly transforms adversity into opportunity

By Camogie Association
Posted 20/06/2016



Galway star finally ready to make impact in Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Clouds and silver linings, eh?

It is difficult to envision an upside to long-term injury, and after tearing her cruciate knee ligament for the second time in three years at just 20 years of age in 2014, Rebecca Hennelly certainly could not do so.

It was absolute devastation for a prodigious talent, pinpointed as a certain Camogie star almost from the time she picked up a hurley in Ardara.

A two-time All-Ireland winner at U16 level, Hennelly had been the shining light as Galway completed a Minor U16 double in 2010, landing the injury-time free that earned the Tribeswomen a replay against Clare in the U16 decider before making no mistake second time around.

The ascent continued in rapid fashion and in 2011, Noel Finn named the recently-turned 17-year-old to make her debut at wing-forward in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship.

It is almost five years to the day now, the Thursday night before, that Hennelly went down to the Ardara pitch for a puck around. She was running in a straight line when the knee buckled beneath her.

There would be no championship on Saturday, or for some time. The road back was tortuous and in hindsight, the rehab was hit-and-miss. She missed out on the long-awaited Senior All-Ireland in 2013 but was on the intermediate team that completed a famous September double.

By 2014, she was flying again, having propelled Ardara to an All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie Final in March. She made her belated championship bow in the All-Ireland Quarter-Final against Clare the following August and held her spot for the Semi-Final, but Kilkenny proved too strong.

Disaster lay around the corner though and Hennelly's knee collapsed once more in the Club Championship a few weeks later.

It would have been easy to hang up the boots after that but showing remarkable fortitude in the face of such adversity, she embarked on a disciplined regime that not only transformed her into a fitter, stronger and faster player, better equipped for the rigours of Camogie than ever before, but set her on a new career path.

So taken was Hennelly by the benefits of strength and conditioning that she is putting the finishing flourishes to setting up a gym in the large garage at the back of the family home.

There isn't a name yet – the shortlist has been whittled down to just a couple of options now – but the premises is fully kitted out, the insurance was sorted this week and her many contacts within Camogie and the wider Gaelic games family have promised to support her.

Allied with having a first real run at a Senior Camogie campaign with Galway, five years later than initially expected, it all adds up to being the most exciting period of the Ardara woman's life.

"The first time I did the cruciate I was fairly young" Hennelly recalls. "I just didn't know what had to be done, what it was going to take. I didn't do as much as I should have done before or after the operation."

"Coming back from the injury the second time, I put a lot of work in. I found it mentally challenging, wondering would I make it back, questioning myself. But I spent an awful lot of time in the gym and did so much work that I knew I'd make it back no problem."

"I came back at the end of last year and I was fitter than ever. This year is better again and that's just completely down to the hard work. I did find it tough but I powered on."

"Every minute I had I was going to the gym, doing everything I could. I was working in a factory in Galway and it wasn't where I wanted to see myself for the rest of my life. I got so into the gym, I love how it helped me not just physically and mentally as well, so I decided to do a course and eventually left my job."

She is passionate about the benefits of strength and conditioning and is looking forward to the prospect of spreading a message, which being an *Our Game Your Game* ambassador also gives her the opportunity of doing, that strength and weights should not be dirty words for girls, assaulted as they are by body image stereotypes nowadays.

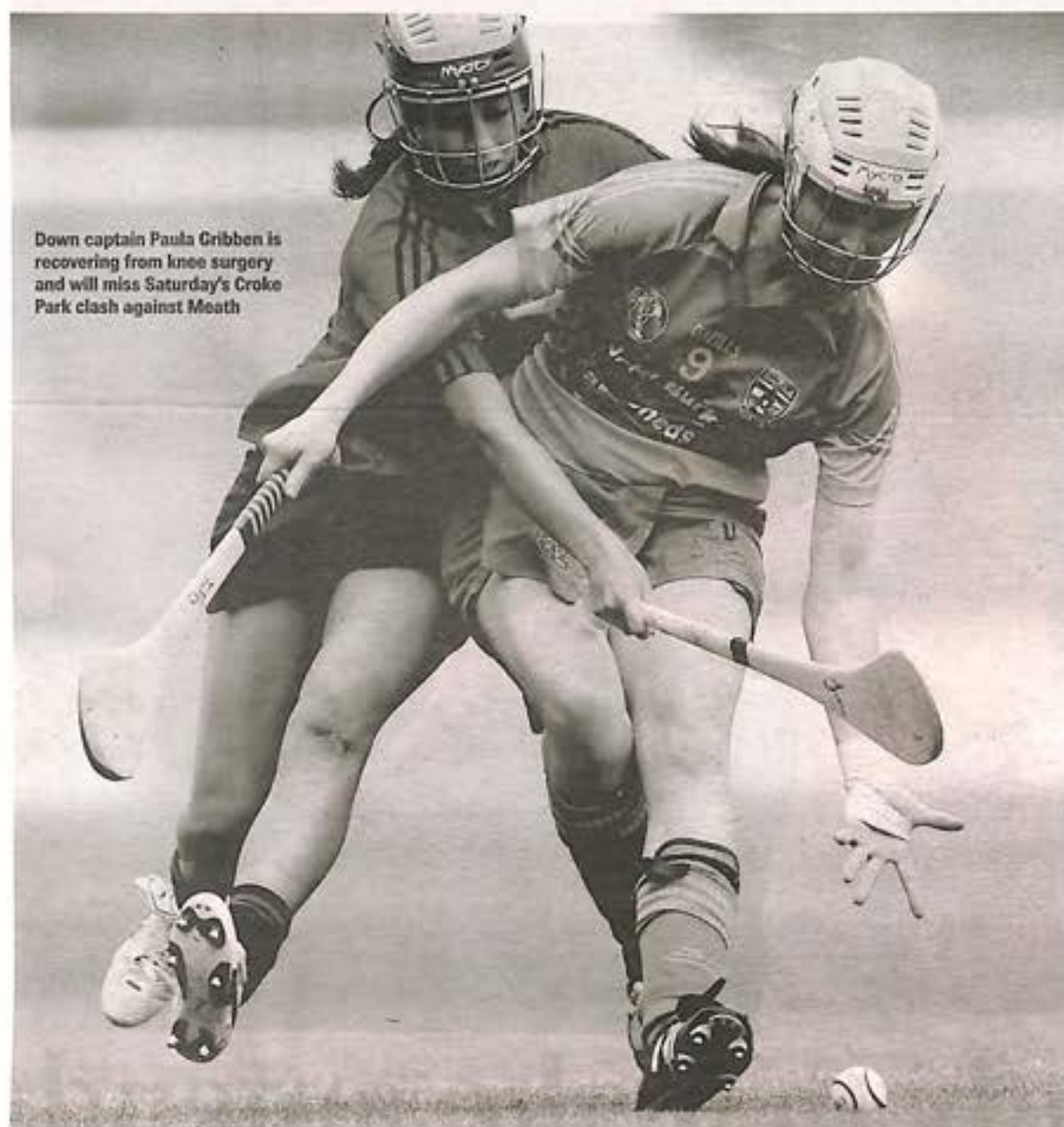
"A lot of girls think they're going to be muscly like body builders but it's not like that at all. Girls can't build muscle like that unless they're on steroids or something."

"The fitness it brings to your Camogie is unbelievable, the strength levels, breaking tackles, getting out of rucks, your speed work, your hurling, your striking – everything improves. It's something every Camogie player should do, even to prevent injury."

"But even if you're not playing a game, you just feel so good."

Strength and conditioning programmes are a relatively recent phenomenon in Camogie says Hennelly, but the players have bought into it completely, combining a minimum of two nights a week with the collective pitch sessions. It should make the Hennelly Gym, under whatever moniker it operates, a popular destination indeed.

Croker clash for Down camogs



Down captain Paula Gribben is recovering from knee surgery and will miss Saturday's Croke Park clash against Meath

Ryan O'Neill is hoping his Down side are inspired by the challenge of playing in Croke Park as they cross swords with a high-flying Meath side

Niall Gartland



LIBERTY INSURANCE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP TWO
DOWN V MEATH
Saturday, Croke Park, 3.15pm

THERE'S little to whet the appetite like playing in Croke Park and that's exactly what awaits the Down camogs in their All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Group Two clash against Meath on Saturday.

In the curtain-raiser to the Christy Ring Cup final replay, Ryan O'Neill's Down side will hope to find their feet in the Championship having endured a troublesome league campaign.

Their preparations have been further hampered by a double injury blow. Captain Paula Gribben is recovering from knee surgery and is definitely out, while Niamh Mallon has also been injured for the past month and is a doubt for Saturday.

Nonetheless, it hasn't significantly dampened the prospect of playing at GAA Headquarters.

"It will be a tough championship, this is my first year as Down manager and what more would you want than playing in Croke Park. I played there before as an Antrim manager,

for myself and the players it's frightening.

"Croke Park's nearly the last place to aim for [in the Championship] but it's exciting for us, even to drive there on the match day to Croke Park, one of the best pitches in Ireland if not the world.

"I think we have 13 or 14 new girls to the panel, this will be their first time. It'll be my first time managing in Croke Park, so it's been a good buzz in the build-up. We'll worry about ourselves rather than focus on Meath."

Down fans won't need reminding that Meath were Division Two champions, while Down had a trickier time of it, winning only one of their five league matches.

"Meath are the league champions, we had a good start to the league ourselves but all of a sudden it took a wrong turn.

"In our first game, we should've beaten Kilkenny but we got a draw. We travelled down to Carlow and they gave us a good skelping and the tables turned. Every since then it's been an uphill battle for the management and players.

"[But] We took a two-week break and it's been uphill again. At the very start we had a panel of 28, then we went down to 21 and we're back at 26. Preparations have been up and down. The only team in Ulster that are doing rightly consistently are Armagh. We're getting on rightly now, we just have to see how we get on this week."

Saffron Camogs take heart from Derry shock

Connor Campbell's team are almost interchangeable with the Loughgiel Shamrocks club team and they achieved a remarkable Ulster success heading into their All-Ireland Championship campaign

BY NIALL GARTLAND

LIBERTY INSURANCE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP ONE
LAOIS V ANTRIM
Saturday, Portlaoise, 2.30pm

CONNOR Campbell is hopeful that his Antrim side can carry their rich vein of form into their opening Intermediate Championship clash away to Laois this Saturday.

The Saffrons defied the odds to edge a thrilling Ulster Senior Camogie final against Derry a fortnight ago, Racquel McCarry's goal at the death denying the Oak Leafers a fifth provincial title in a row.

It was a victory made all the more remarkable by the fact that 14 of their starters against Derry play their club camogie for Loughgiel Shamrocks - with special mention going to Cushendall's Orla O'Hara, who lined out in the half-forward.

An unusual situation - one that is explained by the circumstances of Campbell's appointment in the first place.

"It was exciting anyway, it's given us a good buzz going into the All-Ireland and hopefully a good bit of confidence as well. Loughgiel had a tight enough match against Rossa so that brought them back down to earth.

"I was taking the Loughgiel camogs this year. I'm not sure what

happened with the county this year, they ended up pulling out of the National League. They offered it to Loughgiel and it was open to anyone else to come too. We still train at Cloughmills but there was only one other girl that came, it's just the way it ended up. Orla was a big help, I don't think we would've got over the line without her help either."

Antrim are in Group One of the Intermediate Championship alongside Wexford, Kilkenny and Tipperary's second teams, as well as Laois. Both Antrim and Laois played in Division Two this year, albeit in separate groups, and the Saffrons can take a great deal of confidence from their win over Derry, who ply their trade in the Senior Championship this year.

"We know it's Laois' first team, we played them before in the last couple of years, Laois got the better of them a good few times, we'll just have to go and give it our best shot. Derry were a Division One above us, so we'll take a bit of confidence going into it."

LIBERTY INSURANCE SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP TWO
DERRY V TIPPERARY
Saturday, Celtic Park, 2.30pm

DERRY'S task doesn't get any easier as they turn their attention to this weekend's Senior Camogie Championship clash against Tipperary.

It's been a tough few weeks for Ciaran Cunningham's side, losing their grip on the Ulster Camogie title in a classic encounter against Antrim, followed by a baptism of fire against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Championship last weekend.

The Cats won out by 5-24 to 2-3, Aoife Shaw and Kate McAnenly getting the goals for Derry.

Tipperary, meanwhile will be quietly confident of getting up and running in their championship campaign at the second time of asking. The Premier County fell to a three-point defeat against Galway but are an improving side brimming with youthful talent, while Cait Devane is undoubtedly their star performer.

ULSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
ANTRIM V DERRY
Saturday, Glenavy, 2.30pm

ANTRIM and Derry lock horns in Saturday's Ulster Junior Championship final. Both sides play at a Division Four level and if league form is any indication, Antrim will be slight favourites to take the spoils, emerging with three wins out of six while Derry could only manage a sole win against Carlow. The Saffrons' Anna McCann, Aine Tubridy and Mairead Cooper also made the team of the league.

Racquel McCarry's last-minute goal snatched a last-gasp win for Antrim in the Ulster Camogie Championship final



Disciplined Cork defence is vital



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie championship: Cork v Clare, Páirc Uí Rinn, 2.30pm.

AFTER a spirited 2014 where they reached the league final and gave Cork a couple of tough challenges Clare has significantly slipped back as a challenging force in senior camogie. It's disappointing for them.

On their day they could give any side a tough hour, even if they rarely came out on the right side at the end of it. But they were always short just a couple more top players. Those players never came through and then they lost more seasoned campaigners such as Deirdre Murphy.

Orlaith Duggan, who captains Clare, spoke last week of how Clare did the tough winter training, the circuits, the running, and they were ready and looking forward to the championship ahead. But a heavy first round defeat to Offaly, 1-16 to 0-11, has been an awful start.

Orlaith spoke about the success of the county's underage and how that has now become the foundation for their senior side. I would argue that Cork, Tipperary's and Limerick's underage section is stronger; certainly at minor level. Clare's top flight team have regressed, that is clear.

They won the 2012 Munster title and things looked positive for Clare at that point and in 2014 but it's a longer road now. Losing to Dublin, Tipperary and Galway, Clare defeated Offaly 0-18 to 1-8 in the league. So what happened last weekend? Did they peak too soon?

I remember years ago Davy Fitzgerald was training the Clare girls and had them doing excruciating physical training during the winter months. Yes, they were flying at the start of the season but I always felt that once other teams caught up in that regard then the better hurlers would prevail. And so they did. Did the same happen this time around? A seven-point victory turned into an eight-point defeat. Clare also defeated Wexford in the league but



Karen O'Leary and Muireann Creamer, Limerick, in action against Orla Cronin, Cork, in the Munster Championship series.

Picture: Gareth Williams/Press 22

Wexford weren't even out of the traps and key players were missing. I wonder how their meeting on July 17 will play out? Clare have some great players, just not enough of them, Chloe Morey one of the country's best.

Cork host Clare in Páirc Uí Rinn tomorrow. They were somewhat disappointed with their performance last Saturday. I thought it wasn't bad. There are certainly areas to work on, such as falling back into old habits of not offloading the ball quick enough but it was an opening round against weaker opposition that leads you to take chances and delay on the ball. Management were dissatisfied with the amount of turnovers they won in the opening half. The players certainly picked it up in the second I thought.

Round two is tomorrow and Clare will bring a physical challenge to Cork. Clare will keep in touching distance with Cork if the latter concede frees. If they are disciplined I don't see the visitors breaching Cork's defence too easily and notching up a high score.



Red Bull Athletes Joe Canning (Galway), Ashling Thompson and Kilkenny hurler Richie Hogan at the launch of Ireland's only five-a-side hurling and camogie tournament.

Workrate proving the key for Cork

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

CORK may have areas to work, evident in their opening round victory over Waterford in Walsh Park on Saturday, but they're on the road.

There are bigger days ahead as regards opposition but there are bigger performances in Cork too.

While the first half may not have been a classic, Cork upped the tempo in the second half with their workrate significantly improving.

The one aspect where Cork seemed to take a step back was taking too much out of the ball, trying to get past 'just one more player' before offloading when the better option was on. All too often they were closed down and the opportunity was lost.

But they'll know that better than anyone.

They have mastered the style of play they've adopted and while it's easy at times, particularly when playing weaker opposition, to fall back into old habits, it's an area they'll no doubt look to improve on ahead of their encounter with Clare next Saturday.

It finished 2-16 to 0-9 in the Déise with seven of Waterford's scores coming from placed balls, from the stick of Patricia Jackman.

Cork may not be clocking up huge scores as teams play defensively against them but they're not conceding much either and this is their trump card.

As all first round action got under Wexford took Limerick in a high scoring 3-17 to 1-16 exciting clash. Wexford inflicted most of the damage in the first half and goals from Kate Kelly and Una Leacy saw them take an 11-point lead. Limerick steadied the ship somewhat, with Niamh Mulcahy once again providing quality leadership, and went in at the break trailing by 2-9 to 0-6.

When Leacy struck her second goal there was no way back for the Shannonsiders as they fell 13 points behind. But the magnificent Mulcahy showed her class with a goal and a handful of points on the way to a remarkable individual tally of 1-14, that saw the margin reduced to six before Kelly converted a free with the game's last act.

Already Mulcahy is a contender for 'Player of the Year' after a tremendous league.

As expected league finalists Galway were pushed very hard by a resurgent Tipperary and after Jenny Grace brought Brian Boyle's crew to within a point of the Westerners with six minutes of normal time remaining, it needed points from Aoife Donoghue and Niamh McGrath to see them home on a 1-13 to 1-10 scoreline.

League champions Kilkenny were resounding winners against Derry in Swatragh by 5-24 to 2-3.

Sarsfields beat Thomastown to claim Féile title

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SARSFIELDS became the first Cork club since Douglas in 2009 to capture the Division 1 Féile Na nGael Camogie title as they defeated Kilkenny side Thomastown in a close encounter in Dungarvan on Sunday.

On Saturday, Sarsfields recorded a comprehensive semi-final victory over Bunclogh, 5-1 to 0-0 while Thomastown had to battle to the finish before securing a one-point victory over Toomevara 2-5 to 1-7.

Earlier in the competition, in the group stages the sides had met and finished level and again in the final it was much of the same as little divided them all through.

Weather conditions made it difficult for both teams as rain was the spoiler and scores were at a premium. It was level pegging one point

each at the interval, Cliona Lynch having pointed a Sarsfields free.

A goal was always going to be valuable and it was Orlaith Mullins who edged Sarsfields ahead early in the second half when she grabbed that all-important goal.

Sars stretched their lead with an Olivia McAllen point.

Thomastown continued to pressurise the Sarsfields defence and they added a point to their tally as the clock ticked towards the full time whistle but with the title in their sights

Sarsfield's were not going to be denied as they dug deep to hold the threat posed by the Thomastown attack.

Captain Nikki Barry, daughter of former Sars hurler Vincie Barry, was presented with the Féile trophy after a victory that is a first ever for the Sarsfields club in the national competition and club secretary and long time servant Eithne Allen (Nee Barry) was loud in her praise for her club's youngsters.

"We are thrilled to win Féile and it's a tribute to all the hard work that is going on in our club. The girls are thrilled with their win and it is a huge achievement for us."

Team mentors to the victorious side were Allan McNamara, Conor Desmond and former Na Piarasigh senior hurler Mark Mullins.

Camogie clubs news, results and fixtures

BRIAN DILLON'S

U12: Another great night for our U12 team following an impressive win away to Killeagh. It was a very tough game and a hard-fought victory. Final score 4-01 to 2-2.

Our defence was brilliant. Cameron, Niamh, the two Zoes and Leah in midfield were exhausted having given it their all. Our goals came from Jane who accounted for three and Ciara who scored one. Our point came from Ruby.

Supporter of the night goes to Jackie White. This team are absolutely flying and all their hard training is paying off.

U13: Our U13 team played Na Piarasigh in Seandun at the Tank. We had three main defenders missing and this proved to be our downfall. We were well beaten, but to our credit we did rally in the second half and showed great heart.

Senior: We have lots of matches planned, in the Summer League and challenges. With six players still doing leaving cert exams, the value of a big squad is clear to see. We started the Summer League this week and we had a great win over Sars at the Tank. We won 5-7 to 1-10 with some class scores, particularly from the Dooleys.

COBH

The underage section of the club has been very busy in recent weeks with teams playing matches at home and travelling to different venues around the county. The common factor arising from these games is the development of skills and team play shown by all the girls from U8 up. The U8s have so far played Nemo Rangers, Passage and White's Cross with super performances all round!

U9: The U9s are proving to be a strong force with a good win against Glen Rovers followed by a blitz in Nemo Rangers. They are due to play Tracton and Nemo Rangers at home this weekend.

U10: The U10 team are another great asset to the club with wins against Castleyons, Fr O'Neill's and St. Catherine's.

U11: Our U11 team started their league campaign with a good win against Glen Rovers followed by good performances against Castlemartyr and Fr O'Neill's.

U12: Our U12 team have shown superb skill and determination and have won their third league game in a row beating Killeagh, Brian Dillon's and Dungourney.

U14: The U14 team had a change from their regular training session on June 11 with a thoroughly enjoyable fun day out in Marlogue Woods. Thanks to the coaches for organising the activities.

U16: The U16s continue their preparation for the championship and the girls are looking forward to returning to matches following the junior cert.

U18 and Junior: The minor and junior players finished celebrating their Junior League final win with an evening's kayaking and a well deserved ice cream treat on June 3 in the top field. They returned to their preparations for the championship with a challenge match against Na Piarasigh and the first Summer Cup game against Yougal.

Thank you: Finally we'd like to thank our players who coached classes from junior infants to sixth class in Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhaigh during their recent active schools week.

KILBREE

U14: The U14 camogie team continues its good run of form in the league. On Friday June 10, they welcomed Nemo Rangers. This U14 squad is a very young one, the majority of its members are still U12. There were strong performances at mid-field from Mairead Crowley and Leanne Sheehy who were instrumental in helping Kilbree to remain dominant. The Kilbree half-backline fought hard to ensure that Nemo would only convert a single scoring chance. Nemo were strong in defence and Kilbree had to work hard for their scores.

Team: Heather Brimble, Sarah O'Donovan, Jessica O'Driscoll, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan, Emily O'Donovan, Leanne Sheehy (0-1), Mairead Crowley (3-3), Rebecca Hurley, Caoimhe Murphy, Alice Twomey, Aile O'Neill, Rachel Deasy (1-0), Alison Collins, Mary Murphy and Orlagh O'Neill Callanan (2-0).

Congratulations to Mairead Crowley who captained Cork in the James Hurley All-Ireland Blitz in Mallow, last Saturday. This team won all of their games. We are very proud of Mairead and her achievements with club and county.

U12: The U12s welcomed Kiltirrit/Timoleague to Rossmore on Wednesday, June 8. The visitors started brightly, but the Kilbree girls were strong and determined, facing into every challenge. Kilbree began to dominate later in the second half. Great teamwork and courage ensured that Kilbree would be victorious on the night. The final score was Kilbree 12-3 to Kiltirrit/Timoleague 1-4.

Team: Heather Brimble (1-1), Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan (1-1), Emily O'Donovan, Cara Collins, Caoimhe Murphy (7-0), Rachel Deasy, Alison Collins, Roisin O'Carroll, Niamh McCarthy, Mary Murphy (0-1), Margaret Collins (3-0), Emer O'Connell, Ava Murray, Lucy Collins, Orlagh O'Donovan and Orlagh O'Neill Callanan.

The U12s continued their great run of form with a win over Newcestown on Saturday, June 18. In glorious conditions, a goal within the first minute by Caoimhe Murphy set Kilbree up nicely. Great defending by Kate O'Donovan and Cara Collins kept the pressure on the Newcestown backs.

Maeve O'Neill made some incredible runs from defence to create attack after attack. Mary Murphy cleared some great ball and created promising moves. Some great first-half goals by Alison Collins, Sinead O'Sullivan, Emer O'Connell, Heather Brimble, Orlagh O'Neill Callanan and Rachel Deasy ensured this result was never



Ballinora Camogie Féile team who won the Dublin regional Féile final on Saturday



The Kilbree U12 side who played Newcestown.

in doubt. Kilbree played all of the younger U11 players in the second half. They played brilliantly and gained some invaluable experience. The final score was Kilbree 10-3 to Newcestown's 3-2.

Team: Heather Brimble (1-0), Kate O'Donovan, Maeve O'Neill, Cara Collins, Orlagh O'Neill Callanan (1-0), Mary Murphy, Rachel Deasy (0-2), Caoimhe Murphy (2-0), Sinead O'Sullivan (1-0), Margaret Collins, Roisin O'Carroll, Niamh McCarthy, Alison Collins (3-1), Ava Murray, Lucy Collins, Emer O'Connell (1-0) and Orlagh O'Donovan (1-0).

Both the U12 and U14 teams are unbeaten this season and both have qualified for their respective county quarter-finals, which will be played over the next few weeks.

U14: Kilbree U14 team members Maeve O'Neill, Aile O'Neill, Jessica O'Driscoll and Alice Twomey took part in the community games on Sunday, June 12. They joined forces with girls from other clubs to represent Enniskeane and District. They won the county final and qualified for the Munster finals on July 2 in Limerick.

U10: The U10 camogie girls were delighted to be invited to a fun blitz in Kinsale on Saturday, June 10. They played brilliantly against Slabh Rua, Kinsale, Enniskeane and Ballinascorney.

Team: Emma Keohane, Holly McCarthy, Megan McCarthy, Katelyn McCarthy, Sinead Bennett, Lucy O'Donovan, Isla McCarthy, Lucy Medcalf and Nicola Nyhan.

U6 and U8: The U6 and U8 teams played St Colum's in Rossmore on Thursday, June 9. This was the first outing for some of the U6s and they played tremendously well. Our more seasoned U8s put up a great display and showed great skill and determination.

Team: Clodagh O'Keefe, Ella Burke, Sarah O'Donovan, Katie O'Donovan, Ellie Collins, Leah McCarthy, Eabha O'Driscoll, Nell Harrington, Niamh McCarthy, Aisling Burke, Emma Medcalf, Sophie Edwards, Rosie O'Donovan, Caoimhe O'Donovan, Jennifer Beer, Niamh O'Conchuir and Caoimhe Sutton.

Cúl Camp: The club's ever successful Cúl Camp will run from Monday to Friday July 18-22, in Rossmore. A great week of fun is assured. Registration may be completed online. A club registration night will be held shortly. Please contact (087) 9645831 with any queries.

KILWORTH

Junior: This week, our Junior C Championship fixtures were released and in just over a week, our girls will take to the field where they will take on St Vincent's at home in their first ever championship game and we can't wait!

The girls are busy preparing and training each week and they have been eagerly anticipating this championship. This is what all their hard work and effort is for.

Times and dates may change slightly, but keep an eye on these notes next week and on social media during the week for further updates. On behalf of the club we would like to wish the team and the players the very best of luck for this year's championship, we are all behind you! The full list of fixtures can be seen below with the team named first playing at home.

Kilworth v St. Vincent's, Kilworth v Millstreet, Castleyons v Kilworth, Kilworth v Aghada, Ballinora v Kilworth.

Thank you: On behalf of Kilworth Camogie we would like to sincerely thank JJ Walsh from Killybeg for his recent sponsorship to the club. We sincerely appreciate it and it will greatly help with the club's finances. Thank you again!

Email us your pictures As it is our first year as a camogie club we want to be able to make as many memories as possible and have them saved so that pictures, match reports and any other club activities are there to be seen for generations to come, because Kilworth Camogie Club is here to stay!

We have set up an email account where parents can send us any pictures they want us to have that they may have taken from their daughters matches, blitz events, training etc. It is a great way for parents to contribute and it is also a way

to ensure we have a team photograph with every match report the PRO writes up. This is especially important in our first year involved and it will be great in 20, 30, 40 years' time to look back at these pictures and reminisce. So please do send us on your pictures to kilworthcamogiehistory@gmail.com. Thank you!

Fundraising dates: Get out your diary and be sure and mark in the following dates! On July 21 we will be doing a street collection in Fermoy from 9-6pm and we would sincerely appreciate your support. We are a new club, just starting out and we need all the support we can get to ensure that we can run the club on a day-to-day basis and also so we can have the best equipment and facilities for our players so that they can improve and play in the best environment possible.

Juvenile training: Tuesdays at 7pm Juvenile training continues every Tuesday from 7-8pm and again all the age groups will be training in the GAA pitch. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Cúl Camp 2016: Cúl Camp 2016 takes place this year from Monday to Friday July 4-8. It is a fantastic way to improve skills, learn new ones and create even more friends. Cúl Camp is always a fantastic event and the more that get involved the better! For more information please contact any member of the Kilworth GAA juvenile club or you can register your child online also.

Follow us on social media: Keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the club by following us on Twitter, @KilworthCamogie or add us as your friend on Facebook by typing in the name 'Kilworth Camogie'.

Main Sponsor: J Kennedy Construction.

MIDLETON

Fé 8: Our U8s travelled to a blitz Killeagh last week, fielding one U7 team and three U8 teams. We played Slabh Rua, Killeagh and Camigtwahill. The girls played very well in humid conditions, all the hard work the girls put in at training is clearly paying off. Thank you to parents for your ongoing support and to Killeagh for hosting.



Sarsfields captain Nikki Barry with the Division 1 Féile trophy. Picture: INPHO/Ken Sutton

Fé 10: Our U10s were also on the playing field last week and they took on Watergrasshill in what was another great evening of camogie. Well done to all the girls keep, and up the good work!

Fé 12: Round four of the U12 league, Middleton versus Grenagh was played in Middleton last Sunday evening. Our girls played against a strong wind in the first half, but managed to go ahead early and hold on to the lead throughout the first half. Some great saves from the Grenagh goalkeeper denied Middleton the opportunity to add to their scores.

The two sides were level with only 10 minutes left but the girls dug deep scoring a goal from a free with five minutes to go. Middleton kept up the pressure, passing ball after ball into the forward line which paid off when the ball rattled the back of the Grenagh net just before the final whistle. This was a well-earned and well-deserved win for Middleton. These girls have gone from strength to strength throughout the U12 league campaign and have showed some great determination and heart.

Team: Aoife Lomasney, Holly Duggan, Ella Murphy, Caoimhe Murray, Chloe Garde, Ciara Naughton, Ellie McManus, Ellie O'Keefe, Abbie Foley, Jill Coughton, Rebecca Crowley, Aoife Fitzgerald, Aisling Kelleher, Emily Lamb, Lily O'Connor, Meabh Morrissey, Ines Costa.

Summer Camp: This year Middleton's Camogie Summer Camp will be held on July 14 and 15 at Middleton GAA Club 10am-1pm. This is the club's third year hosting a summer camp, and based on previous years it is guaranteed to be an enjoyable and worthwhile morning for the girls.

To book a place please text Sheila on 0876822916. Open to girls age 6 to 12.

ROCKBÁN

A great camogie blitz was held last Saturday. Grenagh, Banteer and Rockbán had two teams competing. Very competitive and skillful matches were played in very warm conditions. Thanks to Grenagh for hosting and also for the fabulous refreshments laid on afterwards.

Cork get camogie title defence off to ideal start

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE

CORK 2-16
WATERFORD 0-9
BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

ALL-IRELAND senior camogie champions Cork face Clare on Saturday at 2.30pm in Páirc Uí Rinn, having opened their campaign with a 13-point win over Waterford at Walsh Park last Saturday. Cork began their title de-

fence with a strong win over Waterford in Walsh Park on Saturday but not before overcoming a strong first half challenge from the Deise side. The Rebels led by 1-8 to 0-7 after a dogged performance by the Deise in the first half but Cork's class told after the break as they surged clear. Patricia Jackman gave notice of Waterford's intentions early

on with two long-range frees and a good point from play before Orla Cronin opened Cork's account. A pair of Orla Cotter frees levelled and then the visitors struck for a goal, Brieger Corkery finishing to the net with her foot, following good work from Cronin and Hannah Looney.

Cotter was excellent from frees and she and Eimear O'Sullivan were both on target as they moved five clear, but Waterford stuck with them. Catriona McGlone Jackman (three) and Beth Carton both

had points before half-time as the gap narrowed to three, but another Cotter free put four between the teams.

Two Cork points inside the opening two minutes of the second half, a well-taken score by O'Sullivan and yet another placed ball by Cotter increased Cork's lead to six, 1-10 to 0-07.

Limiting

With five of Waterford's scores in the opening 30 minutes coming from frees, Cork cut down on their fouling in the second half, limiting Water-

ford's scoring to just two points, both from Jackman. Cork repeated their first-half scoring rate, adding another 1-8, with Cotter free dropping all the way to the net for the second goal.

From there on out, it was one-way traffic with Cork adding an additional three points to further enhance their win and set them up for the Clare game.

Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 1-8 (8f), B Corkery 1-1, E O'Sullivan, K Mackey 0-2 each, O Cronin, H Looney, A Thompson 0-1 each.
Waterford: P Jackman 0-8 (7f), B

Carton 0-1

Cork: A Murray; P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley; O Cotter, A Thompson; E O'Sullivan, O Cronin, K Mackey; A O'Connor, B Corkery, H Looney.
Subs used: J Hosford for E O'Sullivan (58).
Waterford: T Kiely; K McMahon, C Maher, M Power; A Landers, S Kiernan, I Heffernan; F Morrissey, P Jackman; L Bray, N Rockett, C McGlone; B Carton, J Simpson, A Power.
Subs used: J McCarthy for Simpson (half-time), S Prendergast for Landers (55), C Murphy for Bray, N Aherne for A Power (both 58).
Referee: J Dolan (Clare).

JUNE

2014

O'Connor gears up to head into battle again

SEVEN-TIME All-Ireland senior medal holder, corporal Gemma O'Connor, enters her 14th season with Cork this year, having missed the 2013 season due to overseas duty.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

I think anyone who reads my column regularly is aware of how much I admire Gemma both as a player and a person. She arrived on the Cork senior panel in 2002, my final season, so I never had time with her on the championship field as she developed into the tremendous athlete she is.

Pity that. Gemma is always frank and honest. As a family the Geaneys and O'Connors suffered tragic losses in 2015. Gemma's cousin and her mother passed away last September. When you lose someone you love sport becomes meaningless to you – but only for a short while – because sport plays a huge role in your healing process.

Gemma took her mother's passing badly. They were the best of friends. Ger Geaney, as she was often referred to, Donal and Glenn, were at every Cork match supporting Gemma and you'd regularly miss her presence and chats.

Despite it being difficult to do so, Gemma opens up to tell us how she is coping.

"When my mam got sick I felt that everything outside of that was so unimportant, including camogie. How could something like camogie in the grand scheme of things matter? But it does!

"Only for my mam my success as a camogie player would not be as it is and that's the truth. Yes, I think I have the natural ability as a player but she was the motivation and drive behind it all. She coached me and mentored me my whole life.

"Not having her there in Croke Park last year was heart breaking. Year after year she has been to every single game and all of a sudden she was not. It is still so hard to believe that one day everything is normal and great and then your whole world falls apart.

"At 55 years of age I feel that we were robbed of an amazing mother and wife and a fantastic best friend. When she died in September I felt that I was finished with camogie. I barely had the energy to get out of bed every day and I felt how could I play camogie again without her by my side.

"I took a break as I wanted to figure out a few things. It is definitely not the same without her but I know my mam would want me to continue playing. I miss her terribly but I do it all for her now.

"I think when someone suffers a loss of a loved one it changes your life so much. For me at the beginning I felt I couldn't train nor had the appetite that was needed to perform, be-

cause my mind and emotions were all over the place.

"You hear all the time that sport is fantastic to keep you busy after a bereavement but honestly I needed a break from it because for me to perform to the best of my ability I needed a clear mind. With all that in my head I felt it wasn't fair to put myself through all that but also it wasn't going to be fair on my team-mates.

I didn't want to be at training resenting everything. Although I'm back playing I still struggle but I play and train with a lot more ease and enjoyment."

Gemma sat out the league but lined out at centre back last Saturday in Cork's opening championship encounter and it was great to see her back. She's on a tough assignment at the moment in the Curragh with no relaxed lead into championship weekends.

That might be heavy and tiring for her at the moment but she should reap the benefits later in the season. She explains what it's all about.

"It's a 10-week course based on the development and training of corporals to become a sergeant. It can be tough at times physically. We have to endure certain physical tests which means that it has a certain effect on the body. Carrying loaded packs is very different to sprinting around the field in shorts and jerseys.

"The military is more demanding on the mind than the body I feel. Being constantly assessed and put under pressure in certain situations. I hope and feel that this will only strengthen my performance on the camogie pitch and strengthen my will to never give up.

"Missing training during the week isn't ideal in preparation for championship but I have to do my best in the situation that I am in. Hopefully military training will stand to me in some shape or form in the next few weeks."

Top players are often hard on themselves, too hard at times as they are perfectionists. Gemma's next statement epitomises that as she was a strong contender for Player of the Match last September.

"My fitness over the last two or three years has declined. This is something that has bothered me for a while now. I feel I have lost something that gave me that extra edge over players in the past.

"However, I refuse to let it get the better of me and what I have lost I have gained in experience. There are times when you need to play with your head and not your legs. Out-



St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor in action against Killeagh's Jessica O'Shea during the Evening Echo Cork senior camogie championship at Castle Road last year.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

smarting my opponent must now be my objective.

"I'm 31 and to be honest when I was younger I thought I would be able to play forever. Year after year it is getting more difficult and I can put that down to age, playing from such a young age, and external factors outside of your control. However, I am taking it one year at a time so I am just concentrating on getting back to normal after the loss of my mother and enjoying the present season.

"September is my focus and after that who knows."

We spoke about the championship season ahead, after Cork's opening round against Waterford last weekend and the ever-topical subject of the 'Club v County' debate. Gemma has strong views on the latter.

"I think it is an absolute joke that the Cork club championship waits until the same time as the inter-county series (to start). Clubs go back training shortly after Christmas and don't play championship until late July. It is something that drives me crazy. It is unfair on the clubs and unfair on the inter-county players. I think the club championship could be played off earlier in the year, giving realistic targets for the club player and realistic breaks for the inter-county player."

On the championship: "The Water-

ford game at the weekend wasn't the best performance but saying that I don't ever recall us starting the championship off to a flying start.

"Waterford have some impressive players but their inexperience and naivety of not playing to a system gave us an advantage. It's a start for us and progression all the way through is key.

"The camogie championship is difficult to predict. Yes, there are the usual three or four teams that are expected to win but the round robin system allows you to be a lot more careful in certain games than other games.

"I'm not saying you can pick and choose your wins and losses but because of its design sometimes losing proves to be a lot more valuable than winning all your games. Lessons learned is crucial to winning an All-Ireland. Most of the big four teams have lost at least one game each in the round robin system in the past."

Gemma's right in that regard. In 2013 Cork won back-to-back league titles and topped their championship group yet failed to win the All-Ireland.

In 2014 and '15 they failed to win the league and went the indirect championship route via a quarter-final play-off. They won both All-Ireland titles. Lesson learned indeed.



Cork players Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter lift the O'Duffy Cup.

Picture: David Maher/SPORTSFILE

Like so many of her team-mates Gemma speaks very highly of manager Paudie Murray and the side's appetite for success this year.

"Under Paudie's management we are left wanting for nothing in regards preparation for games. Everything from well thought out recovery sessions to fantastic analytical videos. His approach is nothing but professional, something I think a lot of men's teams around Cork could learn from.

"Appetite for the game is personal I think and it's something that either you have or don't. A lot of factors contribute to having an appetite to win but I think it's evident by the massive work-rate, effort and commitment on the training ground that we have that want to win.

"To be fair the girls are more than hungry to win at all costs again this year. I knew as a player what losing in Croke park was like but those years between 2010 to 2014 was something I found very hard to deal with. Not only were we beaten in Croke Park but also beaten in the semi-final stages.

"As a proud Cork camogie player it was a pill I found hard to swallow. I'm so grateful that we have reached the high standards once again because you just never know when it will all end."

Eddie O'Hare

Cork turn it on in second-half spree



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 5-19
Clare 0-10

AT half-time in this second round group championship tie in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday, you wouldn't have envisaged Cork's second-half scoring rampage.

Leading 1-5 to 0-5 at half-time, and scoring just a point in the last ten minutes of that half, 20 minutes later, Cork led 4-15 to 0-7 as the game became a light training session. The highlights of a lacklustre first half were the performances of Meabh Cahalane, Brieghe Corkery and, lining out at centre-forward, Hannah Looney, who was on fire, using her physicality, speed and vision to set up a number of Cork attacks.

Clare tried to bully Cork a little with off-the-ball prodding and the likes, but it got them nowhere. They are the first team in a long while not to go down the sweeper route, and once Cork got into their stride they amassed a huge score, with space galore. But, to their credit Clare attacked the game.

Cork's two goals soon after half-time were sweetly worked. Emer O'Sullivan struck well to finish a brilliant move involving Corkery and Looney. Katrina Mackey followed up seconds later with the first of her hat-trick after a great pass from O'Sullivan into space.

Mackey was outstanding in the second half. When she turns in on goal her focus and confidence to go for the jugular and clinically finish is perfection.

Really, Cork were firing on all cylinders. It's hard to judge the performance against such opposition, but Cork's defensive play, movement and scoring were very good even if it did take them a while to get motoring. Teams like Clare will always give a spirited performance, but it's hard to maintain that for a full hour.

Despite the scoring margin, Aoife Murray had a busy afternoon with balls dropping short and she was top class. Her distribution and puckouts



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan and Clare's Clare Hehir in a tussle for possession in the 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie championship at Páirc Uí Rinn in Cork on Saturday. Picture: Des Barry

out of the top drawer. Cork had a total of 13 wides. That's something they'll address I'm sure in the coming weeks.

Next Saturday they take on Offaly in Fermoy. Offaly have got their campaign off to a flying start. Their win over Clare last weekend was notable but the shock of the weekend games was their victory over Wexford by double scores 2-14 to 1-7. That'll have awakened the beast in Cork.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 3-3, B Corkery 1-4, E O'Sullivan 1-1, O Cotter 0-7 (0-2 f), H Looney 0-2, A O'Connor 0-2.

Clare: R Mahon 0-2 (0-1 f), N O'Dea 0-2, A Keane 0-3 (0-1 f), A Keating 0-2, M Caulfield 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley, O Cotter, A Thompson, H Looney, O Cronin, E O'Sullivan, A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Subs: J Hesford for R Buckley (42).

CLARE: D Lynch, C O'Leary, A Griffin, E O'Connell, E Kelly, R McMahon, C Hehir, Z McInerney, O Duggan, A Malone, N O'Dea, L Foley, E Horgan, A O'Loughlin, A Keane.

Subs: A Keating and G Nolan for A Griffin and E Horgan (h/t), M Caulfield and R Begley for A Malone and Z McInerney (47).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Ashling Thompson (Cork) tries to escape out of defence against Clare in the 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie championship at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Des Barry

Murray is happy with second-half improvement

HAPPY but disappointed with aspects of Cork's performance at times was how Cork manager Paudie Murray viewed things in the immediate aftermath of Cork's win on Saturday.

Putting it to him 5-19 wasn't foreseen at half time after a small first-half return.

"No, but I suppose in the first-half we created a lot of chances, we had about seven wides and probably dropped a few balls short as well. You know if we took even half of those against the wind we'd have been in a very comfortable position," Murray said.

Admitting 4-14 was a great return in 30 minutes, Paudie acknowledged he was happy with that improvement in the second-half.

"It was, but I thought we lacked a small bit of aggression and intensity in our play in the first-half.

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Typical, Clare were wound up and they were going to give it their all so I'm kind of a small bit disappointed with the first-half. A bit disappointed with the structure of the team, they didn't carry out instructions the way they should have."

Cork didn't look like All Ireland champions for a while but the second-half was a very good performance. "Yeah, it was, our movement was better and once they committed themselves to going to the ball they won it. I suppose we've a lot of improving to do; there's some very good stuff there and some not so good so.

"But it's a good position to be in, with the fact

there's still improvement there. It is, look I think there has to be improvement there, we're playing Offaly next week who beat Wexford today so we're going to have a fair match. I suppose the next two weeks will tell a lot as to where we are."

Hannah Looney's positional switch to centre forward was positive?

"Yeah she was much more involved and I suppose Hannah loves the physical battle and at centre forward there's going to be plenty of that there. I think it benefited Orla (Cronin) as well as I think she had one of her best games inside. Hannah had more freedom and the runs inside were better as well.

"So we had more targets inside. I think against Waterford we didn't have as many targets to hit when we had the ball forty metres out so I think it worked for both players."

Feile na nGael 2016 Report

By Camogie Association
Posted 24/06/2016



The National Feile Competition took place in Tipperary and Waterford from Friday June 17th until Sunday June 19th.

Pictured above Catherine Neary President of Camogie Association presents Division 1 Cup to Sansfields, Cork captain.

Results of the finals in the 5 divisions were as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Div 1 Cup | Sansfields Cork | 1-3 v 0-3 | Thomastown Kilkenny |
| Div 1 Shield | Knockavilla Donoskeigh Kilkarns | 2-6 v 1-1 | Éire Óg Annacarty Donohill Tipperary |
| Div 2 Cup | Wolfe Tones Bellaghy Derry | 1-5 v 0-3 | Ballina Tipperary |
| Div 2 Shield | Michael Davitts Swatragh Derry | 2-5 v 1-4 | St Anne's Waterford |
| Div 3 Cup | Naas Kildare | 1-3 v 1-1 | Myshall Carlow |
| Div 3 Shield | Camross Laois | 1-3 v 0-4 | Fethard Tipperary |
| Div 4 Cup | Clu Aird Kerry | 2-7 v 2-4 | Éilish Tyrone |
| Div 4 Shield | Burgess Tipperary | 2-0 v 0-5 | Westport Mayo |
| Div 5 Cup | BK Brackens Tipperary | 4-4 v 2-0 | San Francisco |
| Div 5 Shield | St Eunan's Donegal | 1-2 v 0-0 | Cappoquin Waterford |

Regional Feile Results

Downey Cup: Ballinora, Cork 2-6 Carrmore Galway 0-2

Pat Moloney Shield: Andrahan Galway 2-1 Galbally, Limerick 1-0

Imelda Hobbs Shield: Sansfields, Galway 2-4 Piltown, Kilkenny 2-1

Mairin McAleenan Shield: Brídín Óga, Antrim 4-6 Lusmagh/Drumcullen 2-2

Commasine

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Div 5 Cup Runners up- San Francisco



Div 5 Shield Winners- St Eunan's, Donegal

Regional Feile



Downey Cup Winners-Ballinora, Cork

Downey Cup Runners Up- Carrmore, Galway



Ballinora, Cork and Carrmore Galway- winners and runners up of Downey Cup



Pat Moloney Shield Winners- Andrahan, Galway



Pat Moloney Shield Runners Up- Galbally, Limerick



Imelda Hobbs Shield Winners- Sansfields, Galway



Mairin McAleenan Shield Winners- Brídín Óga, Antrim



Mairin McAleenan Shield Runners up- Lusmagh/ Drumcullen, Offaly



Div 2 Shield Winners- Michael Davitts Swatragh, Derry



Div 3 Cup Winners- Naas, Kildare

National Feile



Div 1 Cup Winners- Sansfields, Cork



Div 1 Cup Runners up-Thomastown, Kilkenny



Div 1 Shield Winners- Knockavilla Donoskeigh Kilkarns, Tipperary



Div 2 Cup Winners- Wolfe Tones Bellaghy, Derry



Div 4 Shield Winners- Burgess Duhamra, Tipperary

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Murray: This is a must-win game

Cork take on Offaly in crucial camogie clash

BY DENIS HURLEY

CORK camogie manager Paudie Murray is preaching patience from his team ahead of what is likely to be a challenging All-Ireland senior championship tie with Offaly in Fermoy on Saturday (3.45pm).

The reigning champions made it two wins from two in Group 1 with a commanding 5-19 to 0-10 victory against Clare last weekend and, while Murray expects Offaly to set out to frustrate the Rebels, he is hopeful that they will approach the game in the right way.

'Well, it's a game we need to win, it's that simple,' he says.

'I'm not sure where people would be getting an idea that we'll win this handy. Offaly beat Wexford (2-14 to 1-7), who are a team that you don't get anything from easily and we're wasting our time if the girls are going to go into this with any bit



Cork camogie star Rena Buckley pictured at the recent announcement of New Ireland Assurance's new sponsorship agreement with Cork (Photo: Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile)

of complacency.

'What we'd expect is that Offaly will bring players back and effectively play with eight defenders, similar to what Waterford did against us. That makes it awkward and it'll probably lead to a close and dour encounter.

'From our points of view, it's important to stay patient and keep plugging away, keep composed and stick to the plan.'

Cork were 5-9 to 0-10 winners over the Banner at Páirc Uí Rinn last weekend, but Murray knows that there is a lot of room to improvement on that.

Cork led 1-5 to 0-5 at the break, thanks to a Brieghe Corkery goal, before they opened up in the second half, raised the tempo quite considerably in the latter period and Clare couldn't live with them.

Eimear O'Sullivan and Katrina Mackey plundered goals within a minute of one another and it was one-way traffic thereafter.

Mackey, Ashling Thompson, Hannah Looney and Orla Cotter all notched up points before Cork scored two late goals, including another from Mackey to complete the rout.

The main positive was the score that we put up,' Murray says.

'The movement improved in the second half, you wouldn't have been over the moon with how the first half went but they stuck at it and they didn't get rattled.

'What wasn't so pleasing was that we dropped six or seven balls right into the goalkeeper's hands and had 11 wides, I think it was.'

With three group games remaining, though, now is the time to iron out those flaws. For Murray, this stage of the championship is about laying a foundation upon which to place marginal gains with each passing match.

'The way we won the All-

Ireland last year was that we stepped things up a level every week,' he says.

'It's the best way to approach it but you have to be able to do it. Looking at last week, if we were to get a win against Offaly it'd put us in a good position before we go to play Wexford in Wexford, which is never an easy task, very few teams get a result there.

'After that it's Limerick and that'll be tricky too, so we have to make sure that we are making that step up week on week.

'Last year, we did show a massive improvement from the start of the year to the end but it's more difficult to come back and do that the second year.

'The girls have to be able to show that they can.'

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship: Cork v Offaly, 3.45pm, Fermoy.

WITH two victories each to their credit in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship round robin series, tomorrow's clash between Offaly and Cork in Fermoy is one which will generate a lot of interest.

Offaly recorded a splendid victory over Wexford last weekend, giving them a huge boost ahead of their meeting with the All-Ireland champions. Having recorded a four-point victory in round one over Clare, they showed huge confidence as they took on Wexford in a clash where an excellent second-half display saw them grab vital goals to seal a well-deserved victory. They will travel to Cork boosted by this result and, with players of the quality of Michaela Morkham and Arlene Watkins, who grabbed the two goals in their line out, they will give it everything they have to keep their unbeaten run intact.

Cork overcame Waterford in round one before hitting an impressive 5-15 against Clare. They stumbled over the line in the Munster final against Limerick but have shown steady improvement. They will not look beyond tomorrow's clash but with outings against Wexford and Limerick on the horizon every result is vital if they are to secure a semi-final spot as one of the top four and avoid a quarter-final scenario.

The Cork side has had a settled look about it since championship began and we would expect it to be along the same lines again, with Paudie Murray anxious to hold players for his Intermediate team as long as he can.

We expect little change to the starting 15. Aoife Murray is back in goal, fronted by Laura Treacy at full back and Leanne O'Sullivan and Pamela Mackey in the corner back positions. Maebh Cahalane, Gemma O'Connor, and Rena Buckley should continue in what is a strong half back line. Orla Cotter and captain Aisling Thompson are a strong mid field pairing, Orla Cronin started at centre forward against Clare but switched with Hannah Looney and the move was hugely beneficial for both — therefore we would assume it will be Hannah Looney at centre forward with Cronin starting on the wing and Eimear O'Sullivan on the other side. Amy O'Connor, Brieghe Corker, and Katrina Mackey are a strong inside line and if they receive the supply they will cause problems for the Offaly defence.

Considering Cork demolished Clare and Offaly recorded a four-point winning margin over the same opponents, it is hard to look beyond a Cork victory.

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Meath, 2pm, Fermoy

A tough game for the Cork Intermediate side as they open their Liberty Insurance Championship campaign with a meeting against a Kildare side that lost out by a point in the national league semi-final to Galway. This will be Kildare's second game in the round robin series with a win already under their belts over Galway when they turned around their league result to win by two goals.

Cork, fielding their second adult side, are always at a slight disadvantage, but Paudie Murray and his senior mentors have so far not used any Intermediate players — therefore the side will be strong. Cork only participated in the latter stages of the national league because of the controversy surrounding the regrading of nine players and in these two outings they recorded good victories over Galway and Westmeath. Having lost out on participating in the league, Cork will be fired up for championship Sarah Fahy, Leah Weste, Niamh Ni Chaoimh, Amy Lee, Kate-Lyn Hickey, and Finola Neville will be among the players who will lead Cork's bid for a good start to their campaign.

Senior Camogie C'ship Group 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | DIFF | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|------|-----|
| Cork | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 19 | 37 | 6 |
| Offaly | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 24 | 15 | 6 |
| Limerick | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 39 | 37 | 2 | 3 |
| Wexford | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 39 | -3 | 3 |
| Waterford | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 42 | -22 | 0 |
| Clare | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 53 | -29 | 0 |

IMAGES OF THE WEEK...



Participants in Tuesday night's Senior Poc Fada in Tyrone: Danielle McCourt (Down), Ciara Donnelly (Tyrone), Tina Fitzsimmons (Cavan), Grainne Kelly (Armagh), Aibheann Mullan (Derry).

The Gaelic Life senior poc fada winner was Ciara Donnelly from the English club in Tyrone (left).

Pictures: John Merry

Sarah's memorial contest a success

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BLARNEY GAA grounds were busy on Saturday. The club and three visiting teams gathered for the annual Sarah Buckley memorial camogie tournament, which remembers the club's young star, who died at just 14 years of age.

The tournament is now in its seventh year, and Glen Rovers, Ballinascarty, St Finbarr's, and Blarney vied for the title.

