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SEPT-NOV.

2009



## PLAYER RATINGS

**Aoife Murray**  
In a word, outstanding. Made a number of crucial saves and fully deserving of the Player of the Match award. 9

**Joanne O'Callaghan**  
Part of a back three that didn't give Kilkenny a sight of goal for most of the game. 8

**Castriona Foley**  
Kept Kilkenny star forward Denis Gaule quiet all through, never looked in any trouble. 8

**Rena Buckley**  
Rock-solid performance and like the rest of the full-back line never put a foot wrong. 8

**Jenny Duffy**  
Had a right battle with Katie Power, but once she got on top dominated from then on. 8

**Mary O'Connor**  
A superb reader of the game. She cleared a massive amount of breaking ball and set up numerous Cork attacks. 8

**Sarah Hayes**  
Goes about her job without any fuss. Cool and calm under pressure, she never looked in any trouble. 8

**Briege Corkery**  
Quiet in the first-half but came much more into the game after the break. Another solid performance at midfield. 8

**Orla Cotter**  
Got through an awful lot of work in midfield and broke more than her fair share of ball to set up attacks. 8

**Eimear O'Sullivan**  
Settled after a nervous start and set up many of the Cork attacks. Also rowed in with a couple of points. 8

**Gemma O'Connor**  
Probably isn't a better camogie centre-forward in the country. Leads by example and is not afraid to go in where it hurts. 9

**Una O'Donoghue**  
Played her part in Cork's win and got a vital point before she was substituted late on. 8

**Sile Burns**  
Got through an unbelievable amount of work, defensively and also in attack, before being substituted late on. 8

**Emer O'Farrell**  
In top form, moved out from full to corner-forward and got a superb point before she was substituted late on. 8

**Rachel Moloney**  
Deadly accurate from placed balls and scored seven points. Another great display from the corner-forward. 8

**Substitutes**  
Amanda O'Regan, Lynda O'Connell, Emer Dillon, Katrina Mackey. All did well when they came on with Mackey getting on the scoresheet late on.



Cork players celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

AS the O'Duffy Cup makes its way back to Leaside today for the 23rd time, the Cork camogie team can look back on a job well done.

Going into the game as hot favourites was never an easy task — if they won then it was a case of they were going to win anyway, but if they lost there would have been little sympathy for them around the country.

But showing just why they have been in the last eight finals in a row, this team battled from start to finish against a Kilkenny side who gave it their all and couldn't be faulted for effort.

Physically Kilkenny tried to out-muscle Cork, which was probably their first mistake. You simply don't outmuscle players like Gemma O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Castriona Foley and Jenny Duffy. When the need was greatest they stood up to the challenge of their opponents and such was the masterful defensive display by Cork, they limited Kilkenny to just two points in the second half, neither of which came from play.

To say the Cork defence was magnificent yesterday is somewhat of an understatement. From start to finish they hurled as if their very lives depended on it. Foley, at full-back kept the threat of star Kilkenny forward, Denise Gaule, at bay all afternoon. Such was her dominance you hardly knew Gaule was on the pitch in the second half.

Kilkenny moved her to the corner to try and get some room but there she was up against Rena Buckley and, like Foley, she had no intention of letting her anywhere near goal.

In the other corner Joanne O'Callaghan was also in top form and between them they restricted the Kilkenny full-forward line to only one point from play for the entire game, a return any back three would take.

Behind them is, without doubt, the best camogie keeper playing at the moment. Having conceded a soft goal in last year's final, Aoife Murray was determined she wasn't going to be beaten this year and made a number

# Kilkenny tried to mix it with Cork but fell a little short

By RORY NOONAN

All-Ireland camogie final

of magnificent saves.

Even with the sun in her eyes in the first half she never lost track of the ball and as well as catching, she batted it away to safety on numerous occasions. Even late on when Aisling Dunphy was clean through on goal, for what would have been little more than a consolation score, Murray again saved superbly and on this performance must surely be in line for an All-Star award later in the season.

"Aoife is Aoife and it's difficult to put into words what she means to this team," said Joanne O'Callaghan.

"To know that if you are beaten she is behind you and more often than not will make a great save, gives you massive confidence in a game.

"I thought that Castriona and Rena

were outstanding today and we covered for each other throughout the game. To win another All-Ireland is unbelievable and we all treasure them every time we win as it could be your last. We can relax now and celebrate for a while before we have to get back to club games," said Joanne.

Just as the full-back line were to the fore, the half-back line were also immense and went one better than their counterparts by keeping their opponents scoreless for the game.

In centre-back Mary O'Connor Cork have an inspirational figure who reads the game superbly and clears up a huge amount of breaking ball.

Teak tough she takes the knocks and just gets up and gets on with it and to watch her must make those around her raise their game a level.

Sara Hayes didn't put a foot wrong all day and on the other wing Jenny

Duffy was outstanding, particularly in the second half. Kilkenny moved centre-forward Katie Power out on Duffy from the start of the game and were hoping to use her height advantage to get the better of Duffy. Power did start well and made one or two catches early on, but once Duffy settled there was always going to be one winner of that clash. By the second half Power had moved and Duffy, starting her first final, showed that the number five jersey is in safe hands for some time to come.

Looking back it was a top-class performance from the Cork defence and only two of Kilkenny's points came from play for the entire game.

Midfield was an area that many felt would be where the game would be won and lost with Anne Dalton and Collette Dorner two powerful players for Kilkenny.





Cork's Gemma O'Connor chats with team-mates after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final. BELOW: Cork's Emer O'Farrell and Gemma O'Connor celebrate their win over the Cats in Croke Park yesterday. BELOW RIGHT: Cork's Jenny Duffy celebrates with coach Denise Cronin after defeating Kilkenny in Croke Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



But they were up against Brieger Corkery and Orla Cotter, who never play second fiddle to anyone. Cotter broke more than her share of ball around midfield and with Corkery and Gemma O'Connor picking it up, was instrumental in setting up many of the Cork attacks.

Contrast the Cork forward line, who had six scorers compared to Kilkenny's three, with Aoife Neary got all bar two of their points. In fairness to Kilkenny they didn't make it easy for Cork to score and they had to use all their experience to break down a resolute defence.

Kilkenny played with a seventh defender to try and thwart the Cork attack and it took the champions some time to settle and find a way through. With 16 minutes

gone, Kilkenny were in front by a point, but two minutes later Gemma O'Connor equalised and Cork then hit three more, without reply, as they put their opponents under pressure up front.

By half-time, Cork were three points up and it was going to take something special for Kilkenny to emerge as winners. Early points from Rachel Moloney, Elmeear O'Sullivan and O'Connor soon had Cork in a commanding lead and like many games they played this year, they finished much the stronger side. Anytime Kilkenny threatened to come back at them the defence stood strong and set up the platform for the forwards to put Cork even further ahead.

With 15 minutes to play Cork were in front by double scores and the game was effectively over as a

contest and when they added three more points late on it laid down a marker that they have no intention of giving up the O'Duffy Cup easily and it's going to take a special side to beat them.

No doubt the thoughts of many will be turning to three in a row, something Cork have only managed once before. They have won two many times, but it seems to be a stumbling block to make it three. This panel have the talent, ability and desire to do so and it also takes a little luck and with that bit of luck they are capable of putting that ghost to rest next year.

But for now the O'Duffy Cup is safely back in Cork and no doubt there will be massive celebrations as it makes its way from Kent Station to the Mall tonight at 8pm and then on to Douglas GAA club.

## Jenny celebrates a dream come true

SHE may have been bruised and battered after the game from her tussle with Katie Power, but it didn't bother Cork defender Jenny Duffy, writes RORY NOONAN.

"It's a dream come true for me to start in an All-Ireland final and to go and win it is out of this world," said Jenny.

"Kilkenny were always going to be a tough team to beat and we knew that defensively we would have to be strong today and I thought the girls were magnificent."

"From Aoife out all played a massive part in our win, but it was not just the back six who defended when we had to. All credit to our forwards and midfield when we didn't have the ball they hooked and blocked and made it difficult for Kilkenny to clear their lines. It was a real team performance."

"Defensively Denis (Cronin) and Frank (Flannery) instilled a hunger and desire in us to win all year long and we were just bursting to get out of the dressing-room and get going."

"We knew that they were going to run at us and we were ready for that. Nothing less than our best was going to be good enough against Kilkenny and thankfully we managed to come out on top in the end."

Jenny, who works as a camogie development officer in Leinster, with Kilkenny part of the area she covers,

has the bragging rights for another year at least.

"I have no doubt I would have been in for some slagging had we lost, but I will be able to have a slag off some of those in the office after the win. Nothing too serious as you never know what will happen next year," she added.

Jenny's close friend Emer O'Farrell was also over the moon with the win.

O'Farrell scored a number of goals on the way to the final but didn't manage to get one on the day.

"I thought I was in on goal at one point in the first-half but credit the Kilkenny defence they crowded me out. Thankfully in the end it didn't matter," said Emer.

"I am just delighted we won what was a tough game, particularly in the first-half. Scoring chances were hard to come by."

"But I thought once we settled and started to move the ball around we started to open them up a bit. In the group stages they ran us close and we knew it would be similar today but once we got in front we started to dominate."

"Our defence was magnificent and all of them played a huge part in the win. They cleared a massive amount of ball and helped set up attack after attack. We are really looking forward to coming back to Cork with the cup to thank our fans for their tremendous support all season," concluded Emer.

## Congratulations to Cork's Senior Camogie team on their All-Ireland victory



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Cork players celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Rebels stick their claws into the Cats

AMID great scenes of joy and for the second year in a row, and the fifth time in the last eight years, the O'Duffy Cup is on its way back to Cork.

Yesterday Cork showed just why they have been the powerhouse of camogie over the last eight years as they swept aside the challenge of Kilkenny.

Cork went into this game as hot favourites against an up and coming Kilkenny side, who to their credit, never made it easy for the champions.

But once Cork settled and started to dominate in midfield, with Orla Cotter in particular, to the fore there was always going to be one winner.

Defensively Cork were magnificent with Catriona Foley and Mary O'Connor a tower of strength at full-back and centre-back respectively.

Around them the four other defenders, Jenny Duffy, Joanne O'Callaghan, Rena Buckley and Sara Hayes didn't put a foot wrong.

It was a masterful display and they restricted Kilkenny to just two points from play for the entire game, which tells its own story.

By RORY NOONAN

All-Ireland camogie final

Up front centre-forward Gemma O'Connor led the attack as she encouraged all those around her and led by example, scoring three magnificent points.

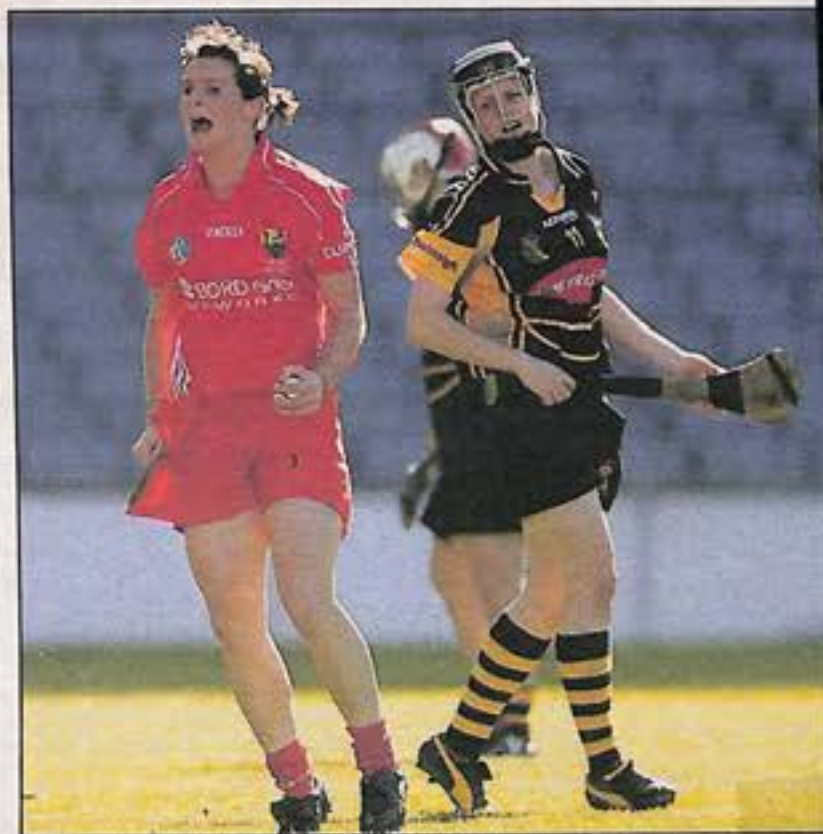
But the Cork forward line just didn't slot over the scores all afternoon, they too defended when they had to and made it difficult for Kilkenny to clear their lines.

On the rare occasion that Kilkenny did break through they found Aoife Murray adding to her reputation as the best camogie keeper in the country at the moment and on two occasions when they had one on ones with her Aoife came out on top.

This win sees the O'Duffy Cup back on Leeside for the 23rd time as they close in on record holders Dublin and on this form it won't be too long before they are top of the pile.

When Amanda O'Regan, lifted the cup she also created her own bit of history as she became the first Douglas player to lift a senior All-Ireland as captain of her county and no doubt the celebrations will go on a long time at Douglas GAA Club tonight.

● See Pages 2-7



Cork's Brieghe Corkery shows her delight against Kilkenny during the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Helen Duggan with her daughters, Sinéad and Clodagh, and Pat Peate, with Alison and Emma Peate, all from Douglas.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Cheer home our camogie heroes

GET down to the South Mall tonight and give Cork's All-Ireland champions a hero's welcome. That's the message from the manager of the camogie team, Denise Cronin, who has called on Cork's GAA followers to turn out in the droves to see the girls return with the O'Duffy Cup.

"The girls deserve a huge welcome as it is no mean feat to win an All-Ireland. And it will also be a chance for people to get some practice in before the Cork v Kerry match next week." The girls will be getting the train from Dublin at 5pm today and will be stopping at Mallow at about 7.20pm where they will be greeted by supporters there.

They're expected in Kent Station at about 8pm. The team will then board an open-top bus and head for South Mall where hundreds of well-wishers are expected to meet them. After a function in the Imperial Hotel, the team will then head off to Douglas GAA Club, where the celebrations will continue.





Cork's Mary O'Connor kisses the O'Duffy cup after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Mary claims yet another medal

## Camogie win gives her 11th title - and it could soon be 12

By RORY NOONAN  
Camogie All-Ireland

**ONE down and one to go for Mary O'Connor as she collected her 11th All-Ireland senior medal yesterday.**

The dual star, along with fellow dual players Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery, will be hoping to add another to their tally when they take on Dublin in the All-Ireland ladies football final in two weeks' time.

Looking back at the win over Kilkenny in Croke Park yesterday, Mary was delighted but acknowledged what tough opponents the Cats were.

"They are a really tough team to break down as they play a zonal defence and it is difficult for any team who plays them to get through this," said Mary.

"It's a system they seem to like, but to be honest I think this is a negative way to play camogie. Maybe they don't trust

their players. I don't know, but I do know that we trust ours and I think we played some great camogie out there today.

"They didn't score from play for the entire second half and I can tell you to do that just doesn't come from your back six. From our full-forward line out I thought we defended superbly when we had to and made it tough for them to get on the ball.

"We didn't care who made the block down or the tackle as long as it stopped them from getting forward that's all that mattered and thankfully it worked out for us on the day."

Sadly for Mary and along with Gemma O'Connor and Aoife Murray, some of her family weren't able to make the game. Mary's brothers were playing a junior football final with Glenbrower and Gemma and Aoife's brothers were playing for the Barrs against Newtownshandrum.

● See inside for more.



Cork captain Amanda O'Regan raises the O'Duffy Cup after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## O'Flynn: Rebel rule not a problem

by Therese O'Callaghan

CAMOGIE president Joan O'Flynn has rejected suggestions that Cork's dominance in the code is having a negative impact on the sport.

The Rebels contested their eighth consecutive decider against Kilkenny on Sunday, winning five All-Ireland senior titles since 2002. However O'Flynn is adamant the championship remains hugely competitive.

She explained: "We have had different finalists in the last four years — Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford and Tipperary.

"So, there you have genuine contenders, which illustrate the increasing strength in depth in standards across the counties. Dublin, Clare and Limerick have come up from the junior ranks to senior, and the future is promising for Clare, having reached the 2008 and 2009 minor finals while Limerick won the All Ireland minor B title.

"Offaly's achievement in winning the junior final makes them good enough to compete at intermediate level, while the defeated finalists Waterford are making great strides. They took part in the Munster senior championship this year losing to Cork by a point — albeit the champions were minus a few of their better known names.

"Nonetheless, this will tell them if they continue to work hard, it will pay rich dividends."

O'Flynn added: "The high standards are broadening across a wider number of counties.

"Look at Kerry and Na Brideoga (Mayo), who won Féile titles during the summer.

"It is only a matter of time before this progress is rewarded at adult level.

"Roscommon won the Nancy Murray Cup for the first time, and O'Donovan Rossa from Antrim took their inaugural All-Ireland senior club title last November. Cavan won the Junior Blitz which indicates great days are ahead for them.

"The September showdown in Croke Park is the showcase of camogie. The speed and athleticism of the games are displayed, and another skill that featured on Sunday was aerial dominance and brilliant fielding."

Camogie introduced a new innovation at this year's final with winning captain Amanda O'Regan receiving her All-Ireland medal on the steps of the Hogan Stand.



