



Former basketball player Sandie Fitzgibbon, *The Echo* Rebel Legends award winner in 2021.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Sandie is a legend who gave back to her beloved sports

BASKETBALL

■ Kieran Doherty

Sandie Fitzgibbon is one of the best dual stars that this country has ever seen. Male or female.

Fitzgibbon graced the camogie fields with Glen Rovers and the Cork senior team for years, winning every honour in the game.

At the same time, she also had an amazing career playing basketball with Blarney and the Ireland senior women's team in the 1980s and 1990s.

However, she always found time to give something back to both these sports by coaching different underage teams.

When she retired, she coached the Glen senior camogie side, became a selector to the Cork senior team and then joined her sisters, Mary, Patsy, and Denise, coaching at the Brunell Basketball Club.

Not only was she an unbelievable player and superb coach, she is also a special person, who always puts her team's achievements before her own, which is a wonderful trait as a sports person and as a human being.

Fitzgibbon began her camogie career as an eight-year-old in the colours of Glen Rovers.

Fitzgibbon was one of the youngest players to line out at senior level for the club, when she made her debut at 12 years of age.

She has won every honour in the game at club, county and inter-provincial level.

The holder of 10 Cork senior county championship medals, four All-Ireland club championship and seven Munster club championship medals with Glen Rovers, she has also captained the club to a senior county and Munster championship title.

She has had a remarkable inter-county career, winning six All-Ireland senior medals and three All-Ireland minor championship medals.

She became the first player to win three



Sandie Fitzgibbon in action for Blarney. She also played camogie.

All-Ireland minor medals in a row: 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Fitzgibbon captained the Cork minor side to Munster and All-Ireland glory in 1980 and became the first player from Glen Rovers to captain a Cork senior team to All-Ireland honours in 1992.

Aside from camogie, Fitzgibbon has won three national league and two national cup medals with the Blarney Basketball Club and won a national league and another national cup medal with Lee Strand, Tralee, in a glittering basketball career.

Fitzgibbon has also represented the Irish senior women's team and has 68 international caps and has won a four-countries medal at school and senior level.

She was honoured with selection on the camogie team of the century and was only one of four Cork players to be honoured.

In 2012, she was inducted into the Bord Gais Camogie Hall of Fame, which was another milestone for her.

"When I look back on my playing career, it is something that I'm very proud of, however, I played with some excellent players and played under some superb coaches," she said.

"When I was playing with the Glen, I found the coaching side of the games very

interesting, so I helped out with the underage girls at the club."

"Also, when I was playing National League with Blarney, Rose Breen and myself coached the U12 and U18 teams.

"I think it is so important that, as a player, that you give something back to the clubs, like the people done for me when I was younger.

"When I retired, I took over as coach to the Glen senior side for a three-year period and then became selector to the Cork senior sides, both roles that I really enjoyed.

"To be honest, I didn't find the transition from playing to coaching difficult, because, as players, we all knew each other strengths and weaknesses, so I wanted to implement that structure and discipline into my teams.

"I was really humbled to get that chance to become coach of the Glen, as I stated playing for them as an eight-year-old girl.

"Basketball wise, I also thought it was important to give something back to the game again, like it was done for me in the North Presentation School and Blarney Basketball club.

"It was great for me, personally, to get a chance to coach with my sisters, Mary, Patsy and Denise at Brunell.

"I coached the U16 girls for a number of years and found it very enjoyable," Sandie added.

Fitzgibbon's playing days weren't completely finished, as she played in different master's basketball tournaments at home and abroad with her friends from the Glasnevin Club Dublin.

Although Fitzgibbon is a very shy and humble person, the people in Cork voted her the overall winner of *The Echo* Rebel Legend competition in 2021.

She won 54.7% of the vote, which drew 19,959 votes in the final, against Rena Buckley.

However, she beat Roy Keane, Denis Irwin, Billy Morgan and Rob Heffernan when she went head to head with those legends in earlier rounds.

To this day, she remains a remarkably humble lady, completely untouched by her fame and past glories.

The Echo Women in Sport Awards



Caoimhe Murphy celebrates with Louise Walsh after Mary I defeated UL in the Purcell Cup final.

She has also won minor A Munster camogie medals with Cork in 2022 and 2021.

Along the way, Caoimhe has also won county, Munster and All-Ireland camogie medals with Sacred Heart Secondary School at junior and senior level.

With her camogie club she has won county titles at U12, U14, U18 and junior level.

Caoimhe played with the Carbery senior camogie squad in the senior county championship. She has won county and divisional titles with Clonakilty LGFA.

Caoimhe won a county Sciath na Scol camogie championship with her primary school (Kilmeen NS) and was selected on the primary games hurling/camogie team that played at half time in the All-Ireland hurling semi-final (Cork v Waterford) in 2017. Only two children from Cork were chosen to play in that match.

The final at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence was a thriller, particularly the second half, when Mary I came from four points down at half time to level the match. UL scored two goals in the second half, but Mary I kept their composure and

School adds second camogie title

PORTUMNA CS 1-11

ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE 1-5

PORTUMNA Community School completed a brilliant All-Ireland double when landing the Junior B All-Ireland camogie title recently with a six-point win over St Mary's of Charleville, adding the junior title to the senior crown won by the school last month.

A brilliant defensive display by both sides from the first whistle meant we had to wait until midway through the

"KENNY'S CONSISTENCY SHONE THROUGH AGAIN AS SHE NOTCHED POINTS FROM BOTH PLAY AND SET-PIECES"

first-half for the opening score of this game, Portumna's corner-forward Addyson Darcy landing a brilliant point from play to get the scoreboard moving at McDonagh Park in Nenagh.



Portumna CS captain, Neisha Scott, is presented with the Corn Eithne by Olivia Hogan.



Cork's Clara Murphy hit 1-1 against Kilkenny in the Electric Ireland Minor Championship.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cronin's goals vital in Cork win

Kilkenny 1-13
Cork 3-10

Two second-half Shona Cronin goals helped Cork overcome Kilkenny after the hosts got the perfect to this Electric Ireland Minor Championship group clash in Kilkenny.

The reward for the Munster champions is a home semi-final in the All-Ireland series.

Clara O'Shea finished to the net in the opening seconds but the Rebels responded well, captain Rachel Murphy and Tara Goulding narrowing the gap with two points. Kilkenny stretched their advantage as Lucy Boyd hit three

GAA

Mary Newman

points in a row, one from play, as the Cork defence was put under pressure. With Molly Conroy and Eleanor Doherty (2) on target Kilkenny led by seven points, 1-6 to 0-2, after 15 minutes.

Cork needed a response to get back on track and they got it with Clara Murphy finishing to the net. They took control and cut the deficit with a Catherine Murphy point to put three between the sides.

Cronin and Murphy added scores and it was Kilkenny leading by a point, 1-6 to 1-5, at half time.

The second half was nip and tuck as the sides swapped points with Ona Kennedy and Lucy Boyd keeping Kilkenny in front as Cronin, Clara Murphy and Ava McAuliffe ensured Cork stayed on their heels.

After 51 minutes, Cork hit the front for the first time with a Cronin goal. Three minutes later Conroy had Kilkenny back on level though before Ona Kennedy edged the home side ahead again. Cork grabbed a goal through Cronin to go up by two points with a minute remaining. Murphy added a point to ensure a superb victory for a battling Cork side who recovered well from a strong Kilkenny start.

Scorers for Kilkenny: L Boyd 0-5 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), O Kennedy 0-4 (0-3 f), C O'Shea 1-0, M Conroy, E Doherty 0-2 each.

Cork: S Cronin 2-3 (0-3 f), Clara Murphy 1-1, R

Murphy 0-3, Catherine Murphy, A McAuliffe, T Goulding 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: J Saunders, C Power, G Brennan, J Smith, R Hayden, O Kennedy, T Alward, R Phelan, E Doherty, L Boyd, C O'Shea, A O'Sullivan, E Phelan, C Hickey, M Conroy.

Subs: N Davis for R Hayden (35), S Doherty for C Power (40), E Walton for J Saunders (50), S Ronan for A O'Sullivan (50)

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); S Cunningham (Erin's Own), L Ahern (Eire Og), A McGrath (Eire Og), A Cagney (Mallow), C Ryan (Newtownshandrum), A Cussen (Ballinhassig); J Murphy (Blackrock), Catherine Murphy (Kinsale); Clara Murphy (Eire Og), R Murphy (Ballinora, c), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr); T Goulding (Ballincollig), S Cronin (Valley Rovers), K O'Sullivan (Midleton).

Subs: M Lombard (Ballinhassig) for A Cagney, C Horgan (Sliabh Rua) for K O'Sullivan (41), A Mulkerins (St Catherine's) for Clara Murphy, A McSweeney for T Goulding (57).

Antrim skipper Boyle chasing birthday boost

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Amy Boyle celebrates her 25th birthday tomorrow and the captain of the Antrim camogie team will hope to celebrate by leading her team to the top tier of the Very League with victory over Clare in the Division 1B final at the NGDC in Abbotstown (2pm throw-in, live-stream on Camogie Association's YouTube).

It has been some turnaround for the Saffrons after a year to forget.

In 2021, Boyle and a young squad shone in Croke Park to win the All-Ireland intermediate title and two solid seasons at senior level followed. But managerial turmoil and the unavailability of a number of players left them hamstrung and they were relegated once more.

Carl McCormick and Martin Coulter took over the reins in difficult circumstances last term but after getting a full pre-season under their belts, they had their crew far better

prepared this time around.

Turning a seven-point deficit around against senior side Wexford in the first round of the league, despite being without the totemic Róisín McCormick, Caitrin Dobbin, and Maeve Kelly through injury, infused them with a confidence that has brought them this far.

And it was a stark illustration of how far they had come.

"Last year we got beat by 52 points by them. So that was a 53-point turnaround. So the whole thing, each match, it's just got better," details Boyle with a touch of understatement.

"We've got a lot of younger players through the panel this year. And there's been a few girls just couldn't commit other years have come on board. You see the difference of having a real strong panel, which is maybe something the last couple of years, we've been really light on our numbers.

"We've 29 players this year, which is really making a difference in our training as well.

"The Wexford game showed there's great fight within all the girls. They were three big names that were missing but in our panel, we weren't even thinking 'oh, these guys are missing,' because it was just three other girls we knew would be well capable of stepping in, and they have. Katie Molloy, Cassie McArthur, Janey McIntosh. Dervla Cosgrove [who hit an 84-second hat-trick and four goals in total when Antrim's second string won the All-Ireland premier junior title in 2022] has taken over the frees this year."

Last year was tough but Boyle was never going to desert the ranks just because there were no silver baubles going around.

"Yeah, it can be difficult. But I suppose when you have been on the panel a few years, you can see how rewarding it can be. Last year was maybe



Amy Boyle: 'We've been really light on our numbers.'

one of the more difficult years to be on the panel. But you remember back to 2021 when we did win the All-Ireland and you're trying to let some of the younger girls that didn't experience it know that that's what inter-county can be.

"When I first come up onto the panel in 2017, straight out of minor, I think we were

maybe struggling to field a lot the time intermediate, you know?

"And then just a few years later, we managed to win it. So hopefully for a lot of the younger girls, if they could experience that success too, it'd be nice for them."

Boyle is quick to warn anyone against reading too much into her team's 14-point defeat of Clare at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chíosóg last Saturday. With both sides already qualified and resting lots of personnel, it was nothing but a good runout.

"We're under no illusions that it'll be a different Clare side we meet again. Clare have been a senior team now for a long time, they have plenty of experience. So we're looking forward to the challenge.

"Nothing beats them tough matches.

"And I think even us playing now in the intermediate championship this year, playing in the Division 1B will really stand to us."

Tipp ease into Minor quarter finals

Tipperary 1-15
Dublin 0-3

MATCH DIGEST

Player of the Match: Lucy O'Brien (Tipperary)
SCORERS - Tipperary: Caoimhe Stakelum 1-7 (1-3 frees); Maeve Cunneen 0-3; Lucy O'Brien 0-2; Elana McGrath, Clara Cahill, Doireann Ryan 0-1 each.
Dublin: Jocelyn Hanks, Aoibhinn O'Gorman, Ava O'Neill 0-1 each.

Report: Joe Scully at the County Camogie Grounds, The Ragg
Photos: Marty Ryan/SportsFocus

TIPPERARY qualified for the All-Ireland Minor 'A' Camogie Championship quarter finals with an emphatic twelve-point victory over Dublin on Sunday.

An emphatic second-half performance made all the difference as the defending champions held the visitors' scoreless thanks in the main to a solid defensive performance, but also some poor finishing from the visitors.

The game itself was a highly entertaining spectacle, with the skill levels from both sides throughout of the highest quality with both sides giving their all. Some of the camogie played at times was a joy to watch, and the twelve point margin of victory for Tipperary was maybe a little harsh on Dublin, who will look back with a lot of regret on a glut of missed chances from very scoreable positions; their 27% conversion rate tells a story.

But Tipperary were more than deserving victors, where of their 1-15 total, 0-12 came from play, and when they turned it on in the second half, they just had too much fire power for the Leinster outfit.

And while Tipp now have a quarter-final to look forward to on March 30th, they will also know much improvement is needed going forward with the best in this game being Leanna Coppinger, Sarah McLoughlin, Isobel O'Donnell, Lucy O'Brien, Caoimhe Stakelum and Maeve Cunneen.

Tipp got off to a flyer and raced into a four-point lead inside the opening ten minutes through points from Maeve Cunneen, then Lucy O'Brien follow-

ing a strong run and finish, before Cunneen added her second with a good finish from out wide, and then Caoimhe Stakelum added the fourth following a fine catch and finish.

Dublin finally got off the mark in the thirteenth minute through an Ava O'Neill point from play, and a minute later the visitors were nearly in for a goal, but Cora Coffey saw her effort flash just wide.

Tipp extended their lead with two more points from play with Cunneen on the scoresheet again after disposing her marker and finishing, before O'Brien added her second following another strong run and finish.

Dublin had the gap back to three by the 20th minute through points from Jocelyn Harris following a turnover inside the Tipperary half and then a fine team score by Aoibhinn O'Gorman after being set up by the impressive Roisin Nolan, which would prove to be their final score of the game.

The home side would finish the half the stronger scoring 1-2 in the final ten minutes, with the points coming from Elana McGrath and a Stakelum free, before in the third minute of added time came the games crucial moment when her free from inside her own half somehow found its way to the back of the Dublin net to leave Tipperary ahead at the break 1-8 to 0-3.

Whatever was said in the Tipperary dressing room at the break had the desired effect as they came out in the second half a totally different team and took complete control of the game



Tipperary's Sarah McLoughlin clears the ball under pressure from Dublin's Cara Coffey

outscored Dublin 0-7 to no score.

It would take them five minutes to resume the scoring when full forward Ciara Cahill pointed from close range after being set up by Lucy O'Brien. A minute later, Caoimhe Stakelum showed just why she is one to watch out for in the coming years with a superb point on the run, and she would hit the next four scores, firstly a free, then a fine effort from play following a superb team move, and then she added a 45 in the 55th minute and added another fine individual score in three minutes later.

The game was petering out at this stage, and the final say of the game went to sub Doireann Ryan in the third minute of add time from play to leave Tipperary comfortable twelve point victors and through to a home

quarter final after finishing second in the group, and they also remain undefeated, following the conclusion of the group stage action.

Tipperary will host Wexford while Kilkenny travel to Galway in the quarter finals while Cork and Limerick progress straight to the semi-finals as group winners.

TEAMS - Tipperary: Danielle Butler (Eire Og Annacarty/Donohill 6); Sarah McLoughlin (Boherlahan-Dualla 8); Leah Maher (Boherlahan-Dualla 7); Leanna Coppinger (Thurles Sarsfields 8); Izzy Carr (Holycross/Ballycahill 7); Isobel O'Donnell (Brian Borus 8); Eva Ralph (Moycarkey/Borris 7); Rachael O'Meara (CJ Kickhams Mullinahone 7); Emma Kennedy (Lorrha 6); Caoimhe Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields 9); Lucy O'Brien (St Patrick's 9); Elana McGrath (Holycross/Ballycahill 7); Isabelle Kingston (Kiladangan 6); Clara Cahill (Drom & Inch 6); Maeve

Cunneen (Silvermines 8).
Subs: Lucy Heffernan (Eire Og Annacarty/Donohill 6) for Kingston (45); Doireann Ryan (Boherlahan-Dualla 7) for Cahill (45); Kate Dowling (Moycarkey/Borris 6) for McGrath (45); Ava Gaynor (Kilruane MacDonaghs 6) for O'Meara (54); Elmeary Troy (Toomevara NR) for O'Brien (57); Mya Hickey (Boherlahan-Dualla NR) for Kennedy (58); Sarah English (Brian Borus) for Cunneen (60).

Dublin: Ella Walsh (7); Emma Ryan (6); Susan Dalton (7); Eile Caffrey (6); Rebekah Verling (6); Niamh Hyland (7); Roisin Nolan (8); Jocelyn Hanks (8); Aoibhinn O'Gorman (6); Abbie Kenny (6); Ava O'Neill (7); Chloe O'Shea (6); Caitlin McKenna (6); Cara Coffey (6); Eva Collis (6).

Subs: Réka Kalló (6) for O'Gorman (HT); Anna Magee (6) for Collis (HT); Emma Reddan (6) for O'Neill (39); Sadbh McCann (6) for McKenna (46); Seodhna Ni Riain (6) for Coffey (53); Ella Jenkins (NR) for Hanks (56); Laoise Conaghan (NR) for Kenny (58).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick).

Plenty to improve on for quarter final - Ralph

By Joe Scully

TIPPERARY minor manager Ray Ralph was happy with his sides twelve point win over Dublin in the final group game in the Championship which secured their place in the knockout stage, but the Moycarkey/Borris clubman wasn't as happy with the performance, particularly in the first half.

"I thought we were very poor in the first half," he began.

"I thought across the board, we were missing balls, missing scoring opportunities and not doing what we should have been doing, so we had a bit of a stern talking to at half-time, and we got a bit more from them in the second half. We held Dublin scoreless in the second half. They are a physical side but look we have to focus on what we are doing, and we weren't happy at all with the first half showing.



Tipperary manager Ray Ralph

“There's a lot to work on, we feel we need to get out on grass to train, as we are kind of finding it hard on the astro turf.”

“There's a lot to work on, we feel we need to get out on grass to train, as we are kind of finding it hard on the astro turf.”

Ralph, however, was impressed with how his team defended in the second half. “Our wing backs in the first half were more focused on marking, and

maybe weren't doing as much, but they came more into the game in the second half,” he said,

“Our half back line dominated when we took over in the second period and our inside backs were very good, we had Leah (Maher), Sarah (McLaughlin) and Leanna (Coppinger), and I thought they were very good in fairness to them.

Looking ahead to the All-Ireland quarter final against Wexford at the end of the month, Ralph knows there is a lot of work to be done before then, if they are to be ready for a make-or-break game. “We have a bit of house-keeping we need to sort out,” he feels. “We butchered a few goal chances today, our running off the shoulder, we also butchered a few passes, dropping the ball that kind of stuff.

“We have an awful lot to work on before the quarter final, and look that's all we can do going forward.”

Clash of the Camogie champions at The Ragg

By Joe Scully

THIS Saturday afternoon sees a mouth-watering fixture as the reigning National League champions Tipperary welcome the reigning Munster and All-Ireland champions Cork to the County Camogie grounds for a top of the table clash in the Division 1A of the National League.

Both sides come into the game unbeaten so far with Cork having won all three of their games, with Tipperary recording two wins and a draw. Whoever wins the game will all but secure a place in the league final, while for the loser they will be made to sweat it out in the final round.

Tipperary manager Denis Kelly is happy with how his sides campaign has been going so far, but knows his team face their toughest test to date against Cork who are the standard bearers in camogie currently.

"We have been getting better game by game and looking forward to the weekend," he began.

TIPPERARY V CORK

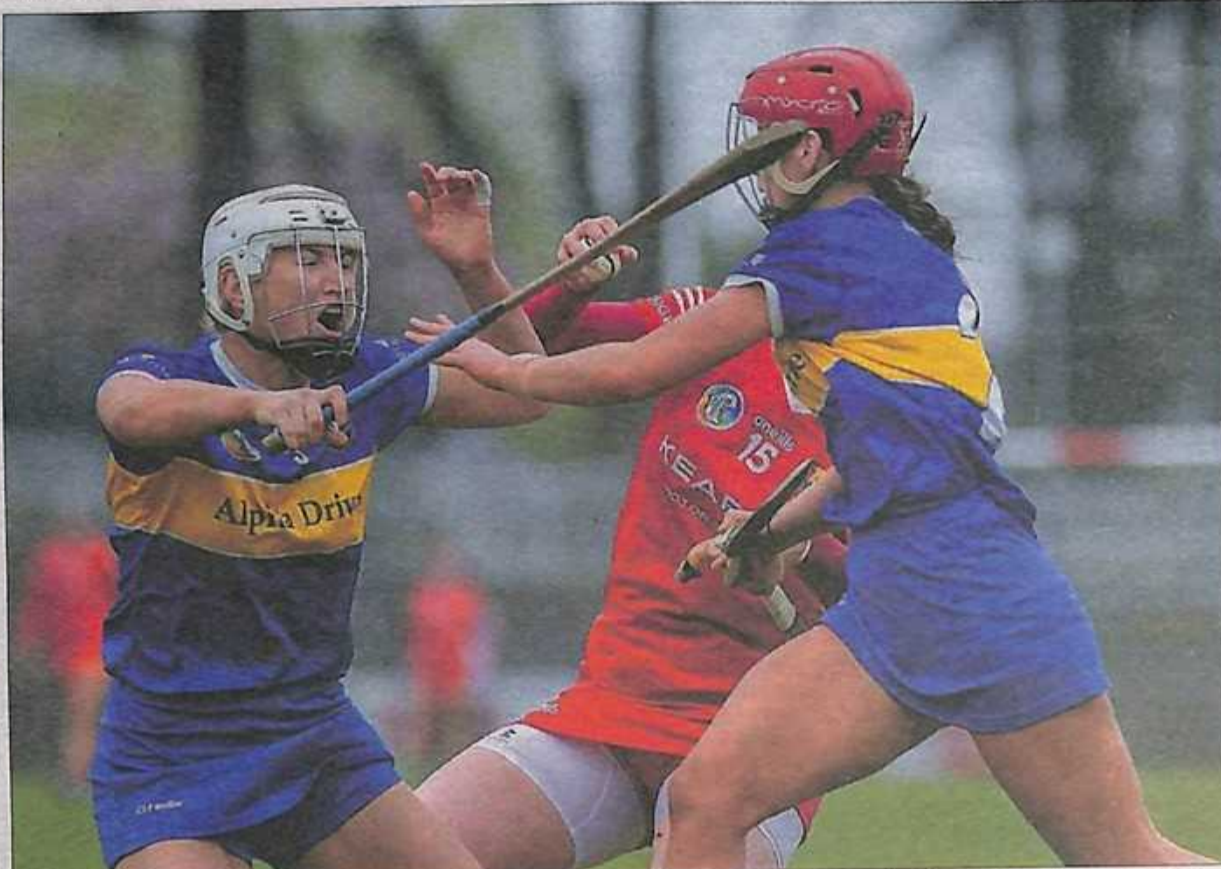
Camogie Grounds, The Ragg
Saturday, 22nd March
Throw-in @ 2.00pm
Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

DIVISION 1A TABLE

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Cork	3	3	0	0	+31	9
Tipperary	3	2	1	0	+9	7
Galway	3	2	0	1	+1	6
Waterford	3	1	0	2	+2	3
Dublin	3	0	1	2	-23	1
Kilkenny	3	0	0	3	-20	0

Round 4 Fixtures: Saturday, 22nd March @ 2.00pm - Galway v Dublin; Kilkenny v Waterford

"We will be experimenting a little bit and will probably make two or three changes from the last day, but we know it will be a real challenge against



Tipperary face off against Cork on Saturday with Malread Eviston (left) set to feature but the game will come a week too soon for Karin Blair (right). PHOTO: MARTY RYAN/SPORTSFOCUS

the All-Ireland champions."

The Borris-Ileigh clubman feels like this meeting against the Rebelettes isn't a do or die game due the fact both sides will meet again later in the year and probably on more than one occasion.

"We play them in the first round of the championship later in the year and could possibly meet them in a league final if we get there, so we will see each other a bit throughout the year," he added.

"So, it's not going to be do or die at the

weekend, but it would be great to lay down a marker if we can get a win, but it won't be the end of the world if we don't. But it will be a good test to see where we are at."

This weekend's game has come a little too soon for the likes of Karen Kennedy and Karin Blair, both yet to feature in the league so far, but he expects them to play some part the following week against Waterford.

"They haven't got the all clear just yet, but they're getting lose and both are itching to get back," Kelly revealed.

While this Saturday's clash may not be do or die, it still promises to be a game of the highest quality, where the county who currently sit at the top of the mountain, come up against a side who are looking to knock them off their perch, and have been knocking at the door the last couple of years.

Tipp will want to send a clear message to Cork that they are coming for them, so it should be a great game on Saturday and one that could go either way and will be worth the admission fee alone.

Camogie Scene

Under 16 'A' Championship: Limerick 1-8 Tipperary 0-11

With one win and one defeat, Tipperary's U16 'A' team travelled to Limerick hoping to pick up another win against the home side on Saturday.

Limerick led by four points at the break, 1-5 to 0-4 with all of Tipperary's points coming from Nenagh Eire Og's Grace Cleary with three frees and one score from play. Tipp outscored the home side in the second half 0-7 to 0-3. Grace Cleary was again to the fore with four points, three from play while Alice Butler (2) and Abbie Horgan also added points to ensure a share of the points.

Next up for Tipperary is a home game against Cork this Sunday at 2.00pm.

Tipperary: Faye Ahern (CJ Kickhams Mullinahone); Brid Delaney (Templemore); Rosie O'Brien (St Patrick's); Ava Fanning (Borris-Ileigh); Evanne Gleeson (Boherlahan-Dualla); Jessie Shanahan (Slieve Felim Rapparees); Carley Walsh (Nenagh Eire Og); Brid Woodlock (Slieve Felim Rapparees); Neasa Dwan (Boherlahan-Dualla); Emily McGrath (Rockwell Rovers); Lucy Rabbittie (Borris-Ileigh); Anna Carr (Slieve Felim Rapparees); Grace Cleary (Nenagh Eire Og); Abbie Horgan (Boherlahan-Dualla); Alice Butler (Slieve Felim Rapparees). Subs: Aoife Quirke (Cahir) for McGrath; Amy Cahill (Drom & Inch) for Carr.



Tipperary's Maeve Cunneen takes a shot on goal against Dublin in the All-Ireland Minor 'A' Camogie Championship clash at The Ragg on Sunday. PHOTO: MARTY RYAN/SPORTSFOCUS

CAMOGIE SCOREBOARD

(sponsored by FBD Insurance)

FIXTURES

Friday, 21st March
Junior 'A' League
St Rita's Fethard v Gortnahoe/Glengoolie in Fethard Town Park @ 8.30pm
Saturday, 22nd March
Senior League
Silvermines v Cashed King Cormacs in Dolla @ 2.00pm
Knockavilla-D Kickhams v Moneygall in Dundrum @ 4.00pm
Burgess/Duharra v Drom & Inch in Kilcoleman @ 4.30pm
Thurles Sarsfields v Clonoulty/Rossmore in the Outside Field @ 4.30pm
Intermediate League
Cahir v Toomevara in Cahir @ 10.30am
Kilruane MacDonaghs v Newport/Ballinahinch in Cloughjordan @ 2.00pm
Moycarkey/Borris v Holycross/Ballycahill in Littleton @ 4.30pm
Junior 'B' League
Silvermines v Roscrea in Dolla @ 2.00pm
Sunday, 23rd March
Intermediate League
Nenagh Eire Og v Boherlahan-Dualla in Nenagh @ 10.00am
Junior 'B' League
Clonoulty/Rossmore v Portroe in Clonoulty @ 2.30pm
Slieve Felim Rapparees v Ballingarry in Kilcommon @ 5.00pm
Junior 'D' League
St Patrick's v Newport/Ballinahinch in Clonkeen @ 10.15am



Meabh Cahalane breaks past Kilkenny's Aobha O'Gorman during their Very Division 1A league clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. The Cork captain made a welcome return to action against the Cats. Picture: David Keane

Tough trip to Tipp in store for Cork girls in league tie



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy bursts past Waterford's Orla Hickey during their league clash. McCarthy will be a key player for Cork tomorrow against Tipperary. Picture: Inpho



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Will the Cork camogie team start what could be a weekend of celebrations for the senior ladies sides?

Cork travel to The Ragg tomorrow (2pm) to face Tipperary in the Very Division 1A League looking to keep their winning run going.

A win will secure their spot in the final with a game to spare. However, all will not be lost if they lose because mathematically they could still qualify if they beat Galway the following weekend.

A similar fate awaits the ladies footballers on Sunday, but camogie manager Ger Manley will only be concerned about his side who will face their toughest challenge of the season.

Tipperary are the defending champions, so this will be a battle from start to finish and they will be looking to lay down a marker against the All-Ireland and Munster champions.

Tipperary got the better of Galway in their last game; their win made all the better as the Tribeswomen were at home.

Galway gave Cork a ferocious battle in the All-Ireland final last year so the significance of this win for Tipp won't be lost on Manley and his squad.

Tipp won 2-14 to 1-13, with 23 of the



Cork's Libby Coppinger tackles Waterford's Niamh Rockett during their league clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Coppinger is available for selection again after a hand injury. Picture: Inpho/Lorraine O'Sullivan

game's 30 scores coming in the first half. Niamh Mallon and Caoimhe Kelly were in sharp form for Galway, who led by three points on a handful of occasions, but Tipp's Grace O'Brien was ruthless from play and from frees, adding a first-half stoppage-time goal to her seven first-half points to make it 1-11 to 0-11 at the interval.

The Tipp half-back trio of Mairéad Evison, Caoimhe McCarthy, and Sarah Corcoran were superb after half-time, with Casey Hennessy also getting through a mountain of work in the middle third. That platform allowed Tipp to starve the Galway forwards of possession.

With almost 25 minutes gone in the second half, just two Tipperary points and a

Galway goal from Mairéad Dillon had been added to the scoreboard, but once Clodagh McIntyre hit the net for the visitors, the result was inevitable.

These are just some of the players Cork will need to keep a close eye on tomorrow and there should be some battle between Evison, McCarthy, and Corcoran against Saoirse McCarthy and whoever else Manley employs in the half-forward line.

Hennessy is likely to face Ashling Thompson in midfield and whoever wins this battle could have a huge say in the final result.

Cork's recent win over Dublin will stand to them as The Ragg is not the biggest of pitches, similar to the Peregrines venue in Dublin, so Cork will have learned from that encounter and will be well prepared.

Manley said they know this will be another battle and he would expect nothing less from Tipp.

He also confirmed that most of the squad, bar long-term injuries, are more or less back in contention for inclusion in the matchday squad.

Cliona Healy is still a few weeks away from a return, but others like Amy O'Connor and Libby Coppinger are in contention for starting spots.

Cork have also brought in sports performance coach Tim Marron to the backroom team and he will add another dimension to an already impressive set-up.

It will be another difficult outing for Cork and as well as the aforementioned players, they will also look to the likes of Siorcha McCartan, Meabh Cahalane, Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes, and Orlaith Cahalane, to name a few, to get the better of the title holders and reach the final.



EWIS monthly winner for January 2025, Caoimhe Murphy, camogie, with her brothers Cian and Olan at Kilmeen Kilbree GAA Club. Picture: Larry Cummins

Cork draw with Tipperary to stay in second spot

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork	3-8
Tipperary	3-8

An important result for Cork as they drew with Tipperary in round four of the Eir All-Ireland U16A championship in Boherlahan.

The result ensures Cork remain in second place behind Galway, who top the group with four wins from four games.

Kilkenny lost by two points to Galway and are a point behind Cork in third spot, with Tipperary in fourth, one behind Kilkenny.

Dublin, who defeated Limerick, are fifth and they will be hoping to get a result in their final game against Kilkenny and maybe just edge into a place in the last four.

Cork meet Limerick in their final game and should get a result here, and with Galway taking on Tipperary, this strong Galway side will be fancied to make it five from five.

Cork had to battle hard to get a result after a strong start from Tipperary saw them hit a goal and five points to race into an eight-point lead before Cork found their shooting boots.

Once they got into their stride they narrowed the gap to four points by half-time to trail at the interval, 2-7 to 2-3.

Wind

Tipperary, having played with the aid of the very strong wind, made all the early running with goals from an Abbie Horgan penalty on 26 minutes and one from Grace Cleary.

Cork got back into the game and kept in touch with Meabh Fitzgerald and Cliona Harte goals and points from Lea Meillouin and Sophie Gunn. Tipperary hit five first-half points, Cleary and Brid Woodlock with two each, and Abbie Horgan, Lucy Rabbitte, and Neasa Dwane with one a piece as Tipperary took advantage of the strong wind.

The second half was a tough battle as Cork set about narrowing the gap and they quickly got to grips and as the sides traded scores, it was Cork who were now doing all the scoring as Meillouin, Fitzgerald, and Lexi Manley all pressuring Tipperary as the gap was cut.

Tipperary were finding it hard and they had a point from Woodlock, but with Harte adding her second goal Cork held the upper hand, but Tipperary were not going to be denied and a goal from Alice Butler helped her side grab a draw and a valuable share of the spoils.

Scorers for Cork: C Harte 2-0, M Fitzgerald 1-1, L Meillouin, L Manley (f's) 0-3 each, S Gunn 0-1.

TIPPERARY: G Cleary 1-2 (1-0 pen 0-2f's), A Butler, A Horgan 1-1 each, B Woodlock 0-2 N Dwan, L Rabbitte 0-1 each.

CORK: C Hynes (Midleton); M Keane (Blarney), R Jones (Inniscarra), A Coleman (Sliabh Rua); C Hayes (St Catherine's), C Roche (Eire Og), S Gunn (Douglas); O Troy (Newtownshandrum), G O'Connell (Aghabullogue); S Dwyer (Douglas), C Harte (Barryroe), L Meillouin, (Inniscarra); M Fitzgerald (St Catherine's), L Ryan (Newtownshandrum), L Hannigan (Ballincollig) (c).

Subs: A Bishop (Ballinacorney) for S Gunn, C O'Regan (Killeagh) for S Dwyer, L Manley (Aghabullogue) for L Ryan, R Morrison (Douglas) for M Fitzgerald, L O'Connor (Killeagh) for O Troy, S Kelleher (Aghabullogue) for A Coleman, S Galvin (Eire Og) for C Hayes.

TIPPERARY: F Ahern; B Delaney, R O'Brien, A Fanning; E Gleeson, J Shanahan, A Corcoran, B Woodlock, A Cahill; N Dwane, L Rabbitte, G Cleary, C Kennedy, A Horgan, A Butler.

Subs: C Davis for A Cahill, A Carr for C Kennedy.

Mallon switches wedding white for Galway maroon as league resumes

Very Camogie League Division 1A



Galway v Dublin

Saturday: Donnacha O'Callaghan

Referee: Eddie Cuthbert

TV: Live on the Camogie Association's YouTube channel

Daragh Ó Conchúir

THURSDAY is her first day back at work after taking a week-and-a-half off to get married, but Niamh Mallon is agreeable to a quick chat from a Galway coffee shop beforehand to discuss a range of endeavours — personal and professional.