Blarney and St Finbarr's played out a close opening game, with 'Barr's hitting two goals, while Glen came back to beat Ballinascarty.

The plate final was the first of the two finals, and Ballinascarty ran out victors with superb performances from Claire Kingston, Annie Condon, Maebh Kingston and Si-nead McCarthy, despite the best effort of Blarney, for whom Amy Bannon, Ella Hayes, Ava Cronin and goalkeeper, Laura Shine, were excellent.

Old rivals Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's met in the final, with the St Finbarr's girls bidding for four-in-a-row. Ella Barrett and Ciara Hurley settled them into the game with early points, and they stretched their lead with a goal, as Glen Rovers battled to settle.

Tara McCarthy grabbed a Glen goal to cut the deficit, and Jess Conway denied St Finbarr's with good saves. McCarthy struck for a second goal, before the break. That gave Glen Rovers a one-point interval lead.

McCarthy, Lisa O'Riordan, and Conway led the way for Glen Rovers. McCarthy scored a point, before McCarthy linked up with Lisa O'Riordan and got her third goal. Emma Akinoulie struck a superb point, before Kayleigh O'Sullivan battled through the St Finbarr's defence to strike a great effort.

St Finbarr's gave it their all. With Katie Lee, Nicole Olden, Ciara Hurley and Ella Barrett impressing, they won a penalty, but Lisa O'Riordan denied Kate Corcoran, with McCarthy rounding out the Glen scoring, afterwards.

All four teams enjoyed the hospitality after the finals, and the Buckley family joined them for the presentation. Ray Buckley spoke and thanked Ger Casey, especially, who every year ensures everything is organised to perfection.

The Shield was presented to Ballinascarty captain, Annie Condon, and the Sarah Buckley Cup was presented by Sarah's twin brother, Shane, to Glen Rovers captain, Lisa O'Riordan.

She said it was a huge honour for her to receive the trophy dedicated to Sarah's memory, and she thanked St Finbarr's, the Blarney club and the Buckley family.

Offaly win was a huge surprise



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT'S not too often that there are shocks in the senior camogie championship.

When it comes down to it the top four typically only drop points to each other during the group series.

But last Saturday Offaly, who had a great victory over Clare the previous week, had a convincing win over what many consider to be one of the top four, Wexford.

Wexford are certainly not the team they were when they won three in a row between 2010 and 2012 but their recent Leinster final success over Kilkenny had many asking if a last hurrah was in them.

Added to that they had a good victory over a good Limerick team in their opening round. I have serious doubts now because that result of 2-14 to 1-7 isn't a case of Wexford getting caught. That was a resounding win by Offaly.

Either Wexford had one of their worst ever days or Offaly have quietly come of age.

Arlene Watkins scored two first-half goals while Tina Hannon was magnificent as Offaly followed up their opening round championship victory at St Brendan's Park, Birr.

The sides were level on three points apiece when Hannon's delivery was finished to the net brilliantly by Watkins.

A couple of points by captain Michaela Morkan followed before a move involving Morkan and Linda Sullivan ended with Watkins' grabbing her second goal and Offaly led by 2-6 to 0-6 at half time.

Wexford would have been expected to mount a stern challenge after the resumption but Offaly nipped any potential fightback in the bud with points from Morkan, Hannon and Sullivan. Morkan and Hannon stretched Offaly's advantage to 13 points.

Wexford did manage to get a closing goal from Kate Kelly, who batted Shelley Kehoe's delivery to the net late on, but it only put a marginally better picture on the scoreboard. Is there any



The Glen U14 camogie team that won the Sarah Buckley Memorial Tournament at Blarney last weekend. See story on the left.

stopping the magnificent Niamh Mulcahy this season.

She scored 1-14 in a losing effort against Wexford last week but the remarkable Limerick attacker was rewarded for her 13-point contribution this time around as the Shannonsiders proved too strong for Waterford in Kilmallock by 2-14 to 1-8.

Traps

Waterford came storming out of the traps and were six points clear approaching the break but two Limerick goals, the first from Cliona Lane, gave them a 2-4 to 1-6 lead.

If Limerick were fortunate to have that one-point advantage, they left no

thing to chance in the second half and Mulcahy made hay both from frees and play to rubber stamp their success.

In group 2, it was nip and tuck for a long way between Kilkenny and Dublin before the National League champions pulled away in the second half to win by 2-12 to 0-10 at St Lachtain's, Freshford.

All Maguire scored five points for the visitors in the first half but Shelly Farrell's goal ensured that Kilkenny had their noses in front at half time, 1-6 to 0-5.

Ann Downey's charges possess plenty of firepower and while Maguire kept the scoreboard ticking over for the

Metropolitans, points from Ann Dalton and a goal by Denise Gaule pulled the Noreiders clear.

Tipperary gave Galway a stern test in their opening round and the league semi-finalists came away from Celtic Park in Derry with a 3-19 to 1-6 win.

It'll be interesting to see how Offaly do against Cork when they take on the All-Ireland champions in Fermoy today, throw in at 3.45pm.

That'll tell a lot with regards Offaly's progress. Clare host Limerick and Wexford travel to Waterford.

Dublin and Galway and Tipperary and Kilkenny meet in Group 2 with the first named team having home advantage.

Cork U16 squads are in action on two fronts

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT is a very busy weekend for both Cork U16 teams, with the A and B sides both getting their All-Ireland championship campaign up and running when the A side play hosted to Offaly whilst the B squad head to Dublin for a meeting with Antrim.

TOMORROW All-Ireland U16 A championship: Cork v Offaly, Castle Road, 2.30pm

The Cork A side had a superb provincial campaign before the break for exams when they captured the Munster title with a victory over Tipperary in a game where they hit an impressive 1-15.

Selectors Ger Horgan, Michael Boland and Pauline O'Regan will be hoping for more of the same as they get their campaign off the ground.

They are grouped with Tipperary, Wexford and Galway and it is a tough group but Cork have prepared well.

Player of the Match in the Munster final Cliona

Mullins, Saoirse McCarthy, Emma Murphy and Fionola Nelligan.

Cork have prepared well with a lot of challenge games under their belts and they are looking forward to the campaign.

Offaly lost out to Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final but they will have put in a lot of effort to ensure a good championship campaign.

Manager Ollie Bergin is an experienced mentor he has been at the helm for county minor teams and now in his second season with the U16. He is joined by Benny Weir, Brendan Hanamy and Eithne Jelly.

They will look to players such as Kaitlin Kennedy, Louise Savage, captain Daire Hanamy and Kate Ber-

TOMORROW

All-Ireland U16 B Championship: Cork v Antrim, Dublin, 2.30pm

The Cork U16 B having lost out to Clare in the Munster series will be determined to make progress in the All-Ireland series. Antrim are always tough opponents and this is their first team.

This season new management are in charge of the B side with last season's B management having taken charge of the A side.

Experienced mentor and former inter-county player Mary Harrington is joined by Finbarr Bradley, and Finbarr Harrington and they will be confident that their charges will get their campaign off to a good start.

It's a first outing for both sides but both counties have been very much to the fore with development squads ensuring a steady stream of players to their

CAMOGIE CLUBS NEWS, RESULTS, FIXTURES

AGHADA

AGHADA took on Dungourney in Dungourney on Wednesday June 22 in the first round of the U15A Imokilly Camogie League. Both teams were missing a number of players due to Irish college and holidays, and as a result it was a 13-a-side match.

A number of girls had finished their exams on Wednesday and were looking forward to the match after taking a number of weeks off training to focus on their exams. Both teams were well-matched during the game but it was mid-point in the first half when the Aghada forwards scored three quick goals to put some daylight between the teams.

Dungourney battled well and never gave up. It was a very entertaining game to watch, and credit was due to both teams for a very sporting game. Aghada mentors were extremely happy with the performance with seven different scorers on the night. It will make places very competitive when the three girls return from Irish college. The final score was Aghada 6-07 to Dungourney 2-04.

Team: R O Callaghan, K Terry, E Cronin, A Rose, K O Farrell (1-02), K Stafford (0-1), E Boylan (0-3), S Geary (1-0), A McGrath (1-01), R Barry (1-0), C Stafford (2-0) L Walsh, M Leahy

U16: A challenge match for Fr O'Neills in preparation for their upcoming U16 League quarter final against Na Piarasigh was played on Thursday June 23. Both teams were missing a number of players due to Junior Certificate night out and holidays. The game was very competitive and there was nothing between the teams. It was a game of two halves as it was the team playing with the wind that did most of the scoring. Aghada used a number of younger players who performed brilliantly.

Aghada mentors were delighted with the performance as it will mean there will be some serious competition for places over the coming weeks. Next up is the U17 Imokilly blitz on July 2.

Team: C McGrath, K Terry, E Cronin, A Rose, M Stafford (0-1), E Boylan, M Leahy, S Leahy, A McGrath, Aine McGrath (1-01), S Geary, R Barry, L Walsh, C Stafford (3-0), S Walsh

KILWORTH

Our junior team will take part in their first ever championship game when they take on St Vincent's at home in Kilworth on Sunday July 3 at 1pm. The referee for the game is Jim Kirby from Glanmire. This is a huge game for the ladies and for the management involved. They have all been very busy and working extremely hard preparing for this year's championship. This is what we've all been waiting for, and this is the girls' time to shine.

Every bit of support will be appreciated, and it will make a massive difference to the team. Get decked out in the red and white of Kilworth and let's show the girls our utmost support.

Photographs: As it is our first year as a camogie club we want to be able to make as many memories as possible and have them saved so that pictures, match reports and any other club activities are there to be seen for generations to come. We have set up an email account where parents can send us any pictures they want us to have that they may have taken from their daughters' matches, blitz events, training etc. It is a great way to ensure we have a team photograph with every match report the PRO writes up. It will be great in many years' time to look back at these photos and reminisce.

So please send us on your pictures by email to kilworthcamogiehistory@gmail.com.

Fundraising: On July 21 we will be doing a street collection in Fermoy from 9am to 6pm. We need all the support we can get.

Training: There will be no training



The Midleton U13 camogie team who played Erin's Own recently.

next week due to the Cúl Camp which takes place from Monday to Friday. For more information please contact any member of the Kilworth GAA juvenile club or you can register your child online also.

Keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the club by following us on Twitter, @KilworthCamogie or add us as your friend on Facebook by typing in "Kilworth Camogie".

MIDLETON

U13: Midleton got off to a great start with a win against Erin's Own in Round 1 of the U13 Imokilly league. Midleton dominated the match in the opening 20 minutes but found it hard to get the scores they deserved. Half time finished with Erin's Own ahead by a very small margin.

A few changes in the second half secured two quick goals from Midleton which was followed by a goal from Erin's Own. The girls defended well and there were great balls passed in from midfield, with the forwards taking every chance they could to add to the scores. The match

ended with a well-deserved win for Midleton. This was a great start to the U13 Imokilly league campaign. If the girls continue to show this teamwork, determination and spirit throughout the league they will be a team to watch.

Team: Ella Murphy, Chloe Garde, Abby Purcell, Hannah Wall, Caoimhe Murray, Jodie Keegan, O'Connell, Orla Evans, Kim Moran, Caoimhe Cronin, Lily O'Connor, Aisling Kelleher, Holly Duggan, Rachel McSweeney, Mia Tarrant.

Adventure training: On Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, 92 girls across all the ages enjoyed a training session with a difference when they travelled to East Cork Adventure Centre, swapping hurleys and sliothars for bow and arrows, and solid ground for swamp. They climbed, crawled, ran, swam, kayaked and laughed their way around the course before drying off for the second half, enjoying archery, aeroball, sumo wrestling, and trampolining.

Training: The schedule for the week ahead is as follows.

U6 & U8 & U10: Friday evenings 7.15-8.15pm, Midleton GAA Club.

U12 & U14: Tuesdays 7-8pm St Coleman's & Fridays 7.15-8.15pm St Coleman's.

Summer Camp: This year's Midleton Camogie Summer Camp will be held on July 14 and 15 at Midleton GAA Club from 10am to 1pm. This is the club's third year to host a summer camp and, based on the previous years, it guaranteed to be a enjoyable and worthwhile morning for the girls. To book a place, text Sheila on 087-6822916. Open to girls aged 6 to 12.

NEMO RANGERS

U9 Camogie Blitz: The Glen, Cobh and Ballygarvan visited Nemo on Friday June 10 for a very enjoyable Under-9 Camogie Blitz. The Nemo girls did really well and held their own against the opposition. Every team played each other in a round robin series. It was a great evening's camogie and everybody enjoyed it. Many thanks to our visitors.

U14 Camogie vs Kilbree: The Fé-14 Camogie team headed to Kilbree in West Cork for a tough challenge on

Friday evening June 10. The skills of the Kilbree girls was a joy to watch. Despite trying their hardest, the Nemo girls were outplayed on the night. It was another step on the steep learning curve for them.

Street Leagues Finals Day: The annual Street League Finals took place on Saturday June 11. With 400 children participating in hurling, football and camogie finals, it was a really busy and fun-filled day in the club. It was the culmination of eight weeks of games every Friday night. The final games were robust as always and every child had a great time. The games were followed by the club BBQ which went down a treat after the days sporting activity. All in all, a great success. Many thanks to this year's organising committee and especially Street Leagues chairman Mark Kane.

U8 C3 Camogie Blitz: The young camogie girls had a very enjoyable blitz on Friday June 17 in Trabeg. Playing selections from Cobh, Passage and Whites Cross, the girls equipped themselves very well indeed. They won two games and drew a third. Their skill levels are improving with every outing and they are really enjoying their camogie.

Club Championship Fixtures

Round 1 Junior C Championship — July 3
Section A (first-named team at home)
Na Piarasigh v Kilbrittain/Timoleague
Mallow v Courcy Rovers
St Fanahans v Blarney
Section B (first-named team at home)
Ballinora v Castletyons
Kilworth v St Vincents
Millstreet v Aghada

Round 1 Junior A Championship — July 6
Section A (venues & times tbc)
Youghal v Banteer
Bishopstown v Douglas

Round 1 Junior B Championship — July 6
Section A (first-named team at home)
Glen Rovers v Ballyhea
Charleville v St Catherine's
Inniscarra v Cobh
Section B (first-named team at home)
St Finbarrs v Sarsfields
Clonakilly v Cloughduv
Ballincollig v Ballinascahy

Round 1 Senior B Championship — July 10
Section B (venues & times tbc)
Kilbrittain/Timoleague v Brian Dillons
Section A (venues & times tbc)
Carrigaline v Valley Rovers
Eire Og v Fr O'Neills



The Kilbree camogie team who played at half-time in the Clare-Cork match last weekend.

Driven O'Connor happy to have chosen camogie

By Camogie Association
Posted 27/06/2016



Driven O'Connor happy to have chosen camogie

Former soccer international relishing involvement with Cork machine

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Amy O'Connor was blessed with a rare talent that has seen her become a high achiever not just in sport, at elite level in both Camogie and soccer, but in her academic pursuits too.

Despite having just turned 20, there is a remarkable level-headedness about having won two Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championships, played in a UEFA U19 European Championships Semi-Final and just as importantly in her view, done well enough in her Leaving Cert to enable her to flourish in UCC, where she is studying pharmacy.

Such a mindset is conducive to succeeding but so too is a driven work ethic, not to mention excellent time management.

The demands are such that O'Connor has had to call time on her international soccer career however, for the moment anyway. There are a number of reasons, but right at the top is a *grail* for Camogie.

"We were going to the European Finals with the Irish team and Paudie (Murray) rang me and said would I come up after Minor" says O'Connor of the first approach made to her by the Cork manager.

"I was doing my Leaving Cert. I would have been good at school. I paid a lot of my attention to school life, so I was studying a lot.

"I said that with that and going to the European Finals... I would love to be a part of it but I could understand if he didn't want me to come in after missing all that training.

"I went training with them once and then I was off for a month with the Irish soccer team. When I came back, I was delighted when he asked me to training again.

"We got to the All-Ireland and then I was due to go to the World Student Games with the Irish team. Instead of going I decided to stay and play Camogie with Cork instead. So it kind of happened gradually.

"I suppose I just love Camogie. I still play soccer - I'm on a soccer scholarship with UCC - and I enjoy it. It's just I took time off with the Irish team to play Camogie with Cork."

She isn't sure if she will ever return to the green jersey.

"It's a tough one. I actually don't know. It's hard because I'm doing pharmacy in college. It's not an easy course. It's 9 to 5, Monday to Friday. It's like a full-time job really. It's not like you can go away for three weeks and play soccer in a random country around the world and come back then and be expected to know all that again. You miss too much with soccer.

"In my Leaving Cert year I missed 11 weeks of school just playing soccer, so I knew I wouldn't have been able to do that. With Camogie, you're in Ireland all the time.

"That was another real big factor (in choosing Camogie). I'd be very career-driven and being a professional footballer as a woman, you're not going to earn a whole pile, when you could be studying and have a good job."

Such practicality wouldn't even allow O'Connor to be swayed by an offer to play in the United States. Being a home bird probably contributed to the call to stick around but she just couldn't see a future in it, no matter how much fun it might appear.

Of course there are frustrations but as she knows from first-hand experience, the gender issue isn't confined to Gaelic games.

The government's commitment to providing €1 million in funding for the Camogie Association, LGFA and WGA over the next two years is very welcome but there is a long road to travel.

"It would annoy you in some ways, the way people say the boys are putting in so much effort. Fair play to the Senior men's teams, they deserve all the gear and all the cars and everything that they're getting.

"But at the end of the day we're probably putting in the exact same, six days a week, and we don't get anything like that. But no-one seems to notice that.

"We're just so used to it. The boys would train the same time as we'd train in CIT. They're all going out in the same gear and we're going out in whatever we have."

And with the Republic of Ireland?

"It was good but at the same time, you were second-class citizens compared to the men again. It's a female thing, an issue across sport.

"In soccer, professional footballers aren't earning a fraction of the amount the men are earning. It's the same across the board."

So O'Connor is delighted to be a part of the Camogie Association's *Our Game Your Game* campaign, aiming to raise the profile of Camogie and awareness of the elite players' dedication.

It is about being the best you can be and for O'Connor and her Cork team-mates, that has them chasing a third consecutive All-Ireland.

Cork thump depleted Clare

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Cork produced a storming second-half and put a depleted Clare to the sword, 5-19 to 0-10, at Páirc Uí Rinn, in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship.

Clare opened the score, with a point from a free, by Róisín McMahon, after seven minutes, but a Briege Corkery goal settled the champions and they led 1-5 to 0-5 at the interval.

Paudie Murray's charges raised the tempo in the second-half and Clare couldn't live with them. Eimear O'Sullivan and Katrina Mackey plundered goals within a minute of one another and it was one-way traffic thereafter.

Mackey, Ashling Thompson, Hannah Looney and Orla Cotter all notched up points, before Cork scored two late goals, including Mackey's second.

Elsewhere, Arlene Watkins scored two first-half goals, while Tina Hannon was mag-

nificent, as Offaly beat Wexford 2-14 to 1-7 at St Brendan's Park, Birr.

The sides were level, on three points apiece, when Hannon's delivery was finished to the net brilliantly by Watkins.

A couple of points by captain, Michaela Morkan, followed, before a move involving Morkan and Linda Sullivan ended with Watkins grabbing her second goal. Offaly led 2-6 to 0-6 at half-time.

Offaly nipped any potential second-half fightback in the bud with points from Morkan, Hannon, and Sullivan. Morkan and Hannon stretched the advantage to 13 points, but Wexford's Kate Kelly scored a goal, from Shelley Kehoe's delivery.

Limerick's Niamh Mulcahy scored 1-14 in a defeat to Wexford last week, but was rewarded for a 13-point tally this time, as they beat Waterford, in Kilmallock, 2-14 to 1-8.

Waterford were six points clear approaching the break, but two goals, the first from

Cliona Lane, gave them a 2-4 to 1-6 lead.

If they were fortunate to have that one-point advantage, they left nothing to chance in the second-half and Mulcahy made hay, both from frees and from play.

It was nip-and-tuck for a long time between Kilkenny and Dublin, before the National League champions pulled away in the second-half to win by 2-12 to 0-10, at St Lachtain's, Freshford.

All Maguire scored five points for the visitors, in the first-half, but Shelly Farrell's goal ensured that Kilkenny had their noses in front, at half-time, 1-6 to 0-5.

Ann Downey's charges possess plenty of firepower, and while Maguire kept the scoreboard ticking over for Dublin, points from Ann Dalton and a goal by Denise Gaule pulled Kilkenny clear.

Tipperary gave Galway a stern test last weekend, and the league semi-finalists came away from Celtic Park, in Derry, with a 3-19 to 1-6 win.

July
2016

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

| | |
|--------|------|
| Cork | 3-14 |
| Offaly | 1-5 |

A PERFECT performance ensured victory as Cork controlled matters from the start in this round three Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship clash in Fermoy on Saturday.

From one to 15, Cork were a class act their distribution, work ethic and over all play a joy to watch as they played the game with great awareness of each other and they simply outclassed an Offaly side that came to Cork on the back of an excellent round two victory over Wexford last weekend.

It would be impossible to single out any one Cork player as each and every one of them were superb, they worked for and with each other and if they can maintain this level of performances they will be hard to beat.

With a strong wind to their backs for the opening half Offaly still found themselves under a lot of early pressure. Orla Cotter pointed a free to settle Cork before Orla Cronin finished Amy O'Connors cross to the net to give their sides an early advantage.

The Offaly defence had to soak up a lot of pressure as they struggled to come to terms with the pace and speed of a Cork side that ran at them and opened up huge space around them and it took an excellent save from Eleanor Clendennen in the Offaly goal to deny Amy O'Connor as Cork came at them in search of the second goal.

Offaly played a defensive game and dropped a player back deep and this freed up Gemma O'Connor at the other end as she stepped back and played behind the Cork defence directly in front of Aoife Murray where she dealt effectively with anything that came her way.

Michaela Morkan pointed two frees and one from play as Offaly began to settle in a spell at the start of the second quarter where the Cork work rate dipped a little. Responding again Cork regrouped and with Katrina Mackey who had an excellent game and the hard working Amy O'Connor hitting points Cork regained control.

With five minutes to the break Michael Morkan had an Offaly goal chance but her effort flew across the square and was dealt with by the Cork defence as they tidied up efficiently and won a free out. Moving well Cork finished the opening half in control as they added four points with Orla Cotter (2 frees), Amy O'Connor and Hannah Looney on target to lead 1-7 to 0-3.

Cork dominated the second half and despite Offaly squandering an early goal chance Cork never looked in any danger Katrina Mackey got the second half off to a great start

Rebels pass Offaly test with ease



The Cork team which played Offaly in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship in Fermoy.

Picture: Des Barry

within seven minutes when the Offaly keeper failed to hold her long range effort as it bounced from her grasp over the line.

First to every ball, Cork continued their phenomenal work rate as they backed each other up and moved as a unit every time they had possession.

Picking off some superb points, Eimear O'Sullivan, Katrina Mackey and Brieger Corkery kept the scoreboard ticking over and the game entered the last quarter Michaela Morkan had Offaly's first score of the second half.

Eimear O'Sullivan wrapped the game up with Cork's third goal before Sarah Harding got one back for Offaly with the last puck of a contest where Corks dominance was never

in doubt.

Next weekend and a bigger challenge ahead but Cork will travel to Wexford in confident form following a faultless display in Fermoy.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-4, E O'Sullivan 1-1, O Cronin 1-0, O Cotter 0-4, A O'Connor 0-3, H Looney 0-1 each.

Offaly: M Morkan 0-3 (0-2f's), S Harding 1-0, M Murtagh, S Flannery (f) 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley, O Collier, A Thompson (c), E O'Sullivan, H Looney, P Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cronin, B Corkery.

Sub: J Hosford for R Buckley (54).

OFFALY: E Clendennen, D Cashen, J Brady, F Stephens, A Brennan, S Flannery, M Crean, C Cleary, O Kirwin, L Keena, L Sullivan, M Morkan (c), M Jennings, A Watkins, T Hannon.

Sub: G Teehan for L Sullivan (45), C Fitzgerald for L Keena (45), D Flynn for M Jennings (51), S Harding for C Cleary (51).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan tries to evade Offaly defender Marion Crean in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship clash in Fermoy.

Picture: Des Barry

Cork made to work by a dogged Kildare side

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

| | |
|---------|------|
| Cork | 0-12 |
| Kildare | 0-6 |

A GREAT start to their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship for the Cork Intermediate side as they overcame a strong Kildare outfit in Fermoy in the curtain raiser to the senior game on Saturday.

Kildare, having recorded a victory over Galway last weekend were confident of overcoming Cork but gave way to a determined and hardworking side who answered all the questions asked of them.

Through the first half Cork had their lead pegged back twice but they never panicked and this was vital as they stayed the distance to the half time whistle and were in a good position on level.

Through the opening half torrential rain made conditions hard on both sides, the slippery surface was difficult to handle as the rain poured down, Caroline Sugrue gave Cork an early lead and with Rachel O'Shea converting two frees they were three clear before Melissa Lyons opened the visitor's account. Three minutes to the break Amy Lee denied Kildare a goal to leave it was 0-4 each at the break.

On the resumption, Cork aided by the strong wind hit the front after good pressure saw them win a 45 which Rachel O'Shea converted. Mary Murtagh replied for Kildare but it was to be their only score for 15 minutes as Cork began to gain control.

Rachel O'Shea and Caroline Sugrue added to the Cork tally with points while a disciplined Cork defence dealt comfortably with the Kildare attack.

Emer Reilly pointed a Kildare free with 10 minutes left but from then on it was all Cork. Rachel O'Shea pointed a free after Sarah Fahy was impeded on her way through for a goal, Rachel O'Callaghan, Finola Neville and O'Shea added to the tally before Kildare were denied goals from two 20 metre frees as Cork's defence dealt comfortably with Deirbhile Byrne's attempts.

Cork travel to Meath next weekend for round two in determined form after a recording an excellent win over a Kildare side bitterly disappointed at full time.

Scorers for Cork: R O'Shea 0-6 (0-4f's 0-1 45), C Sugrue 0-3, J Crowley (f), R O'Callaghan, F Neville 0-1 each.

Kildare: S O'Carroll 0-2 (0-1f), E O'Reilly 0-2 (f39s), M Lyons, M Murtagh 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, E Murphy, L Weste, N Ni Chaoimh (c), L Coppinger, S Buckley, S Harrington, C Sigerson, J Crowley, K Hickey, S Fahy, F Neville, R O'Shea, R O'Callaghan, C Sugrue.

Sub: N O'Callaghan for E Murphy (54).

KILDARE: R O'Connell, A Trant (c), C Nolan, A Lyons, C Flanagan, S Cribbin, F Trant, M Murtagh, E Reilly, N Earley, S Hurley, L Keatley, D Byrne, S O'Carroll, M Lyons.

Sub: S Mc Sweeney for A Lyons (48).

Referee: Fintan Mc Namara (Clare).

Happy Murray still looks to performance levels

CORK manager Paudie Murray was happy with his side's performance, but as always, anxious to maintain their level of performance.

"We are happy with today's win, Offaly came here today following a good victory over Wexford last weekend and we were cautious about the game to be honest," Paudie Murray said.

"We knew the win would boost them and we had to be ready for anything they would throw at us. We're very pleased to have won and to score 3-14 is always good but again we will need to continue to perform and improve with every game that what we are about steady improvement all the time."

Paudie was happy with his defence who only conceded 1-5 in total and just two scores from play.

"Our defence did well, we put them under pressure every time they had possession and our own

REACTION

Mary Newman

work rate all over the field was good, that is what you need to do and need to continue in all game."

Looking ahead to next weekend Paudie knows the trip to Wexford won't be an easy one.

"Very few teams go to Wexford and win we will have to be better again next Saturday if we are to get a result. Wexford lost out last weekend so they will be battling hard to get something from our game but we will put the heads down and prepare for that during the week. I'm happy with the position we are in at the moment three wins out of three outings and so far so good."

Offaly manager Adrian Clancy was disappointed

to have lost out but was gracious and hugely complimentary to his opponents.

"Cork are the All-Ireland champions going for three in row and they are a super team, we knew today we would have our hands full and that's how it panned out," Adrian Clancy said.

"We had a good victory last weekend over Wexford and it was most definitely a huge boost, we need to be winning games to make progress and last weekend's win was huge progress for us. That took a lot out of us but I am not making excuses for today. Cork were by far the better team and credit to them."

"The way they move the ball is a treat to watch we tried to counteract it but they were simply too good and fair play to them."

Cork now play Wexford next weekend as the All-Ireland series continues.

Cork U16A's All-Ireland campaign off to good start

| | |
|--------|------|
| Cork | 8-14 |
| Offaly | 1-6 |

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Cork U16A side had a comfortable start to their All-Ireland championship campaign as they easily accounted for Offaly in Castle Road yesterday.

Aided by a strong wind Cork made good use of possession and the opening 30 minutes yielded 6-8. Cliona Healy and Aoife Hurley had points on the score board before Emma Murphy scored Cork's opening goal. Louise Mannion had a point for Offaly but it was the only score of the first half as the Cork defence dealt with anything Offaly threw at them. Aoife Hurley with three goals and Cliona Healy and Saoirse McCarthy with one each ensured Cork were in control. Added to this, Cork hit excellent points with Moira Barrett, Fiona Nelligan and Laura Hayes all getting their names on the score sheet.

Offaly had the wind advantage in the second half but Cork continued to hold the upper hand. Cliona Healy had points while Emma Murphy and Aoife Hurley grabbed goals. Offaly never gave up and were rewarded with Rebecca Bryant and Louise Mannion striking two points each before Rebecca Bryan found the net for a goal. Cork were never really troubled and closed out the game with points from Michelle Fitzpatrick, Cliona Healy and sub Olivia Murphy.

In round two next weekend a stronger challenge awaits against Tipperary.

Scorers for Cork: A Hurley 4-2, C Healy 1-6 (0-2f's), E Murphy 2-0, S McCarthy 1-0, O Murphy 0-2, L Hayes, F Nelligan, M Fitzpatrick, M Barrett 0-1 each.

Offaly: L Mannion 0-3, R Bryant 1-2, K Kenny 0-1 (f)

CORK: M Lynch, E Buckley, A Buckley, O Fahy, S McHale, G Collins, C Ring, CS McCarthy, L Hayes, F Nelligan, M Barrett, M Fitzpatrick, A Hurley, E Murphy, C Healy.

Subs: O Keating for S McHale (h/t), O Murphy for A Hurley (42), C Harney for L Hayes (54), S Bateman for M Barrett (54), S Aherne for M Lynch (54).

OFFALY: E Gilgan, A Byrne, R Daly, T Finnane, A Bracken, D Hanamy (c), H Healy, L Savage, L Mannion, K Kennedy, A Hogan, B Bryant, O Maher, K Kenny, S Kehoe.

Subs: C Dunne for S Kehoe (h/t), B Whelan for H Healy (h/t), K Bergin for A Byrne (h/t), E Harding for T Finnane (41), K Fox for A Hogan (43).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

| | |
|--------|------|
| Antrim | 4-9 |
| Cork | 1-10 |

In Blackestown, the Cork U16B side lost out to Antrim who led 3-6 to 1-5 at the interval. In the second half, Cork failed to get to grips with a strong Antrim side as both got their All-Ireland campaigns under way. Cork meet Meath on Sunday next in round two.

July
2016

Féile a journey to remember for Sars



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

SARSFIELDS camogie club were the pride of Cork two weeks ago when they won the All-Ireland Féile title.

It's a journey that will live long in the memory of those involved and a great idea to capture the story of how it all played out.

The U14 team and four mentors departed from their base in Riverstown on Friday, June 17 at 3.45pm.

Despite the journey that lay ahead and the potential of what the weekend could bring, the girls were relatively calm and relaxed.

Their initial destination was Dunderum, Tipperary for an opening match against Knockavilla/Donaskeigh Kickhams.

From there the team would move to their host club Eire Og Annacarty where they would play the remaining group games.

They reached Dunderum in good time and the team was able to stroll around, stretch their legs and strike a few sliothars before heading to the dressing rooms. Each girl was allocated her jersey for the weekend which emphasised the occasion and excitement levels were starting to rise.

The team won their game against Knockavilla/Donaskeigh Kickhams 1-4 to 1-1 but struggled to find their rhythm against well organised opposition.

Once the match was over the team boarded the bus and drove the short distance to Annacarty.

Sars' second match on Friday night was against the Kilkenny champions, Thomastown. They started off better this time around and tapped on a few early points. There was never very much between the two teams; both defences were excellent, midfields were equal and forwards were getting no space.

Heading into the 5th minute of injury time Thomastown were awarded a '45 from the side-line which was scored and the match ended all square - 0-6 each.

This was probably a fair result on the balance of things and both sets of players knew that there couldn't be many harder games than that in the competition.

At this stage all parents, supporters and players went to the Annacarty clubhouse where they met the wonderful co-ordinator Anne O'Dwyer and the host families. There was a fantastic selection of food prepared for them and straight away everyone was put at ease.

The girls were paired off and introduced to their "new mums" and each family was presented with a gift showing Sarsfield's appreciation.

The group remained in the clubhouse chatting and enjoying the evening until it was time for the girls to depart. There were a few anxious looking Sars parents but the girls reassured them that all would be ok



The Sarsfields team and coaching staff celebrate after their victory over Thomastown in the Féile Division 1 camogie final in Fraher Field.

Picture: Inpho



Sarsfields players celebrate victory in the Féile Division 1 final.

Picture: Inpho

as they waved them off.

On Saturday morning the girls all returned to the Annacarty pitch, well rested. Not a pyjama party in sight on such an important weekend. As a result of their draw the previous night, Sars potentially had a trip to Gaultier, Waterford but only if they won their remaining match against the host club.

In the final group game Sars headed into an early lead and looked comfortable for most of the game but mid-way through the second half a determined Annacarty team scored a goal which brought them back into the match. Sars responded well and put a few more scores on the board to leave them 2-5 to 1-2 victors. Once all the results were in their fears were realised however and they had to make the two-hour journey to Gaultier. But nothing worth winning comes easy.

Annacarty could not have been more accommodating by feeding everyone involved and wishing Sars well as they headed to Waterford. They themselves had qualified for the plate competition so everyone was pleased.

The journey to Gaultier was one which most of the girls and mentors won't forget in a hurry. The team entertained themselves with singing

and it was obvious that great camogie teams do not make great choirs! They arrived in Gaultier at 2.55pm - just before throw in where Feakle/Killanena (Clare) were awaiting.

After some phone calls the match was put back 15 minutes to allow for the trek they had undertaken. The girls looked relaxed and an excellent opening first ten minutes set the tone for the rest of the match with Sars running out 2-8 to 0-5 winners.

The team then boarded the bus for a return trip to Clonmel Og's ground.

The weather at this stage had taken a turn for the worse as the team arrived in a wet Clonmel to play Bunclody (Wexford) in a semi-final - throw in at 6.30pm.

On arrival they were met with the news that there were at least four teams scheduled to play on one pitch. So after some further phone calls and discussions it was decided that the game would move to the Clonmel Sports Ground for a 7.15 throw in.

So it was on to the bus again! Management had some concerns about the effects the amount of travelling would have on the team but they were determined to put in a decent performance and give themselves every chance to make a final.

Sars started the semi-final well and had a huge amount of possession

“It was an incredible performance not just in the final but all weekend by an amazing bunch of girls”

but led at half-time by a slim margin.

They pulled away in the second half and won by 4-2 to 0-0. There were great scenes at the end of the match and after a long day Sars got back on the bus and headed back to their "home from home" Annacarty.

It was close to 10pm by the time they returned where the host families were waiting patiently and the girls without hesitation jumped into their cars and headed away.

The meeting place was in Dunderum House on Sunday morning where the side would travel to Dunderum and play their group opponents Thomastown in the 2016 Cup final - throw in at 1pm.

The girls were looking a bit tired and nervous and the choir wasn't in full voice on the trip but once Dunderum was reached they started to perk up.

Rain was belting down as they entered the ground.

It was great to see all the Sars supporters, many of whom had no children on the team, but had travelled to encourage this wonderful bunch of girls.

In the dressing room before the match, lots of the girls spoke about what the weekend had meant to them and their families. They mentioned the effort their mums and dads had

made to get them there and the training and hard work which the club had put in. It was an emotional but fiercely determined atmosphere.

When they ran onto the pitch the noise from the Sars supporters was incredible. Right from the warm-up the girls were calm and controlled and weren't going to let this opportunity slip.

Thomastown as expected were just as determined. They got the opening score from a free and Sars equalised from play before half-time.

The rain hadn't let up and the girls went in at half-time knowing they had to improve if they were going to win.

Early in the second half Sars got a goal which proved to be the decisive score and then struck a point shortly after to make it 1-2 to 0-1.

Just like the group match Thomastown pushed on and got the next two points which made it 1-2 to 0-3 with a few minutes to go.

Thankfully on this occasion Sars scored another point and held on to the win by 1-3 to 0-3.

It was an incredible performance not just in the final but all weekend by an amazing bunch of girls.

Off the pitch they were extremely well behaved and the feedback from the host families was very complimentary. The coaches never had to ask them to behave and their excellent manners were evident all weekend, which is a reflection on the parents. It was a journey with some little bumps like dead phones, no google maps, getting sick on the bus, changed venues and bad weather but all of this made it a weekend to remember for everyone involved.

Just for good measure, the following day many of the girls who are dual players went out and won the U14A football county title.

SQUAD: Faye Lonnergan, Amy McNamara, Rachael O'Gorman, Liz Twomey, Ashling McAllen, Clara Irwin, Saoirse Desmond, Katlyn Sheehan, Gabby Cashman, Olivia McAllen, Nikki Barry, Aine Mullins, Cliona Lynch, Ava O'Reagan, Ella Woods, Stephanie Long, Kate Crowley, Laura Fitzgerald, Orlaith Mullins, Eve McMahon, Emma Mulcahy, Orlaith Roche, Caragh Byrne, Julia Kelleher.

Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



The diary of an inter-county star

Hard work beats talent every time, as our All-Star explains

THE modern-day inter-county camogie player is professional in all but name.

We've all read and heard of the lengths that our male counterparts go to these days to reach the top of the GAA ladder but the same applies to camogie and ladies' football. You put your life on hold for your county.

Right now, these are busy times for Cork's players as we're in the middle of the group stages in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship. It's so far, so good for Paudie Murray's team with three wins from three in Group 1, as Waterford, Clare and Offaly have all been beaten. The early signs look encouraging, as Cork chase a third All-Ireland senior title in a row.

The bigger tests, against both Wexford and Limerick in the next two group games, lie ahead, but Cork look to be in a good position to mount a strong defence of their All-Ireland title.

However, five games in five weeks takes its toll on an inter-county camogie player, especially towards the end of the group stages. For that reason it's so important that each player looks after themselves, both physically and mentally, to ensure they get the best out of themselves and to prevent fatigue or injury.

From past experience, at this stage of the year, the training sessions mid-week are curbed in a way that keeps players fresh for the weekend games. It's a difficult balance to achieve, especially when there may be weaknesses revealed in past games that need to be worked on.

Players also need to take responsibility themselves to ensure they are not overtraining in the individual work they put in, whether it's with their club or extra gym work. Nutrition and mental preparation are other major factors that players need to look after, and I believe these are more important than the actual physical training you do at this stage of the year.

I've zoned in on one particular Cork inter-county player

to discover how she prepares for championship games. This player – who wishes to remain anonymous – has a very professional approach towards camogie and treats it as a job.

The work she puts in on a weekly basis is phenomenal, both in her eating and her physical sessions, and she goes above and beyond any other player I know to ensure she can give her best to Cork camogie.

The following is a breakdown of the training she endures on a weekly basis, her eating plan and the extra preparation she applies in the lead-up to a hefty five weeks of championship games.

Monday: Gym for 40 to 50 minutes (power, plyometrics, injury preventative programme) at moderate intensity (high intensity in pre-season).

Tuesday: Inter-county camogie training, approx 80 minutes (high intensity: speed-work, skills, modified games, tactics).

Wednesday: Gym for 40 to 50 minutes (similar to Monday, but different exercises, moderate intensity); ball alley for 20 minutes (skill work, low intensity); call to club training but wouldn't train at this time of year.

Thursday: Inter-county camogie training (similar to Tuesday but less intense and not as long the Thursday before a game, approximately 60 minutes).

Friday: Stretching using a foam roller, which is great for recovery. This is a rest day and recovery is vital.

Saturday: Championship games for five weeks in a row.

Sunday: Recover from the match, go to the pool or ice-bath if needed. This is a rest day. Call to club training if home.

As you can see, a full week has to be dedicated to the game on the Saturday; it consumes the entire week's schedule and needs to be treated in a professional manner to get the best out of the player.

Now, let's look closely at her nutrition routine.

Breakfast: porridge with fruit and flaxseed mixed in.



All for one and one for all: Camogie players adopt a professional approach in order to achieve their goals and targets, as former All-Ireland winning Cork forward and eight-time All-Star Jennifer O'Leary explains.

Snacks: Fruit (banana, orange, apples), nuts, raisins and yogurt. Healthy options also make you feel fuller for longer and the natural sugars in the fruit curb the sugar cravings you may feel during the day.

Lunch: High protein options, particularly after a morning gym session, such as chicken, steak, tuna or an omelette. Left-over dinner from night before for better time management.

Dinner: Light early dinner or sandwich on Tuesday and Thursday (training days). Few squares of chocolate (she asked me to leave this out but it made me feel better to leave it in as everyone deserves a treat!)

Post-training: A glass of milk, water for hydration and a bowl of porridge.

This player maintains a very healthy diet and it's vitally important that she replenishes lost energy stores in her diet by carefully choosing the right foods for her body. This food plan can change depending on training levels and matches. Some players take a recovery drink after games to help speed up recovery in the muscles but most of this protein can be found naturally in food.

Training the emotional side is also so important, and according to this inter-county player, 'training is a great stress reliever, be it from work or the everyday stresses of life. It allows you to forget about whatever is going on in your life and pushes you to focus solely on the ball.'

Emotionally, training takes

its toll so getting the right balance is essential. Many of the younger players over-train due to their involvement with underage teams so it's necessary for those players to get the right balance.

It's impossible to train every night so the rest days are vital, not only for recovery but to ensure hunger and freshness are present mentally and physically. The gym sessions get shorter as the championship starts and you're using it to maintain strength and as an injury preventative measure. A lot of girls work on their own programme and so can do it whenever it suits them during any given week. It's away from the pitch and it usually lasts 30 to 40 minutes and the benefits

are huge so it's important to have at least one session a week during championship.

It's championship matches that take the most out of players, especially when travelling to games. There is a physical and mental drain playing the match, and an emotional strain – winning or losing the game or a player's own personal performance.

Hopefully, this has given you an insight into the professionalism that has now crept into the camogie season at inter-county level. It is this dedication and precision planning that has helped Cork camogie to be successful on a yearly basis. Yes, it also takes talented players but hard work beats talent every time.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Championship: Cork v Wexford, Wexford Park, 3.45pm

With victories over Waterford, Clare, and Offaly, Cork travel to Wexford tomorrow, in search of a fourth win in their Liberty Insurance All Ireland senior championship campaign.

Wexford surprisingly lost to Offaly in round two, but bounced back last weekend to beat Waterford, having made a number of changes in personnel. Laura Brennan replaced Mags D'Arcy in goal, despite D'Arcy's experience.

Brennan did well and it will be curious to see if they stick with her for this crucial clash. Louise Sinnott made way for Ciara Donohue, at corner back, and Una Sinnott was reintroduced ahead of Chloe Foxe, who started at corner forward against Offaly. There were positional changes, as well: Siona Nolan moved to centre back and Karen Atkinson to full back. They also welcomed back Mary Lacey, who came on as a substitute, having just returned from honeymoon. She will certainly be in their starting line-up tomorrow.

Having lost to Offaly, Wexford cannot afford another slip-up and they will be on high alert against Cork. Few teams go to Wexford Park and win.

In last year's championship, Wexford were the only side to trouble Cork as they beat them in the championship. Always tough, physical opponents, Wexford have strong performers in Una Lacey, who bagged two goals against Waterford, and Kate Kelly, who missed the Offaly game but returned last weekend and contributed seven points. Linda Bolger, Stacey Kehoe, and Katrina Parrock will lead the charge for a home victory.

Cork were superb against Offaly and played as a unit. Their awareness in general play and distribution of the ball were first class, and their movement all over the field was a treat to watch. Paudie Murray, and his back-room team, will have their homework done. A victory, with just one game to go, against Limerick, would help in the bid to secure a top spot and a semi-final place.

The Cork starting 15 look settled, focused and determined. They work to a plan and stick to it. Wexford will focus on spoiling that game plan. The movement in the Cork inside line is excellent: every player knows exactly where to be. All over the field, from one to 15, on Saturday last, they played superbly: Gemma O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery, Aoife Murray, Orla Cotter, and Eimear

Wexford a tough game for Cork



Cork camogie manager, Paudie Murray, celebrating victory in last year's Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Final, in Croke Park, Dublin. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

O'Sullivan continue to inspire, whilst younger players, Hannah Looney, Leanne O'Sullivan, Amy O'Connor, Maebh Cahalane, and Orla Cronin are showing huge confidence.

The last three performances have been excellent, but Cork are experienced enough to know Wexford will be a much stronger challenge for them. Still, Cork are favourites. Looking at Cork last weekend, the signs are good, but it is best to proceed with caution, as they head to the lion's den tomorrow.

TONIGHT

All Ireland under 16 A championship: Cork v Tipperary, Castlelyons, 7.30pm

An all-Munster clash, this evening, in the All Ireland Under 16A championship, as Cork and Tipperary meet in Castlelyons.

It's the opening game in the series for the visitors, as they take on a Cork side that overpowered Offaly last weekend, in their first game of the round-robin series.

Cork report a number of injuries going into this clash, with Katie Daly, Ellen O'Regan, Sarah O'Sulli-

van, and Katie O'Connell all on the casualty list, whilst they are without Clare Mullins and Caoimhe Harnedy. Both are on holidays.

The sides met in the Munster final, a high-scoring contest that Cork won by three points, and, this evening, Tipperary will be determined to reverse that result. Cliona Healy, Aoife Hurley, Saoirse McCarthy and Emma Murphy will battle hard for Cork, whilst Tipperary will look to Caroline Brown, Maeve O'Leary, Casey Hennessy, and Niamh Long to get their campaign off to a winning start.

Kilkenny's flying form continues as Tipp beaten

Darragh Ó Conchuir

Camogie

Kilkenny continued their impressive start to the Liberty Insurance Senior Championship with a resounding victory over Tipperary at Semple Stadium.

Ann Downey's charges required extra-time to account for their old rivals in the National League semi-final, but buoyed by their subsequent victory in the final against Galway, the No-residers have been flying in the championship.

An Ann Dalton goal after five minutes set the tone and Kilkenny quickly moved nine points clear thanks to further points from Denise Gaule, Michelle Quilty and Katie Power. Scores from Nicole Walsh, who finished with eight points, and Sarah Fryday helped Tipp settle and they were well in touch at the break trailing by just six, 1-10 to 0-7. Kilkenny hit the first four points after the restart but Tipperary responded to leave the game still in the melting pot with 11 minutes left.

Kilkenny closed it out with points from Dalton, Power, Quilty, Shelly Farrell and Gaule (who ended with seven) to make it 1-21 to 0-11 at the final whistle.

In the other Group 2 game, Ailish O'Reilly bagged a hat-trick of goals as Galway also retained their flawless record with a 5-9 to 1-7 win over Dublin at Parnell Park.

A Noreen Coen goal gave the visitors the perfect start and it took 12 minutes for Ali Maguire to open Dublin's account.

O'Reilly goaled from the puck-out and Dublin were always playing catch up. Coen and O'Reilly added to their goal tallies, while Sarah O'Donovan did not for Dublin.

In Group 1, Wexford got back on track with a 3-12 to 1-11 victory over Waterford. A goal from Una Leacy sent them on their way but Waterford showed plenty determination and Beth Carton goaled to leave her side well in touch at the break, trailing by just 1-7 to 1-5.

Kate Kelly had four of the winners' points, while goals from Leacy and Linda Bolger helped hold off a Waterford team propelled by the excellent Carton and Trish Jackman.

Offaly had begun their campaign with two wins but they found champions Cork too strong in Fermoy, falling to a 3-14 to 1-5 defeat.

Clare have endured a torrid campaign and suffered another defeat despite an improved display, this time at the hands of Shannonside rivals Limerick in Cusack Park.

A goal in the first half from a long distance free by Niamh Mulcahy proved critical and her side prevailed by 1-13 to 0-9 despite a strong second-half effort by the Banner women.

Rebels will face stern test from Meath in Trim

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship, Cork v Meath, Trim, 2.30pm.

MEATH come into this Liberty Insurance Intermediate clash against Cork with two excellent victories under their belts over Down and Galway. writes MARY NEWMAN.

Cork in their opening game last weekend overcame Kildare and they will be travelling to Meath well prepared for another tough challenge.

With the senior team in action in Wexford it may impact on the intermediate side, as players may be needed as substitutes by the senior panel at the time of going to print we were unable to establish which players would be travelling with the senior squad.

CAMOGIE

It is a pity that when a county has two adult teams in action away from home they could not be facilitated with games being played on two different days.

Meath's intermediates are the county's first choice adult team and are Division 2 league champions.

Cork worked hard last weekend to secure a six point victory over a Kildare side that came Lee-side with high hopes following their opening round victory over Galway.

On a day when weather conditions were appalling for the opening 30 minutes, Cork dug deep to run out 0-12 to 0-6 winners.

Amy Lee had an excellent hour between the posts on Saturday last denying Kildare on two oc-

casions with excellent saves.

Captain Niamh Ni Chaoimh Leah Weste and Sarah Buckley were strong in defence they settled into the game quickly closing down the Kildare attack with excellent defensive play.

Up front Rachel O'Shea had a good hour finding the range from both frees and play, Jacinta Crowley, Chloe Sigerson, Finola Neville and Caroline Sugrue worked hard.

Every game is vital with just the top two teams in each group going forward to the semi-finals. If Cork could fashion out a victory over Meath they would be nicely placed with games away to Galway on July 23 and a meeting with Down on August 6 both weekends when the senior side will not be in action.

Verdict: Cork should do it.

Key personnel return for Down

Croke Park nerves took their toll against Meath, but Down have been boosted by the return of some key names

LIBERTY INSURANCE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GRP 2
GALWAY V DOWN
Saturday, Loughrea, 2pm

DOWN camogie boss Ryan O'Neill has welcomed the return of two key figures as they gear up for their Intermediate Championship clash against Galway on Saturday.

The Mourne camogs are seeking to get their campaign back on a track after a bruising defeat against Meath a fortnight ago and have been buoyed by the return to action of Portaferry duo Niamh Mallon and Maria McNally.

Meanwhile, team captain Paula Gribben is on the road to recovery from knee surgery and is being held in reserve.

O'Neill said: "We've gained two of our starters back, we're still without our captain but we have Niamh Mallon and Maria McNally. We're getting back to full strength and hopefully that shows come Saturday."

"I hope Paula [Gribben] will be back for the third game, she could play this weekend but if I risk it I could put her out for another six weeks. She's a big player with a lot of experience. If we win on Saturday and we beat Kildare we'll have high hopes going into the last game. I expect our girls to give a good decent account against Galway."

In Down's first championship outing they fell to a heavy defeat against Meath (3-21 to 0-9). Played as the curtain-raiser to the replayed Christy Ring Cup final at Croke Park, O'Neill believes that nerves got to his side in the first-half, albeit they improved immeasurably after the break - Meath winning the second-half by 0-7 to 0-6.

"It was a tough day out. 14 of our girls are just new to the panel and it was their first time playing in Croke Park. The arrangements, the times, the schedules kind of crumbled our girls to be honest."

"We went out to win the game like all games obviously, but it didn't work. The first 10 minutes, Meath came out and hit 1-3 without replay, after that I thought it was a long day ahead of us."

"Meath were ahead by 3-14 to 0-3 at half-time but we got the girls in at the break and had a good chat with them, that they should play your own game."

"The second-half was a totally different game for us, we're taking the positives and we've worked on that for the past two weeks for our game against Galway."

Prior to that loss to Meath, who are one of the favourites for the All-Ireland, the Down camogs' league campaign ended with two defeats against Kildare and Laois. On Saturday they face another tricky tie away to Galway, who were narrowly defeated by Meath in April's Division Two final.

"Against Kildare we went down with 15 girls and we had three girls who basically couldn't play with injury. Against Laois we were on top and our goalkeeper dropped in a free, so we're there or thereabouts but there's a lot of work that needs done from management down."

"We've a big game ahead against Galway, it's probably the hardest group as well."

LIBERTY INSURANCE SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GRP 2
GALWAY V DERRY
Saturday, Loughrea, 3.45pm

CIARAN Cunningham's Derry are bottom of the table after two heavy defeats to Kilkenny and Tipperary



Down have been boosted by the return of Niamh Mallon, pictured lifting the cup after winning the Intermediate Championship in 2014

and it doesn't get any easier in their forthcoming clash against Galway. The Connacht side have played two and won two (against Tipperary and Dublin) and will have their eye on a third win on the trot against the Oak Leafers.

Derry, meanwhile, had a tough day out in their last outing against Tipp, a late goal from the impressive Maria Mooney scarcely putting a dent in the final scoreline of 3-19 to 1-6.

LIBERTY INSURANCE INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GRP 1
ANTRIM V KILKENNY
Saturday, Randalstown, 2.30pm

ANTRIM kept alive their semi-final hopes alive in last week's impressive 4-16 to 2-11 win against Wexford after falling defeat in their opening encounter against Laois.

The Saffrons dominated their second-half against the Yellowbellies,

outscored their Leinster opposition by 2-10 to 1-6. Kilkenny's second string also got off the mark last weekend, cruising to a 5-18 to 0-11 win over Tipperary.

LEAGUE TABLE LIBERTY INSURANCE PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
ARMAGH V KERRY
Sunday, Ballymacnab, 2.30pm

PADDY McArdle's Armagh side are

yet to taste defeat heading into their third match of the championship. This year's Division Three champions clinched a 3-8 to 1-5 win over Dublin in their first match, and were held to a 4-6 to 3-9 draw against Westmeath on their last day out.