Caltriona Foley, Sile Burns and Marian Murphy celebrating their All-Ireland success at the victory banquet on Sunday night. Also



Cork's Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell with supporters after defeating Kilkenny by 0-15 to 0-7 in the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. See pages two, three and sports supplement for more. Picture: Eddie O'Hare





**CUP OF CHEER:** Brendan Reddington from Galway gets comfortable in the O'Duffy Cup with Emer O'Farrell during the All-Ireland camogie champions Cork visit to Our Lady's Children Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin. SEE HOMECOMINGS: PAGE 10

Picture: James Crombie



**All-Ireland camogie champions Cork** with Eadaoin O'Geran from Douglas, Cork at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin, Dublin, yesterday.

Picture: James Crombie/INPHO



**Cork's Katriona Mackey** lets her camán do the talking as Cork sail to victory over Kilkenny during Sunday's Gala All-Ireland Camogie Final.



SEPT 2009

## Participation v. Competition



# Rebels claim 24th title

### ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

CORK 0-15  
KILKENNY 0-7

by Mary Newman  
at Croke Park, Dublin

CORK made it title number twenty four as they defeated Kilkenny to be crowned Gala All Ireland senior camogie champion in Croke Park on Sunday last.

Cork were full value for their three points interval lead helped in no small way by the contributions of Rachel Moloney with four first half points, while Emer O'Farrell, Gemma O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan and Una O'Donoghue were all on target as Cork lead 0-8 to 0-5.

Through the opening half Aoife Murray proved to be unbeatable as Kilkenny came in search of goals, several times she denied Kilkenny and with Cathriona Foley solid at full-back ably assisted by Sara Hayes and Rena Buckley Kilkenny could find no way through. Kilkenny's Ann Dalton and Aoife Neary battle hard through the opening half with Neary striking three points Ann Dalton and Michelle Quilty adding one each.

From the start of the second half Cork were on top Mary O'Connor was solid at centre back and with Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney and Eimear O'Sullivan chalking up the



Emer O'Farrell celebrates with supporters after her side's victory in the All Ireland camogie final

points Cork extended their advantage. Kilkenny were by now playing second fiddle so much so that they were held to just two scores in the second half both coming from frees, again Aoife Murray was impassable despite anything Kilkenny threw her way and it was a fitting tribute that she was named as Player of the

Match.

Well done to everyone in the Cork camp manager Denise Cronin and her fellow selectors Lillian Zinchant, Michael O'Regan and coach Frank Flannery for the manner in which they prepared their charges, here's to three in-a-row.

CORK: R Moloney 0-7 (0-6 f); E

O'Sullivan 0-3; G O'Connor 0-2; U O'Donoghue, E O'Farrell and K Mackey 0-1 each

KILKENNY: A Neary 0-5 (0-4 f, 0-1 '45); A Dalton and M Quilty 0-1 each

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, R Buckley, J Duffy, M O'Connor, S Hayes, B Corkery, O Cotter, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, U O'Donoghue, S Burns, R Moloney, E O'Farrell Subs: K Mackey for E O'Farrell (37); E Dillon for U

O'Donoghue (47); A O'Regan (c) for S Burns (57); L O'Connell for J O'Callaghan (59)

KILKENNY: C Ryan; L Fennelly, C Doherty, J Frisby; L Lyng, A Butler, E Aylward; C Dormer, A Dalton (c) T Muldowney, K Power, E Keane; M Quilty, D Gaule, A Neary Subs: A Dunphy for T Muldowney (17), D Delaney for L Lyng (37), M O'Connor for M Quilty (50), K Fennelly for C Dormer (57)

REFEREE: Una Kearney (Armagh)

## Cork chasing a camogie double

### ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL CORK V GALWAY

When: Saturday, September 19  
Where: Gaelic Grounds, Limerick

Time: 2pm  
Referee: To be confirmed

by Mary Newman

CORK chase a camogie double on Saturday when the Intermediate camogie team meet Galway in the Gala All Ireland final at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick. Having lost out in the last two finals to Limerick and Kilkenny Cork are determined to take this one and coach Bobby Thornhill is looking forward to the challenge his side will face.

"We know Galway will be tough they will have a lot of their senior panel eligible for this and will have to be at our best to win it, we played them in the league but the result of that game will be irrelevant as both teams will show a lot of changes," he said.

Cork defeated Derry in tough semi-final whilst

Galway disposed of the challenge Tipperary posed to them. On the day Derry were hot favourites, but Cork never allowed them play always keeping them in sight and never allowing Derry get to far away from them they hung in and took the chances that came their way it was all about getting a result and reaching the final.

The Cork backroom team of Sheila Golden, Esther O'Leary and Bobby Thornhill joined the selection committee and having served at under age level she was very have left no stones unturned in the chase of the crown. There has been a few new faces added to the panel this year, but the nucleus has remained the same and the experienced players have played a big role Ann Marie Fleming.

Eimear and Marie Watson, Liz Power, Marion Jagoe, Gillian Harrington Michelle Browne have been involved a long time and they deserve victory on Saturday.

A few of last year's panel were promoted to the senior side while players such as Marie Corkery have retired and Noreen Mulcahy didn't play this year because of study commitments. The experienced players on the panel have helped the younger girls fit in and adjust and make the step up from under age to adult inter-county level and this has helped the atmosphere in the camp and Cork are really determined to win it this time out. With the senior title secured it is a great incentive to make it a double.

There are four changes to the side that defeated Derry in the semi-final. Rosin De Faoite who was replaced sixteen minutes into that semi-final with an ankle injury has not recovered to take her place in the starting fifteen while

Carol Dineen, Leah Weste and Mariah Reidy are named in the substitutes as into the starting fifteen come Aileen Sheehan, Regina Curtin, Pamela Mackey and Helen O'Mahony.

The line out is Jessica Kavanagh in goal, Christine O'Neill at full back with Captain Ann Marie Fleming and Aileen Sheehan in the corners. The half back line shows one change, Regina Curtin who came on as a substitute against Derry hold the centre back position with Pamela Mackey and Carolyn Motherway on either side. Maria Walsh continues at mid field and she is partnered by Helen O'Mahony who was also introduced against Derry. Mary Coleman continued to lead the attack at centre forward with Liz Power and Marie Watson on the wings, the inside line has Eimear Watson at full forward flanked by Denise Luby and Michelle Browne.

Four players who were members of the senior

panel are chasing a double Christine O'Neill, Pamela Mackey, Michelle Browne and Jennifer Lynch will be battling hard to add to their collections having been amongst the substitutes in last week's senior victory over Kilkenny.

PANEL: Jessica Kavanagh Douglas, Ann Marie Fleming Barryroe (c), Christine O'Neill Courtney Rovers, Aileen Sheehan Grenagh, Pamela Mackey Douglas, Regina Curtin Milford, Carolyn Motherway St Catherine's, Maria Walsh Ballyhea, Helen O'Mahony Douglas, Marie Watson Milford, Mary Coleman Ballyhea, Liz Power St Catherine's, Denise Luby Glen Rovers, Eimear Watson Milford, Michelle Browne Mallow, Denise Leahy St Catherine's, Leah Weste Ballincollig, Marion Jagoe Tracton, Sarah Buckley Ballincollig, Mariah Reidy Newtownshandrum, Carol Dineen Barryroe, Jennifer Lynch Tracton, Niamh Dilworth Iniscarra, Kate O'Donoghue Ballincollig, Kathleen O'Brien Mallow, Gillian Harrington Valley Rovers, Aine Watson Milford, Aine Moynihan Ballygarvan, Miriam Crowley Bishopstown, Patricia Buttner Ballincollig, Rosin de Faoite Blackrock.

THERE IS a debate ongoing in GAA circles whether under-age games should be based on competition or participation.

Recent innovations in games development have stressed the importance of participation rather than the winning of competitions. Thus the Go Games model has become a feature of many under-age units of the GAA.



In some units of Cumann na mBunscol there has been a move towards participation rather than competition. For example, in Wicklow, the ever-popular Corn na Milaoise, an indoor football competition for pupils in rang a tri and rang a ceathair, is now a non-competitive event.

In the recently-launched GAA Strategic Plan there is an emphasis on participation rather than the competitive element of our games. If this comes to pass it will mean that all units of Cumann na mBunscol will have to look at their events and redesign some of them.

The ever-popular INTO/GAA Mini Sevens series of games at regional and national level are non-competitive. This is something that Games Development in Croke Park wants to examine, but in the meantime, the selection process in most counties still seems to be based on competition.

At present most counties use a competition to select the school that goes on to represent the

county at regional level. Even though there is a sliding scale of age limits that allows older pupils from smaller schools to participate, the pattern in many counties seems to be that it is the same few schools that reach the regional festivals and ultimately have a pupil play in Croke Park on big match days.

Dublin, with the largest number of school children in the country, uses the participation model to select children for Croke Park. Basically each school sends two representatives to a selection day in the Phoenix Park where children are assessed on their skills and in non-competitive matches.



In this way they seem to be able to spread the representation fairly equally across the county with no schools dominating. Is this the way other counties should go?

Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta has undertaken a detailed examination of the INTO/GAA Mini Sevens and a sub committee has made several recommendations that believes will enhance the enjoyment of the children.

These recommendations are based on increasing participation and rewarding skill which is in keeping with the philosophy of Go Games. At the time of going to press the outcome of these deliberations are not yet known, but the result of the debate will be available on [www.scoilsporth.org](http://www.scoilsporth.org).



## ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

# Offaly's experience tells as Déise put up brave display

GALA ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

WATERFORD 2-8  
OFFALY 3-14



BY GER LAWTON  
AT CROKE PARK

TO SAY that the last 12 months have been a disaster zone for Waterford teams in All-Ireland finals would be a contender for understatement of the year – and I'm afraid that trend didn't show any signs of turning at Croke Park on Sunday last as Waterford went down to Offaly in the county's first ever appearance in the All-Ireland junior camogie final.

Last September it was the county's senior team in the All-Ireland final, then on St. Patrick's Day last it was De La Salle in the All-Ireland club final and on Sunday last the camogie team made it three hugely disappointing appearances for Waterford teams on All-Ireland final day in Croke Park this past year.

Much like their senior hurling counterparts, the Waterford camogie team too had to go through the pain of four All-Ireland semi-final

defeats before they finally made it to the Promised Land and qualified for an All-Ireland decider.

Having beaten Offaly well when they met earlier this year in the group stages of the championship, Waterford came into this game confident of a big performance but alas on the day it didn't happen for them and there's no doubt that the occasion got to them – especially in the first-half. On top of that Offaly's appearance in last year's final, where they were only denied by a last minute goal, definitely stood to them and they coped much better with the more familiar surroundings of All-Ireland final day.

Waterford came into the game showing one change in personnel from the side that defeated Laois in the semi-final, with Aine Breathnach coming in for Jenny Simpson.

It was Offaly who got away to the better start and registered two early points, through Arlene Watkins and an Elaine Darmody free before Waterford got off the mark in the fourth minute through Aine Lyng. The excellent Michelle Davis made it three to one for the Faithful county before Offaly were awarded a penalty on five minutes after Siobhan Flannery was pulled down in the square.

Despite lining out at corner-forward, Patricia



The Waterford panel who took on Offaly in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final at Croke Park on Sunday last. Photo: Noel Browne.

Jackman, came back to stand in goal for the penalty and it was a good move as she made an excellent double save to deny Elaine Darmody the game's opening goal.

### OFFALY DOMINANT

Karen Kelly, now operating at centre-forward, got Waterford's second white flag on the quarter of an hour mark before the game swung further in Offaly's favour when they struck for the game's opening goal just before the 20 minute mark.

The ever dangerous Elaine Darmody came out from her full-forward position to collect the ball 30 yards out before setting off for goal and despite the best intentions of Sally O'Grady and Aisling O'Brien, she still

managed to palm the sliothar to the Waterford net to give her side a 1-5 to 0-2 advantage.

Karen Kelly stemmed the tide with a Waterford point from a free before Offaly really took over and stamped their authority on this game with five points in six minutes, four of them coming from the stick of Elaine Darmody (with two of those from play).

Despite being now very much under the cosh and having to play second fiddle to a very lively and talented Faithful side, Waterford did get the final score of the opening half when Patricia Jackman finished off a great run with a fine point. This left the Déise girls facing a mightily steep second-half mountain to climb as they

trailed at the interval by 1-11 to 0-4.

Waterford very nearly got the perfect start to the second period when Karen Kelly, inside the first minute, burst through only to be denied by an excellent save by Offaly goalkeeper, Audrey Kennedy.

Aine Lyng opened their second-half tally soon after before the goal they so badly needed arrived after five minutes. A storming solo-run by Nicola Morrissey set up the chance before she hand passed inside to Patricia Jackman who bilowed the net. This was the lifeline that Waterford so badly needed.

### BIG IMPROVEMENT

Further points from Aine Lyng and Karen Kelly freed the deficit down to six with twelve minutes remaining, when disaster struck for Waterford.

Up to this point they had been well on top in the second-half all over the field and they looked as though they could open up the Offaly defence and get the goals they needed to really get themselves back into this game and maybe, just maybe pull off one of the greatest comebacks ever seen in Croke Park.

But any hopes of that happening were dashed when Offaly struck for two goals in as many minutes against the run of play.

The first goal was made by Michelle Davis who did all the hard-work before her effort at goal was thwarted by a hook, but the ball spilled free into the path of

corner-forward Siobhan Flannery and she made no mistake from close range.

Less than ninety seconds later the game really was over as a contest when Offaly struck for goal number three. This time it was a one woman effort. Arlene Watkins picked it up forty yards from goal on the right and just took off. Then, after a brilliant run, she finished brilliantly to the top corner for a brilliant individual goal.

### DOWN BUT NOT OUT

From here there was no way back for Waterford and the dream of a first All-Ireland junior camogie crown was gone.

But in fairness to the Waterford team, they never threw in the towel or let

their heads drop and but for the excellence of the Offaly goalkeeper they could have found themselves much closer. They did get a second goal, with just over three minutes remaining, when Aine Lyng found the net, before Nicola Morrissey rounded off the scoring late on.

Alas it wasn't to be but no criticism can be leveled at the team or the management for their whole hearted approach to the game – on the day it just wasn't to be their day.

We mustn't forget that 12 months ago Offaly lost the final to Clare and came back a year later to lift the title – if Offaly can do it then there's no reason why Waterford can't do the same.

Here's to 2010 girls.

## MATCH FACTS

**Scorers: Offaly:** E. Darmody 1-7 (0-4 frees), A. Watkins and S. Flannery 1-1 each, M. Davis 0-3, T. Hannon 0-2.

**Waterford:** A. Lyng 1-3 (0-2 frees), P. Jackman 1-1, K. Kelly 0-3 (0-2 frees), N. Morrissey 0-1.

**WATERFORD:** A. O'Brien (Lismore), V. Gaffney (Butlerstown), S. O'Grady (Captain, Gaultier), Kate Marie Hearne (Butlerstown), G. Kenneally (Lismore), M. O'Donnell (An Rinn), S. Kiernan (Lismore), M. Murphy (St. Annes), C. Raheer (St. Annes), S. Curran (Lismore), A. Lyng (Gall Tir), N. Morrissey (Lismore), P. Jackman (St. Annes), K. Kelly (St. Annes), A. Breathnach (Butlerstown).

**OFFALY:** A. Kennedy (Birr), K. Brady (St. Sin. Hills), L. Keena (Kilcormac-Killoughey), F. Stephens (Drumcullen), L. Sullivan (St. Ryanaghs), M. Crean (Captain, Shinrone), S. Sullivan (Birr), K. Nugent (Drumcullen), M. Morkan (Shinrone), A. Kelly (Lusmagh), T. Hannon (Naomh Brid), M. Davis (Shinrone), S. Flannery (St. Ryanaghs), E. Darmody (Drumcullen), A. Watkins (Birr).

Referee: Pat Walsh (Armagh).

Waterford's Aine Breathnach takes on the Offaly defence during last Sunday's All-Ireland final in Croke Park. Photo: Noel Browne.





## ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

# All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final Highlights

### PLAYER OF THE MATCH

From a Waterford point of view it was hard to luck beyond Mary O'Donnell, Charlotte Maher, Nicola Morrissey, Karen Kelly, Patricia Jackman and Aine Lyng but on a day when a county wins by nine and in the process lifts the county's first ever All-Ireland crown at this level, then the winner has to be from the victorious Offaly side.

There were plenty of contenders in the green, white and gold but in the end it came down to two excellent contenders. Wing forward, Michelle Davis, and full-forward, Elaine Darmody and the award really had to go to

Darmody.

1-7 is some shooting in an All-Ireland final and what's even better is that she amassed an excellent 1-3 of that total from play – some scoring and the main reason why Offaly made up for last year's final disappointment.

### SCORE OF THE GAME

No doubt about this one. It just has to be Arlene Watkins brilliant goal – the score that really ended any glimmer of hope that Waterford may have harboured about getting back into this game. She picked the ball up out wide on the right, forty yards from goal and went on a mazy

run that ended when she lashed the ball to the top corner of the Waterford net giving Déise goalkeeper Aisling O'Brien no chance of keeping it out.

### TURNING POINT

With twelve minutes to go Waterford were still very much in this game. They had recovered after their poor first-half and were playing all the camogie in the second period and were on top all over the field. They had gotten the deficit down from ten to six and were in with a big chance, especially if they had managed to strike for another goal. But then disaster struck for the Waterford girls.

Two goals in two minutes for Offaly, against the run of play, restored their lead to 12 and from there on in it was curtains for Waterford. A double knock-out blow delivered by Offaly. The other crucial spell that really put Offaly in the driving seat was a six minute spell midway through the first-half when the Faithful struck for five unanswered points.