There aren't too many vacancies in the Mallon diary, so a gap week in the Very Camogie League schedule was availed of to arrange the nuptials eight days ago.

Thankfully, as a Ruairi Óg, Cusendall hurler, Dominic Delargy is a fully-paid-up member of the all-in Gaelic games cohort.

He understands the imperative of immediate priorities and postponing the honeymoon until the end of the year, when it could be done properly, did not require discussion.

As Robert Frost penned: "I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

That certainly applies in the world of his new wife.

Being busy has never held any fears for Mallon, and it is no coincidence that whatever she turns her hand to, the Portaferry native oper-



BRIDE AND GROOM: Niamh Mallon and Dominic Delargy will have to postpone their honeymoon given Niamh's busy schedule on the pitch. Picture: Instagram

ates at high performance level.

A current All-Star attacker with the Galway camogie team, having transferred from Down last year after 14 seasons in red and black, the 30-year-old is also a nutritionist with the Galway footballers. What brought her to the City of the Tribes in 2018 is her work as a sports scientist and performance nutritionist with Orreco.

Firing a wedding into the middle of all that with both inter-county seasons well under way, it must have been hectic, right?

Not if you have a good team around you. "The wedding side of things, if it hadn't been for my mother and for my sister-in-law, Erin, it probably wouldn't have went ahead.

"They did super work in terms of preparation and planning everything and gave me a handout. So it's been probably hectic for them. But for me, I've kind of just plugged away training, and working, and just more or less showed up last Friday and got married."

She took a few more days afterwards, but was back into the routine by Thursday and togs out today as Galway look to bounce back from their first defeat of the Very League against Dublin at Kilbeacanty (2pm throw-in, live on the Camogie Association's YouTube channel).

A knee operation meant she made her debut in maroon in last year's final, nearly turning it her new side's way. All she computes

is that they lost to Tipp, however, and it's the same with the All-Ireland reverse at the hands of Cork, even though they performed so well. No doubt that is how the Galway footballers view reaching last year's All-Ireland final too.

A former intermediate player of the year who enjoyed the ultimate success with Down at premier junior and intermediate level, Mallon understands that high performance sport is about improvement — but finals are for winning. And losing the camogie All-Ireland in particular, having drawn level with the Rebels into the final quarter, really hurt.

"The manner in which we've lost the game down the stretch is something that will live with us for a while,

and is definitely something that we will want to rectify, and definitely something we feel we can rectify if we get our house in order coming into the championship in a few weeks' time.

"You take the learnings, you draw on those, and work on those going forward. At this point in the season, everything is just targeted and looking forward to the next game. Every game and every kind of campaign takes on a life of its own. So it is taking the learnings, and they are at the forefront of your mind, [but] not letting the negativity of defeat hang over you is really important as well."

She is enjoying working with the Galway footballers, even more so with the new rules requiring changes to

nutrition and refuelling — just as in coaching, conditioning, and mindset.

The rhythm of training and games works pretty smoothly from day to day, though there was a group championship game last year where she was not around to collect her player of the match award — having been substituted so she could hit the road and link up with the footballers.

As is the inter-county camogie season, but we're hitting the business end of the Very League, with the penultimate round taking place this weekend and only two from six making the final.

"We're only kind of three games in, but I think we've probably used the guts of 25 players at this stage. The majority of the panel has got game time and will probably get game time, which is great. It's fantastic to see the depth of the squad coming to the fore and players getting a chance. Doing it on the training ground is one thing, but getting an opportunity to do it in a competitive, inter-county game is another and that's massively encouraging."

"The last day, Caoimhe Kelly came into the team for her first start and clipped three points, and was super, so there is talent there in Galway. Using the league to get those players experience is massively important."

As is the return to the fold of the likes of the experienced duo, Emma Helebert and Shauna Healy, who Mallon has had plenty of battles with over the years from her Down days. There is so much to look forward — a honeymoon included — but miles to go.

Integration process pace 'glacially slow'

PJ Browne

Cork GAA CEO Kevin O'Donovan believes that the integration process between the Camogie Association, GAA and LGFA is moving at a "glacially slow" pace and that some drastic intervention may be required. O'Donovan called himself a "zealot" on the matter.

"If I had a say, I'd shut down the GAA for the weekend and lock the leadership into a room," he said, "like you would for a government bailout and say 'you're not coming out on Sunday night until you've formed a new GAA'."

"And if we had to call it a different name, whatever. I think it needs that. I think it's in government bailout territory and that it needs a Brian Lenihan late at night calling a special sitting of the Dáil be-

cause they've reached an agreement.

"It's glacially slow. There's a lot of personalities involved. We're told that there's a big difference between playing rules."

"It's all nonsense. If someone landed from Mars in the morning and you said 'oh, it's very complicated, that's very different to that', they'd say, 'it's the same thing'."

"They're the same kids in the same houses playing the same sport on the same grass and you're telling me the same unit couldn't run it."

"Maybe we need to give more comfort to the female codes that we're not looking to subsume them. There's a lot of talk about facilities. That's overstated."

"Kilbree Camogie already play in the same facility. We have one membership, we

have one club, we have one structure. We can go in the morning for integration."

"But it does need government support in terms of making sure the female players get the same grants that the boys get, that the commercial models are merged."

"It's so important to me. I would lock the leadership in a hotel for a weekend and say we'll see you Monday morning."

Cork GAA has had a media ban in place since last year, one which means reporters can't attend the monthly county board meetings.

"We won't fudge that one," said O'Donovan.

"I have a great relationship with the Examiner. They always supported me when I was staging my mini-rebellions against the county board."

"But, I did make a judgment call along with our chair, Pat Horgan, that it wasn't appropriate to have a media presence at our county board meetings."

"Now, you won't believe me when I say this, but I believe it's in the pursuit of more transparency."

O'Donovan said that not having media in the rooms means that they can speaking more freely about "debt, about all our multiple legal cases, about the performances of our teams".

"I know there are people who, even on our own board, who completely dispute that view," he said, "but, I can only tell you, it is my sincere view, and, we never turn down an interview, we never prevent any other media access. But, I believe board meetings are sacred."

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1A

Galway	1-16	Dublin	0-13
Tipperary	0-7	Cork	1-12
Kilkenny	2-18	Waterford	2-13

	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Cork	4	4	0	0	39	12
Galway	4	3	0	1	6	9
Tipperary	4	2	1	1	1	7
Waterford	4	1	0	3	-3	3
Kilkenny	4	1	0	3	-15	3
Dublin	4	0	1	3	-28	1

DIVISION 1B

Clare	1-10	Antrim	5-12
Limerick	4-15	Westmeath	1-6
Wexford	1-15	Down	0-5



Cork's manager Ger Manley watches on.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

Manley delighted with win in tough conditions

Any time you win at The Ragg in Tipperary it's always a good day. It was made even better for Cork on Saturday when that win secured their place in the Very Division 1A League final in a couple of weeks.

All through, Cork were impressive and never looked like losing. It was a battle, as you would expect, between two quality sides, but, in the end, the Rebels were too strong and won by 1-12 to 0-7, with 1-9 of their tally coming in the first half, when they had the wind.

Tipp managed to pull it back slightly, but they only out-scored Cork by two points in the second half, which wasn't enough to see the current league champions come out on top.

Even more impressive was the fact Cork held Tipp scoreless from play for the entire game, with Grace O'Brien hitting six frees and a 45, which Cork manager Ger Manley admitted afterwards he didn't know at that time.

"I thought it was a good performance today; we weren't foot perfect," said Manley. "You saw it yourself: Conditions weren't great, between the wind and rain, and the pitch was soft, but I thought the performance was good. The application was good, as always; you will always get good application from these girls."

"I don't think there's ever a bad game in them. By that I mean they do their best every day out and you can't ask for more than that."

Cork had built up a lead by half time and then it was over

REACTION

■ Rory Noonan

to the defence to see if they could keep Tipp out and they did so with style to secure the win.

"Amy Lee made one great save and I think that was the only chance they had, really. Credit to our forwards, too, playing into that wind and I thought we were a bit unlucky not to get a few more goals."

"For me, the second and third quarters were when we won the game. We scored 1-4 in the second quarter and then defended magnificently in the third quarter, when we needed to, as they came at us, which you would expect them to do."

"The last 15 minutes was just about closing it out, really. It was tough out there, between the weather and our opponents, but I felt, on the day, we were the better team, really."

Manley didn't see the stats before he spoke after the game and didn't know they had kept them scoreless from play. "Wes (O'Brien, one of the coaching team), is always on about that in training. I didn't know that, but that's a great stat and full credit to all those who played, who worked hard to ensure that happened."

"It's great to win and it's nice to secure your spot in the league final with a game to spare. But we have another tough game against Galway next week and we will prepare for that now."



Katrina Mackey in action against Galway's Emma Heleber. The Cork forward hit 1-2 against Tipperary on Saturday.

Picture: INPHO/Ben Brady

Cork book final spot with game to spare

Tipperary 0-7
Cork 1-12

It might have been bitterly cold and windy, but the action on the pitch was certainly hot as Cork took on Tipperary in the Very Camogie League Division 1A at The Ragg on Saturday.

This was a clash of the All-Ireland champions and the league winners and both sides were determined to lay down a marker ahead of the Munster and All-Ireland championships.

In the end it was the All-Ireland champions, Cork, who came out on top, and they were the better side all through.

The win means Cork are through to the league final with a game to spare and won't have to worry about their clash with Galway next weekend.

The Ragg is never an easy place to win and Cork would have known that travelling up and from the throw-in they showed the determination needed to win there.

Up front, the likes of Clodagh Finn and Orlaith Cahalane had the Tipp defence under constant pressure and they found it difficult to cope with them.

Add in others, like Saoirse McCarthy and Kate Wall, who made sure that it was a difficult day for the Tipp defenders.

But when it was needed in the second half, with the wind howling into their faces, the Cork defence was simply magnificent.

They kept Tipp from scoring from play for the entire game, a stat that will keep any defender happy.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

To mention anyone in particular would be unfair, because, as a unit, they fought for every ball and didn't give Tipp an inch, backed up by Aoife Healy and Ashling Thompson.

Cork made use of the strong wind in their favour just 20 seconds in, when Orlaith Cahalane pointed, but it took nine minutes for their second score to arrive.

This time, Siorcha McCartan was on target from a free, before Grace O'Brien replied for Tipp, to make it 0-2 to 0-1 after 11 minutes.

A great move, involving Saoirse McCarthy and Cahalane, set up Finn for Cork's third point.

They were now playing the better camogie.

O'Brien pointed another free for Tipp, with Wall getting Cork's fourth.

Finn added another and when Laura Hayes scored in the 23rd minute it was 0-6 to 0-2 in Cork's favour.

Finn scored another before Cork got a goal.

She won the ball and played it to Cahalane and her pass found Katriona Mackey to give Laura Leenane no chance of saving.

Cahalane added a point, with Mackey also scoring to see the Rebels lead by 1-9 to 0-2 at the break.

With the wind in their favour, it was



Cork's Meabh Murphy in action against Waterford's Maggie Gostli. Murphy was among the superb performances by the Cork defence against Tipperary on Saturday.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

now a case of whether or not Tipp would be able to pull the lead back.

To the credit of the Cork defence, they never did, with two early frees from O'Brien putting a small dent in the Rebels' lead.

Mackey, and two more from Finn, had Cork in front by 1-12 to 0-4 after 40 minutes, before Tipp had their best chance to score from play.

Clodagh McIntyre burst forward and looked like scoring a goal, but when the defence was beaten you have Amy Lee in goal and she saved magnificently to deny her what had looked like a certain green flag.

Three late pointed frees from O'Brien narrowed the deficit, but, in reality, Cork were by far the better side on the day and move on to the league final in a few weeks' time.

Scorers for Tipperary: G O'Brien 0-7 (0-6 f, 0-1 45).

Cork: K Mackey 1-2, C Finn 0-5, O Cahalane 0-2, S McCartan, K Wall, L Hayes 0-1 each.

TIPPERARY: L Leenane, J Bourke, C Quirke, N Costigan, C McCarthy, M Eviston, S Corcoran, C Hennessy, E Cunneen, K Ralph, R Howard, C McIntyre, C Treacy, C Maher, G O'Brien.

Subs: E Loughman for N Costigan (10 in), N Treacy for E Cunneen (h-t), E Heffernan for K Ralph, J Kelly for C Maher (both 44), N Cunneen for C Treacy, S Madden for R Howard (both 57).

CORK: A Lee, M Murphy, M Cahalane, P Mackey, H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes, A Healy, A Thompson, K Wall, C Finn, S McCarthy, K Mackey, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for S McCartan (26 in), E Murphy for K Wall (h-t), O Mullins for S McCarthy, A O'Connor for C Finn (both 55), C O'Sullivan for O Cahalane, A O'Neill for M Cahalane (both 58), M Condon for A Fitzgerald (61 blood sub).

Referee: Liz Dempsey, Kilkenny.



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane in action against Dublin's Emma O'Byrne. Cahalane was outstanding for the Rebels against Tipperary.

Cork bid to end league famine

Very Camogie League

Kevin Egan

Cork may be scoring freely but their captain, Méabh Cahalane, emphasised the All-Ireland champions' defensive solidity as the core reason for their 100% record in the Very Camogie League.

The Rebels have lost five Division 1A finals since their last success and, regardless of what happens in their last-round clash with Galway next week, they are now just 60 minutes away from bridging an 11-year gap, after their 1-12 to 0-7 win over Tipperary at The Ragg cemented their place in another decider.

They may be All-Ireland champions but the majority of the squad don't have a league medal, so it looks like an obvious target for them.

While winning in the backyard of last year's league victors was important, Cahalane was every bit as delighted with the manner in which their victory was achieved.

"I think our second and third quarter, we got really good scores from our turnovers and that was why we came out on the right side," said Cahalane.

"We haven't conceded a goal yet in this league and that was one of our main aims coming into this game, that if we can keep that record going for as long as possible, that'll be an important attribute coming into the Championship."

Tipp held out well for the first quarter, playing into a strong breeze, trailing by just a single point when Grace O'Brien scored from the sideline in the 16th minute.

But Kate Wall's point in response kickstarted a run of 1-6 without reply, the goal coming from one of the few survivors of Cork's last league success, Katrina Mackey, after a brilliant pass from the skipper's sister, Orlaith.

In the second half, Cork's defensive play was absolutely immense, and by the end Tipperary finished the contest without a score from play.

"Aisling [Thompson] and Hannah [Looney] were coming back to help out by putting pressure on their half-forward line and that was a big part of it," said Cahalane. "We probably conceded a few sloppy frees that we didn't need to concede, but overall we'd be happy with that."

Galway's 1-16 to 0-13 win over Dublin in Kilbeacanty



Dublin's Emma Moran is tackled by Galway's Alannah Kelly in their Division 1A clash at Kilbeacanty. Picture: James Lawlor/Inpho

means they are frontrunners for the second final spot, but they will travel to SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday afternoon needing to match whatever Tipperary do against Waterford to advance.

A brilliant point from Aine Keane, a goal from recently married Niamh Mallon, and a

remarkable diving save by Sarah Healy from Emma Moran were key moments in the game. Points from Aoife McKearney and Aisling O'Neill kept Dublin in touch. Galway captain Carrie Dolan slotted five points from frees on the trot to bring her tally to 10 and keep the visitors at bay.

"We were disappointed with the loss to Tipperary a couple of weeks ago, we wanted a reaction and we got it," said Dolan.

"It was really physical out there. There was a lot of frees out there and there was plenty more that was let go, but when it's even enough and the same for both sides, you don't mind that and it makes for a better game for supporters."

"It's all to play for, it's a league semi-final really [against Cork] and that's a great game to have now."

At the other end of the table, Kilkenny picked up a crucial 2-18 to 2-13 win over Waterford at UPMC Nowlan Park, lifting them off the foot of the table.

Their defence was opened up to allow Mairéad O'Brien open the scoring with a goal in the third minute but the second quarter saw Kilkenny produce their best hurling of the year so far, yielding two goals from Katie Nolan to establish an eight-point interval advantage.

Kelly-Ann Doyle seized a Katie Nolan delivery for a goal after 15 minutes and she added a second seven minutes later. Steffi Fitzgerald's two points, the first a superb team score, were also part of the

highlight reel as Kilkenny took a 2-10 to 1-5 interval lead.

By the sixth minute of the second half, Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh's point meant all six Kilkenny forwards had scored but their proficiency up front slowed up a little after that.

O'Brien struck for a second goal for Waterford but the Kilkenny subs helped the hosts see the game out, something that delighted manager Tommy Shefflin. He was most pleased with the mentality of the players.

"It's important that we stay in this division, so now it's in our own hands, we need to go up to Dublin and win," said Shefflin.

"The younger girls in the group need to be playing at this level going into the future, this is the best place for them to develop as we want them to."

"We started four points down and by half-time we went in eight points ahead. After losing the last couple of games, the easiest thing in the world would have been for the girls to drop the heads but they showed a bit of character there, they proved that the previous defeats didn't affect them and they dug deep and turned it around."

Cahalane hails Cork defence after Rebels confirm final spot

Rebels hold Tipperary scoreless from play and are yet to concede goal in Division 1A

BY KEVIN EGAN

CORK may be scoring freely but their captain Méabh Cahalane has emphasised the All-Ireland champions' defensive solidity as the core reason for their 100 per cent record in the Very Camogie League.

The Rebels have lost five Division 1A finals since their most recent success and regardless of what happens in their last-round clash with Galway this Saturday at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, they are now just 60 minutes away from bridging an 11-year gap, after their 1-12 to 0-7 win over Tipperary at The Ragg cemented their place in another decider.

They may be All-Ireland champions but the vast majority of the squad doesn't have a league medal, so it looks like an obvious target for them.

While winning in the backyard of last year's league victors was important last weekend, Cork captain and full-back Méabh Cahalane was every bit as delighted with the manner in which their victory was achieved.

"I think in our second and third quarter, we got really good scores from our turnovers and that was why we came out on the right side," Cahalane said afterwards.

"We haven't conceded a goal yet in this league and that was one of our main aims coming

into this game, that if we can keep that record going for as long as possible, that'll be an important attribute coming into the championship."

Tipp held out well for the first quarter, playing into a strong breeze, trailing by just a single point when Grace O'Brien scored from the sideline in the 16th minute.

But Kate Wall's point in response kickstarted a run of 1-6 without reply, as Cork took control. In a good, physical contest where referee Liz Dempsey let both teams play freely, Clodagh Finn, Laura Hayes (two), Orlaith Cahalane and Katrina Mackey all used the breeze well to raise white flags from open play. Cahalane also showed incredible vision to flick a 15-metre pass into Katrina Mackey for a goal two minutes before half-time, a score that proved to be a hammer blow to Tipperary's hopes of securing a big psychological win against their neighbours.

In the second half, Cork's defensive play was absolutely immense, with Laura Treacy and Hannah Looney very impressive across the half-back line. On the one occasion when Clodagh McIntyre cut through to try and bring Tipperary to life, Cork shot-stopper Amy Lee prevented the ball from going under the crossbar with one of the best saves anyone

will see on any pitch this year. It was a testament to the vice-like grip that the Cork defence had on their Tipp opponents that the Premier women failed to register a score from play at any stage.

"Aisling (Thompson) and Hannah (Looney) were coming back to help out by putting pressure on their half-forward line and that was a big part of it. We probably conceded a few sloppy frees that we didn't need to concede, but overall we'd be happy with that," Cahalane noted, as Galway are next up this weekend.

The Tribeswomen's 1-16 to 0-13 home win over Dublin in Kilbeacanty means that they are frontrunners for the second final spot, and they need to match whatever Tipperary does against Waterford to advance to the league decider.

Scorers

Tipperary: G O'Brien 0-7 (6f, 145).
Cork: K Mackey 1-2; C Finn 0-5; O Cahalane 0-2; S McCartan, K Wall, L Hayes 0-1 each.

Tipperary: L Leenane; J Bourke, C Quirke, N Costigan; C McCarthy, M Eviston, S Corcoran; C Hennessy, E Cunneen; K Ralph, R Howard, C McIntyre; C Treacy, C Maher, G O'Brien.

Subs: E Loughman for N Costigan (10, inj), N Treacy for E Cunneen (ht), E Heffernan for K Ralph (43), J Kelly for C Maher (43), N Cunneen



Cork captain Meabh Cahalane would love to add the Very Camogie League Division 1 title to her collection of honours. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)

for C Treacy (56), S Madden for R Howard (56).

Cork: A Lee; M Murphy, M Cahalane, P Mackey; H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes; A Healy, A Thompson; K Wall, C Finn, S McCarthy, K Mackey, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for S McCartan (25, inj), E Murphy for K Wall (ht), O Mullins for S McCarthy (54), A O'Connor for C Finn (54), C

DIVISION 1A CAMOGIE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork	4	4	0	0	77	38	12
Galway	4	3	0	1	63	56	9
Tipperary	4	2	1	1	56	55	7
Waterford	4	1	0	3	64	67	3
Kilkenny	4	1	0	3	59	74	3
Dublin	4	0	1	3	48	77	1

O'Sullivan for O Cahalane (57), A O'Neill for M Cahalane (55), M

Condon for A Fitzgerald (60).
Referee: L Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy in action against Waterford in the Very Camogie League in February.
Picture: Inpho/Lorraine O'Sullivan

Four Cork players on third-level camogie Team of the Year

CAMOGIE

■ Denis Hurley

While UCC's wait for an Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup went on for another year after their defeat in the final against UL last month, there was some consolation for three of the team's stars.

Unsurprisingly, UL dominate the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year with eight players selected following their two-point victory in the decider, a UCC trio have made the grade along with another Leesider.

Goalkeeper Caoimhe Buckley of Inniscarra is chosen between the sticks after a stellar campaign, while Méabh Murphy of Ballinora is at left corner-back.

The third UCC player is Clodagh Finn of Fr O'Neills in the full-forward line, while there is one other Leeside representative – midfielder Saoirse McCarthy (Courcey Rovers), who is a student in TU Dublin.

UL's Aine Keane won the rising player of the year award, having excelled in the final win over UCC.

This year, Electric Ireland have brought sustainability to the fore of their camogie and GAA sponsorships, making the switch to sustainable awards. Over the course of the season, a total of 25 Player of the Match awards were presented across all competitions including the Ashbourne, Sigerson, and Fitzgibbon Cups. The Rising Star Team of the Year awards will be crafted from the same renewable Beechwood material, showcasing Electric Ireland's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Camogie Association president Brian Molloy said: "Congratulations to each of the players named on the 2025 Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year, and in particular,



Caoimhe Buckley of Inniscarra is one of four Cork players on the third-level camogie Team of the Year.

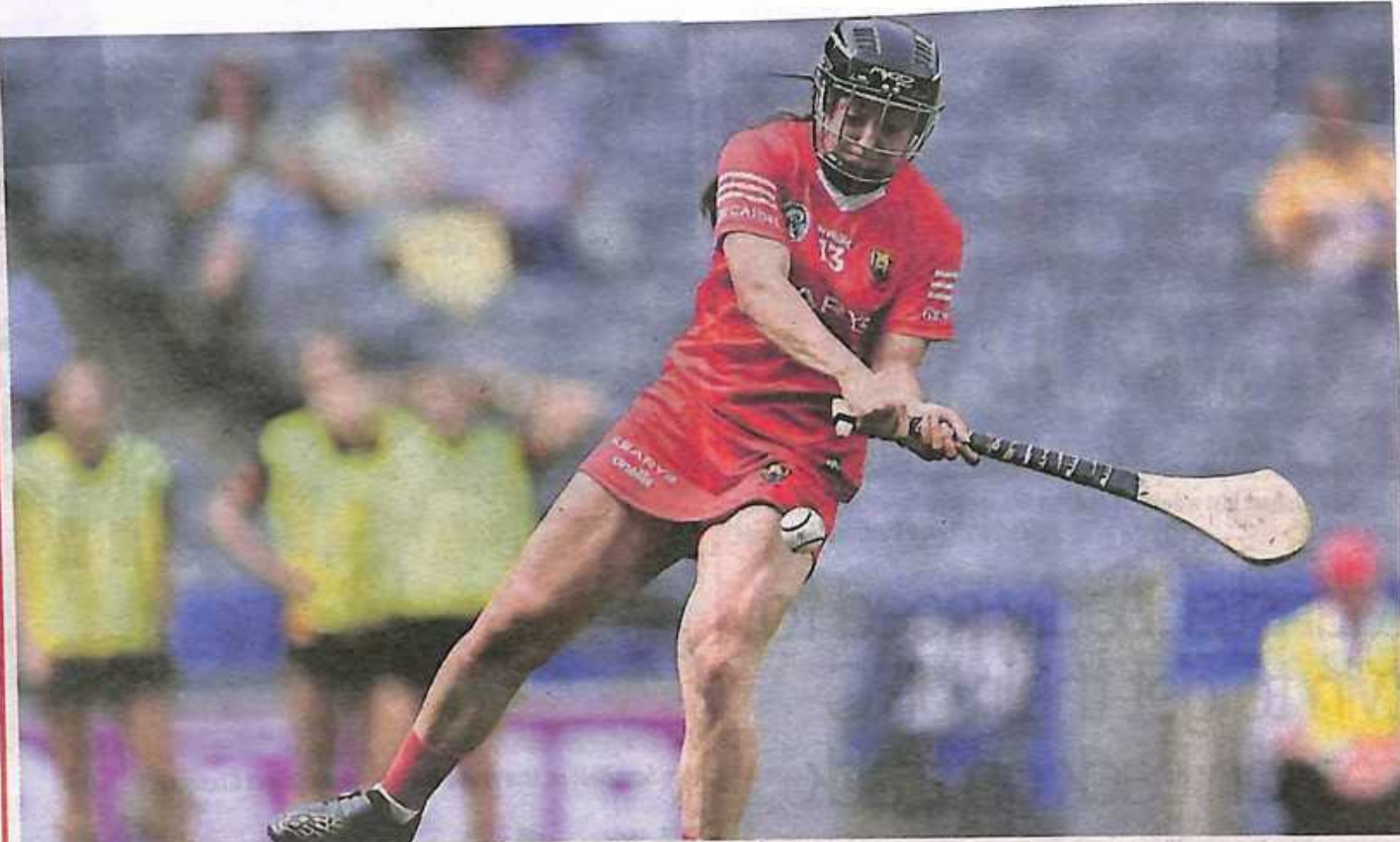
congratulations to player of the year Aine Keane.

"This competition provides a vital platform for young players to develop their skills, compete at a high level, and ultimately contribute to their clubs and counties. The Electric Ireland sponsorship is vital in providing the resources and support necessary to ensure the third-level championships continue to thrive and nurture the future stars of our game.

"To the players named on the team of the year, we are immensely proud to have such passionate and talented representatives for the sport. Well done to each and every one of you."

The Electric Ireland Higher Education GAA Rising Stars Hurling Teams of the Year will be announced today.

2025 Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Rising Stars Team of the Year: Caoimhe Buckley (UCC and Cork); Orla O'Keeffe (TU Dublin and Kilkenny); Sharon Shanahan (UL and Offaly); Méabh Murphy (UCC and Cork); Claire Gannon (TU Dublin and Dublin); Aine Keane (UL & Galway); Jennifer Hughes (UL and Galway); Sarah Corcoran (UL and Tipperary); Saoirse McCarthy (TU Dublin and Cork); Caoimhe Cahill (UL and Clare); Caoimhe Keher Murtagh (UL and Kilkenny); Mairéad O'Brien (UL and Waterford); Mairéad Dillon (University of Galway and Galway); Caoimhe Lyons (UL and Limerick); Clodagh Finn (UCC and Cork).



Amy O'Connor made a welcome return to action for Cork against Tipperary last weekend. She is expected to feature against Galway tomorrow.
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Cork aim to keep winning run going

Cork take on Galway in their final game of the Very Camogie Division 1A National League at Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow (2pm).

The Rebels go into the game with nothing at stake, bar the pride of keeping their winning run going.

Cork are already through to the league final, where they will play tomorrow's opponents or Tipperary, depending on results over the weekend.

The pressure is on Galway who know that a win guarantees their place in the final, with a draw possibly also enough.

They are currently on nine points and could go level with Cork on 12 if they win.

Tipperary are on seven and if they beat Waterford will finish on 10 points.

Should Cork beat Galway then the Tribeswomen would lose out and the league final would see the All-Ireland champions face the league title holders, Tipperary in the final.

So Galway and Tipp have a lot at stake and Cork can approach the game in a far more secure place than them.

It was a magnificent tussle between Cork and Galway in the All-Ireland final last year and have no doubt Galway will



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

want to lay down a marker tomorrow. They are a quality side and beat Cork on their way to last year's league final.

They are in a position of having to go for it, while Cork know there is no pressure on them from outside the camp.

However this bunch of Cork players don't like losing and once they take to the pitch they will be ensuring that they do everything in their power to win.

Manager Ger Manley is likely to change his side, with a few players returning from injury, and others who haven't had much game time, will be expected to play a bigger role.

Such is the strength of the Cork squad now that it won't weaken the side and those players will be looking to put their hand up to show him just how good they are.

Manley finds himself in the lucky posi-

tion of having a squad with two players for every position and those who might come in won't weaken the side in any way.

He is expected to rest some players tomorrow, with Sorchá McCartan, who picked up an injury against Tipp last week, definitely ruled out and he also confirmed that Ava Fitzgerald is out as well.

Libby Coppinger, returning from injury, is expected to get some game time as will others like Aoife O'Neill, Millie Condon, Orlaith Mullins, and Emma Murphy.

Amy O'Connor came on late against Tipp and should get another outing as she makes her way back from a long-term injury picked up in the All-Ireland final last year.

Manley knows what they are facing in Galway and even with home advantage it will be a huge test, especially with what's at stake for them.

"Galway are a top-class side, you saw that in the All-Ireland final last year," he said. "We know we're in the league final but they don't so they are going to be bringing their A game and it's going to be a battle tomorrow."

"They have quality players all over the pitch, but so have we, so I think it will be close and hopefully we come out on the right side of the result."



Cork's Libby Coppinger in action against Waterford's Niamh Rockett. Coppinger is available for selection following a recent injury.



Cork's Sorchá McCartan takes on Laoise Forrest of Waterford during their Munster championship clash last year. McCartan picked up a knock against Tipp and is out for their league game against Galway.



Cork's Laura Hayes minus her hurley tries to block down Galway's Aoife Donoghue during their league game.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Galway beat Cork to set up league decider re-match



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork 0-13
Galway 0-19

Galway got the win they needed when they defeated Cork in their Very Division 1A clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

The Tribeswomen knew a win would see them into the league final against Cork in two weeks and they made sure of it with an impressive display.

Cork started with eight of the side beat Galway in last year's All-Ireland final, and the Tribeswomen had nine where on duty that day.

Cork won't be happy with their overall display, which was flat by their high standards and they will need a much-improved performance in the final if they are to beat Galway.

Using the strong wind in her favour Saoirse McCarthy opened the scoring for Cork in the first minute from a long-distance free.

Ailish O'Reilly had the sides level a minute later after she pointed from a tight angle, with Emma Murphy putting the Rebels back in front from the restart.

Aoife Donoghue, who started instead of the named Niamh Mallon, who was missing due to a family bereavement, had the sides level again after four minutes.

Katrina Mackey put the Rebels back in front before Carrie Dolan had the sides level for the third time, when she pointed from a free.

Galway took the lead after 15 minutes when O'Reilly got her second.

She added her third to stretch their lead to two points, 0-5 to 0-3, as they were enjoying more possession at this stage.

O'Reilly made it three in a row for Gal-



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan breaks from Galway's Ann-Marie Starr.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Aoife O'Neill breaks from Galway's Mairead Dillon.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

way when she capitalised on two uncharacteristic defensive mistakes by the home side.

Olwen Rabbitte added another with Dolan also pointing from a free as Galway were playing much the better camogie at this stage, as they led by 0-8 0-3 after 22 minutes.

Another free from Dolan put six between the sides with four minutes until half time, as Galway had hit seven in a row without reply.

Amy O'Connor, in her first start of the season, pulled a point back for the Rebels, with Dolan replying from another free and Aine Keane adding another as Galway led by 0-11 to 0-4 at half-time.

Galway were turning to play with the strong wind at their backs and were in pole position to take the points.

Cork weren't going to go away easily and showed that just 20 seconds into the second half when Murphy burst forward to score.

Dolan replied from a free with O'Connor getting her second to make it 0-12 to 0-6 after 33 minutes.

Donohue got Galway's second after the restart, again from another Cork error.

Donohue was on target again as Galway were keeping the scoreboard ticking over, which is all they had to do at this stage.

Dolan landed a other long range free to

make it 0-15 to 0-6 after 40 minutes before O'Connor pulled a point back for Cork.

Mackey pulled another back for the Rebels, but there were making little inroads to the Galway lead.

O'Connor had another chance from a free, but was told to go for goal, which was saved on the line.

Clodagh Finn pulled a point back for Cork, with Dolan rounding off the scoring as the visitors ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 0-5 (0-3 f), E Murphy, K Mackey, L Hayes 0-2 each, S McCarthy (f), C Finn 0-1 each.

Galway: C Dolan 0-10 (0-8 f), A Donohue 0-3, A O'Reilly 0-4, O Rabbitte, A Keane 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, A O'Neill; M Cahalane, L Treacy, L Hayes; S McCarthy, M Condon; E Murphy, K Wall, C O'Sullivan; C Finn, K Mackey, A O'Connor.

Subs: R Harty for A O'Neill, O Mullins for K Wall (both ht), N O'Leary for M Condon (41), M De Burca for M Murphy (51), A Sheppard for C Finn, D O'Brien for C O'Sullivan (both 57), N McNabola for S McCarthy, C Kingston for M Cahalane (both 58).

GALWAY: Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, D Higgins, R Hanniffy; C Hickey, E Helebert, AM Starr; A Keane, J Hughes; C Dolan, O Rabbitte, A Donohue; M Dillon, A O'Reilly, C Kelly.

Subs: N Niland for C Kelly (49), A Rabbitte for J Hughes (54), A Kelly for AM Starr, A Lynskey for C Hickey, (both 58), R Kelly for O Rabbitte (60), S Gardiner for R Hanniffy (61).

Referee: Justin Heffernan, Wexford.



Cork's Clodagh Finn wins the sliotar from Galway's Rachael Hanniffy at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Manley: No excuses we weren't good enough

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

It was a disappointing day for Cork as they lost to Galway in the Very Division 1A League. It was a game of no consequences for Cork who were already into the league final, while Galway had to get a result to ensure these sides would meet again in two weeks.

For manager Ger Manley, it was a game he won't want to look back on for long, but he was disappointed in their performance much more so than the result. "Look, we thought we were up for it, but we weren't, the scoreline didn't do us an injustice, they were well on top," said Manley.

"Look, we can say we were missing a few, we were, but we expect any team that goes out wearing the red jersey to be up for it and we weren't."

"We started poorly, Galway had a good first half and it was hard to get back into it then. We were better in the second half, but it was difficult to get back into it then."

"We gave a few girls games there just to finish out the game, but at the end of the day it made no difference, we're into the league final."

The fact that Cork were already in the final was probably a factor in their performance, something that Manley said shouldn't, but did have a say in their performance.

"It looks like it, we didn't think it did, but were we complacent ourselves? We could have been,

I don't know. We had a lot of girls missing, we picked up a few injuries in our last game against Tipperary and we have a couple of girls with the footballers and we gave another few girls games that needed games, I suppose. "But at the end of the day our target was to get to the league final and we are there, and look, Galway, like ourselves, we're the top two teams I think in the country over the last couple of years. So I'm looking to the final."