Shelly McArdle hit Armagh's fourth major of the day to open up a two-point lead in the second-half but Westmeath grabbed the final two points of the game to snatch a draw.

Happy days - three ties, three wins

KILKENNY 1-21
TIPPERARY 0-11

By T.J. Mills
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The Kilkenny senior camogie team made it three wins from three when they proved much too strong for Tipperary in the All-Ireland championship in Semple Stadium on Saturday.

The victors opened well and scored through Ann Dalton early on. Nicole Walsh responded for Tipperary with a pointed free before the visitors went on a devastating scoring run.

They landed 1-5 without reply. Julieann Malone started the run with a point from 35 metres.

Ann Dalton continued the good run when she got in for the game's only goal 30 seconds later. She gained possession 45 metres out and tore through the rearguard before coolly dispatching the shot to the net.

Michelle Quilty then tapped over a point before Katie Power did likewise. Ann Dalton added to the gains from the sideline in the 12th minute before Denise Gaule shot a well taken point.

All of a sudden the divide was 1-6 to 0-1 and Tipp looked shaken.

Nicole Walsh stopped the rot when she hit back for a Tipperary point.

Kilkenny just roared on. Denise Gaule landed a minor from 45 metres after racing on to a Katie Power pass. Michelle Quilty chipped over a point to keep the momentum strong.

HUNG ON

Credit to Tipperary, they hung on grimly. They hit back for four points per Sarah Fryday, Nicole Walsh (2 frees)

and Fryday again.

The visitors barely blinked. Katie Power finished a strong run by shooting a point after reacting quickest to an Ann Dalton free that was saved by Tipperary keeper, Sabrina Larkin.

Denise Gaule slipped over a free from 45 metres before Tipperary closed out the first half scoring with an excellent long range point from Nicole Walsh.

Half-time score: Kilkenny 1-10, Tipperary 0-7.

The winners continued their good run in the new half. They reeled off four points through Denise Gaule, Katie Power, Julieann Malone and Gaule again as they sent out a firm message that they weren't going to let up.

GAP WIDENS

The gap was now 1-14 to 0-7, and Tipp were fading.

The losers bounced back and nabbed three points on the spin. Nicole Walsh started the run with a free from 21 metres.

Orla O'Dwyer added to the gains before Miriam Campion sent over a well taken point in the 47th minute.

The Tipperary fight-back was short lived. Sharp Kilkenny out-scored them by seven points to one during the closing 12 minutes.

Denise Gaule started the run. Katie Power and Ann Dalton added to it before Shelly Farrell got in on the scoring act with a point.

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Ann Dalton, who was picked as the player of the match, then slipped over her fourth point when she charged on to a Michelle Quilty pass.

The contest was well and truly over, and the mustard keen Cats had completed the hat trick of victories.

The sit on top of the table ahead of Galway. The top of the table clash against the

Tribeswomen will be July 16.

In what is a repeat of the League final, the winners will secure a place in the All-Ireland semi-finals.

OTHER NEWS

In other camogie news, the Kilkenny intermediate team began their All-Ireland series with an impressive 5-18 to 0-11-point victory over Tipperary in Danesfort, also on Saturday.

The victors raced out of the traps and enjoyed a 3-8 to 0-6 half time lead.

Jenny Clifford, Angela Kenneally and team captain Aine Fahy all found the net in that half.

Kilkenny didn't take the foot off the pedal. They rattled the net twice more through Angela Kenneally - an absolute bullet to the roof of the net - and Sarah Walsh to ease home by 5-18 to 0-11.

The winners now face a tricky away assignment on Saturday against Antrim.

On Sunday the Kilkenny under-15 A and B sides recorded victories in the Kilkenny under-15 blitz in the James Stephens ground on the Kells Road.

The Kilkenny A side secured the title after they proved too strong for Wexford (2-8 to 1-1).

The B side enjoyed a 1-2 to 0-2 victory after a tight tussle with Laois to secure the title.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Ann Dalton (1-4, point free); Denise Gaule (0-7, five frees); Katie Power (0-4); Michelle Quilty (0-3); Julieann Malone (0-2); Shelly Farrell (0-1). Tipperary - Nicole Walsh (0-7, five frees); Sarah Fryday (0-2); Orla O'Dwyer; Miriam Campion (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Emma Kavanagh, Sarah Crowley, Davina Tobin, Colette Dormer, Claire Phelan, Edwina Keane, Jacqui Frisby, Anna Farrell, Meighan Farrell, Denise Gaule, Julieann Malone, Ann Dalton, Michelle Quilty (capt), Katie Power, Shelly Farrell. Subs - Ann Marie Lennon, Miriam Frisby, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Kelly Ann Doyle, Aine



STOP RIGHT THERE! Kilkenny's Katie Power and Tipperary's Aoife McGrath clash during the big camogie game in Semple Stadium. Photo: Ken Sutton/INPHO

Gannon, Stacey Quirke, Sarah Kent, Maureen Walsh, Laura Murphy, Kate McDonald, Grace Walsh, Miriam Walsh, Aisling Dunphy, Niamh Deely, Michelle Teehan, Aoife O'Carroll.

Tipperary - Sabrina Larkin, Julie Ann

Burke, Mairead Teehan, Ciannait Walsh, Aoife McGrath, Caoimhe Maher, Gemma Grace, Teresa Ryan, Eirena Fryday, Nicole Walsh, Mary Ryan (capt), Megan Ryan, Sarah Fryday, Jenny Grace, Orla O'Dwyer.

Subs - Orla McEniry, Roisin Cahill, Miriam Campion, Mairead Eviston, Roisin Howard, Andrea Loughnane, Laura Loughnane, Aoife Moloughney, Clodagh Quirke, Shauna Quirke. Referee - John Dolan (Clare).

Murphy Jewellers/ Kilkenny People Player of the Month

Anna Farrell

May winner



HERE IT GOES - Kilkenny's Denise Gaule shoots for a score during the All-Ireland senior camogie championship. Photo: Ken Sutton/INPHO



Anna Farrell (Thomastown), the May Kilkenny GAA Player of the Month with the Kilkenny People and Murphy Jewellers, High Street receives her watch from Martin Costello, Murphy Jewellers. Photo: Pat Moore

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CAMOGIE CLINCH DERBY BOOST

Wexford overcome sterling effort from newly-promoted Waterford



Katrina Parrock under pressure from Waterford's Shona Prendergast. Pic: Maurice Hennebery.



Una Lacey feels the force of a challenge from Waterford's Shona Kiernan. Pic: Maurice Hennebery.

Wexford 3-12
Waterford 1-11

by Deirdre Colfer

WEXFORD'S SENIOR camogie challengers had to withstand a sterling effort by their promoted neighbours Waterford before getting their All-Ireland championship campaign back on track with Saturday afternoon's third-round Group 1 derby success at Walsh Park in Waterford.

After following their opening win over Limerick with defeat to Offaly, the Wexford selectors made a number of personnel and positional changes, as Laura Brennan replaced the injured Mags D'Arcy in goal, while Louise Sinnott made way for Ciara Donohoe at corner-back, and Una Sinnott was restored to the starting line-up ahead of the promising Chloe Foxe at corner-forward. A number of additional positional alterations saw Siona Nolan filling the centre-back berth as Karen Atkinson took over at full-back.

Waterford, last year's All-Ireland intermediate champions, have plenty of talent in their ranks, including All-Ireland Poc Fada record-holder Trish Jackman and the silken skilled teenager Beth Carton, and the home-side started brightest, with Fiona Morrissey sending over a point from play in the first-minute. Shelley Kehoe responded two minutes later with a well-taken point before her twin, Stacey, split the posts after being set up by Kate Kelly. And Kelly pointed herself two minutes later to see Wexford enjoying a two-



Wexford's Una Sinnott gets away from Waterford's Kate McMahon during Saturday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 1 qualifier at Walsh Park, Waterford. Pic: Maurice Hennebery.

point lead after ten minutes. A foul on Una Leacy saw Kate Kelly add a pointed free with routine precision, before Leacy batted a classy finish to the Waterford net for a 1-4 to 0-1 advantage. Within a minute, Wexford got their sixth score through a Linda Bolger point to be seven points clear after 13 minutes.

Waterford made in-roads with a point from Lorraine Bray at the end of the first-quarter. But Kate Kelly was on hand to get her third personal point, only for a swift response from Lorraine Bray to cut the gap to 1-6 to 0-3. Patricia Jackman got Waterford's fourth point (from a placed-ball), before

Kate Kelly pointed another free for Wexford. Deise County starlet Beth Carton picked-off a score on the move for Waterford before Carton really made her mark on the game three minutes later with a well-taken goal to cut the gap to two points at half-time.

Waterford's resurgence continued on the re-start as Fiona Morrissey cut the gap to the minimum, and it really seemed as though Wexford had their work cut out against now wind-assisted Waterford. However, Una Leacy pounced for her second goal to put Wexford four points clear and ease their nerves. Deirdre Codd replaced Jackie Quigley just before Kate Kelly pointed her fourth free of the match, before a barren period of almost ten minutes ensued. The drought ended with Trish Jackman powering over a couple of placed-balls to fire Waterford and leave just three points separating the neighbours entering the closing-quarter.

Another pointed free from Kate Kelly was cancelled out by Waterford points from Beth Carton and Trish Jackman to cut the gap to two points after 40 minutes. But Linda Bolger gave Wexford the boost they needed with five minutes to play as she finished all the way to the net following great work by Kate Kelly to push the Wexford lead out to five points.

Waterford went in search

of a goal a minute later, but Karen Atkinson was on hand with some experienced defending and expert timing to put in a goal denying tackle. As the ball went up-field, Kate Kelly picked off a classy point to push the lead out to six points with time fast running out on the clock. Katrina Parrock registered her first score of the day, before Beth Carton responded to keep the margin at six points. Linda Bolger stretched Wexford seven points clear, and when

Waterford won a close-in free in the dying moments, Trish Jackman went low and hard, but was denied on the goal-line as Wexford determinedly got their All-Ireland challenge back on track having survived a serious challenge from the reigning intermediate queenpins. Wexford now face defending All-Ireland senior champions Cork on Saturday at home, and with Mary Leacy back on Wexford soil from honeymoon and having made a telling contribution when introduced from the subs' bench last Saturday, Wexford will have their sights set firmly upon defeating the Rebelettes to give their challenge for the semi-finals a serious boost.

Wexford - Laura Brennan, Ciara Donohoe, Karen Atkinson, Ciara Storey, Sarah O'Connor, Siona Nolan, Jackie Quigley, Emma Walsh, Katrina Parrock (0-1), Stacey Kehoe (0-1), Kate Kelly (0-7, 5 frees), Shelley Kehoe (0-1), Una Sinnott, Una Leacy (2-0), Linda Bolger (1-2).

Subs: Mary Leacy for Emma Walsh (inj.); Deirdre Codd for Jackie Quigley.

Waterford - Tracey Kiely, Clare Whyte, Charlotte Maher, Shona Prendergast, Kate McMahon, Shona Kiernan, Iona Heffernan, Lorraine Bray (0-2), Trish Jackman (0-4, 3 frees), Catriona McGlone, Fiona Morrissey (0-3), Niamh Rockett, Aisling Power, Beth Carton (1-2), Jenny McCarthy. **Sub:** Aoife Landers for Iona Heffernan.



Sarah O'Connor gets away from Waterford's Iona Heffernan. Pic: Maurice Hennebery.



Joint-manager John Kelly gives the Wexford players a pep-talk. Pic: Maurice Hennebery.



Gallant intermediates lack Antrim's attacking punch

WEXFORD'S CHARACTER simply couldn't be questioned, but home-side Antrim had too much attacking class as they subjected the purple-and-gold to a second loss in Group 1 of All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship qualifying at Glenravel on Saturday afternoon.

into the match as the Tom Dunphy's charges closed to within 2-6 to 1-5 as the half-time whistle sounded. Rathnure's Oonagh Doyle pointed on the

re-start to leave just a goal between the sides. But Ant-rim got four points on the bounce to put seven between the sides. Mags Byrne stopped the rot on

40 minutes with a point from play for Wexford, before Antrim struck 2-2 without reply through the in-form Raquel McCarry in a two-minute period to leave Wexford with a mountain to climb. Mags Byrne with two points in as many minutes showed her class, and Antrim packed their goal to deny Wexford a major from a close-in free. Yet, Joanne Dillon was on hand to finish to the net and lift Wexford spirits heading into the closing minutes, during which Aideen Brennan traded two points with Antrim's McCarry. But brave Wexford finished on the wrong side of a 4-16 to 2-11 score-line, and Laois will visit this Saturday as Wexford look to register their first win of the campaign.

Antrim - M. Coyle, B. McGarry, L. Connolly, A. Connolly, M. Connolly, E. McFadden, C. Boyle, C. Campbell, F. McVeigh, O. O'Hara (capt.), S. Devlin (0-1), R. McCarry (2-11, 0-6 frees, 0-2 line-balls), C. Dobbin (2-0), E. McMullan (0-4), H. Devlin.

Subs: U. McNaughton for A. Connolly; K. McKillop for F. McVeigh; C. Dobbin for H. Devlin.

Subs: Michelle Harding for Leanne Foley; Rachel Kelly for Katie O'Connor; Shauna Kelly for Donagh Doyle; Dearbhla Doyle for Amy Ryan; Niamh Walsh for Dee McMahon.

Oulart, Ibar's are setting early pace in senior race

• **St. Martin's 3-18 Kilrush 0-3:** The Martin's put in a strong performance to secure victory away to Kilrush. Linda Bolger once again was the scorer-in-chief for a young Martin's side, while Aisling O'Connor and Amy Ryan were also important score contributors for them. Young Maura O'Rourke and speed-merchant Mags Byrne picked off scores for Kilrush, but Noleen Lambert marshalled the Martin's defensive unit superbly.

● **Oulart-The Ballagh** 5-17 Glynn-Barn-
town 1-6: Oulart proved too strong for an
up-and-coming Barnstown side at Killurina

on Monday of last week. Glynn were missing Aoife Sheil who had netted three goals in their last outing, and her absence was felt, although Emma Walsh sent over six points for the hard-trying home-side.

• **St. Ibar's 2-21 Buffers Alley 2-7:** Group 2 leaders St. Ibar's had far too much firepower for visitors Buffers last Monday, with Kate Kelly lethal from play and placed-balls. Young-guns Shauna Kelly and Jessie Harding were also on target for the Ibar's and contributed well in overall play. Stalwart Emer O'Leary was the best forward for the visitors who will meet Rathnure next.



Bunclody, Oylegate top the bill

● **Oylegate-Glenbrien 1-8 Cloughbawn 0-7:** A tough, tight game was played out in Cloughbawn where speedy Noeleen Shanahan and the reliable Gretta Heffernan were scorers-in-chief for winners Oylegate. A Derbhla Doyle goal midway through the first-half saw Oylegate into the driving-seat. But the relentless efforts of Cloughbawn saw them push the eventual winners all the way, and Patrice Lawlor was the main source of scores for a hard-grafting Cloughbawn. But impact sub Jemma Reck steadied the ship for Oylegate in the final-quarter.

• **Duffry Rovers 4-4 Blackwater 1-9:** It was a case of 'goals win games' at Coolree on Monday of last week. Young Aislinn Byrne and the experienced Una Rowe were

the main contributors to the scoring for the seashiders. But county senior Deirdre Codd netted three goals to ensure that the Duffry prevailed, and a special mention must go to Anne-Marie Foley, who scored a cracker of a goal for the Duffry as the former netminder-turned-poacher was determined the home-side got the win they needed.

• **Bunclody 3-10 Naomh Éanna 1-8:** Nicole Fortune was in devastating form on Monday of last week for Bunclody when bagging a personal salvo of 3-4 to lead them to two-wins-from-two at Gorey, and county minor Roisin Kelly chipped in with three points for the winners. The hosts worked tirelessly, and three points from Ellen Roche and a goal from Roisin Egan kept Naomh Éanna in touch.



Seniors claim derby victory

More improvement needed

DEAN GOODISON

in Walsh Park

WEXFORD 3-12
WATERFORD 1-11

WEXFORD STRUGGLED mightily for the second game running but eventually saw off a limited Waterford side in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior camogie championship at Walsh Park on Saturday.

The Slaneysiders were woeful against Offaly last time out, meaning managers John Kelly and Matty Flynn-O'Connor had no option but to ring the changes, both positionally and in personnel. It led to some improvement but overall this was a second worrying performance in a row.

Those waiting for a response from Wexford after the previous week's loss to Offaly will still be waiting. Maybe the considerably sterner test to come on Saturday against Cork will get the best out of the Slaneysiders, and it will certainly need to be better than this.

However, the task ahead is only emphasised by the score from Fermoy at the weekend. Having smashed Wexford the previous week, Offaly were brought down to earth with a bang, as the Rebels thumped the Faithful county by 3-14 to 1-5.

The Deise girls worked hard in this tie but the reigning Intermediate champions are littered with weakness at both ends of the field. While she didn't score, Catriona McGlone was arguably their most dangerous weapon with her pace down the right giving the experienced Deirdre Codd problems, after she had seen off Jackie Quigley.

Beth Carton was elusive when she dropped deeper and did enough to worry Karen Atkinson, but the Oulart-The Ballagh defender held her own. At the other end of the field Una Leacy grabbed herself another pair of majors, despite not getting a huge amount of ball.

Kate Kelly dropped back to centre-forward and certainly enjoyed more possession than she did seven days earlier. Mary Leacy's return couldn't have come at a better time, with Emma Walsh, who had more positives than most against Offaly, forced off with a hand injury in the first-half.

That opening period began with the hosts taking the first score, a Fiona Morrissey effort from Jenny McCarthy's lay-off. Yet Wexford, playing with a stiff breeze, responded immediately with Shelley Kehoe hitting the target.

It wasn't pretty but the visitors slowly built a lead. Stacey Kehoe popped over from Kelly's feed in the eighth minute before the latter added another from a poor clearance. Kelly converted her first free after a foul on Una Leacy to make it 0-4 to 0-1.

The first real period of pressure on the Waterford goal saw the Slaneysiders net. Kelly got a handpass off to Una Sinnott, and the Craanford youngster was fouled but battled away, forcing the handpass over the hosts' defence to Leacy who batted to the net from overhead.

After Lorraine Bray pulled a point back, Wexford went 1-6 to 0-2 ahead in the 16th minute through Kelly. But they would add just one further point with the elements at their backs - another Kelly free after a foul on Sinnott.

Meanwhile, Waterford were working their way back into the tie. Bray added a second point, Patricia Jackman registered her first free and Carton knocked one over.

Then, with the half drawing to a close, Carton blocked Laura Brennan, turned inside and fired low past the Wexford stopper.

With just two points in it at the break, Wexford had a battle on their hands. Jackman halved the deficit within two minutes of the re-start. However, seconds later Charlotte Maher fumbled Kelly's ball in and Leacy pounced to sweep home her second major.

Between that 32nd-minute goal, and Linda Bolger's net-ripping in the 54th minute, Wexford could only add two Kelly frees. The first of those came four minutes after the Leacy strike and gave the victors a 2-8 to 1-6 lead.

Waterford scored four of the next five points. Three of them came from Jackman frees, and the other was a classy long-range score from Carton. Yet they failed to test Brennan, deputising for the injured Mags D'Arcy, in that spell.

With just over six minutes remaining Wexford led by two, 2-9 to 1-10. Then they put the game to bed. Kate Kelly broke past midfield with the ball, drew the covering de-

fender and handpassed into Linda Bolger's stride. The St. Martin's attacker flashed low to the hosts' net to make the advantage five.

Waterford had one last chance to get themselves back into the game when Carton powered through but Atkinson got the last-gasp block when a goal looked likely. Kelly picked off a 57th-minute point, and then Katrina Parrock quickly followed as Wexford moved 3-11 to 1-10 clear.

Carton's long-range score was cancelled out by Bolger's minor from tight on the right wing and, despite late pressure, Waterford couldn't find a second goal. Wexford now face into a massive encounter with Cork on Saturday afternoon.

A loss will mean that a place in the quarter-finals is in extreme doubt, especially if Limerick can pick up a home win against Offaly. With score difference counting this year, a big loss will likely leave Wexford hoping for help from elsewhere in the final round of fixtures on July 16.

Wexford: Laura Brennan; Ciara Donohoe, Karen Atkinson, Ciara Storey; Sarah O'Connor, Siona Nolan (capt.), Jackie Quigley; Emma Walsh, Katrina Parrock (0-1); Stacey Kehoe (0-1), Kate Kelly (0-7, 4 frees), Shelley Kehoe (0-1); Linda Bolger (1-2), Una Leacy (2-0), Una Sinnott. Subs. - Mary Leacy for Walsh, in. (22), Deirdre Codd for Quigley (29), Marie Morrissey for Parrock, in. (60+4), also Louise O'Leary, Louise Sinnott, Amy Cardiff, Chloe Foxe.

Waterford: Tracey Kiely; Claire Whyte, Charlotte Maher (capt.), Shona Prendergast; Kate McMahon, Shona Kiernan, Iona Heffernan; Lorraine Bray (0-2), Patricia Jackman (0-5 frees); Catriona McGlone, Fiona Morrissey (0-1), Niamh Rockett; Aisling Power, Beth Carton (1-3), Jenny McCarthy. Sub. - Aoife Landers for Heffernan (40).

Referee: Owen Elliott (Antrim).



Next up for the Wexford squad is Cork this coming weekend.

Inters go down to Antrim

ANTRIM 4-16
WEXFORD 2-11

WEXFORD SLIPPED to their second consecutive defeat in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate camogie championship, this time against Antrim in Glenravel on Saturday.

The Slaneysiders lost their opening tie with Tipperary the previous week and must now beat Laois on Saturday if they are to maintain even the slightest hopes of reaching the semi-finals.

Wexford started this game on the front foot, scoring the opening point through Joanne Dillon before adding an Oonagh Doyle free to go 0-2 to nil in front.

However, once Caitrin Dobbin registered her first goal in the eleventh minute, the hosts never trailed again.

Doyle did bring her side level with a free but Antrim got the rarest of scores in the 14th minute when Rachel McCarry converted a line ball for two points to help her side into a 1-3 to 0-3 lead.

Yet Wexford responded again and were level when Aileen Bren-

nan handpassed to Megan Coyle's net in the 18th minute. Parity didn't last long as Antrim scored the next goal and three points to take a 2-6 to 1-3 lead heading into the last few minutes of the half.

Late scores from Margaret Byrne, who again impressed with four points, and Deirdre McMahon left just four between the sides at the change-around. That gap was closed further when Oonagh Doyle added her third dead-ball shortly after the resumption.

Four points in a row followed for the impressive hosts. Byrne managed to stem the tide momentarily but when McCarry fired two goals in quick succession the writing was on the wall for Tom Dunphy's side.

Trailing by 4-13 to 1-7, Byrne pulled another brace back for Wexford. Then, as the game moved into the final quarter, Joanne Dillon found the net to add an element of respectability to the scoreboard.

There was still time for Oulart-The Ballagh forward Aileen Brennan to notch a pair of late points but there was no stopping Antrim from picking up their first championship win of the season.

Wexford host Laois on Saturday, the first of two home games to round out the group stages. Two weeks later Kilkenny make the short trip over the border, by which time their neighbours could already be out of contention for a last four spot.

Wexford: Rebecca Doran; Nancy Dunphy, Amy Ryan, Farren Byrne; Anna Whitty, Katie O'Connor, Leanne Foley; Michelle Martin, Leah Walsh; Joanne Dillon (1-1), Deirdre McMahon (capt., 0-1), Aoife Curran; Margaret Byrne (0-4), Oonagh Doyle (0-3, 2 frees, 1 '45), Aileen Brennan (1-2, 0-1 free). Subs. - Michelle Harding for Foley, Rachel Kelly for O'Connor, Derbhla Doyle for Ryan, Shauna Kelly for Doyle, Niamh Walsh for McMahon.

Antrim: Megan Coyle; Bernie McGarry, Laura Connolly, Aine Connolly; Maeve Connolly, Emma McFadden, Ciara Boyle; Charlene Campbell, Finola McVeigh; Orlagh O'Hara (capt.), Shauna Devlin (0-1), Rachel McCarry (2-10, 0-6 frees, 0-2 from 1 line ball); Caitrin Dobbin (2-2), Emma McMullen (0-3), Hannah Devlin. Subs. - Una McNaughton for A. Connolly, Katie McKillop for McVeigh, Ciara Dobbin for H. Devlin.

Referee: Julie O'Neill (Armagh).

Minors concede six goals

MINOR CAMOGIE

in Blakestown

GALWAY 6-12
WEXFORD 3-13

WEXFORD BEGAN their All-Ireland Under-16 camogie championship campaign in disappointing fashion, losing by eight points to Galway in St. Peregrine's, Blakestown, on Sunday.

The Slaneysiders had a mediocre Leinster campaign but gradually improved over the course of the provincial championship, eventually beating Offaly in the shield final, so it was hoped that they could get a good start in a tricky group.

However, Galway are one of the powerhouses at this level and their goal-hungry forwards proved too elusive for Wexford to handle. The first-half was a close-run affair with the westerners taking a 2-5 to 0-8 lead in at the interval.

Lettie Whelan was well on her way to the Slaneysiders' top scorer in the half. There was little to choose between the sides on the field but the ability of the Galway girls to hit the net when the opportunities arose proved key.

Unfortunately for the Leinster side, things got away from them in the second-half with both Sarah Healy and Ciara Helebert completing hat-tricks for the Tribeswomen. Indeed, St. Thomas' clubwoman Healy registered 3-8 in the tie as she tormented the Wexford defence.

At the other end Whelan, Anais Curran and Ciara O'Connor all found the net as Wexford battled away. The 3-13 is comfortably more than Wexford managed in any of the Leinster games, which bodes well going forward.

There were several strong performances around the field. Nora Higgins excelled in midfield, Lara Conran was solid at centre-back, and there were powerful showings from Sarah Harding-Kenny and Ella O'Connor.

Next week Wexford face Offaly and they will fancy their chances of backing up their Leinster shield success with three Group 2 points.

With games to follow against Cork and Tipperary, the Slaneysiders will likely need to win all three to have a realistic chance of reaching the last four.

Wexford: Mikaela Lanigan; Kaitlynn Whelan-Kinsella, Anna Hennessy, Alannah Davis; Máire O'Rourke, Lara Conran, Hannah Keating; Nora Higgins (0-2), Sarah Harding-Kenny; Ella O'Connor (0-2), Lettie Whelan (1-7), Anais Curran (1-1), Ciara O'Connor (1-0), Orla Fortune (0-1), Ciara Bridges. Subs. - Orla Fitzgerald for Fortune, Saoirse Dunne for O'Rourke.

Galway: Yvonne Lyons; Mary Larkin, Leah Burke, Erica Leslie; Sarah Sleavin, Lauren Gilligan, Muireann Flaherty; Kate Screen, Niamh Horan; Siobhán McGrath (0-3), Mairéad Dillon, Emma Reynolds (0-1); Sarah Healy (3-8), Ciara Helebert (3-0), Chloe Quinn-Reilly.

Referee: Eamon Cassidy (Derry).



Joint managers John Kelly (foreground) and Matty Flynn-O'Connor.

Murray demands more from Cork camogie team

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THINGS are about to get interesting, says Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray.

All-Ireland senior camogie champions Cork boast a 100 per cent record after three rounds of Group 1, and they're the only county to have won all three games to date.

Sitting on nine points, Cork are three ahead of Limerick, Wexford and Offaly who all have six points, while Waterford and Clare are cut adrift on zero points.

Next up for Cork are their two biggest tests, away to Wexford this Saturday, in Wexford Park at 3.45pm, followed by a home clash with Limerick the following Saturday.

These two games were always going to be the make-or-

break ties for the Rebels, who are in a strong position to make it through to the knockout stages of the championship – the top team from both Group 1 and Group 2 goes direct to the semi-final, while the second and third place teams battle it out in the quarter-finals.

First up is Wexford on Saturday, who surprisingly lost to Offaly in round two (2-14 to 1-7), the same Faithful County side that Cork thumped 3-14 to 1-5 last weekend.

'This is the trip that I have been really looking forward to, since the draw was first made. What makes this more interesting is that Wexford have to win this game and there aren't too many teams that go there and win, so that's the challenge for us,' manager Paudie Murray said.

'These two games – against Wexford and Limerick – will give us a very good indication of where we stand.

'Am I happy with where we are today? From a results point of view, yes, we have put up big scores and we are as good as qualified, but would I be happy with our overall performances? No would be the answer there. I'm looking down the road towards the business end and our performances aren't where they need to be to win an All-Ireland or even a semi-final.

'These two games might sharpen the players' minds and get them focussed. We need a good performance this Saturday and repeat it again a week later.'

Cork are in a strong position and will look to top the table and go straight to the All-Ire-

land semi-final, with one of the reasons being that it offers the Rebels the chance to get some training time, seeing as they are in the middle of five championship games in a row.

'If we go direct to the semi-final that would allow us time to do some quality training between the group stage and the semi-final. We are five weeks on the go so we are not doing any major training at the moment,' Murray explained.

Cork's four dual players have another busy weekend as Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery, Hannah Looney and Libby Coppinger will all be in action for Cork on Saturday – Coppinger, probably, with the intermediate team away in Meath – while on Sunday evening the Cork ladies footballers take on Kerry in the Munster final in Killarney.

Senior Camogie C'ship Group 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | DIFF | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|------|-----|
| Cork | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 27 | 52 | 9 |
| Limerick | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 55 | 46 | 9 | 6 |
| Wexford | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 57 | 53 | 4 | 6 |
| Offaly | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 47 | 47 | 0 | 6 |
| Waterford | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 63 | -29 | 0 |
| Clare | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 69 | -36 | 0 |



Looking forward: Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray has a busy few weeks ahead.

Leacy leaves it late as Wexford clinch win over Cork

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Una Leacy pounced for a goal on the stroke of time to snatch a 1-9 to 0-9 victory for Wexford over All-Ireland champions Cork in their Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Group 1 tie at Innova Wexford Park.

Up to that definitive score, Kate Kelly had displayed her enduring sharpness after almost 20 years of senior inter-county action with seven points.

Orla Cotter (0-4) opened the scoring for Paudie Murray's crew, but with Kelly so accurate, it was nip and tuck throughout, with the hosts generally keeping their noses in front.

The Rebels were dealt a severe blow when captain Ashling Thompson received her marching orders in the 55th minute for a second yellow card offence, with her side trailing by a point.

Amy O'Connor equalised from a free subsequently but just when it looked like the spoils would be shared, Leacy exhibited the eye for goal that has been the hallmark of her game throughout the career.

The result brought the Model County women level with Cork at the top of the table, and they were joined by Offaly when Adrian Clancy's outfit overcame Limerick in a crunch tie at Kilmallock.

A brilliant defensive effort was central to the 1-16 to 1-10 success, as the midlanders

managed to neutralise the threat of scoring machine Niamh Mulcahy to a significant degree. Mulcahy had scored 2-37 in three games prior to this and in that context, Offaly would have been pleased to hold the lethal attacker to five points.

At the other end of the field, Michaela Morkan fired eight points while player of the match Tina Hannon struck for a goal and added three points to give Offaly the win.

With the top three progressing, it is still all to play for in Group 1 and Limerick can insert themselves to permutations once more if they overcome Cork in the last round of group games next weekend.

Meanwhile, Waterford secured a first ever senior cham-

pionship victory with two late points to make it 1-8 to 0-10 against Clare at Walsh Park.

A goal by Trish Jackman from a penalty gave the hosts a 1-5 to 0-3 interval lead but Clare renewed their efforts after the resumption and three points from Róisín McMahon edged them into the lead. Last year's intermediate champions dug deep though, with the prodigious Beth Carton equalising before Jackman created history by converting a late '45.

There is still much to decide in Group 2 as well entering the last week, as Louise O'Hara inspired Dublin to snatch a 0-14 to 2-8 draw with Tipperary at The Ragg, having trailed by five points with two minutes remaining.

Sarah O'Donovan gave Shane O'Brien's side the ideal start with a goal but Nicole Walsh was in brilliant form for Tipperary and her seven points gave them the upper hand. There were 58 minutes elapsed when 37-year-old O'Hara goaled from a free to add to her earlier two points. Ali Twomey put just a point between them, before Sile Nic Coitir popped up to give the Dubs their first point of the campaign. They will need to record a 26-point victory over Derry next weekend to leapfrog Tipp for the last quarter-final spot.

The Oak Leafers had a day to forget when suffering a 2-14 to 0-1 defeat at the hands of a slightly experimental Galway unit in Loughrea. Niamh

Kilkenny and Rebecca Hennelly were among those to sit the game out but Finola Keeley, in her first opportunity since last year's All-Ireland final, scored a goal and two points, while Maria Mooney providing Derry's sole score.

Keeley profited from good work by Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly to goal after 15 minutes but to credit the Derry rearguard, they held out until the second minute of injury time to concede the second major, Noreen Coen finishing after taking a pass from McGrath. Galway are assured of a place in the last six and will play Kilkenny next week. With score difference in the Noreiders' favour, the westerners will need to win to claim a semi-final berth.

Cork are still in charge

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

DESPITE last weekend's late defeat to Wexford, All-Ireland champions Cork still top Group 1 of the Liberty Insurance Senior Championship heading into the final round of games this Saturday.

While Cork, Wexford and Offaly all sit on nine points, the Rebels have a far superior scoring difference (+49) compared to Wexford (+7) and Offaly (+6), so with three teams to advance to the knock-out stages, only an extraordinary set of results could deny the Munster champions.

The top team in both Group 1 and Group 2 will advance to the All-Ireland semi-finals and the second and third placed teams in both groups move forward to two quarter-finals.

This Saturday afternoon (2.30pm) at CIT's grounds, Cork entertain Limerick, who are in fourth place on six points

but still fighting for a spot in the knock-out stages.

Adding spice to the clash is that Limerick felt aggrieved with the amount of injury time played in May's provincial final that Cork won 0-12 to 0-10 thanks to two injury-time points from Katrina Mackey in Kilmallock. The Treaty County also beat Cork twice in the league campaign.

'Do they feel hard done by after the Munster final? I don't see how, as the referee was poor for both sides, and yes he did play six minutes of injury time but the sides were level at the start of injury time. They had chances to win it too, we just took ours,' the Cork manager Paudie Murray said.

'They always raise their game when they play Cork so we have to be ready for that. And the key to playing Limerick is to keep your discipline.'

With Cork still in control of their own destiny, Murray is

Senior Camogie C'ship Group 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | DIFF | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|------|-----|
| Cork | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 88 | 39 | 49 | 9 |
| Wexford | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 69 | 62 | 7 | 9 |
| Offaly | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 66 | 60 | 6 | 9 |
| Limerick | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 68 | 65 | 3 | 6 |
| Waterford | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 45 | 73 | -28 | 3 |
| Clare | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 43 | 80 | -37 | 0 |

in confident form ahead of the weekend, but he has called on his senior players to step up and be counted on Saturday, with several underperforming in the 1-9 to 0-9 loss to Wexford last weekend, as Una Leacy pounced for a goal on the stroke of time to snatch a win for the home side in Wexford Park.

'We will look at the positives. A minute into injury time we were drawing with Wexford in their own backyard despite playing well below par,' Murray said.

'Another positive was that a

lot of the younger players stood up to a ferocious test, players like Leanne O'Sullivan, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cronin and Hannah Looney.

'On the negative side, the way we defended Wexford's late goal was pretty poor, we didn't get ourselves organised, and a lot of senior players didn't play as well as they can, which was disappointing.'

'I said in the build-up that I was looking forward to the game as it would give an indication as to where we stand, but maybe a few players got carried away with themselves.'

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship
Grp 1:
Offaly 1-16 (M Morkan 0-8, T Hannon 1-3, A Watkins 0-4, S Flannery 0-1) Limerick 1-10 (N Mulcahy 0-5, R Noonan 1-0, C Costelloe 0-2, N Ryan, C O'Brien, S McNamara 0-1 each)
Wexford 1-10 (K Kelly 0-7, U Leacy 1-0, E Walsh 0-1, L Bolger 0-1) Cork 0-10 (O Cotter 0-4, A Thompson, H Looney, K Mackey, A O'Connor, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each)
Clare 0-10 Waterford 1-8

Grp 2:
Tipperary 0-14 (N Walsh 0-7, M Ryan 0-2, O O'Dwyer, M Campion, A McGrath, R Howard 0-1 each) Dublin 2-8 (L O'Hara 1-2, S O'Donovan 1-00, A Twomey 0-4, A Maguire 0-2)

Intermediate Camogie Championship
Grp 1:
Kilkenny 6-11 Antrim 3-7
Lasis 2-12 Wexford 1-8
Grp 2:
Cork 2-9 Meath 1-10
Galway 4-13 Down 1-6

Camogie

Premier JCC: Dublin 1-12 Limerick 3-08, Roscommon 3-07 Carlow 1-09, Armagh 4-08 Westmeath 3-09;
All Ireland U16ACC Grp 2: Clare 4-13 Limerick 4-11, Limerick 1-05 Dublin 4-09, Galway 6-12 Wexford 3-13.

July
2016

CAMOGIE

■ Daragh Ó Conchúir

Wexford 1-9
Cork 0-9

ÚNA LEACY pounced for a goal on the stroke of time to snatch a 1-9 to 0-9 victory for Wexford over All-Ireland champions Cork in their Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Group 1 tie at Innovate Wexford Park.

Up to that score, Kate Kelly had displayed her enduring sharpness after almost 20 years of senior inter-county action with seven points.

Orla Cotter (0-4) opened the scoring for Paudie Murray's crew but with Kelly so accurate, it was nip and tuck throughout, with the hosts generally keeping their noses in front. The Rebels were dealt a severe blow when captain Ashling Thompson received her marching orders in the 55th minute for a second yellow, with her side trailing by a point.

Amy O'Connor equalised from a free subsequently, but just when it looked like the spoils would be shared, Leacy exhibited the eye for goal that has been the hallmark of her game throughout the career.

The result brought the Model County women level with Cork at the top of the table and they were joined by Offaly when Adrian Clancy's outfit overcame Limerick in a crunch tie at Kilmallock.

A brilliant defensive effort was central to the 1-16 to 1-10 success, as the midlanders managed to neutralise the threat of scoring machine Niamh Mulcahy to a significant degree. Mulcahy had scored 2-37 in three games prior to this and in that context, Offaly would have been pleased to hold the lethal attacker to five points. At the other end, Michaela Morkan fired eight points while Tina Hannon struck for a crucial goal and added three points to give Offaly a merited success.

With the top three progressing, it is still all to play for in Group 1 and Limerick can insert themselves to permutations once more if they overcome Cork in the last round of group games next weekend.

Meanwhile, Waterford secured their first ever senior championship victory with two late points to make it 1-8 to 0-10 against Clare at Walsh Park. A goal by Trish Jackman from a penalty gave the hosts a 1-5 to 0-3 interval lead but Clare renewed their efforts after the resumption and three points from Róisín McMahon edged them into the lead.

Last year's intermediate champions dug deep though, with Beth Carton equalising before Jackman created history by converting a late 45. There is still much to decide in Group 2, as the apparently ageless Louise O'Hara inspired Dublin to snatch a 0-14 to 2-8 draw with Tipp at The Ragg, having trailed by five

Leacy denies Cork a draw at the death



Cork forward Orla Cotter striking a point against Wexford in the 2015 Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship at Riverstown. She played well on Saturday in the loss to Wexford. Picture: Des Barry

points with two minutes remaining. Sarah O'Donovan gave Shane O'Brien's side the ideal start with a goal, but Nicole Walsh was in brilliant form for Tipp and her seven points gave them the upper hand. There were 58 minutes gone when the 37-year-old O'Hara goaled from a free. Ali Twomey put a point between them with her fourth of the day before Sile Nic Coitir popped up to give the Dubs their first point of the campaign.

Derry had a day to forget when suffering a 2-14 to 0-1 defeat at the hands of a slightly experimental Galway unit in Loughrea.

Niamh Kilkenny and Rebecca Hennelly were among those to sit the game out but Finola Keeley

made the most of her first opportunity since last year's All-Ireland final by scoring a goal and two points, while Maria Mooney providing Derry's sole score.

Keeley profited from good work by Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly to goal after 15 minutes but to credit the under pressure Derry rearguard, they held out until the second minute of injury time to concede the second major, Noreen Coen finishing after taking a pass from McGrath.

Galway are assured of a place in the last six and will play Kilkenny next week. With score difference in the Noreiders' favour, the westerners will need to win to claim a semi-final berth.



Cork's Ashling Thompson and Paudie Murray, team manager. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork beat Meath to boost chances of last-four place

Cork 2-9
Meath 1-10

CORK had to dig deep to fashion out an important victory in Trim, in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship clash on Saturday.

Both sides went into the game undefeated, Cork with two wins and Meath having hammered Down. Victory was important for Cork to keep their qualification aspirations on course.

Cork settled early, with Rachel O'Shea and Jacinta Crowley pointing frees, whilst Sarah Fahy added two points from play. Jane Dolan kept the Meath challenge alive by pointing two frees. Rachel O'Callaghan stretched the Cork lead with a goal and

Dolan again pointed two frees, for Cork to lead 1-5 to 0-4 at the break. Cork made a great start to the second-half, with a Caroline Sugrue goal, but Amy Gaffney, Tina Troy, and Megan Thynne replied with three points, as Meath dug deep to stay in the battle.

Aoife Maguire cut the deficit to a point and now Meath were coming in waves at Cork. When Tina Troy pointed, it was level-pegging and all to play for. Cork won a penalty and opted for a point, and Michelle Murphy stretched the lead to two points.

Meath battled and Jane Dolan pointed her sixth free of the game, but Cork stood firm.

The result is huge for Cork, and with a trip to Gal-

way on July 23 and Down on August 6, they are optimistic of securing a place in the last four.

Scorers for Cork: R O'Callaghan, C Sugrue 1-1 each, S Fahy 0-2, J Crowley 0-2 (0-15), R O'Shea, K Hickey, M Murphy 0-1 each.

Meath: J Dolan 0-6 (0-6F), A Maguire 1-0, K Troy 0-2, M Tynan, A Gaffney 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; L Coppinger, L Weste, N Ni Chaoimh(c); E Murphy, S Buckley, J Crowley, N O'Callaghan, C Sigerson; F Neville; S Fahy; K Hickey, R O'Shea, R O'Callaghan, C Sugrue.

Subs: M Murphy for R O'Callaghan, R Sheehan for N O'Callaghan, A Killeen for E Murphy.

MEATH: E Mangan; A Thompson, C Coffey, G Coleman; A Keogh, E Coffey, L Donoghue; K Troy, M Keogh; A Minogue, A Maguire, M Tynne; S Hackett, J Dolan, F O'Brien.

Subs: F O'Neill for A Keogh, A Gaffney for F O'Brien, M Kirby for A Minogue, A Gaffney for F O'Brien, A Keogh for G Coleman.

Referee: John McDonagh (Galway).

Cork and Tipp battle it out to share spoils

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 0-13
Tipperary 2-7

Cork and Tipperary played out a draw in the All-Ireland U16A championship clash in Castlelyons.

Tipperary, with two first-half goals held a two-point interval lead (2-2 to 0-6).

Cliona Healy, Maura Barrett, Emma Murphy, and Saoirse McCarthy were all prominent for a Cork side that worked hard to keep in touch in the opening half. Caoimhe Perdue and Elaine Flanagan's goals helped give Tipperary that narrow two-point advantage with Elaine Blair and Emer McGrath also on target with points.

Cork dug deep and were in the lead with eight minutes remaining. Tipperary responded and with time almost up drew level.

With both sides pushing hard for a winner Tipperary did have a chance to win it but Emer McGrath's effort from a free went wide.

Both sides will be happy to have come away with a point, one which could be valuable to either side before the round-robin series is completed.

It's onto next weekend and a tough away meeting with Wexford for Cork, whilst Tipperary take on Galway.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 0-6 (f's), E Murphy 0-4, S Mc Carthy 0-2 (f'), M Barrett 0-1.

Tipperary: E McGrath 0-4 (f's), C Perdue, E Flanagan 1-1 each, E Blair 0-1.

Meanwhile, the Cork U16B side travelled to Dunboyne on Sunday for a round two All-Ireland championship clash with Meath and came away with a 4-9 to 1-13 victory.

A close opening quarter saw the sides level at three points each and as they traded score for score as little separated the teams. Meath went into a one-point lead, but Cork steadied and hit the front with a Katie Dooley goal.

Again Meath responded with Bev Lynch and Jess Ryall pointing and just a point separated the sides at half-time as Cork led 1-6 to 0-8.

Caoimhe Galvin added a goal and a point for Cork and with Eimear Hurley also on target showing great accuracy the Cork lead was stretched to five points. Meath showed great fighting spirit and battled back with two points in a row before a Jess Ryall goal, with 10 minutes remaining, had the sides level again.

Meath edged in front with a Bev Lynch point, but Cork upped the pace to regain control with Denise Harrington striking with a goal and with five minutes remaining two points separated the sides.

Cork showed great composure to hold firm and close out the contest with Denise Harrington adding her second goal to secure a deserving victory and they will now meet Tipperary next weekend.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior championship: Cork v Limerick, CTT, Saturday, 2.30pm.

BOTH of these sides go in this last round clash with slightly different agendas but both are on a mission to succeed.

Limerick will be battling to stay in the championship and avoid an exit if defeated. Cork will be working hard to secure a semi-final spot and avoid a quarter-final scenario.

Their destinations are now very much in their own hands. If Cork lose and Wexford and Offaly win their games which they are expected to do it will be a quarter-final spot for Cork.

If Cork, Wexford and Offaly were all to win Cork have a much bigger scoring difference to both so Cork would then top the group provided neither improve dramatically on their scoring differences.

It's a position Cork should not be in having had three excellent victories under their belts they went to Wexford Park last weekend in good form but an injury time goal from Una Lacey saw them lose out to a Wexford side that had already lost a game to Offaly.

The defeat was a blow to Cork and one they will be hoping to put behind them on Saturday as they face a tough assignment against a side that have caused them a bit of bother in recent times. In the Munster final Cork just about got over the line in a game they should have had closed out much earlier. Twice this season Limerick have defeated Cork but this is the one that matters now.

Last weekend, Cork manager Paudie Murray was disappointed at his sides defeat and was disappointed in the performances of a lot of his more established players. He wasn't slow to voice his disappointment at losing out so late in the game and he didn't hold back when he said it simply was not good enough and much more is needed and would have to be produced if Cork are to be serious contenders.

Limerick having lost out to Wexford and Offaly have to win to keep their hopes alive, in their opening game they pushed Wexford all the way before losing out by seven point last weekend Offaly continued their good run as they confidently defeated Limerick.

In that clash they blotted out the threat of Limerick ace Niamh Mulcahy, holding the sharpshooter to five points. Mulcahy has and is the stand out player for this Limerick outfit all season to date she has notched up 2-42 in their campaign and Cork will need to close her down from the off. When the sides met in the Munster final she contributed eight points out of Limerick's ten and through the championship has been to the fore for her side.

They have shown steady improvement all season enjoying a good league campaign defeating Cork, Waterford and Derry they went to a ply off with Cork for a semi-final place and confidently recorded a 1-11 to 0-7 victory, they lost out by a point to Galway at semi-final stages but the progression has been huge.

Cork expect to battle for place in semi



Cork defender Pamela Mackey taking the ball out of defence against Offaly in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship in Fermoy. Picture: Des Barry

At Under age level they are producing good players and boosted by their Minor All Ireland success last season players such as Caoimhe Costello have slotted into a side that included Chloe O'Brien, Fiona Hickey, Sinéad McNamara, Judith Mulcahy and Siobhan Enright.

Cork finished the game against Wexford with 14 players, captain Ashling Thompson dismissed with eight minutes remaining for a second yellow card offence. In a tight contest this was crucial with the driving rain and wind to their backs Wexford pushed to find that little bit extra and they did when Lacey plucked a line ball from the air and drilled it low to the net, and with the puck out came the full time whistle.

It's all about getting a result now. We can expect to see the Cork line out along the same lines as we have seen in all games to date with the same 15 expected to start. Aoife Murray will again patrol the goal and we can expect the six defenders to be Pamela Mackey, Laura Treacy and Leanne O'Sullivan, behind Maebh Cahalane, Gemma O'Connor and Rena Buckley.

Orla Cotter and Ashling Thompson should be the midfield pairing with Eimear O'Sullivan, Hannah Looney, Katriona Mackey, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cronin and Briege Corkery named to start in forward division.

It's a big game for both counties Limerick will come to Cork all guns blazing, Cork can expect a huge battle and will need to up their performance.



Cork's Hannah Looney solos goalwards against Clare. Picture: Des Barry.

Most determined side will edge this close call game

MONDAY

SE Systems Senior Club Championship: Courcey Rovers v Glen Rovers, Castleroad, 8pm.

THE senior club championship throws in over the next number of days with just one game down for decision. Glen Rovers and Courcey Rovers meet next Monday evening at 8pm in Castleroad, but only if Cork win their final group game with Limerick tomorrow.

If Cork lose they will more than likely be facing into a quarter-final on July 30 and if that is the case, then this game will go off. In addition, there are five games listed for July 24 and 25. Killeagh and St Finbarr's, Ballygarvan and Carbery, St Catherine's and Inniscarra, and Ballincollig and Ballinhassig set for the 24th with Sarsfields and Douglas on the 25th.

Both Glen Rovers and Courceys failed to win a championship game last year but the sound of that doesn't do justice to a Glen team which went down to

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

eventual All Ireland champions Milford and Courceys losing narrowly to Inniscarra in a nail biting finish and then Cloughduv.

Courceys regrouped and had a great league campaign this year, reaching the final only to lose out to Inniscarra after pushing them all the way to the whistle. The Glen on the other hand didn't do quite so well.

This game is hard to call. Sarah Hayes returns to the side and lines out in goal for Courceys in place of Claire Duggan who has moved to Kilkenny and they also have the addition of promising youngster Saoirse McCarthy, who has made the step up to senior ranks.

Coach Brian Hayes feels that with the side not hav-

ing won a championship in the past couple of seasons that the time has come to be focused, get a win under their belt and get momentum going.

"If we pull out we'll be in the hunt. We'll be looking for intensity, honesty and to keep the scoreboard ticking over," he said.

Glen Rovers have gained a fair bit of experience over the past two seasons and hope that this will stand to them as they give the senior championship another rattle. Denise Luby captains the side with Cork seniors Leanne O'Sullivan and Jennifer Horsford although Jennifer has been injured of late, hasn't much hurling done and may not start. Lydia Cunningham, Lauren Callanan, Karen O'Connell alongside young Aishling Wallace are all fine players.

Both sides seem evenly balanced.

Whoever has the bit between their teeth could be the side to dig this one out.

Cork girls
can stretch
their lead
at the top

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW

All-Ireland U16 A
Championship
Cork v Wexford,
Kennedy Park, New Ross

WITH a victory over Offaly and a draw against Tipperary to their credit the Cork U16 A side travel to Wexford in search of a win tomorrow in round three of the All-Ireland championship.

Currently, Cork top the group but both Galway and Tipperary have only one game played and they are hot on Cork's heels.

Cork opened their campaign with a superb victory over Offaly but last weekend it was level pegging at the full-time whistle as Tipperary battled back to the finish.

Cork were let off the hook at the death when Tipp failed to convert a free that would have given them the spoils.

Wexford lost out to Galway in their opening game, but in a high scoring 6-13 to 3-13 contest they defeated Offaly last weekend and on home territory they will be hoping to continue their winning ways.

Anais Curran, Nora Higgins, Anais Curran, Sarah Harding Kenny, Lettie Whelan and Ella O'Connor are amongst the standout performers in their line out.

Cork need to build on last weekend draw and refocus now again.

Cliona Healy, Emma Murphy, Saoirse McCarthy and Maura Barrett were all on target for Cork last weekend and selectors Mike Boland, Pauline O'Regan and Ger Horgan will be looking for a strong performance from all of their starting 15.

A victory would set them up nicely with just one more game to go against Galway on July 31.

Wexford had to battle hard to get a result last weekend over Offaly. Cork were totally dominant as they brushed aside the Offaly challenge and this would indicate cork should have the strength to get a result here.

Sometimes at underage level this does not happen of course. U16 players are young and travelling away from home it could be a different scenario. They will know they must get a result to keep hopes alive and this is pressure.

Having had a tough game last weekend against Tipperary will stand to them.

If they can stay focused they should have enough strength to overcome Wexford and keep their campaign steadily on course. This is a big age in terms of setting players up for minor and then moving into senior and this is a decent Cork panel that will be quietly confident of making it a long and memorable summer.

A victory away to Wexford would certainly be a decent indicator of that.

Championship fever grips clubs

CHAMPIONSHIPS fever hit a lot of clubs in the last week as action got under way from senior B down to junior C competitions.

Next week will see the start of the senior county championship with the first game down for decision on Monday night when Courcsey Rovers meet Glen Rovers in Castle Road and from here on there will be plenty of games at all levels to keep everybody occupied.

The intermediate championship has yet to start with first round games pencilled in for this weekend with Tracton and Blackrock due to meet tomorrow Sunday and Enniskeane and Newcestown will be meeting on Monday.

SENIOR B:

Brian Dillon's and Kilbrittain/Timoleague got the Senior B championship for 2016 up and running and Brian Dillon's in their first year in the grade got their campaign off to a winning start as they recorded a 4-8 to 1-10 victory this something that will please their new coach, former Ballincollig mentor Kieran Ryan, who is in his first year at the helm with the Tank Field outfit.

They have excellent players in Sinead Mills, Susan Kate Brosnan and Niamh O'Leary and they will be looking forward to their next outing in round two on August 10 where they will meet Aghabullogue.

Eire Og signalled their intentions this year as they recorded 4-12 to 0-7 victory over Fr O'Neill's, and they will meet Barryroe in round two.

It was close in the all Carrigdhoun clash between Valley Rovers and Carrigaline with Valley Rovers just edging it with two points to spare 2-5 to 1-6 the score at the full-time whistle.