### ENTERTAINMENT VALUE

The second-half was a much better and more enjoyable game as Waterford put the first-half nerves behind them to really show the crowd what they are made of. But then those two

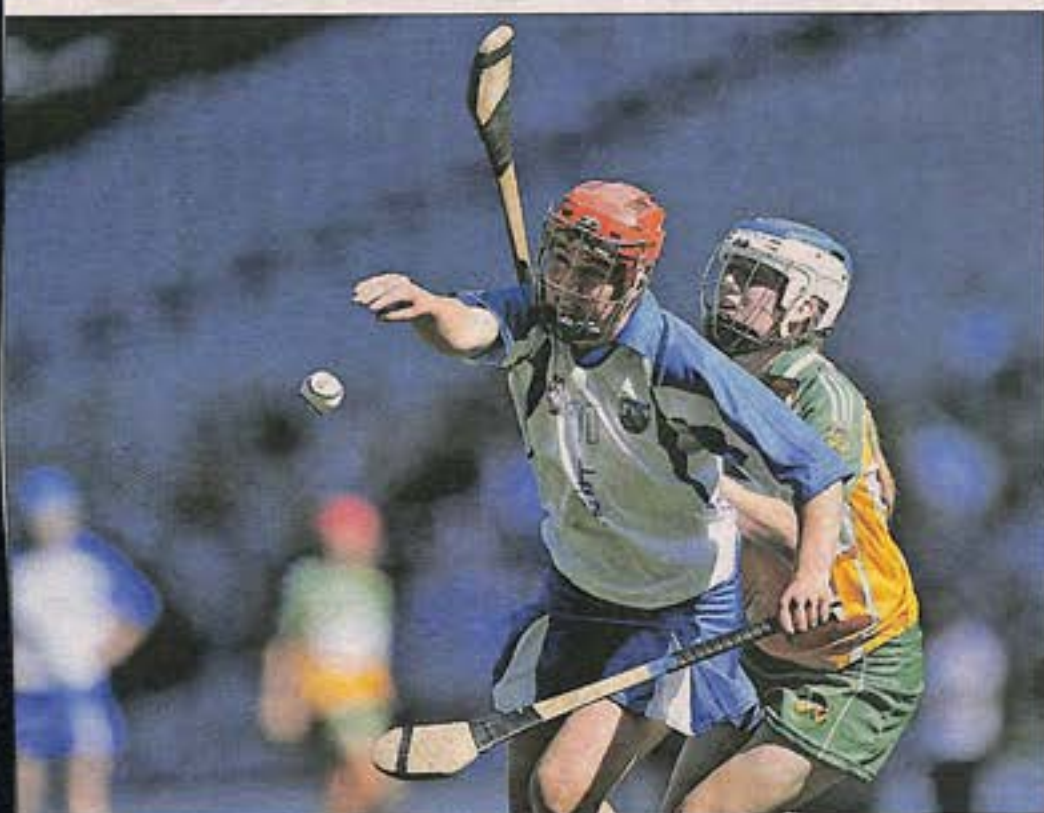
goals killed the game as a contest but none of this will bother Offaly who swept to a first All-Ireland title at this grade.

### REF WATCH

Didn't really have much to do which is testament to two very sporting teams, there wasn't a dirty stroke in the game which meant that the referee had a very easy day at the office. Unlike his counterpart in the previous Sunday's All-Ireland senior hurling final, the penalty decision was right but far less important in the overall scheme of this game.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Well twelve months ago Offaly felt the devastation that Waterford are feeling this week after they lost out to Clare. But after a while they regrouped and reformed, determined to bounce back and go one better in 2009 – and they did. Now Waterford must do the same and make sure that next September they erase memories of last Sunday with a glorious All-Ireland triumph and finally win this county's overdue first All-Ireland junior title. For Offaly it's on to the intermediate grade, with coach Joachim Kelly making it known that their intention is to win that grade next year and be senior in 2011. *Compiled by Ger Lawton.*



Aine Lyng, Waterford, in action against Lorraine Keena, Offaly, in the Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, at Croke Park, Dublin. Photo: Brian Lawless/SPORTSFILE.



Waterford's Karen Kelly, in action against Lorraine Keena, Offaly, in the Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, at Croke Park, Dublin. Photo: Brian Lawless/SPORTSFILE.



Waterford manager, Andy Moloney, consoles Waterford players and subs after last Sunday's defeat to Offaly.



Kate Marie Hearne, Waterford, clears under pressure from Michelle Davis, Offaly during the Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park, Dublin.



SEPT 2009

# No complaints from Kilkenny,

■ Cats stayed in contention until the closing stages



Cork .....0-15



Kilkenny .....0-7

**THE SCORERS:** **Cork** - Rachel Moloney (0-7, 0-6 frees); Gemma O'Connor (0-3); Eimear O'Sullivan (0-2); Una O'Donoghue, Katriona Mackey, Emer O'Farrell (0-1 each). **Kilkenny** - Aoife Neary (0-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '45); Michelle Quilty, Ann Dalton (0-1 each).



ALAN NEARY

AFTER almost a decade away from the All-Ireland showpiece Kilkenny returned to Croke Park on Sunday for what Ann Downey hopes will be the first of many finals.

With one of its youngest senior teams ever Kilkenny gave youth its fling against a team now in the hunt for three-in-row. On this occasion the

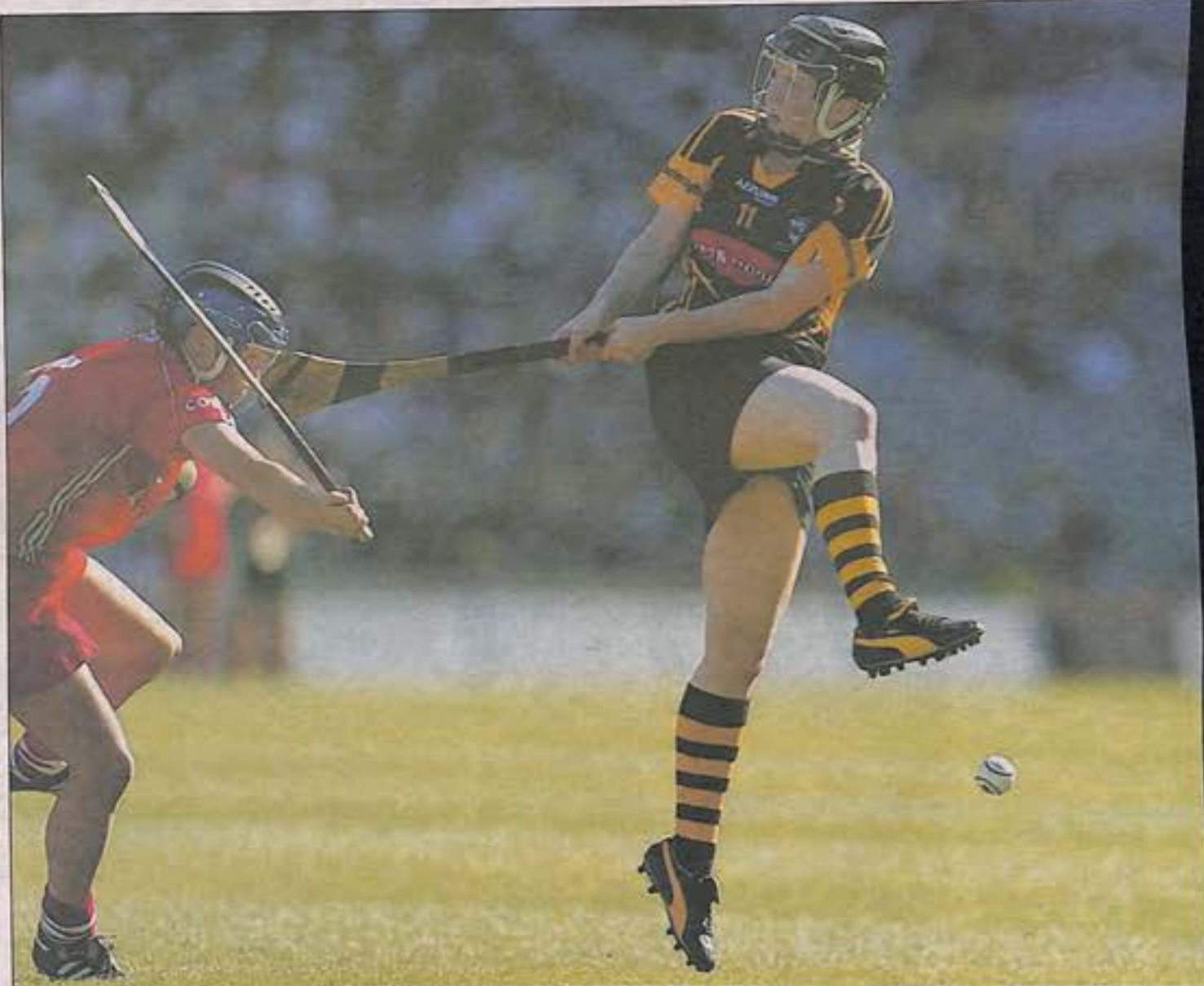
Cats stayed in contention until the final eight minutes or so.

Still, Kilkenny can have no complaints with the outcome - they led just once, for a little over five minutes - and in attack Cork's forwards were rampant.

By contrast much rested on the shoulders of Aoife Neary who chipped in with five of Kilkenny's seven points; her tally could have been more were it not for the heroics of Aoife Murray.

Cork goalkeeper Murray made three telling interventions in the final quarter, including one from Marie O'Connor with time almost up, but there was no way through for Kilkenny.

As the game gathered pace it was 22-year-old Briege Corkery - now with a hefty four Senior Cham-



Katie Power (Kilkenny) is blocked by Jenny Duffy (Cork) during the Senior Camogie All-Ireland in Croke Park. Photo: Eoin Hennessy

pionship winners medals to her name - who really came to the fore.

The impressive Corkery made her presence felt 14

minutes from full time when she denied Aoife Neary a certain goal with a block following a free.

At that stage the Cats

trailed by six points and Corkery's intervention meant that Kilkenny's run of almost ten minutes without a score continued.

Late on it was Neary from yet another placed ball, a '45, gave Kilkenny a bit of hope before Gemma O'Connor sealed the victory for Cork.

## Up and running

It was Rachel Moloney who got the Leesiders up and running with a mere 60 seconds on the clock before Neary burst goalwards at the opposite end.

The Village player seemed to have been impeded but referee Una Kearney felt otherwise and Cork held onto their slender lead.

During a bruising, fran-

tic first ten minutes it was Kilkenny's Jacqui Frisby, an All-Ireland Junior winner way back in 2002, who came to fore with a series of ferocious tackles.

In the shadow of the Hogan stand Frisby first denied Sile Burns and then Eimear O'Sullivan as Cork searched for an early goal.

A Neary free eight minutes in brought Kilkenny level, but soon after that Frisby had to be at her best to thwart Burns after a Gemma O'Connor pass.

Neary was central to pretty much every Kilkenny attack and it was her craft and guile which gave Michelle Quilty the Cats first glimpse of goal.

O'Sullivan then held off Elaine Aylward to make it 0-2 to 0-1 in Cork's favour with less than 12 minutes gone.

A long range point from Kilkenny captain Ann Dalton indicated that Cork were in for a right battle and so it proved as the rank outsiders hit their best bit of form.

Kilkenny's Michelle Quilty goes head-to-head against Rena Buckley (Cork) during Sunday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final. Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE





# Final experience will pay off in future - Downey

**Kilkenny lose . . . but manager remains confident that the Cats will bounce back**

ALAN NEARY

AS ANN DOWNEY spoke in the aftermath of Sunday's senior All-Ireland camogie final - Kilkenny's first for eight seasons - you got the sense that the Cats are just gathering pace.

Underage success at minor level meant that expectations were hefty in advance of the 2009 showpiece but as far as Downey is concerned the experience will stand to her side.

In Cork and free-taker Rachel Moloney Kilkenny found stiff opposition, while goalkeeper Aoife Murray delivered a superb display

in front of Michelle Quilty, Denise Gaule and Aoife Neary.

With an average age of just 20 in attack, the likelihood is the Cats full forward line will have many more chances to shine in September in years to come.

## Experience gained

According to Downey the experience which the 2009 champions have gained during the last decade stood to Cork when it counted.

"It all comes down to experience, you certainly can't buy it, what the Cork

players have in terms of experience for sure," said Downey.

"I'd be happy enough that our backs didn't give Cork that many goal chances at all.

"Our backs worked really very hard as did our midfielders. I suppose we never got the rub of the green you need.

"At the start of the second half Cork upped their game another notch and unfortunately we just weren't able to match them for pace.

"When we did get a few chances but we just couldn't take them."

It was the minutes immediately before the interval which paved the way for Cork's success as they raced into a 0-8 to 0-5 interval lead.

Moloney led the charge with three points before the break, while Una O'Donoghue and Emer O'Farrell were also on target.

Still, Kilkenny came close to scoring the goal which eluded both teams in the second half.

## Didn't let ourselves down

"I am delighted that we didn't let ourselves down at

all today, although I am disappointed we didn't win the game," said Downey.

"We came up with high hopes that we could match Cork, and the experience I feel will help them.

"We didn't get too many chances in the second half and in fairness Cork closed us down, and every chance they got they took.

"In fairness to Brieghe Corkery who really came into the game in the second half she swept everything which was in front of her during the second half in central midfield.

"That's experience, and hopefully we'll be back here

and build on today."

While the likes of Katie Power and Denise Gaule were unable to raise a white flag Downey feels the experience of All-Ireland final day will stand to the duo.

## Physical

"I suppose, Katie Power and Denise Gaule are only 18 years of age and in fairness it was so, so physical out there.

"They gave their all in the first half, and we could probably have had more scores. I felt we were unlucky with some of the frees which went against us.

"At the end of the day you really have to be able to create your own chances and we just couldn't do enough of that in the second half."

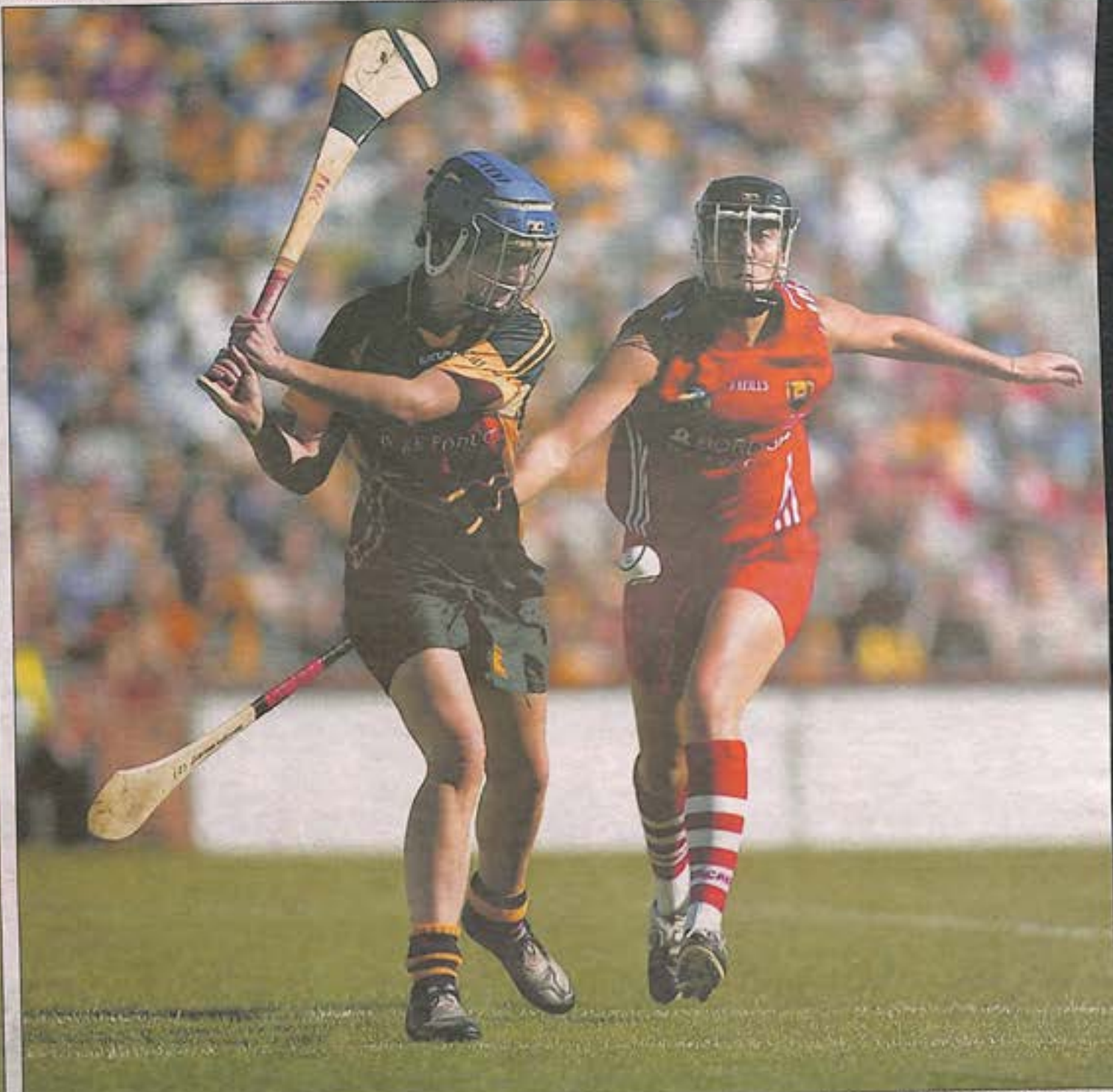
"They are a very young team and the experience is great, and it's behind them now. In fairness one or two of them were a little hit by the experience before we even hit a ball.