Defeats can sometimes teach you a lot about your panel, and Manley agreed, and they will sit down and go through the game during the week to have a proper look back over it.

"Yeah, I learned a good bit. We gave a few girls chances, did they take them? We will review it during the week. Look Cathal (Murray, Galway manager), had a very strong team out. He was missing one or two, but that's their strongest team, I think. Niamh Mallon will come back into it."

They set their stall out really, they have had the same team more or less for the last few weeks and I suppose today was set up for them.

"I'm not making excuses, we weren't good enough today and that's the bottom line. We have plenty to work on ahead of the league final."



Cork manager Ger Manley.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ALL ON THE LINE: Cork's Katrina Mackey tries to get the ball away under pressure in their Very Camogie League Division 1A clash with Galway at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: James Lawlor/Inpho



Galway's greater need sets up quick rematch with Cork

Camogie

Kevin Egan

Wins for Waterford, Kilkenny, and Galway in Saturday's final round of games in Division 1A of the Very National Camogie League ensured that the two south-east rivals preserved their status in the top division for next year, while Galway secured their place the final alongside Cork on April 13 at Semple Stadium.

The Tribeswomen will contest their sixth consecutive league final after they overcame Cork by 0-19 to 0-13 in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh, with Carrie Dolan picking up the player of the match accolade.

Dolan shot 0-10, with Aoife Donohue and Ailish O'Reilly also scoring well, though she insisted that things would be very different when the sides renew their rivalry in Semple Stadium.

"We had more to play for here than Cork, we wanted to get into a league final and they

were already in it, so we had that extra edge I suppose," the Galway captain said afterwards.

"We were put in a position where we had to win, and we stood up when we had to. We had a good range of scorers, 19 points is a positive. But when it comes to the final, it will have zero significance. Cork were down players today, and we were down one or two as well. It's going to be a completely different game."

Cork led by 0-3 to 0-2 early on before Galway went on a run of seven scores in a row, and with the breeze set to blow at their backs for the second half, their 0-11 to 0-4 interval lead meant that they were already well on the road towards securing the win they needed.

"We started by opting to go against it, something that we've done a few times this year," said Dolan. "When you come in at half time and you've been up against the breeze, you feel like you've a small bit of a cushion."

"Cork came back straight away at us, but we rallied and came back again. This is the biggest stadium we played in, and in the bigger stadium, the goals look that bit bigger. It'll be similar next time in Semple Stadium, we've played there a couple of times and we're looking forward to it."

As it happened, Galway would have been in the final regardless of the result. Tipperary needed to win to have any chance of securing second spot in the table, but instead it was the Déise's day at Walsh Park — with Waterford hitting the last three scores of the game to edge out a tense battle in tough conditions by 0-10 to 0-9.

Team captain Lorraine Bray emphasised how important that win was for a Waterford side that were still in the relegation mix before the ball was thrown in.

"1A is where every team wants to be," Bray told WLR. "We knew today that we had to come out and perform. We knew Tipp would put

up a tough battle, and it was every bit of that. We felt every bit of it. We needed that performance and that win."

Dublin needed to beat Kilkenny to preserve their top-flight status, but Kilkenny — also in relegation danger — racked up a comfortable 2-16 to 0-14 win, despite Dublin scoring five of the last seven points.

Despite totting up the biggest tally of the day, it was the clean sheet that was most satisfying according to skipper Katie Power, who returned to the side for the first time after injury to operate in front of the full-back line.

"When I came back in training, it was something the lads threw me into to get me on a bit of ball," Power said of her new role as a sweeper.

"It was about shoring up things in defence and I wasn't very sure of some aspects of how to play it, but I had great girls behind me, and if you can make sure that you don't concede much, you're halfway there."

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1A

Cork	0-13	Galway	0-19
Dublin	0-14	Kilkenny	2-16
Waterford	0-10	Tipperary	0-9

	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Cork	5	4	0	1	33	12
Galway	5	4	0	1	12	12
Tipperary	5	2	1	2	0	7
Waterford	5	2	0	3	-2	6
Kilkenny	5	2	0	3	-7	6
Dublin	5	0	1	4	-36	1

DIVISION 1B FINAL

Antrim	3-10	Clare	1-11
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DIVISION 2A

Kerry	1-10	Derry	2-8
Carlow	2-7	Meath	2-11
Armagh	0-3	Offaly	2-17

	P	W	D	L	Diff	Pts
Offaly	5	5	0	0	51	15
Derry	5	4	0	1	15	12
Kerry	5	3	0	2	8	9
Meath	5	2	0	3	-5	6
Carlow	5	1	0	4	-18	3
Armagh	5	0	0	5	-51	0



Kate O'Sullivan and Aisling Cussen



Jess and Rachel Murphy



Nikki Hosford and Laoise Ahern



Clara Murphy and Ally McGrath

McAtamney leads by example

Camogie League Division 1B final

Antrim	3-10
Clare	1-11

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Nicole McAtamney had her two sons, Joe and Dan, with her as the celebrations commenced, but when it came to the post-match interviews, wee Joe had to be transferred to her husband, Declan.

It was appropriate that they, and many others, were on

hand as McAtamney produced an imperious performance from the middle of the field as Antrim beat senior side Clare 3-10 to 1-11 to win the Very Camogie League Division 1B title at the NGDC in Abbotstown on Saturday.

Joint manager Carl McCormick hit the nail on the head when explaining why. "We've one mammy on the team, she gets player of the match. She's two children but she's always there," McCormick noted.

"I'm delighted for her and her family; that whole support

network that's required to be always at training."

McAtamney forms a brilliant partnership with captain Amy Boyle and she was central to the quick start that put Antrim on their way, providing assists for the first two points in under two minutes.

Two goals from Caitrín Dobbin and another by Katie Molloy gave the Ulster side a two-point interval lead into the wind.

John Carmody's squad gave it a real go in the second half, with the likes of Niamh Mul-

queen and substitute Jennifer Daly excelling and they drew level by the end of the third quarter but the experienced McAtamney provided invaluable leadership, while Róisín McCormick shot three big points to help Antrim pull clear.

"Whenever you get a bit older, you're out a couple of years, that can become your job but there's loads of girls that can do the same job as I can. It was good to be a leader today and it paid off," said McAtamney.



Cork's Aoife O'Neill and Galway's Mairead Dillon at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cahalane: Galway played with far more intensity than we did

It was a bit of revenge for Galway as they got the better of Cork in their Very Division 1A camogie league clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday.

Over the hour, the visitors were the better side and you couldn't argue against the final scoreline of 0-19 to 0-13 in their favour.

It was a disappointing result but much more so a disappointing performance by the Rebels, in their final game ahead of the league final in two weeks time, where these two sides will meet again.

Cork captain Meabh Cahalane said that Galway played with far more intensity and a higher work-rate, which they'll have to sort ahead of the league final.

"We came here today hoping to put in a performance and obviously hoping to come out with a win," Cahalane said.

"But Galway came down more intense than us and their work rate was through the roof. They had lots of energy, and they exposed us in the first half and we just didn't match it.

"We were second to every ball and second in terms of energy and with a performance like that you're not really going to come out the right side of it.

"We'll have to go away now and reflect for the next two weeks, but it's not all negatives. There's plenty positives to take out of it as well. A lot of girls got a run out today.

"We had a couple of new girls starting as well. So you know that's a positive take, and I thought they did well.

"So lots of work to do for the

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

next two week and we're really looking forward to the final."

Cork were already in the final ahead of the clash with Galway and really had nothing at stake, bar keeping their winning run going.

With that in mind Cahalane said that it may have had an influence on their display, but it shouldn't have had.

"We still would have come down here intending to win, and I suppose that's what we would have worked on all at training.

"But I just think the energy levels and the work rate, we didn't match them in the first half. And I thought we fought a bit harder in the second-half. We definitely came here with the intention of putting in a performance and I suppose we just didn't do that over the 60 minutes and so that's definitely something to work on.

"We know now that it's Galway we will be meeting again in two weeks time so we know what to expect going up to Thurles for that game.

"We had a few players there who gave a few honest opinions in the dressing room afterwards about our performance, and I suppose, you know, that gets you ready for training during the week.

"That game gave some of the new girls a taste of the intensity of top games. They're going really well in the gym and at training. So that probably just gave them a taste of the physicality you can expect against a top team and a taste of what to expect in the final."



Libby Coppinger of Cork in action against Galway in the Very Camogie League Division 1A loss in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh last Saturday. Cork will face Galway again in the league final. PHOTO: INPHO/JAMES LAWLOR

BALLINASCARTHY



History was made for the Ballinascorthy camogie club last Monday night with a great win versus Sarsfields in their very first league match at intermediate grade on a final scoreline of 1-07 to 0-08. Back (from left): Sinéad McCarthy, Nicole Prochniak, Siofra Pattwell, Kate O'Donovan, Annie Condon, Kaela O'Driscoll, Michelle Dullea, Sarah Cahalane, Rachel Cahalane and Moira Barrett. Front (from left): Martina O'Brien, Megan Ryan, Millie Condon, Aoibhin Ryan, Clara Crowley, Katelyn O'Neill and Michelle O'Driscoll.

Munster double-headers to take place in April and May

Three camogie/hurling double headers will take place in April and May in what Munster GAA chairman Tim Murphy has called "further proof of the growing bond between our respective organisations".

The Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final between Cork and Clare will take place on April 20 at 11.45am, before the two counties take each other on again for the Munster hurling clash at 2pm. Both games will be played at Cusack Park in Ennis.

Tipperary and Limerick will play each other in the camogie quarter-final at FBD Semple Stadium in Thurles at 2pm, before the meeting of the men's sides at 4pm.

The camogie final will then be held at Cusack Park on May 10 at 3.30pm, before the men's clash between Clare and Tipperary at 6pm.

Schedule

Sunday, April 20

Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final: Cork v Clare, 11.45am, Cusack Park, Ennis.

Munster Senior Hurling Championship: Cork v Clare, 2pm, Cusack Park, Ennis.

Munster Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final: Tipperary v Limerick, 2pm, Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Munster Senior Hurling Championship: Tipperary v Limerick, 4pm, Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Saturday, May 10

Munster Senior Camogie Championship final: 3.30pm, Cusack Park, Ennis.

Munster Senior Hurling Championship: Clare v Tipperary, 6pm, Cusack Park, Ennis.

— Darragh Leen

Cork v Clare double-header

THE Cork senior camogie team's Munster semi-final with Clare will act as the curtain-raiser for the counties' Munster SHC clash in Ennis on Sunday, April 20th.

Ger Manley's team play Clare in the provincial camogie semi-final at 11.45am, followed by the Munster SHC clash between the same two counties at 2pm. On the same day in Semple Stadium in Thurles, Tipperary host Limerick in the provincial camogie quarter-final at 2pm. The same counties meet in the Munster SHC at 4pm.

On Saturday, May 10th, Ennis will host another double header, starting with Munster camogie final at 3.30pm, followed by the hurling meeting of Clare and Tipperary at 6pm.



The Cork team who started against Galway during the Very Camogie League game at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Ava McAuliffe attacks the Dublin goal during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match between Cork and Dublin at Castle Road. Picture: David Creedon

With semi spot in bag Cork will look to end group games in style

The final games in the group stages of the Eir All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship will take place this weekend when Cork host Limerick in Castle Road tomorrow (2pm). Tipperary head to Galway, and Dublin are at home to Kilkenny. Cork are second behind Galway who top the group after four wins from four games. Kilkenny are a point behind Cork in third with Tipperary in fourth, one behind Kilkenny.

Dublin had an important win over Limerick last weekend to put them in fifth with an outside chance of qualification. Galway have already secured their semi-final spot with a game in hand. They face a Tipperary side that, depending on results, could possibly move into second or third if Cork lose to Limerick and Dublin beat Kilkenny. Cork look to have done enough and even if they lose tomorrow, they will still make it through. The real battle will be between Kilkenny, Dublin, and Tipperary; a win for Dublin and Kilkenny and a defeat for Tipperary could see Tipperary edged out.

Cork will be hoping to finish the group stage in style and get a result over Limerick. Having lost their first game to Galway by two points, Cork settled down and, performing well, got the upper hand on Dublin and Kilkenny before playing out an exciting draw with Tipperary in their fourth game, a result which kept Cork in second place in the group.

There have been impressive displays from Cork through the campaign with Cliona Harte, Lea Meillouin, Leah Ryan, and Maebh Fitzgerald impressing in attack. Brendan Foley and his management team will be going all out for a win to hold second place.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Limerick have not enjoyed the best of campaigns; they lost all their games. In their opener, they had a hard-fought battle with Kilkenny before losing 1-16 to 2-11. They were heavily defeated by Galway, 2-19 to 1-3, before losing to Dublin by two points, 3-8 to 2-9.

Meanwhile, the news that three Munster SHC games will be held as double-headers with Munster camogie matches was announced earlier this week, and while it was welcomed and will give the games extra profile, a lot of camogie followers are wondering how they will get tickets given the excitement generated by the hurling games.

With securing tickets very much a pot luck situation many who follow the camogie team may be forced to miss the games given the huge interest in the hurling clashes.

While hurling clubs will, no doubt, get ticket allocations, the same may not be afforded to camogie clubs therefore the genuine camogie follower may not be catered for which will be a huge disappointment to fans who, through the national league, will have followed the team in near-empty stadiums.

Cork and Clare will meet in the camogie semi-final in Cusack Park (11.45am) before the counties meet in the hurling clash (2pm) on Easter Sunday.

The same day in Semple Stadium, Thurles, Tipperary meet Limerick in the senior camogie quarter-final (2pm) before the hurling clash at 4pm. The camogie final will be held at Cusack Park on May 10 (3.30pm) before the hurling game between Clare and Tipperary at 6pm.

Cork manager disappointed after first league loss but context is important as Division 1A final beckons

CORK	0-13
GALWAY	0-19

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

GER Manley made no excuses after Cork suffered their first Very Division 1A League defeat of the season at home to Galway in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. The Cork boss insisted the better team on Saturday won.

Having already booked their place in the league decider, the Rebels produced a disappointing display and could have no issue with the outcome.

Second best throughout the afternoon, Manley was left with plenty to ponder as a lethargic Cork, albeit minus a number of regular starters, never got to grips with their opponents.

In defeat, the Cork boss made zero excuses.

'We were poor,' Manley admitted.

'Galway came here and were up for it. We thought we were up for it, but we weren't.'

The scoreline didn't do them justice, they were well on top. You can say we're missing a few, but we expect any Cork team that goes out, any 15 that wear the red jersey, they put it in.

'Galway had a good first half and it was hard to get back into it. We thought we were a bit better in the second half, and we gave a few girls a run to finish out the game. At the end of the day, this game made no difference. We're looking forward to the league final.'

Galway's motivation was obvious as only a win would secure Cathal Murray's side a league final berth. The visitors were full value for their victory and

'Target was to reach the league final. We have'



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan is challenged by Galway's AnnMarie Starr.

'We're looking forward to the league final'

will relish another crack off the Rebels in the league decider at Semple Stadium on Sunday week.

Manley made six changes from the Cork team that defeated Tipperary to qualify for this year's league final with a

game to spare.

From Carbery camogie's point of view, St Colum's Libby Coppinger returned from injury at full back, Ballinascarthy's Millie Condon began in mid-field alongside Courcy Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy and Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan started on the half-forward line. Enniskeane's Daire O'Brien and Newcestown's Claire Kingston were late second-half substitutes.

Coppinger's performance was one of the few positives from an otherwise forgettable afternoon.

'Yeah, Libby was top class,' Manley agreed.

That was her first game back since she broke her finger in a football game. Give her credit, I thought she was excellent.'

It was Galway who dominated the opening half, despite trailing 0-3 to 0-2 after a flurry of early scores. Saoirse McCarthy



Cork's Avril Cagney clears the ball out of defence while being chased by Dublin's Abbie Kenny during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match. Picture: David Creedon



Laura Hayes in full flight against Galway at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. (Photos: James Lawlor / INPHO)



Libby Coppinger made her return to action after a hand injury.

The Connacht side were ten points clear heading into the closing quarter and, in truth, never looked in danger of squandering that advantage. So it proved as Carrie Dolan, Aoife Donohue and Ailish O'Reilly kept the scoreboard ticking over and Galway ran out 0-19 to 0-13 winners.

'I thought at times they over-ran us in the middle of the field, that happens in matches,' Manley concluded.

'I suppose they had that bit of hunger as they had to win to get into the final. We know what Galway are about. There's nothing between us, and look, I'd rather they beat us today than beat us on Sunday fortnight.'

'Tactically, they were direct so we will have to look at that.'

'Look, at the end of the day, our target at the start of the year was to reach a league final. Had we not got there a match ahead of time, I suppose we might have put a different team out today, pos-

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Take your pick from about ten Galway starters but for sheer determination, and the fact she was returning from a hand injury, Cork defender **Libby Coppinger** stood out.

Star moment: Galway scored some cracking points throughout the hour but Carrie Dolan's accurate free-taking, amid windy conditions, was a highlight.

Talking point: Despite missing a number of regulars, this was Cork's worst display since Ger Manley took over. Expect lots of soul searching ahead of the league final.

What's next? Cork and Galway will meet again in the Division 1A final in Semple Stadium on Sunday, April 13th.

thy (free), Emma Murphy and Katrina Mackey were on target for Cork with Ailish O'Reilly and Aoife O'Donoghue replying for the visitors.

It would be over 23 minutes before Cork scored again. A combination of uncharacteristic errors and Galway's greater hunger saw the Connacht side build a merited 0-11 to 0-4 interval lead. Carrie Dolan, Ailish O'Reilly, Olwen Rabbitte and Aine Keane scores were

answered by a solitary Amy O'Connor free as an out-of-sorts Cork changed ends seven points in arrears.

Hitting hard and attacking in waves, a dominant Galway didn't take their foot off the gas throughout the second period. Cork were only slightly improved and made a host of substitutions in an effort to stem the tide.

Cork's penchant for giving away needless fouls was

repeatedly punished by Carrie Dolan who finished with ten points, eight from frees.

Cork forward Amy O'Connor in action.



Camogie Association spending on external legal advice increased more than five-fold last year

Eoghan Cormican

Camogie Association spend on legal and professional fees increased by a staggering 549% last year as the association dealt with a series of "challenges and situations" not previously encountered.

In her annual report, seen by the *Irish Examiner*, Camogie chief executive Sinéad McNulty outlined how there was a significant increase in the requirement for external legal advice.

Her comments are borne out in the Camogie Association's financial accounts for 2024, which shows expenditure on legal and professional fees reaching €499k.

This figure represents an over five-fold increase on the corresponding €91,277 in 2023.

"During 2024, there was a

significant increase in the requirement for external legal advice as the association encountered a series of occurrences, challenges and situations outside of previous experience, which require review of the rules, codes and policies and application of same," the Camogie CEO wrote.

"This pattern of increased challenge is taking place throughout the sports industry and when we review the cases coming before the disciplinary and appeals processes, often the application or failure thereof, of approved policies and procedures has led to difficulties.

"We have invested in training and supports for volunteers who take on the important roles in the association charged with leadership, gov-



Brian Molloy: Full integration is moving ahead 'inexorably'.

ernance and application of the Association's rules. It is vital that these supports and train-

ing opportunities are availed of to support the effective running of units, and minimise the risks of challenge to processes."

The 549% rise in legal spend did not contribute to an overall deficit for 2024, although the €453k surplus of 2023 did shrink considerably to €93,375 last year.

Despite the Women's Gaelic Players Association being launched in 2015, and later merging with the GPA in 2020, Camogie Association top brass are only now bringing forward a motion, to this weekend's Congress, to recognise the GPA "as the official representative body for adult players in inter-county competitions".

In his president's foreword, Brian Molloy stated that the process of full integration

is moving ahead "inexorably".

"I remain absolutely confident that a transformed GAA can and will be delivered by 2027 — one club, one county, one province, one Ard Chomhairle, one association — where camogie, ladies football, hurling and football will be sustained, maintained and developed equally and equitably for all," Molloy added.

"Our game and our association are in a good place. Our finances, as you will see, are in good shape and we are taking steps to try and build our match attendance figures further.

"We all need to work to ensure that our players are supported when they take to the pitch — in local and national settings and whether our own counties are involved or not."

'Representing Cork teams highlights high standard of camogie in Carbery'

Carbery Camogie Awards honour local players who lined out for Cork teams in 2024

THE growing strength of camogie in West Cork was there for all to see at the Carbery Camogie Awards Evening.

A super initiative by Carbery Camogie, the purpose of the awards evening in Clonakilty on Saturday was to honour the players from local clubs who represented Cork in 2024, as well as present medals to clubs who won Carbery camogie championships at various grades last season.

These awards are in their second year, but already highlight how local players are making an impact at county level. From the division's three All-Ireland winning senior players – Libby Coppinger (St Colum's), Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown) and Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy) – right down to U14 level, there was a strong Carbery representation on Cork squads last season.

'The fact that these three players (Libby, Ciara and Millie) come from small rural clubs in Carbery rather than the bigger urban senior clubs is a testament to their commitment to camogie,' Carbery Camogie Chairman Teddy O'Regan said. 'In addition to senior, Carbery players represented Cork at junior, minor, U17, U16, U15 and U14 in 2024.'

'Representing Cork teams is a verification of the high standard of camogie in Carbery.'

'We in Carbery camogie want to increase the participation of girls in camogie from a young age, retain the players in camogie to adult level, be proud of their club and their community, and provide opportunities for Carbery players to play at the highest level. This is why we are working with the county board to ensure divisions continue to participate in the county senior championship.'

'The senior camogie championship provides an opportunity for every Carbery player, no matter how small their club, to compete at the highest level in club camogie



Carbery Camogie U16 players honoured were Karen O'Sullivan, Newcestown; Niamh Barrett, Clonakilty; Maria O'Donovan, Barryroe, and Emily Cregan, Clonakilty.



Taking centre stage were Sinéad Hurley, Enniskeane (Cork junior team); Ciara O'Sullivan, Newcestown (Cork senior); Millie Condon, Ballinascorthy (Cork senior); Libby Coppinger, St Colum's (Cork senior), and Amy McCarthy, Clonakilty (Cork minor team).

in Cork and test themselves against the best.'

These are busy times for Carbery camogie, with an U15 skills competition in Barryroe this Saturday at 2pm, and at the same time in the same venue there is a Carbery Goalkeeper Workshop with Eimear White.

The Carbery camogie players who received awards included:

Senior – Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy), Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown) and Libby Coppinger (St Colum's).

Junior – Sinéad Hurley (Enniskeane).

Minor – Amy McCarthy (Clonakilty).

U17 – Meabh O'Brien (Enniskeane).

U16A – Maria O'Donovan (Barryroe), Niamh O'Mahony (Kilbrittain/Timoleague).

U16B – Emily Cregan (Clonakilty), Niamh Barrett (Clonakilty), Karen O'Sullivan (Newcestown), Erin McCarthy (Enniskeane).

U15 – Sinéad O'Callaghan (Barryroe), Cliona Harte (Barryroe), Amber Bishop (Ballinascorthy).

U14 – Philippa Desmond (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Livi Kelly (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Amy Walsh (Enniskeane), Clara Cashman (Ballinascorthy), Julie Fleming (Bandon), Aisling Crowley (Clonakilty), Saoirse Gilmore (Clonakilty), Ailbhe Byerley (Clonakilty), Eibhlín Murphy (Clonakilty), Mairéad Whelton (Barryroe).

The Carbery camogie clubs that received medals on Saturday: Enniskeane (U15B Cup), Barryroe (U13A Cup), Clonakilty (U13A Shield), Newcestown (U13B Cup) and Ballinascorthy (U13B Shield).



Honoured at the Carbery Camogie Awards Evening in Clonakilty GAA Pavilion on Saturday were local players who featured for the Cork U14s in 2024. Front from left, Saoirse Gilmore, Clonakilty; Eibhlín Murphy, Clonakilty; Julie Fleming, Bandon; Philippa Desmond, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, and Livi Kelly, Kilbrittain/Timoleague. Back from left, Clara Cashman, Ballinascorthy; Mairéad Whelton, Barryroe; Amy Walsh, Enniskeane; Aisling Crowley, Clonakilty, and Ailbhe Byerley, Clonakilty.

(Photos: Paddy Feen)



Ide Ni Mhuirí of Carbery Camogie presents a bouquet of flowers to Carbery Camogie sponsor Colette Twomey, CEO Clonakilty Food Company.



The Carbery camogie U15 players honoured on Saturday evening were Amber Bishop, Ballinascorthy; Sinéad O'Callaghan, Barryroe, and Cliona Harte, Barryroe.

Cork dual stars to play two finals this weekend

Eoghan Cormican

Cork dual stars Aoife Healy, Hannah Looney, and Libby Coppinger will play two National League finals in the space of 24 hours this weekend as the respective managements have agreed not to prioritise one fixture over the other.

The Cork ladies footballers are in Croke Park this Saturday (3pm) for the Division 2 League final against Galway,

while the camogie team are in action at Semple Stadium the following afternoon (2.15pm) in the Division 1A League final against the same maroon opposition.

Healy, Looney, and Coppinger are integral members of both camps, with camogie boss Ger Manley confirming that they'll tog on for the footballers on Saturday and, unless injury gets in the way, they'll do so again less than 24 hours later.

Two weeks ago, Healy and Looney did not line out for the camogie side in their final round-robin outing against Galway, instead travelling to Donegal the following day with the footballers.

Coppinger did not feature in Donegal having been at full-back for Manley's team as they went down at home to Sunday's opponents Galway by 0-19 to 0-13, an immaterial result for the Rebel women given that they had already se-

cured their Camogie League final berth a round previous.

"They are playing Saturday with the footballers and hopefully they will come through that, and they'll be togging for us then on Sunday. So we'll just have to monitor them in between, really. Hopefully they won't get injured," said Manley.

"It is not brilliant going into two national finals so close together, but it is just the way it is. We'll just get on with it."

The Cork ladies footballers are chasing a first piece of national silverware since 2019, while the camogie women are attempting to bridge a 12-year gap to the county's last League success.

Cork have lost five Camogie League finals in the interim, including two of the last three.

Their bid to end that wait has been strengthened by the return to full fitness of Cliona Healy.

A permanent fixture in the

half-forward line during last summer's run to All-Ireland glory, Healy has not featured in red this year.

"Cliona will be in the squad for the final," said Manley.

"She's been training for the last week and a half. She'll be a big addition to us. She had a calf injury and was finding it difficult to get through. Training very well the last week and a half. Came through a couple of very good sessions. In the mix for Sunday."

of the league we wanted to make the final and that we have done, so maybe we were a bit complacent."

As for Galway, Meabh said: "We have met a lot over the years and there has been very little between us and I know the final will be the very same, but it's been awhile since we won the league and that is our motivation now to win it."

Playing against the strong wind in the 1st half they were deserving winners.

Carrie Dolan tormented Cork that day with some quality points and punished every Cork indiscretion from placed balls.

Ailish O'Reilly, Aoife O'Donohue, Mairead Dillon, Olwen Rabbittie, the Healys Sarah and Shaunagh also played well and they also lined out minus the talented Niamh Mallon and her presence will strengthen their side.

Cork took the opportunity to rest a few players and a couple of players with little knocks were also left out.

Dual players Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy along with Libby Coppinger will be in Croke Park on Saturday, by no means ideal but that's the price you pay for success.

It's been a while, 2013 since Cork last won the league - a bit like the hurlers last week - they will want to end that unwanted record.

The composition of the starting 15 will be interesting although there is a doubt about the availability of Laura Hayes who has a slight injury and may not be risked and the St Catherine's player would be a loss.

Amy Lee remains the number 1 while in front of her expect Pamela Mackey, Laura Tracey, Meabh Murphy and team captain Meabh Cahalane.

Ashling Thompson who sat out the last game will return as will Sorcha McCartan, Amy O'Connor made her 1st start of the year and

will benefit from that outing, while Orlaith Cahalane and Saoirse McCarthy will also feature.

There is a healthy rivalry between these two sides in recent years, simple because they are the best two teams and this will not be the last time they will encounter one another before the season ends, I suspect.

Galway will have been boosted by beating Cork on their home patch the last day, but Cork with a full squad should have that bit extra to get over the line.

The match is live on CI03. One other camogie game on Saturday, it's the Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor A semi-final featuring Cork v Tipperary at Castle Road at 2pm.



Cork captain Méabh Cahalane wants to get her hands on the Division 1A trophy on Sunday.

Cahalane wants league medal to swell collection

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

MÉABH Cahalane reckons that just two of the current Cork senior camogie squad have won national league medals. She hopes that number swells dramatically this Sunday afternoon.

You have to go back to 2013 for Cork's last Division 1 league title, but the Rebels' class of 2025 has the chance to end this wait when they take on Galway in the Very National League Division 1A final at Semple Stadium, Thurles (2.15pm throw-in).

"I think it's only the two Mackeys in our group who have a league medal," Cork captain Cahalane told *The Southern Star*.

"Even though you can look around the dressing room and see so many players who have won so many awards and medals, one thing a lot of us have in common is that we don't have a league medal. That's something to go after as well."

"After this weekend there is a bit of a dip before the All-Ireland championship kicks in, so we know this is a big game for us, as well as the Munster championship games, before the All-Ireland starts."

Cahalane and Co are no strangers to success. As back-to-back All-Ireland champions Cork are the undisputed number one right now and their league form has backed this up. Wins against Waterford (2-10 to 0-8), Dublin (0-20 to 0-10), Kilkenny (3-17 to 0-13) and Tipperary (1-12 to 0-7) saw Ger Manley's team book their league final spot with one game to spare. That final group stage game saw Cork suffer a first league loss, 0-19 to 0-13 at home to a Galway side they'll face again in the league final.

While the All-Ireland is a bigger prize, Cork are focused on the here and now - and they want a league title, and some

revenge for the bad day at the office against Galway.

"When you get to a league final you want to win it," Cahalane stressed.

"We also know that we want to peak for the business end of the year. It's the league final first, and as well as winning it we weren't happy with our performance against Galway a few weeks ago so that is something we want to address. Getting a result against Galway would be important for us at this time of the year."

"We have got a lot out of the league. At the start, one of our objectives was to go as far as we could in the league, and now we are in the final so we have to be happy with where we are."

The platform for Cork's impressive league is linked to many factors, including their defence that has yet to concede a goal. They have the best defensive record in the division, and had conceded an average of 0-10 per game before the loss to Galway; the context here being that game mattered little to the Rebels.

"It (not conceding a goal) is something that was picked up on after the Tipp game. I know the Galway game was disappointing, but we still didn't concede a goal," Cahalane said.

"Amy Lee in goal and all our defenders work so hard, and you have the work-rate around our middle third and with our forwards is huge. No-one can come out with the ball easily against us, our defence starts up at number 15. It's helping us at the back because we know if we don't concede a goal that we have the forwards who can score goals."

Scoring more (6-72 v 2-76) than Galway and conceding less (0-57 v 3-60) this season, all signs point to a Cork win on Sunday, and for Cahalane the chance to lift silverware as captain.

Very Ireland Division 1A Camogie Final

Cork v Galway on

Sunday in Semple

Stadium Thurles at 2.15pm

"Okay we were short a few players and Galway's need was a bit greater than ours but we are still disappointed at losing." Ger Manley after they lost their last game of the group phase to Sunday's opponents in the Páirc a couple of weeks ago.

The need he was referring to was that by then Cork had already qualified for the final while Galway needed to win and they did in some style.

Captain Meabh Cahalane, while disappointed with the loss was looking forward to the final: "No one likes losing but at the start

UCC Sports Star award winners 2024-25:
Athletics: Katie Bergin
Archery: Beau Poydence
GAA: Aoife Healy, Eoin Downey
Hockey: Micaela Sanderson
Olympic Weightlifting: Shane Roche
Rugby: Peter Hyland
Women's Soccer: Aoibhinn Donnelly
New/Young Athlete of the Year: Daryl Cuff (basketball)
International Representation Award: Adam Murphy (rowing), Michael Foy (rugby)
Supreme Sports Star Award: Margaret Cremen (rowing)
Coach of the Year: Mark Mulcahy (hockey)
Team of the Year: UCC Rugby Senior Seconds - winners Munster Junior Cup 2024
Kieran Dowd Special Achievement Award: David Holmes (Judo)
Hall of Fame: Moss Finn (rugby)



Amy Sheppard, of Cork, pulls away from Clare's Grainne McMahon during the Munster U23 camogie semi-final. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Cork survive late scare against Clare to reach Munster U23 final

Cork 2-11
Clare 2-9

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork overcame Clare in a close Munster U23 semi-final at Castle Road after a battle to the finish.

Clare did have a chance to grab a winner, but a late free went wide, much to the relief of Cork, who now go forward to meet Tipperary.

Cork, playing against the wind in the opening half, led by four points at the interval, 1-8 to 0-7, a Claudia Keane goal after just three minutes giving Cork a vital edge.

Zi Yan Spillane had opened the scoring with a free, but after the goal and a Niamh McNabola score, Cork were up 1-1 to 0-1. Clare responded well and hit four points without reply, through Spillane, Jennifer Daly, Caoimhe Cahill and Grace Carmody.

Cork upped the pace, and with Millie Condon working hard around the middle they hit five points in a row. Amy Sheppard converted two frees and scored from play, with McNabola and Nicole Olden also on target.

Clare were finding it difficult to break down the Cork defence and went 15 minutes without a score, before an Aisling Cooney free and another Spillane score.

Again Cork responded, through Keane and Emily O'Donoghue, to go in four points ahead.

Ellen Casey narrowed the gap for Clare, but Amy Sheppard and Avril Cashman responded. Spillane had one back for Clare, before Aisling Cooney dispatched a penalty

to the net to give them a one-point lead.

That was short-lived, thanks to an Eimear Duignan point, followed by an Amy Sheppard goal.

As the sides battled for control, both defences had to stand firm.

Aisling Cooney pointed a Clare free with three minutes remaining to put two between the sides and she had one last chance to grab a winner as Clare were awarded a 20-metre free.

Her goal attempt went wide as Cork held on to progress to the Munster final.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 1-4 (0-3 f), C Keane 1-1, N McNabola 0-2, N Olden, E O'Donoghue, A Cashman E Duignan 0-1 each.

Clare: ZY Spillane 0-4 (0-3 f), A Cooney 1-2 (0-2 f), E Casey 1-0 pen, C Cahill, S Carmody J Daly 0-1 each.

CORK: C Buckley (Inniscarra); A O'Riordan (Ballinora), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), C Kingston (Newcastle), M Ring (Aghabullogue), D O'Brien (Enniskeane), A Cashman (Youghal); M Condon (Ballinascorthy), E Sheehan (Eire Og); N McNabola (Cloughduv), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), N Olden (St Finbarr's); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), C Keane (Inniscarra), R Murphy (Ballinora).

Subs: N O'Regan (St Catherine's) for N Olden (36), S Hurley (Sarsfields) for A O'Riordan (45), E Wigginton Barrett (St Finbarr's) for N McNabola (48), A McCarthy (Clonakilty) for E O'Donoghue (50), C O'Donoghue (Bishopstown) for C Keane (52).

CLARE: M Burke; D Griffin, C Queally; G McMahon, HM Neylon, A Walsh; A Anderson, J Daly; G Carmody, M Hanrahan, A Cooney, C Cahill; A McMahon, E Casey, ZY Spillane.

Subs: D Beston for J Daly (26 inj), A Marren for A McMahon (47).