Aghabullogue grabbed three goals as they overcame Mallow with five points to spare 3-6 to 0-10 the final score here for an Aghabullogue side that have a lot of young players in their line-out this season.

Senior B clubs will have a break until July 24 when round two will see Eire Og take on Barryroe for the south west girl's first game in the series, Mallow and Kilbrittain/Timoleague will be battling for their first victory on the same night.

On July 25, Fr O'Neill's meet Carrigaline and a clash that is sure to generate interest is the meeting of Aghabullogue and Clonakilty.

Clonakilty were superb all through



The Cork intermediate squad before their 2-9 to 1-10 defeat of Meath last weekend.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

the league as they took the title in great style, they are going well in the summer cup and are really putting in a big effort this year. Aoife Deasy, Sinead O'Neill and Hazel O'Regan are amongst the players in a strong Clonakilty outfit.

JUNIOR:

Na Piarsaigh go their Junior A championship campaign off to a great start with a victory over Bride Rovers on a 2-13 to 1-4 scoreline.

Banteer in their first season at Junior A level continue to impress and building on their capturing of the Junior A league title they got their cham-

pionship off to a great start when overcoming Youghal.

The Banteer story is something of a fairy tale.

Two years ago they were junior C and they took the title and progressed to junior B where last season they recorded championship league double.

The club were boosted three years ago when the Castlemagner club folded and a few players moving to Banteer brought added strength to the side.

They overcame Na Piarsaigh in the junior A league final earlier this season and now they are focusing on recording another double but they will no doubt meet stern opposition along the way as there are a lot of strong contenders in the nine clubs in the junior A grade.

In the clash between city neighbours

between Bishopstown and Douglas the Bishopstown girls came out on top. In the junior B championship Sarsfield's defeated St Finbarr's, Charleville overcame St Catherine's, Ballyhea were too strong for Glen Rovers but the Glen Rovers girls bounced back to defeat St Catherine's in round two.

Cobh got the upper hand on Inniscarra and Ballinascarty accounted for Ballincollig.

In Junior C Na Piarsaigh were much too strong for Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Kilworth and St Vincent's played out a draw, in a repeat of the league final Castletyons were too strong for Ballinora and Millstreet defeated Aghada.

There is plenty more championship action to come in the weeks ahead so keep an eye each week as we update you with all the results from all the games.

Treble success for Cork U14 girls in the capital blitz

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT was time to hit the road again last weekend as the Cork U14 development squads headed to Dublin for the Annual Beecher's Blitz.

Now in its seventh year, the blitz is hugely popular and brings together teams from counties who would have met each other along the way at various blitzes during the season already.

The James Hurley blitz was the very first one to be introduced in 2000 and without doubt this blitz is considered by most counties to be one of the best and is seen by many as the forerunner for the All-Ireland U14 blitz, which takes place on the weekend of the All-Ireland camogie finals.

This was introduced four years ago and is the last of the seasons blitzes and signals the end of a very enjoyable blitz season for young enthusiastic camogie players from all over the country.

An interesting statistic to have emerged from the James Hurley U14 competition is that the Cork U14A

squads have been successful in taking the title eight out of the 16 years. Therefore you must question why then so little success has followed at U16 and minor All-Ireland level.

On Saturday last Cork had A, B and C squads in action and all acquitted themselves superbly with all three taking the spoils after some excellent games and in doing so Cork continues to be the only county that has won all three grades at a single blitz.

This was achieved this in Limerick in 2011, Dublin in 2014 and again last Saturday.

The Cork A side put in a superb day's work as they defeated Limerick and Tipperary and drew with Kilkenny they lost to hosts Dublin but they qualified for the final against Tipperary.

In a thrilling contest that went to extra time the Cork girls were successful after extra time and it was Lisa O'Riordan who captained the side to victory in the final.

The Cork B squad enjoyed a great day as they recorded victories over Dublin, Kildare and Kilkenny and they overcame Tipperary in the final where they edged it with just a point to spare in thrilling final captained by Sinead Lyons.

The Cork C squad were comprehensive victors over Derry B, having earlier in the competition accounted for Dublin, Limerick B, Kildare B, Waterford B to make it a great day for the Cork youngsters with Katie Bowen captaining her side to victory in the final.

Well done to all the players, mentors, and the clubs that work so hard with the girls.

And of course the parents whose support is vital to the young aspiring stars of the future.

Solid defence has been crucial

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

THE senior camogie championship has certainly shown up some surprise results the last few weeks.

First Offaly defeated Wexford by double scores, then they took Limerick. Cork comfortably accounted for Offaly and yet they in turn were beaten by Wexford.

At this stage Cork, Wexford and Offaly all sit at nine points in group 1 with a final game in hand today; Wexford travel to Clare, Cork host Limerick in CIT at 2.30pm and Offaly have home advantage over Waterford.

Even if the top three all win their respective rounds Cork will go through to the semi-final while the other two head for a quarter-final spot as what really stands out is Cork's points difference.

They lead second-placed Wexford by 42 points, their scores 'for' by 19 points but it's defensively where they really shine; with just 39 points against them after four games (2-33). And why is that? Because all teams play a defensive style against Cork and while it may curtail their forwards a bit (obviously not enough) Cork reap the benefits defensively.

Just look at the comparative table below to see how defensively other teams have fared. Reviewing both tables, Kilkenny's points difference almost mirror Cork's. Kilkenny and Galway also meet today in Freshford in a clear decider.

Una Leacy was the tormentor once again as she pounced for a goal on the stroke of time to snatch a 1-9 to 0-9 victory over Cork. She did the same two years ago to help her side draw with Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final in 2014 and in fact

that was the game which saw Cork change how they played as a team and win them the last two All-Ireland.

Amy O'Connor had equalised from a free with time almost up but just when it looked like the spoils would be shared, Leacy exhibited the eye for goal that has been the hallmark of her game throughout her career.

I think that defeat was no harm actually.

A brilliant defensive effort was central to Offaly's 1-16 to 1-10 suc-



Cork midfielder Orla Cotter hand passes out of defence against Offaly in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship in Fermoy. Picture: Des Barry

cess over Limerick as the Midlanders neutralised the threat of Niamh Mulcahy to a significant degree. Niamh had scored 2-37 in three games prior to this and Offaly would have been pleased to hold her to five points.

At the other end of the field Michaela Morkan fired eight points while player of the match Tina Hannon struck for a crucial goal and added three points to give Offaly a merited success.

Mulcahy tops the scorers list to date after 4 rounds; Kate Kelly has 2-25, Michaela Morkan 0-27, Orla Cotter 1-24, Nicole Walsh of Tipp 0-25 and Patricia Jackman (Waterford) 1-21, Katrina Mackey 4-10.

Waterford secured their first ever Senior championship victory with two late points to make it 1-8 to 0-10 against Clare at Walsh Park.

A goal by Trisha Jackman from a penalty gave the hosts a 1-5 to 0-3 interval lead but Clare renewed their efforts after the resumption and three points from Róisín McMahon edged them into the lead.

Last year's Intermediate champions dug deep though with Beth Carton equalising before Jackman created history by converting a late 45. Louise O'Hara inspired Dublin to snatch a 0-14 to 2-8 draw with Tipperary at The Ragg, having trailed by five points with two minutes remaining.

There were 58 minutes gone when the 37-year-old O'Hara goaled from a free to add to her earlier two points. Ali Twomey put just a point between them with her fourth of the day before Síle Nic Coitir popped up to give the Dubs their first point of the campaign.

With Tipperary's four games complete from group two Dublin will need to record a 26-point victory over Derry next weekend to reach the last quarter-final spot over Tipp.

The Oak Leafers had a day to forget when suffering a 2-14 to 0-1 defeat at the hands of a slightly experimental Galway unit at St Brendan's Park, Loughrea.

■ See P42-43 for more camogie.

Courcey withhold fightback by Glen

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

**Courcey Rovers 2-14
Glen Rovers 3-9**

GLEN and Courcey Rovers played out a pulsating opening senior championship game in Castle Road.

Supporters would have been forgiven for heading for the gates with 38 minutes gone as Courceys led 2-11 to 1-3.

But what a magnificent comeback by Glen Rovers. 2-5 inside nine minutes and the sides were level.

It was level in additional time but super sub Emer O'Reilly and the excellent Jacinta Crowley saw Courcey's just edge a two-point victory.

Jacinta Crowley and Saoirse McCarthy were magnificent in the middle of the park and with Linda Collins causing big problems up front Courcey's looked comfortable.

The Glen made headway but were denied by some wayward shooting and by a solid defence where Aisling Moloney was excellent at centre back. She was well supported by tenacious teammates, in particular Karen Keohane. Courcey's looked fast and fit with good teamwork.

The Glen struggled to get into their stride and were 1-8 to 1-2 behind at the break. Ciara Hayes and Jacinta Crowley (2) struck after the break and despite Aisling Wallace's return the game seemed to be getting out of the Glen's reach.

A magnificent ball in from the drifting Linda Collins to Julie Mulcahy billowed the net and it looked to be all over.

But the Glen pride knows no limits. Jennifer Hosford entered the fray on 26 minutes and made an immediate impact around the middle of the park. She struck over two in a row, Nicole O'Brien hit one and from the puck out, when Lydia Cunningham's long strike dipped into the goal, the Glen started to believe.

There was no stopping them now. Aisling Wallace and O'Brien again pointed. Then another long distance Hosford strike defied Sarah Hayes, blinded by a packed goalmouth, and the sides were level with eleven minutes left to play.

Entering additional time few would have argued with a draw but credit O'Reilly and Crowley to snatch it.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: N O'Brien 1-2, J Hosford 1-2, A Wallace 0-3, L Cunningham 1-0, N O'Riordan 0-2 (f).

Courcey Rovers: L Collins 1-2, J Crowley 0-7 (0-5 f), J Mulcahy 1-1, C Hayes 0-2, S McCarthy, E O'Reilly 0-1 each.

GLEN: D Luby; Z Buckley, L O'Sullivan, C Boland; K Falvey, L Callanan, K O'Connell; L Cunningham, S Gallon; N O'Riordan, N O'Brien, S Fahy; K Walsh, A O'Keefe, A Wallace.

Subs: J Hosford for S Fahy (26).

COURCEY ROVERS: S Hayes; E O'Regan, K Keohane, C Mulcahy; O Twomey, A Moloney, E Moloney; J Crowley, S McCarthy; A O'Reilly, C Hayes, E O'Reilly, J Mulcahy, L Collins, G Hannon. **Subs:** R Crowley for E O'Reilly (48), E O'Reilly for A O'Reilly (50).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

GAA star stole €28k from barrister

Conor Gallagher

A GAA star has been given a suspended sentence for stealing over €28,000 from a barrister to use for online shopping.

Dinah Loughlin, aged 30, stole the money over a five-year period as she was working as a legal secretary for Marguerite Bolger, a senior counsel specialising in employment law.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that, during the period, Loughlin undertook

transcription work for other barristers. However, she then used Ms Bolger's account to pay a stenography service to complete the work.

Other purchases included online buys at Asos, River Island, and Amazon. She also spent hundreds of euro on One4All gift cards from an office supply website.

Loughlin, who plays camogie for Westmeath, has since repaid her ex-employer with money she and her partner were saving for a wedding. She also sold her car.

Loughlin, of Kilbeggan, Westmeath, pleaded guilty to 20 sample counts of theft at the Law Library, Dublin, between 2009 and 2014.

The court heard Ms Bolger has taken a "very benevolent view" of the offending. The barrister only reported the matter to gardai for professional reasons and to ensure it never happened again, said Anne Rowland, prosecuting.

Judge Melanie Greally said Loughlin had breached the "absolute and implicit" trust of her employer even

though she didn't seem to be under financial pressures at the time. In mitigation, the judge noted Loughlin's previous good character and her repayment of the money.

Judge Greally said Loughlin was "perilously close" to going to jail. She imposed a two-year sentence, suspended for two years.

Oisín Clarke, defending, said Loughlin suffered great stress when the theft was uncovered. He said she always knew she was going to get caught.

Routinely tackling impossible

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Mark Pollock, Jamie Wall and Louise O'Hara are just some of the role models that have inspired Sarah O'Donovan as the 31-year-old pursues a return to the top tier of camogie with a different county and a team made up largely of players 10 years her junior. It doesn't take long chatting to O'Donovan to realise she is an open door to challenges.

An All-Ireland winner at senior, junior and minor level with Cork, she was captain of the Ireland team that competed in the European U19 soccer championships in 2002. She holds a law degree and covered All-Ireland finals in all the Gaelic games categories during a previous incarnation as a sports journalist.

An opportunity to compete in the nascent Women's National League with Cork City brought the initial chapter of her camogie career to an end.

But a new job saw her link up with St Vincent's in 2014 and having shone as they reached the county final, Shane O'Brien extended the invitation. It would be a longer-term project but she was up for it and her chief counsellor provided the green light.

"I felt very fresh but I asked my Dad (John) what did he think, because he's the person you ring when you make those sorts of decisions. He said 'What does your gut say?'" recalls O'Donovan.

And that was that. It was a huge year for the Dubs, with the reduction of a 37-point margin against Cork in 2014, to five the following March, as good an illustration as any of progress. O'Donovan was one of two All-Star nominees from the squad, the other being her Vincent's clubmate Ali Maguire.

If ever she even thinks of how difficult training might be, her job as engagement and communications leader for the Mark Pollock Trust



Sarah O'Donovan: If ever she even thinks of how difficult training might be, her job as engagement and communications leader for the Mark Pollock Trust quickly evaporates the self-pity.

Picture: Inpho

“He would put any man to shame in terms of his commitment levels to sport

quickly evaporates the self-pity. Pollock is the man who won two Commonwealth Games medals in rowing despite being blind and was the first blind man to race to the South Pole.

He suffered a catastrophic accident on July 2, six years ago, that left him paralysed. It was cruel but the Down adventurer was never likely to fold, just because he'd been dealt a bum hand.

He established the Mark Pollock Trust to raise funds aimed at spinal cord injury research and ultimately, at chasing down a cure for paralysis. The Run in the Dark international running series, of which O'Donovan is project manager, is at the centre of this fundraising.

Meanwhile, Pollock raises awareness by breaking down

barriers for paralysed people. Right now, he is in training for the Giant's Causeway Sportive on September 10 and is threatening to co-opt O'Donovan to the cause. She's hoping she might be preparing for the Liberty Insurance Senior Championship final.

"While I'm getting up, he's already in the gym. When you're complaining your body is sore because you took a belt in training or a game, he's somebody doing a much tougher day.

"Some evenings before training you're thinking 'This is a slog' but he's going 'Get out and enjoy that' and you go 'Yeah, yeah I should, because I can' and that's a massive thing."

"He would put any man to shame in terms of his commitment levels to sport.

"I enjoy working for Mark because of what he has managed to do for the last six years. People forget he has only been paralysed for six years but he has created this massive movement. That's a hugely positive thing.

"It also helps that he's an incredibly witty, committed, driven character. It's just a great job to be in."

O'Donovan's first brush with paralysis came via former Cork underage dual star Jamie Wall, a promising talent who was paralysed two years ago. She was visiting Wall in Beaumont when an email landed from an employment agency explaining that the Mark Pollock Trust were looking for someone just like her.

"There was a serendipity about it, though not

necessarily a nice one. Jamie couldn't believe that there could be such a connection. In terms of what Mark is doing, the research that he's doing... for me, it was about having hope, that Jamie could have such close contacts.

"When I did the interview with Mark and he asked me what my motivation was, initially my motivation was that I could be a support to Jamie because I would be working in the exact arena where he needed support."

So Pollock and Wall are inspirations but beneficiaries too. Dublin have profited from her presence as well. Sometimes O'Donovan wonders what the hell she is doing as she looks around at all the 20-year-olds but then she'll see Louise O'Hara.

O'Hara is 37, one of just

three Dublin players to win an All Star. More than 20 years in the fold, she remained committed despite the very worst days, despite starting her own business and even resuming her international netball career.

"Louise is stronger than she was last season. She is coming off a season playing netball and played for Ireland in the European Championships in Newcastle.

So she's been combining it all for six months and is extremely fit. She's just so strong. She's a firm fixture still in the half-forward line."

Knowing she has another six years "at least" gives her hope that she will be around when Dublin make it to the next level.

As O'Donovan has always believed, and is reminded of by those around her all the time, nothing is impossible.

For more information on the Camogie Association's Our Game Your Game campaign visit www.camogie.ie/ourgameyourgame.asp #OurGameYourGame

Gritty Galway move up a gear to accelerate past Kilkenny

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Freshford

Camogie

Galway engaged the afterburners in the second half to repel Kilkenny in Freshford and book a direct berth in the semi-finals of the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship.

This was a repeat of the National League final won by Kilkenny, and the Noreiders had marginally the better of a very tight opening period, at the end of which they led by 0-4 to 0-3, with Denise Gaule providing three of their scores

and Niamh McGrath slotting two frees for Galway.

Not for the first time this year, Ailish O'Reilly gave Ollie Bergin's charges the impetus to step up a gear with a goal eight minutes after the resumption and Niamh Kilkenny followed up with a point.

Kilkenny were in determined mood though and Gaule responded with three points to bring the sides level but as the game opened up, it was Galway that motored on, with five consecutive points to establish the game-winning margin, as it ended 1-12 to 0-10.

In the other Group 2 game,

Dublin beat Derry by 6-11 to 1-3 but just missed out on joining Kilkenny in the quarter-finals by virtue of having a two-point inferior score difference to Tipperary.

Sarah O'Donovan pounced for two goals inside the opening quarter of an hour and they led by 2-5 to 0-1 at the interval.

With the victory assured, Shane O'Brien's crew went for broke. Síle Nic Coitir, Louise O'Hara and Emma Flanagan raised further green flags before Nic Coitir bagged another in injury time but it was agonisingly short of what they needed to advance.

In Group 1, three teams finished on 12 points with four wins each but it is All-Ireland champions Cork who advance to the last four directly after their 3-17 to 1-9 defeat of Limerick at the CIT grounds.

There was little in it at half time and a Chloe O'Brien goal kept the visitors in touch, trailing by just 0-11 to 1-5.

The danger signs were there though, with Limerick over-reliant on Niamh Mulcahy once more, as the Ahane legend contributed five points.

Katrina Mackey, Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter were among the point-scorers, with Thompson in outstand-

ing form in the middle of the field. Amy O'Connor's directness paid off with two goals and Cotter also found the net as Paudie Murray's outfit streaked clear by 3-17 to 1-9.

Wexford and Offaly go forward to the quarter-finals after wins over Clare and Waterford. Wexford will play Tipperary while Offaly will face Kilkenny.

The Model County women trounced Clare in Corofin by 7-12 to 1-5, with Kate Kelly scoring a remarkable 3-8 and last week's hero against Cork Una Leacy helping herself two more goals.

Offaly had to work much

harder to see off Waterford at St Brendan's Park in Birr. Trish Jackman fired 11 points for the visitors but the Faithful's finest have enjoyed a wonderful campaign and had just too much supporting firepower to Michaela Morkan, who slotted 10 points of her own.

Linda Sullivan and Mairead Jennings rattled the Waterford net and it finished 2-17 to 0-13.

Group winners Cork and Galway proceed directly to the All-Ireland semi-finals on Saturday, August 13th in Nowlan Park (RTE One, live).

Quarter-final pairings: Kilkenny v Offaly; Wexford v Tipperary on Saturday, July 30th. Match details to be confirmed.

Flawless first-half sows seeds of Cork victory

Cork 2-11
Wexford 1-4

U16 A

Mary Newman

THE Cork U16 A side kept their unbeaten record as they overcame Wexford in Kennedy Park.

Cork went into this clash with a win over Offaly and having drawn with Tipperary last weekend a victory was important with just one game in the round robin series to come against Galway.

A flawless first-half display saw Cork go in at half time leading 2-10 to 0-2. Wexford were very much playing second fiddle as Cork laid the foundations for victory with a solid performance.

Fiona Neilligan had the game's opening score when she drilled the ball to the Wexford net, and Cork kept the pressure on the Wexford defence.

Points from Emma Murphy, Cliona Healy, and Aoife Hurley stretched the Cork lead before Lettie Whelan opened the Wexford account with a point.

Cliona Healy continuing to trouble the Wexford defence, picking off three points before she grabbed Cork's second goal. Piling on the pressure she added two pointed frees and one from play with Aoife Hurley adding one as Cork were totally dominant.

Anais Curran pointed for a Wexford side that found the going tough against a strong Cork defence and it was Cork who went to the dressing room in a comfortable position.

On the restart, Lettie Whelan cut the Cork lead

with two pointed Wexford frees. And they were boosted when Michaela Lanigan denied Cork a goal with a penalty save before Anais Curran found the back of the Cork net for a Wexford goal.

Cliona Healy pointed a Cork free as they kept the scoreboard ticking over and despite a low return in the second half Cork had done enough to win.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 1-8, F Neilligan 1-0, A Hurley 0-2, E Murphy 0-1.

Tipperary 2-6

Cork 1-6

THERE was no joy for the Cork U16 B side as they lost out to Tipperary in their third game in the All-Ireland U16 B championship round robin series on Friday evening in Rathcormac.

Thompson
delighted
with side's
efforts

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

ASHLING THOMPSON, having gone off injured with five minutes remaining, limped around congratulating her team mates and standing for pictures with youngsters eager to meet their hero after the Rebels win over Limerick at CIT last Saturday.

While a little concerned with her ankle she was nonetheless thrilled with her side's performance, which put them straight into the All-Ireland semi-final in August.

"I was very proud of the way we performed. I think we really came into ourselves. We said it before the game to quit all the talk and talking up Wexford and all these teams. Go out and play with a bit of passion.

"We were talking about how we've won 26 All-Irelands. We had great women before us and it's our turn now and that's what we wanted to focus on today, our home patch.

"As you said there's a big gap between Munster final and today and we really did want to prove it, not just to everyone but to ourselves, our friends, our parents, everyone watching, that we can come and be twice the better team today."

Cork obviously took to self-evaluating and criticism after the Wexford defeat last weekend?

"Era I think so. I think both players and management panicked.

"Afterwards we were saying maybe we aren't such a good team, maybe we are only average.

"Maybe we only like the good days and not the rainy days and the hard work. But everyone's entitled to a bad game.

"At the end of the day we travelled three hours to get to Wexford, we were against a gale-force wind in the second half and things didn't go right, we didn't work hard enough.

"Wexford deserved the win but everyone has their bad days and that's exactly why we came out guns blazing today. We wanted to prove it to ourselves and to management, to everyone, that we can pick ourselves up."

It took Cork until the second half to shake Limerick from their heels.

"We overworked the ball, took it on too much. You know but we were feeling it out as well. We were well on top but we said it to ourselves at half-time that 'lads we're only three points ahead, one goal can change all of this' so yeah I think we just really settled into it in the second half and the scores eventually came our way.

"We said to shoot if you're able to, don't be afraid to make a mistake and luckily they went between the posts."

Club duty now takes centre stage, as Thompson's Milford begin their quest for a fifth consecutive win in 2007.

Rebels always looked in control



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 3-17
Limerick 1-9

LIMERICK can twice defeat Cork in the league but this writer never had any doubt that when it mattered most, when the All-Ireland series and Cork were in full swing, there was only going to be only one winner.

And such was the case in CIT last Saturday as Cork ensured their direct route to the All-Ireland semi-final. The winning margin didn't flatter Cork; they were that much the better side.

The half time score of 0-11 to 1-5 flattered Limerick; a fortuitous goal from a delivery that had initially seemed to be devoid of danger and a point from play plus frees kept them within three points of Cork who had struck ten of their eleven from play.

From those 11 points captain Ashling Thompson had struck three inspirational beauties, one from the left wing just before half-time as good as you'll see anywhere.

On the back of a defeat to Wexford last weekend Cork's performance was as important as the result and while there may still be areas to work on the fight in Cork was impressive.

The defeat brought focus back to the individual and the group; no team is invincible and while Cork might be favourites to win the All-Ireland, they learned a valuable lesson, a perfectly timed lesson, and they would be wise to keep that in mind for the semi-final.

Cork's spread of scorers reached seven.

Orla Cronin failed to get on the scoresheet at full-forward yet she had a very good hour, creating a number of opportunities for her teammates.

Rena Buckley was held back just before throw in due to a hamstring strain which led to Jennifer Hosford coming in at right half-forward, Emer O'Sullivan to left half-back and Meabh Cahalane to right corner-back.

O'Sullivan was back to her brilliant best, in the position best suited to her. But needs must, the team comes first therefore with her speed and versatility she primarily lines out up front.

Despite having by far the greater possession Cork couldn't quite shake Limerick off in the opening half.

Cork initially had two players marking Niamh Mulcahy, Limerick in turn played sweepers. Opening halves tend to see sides shadowing and dancing with each other but once it settles down and opens up, that is where Cork flourish.

Amy O'Connor's goal was much needed on forty-two minutes after Limerick goalkeeper Claire Keating was put off by Orla Cronin and the ball dropped into the net. From there Cork took off. Thompson, Katrina Mackey (2) and Brieghe Corkery pointed to give the All-Ireland champions a 1-16 to 1-7 lead 17 minutes in.



Cork's Hannah Looney breaks from Limerick's Rebecca Dulee (left) and Fiona Hickey during the All-Ireland camogie championship at CIT on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hara

Story of the Game

Player of the Match: Ashling Thompson played an inspirational Captains role with four points out of the top drawer, three in the opening half when Limerick still felt they were in with a chance.

Turning Point: Cork were never going to lose but they found it hard to shake Limerick off. Amy O'Connor's goal on 42 minutes opened the floodgates.

Ref Watch: Despite making a few error calls, one a complete injustice to Ashling Thompson, the free count in this game was the lowest in two years. Fourteen frees were awarded in total and for that Ray Kelly did a fine job. He let the game flow, some hard tackles go, and these girls can take that.

Entertainment: The game lost some momentum in the last quarter with Cork home and dry but for 45 minutes this game had skill, great scores, hard tackles and passion from both sides.

Then came O'Connor goal number two. Brilliant work by Hannah Looney to take on three defenders and give a perfectly timed pass to the running O'Connor saw her strike across Keating for an excellent goal.

Orla Cotter sealed the game with a goal from a free with 10 minutes of normal time remaining.

Despite Cork being the dominant force you would have to compliment once again Limerick's Niamh Mulcahy. She has made such a name for herself that she is now a marked woman and that makes life difficult for her on the field.

But her tolerance of this, despite its



Cork's Amy O'Connor wins the ball from Limerick's Rebecca Delee during the All-Ireland camogie championship at CIT on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hara

frustrations, is never taken out on the opposition and her free-taking is a joy to watch. Limerick have come a long, long way. It is great to see another strong Munster county emerging.

Let's hope they're here to stay. For Cork and Galway, who defeated Kilkenny, it's on to the semi-finals on August 13.

That gives Cork a bit of breathing space to run five or six club matches over the next week. Kilkenny and Offaly and Wexford and Tipp play off at quarter-final stage in late July.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 1-3 (1-1 f), A Thompson

0-4, K Mackey 0-4, A O'Connor 2-2, B Corkery 0-2, H Looney and E O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-7 (0-5 f, 0-2 45), C O'Brien 0-1, K O'Leary and C Costello 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, M Cahalane, P Mackey, G O'Connor, E O'Sullivan, O Cotter, A Thompson, J Hosford, H Looney, K Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cronin, B Corkery.

Sub: R Buckley for A Thompson (inj, 57).

LIMERICK: C Keating, M McCarthy, M Creamer, Mulcahy, R Dulee, F Hickey, N Richardson, S Enright, K O'Leary, D Murphy, S McNamara, N Mulcahy, C Costello, C Lyons, C O'Brien.

Subs: C Lane, N Ryan, M Quaid, N Barry for M McCarthy, S Enright, S McNamara, Chloe O'Brien, M O'Callaghan for N Richardson (58).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Gidara).

Thompson warns challengers that champs are not finished

CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

A DEFIANT Ashling Thompson insists All-Ireland camogie champions Cork were fired up to beat Limerick in the Insurance Senior Camogie Championship last weekend after quotes from the Treaty County suggested that 'Cork camogie was finished'.

Cork captain Thompson played a leading role as the Rebels blitzed Limerick 3-17 to 1-9 at CIT grounds last Saturday in their final Group 1 game – and victory has seen Cork top the group and advance straight to the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Cork had lost away to Wexford the previous weekend (the Rebels' only loss in the group stage) and the manner of that performance plus, according to Thompson, remarks that suggested Cork were finished motivated the reigning All-Ireland champions to turn on the style.

Take into account, too, the fallout from the Munster senior camogie final in May that Cork won 0-12 to 0-10 against Limerick after two injury-time points, but the Treaty County was aggrieved with the performance

and time-keeping of the referee.

'This was probably our best performance this year,' Thompson told *The Southern Star*.

'We were so disappointed with how we performed when we lost to Wexford the weekend before; there wasn't a word said in the dressing-room after that game, the heads were down and we were devastated because we didn't perform at all.

'We had to pick ourselves up and sometimes it's good to lose a game like that, it gave us a cause to fight for. Sometimes you need to be put back in your box. To be honest, we were bitter during the week at training and we felt we had a lot to prove against Limerick.

'We didn't perform either in the Munster final (against Limerick) and all of a sudden Limerick thought they were in the same category as us – and they passed a remark that Cork camogie was finished. It was published in an article, in black and white, in an interview with a person involved in the Limerick set-up, that Cork were finished.

'We wanted to show what we were made of and we did that, and we wanted to prove to our-



Queens of the castle: Cork captain Ashling Thompson played a key role in the county's convincing championship win against Limerick at CIT last Saturday.

selves and to them that they weren't going to come down to our home patch and beat us. We redeemed ourselves on Saturday.'

Leading Group 1 heading into the final round, Cork led 0-11 to 1-5 at the break, with Thompson, Katrina Mackey and Orla Cotter to the fore on the scoreboard. The second half saw Amy O'Connor's directness pay off with two goals and Cotter also found the net as the Rebels streaked clear by 3-17 to 1-9.

Cork, as winners of Group 1,

go direct to the last four of the championship, as do Galway from Group 2 – these All-Ireland semi-finals will be broadcast live on RTE One on Saturday, August 13th from Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Meanwhile, in the quarter-finals Wexford play Tipperary while Offaly face Kilkenny on Saturday, July 30th.

Inevitably, talk will now start on Cork's three-in-a-row bid as Paudie Murray's team look to win the championship for the 27th time and keep the O'Duffy Cup on Leaside. But as Thomp-

son explains, the Cork squad is ignoring all three-in-a-row talk.

'People might start that talk soon but we haven't thought about it at all. Even when we started out last December we didn't speak about it and there have been no talks about the three-in-a-row in the camp,' the Milford player said.

'Each year is different. We won the All-Ireland last September, but this year is different and we started with a clean slate, wanting to go again. We don't think about what happened in the past. The last two

All-Irelands don't count for anything now; it's about the current season and trying to win this All-Ireland.'

As for topping Group 1 and avoiding the quarter-finals, Thompson added: 'In previous years we wanted to be in the quarter-finals because there is such a long break between the group games and the semi-finals but we wanted to top the group this season, especially because we have been going five weekends in a row. The break will do us more good than harm now.'

Senior Camogie C'ship Group 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | DIFF | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Cork | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 114 | 51 | 63 | 12 |
| Wexford | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 102 | 70 | 32 | 12 |
| Offaly | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 89 | 73 | 16 | 12 |
| Limerick | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 80 | 91 | -11 | 6 |
| Waterford | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 58 | 96 | -38 | 3 |
| Clare | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 51 | 113 | -62 | 0 |

Senior championship opening-round games continue

The opening-round senior championship fixtures continue this weekend, with four games down for decision. Unfortunately, divisional side, Carbery, withdrew, so Ballygarvan, for the second season in a row, fall victim to an opening-round walkover. I would expect that divisional sides will be prevented from entering in the future. Ballygarvan had one game last season and it could happen again. That can't continue.

Meanwhile, St Catherine's and Inniscarra could be the most enthralling of the opening-round fixtures, in Castleroad, on Sunday.

Inniscarra were pushed all the way in a thrilling game against Courcy Rovers, before winning by four points last season, and they'll have a tough opening round again, against St Catherine's, last year's beaten finalists. Orla Cotter, Finola Neville, Evelyn Ronayne, Carolyn Motherway, Michelle Tobin, Joanne O'Keeffe and Rachel O'Callaghan are

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

all impressive players. Match them against Rena Buckley, Joanne Casey, Rosie O'Mahony and Treasa McCarthy and this could be an exciting hour.

Ballincollig and Ballinhassig should be an interesting affair in Brinny. Ballincollig played out a scintillating opening round against Douglas, last year, but an additional-time goal gave Douglas a two-point victory. They met Ballinhassig in the second round and took a two-point victory into the quarter final, before falling to eventual champions, Milford. Ballinhassig, having lost their opening-round game, exited the championship. The sides meet again on Sunday evening, with Ballincollig favourites to advance to round three.

Killeagh and St. Finbarr's are in action in Black-

rock. Neither club is at their best. Killeagh suffered a first-round shock defeat to Carbery, and the 'Barr's lost to Milford. The sides were paired against each other for the second round, with Killeagh the better of the two. Outstanding displays from Laura Treacy, Jessica O'Shea, Chloe Sigerson and Hannah Looney gave them a 2-13 to 2-6 win. However, they succumbed to Inniscarra in the quarter-final. Killeagh could take this game, second time around.

On Monday, Sarsfields and Douglas meet in Castleroad. Sars' are enjoying their first year at senior ranks in a long while. They'll receive a strong baptism from Douglas, with the Mackeys, Katrina and Pam, in flying form.

SE Systems Cork senior championship first round, Sunday: Ballincollig V Ballinhassig, Brinny, 6pm; St. Catherine's V Inniscarra, Castle Road, 6.30pm; Killeagh V St. Finbarr's, Blackrock, 7.30pm. Monday: Douglas V Sarsfields, Castle Road, 7.45pm



ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP
DOWN V KILDARE
Saturday July 23 2.30pm at Clonduff

CAMOGIE



CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Down in need of a boost

Nothing less than a victory will suffice for the Down camogs when they host Kildare



Niamh Mallon in action for Down against Waterford in the All-Ireland Junior final two years ago. She returns to the Mourne team for their clash against Kildare this weekend

TWO key players are back on board with the Down senior team ahead of what they are hoping is a return to form in an All-Ireland Intermediate championship campaign which has proved difficult to date.

Kildare provide the opposition for the Mourne county girls this weekend when the stakes could hardly be higher for the Mourne county girls. Win and a potential place in the Quarter Finals is up for grabs, while a defeat would certainly end their championship campaign for 2016.

But those hopes of perhaps prolonging their involvement have been boosted by the return of Paula Gribben and Niamh Mallon.

Both have missed their matches so far in the campaign and their inclusion for this game against the Lilywhites could prove crucial.

Down's form so far in their campaign has been poor. Comprehensive defeats against Galway and Meath mean that the pressure is now on them to make the most of this opportunity.

Team manager, Ryan O'Neill, is well aware of the challenges that have been facing the county in this 2016 knockout series.

However, he's also confident that they can overcome those obstacles to salvage something from the year.

"We have produced some good moments of form, but ultimately Meath and Galway both defeated us fairly well.

"I know that the girls are capable of much better and it's now a case of them going out and showing that form," said the Sarsfields of Belfast clubman.

"I suppose that we have been displaying hot and cold form so far.

"The good parts of matches haven't been produced on a consistent enough basis and that's why we're in the position that we find ourselves.

"But there's still that hope of reaching the quarter finals. If we can get a result against Kildare at the weekend, then we can travel down to Cork with a place in the last eight at stake."

Home advantage at Clonduff could well prove to be important for Down, especially when some of the problems that they've been facing during recent months are taken into account.

However, the one previous meeting between the counties in the National League serves as a warning to them about the abilities of the Leinster side who also arrive north with plenty to aim for.

On that occasion earlier this year, the Kildare girls also emerged with a comfortable win. It, too, though, highlighted Down's recurring problems.

"That last game against Kildare took place on Easter Sunday and we headed down there with the bare minimum of players. Work commitments mean that it's sometimes difficult for the girls to give the dedication that they want to and need to," added O'Neill, who is in his first year as

Alan
Rodgers



manager of the side.

"There's also players on holiday which means that the attendances at training haven't always been brilliant. I suppose a win over Kildare would help to raise morale."

Down lost to Antrim in the Ulster semi-final, and their form at the moment is in stark contrast to the skill and teamwork which helped them capture the All-Ireland Junior title just a couple of years ago.

The fact that they're probably in the tougher side of the draw has also made things difficult for them, according to the manager.

"This team is going through a period of transition, and this hasn't been helped by the tough fixtures that we've had in this year's championship.

"The likes of Galway, Meath and Kildare are among the main challengers at this level.

"We also lost the Ulster semi-final to Antrim, but in all of this the lack of availability for many of the players has been a big problem.

"Hopefully, those problems will be resolved for this tie against Kildare when I'm aiming to have a full-strength squad."

As well as the returning Paula Gribben and Niamh Mallon, Down will also be seeking good performances from the strong spine of their team.

Among those who will be hoping to impress in that regard are Dervla McGee, Catherine Rocks and Maria McNally.

If that happens, then a season which has so far proved difficult might yet be salvaged with an away trip and win against Cork at the beginning of next month.

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
ROSCOMMON V ARMAGH

Saturday July 23 at Padraig Pearces Woodmount, 3pm.

Armagh's high hopes

AN IMPRESSIVE away win over Limerick last weekend means that Armagh will be in confident mood when they also travel to Roscommon for their latest Junior camogie tie.

The Orchard county girls defeated their Treaty opponents by 4-16 to 3-10 and will be aiming to repeat the feat.

A place in the All-Ireland Quarter Final is firmly within reach for them and another good performance against Roscommon.

It's the most recent in a six game schedule in the All-Ireland Junior grade. Following this weekend's tie, they are scheduled to meet Carlow away on the weekend of August 7.



BRIGHT FUTURE: Emily Clarke, 2, Tipperary, representing Ballina PS, holds off Waterford's Sarah Kavanagh, representing Ballygunner NS, during the Primary Go Games played at half-time of the Munster SHC final between Tipperary and Waterford at Semple Stadium. The Munster GAA's €1.72m investment into coaching last year earned a return of €26.3m. Picture: Ray McManus

Denise Gaule: Striving to end Cats' wait

By Camogie Press
Posted 21/07/2016



The uncertainty in the aftermath of the Brexit shenanigans has had an impact on Ireland already, even if the full extent of what might result is a long way from being clear yet.

The financial markets responded negatively to Britain's decision to leave the EU and as an employee of fund services company State Street, Denise Gaule might have been expected to be in a tizzy about the entire issue.

One doesn't get the impression from talking to her that the 25-year-old does "tizzy" however, but even if she might be predisposed in that manner, there are a couple of reasons why it isn't happening now.

The first, most significant one is that she works in the regulatory department in Kilkenny and has been completely unaffected.

The other, is that she will be leaving the job next month to prepare for a complete change in direction, returning to college to study building services and engineering.

"My father has a company, Glencalan Engineering in Waterford" explained Gaule earlier this week.

"He was asking me to think about coming and doing it, so I decided it would be a nice change. I'm excited to go back as well. I'm looking forward to it."

These are exciting times all around for Gaule then, with Kilkenny already having a National League pennant tucked away and having made the knockout stages of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship.

It is 22 years since the O'Duffy Cup was bedecked in black and amber though. In the intervening period, Kilkenny have lost six Finals. Gaule and the majority of her teammates have been involved in the last three of those and getting her hand on the elusive medal is definitely the priority for this squad.

Links Community Sci

The legendary Ann Downey is back in the fold as manager, having provided Gaule with her Senior debut in 2009.

Downey was captain when Kilkenny last claimed ultimate honours in 1994 and is desperate for that stat to be wiped out. She has roped some of Camogie's greatest – her sister Angela and former teammate Breda Holmes – in as she attempts to cover all the bases.

A tough operator on the pitch, Downey doesn't hold back off it either.

"You wouldn't get away with slacking off with Ann. She wouldn't be shy in telling you anything but at least you know where you stand. You'd prefer that from someone not giving you any bit of feedback."

"She wants it for us so much, as much as we want it for ourselves. She has Angela in helping us out and Breda Holmes... between them they have buckets of medals and it's great."

When they lost the All-Ireland seven years ago, everyone thought given their youth, that it would only be a matter of time before they would cross the line.

"I suppose we did ourselves. But we're still young. Most of the panel is around 25. We're more experienced. It's a long time without winning but we'll keep plugging away."

JULY
2016

Enniskeane

Camogie

The Enniskeane intermediate camogie team opened their championship account with a hard fought victory over neighbours Newcestown in Ballinhassig last Monday night. In balmy conditions, it was a close and tense affair with no quarter asked of given. Enniskeane found it hard to get into the game and with Newcestown playing seven backs had great difficulty penetrating their defences. However, Newcestown kept the scoreboard ticking over with well taken frees to leave the score 5 points to zero at half time. However, some positional changes at the start of the second half saw Enniskeane take control. Cork star Orla Cronin was pulled down for a penalty, which she failed to convert.

However, it was becoming clear that Enniskeane were beginning to get on top in vital areas with the youthful Caitlinn O'Donovan starring at wing back and Danielle Carroll and Aisling O'Driscoll totally on top in the full backline. Orla Coughlan gave a great pass to Katie Buttimer to open the scoring.

Three minutes later Orla Cronin billowed the net with a well taken goal. Orla Coughlan scored from the 45 line to level the match with 10 minutes remaining. Sinead Curtin scored a long range

point to take Enniskeane into the lead. Newcestown soon levelled the game however having been awarded a free. Lousie Duggan set up Laura Mannix to take the lead again and Orla Cronin billowed the net again with the assistance of Lousie Duggan.

The final score, Enniskeane 2-5 Newcestown 0-7. However the club players and mentors want to wish two of the intermediate star players, Claire O'Mahony and Louise Duggan, bon voyage as they depart on their travels on August 2. Louise was captain when Enniskeane won the junior and along with Claire, both are every present members on the intermediate team.

Enniskeane U16 had a successful trip to Blackrock to play the host club in the county U16 league quarter final last Sunday. Forced to field a number of U14s due to injury and holidays the team took a little time to settle and went in at the break two points in arrears on a scoreline of 1-5 to 1-3. An outstanding second half display by the entire team saw Enniskeane outscore their opponents by 2-5 to 0-3 leaving the final score 3-8 to 1-8. The team now qualifies for the county semi-final with Eire Og to be played before August 21 in Enniskeane.

Whilst this was an outstanding team performance with each of the team giving of their all in pursuit of victory, it was particularly heartening to note the contributions of the younger players with all five U14s who played excellently. Panel: Niamh O'Driscoll, Ruth O'Driscoll, Niamh Aherne, Liadh Hennessy, Davina Connolly, Caitlinn O'Donovan, Emma Crowley, Niamh Collins, Sinead Hurley, Courtney Baldaschino, Grainne Mulcahy, Hazel Browne, Daire O'Brien, Eileen O'Sullivan, Emma O'Driscoll, Lauren Corcoran and Deirdre Browne.

Club or county? Surely there is a compromise



Camogie

Linda
Mellerick

CONSIDERING the fact that Cork are in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final and bidding for three-in-a-row All-Ireland titles you would have to say that the county is in a very strong place.

But is that how success is perceived? Is that how we measure success? Is it the only measurement?

Those that make it at inter-county level are the minority. For hundreds of players in Cork it's all about the club. And the club suffers because of inter-county action.

It's a catch 22 really. Cork is the strongest camogie county in the country over the past three decades. You want and need inter-county action and success to entice players to the game. Yet it is viewed as the 'Achilles' heel' of club camogie at times.

I have witnessed club's 'relief' on occasion when Cork, at any level, have exited championships early. Their response? 'Great, we'll get our players back and our own games started'.

In one sense you can't blame them. Many are desperately struggling for players. If they then have two or three playing underage with Cork and another two or three at adult level their panel is depleted to the point that they can't get any momentum on their own training ground.

In addition, because Cork are so successful, typically reaching the latter stages in most competitions, club games don't start until late in the year. This weekend is July 24 and the senior championship kicks off in earnest.

We're fortunate that Cork took the direct route to the All-Ireland senior semi-final because had they not those games would have been postponed to late August.

It's wrong when that's the mentality but the fact that our national association have introduced groups and round robin stages in every competition to try and increase participation they have seriously affected clubs.

And clubs are resentful. It's easy to put the blame on your own doorstep but it isn't as easy as it seems to fix. I've seen the inter-county fixtures listing and it's full on.

I do feel there are things we can do however. Do we really need to enter every single inter-county competi-



Cork's Katrina Mackey is tackled by Limerick's Deborah Murphy during the recent All-Ireland championship game at CIT.

tion? Maybe the purpose of U16 B and Minor B is to prepare the side for the A grade 12 months down the road.

I'll be honest with you. Unless the standard of coaching is up to scratch then it's a complete waste of time. I have witnessed in our own club, players who were thriving getting called up to these squads. They missed club training and challenge games while they sat on the bench with Cork, failing to get a run.

Confidence falls, match fitness levels drop and they return to their club half the player they were. That isn't always the case but it is in many. We shouldn't enter B competitions. I would much prefer to see consistent underage development

squads taking place from U14 up - once a week coaching and the odd tournament.

Yes, we should enter U16A and Minor A but these competitions should start and be finished by early May. The Minor A All-Ireland championship finishes in April and it's perfect.

The Munster Minor championship was typically run off a week or two later. What happened this year however is that they pushed the Munster championship out to July-August, again taking players from their clubs.

We can start and run club competitions much faster than we are. It can be done. Our nights are long. I see no

reason why 15-20 games can't be played across the spectrum in a given week.

The senior board and juvenile board would need to painstakingly plan this, but it can be done.

Another issue, and clubs need to take responsibility for this, is the constant request for match changes for the silliest of reasons. And the board, in a bid to accommodate clubs as best they can, typically give in to these requests.

We've all done it.

But go back to the root of why this happens. We make life difficult by leaving it until the 11th hour to give fixtures and dates to clubs. Clubs need their full complement and life is

life. People will have holidays and family events. I go back to what I said a few weeks ago.

If we sat down in November after the intercounty fixtures are released and planned the following season setting at least 70% of games in stone and released them to clubs then it would make life a lot easier for everyone. The change requests from clubs should then decrease and certainly not be accommodated for things like holidays. There should be no problem with a week's notice for change if the clubs agree and it doesn't have a knock on effect, but that should be it.

To be fair to the Cork board, in an effort to keep the typical club players ticking over they introduced the summer cup and there is also one in Munster too. But ironically for some clubs, without their Cork players they don't have the numbers to field.

We need to do everything we can to keep club players playing and developing. That's where our inter-county future lies.

Cork's Breige Corkery: Key players in county bid for a three-in-a-row.



Picture: Eddie O'Hara

“We're fortunate that Cork took the direct route to All-Ireland senior semi-final because had they not club championship games would have been postponed to late August

Rockies' win is statement of intent

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman
SENIOR B

Éire Óg continued their winning ways as they overcame Barryroe to make it two wins out of two.

INTERMEDIATE

A big statement of intent from Blackrock as they overcame the challenge posed by Tracton as they hit three goals and 21 points to Tracton's three goals and ten points. Enniskeane proved too strong for Newcestown.

JUNIOR A

Newtownshandrum overcame St Vincent's with seven points to spare with a 3-15 to 2-11 score line. St Vincent's next outing will be against neighbours Na Piarasigh who already have a victory under their belts over Bride Rovers. Newtownshandrum's next outing is against Bride Rovers and the games in this second round could have a big say in what two team's progress to the semi-finals from the group. Youghal got their campaign back on track when they defeated Douglas recently in round two.

JUNIOR B

Charleville overcame Inniscarra, and Ballinascarty continue to impress as they got their second victory with a win over Sarsfield's. Ballinacollig overcame Clonakilty.

JUNIOR C

St Fanahan's got their campaign up and running with a victory over Blarney. In round two Blarney regrouped and defeated Kilbrittan/Timo-league. Millstreet turned in a superb performance in round two to defeat Kilworth. Castlelyons made it two wins out of two as they proved too strong for Aghada. Ballinora received a walk over from St Vincent's who field.

GAMES TO LOOK FORWARD TO

A few games worth a visit over the next few days will be the Senior B championship round two meeting between Mallow and Kilbrittan/Timo-league in Castle Road tomorrow Sunday at 2pm. Mallow lost out to Aghabullogue in round one whilst Kilbrittan/Timo-league suffered a similar fate at the hands of Brian Dillon's. Both will be working to reverse these results and get a victory to their credit to keep their aspirations on course.

On Monday Aghabullogue will be hoping to make it back to back victories when they meet Clonakilty. Fr O'Neill's and Carrigaline meet on Tuesday next in Castle Road at 8pm.

On Monday in Junior A, it is a meeting between Na Piarasigh and St Vincents in Blarney at 7.30pm. On Wednesday, Watergrasshill and Douglas will meet in Castle Road at 7.45pm, and Newtownshandrum and Bride Rovers meet in Grenagh at 7.45pm.



The Ballinora Under 14 A League winners where they beat Sarsfields in the final.

Worthy wins for U14 champions

SATURDAY last was a very busy day for the Juvenile camogie board with three under 14 league finals down for decision.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

First game on the agenda was the Under 14 C final where Castlelyons and Rockbán battled it out for the honours. Rockbán, with Jennifer Whelan and captain Alice O'Connor leading the way, took control of the game and ran out winners despite the best efforts of the Castlelyons girls who gave it their all. Jennifer Whelan of Rockbán was named as player of the match after an impressive display.

On then to the Under 14 B final where Killeagh, aided by the wind in the opening half, hit the front early with a goal but Na Piarasigh hit back with a Nikita Hayes goal after she worked hard to keep the ball in play from going wide. Through the second half both defences were on top and with Ailish Allen prominent at centre back Nicole O'Connor doing huge

work at full back for Na Piarasigh Killeagh could find no way through. Nicole O'Sullivan pointed twice from frees to edge Na Piarasigh in front and it was nip and tuck to the half time whistle as the sides went in level 1-2 apiece.

Na Piarasigh got the second half off to a great start with a superb goal from Nicole O'Sullivan who was now operating at full forward and play continued with the respective forwards battling to get on top. With 19 minutes gone in the second half it was still Piarasigh who held on to their goal lead 2-2 to 1-2 but a goal from Nicole O'Sullivan gave Na Piarasigh breathing space as Killeagh still applied huge pressure.

Nicole O'Sullivan pointed a Na Piarasigh free and adding a further point they led 3-4 to 1-2 but Killeagh still battling for every ball grabbed a goal and

adding to it with a point they gave it everything they had but in the finish Na Piarasigh stood firm to record a victory with Nicole O'Connor named as player of the match with the Na Piarasigh side captained by Shauna O'Connell who was presented with the trophy by Mary O'Sullivan chairperson cork Juvenile Board.

The Under 14 A final was a repeat of the Feile na Gael final and here Ballinora reversed the result of that meeting to record an impressive victory over All Ireland Feile Champions Sarsfield's.

Ballinora went into this game in determined fashion and inside five minutes of the throw in they took the lead with Cliona Dooley goal and they continued to dominate with Cliona Dooley and Kate O'Shea adding to their tally as they put the Sarsfield's defence under tremendous pressure. Sarsfield's battled hard but a strong Ballinora defence held them at bay and it was 21 minutes into the half before Sarsfield's found the range as they

opened their account with a point. Ballinora responded and quickly fired two goals to the back of the net one from dropping ball into the goalmouth as they stretched their lead 4-2 to 0-1.

Taking full advantage to the wind Ballinora added further points to their tally before the break to lead 4-4 to 0-1. Sarsfield's started the second half with a point but with twelve minutes gone in the half Ballinora's Niamh Myers stuck for their fifth goal giving Sarsfield's a mountain to climb but they struck to their task and between the fourteenth and twenty fifth minutes they clawed their way back with three goals without reply.

Ballinora regrouped and held their composure adding to their tally with a late Cliona Dooley goal to seal a superb victory after playing with fierce determination. Captain Kate Ann Crean was presented with the Under 14A trophy to the delight of her team mates whilst Cliona Dooley was named as a worthy recipient of the player of the match.

Tipperary win first Munster intermediate since 1999

Tipperary 0-19
Cork 1-7

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Tipperary have won the Munster Intermediate title for the first time since 1999. They beat Cork at Bruff GAA grounds.

Players who hold Intermediate Munster medals from last season are ineligible to participate at this level, therefore excluding much of the All Ireland championship Cork side.

Tipperary started strong. Player of the match, Orla O'Dwyer, fired over a point inside the third minute, the first of her ten-point tally. Showing her class as corner forward, O'Dwyer had Cork in all sorts of bother. Tipperary played a running game, linking up well and finding their players with incisive passing,

and they had Cork under huge pressure.

Linda Collins opened the Cork account with a point from play, and with Keava McCarthy slotting over two from placed balls, Cork began to settle. Aoife Moloughney was unerring for Tipperary, from placed balls, notching up three from frees, as well as a point from play.

Tipperary, having enjoyed wind advantage in the opening half, led at the interval 0-10 to 0-3.

The second-half was always going to produce a fight-back from Cork, and it came from Sarah Fahy, who cut the deficit with an early point.

Applying a lot of pressure, Cork met strong resis-

tance from the Tipperary defenders, who found O'Dwyer and Moloughney with effective clearances. With both of those players scoring regularly, Cork found the going hard.

Cork continued to battle and Lisa Lynch found the net in a goal-mouth scramble, but Tipperary continued to hold the upper-hand. Backboned by much of their All Ireland-winning minor squad, Tipperary picked off their scores. Michaela Graham accepted the provincial trophy on behalf of her team.

Scorers for Tipperary: O O'Dwyer 0-10, Aoife Moloughney (0-6) (0-4's), A Loughane 0-2, N Tracey 0-1.
Cork: K McCarthy 0-4 (4's), Lisa Lynch 1-0, S Fahy L Collins M Buckley 0-1 each.