"I am sure they'll be a little disappointed in the morning because they probably didn't play as well as they could.

"In saying that, they are a great bunch of 32 girls, and we'll back next year. There is no doubt about it."



Kilkenny manager Ann Downey. Photo: Eoin Hennessy



Ann Dalton (Kilkenny) keeps her eye on the sliotar as Gemma O'Connor (Cork) closes in during the Senior Camogie All-Ireland in Croke Park. Photo: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie



# Carefree and courageous, Kilkenny's camogie star is on the rise

WHILE the tempestuous champion Serena Williams was throwing a strop at Flushing Meadow, and threatening some unfortunate official with "death by tennis ball" some 30-odd female athletes were locked in mortal combat on another pristine grass carpet, thousands of miles away, just for the simple honour and glory of their own people and their own place. Not that there was anything simple about the efforts of defending champions Cork or their opponents, Kilkenny, who battled their way in chase of the O'Duffy Cup.

Going up to Croke Park, some might have thought that this exceptionally youthful Kilkenny outfit were chasing fool's gold. After all, when pre-match comparisons were made, they had no ammunition comparable to the iconic reputations of a Cork team that was contesting their eighth All-Ireland Final on the trot. The great Downey, for all of her motivational talents, couldn't manage to convince some of her charges that they were the equal, never mind better, than the O'Connors, Corkerys, Cotters, Foleys, O'Donoghues, O'Farrells, Murrays of the camogie world.

Or could she?

She did, and how.

## Uninhibited free spirits

The youthful Kilkenny were uninhibited free spirits as they galloped with a lightness in their steps, the wind in their sails, and courage on their sleeves. Faced with the daunting, and much vaunted Cork full-forward line, Leann Fennelly, Catherine Doherty and Jacqui Frisby took their skill and bravery in their hands, swept past their direct opponent with a developing confidence. It didn't surprise me for one that the contribution of the vaunted trio was but a single point from play according to my notes.

Sile Burns, Emer O'Farrell and Rachel Maloney were "scheduled" to burn the Kilkenny full-back line. Their speciality was goal-scoring. It didn't quite turn out as scripted. When legs were getting leaden, and Kilkenny were fighting to



Young Kilkenny fans supporting the cats during the Senior Camogie All-Ireland in Croke Park.

Photos: Eoin Hennessy/www.ehp.ie

quell the gathering Cork storm, one passage of play is worth recalling.

Una O'Donoghue was released on the Hogan Stand side of the park by a terrific pass from Corkery. As O'Donoghue rounded a slipping Lizzie Lyng, she found Fennelly trying to squeeze her towards the sideline, while at the same time, trying to keep between O'Donoghue and her own opponent, Moloney. O'Donoghue's pass over Fennelly's head to Maloney was blocked by Fennelly.

As the ball dropped onto the ground, O'Donoghue again gained possession. Now tackled by Fennelly, the Cork woman was dispossessed, the ball carried away from the danger zone, and clattered down towards a welcoming Kilkenny offence.

Carefree, courageous, neat.

## Bravery, determination

But there were many more nuggets of bravery, determination, and skill by the Kilkenny girls.

Make no mistake about it, this Cork team are worthy champions and deserved to win, but the anticipated procession against a youthful, inexperienced Kilkenny outfit never quite panned out as expected.

One would have to admire the talents of the likes of Orla Cotter, the command of dual player, Mary O'Connor, the silky skills of Gemma O'Connor, and the defending of Aoife Murray. They would have to rank as one of the great camogie teams of any generation, and that is one of the reasons why the Kilkenny effort was so meritorious.

What a magnificent display of goalkeeping Catriona Ryan from Tullogher produced. If Aoife Murray was the nominated Player of the Game, surely the Tullogher girl's displays during the year, culminating with a magical display in Croke Park on Sunday will get her very close to an All-Star award later in the year. Amy Butler threw any inhibitions she might have had about taking on the mighty O'Connor - the St Finbarr's version - early on. For those not too familiar with the camogie game, this outstanding Mullinavat girl gave a performance that one could only dream about. She was strong, controlled, and very determined. Gemma O'Connor would remember the encounter when the mists of time have erased many other confrontations.

Captain Ann Dalton from St Lachtain's and Paulstown's Collette Dormer were perceived as

fodder to the Cork powerhouse of Brieger Corkery and the tall Orla Cotter. My notes will tell me that after the first 16 minutes I wrote: "Dormer and Dalton winning the midfield battle". On reflection they certainly were, and maintained a break-even dedication all through. One Dalton point in the 13th minute from 60 metres out (it will get stretched in the telling) was inspirational.

## Always prepared

To their credit, Kilkenny never bent the knee in suppliance. Their forwards, four of whom were 19 years old and under, were always prepared to face the daunting Cork defenders. Often it looked like girls against women, but that didn't deter. It didn't frighten or intimidate them. Aoife Neary took on the Cork defence at every which way she could. Of course there was a chasm of difference between the experience of the reigning Champions, and the pretenders to that throne. Kilkenny, I am quite sure will win an All-Ireland Final sooner rather than later. What a game Katie Power from Piltown had against one of the all-time stars of the game, Mary O'Connor from Killeagh.

Ann Downey and her backroom team have done a

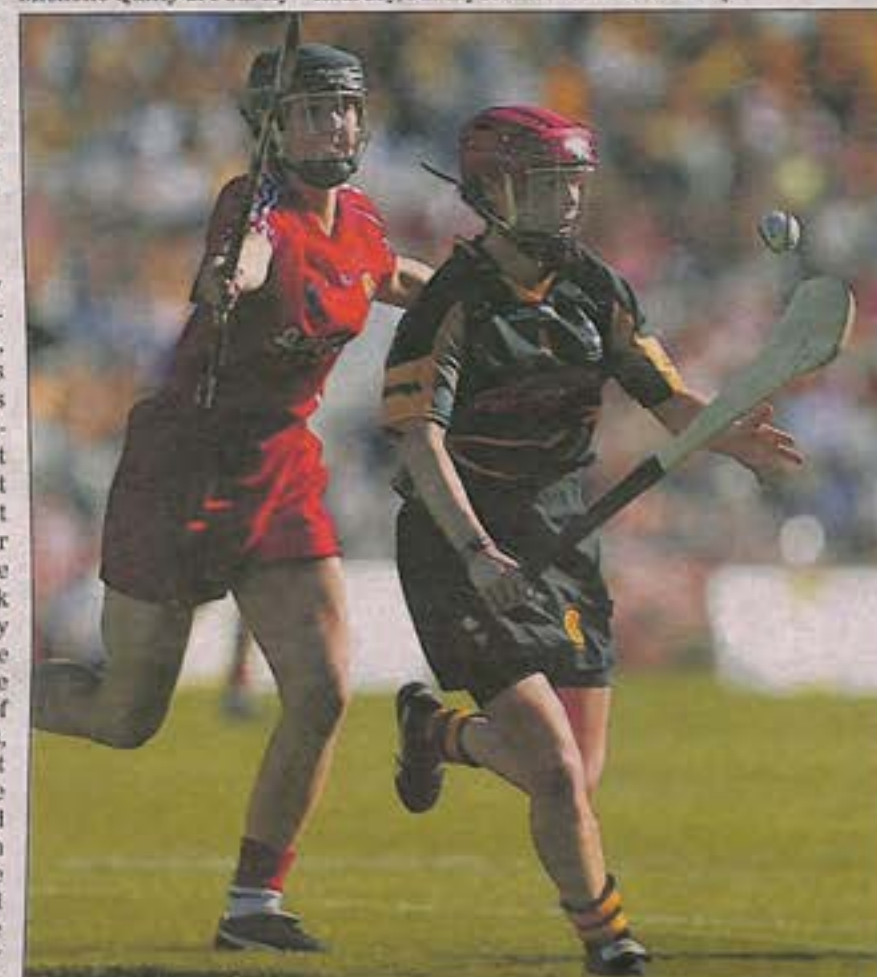
tremendous job with these youngsters, and their day in the sun is not too far away. Players like Edwina Keane, Katie Power, Denise Gaule, Aisling Dunphy, and Michelle Quilty are barely

out of school. In fact, Dunphy is still in secondary school!

It has taken longer than expected to get back to Croke Park and All-Ireland final day, but expect more of

the same from this emerging camogie powerhouse outfit.

They did our county proud on Sunday. Their star is most certainly on the ascendancy.



Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny) keeps her eye on the sliotar as Emer O'Farrell (Cork) closes in during the Senior Camogie All-Ireland in Croke Park.





Cork captain Amanda O'Regan, left, shows off the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Cup at the team's triumphant return from Dublin at Kent Station, Cork, last evening. Pictures: Des Barry

SEPT 2009



First blood to ladies

At the Mallow homecoming on Monday evening for the victorious Cork camogie players were, above left: team member Michelle Browne, Mallow with Paddy Carey, her first camogie coach; top: team members Anna Geary, Milford; Michelle Browne, Mallow and Elaine O'Riordan, Milford with the O'Duffy Cup; above: dual star Briege Corkery with Mallow's young stars Katie Buckley, Cork U16s; Kathleen O'Brien, Cork Intermediate and Jane Fitzpatrick, Cork U16s.



Cork player Jenny Duffy holds the O'Duffy Cup aloft on the team bus during last night's homecoming celebration at Kent Station. Picture: Gerard McCarthy



# GROWING CAMOGIE IN THE CAPITAL

THE inaugural Under-13 camogie sevens took place yesterday in Naomh Jude camogie club, Tymon Park, Templeogue.

2008 Under-12 champions in the following Senior counties took part: Toomevara (Tipperary), Clarinbridge (Galway), Valley Rovers (Cork), Thomastown (Kilkenny), Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin), Oulart-The Ballagh (Wexford), Na Piarasigh (Limerick) and the host club, Naomh Jude.

The competition was kindly sponsored by Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien. The club supported the competition by organising a Family Bring A Friend Day for the same date on the all-weather pitch as well as a family barbeque.



Tipperary hurler Shane McGrath autographs a Kilkenny jersey for Nadia El Tom-Power at St. Jude's summer camp.



A SUCCESSFUL partnership has been forged with Dublin City Council culminating in the launch of 'Puck Around Town', a camogie project for Dublin city. The project is aimed at girls aged 10-14 years and was delivered in six City Council areas. Each area will link with its local camogie clubs including: Kevins, Good Counsel, Crumlin, Clanna Gael, Naomh Barróg and Craobh Chiaráin. The programme ran for six weeks and will culminate today in a trip to Croke Park for the participants to the Gala All-Ireland camogie finals.

Joan O'Flynn, President of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, and Councillor O'Reilly, Dublin City Council, were in the Phoenix Park to launch 'Puck Around Town'. Good Counsel camogie players also participated in the launch.



(Picture: Caroline Quinn)

Joan O'Flynn looks back on a hugely successful year for camogie thus far SEVENTY-FIVE years ago Cork played in their first All Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park. In more recent times the Red and White has appeared in the last eight deciders. On Sunday they were victorious for the fifth time since 2002. Clearly Cork is the current standard bearers for all other counties.

However, while Cork has been the dominant team of this decade, Camogie President Joan O'Flynn is a point out that the involvement of the traditionally strong counties on All Ireland day is a measure of the success of the championship.

"We have had different finalists in the last four years - Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford and Tipperary. So, there you have genuine contenders, which illustrate the increasing strength in depth in standards across the counties. Dublin, Clare and Limerick have come up from the junior ranks to senior, and the future is promising for Clare having reached the 2008 and 2009 minor finals while Limerick won the All Ireland minor B title."

Offaly's achievement in winning the junior final makes them good enough to compete at intermediate level, while the defeated finalists Waterford are making great strides. They took part in the Munster senior championship this year coming up short by only a point to Cork - albeit the champions were minus a few of their better known names. Nonetheless, this will tell them if they continue to work hard, it will pay rich dividends.

O'Flynn commented, "The high standards are broadening across a wider number of counties. Look at Kerry and Na Bricdeoga (Mayo) who won Féile titles during the summer and it is only a matter of time before this progress is rewarded at adult level."

"Roscommon won the Nancy Murray Cup for the first time, and O'Donovan Rossa from Antrim took their inaugural All Ireland senior club title last November. Cavan won the Junior Blitz which indicates great days are ahead for them."

"The September showdown in Croke Park is the showcase of camogie. The speed and athleticism of the games are displayed, and another skill that featured on Sunday was aerial dominance and brilliant fielding."

Camogie introduced a new innovation at this year's final with winning Captain Amanda O'Regan being presented with her All Ireland medal on the Hogan steps. O'Flynn thought this worked very well, and she said the Camogie Association would definitely consider continuing with the idea.

The President during her first six months in office has visited 20 County Boards to date and has gone to the US and London to support various camogie developments. "I can honestly say the interest, enthusiasm, energy, ideas and commitment to the game is outstanding. Next week I am looking forward to visiting Mayo and Derry County Boards."

# Camogie player pathway to success

THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (T.A.G.) OF THE NATIONAL COACHING AND TRAINING CENTRE (N.C.T.C.), NOW COACHING IRELAND, HAS DEVELOPED A DRAFT MODEL FOR LONG-TERM PLAYER/ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT.



The main phases of the model have been adapted for the development of a Camogie Player Pathway. The Camogie Player Pathway has five phases and a retirement phase which refers to activities that a camogie player may engage in once they retire from training and competitions. The five phases are as follows:



Phase 4: Solo To Success  
15-17 years

a player should be able to achieve technically, tactically, physically, mentally, personally and in her lifestyle. For example, during the 'Get A Grip' phase, the 6-8 year-old should:

**Technical:** Develop correct fundamental movement skills of camogie such as correct

running, jumping and throwing techniques.

**Tactical:** Play Go Games to learn basic attack and defence skills.

**Physical:** Develop endurance, strength, agility and balance through fun games.

**Mental:** Develop confidence in executing basic skills.

**Personal:** Experience enjoyment and fun.

**Lifestyle:** Play at home.

It must be noted that not all players will smoothly assimilate all phases of the pathway in a perfect manner. Many will develop different capacities at different rates.

For more information on the phases and the technical, tactical, physical, mental, personal and lifestyle capacities for each phase, please see Camogie Player Pathway on the coaching section of the camogie website: [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie)



Phase 1: Get A Grip  
6-8 years



Phase 2: Clash Of The Ash  
9-11 years



Phase 3: Get Hooked  
12-14 years



Phase 5: Strike For Glory  
17+ years

**Retirement - Shifting the Goalpost:** Retirement can occur at any age. The aim of this phase is to retain camogie players for coaching, sport administration, officiating or any other camogie-related career.

At each phase of the pathway, there is an explanation of what

## Douglas take title in fast-paced thriller

Douglas  
Inniscarra

1-6  
0-7

ALL-IRELAND Féile na Gael champions Douglas had to be at their best as Douglas and Inniscarra played out a thrilling contest in the Under-14 A league final where Douglas took the title after a hectic battle with two points to spare. All through it was close as the sides battled for the title Inniscarra raced in to an early lead with Orla Healy and Niamh McCarthy prominent they had three points on the score board before Aoife Downey got Douglas off the mark with a point.

Inniscarra kept the pressure on the Douglas defence and striking two further points they stretched their advantage Clare Shine and Joy Leo kept Douglas in touch with points but in defence Douglas had to be at

their best to deny Inniscarra. Douglas keeper Chelsea Noonan showing her vigilance to deny Inniscarra a goal but they added two points to their tally to lead at the break 0-7 to 0-3.

The second half was fast flowing as Douglas upped the pace and now beginning to put the Inniscarra defence under a lot of pressure their confidence grew while in their own defence they closed down the Inniscarra attack. Severe pressure finally paid off for Douglas with Joy Leo grabbing a goal and with their mid field pairing of Ellen Martin and Clare Shine pushing forward and applying huge pressure they were putting the Inniscarra defence under constant pressure. With play swinging form end to end Inniscarra battled to stay in front as Douglas battled to gain control.

Inniscarra battled on but were denied by a solid Douglas defence that cleared two 45 metre free attempts to hold their lead to the final whistle but not before an excellent game where compliments must go to both sides for their superb performances in a thrilling contest.

**Douglas:** C Noonan; A Hourihane, J Horgan, R Quinn; A McDonald, E Lynch, M Mulrooney; C Shine, E Martin; E Kavanagh, A Fox, R McCarthy; A Downey, J Leo, L O'Brien. Subs: A Cremin for R McCarthy, A Curtin for M Mulrooney, G O'Halloran for E Martin. Scorers: J Leo, 1-2, C Shine 0-2, A Downey, A Fox 0-1 each.

**Inniscarra:** L Flynn; R Buckley, M Walsh, K O'Driscoll; M Fitzgerald, E Looney (c); A Lenihane; N Burns, O Healy McCarthy, D Keating, G Heffernan; L O'Carroll; S Daly, N Lombard. Subs: A O'Connell for G Heffernan, A Singleton for N Lombard, J Walton for D. Scorers: O Healy 0-4, N McCarthy 0-3.

## Naomh Mearnóg win first Dublin senior club title

Dublin Camogie Board County Finals day at St James' Gaeils, Iveagh Grounds was a tremendous success with an attendance of over 1,000. Sincere appreciation to all at St James' Gaeils for the wonderful support and for making the day such a success their excellent venue. Well done to Naomh Mearnóg on their historic first senior championship win and congratulations to Good Counsel for their part in the day.