Referee: John Dooley (Tipperary).



Cork's Sorchá McCartan is chased by Dublin's Emma O'Byrne during their Very National Division 1A tie at St Peregrine's, Blakestown. McCartan has recovered from an injury and is available for selection on Sunday. Picture: Moya Nolan

Camogie side face a battle

In the second battle of Cork v Galway over the weekend it's the turn of the camogie sides on Sunday.

They clash in the Very Division 1A National League final at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, throw-in 2.15pm.

The Rebels will be hoping this makes it two from two over the Tribeswomen, with the ladies footballers clashing in their respective league final at Croke Park tomorrow.

If you judged the camogie decider on the last meeting of Cork and Galway in the round robin stage of the league then the Rebels needn't bother showing up.

Both the players and management were first to admit afterwards they were second best on the day, as Galway outplayed and outworked them.

However Galway manager Cathal Murray and his team will be well aware that it was a nothing game for Cork. They had already qualified for the league final and on the opposite side Galway had to win to ensure their place in the decider.

That game gave Cork manager Ger Manley and his selectors the chance to get game time into some players as well as giving some of the newer members of the squad an opportunity to see the levels you need to be at when it comes to championship.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

Galway are a tough, physical side and they blend that with plenty of skill as well.

As they had to win Galway went with a near full strength side and you can expect few changes from their starting 15 that took to the field in their 0-19 to 0-13 win at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh two weeks ago. Niamh Mallon is likely to come back in and Aoife Donohue, who started instead of her, is also likely to retain her starting spot.

Cork were missing a number of players for that clash, with Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy playing with the footballers the following day in Donegal and they are likely to feature on Sunday.

Others too that are available for selection again include Pamela Mackey, Ashling Thompson, Sorchá McCartan and Orlaith Cahalane, to name few.

Any of those players, not to mind all four, would strengthen any side and they will be bursting to have another battle with Galway, especially after that loss.

Amy O'Connor also played her first full game of the season and that will stand to her on Sunday.

Nobody will be writing too much into Cork's loss and it will only serve as a motivator for the team ahead of Sunday.

This set of players hold themselves to the highest standards and won't accept another performance like the clash against Galway.

To be fair to Cork it probably was a difficult game to get themselves up for and, no doubt, they didn't want to show their full hand ahead of the final.

Manley will have used that loss to motivate them in training for the last few weeks, but he would also admit they are more than capable of motivating themselves.

"They were far better than us the last day, but that will count for nothing on Sunday," said Manley. "Galway and ourselves have probably been the two best teams in camogie over the last year or so, along with the likes of Tipp, so we know just how tough this is going to be."

"They are a really good side and we had a battle with them in the All-Ireland final last year and I'm expecting another close game on Sunday. But we have confidence in our own players and they know a much better performance will be needed if we are to have any chance of winning," concluded Manley.



Millie Condon, of Cork, gathers the sliotar ahead of Clare's Jennifer Daly. Picture: Howard Crowdy



Ashling Thompson will be expected to start on Sunday having missed the round-robin clash with Galway. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Clodagh Finn has been in impressive form for Cork in the league so far. Picture: James Lawlor



Amy Sheppard, of Cork, pulls away from Clare's Grainne McMahon during the Munster U23 camogie semi-final. Picture: Howard Crowdy

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Cork, playing against the wind in the opening half, led by four points at the interval, 1-8 to 0-7, a Claudia Keane goal after just three minutes giving Cork a vital edge.

Zi Yan Spillane had opened the scoring with a free, but after the goal and a Niamh McNabola score, Cork were up 1-1 to 0-1. Clare responded well and hit four points without reply, through Spillane, Jennifer Daly, Caoimhe Cahill and Grace Carmody.

Cork upped the pace, and with Millie Condon working hard around the middle they hit five points in a row. Amy Sheppard converted two frees and scored from play, with McNabola and Nicole Olden also on target.

Clare were finding it difficult to break down the Cork defence and went 15 minutes without a score, before an Aisling Cooney free and another Spillane score.

Again Cork responded, through Keane and Emily O'Donoghue, to go in four points ahead.

Ellen Casey narrowed the gap for Clare, but Amy Sheppard and Avril Cashman responded. Spillane had one back for Clare, before Aisling Cooney dispatched a penalty

to the net to give them a one-point lead.

That was short-lived, thanks to an Eimear Duignan point, followed by an Amy Sheppard goal.

As the sides battled for control, both defences had to stand firm.

Aisling Cooney pointed a Clare free with three minutes remaining to put two between the sides and she had one last chance to grab a winner as Clare were awarded a 20-metre free.

Her goal attempt went wide as Cork held on to progress to the Munster final.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 1-4 (0-3 f), C Keane 1-1, N McNabola 0-2, N Olden, E O'Donoghue, A Cashman E Duignan 0-1 each.

Clare: ZY Spillane 0-4 (0-3 f), A Cooney 1-2 (0-2 f), E Casey 1-0 pen, C Cahill, S Carmody J Daly 0-1 each.

CORK: C Buckley (Inniscarra); A O'Riordan (Ballinora), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), C Kingston (Newcestown); M Ring (Aghabullogue), D O'Brien (Enniskeane), A Cashman (Youghal); M Condon (Ballinascorthy), E Sheehan (Eire Og); N McNabola (Cloughduv), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), N Olden (St Finbarr's); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), C Keane (Inniscarra), R Murphy (Ballinora).

Subs: N O'Regan (St Catherine's) for N Olden (36), S Hurley (Sarsfields) for A O'Riordan (45), E Wiggington Barrett (St Finbarr's) for N McNabola (48), A McCarthy (Clonakilty) for E O'Donoghue (50), C O'Donoghue (Bishopstown) for C Keane (52).

CLARE: M Burke; D Griffin, C Queally; G McMahon, HM Neylon, A Walsh; A Anderson, J Daly; G Carmody, M Hanrahan, A Cooney, C Cahill; A McMahon, E Casey, ZY Spillane.

Subs: D Beston for J Daly (26 inj), A Marren for A McMahon (47).

Referee: John Dooley (Tipperary).



Cork's SORCHA MCCARTAN is chased by Dublin's Emma O'Byrne during their Very National Division 1A tie at St Peregrine's, Blakestown. McCartan has recovered from an injury and is available for selection on Sunday. Picture: Moya Nolan

Camogie side face a battle

In the second battle of Cork v Galway over the weekend it's the turn of the camogie sides on Sunday.

They clash in the Very Division 1A National League final at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, throw-in 2.15pm.

The Rebels will be hoping this makes it two from two over the Tribeswomen, with the ladies footballers clashing in their respective league final at Croke Park tomorrow.

If you judged the camogie decider on the last meeting of Cork and Galway in the round robin stage of the league then the Rebels needn't bother showing up.

Both the players and management were first to admit afterwards they were second best on the day, as Galway outplayed and outworked them.

However Galway manager Cathal Murray and his team will be well aware that it was a nothing game for Cork. They had already qualified for the league final and on the opposite side Galway had to win to ensure their place in the decider.

That game gave Cork manager Ger Manley and his selectors the chance to get game time into some players as well as giving some of the newer members of the squad an opportunity to see the levels you need to be at when it comes to championship.

CAMOGIE



Rory Noonan

Galway are a tough, physical side and they blend that with plenty of skill as well.

As they had to win Galway went with a near full strength side and you can expect few changes from their starting 15 that took to the field in their 0-19 to 0-13 win at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh two weeks ago. Niamh Mallon is likely to come back in and Aoife Donohue, who started instead of her, is also likely to retain her starting spot.

Cork were missing a number of players for that clash, with Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy playing with the footballers the following day in Donegal and they are likely to feature on Sunday.

Others too that are available for selection again include Pamela Mackey, Ashling Thompson, SORCHA MCCARTAN and Orlaith Cahalane, to name few.

Any of those players, not to mind all four, would strengthen any side and they will be bursting to have another battle with Galway, especially after that loss.

Amy O'Connor also played her first full game of the season and that will stand to her on Sunday.

Nobody will be writing too much into Cork's loss and it will only serve as a motivator for the team ahead of Sunday.

This set of players hold themselves to the highest standards and won't accept another performance like the clash against Galway.

To be fair to Cork it probably was a difficult game to get themselves up for and, no doubt, they didn't want to show their full hand ahead of the final.

Manley will have used that loss to motivate them in training for the last few weeks, but he would also admit they are more than capable of motivating themselves.

"They were far better than us the last day, but that will count for nothing on Sunday," said Manley. "Galway and ourselves have probably been the two best teams in camogie over the last year or so, along with the likes of Tipp, so we know just how tough this is going to be."

"They are a really good side and we had a battle with them in the All-Ireland final last year and I'm expecting another close game on Sunday. But we have confidence in our own players and they know a much better performance will be needed if we are to have any chance of winning," concluded Manley.



Millie Condon, of Cork, gathers the sliotar ahead of Clare's Jennifer Daly. Picture: Howard Crowdy



Ashling Thompson will be expected to start on Sunday having missed the round-robin clash with Galway. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Clodagh Finn has been in impressive form for Cork in the league so far. Picture: James Lawlor



The Cork minor camogie who were the Rebel Óg monthly award winners for February, sponsored by Clayton Hotel Silversprings, Cummins Sports (trophy sponsor) with *The Echo* and Red FM media partners. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork looking to go one better than earlier draw with Tipp and reach final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TODAY

Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship semi-final: Cork v Tipperary, Castle Road 2pm

These sides met in the group stages in the opening round where it finished honours even, but today it's winner takes it all with a place in the final up for grabs.

It took a Shona Cronin pointed 45, four minutes into injury-time to give Cork a draw when the sides met in round one. Since then both sides settled well into their group games with Cork going on to top the group with win over Kilkenny and Dublin.

Tipperary were group runners-up, and having beaten Dublin and drawing their clash with Kilkenny to finish runners-up and they progressed to the quarter-final where they just edged out Wexford last weekend in a tough 1-14 to 1-13 battle.

Tipperary were the dominant force in that opening round game and raced into a two-goal lead before Cork found their feet.

Working hard though, Cork heads never dropped and they ensured that they were there to the finish, something manager Mossie O'Sullivan reflected earlier this week.

"When we met earlier in the season it was our first game in the championship and there was an element of nervousness which is understandable," he said.

"Since then we have enjoyed a good campaign and we are learning all the time.

"We know Tipperary; they are a good side and, like ourselves, they will be determined to make it to the final.

"In our previous meeting they got a dream start with two Caoimhe Stakelum goals inside three minutes of the throw in, but we settled and got right back into the game and while we were the side to grab the equaliser, we did have several chances we didn't take and this is something we have been working on and hopefully it will go our way.

"In a semi-final you are playing a very good team and they, like us, are there on



Cork's Tara Goulding and Dublin's Éile Caffrey chase the ball during their Minor Championship match. Picture: David Creedon

merit, but hopefully we will drive on and reach the final."

Ciara Stakelum is the Tipperary go-to player. Twice in this campaign she has rescued them from the jaws of defeat.

In their quarter-final last weekend she pointed in the fourth minute of added time to grab a winner to deny Wexford after titanic struggle.

Against Kilkenny she hit the equaliser from way back in her own defence and she is one Cork will need to keep a sharp eye on.

Tipperary are defending champions and they have other fine performers in Maeve Cunneen, Lucy O'Brien, and goalkeeper Danielle Butler, who was superb when the sides last met, bringing off three brilliant saves as Cork searched for a goal.

Cork are provincial champions having defeated Limerick in a thrilling final in February and they have excellent players in captain Rachel Murphy, Ali Mulkerrins, Tara Goulding, Shona Cronin, Clara Murphy, and Ava McAuliffe and all have played huge roles as Cork progressed and with one more push needed to get to the final they will not be found wanting.

Féile na nGael

Today is a busy day throughout the county with 68 teams participating in the county Féile which is taking place in all over Cork we extend best wishes to all taking part.

Cork-Galway rivalry has defined and lifted camogie

Cork-Galway is camogie's outstanding rivalry. Has been for the bones of seven seasons now. In more recent times, it has become camogie's only rivalry.

It would be logical to think that camogie is suffering from the lack of a crowded field. Just two contenders for the main trophies doesn't scream a healthy state of affairs. But that's where you'd be wrong.

In the process of lifting their own standards in an attempt to outdo one another, Cork and Galway have lifted the game in tandem. The race to last August's summit was arguably camogie's finest hour. Or certainly the finest hour since the 2021 race between the same pair.

It is the fault of neither that no one else has or can keep pace.

Such has been the player churn in the Kilkenny dressing-room, their rebuild could take longer than the National Children's Hospital. Tipperary are six years stuck at the All-Ireland semi-final stage. Their window has opened and closed. Waterford interrupted the established order by reaching the 2023 final. A one-off interruption, it has since proved.

And so to the surprise of nobody, we have arrived at a Division 1A League decider involving — yes, you guessed it — Cork and Galway. The second successive national final between the market leaders. The third national final of the last five where red and maroon are mixing. The third league final in four years where these two are last standing.



Very Camogie National League Division 1A final

Cork v Galway

Sunday: FBD Semple Stadium, 2.15pm
Referee: Gavin Donegan
TV: RTÉ 2

Eoghan Cormican



Rather than lament the predictability of it all, camogie has a lot to thank them for.

For a few months last summer, one wondered had camogie become a one-horse race. Untouched and untroubled, Cork strolled up the road to the concluding Sunday of fare boasting an average winning margin of 19 points. One of those six hammerings was a 2-16 to 1-7 group-stage dismissal of their supposed rivals.

Galway regrouped in the weeks following and presented Cork with their one contest of the 2024 championship. It was a contest where Cork had to defend for all their worth in the sixth and final minute of second-half stoppages to protect a one-score, 1-16 to 0-16, lead.

It had been a similar story last spring. Cork arrived into 2024 off the back of the biggest All-Ireland final-winning margin in 64 years. Their bid to follow that statement with league silverware was denied by Galway.

Take this current spring. Cork qualified for the league

final with a round to spare. Galway went down to Páirc Uí Chaoimh for that final round and departed with a convincing six-point victory. The latest reminder from the westerners that where Cork go, we will too.

In this era of re-established Cork dominance, Galway are the sole outfit capable of keeping them in check. "You always get a great game off Galway. This is my fourth year involved and there is nothing between the teams," said Cork boss Ger Manley.

"Last year's All-Ireland final was outstanding, and thankfully we came out on the right side of it. We had a brilliant game with them the year before in the semi-final. They had it over us in the championship before that. The last few years, they've been well on top of us in the league.

"Cathal [Murray] has been around a long time, longer than anyone on the camogie scene. They've exceptional players throughout their team, but so do we. There is fierce talent on both sides. The players are looking forward to Sunday. We know we are playing one of the best around."

The rivalry goes back to the 2019 All-Ireland semi-final. Cork will later this summer attempt a first All-Ireland three-in-a-row since 1972. The Cork-Galway rivalry was reignited when the latter stopped the former's three-in-a-row bid of six years ago. It was the first time since 2010 that the Tribeswomen had edged a knockout championship tie between the pair. It was the

game that ended Galway's long-running inferiority complex against camogie's typically-ruling force.

Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes, Libby Coppinger, Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor, and the Mackey twins are the Cork survivors from that 0-14 to 1-10 semi-final. Still going for Galway are Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, Emma Helebert, Aoife Donohue, Ailish O'Reilly, and Carrie Dolan.

The Tribeswomen won the next seven meetings between the counties. Cork wrestled back the balance of power in the 2023 semi-final. The back and forth will continue at Thurles tomorrow.

"Our bench press was good at the end of last year's All-Ireland final, and I think this year we might be after strengthening it," Manley said. "There is a bit more competition for places. We have to kick on. If you stand still in camogie, you can't, because the last couple of years, the quality has got better, the hurling is improving, the fitness levels are up. We have to improve.

"Galway took it to a level before us, we matched them and then went ahead of them. Ourselves and Galway are probably top of the tree at the moment, but you are there to be hit at and we know there is a target on our backs. You have to try and embrace that and try to improve. We haven't won the league since 2013, so that is a bit of a driver for us.

"It would be nice to win, especially when you are playing one of your greatest rivals in Galway, so we want to put one over on them."

Carbery's role in Cork's U23 and U16A camogie victories

BY GER MCCARTHY

CARBERY camogie players enjoyed prominent roles in Cork's Munster U23 and All-Ireland U16A semi-final victories at Castle Road last weekend.

A newly-created U23 inter-county grade meant Cork knew they would not be able to defend their 2024 All-Ireland intermediate title claimed last August. Following a ruling passed at Congress, in 2025 counties with second teams could no longer take part in the All-Ireland camogie interme-

diates or junior championships. Whilst hugely disappointing from a Cork perspective, the creation of an U23 inter-county grade presented players on the periphery of Cork manager Ger Manley's senior panel with an opportunity to put their hands up for future selection. In fact, this year's U23 side is being overseen by Ger Manley.

Against that backdrop, Carbery camogie's representatives had a vested interest in Sunday's Munster U23 semi-final against Clare. Claire Kingston (Newcestown) started in the

full-back line, Daire O'Brien (Enniskeane) was named at full-back and captained the team. Dual player Millie Condon (Ballinascarthy) was handed one of the two starting mid-field roles. Amy McCarthy (Clonakilty) was introduced as a 50th-minute substitute.

The Rebels built a 1-9 to 0-7 interval lead, Claudia Keane scoring an early goal. Clare fought back in the second half, but an Amy Sheppard goal saw Cork retake control as the Rebels won 2-11 to 2-9, and progress to a Munster U23 final

against Tipperary. Sheppard top scored for Cork with 1-4 on an afternoon Claudia Keane accrued 1-1. Niamh McNabola, Nicole Olden, Emily O'Donoghue, Avril Cashman and Eimear Duignan also contributed to the score-sheet.

Meanwhile, Cork are through to an All-Ireland Camogie U16A semi-final thanks to a comprehensive 5-15 to 1-7 win over Limerick. Carbery's Leah McCarthy (Kilbree), Cliona Harte (Barryroe) and Amber Bishop (Ballinascarthy) were part of the Cork squad.

'I call myself out and then I'll tell someone straight away'

It was Keith Ricken, the former Cork football manager and then sports administrator at MTU Cork, who first recognised that Saoirse McCarthy was often not herself in the latter months of the year.

"He said, 'If I was to take note of the times you've come in to me and you weren't yourself, it was always in November or December,'" says McCarthy, a three-time All-Ireland Camogie Championship winner with Cork.

"I think seasonal depression is really, really prominent in the GAA. You have your whole life in the summer time where you're training with your friends four to five days a week. You're eating healthy or exercising. The sun is shining, the days are long and everything is good.

"And then at the end of the year, you're not with your friends, you're probably drinking more, you're not minding yourself. The days are shorter and it all hits you. It's a massive contrast.

"At the time, I was oblivious to the pattern. I didn't know that it was a pattern — I just thought that I was struggling. As soon as you recognise it and find ways to

PJ Browne



deal with it, that's the biggest thing."

McCarthy was around 19 or 20 when that pattern, which was going on for "years", was identified. She sought help.

"One of the biggest things that I keep an eye out for is if I stop eating," she says.

"I lose my appetite when I'm upset. If I stop eating for a period of time, I could be a little bit iffy.

"I call myself out and then I'll tell someone straight away, one of the girls, I'll be like, 'Look, I haven't eaten in a few days properly'. And then because I've voiced it, because I've made it real, I can address the problem.

"Talking about it is the biggest thing. I had so many supports, but it's about actually using them, which could be a really, really hard thing to do."

McCarthy has not only learned the importance of speaking up, she's also teaching others to do so. As a

facilitator for Movember's Ahead of the Game programme, she visits GAA clubs to educate young players, parents and coaches about why their mental fitness should be maintained like their physical fitness. There are pointers on the warning signs to recognise in themselves and others, and what to do if they do spot red flags.

"Always in the back of my mind, I wondered if I wasn't that good at camogie, would I have had the same level of support?" she says.

"Getting the opportunity to go and talk to young people in clubs who mightn't have all of the resources that I did, I jumped at the opportunity. The biggest thing that they say is, 'I wish I had this at my age. If I had this at 14, 15, I could have navigated things better'.

"That's why they have inter-county players giving the workshops to the kids. Hopefully, they'll maybe pay us a little bit more attention."

In recent weeks, McCarthy put into action what she's been teaching others, using their Smart ALEC technique.

It's about asking, listening, encouraging action, and



Saoirse McCarthy: 'One of the biggest things that I keep an eye out for is if I stop eating. I lose my appetite when I'm upset. If I stop eating for a period of time, I could be a little bit iffy.'

then checking in.

"One of my best friends, she actually plays for Cork as well, I was disappointed in myself at how long it took me to recognise the signs even for someone who's talking about it all the time," says McCarthy.

"I think that just shows everyone's so different. You can look at all the signs in the world but the biggest thing I say is when they're not themselves. I knew that something was up and I actually sat down and had a look and I recognised that it was affecting many areas of her life.

"I felt like I was doing something good and doing something right. Thankfully she's OK and she has taken the action that was sug-

gested and she's doing better now."

Cork play Galway in the Division 1A final on Sunday, aiming to win the county's first league title since 2013. That barren league spell for Cork — a period in which they've won six All-Irelands — has been spoken about within the camp.

This year, they returned to training a little earlier than usual. "I think we recognised that fitness may have been an issue last year a little bit and we wanted to put more work into that," says McCarthy.

It's a big year with the chance to win a third consecutive All-Ireland, what would be the county's first time achieving the feat since the 70s.

McCarthy has become a key player in that group. Since winning her first senior All-Ireland in 2018 — a time at which she was a corner-forward — she has constantly evolved as a player. There was time at wing-back, midfield and now half-forward.

"I try to just control what I can control and ask questions," says the three-time All-Star about her evolution as a player "talk to people who have played in that position and learn and keep learning because nobody knows everything.

"There's always going to be someone more experienced. I know Katrina Mackey has always played at wing-forward and I definitely sat down with her



SUPER MAMMY: Shauna Healy plays today just 11 months after giving birth

when I was moving into that role and just said, 'What do you think I need to be doing to play to my best?'

"It's just about asking, even asking management, 'What do you want from me?' and making sure that there's clear communication."

It's similar to what she's learned in her own mental health journey.

"Using the supports that are there and not being afraid to ask for help if you need it," she says, "that's a massive strength, just being able to show your weakness."

■ Saoirse McCarthy was speaking to the Irish Examiner as the GAA/GPA and Movember urge players across the country to Break the Silence on mental health as part of the Movember Ahead of the Game programme. Visit aheadofthegame.movember.com for more information.

Cork	0-21
Galway	0-10

Therese O'Callaghan
FBD Semple Stadium

THREE Cork players were chasing double league glory at the weekend.

Libby Coppinger, Hannah Looney, and Aoife Healy lost the Division 2 ladies football final on Saturday against Galway in Croke Park. Less than 24 hours later, all three were magnificent in ending Cork's 12-year wait for a Division 1A camogie league title in FBD Semple Stadium.

Cork manager Ger Manley lauded their efforts: "There are some brilliant players there. The example is the three girls that played the football league final in Croke Park yesterday and how good they were."

"Libby is like a new player back to us from last year [after an ACL injury]."

"I thought today was one of the best performances since I've been involved as manager. You can see the composure and the concentration, everything is right."

Cork were forced into two changes, with 2024 Player of the Year Laura Hayes ruled out with a calf injury. She was replaced by the experienced Amy O'Connor, while Emma Murphy came in for Katrina Mackey, who got injured in the warm-up.

The alterations didn't impact them.

For Ashling Thompson and twins Katrina and Pamela Mackey, it is a second league medal, as they are veterans of the 2013 victory over Wexford.

Midfielder Thompson, at 35 years of age, was player of the match, scoring three fabulous points, while Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy shared eight between them.

Despite being a last-minute replacement, Murphy looked very much at home.

Her two early points, one from Thompson, and an O'Connor free settled them.

Cork's dual gems too much for Galway



BOUNCING BACK: Cork's Orlaith Cahalane is challenged by Galway's Rachael Hanniffy during the Very National Camogie League Division 1A final at FBD Semple Stadium yesterday.

Carrie Dolan, who bagged six points, brought wasteful Galway back to within two in the 20th minute but Cork, who ended with eight different scorers, seized control with points from Thompson, Sorcha McCartan, and Clodagh Finn.

Defensively, the Rebels went about their job with little fuss.

Dolan was the only Galway scorer in the first half and all from frees, as her side trailed 0-4 to 0-9 at the break.

"We weren't at the races at all," reflected Galway manager Cathal Murray after the defeat.

"Cork were miles the better team and no excuses, to be

honest with you.

"It's not too many times we don't turn up as a team but we just didn't turn up today unfortunately. A lot of things went wrong everywhere, all over the field, so we'll just have to go back to the drawing board."

"We're a lot better than that, we know that, but we'll just have to give them a break now, 10 days off, and prepare now for the 24th of May, the first round of the championship."

Further daylight appeared in the second half when Cork had more than doubled their advantage by the three-quarter stage, 0-13 to 0-6.

They outscored Galway

eight to four in the fourth quarter, with contributions also coming from the bench.

"We were very disappointed with the way we performed against Galway two weeks ago," victorious captain Meabh Cahalane revealed. "When we play Galway, we pride ourselves on performance. We had a good look at ourselves and training went through the roof."

"I think that showed today because it was a really physical game and the ref let a lot go. When the game is let go, we get the best out of each other."

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor (0-2 frees) and S McCarthy (0-1 free) (0-4 each), S McCartan, E Murphy and A Thompson (0-3 each), C Finn (0-2), H

Looney and M Condon (0-1 each).

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan (0-6, 0-5 frees), Sarah Healy (free), C Hickey, N Niland and S Rabbittie (0-1 each).

CORK: A Lee; P Mackey, L Coppinger, M Murphy; M Cahalane (Capt), L Treacy, A Healy; A Thompson, H Looney; A O'Connor, S McCarthy, S McCartan; C Finn, E Murphy, O Cahalane.

Subs: C Healy for C Finn (45), A Fitzgerald for H Looney (51), K Wall for E Murphy (56), R Harty for A Healy (57), M Condon for A O'Connor (60), O Mullins for O Cahalane (63).

GALWAY: Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, D Higgins, R Hanniffy; E Helebert, O Rabbittie, C Hickey; AM Starr, M Dillon; A Keane, C Dolan (Capt), N Mallon; A Donohue, A O'Reilly, C Kelly.

Subs: A Hesnan for AM Starr, R Black for E Helebert, S Rabbittie for C Kelly (all 39), A Kelly for A O'Reilly, N Niland for N Mallon (both 48), S Gardiner for A Donohue (52), A Lynskey for M Dillon (57).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).

Teehans thrive as Offaly's work pays off

Daragh Ó Conchúir
FBD Semple Stadium

David Sullivan was pleased his side earned silverware and fuelled the rebuild of camogie in Offaly, after they overcame a spirited Derry by 4-13 to 0-10 to take the Division 2A title.

This was a targeted step up the ladder.

"There's a lot of work gone into this since last November," said Sullivan. "We've really gone after this competition. We really wanted it. There's no point in saying anything different and it's great the work has come to fruition today."

"Sometimes you have to go down to get back up. They had a chance to go down and probably stayed senior a year too long in my opinion, and got some bad beatings which didn't do them any good, but this group have been great."

"This is a very young team with lots of players under the age of 20, and they will take a lot from this. And then we have a few experienced players to help guide them."

The Teehan cousins, Mairead and Grace, are among that select latter cohort, and they scored 2-4 apiece. Mairead's contribution was all from play, with the brace of goals coming in the first half after Laura Coyle had denied her and Faye Mulrooney.

Then, after Derry hit five points on the trot early in the second half from Rachel McAllister, Aimee Lennon, Lauren McKenna, and Orlaith Hull (two frees), it was Grace that stopped any potential fightback in its tracks with a 43rd-minute goal and she followed up with another 11 minutes later to make the victory certain.

"We will look to the Leinster Championship now and then the All-Ireland, but it's nice to be going into them with a league medal, and to be promoted to 1B for next year. It's brilliant and fantastic for Offaly in general," said Sullivan.

Derry boss Eamon Melaugh felt it was part of a learning curve for his own young squad of players, with nerves a factor in how they started the game.

He has had to plan without talented and experienced performers such as Aine Barton and Brid Rogers for this season, while the likes of Aoife Ni Chaiside are rehabbing injuries.

Lauren McKenna was making her first start in nearly 12 months after her own injury issues.

The game's first scorer, Eabha McElhinney, is still in school and days like yesterday, while disappointing, should teach them plenty.

"The goals killed us in the first half," said Melaugh.

"Offaly got the goals at the right time in the second half. We were coming back at them but they got the killer goal. We had them back to five points, everything was going well, but that killer goal was a real sucker punch."

Thompson: Very privileged to wear Cork jersey

Reaction

Therese O'Callaghan

At 35 years of age, midfielder Ashling Thompson was named Player of the Match in Cork's Division 1A national camogie league victory over Galway. Along with the Mackey twins, Pamela and Katrina, she provided the link to the last time the county won the title in 2013.

Scorer of three points from play, she had to battle back from an ACL injury suffered in the autumn of 2022 but returned in time for the latter stages of the following year's championship, helping Cork to back-to-back All-Irelands.

"If you are going to commit to the panel, it is all about putting your body on the line," said the Milford juggernaut.

"If I was going to sign up for it this year, I have to work hard and do everything I can do off the pitch and then do my talking on the field."

"The key is being smart. When my body isn't right or I don't feel right and I need a break, I'll do that. I'll prioritise my recovery and my nutrition when I'm not training. It is listening to your body."

"I probably learned that from the ACL injury and I always go back to it. I mind myself physically so I'm very grateful."

"But the league is a closed

chapter now. We have the Munster championship [v Clare] next weekend and that is what we must focus on. We're in a positive place but we need to move forward and keep it on a roll."

"Even after today, we still have to learn from our mistakes. We did get the win but we know we are going to meet a different Galway the next day."

"People sometimes think there are only one or two teams, but for us on the pitch, it is a lot closer to what people see on the screens."

"There is only a small gap between us all and if you are off your game you're going to get caught."

"Everybody on the team sets the tone for the new girls coming in on the panel, it is extremely important for us to show them what it means to wear the Cork jersey and that we are very privileged to be in the position we are in."

Victory in FBD Semple Stadium brought back many happy memories.

"When we won the league in 2013, it was Thuries as well, which is mad," said Thompson. "This year the league final venue was changed from Croke Park, it is usually on there. So to come back to Thuries again, I was thinking of it beforehand, it would be nice to come back here and do it again."



Saoirse McCarthy enjoying Cork's victory.
Picture: Tom Beary



Rachel Murphy, Cork, evades Emma Kennedy, Tipperary, in the Electric Ireland minor A semi-final at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Linehan

Cork minors defeat holders Tipperary to reach All-Ireland final

Cork 2-13
Tipperary 1-10

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A better-balanced Cork overcame holders Tipperary to advance to the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie final at Castle Road.

Led superbly by captain Rachel Murphy, who hit 0-5 from play, Cork were by far the stronger side, with nine players on the scoresheet, as opposed to three for Tipp.

Tipperary were over-reliant on Ciara Stakelum for scores and Cork had their homework done as they kept the Tipperary sharp-shooter to just a point from play.

All over the pitch Cork were on top. Their defence closed down the attack, moving the ball smartly out of the danger zone to their inside line, where their forward and midfielders held the upper hand.

Stakelum converted an early free, cancelled out by Maebh O'Brien, before a Stakelum free ended up in the net.

Cork's response was impressive as they reeled off five points in a row, through Clara Murphy, Catherine Murphy and Rachel Murphy (2) from play, before Shona Cronin converted a 45 and a free.

Stakelum kept Tipperary in touch as she traded points with Murphy.

Just before the break, though, Cork grabbed a goal through a Tara Goulding flick. Tipp rallied and Stakelum landed three without reply, so just two points separated the sides at the break, 1-8 to 1-6.

Tipperary narrowed the gap with a 45 on the resumption, but with the influential Ava McAuliffe splitting the posts, Cork maintained the upper

hand. Rachel Murphy hit two points in response to another Stakelum free and with the Cork defence strong, Tipperary were unable to make any headway.

Isobel O'Donnell and Ava McAuliffe swapped points as Cork remained three points ahead, before a superb Jess Murphy goal, when she evaded the Tipperary defence to hit the net as the game entered injury time.

Now two goals clear, Cork were not going to be denied. Ciara Kelleher and Maeve Cunneen exchanged later points, before the full-time whistle, as Cork advance to a final meeting with Kilkenny, who defeated Limerick 4-14 to 0-8.

Scorers for Cork: R. Murphy 0-5, T. Goulding, J. Murphy 1-0 each, A. McAuliffe 0-2, S. Cronin 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), Clara Murphy, Catherine Murphy, C. Kelleher, M. O'Brien 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C. Stakelum 1-8 (1-5 f, 0-2 45), I. O'Donnell, M. Cunneen 0-1 each.

CORK: A. Kearney (Blackrock); A. McGrath (Eire Og), L. Ahern (do), S. Cunningham (Erin's Own); M. Lombard, (Ballinhassig), C. Ryan, (Newtownshandrum), A. Cussen (Ballinhassig); J. Murphy (Blackrock), Catherine Murphy (Kinsale); R. Murphy (Ballinora), A. McAuliffe (Castlemartyr), Clara Murphy (Eire Og); S. Cronin, (Valley Rovers), T. Goulding (Ballincollig) M. O'Brien (Ennis-keane).

Subs: A. Mulkerrins (St Catherine's) for S. Cronin (40), C. Kelleher (Cloughduv) for T. Goulding (49), K. O'Sullivan (Midleton) for M. O'Brien (61).

TIPPERARY: D. Butler; L. Maher, S. McLoughlin, L. Coppinger; E. Kennedy, I. O'Donnell, E. Ralph; R. O'Meara, C. Grimes; C. Stakelum, L. O'Brien, E. McGrath; D. Ryan, C. Cahill, M. Cunneen.

Subs: I. Carr for E. McGrath (47), L. Heffernan for L. O'Brien (50), K. Dowling for C. Grimes (60).

Referee: Fintan McNamara (Clare).



Millie Lombard, Cork, tackling Elana McGrath, Tipperary.

Picture: Dan Linehan



NO WAY THROUGH: Galway's Shauna Healy is tackled by Cork's Amy O'Connor during the senior camogie National League final in FBD Semple Stadium. Picture: Tom Beary/Sportsfile

Cork brush Galway aside to claim league title

Cork 0-21
Galway 0-10

CAMOGIE

Cork were crowned Very National Camogie League Division 1A champions at FBD Semple Stadium yesterday.

Cork's last league win was in 2013 and their latest victory was built on an impressive display. The work rate of all players was key, with the forwards making it difficult for Galway to move the ball out of defence.

When they did, the likes of Pamela Mackey, Libby Coppinger, and Maebh Murphy, in defence, were in no mood to let them score.

Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson were outstanding in midfield and on this display the Rebels are going to take some stopping this season.

Laura Hayes didn't start for Cork, due to a leg injury, and it meant a reshuffle in the line-up. Katrina Mackey also didn't start as Amy O'Connor and Emma Murphy came in. Looney dropped to midfield and Aoife Healy moved from there to the half-back line.

That didn't interrupt their game as they were the better side from start to finish and currently hold all three titles — league, Munster, and All-Ireland.

Clodagh Finn opened the scoring for Cork in the third minute, with Carrie Dolan putting Galway back on level terms from a free.