CAMOGIE CLUBS NEWS, RESULTS, FIXTURES



Rival captains, Katie Ann Crean, Ballinora, and Nikki Barrys, Sarsfields, with referee Billy O'Sullivan before the Under 14 A league final in Ballinlough. See P42 for more

Midleton

Camogie U12 Our U12s#39;s had a busy week this week with two sporting & competitive challenge matches played along with training sessions and a 2 day Summer Camp!

The first match was played away against Youghal on Sunday evening July 10th. There was a strong wind on the night which helped us take an early lead scoring a goal in the first 10 minutes. At half time the score was level but Youghal's experience helped them gain the lead in the second half with the match ending with a win for Youghal.

The second match was played on Thursday evening July 14th in Rathcormac against Bride Rovers in very wet and windy conditions. Midleton dominated the play in the first half. Unfortunately the score line did not reflect all the hard work done on the pitch, however, the first half ended with Midleton ahead. The girls had to battle against the wind and rain in the second half and found it difficult to add to their scores but never gave up trying.

Bride Rovers came into the game in the last 15 minutes but a strong Midleton defence kept our opponents at bay resulting in a win for Midleton. This team is going from strength to strength and gaining great experience from every match they play. Well done girls!!

Summer Camp Our 2016 Summer Camp was held on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th last. The camp witnessed over 60 girls participating ranging in age from 6 to 14. The girls were given a great opportunity to hone their skills while having fun with Cork's Laura Tracy, Chloe Sigerson, Caoiligh Boland and Hannah Looney along with Midleton's Martin McSweeney.

They were helped by our young Midleton coaches Lucy Wallace, Aine O'Neill and Rayanna Power and all were a big hit with our younger girls. Thanks to the club for the use of their facilities. Thanks to our excellent coaches and our off the field and behind the scene volunteers that make it possible to run such activities for our girls.

Training U6, U8, U10: Friday 7.15-8.15pm Midleton GAA Club U12, U14: Tuesday 7-8pm St Coleman's. Fridays 7.15-8.15pm GAA Club Any changes to training schedule will be text to parents.

Kilworth

Camogie Junior C Championship R2: Kilworth 0-5 Millstreet 6-17 Our junior camogie ladies welcomed Millstreet to Kilworth on Sunday evening last July 17th for the second round game of this year's Junior Camogie Championship. It was a very warm, humid evening but again it was fantastic to see a great crowd down in the pitch to see the girls playing and to support them.

We knew coming in to the game we were up against it as Millstreet are a very strong side who had beaten Castletyons in the previous round. Our girls gave it their all, they showed great physicality and despite the score line, the girls never gave up. They continued to run, tackle, block and got stuck in which was fantastic to see. The key now is to keep going and to turn the focus to the next game where we travel away to play Castletyons in round three.

Team: Shauna Heggveit, Sarah Kenny, Winnie Hallahan, Niamh Sheehan, Ellen Murphy, Emma



Player of the Match in the Under 14 C League Final: Jennifer Whelan Rockban is presented with her trophy by Mary O'Sullivan chairperson Juvenile Camogie Board.

Henebery, Julie O'Mahony, Joette Gallagher, Muireann Dunne, Laine O'Leary, Emma Clancy (0-04), Eve Buckley, Caoimhe Kenneally, Denise Fitzgerald (0-01), Trish O'Driscoll. Subs Used: Kim McGarvey, Sarah Cremin, Marian Tobin, Anita Cremin, Beibhinn Kenneally, Michelle Geaney, Dee Hayes and Aoife Roche.

FIXTURES Junior 'C' Championship R3 - Kilworth V Castletyons in Castletyons on Monday July 25th at 7.30pm.

Blitz Our U6, U8 and U10 girls took part in a blitz last Saturday morning July 16th in the pitch against Ballyduff. It was a wonderful event where the girls had a fantastic time. Well done to all involved in organising it and a special word of thanks to Michelle Geaney and Beth Boyce for or-

ganising some goodies for the girls after it. Main Sponsor: J Kenneally Construction.

Rockban

Camogie U11 On Wednesday July 6th our under 11 camogie girls welcomed our close neighbours Blarney to Whitechurch for round 5 in go games. This was a wonderful game played by two very even sides. Rockban had the better of the first half and had a slender lead at half time thanks to Aisling Murphy who scored a fine goal. The second half produced some excellent scores by both sides and Mary Dorgan added her name to two goals and Aisling Murphy fired over a point. In the end Blarney came out on top in a nail biting finish with only a puck of a ball between the sides. Well done to all players on both teams.

Team: Ruth Dillon, Sinead Murphy, Linn Hyde Twomey, Laura B O'Sullivan, Marian Linehan, Aisling Murphy, Anna O'Connor, Abby Twomey, Leah Murray, Mary Dorgan, Alannah Walsh, Laura M O'Sullivan, Danielle Foley.

St. Catherine's

Camogie U15 Our U15 girls met Erins Own at home on Wednesday night 13th July in an U15 fixture. The girls have taken until now to really find their feet as a team and increased numbers coming to their specific training has also helped and their cooperation with this is greatly appreciated. They each gave a great display of skills on the night, and excellent team play along with some fantastic scoring helped them secure an emphatic victory over Erins Own.

Full time score: St. Catherine's 3-09, Erins Own 0-01. Scorers: N Mulcahy 1-02, J O'Brien 1-03, L Mellerick 1-0, N O'Regan 0-03, C Bolger 0-01. Team: L Mellerick, S O'Callaghan, N Mulcahy, N O'Regan, J Galvin, K O'Brien, J O'Brien, T Condon, J England, N Spillane, C Dunning, L O'Donnell, D Hayes, C Bolger, H Sheehan, S Barry, C Kearney.

U10s: The U10 girls most recent fixture was away to Fr O'Neills on Saturday morning last July 16th. Most of these young ladies had attended Cul Camp the previous week and their skills have improved vastly since. They took every opportunity to take the scores that came their way, and as a result plenty of goals were put away. Team: A Mulkerins, S Twomey, S Fitzgerald, F Sheehan, S Fitzgerald, S Hannon, E O'Connor, K O'Donoghue, K Hickey, C McLaughlin, C Fitzgerald, M Egan, M O'Connor. They will play Cobh next with the date, time and venue to be confirmed.

Senior: The ladies had a challenge match away to Caher on Monday evening July 18th and by all accounts they were firing on all cylinders and had a very definitive victory. The amount of effort, time and commitment being put in across the board at this level is to be commended and we hope they reap the rewards in the upcoming, much anticipated senior A championship. The seniors' first fixture is against Inniscarra on Sunday July 24th in Castle Road at 6.30pm.

U13s: Our U13s played their final Imokilly league match on Friday July 15th away to Cobh. With a panel of 14 girls they got off to a very confident start commanding all the play and putting away two early goals by Jane England and Jessica O'Brien. Eventually though the opposition settled down to business and by half time we were trailing by a point. The girls were undermanned as they came out in the second half but the Cobh girls really upped their performance and put away a few goals and rocked our confidence in the process. A point from a free by Jane England lifted their spirits and they tried to fight their way back into the game, but it was too late in the day to bridge the gap and the match concluded in a final score of St. Catherine's 2-1, Cobh 6-2. Scorers: J England 1-01, J O'Brien 1-0. Team: T Condon (c), S Clancy, N Pratt, E England, H Cunneen, A Bolger, C Dunning, H Sheehan, T Leahy, D Hayes, N Spillane, D Clancy, J O'Brien. Cork U16A Well done to Aoife Hurley and Laura Hayes our club players on the Cork U16A team who played against Wexford last Sunday and won comfortably on a fulltime score of Cork 2-12 to Wexford 1-04.

Our thanks as always to our main sponsor Nevilles shop and Agri-sales for their continued support.

Upcoming Fixtures

Sunday July 24th Senior A Ballinacraig v Ballinacraig in Brinny at 6pm Killeagh v St. Finbarrs in Riverstown at 7.30pm St. Catherine's v Inniscarra in Castle Road at 6.30pm Senior B Mallow v Kilbrittain-Timoleague in Castle Road at 2pm Monday July 25th Senior A Sarsfields v Douglas in Castle Road at 7.45pm Senior B Aghabullogue v Clonakilly TBC Tuesday July 26th Senior B Fr. O'Neills v Carrigaline in Castle Road at 8pm Wednesday July 27th Junior A Watergrasshill v Douglas in Castle Road at 7.45pm Banteer v Bishopstown TBC

Killeagh turn game on its head after break

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Killeagh | 2-15 |
| St Finbarr's | 2-11 |

KILLEAGH turned a six-point deficit into a four-point victory in a highly entertaining SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship first round game in Blackrock last night.

Aided by the strong wind in the opening half St Finbarr's led 1-8 to 0-5 at the break, a goal from Gemma O'Connor's speculative lobbing ball into the square deceiving the Killeagh goalkeeper and finished in the net with a minute remaining in the half to give her side a five-point lead.

Keeva McCarthy added a point from play to stretch the Barrs lead before the break and Killeagh went to the dressing room with it all to do in the second half.

From the restart Killeagh were rampant striking four without reply they were back within touching distance.

Killeagh hit the front with a Hannah Looney goal 13 minutes into the half and the same player had added a point before Keeva McCarthy had the St Finbarr's girls first score of the half.

With a point separating the sides Lucy O'Gorman pointed to keep Killeagh in front Chloe Sigerson and Keeva McCarthy swapped points and Gemma O'Connor had the deficit back to a point as the Barrs pressed hard.

With Laura Treacy superbly marshalling the Killeagh defence they held firm. Rachel Sheehan slotted over a point to give them breathing space with a minute of actual playing time remaining. From the puck out Killeagh won possession and when a Leah McEvoy long range effort for a point bounced out of the Barrs keepers hands to the net Killeagh were five clear.

Heading into injury time Rachel Sheehan's point looked to have been enough for Killeagh but play continued and when Lynda O'Connell, who was very impressive, first-timed a shot to the net in a crowded goal mouth just a goal separated them again.

St Finbarr's tried hard for an equaliser but Rachel Sheehan who had an excellent game for Killeagh put the result out of their reach with a late point.

Scorers For Killeagh: C Sigerson 0-8 (0-7's 0-1 4's), H Looney 1-3, R Sheehan 0-3, L McEvoy 1-0, L O'Gorman 0-1.

St Finbarr's: K Mc Carthy 0-7 (0-3's), G O'Connor 1-4, L O'Connell 1-0.

KILLEAGH: M K Cullinane; A Walsh, E Banaim, N O'Keefe; L Mc Evoy, L Treacy, G O'Gorman; C Sigerson, L O'Gorman; C Harney, R Sheehan, C Barry, N O'Donovan, H Looney, C Daly.

Sub's: K Aherm for N O'Donovan (inj 5), E Treacy for L Treacy (inj 64).

ST FINBARR'S: C Mc Carthy; G Fitzpatrick, C Ryan, N Varian; G Cahalane, G O'Connor, A Shannon; L O'Connell, E Crowley; M Cahalane, C Sargent, R Myers-Murray(c); E Browne-Ryan, K Mc Carthy, M Fitzpatrick.

Subs: S Punch for E Crowley (52).

Ref: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

Catherine's hold on to go through

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|----------------|------|
| St Catherine's | 1-16 |
| Inniscarra | 2-12 |

A TIGHT contest saw St Catherine's finish stronger to overcome the challenge of Inniscarra in the SE Systems Senior camogie championship first round tie in Castle Road last night.

A first-half goal from Laura Hayes after a superb flick through from Orla Cotter settled St Catherine's and edged them in front after Inniscarra had got the better start with three points in a row from Joanne Casey (2) and Niamh McCarthy with Joanne O'Keefe and Laura Hayes having pointed for St Catherine's.

Thought the half little divided the sides with Joanne Casey and Orla Cotter both on target with excellent free taking Niamh McCarthy Rena Buckley and Katie O'Mahony were on target for Inniscarra and it took an excellent save from Michelle Tobin to deny Erin Looney an Inniscarra goal.

St Catherine's found the range with Cotter striking four points and it was Laura Hayes's goal that divided the sides at the interval where St Catherine's led 1-6 to 0-6.

Through the second half the sides continued to trade points and with Finola Neville in superb form, St Catherine's maintained their lead. Two points separated the sides twelve minutes into the half when Casey gave Inniscarra the lead with a superb goal after excellent work from Rena Buckley saw Casey gain possession and dispatch the ball to the net.

With Cotter pointing a free the sides were level with 13 minutes remaining.

Playing with huge determination St Catherine's battled for everything and they showed great alertness and vision when they were granted an indirect free, Cotter spotted the unmarked Finola Neville on the forty-five metre line and she made no mistake pointing to edge the Saints in front.

Inniscarra battled back, Joanne Casey pointed a free with five minutes remaining but driven on with points by the excellent Finola Neville, Evelyn



Inniscarra forward Rebecca Keane tries to get past St Catherine's defenders Maeve Walsh and Finola Neville in the SE Systems Senior A Camogie Championship at Castle Road.

Picture: Des Barry

Roynane and young Cork U16 player Aoife Hurley St Catherine's increased their lead to four points.

Three minutes into injury time Inniscarra won a penalty after Niamh McCarthy was fouled on the way through Casey dispatched it to the net but it was too late to affect the outcome as St Catherine's had done enough.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-7 (0-4 fs), L Hayes 1-2, F Neville 0-4, A Hurley J O'Keefe E Roynane 0-1.

Inniscarra: J Casey 1-6 (1-0 pen, 0-3 fs 0-1 4's), N Mc Carthy, K O'Mahony 0-2 each, R Buckley T Mc Carthy 0-1 each.

ST CATHERINE'S: M Tobin; M O'Regan, Y O'Neill, M O'Keefe; A M Rohan, E Roynane, M Mulcahy, O Neville, C Motherway; J O'Keefe, O Cotter, M Walsh; L Hayes, F Neville, A Hurley.

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, R Quigley; C Looney, R O'Mahony, T Mc Carthy; R Buckley, A Kavanagh; R Keane, E Looney, K O'Mahony; J Casey(c), M Cosgrave, N Mc Carthy.

Ref: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



St Catherine's forward Finola Neville solos goalwards against Inniscarra in the SE Systems Senior A Camogie Championship at Castle Road, Cork.

Picture: Des Barry

Coomey goals help Ballincollig overcome Ballinhassig

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Ballincollig | 3-10 |
| Ballinhassig | 1-11 |

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

BALLINCOLLIG saw off the challenge of Ballinhassig in a fairly scrappy senior camogie championship opening round in Brinny last evening.

Ballinhassig started the better and they led 1-4 to 0-1 after 14 minutes as Ballincollig struggled to get attacks going. Kate Crowley pulled off a brave save on nine minutes as Cronin struck for goal but it was Ballinhassig who enjoyed the momentum in the opening quarter while against the wind.

Jayne O'Leary's goal with 14 gone seemed to jolt Ballincollig into life. Kate O'Donoghue, Leah Weste and Patricia Buttimer settled and with supply now provided the pendulum swung with Ballincollig's attacking stats improving.

Linda Dorgan and Buttimer narrowed the deficit

before Denise Cronin goal. Buttimer, Cronin and Leah Weste added further points and Collig took the lead for the first time a minute before the break. Eimear O'Sullivan levelled it to leave it 1-6 apiece.

Despite Niamh Sheehan's point from the restart the same duo of Dorgan and Cronin struck over before an excellent run close to the end line by Buttimer saw her handpass across the goal, kicked home by Sam Coomey to give Ballincollig.

Ballinhassig were still in the game with Eimear O'Sullivan prominent but when Buttimer again sent a high floating ball into the square and it was well caught by Coomey who hand passed to the net, daylight was appearing between the sides with six points now the margin.

Ballinhassig failed to wilt and three points from O'Sullivan (2) and Catriona Collins kept the game exciting.

Linda Dorgan however, who had caused problems throughout, stepped up with two fine points to finish strongly with Ballincollig running out winners

Scorers for Ballincollig: D Cronin 1-3 (0-2's), L Dorgan 0-4, S Coomey 2-0, P Buttimer 0-2, L Weste 0-1.

Ballinhassig: E O'Sullivan 0-7 (0-4 fs), J O'Leary 1-0, C Collins 0-2, A M Leahy, N Sheehan 0-1 each.

BALLINCOLLIG: L M O'Mahony; E Murphy, A Coughlan, S Keating; A Cotter, K O'Donoghue, E Casey; L Weste, S Buckley; C O'Riordan, P Buttimer, L Dorgan; S Coomey, D Cronin, A Lovett.

Subs: L Cooper for A Lovett (h/t), C Irish for C O'Riordan (51).

BALLINHASSIG: K Crowley; A M Leahy, M Reardon, K Reynolds; K Bohane, E O'Donovan, H Cullinane;

Subs: E Jordan, N Sheehan; J O'Leary, E O'Sullivan, G Collins; O Murray; C Collins, G O'Callaghan.

Subs: N Sheehan for G O'Callaghan (44), S Scully for G Collins (53).

Ref: Cathal McAllister.



Bridin Redmond of Wexford is challenged by Kilkenny's Niamh Leahy.

Camogie team to topple Tipp

Time for Wexford to deliver

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

HAD THEY known, before a ball was pucked, that they wouldn't top the group, the Wexford Senior camogie team couldn't have picked a more favourable quarter-final than Tipperary in Walsh Park. But maybe that's the problem.

When things have seemed easy, straightforward, non-stressful, that's when the Slaneysiders have struggled. Motivation shouldn't be a problem for the last six of the All-Ireland series but this is a strange Wexford team.

They have mixed the sublime (Kilkenny, Offaly in the Leinster championship), with the clinical (All-Ireland wins against Cork and Clare) and thrown in some horror shows (Offaly, twice in Birt) for good measure.

This is why there's an element of doubt surrounding a game with Tipperary, that they should win pulling up. Simply put, Wexford have weapons that the Premier could only dream of possessing but that's not to say that Tipp's full throttle won't beat a 75 per cent effort from their opponents.

A three-point loss to a rusty Galway side in their opening fixture was the Munster side's best result. They easily beat Derry, as did the rest of the group, before falling

heavily to Kilkenny in Semple Stadium. A disappointing draw with Dublin took matters out of their own hands.

So the Premier girls sat nervously on the edge of their seats as Dublin came up a goal short of overturning their superior points difference and making the quarter-final themselves. Their most recognisable players at this stage are the Fryday sisters, Eirena and Sarah, dangerous attackers in their own right.

Much falls on their shoulders, as they are lynchpins of a young team but not an outfit that has done enough to prove that they belong with camogie's 'big four'. The Slaneysiders' job is to ensure that stays the case. But which Wexford side will turn up?

The league is better off forgotten. That was a vastly different side which managed just a solitary win, albeit against Tipp. Leinster should be put to one side too; those two quality performances might have come just two months ago but plenty has happened since then.

Wexford started the group stage with a more comfortable than the score suggests 3-17 to 1-16 win against Limerick. However, they were truly abysmal when falling to Offaly by 2-14 to 1-7 seven days later. A victory over Waterford on July 2 (3-12 to 1-11) wasn't much better.

Wexford showed life, beating

Cork by 1-9 to 0-9 in Innovate Wexford Park with Una Leacy rattling the net with a late winner. The Oulart-The Ballagh star bagged a double as her county became the only team to score seven goals in a Senior championship game this season when defeating Clare (7-12 to 1-5).

While Deirdre Codd is still nursing a bad knee that saw her face Cork but miss Clare, Stacey Kehoe is the newest injury worry, for managers John Kelly and Matty Flynn-O'Connor, after hurting her ankle against the Banner women. Otherwise Wexford are in as good a shape, player-wise, as they have been all year.

The biggest worry for Wexford is going behind and needing a response from the bench. That hasn't been forthcoming in the championship up to now so the onus, and pressure, is on the first 15 to turn up, match or better the intensity of their opponents and put on a solid performance.

Simply put, if a Wexford team boasting game-changers like Kate Kelly, Katrina Parrock and Una Leacy in attack can match the hunger and desire of Tipperary, they win and advance to the All-Ireland semi-final.

Yet they have rarely done things easily this season. Expect Wexford to win by a little more than a goal, meaning it's unlikely to be as comfortable as it should be.

Inters finish campaign with ninth straight loss

DEAN GOODISON

In New Ross

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| KILKENNY | 3-11 |
| WEXFORD | 0-5 |

WEXFORD'S SECOND string ended their season with another loss, this time against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Intermediate camogie championship at O'Kennedy Park, New Ross, on Saturday.

It was the Slaneysiders' ninth defeat in as many games between National League and All-Ireland series. Any shoots of promise that were there in an indifferent 2015 are long gone, with Wexford's strength-in-depth at the lowest level for quite some time.

The first 20 minutes of this tie were okay. Wexford looked dangerous when they got the ball into the full-forward line but the visitors defended well, limiting their hosts to a pair of Aileen Brennan points (0-2 each).

However, the game went from close to all but over in the final nine minutes of the half. Ciara Holden brought her tally to five minors while Keava Fennelly got a fortuitous long-range goal as Kilkenny went in 1-7 to 0-3 ahead - Wexford's late point coming from the persistent Deirdre McMahon.

Aileen Brennan popped over her third score early in the second-half, after Aoife Curran was felled, but Kilkenny were comfortable. They nabbed their second goal when Jenny Clifford showed her speed, racing away from the hosts' defence before handpassing clinically past Liza Bates.

Joanne Dillon added her name to the list of Wexford scorers with four minutes of normal time remaining, but there was still time



Michelle Martin on the ball.

for another soft Kilkenny goal, this one coming from a Holden free from 65 metres out.

Maybe now, after the struggles of the last few seasons, the time is right to examine the possibility of dropping Wexford's second team back to the Premier Junior championship and into Division 3, where the young players can find their feet and possibly pick up some morale-boosting victories.

Wexford have only beaten Dublin's second string this season, in the Leinster championship after extra-time. The Metropolitans themselves have won just one game between Junior league and championship, against a Cavan side which didn't even complete in the summer competition.

Some might look to a Kilkenny second string which struggled a

few years back only to be flying high now. The difference is that they have been consistently producing strong teams at under-age level with a steady flow of quality making the step-up.

Wexford, on the other hand, have not threatened to win an 'A' under-age title in the last decade, getting hammered in two Minor 'B' finals by Derry and Offaly along the way. It leaves Intermediate management with the unenviable task of trying to improve players significantly and that is proving difficult.

With the first team also struggling for depth, the top line youngsters are getting fast-tracked to the Senior set-up and what's left is a mish-mash of mostly youngsters, playing with very little confidence.

Kilkenny: Kirsty Maher; Lydia Phelan, Jennifer Norris, Róisín Phelan; Niamh Leahy, Katie Nolan, Edel Frisby; Laura Greene, Edel Coonan; Jenny Clifford (1-0), Ciara Holden (1-8, 1-6 frees), Keava Fennelly (1-0); Sarah Walsh (0-1), Aine Fahey (0-2), Angela Kenneally. Subs. - Ciara Phelan for Fennelly (45), Mary Corcoran for Kenneally (46), Aisling O'Farrell for Leahy (54), Sophie O'Dwyer for Fahey (56), Catherine Walsh for Coonan (57).

Wexford: Liza Bates; Nancy Dunphy, Farren Byrne, Leanne Foley; Doireann Kavanagh, Katie O'Connor, Michelle Martin; Ellen Roche, Anna Whitty; Bridin Redmond, Deirdre McMahon (capt., 0-1), Aoife Curran; Aileen Brennan (0-3, 2 frees), Joanne Dillon (0-1), Margaret Byrne. Subs. - Derbhla Doyle for Dunphy (28), Shauna Kelly for Redmond (36), Patrice O'Gorman for Whitty (53), also Niamh Walsh, Ciara Mythen, Michelle Kehoe, Clodagh Jackman, Shauna Redmond, Amy Eustace, Jemma Doyle, Rebecca Doran, Rachel Kelly.

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Cork).

U-16s exit on high note

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| WEXFORD | 4-10 |
| TIPPERARY | 3-10 |

WEXFORD EXITED the All-Ireland Under-16 'A' camogie championship with arguably their best showing of the season as they beat Tipperary in The Ragg on Sunday, coming from eight points down at half-time to guarantee themselves third spot in Group 2.

Lettie Whelan was the Wexford heroine with a second-half hat-trick, but the visitors got good performances from all over the park. They went player-for-player on the hosts and in the long run it paid dividends.

The basis for the win was the strong centrefield pairing of Ciara O'Connor and Sarah Harding-Kenny. In defence Kaitlyn Whelan-Kinsella anchored the full-back line superbly while Máire O'Rourke was excellent at wing-back.

There were also strong showings either side of Whelan in the half-forward line, with Ella

O'Connor and Anais Curran putting in influential performances. However, it didn't all go Wexford's way in the opening period.

With Eimear McGrath picking off a trio of points, added to by goals from Caroline Brown and Casey Hennessy, Tipperary opened up a clear advantage. Whelan registered three of her side's points while Anais Curran also scored as the visitors struggled to keep in touch.

However, a quick start to the second period, with Whelan grabbing a pair of majors, brought the Slaneysiders back into the tie. When Emma Sweeney added a goal, Wexford were on the verge of their best win of the season.

Both Ciara O'Connor and Curran got on the scoresheet during the period, but as the minutes ticked away, an exchange of majors from Whelan and Hennessy follow and left Wexford three clear at the full-time whistle.

This side has improved as the season has gone on. Most will step up to Minor now where that improvement will need to

continue to be competitive in the Under-18 grade for the next couple of seasons.

Wexford: Mikaela Lanigan; Anna Hennessy, Kaitlyn Whelan-Kinsella, Alannah Davis; Máire O'Rourke, Lara Conran, Hannah Keating; Ciara O'Connor (0-1), Sarah Harding-Kenny; Ella O'Connor, Lettie Whelan (capt., 3-7, 0-6 frees), Anais Curran (0-2); Emma Sweeney, Kate Devereux, Emma Sweeney (1-0). Subs. - Cora Doyle for Devereux, Aisling Halligan for Davis, Ciara Bridges for Sweeney, Saoirse Dunne for Harding-Kenny, also Eimer Byrne, Naoimh Kehoe, Anna Mulligan, Oonagh Barden, Orla Fitzgerald, Imogen Fanning, Caitlin Carroll, Molly Power, Orla Fortune, Nora Higgins.

Tipperary (squad): Niamh Sheridan, Anna Gavin, Saoirse Ryan, Thea Curtin, Niamh Long, Gemma Fox, Laura Shinnors, Cécimhe Perdue, Rachel O'Dwyer, Sarah Delaney, Niamh Keane, Eimear McGrath (0-7, 5 frees), Karin Blair, Rosanna O'Donnell, Caroline Brown (1-1), Kellie Quirke, Emma Flanagan, Casey Hennessy (2-2), Aine O'Dwyer, Courtney Quinn.

Referee: John Dolan (Cork).

Cork win and reach semi-final in style

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|--------|------|
| Cork | 0-16 |
| Galway | 0-9 |

CORK joined their senior counterparts in the All-Ireland semi final as they guaranteed themselves a place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate championship semi final with an impressive seven-point victory over Galway at St Brendan's Park, Galway, on Saturday.

With three wins from three games, Cork now top the group with one game to go against Down.

They cannot be caught by either Kildare or Meath who meet each other next weekend and who at best can finish level with Cork.

The opening quarter was close, as the sides traded score for score and it was level at four points each inside the opening ten minutes.

Cork worked hard and imposed themselves on the game.

They were comfortably ahead 0-8 to 0-3 at the interval with Sarah Fahy, Kaitlin Hickey, Rachel O'Shea, Linda Collins and Finola Neville to the fore as Cork held the upper hand.

Lorraine Freaney and Katrina Cormican worked hard to keep the home side in touch but Cork continued to apply huge pressure on the Galway defence.

Through the second half they picked off the scores that kept them in control.

Galway pushed hard but could never get to grips with a lively and committed Cork.

The Rebels never looked likely to be caught as they confidently held their lead to the full time whistle.

Caroline Sugrue, Lisa Lynch, Finola Neville and Rachel O'Shea all got on the score sheet as Cork guaranteed themselves a semi final spot.

For Cork it is a huge achievement to have both their adult teams through to the All-Ireland semi finals.

The senior side will be in action on August 13 with the Intermediate semi final a week later.

Scorers for Cork: S Fahy, K Hickey 0-3 each, R O'Shea 0-3 (0-11), F Neville, C Sugrue 0-2 each, J Crowley (1), L Collins, L Lynch 0-1 each.

Scorers for Galway: L Freaney 0-3, (3), C Cormican 0-3, E O'Donovan, M Farrell, P Kenny 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, E Murphy, L Coppinger, N Ni Chaoimh, J Crowley (0-1), S Buckley, S Harrington, S Fahy, J Barry, F Neville, C Sigerson, K Hickey, R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue.

Sub: L Lynch (0-1) for L Collins (53).

GALWAY: T Murphy, C Donohue, L Coen, L Lally, E Murphy, P Kenny, M Connaughton, L O'Neill, A Kelly, A Lynskey, L Freaney, C Cormican, M Burke, E O'Donovan, T Murray.

Subs: M Farrell for L O'Neill (26), M Farrell for Murray (h/t), L Ward for Lally (56).
Referee: Ray Kelly, (Kildare).

Douglas take win against a battling Sars outfit

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Douglas | 1-12 |
| Sarsfield's | 0-8 |

DOUGLAS had to fight to the finish before securing victory in this SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship first round clash in Castle Road last night.

Sarsfield's, making their return to senior ranks can be proud of their performance in a contest where Douglas goalkeeper Jess Kavanagh was the difference between the sides.

Douglas had a lot of heroines, the Mackey twins were superb covering acres of ground and playing with huge composure, Sarah Fahy worked hard and struck four magnificent points two in a row from distance at a stage in the second half when they needed a boost.

The sides were level at a point each in a close opening quarter before Katrina Mackey made a superb run through the middle and fired the ball over the bar to edge Douglas in front.

Four minutes later her twin Pamela found the net with a long range effort which bounced past the Sars keeper to the net. Dictating matters Douglas were first to every ball their defence with corner back Seosai Mulrooney doing trojan work ably assisted by Grace McNamara and Amy Curtin.

Lucy Allen pointed for Sars with two minutes to the break but with Katrina Mackey pointed two frees to see Douglas seven points clear.

Twice the sides swapped points on the restart but an ever-improving Sars dug deep and began to win a lot more possession with Emer Fennelly now operating at centre forward.

Mairead Farrell cut the gap to six points. Again Sarsfield's applied huge pressure and winning a free Emer Fennelly duly converted to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Douglas upped the pace again with Mackey swinging a long a long range effort straight between the posts.

Sarsfield's continued to take on the Douglas defence with the pacy Lucy Kelly, Maebh Mullins and Lucy Allen driving forward but to their credit, Douglas soaked it up Grace McNamara and Rebecca Sheehan very much involved as they cleared their lines with the excellent Seosai Mulrooney composed and calm breaking up at attack after attack.

The pressure paid off as Sars won a penalty with seven minutes remaining but Jess Kavanagh denied Emer Fennelly with a brilliant save, twice again Sars came in search of a goal but Kavanagh was magnificent denying Lucy Allen at the expense of a 45 which Emer Fennelly converted.

The last say was left to Katrina Mackey with a fine effort as Douglas could finally breathe but not before a stern test from a young and lively Sars side.

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey 0-7 (0-4's), S Fahy 0-4, P Mackey 1-1.

Sarsfield's: E Fennelly 0-3 (0-2's, 0-1 45), M Mullins 0-2, M Farrell, E Casey, L Allen 0-1 each.

Douglas: J Kavanagh, R O'Halloran, G McNamara, S Mulrooney, A Curtin, R Sheehan, J O'Rourke, P Mackey, J Donegan, K Mackey, C Kavanagh, S Fahy, C Nason, J Leo, J O'Mahony.

Subs: A O'Regan for J Leo (51), D Harrington for C Kavanagh (56).

Sarsfield's: C Casey, J Murphy(c), K Barry, K Lyons, E Loneragan, E Murphy, N Hickey, N O'Callaghan, E Casey, L Allen, L Kelly, M Mullins; M O'Farrell, E Fennelly, C Holland.

Subs: C Ahern for C Holland (43), C Mullins for M O'Farrell (49).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).



Sarsfields U14 camogie captain Nikki Barry receives the Rebel Óg monthly award from Kevin Cummins, of Cummins Sports, after the team won the National Division 1 Féile na nGael title. Included are members of the U14 side, Sarsfields camogie chair Gillian O'Callaghan, and Amy Barry and Kate O'Herlihy of RedFM.

Sarsfields' journey to national title was anything but straightforward

Denis Hurley

It was a long and arduous road to success — literally — for the Sarsfields U14 camogie side. Rebel Óg monthly winners for July, following their national Féile na nGael title win.

Having come through the Cork campaign with victory over Ballinora, Sars departed for the finals in Tipperary on Friday, June 17, with logistics playing a bigger part in the weekend than was expected.

A win over local side Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams was followed by a draw with Kilkenny's Thomastown, meaning that a win was required on the Saturday morning against hosts Éire Óg Annacarty Donohill. That was achieved on a 2-5 to 1-2 scoreline, which resulted in Sars having to make the two-hour trip to Gaultier in Waterford for a knockout clash with Feakle/Killanena of Clare.

Arriving with only minutes to spare for the 3pm game (put back to 3.15pm), the travel wasn't much of a hindrance to Sars, who won by 2-8 to 0-5. So, it was back to Clonmel for the semi-final against Bunclody (Wexford), scheduled for 6.30pm.

Lesser sides would have used to to-ing and fro-ing as an excuse, but Sars captain and centre-forward Nikki Barry reveals that the team tried to use it to their advantage.

"It was tiring, but it was nice to have the break between the matches, getting from Tipperary to Waterford and then coming back," said Nikki. "The Féile was really intense at the start, because it's really easy to get knocked out. We drew our game against Thomastown, so we knew it'd be really tight to get into the final and that's what happened."

On arrival back in Tipperary, Sars found that Clonmel

REBEL ÓG
MONTHLY SPORTS AWARDS
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Óg's pitch was double-booked, so Clonmel Sportsfield was called into action at short notice. Again, though, it didn't knock a spot off Sars, who eased to a 4-2 to 0-0 win, pulling away in the second half. Once more, Waterford beckoned for the final on Sunday morning, with Dungarvan the latest destination, though

the opponents were familiar: Thomastown, meaning another close game was expected.

"All of us were so nervous, but we all wanted to win, so everybody was really attentive to the game," said Nikki. "At half-time, it was level, so we knew that it would probably come down to a point, but luckily we scored a goal in the second half."

The final score was 1-3 to 0-3 to Sars, with a heroes' reception awaiting them back in Riverstown.

"We went back to the clubhouse and there were loads of people there," said Nikki. "It was a great way to celebrate."

The quest for silverware goes on, with the county championship beginning soon, and Nikki is ensuring the sights are set high for this year and the future.

"Our seniors won last year, so hopefully we can keep it up, until senior age, really."



SILVERWARE: Poc Fada winners (from left) Sarah Fahy, James McInerney, Aoife Murray and Cathal Kiely

Clare star McInerney beats Connaughton to Poc title

POC FADA: CLARE'S James McInerney is the M Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada champion for 2016 — becoming the first Lannan County native to win the event since Davy Fitzgerald was victorious 14 years ago. Newmarket-on-Fergus clubman McInerney edged out Westmeath's Brian Connaughton by just 20 metres on the Annaverna Mountain in Ravensdale, Co Louth.

McInerney covered the 5km course in 50 pocs and 78 metres, with Connaughton second on 50 pocs and 58 metres. Defending champion Brendan Cummins from Tipperary, who was aiming for a sixth successive title and a 10th in all, finished in third place on 50 pocs and 34 metres. Meanwhile, Cork's Aoife Murray claimed the senior ladies title.

All-Ireland SCC: Wexford 2-11 Tipperary 0-16

Scorers for Wexford: K Kelly 0-8; U Leacy 1-1; E Walsh 1-0; L Bolger, K Parrock 0-1 each; **Scorers for Tipperary:** N Walsh, O'Dwyer 0-4 each; M Ryan, M Teehan 0-3 each; E Fryday, R Howard 0-1 each; **WEXFORD:** M O'Arcy, K Atkinson, S Nolan, C Storey; S O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd; Shelley Kehoe, E Walsh; L Bolger, K Parrock, U Sinnott; L Bolger, U Leacy, K Kelly; **Subs:** Stacey Kehoe for Codd (half-time), C Foxe for Sinnott (39), L O'Leary for (47), C Donohue for Quigley (52); **TIPPERARY:** S Larkin, JA Bourke, G Grace, C Walsh; A McGrath, C Maher, M Teehan; T Ryan, E Fryday; N Walsh, Mary Ryan, Megan Ryan; R Howard, M Campion, O'Dwyer; **Sub:** J Grace for Campion (57); **Referee:** E Cassidy (Derry).

Kilkenny 1-19 Offaly 0-11

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Gaulie 0-6; M Quilty 0-4; J Malone 1-1; M Walsh 0-3; A Farrell, S Farrell, M Farrell, K Power, A Dunphy 0-1 each; **Scorers for Offaly:** M Morkan 0-6; S Flannery 0-2; A Watkins, T Hannon, L Sullivan 0-1 each; **KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh, J Frisby, D Tobin, C Dorrer, C Phelan, E Keane, A Farrell, M Walsh, M Farrell, D Gaulie, J Malone, A Dalton, M Quilty, K Power, S Farrell; **Subs:** G Walsh for Keane (48), A Farrell for SA Quilty (50), KA Doyle for Malone (52), A Dunphy for Quilty (56), A Gannon for Power (59); **OFFALY:** E Clendennen, D Cashen, J Brady, F Stephens, A Brennan, S Flannery, M C'Lean, D Flynn, O Kirwan, L Keena, L Sullivan, M Morkan, M Jennings, A Watkins, T Hannon; **Subs:** C Cleary for Flynn (half-time), G Teehan for Sullivan (43); **Referee:** C Egan (Cork).

All-Ireland U16ACC Grp 1: Limerick 0-10 Waterford 4-12; **Kilkenny 3-26 Clare 1-4;** **Grp 2:** Galway 4-8 Cork 1-14; **All-Ireland U16BCC Grp 1:** Cork 0-5 Laois 3-14; **Grp 2:** Dublin 2-5 Westmeath 5-11; **Down 1-3 Derry 7-9;** **All-Ireland U16CCC:** Cavan 4-6 Carlow 0-2; **Kildare 2-10 Armagh 2-7;** **Leinster MBCC quarter-finals:** Laois 0-12 Kildare 0-10, Dublin 1-13 Carlow 2-10 (pet).

July
2016

A busy Sunday for Rebels' U16 sides

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A BUSY day tomorrow for the Cork U16 A and B teams with both in action in the last of the round robin games in the All-Ireland U16 championships.

TOMORROW

U16 A All-Ireland Championship: Cork v Galway; Kennedy Park, Athenry; 2.30pm.

The meeting between Cork and Galway will decide who goes into the semi finals stage as group winners and runners up as by now both sides have done enough to secure their place in the semi finals and cannot be caught. At this stage Galway top the group on nine points with victories over Wexford, Tipperary and Offaly. Cork are on seven points having defeated Wexford and Offaly and drawn with Tipperary. The nearest side to Cork are Wexford who are on six points but with all their games played they cannot overtake Cork even if Cork are defeated by Galway.

Last weekend Tipperary lost out to Wexford and if they had won and defeated Offaly this weekend they could have possibly finished level with Cork although Cork were on a better scoring difference. It matters little now as both Cork and Galway just have to battle it out for the top spot. Cork have fine players in Cliona Healy, Emma Murphy, Saoirse McCarthy and Maura Barrett and they will press Galway to the finish.

All Ireland U16B Championship: Cork v Louth; Carrigtwohill GAA Grounds; 2.30pm.

Despite losing out to Antrim and Tipperary the Cork U16 B sides still have a chance to make it to the semi-final stages pending results going their way. Antrim, Laois and Tipperary are all on six points and Cork and Meath are on three.

Tipperary have completed their programme of four games but if Antrim defeat Meath on Sunday they go to nine points and were Cork to overcome Laois both will be on six as will Tipperary. As it stands Laois would be ahead on scoring difference, presently they are on a plus 12 with Cork on minus five and Tipperary on minus fifteen therefore it is important for Cork to notch up as many scores as possible and reverse that deficit and win. It's a five goal turn around and a big task but Cork fired home four goals against Meath and are capable of a repeat performance.

The game that probably cost Cork was the loss, by a goal, to Tipp, if they had even salvaged a draw in that outing they would have been on course.

The task facing them in a big one Laois have two victories over Tipperary and Antrim but lost out to a Meath side that Cork overcame. If Cork can rekindle that performance and get the vital goals needed a semi final spot is well within

Cork duo drive on to national finals

POC FADA

■ Mary Newman

THE 2016 Martin Donnelly GAA and Camogie All-Ireland Poc Fada finals were officially launched recently in Croke Park.

Today, both the hurling and camogie competitions will be held on the Cooley Mountains. The Poc Fada is a huge event and is now in its 55th year which has always been held in the scenic setting in County Louth.

Camogie has only in recent years been included and Patricia Jackman from Waterford has without doubt become the queen of the camogie event having taken the title on the last seven occasions. This year Patricia will not be taking part so we will have a New Queen of the Cooley Mountains crowned.

Recently a former camogie mentor with Glen Rovers and Cork Finbarr O'Neill was honoured as he was inducted into the GAA Poc Fada Hall Of Fame for his success in the competition. Finbarr gave huge service to the game of camogie after his own playing days were over he led Glen Rovers to nine senior camogie titles as well as Munster and All-Ireland honours and his induction to the Poc Fada Hall Of Fame is one which is hugely deserved. The unique contest promises to be a great day of sport as Camogie and GAA players mingle and enjoy the occasion. The competition offers camogie players from Cork, Dublin, Galway and Tyrone an opportunity to win an All-Ireland medal and is an honour to be cherished.

In the lead up to the final event, Cork held their own long Poc competition with Carlow native Lyndsey Condell who is a playing member of the Ballygarvan club winning through the county stages. A former winner of the event in 2007 and 2008 when representing her native Carlow Lyndsey came through the provincial stages and is all set to give it her best as she takes on cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray, Galway senior net minder Susan Earner, Clara Donnelly from Tyrone Galway's Sinead Skehill and Faye McCarthy from Dublin.

These is also an U16 competition and contestants from Cork, Down, Galway and Laois emerged from the provincial



Cork and Munster U16 Long Poc winners: Lyndsey Condell and Mairead O'Sullivan, who will take part in the All-Ireland Long Poc.

stages to make it to today finals. Mairead O'Sullivan from Banteer is the Cork and Munster representative and she will pit her skills against Down's Anne-Marie Smyth Sarah Healy Galway and Donna Mortimer from Laois.

Uachtarán Cumann Camógaiochta, Catherine Neary was present at the recent launch and she said: "I am really looking forward to this year's prestigious Poc Fada Finals, which promise to be an exciting event in the spectacular Cooley Peninsula at the foot of the Annaverna Mountain. The competition over recent years has been quite stiff with only a 'puck of the sliotar' between the competitors and I am sure that this year's Finals will be no different, with great skill and dedication on show from all competitors whom I wish the very best of luck in this prestigious event. I would also like to sin-

cerely thank Martin Donnelly, a passionate and loyal supporter of the competition and Gaelic Games." Also present to launch the event was GAA President Aogan O Fearghail and he like Catherine showed huge enthusiasm for the event.

"There are few events in our diary that stand out from the rest of our activities in the same way as the Poc Fada. The Annaverna Mountain is the perfect picturesque setting for truly unique event.

"With the contestants including some of the highest profile hurlers in our game who are participating at a time of the year when their season reaches fever pitch, this says everything about the importance they place on their involvement." Both Presidents also paid tribute to sponsor Martin Donnelly for his continued support

of the Competition, this year will be his twentieth year sponsoring the finals in the Cooley Mountains and given the strains on business people in times which have not been easy it is a wonderful gesture from a great supporter of Gaelic games.

Speaking at the launch Martin Donnelly said: "I'm particularly proud to support this wonderful and exciting competition as this is my twentieth year sponsoring the finals in the Cooley Mountain.

"I am sure this year's Finals will be one of the best yet as Brendan Cummins goes for his tenth Poc Fada title and with Patricia Jackman unable to participate this year we'll see who will be the new Queen of the mountain this year."

Best wishes goes to all the Cork representatives.

Progress being made across championship grades

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

received walk over's.

The Senior B championship had two games on the agenda for decision in the week gone by; Mallow having lost out in round one to Aghabullogue got back on track as they recorded a 3-13 to 2-12 victory over Kilbrittan / Timoleague. Fr O'Neill's bounced back from losing their first game to Éire Óg to defeat Carrigaline in close contest 2-6 to 1-6. League champions Clonakilty signalled they mean business in their first game of the championship when they overcame Aghabullogue 3-15 to 2-5.

With two rounds played out of five Éire Óg have put down a marker in Section A with two wins to their credit they top the group with Valley Rovers and FR O'Neill's on one win each. Section B is shaping up to be a close one to the finish. Brian Dillon's and Clon-

akilty having played one game each are on two points as are Mallow and Aghabullogue who have two games played.

Blackrock Enniskeane and Newcestown are joint leaders of the Intermediate section Newcestown having lost out in round one bounced back to overcome Blackrock on a 5-13 to 2-3 score line. Sliabh Rua will be in action for the first time on Friday next when they meet a Tracton side that lost out in round one to Blackrock The all north side meeting of Na Piarsaigh and St Vincent's in the Junior A championship saw Na Piarsaigh record their second victory as they turned in a superb performance to overcome their neighbours 2-10 to 0-8. Newtownshandrum did likewise as they defeated Bride Rovers 2-17 to 3-7.

In the junior A section A Na Piarsaigh are a great form with two wins from two games. In the junior B championship Ballyhea had a victory over Cobh when they then regrouped to overcome Glen Rovers while Sarsfield's had a win over Clonakilty.

Cool Kelly fires Wexford into semi-finals

Daragh O Conchuir
Camogie

Wexford snatched an injury-time winner to beat Tipperary 2-11 to 0-16 and book an All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final against champions Cork.

Not for the first time in a remarkable career, Kate Kelly was the hero as she held her composure to convert a free for the winner at Walsh Park, having seconds earlier chased back deep into her own half to force a turnover as Tipperary strove for a winner.

That was the 36-year-old's eighth point of the day but as

joyous as it proved for Wexford, it was a nightmare event for their opponents.

Brian Boyle's outfit will be thoroughly devastated, as they led by eight points early in the second half having been the dominant outfit, with Nicole Walsh, Orla O'Dwyer and Róisín Howard all contributing well.

Even when Úna Leacy struck her eighth goal of the campaign, Tipperary looked confident and responded with points from Nicole Walsh and Mairead Teehan to lead by seven.

It would have been all over but for two splendid saves by

Mags D'Arcy to deny Teehan and Miriam Campion and those contributions were critical as Tipp failed to score in the last 20 minutes while Wexford drew on all their experience to find another level.

A goal was needed and Emma Walsh cashed in on good work by Shelley Kehoe and Leacy to provide it in the 53rd minute.

That made it a two-point game and after Kelly slotted another free, Katrina Parrock pulled first time on a hopping ball to bring the sides level, leaving it to Kelly to put the exclamation mark on a dramatic comeback.

Kilkenny will play Galway in the other semi-final after a much easier than expected 1-19 to 0-11 win over Offaly at MacDonagh Park.

The sides have met twice already this season, with the Noreiders prevailing in the league final at the beginning of May but their old rivals getting the upper hand in the last game of the round-robin stages.

Kilkenny got a dream start against Offaly with a goal from Julieann Malone and Offaly never seemed to recover. Miriam Walsh (two), Anna Farrell and Michelle Quilty all added points before Michaela

Morkan put Offaly on the board from a free.

Kilkenny were relentless however, and the unerring Gaule fired over five more points to give her side a 1-11 to 0-6 lead at half time.

To give Adrian Clancy's charges credit, they were much more competitive after the resumption and kept their faint hopes alive with three points from Morkan but Kilkenny had scoring power from everywhere, while their defence managed to shut down Tina Hannon and Arlene Watkins completely.

Katie Power, Malone, and Quilty kept the scoreboard



Kate Kelly: Converted a free to give Wexford victory over Tipp.

ticking over and Downey was in the happy position of being able to empty her bench.

Offaly kept fighting but the game fizzled out to an inevitable end.

Double delight for Kilmeen-Kilbree

WHAT a week it was, with two major titles coming back to the club.

The U16 hurlers kicked it off when they won the West Cork championship final and they were followed by the U12 camogie girls' success after they were crowned county champions on Saturday against Tracton.

First to the hurlers, who beat Kilbrittain 1-15 to 1-13 in a pulsating final in Clonakilty, thanks to two late points by Thomas Tyner. See page 24 for a full report.

Congratulations to Bertie Deasy, David O'Donovan, John Clancy, Garry O'Sullivan and everyone involved with this team. This team now progresses to a county semi-final against St Catherine's.

Then, Kilbree U12 camogie girls were crowned county champions in Ballinlough on Saturday when they beat Tracton 7-4 to 2-2. Great scores by Alison Collins, Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan helped Kilbree into a 3-1 to 2-2 half-time lead.

In the second half, goals by Caoimhe Murphy, Emily O'Donovan, Alison Collins and Rachel Deasy saw Kilbree's dominance turned into scores. Kilbree's backs were superb including Kate O'Donovan, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill and Orlagh O'Neill Callanan.

Winning this final is an incredible achievement for a small West Cork club. Captain Kate O'Donovan accepted the cup on behalf of her team. Mary Murphy was thrilled to receive a trophy as player of the match. The management team of Deirdre O'Leary, Anna

O'Neill, Tony O'Neill and Aidan O'Shea deserve great credit for the work they have done with this incredible group of girls.

On Saturday night, the girls attended the Kilmeen and Castleventry community barbeque to celebrate their wonderful success. They were joined by the U16 hurlers for a joint celebration.

Team: Heather Brimble, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan, Orlagh O'Neill Callanan, Mary Murphy, Emily O'Donovan (2-1), Rachel Deasy (1-0), Caoimhe Murphy (1-3), Sinead O'Sullivan, Niamh McCarthy, Alison Collins (3-0), Róisín O'Carroll, Emer O'Connell, Lucy Collins, Orla O'Donovan.

The county semi-final took place on the previous Tuesday



Champions: Caoimhe Murphy, Sinead O'Sullivan and Heather Brimble celebrate Kilbree's U12 county final win.

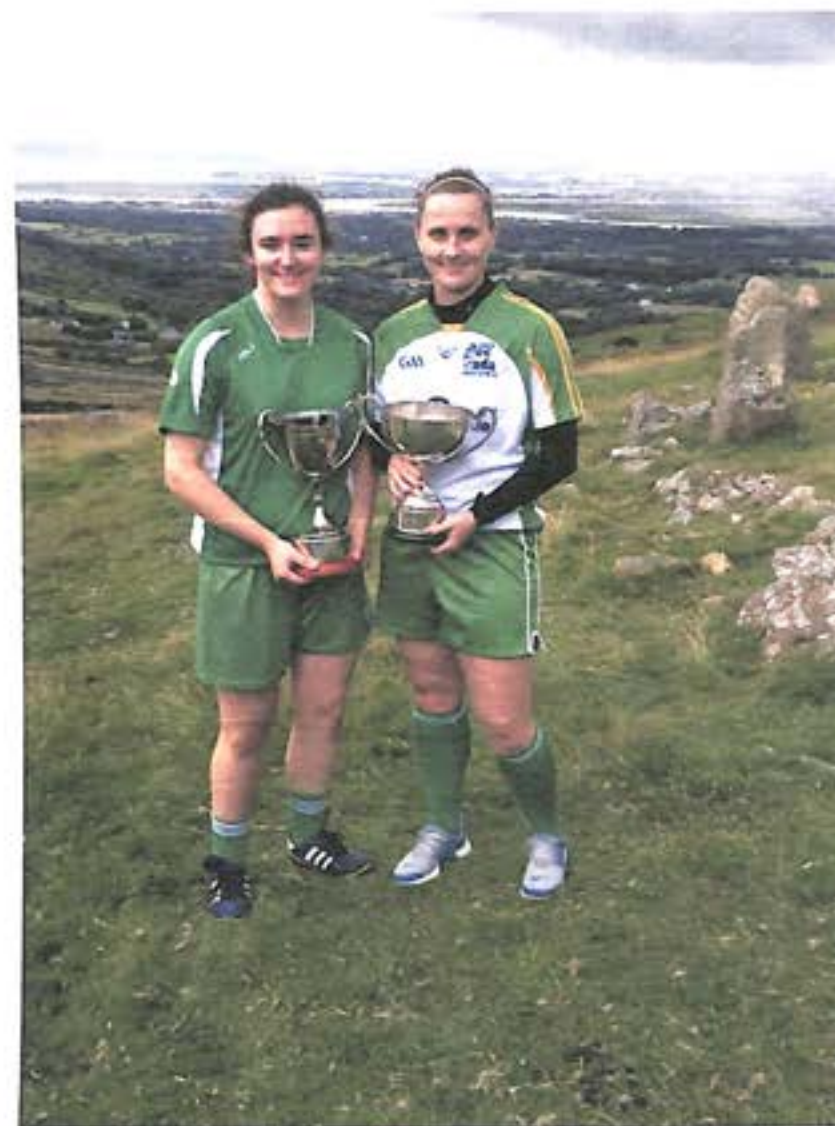
evening in Riverstick when Kilmeen defeated a strong Blackrock team by 6-4 to 2-1.

Team: Heather Brimble, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan (0-2), Orlagh O'Neill Callanan, Mary Murphy, Rachel Deasy, Caoimhe Murphy (4-2), Sinead O'Sullivan, Niamh McCarthy, Alison Collins (2-0), Róisín O'Carroll, Emer O'Connell, Lucy Collins, Orla O'Donovan.

July
2016

Murray and Healy claim Poc Fada titles

By Camogie Press
Posted 31/07/2016



A NEW name was added to the M Donnelly All-Ireland Camogie roll of honour with Aoife Murray taking the honours on the Annaverna Mountain in Ravensdale.

There have been just five victors since Galwegian Stephanie Glennon claimed the inaugural title in 2005, and Waterford's Trish Jackman has established herself as a legend of the competition by winning seven years in a row.