Congrats to Good Counsel on winning the intermediate title and hard luck to Crumlin. Well done to St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh on their junior success and congratulations to Clanna Gael Fortenoy.

Appreciation to referees Tommy Hackett, Donal Ryan and Paul Beecher as well as officials Paul Flanagan, Aoife Maguire, Kevin Knew, Mark Ryan, Gary Ryan, Conor Dodd, Damien Noble, Ross Mulvaney, Jenny Byrne, Dave Urquhart and Rebecca Urquhart.

Congrats to Na Fionna on winning the Intermediate Shield final against Ballyboden St Endas and to Whitehall Colmcille on winning the Junior Shield.

In the senior B championship, Naomh Bric, Ballinreel St Johns, Lucan Sarsfields and Skerries Harps are through to the Semi Finals.

Dublin minors play Offaly in Leinster Championship on Saturday at 3.15 in Naomh Mearnóg - please support.

Results:

Senior final: Naomh Mearnóg 1 - 11 Good Counsel 3 - 9

Intermediate final: Good Counsel 2 - 4 Crumlin 1 - 2

Junior final: St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh 1 - 8 Clanna Gael Fortenoy 1 - 7



# Toome' In 7th Heaven After All-Ireland Glory

SEPT 2009

By David Kelly

TOOMEVARA were crowned All Ireland under 13 Sevens champions after an emphatic display at Naomh Jude on Saturday.

The competition pitted last years under 12 champions from counties:

Cork, Galway, Tipperary, Limerick, Kilkenny, Dublin and Wexford.

Toomevara were grouped with Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin), Na Piarasigh (Limerick) and Clarinbridge (Galway).

Toomevara first locked horns with Lucan Sarsfields in what was an intense battle until the end. Vital scores from Clíodhna Ryan, Gillian McKenna and Aileen Hogan ensured that Toomevara got off to a good start. Great defensive performances

from Caoimhe Kelly, Julie Anne Bourke and Ellen O'Brien, who fought to keep the Lucan forwards at bay, were rewarded with a six-point victory.

In what was one of the hottest days of the year substitutes were going to have a major impact. This was evident in Toomevara's second game against Na Piarasigh. Again it was the illustrious Clíodhna Ryan who ensured Toomevara maintained their 100 percent run in the competition.

Goals from Gillian McKenna and Aileen Hogan before the break and Clíodhna Ryan's superb display from play and placed balls gave them a deserving win. Substitutes Nicole O'Dwyer, Stephanie



**Toomevara U-13 Sevens a Side Champions:** Back: Kieran Grace, Suzanne Kelly (Coach), Gillian McKenna, Julie Anne Bourke, Caoimhe Kelly, Soracha Henderson, Ellen O'Brien, Margaret Grace, Donal Kelly (Coach). Front: Stephanie Power, Caitlin O'Meara, Clíodhna Ryan, Aileen Hogan, Mary Grace, Nicole O'Dwyer.

Power, Mary Grace, Soracha Henderson and Caitlin O'Meara were at the forefront of the action when introduced.

Clarinbridge took on Toomevara in the final group match hoping that a win might give them a slight chance of progressing. Toomevara made a sluggish start and it took goals to see off Clarinbridge. Soracha Henderson's goal near the end securing top spot for Toomevara.

Toomevara were then drawn with Thomastown in the Semi-Final and they came out on top with a 2-7 to 0-0 score line. Defenders

Julie Anne Bourke and Ellen O'Brien were vital in halting the Kilkenny outfit's threat. Forwards Aileen Hogan and Gillian McKenna were rampant when fed throughout by Clíodhna Ryan.

Valley Rovers were the opposition awaiting them in the penultimate game after they recorded a one point victory over Lucan in a thrilling second Semi-Final.

Both teams were there on merit and it looked as if it was going to go down to the wire to separate the sides. Toomevara started like Greyhounds and blitzed a tired Valley Rovers side in the opening half.

Gillian McKenna split the opposition with four superbly taken goals and the damage had taken its toll. Points from Clíodhna Ryan, who went on to win the Player of the Tournament Award and a goal from Aileen Hogan gave Toomevara the honours of lifting the first St Jude's All-Ireland Camogie under 13 Sevens title.

Captain Aileen Hogan was presented with the perpetual cup, which was kindly sponsored by Johnson, Mooney and O'Brien.

Great credit must go to the St Jude's club for the organization of such an event. The facilities were second to

none, the standard of refereeing was superb and the friendly staff left all players and management with a great feel good factor that they will remember for a long time to come. Toomevara were also served well by the legion of Toomevara supporters who made the event a day to remember.

**Toomevara Squad:** Margaret Grace, Ellen O'Brien, Caoimhe Kelly, Julie Anne Bourke, Clíodhna Ryan, Aileen Hogan, Gillian McKenna, Mary Grace, Stephanie Power, Soracha Henderson, Nicole O'Dwyer, Caitlin O'Meara.

## Cashel Win All-Ireland Sevens

In a pulsating game in the Camogie All Ireland 7s last weekend, Cashel emerged victorious over Athenry with a one point win on a scoreline 3.09 to 4.05. At half time Cashel were ahead by 2 points 1.06 to 2.01. Player of the tournament, Claire Grogan drilled home 3 goals in the final for Cashel, & at the final whistle enough was done by the Cashel girls to give them edge. In the semi final Cashel had a comprehensive win over Moneygall 4.08 to 0.03, while Athenry's semi final clash with St Martins of Wexford 3.02 to 2.00. Cashel scorers in the final; Claire Grogan (3.04), Julie McGrath (0.04), Jill Horan (0.01).

This Friday in the Horse & Jockey it will be a night

of nostalgia & reminiscing when all involved with the Tipperary Senior team that won the All Ireland Camogie final in 1999 for the first time will gather & recount those glory years, which set Tipperary Camogie up for a glorious run of titles. This informal night will kick off at 9pm with music & light refreshments, so a warm welcome is extended to everyone to come along & acknowledge the achievements of this panel of players.

The club scene in the County is progressing, despite the bad 2 weeks of weather. The Senior Championship has now reached semi final stage, with mouth watering ties, the semi finals promises to be 2 great weekends of Camo-



**Claire Grogan, Cashel, player of the tournament, All Ireland Camogie 7's 2009.**

gie. First up on Sunday 27th September at 12.30pm will

be the clash of Drom v Cashel. Drom will hoping to go a step closer to retaining their County title, while Cashel will be building on their success in the all Ireland 7s, & they too will want to get back to their glory days after falling to Toomevara at this stage last year. On October 3rd it will be the clash between Burgess/Duharra & Toomevara. Toomevara will want to banish their final loss of last year, while Burgess/Duharra will be happy to be at this stage of the competition with a strong panel of players at their disposal, & the return of Ciara Gaynor to their ranks. Both games will be played in the Camogie pitch in the Ragg.

In the Junior A Champi-

onship, Burgess & Lorrha have reached the semi finals from their group, while Clonoulty have also reached the semis after their 3point win over Knockavilla. The other semi final spot is between Annacarty & Drom, who already levelled in their first meeting, so have to do it all again to claim that last spot.

In the juvenile section, the U16 championship is under way with games in each group being played at the moment. In the U12A County Final, Cahir recorded an historic win over Toomevara, while tonight, Thursday September 17th Knockavilla & Portroe will battle it out in the U12C League Final at 6.30pm in the Camogie pitch.



**At the camogie stand at Carrigaline Community School Open Day were Ciara O'Sullivan and Rachel O'Shea.** (Pic: Howard Crowley)





Regina Curtin has been drafted into the Cork intermediate side.

## Cork make number of changes for final

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork team

THE Cork selectors have made four changes for Saturday's Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship final to the side that defeated Derry in the semi-final.

Rosin De Faoite, who was replaced 16 minutes into that semi-final with an ankle injury has not recovered to take her place in the starting 15, while Carol Dineen, Leah Weste and Mariah Reidy are named among the substitutes.

Into the starting 15 come Aileen Sheehan, Regina Curtin, Pamela Mackey and Helen O'Mahony.

The line out is Jessica Kavanagh in goal, Christine O'Neill at full-back with captain Ann Marie Fleming and Aileen Sheehan in the corners.

The half-back line shows one change where Regina Curtin, who came on as a substitute against Derry, holds on to the centre-back position with Pamela Mackey and Carolynn Motherway on either side. Maria Walsh continues at midfield and she is partnered by Helen O'Mahony, who was also introduced against Derry.

Mary Coleman continued to lead the attack at centre forward with Liz Power and Marie Watson on the wings, the inside line has Eimear Watson at full-forward flanked by Denise Luby and Michelle Browne.

Four players who were members of the senior panel are chasing a double Christine O'Neill, Pamela Mackey, Michelle Browne and Jennifer Lynch will be battling hard to add to their collections having been among the substitutes in last weekend's senior victory over Kilkenny.

**THE FULL CORK PANEL IS:** Jessica Kavanagh (Douglas), Ann Marie Fleming (Barryroe) (c), Christine O'Neill (Courcy Rovers), Aileen Sheehan (Glenagh), Pamela Mackey (Douglas), Regina Curtin (Milford), Carolynn Motherway (St Catherine's), Maria Walsh (Ballyhea), Helen O'Mahony (Douglas), Marie Watson (Milford), Mary Coleman (Ballyhea), Liz Power (St Catherine's), Denise Luby (Glen Rovers), Eimear Watson (Milford), Michelle Browne (Mallow), Denise Leahy (St Catherine's), Leah Weste (Ballincollig), Marion Jagoe (Tracton), Sarah Buckley (Ballincollig), Mariah Reidy (Newtownshandrum), Carol Dineen (Barryroe), Jennifer Lynch (Tracton), Niamh O'Donoghue (Inniscarra), Kate O'Donoghue (Ballincollig), Kathleen O'Brien (Mallow), Gillian Harrington (Valley Rovers), Aine Watson (Milford), Aine Moynihan (Ballygarvan), Miriam Crowley (Bishopstown), Patricia Buttner (Ballincollig), Rosin de Faoite (Blackrock).

# Christine's aiming for another medal

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie news

HAVING come through the underage ranks suffering at the hands of Kilkenny, Christine O'Neill is relieved that Galway will provide the opposition to herself and her teammates in this weekend's Gala All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final.

"Last year Kilkenny beat us in the minor semi-final and then we went on to meet them in the intermediate final and we lost again," Christine said.

"We also lost out to them in an U16 All-Ireland final, so definitely, it's good that this time it's Galway that we are meeting."

The defeat at the hands of the Cats in the minor final last year spurred Christine and her team-mates on to a record victory over Derry a week later in the intermediate semi-final, but they came a cropper in the final and this still hurts.

"It was devastating to lose out in the last seconds, especially after we had such a great semi-final win."

"We had huge hopes of taking the title and to be piped in added time was very disappointing."

Having learned the basics of camogie in her local Ballinadee National School where she lined out in two losing Sciath na Scol finals, it was a natural progression to join the local Courcy Rovers club and it has been upwards from there on.

"I started playing in national school where Mrs Kingston was the coach."

"We had coaching with Joe McGrath, the former Cork camogie coach who came to the schools in the area and it helped to give us the basics."

"I just wandered along to join Courcy Rovers like all the others in the school and my brothers James and Jerry play with the club as well so I suppose you could say it plays a big part in our home life."

Another big interest for the O'Neill family is rowing.

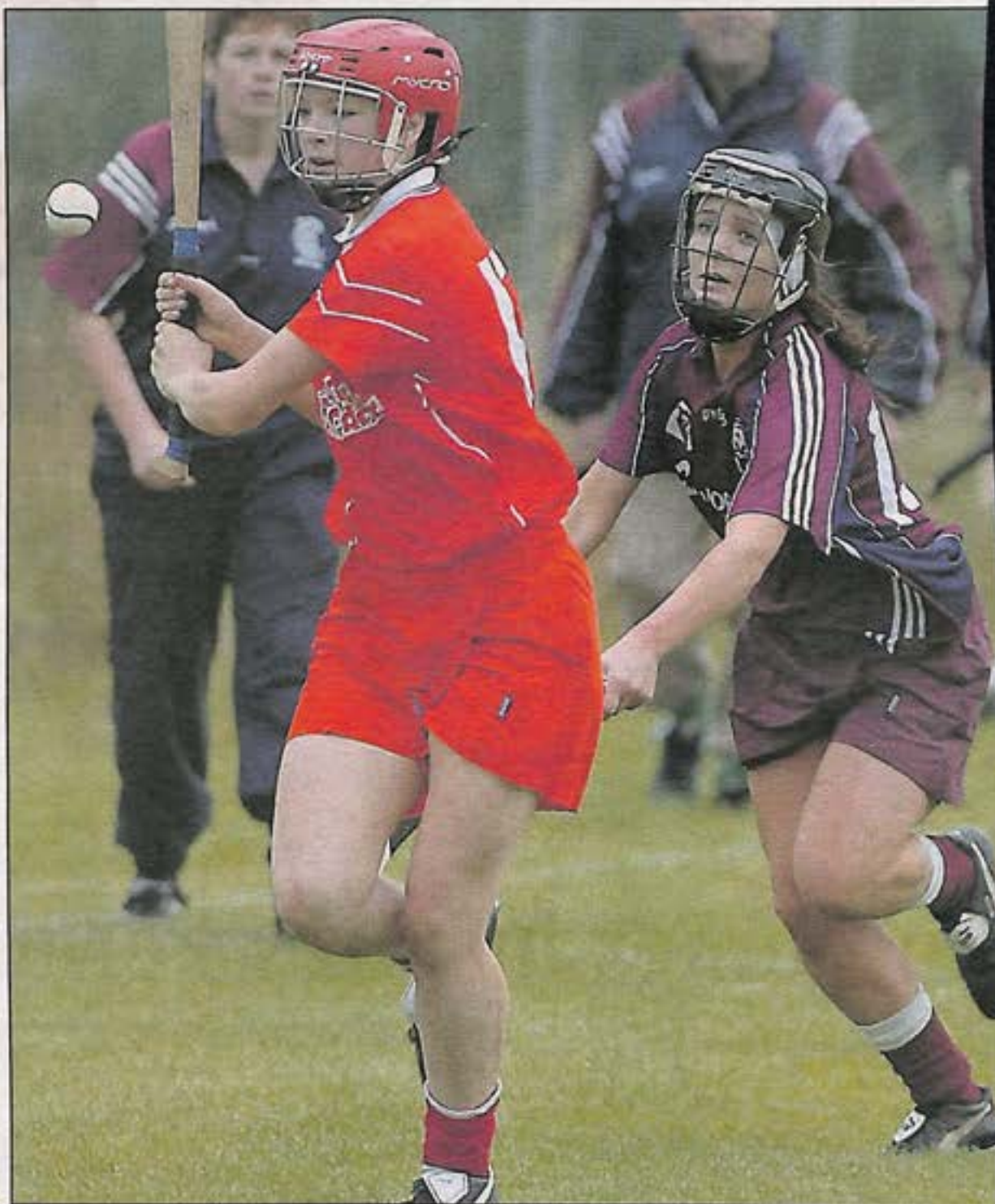
Father Pat is hugely involved in the sport, brother Jerry is the holder of an underage rowing title, while sister Laura brought the first senior All-Ireland title to the sports-mad household recently.

Christine did row with the local Kilmacsimon Rowing Club winning and All-Ireland U14 titles, but the choice had to be made and she chose camogie.

"It would have been very hard to combine the two at a high level and my choice was camogie."

"I am happy with the choice I have made. I still enjoy rowing and I still do a bit but it's camogie that is the first love."

Having lined out with UCC in last season's Ashbourne Cup, Christine is now looking forward to another Ashbourne season, but this time out she will be wearing CIT colours.



Cork's Christine O'Neill gets away from a challenge by Galway's Noreen Coen. O'Neill is relieved that Galway will provide the opposition to herself and her teammates in this weekend's Gala All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final after numerous underage losses to Kilkenny.

Picture: Larry Cummins

"I am switching courses and I am heading to CIT to do sports business and I am looking forward to playing in the Ashbourne Cup with them, but that's for another day."

"This week it is all about Galway and winning the All-Ireland title."

Choosing camogie may seem strange given her family's huge involvement on the water, but Christine was inspired by two of her club mates, who have achieved a lot on the inter-county camogie stage.

"Rachel Moloney and Sara Hayes have been an inspiration for me."

"To be honest to have lined out with players of their calibre when I made the club's senior panel was a dream come true."

"To have been chosen this year on

a Cork senior panel with them is for me to be living the dream."

"I was thrilled to be part of it with them. It's a huge honour to be picked to represent Cork on the camogie fields, but to join Rachel and Sara on the Cork senior panel was a huge thing for me."

"Both of them were a huge help to me this year from the moment I got on the panel."

"I have gained a lot from their help."

Last Sunday was a special one for Christine as she was part of the Cork senior panel that defeated Kilkenny to make it back-to-back titles and now the chase is on for the double.

She is looking forward to battling

for her first medal on the playing field.

"To have won a senior medal last Sunday was brilliant, but it would be extra special to win a medal on the field and hopefully, that is what we will do on Saturday."

"We are under no illusions as to the huge task facing us."

"Galway are strong and they will be determined to bring a title to their county."

"They already have the U16A All-Ireland title, so they are chasing a double as well."

With one medal safely tucked away it would round off a great week for Christine if the double can be achieved.

Let's hope it is.



# Tracton are made work to keep hopes alive

By MARY NEWMAN

Intermediate camogie

Tracton	4-8
Clonakilty	4-5

TRACTON had to record a victory in this *Evening Echo* intermediate championship round robin series clash to keep their aspirations of making it to the semi-final alive.

They came from two points behind at the interval to ensure victory in a contest where weather conditions spoiled an excellent contest that produced eight goals in total.