Cork were denied a goal five minutes in when Looney took on the Galway defence and found Finn with her pass, but Sarah Healy was quickly off her line to deny her.



Rory Noonan

Finn was involved again, this time setting up Emma Murphy to point and from the restart, Thompson increased Cork's lead to 0-3 to 0-1. Despite playing against the wind Cork were making more of their scoring chances, with Murphy on target again to put them three to the good after 10 minutes.

O'Connor pointed from a free to increase the Rebels lead as they were playing the better camogie at this stage, with Galway guilty of hitting a number of wides from scoreable positions.

Galway's second point came from another free, with Dolan on target again. She made it 0-5 to 0-3 with her third free before Niamh Mallon hit the upright and the ball was cleared.

Thompson replied at the other end after shrugging off a challenge from the Galway defence.

Cork had Amy Lee to thank when a mistake by the Cork defence let Ailish O'Reilly in, but the keeper burst off her line to block her effort on goal.

Sorcha McCartan increased Cork's lead as they finished the half strongly, with O'Connor adding their eighth point, to make it 0-8 to 0-3 after 28 minutes.

Finn got her second of the half before Dolan was on target from another free as the Rebels led by 0-9 to 0-4 at half-time,



Cork's Clodagh Finn scores a point at FBD Semple Stadium. Picture: Tom Beary/Sportsfile

with all of Galway's scores coming from frees.

A magnificent catch by Saoirse McCarthy from a Lee puck-out saw her score the opening point of the second half, before Dolan, with her fifth, got Galway's first point from play.

Cork's determination was highlighted by O'Connor and McCartan early in the second half when they didn't let Galway move the ball out from their endline, which led to the latter pointing.

McCarthy got her second from a free, with O'Connor also scoring to make it 0-13 to 0-5 in Cork's favour after 44 minutes.

Sarah Healy became Galway's second scorer of the game when she pointed a long-distance free, with Thompson and Looney replying at the other end.

Galway got a few late points but really they were no more than consolation scores as Cork ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Cork: A. O'Connor (0-2 f), S. McCarthy (0-1 f) 0-4 each, E. Murphy, A. Thompson, S. McCartan 0-3 each, C. Finn 0-2, H. Looney, M. Condon 0-1 each.

Galway: C. Dolan 0-6 (0-5 f), Sarah Healy (f), N. Niland, S. Rabbitte, C. Hickey 0-1 each.

CORK: A. Lee; P. Mackey, L. Coppinger, M. Murphy; M. Cahillane (c), L. Treacy, H. Looney; A. Thompson, A. Healy; S. McCarthy, E. Murphy, S. McCartan; C. Finn, A. O'Connor, O. Cahillane.

Subs: C. Healy for C. Finn (45), A. Fitzgerald for H. Looney (50), K. Wall for E. Murphy (56), R. Harty for A. Healy (57), M. Condon for A. O'Connor (60), O. Mullins for O. Cahillane (61).

GALWAY: Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, D. Higgins, R. Hanniffy; C. Hickey, E. Helebert, A. Starr; A. Keane, N. Niland; C. Dolan, O. Rabbitte, A. Donohue; M. Dillon, A. O'Reilly, C. Kelly.

Subs: A. Hesnan for A. Starr, R. Black for E. Helebert, S. Rabbitte for C. Kelly (all 38), A. Kelly for A. O'Reilly, N. Niland for N. Mallon (both 48), S. Gardiner for A. Donohue (52), A. Lynskey for M. Dillon (58).

Referee: Gavin Donegan, Dublin.

Rebels celebrate Camogie League title victory



Uachtarán an Cumann Camógaíochta Brian Molloy presents the cup to Cork's captain Meabh Cahalane after the National Camogie League Division 1A final against Galway in Thurles. See Echo Sport for more. Picture: Tom Beary/Sportsfile

Cork girls turn on the style to see off Galway

A simply superb performance from start to finish saw Cork crowned Very National Camogie League Division 1A champions at FBD Semple Stadium yesterday.

The Rebels never looked like losing and were the better side from start to finish — in stark contrast to their meeting with Galway in the round-robin stage two weeks ago, as they won the league for the first time since 2013.

This was a performance that will have all others wondering what they have to do to beat a Cork side that is already showing signs that they are going to take some stopping this year.

It was the second of two clashes with Galway over the weekend, with the footballers losing their league decider at Croke Park on Saturday.

The camogie team were by far the better team and Galway simply had no answer. Manager Ger Manley was delighted to win, but was happier with their performance, particularly as they are out in the Munster Championship next weekend.

"We set our stall out at the start of the season and we didn't say much about it,

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

but one of our targets was to get to the league final," Manley said.

"I thought we were excellent today, there is nothing much really between ourselves and Galway, but I thought the girls were very tuned in and very focused. They put in a great two weeks in training since we lost to them in the league.

"They took a lot of responsibility themselves over those weeks and you can see the result there. You have some very senior players there and the younger players are stepping up and I thought they were top class."

Defensively, from the full-forward line out, Cork didn't give Galway an inch and that type of aggression was something that Manley was delighted with.

"I didn't take any notice of it until before the game as Wesley O'Brien with us and he pointed out that Amy Lee hasn't let in a goal for the entire league, which is a fair compliment to all those in front of her, from the full-forward line back.

"We didn't have the same team for

every league game, but it was a target to keep that and I thought this was one of the better days for us."

With the Munster Championship game next Sunday against Clare, Manley said they will enjoy this and it will be back down to training fairly fast as they can't afford to take Clare lightly.

"We'll give him a break tonight and tomorrow night and let them enjoy that, but we're back in the gym on Tuesday night and we will train then Thursday night and get ready for Clare. We have three trophies that we are trying to win and this is just the first step in that."

Cork will face Clare next Sunday at 11.45am at Ennis, in a double-header with the men's game.

The U23 side are also in action over the Easter weekend when they face Tipperary in the Munster final at Kilmallock on Monday (1pm).

The minors also have an All-Ireland final to look forward to against Kilkenny on April 27 at Nowlan Park.

The Cork senior ladies footballers will have to regroup as they prepare for the Munster championship clash with Kerry at Cloughduv in two weeks.

■ See page 36 for more.



Ashling Thompson of Cork in action against Carrie Dolan of Galway.
Picture: Tom Beary/Sportsfile

Relentless Cork are too hot for Galway in Thurles thriller

LADIES FOOTBALL

Rory Noonan

A number of years ago Mary White wrote a book about the Cork ladies football team who won 10 All-Ireland titles in 11 years. The book was called *Relentless* and it told the story of their rise from nowhere to achieve a level of success that will be difficult to match again by any county. Though they haven't risen from nowhere to the level they are at, as Cork camogie has always been in the hunt for titles, the title could easily be used in regard to the current squad.

It sums exactly what they are, a driven squad that expect high standards of each other and will fight for every ball to the final whistle. It doesn't matter if they are 10 points up or down the level of effort is the same. You could see this in the last few seconds of their Very Division 1A title win over Galway on Sunday at FBD Semple Stadium as they ran out winners by 0-21 to 0-10.

Despite being 11 points up and in no danger they won a ball back in defence to deny Galway a score and that was celebrated as much as any score at the other end. This fighting spirit was also epitomised by Amy O'Connor and Sorcha McCartan around the 45 minute mark. Galway had their ball on their own endline and yet they were tackled by the Cork duo, the latter without her hurley, as if their very lives depended on it.

That type of effort is what lifts everyone according to the Player of the Game on Sunday, Ashling Thompson.

"We always say that the forwards set the tone of the performance and it was the same today," said Ashling, "the pressure they were putting on the full back line when they were trying to bring out the ball was giving us some relief out the field."

"That's what we say when we look up the pitch and see these forwards, you know, absolutely working their socks off gives us some confidence. So we always say that it's dictated by the forwards."

Along with Katrina and Pamela Mackey, Thompson was the only member of the panel to have a league medal, with Cork's last win coming in 2013. So players like O'Connor were delighted to add a league medal to their trophy cabinets, that for most already have Munster and All-Ireland ones.



Uachtarán an Cumann Camógaíochta, Brian Molloy, with Cork captain Meabh Cahalane.

Manley: We set our stall to go after the league

Ashling Thompson pulls the strings as ruthless Rebels end 12-year wait for Division 1A title

CORK 0-21
GALWAY 0-10

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

THEY came, they saw and they conquered – there was just no stopping Cork as they surged to their 17th Very Camogie League Division 1A title and a first since 2013.

The back-to-back All-Ireland champions blew a shell-shocked Galway away at Semple Stadium to prove they are the team to beat.

All bar three players on the Cork squad had not won a league medal in an otherwise impressive collection. A few of them had lost five finals. It wasn't keeping them awake at night, you suspect, but when there's a scratch, you want to itch it. Consider it itched.

"We set our stall to go after the league," said Cork boss Ger Manley.

"When we saw the draw, we had a couple of games at home and I think it fell for us."

"I've been saying it all along we have a strong squad. I thought we were very good today, one of the best performances since I've been involved in the couple of years (as manager). You can see the composure and the concentration, everything is right."

"I know I changed it up a bit today but there are some brilliant players there. The example is the three girls that played the football league final in Croke Park yesterday – Libby Coppinger, Han-

nah Looney and Aoife Healy – and how good they were. And I'm not going to stop them from playing."

"Libby is like a new player back to us from last year (when she suffered an ACL injury)."

The dual players all excelled, and ended a weekend that had begun in defeat, in far brighter fashion.

Manley's reference to the squad was in light of having to make two late changes, player of the year Laura Hayes not being risked and Katrina Mackey pulling up in the warm-up. Emma Murphy came in for Hayes and shot three points, while none other than Amy O'Connor got the nod in Mackey's stead, contributed four points, and had a hand in a few more.

Clodagh Finn, who scored a peach of a point as a sub as Cork edged out Galway in last year's All-Ireland final, carried on her good form through the campaign with two points and was always a threat. Saoirse McCarthy, hit four points and was akin to a Rolls Royce at times and Sorcha McCartan also contributed heavily, with three and offering an aerial outlet all the time. Defensively they were in complete control.

Laura Treacy, Libby Coppinger and Pamela Mackey exuding authority. Ashling Thompson was one of the trio of survivors from Cork's last league triumph, along with Katrina and Pamela Mackey. The latter excelled, embarking on a lightning fast 40-metre run to set up an early point for Murphy.



Cork captain Meabh Cahalane lifts the cup.



NO WAY THROUGH

As Cork prepare for their Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final against Clare this Sunday, April 20th, at 11.45am in Zimmer Blomet Pairc Chiosóg Ennis, it's worth noting the Rebels have yet to concede a goal this year!

Winning the league title in style last weekend, it was also the sixth game in a row this season that Cork have not conceded a goal. Galway (twice), Waterford, Dublin, Kilkenny and Tipperary have all failed to breach the Cork rearguard that has put its shutters up.

If we discount Cork's loss to Galway in their final group game – and the context here is the Rebels had already qualified for the league final by then so made changes to the team – they have conceded 0-8, 0-10, 0-13, 0-7 and 0-10 in five games. That's less than 0-10 per game. Thou shall not pass.

The Mackeys were 34 in March. Thompson was 35 the same month. The Milford powerhouse earned player-of-the-match honours and nobody demurred. She was magnificent, scoring three points, winning mountains of possession and found teammates with clever distribution. Is it possible she is getting better? Amy Lee thinks so.

"Honestly, the last couple of years is the best I've seen her ever," said the Cork goalkeeper. "She's just so fit, physical, her hurling is still top notch. She knows how to mind herself, she knows when she can go full pelt. She's an excellent athlete and her knowledge of the game is unbelievable and it's really helping us."

"When she came back (from her cruciate ligament injury) a couple of years ago, I was watching her doing the runs and she was fitter than I'd ever seen her. And it's worked well for her and we're benefiting."

Scores from Finn, Murphy

and Thompson had Cork four points in front when Amy Lee was called upon to make a fantastic save from an Ailish O'Reilly ground shot in the 24th minute.

Lee made a big save when Galway were still in content, coming out quick and saving a ground shot from Ailish O'Reilly in the 24th minute.

"In a situation like that, one of two things is going to happen," Lee explained with her customary grin. "She's going to pick the ball or she's going to pull on it. The minute I thought she was going to pull on it, I just slid out on my knees, just to make sure there was no base. It only clipped the heel of my foot."

"You see in the second half, Aoife Donohue did the opposite, she went to pick it running into me. Sometimes it's the luck of the draw. You do the percentages in your head as it's playing out and then try to pick the right one."

The former Cork captain, described by current skipper,

Cork celebrate winning the Very Camogie League Division 1A cup. (Photos: Ben Brady/INPHO)



Cork's Ashling Thompson in action against Galway's Dervle Higgins in the Very Camogie League Division 1A final, at FBD Insurance Semple Stadium, Thurles, last Sunday. Thompson was Player of the Game and will be one of the players Cork will look to on Sunday against Clare in the Munster championship. Picture: INPHO/Ben Brady

Cork face Clare as they start bid to retain their Munster camogie title

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Fresh from their Very Division 1A League title win the Cork camogie senior side had to quickly turn their attentions to the Munster championship.

They take on Clare on Sunday, throw-in at 11.45 at Ennis, as part of a double-header with the men's game between the same two counties.

On paper this is a game that Cork will be expected to win easily, but one factor that will concern manager Ger Manley is the quick turnaround from the league.

Clare have had time to rest and prepare for Sunday, while Cork had a league final last Sunday against Galway.

The Rebels had a comprehensive win in that and the same will be expected against Clare, but they will also be conscious that this opposition took them to extra extra-time in the Munster championship a few short years ago.

In that league final win the Rebels showed all that is good about their style of playing camogie.

They scored some magnificent points and defensively they were simply superb.

As a team they all played their part in the win, with midfielder Ashling Thompson winning the Player of the Game award. Her influence around the middle of the pitch drove her side forward and she chipped in with a couple of points as well.

But like all the side Thompson was delighted with the win, but was quickly turning her attention to Clare afterwards.

"It's just sets the tone for championship and that's our aim," said Thompson.

"It's not to win a league

again, I know it has been a long time since we won it (2013) and it's nice to have the silverware, but that's not what we have our eyes on.

"Next Sunday we have Clare in the Munster championship and we will need another big performance as they are at home. They're going to be confident and no doubt there will be a big Clare crowd there with men's game on after ours.

"So as far as we are concerned it's all guns blazing now for the Munster championship and we will be determined to reach the final and then hopefully retain our title.

"But for now our attentions are fully focused on Clare and the challenge they will put up to us," concluded Thompson.

That sums up the mentality and drive of this panel, it's all about the next challenge and fully focusing on that.

Such is the talent in the squad that the intensity in their training is pushing their standards higher and higher as they hope to retain the Munster final.

They have quality all over the pitch with the likes of Saoirse McCarthy, Amy O'Connor and Sorcha McCartan terrorising Galway last weekend and the same will be expected from them on Sunday.

Defensively Cork were rock solid and even though Laura Hayes was missing such is their strength-in-depth you would hardly notice it.

It will be another challenge for Cork but one they should come through and reach the Munster final on May 10.



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane on the attack against Galway.

Méabh Cahalane in the match programme as the mammy of the team, revealed that while Cork had rested a few big guns in the final round game against Galway at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, when the Rebels were already qualified and the visitors need the victory to make the final, getting turned over clearly didn't sit well with them.

'I thought we were very good today, one of the best performances since I've been involved in the couple of years'

'It's good to get silverware always. You go out at the start of the year and your aim is to win everything. It doesn't always go that way, and the main prize at

the end of the day is the O'Duffy Cup but it's nice to get that bit of silverware again.

'We won't get ahead of ourselves, we're back in the Munster championship again next week. We'll go back, review, see what we can work on and have a good couple of weeks of solid training again.

'We had goals going out from the game in Páirc Uí Chaoimh against Galway. We said if we could go out and hit them, we'd give the league a good rattle and to be fair it worked. Everyone knew their job and they did their job and it worked out well for us today.'

Scorers

Cork: S McCarthy (1f), A O'Connor (2fs) 0-4 each; E Murphy, A Thompson, S McCartan 0-3 each; C Finn 0-2; H Looney, M Condon 0-1 each.

Galway: C Dolan 0-6 (5f); S



Cork's Ava Fitzgerald celebrates with Millie Condon.

Rabbitte, N Niland, Sarah Healy (f) 0-1 each.

Cork: A Lee, P Mackey, L Coppinger, M Murphy, M Cahalane, L Treacy, A Healy, A Thompson, H Looney, A O'Connor, S McCarthy, S McCartan, C Finn, E Murphy, O Cahalane.

Subs: C Healy for Finn (45), A Fitzgerald for Looney (51), K Wall for Murphy (56), R Harty for A Healy (57), M Condon for O'Connor (60+1), O Mullins for O Cahalane (60+3).

Galway: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, D Higgins, R Hanniffy, E Helebert, O Rabbitte, C Hickey, A Starr, M Dillon, A Keane, C Dolan, N Mallon, A Donohue, A O'Reilly, C Kelly. **Subs:** A Hesnan for Starr (39), R Black for Helebert (39), S Rabbitte for C Kelly (39), A Kelly for O'Reilly (49), N Niland for Mallon (49), S Gardiner for Donohue (52), A Lynskey for Dillon (58).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy celebrates after winning the Very Camogie League Division 1A final. McCarthy will be a key player for Cork on Sunday. Picture: INPHO/Ben Brady

STAR Sport

SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025

Saoirse McCarthy celebrates after Cork's convincing Very Camogie League Division 1A final win against Galway.
(Photo: Ben Brady / INPHO)



RELENTLESS

Dominant Rebels add Division 1A camogie league crown to All-Ireland title

Read pages 6-7

Camogie Munster championship

O'Connor returns to boost Cork's hunt for three in-a-row

Paul Keane

Timing has always been Amy O'Connor's strong point. Back in 2023, for example, she took just three minutes to score one of the most memorable hat-tricks in the history of the All-Ireland camogie finals.

A year later, she was celebrating again as Cork retained the title and while she suffered a serious injury in that 2024 All-Ireland final, the first of her long career, she pretty quickly put a positive spin on it.

At any other stage of the year, she figured, the Lisfranc fracture in her foot would have been a season-ender but, as it was, she had the entire winter to recover and rehabilitate.

And when she was finally able to start a game again, last weekend, it was another national final, this time the National League showpiece. Cork scored another significant win over Galway too, capturing a first league title since 2013.

"It's a funny one," said reigning All-Star O'Connor of the injury which left her in a corrective boot for 12 weeks, "if I tried to do it again, I probably couldn't."

"It happened by pure chance in the All-Ireland final, someone just fell on me. I obviously played on and probably didn't realise the extent of it until afterwards."

"It's more common among rugby players. I don't know how similar to a rugby player I am but hopefully I'm over it now and I can put it behind me."



■ Cork's Amy O'Connor with Abigail Jeyifous at Croke Park for the launch of the 2025 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: SAM BARNES / SPORTSFILE

"To be honest, I've been very lucky over my career in the 12 or 13 years that I have been there with Cork. Injury was bound to strike me down at some point. So I've been lucky, I've missed little to no games really through injury." She added: "It's really coming good now at just the right time."

The Munster championship,

a stand-alone competition in camogie, begins for Cork this Sunday, against Clare in Ennis, and is another opportunity for O'Connor to fine-tune and sharpen up in advance of the All-Ireland championship in late May.

The downside is that the quick turnaround hasn't allowed for much reflection on

the historic league win, Cork's 18th. "It's a competition we've been trying to win since I was there, 12 years I think, so it was nice to get over the line," said O'Connor, who was speaking at the launch of the 2025 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps.

"We were delighted, we were genuinely delighted. I know people look at the league and they mightn't put much weight in something like that but we were absolutely delighted, especially the core of us who have been there for quite a long time."

That it came down to Cork and Galway again, just as it did at the end of last year's championship, would suggest a big two has emerged? O'Connor isn't sure on that one. "I'd definitely say it's more open," she said. "You had Waterford in the

All-Ireland final two years ago. Tipp are consistently making semi-finals and they won the league last year, so they're putting in a huge effort up there. I think Clare will be really good on Sunday and we're looking forward to that test."

To think they were talking about a Leaside drought before that 2023 final. That was the season Ashling Thompson battled back from an ACL injury. Last weekend, the 35-year-old was Player of the Match in the league final success. "I would say she's better than ever, to be honest," said O'Connor. "She is like a professional athlete with how she looks after herself. She's so fit. She's 35, she doesn't look it. She has the engine of a Rolls-Royce, up and down the pitch all day on Sunday."

Foot fracture 'happened at right time', says O'Connor

Amy O'Connor has put a positive spin on the worst injury of her camogie career with Cork, figuring that it couldn't have come at a better time.

The six-time All-Ireland winner, inset right, and reigning All-Star made her first start of 2025 last weekend in Cork's National League final defeat of Galway.

Prior to that, she hadn't lined out since the 2024 All-Ireland final win over the same opposition, a day when she picked up an injury that turned out to be particularly troublesome.

A Lisfranc fracture in her foot required 12 weeks in a boot and ultimately robbed her of most of this season's

Munster Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final



Clare v Cork

Sunday: Ennis, 11.45am

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan

Paul Keane



league. Although, in the broader scheme of things, it was the right time to pick up

what would have normally been a season-ending injury.

"It's a funny one — if I tried to do it again, I probably couldn't," she said of the injury.

"It happened by pure chance in the All-Ireland final, someone just fell on me. I obviously played on and probably didn't realise the extent of it until afterwards.

"It's more common among rugby players. I don't know how similar to a rugby player I am but hopefully I'm over it now and I can put it behind me. To be honest, I've been very lucky over my career in the 12 or 13 years that I have been there with Cork.

"Injury was bound to strike

me down at some point. So I've been lucky, I've missed little to no games really through injury.

"Thankfully, it happened at a good time in that I was able to get back in with the team early in the league and start training and build in a bit of contact and so on. It's really coming good now at just the right time."

The Munster championship, a standalone competition in camogie, begins for Cork this Sunday, against Clare in Ennis, and is another opportunity for O'Connor to fine-tune and sharpen up

ahead of the All-Ireland championship in late May.

The downside is that the quick turnaround hasn't allowed for much reflection on an historic league win, Cork's first since 2013.

"It's a competition we've been trying to win since I was there, 12 years I think, so it was nice to get over the line," said O'Connor, speaking at the launch of the 2025 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps.

"We were delighted, we were genuinely delighted. I know people look at the league and they mightn't put much

weight in something like that but we were absolutely delighted, especially the core of us who have been there for quite a long time. We were absolutely thrilled."

That it came down to Cork and Galway again, just as it did at the end of last year's Championship, would suggest a big two has emerged?

"I'd definitely say it's more open," she suggested. "You had Waterford in the All-Ireland final two years ago. Tipp are consistently making semi-finals and they won the league last year, so they're putting in a huge effort up there. I think Clare will be really good on Sunday and we're looking forward to that test."

'Continuity' key for Waterford camogie, says Boland

Jordan Norris

New Waterford senior camogie manager Michael 'Mick' Boland insists continuity is the key going forward for the Déise — despite a mid-season managerial switch-up.

Following the sudden retirement of Jerry Wallace at the conclusion of the Division 1A League campaign — Boland, formerly a selector under Wallace — has now been entrusted to take the reins on an interim basis.

There isn't much time for the Carrigtwohill club man to dwell — as Waterford have a Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final to worry about next weekend — against the winner of this week's meeting of Tipperary and Limerick.

Speaking to *WLR Sport* following his appointment, Boland admitted that the Déise's focus is May 31, not next weekend.

"It's a quick turnaround, in fairness — we've been training away for the last week and a half, two weeks. The girls got three or four days downtime after the league, and it's a quick turnaround.

"We're preparing as best we can — but the match in Nowlan Park is probably a lot more important than the match in the Munster semi-final. We'll probably be aiming towards Kilkenny on the 31st of May more than the match with Tipperary or Limerick."

Taking over a team in the middle of a season is a far from ideal scenario in the minds of many — but for Boland, he does have the benefit of having worked with the group for an extended period of time. Continuity is the key word for Waterford camogie.

"I've been involved here now a year and a half with Jerry, and in fairness to most of the management that were involved, there will be continuity, I think most of the management have stayed on board, which is good. The biggest thing for us now is to continue the work that has gone on. The managers before us — Sean Power, Derek Lyons, Jerry — it's just probably to continue that work more than

anything and developing the players that are coming through and try and bring them a little bit higher, maybe to the next level. They're not 100 miles away. It's about just building on that continuity and just driving on. The group of girls that we've got here, their attitude is brilliant."

Citing that there has been "an awful lot of learnings" as a result of a league campaign which yielded two victories and three defeats — Boland said attentions have switched following Wallace's departure — and the focus is firmly fixed on on-field matters.

"I think that switched over the last couple of sessions. In fairness to Jerry, he's done massive work here. The bot-

tom line is — that moved on when Jerry decided to step away and retire.

"We're very clear in what we're trying to do. We're looking at the All-Ireland, getting out of the group and that's the only target we have on our backs, nothing else. The group are very, very clear-minded on what they want to do. We'll take every session as it goes.

"Every week we go out, we'll try and get learnings out of it. There's a lot of young girls in that dressing room. At the moment they mightn't be where they want to be. It only takes one match to inspire confidence. You get a ball, you put it into the back of the net, or you put it over the bar, you can change that player fairly



Michael Boland: 'We're very clear in what we're trying to do.'

quickly. She can excel. It's about trying to get that small bit of confidence into them to drive on now and have a small bit of belief in themselves."

Bandon keen to grow adult camogie side

Club has identified the need to provide adult outlet for increasing underage numbers

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

BUILD it and they will come and play — that's the approach Bandon Camogie Club has taken as it reintroduced its junior team this season.

The club has gone from strength to strength at underage level since it reformed in 2017, initially with U8, U10 and U12 teams. Since then it has added more underage sides.

Going back further, Bandon also had a foray into camogie in 1989 before it fell away in 2007 with junior head coach Leighanne Tobin being a member of the original club.

Camogie has now set down roots locally and the success of the club is evidenced by five Bandon players currently being involved in Cork development squads — Rhea Burns and Isabelle Harrington (U14), Julie Fleming (U15), Breffini Kelly (U16) and Clodagh Barry (U17).

Now the club has revived its adult team again, aware of the need to provide an outlet for its players who are coming through its underage section. The newly-formed Bandon

Camogie Club will compete in the junior C championship, though the focus is currently on their junior league campaign with two games played to date.

"The hope for this year is to play the junior league and championship, fulfilling all our matches. Hopefully win a couple of games along the way and keep all the girls that are there," camogie PRO Sarah McCarthy told *The Southern Star*.

"Keeping the team growing is the aim. This year is about starting it up. Every year from here, hopefully it grows. You are looking at five years before you know if you have an established adult team.

"Starting something is one thing, but keeping it going is a different story."

The key reason Bandon Camogie Club has revived its adult team is if they don't get it up and running, the club will lose players who are too old for underage.

Those players have two choices: join another camogie club or hang up their boots. The Bandon club wants to give its underage players an outlet to



The Bandon Camogie Club junior team. Back from left, Jessica Bolster, Clodagh Barry, Maeve McCarthy, Doireann Kelly, Kate O'Connor, Ashling O'Connor, Amy Allen, Donna Fehilly (captain), Sarah O'Connor, Clara Heverin, Katie Twohig and Amy McSweeney. Kneeling from left, Ella McCarthy, Breffini Kelly, Evelyn McCarthy, Caoimhe Foley, Kate O'Halloran, Jenny Fleming and Alice Lillis. Front, Ella Moloney.

INSET: Flying the Bandon camogie flag with Cork are Breffini Kelly (U16B) and Clodagh Barry (U17).



continue playing at adult level.

"We did try and start a junior team in 2021 when they were U16 but it was more a fun and fitness kind of thing. It fell away in 2022. This year, those girls are in the older part of minor/U18," McCarthy explained.

"We had five girls aging out of the club this year if we had no junior team for them. They would have either given up camogie or they would have gone to another club if there was nothing there for them. For any club, you want an adult team but it is just imperative this year.

"We'll have another five aging out next year, the following year we'll have seven. That's where the club is at.

"It's been successful since we started up and we are now bringing people through to the adult level."

Bandon Camogie Club has over 200 girls registered and are looking for more members. Numbers and interest have grown through its underage journey and success, and having an adult team is the next natural step.

"You need to keep working at it at the same time. When

you're living in a town, you are competing with an awful lot of sports, looking for their attention and trying to get them signed up," McCarthy said.

"Our youngest girls would start out at U5 and U6 in the GAA nursery programme. From about U7s, U8s we try to lead them into the camogie and try to get them signed up.

"We have the five girls who would have graduated from minor last year. We also have 14 girls signed up (for the junior team).

"All of them have played camogie before. A lot of them

hadn't picked up a hurley in three or four years. They gave up at U16 with us.

"I think there were originally eight of them who would have played with Bandon camogie and have resigned with us. We have another six who would have played with other clubs such as Ballinascahy and Newcestown. They are all Bandon girls."

While the new junior team lost to Carrigtwohill in their first game, 1-7 to 1-5, they beat Fermoy in their second game. Next up they face St Colum's away on Monday, 21st.

Contrasts between Cork sides travelling to Ennis

CAMOGIE/HURLING

■ Éamonn Murphy

Having lost once in the regular league campaign, Cork got their revenge with a dominant final display to bridge a long gap and lift the trophy.

The success franks their status as clear favourites for the All-Ireland.

Hard to argue with.

No, it's not the hurlers we're talking about, it's the camogie team. They comfortably beat Galway in the league decider and head into the summer in a very strong position to retain the O'Duffy Cup and complete three in a row. Ger Manley's charges fully deserve their status as the team to beat, given their sustained excellence over a number of seasons.

On the other hand, the hurlers have been inconsistent for a long time. Pat Ryan's side are being talked up to ridiculous levels given they lost last summer's All-Ireland final to Clare and haven't even landed a Munster crown since 2018.

The camogie are also up in Ennis this Sunday but they should have no problems beating the hosts and even if they lose, the provincial and All-Ireland competitions are separate. The hurlers will be under a fair bit of pressure if they don't manage a first win over Clare in championship since 2021.

Their record in the round-robin



Cork fans at the Allianz Hurling League final against Tipperary at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

phase is extremely poor since going unbeaten in '18, losing twice in '19, 2022, '23 and last season, though it was enough to finish third in Munster in three of those four campaigns.

The bookies make Cork prohibitive favourites. They blitzed them for six goals in the league last month but the Banner didn't show any real hunger or drive that afternoon. Brian Lohan will have Clare primed and ready to explode on Easter Sunday.

Cork have to block out all the noise online and from the national media. They're hyping them up like they're Limerick and Kilkenny in their pomp. There's an agenda there to make it seem like Cork are being cocky before the sliotar has even thrown in.

The support has been incredible already this season. They've had over 20,000 fans at every league match with ticket frenzy at full tilt from the Munster series, and a burning desire to finally land the big prize.

They add glorious colour and genuine passion to the summer but anyone suggesting it would be great for hurling for the Rebels to land Liam McCarthy is talking nonsense. The Rebels will be out in force in the stands and on the terrace once the team is competitive.

Yes, the fans are giddy with excitement but that doesn't mean they believe the hype. All-Irelands are harder won than ever with the new format.

Leesiders well know how difficult the road to Croker is.



Cork's Cliona Healy wins the sliotar from Clare's Abby Walsh during the Munster senior camogie championship semi-final at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg, Ennis. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork seal place in Munster final with a comfortable win



CAMOGIE

Jack McKay

Clare	0-10
Cork	2-22

Routine for Cork, as expected for Ger Manley's side.

Clare were simply unable to mount a challenge at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg yesterday in the Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final.

The gulf in class was far too large, but Cork did what needed to be done in the early stages. After 11 minutes it was a foregone conclusion.

Two white flags in succession from Orlaith Cahalane got them off the mark. Points from Ashling Thompson and Saoirse McCarthy moved them four clear.

Emma Murphy was next up for Cork. Cahalane added another. They moved the ball quick and passed it well.

All Clare had to show for it at this stage was a solitary point from Aoife Andersen — to her credit an excellent solo effort out wide. They had a short and a wide to go with that.

With 10 minutes gone Clare were already in trouble. McCarthy then set up Clodagh Finn for the first Cork goal, the hosts were 1-8 to 0-1 behind.

The Rebels then hit their first wide after 12 minutes. They would hit another five wides on the trot. This was where Clare needed to get going. Still they failed. Not only to score, but to create chances.



Cork's Ashling Thompson holds off Clare's Sinead O'Keeffe. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

They had just three shots from play for the remainder of the half. None of those yielded a flag of either colour. Zi Yan Spillane pointed two frees late in the opening period, leaving it 1-10 to 0-3 at the interval.

With the slight wind advantage, Clare needed a quick start to the second half. Instead, it was a near reflection of the first period.

Cork fired away with five points unanswered to go 1-15 to 0-3 in front. With 22 minutes remaining, Clare simply had no answer to Cork's midfield domination, aided by Laura Treacy's sweeping.

While they did finally find some joy in front of the posts late on, particularly through substitute Aisling Cooney who finished with four points (three frees),

Cork's substitutes — eager to earn a place for the Munster final — came on with a point to prove.

Millie Condon and Ava Fitzgerald most impressive among them, with Condon bagging 1-1 while Fitzgerald got two points from play. When Condon's goal did find the back of the net in the 56th minute, that left Cork in front by 2-20 to 0-7.

The Rebels were unfortunate not to find the back of the net thrice more in the final quarter, as Cahalane and Kate Wall both blasted wide from close range, the latter then unfortunate to see her next goal attempt rebound off the crossbar.

Either way, it was a job well done for Manley's side. They hardly moved through the gears, yet came away with an 18-point winning margin.

Amy O'Connor finished with four frees and three assists, while McCarthy and Finn were excellent in front of the posts. Thompson also stood out.

Munster final up next.

Scorers for Clare: A Cooney 0-4 (3 fs) ZY Spillane 0-3 fs, A O'Keeffe, A Andersen, A O'Loughlin 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: C Finn 1-3, S McCarthy 0-5 (1 f), M Condon 1-1, A O'Connor 0-4 f, O Cahalane 0-3, A Fitzgerald, E Murphy 0-2 each, A Thompson, H Looney 0-1 each.

CLARE: R Daly, S Daly, C Hehir, C Queally; L Daly, A Walsh, D Griffin; S O'Keeffe, C Carmody; A Andersen, A O'Loughlin (c); J Daly; C Cahill, ZY Spillane, N Mulqueen.

Subs: E Casey for Cahill (HT), A Cooney for Daly (40), G Carmody for Daly (41), M Hanrahan for Spillane, HM Neylon for Mulqueen (both 46), G Carmody for Queally, G McMahon for Hehir (both 49), A O'Keeffe for Andersen (52).

CORK: A Lee; L Treacy; L Coppinger, P Mackey; M Murphy, A Healy, M Cahalane (c); H Looney, A Thompson; C Healy, S McCarthy, E Murphy; C Finn, A O'Connor, O Cahalane.

Subs: K Wall for C Healy, C O'Sullivan for Looney (both 35), N O'Leary for Coppinger, R Harty for A Healy (both 41), A O'Neill for Finn (44), A Fitzgerald for E Murphy, M Condon for O'Connor (both 50).

Referee: Donnacha O'Callaghan (Limerick)

Clinical Cork show their class

Munster SCC semi-final

Clare	0-10
Cork	2-22

Therese O'Callaghan

Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg

All-Ireland champions Cork were always favoured to win this Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in Ennis, played as a curtain-raiser to the Clare/Cork SHC game. To get a better understanding of the two teams, it is important to know Clare were Division 1B league finalists three weeks ago, losing to Antrim by five points, while Cork were comfortable winners over Galway last Sunday in the Division 1A decider.