Injury prevented the Gal. Tir star from attempting to make that eight and Murray took full advantage, taking the spoils finishing with 27 pocs and 68 metres.

Links Community 5

Murray has enjoyed a wonderful career with Cork, garnering All-Irelands, National Leagues and All-Stars and she had 33 metres to spare from another Cork representative Lyndsey Condeli with Dublin's Faye McCarthy back in third.

The award-laden goalkeeper led at the first turn with 13 shots from McCarthy, with Condeli, who was champion two years in a row before Jackman claimed her maiden title back in 2009, back in third.

Murray maintained her advantage right the way to the end, with Condeli leap-frogging beyond McCarthy to claim the runner-up position.

Sarah Healy was the first U16 champion 12 months ago and the Galway teenager repeated the trick, improving her tally last year by four shots as she posted a score of 28 pocs and 30 metres.

Milford hold off a brave Cloughduv fightback

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Milford 0-10
Cloughduv 0-8

ALL-IRELAND champions Milford had to withstand a huge Cloughduv rally to win this senior county championship first round contest in Castle Road.

Cloughduv battled for a late goal that would have given them the spoils but it was the champions who just held out.

Driving rain and wind favoured Milford in the opening half and they had opened up a four-point lead before Niamh O'Leary pointed a Cloughduv free 19 minutes in. Aoife Murray who was in superb form denied Maria Watson with an excellent save but striking three points without reply the holders had stretched their lead before Niamh O'Leary's point before the break kept Cloughduv in the hunt.

Driven on by the superb Briege Corkery at centre back and with Ann Marie Ryan, Ciara Hughes and Aoife Barry Murphy all standing up and being counted Cloughduv got stuck in from the start of the second half. Twice the sides swapped points but Cloughduv made Milford fight for everything they got. Aoife Murray showed just why she is the number one keeper in the country as she brought off incredible saves.

Ciara O'Leary and Marie Watson again swapped points on 55 minutes but still Milford could not pull away. With four minutes remaining five points separated the sides and from here to the full time whistle it was all Cloughduv, Niamh O'Leary and Ann Marie Ryan pointed to put just three points between them and with O'Leary pointing on 59 minutes the champions were under severe pressure.

Cork captain Ashling Thompson, who did not start because of an ankle injury, was introduced by Milford and she helped settle the defence.

Briege Corkery drove forward in search of a score and took the option of offloading possession when maybe a point was there for the taking. Cloughduv had time and another raid almost brought the goal.

Milford can look forward to the winners round while Cloughduv will go into the back door round.

Scorers for Milford: M Watson 0-4, E Watson 0-3, A Dillon 0-2, K Galvin 0-1.

Cloughduv: N O'Leary 0-4 (0-1), A M Ryan 0-2, C O'Leary 0-2 (0-1).

MILFORD: R Duggan, L Healy, E O'Riordan, D Hayes, A Galvin, A Watson, A Geary, M Walsh, O O'Mahony, K Galvin, E Watson(c), L Stack, E O'Gorman, M Watson, A Dillon.

Sub: A Thompson for A Dillon (58).

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray, N McCarthy, Aileen Buckley, Aisling Buckley, G O'Sullivan, B Corkery, A Corkery, G Barry-Murphy (c), M Corkery, K Verling, N O'Leary, C Hughes.

AM Ryan, S Bateman, R Hurley.

Subs: C O'Leary for K Verling (40), A Murray for S Bateman (55).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Barryroe GAA

Home success in U10 camogie final

THERE was home success in the Paula O'Leary Memorial U10 Camogie Cup and Shield competitions for 2016 that were staged in Barryroe last Saturday.

Barryroe were joined by Clonakilty, Enniskene and Valley Rovers for the now annual event on the calendar.

Conditions were ideal and the large number of supporters were entertained by what they saw. To the delight of the locals, both Barryroe teams made the finals.

Up first was the Shield final and a young Barryroe team had to give way to a stronger Enniskene team, but left their coach Mark Hand proud of their performance.

The Cup final pitted Barryroe against Clonakilty. In a very close game, a stout defence and opportunistic goals by Sarah Harte, Emma Collins and Madeline McCarthy tipped the result in Barryroe's favour.

Joe O'Leary performed the presentation of medals to all participants and the trophies to Enniskene and Barryroe.

The Barryroe squad included Alannah Sexton, Ciardha McCarthy, Emma Collins, Mia O'Driscoll, Aoibhinn McK-



We did it! The Barryroe team celebrates after winning the cup final in the Paula O'Leary Memorial U10 Camogie tournament last Saturday.

eogh, Denise Fleming, Meabh O'Sullivan, Sarah Harte, Caoimhe Whelton, Saoirse Whelton, Riona Collins, Loren Hitz, Joanne O'Sullivan, Jill McCarthy, Ella McSweeney, Lucy Kirby, Natalie McCarthy, Leah Fleming Hand, Olive O'Flynn, Rachel Flynn, Lola O'Donnell and Madeline McCarthy.

A busy week on the GAA fields also saw a great win by the U15 Ibane Gaels footballers against Inniscarra in the county quarter-final, finishing 4-14 to 4-10, two of Ibane Gaels goals coming in the last five minutes in a barnstorming finish.

The junior B hurlers had no such luck, going down in a

battling championship performance, 1-3 to Bantry's 0-10. All is not lost however as they now enter the drum for the junior C draw.

The U16 camogie players had a convincing win over a game St Colum's in their first round championship game, winning out 7-12 to 0-2. The U14A

footballers on Monday night rounded off a busy weekend beating Castlehaven 3-21 to 2-4 in a league game.

All roads lead to Páirc Uí Rinn this Saturday night for the eagerly anticipated U21 county B Final with Ibane Gaels taking on Clyda Rovers, throw-in 6:15pm.

McCarthy goal double not enough for Cork

Kilkenny 2-17
Cork 3-11

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

AIDED by the strong wind in the opening half, Kilkenny set the foundations for victory in this All-Ireland U16 A semi-final as they led by nine points at the break in McDonagh Park, Nenagh, yesterday.

Suzie Alward and Danielle Morrissey settled them into the game with early points to which Saoirse McCarthy replied with a Cork pointed free. Eimear Farrell and Cliona Healy exchanged points, but with Danielle Morrissey, Aoife Doyle and Caoimhe Dowling firing over six from play without reply, Kilkenny forged ahead.

Battling hard, Cork had a few chances. Twice Cliona Healy pointed frees after the Kilkenny defence were punished, but Kilkenny finished the half stronger to lead 0-13 to 0-4.

Kilkenny got a great start to the second half, Danielle Morrissey pointing twice. Emma Murphy had Cork's first point from play four minutes into the second half but Kilkenny hit back with an Eimear Farrell goal. Cork hit five points in a row with Saoirse McCarthy, Cliona Healy, and Emma Murphy on target.

Aoife Doyle of Kilkenny dispatched a superb

crossfield pass from Caoimhe Doyle to the net. Cork responded with a Cliona Healy goal but they were soon 10 points behind.

Saoirse McCarthy scored two goals in the closing minutes, but time just ran out for Cork.

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Morrissey 0-8 (0-3), 0-1 (45), A Doyle 1-4, E O'Farrell 1-1, C Dowling 0-2, C Carter, S Alward 0-1 each. Cork: C Healy 1-7, S McCarthy 2-2 (1-1), E Murphy 0-2.

KILKENNY: L Dunne, L Quigley, M Brennan, C Kennedy, A Gallagher, R Kent, N Carter, C Dowling (c), A Doyle, D Morrissey, K Brennan, L Donnelly, E Farrell, S Alward, K Ryan. Sub: S Fitzgerald for M Brennan (55). CORK: M Lynch, O Fahy, A Buckley (c), S O'Sullivan, G Collins, K Daly, E Buckley, S McCarthy, L Hayes, C Healy, M Barrett, F Neilligan, C Mullins, E Murphy, A Hurley. Subs: M Fitzpatrick for L Hayes (35), S McHale for G Collins (40), C Harney for A Hurley (47), S Bateman for M Barrett (54). Ref: Eamonn Cassidy (Derry).



Aghada Camogie Club

U16A Challenge match

Teams: St Finbars V Aghada

Venue: St Finbar GAA

Date: Wednesday 27 July

2016

Aghada travelled to St Finbars for an U16 challenge game. On the night Aghada were only missing one player from their pan-

el due to injury. St Finbars were missing a number of their players due to holidays. Both sides had met earlier in the year with St Finbars coming out on top by a goal. The Aghada girls have been working hard in training over the last few months and have played a number of challenge matches. The majority of the panel have been playing minor and junior football with the club over the sum-

mer and this has improved their fitness. From the start of the game Aghada were dominant, and played extremely well as a team and scored some brilliant points. After 20 minutes Aghada gave the four substitutes a run out. Aghada were well on top and 10 minutes into the second half rested a number of players as they have a minor football match the following night. St finbars never gave up and had

a number of balls cleared off the Aghada goal line in the second half. The Aghada goal keeper brought off three great saves to keep a clean sheet. The backline played well as a unit and made it difficult for the opposition to get a clean strike. The blocking and the hooking was immense throughout the game. The Aghada mentors were extremely happy with the performance of the team as they played well and supported each other throughout the game. The sliotar

was always moved onto another player who was in a better scoring position; this was seen by the number of scorers on the night. Aghada had eight different scorers. Final score Aghada 3-14 to St Finbars 0-03.

Team: R O'Callaghan, K Terry, A Rose, E Cronin, K Stafford(0-02), E Boylan(1-01),

S Leahy(0-03), Aileen McGrath, S Geary, A McGrath(1-01), M Leahy(0-04), R Barry,

C Walsh (1-01), C Stafford(0-01), L Walsh, M

Culligan, L McAllister (0-01), K O'Farrell

Camogie

All-Ireland ICC Grp 1: Antrim 2-19 Tipperary 3-12;

Grp 2: Cork w/o Down, Kildare 2-15

Meath 2-9;

Premier JCC: Limerick 2-6 Kerry 2-6;

Dublin 2-6 Roscommon 2-8, Carlow 0-9

Armagh 1-7;

All-Ireland U16ACC semi-finals: Kil-

kenny 2-17 Cork 3-11, Galway 2-17 Dub-

lin 2-9;

All-Ireland U16CCC semi-final: Kildare

8-12 Armagh 1-8, Carlow 7-6 Cavan 3-5;

Leinster MCC: Offaly 4-6 Dublin 2-3;

Wexford 1-17 Kilkenny 2-10;

MBCC replay: Carlow 0-12 Dublin 0-5.

Camogie

LIBERTY INSURANCE INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1: Antrim 2-19 Tipperary 1-12, The Bagg

Group 2: Kildare 2-15 Meath 2-09, Clare, Cork v Down

(Conceded by Down)

Aug.
2016

AUG
2016

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW
All-Ireland U16 A
Championship semi-final
Cork v Kilkenny,
McDonagh Park, 1pm.

TOMORROW all roads lead to Nenagh where the Cork U16 A side will battle it out with Kilkenny for a place in the All-Ireland final.

Having lost out in the final last season to Galway, Cork are determined to get back and make amends.

It will be a hard battle against a strong Kilkenny side that topped their group with four wins out of four games and they will be hoping to continue their good form and progress through to the All-Ireland final.

They showed huge confidence as they went undefeated through the group they began their campaign with a 2-14 to 1-10 victory over Waterford they followed this up with a 4-18 to 0-7 victory over Limerick.

In their third game, they emerged victorious after an impressive 0-10 to 0-3 victory margin against a Dublin that still finished as group runner-up to take a semi-final spot.

In their final group game they proved too strong for Clare and recorded an impressive 3-26 to 1-4 victory on Sunday last.

Cork have been motoring along nicely and also displaying a good run of form and finished second behind champions Galway in their group. They began their campaign with a highly impressive 8-14 to 1-6 victory over Offaly they followed this up with a 0-13 to 2-7 draw with Tipperary in a game they should have closed out.

In their third game, they defeated Wexford 2-11 to 1-4. Last weekend in their final game they lost out by a goal to a strong Galway side 4-8 to 1-14 but going into the contest they had done enough to have their semi-final spot secured.

Tomorrow's clash has the makings of a classic. Many neutrals have Kilkenny installed as favourites going on their performances to date. Without a doubt they have impressed in their campaign and have a lot of excellent performers.

Eimear Farrell, Suzie Alward, Danielle Morrissey, Aoife Doyle and Kym Ryan have all been prominently on the scoresheet in all their outings.

In defence, Lucy Power, Dearbhail O'Keeffe, Caroline Kennedy, Alanna Gallagher and Ruth Kent are strong performers and they will battle to the finish to make it to the final. Cork have been steadily improving all season they got a huge pre-championship boost taking the Munster title in March when they overcame the challenge of a good

U16s ready to fight hard for final spot



Poc Fada winners Sarah Fahy of Galway, U16 Camogie, left, and Aoife Murray of Cork, Senior Camogie, at the M Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada in the Annaverna Mountain, Ravensdale, Co Louth.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Tipperary side to be crowned champions.

Cliona Healy is an excellent performer and will trouble the Kilkenny defence.

Claire Mullins, Emma Murphy, Fiona Nelligan, Moira Barrett, Saoirse McCarthy and captain Aileen Buckley have all contributed enormously in this campaign to date. And mentors Ger Horgan, Mick Boland and Pauline O'Regan have them in tip-top condition.

Selector Mike Boland is looking forward to the challenge Kilkenny will pose to their young charges.

"We know we have a big task on our hands but we have prepared well, the players have been superb and have really put in a massive ef-

fort. We have got huge support from everybody and they have all rowed in behind the team and this is important for the girls."

Looking back at last weekend's game where Cork lost out narrowly to Galway they were disappointed not to win it they were happy to have gotten a good hard game in the lead up to the semi-final.

"Our game against Galway was great for us it was a tough hard game and that is what you need. We never gave up and were there to the final whistle. We could have got a result and were a little bit unlucky but the girls are determined to get into the final and maybe have another meeting with Galway. We are going all out to win on Sunday."



Alan O'Mara, Ashling Thompson and Gary Sice launch the 2016 GAA Health & Wellbeing Theme Day.

Intermediates given a walkover after topping group

WHAT should have been our preview of the last round of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate championship this afternoon as Cork were to take on Down is now not relevant.

Late on Thursday night Cork received notification that Down would not be travelling to Cork and were conceding the game. Cork were going into the clash with their All-Ireland semi-final spot already safely secured following on a splendid campaign which has seen them record victories over Kildare, Meath and Galway.

Topping group two on full points, Cork were bidding to make it four wins on the trot and more importantly go top of the group something which they now do. Kildare and Meath won't be happy with Down conceding the game as they trail Cork and as they play each other this afternoon.

There was a possibility that had Cork lost to Down Kildare or Meath could have overtake them to win

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

the group as they were on better scoring averages with Kildare on a plus 30 and Meath on plus 27, while Cork were on plus 15.

It was highly unlikely that Cork would have lost out as Down have not enjoyed a good season losing out comprehensively to Meath 3-21 to 0-9, Galway 4-13 to 1-6 and Kildare 7-14 to 0-5, their defensive record has not been good.

While it is disappointing not to get a game ahead of the All-Ireland semi-final outing, we must give huge credit to this group of Cork players who had to battle all the way before a ball was struck. Earlier in the season they had to fight the big battle to get players re-graded and having forfeited on playing in all but two National league games they have put in a huge

effort to secure their semi-final spot.

The re-grading saga most definitely brought the group closer together and bound them as a tight group and this is something no amount of training can achieve.

The comradery and commitment to one another has been so obvious in their championship campaign and hopefully they will successfully get over the last hurdle and make it to Croke Park it is no more that they deserve.

Group one is a very close and is going down to the wire Kilkenny top the group with Laois and Tipperary tied in second.

Laois play Kilkenny this weekend with Tipperary meeting Antrim, should Laois lose to Kilkenny and Tipperary defeat Antrim this one goes to scoring differences to decide second place.

Cork will be keeping a keen eye as to see who will be their opponents will be.

Murray collects another big prize

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A NEW name was added to the Martin Donnelly All-Ireland Camogie roll of honour as Cork and Cloughduv star goalkeeper Aoife Murray took the honours on the Annaverna Mountain on Saturday last.

She held off strong opposition to take the All-Ireland Camogie Long Puc title for the first time.

There have been just five winners of the camogie title since Galway's Stephanie Glennon claimed the inaugural title in 2005 and Waterford's Trish Jackman has established herself as a legend and queen of the competition by winning seven years in a row.

Now there is a new kid on the block, with Aoife Murray taking the title finishing with 27 pucks in 68 metres.

Murray has and continues to enjoy a wonderful career with Cork and has won practically every honour in the game. She is an underage and adult All-Ireland senior medal winner, while National Leagues and All-Stars awards have also come her way in a career that has spanned over 20 years.

This was another first for the Cloughduv star and she turned in a tremendous display as she competed for the first time she had 33 metres to spare from another Cork representative, Carlow native Lyndsey Condell, with Dublin's Faye McCarthy coming in third.

Putting in a huge performance, Aoife Murray maintained her advantage right the way to the end and in a close finish Lyndsey Condell overtook Faye McCarthy to claim the runner-up position.

In total six adult camogie players participated including inter-county players Galway's Susan Earner and Sinead Skehill and Clara Donnelly from Derry.

Sarah Healy from Galway was the first U16 champion 12 months ago when the underage camogie section was introduced and the Galway teenager repeated her display to hold onto her title.

In an excellent showing, she improved her tally on last year by four shots as hit 28 pucks and 30 metres. Cork and Munster representative Mairead O'Sullivan from Banteer acquitted herself superbly.

Pushing the holder all the way she came in second place with 30 pucks on 34 metres just two pucks behind the winner, a huge achievement for Mairead competing for the first time in the competition.

The hurling competition also had a new king crowned with Clare's James McInerney making it a Munster double, while Cathal Kiely from Offaly took the U16 male title.

Well done to Aoife Murray on another milestone in a splendid career.

Cork camogie club notes, news and results



The Douglas U8 team,

Douglas Camogie Club

We would like to thank EBS Bank based at East Village, Douglas for sponsoring T-Shirts for all of our U6, U8 and U10 players recently. Many thanks to Robbie O'Dwyer, the girls really appreciate the sponsored T-Shirts.

U10 Our U10s played two recent U10 go games matches with 2 different panels of players.

On June 23rd in Douglas Community School, Douglas played a very exciting game against Ballinora. The ball was moving quickly end to end with some great scores from both sides including a pointed free from the half way line. Both teams gave equally impressive displays in front of a very enthusiastic crowd. Scores were level all the way through which led to the match ending in a welter of excitement.

Team: Ashling Dorgan, Emma O'Driscoll, Faye Nodwell, Grace O'Keefe, Grace O'Mahony, Heather Cunningham, Kate Hourigan, Molly Birmingham, Orlaith Morrissey, Shona Twomey, Sophie Rudock, Anna Butler, Loran Hourigan. On June 30th in Toghra, Douglas played another U10 go games fixture against The Barrs with a different panel of players. The Barrs started off with a flurry of scores with some excellent points from distance. Douglas grew into the game and gave their all for the remainder with some excellent goals scored in the second half. Douglas defended very strongly with superb ground hurling and hip to hip challenges by both teams.

Team: Laura Reen, Anna Lacane, Rebecca Downey, Amy Clark, Aoife Keenaghan, Cara O'Leary, Ella Lesniak, Sarah Murphy, Sarah O'Mahony, Clodagh Morrison, Lara Sheehan. Our U8s have had a great season so far and all the training indoors during the winter has been paying dividend on the pitch.

On June 28th a big Douglas panel of players travelled to Ballinacorney for 3 challenge matches in Walsh Park. Three tremendous matches were played at the same time between evenly matched teams. Some great goals were scored by all six teams with great excitement to the finish of all matches. The skill levels displayed by all played from both clubs was excellent, keep up the good work girls.

Team: Mia Smith, Sinead Audley, Natalia Klimasewska, Nadiya Yalova, Luch McGinn, Lily Nodwell, Hannah Hunt, Fionula Corby, Fiadh O'Leary, Ellen McGovern, Cora Downey, Ava Hickey, Anna Rose Carroll, Amy McAuliffe, Emily Ryan, Grace Twomey, Jessica Grant, Mary O'Shea, Niamh O'Riordan, Orlaith Byrne, Rachel Morrison, Sarah McAuliffe, Shannon Bresnan, Sophie Lynch, Isabella Ray, Isabella Scriven, Maria Moore, Aoibheann Downey, Ava Kenny, Dearbhla O'Mahony, Kim Hayes, Jessica Ryan, Rachel Ryan. U10 camogie training resumes on Monday August 8th at 6pm in the GAA pitch.

U8 camogie training resumes on Monday August 22nd at 4.45pm in the GAA pitch.

Kilbree Camogie

U12 County Champions Kilbree U12 camogie girls were crowned county champions, in Ballinacorney on Saturday 30th July. Tracton were the opposition. Both sides had a strong run into this final. Tracton started stronger and scored a great opening goal. Kilbree settled into this half with some great scores by Alison Collins, Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan. A goal by Tracton,



The Kilbree U12 side who are county champions for 2016.

just before half time ensured Kilbree would have to fight hard in the second half. The half-time score was Kilbree 3-01 to Tracton's 2-02.

The Kilbree girls played with great skill and determination in the second half. They fought hard for each other and dominated the second half. Goals by Caoimhe Murphy, Emily O'Donovan, Alison Collins and Rachel Deasy ensured Kilbree's dominance.

Kilbree's backs were superb including Kate O'Donovan, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill and Orlagh O'Neill Callanan. Kilbree maintained most of the possession and worked extremely hard as a team, to ensure they would be victorious. The final score was Kilbree 7-04 to Tracton's 2-02.

There were incredible scenes of joy at the final whistle. This is an incredible achievement for a small West Cork club. Captain Kate O'Donovan accepted the cup on behalf of her team. Mary Murphy was thrilled to receive a trophy as "player of the match". The management team of Deirdre O'Leary, Anna O'Neill, Tony O'Neill and Aidan O'Shea deserve great credit for the work they have done with this incredible group of girls.

On Saturday night, the girls attended the Kilmeen & Castleberry Community Barbeque to celebrate their wonderful success. They were joined by the Kilbree's U16 West Cork Hurling Champions for a joint celebration. Thanks to everyone involved in organising this barbeque, it was the perfect celebration for both groups of champions!

Team: Heather Brimble, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan, Orlagh O'Neill Callanan, Mary Murphy, Emily O'Donovan (2-01), Rachel Deasy (1-00), Caoimhe Murphy (1-03), Sinead O'Sullivan, Niamh McCarthy, Alison Collins (3-00), Roisin O'Carroll, Emer O'Connell, Lucy Collins and Orla O'Donovan.

The county semi-final took place on Tuesday July 26th in Riverstick. A strong Blackrock side were the opposition. Kilbree got a great start with two goals by Caoimhe Murphy and one by Alison Collins in the first quarter. Kilbree fought for every ball and defended fiercely against a very skilful Blackrock side. They did not give Blackrock the opportunity to settle on any ball. The half-time score was Kilbree 4-1 to Blackrock's 0-1.

A goal by Blackrock in the opening minutes of the second half made this semi-final a real battle. Skill and determination ensured that Blackrock would only score one more goal in the second

half. Kate O'Donovan made a difference when she moved into the forwards, scoring two line points. Goals by Alison Collins and Caoimhe Murphy ensured Kilbree finished strongly. The final score was Kilbree 8-04 to Blackrock's 2-01.

Team: Heather Brimble, Cara Collins, Maeve O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan (0-02), Orlagh O'Neill Callanan, Mary Murphy, Rachel Deasy, Caoimhe Murphy (4-02), Sinead O'Sullivan, Niamh McCarthy, Alison Collins (2-00), Roisin O'Carroll, Emer O'Connell, Lucy Collins and Orla O'Donovan.

Midleton Camogie

On Sunday evening last following a closely contested match against Cobh on home ground our U15s top their group in the Imokilly league and will go on to play Castletynes in the semi-final. Our U13s, despite a loss this past week against Castletynes also secured a semi-final place against Cobh. Dates and time of both semi-finals to be confirmed.

Training: U6/U8/U10: Friday 7.15-8.15pm Midleton GAA Club U12/U14: Tuesday 7-8pm St Colman's. Fridays 7.15-8.15pm GAA Club Any changes to training schedule will be text to par-

ents.

Kilworth Camogie Junior Junior Camogie Championship R4 - Kilworth V Ballinora in Ballinora on Sunday August 14th at 7pm.

Follow us on Social Media Keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the club by following us on Twitter: @KilworthCamogie or add us as your friend on Facebook by typing in the name "Kilworth Camogie". Main Sponsor J Kenneally Construction.

Sarsfields Camogie Notes

Senior A It's over 20 years since the club played at the highest level of competition in the County and it is good to be back. We drew the formidable Douglas in the first round and knew the task would not be an easy one. We held our own and had quite a few goal scoring chances in the last 10 minutes but it was not to be. Douglas held on to win 1-12 to 0-08. A gutsy performance and one we will learn from.

Junior B The Junior B Championship campaign is well underway with one win and one defeat to date. Sars secured a confident 3-06 to 0-09 victory over St Finbarrs in the first round. Our girls travelled to Ballinacorney for their second match and were faced with very strong opposition, narrowly losing a tightly fought contest by 2-08 to 2-06. The games have been very beneficial and will stand to us later in the campaign. U17 Imokilly Well done to our U17 panel who took part in the U17 Imokilly Blitz hosted by Fr O'Neills.

Our girls won both their games against Cobh and our hosts. Thanks to all involved in organising a great day of camogie action!

U14 Congratulations to our U14 panel and selectors on winning the July Rebel Og Award - well deserved for all the trojan work over the last number of months and recognition of their great success in winning the All Ireland Feile Div 1 competition.

The team also took part in the U14 'A' League Final against Ballinora in Ballinacorney. Ballinora were in great form with a very impressive team performance and were crowned worthy League champions. Hard luck to our girls.

U12 Well done to our U12 'A' panel who have reached the County Final after a great win in the semi final in Castle Road against a very good Ballygarvan team. Sars ran out winners by 4-11 to 3-02. Ballygarvan levelled with 2 quick goals at the start of the 2nd half but we finished strongly. Some great performances by players on both teams. Well done girls!

They now meet Youghal in an all East Cork final, U13 & U15 Imokilly Leagues All our teams have just completed their programme of fixtures and await news of qualification. We had to work around county fixtures this year but we just about managed to get them all in.

Summer Camp: We held another successful Summer Camp at the start of July. Great fun and games and loads of camogie skills for the large number of girls who attended. Thanks to our sponsors John and Roisin Murray of Sherry Fitzgerald Lettings, to all the wonderful coaches, to Sars Hurling for the use of the magnificent pitch and to everyone who put in so much effort organising this year's camp. Well done to all the girls who took part and had such fun. You really deserved your ice cream cones on the last day!



O'Neills back to Winning Ways

Fr O'Neills 2:6 Carrigaline 1:6

Our Senior girls travelled to the home ground of Cork Camogie in Castle road last Tuesday to take

Fr O'Neill's Camogie

on Carrigaline in Round Two of the Senior B Camogie Championship.

This was a must win game, for both teams as both teams lost their first round games. And what a game it was, two committed teams gave it their all. Carrigaline started the stronger attacking the O'Neill goal, but wayward

shooting did not help their cause. The O'Neills defence was brilliant on the night only conceding four points in the first half.

A great goal by Kate Harrington in the 13th minute settled the nerves and we started to play better. At half time Fr O'Neills were ahead by 1:3 to 4 points. Half way

through the second half we found ourselves four points behind, and Carrigaline playing well and winning the battle for the loose ball. With five minutes to go the girls found an inner strength and went to salvage the game. Some well taken points and a goal the girls turned a 4 point deficit to a 3 point win.

This was a fantastic result from a near to full strength Fr O'Neills team.

The girls really had to fight to pull this one out of the bag. Well done girls.

Team: Nicola Nagle, Aoife Higgins, Yvonne Murphy, Rebecca Walsh, Rachel Steele, Ciara McGrath, Meave Steele, Emily O'Keefe, Kate Ahearn, Keelagh Cullinane, Ciara O'Neill, Aisling Bernard, Lucy Lawton, Sharon Murphy, Kate Harrington, Niamh Cowhig, Linda Hayes, Rebecca O'Brien, Lisa

Ahearn, Leanne Woods, Sarah Harrington, Ciara O'Doherty.

Club news

- Well done to all the U15 girls who had a great win over Killeagh on Sunday, 24 July, best of luck to all involved as they take on Aghada next Sunday 7 August at home for 5.30

- The U16s play Dungourney in their semi-final on the 19 August, venue to be decided

- Seniors next game is with Barryroe on Tuesday 9 August - (round three), venue to be decided

Please see pictures below of See-Saw fund raising event held in Garryvroe last Saturday, 30 July. Many thanks to the organiser's, girls who took part in the challenge as well as all the local people including visitors who supported the club on the day.



Kilkenny and Kildare join Cork in last four

CAMOGIE

■ Daragh Ó Conchuir

KILKENNY and Kildare joined Cork in the last four of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship but Antrim and Laois must wait until the latter's clash with the Cats before the final berth is decided.

The Kilkenny-Laois game was postponed and with Antrim edging Tipperary in a cracking tie at The Ragg by 2-19 to 3-12, they are now level with the O'Moores on points but have an inferior score difference of 18 points.

That means that Laois can afford to lose by less than 17 points to advance, while they would need a 20-point win to give them the top seeding from Group 1 ahead of the No-residers.

Racquel McCarry, Caitrín Dobbin and Aisling McFadden inflamed the damage for Antrim, scoring eight points, five points and a goal and four points, respectively, to keep the Ulster girls' noses in front, while Emma McMullan also raised a green flag.

Tipperary more than contributed their share in a pulsating affair. Sinéad Meagher pounced for two goals and a point, while Aoife McLoughney contributed a goal and four points but although Kealy Lenihan weighed in with three points, it was Antrim's greater overall scoring power that earned the victory.

In Group 2, Down awarded a walkover to Cork, who had already assured themselves of a semi-final spot.

The big game here was the clash between old rivals Meath and Kildare in Clane to decide who would join the Rebels in the penultimate stages.

And although they had a penalty saved very early on by Emily Mangan, it was the hosts that exerted themselves in the first half and maintained the upper hand right the way through to take the spoils by 2-15 to 2-9.

This was despite failing to contain the ever-dangerous Jane Dolan but the problem for Meath was that they could not provide even a modicum of support to their talisman, who finished with a personal tally of two goals and eight points.

Kildare were a much more rounded unit and while Susie O'Carroll lofted eight points and Siobhán Hurley a goal and four points, last year's finalists had other contributors to the scoring cause, as well as in general play.

The All Whites led by 1-9 to 0-5 at half time, the goal coming from Noelle Earley, but Dolan single-handedly dragged Meath back into it and the Royals got back to within a point entering the closing stages.

They didn't score again though. Instead, Hurley took all the air out of the comeback with her goal and a couple more points cemented the last four spot, most likely against Kilkenny.

AUG.
2016

Minor girls reach final

WEXFORD
KILKENNY

1-17
2-10

WEXFORD PUT a disappointing All-Ireland series behind them to shock Kilkenny in the Leinster Minor camogie championship semi-final at Thomastown on Friday.

The Slaneysiders won just one game in Group 2 of the All-Ireland championship but defied the form book to send semi-finalists Kilkenny packing, setting up a title decider with Offaly on August 28.

County Seniors Una Sinnott and Sarah O'Connor combined for 1-12 of Wexford's total while Aoife Guiney and impressive substitute Róisín Kelly also got their names on the scoresheet in their county's best performance of the season.

While Sinnott opened the scoring after good work by clubmate Aoife Curran, hosts Kilkenny hit back with the game's opening goal moments later. Importantly, Wexford responded immediately when Orla Molloy created a chance that Sinnott took to give her side a 1-1 to 1-0 lead.

Mia Griffin equalised for the Kittens but Wexford soon got themselves on a strong run. Sarah O'Connor popped over a dead-ball after Guiney was impeded, and the St. Martin's starlet followed it with another.

Una Sinnott brought her tally to 1-2 before Aoife Guiney opened her account to make it 1-5 to 1-1 after just nine minutes. When Craanford-Monaseed lynchpin Sinnott was upended, O'Connor notched her third free to give Wexford a five-point lead at the end of the opening quarter.

A goal and point from Blathnaid Galway dragged her county back into the game but O'Connor halted their momentum with her fourth score.

Rathnure clubwoman Guiney picked off a superb score and Aoife Curran responded, but Una Sinnott's late point gave Wexford a 1-9 to 2-3 interval lead.

Sinnott started the second-half as she ended the first, with a score. However, Kilkenny were always likely to have a good spell and that manifested in the third quarter.

They scored five points but points from Sinnott and Róisín Kelly kept the Slaneysiders ahead.

Sarah O'Connor's free made it 1-13 to 2-8 heading into the final quarter. Wexford missed a penalty after Orla Molloy was felled but Sinnott's sixth point kept the scoreboard ticking over.

O'Connor added her final score in the 53rd minute and a couple of late Róisín Kelly scores were enough to wrap up a superb victory.

Wexford: Emma Kiely; Derbhla Doyle, Leanne Foley, Aine Ennis; Orla Crowe, Rachel Kelly, Róisín Cooney; Sarah O'Connor (0-6 frees), Clodagh Jackman; Aoife Curran, Aoife Guiney (0-2), Oonagh Doyle; Una Sinnott (1-6), Orla Molloy, Aoife Dunne. Subs. - Róisín Kelly (0-3) for Dunne, Shauna Kelly for O. Doyle, also Liza Bates, Amy Conroy, Emma Furlong, Emma O'Dowd, Emma Codd, Aoife McCrea.

Kilkenny: Aoife Norris; Róisín Phelan, Hannah Scott, Ciara O'Shea; Nicole Garvey, Mairéad Kennedy, Aohba O'Gorman; Ella Moore, Mia Griffin (0-3); Ciara Phelan, Aoife Carroll (0-1), Blathnaid Galway (1-5, 1-4 frees, 0-1 '45); Aisling Morrissey (1-0), Hannah Irish, Helen Hoynes (0-1). Sub. - Eadaoin Murphy for Irish.

Referee: Pat Kehoe (Carlow).

Naomh Eanna 5-13 Cloughbawn 1-3: Naomh Eanna climbed to second place in the Intermediate camogie championship table following a comprehensive win over Cloughbawn on Saturday.

County Minor Orla Crowe was in scintillating form as she bagged an impressive 3-2 for the winners, with Ellen Roche also contributing to the total with an impressive 1-5.

Gorey now settle into the runners-up spot behind an impressive Bunclody side which maintains a perfect record. Oylegate-Glenbrien and Duffry Rovers, who both have two wins each, are tied in third spot, completing the top four as things stand at the moment.

Under-14 Roinn 1 play-off: Butlers Alley 6-7, Blackwater 1-2.

TUES. AUG. 9

AT FARMLEIGH: Junior 'A' league final, St. Ibar's/Shelmallee v. Rathnure, 7.30 p.m.

Junior 'B' championship (all 7.30 p.m.): Taghmon-Camross v. Fethard; Faythe Harriers v. Kilrush; Glynn-Barntown v. Marshinstown.

Junior 'C' championship (7.30 p.m.): Kilmore v. Bunclody.

Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



My five toughest Cork games

Eight-time All-Star recalls the hardest games she ever played in for the Rebels

WITH Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final against Wexford this Saturday at Semple Stadium (7pm), I began to think about the many games I was fortunate to play wearing the red of Cork, and these are the matches that still remain transfixed in my memory as the toughest and hardest-fought and, I suppose, most meaningful to me.

2003 All-Ireland final v Tipperary (lost 2-11 to 1-11)

Having beaten Tipp the year before in my first senior final, this knocked us back. We thought that Cork were on a winning streak and didn't expect Tipp to come back stronger this year.

Tipp were captained by the brilliant and reliable Una O'Dwyer and with just a goal between us it was a hard fought, physical, fast and highly skilful game. I remember being marked by Sinead Nealon, something I had gotten used to over the years when playing Tipp, but that never made it an easy feat.

Following this wake-up call and reality hit, it took us another year to get back on top. Tipp were very dominant in this period, but Cork were always on their heels and soon became the team to beat.

I don't think we ever went into a game against Tipp being arrogant or full sure we were going to win. They set the marker for what teams should be, they were awesome and I was very lucky to play against some of the greats on those teams – Jill Horan, Claire Grogan, Ciara Gaynor to name but a few.

4. 2010 All-Ireland semi-final replay v Galway (lost 0-10 to 0-9)

We were going for three in a row and I had just returned from Australia at Christmas 2009 – I found it tough to get back up to the speed expected at this level. I played hockey in the winter and tried to train harder than ever to ensure I could play a part on the team.

We never expected to find ourselves absent from the field of dreams entirely that year and it took us another four years to get back to that feeling of euphoria when you lift the O'Duffy cup. Galway were more hungry than us and I feel we were perhaps a little too complacent that year.

3. 2007 All-Ireland final v Wexford (lost 2-7 to 1-8)

I remember how much of a hard graft it was to break the Wexford defence. It was like trying to break through a solid brick wall. Wexford were awesome that year. It would begin the start of Wexford's dominance although they didn't quite show it until their three-in-a-row of 2010-12.

This was a loss that was hard to take for many reasons – a three-in-a-row chance dashed, Fiona O'Driscoll's last year with us as manager and depriving captain fantastic Gemma O'Connor the chance to lift that cup.

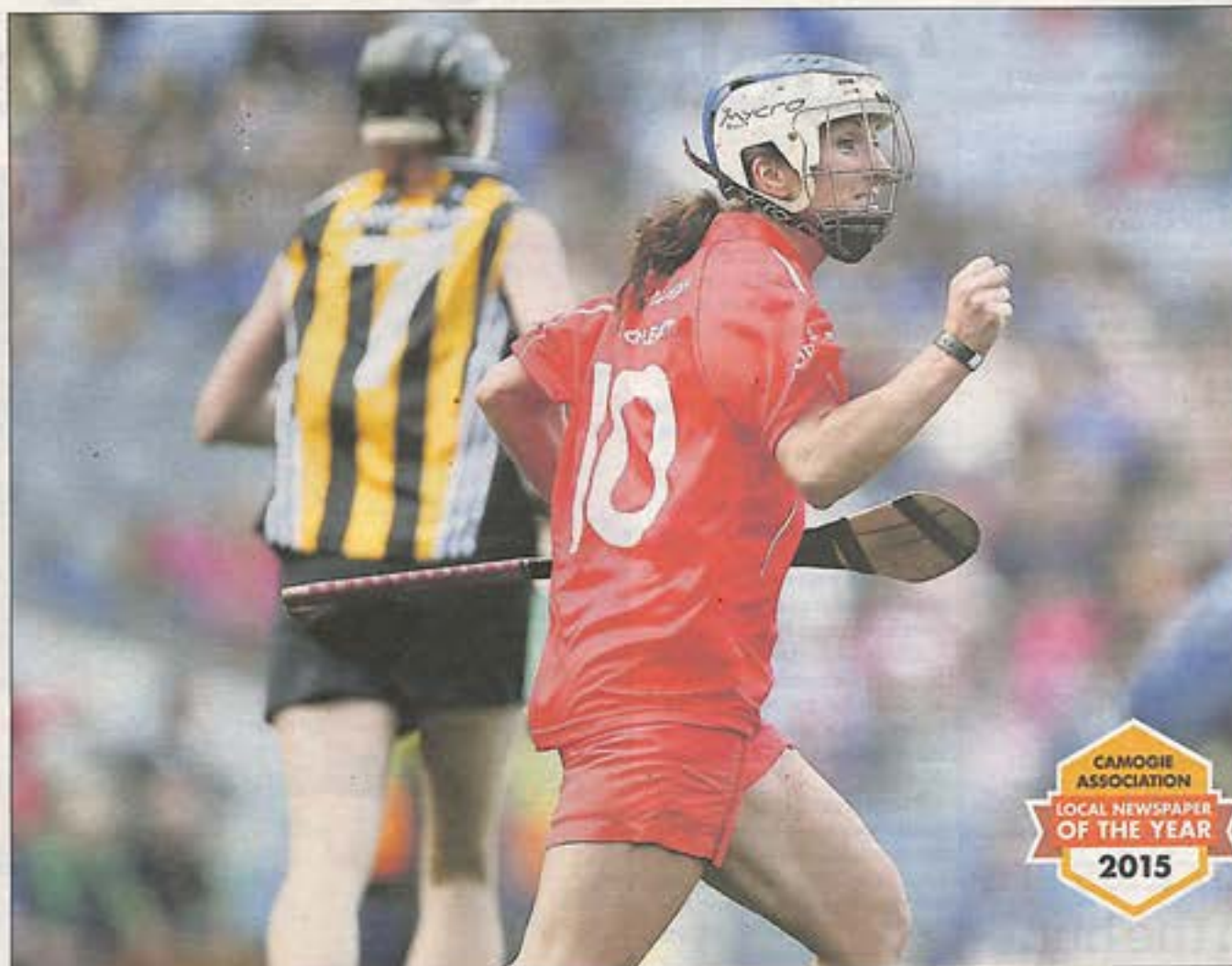
No matter when you play Wexford, they are a very difficult team to beat. They never ever give up. Following this defeat, I went travelling as I needed to take a break to enjoy camogie again.

2. 2014 All-Ireland semi-final v Wexford (draw, 1-9 each)

We won the replay on a scoreline of 1-15 to 0-8 but I don't think there was ever a semi-final that was so difficult to win. Cork were the better team throughout and we didn't take our chances when we should have.

If there's anything camogie has taught me, it's that you can never lie down against Wexford. You may think that a game is totally out of one's reach if there are only two minutes to go and you are four points up, but Wexford are one of those teams that never ever give up and can change a game entirely.

Within seconds their forwards make it look easy to score goals at any crucial stage. I had the opportunity to put us one ahead in the dying seconds of



Magic moment: Cork's Jennifer O'Leary celebrates scoring their first goal of the game against Kilkenny in the 2014 All-Ireland final in Croke Park. It's a game that meant a lot to the Barryroe great.

the game with a 45 at the sideline but unfortunately it went wide. It was one of those games where you left the field feeling totally spent, dejected by the draw but also angry that you couldn't grasp the win. It made us stronger and more determined going forward.

1. 2014 All-Ireland final v Kilkenny (won 2-12 to 1-9)

Words like intensity, speed, body-blows and frenzy come to mind when I think of this game.

It was a hard road to this final, having had the extra game with the semi-final replay to set us up for what was a gruelling tussle. I believe we were the underdogs going into this game, as Kilkenny had left every team shell-

shocked in their round-robin games. I don't think Cork have ever had to work so hard during each game of the championship to get to Croke Park but it sure felt amazing to get there.

This game has to top my list as being the toughest game I have ever played with the red jersey of Cork. Not only because of our opposition, a Kilkenny side who were showing why they had won numerous minor titles in years past, but for other underlying reasons that would test the playing ability of anyone.

I have to empathise with and admire Galway's Joe Canning in his recent interview after their All-Ireland quarter-final against Clare where he

expressed how hurling is, at the end of the day, just a hobby of his and how there are more important things in life like family, which always come first.

It made me think of how lucky he is to have an amazing escape in the form of the game he loves and it struck a chord with me because this is what camogie was for me in 2014. It helped me forget some of my personal heartaches for those few hours of training or matches in preparation for the big day in September. Having lost my mother in May of that year and my sister less than two weeks before the All-Ireland final, I can't express how much this game meant to me and all my family and friends.

It was definitely a difficult game to play with so many overwhelming emotions running through every sinew of my body. And being lucky enough to be in the position of scoring a goal, having trained hard enough to take the many body blows along the way and having the support of my strong family in the crowd and a formidable team by my side, it was a game that was meant to be, meant to be won by Cork that day.

The very best of luck to Cork in the semi-final, I know you will give everything on the day and leading up to it in training. It's fantastic that finally these important stages of the championship will be televised on RTE on Saturday. Come on Cork!



Sinnot sinks Kilkenny's Leinster title hopes

WRITTEN BY

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| | |
|----------|------|
| WEXFORD | 1-17 |
| KILKENNY | 2-10 |

Una Sinnott was the tormenter in chief, finishing with 1-6, as Wexford dethroned reigning Leinster minor champions Kilkenny.

The Model County side were quick off the mark, with Sinnott taking just 30 seconds to open her side's account.

Kilkenny's response was brilliant. Within seconds Aisling Morrissey got in for the game's opening goal, picking up Ciara Phelan's pass before drilling the sliotar home from the edge of the small square.

Anything Kilkenny could do, so could Wexford. From the resulting puck-out Una Sinnott gained possession, rounded her marker and fired past netminder Aoife Norris from 14 metres out.

Kilkenny levelled matters at 1-1 apiece with a Mia Griffin point but it wasn't long before Wexford got a foothold on the contest, shooting five points on the spin.

Sarah O'Connor started the run with a brace of two long range frees, the first from 65 metres, before adding an excellent long range free from 70 metres. Una Sinnott and Aoife Guiney

continued the good run before Sarah O'Connor's free made it 1-6 to 1-1 with 13 minutes on the clock.

Kilkenny bounced back, with Blathnaid Galwey rattling off a swift 1-1. She bagged a point from a free, then got Kilkenny's second goal when her 65 metre free fooled the Wexford defence and went straight to the net, leaving the Cats breathing down Wexford necks (1-6 to 2-2).

Wexford raised their game again, Sarah O'Connor (free) and Aoife Dunne striking minor scores to make it 1-8 to 2-2 with eight minutes left in the half.

Aoife O'Carroll pulled a point back for Kilkenny, shooting a solid score after some good work from Helen Hoynes. However, Wexford had the final say, Una Sinnott grabbing the last score of the half to make it a three-point game at the break (1-9 to 2-3).

The Model County side picked up where they had left off after the restart, with Una Sinnott stretching their lead with another point within 30 seconds of the resumption.

Kilkenny's response was swift, as they hit back with three points in succession. Blathnaid Galwey's placed ball score from 65 metres started a run which was continued by Helen Hoynes.

PURPLE PATCH

Kilkenny's purple patch almost yielded another goal on 37 minutes, but Wexford netminder Emma Kiely made a brilliant save to foil her foes. Blathnaid Galwey did point the resulting 45, narrowing the gap to a point (1-10 to 2-6)



Galway's Rebecca Hennelly and Kilkenny's Denise Gaule show off the O'Duffy Cup ahead of their All-Ireland semi-final clash. This year's semi-finals will be broadcast live on RTÉ One on Saturday. RTÉ's Gaelic Games presenter Michael Lyster will anchor the full live coverage with expert analysis from former All-Ireland winning Cork captain Anna Geary and former Tipperary All-Star and All-Ireland winner Jill Horan. Tickets can be purchased online from Tickets.ie or from selected Centra and SuperValu outlets. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the ground on the day of the match.

with more than 20 minutes left to play.

Wexford weren't about to yield, as Una Sinnott proved with a 41st minute point. From the resulting puck-out, second half sub Roisin Kelly won possession and sent the sliotar back from where it came to make it 1-12 to 2-6.

Those scores were quickly cancelled out by the Cats. Mia Griffin, from play, and Blathnaid Galwey (free) struck for Kilkenny, leaving just that single point between the

sides again (1-12 to 2-8).

Once more Wexford pushed on in an effort to put some daylight between the sides. Sarah O'Connor doubled their lead with a point, but they had a chance to surge clear when they were awarded a 46th minute penalty. O'Connor stepped up to take the shot, but her effort was brilliantly saved and Kilkenny cleared their lines.

Wexford shrugged off that miss, with Una Sinnott finishing a period of dominance

with another point to leave three between the teams again (1-14 to 2-8).

The challenge was laid at Kilkenny's feet - again, they hit back. Mia Griffin and Eimear Keoghan (free) chipped away two scores from the deficit, but Wexford closed out the contest when posting three points without reply.

Sarah O'Connor's pointed free steadied the ship. Roisin Kelly followed up with two points, both coming from

close to the 45 metre line, to leave her side 1-17 to 2-10 in front with normal time almost up.

Try as they might Kilkenny couldn't get the crucial scores to get back into the contest. Wexford held out to record a 1-17 to 2-10 victory and secure a final berth against Offaly, who overcame Dublin by 4-6 to 2-3 in the other semi-final.

Kilkenny will now play Dublin in the Shield final on August 28. A time and venue for the final has yet to be confirmed.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Blathnaid Galwey (1-4, 1-3 frees, 0-1 45); Aisling Morrissey (1-0); Mia Griffin (0-2); Eimear Keoghan (0-1, free); Aoife O'Carroll, Helen Hoynes, Ella Moore (0-1 each). Wexford - Una Sinnott (1-6); Sarah O'Connor (0-6, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45); Roisin Kelly (0-3); Aoife Guiney, Aoife Dunne (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Aoife Norris, Roisin Phelan, Hannah Scott, Ciara O'Shea, Nicole Garvey, Mairead Kennedy, Aobha O'Gorman, Ella Moore, Mia Griffin, Ciara Phelan, Aoife O'Carroll, Blathnaid Galwey, Aisling Morrissey, Hannah Irish, Helen Hoynes. Subs: Aoife Walsh, Eadoin Murphy, Eimear Keoghan, Caoimhe O'Shea, Amy Morrissey, Eimear Dolan, Nessa Galwey, Cliona Murphy, Sophie O'Dwyer, Tara Clifford, Aoife Holden, Niamh Deely, Michelle Teehan, Kate Drennan, Aileen O'Connor.

Wexford - Emma Kiely, Dearbhla Doyle, Leanne Foley, Aine Ennis, Orla Crowe, Rachel Kelly, Roisin Cooney, Sarah O'Connor, Clodagh Jackman, Aoife Curran, Aoife Guiney, Donagh Doyle, Una Sinnott, Orla Molloy, Aoife Dunne. Subs: Liza Bates, Amy Conroy, Shauna Kelly, Roisin Kelly, Emma Furlong, Emma O'Dowd, Emma Codd, Aoife McCrea. Referee - Pat Kehoe (Carlow).

Rebels rally, but Kilkenny hold firm to make final

| | |
|----------|------|
| KILKENNY | 2-17 |
| CORK | 3-11 |

They had to withstand a late fight back, but the Kilkenny under-16s team saw off Cork to earn an All-Ireland meeting with Galway.

Helped by a strong breeze the winners opened brightly, Suzie Aylward and Danielle Morrissey (45) rattling off two points inside the opening minute.

Cork responded with a Saoirse McCarthy free but Eimear Farrell edged Kilkenny two points clear again with a well-taken point from twenty one metres. Cliona Healy pulled a point back with a free for Cork, but Kilkenny unleashed six on the spin to take the game by the scruff of the neck.

Danielle Morrissey started the run with a brace

before Aoife Doyle bagged two of her own. Caoimhe Dowling kept the run going with a long-range free before Aoife Doyle put seven between the sides after 13 minutes (0-9 to 0-2).

Cork replied with a brace of Cliona Healy frees to narrow the gap slightly, but a determined Kilkenny closed out the half with another scoring burst.

Aoife Doyle got them up and running, while Nicole Carter made a surge from wing-back to get her name on the scoresheet.

Caoimhe Dowling was next to hit the target, before Danielle Morrissey converted a 45 metre free in injury-time to leave the confident Cats 0-13 to 0-4 up at the break. It was a good half for Kilkenny, who kept the Rebels scoreless from play in those opening 30 minutes.

Much like the first half the

Cats were quick off the mark after the restart, with Danielle Morrissey shooting the first two scores again.

Emma Murphy led the Cork response, but disaster struck for the Munster side when Eimear Farrell won the sliotar 45 metres from goal and went on a defence splitting run. She lost possession but recovered brilliantly to fire home from the edge of the small square.

Cork were now staring down a 13-point deficit (1-15 to 0-5) but they didn't let their heads drop. They fought hard to get back into the game and duly reduced the deficit by getting five points on the spin.

Saoirse McCarthy and Cliona Healy (free) started the recovery before Moira Barrett picked off a well-taken point from distance. Healy kept them going with a 45, with Emma Murphy

bringing her side's tally into double figures soon after (1-15 to 0-10).

Just when Cork seemed to be making headway, Kilkenny struck for goal again. Aoife Doyle's pace did the initial damage, cutting through the Cork defence, before latching on to Eimear Farrell's pass to blast home from 14 metres.

Again, Cork lifted their game. Cliona Healy gave her side a lifeline when she scooped up a breaking ball and blasted it to the net from 21 metres out. Danielle Morrissey helped to take the sting out of that score with a brace of points for Kilkenny, the latter a fine score from long range after Aoife Doyle was fouled.

With only four minutes of normal time left that score seemed enough to secure a Kilkenny victory, but Cork were determined to show they weren't out of this con-

test.

Hitting back with a quick one-two, the roared their way into contention. Saoirse McCarthy led the charge when her shot deceived the Kilkenny defence and went straight to the net. She then followed it up with a second goal from a 21 metre free after Emma Murphy was fouled to narrow the gap to four points heading into injury-time.

When Cliona Healy shaved another score off the deficit with an injury-time 45 the gap was now three points. Kilkenny nerves were jangling, but that was as close as Cork got.

Kilkenny now face Galway in the final on Sunday. Time and venue to be confirmed.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Danielle Morrissey (0-8, 0-3 frees, 0-1 45); Aoife Doyle (1-4); Eimear Farrell (1-1); Caoimhe Dowling (0-2); Suzie Aylward, Nicole Carter (0-1 each). Cork - Cliona Healy (1-6, 0-3 frees, 0-1 45); Saoirse

McCarthy (2-2, 1-1 frees); Emma Murphy (0-2); Moira Barrett (0-1). **Kilkenny** - Leah Dunne, Laura Quigley, Maria Brennan, Caroline Kennedy, Alanna Gallagher, Ruth Kent, Nicole Carter, Caoimhe Dowling, Aoife Doyle, Danielle Morrissey, Katie Brennan, Lisa Donnelly, Eimear Farrell, Suzie Aylward, Kym Ryan. Subs: Steffi Fitzgerald, Eve Lacey, Clara Hendrick, Lucy Power, Kate Kearns, Emily Crowley, Dearbhla O'Keeffe, Una Kinsella, Rachel Kelly, Emily Phelan, Eimear Leahy, Laoise Prendiville, Hannah Kelly.