Three first half goals, one each from Marie O'Donovan, Sharon Whelton and Erica Jennings, helped Clonakilty to hold the early advantage. Sinead O'Neill and Erica Jennings also added points for Clon as Tracton kept in contention with an Aoife Kiely goal and points from Aoife Kiely Clodagh Fitzgerald and Jennifer Lynch as they trailed by two at the break 3-2 to 1-6.

The second-half was a close affair as both defences came under a lot of pressure but it was Tracton who grabbed the second-half goals that counted.

Roisin Lyon had one and points from Marion Jaego and Jennifer Lynch helped them keep pace as Sharon Whelton struck three second-half Clonakilty points.

Erica Jennings sent a penalty to the net for Clon but with substitute Anne Sinclair striking two late goals as Tracton took the valuable points they needed to ensure themselves of a semi-final spot. Clonakilty with their place in the semi-final stages secured will never the less be disappointed at losing their unbeaten record.

Scorers for Tracton: A Sinclair 2-0, A Kiely 1-4, R Lyons 1-0, J Lynch, C Fitzgerald 0-3 each, M Jaego 0-1.

Clonakilty: E Jennings 2-1, S Whelton 1-3, M O'Donovan 1-0, S O'Neill 0-1.

TRACTON: N. Lynch; G. McCarthy, C. Lynch, N. Mullane; K. O'Sullivan, J. Kingston (c), O. Ambrose; T. Harrington, M. Jaego; A. Dempsey, G. Hurley, J. Griffin; C. Fitzgerald, A. Kiely and J. Lynch.

Subs: R. Lyons for G. McCarthy (35), S. O'Loughlin for O. Ambrose (38), A. Sinclair for A. Dempsey (42) E. Collins for J. Griffin (50).

CLONAKILTY: L. Daly; N. O'Donovan, A. Kearns, A. McCarthy; H. O'Regan, C. O'Mahony, L. O'Flynn; C. O'Regan, S. O'Neill; J. Brennan, E. Jennings, S. Whelton; S. Forristal, A. Deasy, M. O'Donovan.

Subs: S. O'Brien for A. Kearns, C. Nagle for A. McCarthy, E. O'Donoghue for A. Deasy, L. Guest for L. Daly.

## FIXTURES

### TODAY

Evening Echo Junior A championship semi-final: Watergrasshill v Enniskeane, Ballincollig 12 noon

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Ballinhassig v Killeagh, Castle Road, 12 noon

Evening Echo Senior Championship quarter-final: Rockbawn v St Finbarr's, Ballincollig 5.30pm



# Linda Mellerick

## Kilkenny did not put it up to Cork when it mattered

ANOTHER senior intercounty camogie season down and another All-Ireland safely tucked away.

What of last weekend's final? Yes, it was a poor game. It wasn't what the game needed but from a Cork point of view they'll care little.

I'm sure Tipp would have loved to have won a poor All-Ireland hurling final instead of losing a thriller. I spoke about the referee beforehand and unfortunately my fears rung true. We had seven frees inside the opening six minutes and 29 throughout the game. In a 60-minute game you possibly have about 55 minutes of actual playing time, sometimes more, sometimes less. Taking 55 minutes as an approximate that's a free every 1.9 minutes. That type of statistic would kill any game.

I was disappointed with Kilkenny's play last Sunday and believe that they have a lot of work to do yet.

It wasn't due to an incredible performance by Cork either. Cork always looked as if they were doing just enough and had more in the tank if required. They were never going to lose.

I mentioned beforehand how Kilkenny pack their last line of defence and how this is a waste of time if players are picking off points 50 and 60 metres out. At one point



Cork players celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park last Sunday. Eddie O'Hare

midway through the second half I looked towards Kilkenny's defence. There was a player standing all alone in front of the full-back, admiring the play out the field. What good she was doing there with Kilkenny chasing the game is a mystery to me. Gemma O'Connor, Emer O'Sullivan and Katrina Mackey when introduced all picked off scores from in and around the half-forward line. I felt Kilkenny's play in that sense was pretty negative.

A positive Kilkenny will

take from the day was goalkeeper Aoife Murray receiving the RTE Player of the Match award. They should also take the inspiring play of Catriona Foley as another plus with Rena Buckley not far behind as they tested the Cork defence.

But two points from play is woeful in an All-Ireland final. I said in Nowlan Park after the semi-final that Galway would have been tough opposition for Cork in the final, if nothing else but for their physicality. You could see that the Kilkenny for-

wards were struggling in that sense last Sunday.

Ann Dalton had a great first half. She faded somewhat in the second. Katie Power also had a good 30 minutes but it's hard to sustain that over the hour.

I didn't get to see the majority of *The Sunday Game* but tuned in just in time to see the 'Championship team of 2009' being announced. I rarely get into too much debate on these selections as they are a panel's view only and I'm quite sure if five panels were asked to select

their team that all five would differ in some way.

However I have to comment on Tipperary's Claire Grogan's inclusion. I'm a huge fan of Claire's and if I was picking a 'Team of the Decade' she would most certainly be on it. But like the All-Star awards, players should be selected on this year's championship performances, not their reputation. Claire played just two championship games this season and I'm sure Claire will agree with me when I say that she gave one of her poorest performances ever in one of them.

The idea of finding a position for a player is something I don't understand. The idea is that you pick the best player in their playing position throughout the season and if there are two great players vying for one spot well then you just have to make a choice.

Selecting Breige Corkery at left half-back when she didn't play a single game there all season is strange. Ann Dalton, Orla Cotter and Briege were three players the panel obviously wanted in the team but rather than debate and choose they took the easy option and slotted them all in.

The Cork Intermediate team play the All-Ireland final today in Limerick. The very best of luck to them and of course the footballers tomorrow.

## CLUB

Jenny Nagle replaced the impressive Laura Barrett, who ran herself into the ground.

Roberta Harrington went full-forward and the corner-forwards Jenny Nagle and Cloda Burke flooded midfield. Get the ball to Roberta was the plan but that was easier said than done with a very determined Carrigaline in the way. Emma Madigan gained possession and drove a long ball down to Roberta who sent it to the back of the net. Carrigaline puffed out the slotar Emma Madigan plucked it out of the air and again found Roberta. This time with two defenders around her she spotted Cloda Burke unmarked, who sent the ball to the net. From two points down to four points up, we were not going to let the title slip away. Girls, your club, family and friends are all proud of you. Thanks to Geraldine Barrett and John Madigan for all your work through out the year.

Panel: Leonie Carey, Aine Fitzpatrick, Louise Curtin, Amy Fitzgerald, Louise Guinane, Paula Walsh, Shona Cronin, Carys Johnson, Emma Madigan, Roberta Harrington, Katie Cronin, Shannon O'Shea, Emma Nagle, Laura Barrett, Laura Fitzgerald, Cloda Burke, Jenny Nagle, Cloda Guerin, Charlotte O'Mahony, Kate Barrett, Annie Cronin, Rachel Dunlea.

Best of luck: Best of luck to the minor footballers in the final next Saturday. Believe and you will achieve.

Training: Training Continues For U18 and juniors this Friday at 7pm

five points, but only penetrated the Dillon's defence on two occasions in the second half. While all the girls worked tirelessly throughout the match and can be proud of the high level of skill demonstrated, it was always going to be an uphill struggle given that so few of the team were up to the age.

Panel: Katrina Keohane, Katie O'Donovan, Ann Keohane (1-0), Mary Coveney, Sarah Quilligan, Aine Walsh, Rebecca Murphy (0-4), Lorraine Brown (0-4), Roisin O'Halloran, Clara O'Sullivan, Amy Walsh (0-1), Lorna Bateman, Laura Lynch, Lily Dineen, Andrea Murphy, Gemma Downey, Clara White, Niamh O'Leary.

### BUTTEVANT

U14 B County League Final: For the second time in five days Buttevant captured county honours.

The U14B team followed their junior counterparts by taking the league title in an absolute cracker of a game in Coachford last Thursday evening. Having been beaten in the final last year the girls were in determined mood to go one step better. Carrigaline started the better of the two teams and were quickly on the score sheet with a goal and a point inside the first five minutes. Emma Madigan and Roberta Harrington were well marked in midfield and found it hard in the opening quarter to stamp their authority on the game. Buttevant were working very hard to stay in touch with a physically strong Carrigaline team and got their first score from a free by Emma Madigan.

Buttevant's defence were working like trojans. Leonie Carey in goal was fantastic for someone so young. The full-back line of Aine Fitzpatrick, Louise Curtin — the best full-back in the county — and Amy Fitzgerald were absolutely awesome. They eventually broke Car-

rigaline hearts clearing ball after ball. Katie Cronin, a young lady we will some day see wear the red and white, of Cork got a beautiful point on 16th minutes. Carrigaline added two more points before Laura Fitzgerald rattled the net with a well-taken goal. Buttevant were inspired by Laura's goal and finished the half strongly with Emma Madigan levelling the scores just before the half-time whistle. Half time score were 1-3 each.

At half-time we introduced Carys Johnson for Aine Fitzpatrick and moved the ever-improving Shona Cronin to corner-back to counteract a very pacy corner-forward. Buttevant started the second half in determined mood and Roberta Harrington put them ahead for the first time with a point after four minutes. The half-backs were now enjoying the lion's share of possession with Carys Johnson's pace and strength a constant threat. Paula Walsh at centre-back reads the game like an intercounty hurler and Louise Guinane, the youngest of the half-backs in years but not in stature, is a girl who has the ability to play at the highest level.

Emma Madigan got the next score, a great diagonal run and shot off her left to the roof of the net — only for the umpire to raise the white flag. Our half-forwards Katie Cronin, Shannon O'Shea who saved her best game of the year for the final and Emma Nagle, Buttevant's match-winner, with her electric pace and skills were now in full flow. We were two points up and Carrigaline were on the rack. But back they came with their best spell of the game. They scored 1-1 and hit the crossbar. Things not looking good with five minutes left. The girls on both sides were not giving an inch as the title would go to the team who wanted it most.





The Buttevant side that were recently crowned Evening Echo Junior B County Camogie champions.

**EMER O'FARRELL** was a worthy recipient of the Glanmire and district Sports star award for the month of August following her displays for Cork lead up to the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

At a luncheon on Wednesday last to present the award which is sponsored by the Vienna Woods Hotel, Emer was still in celebratory mode following Cork's victory over Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday.

"We are still on a high and it was great to retain the title."

It has been a busy year for the Sarsfields player who in the path to the final notched up five goals and two points as Cork advanced, the holder of All-Ireland medals at senior, intermediate and junior has been on the Cork senior panel since 2004 and had previously won two medals as a substitute before coming on in last year's final where Cork defeated Galway.

This season Emer started the game at corner-forward and while she was substituted late in the second half, the title had by then been secured as Cork marched on to their 24th crown.

Among the guests present at the presentation function were the

## Emer is heralded by Glanmire for ability to stick ball in net

county mayor Cllr Derry Canty, Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Cllr Dara and Tanya Murphy. There was a larger contingent of camogie personnel present still basking in the glory of last Sunday's victory and they were led by camogie board chairperson Marion McCarthy and county secretary Sile Golden.

The players were represented by Gemma O'Connor and Jenny Duffy while selectors Mick O'Regan, Lillian Zinkant, team manger Denise Cronin and her partner Conor Kelleher, who did huge work behind the scenes, were also present.

Sponsors of the event Vienna Woods Hotel were represented by David Fitzgerald and Michael

Magner and they both had huge words of praise for Emer.

Event co-ordinator Sean O'Sullivan, in welcoming guests, made references to Emer's achievements and said she was a popular choice of winner for the month of August.

"Your commitment and dedication to your chosen sport has seen you achieve great glory your collections included four All-Ireland senior medals, junior and intermediate All-Ireland honours. In all of Cork's games your contributed goals at vital times and this helped in no small way to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Cork. Today we salute you and honour your achievements."

Emer was accompanied to the

function by her husband Emmet Fennell, who is coach to the Sarsfields intermediate camogie team.

Her parents Eamonn and Una and her in-laws Deirdre and Gus Fennell and her brothers Barry and Peter were also there. Among the guests were president of the Sarsfields hurling club Denis Hurley and John O'Regan.

Addressing the gathering Emer paid tribute to everybody who had helped her achieve so much.

She thanked the Cork backroom team and her team mates who in her words: "Made the job of sticking the ball in the net an easy one for me, they do all the hard work and I just finished it off."

**Good luck:** We wish Denise Luby and the Cork Intermediate team every good wishes in today's All-Ireland final against Galway in the Gaelic Grounds Limerick.

**ST CATHERINE'S**  
All-Ireland senior camogie final: After a tough and uncompromising hour's camogie on Sunday last Cork emerged victorious 0-15 to 0-7.

Cork's experience and superb defensive display were the contributing factor to this comfortable victory with the second quarter of the game being particularly significant as Cork opened up a four-point lead which had been reduced to three points by the break.

The second half saw Cork upping the tempo of the game and confined Kilkenny to just two second-half points. Although Kilkenny had a couple of goal opportunities Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray, was in outstanding form and indeed subsequently was player of the match.

This win sets Cork up for an attempt at the three in a row and I'm sure this will be a huge motivating factor in the 2010 Championship.

In the meantime players will enjoy a short break before returning to club duties. Players returned to Cork on Monday evening to a rousing reception and were feted at the Imperial Hotel and subsequently at Douglas GAA club.

Orla Cotter acquitted herself admirably in Sunday's final despite being closely marked for most of the game.

We would like to congratulate Orla on her success on winning her third All-Ireland medal and wish her continued good fortune in the future. Orla has asked me to thank all the St Catherine's supporters who travelled to Dublin for the game as it was a tremendous boost

to herself to have so many friends and club colleagues present.

**Intermediate All-Ireland final:** Today Saturday the Cork's intermediate team will take on Galway in this year's All-Ireland final. The match is scheduled to take place in Gaelic Grounds, Limerick at 2 pm. We wish the Cork team and particularly our own club representatives, Liz Power, Carolyn Motherway and Denise Leahy the very best of luck on Saturday.

**Senior championship:** The next round of our club championship is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 26 when we will take on Courcy Rovers.

**Brian Dillon's:** Dillon's got off to a great start in this League Championship against Fr O'Neill's. Scores from Clair Dooley and Jane Dooley in the first half motivated the Dillon's team. Pressure was on both teams at half time but Dillon's came out the stronger team with scores from Clair Dooley, Jane Dooley, Doreen Carroll, Rebecca O'Mahony and Orla Ni Shuilleabhain in the second half. Both teams were equally matched and gave a great performance, especially in the final fifteen minutes which were very tense. Great team play and skill was evident from the Dillon's girls who went on to win by two points. Thanks to coaches Therese Drummond and Clair O'Mahony. Good luck in the next round of this League Championship.

**Full time Score:** Brian Dillon's: 0-12 Fr O'Neill's: 1-7.

**Teams:** S Rodgers, K O'Brien, S Cotter, E Kelly, L Bradfield, S Attridge, O Ni Shuilleabhain, S Brosnan, C Dooley, J Dooley, M Ring, D Carroll, R Brosnan, R O'Mahony, C Rodgers.  
**Subs:** Rebecca Myers for Ruth Brosnan, Karen Henry, Sarah O'Donovan, Sadhbh Shannon.

## Douglas are too strong for battling Inniscarra

By **MARY NEWMAN**

U14A league final

Douglas

Inniscarra

1-6

0-7

**ALL-IRELAND** Féile na Gael champions Douglas had to be at their best as they played out a thrilling contest in the U14A league final, taking the title after a hectic battle with two points to spare.

All through it was close as the sides battled for the title Inniscarra raced into an early lead.

With Orla Healy and Niamh McCarthy prominent they had three points on the scoreboard before Aoife Downey got Douglas off the mark with a point.

Inniscarra kept the pressure on the Douglas defence and, striking two further points, they stretched their advantage. Clare Shine and Joy Leo kept Douglas in touch with points but in defence Douglas had to be at their best to deny Inniscarra. Douglas keeper Chelsea Noonan showed her vigilance to deny Inniscarra a goal, but they added two points to their tally to lead at the break 0-7 to 0-3.

The second-half was fast flowing as Douglas upped the pace and beginning to put the Inniscarra defence under a lot of pressure their confidence grew, while in their own defence they closed down the Inniscarra attack.

Severe pressure finally paid off for Douglas with Joy Leo grabbing a goal and, with their midfield pairing of Ellen Martin and Clare Shine pushing forward and applying huge pressure, they were putting the Inniscarra defence under constant pressure.

With play swinging form end to end Inniscarra battled to stay in front as Douglas battled to gain control and with Clare Shine, Aisling Fox and Joy Leo striking points Douglas were two points ahead.

Inniscarra battled on but were denied by a solid Douglas defence that cleared two 45-metre free attempts to hold their lead to the final whistle. It was an excellent game where compliments must go to both sides for their superb performances in a thrilling contest.

**Scores for Douglas:** J. Leo, 1-2, C. Shine 0-2, A. Downey, A. Fox 0-1 each.  
**Inniscarra:** O. Healy 0-4, N. McCarthy 0-3.

**DOUGLAS:** C. Noonan, A. Hourihane, J. Hogan, R. Quinn, A. McDonald, E. Lynch, M. Mulrooney, C. Shine, E. Martin, E. Kavanagh, A. Fox, R. McCarthy, A. Downey, J. Leo, L. O'Brien.  
**Subs:** A. Cremin for R. McCarthy, A. Curtin for M. Mulrooney, G. O'Halloran for E. Martin.