So, despite their best endeavour, this was always going to be a huge challenge for John Carmody's side, who were forced to play Niamh Mulqueen in a deep role which meant Caoimhe Cahill was outnumbered up front, with Cork's Laura Treacy sweeping to good effect.

And in spite of missing injured duo Laura Hayes and Katrina Mackey, and Sorcha McCartan with a fractured ankle she sustained in the league final, they were still a class above their hosts.

Ger Manley has plenty of back-up in his squad as they head on a warm-weather training camp to Portugal tomorrow morning.

Cork led 1-10 to 0-3 at the break with Clodagh Finn the finisher for an 11th-minute goal after being put through by Saoirse McCarthy.

Zi Yan Spillane and Aoife Anderson were the Clare scorers in a team that featured triplets Rachael, Susan, and Lynda Daly and their younger sister Jennifer.

Cork kept piling on the pressure in the second half, finishing with nine different scorers including sub Millie Condon's 57th-minute goal, while Clare sub Aisling Cooney landed four for her side.

The final against either Tipperary/Limerick or Waterford will be another double-header, and will be played ahead of the Clare v Tipperary SHC on May 10 in Ennis.

Scorers for Clare: A Cooney (0-4, 0-3 frees), ZY Spillane (0-3 frees), A Anderson, A O'Loughlin, A O'Keefe (0-1 each)

Scorers for Cork: C Finn (1-3), S McCarthy (0-6, 0-2 frees), M Condon (1-1), A O'Connor (0-4, 0-2 45s, 0-2 frees), O Cahalane (0-3), E Murphy (0-2), A Thompson, H Looney, A Fitzgerald (0-1 each)

CLARE: R Daly; S Daly, C Hehir, C Queally; L Daly, A Walsh, D Griffin; S O'Keefe, C Carmody; A Anderson, A O'Loughlin (Capt), J Daly; C Cahill, ZY Spillane, N Mulqueen.

Subs: E Casey for Cahill (half-time), A Cooney for J Daly, G Carmody for O'Keefe (both 41), M Hanrahan for Spillane, HM Neylon for Mulqueen (both 46), M Powell for Queally (49), G McMahon for Hehir (49), A O'Keefe for Anderson (52).

CORK: A Lee; P Mackey, L Coppinger, M Murphy; M Cahalane (Capt), L Treacy, A Healy; A Thompson, H Looney; E Murphy, S McCarthy, C Healy; C Finn, A O'Connor, O Cahalane.

Subs: K Wall for C Healy, C O'Sullivan for Looney (both 36), N O'Leary for Coppinger, R Hartly for A Healy (both 41), A O'Neill for M Murphy, O Mullins for Finn (both 44), A Fitzgerald for E Murphy, M Condon for O'Connor (both 50).

Referee: D O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Padraic Treacy, chairman Cork Camogie Board, presents Sarah McCormack with the Division 2 Cork Feile trophy.

Blarney to fly Cork flag in Féile 1 final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Blarney will represent Cork in the Division 1 National Féile Na Gael camogie competition as a result of beating Newtownshandrum in the final.

In their semi-final outing they had to be at their best to overcome Aghabullogue before taking on Newtownshandrum in the final.

Showing huge determination, they went at it from the throw in.

Eabha Lynch was superb as she notched up 1-4 from mid-field where she worked hard with Ciara Leahy.

Up front, Kelly Hedderman and Katie Buckley added goals with Ali McCarthy and Lauren Hughes pointing.

In defence, Blarney were solid with Bridin Needham-Forde excelling at full-back and with Ella Kennedy, Ali McCarthy, and Jane Gabrielle O'Brien working well together as a unit driving their side forward they grabbed the vital scores to record a victory.

Mallow took the Division 2 Féile title when they overcame Fermoy.

In two exciting semi-finals Mallow had a goal to spare over Ballygarvan 2-1 to 1-1, while Fermoy were too strong for Bandon as they booked their final spot.

In the final, Mallow gained the upper hand and ran out 2-4 to 0-2 winners.

Goals from Nessa McCormack and Clara Buckley helped Mallow secure the title.

Meanwhile, the Cork U16 team take on Kilkenny in Castle Road today in a bid for a place in the Eir All-Ireland camogie final.

The sides met in the group stages where Cork recorded a comprehensive 4-13 to 1-8 victory.

Kilkenny will come to Castle Road with revenge on their minds.

Last day out they came to Cork with confidence as they went in search of their third win from three games having overcome Limerick and Tipperary in the earlier rounds.

Cork had lost to Galway in their opening game and were in good form having defeated Dublin in round two.

The sides were evenly matched in the first half with Kilkenny holding a slender two-point half-time lead, but in the second half, Cork upped



Mairead Lynch, development officer Cork Camogie Board, presents the Féile Division 1 trophy to Blarney captain Eabha Lynch.

the pace to a level that Kilkenny were unable to respond to.

Goals proved crucial and Cork have the ability to get them in the campaign to date.

Lea Meillouin, Meabh Fitzgerald, Cliona Harte, and Leah Halligan have hit vital goals.

Stephanie Dwyer and Lexi Manley have also proved a handful for defences.

Rachel Jones, Aisling Coleman, and Ciara Roche are strong defenders who will make Kilkenny fight hard for scores.

Kilkenny, having finished just one point behind Cork in third, will come well prepared for a tough battle.

Holly Ryan, Amy O'Shea, Dearbhla Ryan, and Grace Farrell are among the players Canice Brennan will be looking to lead the challenge as they bid for a place in the final against Galway or Tipperary.

The inaugural Munster U23 camogie final takes place in Kilmallock on Monday (1pm) when Cork and Tipperary meet.

Cork had to battle hard to get the upper hand on Clare in their semi-final, with two points to spare, while Tipperary overcame Waterford 2-13 to 1-6.

Amy Sheppard, Avril Cashman, Eimear Duignan, and Emily O'Donoghue are among the players who were to the fore against Clare.

Maria Connolly captains a Tipperary side that includes former senior goalkeeper Aine Slattery, Lorna Ryan, Aine and Lily Fahie, Orla O'Brien, and Grace Moloney.



The Cork team celebrate their win over Tipperary in the Munster U23 Camogie final at Kilmallock, Co Limerick. Picture: Dan Linehan

Cork U23 side outclass Tipperary in Munster final after extra time

Cork	3-15
Tipperary	0-14

(AET)

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork were crowned inaugural Munster U23 camogie champions at Kilmallock on Easter Monday with Amy Sheppard named as Player of the Match.

Throw-in was delayed due to pitch not being open when both teams arrived but when proceedings got underway, Cork with the aid of the stiff breeze took an early lead with two Claudia Keane points inside the opening 10 minutes followed by a Sheppard 45.

Tipperary were finding it hard to make headway against a solid Cork defence and it was 15 minutes in before they were on the scoreboard through Aoife Dwyer. That was followed by a Grace Moloney point but Cork responded by winning two frees which Amy Sheppard converted.

A Dwyer free and an Anna Fahie effort from play cut the Cork lead down to one. Before half-time, Avril Cashman found her range along with two Sheppard frees to leave it 0-8 to 0-4.

Kate Ferncombe narrowed the gap on the resumption before a Sheppard goal put the Rebels six ahead and in control.

Dwyer and Ciara Gleeson kept the Premier in touching distance and they found their groove, with Orla O'Brien and another pair of Dwyer frees trimming the margin to one by the end of the third quarter.

Now the pressure was on though Sheppard did break Tipp's scoring run only for Dwyer to nail another free. Isobel Sheehan and Dwyer swapped points before a Dan-

ielle Ryan point tied it up with five minutes remaining.

Sheppard converted a 45 which looked like deciding it before Danielle Ryan struck in the 63rd minute to make it 1-11 to 0-14 and force extra time.

Cork, with the wind, set the pace in the first additional period through a Daire O'Brien free from distance along with scores from Ella Wigginton-Barrett and Sheppard.

Sheppard stretched the gap to four in the second half of extra time before Cork pulled the trigger with goals from Erin Curtin and Claudia Keane.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard 1-9 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), C Keane 1-2, E Curtin 1-0, A Cashman D O'Brien, E Wigginton-Barrett, I Sheehan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: A Dwyer 0-7 (0-6 f), K Ferncombe 0-2, A Fahie, G Moloney D Ryan, O O'Brien, G Gleeson 0-1 each.

CORK: C Buckley (Inniscarra); M De Burca (Carrigrohilly), L Dunlea (Sarsfields), C Kingston (Newcestown); A O'Riordan (Ballinora), D O'Brien (Ennis-keane), A Cashman (Youghal); E Sheehan (Eire Og), E Duignan (Mallow); N McNabola (Cloughduv), E O'Donoghue (Bishopstown), N Olden (St Finbarr's); A Sheppard (Cloughduv), C Keane (Inniscarra), R Murphy (Ballinora).

Subs: C Golden (St Finbarr's) for M De Burca (inj 18), A McCarthy (Clonakilty) for E O'Donoghue (45), E Curtin (Blackrock) for N McNabola (50), E Wigginton-Barrett (St Finbarr's) for C Keane (55), S Hurley (Sarsfields) for A O'Riordan (h-t et), C O'Donoghue (Bishopstown) for E Sheehan (h-t et), A O'Sullivan (Mallow) for C Golden (h-t et), N McNabola for R Murphy, C Keane for A Sheppard (both 74).

TIPPERARY: A Slattery; L Ryan, M Connolly, P Quirke; C Guinan, M Murphy, L Fahie; A Fahie, O O'Brien; G Moloney, K Ferncombe, A Dwyer; C Gleeson, D Ryan, E O'Dwyer.

Subs: A Bevan for E Dwyer (45), C Shelly for A Dwyer (inj 70), A Fitzgerald for K Ferncombe (75).

Referee: Dan McKenna (Limerick).



Cork's Avril Cashman and Claudia Keane celebrate their win over Tipperary in the Munster U23 Camogie final. Picture: Dan Linehan



CONCENTRATION: Cork's Niamh McNabola gets in a shot on goal despite the best efforts of Tipperary's Lily Fahie in their Munster U23 camogie championship final held at Kilmallock yesterday. Picture: Dan Linehan

Cork overpower Tipp in extra-time

Munster U23 camogie championship final

Cork 3-15
Tipperary 0-14

After extra-time

Therese O'Callaghan

The inaugural Munster U23 camogie championship trophy went the way of resilient Cork after extra-time in Kilmallock yesterday.

Both sides brought great fight to an exciting showdown, especially Tipperary's second-half when they overturned a six-point deficit to draw level through Danielle Ryan, 0-14 to 1-11.

But inspired by the overall display of Cloughduv's Amy Sheppard, who registered 1-9,

and a gritty backline, it was Ger Manley's side who prevailed.

With Manley away on training camp in Portugal with the senior squad, it was Danny Morrissey and his management team that oversaw proceedings.

However, in a close contest they couldn't be sure of victory until Erinn Curtin and Claudia Keane found the net in the 80th and 84th minutes.

Cork were 0-8 to 0-4 ahead at the interval.

Just after the restart Sheppard struck for goal, while crucially 'keeper Caoimhe Buckley saved an effort from Eva O'Dwyer at the other end.

Tipp were 1-8 to 0-5 behind, but with the wind at their backs Bill Mullaney's side

worked their way back twice to within a point — free-taker Aoife Dwyer their main contributor.

With five minutes to go they drew level for the first time through Ryan. The same player rescued them again at the death.

The game was still up for grabs after the first period of extra-time after captain Daire O'Brien, Ella Wigginton Barrett and Sheppard pointed, 1-14 to 0-14.

With good support from their bench, Cork would prevail, the victory made sure with those late goals.

Scorers for Cork: A Sheppard (1-9, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45), C Keane (1-2), E Curtin (1-0), D O'Brien (free), A Cashman, E Wigginton Barrett and I Sheehan (0-1 each).

Scorers for Tipperary: A Dwyer (0-7, 0-

6 frees), D Ryan (0-2), A Fahie, O O'Brien, G Moloney, K Ferncombe and C Gleeson (0-1 each).

CORK: C Buckley; M De Búrca, L Dunlea, C Kingston; A O'Riordan, D O'Brien (Capt), A Cashman; E Sheehan, E Duignan; N McNabola, E O'Donoghue, N Olden; A Sheppard, C Keane, R Murphy. **Subs:** C Golden for M De Búrca (19 inj), I Sheehan for N Olden (44), A McCarthy for E O'Donoghue (45), E Curtin for N McNabola (50), E Wigginton Barrett for C Keane (58), A O'Sullivan for C Golden, C O'Donoghue for E Sheehan, S Hurley for A O'Riordan (all half-time ET), N McNabola for R Murphy (75), C Keane for A Sheppard (76).

TIPPERARY: A Slattery; L Ryan, M Connolly (Capt), P Quirke; C Gleeson, M Murphy, L Fahie; A Fahie, O O'Brien; G Moloney, K Ferncombe, A Dwyer; C Guinan, D Ryan, E O'Dwyer.

Subs: A Bevans for E O'Dwyer (45), C Shelly for A Dwyer (66 inj), A Fitzgerald for K Ferncombe (70), C McCormack for C Guinan (76 inj), E Kelly for L Fahie (79), E Fogarty M Murphy (80).

Referee: Dan McKenna (Limerick).



Cork's Ava McAuliffe is chased by Dublin's Cara Coffey during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match between Cork and Dublin at Castle Road. Picture: David Creedon

Cork and Kilkenny set to clash in the All-Ireland minor camogie final

Old rivals Cork and Kilkenny meet in Nowlan Park tomorrow at 4.30pm to decide the destination of the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor camogie championship title.

Kilkenny contest their first final in four years after they recorded a comprehensive 4-14 to 0-8 victory over a Limerick side who having topped their group were confident of making it to the final but Kilkenny had other ideas.

Kilkenny's last title was in 2021 and they will be going all out to bridge a four year wait.

Cork were champions in 2023 having also taken the crown in 2022 the bid for three in a row fell short last year but they're back again determined as ever.

Kilkenny finished third at the end of their group stage matches behind Cork and Tipperary but a superb quarter final performance away to a strong Galway side saw them book a semi-final spot with Limerick, who they simply brushed aside with an awesome display.

Cork had a battle to the finish in their semi-final meeting with Tipperary. In a game that went down to the wire, they had to dig deep to get over the line as they overcame the holders but showed huge composure as they clung to a three-point lead with Tipperary pressing for a goal to take the game to extra-time.

It was in the last minutes, that Cork really found their second-wind as they went at the Tipp defence and grabbed a goal and a point to seal a 2-13 to 1-10 victory and a place in the final.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork and Kilkenny, having met already in the group stages, know each other well. In what was a top-of-the-table clash Cork came away with a 3-10 to 1-13 victory after tough battle when the sides met back in March.

Kilkenny will have benefited from the extra game having had to play a quarter final against Galway. Emily Phelan, Niamh Davis, Lucy Boyd, Ona Kennedy, Rachel Phelan, Aisling O'Sullivan, and Molly Conroy have been amongst their stand out performers in the campaign to date.

All through this campaign, Cork have steadily improved and in all outings they have shown huge work rate.

Mossy O'Sullivan and his management have not been slow to make changes in all games and when they sit down to pick their starting 15, they will not doubt have a few headaches such is the talent in the squad.

Their defence has been superb in all outings where Caoilainn Ryan, Laoise Ahern, and Millie Lombard, Ali McGrath, Saoirse Cunningham and Aisling Cussen have all performed well.

Shona Cronin, Ava McAuliffe, captain Rachel Murphy have been regularly on the score sheet along with Catherine Murphy, Jess Murphy, Clara Murphy, Tara Goulding and Ali Mulkerrins.

With just a goal separating the side's in their last meeting, it will no doubt again be close.

Kilkenny will have home advantage and with the game once again clashing with a huge hurling fixture between Cork and Tipperary, the Cork support will be in short supply in Nowlan Park.

Camogie have once again shot themselves in the foot scheduling the All-Ireland minor final in direct opposition to the big provincial hurling championship game.

Why not play the final on Saturday?

Will they ever learn? Meanwhile, a superb display from the Cork U16 camogie team as they overcame Tipperary by two points to book a place in the Eir All-Ireland final against Galway.

In a tough battle that looked as if it would go to extra time, Cork with points from Stephanie Dwyer and Leah Hannigan ran out 1-11 to 1-9 winners.



DISPOSSESSED: Clare's Niamh Mulqueen loses her hurley as she attempts to dispossess Cork's Saoirse McCarthy during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg yesterday. See report Page 5 Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



Dublin's Roisin Nolan and Cork's Tara Goulding battle over the ball during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match between Cork and Dublin at Castle Road. Picture: David Creedon

Cork win Munster U23 title, minors and U16s into finals

BY GER MCCARTHY

CORK have qualified for All-Ireland camogie minor and U16 finals while the county's U23s are celebrating a Munster final success.

The Castle Road grounds hosted Saturday's U16A All-Ireland Championship semi-final between Cork and Kilkenny.

There was Carbery camogie interest in this high-profile encounter with Ballinascorthy's Amber Bishop named at midfield, Barryroe's Cliona Harte starting at centre forward and Kilbree's Leah McCarthy also involved.

Kilkenny were 1-1 to 0-0 ahead before the hosts got to grips with the occasion. A Léa Meollouin goal helped Cork build a narrow 1-5 to 1-4 interval lead.

The teams were tied 1-9 apiece heading into the closing stages. That's when Cork dug deep to add two points and hold off a late Kilkenny surge before emerging 1-11 to 1-9 winners.

Cork's reward is an U16A

Newcestown's Claire Kingston began at corner back against Tipp with Enniskeane's Daire O'Brien lining out at centre back

All-Ireland Championship final meeting with Galway on May 3rd or 4th after the Connacht side overcame Tipperary 2-9 to 0-7 in the other semi-final.

The Cork minors travel to UPMC Nowlan Park for an All-Ireland final showdown with hosts Kilkenny on Saturday.

Mossy O'Sullivan's young panel defeated the Cats in the round-robin section of the championship before overcoming Dublin and drawing with Tipperary. That set up a semi-final clash with reigning champions Tipperary at Castle Road last weekend.

A superb performance high-

lighted by Tara Goulding and Jess Murphy goals as well as five Rachel Murphy points secured a 2-13 to 1-10 win.

On the opposite side of the draw, Kilkenny overpowered Limerick 4-14 to 0-8 and will prove formidable opposition in this weekend's decider. The 2025 Cork minors include Enniskeane's Meabh O'Brien, Valley Rovers' Shona Cronin and Kinsale's Catherine Murphy.

The Cork U23 squad rounded off a positive Easter weekend with victory over Tipperary in the Munster Camogie U23 Championship decider at Kilmallock in Limerick on Monday.

Following a ruling passed at Congress, in 2025 counties with second teams could no longer take part in the All-Ireland camogie intermediate or junior championships.

That meant Cork would have to enter a new U23 grade instead of competing at intermediate level.

Newcestown's Claire Kingston began at corner back

against Tipp with Enniskeane's Daire O'Brien lining out at centre back. Ballinascorthy's Millie Condon was picked as one of Cork's two midfielders. Clonakilty's Amy McCarthy was introduced in the second half.

A confident Cork built a 0-8 to 0-4 interval lead courtesy of Claudia Keane, Amy Sheppard and Avril Cashman scores.

An Amy Sheppard goal pushed Cork 1-8 to 0-5 clear six minutes into the second period. Tipperary responded positively however, picking off scores to level matters, 1-10 to 0-13, with six minutes to go. Amy Sheppard scored again but a late Tipperary equaliser took the Munster U23 decider to extra-time.

Daire O'Brien, Ella Wigginton Barrett and Amy Sheppard efforts handed Cork a three-point lead at the final turnover.

Holding Tipp scoreless throughout the two additional periods, a brace of Cork goals from Eirinn Curtin and Claudia Keane cemented the Rebels' 3-15 to 0-14 Munster U23 camogie final triumph.



Kilbree's Leah McCarthy with Eadoin Collins after the Cork U16s qualified for the All-Ireland camogie final.

Rebels stay in second gear en route to decider

CORK 2-22
CLARE 0-10

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

AN 18-POINT winning margin tells you all you need to know about this Munster senior camogie semi-final in Ennis, as Cork eased into the provincial final.

A week after their 11-point demolition of Galway in the Division 1A league final, Cork qualified for a second final of the year, and also kept up their record of not conceding a goal yet this season.

Ger Manley's side will be favourites in the Munster final

when they face either Tipperary or Waterford on Saturday, May 10th in the same Ennis venue.

As regards to the semi-final, once Clodagh Finn struck a tenth-minute goal to put the Rebels 1-6 to 0-1 up, it was over as a contest.

Cork went into half-time with a 1-10 to 0-3 lead as Orlaith Cahlane, Ashling Thompson, Emma Murphy, Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor and the imperious Saoirse McCarthy all chipped in.

Clare only scored 0-1 from play in the opening half through Aoife Anderson.

Substitute Aisling Cooney did provide a spark for the Ban-

ner off the bench with 0-4 but, in truth, it was more of a practice game in the second spell.

Ballinascorthy's Millie Condon came on for O'Connor late on and massively impressed with 1-1, adding on to her point she got against Galway the previous week. Fellow replacement Ava Fitzgerald scored 0-2 to seal a good day's work for Cork.

Scorers

Cork: C Finn 1-3; S McCarthy 0-5 (1f); M Condon 1-1; A O'Connor 0-4 (4f); O Cahlane 0-3; A Fitzgerald, E Murphy 0-2 each; A Thompson, H Looney 0-1 each.

Clare: A Cooney 0-4 (3f); Z Spillane 0-3 (fs); A O'Keeffe, A Andersen, A

O'Loughlin 0-1 each.

Cork: A Lee; L Treacy; L Coppinger, P Mackey; M Murphy, A Healy, M Cahlane (captain); H Looney, A Thompson; C Healy, S McCarthy, E Murphy; C Finn, A O'Connor, O Cahlane.

Subs: K Wall for C Healy (35), C O'Sullivan for H Looney (35), N O'Leary for L Coppinger (40), R Harty for A Healy (40), A O'Neill for C Finn (44), A Fitzgerald for E Murphy (50), M Condon for A O'Connor (50).

Clare: R Daly, S Daly, C Hehir, C Queally; L Daly, A Walsh, D Griffin; S O'Keeffe, C Carmody; A Andersen, A O'Loughlin (captain), J Daly; C Cahill, Z Spillane, N Mulqueen.

Subs: E Casey for C Cahill (ht), A Cooney for J Daly (39), G Carmody

for L Daly (40), M Hanrahan for Z Spillane (45), H Neylon for N Mulqueen (45), G Carmody for C Queally (49), G McMahon for C Hehir (49); A O'Keeffe for A Andersen (51).

Referee: D O'Callaghan (Limerick).



Saoirse McCarthy scored 0-5 against Clare.

Camogie

Paul Keane

David Maher says the prospect of contesting an All-Ireland minor A camogie final on home soil was a big motivation for his Kilkenny players.

It'll be Cork's second visit to the county in a matter of weeks, having defeated Kilkenny by 3-10 to 1-13 in Dunmore to top their group.

Home comforts for Cats in minor final

That catapulted Cork through to an All-Ireland semi-final against holders Tipperary which they won with six points to spare.

However, Kilkenny have arguably been most impressive since that loss to Cork, registering 10 goals in knockout wins over Galway

and Limerick.

Both of those games required road trips but it'll be a short hop for Maher and his crew to the Kilkenny venue for the showpiece.

"Going up and winning in Ballinasloe against Galway and then being away to Limerick, it just shows the char-

acter in the group," said Kilkenny manager Maher. "They're very determined, they're all 17 or 18-year-old young girls but they're very serious about their camogie."

"They come up and embrace training and they've done everything that myself and my management team

have asked of them. They'd run through a wall for you."

Captain Rachel Murphy stood out for Cork in their semi-final win over Tipp, scoring five points from play. When the sides met in the group in mid-March, it was two goals in the final quarter from Shona Cronin

that won it for Cork.

"They have a serious forward line, they had nine different scorers in their semi-final," noted Maher.

"Rachel Murphy will take watching but with nine different scorers, they obviously have strength and scoring ability in lots of different areas."

■ Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor A camogie final: Cork v Kilkenny, Nowlan Park, tomorrow, 4.30pm.



Cork's Ally Mulkerrins takes on Caoimhe Power and Grace Brennan of Kilkenny.
Picture: INPHO/Tom Maher

Early goal a blow as Cork lose to Cats in All-Ireland Minor final

Kilkenny 3-8
Cork 0-8

Heartbreak for Cork as they lost out to Kilkenny in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor A final at UPMC Nowlan Park on Sunday.

An early goal put Cork on the backfoot from the start and it was a blow they never really recovered from, despite the best efforts of the likes of Rachel Murphy, Jess Murphy, Tara Goulding and Laoise Ahern.

Kilkenny took the lead after just 30 seconds when Lucy Boyd pointed, with Clara O'Shea adding a second.

Three minutes in and they went further in front as Molly Conroy set up Niamh Davis for the game's opening goal, after four minutes.

Clara Murphy pointed from a free for Cork as they trailed by 1-2 to 0-1 with six minutes gone.

Emily Phelan added a second for Cork, before Murphy was on target again, to make it 1-2 to 0-3.

Cork then had goalkeeper Anna Kearney to thank as she saved superbly from Conroy to deny Kilkenny a second goal.

With 19 minutes gone Cork were dealt a blow when influential midfielder Catherine Murphy had to go off with a shoulder injury, which led to a long stoppage before play resumed.

Ona Kennedy pointed a free for the Cats, with Meabh O'Brien replying for Cork. Emily Phelan was on target



Cork's Maebh O'Brien in action against Kilkenny.
Picture: INPHO/Tom Maher

CAMOGIE
Rory Noonan

for Kilkenny with another Murphy free making it 1-4 to 0-5.

Just before half time Aisling O'Sullivan pointed to see her side lead by 1-5 to 0-5 at the break.

Another blow for Cork at the start of the second half when a free from Kennedy deceived all and found the back of the net for the Cats' second goal.

She added a point before Cork were awarded a penalty for a foul on Tara Goulding. Rachel Murphy took the penalty but unfortunately for Cork her effort came back off the crossbar and the danger was cleared.

Murphy pulled a point back for Cork from a free as both sides missed chances to add to their tally.

Any chance of a Cork fight-back were gone after 55 minutes when a mistake by their defence let Phelan in for Kilkenny's third goal, to make it 3-7 to 0-6.

Shona Cronin pointed from a free for Cork and she added another from a 45 but there were no more than consolation scores as the Cats ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Kilkenny: O Kennedy (1-1 f), E Phelan 1-2 each, N Davis 1-0, L Boyd, C O'Shea, A O'Sullivan, S Shefflin 0-1 each.

Cork: Clara Murphy 0-4 f, S Cronin 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), A Mulkerrins, M O'Brien 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: E Walton; C Power, G Brennan, J Smith; C Hickey, O Kennedy, T Aylward; R Phelan, E Doherty; L Boyd, A O'Sullivan, N Davis; E Phelan, C O'Shea, M Conroy.

Subs: S Ruane for M Conroy (43), S Doherty for T Aylward (51), S Shefflin for A O'Sullivan (57), R Hayden for C Hickey (58), J O'Brien for J Smith (59), R Hayden for C O'Shea (61).

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); A McGrath (Eire Og), L Ahern (Eire Og), S Cunningham (Eire Og); M Lombard (Ballinhassig), C Ryan (Newtownshandrum), A Cussen (Ballinhassig); J Murphy (Blackrock), Catherine Murphy (Kinsale); R Murphy (Ballinora), Clara Murphy (Eire Og), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr); A Mulkerrins (St Catherine's), T Goulding (Ballincollig), M O'Brien (Enniskeane).

Subs: Ciara Kelleher (Cloughduv) for Catherine Murphy (19 inj), A Cottrell (Ballinhassig) for M O'Brien (ht), S Cronin (Valley Rovers) for T Goulding (40), S O'Driscoll (Kilworth) for A Mulkerrins (58), K O'Sullivan (Midleton) for C Kelleher (59).

Referee: Ray Kelly, Kildare.

Camogie and ladies football

With Cork's senior camogie team safely into the Munster Final and currently on a warm weather training camp in Portugal, the focus is on the minors who play Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final on Sunday in Nowlan Park at 4.30pm.

The sides met in the group phase and Cork won in Castle Road, and impressed in beating Tipperary in the semi-final, with good displays from captain Rachel Murphy, Ciara Murphy, Shona Cronin, Ava McAuliffe and Millie Lombard.

If they can repeat the level of performance they produced in ending Tipperary's reign as champions, they will be hard to beat.



FINAL BOUND: Saoirse McCarthy of Cork is tackled by Clare Hehir of Clare during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chíosóg in Ennis on Sunday. Cork won by 2-22 to 0-10 to book their final spot. PHOTO: BRENDAN MORAN/SPORTSFILE

Cats claim eighth title

Camogie
Kilkenny 3-8
Cork 0-8

Kilkenny now have double the number of All-Ireland minor A camogie titles of Cork, possessing greater goal power than their nearest rivals on the roll of honour to secure ultimate victory for the eighth time, at UPMC Nowlan Park.

A lightning start and second-half goals from Ona Kennedy and Emily Phelan ensured that the Cats would win a first championship since 2021 and only a second in ten years. In truth, there wasn't a whole lot between the teams, but the Noreiders were ruthless when provided with major opportunities and were deserved victors.

Scorers for Kilkenny: O Kennedy (1-1fs), E Phelan 1-2 each; N Davis 1-0; L Boyd, C O'Shea, A O'Sullivan, S Shefflin 0-1 each

Scorers for Cork: Clara Murphy 0-4fs; S Cronin 0-2 (1f, 1 45); A Mulkerrins, M O'Brien 0-1 each

Daragh Ó Conchúir



NO WAY OUT: Cork's Nicole Olden and Edel Sheehan combine to tackle Tipperary's Paula Quirke in yesterday's Munster U23 camogie championship final at Kilmallock. See report on Page 4. Picture: Dan Linehan



Laura Treacy will be one of the players Cork will look to tomorrow against Waterford.



Ashling Thompson: Playing some of the best camogie of her time with Cork at the moment.

No way through Rebels' defence in 570 minutes!

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THOU shall not pass – that seems to be the approach of the Cork senior camogie team that hasn't conceded a goal since June 29th, 2024.

Incredibly, these relentless Rebels have not left in a goal in their seven games this season, which followed clean sheets against Dublin and Galway in the 2024 All-Ireland semi-final and final respectively.

Galway's Carrie Dolan was the last player to score a goal against Cork when she rattled the back of the net on the stroke of half-time in an All-Ireland group game in late June last season.

Since then Cork have not conceded a goal in nine and a half games, or almost 600 minutes of action, across three different competitions: All-Ireland championship, Division 1 national league and, most recently, Munster championship. In this period, Galway (three times), Dublin (twice), Kilkenny, Waterford, Tipperary and Clare have all failed to raise a green flag against the Rebels. They won eight of those nine games, and the one they lost to Galway in the league didn't matter as Cork has already qualified for the final.

'It (not conceding a goal) is something that was picked up on after the Tipp game,' Cork captain Meabh Cahalane told this paper ahead of the league final win (0-21 to 0-10) against Galway last month.

'Amy Lee in goal and all our defenders work so hard, and you have the work-rate around our middle third and with our forwards is huge. No-one can come out with the ball easily against us, our defence starts up at number 15. It's helping us at the back because we know if we don't concede a goal that we have the forwards who can score goals.'

The back-to-back All-Ireland champions are the team to beat, and hit the ground running this season by winning the Division 1A league title for the first time in 12 years. The recent

Cork have not conceded a goal in nine and a half games

Munster semi-final hammering of Clare sends Cork into the provincial decider against Waterford on Saturday, May 10th in Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg in Ennis.

There's a settled look to the Cork defence that breeds confidence. It's packed full of All Stars, from goalkeeper Amy Lee who has started in all seven games this year to Pamela Mackey who has played in six. Meabh Murphy has been an ever present this season. Six-time All-Ireland winner Laura Treacy is one of the best in the business. The returning two-time All-Star Libby Coppinger, who missed the 2024 championship through injury, bolsters the full-back line even more. Laura Hayes is the current Camogie Senior Player of the Year. Meabh Cahalane is another key defender, with boss Ger Manley hailing the current Cork captain as a 'brilliant leader' after the Rebels' 2024 All-Ireland final win. There is quality and experience and authority in every position in the Cork defence – and it's why these Rebels look to be the best in the business right now.

'It really is that defensive core that you need to win these big games. We need the scores up front, no doubt, but it is the work rate behind, and the work the girls put in since I've been here,' Ger Manley explained after Cork's 2024 All-Ireland final triumph.

This Cork defence gives the team the platform

to win games, and allows the forwards the chance to get the scores that really matter. Long may that continue.

St Colum's Libby Coppinger is a key player for Cork.



Coláiste Choilm's Leah Hannigan celebrates scoring a goal with Rachel Murphy. Hannigan has impressed for the Cork U16A team en route to the All-Ireland final. Picture: Inpho/Laszlo Geczo

Cork U16s hope to go one better than minors in All-Ireland decider

For the second week in a row a Cork camogie is in UMPC Nowlan Park, Kilkenny for and All-Ireland final.

Following last week's defeat to Kilkenny in the minor decider, the U16A team is bidding for glory when they face Galway today (3pm) in a bid to be crowned Eir All-Ireland champions.

It's Galway's third final in a row and they will be hoping to banish the disappointments of 2023 and 2024 when they lost to Cork and Limerick in two nail-biting finals.

Since 2015 Cork and Galway have dominated at this level with Galway winning four in a row between 2015 to 2018.

Cork were crowned champions in 2019 but 2020 saw covid deny the U16 players an opportunity to complete the All-Ireland championship competition.

Cork bounced back to take the title in 2021 and went on to make it three in a row, with the title secured in 2022 and 2023, and but for covid it could have been four in a row.

Cork breached a 16-year gap in 2019 to be crowned champions and it has been a very productive few years with a steady flow of players progressing through to the adult teams.

Galway have been impressive in their path to the final. They come into today's clash undefeated having topped the group with five wins from five games.

The toughest game they had was in the opening clash back in February with Cork when they edged it with two points to spare, 1-9 to 1-7.

They took on Tipperary in the semi-final where they turned in a strong performance to run out 2-9 to 0-7 winners with goals from Roisin Coleman and Cara Giblin, the vital scores that got them over the line.

Brian Griffin and his management team know Cork will test his charges to the limit.

Cork were unlucky not to get a result when the sides met previously and no doubt both teams will have improved considerably since that opening round encounter.

In their path to the final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork were tested to the limit before they overcame Kilkenny in a tough semi-final battle where they finished strong to get over the line.

With the sides trading score for score, extra-time loomed, but Cork dug deep with points from Stephanie Dwyer and Leah Hannigan securing victory after a game where they showed huge determination when Kilkenny applied serious pressure.

Cork have shown a huge work ethic in all their games.

They move the ball quickly and work tirelessly for each other, their link-up play is excellent and they also have a strong bench as has been shown in all games to date.

Having earlier in the season being crowned provincial champions they recovered from the defeat at the hand of Galway in round one and went on to record impressive victories over Dublin and Kilkenny before finishing level with Tipperary.

They went onto defeat defending champions Limerick to book their semi-final spot where Kilkenny tested them to the limits.