Cork - Molly Lynch, Orla Fahy, Aileen Buckley, Sarah O'Sullivan, Grace Collins, Katie Daly, Orla Keating, Saoirse McCarthy, Laura Hayes, Cliona Healy, Moira Barrett, Fiona Nelligan, Claire Mullins, Emma Murphy, Aoife Hurley. Subs: Sarah Ahern, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Olivia Murphy, Ellen O'Regan, Aine O'Regan, Ciara Ring, Emily Buckley, Laura Doyle, Kate O'Connell, Shannyn McHale, Nicole Horgan, Caoimhe Harney, Suzanne Bateman.

Referee - Eamon Cassidy (Derry).

AUG.
2016

Wexford believe they can do it

Jacob:
Good start
key for
Wexford

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick



Camogie

Linda
Mellerick

SATURDAY
All-Ireland camogie senior semi-final: Cork v Wexford, Thurles, 2pm

YOU would have to say that Cork are favourites going into this All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford, heading for three in a row and with Wexford somewhat out of favour this past three years.

Wexford are certainly not as strong a team as the side that won the All-Ireland in 2012. Excellent full back Catherine O'Loughlin, star forward Ursula Jacob, tenacious corner-back Claire O'Connor and the industrious Josie Dwyer at midfield are just four of a number of players since retired. Those calibre of players haven't been replaced.

However, Wexford are the one team who believe they are capable of beating Cork every time they take to the field. They have that belief that the likes of Kilkenny and Galway don't have when Cork come at them. They took Cork to a semi-final replay in 2014, they defeated them in their group clash last year and are the only side to take points from Cork in this year's championship.

The championship performance from Wexford was erratic in a way; to see them suffer a double score defeat to Offaly, Cork, in turn, giving Offaly a lesson (3-14 to 1-5) yet Wexford taking Cork with a last minute Una Leacy goal just a month ago.

The conditions against Cork that day in Wexford Park were very wet with a gale-force wind and it was a game of two halves. Cork felt they played poorly, the defeat shook them a bit to the point that they started asking questions of themselves. In hindsight, that defeat could be a blessing in disguise.

It only happened four weeks ago and you would have to say that it was a perfectly timed lesson and one which gives Cork a slight advantage going into the game.

But Wexford will feel that they've beaten Cork once already this year and can do it again.

I think midfield will be a key area and Cork, with Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter against possibly Shelley Kehoe (who could operate in the half forward line) and Emma Walsh, they should have the upper hand.

Wexford's half back line is tall and strong and of course powered by Mary Leacy in the centre. What you can't do is let Mary sweep up and dictate the game as she so often does. Tipperary beat themselves in the quarter final. When seven points up entering the final quarter they dropped a player back and started to defend. Mary Leacy was left free and launched attack after attack.

Make no mistake but that she will pick up everything around her own '45. Kate Kelly, at 36 years of age, is still



Cork camogie players, from left to right, Orla Cronin, Meabh Cahalane, Niamh Ni Chaoimh, Jennifer Hosford, Ashling Thompson, Leanne O'Sullivan, Eimear O'Sullivan and Amy O'Connor pictured as New Ireland announces Sponsorship agreement with Cork Camogie at the Maryborough Hotel.

Picture: Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile



Cork players Gemma O'Connor, left, and Orla Cotter, lift the O'Duffy Cup after their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final victory over Galway at Croke Park

Picture: David Maher / SPORTSFILE

a tormentor. She'll start in at left corner forward but will drift out to half forward I feel. Una Leacy as always is Wexford's danger woman. Una is lethal over 3-5 yards and very physically strong. If she gets the ball into her hand inside at full forward she'll turn quickly and blast one shot which typically finds the net.

Last year Wexford beat Cork in their group game down in Sarsfields with some impressive long distance point scoring.

They have scored 15 goals and 57 points in their five group games and scored another two against Tipperary. Cork are disciplined in defence, not allowing themselves to get pulled out. Because of that they don't concede too much. They've conceded just three goals in five games and 42 points. That's an amazing statistic defensively. Wexford conceded 5-55 but then shipped 16 points to Tipperary in the

quarter-final.

Considering Tipperary had only won one group game from four in group two, losing to Galway and Kilkenny, beating Derry and drawing with Dublin it was somewhat of a surprise the battle they gave Wexford last week and they were missing two key forwards.

Wexford will have had a two week break heading into the semi-final, Cork four. When it works for you a team will say that the extra game was crucial to them. However, Wexford, with one game on top of the other would have just been tipping over in between and hard sessions on the training ground are crucial. Cork have had them over the past three weeks, working on a lot of areas and are ready for this one. The balance is important.

Cork's style will be to carry and run at Wexford and pinpoint their passes more so than driving long ball into

“Wexford are one team that could upset the plan if Cork's A game isn't at Semple Stadium tomorrow”

their half forward line, against a tall and strong Wexford three. Their off the ball movement, accuracy and work rate can be very impressive on its day. At times however, the work rate may not be as it should be, passes go astray and things don't go to plan.

But Cork as a unit are very experienced at this stage.

Most of the team are heading for their third title in a row. The fluency of their play and the speed of it has improved significantly. They too have lost key players. Last year they lost 13 from the previous year's panel and an All-Ireland title in September looked an unachievable dream.

But they took the title and 12 months later that same team, more or less, is sharper, stronger, fitter and looking to be heading for their third final.

Wexford are the one team that could upset the plan if Cork's A game isn't at Semple Stadium tomorrow.

URSULA JACOB, Wexford's most famous camogie player, retired from inter-county camogie this year, at age 30.

Turning 31 this September it was still somewhat premature. But she explained when we caught up last Monday: "I had played with Wexford senior team for 16 years and had some very long years between club, college and county. I just felt it was the right time for me to finish up with Wexford even though I loved every minute of my time with them."

She still holds strong links with her former team mates and has attended all of their games this season.

Ursula spoke about Saturday's games. She knows Cork inside and out and knows what Wexford need to do and not to do to beat them.

"Everyone that has watched Cork this past couple of years knows that their strategy will be to break the tackle and play a running game, they'll create their own space. If Cork get seven or eight points on Wexford it'll be hard for them to pull them back and they know that. So a good start is important."

"I think the quarter-final was invaluable to Wexford. While the performance wasn't great there was a number of positives from it, mainly the character they showed to come back and snatch the winner in additional time."

"They showed the same character against Cork four weeks ago and they'll need that again on Saturday. In the last three years Wexford have beaten Cork, but never when it came to knockout. How much have they learned during that time? Leaving Gemma O'Connor unmarked at centre-back would be catastrophic. It's difficult to minimise Gemma's influence when there's a player on her and to leave her free would be madness. There is little point in pulling out forwards and leaving two or three Cork defenders on their own."

"Cork have incredible speed up front — Katrina Mackey, Amy O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery — I mean, there is ferocious speed in that full-forward line."

"We need some key players to step up. Shelley Kehoe has been lining out in the half forward line at times this year, yet I think she's better at midfield. She's a big play maker for Wexford. Mags D'Arcy was excellent against Tipp, pulling off three great saves. They will be disappointed that Tipperary got through for those shots. If it was Cork, they'd have finished off at least two of them and Wexford know that."

"Wexford are hurting from their one-point defeat to Galway in last year's semi-final. They're desperate to get to another final but they'll have to improve by 50-60% on the performance against Tipp if they're to get there," she said.

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

Stakes are high as Galway face the Cats in semi-final

■ Bergin's charges seeking revenge for league final defeat to Kilkenny

DARREN KELLY

THE O'Duffy Cup mightn't decorate a new home for another four weeks but Galway and Kilkenny have everything to lose this Saturday when they meet in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Final at Semple Stadium, Thurles (3.45pm).

Cork and Wexford's clash in the curtain raiser feature the winners of ten titles since 2005 and the hurling fraternity will be licking their lips ahead of the Kilkenny/Waterford sequel, but the middle part of this triple header also brings its own attractions.

It's quite simply a game neither side can afford to lose. Despite competing in their 11th consecutive semi-final, Galway have only the 2013 All-Ireland triumph to show for their consistency and will be determined to prove that was no flash in the pan. Kilkenny have been ever present in the final four but have suffered six final losses since their last success in 1994.

With one win each, this is the rubber match between the two form counties of 2016, but whoever doesn't emerge victorious on Saturday will reflect in disappointment while the winners will get another chance to complete that elusive quest for the Holy Grail.

Kilkenny were league champions in May when they came through 2-7 to 0-7 winners, but Galway responded four weeks ago when a 1-12 to 0-10 victory in Freshford, a result which saw them book a direct route to the final four.

Under new manager Ollie Bergin, Galway have been very consistent with that league final reversal in Semple Stadium being their only black mark. A difficult opener against Tipperary saw them come through 1-13 to 1-10 before strong showings allowed comfortable margins over Dublin (5-9 to 1-7) and Derry (2-14 to 0-1) before the July 16 meeting with Saturday's opponents.

After keeping Kilkenny to within a point against the wind at half time, the maroon and white opened up in the second period to give their most encouraging display this season as seven different scorers helped them to victory with Ailish O'Reilly's goal the most defining.

"I don't think you can take too much from it," said Bergin dur-



Galway's Rebecca Hennelly and Kilkenny's Denise Gaule with the O'Duffy Cup ahead of the teams' All-Ireland semi-final clash in Thurles on Saturday.

PHOTO: LORRAINE O'SULLIVAN/INPHO

ing the week. "It was great to get the win. We take some confidence from that and we both knew at the time that we were back in the championship. We know this is going to be a different game and we have to bring our A game to win this semi-final."

O'Reilly has been Galway's top marksman this year with 4-6 followed closely by Noreen Coen (4-5) while Niamh McGrath has contributed 0-16. These three will be complimented by hard workers Shauna Healy and Aoife Donohue with the dangerous Orlaith McGrath capable of damage.

Ann Marie Starr and Niamh Kilkenny resume their 2011 partnership in midfield; Susan Earner is between the sticks; Tara Kenny joins Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney in the full back line; and the half-back trio of Clodagh McGrath, Rebecca Hennelly and Lorraine Ryan were certainly resilient in the last outing.

Kilkenny, surprisingly, played in a defensive formation four weeks ago and found it difficult to get through the Galway rear-guard. They did use the sweeper system on occasions in their 1-19 to 0-11 quarter-final win over Offaly which included a devastat-

We were chasing Kilkenny for the rest of the game and it just wasn't good enough on our behalf

ing start, highlighted by an early Julie Ann Malone.

"They were very clinical," stated Bergin regarding the quarter-final. "I think they got 1-4, 1-5 ahead early on in the game and then just closed out the game from there. Very clinical,

very professional in dealing with the challenge. And look, they're a good outfit."

"We saw in the league final, we were slow to start," added Bergin. "And we were chasing Kilkenny for the rest of the game and it just wasn't good enough on our behalf. It's vital you reach the pitch of the game early and you take it from there."

Malone also struck a quality goal in the league final and she'll take her place at centre forward in the Kilkenny attack. Denise Gaule and Ann Dalton have scored 3-42 between them in five outings while Shelly Farrell, Katie Power and Michelle Quilty also carry strong reputations.

Midfielder Miriam Walsh is their form player and will be supported by experienced defenders Jacqui Frisby, Collette Dorney and Edwina Keane. And Emma Kavanagh is an accomplished keeper who saved a penalty from Hennelly recently.

Quite simply, Galway are two performances away from win-

ning a third All-Ireland title. And the first will be required to survive past Saturday. Kilkenny are in a similar boat and will know neither side can afford to arrive without their A game.

History tells us the outcome of repeat meetings have been reversed on many occasions in the camogie championship, a trend which doesn't augur well for Galway, but if the Tribeswomen can learn from the harsh lessons of May's loss to the Cats, they possess the personnel and quality to book a return to Croke Park.

Under 16 Final

Galway's under 16s will also meet Kilkenny in Radley Park, Leixlip on Sunday when seeking a second successive All-Ireland title.

Despite struggling for scores with the elements in the first half, Sarah Healy's goal put them ahead at the break on their way to a 2-17 to 2-9 victory over

Dublin last Sunday in Nenagh.

The Metropolitans threatened to close the gap after the restart but Healy and Niamh Horan contributed points before Siobhan McGrath's 41st minute goal put daylight between the sides again as they ran out comfortable winners. Kilkenny defeated Cork 2-17 to 3-11 in the other semi-final.

Ladies Football

Clonbur picked up their first win in the County Senior Ladies Football Championship last Friday evening when they emerged 3-17 to 1-7 winners over Glenamaddy/Williamstown.

Michaela Kearney and Aoibhinn Joyce struck first half goals for the hosts as they built up a 2-8 to 0-3 half-time lead. And despite Noelle Connolly getting one back for last year's intermediate champions, Kearney's second left no doubt about the result ahead of the final round of group games.



Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy (right) with Rebecca Hennelly (Galway), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny) and Michael Lyster at the announcement of RTE's live television coverage of the semi-finals.

Strong 60-minute showing needed to claim final spot

IT HAS probably been the strangest season that most of the experienced Wexford players have ever encountered. Ups and downs are, naturally, part of sport, but wild swings in form throughout a season, at the top level, are peculiar.

But on All Ireland semi-final day in Thurles, when the Slaneysiders face-off against reigning double champions Cork (2 p.m.), everything that has gone before will be forgotten. The crazy days in Birr are long gone, so too the confidence rousing wins over Kilkenny, as well as Saturday's foes.

Then it's just 15-on-15 for a place in the Croke Park decider. Last year was the same when Wexford were lively underdogs going into that clash with Galway, and Saturday will be no different. Cork are the bookies' favourites to win it all at 5/4, with Wexford the

outsiders of the four at 9/2.

But it didn't do Wexford any harm last season when they gave it their all and came up just short. The aim will be to go one better this time, giving the experienced players one last shot at a fifth title, and the younger ones their first experience of the big time. This is the time to make it happen.

Wexford joint-manager John Kelly is under no illusions about the task facing his side. 'Cork are All-Ireland champions, they are going for three-in-a-row, they are the team to beat,' he said.

'We beat them in the championship but it doesn't count for much now, we are all in the one playing field now, it's an All-Ireland semi-final, it's in or out now.'

Having watched his side scrape through their quarter-final with Tipper-

ary, Kelly knows only too well that a partial performance won't be enough to see Wexford past the Rebelettes.

'We need to start better and be more tuned in than when we went down to face Tipp...,' he insisted. 'We need a 60-minute performance like the last quarter of an hour against Tipp, to topple Cork, no matter when you play them, but definitely next Sunday.'

The Wexford supremo is well aware of the threat that the Leesides pose. But he is equally as sure that his opposite number, Paudie Murray, has the same thoughts and worries about Wexford's star performers.

'Aisling Thompson and Orla Cotter, it's a strong midfield, and Briege Corkery up front, they are all experienced, with Gemma O'Connor centre-back. They are all after being around the mill, they will know what to expect.'

'Like our team really, they are going to have earmarked our big players, Kate (Kelly), Mary (Leacy), Una (Leacy), so it's going to be a tough battle, the team that wants it the most is going to come out with the spoils.'

Some believe that only extraordinary performances from the big players will be enough to get Wexford over the line, but Kelly is adamant that those around the big names need to stand up and make a name for themselves.

'We need the big players to perform, but we need the young players to tow along as well.'

'The big players will play, and they are nearly always going to turn up, but it's the girls that surround them, if they turn up, and if we all put in a serious good performance for as long as we can, I think we'll give Cork all they want of it.'

Wexford will likely have to make do without Jackie Quigley who picked up a knee injury late on against Tipperary. Others, like Stacey Kehoe (ankle), Deirdre Codd (knee) and Louise Sinnott (hamstring), are carrying knocks and niggles into the game.

The younger players might have started their game against Tipperary nervously but there was an expectancy about that game.

This time Cork are tipped to win, meaning the pressure is slightly different.

If Wexford do put in something approaching a 60-minute performance, they can produce the shock that will send them back to Croke Park for the first time since 2012.

However, a replica of the Tipperary showing will make it a long afternoon for the Slaneysiders.



NEWLYWEDS: Seán Cronin and wife Claire Mulcahy

AUG.
2016

Hannah has a head for bigtime

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

HANNAH LOONEY is looking forward to Saturday when Cork meet Wexford in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final.

Looney has been a member of the Cork senior panel for the past three years, having got the call in May 2014 as a 17 year-old. This is something she still looks back on with a sense of amazement and pride.

"To be honest, I was gobsmacked to be invited to join the senior panel in 2014," Looney said.

"I was playing with the minor team and was tipping away, we lost out in the championship and I played one game with the intermediate team in the Munster intermediate championship final. I never thought for a second I would make the Cork senior panel and to be asked to join a panel that included Briege Crockery, Gemma O'Connor, Rena Buckley and Orla Cotter - it was simply unreal.

"I was still only in fifth year in school and to be asked to go along to Cork senior training was a dream come true for me. These girls were ones I admired and I was in awe of them and to be training and playing alongside them was unbelievable for me."

Heading to training that first night and joining such an illustrious group is a memory that will live forever in Hannah's mind.

"I will never forget Joanne O'Callaghan and the way she looked out for me the very first night when I went into the dressing room. She came across to me and welcomed me and wished me a long and successful stay with the senior team. Joanne was a wonderful role model and a really nice person and for her to look out for a young one like me, just a rookie into the set-up is something that was so nice and greatly appreciated at the time."

The whole All-Ireland experience of 2014 and Cork taking the title gave Hannah a taste of the big time and she admitted to being overawed by it all.

"I was like a little girl living the dream, I even got to play in two of the round-robin section games against Dublin and Wexford, which was unbelievable for me. To be just sitting there as a sub in Croke Park on All-Ireland day as Cork took the title, was a brilliant experience, but it gave me the drive to push on and work hard to make sure I was kept on the panel."

Last year saw Hannah start in her first senior final as Cork took on Galway and looking back to a game, where she was substituted, she has learned a lot from the whole experience.

"I suppose I was a bundle of nerves and really it was a big challenge to play in an All-Ireland final. I wasn't up to full potential, but please God this year I will get another chance to prove myself. I definitely learned from last year's final and I went into this year's campaign determined to put it behind me and I wanted to improve and hopefully, I can continue to do that in the weeks and years ahead."

Now a year older and wiser, the Kill-



HAT'S OFF GIRL: Cork's Hannah Looney celebrates with the O'Duffy Cup after the 2015 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final win against Galway at Croke Park.
Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Hannah Looney, Cork under pressure from Limerick's Muireann Creamer in last year's Munster senior final in Kilmallock.
Picture: Gareth Williams / Press 22

each forward is still just 19 years of age, but with three seasons under her belt, she is now no longer the baby of the squad, but remembers how it feels to be coming into a new set up and is conscious of supporting the new kids on the block this season.

"This year the panel has a few new faces and it is great my club mate from Killeagh, Chloe Sigerson, has joined the panel. She is a year younger than me, so we would be good friends and she is a great player."

"I suppose when she joined the panel at the start of the season I looked out for her, just as Angela Walsh did for me when I arrived in 2014. Angela is always someone I would look to for guidance and help, she has always been great to the younger players in Killeagh and Cork."

This has been a busy year for Hannah. The Aghada native was chosen to join the Cork ladies football panel and

she also started studying in UCC where she is pursuing a Chemical Engineering degree.

"Going to UCC and playing Ashbourne camogie was a brilliant experience and I really loved playing with the college. Suddenly girls from other counties, who you would know from playing against them with Cork, are now your teammates and it is good to get that sense of camaraderie."

"It was a bitter disappointment to lose the Ashbourne final by a goal in injury time. We were heartbroken to lose after all the effort we put in."

Effort is something which comes easy to Looney, she has a part-time job in Buckley's, Shandon Street, and is working there for the summer and she has got great support from the management there and singled out Sinead as being hugely supportive to her in allowing her play sport at the highest level.

“The whole All-Ireland experience of 2014 and Cork taking the title gave Hannah a taste of the big time”

Her day begins at 7am when she leaves home to head to work and depending on the night, she will be either training with the Cork camogie team or ladies football team.

"It's non-stop and it is hard to try and get to club training as well, but they are really very understanding and we do our best to get there when we can."

With non-stop matches and a busy training schedule family rarely see her, but mum, Teresa; dad, Ger; and brother, Cain understand what it entails and are very supportive of her.

"They are brilliant and are always there and give me huge support."

Saturday will bring another huge challenge and again she will have that family support with her. With their backing she is confidently looking forward to the day and her parting shot to me was simply this.

"I just can't wait."

Orla confident Rebels will keep All-Ireland title defence on track

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ORLA Cronin feels Cork will reap the benefit of taking the direct route to the last four of the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship.

The defending All-Ireland champions topped Group 1 earlier in the competition to bypass a potentially tricky quarter-final, and now they take on Wexford in the semi-final this Saturday in Semple Stadium, at

2pm – a game that will be shown live on RTE One.

From mid-June to mid-July, Paudie Murray's three-in-a-row chasing Cork team played on five successive weekends, winning four of their five games, with their only loss coming away to Wexford.

Ballineen double All-Ireland winner Cronin feels that the extra two-week break they received for avoiding the quarter-finals was just what this Cork

group needed.

'It was great to go straight into the semi-finals this year instead of also playing a quarter-final, the extra few weeks gave us time to recover after five games in a row,' explained the 20-year-old UCC student, who is heading into her third year studying Biological Sciences in September.

'Those five weeks were great but they were physically demanding and mentally tough. There was no time to reflect on one game, see what we did well and what we didn't do as well, because the games were coming thick and fast.'

'Those two extra weeks have helped us get our bodies and minds right for Saturday, and we've been able to train well and prepare for what's ahead.'

'Last year we had a new team and it was a good thing to get an extra game, but we're a more settled team this year and the direct route suits us more.'

That 1-9 to 0-9 Group 1 defeat away to Wexford, who struck for a late winning goal through Una Leacy, rankles with the Rebels. It was a blot on their copybook, but it's also useful ammunition, if needed, for the battle this Saturday evening.

'Wexford are always one of the teams that get the best out of us because they're a very good team and the games are

always competitive,' Cronin said.

'There is nothing between the teams, and the fact that they beat us a few weeks ago will make us even more determined. It's a big challenge for us, we're one game away from another All-Ireland final, but we know we face our biggest test this season against them.'

'Wexford showed huge courage in beating Tipp in the dying minutes of their quarter-final so we're not taking anything for granted.'

The Cork forward added: 'It was always going to be a hard championship for us because every team wants to beat the team that has won the last two All-Irelands, so we knew we would have it tough.'

'We got through the first three games pretty well and put up some big scores, and losing the Wexford game was a setback for us.'

'We always have it hard against them. Over the last few years we've met them three or four times, and it's always a tough game. We bounced back well in the next game, against Limerick.'

One of the new kids on the block last year, Cronin, now in her third year on the senior panel and not yet 21 years old, is continuing to mature into an important figure on this Cork



The big question: Will Enniskeane and Cork senior camogie star Orla Cronin get her hands on the O'Duffy Cup this year?

DID YOU KNOW?

Orla was born on October 8th 1995, the day Kilbrittain won the intermediate hurling county final. Her father, Humphrey, from Kilbrittain, was the Black and Amber's trainer, and, as has been said, Orla was born channelling some good hurling omens.

Semi-finals live on TV is a huge boost

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THE Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-finals will be broadcast live on RTE One for the first time this Saturday – and Orla Cronin is thrilled that the country's finest camogie players have a chance to show the country how exciting their game is.

Galway meet Kilkenny at 3.45pm, preceded by Cork v Wexford at 2pm, both games on at Semple Stadium, part of a double-header with the Waterford v Kilkenny SHC replay.

'It's brilliant for camogie

and it's a long time coming, to be honest with you,' Cronin said. 'Over the years the semi-finals have been some of the best games of the season, and all through the group stages this year there were some really entertaining games, even more so than an All-Ireland final itself because the pressure of the occasion isn't as great.'

'It's great for the game to get this extra coverage and publicity, and it's a chance to show just how entertaining camogie is. It's also a chance for all the talented camogie players to showcase their talents to the country.'

Wexford star Codd still a model of determination

Paragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Quality control is Deirdre Codd's job so it comes naturally to her to demand the highest standards around camogie, just as she does at Waters Technologies in Wexford town.

Having won four All-Irelands since her debut in 2004, Codd is an enduring figure around the Wexford set-up, constantly demanding the best.

Crucially, she leads by example. The Duffry Rovers half-back missed the opening round of the All-Ireland Senior Championship after dislocating her knee-cap for the third time at the start of May.

Having eschewed operations previously, opting for building up the muscle around the knee, she was told surgery would be required.

With hopes high of a strong summer run, that was put on



Deirdre Codd in action against Dublin's Aine Fanning in last year's All-Ireland quarter-final. Codd's Wexford face Cork today. Picture: Inpho

shock defeat by Offaly on June 25 and subsequently returned to the starting line-up as Wexford progressed to today's semi-final against All-Ireland champions Cork at Semple

More than just doing what it takes to play however, Codd has been a constant and vociferous campaigner for her sport – and women's sport in general – to receive greater

She could never accept the argument that 'This is just how it is.' So she sent letters and emails, made phone calls, led dignitaries to a corner of the room to whisper in their ear. She still does. Matters have improved since she began but the lack of consistency can be frustrating. Codd welcomes the fact that today's games will be broadcast live by RTE but isn't getting carried away.

'Any bit of coverage is always welcome but I remember back in 2004 in the centenary year of the Association, the semi-finals were televised but then for it to go off the telly – I feel it's going backwards sometimes rather than moving forwards – but it's great to see it back again. I know some of the write-ups in papers are limited to a certain amount of words but for one of the semi-finals when (Clare hurling manager) Davy Fitz(gerald) was umpire, they had nearly three-quarters of a picture of him. You

would never see an action picture from a camogie match given that size. That's the worst I ever saw. Maybe it's saying 'Davy Fitz is a supporter of camogie' but from a player's point of view it was a bit hard to take.'

There is a touch of the egg and chicken about it because coverage and the likely increased corporate interest would be helped by getting more bums on seats.

But the more profile, the more attractive it will be.

'There are people out there that call themselves Wexford supporters but they don't go to a Wexford camogie or ladies football match. I don't think they can call themselves true Wexford supporters unless they do. I think when the local papers and radio station advertise it more, you can see the results. It comes and goes. I remember before the All-Ireland finals last year, every hour in the week of the football and hurling matches, they were mentioned.'

'In camogie, you might hear it the day of the match.'

'I would love to see inter-county players from the teams not involved to be given tickets as a sort of a reward for their contribution. They will bring someone with them as well. The more people at the games the better, and if Croke Park is open, you might as well get as many people as you can in to see the games.'

'But the government own RTE so I've been on to local councillors to make sure they get onto RTE to give women's sport more coverage. It is a public service broadcaster. That's why we pay our TV licence.'

As any opposition player that has spent an hour in her company knows, Deirdre Codd will not give in.

For more information on the Camogie Association's Our Game Your Game campaign visit www.camogie.ie/ourgameyourgame.asp #OurGameYourGame

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A TOTAL of 1,152 young camogie players got to live the dream and enjoyed the experience of a lifetime on Monday last as the camogie associations held their Caman To Croker blitz day.

Overall, 64 clubs were chosen from all over the country and clubs had the hard task of picking 18 players to make the journey to play on the Croke Park pitch.

For five Cork clubs, it was a day never to be forgotten and the youngsters from Castlemartyr, Ballinhasig, Glen Rovers, Charleville and Bride Rovers have memories that will stay with them forever.

The logistics of the day took a lot of organising and huge credit must go to the camogie association and, in particular, to Caroline Murray and her team who had everything organised so professionally.

From early morning, coach-loads of clubs converged on the Cusack Stand car park and the day was structured in such a way that every club had a time slot for arriving, thus ensuring that clubs did not all arrive together. In total there were five groups with staggered arrival and departure times and everything was superbly organised. Importantly, each club was instructed to arrive togged out and ready to play, thus alleviating chaos and time-wasting in pre-match preparation.

Once clubs arrived in the proximity of the grounds, stewards were visible outside issuing instructions and guiding buses to the parking facility under the Cusack Stand.

On arrival, the youngsters and their mentors were greeted by former Cork senior player Mary O'Connor and former Munster chairman Eamonn Browne. Mary spoke to each group and welcomed them to Croke Park and spoke of the great feat it was for them and their clubs to play in such a wonderful venue.

Teams were then taken to view the area where players do post-match interviews and then each group got to visit the dressing rooms and sit and get team pictures taken. From here, they were led out on to the tunnel and waited in line for a steward to call their names. Once this happened they made that run up the steps where each club was greeted by camogie association president Aileen Lawlor. Here a bench was in place and each team sat and got pictures taken with Aileen and their mentors.

With three pitches in operation at the same time, the clubs were divided into groups of five and allocated a coloured zone on the pitch each group had an assigned co-ordinator who guided the teams to their area in the Cusack Stand.

Behind their allocated coloured zone, each club was then called five

Four Cork clubs savour Croker trip



The Glen Rovers team at the Caman To Croker event, pictured with the Camogie Association's Catherine Neary.

minutes before their game started and were ready to go immediately. It was superb to see the way each of the three groups all played their games together, club names were called and it was on to the pitch where a hooter signalled the start of the games which were 17 minutes in total with no break.

Each club got to play three games thus ensuring plenty of game time for all of the youngsters. During each game with two minutes remaining, an announcement was made to let mentors know how long was left in the game and at the end of the 17 minutes, again a hooter signalled time up. Swiftly, teams left the pitches and the next two teams were out on the pitch and in action

with little or no break in momentum.

Each club brought a referee and it was a return to Croke Park in a different role for Cork senior player Leanne O'Sullivan, who accompanied Glen Rovers and acted as referee during the day.

Excitement was at fever pitch as parents and families gave huge encouragement during all of the games and while there was nobody other than three mentors allowed on the pitch, there were plenty of photo opportunities as supporters were so near the playing area. Each club was allowed bring a photographer with them on to the pitch to ensure the day's events were recorded.



At the launch of the fifth Clonakilty Charity Cycle by Anna Geary (centre), ex-Cork camogie captain, Paulie Palmer, and Jim Murphy, chairman.

Superb displays in U12 deciders

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THERE was a busy day in Ballinlough recently, as the County Juvenile Board hosted three U12 league finals. First into action were Sliabh Rua and Castlelyons in the C final.

Sliabh Rua went into an early lead and were 2-1 to 1-0 ahead after 15 minutes. Castlelyons settled and grabbed a second goal, but Sliabh Rua hit a purple patch and hit three goals to lead 5-1 to 2-1 at half-time.

The sides traded second-half points before Sliabh Rua added two goals to their tally and with Castlelyons adding a goal, it was 7-6 to 3-3 in favour of Sliabh Rua.

Both sides battled on, but it was Sliabh Rua who added to their tally to take the title on an 8-6 to 3-4 scoreline.

Sliabh Rua's Clara Deasy was Player of the Match while captain Kate Redmond collected the trophy.

The B final was next on the agenda with Kilbree and Tracton in opposition. Kilbree got a great start and settled into the game with Alison Collins, Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan all on target. Tracton grabbed a goal and battled back to leave it 3-1 to 1-2 inside 30 minutes. Both sides battled hard and a Tracton goal before the break helped cut the deficit to two points, leaving it 3-1 to 2-2 to Kilbree at half-time.

From the restart, Kilbree set about putting the game out of Tracton's reach and goals from Caoimhe Murphy, Emily O'Donovan, Alison Collins and Rachel Deasy ensured there was no way back for Tracton. Kilbree captain Kate O'Donovan accepted the trophy, while team-mate Mary Murphy was Player of the Match.

The A final was a thriller as a late goal from Sars broke Youghal hearts and gave the Glanmire girls the title.

Youghal hit the front with a goal and they added a point as Sarsfields replied with two points to leave Youghal leading 1-1 to 0-2 at the break.

Sarsfields narrowed the gap six minutes into the second half with a point, but Youghal responded with a goal to maintain their lead. Putting a lot of pressure on the Youghal defence, Sars added to their tally with a point with five minutes remaining.

As the clock ticked towards full-time, Sars maintained the pressure to the dying seconds of the game and it paid off with Cliona Lynch grabbing a goal to edge them in front for the only time in the contest. There was delight for Sarsfields, but spare a thought for a gallant Youghal side who battled with all their hearts only to be denied at the death.

All credit to Sars who battled to the final whistle to take the title. Youghal's Katie McCarthy, who turned in a splendid display, was Player of the Match.

Local businessman sponsors camogie championships

IT'S always good to see businesses and individuals getting involved and supporting sport, especially at local level.

The Cork Camogie Championship received a boost recently when SE Systems decided to come on board and get involve as sponsors.

Managing director and founder, John O'Leary, is a member of the Brian Dillon's club where he has served in various roles, including chairman, and he is now the club treasurer. His wife Karen is a former Cork player and their daughter Niamh was a member of the Cork minor side this year.

John has other family involved in camogie as well, as his niece Lauren Callanan was on the Cork senior squad last season. His father Tadgh is a members of Glen Rovers and all of the O'Leary family are very much involved in GAA, as is his sister-in-law Linda Mellerick.

Two years go John sponsored the Kilmacud

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Crokes All-Ireland Sevens and is continuing his sponsorship with the Camogie Association of this event.

He explained why he decided to get involved.

"Having been involved in GAA all my life I think it is important to support sport. With my family involved in camogie, I suppose it's a way to give support to the game that they love. My wife Karen and daughter Niamh are both involved with our club Brian Dillon's while my niece Lauren Callanan is a member of Glen Rovers senior team and my sister in law Linda Mellerick played and captained Cork so really the game is a big part of our family life."

John regularly attends camogie games and is impressed with the skill level of the players.

"The game is hugely competitive and the players deserve huge credit for the amount of time and effort they put in. Sponsoring the championship is our way of showing support to the players and their clubs and more importantly to those who organise and run camogie in the county."

"The county board have a wonderful facility in Castle Road and it has helped them enormously to promote the game."

"We in SE Systems are delighted to be part of promoting the game of camogie and our involvement in the county championship competitions at all adult levels is just our way of supporting local competitions for local players."

"We are also involved with the Camogie Association in sponsoring the Kilmacud Camogie Sevens, but our involvement with the Cork County Championships is a local venture and we are really looking forward to the finals in a few months time."

Kilkenny can have edge on Galway



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WHEN Kilkenny and Waterford drew last weekend and immediately talk came through that the GAA were going to meet with the camogie association and aim for a triple header in Thurles, it was always going to happen.

The GAA and camogie association have close links, relationships have improved massively and in short, we need them.

Any time you get a chance to play in front of a big hurling game the association are going to take it. They have to, in an attempt to broaden the supporter base. But will it?

Cork and Wexford were initially the second game out in Nowlan Park but now become the first throw in at 2pm in Thurles with Kilkenny and Galway at 3.45pm.

That makes sense as with Kilkenny in the hurling at 6.45pm the hope is that some of the black and amber flags will come in early, for the second half at least of the camogie match. Galway aren't happy I'm sure but with a 90-minute gap between both games, will many of the Kilkenny hurling contingent make the effort?

The switch to Thurles won't do anything for Cork and Wexford.

Well actually it might but in a negative more so than a positive way. I met a camogie colleague the other night.

She had intended to travel to Nowlan Park and pay €15 for her ticket but she refuses point blank, out of principle, to pay €30 for this triple header. It's not a triple header for many. Very few I feel will take to their seat in Semple Stadium at 1.45pm and stay there until 8.15pm.

This lady, her daughter and mother were heading to the camogie semi-finals. They aren't now, at a cost of €70 combined. I wonder how many others feel the same?

There has always been a fantastic atmosphere for semi-final day in Nowlan Park, with the stands pretty full. I hope we won't witness a sparse Semple Stadium.

Gate receipts for the camogie I'm sure have been agreed in advance with the GAA and they won't lose out. But the atmosphere is more important, for the players, supporters and live television.

Having previewed Cork and Wexford yesterday let's take a look at the other semi-final; Galway and Kilkenny. This will be their third meeting this year and it stands at one victory apiece. Kilkenny took the league final in what was a very poor game, with Galway woeful.

In the final group championship game in group 2, Galway took the points (1-12 to 0-10) that pushed them directly into the semi-final while Kilkenny had to go to a quarter-final with Offaly, a game which they won comfortably, 1-19 to 0-11.

Of course Cork had a comfortable



Cork's Katrina Mackey is tackled by Limerick's Deborah Murphy during the All-Ireland camogie championship clash at CIT.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Pictured ahead of the semi-finals were Denise Gaule of Kilkenny, RTE's Michael Lyster, Rebecca Hennelly of Galway and Mags D'Arcy of Wexford.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

victory over Galway in last year's All Ireland final, a game they were never going to lose.

Galway have scored 9-48 with 2-28 against from their four group games. Kilkenny with 8-67 for and 3-36 against (excluding the quarter final). Kilkenny hit five against Derry, Galway found the net five times against Dublin.

Those 'for' scores don't mean a huge amount to be honest. The group wasn't very strong. Kilkenny have blitzed through group stages in the past few years and have yet to win the All-Ireland. They failed to win the semi-final last year against Cork.

This is where it gets serious and where everything is at stake. It was easy to predict these four teams reaching the semi-final.

Kilkenny have made some positional switches since their previous encounter with Galway. Ann Dalton has moved from centre field to centre-

back and it seems to be paying dividends with her attacking style capable of picking off scorers herself and offering good distribution to her teammates up front.

In addition, they have pulled Denise Gaule out the field and this seems to also be a masterstroke. She is a target for Kilkenny's puck outs and is capable of scoring from long range in addition to also setting up scores. There is still enough scoring strength up front in Katie Power, Miriam Walsh, Shelley Farrell and Michelle Quilty. Will these moves be the deciding factor?

Certainly, Kilkenny need a strong performance. I would expect that Ann Downey will have worked on their physical strength throughout the year. It's an area that has let them down significantly in the past.

Galway will need good performances from Rebecca Henley at centre-

back.

She was player of the match against Kilkenny the last day, something I'm sure the Kilkenny mentors will have taken note of. A lot is expected of Niamh McGrath and Galway will need a big performance from her. Ailish O'Reilly is another that needs to fire on all cylinders on the day.

I think Kilkenny might have too much for Galway. It promises to be tight but they have the greater scoring power and I expect them to take it.

It's 1994 since they last won the title. Ann Downey's Kilkenny beat Cork in the semi-final. She was manager back in 2009, took a step back a few years ago and returned this year along with Conor Phelan and Paddy Mullally.

Both games will go to extra time if required. This is part of a number of changes the association brought in to prevent a camogie and ladies football clash.

Fr O'Neill's continue their good run of wins

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

DESPITE the inter-county games curtailing a lot of championship action on Leeside, there has still been a lot of activity in all grades.

In the Senior B championship, Fr O'Neill's continued their good run with a three-point victory over Barryroe to make it two wins out of three games and they will face Valley Rovers in round four and will be hoping to continue their good form. In section two, the games continue to be close with little separating the sides.

Clonakilty made it back to back victories when in a cracking contest they had three points to spare over a Mallow side who were seeking their first victory having lost out to Aghabullogue.

Brian Dillon's continue to impress and have installed themselves as one of the favourites as they overcame Aghabullogue on a 2-11 to 0-13 score line. Next week's clashes will go a long way to giving us an indication of who may emerge from the group.

Mallow and Brian Dillon's will be a game not to be missed while Clonakilty meet neighbours Kilbrittain/Timo-

league. Newcestown, having lost out in round one, bounced back with a bang to defeat Blackrock in round two on an impressive 5-12 to 2-3 scoreline. With just five teams in the intermediate grade and four to qualify for the semi-finals, a slip-up could be crucial.

In the Junior A championship, section one, Bishopstown recorded a victory over league champions Banteer 2-4 to 0-6 and with two victories under their belts they will take on Watergrasshill on August 28 in confident form.

In section two Na Piarasigh and Newtownshandrum are the front runners with two victories each to their credit and with just a game to go neither St Vincent's or Bride Rovers can over take them thus their meeting on August 25 will decide who tops the group and goes in to the semi-finals as runners-up.

Junior B championship, round four section two, Glen had a win over Inniscarra and Ballyhea defeated St Catherine's. Ballyhea now have three wins out of three and must play Charleville and Cobh. In section two Sarsfields overcame Clonakilty.

The junior C championship is moving along at a slow pace but recent results saw Blarney overcome Kilbrittain/Timo-

league, having lost out to St Fanahan's in an earlier round. Kilbrittain/Timo-

league made the journey to Mitchelstown a winning one as they overcame St Fanahan's who had recorded a win over Piarasigh.

In section two, Ballinora defeated Aghada and Millstreet while Castlelyons had a win over Kilworth.

“The switch to Thurles from Nowlan Park won't do anything for Cork and Wexford...”

ROGHNÓIRÉ: OLLIE BERGIN (BAINISTEOR),
Francis Larkin, David Forde, Joan Poland

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1 S. Ní Shaoráil SUSAN EARNER <i>Eyre Court</i> | 2 T. Nic Cionnaoith TARA KENNY <i>Sarsfields</i> | 3 S. Ní Dhoirbheáin SARAH DERVAN <i>Mullagh</i> | 4 H. Ní Chuana HEATHER COONEY <i>St Thomas</i> |
| 5 C. Nic Craith CLODAGH McGRATH <i>Sarsfields</i> | 6 R. Ní hIonuille REBECCA HENNELLY <i>Ardrahan</i> | 7 L. Ní Riain LORRAINE RYAN <i>Kiltullagh/Killimordaly</i> | |
| 8 A. Starr ANN MARIE STARR <i>Killimor</i> | 9 N. Nic Giolla Chainnigh (C.) NIAMH KILKENNY <i>Pearse</i> | | |
| 10 A. Ní Dhonnchú AOIFE DONOGHUE <i>Mullagh</i> | 11 N. Nic Craith NIAMH McGRATH <i>Sarsfields</i> | 12 S. Ní hÉilí SHAUNA HEALY <i>Ardrahan</i> | |
| 13 O. Nic Craith ORLAITH McGRATH | 14 A. Ní Raghallaigh AILISH O'REILLY | 15 N. Ní Chadhain NOREEN COEN | |

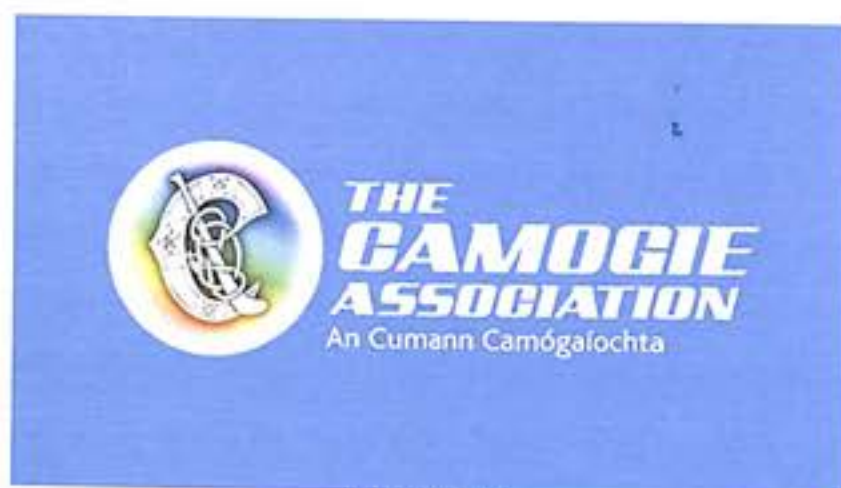
| | |
|---|--|
| SHAUNA BURKE <i>Craughwell</i> | ANN-MARIE LENNON <i>Blacks & Whites</i> |
| 17. M. Ní Dhoirbhí MOLLY DUNNE <i>Eyre Court</i> | C. Á. Ní Dhúghail KELLYANN DOYLE <i>Piltown</i> |
| 18. E. Hoileabard EMMA HELEBERT <i>Ballindereen</i> | S. Ceannt SARAH KENT <i>Danesfort</i> |
| 19. S. Ní Chadhain SIOBHÁN COEN <i>Ballindereen</i> | S. Ní Choire STACIE QUIRKE <i>St. Martin's</i> |
| 20. F. Ní Chaollai FINOLA KEELEY <i>St Thomas</i> | G. Bhreathnach GRACE WALSH <i>Tullaroan</i> |
| 21. C. Ní Mhurchú CIARA MURPHY <i>Clarinbridge</i> | S. Ní Chruaolaich SARAH CROWLEY <i>Moancoin</i> |
| 22. N. Ní hAinbhith NIAMH HANIFFY <i>Drummore</i> | Á Nig Fhionnán ÁINE GANNON <i>Rower-Inistioge</i> |
| 23. A. Ní Challáin AOIFE CALLANAN <i>Ardrahan</i> | A. Ní Dhonnchaidh AISLING DUNPHY <i>St. Brigid's</i> |
| 24. E. de Búrca ELAINE BURKE <i>Kinvara</i> | M. Ní Fhribhisigh MIRIAM FRISBY <i>Mullinavat</i> |
| 25. L. Ní Lachtnáin LAURA LOUGHNANE <i>Eyre Court</i> | L. Ní Mhurchú LAURA MURPHY <i>O'Loughlin Gaels</i> |
| 26. S. Ní an Ghaill JESSICA GILL <i>Athenry</i> | M. Bhreathnach MAUREEN WALSH <i>St. Lachtain's</i> |
| 27. S. Gairnéir SIOBHÁN GARDINER <i>Ardrahan</i> | M. Ní Théacháin MICHELLE TEEHAN <i>James Stephens</i> |
| 28. R. Ní Dhuibh ROISÍN BLACK <i>Drummore</i> | A. Ní Cheanúill AOIFE O'CARROLL <i>Lisdowney</i> |
| 29. C. Ní Dhúlain CARRIE DOLAN <i>Clarinbridge</i> | N. Ní Dhuighiolla NIAMH DEELY <i>James Stephens</i> |
| 30. S. Ní Chéin SUSAN KEANE <i>Killimor</i> | S. Á. Ní Chapiúleáin SARAH ANN QUINLAN <i>Young Irelanders</i> |

ROGHNÓIRÉ: ANN DOWNEY (BAINISTEOR)
Paddy Mullally, Conor Phelan, Liam Eg

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 E. Caomhánach EMMA KAVANAGH <i>Rower-Inistioge</i> | 2 D. Tóibín DAVINA TOBIN <i>Emeralds</i> | 3 C. Ní Dhuidhiorma COLLETTE DORME <i>Paulstown-Goresbridg</i> |
| 4 S. Nic Fhribhisigh JACQUI FRISBY <i>Ballyhale Shamrocks</i> | 5 E. Ní Chéin EDWINA KEANE <i>St. Martin's</i> | 6 M. Ní Fhearail MEIGHAN FARREL <i>Thomastown</i> |
| 7 A. Ní Fhearail ANN FARRELL <i>Thomastown</i> | 8 A. Daltuín ANN DALTON <i>St. Lachtain's</i> | |
| 9 D. Nic An Ghaill DENISE GAULE <i>Windgap</i> | 10 S. Á. Ní Mhaoileoin JULIE ANNE MALONE <i>Mullinavat</i> | 11 C. de Paor KATIE POWER <i>Piltown</i> |
| 12 M. Ní Chaoilte (C.) MICHELLE QUILTY <i>Mullinavat</i> | 13 M. Bhreathnach MIRIAM WALSH <i>Tullaroan</i> | 14 S. Ní Fhearail SHELLY FARREL <i>Thomastown</i> |

Cork pull out all the stops to see off Wexford in extra time

By Camogie Press
Posted 13/08/2016



By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork 0-19
Wexford 0-15
(after extra time)

CORK displayed all the traits that have won them the last two Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie titles to finally put a gritty Wexford away after extra time.

There had never been more than two points between the teams and they were deadlocked after 70 minutes on 0-14 apiece.

Kate Kelly lofted a mammoth score from a free in the middle of the field soon after the resumption and the 35-year-old's eighth point pushed Wexford ahead.

They weren't to score again though as Cork finally opened up and registered the last five points.

Dria Cotter made it level for the 11th time from a free before Cork profited from the increasing space with points from Katrina Mackey, the magnificent Hannah Looney, Mackey and dual star Brieg Corkery.

Aoife Murray made a late save from Chloe Foxe and Cork's place in the decider on September 11 was assured.

It was the only time there had been daylight between two well-matched outfits.

Cork skipper Ashling Thompson had another typically industrious performance and the Milford star had the ball over the bar after just 45 seconds, shortening the grip well and finishing off her left on the run after first blocking an attempted clearance by Sarah O'Connor on the 45.

Wexford attempted to leave space in front of the full-forward line and in particular goal machine Una Leacy - who had Cork's other dual hero Rena Buckley in close attendance at all times, while Laura Treacy was Kate Kelly's escort.

Cork were looking to adopt similar tactics and the result was a congested middle third.

When the sliotar did travel goalwards though, it was the defences that were on top but in the end, Wexford were heavily reliant on Kelly for scores from placed balls, while Cork scored 16 points from play.

Gemma O'Connor and Thompson were very prominent as Cork went 3-1 ahead but the excellent newcomer, Emma Walsh scored from almost 65m as Wexford fought back.

Corkery, Thompson and Looney hit points for Cork, Una Bolger, Una Leacy - after a trademark catch from a Kelly delivery - and Kelly did the business at the other end.

There were few goal opportunities but Wexford's Mags O'Arcy was the busier of the custodians and she made one vital intervention to deny Amy O'Connor.

The teams went in at the break on 0-8 apiece but as tight as that opening period was, the second was calmer again, producing only six points in total.

Corkery was denied a goal by O'Arcy while at the other end, Una Leacy struck the side-netting with a rare opportunity.

Pamela Mackey and Walsh were among the leading personalities but it looked like Cork had done enough when Cotter landed a couple of frees to put Paudie Murray's outfit 0-11 to 0-9 clear.

Wexford threw everything at them in the closing moments though and after Kelly raised another white flag, Katrina Parrock arced over another equaliser, with just eight seconds of the three minutes of injury time remaining.

The shackles finally came off in the added 20 minutes, although weariness undoubtedly contributed to the increased space.

The game provided three points in the opening three minutes, including a peach from Mary Leacy, while O'Arcy had to be alert to save from Amy O'Connor but once more, they ended a period of play on parity.

Then Kelly shot her brilliant score and you wondered if that might inspire the Model County women, like has been the case so often.

Instead, it was Cork who found another level.

SCORERS FOR CORK: O Cotter 0-5 (2fs, 145); H Looney 0-4; K Mackey, B Corkery 0-3 each; A Thompson 0-2; E O'Sullivan, P Mackey 0-1 each

SCORERS FOR WEXFORD: K Kelly 0-8 (7fs, 145); Ú Sinnott 0-1; E Walsh 0-2; Ú Leacy 0-1; K Parrock 0-2; M Leacy 0-1

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, L Treacy, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, P Mackey, O Cotter, A Thompson, H Looney, O Cronin, K Mackey, A O'Connor, B Corkery, E O'Sullivan.

Subs: J Holford for Cronin (70)

WEXFORD: M O'Arcy, K Atkinson, S Nolan, C Storey, S O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd, E Walsh, Shelly Kehoe, Ú Sinnott, K Parrock, Stacey Kehoe, K Kelly, Ú Leacy, L Bolger.

Subs: C Foxe for Sinnott (40); L O'Leary for Codd (70+1); Sinnott for Bolger (79)

REFEREE: O Elliott (Athenry)

LIBERTY INSURANCE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Semi-finals

Cork 0-19 (H Looney 0-4, O Cotter 0-4 (145, 26) B Corkery 0-3, K Mackey 0-3, A Thompson 0-2, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, R Buckley (1) 0-1 each) Wexford 0-15 (K Kelly 0-8 (5f), K Parrock 0-2, Ú Sinnott, E Walsh, Ú Bomber Leacy, M Leacy, L Bolger 0-1 each) aet
Galway 3-15 (N McGrath 0-8 (7f, 145), A O'Reilly 1-3, A

Donoghue 0-2, O McGrath 0-2, R Hennessy, N Kilkenny, N Coen, M Dunne 0-1 each) Kilkenny 1-19 (De Gaule 0-9 (8f), Michelle Quilty 1-2, Shelly Farrell 1-0, Ann Dalton 1-0, Meighan Farrell 0-2, Ann Farrell, M Walsh 0-1 each)

Intermediate Championship: Kilkenny 2-14 Laois 0-11

Camogie:

All-Ireland SCC semi-finals: Cork 0-19 Wexford 0-15 (aet), Kilkenny 3-15 Galway 1-19 (aet);
Leinster MBCC semi-finals: Meath 3-12 Carlow 2-4, Laois 3-8 Westmeath 1-13;
All-Ireland U16ACC final: Galway 3-14 Kilkenny 1-11;
All-Ireland U18CCC final: Carlow 1-8 Kildare 1-11.