**INNISCARRA:** L. Flynn, R. Buckley, M. Walsh, K. O'Driscoll, M. Fitzgerald, E. Looney (c), A. Lenihan, N. Burns, O. Healy McCarthy, D. Keating, G. Heffernan, L. O'Connell, S. Daly, N. Lombard.  
**Subs:** A. O'Connell for G. Heffernan, A. Singleton for N. Lombard, J. Walton.

## NOTES

### CARRIGTWOHILL

It's only been three years since the Carrigtwohill Camogie Club has been reformed and all the hard work that was put into training and coaching has finally come to fruition. It started off with our U14 winning the U14D league final against Ballyhea in Coachford on Sept 10.

Ballyhea started strongest and started scoring from the start and Carrig were soon trailing. It was nip and tuck all the way with Rachel Sheehan having an outstanding match at mid-field and subsequently winning the player of the match award.

At the half-time whistle Ballyhea were up two points. At the start of the second half we put on the pressure and started putting points on the board. Ballyhea came back and put the Carrig backs under enormous pressure however the girls in the back came together as one unit and blocked the Ballyhea resurgence. Time wasn't in Ballyhea's favour and at the final whistle the score was Carrigtwohill 4-2 Ballyhea 2-4.

To continue our winning streak, our U11s narrowly defeated Youghal in the U11s Imokilly East Cork Final on Saturday 12 Sept.

This was a very evenly matched game with great skills showing from both sides. Final score Carrigtwohill 2-2 and Youghal 2-1. Our next match is the U13 East Cork Final v St. Catherine's.

### VALLEY ROVERS

Last weekend our U13 team travelled to St Jude's in Dublin to play in the All-Ireland U13 club blitz representing Cork as U13 A county

champions of 2008. In their group they defeated Oulart-the-Ballagh (Wexford) 2-2 to no score, Thomastown (Kilkenny) 4-4 to no score, and the hosts Naomh Jude 1-6 to 0-1, thus qualifying for a semi-final clash with Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin County Champions).

At the end of normal time it ended 1-4 apiece, the game then went to sudden death, with Valleys emerging victorious with a point by Eimear Cummins. In the final Valleys met a very strong and skilful Toomevara team (Tipperary) and were defeated by a better team. The club is extremely proud of this wonderful achievement, which capped a brilliant week for the Valley Rovers club. The team were presented with All-Ireland runners up medals. They also met with president of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn.

**Panel:** Lydia Coveney, Aoibheann Harle, Casey O'Sullivan, Leona Murphy, Jennifer Murphy, Lisa Lynch, Eimear Cummins, Emily Palmer, Ciara Richardson, Mary Ellen Sweetnam, Patricia Kenneally, Katie Lynch.

### GLEN ROVERS

The week ahead is going to be a busy one. Our U16 second team play Castlelyons on Tuesday next in the Glen Field in the championship, throw-in at 8pm. Players to meet at 5.30pm sharp. The following weekend on Saturday 26 the U14 team play the final against Killeagh this game will take place at 11.30am at a venue to be announced.

Our senior team continue their preparations for their next championship game when they will play Carrigaline on October 4 time and venue to be announced.

**Congratulations:** Well done to the Cork Senior team and to our own Denise Cronin on their victory over Kilkenny in last weekend's All-Ireland final, it was a great achievement well done to all.



# Emer adds to an impressive sporting CV

**EMER O'Farrell is the winner of the Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Glanmire and District Sports award for August.**

Last Wednesday, Emer, scorer of five goals for the county senior team during the 2009 championship, was presented with the Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Glanmire and District Sports award by Michael Magner, in recognition of her magnificent displays with her club and county.

In welcoming Emer and those celebrating her well-deserved sports award, Sean O'Sullivan, awards co-ordinator, congratulated Emer on collecting her 4th All-Ireland senior camogie medal.

He had a special welcome for Emer's husband, Emmett, coach of Sars Intermediate camogie team, parents Eamonn and Una, brothers Barry and Peter, and Gus and Deirdre Fennell, Emer's father and mother-in-law.

Other special guests included Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy, Lady Mayor Tanya Murphy, County Mayor Cllr Derry Carty, Cllr Gerry Kelly, Denise Cronin, team manager, Lillian Zinkant and Mick O'Regan county selectors; Marianne McCarthy, chairperson of the County Camogie Board; Shelia Golden former county chairperson and current secretary; Mary Newman, Pro-county Camogie Board; Phil O'Shea, president Sars camogie club, Denis Hurley, president Sars hurling club, Sinead O'Leary, Eithne Allen, Marie Dinan, and Gillian Grimes, Sars camogie club; Denis Kelleher, Glanmire

Football Club; Bob Lester and Billy Barry.

Emer's sporting CV reads:

- Purcell Cup with CIT in 2002.
- Junior All-Ireland, Munster and League medals 2002/2004 seasons.
- Intermediate Munster and League medals 2002/2004 seasons.
- Senior 'B' All-Ireland, Munster and League medals 2005.
- Three Senior All-Irelands, 2005/2006/2008.
- Five Munster medals 05,06,07,08,09.
- Two League medals 2005/2006.

Scoring CV: Five goals, two points for county and three goals 22 points for her club.

In presenting the award to Emer, Michael Magner congratulated Emer on collecting another All-Ireland medal and looks forward to her coming back next year after Cork winning three in-a-row.

Michael told the attendance that last August, Emer and Emmett had their wedding reception in the hotel and he was delighted to present Emer with her well-deserved sports award 12 months later.

The Lord Mayor said he was particularly glad to be present having attended the All-Ireland final and seeing the Cork team win back-to-back titles and being from just up the road in Rathcooney was delighted to be present to celebrate a Glanmire sports star bringing the O'Duffy Cup back to Glanmire.

The County Mayor also congratulated Emer adding she was a great ambassador for her club and county.



Michael Magner, joint owner, presents the August Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Glanmire and District Sports award to Emer O'Farrell, while Emer's mother, Una, holds the O'Duffy Cup, standing beside her husband Eamonn. Also included are Emer's husband, Emmett Fennell, her brothers, Barry and Peter, her father and mother-in-law, Gus and Deirdre Fennell and David Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel. Pictured right: David Fitzgerald and Michael Magner with Emer.



## Late Walsh point secures draw for Killeagh

**Killeagh  
Ballinhassig**

**0-11 By MARY NEWMAN**

**1-8 Evening Echo Senior B Championship**

KILLEAGH battled back from being seven points in arrears to take a share of the points in this Evening Echo Senior B Championship clash in Castle Road on Saturday.

A close opening half saw the sides tied at four points each at the break after Killeagh had struggled to stay the distance with a lively Ballinhassig 15.

Ballinhassig continued to control matters at the start of the second half and a goal from Orla Murray and an

Emer O'Sullivan point further stretched their lead and as they worked hard, they contained the Killeagh attack for much of the opening ten minutes.

Twelve minutes into the second half Jessica O'Shea struck Killeagh's first score and now beginning to settle, they had Ballinhassig under pressure.

Deirdre Coomey, Emer O'Sullivan and Aisling O'Brien were prominent as Ballinhassig struck points to hold their advantage, but Killeagh never

panicked. Angela Walsh struck two points and with Noelle O'Donovan's three-in-a-row and one from Stefanie Beausang, the Ballinhassig lead was down to one.

Killeagh came in search of an equaliser and it was Angela Walsh with a point in injury time that saved the day and gave her side a valuable point in the round robin series.

Ballinhassig finish the group with five points and they will await the outcome of the remaining game in their section where Killeagh, with five to their credit, must play Kilbrittan and Carrigaline meet Glen

Rovers, who are on four. Its still very much all to play for as the hunt for the semi-final places continues.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** N O'Donovan, C Keohane 0-3 each, Angela Walsh 0-2, E Ryan, J O'Shea, S Beausang 0-1 each.

**Ballinhassig:** E O'Sullivan 0-5, O Murray 1-0, D Coomey 0-2, A O'Brien 0-1.

**KILLEAGH:** C Deane; L O'Connor, M Smiddy, S Smiddy; E O'Neill, M O'Connor, A M Walsh; E Ryan, S Beausang; G Cunningham, Angela Walsh, C Keohane; J O'Shea, N O'Donovan, Annie Walsh.

**Sub:** K Murphy for Annie Walsh (38).

**BALLINHASSIG:** G O'Callaghan, C Fleming, M O'Reardon, E O'Donovan, J Cullinane, C Collins, H Cullinane, A O'Leary, M Kelleher, L Jordan, D Coomey, E O'Sullivan, S O'Callaghan, A O'Brien, E Jordan.

**Sub:** O Murray for L Jordan.

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



13 September 2009; Offaly captain Marion Crean celebrates with the New Ireland Cup, Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



# Now is the time for Cork to end the heartbreak

# Bobby wants it

**TOMORROW,**  
All-Ireland Inter Camogie final,  
Cork V Galway,  
Gaelic Grounds, 2pm

The focus of attention is firmly on the county intermediate camogie side as they chase a unique double on Saturday in Limerick **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

All the focus in Galway was channelled into the senior side in the hope of making a return to Croke Park where they hoped to redeem last season's defeat, but Kilkenny shattered that dream, and while it was hard for the county to recover, they have bounced back and now the push is on to take an adult crown and finish 2009 in style.

They were impressive as they defeated a strong Tipperary side at semi-final stage. In that outing such was their dominance that they held Tipp scoreless for the entire second half. They had impressive displays from Martina Conroy and Martina Murray, who contributed 11 points between them.

Under the management of Noel Finn and Basil Larkin they didn't enjoy the best of National League campaigns, losing out by big margins in all games, but championship has been a different story and with several of the senior panel available for selection, they regrouped and qualified for this weekend's final with some impressive displays.

In the opening game in their group they recorded a victory over Clare in a high-scoring contest, 7-13 to 2-19.

It was much tighter against Wexford, where they had just three points to spare, 2-7 to 0-10.

Derry provided the opposition in the last game in the group and here Galway proved too strong on a 2-11 to 0-9 scoreline. They are a well-balanced side with a mixture of youth and experience and to date they have had excellent performances from their captain Caroline Kelly, while centre-back Sarah Dervan had figured prominently all through and they will be looking to players such as the experienced Martina Conroy and Caroline Murray and younger players Tara Rutledge and Gemma Kelly to guide them over the finishing line to glory.

Caroline Murray is Camogie Development Officer in Connaught and she is part of the Galway side that will battle to add the intermediate crown to the U16 A title.

"We are hoping to bring an adult title to Galway on Saturday. We were disappointed to lose out in the senior championship but the U16 team has led the way having won the All-Ireland title earlier in the year, so it would be a great if we could lift the trophy," said Murray.

Cork are focused on success

and boosted by the superb victory of the senior team last weekend, they are going all out for glory. They came through the group series of games in the championship defeating Kilkenny before defeating Tipperary with just a goal to spare in tight contest.

While Cork did not enjoy the best of luck in their league campaign, missing out narrowly on qualifying, they have bounced back to play with huge confidence in the championship.

They caused a huge upset as they defeated a fancied Derry side in the All-Ireland semi-final, all through the contest little separated the sides and it was all square as the full-time whistle loomed.

But the fighting spirit that is in this side surfaced once again as Emer Watson grabbed a late goal to give Cork the lead and this was followed by a point from Michelle Browne as Cork hung on to defy the odds and make it to the final.

This is Cork's third year in a row making it to the final. They lost out to Kilkenny in last year's final — a goal three minutes into injury time giving Kilkenny a victory in dramatic circumstances. The previous year Limerick hit an equalising point with seven minutes of added time played to give them a draw. In the replay Limerick ran out winners with nine points to spare.

County secretary Sheila Golden is a selector with the Cork side and she is hoping that her charges will do it this time out: "We would love to lift the trophy on Saturday having suffered disappointment in the last two years."

"But we know we will have to be at our best if we are to do it, Galway are strong side. We have prepared well and are hoping to make it a double following our senior side's victory."

The Cork side is a relatively young one that included nine of the county minor side. Jessica Kavanagh, Denise Luby, Aileen Sheehan and Pamela Mackey are named in the starting 15, while Jennifer Lynch, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Mariah Reidy and Patricia Buttimer are listed in the subs.

The side is not without experience: captain Ann Marie Fleming has led by example in the league and championship campaign turning in fine displays, while Christine O'Neill, Michelle Browne, Regina Curtin and Marie and Emer Watson are experienced performers.

Very few gave them any chance against Derry but they proved everybody wrong.

Galway are hotly tipped on Saturday but they know little about the spirit and determination that is in these Cork girls.



Cork camogie intermediate coach Bobby Thornhill says his team have huge belief in their own ability.

**CORK intermediate camogie coach Bobby Thornhill is hoping to put the disappointment at losing the last two Gala All-Ireland Intermediate camogie finals behind him and his team when they take on Galway in next Saturday's decider.**

**By MARY NEWMAN**  
Camogie

"We are looking forward to it; we know Galway will provide tough opposition. They will be very motivated but so will our side. Last year we looked to have done enough but victory was snatched from us in the final seconds."

To be honest the very least we deserved was a draw and another tilt at it but it was not to be and we just had to accept it, Kilkenny knew they stole it, but you play until the final whistle."

Bouncing back to reach another final must have been hard but Bobby said the girls have huge belief in their own ability and this has helped in their preparations. Its tough to lose in a final of any description but to lose two in a row is heartbreaking.

"The girls have really worked hard to reach the final again this year and to be

honest nobody would deny them the title. We have put in huge work but we know it won't be easy."

As they put the final touches to preparations for Saturday's final, Bobby looked back on their season to date and in particular his side's victory over Derry in the semi-final.

"Derry were hot favourites but we never allowed them play. The girls did everything that was required and they played themselves to a standstill. We never allowed Derry get to far away from us and we hung in there and took the chances that came our way. It was all about getting a result and to reach the final is a huge tribute to the commitment of this team."

Bobby mentioned commitment and he is huge in his praise for his fellow selectors and the players under their guidance: "Sheila Golden is an experienced selector and she has given huge service to camogie in Cork; she is currently the county board secretary, a

job she took on when her term as president was completed and she is a very committed selector with our team."

"This year Esther O'Leary joined the selection committee and having served at underage level she was familiar with the set-up and she has worked hard with Sheila and they have left no stones unturned in the chase for the crown."

While there has been a few new faces added to the panel this year the nucleus has remained the same but Bobby feels the experienced players have played a big role.

Players like Ann Marie Fleming, Liz Power, Marion Jagoe, Gillian Harrington Michelle Browne have been involved a long time.

Nobody would deny them a victory on Saturday, they deserve it.

"We lost a few of last year's panel to the senior side while players such as Marie Corkery have retired from the intercounty scene and Noreen Mulcahy didn't play this year because of study commitments."

"The experienced players on the panel have helped the younger girls fit in and adjust and make the step up from

## Luby is striving for All-Ireland glory

WITH Tipperary and Kilkenny blood running through her veins it's no surprise that Denise Luby comes from a strong GAA background **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

On Saturday she will strive to overcome any obstacles that Galway will pose to her ambitions of winning an All-Ireland medal.

"It would be great to win the game especially for some of the girls who have lost out in the last two finals."

"Last year Kilkenny grabbed it at the end to deny us and the year before it was tough for the girls when Limerick won it in a replay so we will be doing everything to win on Saturday."

The Glen Rovers minor player has already tasted defeat in All-Ireland finals at U16 and minor level in 2007 and 2008 and she also was a member of the intermediate panel that lost out in last year's decider, so she will be hoping that this time out Cork overcome the strong Galway challenge.

"We know they will be tough but we have prepared well and we are looking forward to the game. We had a hard game against Derry and we know Galway will be even tougher but we must be ready for it."

A student at CIT, where she enjoyed her first taste of Ashbourne Cup camogie last season, Denise captained the Munster junior team in the Gael Linn interprovincial

competition this year.

"It came as a big surprise to be picked as captain and when Kay Dunne told me I was honoured and I was privileged to be chosen. Unfortunately we lost out and it was disappointing but I hope we will make up for it on Saturday and bring the title back to Cork."

Denise has great support from her parents Brigid and Tom and by now they have both been converted to become big Cork camogie followers and with Tom also very involved with the camogie in the club, the game is a huge part of the Luby household. Let's hope Saturday is a successful one for them all.



SEPT 2009

# to be third time lucky



Cork intermediate camogie players, who play in the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday, with their shirt sponsors The New Furniture Centre, Blackpool. Back from left, Teddy Barry, managing director presents a shirt to Sheila Golden, secretary of Cork camogie board and Kieran Barry, director presents a shirt to Bobby Thornhill, trainer/coach, with front left, players Evelyn Ronayne, Jennifer Lynch, Marian Jagoe and Anne Marie Fleming.

underage to adult intercounty level and this has helped the atmosphere in the cam. It is superb and the girls are really determined to win it this time out."

Looking to Saturday's clash, the Cork camp are not paying any attention to the last meeting of the sides in the national league, where Cork had a comprehensive victory:

"Galway have totally changed the lineout to

the one that we played in the national league.

"On that occasion they had two panels and they kept the senior and intermediate panels separate but with their senior losing out to Kilkenny in the senior semi-final they have a lot more players to choose from and any player who didn't play senior championship is available to the intermediate side and they now have a big selection to choose from.

"They won the U16 A All-Ireland title earlier in the seasons and they are working hard in the county to win and adult title."

Cork know it will be hard and they are under no illusions as to what is ahead but this time out they are hoping it will be third time lucky.

"We know how it feels to be in a losers' dressing room; we have had plenty of practice

and we are determined not to have that feeling again on Saturday. We are going out to win and nothing else will do us. It is a huge challenge to reach our goal but the girls are much focused and with the senior having won last Sunday it is a great incentive to make it a double."