Lea Meillouin, Rachel Jones, Stephanie Dwyer, Meabh Fitzgerald, Lexi Manley, Lauren O'Connor, and captain Leah Hannigan are players who have impressed in Cork's campaign to date.

Galway have three survivors from last year's defeated side.

Centre-forward Amy Kenny continues in the same position she held in last year's final defeat at the hand of Limerick.

Sinead Feeney has been lining out at midfield while Rhea Sestak has also featured through the campaign.

Roisin Coleman has been their stand out player, Cara Giblin, Grace Bergin, and Eve Kenny have also been prominent in Galway's impressive campaign.

It one which will go right down to the wire and don't rule out it going to extra time to decide the destination of the title.



Cork's Maebh O'Brien is challenged by Caoimhe Power of Kilkenny during the All-Ireland minor A camogie final. (Photo: Tom Maher/INPHO)

Heartbreak for Rebels in All-Ireland decider

THERE was heartbreak for Cork in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor A camogie final as Kilkenny scored the goals that mattered in a 3-8 to 0-8 win at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

There was Carbery interest here as Enniskeane's Maebh O'Brien started in attack, and scored a point, while Kinsale's Catherine Murphy lined out in midfield, but her loss to a shoulder injury in the first half was a blow to the Leesiders' cause. Valley Rovers' Shona Cronin came off the bench in the second half and scored two points.

This was a pillar-to-post triumph for David Maher's Kilkenny, who scored their first goal after five minutes and led 1-5 to 0-5 at the break, with Clara Murphy (3), Ally Mulkerriens and Maebh O'Brien all on target for Cork. A second Kilkenny goal at the start of the second half pushed Kilkenny clear, and Cork hopes were hit when Rachel Murphy's penalty thundered back off the crossbar and was cleared. Kilkenny added a third goal late on to seal the win.

Scorers for Cork were Clara Murphy (0-4f), Shona Cronin (0-2, 1f, 145), Ally Mulkerriens (0-1) and Maebh O'Brien (0-1 each).



Maebh O'Mahony with Jack Farrelly from the Faranree Credit Union, Izzy O'Regan, Ciara O'Sullivan and Kate Wall at the Cork Camogie final.



Cara Giblin of Galway celebrates scoring a goal against Cork in the U16 All-Ireland final. Picture: Inpho/James Lawlor

Galway's firepower is too much for Cork in All-Ireland U16 final

Galway 5-11
Cork 3-8

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A superior Galway denied Cork the All-Ireland U16 Championship title in OPMC Nowlan Park. Cork can have few complaints about losing to a very strong Galway, who had excellent performers in all sectors, including corner-forward Cara Giblin who hit 3-2 and collected the Eir Player Of the Match prize. Despite being aided by the strong wind in the opening half Cork were in trouble, down by seven at the break.

Leah Hannigan opened the scoring, but Galway quickly stamped their authority on the game with a Giblin goal two minutes later. Galway opted for an extra player in defence and closed down the Cork attack before moving the ball quickly forward. The pace of Giblin, Rosin Coleman, and Amy Kenny caused huge problems. Lea Meillouin did edge Cork in front after seven minutes with a superb goal and it was level pegging at 1-2 apiece at the end of the opening quarter.

Lauren O'Connor's superb long-range effort had Cork back, but Cork failed to score for the remainder of the half as Galway took over.

Kate O'Sullivan set up Galway's second goal as she took on two Cork defenders before passing to Coleman who made no mistake. The cheering hadn't subsided when Giblin rattled the net for her second.

Giblin and Amy Kenny added points to leave Galway leading 3-4 to 1-3 at the break leaving Cork with it all to do.

Coleman pointed an early Galway free on the restart, but Cork responded quickly as Meillouin gave them a glimmer of hope

with a superb goal. Three points in a row from Giblin, Coleman, and Sinead Feeney restored Galway's eight-point advantage though.

Cork dug deep with Lexi Manley and Sarah Kelleher pointing before the sides swapped goals in the space of a minute through Ciara Mullins and Cork subs Maebh Fitzgerald.

With the wind at their backs, Galway moved the ball fast inside. Amy Kenny and Eve Kenny had points either side of two Orla Troy frees, but Giblin had the final say as Galway made up for losing last year's U16 decider.

Scorers for Galway: C Giblin 3-2, R Coleman 1-3, C Mullins 1-1, A Kenny 0-3, S Feeney, E Kenny (f) 0-1 each.

Cork: L Meillouin 2-1 (0-1 f), M Fitzgerald 1-0, L Manley 0-2, O Troy 0-2 f each, L O'Connor, L Hannigan, S Kelleher 0-1 each.

GALWAY: E Murray, S Counihane, L Hartigan, E Rabbittie, B Glynn, E Burke, K Leen, E Kenny, S Feeney, L Morgan, A Kenny, C Giblin, R Coleman, K O'Sullivan, C Mullins.

Subs: S Barry for R Coleman (49), G Bergin for L Morgan (52), A Murray for E Burke (54).

CORK: C Hynes (Midleton); F Ronan (Ballyhea), R Jones (Inniscarra), A Coleman (Sliabh Rua), M Keane (Blarney), C Roche (Eire Og), C Hayes (St Catherine's); O Troy (Newtownshandrum), G O'Connell (Aghabullogue); S Dwyer (Douglas), C Harte (Barryroe), L O'Connor (Killeagh); L Manley (Aghabullogue), L Hannigan (Ballincollig, c), L Meillouin (Inniscarra).

Subs: R O'Mahony (Carrigaline) for R Jones (26), S Kelleher (Aghabullogue) for G O'Connell (28), L Ryan (Newtownshandrum) for S Dwyer (32), R Morrison (Douglas) for L Manley (40), M Fitzgerald (St Catherine's) for L O'Connor (42), S Gunn (Douglas) for C Hayes (42), A Bishop (Ballinascarthy) for C Harte (54), S Galvin (Eire Og) for L Hannigan (60).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Kevin Smith, chief financial officer, Kearys, with Cork senior camogie players Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor, and Meave Cahalane at the Kearys senior camogie jersey sponsorship announcement at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

League deciders come into view

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Club adult and minor camogie leagues are coming to their concluding stage with dates for the quarter, semi-finals, and finals announced in several grades.

Senior: In senior league group one, Sarsfields topped the group with Eire Og second and Cloughduv third.

In group two, St Finbarr's topped their group with Blackrock second, and Inniscarra third.

The top two teams Sarsfields and St Finbarr's go straight to the semi-finals with Eire Og, Blackrock, Cloughduv, and Inniscarra advancing to the quarter finals.

The quarter-finals will take place on May 12.

Eire Og will be at home for their meeting with Inniscarra; Blackrock have a home venue for their clash with Cloughduv, and the winners will advance to the semi-finals which are down for decision on May 19 with then final down for decision on May 31.

Killeagh and Ballyhea will battle it out in a league relegation game on May 12 with Killeagh having a home venue.

Premier intermediate: Ballinora topped group 1 with Charleville in second and Ballinhassig third. In group two, Enniskeane were top with Na Piarasigh second and Watergrasshill third.

The quarter finals are down for May 12 when Charleville have home venue for their meeting with Watergrasshill and Na Piarasigh are at home to Ballinhassig.

The semi-finals are on May 19 with Ballinora and Enniskeane through awaiting the quarter finals winners.

The relegation final is on May 12 with Fr O'Neill's at home against Clonakilty.

Premier junior: The semi-finals will see Bishopstown meet Malloy and Youghal play Castlelyons, both on Monday with the

final on May 19. The relegation game is on Monday between Milford and Erins Own.

Junior: Blarney and Barryroe will meet in the final on May 25.

Second team leagues: In the Lillie O'Sullivan league, two teams advanced from each group.

In group one, Cloughduv are first with St Catherine's second. In group two Ballincollig are in first place with Ballinora second.

The semi-final finals are fixed for May 16 with Cloughduv at home to Ballinora and Ballincollig at home to St Catherine's.

The final is on May 23. The relegation play-off between Courcy Rovers and Inniscarra with Courcy's at home is on May 16. Aghabullogue will play Eire Og in the Barry O'Sullivan league final on May 16, and in the Lily Grant semi-finals. Bishopstown meet Brian Dillon's and Blarney play Sliabh Rua.

Premier minor: The semi-finals are will be on or before May 14 when Sarsfields awaiting the winners of the Douglas and the Barrs.

The second semi-final is between the winners of Eire Og and Sliabh Rua, and Aghabullogue and Ballinhassig.

The semi-finals will be on or before May 14 with the final on June 17.

Minor A: There were three groups in minor A with one team emerging from each group.

In group one, Castlemartyr advanced, Midleton won group two, with St Catherine's winning group three.

Midleton and St Catherine's will contest the semi-final which was down for decision last night with the winners meeting Castlemartyr in the final on Wednesday.



Cork senior camogie players Amy O'Connor, Meabh Cahalane, and Laura Hayes at the Kearys sponsorship presentation of the new Cork senior camogie jersey at Castle Rd.

Cork launch new jersey as they prepare for Munster final

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

Kearys Motor Group recently renewed its title sponsorship of Cork Camogie for a further three years, from 2025-2027 inclusive.

This includes branding rights for Cork county camogie teams, plus an additional investment by Kearys in the sponsorship activation.

Since becoming title sponsors in 2022, Kearys Motor Group has celebrated with Cork Camogie as they won two All-Ireland senior championships, bringing the O'Duffy Cup back to Leeside in 2023 and 2024, as well as the Intermediate All-Ireland championship last year.

As part of the deal, Kearys will sponsor the senior, U23, junior, minor, and U16 teams, as well as the U16 and U14 club championships.

Brendan Keary, CEO of Kearys Motor Group, said: "We are delighted and proud to partner with Cork Camogie for the next three years with this significant sponsorship that reflects Kearys' culture, values, inclusivity, and team spirit."

"We recognise the value of camogie as one of Ireland's leading and growing sports for women and girls and we look forward to continuing our great relationship with all the teams who compete at the highest level."

As part of this, they launched the new 2025 season jersey that is now available for sale through Cork Camogie County Board at Castle Rd.

Speaking on behalf of Kearys Motor Group, chief fi-

nancial officer Kevin Smith said: "We are thrilled with how the new jersey looks and wish all Cork camogie teams the best of luck in their championship campaigns this season."

"We are always happy to share our latest offers with Cork camogie members when they are buying their next car or van through our dealerships."

Cork Camogie chairman Pádraig Treacy thanked Kearys for their ongoing sponsorship of Cork camogie.

"They are a valued partner and we were delighted with the further three-year extension announced last November."

"The jersey officially launched in the last few days is part of that," said Mr Treacy.

"Sets are being provided for our senior, U23, minor, and U16 intercounty teams. All squads have been wearing them of late and they are now available for sale from the Cork Camogie board."

He thanked Mr Keary, Mr Smith, and communications manager Jackie Dawson for their ongoing support and wished all the teams well for their respective championships.

Cork wore the new jersey in the league final and will also wear it in the Munster Championship final against Waterford on Saturday.



Lea Meillouin of Cork in action.

Picture: Inpho/James Lawlor



Kevin Smith, chief financial officer, Kearys, with Cork senior camogie players Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor, and Meave Cahalane at the Kearys senior camogie jersey sponsorship announcement at Castle Road.



At the launch of the new Cork jersey were: Kevin Smith, chief financial officer, Kearys Motor Group; Jackie Dawson, head of communications at Kearys; Pádraig Treacy, chairman of Cork Camogie; Ger Manley, senior camogie manager; and senior camogie players Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor, and Meabh Cahalane. Kearys Motor Group recently renewed their sponsorship of the Cork camogie teams.

Courcey Rovers star loving 'rewarding' Cork set-up as Munster senior final looms

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

SAOIRSE McCarthy admits she has found it strange not having her Ballinspittle buddy Fiona Keating by her side this season, but the three-time All-Star knows the show must go on.

Two-time All-Ireland winner Keating plans to spend the summer in America so won't be involved in Cork's championship adventure, and McCarthy is still getting used to not having her Courcey Rovers club-mate around the inter-county set-up. Team-mates on the pitch, they're close friends off it. When they are both based in Cork, they travel to training together.

'We played a match together for Courceys against Fr O'Neills recently and we had great fun with the puck-outs!' McCarthy quips. 'I miss her, I do. I miss her on the pitch an awful lot, and off the pitch too. I would be looking around sometimes on the pitch for her, forgetting she's not there!'

'I didn't kinda see it at the start of the year because I was in Dublin (studying for a masters in digital marketing at Technological University Dublin) so I was travelling by myself, but since I am home I am feeling it more.'

McCarthy (24) also knows that the Cork juggernaut will keep moving forward, given the quality of players in the county right now. It's why the Rebels are back-to-back All-Ireland champions, won the Division 1A league title last month, and are favourites in this Saturday's Munster senior camogie championship final against Waterford in The Ragg in Tipperary (1pm throw-in). Cork currently have possession of all three trophies that they can win: All-Ireland, Munster and league.

'The way the set-up is now, life goes on, and as much as I miss Fiona it's next player up, as harsh as that sounds,' adds McCarthy, though Keating is always just a phone call away.

'I was asking her advice about playing centre forward in the last two games and she

was laughing at me!'

Cork fans can rest easy though, as McCarthy isn't planning a sabbatical anytime soon. She wants to travel but feels there's room within the GAA calendar to explore the world and play inter-county camogie. These are special times with a special group.

'You can have a life outside camogie - it's about finding that balance,' the Cork star explains.

'I do want to go traveling. I'll go in the winter when we're not training, 100 percent. I know Laura Hayes went to Thailand over the winter and had a great time. There is time to do it with in the calendar.'

'It never crossed my mind to stop, we are privileged to be part of something so special at the moment. Even when I moved up to Dublin, I saw that - I am friends with a few girls on the Dublin team and the huge effort they put in and they don't have as many trophies to show for it.'

'Those thoughts aren't creeping in anyway, I want to enjoy it, and being part of this set-up is rewarding in itself regardless if we win or not. I am not going anywhere for a while.'

The next destination for McCarthy, now in her seventh season with the senior squad, is the Munster final at The Ragg this Saturday. This is a repeat of last year's decider that the Rebels won 1-16 to 0-14, and the defending champions are determined to stay top of the charts in their home province. It's Cork's final competitive game before the All-Ireland senior championship begins on May 24th so this is an opportunity to impress.

'Munster is really, really important for our group - it's the last attempt players can make to force their way into the team for the championship,' McCarthy explains.

'There is a lot of shuffling during the league and you can solidify your place during the Munster championship heading into the summer. It's a really important stepping stone for us

Saoirse striking balance between camogie and life

Saoirse McCarthy has her eyes set on Munster glory this Saturday.

and we use it really well.

'Look at the competition for places within our squad. In every game girls come on and want to prove they're good enough for a position - look at Millie Condon, she came on against Clare and scored 1-1 in the last five minutes. That competition for places is huge.'

'We're lucky to have the provincial competition because a county like Galway doesn't have an equivalent between the league and the championship.'

'We have such a rich history that it does come with a little bit of pressure too. We have only lost a handful (of Munster championships) over the years. It's a chance to lay down a marker and say we are the best team in Munster, and then carry that into the championship.'



Saoirse McCarthy and Fiona Keating lift the O'Duffy Cup together last season.



McCarthy points to Cork's shock provincial championship quarter-final loss to Waterford in 2023 as an important moment in this team's journey. That defeat stung. The Rebels regrouped after that to win the All-Ireland title that season,

gaining revenge over the Déise in the final. It's why McCarthy doesn't entertain the narrative that the provincial title is not high on Cork's list of priorities - this matters to a group that loves that winning feeling. 'You want to win everything.'

We want to win a crossing-the-road race - we are a really competitive bunch. We want to win every match and every competition we're in,' adds McCarthy, as she targets another medal to add to her impressive collection.

Blackrock and Éire Óg join Barrs and Sars in league semi-finals

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The Cork camogie senior league quarter-finals took place on Monday and they produced two exciting contests. Blackrock and Cloughduv were close all through with little between the sides right up to the final whistle.

At the interval, Cloughduv held a slender one-point lead, 1-6 to 0-8, and by the three-quarter stage they had extended it to four points, 1-9 to 0-8, but a Cliona O'Callaghan goal and a pointed Hayley Ryan free had the sides level.

Cloughduv again stretched the lead to four points with a goal and point, but Blackrock dug deep and responded to run out winners on a 2-12 to 2-11 scoreline.

In the second quarter-final, Éire Óg overcame Inniscarra on a 1-18 to 1-10 scoreline.

It was close in the opening half as Éire Óg led at half-time by two points, 1-8 to 0-9, and in the second half the Owens side upped the pace to run out 1-18 to 1-10



The Cork team that played in the eir U16A All Ireland Championship final at UPMC Nowlan Park recently.

Picture: Inpho/James Lawlor

winners.

The semi-finals will take place on Monday, Sarsfields and St Finbarr's are also through and at the time of going to print the draws weren't yet made.

In the relegation game Killeagh were too strong for Ballyhea and will remain senior for 2026 with Ballyhea moving down to premier intermediate having come

up for 2025.

No doubt the game at the higher grade will stand to Ballyhea as they look forward their premier intermediate championship campaign in a few weeks' time.

PREMIER INTERMEDIATE

The premier intermediate quarter-finals also took place on Monday when Charleville and Ballinhassig advanced to the

semi-finals following victories over Watergrasshill and Na Piar-saigh.

Charleville had home venue where they ran out winners with four points to spare over Watergrasshill, 1-16 to 1-12. Ballinhassig travelled to Na Piar-saigh where won 2-8 to 1-4.

Enniskeane and Ballinora are also through to the semi-

finals which will take place on Monday.

In the relegation game on Monday, Fr O'Neill's had a goal to spare over Clonakilty to ensure they remain in the premier intermediate league for 2026 with Clonakilty going to intermediate.

PREMIER JUNIOR

The semi-finals of the premier junior league took place on Mon-

day where Bishopstown on home turf were too strong for Mallow who ran out 4-11 to 1-6 winners to book their place in the final where they will meet Youghal, who beat Castlelyons 3-16 to 0-13.

The final is in Castle Road on Monday at a time to be confirmed.

SECOND TEAM LEAGUES

The final of the Barry O'Sullivan league was due to be played last evening with Éire Óg taking on Aghabullogue.

The semi-final of the Lillie O'Sullivan League were scheduled to take place last night with Cloughduv at home to Ballinora and Ballincollig at home against St Catherine's.

The final is fixed for next Friday. The semi-finals of the Lily Grant League were due to be played last night when Barney faced meeting Sliah Rua and Bishopstown took on Brian Dillon's.

MINOR

The minor A final between Middleton and Castlemartyr and the minor B Final featuring Barryroe and Bandon, were played in mid-week and we will have updates on both in next week's column.

Heartbreak for Rebels in All-Ireland U16A final

We round up the latest underage news from Cork camogie and LGFA teams

BY GER MCCARTHY

IT was a disappointing weekend for the Cork U16A camogie panel who lost the 2025 Eir All-Ireland championship final to Galway at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny.

Having come through a tough examination against the Cats in the penultimate round, hopes were high that the Rebels could bring another camogie trophy back to Leeside at the expense of their Connacht opponents.

Alas, 3-2 from Eir Player of the Match Cara Giblin helped Galway register a 5-11 to 3-8 victory. The Rebels never recovered from falling seven points behind at the short whistle. Failing to utilise a strong wind, the Rebels couldn't contain a livewire Galway attack who found the net on five occasions to deservedly claim the trophy.

Léa Meillouin (2-1), Méabh

Fitzgerald (1-0), Lexi Manley, Orla Troy (0-2 each), Lauren O'Connor, Leah Hannigan and Sarah Kelleher (0-1 each) were on the Cork scoresheet.

Carbery Camogie's Amber Bishop (Ballinascorthy), Cliona Harte (Barryroe) and Leah McCarthy (Kilbree) have been integral members of this year's Cork U16A set-up.

There was better news for the Cork U16B panel that won the 2025 Camogie National Development final by easily overcoming Galway last weekend. Five Rebel goals helped Cork claim the trophy with Carbery Camogie's Breffni Kelly (Bandon) on the panel as well as Caoimhe Foley (Courcy Rovers) and Tara Hennessy (Valley Rovers).



Cork's Cliona Harte (Barryroe) in action against Kilkenny in the U16A All-Ireland final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.

Wexford book final date with Kilkenny

Camogie

Cian Locke

Wexford booked a Leinster final date with Kilkenny when they overcame Offaly by 3-14 to 1-16 in the semi-final at Chadwicks Wexford Park on Saturday.

The win was more comfortable than the final score looked, with Wexford carving out a 3-8 to 0-8 lead with 20 minutes left.

Joanne Dillon bagged 2-3 for Wexford, with Sarah O'Connor contributing 1-2. Grace Teehan shot 1-11 for Offaly, 0-9 from frees.

The Wexford win was marred by what looked like a serious injury to O'Connor late in the first half. She fell awkwardly and was treated for several minutes before being helped off the pitch. O'Connor has already suffered an ACL injury in her career.

Wexford will face Kilkenny in the Leinster final on May 17. The Cats overcame Dublin by 4-11 to 2-12 in Blanchardstown in a semi-final overshadowed by the skort controversy.

Aoife Prendergast fired 2-1 for Kilkenny, Steffi Fitzgerald bagged 1-1, and Caoimhe Keher Murtagh got their other goal.

Skipper Aisling Maher scored 1-4 for Dublin, with Grace O'Shea scoring 1-1.



Kevin Smith, chief financial officer of Kearys, pictured with Cork senior camogie players Laura Hayes, Amy O'Connor, and Meave Cahalane at the recent Kearys senior camogie jersey sponsorship announcement at Castle Road.

Picture: Howard Crowd



Amy O'Connor of Cork in action against Abby Walsh of Clare in the Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosóg in

STAR Sport

SATURDAY MAY 17, 2025

Cork's Saoirse McCarthy and Orla Hickey of Waterford.

(Photo: INPHO / Lorraine O'Sullivan)

'Skorting' the issue

Special Congress to vote on May 22nd, see pages 6-7

Treacy: Cork won't be going back into the dressing-room to change

Rebels will wear shorts for Munster final as skorts controversy continues

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK All-Star Laura Treacy insists the Rebels will wear shorts for Saturday's Munster senior camogie final, even if that means the provincial decider will be abandoned.

As protests grow in the shorts v skorts controversy, All-Ireland champions Cork have signalled that they will line



Cork star Laura Treacy.

out in shorts instead of the traditional skorts in the Munster final against Waterford at The Ragg in Tipperary (1pm throw-in). That could lead to the game being abandoned, but Cork are willing to make a stand, insists Treacy.

'It's extremely frustrating, in a sport that I love, that I continue to

have to voice very simple concerns,' Treacy told *The Southern Star*.

'We are not looking for big changes, we just want the association and the players to work off the one hymn sheet for the better of the sport.'

'We are now in a situation where Cork camogie will be wearing shorts on Saturday, and from what I believe Waterford camogie will be wearing shorts on Saturday, and it's about what happens after that.'

'From our perspective, and I can only speak on behalf of Cork camogie, we won't be going back into the dressing-room to change. If that means the match has to be abandoned, seeing as we got an email from the Munster Council, well, that's going to be the way it's going to go, unfortunately.'

'We have to wait and see if anything changes over the next few days.'

While, according to rules, camogie players must wear sko-

rts, players have voiced...

Continued on page 3



From gym tunics to skorts to shorts – the history of camogie kit

CAMOGIE

■ Stephen Barry

Change in camogie, as in wider society, can be slow to arrive.

In 1959, the Cork Camogie Board brought a motion from the Old Aloysians club seeking to modernise the traditional uniform of gym tunics and blouses with black full-length stockings. The proposal concerned the introduction of (a) skirts or (b) shorts with full or three-quarter-length coloured stockings.

The motion received a “very mixed reception” at county and provincial conventions but made it to the Camogie Association’s All-Ireland Congress. It was voted down by 16 votes to four.

Eight years later, Cork brought a motion from the South Pres club to introduce a kit of divided skirts, with short or long sleeves, and knee-length stockings.

During a long debate at Congress, the Cork delegates modified the proposal to apply to colleges’ games only. The amended text was beaten by two votes.

In 1969, the Cork board president suggested a competition be held among players for new uniform designs. The advent of the miniskirt was referenced as a marker of changing times.

Whether a designer was ultimately identified, a repeat of the original South Pres motion was brought by Cork to Congress in 1970. It was “heavily defeated”.

Following a successful Cork motion in 1971, goalkeepers and referees were permitted to wear tracksuits “during games played in inclement weather”.

The 1972 Congress proved particularly revolutionary. On the same day that camogie’s ban on members playing hockey or football was revoked, the ‘uniform committee’ recommendations were accepted by a large majority. Teams could choose between a skirt, sports shirt, and bobby shorts, or the traditional uniform.

Cork’s All-Ireland victory that year was their last in gym frocks, beating a Kilkenny side wearing the new uniform in the final.



Cork senior camogie players trained at MTU after the Munster senior camogie final against Waterford was postponed over the issue with the wearing of skorts. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ny side wearing the new uniform in the final.

Those wraparound skirts, fastened in place by safety pins, were replaced by the hybrid skorts in a September 2003 unveiling. They have become increasingly unpopular over time because of their discomfort, the risk of exposure, and period anxiety.

It’s telling that players, by and large, wear shorts to training and practice matches.

In 2012, a proposal to allow players to wear shorts in competition was shelved. An internal review cited a 60/40 vote in favour of retaining skorts.

In 2018, a Clare motion to replace skorts with shorts was overwhelmingly defeated. Delegates voted it down by 77 votes to 12.

London club Thomas McCurtains began their ‘Shorts Not Skorts’ campaign in 2023. Their survey of 240 players found that 82% of respondents preferred to wear shorts than skorts when playing camogie. Three-quarters viewed it as not reflecting current societal standards.

They had become a relic, unfit for purpose.

Motions concerning the skort did not make the official Congress clár, being de-

ferred by 12 months to 2024.

Last spring, four counties sponsored motions opposing the universal imposition of the skort. One of those counties, Tipperary, reported that their 39 clubs unanimously supported their proposal to replace skorts with shorts. In Dublin, 34 of their 35 senior players backed the motion. It received just 36% of delegate votes.

The less controversial bid was to offer players a choice of shorts or skorts. In Westmeath, 266 players responded to a county board poll. Of those, 78% voted in favour of the motion.

When it came to Congress, just 45% of delegates backed the motion. Cork were among those to oppose it.

Even if they had got over half of the votes, a two-thirds majority was required to pass. By rule, the Camogie Association explained the issue couldn’t be raised again until 2027.

But a majority of players have had enough. From a GPA poll of 650 inter-county players, 83% favour the choice between shorts and skorts. The same survey showed that seven in 10 players find skorts uncomfortable. That’s physical discomfort, but there’s also the mental stress around exposure caused by skorts. That worry affects 65% of players.

The difference between player surveys and delegate votes shows a clear disconnect. The voting patterns do not come close to representing players’ wishes.

In some counties, the prohibition on shorts has been set aside amid the player revolt. Last Saturday’s Munster final could’ve been a forward step if a similar dispensation was allowed.

Instead, the Cork and Waterford squads made a stand. Players from both sides have spoken eloquently in favour of choice. The postponement of the match spurned their weeks of planning and preparation with 16 hour’s notice.

Tradition shouldn’t overrule player welfare when it comes to a basic choice of what togs feel comfortable to play in. Players deserve to own that choice.

And if skort anxiety or discomfort puts one girl off playing camogie, then that is the greatest failure of all.

Camogie chiefs push for skorts change

Eoghan Cormican

Camogie Association top brass are instructing provincial councils and county boards to advocate for change at next week’s Special Congress for fear of the colossal fallout if shorts are rejected for the second time in 14 months.

The *Irish Examiner* has learned that the highest officeholders in the Camogie Association are pushing on the ground for a yes vote at the May 22 Special Congress so as to ensure that players are given the choice between shorts and skorts on matchday.

Camogie Association top brass did not seek to influence the failed shorts motions at Congress 2024, but such has been the mass media coverage of the recent skorts protest, and subsequent public backlash, including emails sent to officials that have been forwarded to gardai, the message of the past week has been to push for change in the forthcoming vote.

With the All-Ireland senior championship throwing in two days after Special Congress, there are concerns as to whether those games would proceed if the compulsory wearing of skorts was retained by delegates.

Last Saturday’s Cork-Waterford Munster Senior final was pulled at 8pm the evening before because of acceptance among Munster and national officials that players would refuse to change out of their shorts when instructed to do so by the referee and the unwanted spectacle this would thus create.

The motion to allow for

choice in the matchday kit requires 66% support at Special Congress. To reach two-thirds approval requires a significant swing on the comprehensive rejection of the two motions at last year’s Congress.

Great Britain, on that occasion, proposed the inclusion of shorts as part of the mandated playing uniform. Their motion received 45% support, with 55% against. The Tipperary motion went a step further and called for shorts to replace skorts. This was soundly beaten, with 64% against and only 36% for.

Separately, former Camogie Association president Joan O’Flynn is in favour of player choice and expects the motion to receive the necessary backing at next week’s Special Congress.

“Sport, by and large, reflects wider social norms. Sometimes it drives some of those social norms. It is no surprise then that we have got to this stage,” O’Flynn said of inter-county players seeking a choice in the matchday kit.

“Having said that, I think it is still interesting that there is diversity of views around shorts and skorts. I know there is a very strong, predominant view among the subset of inter-county players. That is clear.

“Informally, when you talk to other players, that diversity is more evident and more quietly articulated. I think the way the motion is framed by ard chomhairle speaks to that, speaks to respecting the diversity of views. That puts it in good stead in terms of standing before Congress and that there isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution here, and girls and women have the autonomy then to make that choice as to what suits them better at different times and particular times of their playing career.”

The former president credited Central Council for offering a motion that attempts to reconcile differences of opinion but also facilitates diversity of preference.

“What you choose today might be different to what you choose in four or five years’ time. That freedom of choice for players would be a really positive thing should it get voted in, and I am sure it will,” said O’Flynn.

“And it is interesting and beneficial that it is not a team-based decision, but an individual decision. That allows players to make that personal choice and not feel inhibited in terms of either choice because both are allowed.”

Meanwhile, it has yet to be confirmed if the media will be permitted entry to next week’s Special Congress.



Cork’s Sorcha McCartan shoots despite the best efforts of Kilkenny’s Claire Phelan. McCartan will be a key player for Cork against Waterford tomorrow if the game goes ahead. Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo

Cork senior camogie side to take a stance on skorts issue

The Cork Camogie senior team are willing to allow the Munster final to be abandoned next Saturday in the stance against skorts. The game is due to throw-in at 1pm at The Ragg, at Tipperary.

Under Camogie As-

sociation rules, skorts must be worn in games with shorts not allowed.

Dublin and Kilkenny made a stance on this during the Leinster final last weekend, but changed into skorts to allow the game go ahead.

Cork however are considering not leaving the pitch and refusing to change from their shorts, which would see the game abandoned and possibly awarded to Waterford, unless they take a similar stance.

Laura Treacy, Gaelic Players Association representative on the Cork panel said they do not want to be doing this.

“We hope there will be dialogue ahead of the weekend and it doesn’t come to this,” said Laura.

“The players, from both sides, want to just play the game and hopefully not have to worry about this issue.”

Ahead of the game a correspondence sent out by the Munster Council stated that they were

making both counties aware the wearing of shorts will not be acceptable and the game will not go ahead if both counties do not comply. On this matter they pointed out they have to follow national guidelines.

Therese O'Callaghan



Camogie in spotlight for wrong reasons

IT IS a huge disappointment that camogie is in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons at the moment.

This weekend should have been about Cork and Waterford meeting in the Munster senior final.

It should have been about showcasing the wonderful talent on view and the anticipation that surrounds near-neighbours going to battle.

It should have been about the opportunity it gives supporters to show their appreciation for these super athletes they have come to admire over the years.

Instead, the heated debate surrounding shorts and skorts took centre stage and has attracted a lot of unwanted attention from many quarters.



Final postponed

Today's Munster senior camogie final has been postponed as Cork and Waterford insisted on wearing shorts. The game had been due to be played in The Ragg in Co Tipperary, but will now be played at a later date, likely following the Special Congress vote on May 22 on whether shorts should be deemed permissible attire.

A statement from Munster Camogie Council chairwoman Christine Ryan read, "As the committee in charge of the Munster Championship, we have reviewed the situation regarding tomorrow's Munster final.

"As the current camogie rules of play are still in place and the players have indicated they would not be prepared to play the game in skorts, the decision has been made to defer the game in the best interests of all players and officials involved.

"The details of the rescheduled fixture will be released in due course."

John Fogarty

Controversy overshadows camogie final



Finbarr McCarthy

There are some interesting games down for decision this weekend once more.

None more so than the meeting of Clare and Tipperary in the Munster Hurling Championship; it's effectively a knockout match as with just 1 point each, the losers' ambitions will to all intents and purposes be over with 1 game to go for both.

**Munster Senior Championship Camogie Final
Cork v Waterford on Saturday at The Ragg, Tipperary at 1pm**

The big question here is will this match actually take place given the controversy in relation to the skorts/shorts issue that was highlighted by Kilkenny, Dublin and Laois over the weekend.

Cork captain Meabh Cahalane said: "We intend wearing shorts on Saturday as we feel it is something that needs to be highlighted; we would much rather be focussing on the game but this is an area that is causing concern for players and it needs resolving."

The captain added: "We are prepared for whatever the consequences but let's hope it won't come to that."

As for the match itself, Meabh is paying due respect to Waterford. "Everyone thought it would be Tipperary but Waterford are a very good team and they won a great semi-final so we are expecting a tough battle."

The Munster Championship was important to

explained. "It was after a disappointing league (that) we got going in Munster and went onto win it and it gave us great momentum for the All-Ireland series, and hopefully we will get the same this year."

Manager Ger Manley is fully supportive of his players. "I can fully understand their concerns and it's time for leadership from the top in the Camogie Association to bring this matter to an end."

Ger like Meabh is very respectful of a good Waterford team with Mick Boland doing a good job after Jerry Wallis stepped away.

"They are a good team as they showed when beating Tipperary, so even with all that is going on, we are well prepared for what we expect will be a tough game."

Niamh Rockett and Beth Carton are among their best but Eimear O'Neill, Lorraine Bray, Abbie Flynn and Annie Fitzgerald all made important contributions in the win over Tipperary.

Injuries for Cork are beginning to clear up according to Ger. "Nearly there now Katrina (Mackey), Laura (Hayes) could be available - a few little niggles but nothing to worry about."

Ger was adamant that the Munster campaign is very important. "It is because you get games ahead of the All-Ireland series; look at Galway - no match for nearly 9 weeks, challenge games are hard to get as well, so on that basis it's a big game for us and we want to win it."

The recent training camp to Portugal was also very beneficial. "We got a lot of work done with great facilities and a bit of down time as well which

was very good."

This game was originally billed as curtain-raiser to Clare and Tipperary in Ennis, but now goes ahead at ground of Tipperary camogie, and Ger has no issues with the venue. "None really; we won there recently in the league and are back there again in the championship in a few weeks so that's okay."

Cork have a very good and well balanced team and will be warm favourites to win and they should.

It has emerged as I pen this article that moves are afoot to try and resolve the current issue and hopefully something will have emerged that the game will actually go ahead.

Sadly, the interest suddenly switched to off-field matters.

Last Saturday, the Dublin and Kilkenny teams wore shorts to their Leinster semi-final and they had to change into skorts before being allowed to play.