AMY LEE
Ní Planaigh

CORCAIGH

DATHANNA: DEARG IS BÁN

LOCH GARMAN

DATHANNA: CORCA IS ÓR

ROGHNÓIRÍ: PAUDIE MURRAY (BAINISTEOR),
Jamie Harrington, Matthew Twomey, George Fitzgibbon, Dr. Wesley O'Brien, Niall Collins

ROGHNÓIRÍ: MATTY FLYNN-O'CONNOR, JOHN KELLY (BAINISTEORÍ),
Eddie Scally, Alan Stafford

16. L. Ni Mhannón

LAURA BREN
Rathmore

17. S. Ni Choigí
JACKIE QUIG
Rathmore

18. L. Ni Laoire
LOUISE O'LEA
Rathmore

19. C. Ni Dhorra
CIARA DONO
St. Ibars/Shelm

20. C. Ni Shionna
CHLOE FOXE
St. Martin's

21. S. Ni Dhiolán
JOANNE DILLI
Rathgarogue

22. A. de Carduib
AMY CARDIFF
St. Martin's

23. M. Ni Bhroin
MAGS BYRNE
Kilrush

24. L. Sionóid
LOUISE SINNO
Oulart-The Ballagh

25. M. Ni Mhuire
MARIE MORRIS
Rathmore

26. L. Bhreatnach
LEAH WALSH
Rapparee

27. M. Ni Mháirtín
MICHELLE MAI
Rathmore

28. S. Ni Cheallaigh
SHAUNA KELLY
St. Ibars/Shelm

29. S. Sionóid (C.)
SHAUNA SINNO
Oulart-The Ballagh

30. D. Coomhnaig
DORÉANN KAV.
Castletown-Lar

1
A.
Ni Mhuiri
AOIFE MURRAY
Cloughdur

2
P.
Ni Mhaca
PAMELA MACKEY
Douglas

3
L.
Ni Threasaigh
LAURA TREACY
Killeagh

4
L.
Ni Shuilleabháin
LEANNE O'SULLIVAN
Glen Rovers

5
M.
Ni Chathaláin
MEABH CAHALANE
St. Finbarr's

6
G.
Ni Chonchúir
GEMMA O'CONNOR
St. Finbarr's

7
R.
Ni Bhuachalla
RENA BUCKLEY
Iniscarra

8
O.
Nic Oitir
ORLA COTTER
St. Catherine's

9
A.
Nic Thomáis (Capt.)
ASHLING THOMPSON
Milford

10
S.
Ni Luanaigh
HANNAH LOONEY
Killeagh

11
O.
Ni Chróinín
ORLA CRONIN
Enniskeane

12
E.
Ni Shuilleabháin
EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN
Ballinhassig

13
A.
Ni Chonchúir
AMY O'CONNOR

14
B.
Ni Chorca
BREIGE CORKERY

15
C.
Ni Mhaca
KATRIONA MACKEY

1
M.
Ni Dhorchaí
MAGS D'ARCY
St. Martin's

2
C.
Nic Aidicín
KAREN ATKINSON
Oulart-The Ballagh

3
S.
Ni Nualláin (Vice C.)
SIONA NOLAN
Monageer/Booleavogue

4
S.
Stoirí
CIARA STOREY
Oulart-The Ballagh

5
S.
Ni Chonchúir
SARAH O'CONNOR
St. Martin's

6
M.
Ni Laitheasa
MARY LEACY
Oulart-The Ballagh

7
D.
Nic Óda
DEIRDRE CODO
Duffry Rovers

8
E.
Bhreatnach
EMMA WALSH
Glynn/Barnstown

9
S.
Nic Eochaidh
SHELLY KEHOE
Oulart-The Ballagh

10
Ú.
Sionóid
ÚNA SINNOTT
Craanford/Monaseed

11
C.
Ni Pharóg
KATRINA PARROCK
St. Ibars/Shelm

12
S.
Nic Eochaidh
STACEY KEHOE
Oulart-The Ballagh

13
C.
Ni Cheallaigh
KATE KELLY
C. B. Rovers/Clonmel

14
Ú.
Ni Laitheasa
ÚNA LEACY

15
L.
Ni Bholguir
LINDA BOLGER

Cork and Kilkenny show extra class

CAMOGIE

KILKENNY and three-in-a-row Cork will contest next month's All-Ireland after a dramatic afternoon at Semple Stadium as both semi-finals required extra time to settle the outcome.

A goal direct from a sideline cut by Anne Dalton six minutes into the first half of extra time proved the difference as Kilkenny just edged past Galway, 3-15 to 1-19.

And champions Cork displayed all the traits that have won them the last two Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior titles to finally put a gritty Wexford away by 0-19 to 0-15.

Kilkenny were denied the victory in regulation time by a 73rd-minute goal from Ailish O'Reilly.

Shelly Farrell hand-passed beyond Susan Earner early on after a good run and pass from older sister Anna, and Cats captain Michelle Quilty later saw her diagonal shot fly into the roof of the net, giving Earner absolutely no chance.

Those goals propelled Kilkenny into a 2-7 to 0-9 interval lead but Ollie Bergin clearly revved his charges up during the break.

Galway were resolute and they had O'Reilly, the full-forward pouncing on a breaking ball and smashing a low shot beyond Emma Kavanagh to make it 2-13 to 1-16 and sent us to extra time.

Niamh McGrath slotted her seventh point to move Galway ahead but then came the definitive goal, as Dalton's sideline hopped and squirmed past the previously flawless Earner to nestle in the Galway net.

Meanwhile, there had never been more than two points between Cork and Wexford and they were deadlocked after 70 minutes on 0-14 apiece.

Kate Kelly lofted a mammoth score from a free in the middle of the field soon after the resumption - the teams went in at the break on 0-8 apiece - and the 36-year-old's eighth point pushed Wexford ahead. They weren't to score again though as Cork finally opened up and registered the last five points.

Orla Cotter made it level for the 11th time from a free before Cork profited from the increasing space with points from Katrina Mackey, the magnificent Hannah Looney, Mackey and dual star Briege Corkery.

Aoife Murray made a late save from Chloe Foxe and Cork's place in the decider on September 11 was assured.



Wexford's Katrina Parrock breaks away from Cork's Laura Treacy during the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in Thurles

Rebels will go roaring

Marquee players stood up when it mattered again

IF the exploits of the O'Donovan brothers at the Olympics re-enforced the notion Cork is a sporting superpower, then so too did the camogie team on Saturday afternoon.

We're not sure if it's the same 'shtek and spuds' formula that the Skibb lads swear by, but there was no disputing the result. Inspired by the majesty of Gemma O'Connor at centre-back, the leadership of Ashling Thompson in midfield, and the relentless drive of Briege Corkery up front, Cork were worthy winners.

The county's hurlers and footballers are enduring a difficult spell, but Paudie Murray's side keep on delivering. This September they'll appear in their fourth All-Ireland in his five seasons at the helm and be favourites to make it three in a row.

They last had a shot at that prestigious honour in 2007, when Wexford emerged from the wilderness to deny them. It was the Yellowbellies in the opposite corner again at Semple Stadium, and their experience and familiarity with the Rebels kept them in contention all the way to the second period of extra time.

In the end, class told. Wexford had outstanding performers in Katrina Parrock, who lanced over a wonderful equaliser in normal time, Mary Leacy, Shelly Kehoe and ice-cool free-taker Kate Kelly, but lacked a consistent scoring threat from play.

They isolated Una Leacy in a bid to create goal chances, but apart from one powerful drive into the sidenetting, she didn't have the pace to trouble the rock-solid Rena Buckley at full-back. Too often Wexford's deliveries were out towards the sideline, which was asking a huge amount of their number 14, given her injury troubles.

Kelly struck eight placed balls, which meant the underdogs managed just 0-7 from play in total. In contrast Katrina Parrock, Hannah Looney and Corkery fired 0-10. That bit of firepower, as well as superior fitness and self-belief, was telling.

Now that's not to suggest this was free-flowing camogie throughout from the Rebels. Five of those points from the forwards arrived in extra time, when tired legs opened up the game. You'd wonder if Cork hurled a bit more off-the-cuff would their quality have shone through earlier.

Both sides had a sweeper from the off, Deirde Codd designated in the free role initially, while Cork deployed Gemma O'Connor across the rearguard. In theory this suited Cork more, given O'Connor's undisputed status as one of the greatest players of her era, and probably all-time.

Wexford's work-rate was impressive though, and they never allowed the likes of Mackey, Amy O'Connor or Corkery the space or time to run at them. Amy O'Connor to her credit was



The outstanding Ashling Thompson shoots for a point. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Match analysis

Éamonn Murphy

fouled for two converted frees, had two more assists, and was denied a goal by a smart Mags D'Arcy save, but Wexford were generally tight in the last line of defence.

Corkery couldn't get into her groove in the full-forward line, and only began to influence proceedings when she was switched out to the wing. That's when her nous and movement became a factor, and it was fitting she had the sliotar in her grasp as the final whistle sounded. Mackey - as she has all campaign - hit some terrific scores and her twin sister Pamela chipped in as well, raiding up from corner-back in extra time.

What was remarkable, given the four-point winning margin at the end of a very tense tussle, was Cork trailed 0-15 to 0-14 in the 71st minute. At that juncture it looked like a game-breaking goal was needed.

However, Orla Cotter and Laura Treacy were getting more involved in hoovering up possession, and collectively Cork's use of the ball improved. Hannah Looney's point to edge Cork 0-17 to 0-15 in front was a prime example, O'Connor, Thompson and Cotter cleverly moving the sliotar into the scoring zone.

When Mackey and Corkery arrowed over a pair of sweet scores in the next two phases of play it was game-over and realistically the better team won.

When Cork led 0-3 to 0-1 after 11 minutes, with Thompson the orchestrator in chief from centre-field, they appeared in command. Wexford weren't brushed aside though, and with the wind to their backs they picked off the scores to move 0-8 to 0-6 ahead.

Cork had levelled by half-time, and the second half never got going, with just six scores and only one from play. The Rebels might have sent over a few more frees had they allowed Cotter to shoot from half-way, instead of calling Buckley up to launch them in.

So there's of room to improve before the showdown a Kilkenny side desperate to end a drought going back to 1994. Feeding a menacing forward line with better ball would be a start, but Cork will hardly abandon a structure which makes them tricky to break down.

Kilkenny are young, quick and fuelled by goals, yet they won't be as easy to come by in Croke. The steel and confidence of Aoife Murray, Buckley, Gemma O'Connor, Thompson, the Mackeys and Corkery will ensure as much.



Cork's Meabh Cahalane, left, and Laura Treacy celebrate after the win over Wexford in the Senior Camogie semi-final at Semple Stadium. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Wexford's Karen Atkinson in action against Orla Cronin of Cork. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Gemma O'Connor and Briege Corkery celebrate after the game. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Story of the game

REF WATCH: Owen Elliott allowed play to develop for the most part and wasn't over fussy.

He applied the advantage rule to perfection. He may have got it wrong when he penalised Eimear O'Sullivan for throwing the ball in the last second of the game, but other than that it was a good day for Elliott.

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE: This game had it all, superb camogie, a good sensible referee and two committed teams giving it everything they had.

We had some excellent skill on both sides, yet numerous turnovers as players battled hard. In a game which was tight to the closing minutes there was

never a dirty stroke. This was a great advertisement for camogie's first semi-final covered live on TV.

TURNING POINT: Defender Pamela Mackey's score eight minutes into the first half of extra time was decisive. Winning possession she gave Cork a two-point advantage and a huge confidence boost.

into another final



The outstanding Hannah Looney top-scored from play for Cork against Wexford.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Cork | 0-19 |
| Wexford | 0-15 |
| (after extra time) | |

CORK'S superior fitness saw them take Wexford by four points in the second half of extra time to reach their third All-Ireland final in a row.

It was a Titanic battle which brought true character to the surface.

Tied at 11 points at the end of normal time, Cork ran immediately to the dressing room. Some Wexford players fell to their knees, others looking exhausted, and you just felt that Cork would drive on. For the following 15 minutes they again couldn't shake off Wexford's stubborn challenge.

But in the final five, the fitness showed. Wexford were struggling. Mary Leacy was obviously tiring, so too Katrina Parrock — they were wilting as a team and Cork ran at them. Four unanswered points in five minutes and the red and white were on their way to Croke Park.

The move of Rena Buckley to full-back to mark Una Leacy was a resounding success.

The type of ball Wexford played to



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

their most dangerous forward didn't help their cause. Leacy has pace over three yards, not 10, and Buckley won every sprint to the corner. Cool and competent around the square she was instrumental to Cork's success.

Wexford played it short, running at Cork with short passes and overlaps. Mags D'Arcy was finding her corner backs with puck outs and taking Cork on from there. It was a risky strategy which D'Arcy changed midway through the opening half, delivering longer. Neither side was dominant.

Cork led by two points 11 minutes in. Wexford led by one by the 21st. Cork went ahead again, Wexford hit three in a dominant period to lead 0-8 to 0-6 but again Cork came back with two from Ashling Thompson and Elmear O'Sullivan to level it at the break.

There were some hugely impressive scores from both sides. Hannah Looney was on form and struck a beauty, Katrina Parrock and O'Sullivan's point on 31 minutes were both from the top drawer.

The spread of scorers in the first half for both sides was strong; Cork with five, Wexford with six.

By the end of the game, both sides had seven players hitting the score sheet but in extra time, Cork struck eight points, Wexford just four with three of them from frees.

For a period, Cork choose to take the long-distance frees away from Orla Cotter.

The mantle was handed back when Cork won a free on 56 minutes and she slotted it over with ease from the mid-field line to put Cork two ahead with four minutes remaining.

Pam Mackey came into her own, driving Cork forward, scoring an inspirational point in extra time.

Cork looked to have done just enough but again, Wexford — as they so often do — snatched an equaliser in injury time, from Katrina Parrock.

Gemma O'Connor was often a lone figure at centre-back and she was awesome, reading and sweeping everything. Mary Leacy was equally alone and pushed forward, scoring a rare point on 62 minutes.

Wexford tried to find Una Leacy with every ball. She was isolated inside but the wrong ball went in.

A brilliant save by Mags D'Arcy from Amy O'Connor on 66 minutes kept Wexford in the hunt. Gemma O'Connor lorded it. Katrina Mackey struck two great points and Cork started to pull away.

Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter won the midfield battle hands down. Hannah Looney had a great hour.

This was a battle. Cork knew it would be. They weathered the storm. The character which they showed to be patient, composed, and confident, stood them in great stead. So too will this game.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-5 (0-2 1, 0-1 4S), H Looney 0-4, K Mackey 0-3, B Corkery 0-3, A Thompson 0-2, P Mackey, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Wexford: K Kelly 0-8 (0-7 1, 0-1 4S), K Parrock 0-2, U Sinnott, E Walsh, U Leacy, L Bolger, M Leacy 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley, O Cotter, A Thompson, H Looney, O Cronin, E O'Sullivan, A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Sub: J Hosford for O Cronin (69).

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, K Atkinson, S Nolan, C Storey, S O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd, E Walsh, S Kehoe, U Sinnott, K Parrock, S Kehoe, K Kelly, U Leacy, L Bolger.

Subs: C Fox for U Sinnott (47), C Sigerson for D Codd (70), U Sinnott for L Bolger (72).

Referee: Owen Elliot (Antrim).



Paudie Murray.

Murray: Our fitness levels were vital factor

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

SELDOM is Cork manager Paudie Murray lost for words or out of breath but on Saturday he was drained after Cork's gritty extra-time win over Wexford.

"We knew we were going to be in a fight to win and that it would be tough coming up here. Wexford are a big physical side and they clogged up their half-back line very well and we found that difficult to break it down but we knew that would happen and we had spoken about that coming into the game.

"I thought we handled ourselves ok. I am disappointed we didn't close the game out in normal time I think we sat back a small bit in the last five minutes and let them come at us."

Murray acknowledged his side's work-rate, especially in the opening half, blocking hooking and chasing as they battled for every ball.

"We have done a lot of that work and we have continuously spoke about our work rate. The team who works hardest wins games and we expect nothing else really."

The experienced manager acknowledged that when Cork went two points clear they should have been more composed.

"I suppose that's an aspect that I am disappointed about that we sat back a bit and didn't hold possession. When we had the ball we just drummed it down the field for the sake of it, a little more composure would have got us over the line in normal time."

Murray was delighted with Cork's huge effort's when the need was greatest that put the game beyond Wexford's reach.

"We edged ahead with points that were well worked in extra time and as Wexford started to tire it allowed us to open up a bit."

Cork's fitness was a huge factor.

"We really needed three weeks to be ready and we trained very hard since the Limerick game."

"Next week will be a down week for the girls now to relax and take it easy and we will go at it then for the three weeks before the final and we will be ready to give it our best."

"They are a superb group of players to work with and they deserve to be in another final, today they stood up and were counted and we couldn't ask for any more from them."

Three reasons why Cork beat Wexford

1. WEXFORD STRATEGY: Wexford played into Cork's hands with their defensive attitude. They chose to drop players back deep into defence allowing Gemma O'Connor unmarked.

Cork placed Rena Buckley on the edge of the square marking Wexford danger-woman Una Leacy and O'Connor was able to offer cover.

Mags D'Arcy often went short with her puck-out, and Wexford often lost possession as Cork hounded and hassled them at every opportunity.

2. CORK'S FITNESS: With 60 minutes played and extra time about the begin Cork still looked fresh. Orla Cotter in particular was looking very relaxed as they awaited Wexford's return.

From the restart they began to show Wexford a clean heels with the pace of Cotter, Ashling Thompson, Brieger Corkery and the Mackeys telling.

Cork's fitness was a key factor as they finished with a flourish to outscore Wexford five points to one.

3. GREAT LEADERS: Cork had leaders and huge performances all over the pitch when it mattered.

Gemma O'Connor stood tall. Captain Thompson laid down an early marker firing over the first Cork score and she worked herself into the ground.

Rena Buckley held Una Leacy, while Brieger Corker and Orla Cotter drove forward and took Wexford on when it mattered most.

Cork showed all their experience at vital stages.

Mary Newman

Downey's daredevils on track to bridge 22-year gap

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Kilkenny | 3-15 |
| Galway | 1-19 |
| (AET) | |
| All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final | |

Therese O'Callaghan
Semple Stadium

The big Kilkenny support rose to applaud Ann Downey's team as they left the field in Thurles on Saturday. Following 80 minutes of relentless ac-

tion, the outcome eventually went the Black and Amber way, the National League champions emerging with two points to spare after a second epic All-Ireland camogie semi-final.

The dust had barely settled when Kilkenny and Galway went toe-to-toe. The Cats should have put the game to bed after netting first half goals from Shelly Farrell and Michelle Quilty. But Galway stayed alive thanks to Ailish O'Reilly's injury time goal,

one of the many twists and turns in a thrilling encounter. An extra-time sideline cut from Ann Dalton that went all the way to the net, ultimately decided the matter.

"We were a little bit disappointed we didn't see it out in normal time," said Downey. "But, we told the girls when it went into extra time to think about all the work they had done since October. Every one of them gave their heart out there, we are in the final now. We

know Cork are an absolutely brilliant team. We are going to have to up our performance. They have some savage players."

Kilkenny led 2-7 to 0-9 at the short whistle, thanks mainly to an energetic and lightning fast attack. Prolific free-taker Denise Gaule, Ann Dalton and Jacqui Frisby immense too. However, Galway outscored them 1-7 to 0-6 in the second half with Niamh McGrath hitting eight points overall.

Dalton's sideline cut broke

the deadlock in the first period of extra-time. Kilkenny are desperately seeking an O'Duffy Cup breakthrough - their last victory was in 1994 when Downey was the winning captain.

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Gaule (0-9, 0-8 frees), M Quilty (1-2), S Farrell and A Dalton (sl) (1-0 each), M Farrell (0-2), A Farrell and M Walsh (0-1 each).

Scorers for Galway: N McGrath (0-8, 0-7 frees, 0-1 45m), A O'Reilly (1-3), O McGrath and A Donoghue (0-2 each), M Dunne, R Henneley (45m), N Kilkenny and N Coen (0-1 each).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh; J Frisby, D

Tobin, C Dorrer; C Phelan, E Keane, M Farrell; A Farrell, A Dalton; D Gaule, J A Malone, K Power; M Quilty (Capt), M Walsh, S Farrell.

Subs: G Walsh for J A Malone (43), K Doyle for M Walsh (59 bs), K Doyle for K Power (60).

GALWAY: S Eamer; T Kenny, S Dervan, H Cooney; C McGrath; R Henneley, L Ryan; A M Starr, N Kilkenny (Capt); A Donoghue, N McGrath, S Healy; O McGrath, A O'Reilly, N Coen.

Subs: M Dunne for N Coen (42), S Coen for L Ryan (59), J Gill for O McGrath (60), O McGrath for S Healy (65 inj), A Callanan for A M Starr (78).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Resilient Cork power on and now target the three-in-row

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Cork | 0-19 |
| Wexford | 0-15 |
| (AET) | |
| All-Ireland senior camogie final | |

Therese O'Callaghan
Semple Stadium

Champions Cork are back in the All-Ireland senior camogie final, but only after coming through an incredible game in Semple Stadium on Saturday. Eleven times the teams were deadlocked, before the match-winning scores arrived in the second period of extra-time from Hannah Looney, Katrina Mackey (2) and Brieghe Corkery.

The late surge brought an end to a remarkable contest where both teams went out to

control certain areas of the field. It was however, a see-saw battle, Cork's resilience seeing them through to a mouth-watering September 11 showdown with old foes Kilkenny - a repeat of the 2014 final and a record-seeking 27th title for the Rebels.

"I am delighted with the spirit we showed," said manager Paudie Murray. "We never gave up, especially when things were not going according to plan. Other Cork teams might have thrown in the towel but these girls hung in."

It was 0-8 apiece at the break. And after a largely defensive second 30 minutes, the scoreboard read 0-11 each. Katrina Parrock finding space to squeeze over the equalising point in stoppage time.

Mags D'Arcy was superb in



Cork's Amy O'Connor and Hannah Looney celebrate at the final whistle after victory over Wexford in the Liberty Insurance SCC semi-final at Semple Stadium.

the Wexford goal along with newcomers Sarah O'Connor and Emma Walsh. Mary Leacy impressed at centre-back while Kate Kelly, once again, showed her class from

placed balls. Orla Cotter and Ashling Thompson combined effectively at midfield with Cotter accurate from place balls and Thompson grabbing a brace from play. Hannah Looney too enjoyed a marvellous afternoon, the Killeagh lady rattling off four crucial points.

Rena Buckley, Laura Treacy and Pamela Mackey worked tirelessly to curtail the influence of Wexford danger ladies Una Leacy, Kate Kelly and Una Sinnott, while Gemma O'Connor - pitted against Katrina Parrock on the 40 - didn't put a foot wrong. After 70 minutes (tied 0-14), it was still impossible to predict the winner. However, the Wexford legs tired, while Cork were able to find another gear. They closed out with five points to the Slaneysider's one.

The Cats stand between them and three-in-a-row All Ireland titles.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter (0-5, 0-3 frees, 0-1 45), H Looney (0-4), B Corkery and K Mackey (0-3 each), A Thompson (0-2), P Mackey and E O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

Scorers for Wexford: K Kelly (0-8, 0-7 frees, 0-1 45m), K Parrock (0-2), L Bolger, U Leacy, U Sinnott, E Walsh and M Leacy (0-1 each).

CORK: A Murray; P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Buckley; O Cotter, A Thompson (Capt); H Looney, O Cronin, E O'Sullivan; A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Sub: J Hostford for O Cronin (69).

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; K Atkinson, S Nolan (Capt), C Storey; S O'Connor, M Leacy, D Codd; E Walsh, S Kehoe; U Sinnott, K Parrock, S Kehoe; K Kelly, U Leacy, L Bolger.

Subs: C Foxe for U Sinnott (48), L O'Leary for D Codd (70), U Sinnott for L Bolger (78).

Referee: Owen Elliott (Antrim).

Galway and Kildare claim Under 16 honours

By Camogie Press
Posted 14/09/2016



Galway came out on top of a hard-fought clash with Kildare to retain their All-Ireland Under 16A Championship title in Radley Park, Leixlip yesterday. Galway raced into a five point lead at half-time, and although Kilkenny narrowed the gap during hte second half it was Galway whp prevailed by a five point margin with Siobhán McGrath starring throughout and picking up the Player of the Match award.

In the All-Ireland Under 16C Championship Final Kildare overcame Carlow by just three points in a tight encounter to claim their very first Under 16C title. Kildare led by only a point at half-time by 1-5 to 1-4 but built on this lead to hold on for victory with Laoise Dunne proving to be one of their key players as she claimed the Player of the Match Award.

All-Ireland Under 16A Championship Final
Radley Park, Leixlip

Galway 3-14 Kilkenny 1-11

Player of the Match - Siobhán McGrath

All-Ireland Under 16C Championship Final
Radley Park, Leixlip

Carlow 1-08 Kildare 1-11

Player of the Match - Laoise Dunne



READY TO STRIKE - Kilkenny's Suzi Aylward gets her shot away as Galway's Sinead Cannon moves in to block her down during the Under-16 A All-Ireland camogie final in Radley Park, Leixlip. See page 80 for match report.



Una Sinnott of Wexford in action against Meabh Cahalane, left, and Leanne O'Sullivan of Cork during the Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final game between Cork and Wexford at Semple Stadium in Thurles, Co Tipperary.

Picture: Piaras O Midheach/Sportsfile

Cork improve all the time



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CORK'S battle with Wexford on Saturday will have brought them on another 10%.

Mentally, it had everything, with Cork so composed when the game hung in the balance.

Watching the second game, Kilkenny and Galway played a much more frantic game, a more panicky style, with Wexford and Cork seemingly more calm and measured in their approach with a clear game plan.

It was a game of defences with scores hard to come by. Both defences were strong.

Wexford's strategy cost them.

I mentioned last week that if Wexford went 15 on 15 Cork would have a greater battle on their hands. Yet again Wexford pulled out their forwards, leaving Una Leacy isolated inside and the country's best centre back Gemma O'Connor often all alone, and how she punished them.

Una Leacy has a great hand and a great turn. Pumping low ball out the wing to her for her to sprint after was just crazy. Rena Buckley was brilliant. It was a great move by management to mark Leacy with one of the games' most experienced and composed defenders.

Actually Wexford tried to adopt Cork's style, working the ball out from defence, taking a player on thereby creating space and overlaps. What you need for that however is superb fitness. You just knew at the end of normal time that Cork were the fresher side. They look leaner and faster.

Cork's work rate was very good, with some great blocking. Ashling Thompson's opening point came from something she created for herself, blocking a Sarah O'Connor clearance in the first minute and gathering to strike a lovely point.



Shelly Farrell of Kilkenny scores a goal past Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner during the Senior Camogie Championship semi final between Galway and Kilkenny at Semple Stadium in Thurles, Co Tipperary.

Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

And if any manager wants to show young players a textbook block in the heat of battle just go online and view Gemma O'Connor's block in the fifth minute on Katrina Parrock.

At midfield Orla Cotter and Ashling Thompson finished up with a combine total of seven points, four from play. That's a magnificent return from midfield. And both players played defensively for a lot of the game, making themselves available as Cork worked the ball out.

Hannah Looney was excellent, both at centre forward and in full when Cork switched her in there in extra time. A four-point return, all impressive scores.

Every time Brieghe has the ball she does something good, while the Mackeys are just such an important part of this Cork team.

How many times have Wexford snatched equalisers? They are the experts, and Katrina Parrock did it again in injury time.

However, both teams reaction at the final whistle heading for extra time was so telling.

Every Cork player ran straight for the dressing room, without a second thought. Katrina Parrock put her hands behind her neck, two other players fell to the ground.

Wexford strolled eventually into a huddle and sat on the pitch.

Oh so telling!

With teams tiring, mistakes were made on both sides; some wayward passing at times and poor side-lines. Side-line cuts is an area Cork should work on for the final. It's an area not always given a huge focus by teams at training, often more left up to the individual to take ownership.

Yet it's a free uncontested strike of a ball and we should be getting more out of them.

Cork have areas to improve on, they'll know that. But that's a great position to be in. They didn't fire on all cylinders yesterday. But they weren't allowed to. There's more in them. A few players didn't peak but it's a rare day when all 15 will.

Cork may not have struck the net but Mag's D'Arcy had a fine hour. Brave, alert and quick off her line she saved at least two Cork goals.

It's four weeks to the All-Ireland final; September 11.

Cork won't just keep things ticking over. You may be sure they'll continue to work hard on areas that concern them, looking to improve all the time.

They'll be ready.

TOP TWEETS



A dejected Mags D'Arcy after Wexford's All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final defeat in Thurles on Saturday.

Wexford Camogie (@wexfordcamogie): 'It's all over! Cork burst through the second half of extra time and win 0-19 to 0-15 after an epic battle!'



Craughwell's Clana Reidy and Lauren Gilligan celebrate after the Galway U-16 camogie team won the All-Ireland title in Leixlip last Sunday.

AUG
2016

Downey: Cats dug deep for win

BY TREVOR SPILLANE
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There was a broad smile on Ann Downey's face as she followed her team back down the tunnel at Semple Stadium. And why not? After all, her Kilkenny team had just secured their place in the senior camogie All-Ireland final.

However, their berth in that September 11 decider hadn't been secured without giving their manager a bit of a fright first as Galway threatened to catch them when victory was in sight.

"Galway were always going to get a purple patch and it came at the wrong time for us, but that happens in games," she said.

"We were four points ahead and they brought it back to a point. We lost our shape a little, probably got a little tired, but we were

work put in, we calmed the girls down and told them to go back to the plan – throw the ball over the bar if you get the opportunity," the manager said. "We had to play against the breeze in the first half of extra-time, which suited us. Turning around with the wind as well as being two points up for the last 10 minutes was great.

"The girls really put the effort in to do it in extra-time," she added. "They knew they had the work done since last October. When the game went to extra-time we told them 'remember what you've done to get here'."

While the groundwork had been undertaken during those winter months, two first half goals provided a perfect foundation for Saturday's win. The opener, a slick finish from Shelly Farrell after she had been played through by sister Ann.

GREAT GOAL

"It was a great goal," the manager said. "We could have



WHAT A FEELING! Katie Power and Jacqui Frisby (no 2) lead the celebrations as the Kilkenny players savour beating Galway to earn a place in the senior camogie All-Ireland final. The Cats will take on champions Cork at Croke Park on September 11. Photo: Cathal Noonan/INPHO

goal chances, but did bag a second when Michelle Quilty fired home a bullet-like ground strike just minutes before the break.

"Michelle's second goal was unbelievable," said Downey. "She could have had another two, she was on fire, but every single player gave their whole heart for that game."

Galway came back into contention in the second half, forcing extra-time with Ailish O'Reilly's injury-time goal, but Kilkenny never wilted.

"We knew Galway would bring a big test, as they're

probably a little bigger and more physical than we are," said Downey. "We had to counter-act that but the girls' effort, their will to die for the team, got them over the line today."

Ann Dalton's 66th minute goal certainly helped, restoring a lead Kilkenny wouldn't lose, while the composure of Player of the Match Denise Gaule helped back to the big final in Croke Park.

Kilkenny will be chasing their 13th title when they take on Cork, but know they have a big task ahead.

"We know that Cork are a great team, they're going for

three in a row so we'll have to up our performance to beat them," the manager said. "We're looking forward to the game."

That game will also see Kilkenny do their best to end a 22-year wait for the O'Duffy Cup. The silverware hasn't been to Nore since 1994, when Downey was part of the team. Since then Kilkenny have been the bridesmaids, losing their last six finals (1995, 1999, 2001, 2009, 2013 and 2014). The hunger for glory is there, their manager reckons.

"Everyone of those players deserves an All-Ireland," she

said. "Now, that doesn't mean they're going to win it. We have an uphill battle against Cork, we know that, but we're going to work harder these next few weeks."

And as for motivation? This side has plenty of it.

"The last time I was there the girls were very young – Katie Power was only 18," Downey reminded. "Most of those girls are still there and hopefully they've learned from the hurt."

"When you get to an All-Ireland you need a little luck on the day. We're hoping we'll get a rub of the green this time."



Kilkenny manager Ann Downey: When the game went to extra-time we told the players 'remember the hard work you did to get here'.

happy to go into extra-time."

The Cats used the break before extra-time to perfection, calming the team down and getting their concentration back on point.

"We knew we had the

had more in the first half; that we didn't was unfortunate, but we're happy now we've come out the right side of the result."

Kilkenny showed their claws as they dominated the

Minor dreams dashed by Galway charge

GALWAY 3-14
KILKENNY 1-11

Kilkenny's dream of reclaiming the under-16 'A' All-Ireland title ended as reigning champs Galway edged them out in Leixlip on Sunday.

Led by Danielle Morrissey (0-4) the Cats raced into an early lead but Galway were back on level terms when Chloe Quinn Reilly's 30 metre shot went all the way to the Kilkenny net.

The Cats hit back, taking

the lead again through Aoife Doyle and Morrissey (free) but a scoring spree saw Galway take charge. Sarah Healy got them going with a free before quick goals from Siobhan McGrath and Chloe Quinn Reilly saw the Connacht side surge ahead (3-4 to 0-7).

STOPPED ROT

Danielle Morrissey stopped the rot with a brace of frees, but a like score from Sarah Healy left Galway five clear at the break (3-5 to 0-9).

The Kilkenny defence were on top from the start of the new half, putting pres-

sure on the Galway forwards, rushing them into some wasted shots. The West-erners had to settle for points from distance, but still managed to increase their lead to eight by the 41st minute (3-8 to 0-9).

Kilkenny's response was to roar back into the game in style, Danielle Morrissey netting a penalty after Steffi Fitzgerald was fouled.

Further points from Morrissey (free) and Aoife Doyle cut the deficit to three with eight minutes to play, but Galway weren't about to yield and bagged the last six points

of the contest.

Sarah Healy (free), Siobhan McGrath (0-3), Ciara Helebert and Mairead Dillon all raised white flags as Galway sealed the All-Ireland crown for the second year in a row.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Danielle Morrissey (1-8, 1-6); Aoife Doyle (0-2); Caoimhe Dowling (0-1). Galway - Siobhan McGrath (1-4, 1-3 frees); Chloe Quinn Reilly (2-0); Sarah Healy (0-6, frees); Niamh Horan, Katie Mannion, Claire Helebert, Mairead Dillon (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Leah Dunne, Alanna Gallagher, Maria Brennan, Caroline Kennedy, Lucy Power, Ruth Kent,

Nicole Carter, Caoimhe Dowling (captain), Aoife Doyle, Danielle Morrissey, Katie Brennan, Suzie Aylward, Lisa Donnelly, Eimear Farrell, Ciara Hendrick. Subs: Steffi Fitzgerald, Eve Lacey, Kym Ryan, Laura Quigley, Kate Kearns, Emily Crowley, Dearbhail O'Keefe, Una Kinsella, Rachel Kelly, Emily Phelan, Eimear Leahy, Laciase Prenderville, Hannah Kelly. Galway - Yvonne Lyons, Sarah Stevin, Leah Burke, Sinead Cannon, Lauren Gilligan, Kate Screene, Erica Leslie, Muireann Flaherty, Niamh Horan, Katie Mannion, Ciara Helebert, Mairead Dillon, Siobhan McGrath (captain), Sarah Healy, Chloe Quinn Reilly. Subs: Amy Helebert, Saoirse Bourke, Ciara Lenihan, Emma Reynolds, Rachel

Hanniffy, Rachel Helebert, Mary Larkin, Lauren Butler, Eabha Ni Chonlain, Ciara Gardiner, Rachel Murray, Aisling Harte, Niamh Black, Valerie Coleman, Aoife McSweeney. Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

CHAMPION CATS

In other camogie news the Kilkenny under-15 Black and Amber squads are All-Ireland champions after winning the All-Ireland blitz in Kilkenny on Saturday.

The Black squad beat Antrim after a thrilling final while the Amber squad proved too strong for Limerick to claim the All-Ireland crown.

Aug.
2016

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

Dalton goal cuts Tribe down as Kilkenny fight into All-Ireland

WRITTEN BY
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KILKENNY 3-15
GALWAY 1-19
(AFTER EXTRA-TIME)

An Ann Dalton goal straight from a sideline cut proved to be the difference as the Kilkenny senior camogie team fought their way into the All-Ireland final.

Dalton's strike, which flew all the way to the net, was the decisive score as Ann Downey's side battled past Galway to set up a title tilt against Cork.

Although Galway started brightly, opening the scoring with an Ailish O'Reilly free, they were rocked when Kilkenny hit back with a big score to storm in front.

Shelly Farrell did the damage, racing on to a hand-pass from her sister Anna before blasting the sliotar home from the edge of the small square.

Denise Gaule kept Kilkenny on the front foot, converting her first free of the day. The sides traded scores after that, Aoife Donoghue pointing for Galway before Michelle Quilty pulled one back for Kilkenny.

The see-saw nature continued, Aoife Donoghue and

Denise Gaule swapping points, but when Anna Farrell then tapped over a point from 35 metres Kilkenny were four clear after 18 minutes (1-4 to 0-3).

Niamh McGrath narrowed the gap to a goal when she converted a free, but Denise Gaule quickly responded for the victors with an excellent long range free.

Noreen Coen replied for Galway, but the Westerners' goal was living a charmed life. Shelly Farrell was almost in for a goal when she won possession 14 metres from the posts, but her 24th minute shot was brilliantly saved by Susan Eerner in the Galway goal.

The danger wasn't over, as the rebound fell to Michelle Quilty, but her ground puck was beaten off the line.

An Ailish O'Reilly point gave Galway some hope, but not for long. Quilty put more daylight between the sides when a sweet passing move involving Jacqui Frisby, Miriam Walsh, Anna Farrell and Katie Power came her way.

Power cut through the Galway rearguard before setting up her team-mate off to brilliantly drill a first-time pull to the roof of the Galway net (2-5 to 0-6).

Galway did regain some composure, Niamh McGrath (free) and Orlaith McGrath (0-2) pulling some points back, but minor scores from Meighan Farrell and Miriam Walsh saw Kilkenny finish the half on a high (2-7 to 0-9).

Kilkenny opened the second half scoring, Denise Gaule splitting the posts from the tightest of angles from



ON THE CHARGE - Ann Farrell (Kilkenny) gets ready to test the Galway defence during the senior camogie All-Ireland semi-final.

Photos: Pat Moore

close to the left sideline. Niamh McGrath converted a free of her own, but again Michelle Quilty responded, profiting after Anna Farrell made a brilliant catch and laid off the perfect pass.

At that stage things looked grim for Galway, but they strung together four points on the spin to force their way back into contention. Niamh McGrath and Niamh Kilkenny got them going, before Molly Dunne and a McGrath free left two between the sides with 12 minutes to play (2-9 to 0-13).

Denise Gaule got Kilkenny going again with another free, but a Niamh McGrath 45 made it a one-point contest again.

With the game on the line Kilkenny raised their efforts. Denise Gaule led the way with a free, with Meighan Farrell battling her way to a point after fighting off two Galway challenges. When Denise Gaule fired over a massive free from 70 metres Kilkenny were within touching distance of the final, but Galway weren't done for yet.

There was still one last charge left in the Tribeswomen, which saw them hit 1-1 and keep their hopes alive. Ailish O'Reilly nabbed a point, then latched on to Rebecca Hennelly's injury-time free to grab the goal that sent the game into extra-time (2-13 to 1-16).

Kilkenny may have been stunned by this late rally, but they quickly regrouped. Although a Niamh McGrath free gave Galway the lead for only the second time in the game, Kilkenny fired back. Ann Dalton's 66th minute sideline ball deceived the Galway defence and went straight into the net. That score left the Cats 3-13 to 1-17 ahead at half-time in extra-time.

Niamh McGrath pulled a point back with a free for Galway, but there was no stopping Kilkenny now.

Player of the Match Denise Gaule made sure of that, converting a 73rd minute free after Katie Power was fouled, before grabbing a brilliant point from play after exhibiting silky skills to gain control of the ball.

Galway had the chance to level matters in the dying seconds, but Rebecca Hennelly's close range free was deflected over the end line by the Kilkenny defence. Hennelly tapped the resulting 45 over, but there was time for no more - Kilkenny were in the All-Ireland final.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Denise Gaule (0-9, 0-8 frees); Michelle Quilty (1-2); Shelly Farrell, Ann Dalton (1-0 each); Meighan Farrell (0-2); Anna Farrell, Miriam Walsh (0-1 each). Galway - Niamh McGrath (0-8, 0-7 frees, 0-1 45); Ailish O'Reilly (1-3); Aoife Donoghue, Orlaith McGrath (0-2 each); Noreen Coen, Niamh Kilkenny, Molly Dunne (0-1 each), Rebecca

Hennelly (0-1, 45).
Kilkenny - Emma Kavanagh, Jacqui Frisby, Davina Tobin, Collette Dormar, Claire Phelan, Edwina Keane, Meighan Farrell, Anna Farrell, Ann Dalton, Denise Gaule, Julianne Malone, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, Miriam Walsh, Shelly Farrell. Subs: Ann Marie Lennon, Kelly Ann Doyle, Sarah Kent, Stacey Quirke, Grace Walsh, Sarah Crowley, Aine Gannon, Aisling Dunphy, Miriam Frisby, Laura Murphy, Maureen Walsh, Michelle Teehan, Aoife O'Carroll, Niamh Deely, Sarah Ann Quinlan.
Galway - Susan Eerner, Tara Kenny, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Clodagh McGrath, Rebecca Hennelly, Lorraine Ryan, Ann Marie Starr, Niamh Kilkenny, Aoife Donoghue, Niamh McGrath, Shauna Healy, Orlaith McGrath, Ailish O'Reilly, Noreen Coen. Subs: Shauna Burke, Molly Dunne, Emma Helebert, Siobhan Coen, Finola Keeley, Ciara Murphy, Niamh Hanniffy, Aoife Callanan, Elaine Burke, Laura Loughnane, Jessica Gill, Siobhan Gardiner, Roisin Black, Carrie Dolan, Susan Keane.

Referee - Ray Kelly (Kildare).

INTERMEDIATES ADVANCE

The Kilkenny intermediate team, who were already certain of an All-Ireland semi-final spot, made it four wins from four when they beat Laois by 2-15 to 0-11 in Tullaroan on Thursday.

Led by Ciara Holden (0-3 frees) and Keava Fennelly the victors raced into a 0-4 to 0-0 lead in the opening ten minutes. Laois responded through Sarah Fitzgerald (0-2) but two more Fennelly

points, followed by a Jenny Clifford goal gave the Cats a seven-point cushion after 22 minutes (1-6 to 0-2).

Sarah Ann Fitzgerald clawed back two more points for Laois but both were cancelled out by Sarah Walsh and Catherine Walsh before Ciara Holden's late free saw Kilkenny go in 1-9 to 0-4 in front at half-time.

Laois began the second half brightly, opening well with three Sarah Ann Fitzgerald frees. Jenny Clifford hit back with point and was only denied her second goal by a fine save from Laois goalkeeper Laura Dunne.

A Sarah Ann Fitzgerald 45 made it 1-10 to 0-9, but 1-3 without replay saw Kilkenny pull away again. Points from Catherine Walsh and Ciara Holden (0-2) were followed by a Keava Fennelly goal, who kicked home to put the game to bed.

Sarah Ann Fitzgerald responded with a Laois free, a score cancelled out by Sarah Walsh's point. Sharon Moylan pointed late on for Laois Kilkenny's good victory was rounded off when Megan Walsh, daughter of the late Michael 'Ducksie' Walsh, fired over an injury-time point to great cheers from the Kilkenny fans in attendance.

Kilkenny will now play Kildare in the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday. Time and venue to be confirmed.



Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny) comes out on top of this battle against Galway during Saturday's senior camogie All-Ireland semi-final in Thurles.

Extra time blues for Galway as Cats exploit lucky break

■ Fortuitous Dalton goal ends gallant Tribeswomen's All-Ireland title hopes

| | |
|----------|------|
| KILKENNY | 3-15 |
| GALWAY | 1-19 |

(after extra time)

DARREN KELLY
AT SEMPLE STADIUM

THREE goals ended Galway's senior camogie All-Ireland championship hopes last Saturday as Kilkenny finally got over the line in a pulsating semi-final to set up a showdown against Cork next month.

Strikes from Shelly Farrell and Michelle Quilty in the first half had Ollie Bergin's side playing catch-up before a speculative Ann Dalton sideline cut deceived everyone to find the net in extra time.

It followed a fast paced contest that looked to be over when Kilkenny led by five points, but Galway showed immense character and Ailish O'Reilly scored a terrific 63th minute goal to force extra-time. The maroon and white supporters now sensed that they would carry the day after a difficult encounter.

But just when Galway got their noses ahead with a Niamh McGrath free within two minutes of the added period, Dalton's dead ground stroke knocked the life out of the Tribeswomen before Denise Gaule finished with two points in the closing stages.

This was a contest that camogie supporters had been anticipating all week. From the start, both teams sought to seize the initiative. Within 49 seconds, O'Reilly took possession to split the posts. It was the start Ollie Bergin's charges needed, but Kilkenny's response was telling.

Put through by her sister Anna, Shelly Farrell managed to turn inside before hand passing to the net. Gaule made her mark from midfield, opening her account to make it 1-1 to 0-1. Subsequently, Aoife Donohue, who was equally tremendous with her never-ending work rate, got on the scoreboard to leave two between them.

The sides traded points through Quilty and Donohue but scores for Gaule and Anna Farrell put Kilkenny four clear. Galway stayed in touch when McGrath opened her account after Donohue was fouled.

Gaule replied but points for Noreen Coen and O'Reilly had Galway 1-5 to 0-6 behind on 20 minutes.

Kilkenny had made the surprising move to drop Dalton to centre back that yielded dividends for them, but Galway were guilty of sitting back allowing the Cats to take them on. In contrast, when Galway decided to have a go, they threatened to cause problems.

The game was in the balance, but the 66th minute provided a sucker punch they never recovered from

But Kilkenny's ability to counter decreed that Galway's defence had to be on full alert and Susan Earner, along with Heather Cooney, delivered a sensational triple save as the two Farrell sisters and Quilty were all denied.

Galway were getting chances but couldn't create the right opportunity to test Emma Kavanagh. And Kilkenny were more effective at punishing their opponents, highlighted perfectly with a stunning second goal.

Anna Farrell and Power moved through the central channel before shipping the ball to the right and the sliothar bounced nicely for Quilty to pull first time, sending a rocket to the roof of the net.

With half-time approaching, Galway needed to respond. Donohue won another free which McGrath converted. Orlaith McGrath made it 2-5 to 0-8 and she added another before half-time. In between, Meighan Farrell and Walsh ensured Kilkenny were 2-7 to 0-9 ahead.

Gaule made it 2-8 to 0-9 on 36 minutes before Niamh McGrath cancelled that out before Quilty put five between them. The Tribeswomen needed a massive lift and while it took the three quarter mark to fully get going, Galway finally got on a run.

By the 48th minute, the gap was the bare minimum as Galway got four unanswered



Galway's Orlaith McGrath comes under pressure from Kilkenny's Meighan Farrell during Saturday's All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final in Thurles. PHOTO: KEN SUTTON/INPHO

points. Niamh McGrath book-ended these with Dunne and Niamh Kilkenny also raising white flags. At 2-9 to 0-14, a grandstand finish looked inevitable.

Gaule and McGrath traded placed balls but two further Gaule frees and a superb Meighan Farrell score looked to have sealed the victory for the black and amber.

Galway chased salvation and O'Reilly found the target on 62 minutes before one last free. Rebecca Hennelly's long drive needed a kind break and O'Reilly was perfectly positioned. When needed, the Oranmore/Maree striker sent the ball through a posse of bodies for a match-saving goal.

Galway hadn't led since the opening minute but when McGrath pointed at the start of extra-time, they found themselves 1-17 to 2-13 ahead. The game was in the balance, but the 66th minute provided a sucker punch they never recovered from.

Dalton sent in a sideline cut from the Old Stand side of the field and with Earner seeing the sliothar late, Kilkenny had a third goal out of nothing.

Galway trailed 3-13 to 1-17 at the change of ends. They finally arrested the slide with McGrath pointing on 72 minutes. Kilkenny went for one more push and Gaule sent over two



Galway's Aoife Donohue prepares to challenge Kilkenny's Denise Gaule during the All-Ireland camogie semi-final.

scores to leave it 3-15 to 1-18.

As the clock descended into injury time, a Galway 45 resulted in Hennelly's delivery just going over the crossbar. Galway needed the next ball but it wouldn't come and Kilkenny held on to edge out a memorable encounter.

Earner in goal, Sarah Dervan, Cooney, Niamh Kilkenny, Dono-

hue, Orlaith McGrath and O'Reilly fought hardest for a Galway team which has now come unstuck against the Cats in two big matches this year.

Galway: S. Earner, T. Kenny, S. Dervan, H. Cooney, C. McGrath, R. Hennelly (0-1, 45), L. Ryan, AM Starr, N. Kilkenny (0-1), A. Donohue (0-2), N. McGrath (0-8, seven frees, one '45), S. Healy, O. McGrath (0-2), A. O'Reilly (1-3), N. Coen (0-1). Subs: M.

Dunne (0-1) for Coen (42 mins), S. Coen for Ryan (60 mins), J. Gill for O. McGrath (60 mins), O. McGrath for Healy (65 mins), A. Callanan for Starr (78 mins).

Kilkenny: E. Kavanagh, J. Frisby, D. Tobin, C. Dormer, C. Phelan, A. Dalton (1-0, sideline), E. Keane, D. Gaule (0-9, eight frees), M. Farrell (0-2), A. Farrell (0-1), M. Walsh (0-1), K. Power, M. Quilty (1-2), JA Malone, S. Farrell (1-0). Subs: G. Walsh for Malone (43 mins), KA Doyle for Power (60 mins). Referee: R. Kelly (Kildare).



CHAMPIONS: The Galway U16 camogie team which won the All-Ireland title by overcoming Kilkenny at Radley Park, Leixlip on Saturday. Back row, left to right: Ciara Gardiner, Muireann Flaherty, Erica Lesley, Lauren Gilligan, Clara Helebert, Sarah Slevin, Kate Mannion, Saoirse Burke, Mairead Dillon, Eabha Ni Chonlain, Lesh Burke, Amy Helebert, Lauren Butler, Mary Larkin, Niamh Black, Sarah Healy, Valerie Coleman, Alana Glynn, Sinead Cannon, Niamh Horan. Front row: Yvonne Lyons, Chloe Quinn Reilly, Kate Screen, Arlene, Earls, Emma Reynolds, Rachel Hanniffy, Rachel Helebert, Siobhan McGrath, Ciara Lenihan, Kate Moran, Rachel Murray, Clana Reidy, Aoife McSweeney, Aisling Harte.

Galway girls retain title

Goals from Quinn-Reilly and McGrath prove decisive against the Cats

GALWAY 3-14

KILKENNY 1-11

DARREN KELLY
IN LEIXLIP

A SHINING light in a disappointing weekend for Galway Gaelic Games, the county's under 16 camogie team didn't sit in the shadows as they retained the All-Ireland title and put themselves top of the roll of honour.

Two goals from Chloe Quinn-Reilly and one for captain Siobhan McGrath in the first half were critical to the outcome before six unanswered points in the final quarter ensured Tony O'Donovan's charges the victory.

One could be forgiven this contest wasn't taking place. The Camogie Association didn't promote the final through their website or social media. And it clashed directly with the double header in Croke Park. But when Galway supporters had time to reflect on all activity on Sunday night, it was their future female hurlers that gave them heart-warming hope.

Kilkenny played their part too and started brightly with Danielle Morrissey converting two frees by the fifth minute. Galway's half-back line was ready for a busy afternoon but Morrissey scored again from play to make it 0-3 to 0-0.

The Tribesgirls needed to be patient and finally broke the deadlock on nine minutes when McGrath was fouled resulting in Sarah Healy pointing. Morrissey responded with a Kilkenny 45 but the momentum shifted towards Galway in the 12th minute.

In a move involving, Katie Mannion, Healy and Clara Helebert, the ball was worked to Quinn-Reilly and the Kiltormer

forward sent a delivery towards the posts where the sliothar dropped underneath the crossbar to level the sides.

Kilkenny replied with Aoife Doyle and Morrissey making it 0-6 to 1-1. McGrath won another foul with Healy making no mistake before Caoimhe Dowling restored Kilkenny's two point advantage on 16 minutes.

With Galway cheers winning the stand battle, Niamh Horan made it 0-7 to 1-3 a minute after but when they attacked down the left 60 seconds later, they took a lead they didn't relinquish.

Kate Screen's pass found Mairead Dillon who provided the perfect delivery. McGrath retrieved the ball with space to use and found the net and Galway led 2-3 to 0-7.

The Tribesgirls didn't look back. Helebert supplied Screen for a sweet long effort to put three between them. And on 19 minutes, another Dillon special from the left saw Quinn-Reilly perfectly placed for Galway's third goal. 2-2 in two minutes had Galway 3-4 to 0-7 clear.

Kilkenny, seeking a first title since 2007, weren't about to throw in the towel. Two Morris-

sey frees kept the contest alive but Healy left it 3-5 to 0-9 at the interval.

Galway looked to put the contest to bed but seven early second half wides created some nerves. It took nine minutes to get the next point with Healy's fourth and they added two more. Mannion set up McGrath for a white flag before forcing another foul and Healy obliged.

Eight points ahead on 42 minutes, the job wasn't completed and Kilkenny got back into proceedings. Substitute Steffi Fitzgerald was brought down for a penalty in the 44th minute and

Morrissey's shot snuck inside the left post. Yvonne Lyons produced an important save while points for Doyle and Morrissey reduced arrears to 3-8 to 1-11 with seven minutes remaining.

However, Galway upped the tempo in the closing strait with six unanswered points. Two Healy frees were followed by scores for Helebert and McGrath. A perfectly timed Dillon interception resulted in another before McGrath had the final say with an injury time white flag. Lyons looked assured in goal. Sinead Cannon, Lauren Gilligan and Screen were the pick of the defence; Muireann Flaherty and Niamh Horan contin-

ued their reliable midfield partnership while Dillon, McGrath and Quinn-Reilly stood out in attack.

Galway: Y. Lyons; S. Slevin, L. Burke, S. Cannon, L. Gilligan, K. Screen (0-1), E. Lesley, M. Flaherty, N. Horan (0-1); K. Mannion, C. Helebert (0-1), M. Dillon (0-1); S. McGrath (1-3, one free), S. Healy (0-7, all frees), C. Quinn-Reilly (2-0). Subs: R. Hanniffy for Healy (56 mins), R. Helebert for Mannion (60 mins).

Kilkenny: L. Dunne, A. Gallagher, M. Brennan, C. Kennedy, L. Power, R. Kent, N. Carter, C. Dowling (0-1), A. Doyle (0-2), D. Morrissey (1-8, six frees, 1-0 pen, one '45), K. Brennan, S. Aylward, L. Donnelly, E. Farrell, C. Hendrick. Subs: S. Fitzgerald for Hendrick (34 mins), R. Kelly for Donnelly (56 mins).

Referee: J. Dolan (Clare).



The victorious Galway U16 camogie squad celebrate their All-Ireland final success over Kilkenny. PHOTOS: TOMMY GREALLY/NPHO