This story was carried by numerous media outlets that afternoon, and it got far more widespread coverage than it would normally get.

What was quite perplexing was some reports didn't even mention the match result - which you would expect to be the real story.

It's such a pity it has come to this.

The Camogie Association was founded in 1904, and it should feel proud of its rich history and the role it has played in developing this magnificent game to its consistently high standard.

Times have moved on though, so players should be allowed the option to choose between shorts or skorts.

However, the debate continued to rumble on.

Why did it take until the 11th hour to defer the fixture? Buses were booked, and arrangements had been put in place by teams.

The fact it dragged on all week is both exhausting and dispiriting.

Pupils from St Mary's High school, Midleton, Co Cork, all wore shorts to school, backing the camogie players in their stance against the mandatory wearing of skorts.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Totally preventable too.

The decision should have been made earlier, it only made for further negative press.

The Camogie Association has called a special congress for May 22, which is a positive move and one they must be commended for, but it must stop shooting itself in the foot.

Being unsure a day before a provincial final if it is going to proceed is not good enough.

Munster final day should be an exhibit of all that is good about camogie - this one, unfortunately, got lost in the shuffle.

There will be no chance to see Waterford's Beth Carton, a sharpshooter of the highest standard. Nor the dynamic Lorraine Bray and Niamh Rockett - who are always a joy to watch.

Then there's Abbie Flynn, who got the winning point four minutes into stoppage against Tipperary in a ding-dong semi-final.

This provincial final

would have been their first under new Deise manager Michael Boland.

High-flying Cork in the other corner.

So much to like.

Where does one start to adequately describe the league champions and back-to-back All-Ireland senior champions who are in the habit of producing big performances?

New captain Meabh Cahalane leads one of the best defensive structures in the country. Ashling Thompson's longevity of service in midfield is second to none.

Ger Manley is spoilt for choice when it comes to naming his forward unit with such remarkable displays from Saoirse McCarthy, Katrina Mackey, Sorcha McCartan, and Amy O'Connor.

The incredible Katrina Mackey and her twin sister Pamela joined the senior panel in 2009, and they continue to be top performers.

Today should have been all about these influential sportswomen and the inspiration they are to younger players.

These women have changed the game for the better. That's what we should be talking about - not shorts versus skorts.



On Tuesday over 1,000 U12 camogie players from across the country were given the opportunity of a lifetime, when they got to compete at Croke Park. Allianz welcomed under-12 teams across Ireland to Croke Park, for the Allianz Camán to Croker 2025 event. Pictured is action between Sarsfields of Galway and St Vincent's Camogie Club of Cork. PHOTO: RAMSEY CARDY/SPORTSFILE



Cork senior camogie players at a training session at MTU last Saturday week at a time they should have been heading to The Ragg, Tipperary, for the Munster Camogie Championship final. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Let's hope the shorts v skort debate is finally sorted on Thursday

Next Thursday, May 22, can't come quick enough for all involved with camogie.

It's the day the special congress will be held to hopefully end all discussion around the shorts v skort debate that has grabbed the headlines for the last two weeks or so.

The congress is due to take place at Croke Park on Thursday evening.

All involved, administrators and players, just want to forget about it and get back to doing what they do best: Either playing in or organising games.

Since the congress was announced, players, clubs, and county board officers across the country have had the opportunity to discuss the matter at local level and it is hoped that the motion, or motions, to allow players to have the choice of wearing shorts or a skort is passed.

That's the key point in all this debate: They just want a choice.

Not one player has come out and said they want the skort to go. They might have expressed a preference to wear shorts, but they are more than happy for anyone who wants to wear a skort to do so.

It's all about choice and as one prominent player put it, out on a camogie pitch is the only place where someone tells her what she has to wear.

In announcing the special congress, the Camogie Association said: "The special congress is being called to consider motion(s) to provide all players with the choice to wear skorts or shorts while playing camogie."

"The decision on whether this motion is adopted will rest with the congress delegates (delegates represent all members of the association in-

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

cluding, all of our players).

"The association had proposed to deal with this issue at next year's congress, but having listened to player feedback, the association recognises that waiting until 2026 is not acceptable for many."

So on Thursday, delegates from all counties playing camogie have the opportunity to vote and decide whether players have a choice or not.

The Cork players made it clear the weekend before last, when the Munster championship final was postponed, that they were no longer talking about the vote.

They are now concentrating on their preparations for the start of the All-Ireland series on May 24, when they take on Limerick in their first round-robin game.

That, at the end of the day, is what they want to be doing and enjoy doing: Playing games and not talking about issues like this.

But right now nobody knows whether this motion will be passed or not and it is out of the players' hands at this stage.

Cork, like all county boards, will be mandated by the clubs on what way they want them to vote.

Most counties will most likely be mandated in favour of the choice, but until they reach the required number to see that go through on Thursday night, there is no guarantee.

Hopefully, it will and all can get back to enjoying the games and this issue will be behind all concerned. But, most importantly, let's hope the players are listened to.



Seán Óg hAilpín presented the rewards to winning captains Sarah Ní Chinnéide and Molly Ní Ruba from Gaelscoil Mhuscraí in their Sciath na Scol DC6 final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday. Pictures: Noel Sweeney



Ballyheada's Emma Reynolds is chased by Sarah Ní Chinnéide and Carla ni Chadhlá from GS Mhuscraí.



Ballyheada's Emma Reynolds is surrounded by Sarah Ní Chinnéide and Carla ni Chadhlá from GS Mhuscraí.

Spoils are shared after epic schools' battle

DC5 FINAL

■ Barbara O'Connell

Farran NS 1-3

Killeagh NS 1-3

After the sides finished level, the cup was shared as Farran and Killeagh girls had a great battle in the DC5 Allianz Camogie final yesterday at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It was a low-scoring first half with just one point from St Fergal's Emily Sheehan. However, it was still a good battle between the sides who had some great individual performances.

The second half was a much more entertaining contest. Farran's Isabelle White opened the scoring with a superb goal as she unleashed an unstoppable shot to the roof of the net.

This was followed with a well-taken point from Aoife O'Callaghan. Ella Hegarty hit over from close range to close the gap for the Killeagh school.

At the other end, what looked to be a great save from Katie Reihill, the green flag was raised from the umpire much to the joy of St Fergal's Ella Hegarty. With a minute to play, Farran worked hard for the equaliser which did come when Aoife O'Callaghan struck over from a free.

Farran had another last chance to get the winner and O'Callaghan made no mistake as she excellently converted from a 45. However well into injury time



Aisling Kelly from Farran pursues Ella Hegarty of Killeagh in a chase of the sliotar in their DC5 final yesterday in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Pictures: Noel Sweeney

and with huge excitement in the stands St Fergal's managed to get the final score.

Hegarty levelled the game and meant that both schools went home with a cup. Well done to both sides on an entertaining contest.

Scorers for Farran: I White 1-0, A O'Callaghan 0-3.

Killeagh: E Hegarty 1-2, E Sheehan 0-1.

FARRAN: Katie Reihill, Cara Walsh, Maisie O'Brien, Aisling Kelly, Ava Power, Sophie Healy, Aoife O'Callaghan, Isabelle White, Clara Corcoran, Caoimhe Buckley, Elizabeth O'Mahony, Freya Murphy, Mary Sheehan, Ella Knowles, Clara Sheehan, Clara Cantillon Murphy, Emma O'Brien, Emily Corkery, Faye Sheehan, Jennifer Sheehan.

KILLEAGH: Lily Blanka Skrzeta, Ella Hegarty, Sarah Coughlan Kenny, Alana O'Flynn, Emily Sheehan, Leona Barry, Grace Murphy, Niamh Cronin, Matilda Schemioneck, Ellie Burke, Julie Mulcahy, Siobhán McDonnell, Olivia Contet, Hannah Burke.

Referee: Claran Forde



A Killeagh player takes her shot against Farran.



Cork senior camogie players Meabh de Burca, Aoife Healy, and Laura Hayes training at MTU. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Thompson: Kilkenny return was special



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork and Milford camogie star Ashling Thompson is known not just in Cork but all around the country.

She has been a key player for the Rebels camogie side for more than 10 years and is showing no signs of slowing down.

Thompson is well known by many for her work and speaking out on mental health issues as well as her camogie skills, making her someone who will go down as one of the greats of the game.

All through the Very Camogie League this year, she has been a driving force for the Rebels from midfield and played a key role as they defeated Galway in the league final in April.

For that, she was named Player of the Game and is also the April winner of The Echo Women in Sport Award.

It is a testament to her resilience and determination that in her mid-30s Thompson is getting better and better and is now probably playing some of the best camogie of her life.

But, to be back playing at the top level, she had to call on all her mental and physical strength as back in August 2022 she picked up the dreaded ACL injury.

At that point, had Thompson called it a day, then it would have been perfectly understandable. She had won every honour in the game, including captaining Cork to All-Ireland glory.

But that's not her way. A 'mere' ACL injury wasn't going to stop Thompson and, within a year, she was back playing, and played a key role for Cork as they won the All-Ireland title in 2023.

She vividly recalls when the injury happened and when the long and lonely road to recovery started.

"It was August 2022, and it was the first club game back after the All-Ireland final loss to Kilkenny," said Thompson. "I thought the torture was over that year after the All-Ireland loss but, unfortunately, two weeks later it got worse."

"We (Milford) were playing Na Piarasigh in the club championship and I'd say it was only 10 minutes into the game when it happened. I received the ball deep in our own half back line and went to turn to go through a challenge. When I turned, my foot didn't pivot and my knee went the opposite way."

"I'd never been seriously injured before but the crack was so loud in my head and I was screaming because I got such a fright. But when I got back up onto my feet, I had no pain at all."

"So I thought I could nearly play on here but I knew, because it was so loud that, like, there was definitely something wrong here."

"I didn't get initial swelling or anything either but, once I woke up the following morning, I knew and it was



Cork senior camogie player Ashling Thompson, holding The Echo Women in Sport Award for April, with teammates, from left, Rachel Harty, Meabh Cahalane, Saoirse McCarthy, Millie Condon, and Ciara O'Sullivan. Pictures: Eddie O'Hare



Rory Noonan, chief sub-editor of 'The Echo', presents Ashling Thompson with The Echo Women in Sport Award.

confirmed soon after."

So began the long road to recovery, with countless physio and gym sessions.

But early in 2023, Cork were playing Tipperary in a league game at The Ragg. As Cork were going through their warm-up routine on a bitter cold day in a corner of the pitch, Thompson could be seen doing her own recovery training.

She could as easily have stayed at home and trained but chose to travel with the team and do it there.

"It was personal choice because, in fairness, the management always said, 'Do whatever's best for you in order for you to recover and get back on the pitch.'"

"They never expected me to be at training two and three days a week or at matches. Even, like, if I needed to do something myself, I was the priority. So it was my own choice to be up there, I wanted to be part of the group. You know, even just having my voice, I suppose, sometimes is enough and, again, just getting myself back used to being involved with

the group and feeling like I'm part of it. Even though I might not be playing, I feel like when I'm there in that environment and that atmosphere, and even if I'm just doing a few runs like on the pitch myself in a corner, like to me, that's enough to feel like I'm still involved and still a huge part of the setup."

"It's a very lonely road, to be honest, and I suppose it was tough, especially around that time, because we all know how hard the winters are in Ireland and then not to be playing sport. And obviously we would have had a few months off before coming back in with Cork. So, yeah, it was desperately lonely, to be honest, like, and the first part of your rehab is just simple movement like getting the flexible or mobility back in the legs, so you're just doing the most basic exercises."

"Everyone was working from home a lot, so I was pretty much in solitary confinement. That's what I would compare it to. But once you get back into the gym, I suppose you are in an environment then where there's people. So that's the first step but I would say I found it very tough from a social aspect, very hard going back even to Cork."

"I felt socially awkward, I spoke about it before, how awkward I felt going back into that environment. It was like I was joining the team for the first time, so mentally it is extremely challenging."

As 2023 rolled on, Cork were getting better and better and so was Thompson, and she could be seen at games up and down the sideline bursting to get on to the pitch.

Her return came in the All-Ireland quarter-final against Kilkenny, a day that was special to Thompson.

"It was nerve-racking but it was exciting. I was always of the view that, like, I'll do whatever I'm told to do. I always felt very confident in my medical team, and the same with the management. I trusted their view, I trusted them immensely. So whatever was best for me and the team in that environment, like, is the direction that I took, so they trusted that I could come in and do my 15 minutes for the quarter-final."

"I just remember kind of smirking to myself because I was like a child,

you know, getting that sweet for the first time."

"To me, that was probably one of the most special days of my entire career but, from a collective, the semi-final win over Galway was."

"I thought, 'This is the group that I want to be involved with,' and it was that semi-final, you know, it was incredible. And to go on and win and have Amy O'Connor as captain, and get her hat-trick on the day. It was just incredible stuff, like stuff of dreams."

"It's been a constant thrill since 2022, since that ACL, and I suppose to continue that into 2024 was really surprising for me being 34 years of age. But at the same time, like, that's why I can only be grateful for the injury, because the way I've bounced back from it physically and mentally."

"It's made me so much stronger so I do owe it a lot. I owe a lot to my teammates. The group are brilliant to be involved in — it's once in a lifetime — and hopefully we can push on again this year."

They certainly pushed on in 2025 and won the Very Camogie League title for the first time since 2013, with Thompson playing a key role all through, culminating in her Player of the Game performance in the final against Galway.

"It wasn't the pressure of not winning it for 12 years. It was just, you know, we wanted to attack this year hard again."

"Every year is just a new step. It's a new building block and it's all about pushing yourself that bit further. Every All-Ireland you win, the next one is harder."

"So we know we have to pick it up another 10% if we want to get over the line. But I don't think it brings pressure."

"It's all the girls in the panel that are actually pushing us in a direction. To make ourselves that 10% so that hopefully, you know, we'll be there about again and that's our target — to try to win every game and hopefully it will see us heading to Croke Park later in the year for the All-Ireland final."

"We start next Saturday against Limerick and that is where our focus is, on that game and nothing else," concluded Thompson.

**The Echo
Women
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Awards**

Murphy hat-trick inspires Crosshaven



Scoil Bhride Crosshaven celebrate at the final whistle after their Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Urban C1 Camogie Final victory over Beaumont GNS at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh, yesterday. Pictures: Jim Coughlan

C1 URBAN FINAL

Barbara O'Connell

Scoil Bhride Crosshaven 4-4
Beaumont GNS 0-0

Scoil Bhride, inspired by Lucy G Murphy, who scored three goals, proved too strong as they claimed the Allianz Urban C1 title with a win over Beaumont on Tuesday at Supervalu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Scoil Bhride got off to a great start, scoring 1-1 in the opening 10 minutes. Lucy G Murphy blasted past a crowded box, while Juno Foran got a lovely point.

Credit to Beaumont, who defend superbly and the scoreline could have been a lot higher except for their excellent effort and great goalkeeping from Pia Hogan O'Connell.

While Beaumont battled hard, Scoil Bhride's physicality and skill proved too difficult for them and they found it difficult to get out of their half which resulted in them conceding another point just before the half when Muireann Sisk hit over a well-taken free.

The second half was much the same as the first with both sides battling hard, but very few scores, however it was Scoil Bhride who added more scores with Lucy G Murphy adding two more goals to complete her



Lauren Delaney and Juno Foran, Scoil Bhride Crosshaven, lift the trophies in their Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, Urban C1 Camogie final victory against Beaumont.

hat-trick.

Two superb goals which saw her use her physicality well before she skipped past the Beaumont defence on both occasions showing skill and composure to blast to the back of the net.

Foran and Lauren Delaney linked really well together in the middle of the park for Scoil Bhride which resulted in Sisk scoring her second point of the game.

It was a well-taken point in which she side stepped away from her oppo-

nent and slotted over.

Ava Sheehan, Lucy Ahern, Amy Boland, Laura Lichwa, Lucy O'Reilly and Anna Devereux all worked hard for Beaumont, however further scores from Foran, who added 1-1, helped the Crosshaven school to a comfortable lead.

Foran showed great composure as she blasted her shot past a crowded box while her point sailed over from long range.

Huge celebrations at the final whistle for the Crosshaven school who overall produced a superb team performance.

Credit to both teams on a sporting and hard working game.

Scorers for Scoil Bhride Crosshaven: Lucy G Murphy 3-0, J Foran 1-2, M Sisk 0-2.

SCOIL BHRIDE CROSSHAVEN: Heidi Moran, Ruby Meade, Polly Anna Downing, Charlotte Lachner, Lucy K Murphy, Sophia Frawley, Maci Rae Noonan, Juno Foran, Muireann Sisk, Hayley Buckley, Doireann Murphy, Brooke Casey, Julia Moore, Lauren Delaney, Chloe Donoghue, Fleur Byrne, Anna Barry, Libby Casey, Clodagh Conannon, Fia Cunningham, Lucy G Murphy, Meabh Deane.

BEAUMONT: Pia Hogan O'Connell, Ali May Kirwan, Emmi Fitzpatrick Collins, Eabha Quigley, Amy Boland, Julie Murphy, Lucy O'Reilly, Ava Sheehan, Enora Curtin, Lucy Ahern, Clara Jacob McEvoy, Holly Tipping, Anna Devereux, Laura Lichwa, Sarah Cashman, Grace Howard, Leigha Ryan, Hollie Nagle, Grace Mathews, Reagan Helfernan, Hannah O'Callaghan, Aoibhe O'Malley, Victoria Gorna, Guilia Versaggi, Grace Dowling.

Referee: Michael Collins.



Doireann Murphy, Scoil Bhride Crosshaven, breaks from Beaumont's Eabha Quigley and Ali May Kirwan in yesterday's C1 final.



Lily Ni Chadhlia and Doireann Ni Charra, Gaelscoil na Duglaise, with Sophie Dempsey and Ava O'Mahony, Cloghroe, joint winners of the C1 camogie final. Pic: Jim Coughlan

Honours even as schools share title in deadlocked final

C1 FINAL

Barbara O'Connell

St Senan's NS, Cloghroe 2-2
GS na Duglaise 2-2

After the game ended in a draw, both Gaelscoil na Duglaise and St Senan's shared the Allianz C1 camogie title on Tuesday at Supervalu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It took five minutes of play before the first score of the game came, when Emily Sloman kicked the ball past a crowded box and into the back of the net to give St Senan's the lead.

Their lead was doubled a minute later when Eile McSweeney fired a shot from a tight angle that bounced off the post before falling into the net.

Douglas had a great chance at the other end when Aisling Ni Cholmáin sent a long ball in which looked like it was going to go all the way, however a great save from Anna Calnan denied them on that occasion.

Both sides battled hard and Gaelscoil na Duglaise richly deserved their first score of the game when vice captain Doireann Ni Charra hit over past a crowded area.

Ava Ni Chinnseamhain added to Douglas' tally as she converted a '45 to make it 2-0 to 0-2 in favour of Cloghroe at the break.

The Douglas school got off to a great start in the second half when Anna Mae Ni Choleáin fired to the back of the net in the opening minute closing the gap to just two points, 2-0 to 1-2.

A minute later brought scenes of jubilation from the Douglas supporters when Anna Mae Ni Choleáin saw her long range effort hit the back of the net giving them the lead for the first time in the game, 2-2 to 2-0.

From Cloghroe's puck out, Emily Sloman got her second score of the game as she struck over from long range to bring the game back to just one point in favour of Douglas.

With seven minutes remaining



Ava Ni Chinnseamhain, Gaelscoil na Duglaise, tackles Ava O'Mahony, Cloghroe.

Eva O'Connor levelled the game with an excellent strike over the bar.

She almost doubled her tally but superb defending from Marlie Ni Charra who was excellent throughout denied her on this occasion and the game ended in a draw with both sides going home happy with a trophy apiece.

Scorers for GS na Duglaise: A Mae Ni Choleáin 2-0, D Ni Charra and A Ni Chinnseamhain 0-1 each.

St Senan's: E Sloman 1-1, E McSweeney 1-0, E O'Connor 0-1.

GS na Duglaise: Sarah Ni Chroinin, Marlie Ni Charra, Sarah Nic Gearailt, Emilia Ni Shíoda, Lyvia Nic Carthaigh, Fia Nic Einrí, Sadhbh Nic Fhiobhail, Lily Ni Chadhlia, Bronagh Nic Einrí, Doireann Ni Charra, Aisling Ni Cholmáin, Anna Mae Ni Choleáin, Maya Larsson, Ava Ni Chinnseamhain, Amy Ni Bhriain, Farrah Ni Shuilleabhain, Caoimhe Ni Chruaí, Rachel Ni Bhriain, Saoirse Ni Chonchur, Isabelle Ni Chruaí, Abigail Ni Mahonagh, Ruby Ni Mhaorthagáin, Ailbhe Ni Chorbui, Isabelle Nic Dhuibhne, Caoimhe Nic Dochartaigh, Erica Ni Laoire, Lucy Ni Chéilleachair.

St Senan's: Anna Cahalan, Holly Johnson, Ava O'Mahony, Halle Barrett, Isla McMahon, Kate O'Halloran, Lucy Crowley, Leah Buckley, Sophie Dempsey, Millie Michelson, Tess Murphy, Eile McSweeney, Emily Sloman, Amy O'Connell, Kee-lin O'Farrell, Ruby Coleman, Lily Desmond Moriarty, Maria O'Mahony, Ruby Hennessy, Saoirse O'Callaghan, Eva O'Connor, Saoirse O'Callaghan, Eva O'Connor.

Referee: Trevor Lyons.



Doireann Ni Charra, Gaelscoil na Duglaise, gets her shot away despite the best efforts of Isla McMahon and Kate O'Halloran, Cloghroe. Picture: Jim Coughlan



St Patrick's Girls' National School celebrate with the cup after their victory over Togher Girls' School in the Urban C2 final of the Sciath na Scol competition, held at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Pictures: Chani Anderson

St Patrick's prove too strong against battling Togher GNS side

St Patrick's GNS 2-6
Togher GNS 1-1

URBAN C2 FINAL

■ Barbara O'Connell

St Patrick's girls proved too strong for Togher as they claimed the Allianz Urban C2 camogie title on Wednesday at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. St Patrick's opened the scoring after two minutes of play when the impressive Lyla Ward McCarthy buried her shot to the roof of the net.

Soon after, Togher got a well deserved equaliser when their standout player Kyra Maher Crinnion buried her shot past the St Patrick's goalkeeper. Both teams really battled hard but St Patrick's physicality proved to be the key difference between the sides.

Both teams had some fine individual performances but collectively St Patrick's were that little bit stronger.

St Patrick's enjoyed a lot of the possession in this half and the score may have been higher only for excellent goalkeeping from Rachel Phillips.

St Patrick's piled the pressure on Togher but credit to Brooke Kiely, Lucy O'Mahony Jodie Hennessy and Lavinia Stoica, who battled hard to keep the score down.

St Patrick's did manage to add another score when Ava Heaphy hit over from close range to make it 1-1 to 1-0 at the break. The second half was much the same as the first with St Patrick's physicality proving to be a huge threat for Togher.

Ava Heaphy, Lyla Ward McCarthy and Rachel Browne dominated most of the possession and with all three getting on the scoresheet in this half.

Heaphy added two points while Rachel Browne added 1-1 and Lyla Ward McCarthy chipped in with a point.

Kaci Walsh also added a great point and while Togher added a

late point from Izzy O'Driscoll McCarthy, time ran out giving St Patrick's a comfortable victory in the end.

Well done to both teams on a huge effort.

Scorers for St Patrick's GNS: R Browne and Lyla Ward McCarthy 1-1 each, A Heaphy 0-3, K Walsh 0-1.

Togher GNS: K Maher Crinnion 1-0, I O'Driscoll McCarthy 0-1.

ST PATRICK'S: Keyona O'Leary, Ava Murphy, Emily Walsh, Ava Heaphy, Sophie Kenny, Kaci Walsh, Rachel Browne, Lyla Ward McCarthy, Ava Reville McCarthy, Dina Morey, Madison Crowley, Edie McLoughlin Walsh, Ali Hurley, Emily Halpin Hurley, Emily O'Driscoll, Milly Daly, Lorelei Martin.

TOGHER GNS: Rachael Phillips, Lucy O'Mahony, Ayda O'Connell, Maya Boboc, Katie O'Neill, Kyra Maher Crinnion, Brooke Kiely, Zofia Andrzejczak, Emily Murray, Emily O'Meara, Jodie Hennessy, Ardra Bijuraj Nair, Izzy O'Driscoll McCarthy, Sienna Ellard Punch, Blanka Holzbecher (Pronounced Hollsbecher), Annalise Heaphy Hackett, Lavinia Elvira Stoica.

Referee: B Barrett.



St Patrick's GNS captain Lyla Reville McCarthy makes a catch during the Urban C2 final at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



Lyla Reville McCarthy and Sophie Kenny celebrate as they are presented with the cup following Togher Girls' School's win in the Urban C2 final of the Allianz Sciath na Scol competition against Togher GNS at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



Lauren Delaney and Juno Foran, Scoil Bhride Crosshaven, with the cup, after winning the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, Urban C1 Camogie final, at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



CLASS ACT: Lily Ni Chadhlá and Doireann Ni Charra, Gaelscoil na Dúglaise, and Sophie Dempsey and Ava O'Mahony, Cloghroe, share the honours in the C1 camogie final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Pictures: Jim Coughlan

Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin rally to claim final victory

DC 1 FINAL

■ Barbara O'Connell

GS Uí Riordáin 1-3
Riverstown 0-4

A strong finish saw Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin claim the Allianz DC1 camogie title with a win over Riverstown on Tuesday at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It was a low scoring first half with the sides level at the break 0-2 a piece.

Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin opened the scoring when Elise Nic Eochaidh struck over from long range.

This was cancelled out when Olivia Morrissey hit over a superb long range effort to put Riverstown on the scoreboard.

A good battle was had by both teams and Gaelscoil could have taken the lead when Emma Barber struck a beautiful shot towards goal but was denied with an excellent save from Ella Ryan.

At the other end, Oliva Morrissey got her second score of the game and what a score this was as she struck over from nearly 40 yards. Gaelscoil equalised before the break when Elise Nic Eochaidh got her second point of the game.

The second half got off to a good start for Riverstown as Millie Allen converted over two beautiful '45's giving her school a two point lead.

Elise Nic Eochaidh closed the gap as she added her third point of the game.

Both teams really battled hard and with two



Joy for Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin after their win in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí DC1 final at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday. Pictures: Larry Cummins

minutes remaining, Orlaith Ni Chearnaigh scored what proved to be the winning goal as she unleashed an unstoppable shot from long range which caused scenes of celebration as she put her school in the lead by a point.

Credit to Riverstown, who never gave up and had a great goal scoring opportunity late in the game but was denied with an excellent save from Saorla Ni Loinsigh and the game finished giving Gaelscoil a well earned victory.

Scorers for GS Uí Riordáin: O Ni Chearnaigh 1-0, E Nic Eochaidh 0-3.

Riverstown: M Allen and O Morrissey 0-2 each.

GS Uí Riordáin: Saorla Ni Loinsigh, Meabh Ni Chéilleachair, Olivia Ni Bhruadair, Ellie Ni Dhúnaigh, Emily Ni Fhearghail, Caoimhe Nic Chárthaigh, Ava Ni Sheasnáin, Orlaith Ni Chearnaigh, Lauren Ni hAonasa, Elise Nic Eochaidh, Emily Ni Dhonnabháin, Caoimhe Ni Dhrisceoil, Sarah Ni Bhriain, Emma Barber, Leah Ni Bhair, Alex Ni Mhadáin, Eva Verling, Siobhán Ni Shé, Niamh Nic an Crosáin, Saoirse Ni Choinn, Isabelle Ni Mhaoláin, Ida Máire de Bhulbh, Orlaith Ni Choileáin, Luíse Ni Dhraighneáin, Leila Ni Ghúl, Sarah Ni Bhruadair, Hazel Ni Dhubhá, Saoirse Fannernan, Orlaith Pederson, Jane Ni Chrotaigh, Faye Nic Ghiolla Choda, Saoirse Ni Shé, Lucia Nic Canaínn, Amy Ni hEili, Eithne Ni Chonaill, Caoimhe Ni Shuilleabháin, Maeve Ni Riordáin, Clodagh Ni Mhuiríosa, Farrah Ni Bhuacháin.

Riverstown: Ella Ryan, Sophie Foley, Emily Heavey, Rosie Healy, Freya Twomey, Fia McDonagh, Ellie Crowley, Millie Allen, Olivia Morrissey, Lucy Crowley, Caoimhe Desmond, Laoise Caulfield, Cathy Murphy,



Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin players show their delight after their win in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí DC1 final yesterday.

Rachel Forbes, Ellen Leisk, Katie McGrath, Ella Skillington, Aoife Nyhan, Call Twomey, Aibhe Arias, Emilie Gulton, Emily Davies, Aoise Furlong, Brooklyn O'Gorman, Mollie Healy, Ellie Goodwin, Hailey Hofeina, Ciara Lynch, Megan Buckley, Hannah Brennan, Caitlin Kelleher, Caoimhe Long, Caoimhe Mohally, Rose Daly, Holly Radley.

Referee: C O Mhurchu.

Players can wear shorts or skorts from today after huge majority backs motion



Gordon Manning

Camogie Association president says 98% of delegates voted for change

After 121 years, it only took the Camogie Association a little under half an hour to make history at Croke Park last night as 98 per cent of delegates at Special Congress backed a motion allowing players the choice of wearing shorts or skorts.

Less than three weeks after a protest by the Dublin and Kilkenny players over the ban on wearing shorts ignited a controversy on the issue, an overwhelming majority of the 133 delegates at Croke Park voted for change.

The whirlwind nature of the dispute moving from standoff to resolution means players are free to choose shorts or skorts immediately.

"We are pleased to announce that delegates have voted by an overwhelming majority in favour of giving players greater

choice in their playing attire," said Brian Molloy, president of the Camogie Association.

"From midnight tonight each individual player will have the option to wear skorts or shorts – adding choice while maintaining the professionalism and uniformity of our team kits in both colour and design.

"I want to sincerely thank our incredible volunteers for their ongoing support over the last few weeks, and to our delegates for voting on behalf of over 120,000 members, including 94,000 playing members," Molloy added.

The in-camera meeting started at 7.30pm and media waiting in a separate room in Croke Park were informed shortly before 8pm that a result had been reached.

Molloy said 98 per cent of del-

egates voted in favour of the motion with just 2 per cent going against the proposal. The association added there was very little debate in the room before the ballot.

"I'd had conversations with the delegate chairs, the county

“There was a very strong round of applause as soon as the vote was announced”

chairs and provincial chairs over the last couple of weeks directly and they were all very focused on engaging with their members and taking time to poll them," added Molloy.

"They were very focused on the importance of getting the players' voice and making sure it was heard.

"For a lot of people that was the focus, that was the point of today, just to make sure that each one of those delegates then came in and reflected that in the vote.

"So, for many of them there's nothing to say. We had a brief conversation, a brief chat as you can imagine, but it's very positive up there [in the room], there was a very strong round of applause as soon as the vote was announced.

"People are very happy about this, people are very positive about this and the key piece, and I said it in the note that I issued out to the chairs two weeks ago I think at this stage, which was that we're not

getting rid of skorts. Tens of thousands of girls around the country enjoy playing camogie in skorts and tens of thousands of girls around the country would prefer to wear shorts, and that's what we've now enabled.

"We've enabled that within our association and it's a historic day for the association because it comes into effect from midnight. I'm delighted that we've been able to achieve that so quickly."

Similar motions were defeated at Congress only last year, though the key difference with this change is that it provides individual choice rather than a team-specific choice.

There were two votes at last year's Congress – Tipperary's proposal to replace the skort entirely with shorts was defeated

Camogie players can now wear skorts or shorts after 98pc vote to change rule

Delegates reach easy decision on controversy at special meeting

ALANNA CUNNANE

Camogie players will have the option to play in a skort or shorts after a motion was passed overwhelmingly in favour of the change at a special meeting yesterday.

Of the 133 delegates who voted, 98pc were in favour of allowing players to choose shorts if they want after a standoff with the Camogie Association over what girls and women were allowed to wear during games.

Delegates of the association from around the country and the world gathered from 7pm at Croke Park to discuss the proposal, which had previously been defeated at the 2024 edition of the annual congress when it failed to reach the 66pc majority required.

While the topic has caused tension for many years, it shot to prominence at the Leinster senior camogie semi-final between Dublin and Kilkenny on May 3.

Ahead of the game, players attempted to wear shorts in protest at "Rule 6b, Playing Gear" in the Camogie Association's rulebook, which outlines that a player's attire must consist of a "skirt/skort/divided skirt".

Faced with the possibility of the game being abandoned should they have opted to remain in shorts, both teams returned to the dressing room before the game, and eventually played the match in the mandatory skorts.

Their protest came just days after the Gaelic Players Association (GPA) released a report that found 70pc of camogie players they spoke to reported discomfort



Camogie Association president Brian Molloy during a media conference after the congress vote. Photo: Sportsfile

while wearing skorts, while 83pc said they "would prefer to wear shorts or believe that players should have the option to choose".

The fallout continued, with the Camogie Association having initially released a statement detailing that "player welfare is at the heart of everything [they] do" and that the ard chomhairle, or national executive, had "established a working group to examine issues around the comfort, fit, design and overall performance of playing wear".

The association also said the issue could be raised again at the annual congress – but not until next year. The situa-

tion then escalated on Wednesday, May 7, when teams from Waterford and Cork also expressed their intention to play in shorts in the Munster final, which was scheduled for May 10, and they would refuse to change if asked.

However, the Munster Camogie Council intervened, announcing the night before the match that the game would be deferred "in the best interests of all players and officials involved".

On Thursday, May 8, the Camogie Association announced it would hold a special congress at two weeks' notice.

The meeting yesterday considered "motion(s) to provide all players with

the choice to wear skorts or shorts while playing camogie".

While the motion put before the congress focused on affording players the option to choose between skorts and shorts, there are subsequent knock-on implications impacted by any amendments to Rule 6b, relating to sponsorship, licensing and logos.

Camogie players mounted a high-profile campaign in favour of relaxing the skorts rule, with the association coming in for significant public and political criticism.

It is also understood that AIB, which sponsors both hurling and camogie

club championships, also favoured the change.

Having passed, the rule change will now take immediate effect, meaning championship matches this weekend would be the first in which players would have the option to choose between a skort or shorts, assuming they are of the same colour and design.

Camogie Association Uachtarán Brian Molloy welcomed the decision.

"We are pleased to announce that delegates have voted by an overwhelming majority in favour of giving players greater choice in their playing attire," he said.

"From midnight tonight, each individual player will have the option to wear skorts or shorts – adding choice while maintaining the professionalism and uniformity of our team kits in both colour and design.

"I want to sincerely thank our incredible volunteers for their ongoing support over the last few weeks, and to our delegates for voting on behalf of over 120,000 members, including 94,000 playing members.

"As the All-Ireland Championships begin this weekend, we ask everyone to support their teams, drive higher attendances at all upcoming games, and help us fill Croke Park for the finals on August 10."

The Gaelic Players Association (GPA) also hailed the result, saying: "We welcome the result of this evening's vote.

"The GPA would like to put on the record our admiration for camogie players across Ireland and beyond, both at inter-county and club level, who made their voices heard to ensure this outcome.

"To our own membership who have led the campaign for choice, we salute your willingness to stand up for both yourselves, and future generations of camogie players. We thank the delegates who listened to players' call for choice."