Let's hope it third time lucky for Bobby and his charges.

## Finbarr's should have too much

IT'S back to club action for two senior teams at least this weekend as St Finbarr's and Rockbáin go head to head tomorrow in Ballincollig (5.30pm) in the first of this season's quarter-final pairings in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell, Jenny Duffy, Sile Burns and Cathriona Foley will have to come back down to earth quickly after the high of achieving their back-to-back All-Ireland title last Sunday and focus on the extremely important game at hand.

The game, previously scheduled for the weekend of the 26th was brought forward to assist the Cork ladies footballers, in which a number of Rockbáin players are members as they prepare for their All-Ireland final on Sunday 27th.

St Finbarr's go into the game as favourites. They themselves are aware that they will have to improve on their performance against Ballygarvan but it isn't beyond their capabilities to do so.

St Finbarr's reached the quarter-final on the strength of a 2-7 to 0-11 victory over Ballygarvan last month having lost their opening encounter against 2008 champions Douglas.

It has taken Rockbáin just one game to reach this stage, a 2-6 to 0-6 victory over Barryroe. It was a game they were thankful to emerge from after a number of Barryroe wides left them off the hook. Much will be dependent on big performances from Foley and Burns.

St Finbarr's should have too much all round strength for Rockbáin who play in only their second season at senior level.

## Finn names strong Galway outfit

GALWAY manager Noel Finn and his fellow selectors have names a strong 15 to face Cork in Saturday's Gala Intermediate All-Ireland camogie final as the county goes in search of its first title in the grade, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Several of the side are hugely experienced with former senior players Aoife Lynskey, Caroline Murray, Martina Conroy and Gemma Kelly in the starting 15, while Nicola Lawless, Caroline Kelly and Cathy Bowes are All-Ireland junior medal holders.

Listed amongst the substitutes is Rebecca Henneally who picked up an All-Ireland U16 A medal earlier in the season.

The lineout is: Deirdre Ward in goal, with Nicola Lawless at full-back, Jennifer Coone and Karen Brien in the corners. Sarah Dervan holds down the centre-back position, with Colette Gil and Caroline Kelly, who captains the side, on the wings.

Paula Kenny and Aoife Lynskey will be hoping to

win the midfield battle for Galway. Cathy Bowes has the hugely experienced Caroline Murray and Martina Conroy with her in the half-forward line and the inside trio had Gemma Kelly at centre, with Tara Rutledge and Lorraine Pardy in the corner-forward positions. It's a strong Galway 15 and a glance at their subs' bench shows players of the calibre of Stacy Coen and Aisling Hobbin's.

● The full panel is: Deirdre Ward, Ashenry, Jennifer Coone, Mullagh, Nicola Lawless, Killimor, Karen Brien, Killimor, Colette Gil, Kinvara, Sarah Dervan, Mullagh, Caroline Kelly, (c) Davitts, Paula Kenny, Meelick, Eyrecourt, Aoife Lynskey, Ardahan, Cathy Bowes, Mullagh, Caroline Murray, St. Thomas, Martina Conroy, Killimor, Tara Rutledge, Portumna, Gemma Kelly, Ahascragh, Lorraine Pardy, Kiltormer, Adrienne Cornican, Kiltormer, Heather Cooney, St. Thomas, Claire Conroy, Killimor, Colette Glennon, Mullagh, Moira Connaughton, Cappataggle, Stacy Coen, Kiltormer, Siobhan Coen, Ballindereen, Michelle Skehill, Cappataggle, Serena Brien, Killimor, Mairead Linnane, Turroughmore, Aisling Hobbin's, Rebecca Henneally, Ardahan, Laura Mitchell, Killimordaly, Triona Byrne, Portumna, Caoimhe Staunton, Sarsfields.



# CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA NA NGAEIL

## CLUICHE CEANNAIS NA HÉIREANN IDIRMHEÁNACH INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2009

2.00PM

# CORCAIGH V GAILLIMH



THE GAELIC GROUNDS, LIMERICK  
DÉ SATHAIRN,  
19Ú MEÁN FOMHAIR, 2009  
CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL • LUACH €2

*Sinead Ní Chonchúir*  
SINEAD NÍ CHONCHÚIR  
ARD STIÚRTHÓIR



Front row (l-r): Leah Weste, Jessica Kavanagh, Miriam Crowley, Mariah Reidy, Gillian Harrington, Liz Power, Marion Jagoe, Aine Moyrihan, Patricia Buttimer, Kate O'Donoghue, Sarah Buckley, Ann Marie Fleming (Capt). Back row (l-r): Michelle Browne, Jennifer Lynch, Mary Coleman, Regina Curtin, Caroline Motherway, Christine O'Neill, Carol Dineen, Roisin de Faoite, Denise Luby, Eimear Watson, Maria Walsh, Niamh Dilworth, Kathleen O'Brien, Helen O'Mahony, Denise Leahy, Marie Watson.



Back row (l-r): Maira Connaughton, Michelle Skehill, Laura Mitchell, Siobhan Coen, Lorraine Pardy, Rebecca Hennelly, Jenny Coone, Sarah Dervan, Caroline Murray, Heather Cooney, Stacy Coen, Deirdre Ward, Triana Byrne, Aisling Hobbins, Adrienne Cormican. Front row (l-r): Louise Loughnane, Caoimhe Staunton, Gemma Kelly, Serena Brien, Collette Gill, Cathy Bowes, Martina Conroy, Nicola Lawless, Karen Brien, Tara Rutledge, Caroline Kelly, Collette Glennon. Missing from photo: Aoife Lynskey, Paula Kenny, Noreen Murphy and Mairéad Linnane.

### Match Officials

Referee: ALAN LAGRUE (Kildare)  
Line Umpire: Éamonn Browne (Tipperary)  
Line Umpire: David Carroll (Clare)  
4th Official: Hugh Coghlan (Tipperary)  
5th Official: Donal Leahy (Tipperary)

## Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán



(1) <b>JESSICA KAVANAGH</b> S. Chaomhánach Douglas	(3) <b>CHRISTINE O'NEILL</b> C. Ní Néill Courtney Rovers	(4) <b>AILEEN SHEEHAN</b> A. Ní Shiocháin Grenagh
(2) <b>ANN MARIE FLEMING</b> A. M. Pléimeann (Capt.) Barryroe	(6) <b>REGINA CURTIN</b> R. Ní Cuirfin Milford	(7) <b>CAROLYNN MOTHERWAY</b> C. Modartha St. Catherine's
(5) <b>PAMELA MACKEY</b> P. Ní Mhaca Douglas	(8) <b>MARIA WALSH</b> M. Bhreatnach Ballyhea	(9) <b>HELEN O'MAHONY</b> L. Ní Mhathúna Douglas
(10) <b>MARIE WATSON</b> M. Ní Uait Milford	(11) <b>MARY COLEMAN</b> M. Ní Cholmáin Ballyhea	(12) <b>LIZ POWER</b> L. de Paor St. Catherine's
(13) <b>DENISE LUBY</b> D. Ní Lúbaigh Glen Rovers	(14) <b>EIMEAR WATSON</b> E. Ní Uait Milford	(15) <b>MICHELLE BROWNE</b> M. de Brún Mallow

(16) Denise Leahy D. Ní Laocha St. Catherine's	(20) Mariah Reidy M. Ní Riada Newtown	(24) Kate O'Donoghue C. Ní Dhoenche Ballincollig	(28) Aine Moyrihan A. Ní Mhuineacháin Ballygarra
(17) Leah Weste L. Weste Ballincollig	(21) Carol Dineen C. Ní Dhuinnín Barryroe	(25) Kathleen O'Brien C. Ní Bhriain Mallow	(29) Miriam Crowley M. Ní Chruaich Bishopstown
(18) Marion Jagoe M. Jagoe Tracton	(22) Jennifer Lynch S. Ní Leingsigh Tracton	(26) Gillian Harrington G. Ní hArracháin Valley Rovers	(30) Patricia Buttimer P. Buttimer Ballincollig
(19) Sarah Buckley S. Ní Bhucalla Ballincollig	(23) Niamh Dilworth N. Ní Dhúlaich Iniscarra	(27) Aine Watson A. Ní Uait Milford	

Roghndáil: Bobby Thornhill (Blackrock), Sheila Golden (Inniscarra), Esther O'Leary (Mallow).

## Gaillimh

Marún agus Bán



(1) <b>DEIRDRE WARD</b> D. Ní an Bhaird Athenry	(3) <b>NICOLA LAWLESS</b> N. Loughléid Killinor	(4) <b>KAREN BRIEN</b> C. Ní Bhriain Killinor
(2) <b>JENNIFER COONE</b> S. Coone Mullagh	(6) <b>SARAH DERVAN</b> S. Ní Dhoirbheáin Mullagh	(7) <b>CAROLINE KELLY</b> C. Ní Cheallaigh (Capt.) Davins
(5) <b>COLETTE GILL</b> C. Ní an Ghaill Kinvara	(8) <b>PAULA KENNY</b> P. Ní Conaith Meelick-Eyre Court	(9) <b>AOIFE LYNKEY</b> A. Ní Loinscigh Ardahan
(10) <b>CATHY BOWES</b> C. Ní Bhuagh Mullagh	(11) <b>CAROLINE MURRAY</b> C. Ní Mhuiri St. Thomas	(12) <b>MARTINA CONROY</b> M. Ní Chonraoi Killinor
(13) <b>TARA RUTLEDGE</b> T. Ní Mhaoldéirg Portumna	(14) <b>GEMMA KELLY</b> G. Ní Cheallaigh Ahascragh	(15) <b>LORRAINE PARDY</b> L. Pardy Killinor

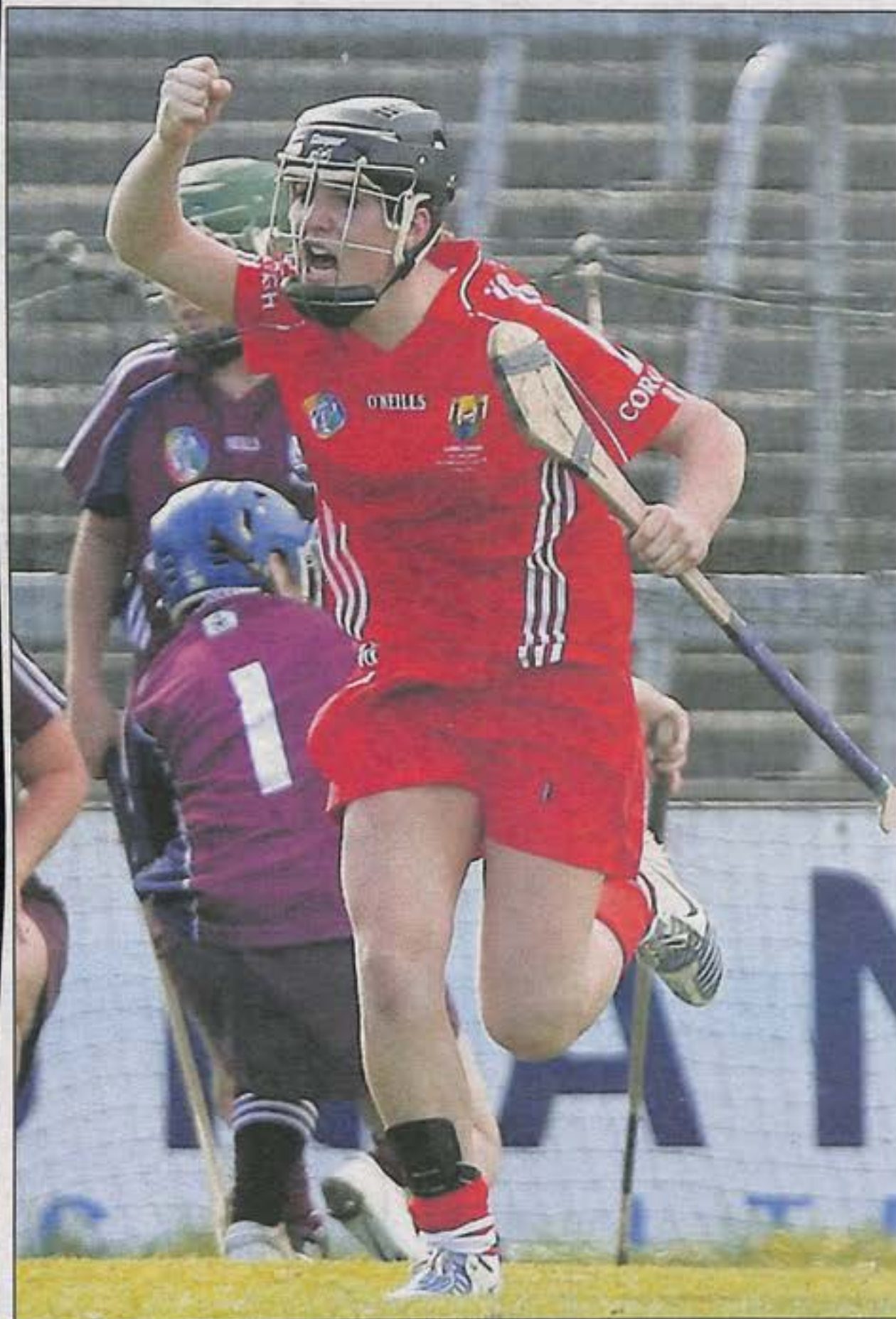
(16) Adrienne Cormican A. Ní Cormacáin Killinor	(20) Maira Connaughton M. Ní Chonnacháin Cappataggle	(24) Serena Brien S. Ní Bhriain Killinor	(28) Laura Mitchell L. Mistil Killinordaly
(17) Heather Cooney H. Ní Chuana St. Thomas	(21) Stacy Coen S. Ní Chadhain Killinor	(25) Mairéad Linnane M. Ní Linnéin Turloughmore	(29) Triana Byrne T. Ní Bhriain Portumna
(18) Claire Conroy C. Ní Chonraoi Killinor	(22) Siobhán Coen S. Ní Chadhain Ballindereen	(26) Aisling Hobbins A. Hobbins Mullagh	(30) Caoimhe Staunton C. Ní an Mhíle Sarsfields
(19) Colette Glennon C. Ní Leannáin Mullagh	(23) Michelle Skehill M. Skehill Cappataggle	(27) Rebecca Hennelly R. Ní hEannail Ardahan	

Roghndáil: Noel Finn (Bainisteoir), Kevin Kelly, Helena Huban, Johnny Keane.  
Traenáil: Basil Larkin.



SEPT 2009

# Late goal seals a



Cork's goal scorer Maria Walsh celebrates scoring her late goal to equalise the game against Galway in the Gala Intermediate All-Ireland camogie final at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick.

Picture: Inpho

## Walsh's gem earns Cork girls a second bite of cherry

By MARY NEWMAN

All-Ireland Intermediate camogie

Cork	2-9
Galway	0-15

IN THE final analysis a draw was probably a fair result as the sides live to fight another day in the Gala Intermediate All-Ireland camogie final at the Gaelic Grounds Limerick on Saturday.

Cork, chasing an adult double, went in as underdogs against a more experienced Galway 15 but a tenacious opening 30 minutes saw them hang on to Galway and never let them out of sight.

On four occasions in the first half it was level as neither side could make the break away.

Deirdre Ward was the busier of the goalkeepers in the first half as the Cork attack tested her abilities. Twice she turned the ball over the line for 45 metre frees as Cork applied pressure for a goal.

With four minutes to go to the break Emer Watson had Cork two points ahead when she finished to the net after good work saw Mary Coleman battle to win the ball from three Galway defenders before passing to Emer Watson who made no mistake from close range.

Michelle Browne, who linked up well with Denise Luby through the opening half, fired over a point to give Cork a 1-7 to 0-7 interval advantage.

Aided by the stiffening wind in the second half, Galway turned over in determined fashion and in the space of six minutes they had taken the lead. Martina Conroy and Tara Rutledge firing over two points each as they proceeded to dictate matters.

Emer Watson had the sides level for the fifth time in the contest but Cork were living on scraps as they battled against a much improved Galway defence where Colette Gill, Sarah Dervan and Caroline Kelly showed dogged determination.

In the opening half the Cork attack had shown well and they had taken the game to Galway but in the second half they lost their shape totally as Galway took control.

All over the pitch Galway were gaining the upper hand and they proceeded to pin Cork in their own half as they stamped their mark on the game.

Between the tenth and the 24th minute Galway were inspired and with Martina Conroy and Tara Rutledge continuing to pick off the scores, they opened up a four point lead. Conroy continued to show her sharpness from placed balls striking three points while Tara Rutledge caused the Cork defence a lot of bother sending over one as their confidence soared.

### Top Player

HARD to choose between Cork's Maria Walsh who had an excellent hour at mid field or Galway's Tara Rutledge who struck three second-half points from play. But given that Maria Walsh got herself in position and slotted away the vital equaliser she gets the nod.

### Turning Point

THE opening five minutes of the second half turned the game in Galway's favour as they hit Cork with four points on the bounce without reply to take the lead. Once they had turned over the goal in arrears, from there on, Cork struggled as Galway took control.

### Top Score

MARIA WALSH'S equalising goal with 30 minutes played in the second half was the score of the game. Surrounded by opponents, she grabbed Niamh Dilworth's over-head hand pass and coolly slotted it to the net to guarantee that Cork live to fight another day.

### Ref Watch

NOT one of his better days as Alan le Grue awarded 28 frees in a tough physical battle. At times he blew for little things yet sometimes allowed obvious fouls go unchecked.

In his defence he was well up with the play and never far from the action.



# draw for Rebels



Cork's Marie Watson gets away from Galway's Sarah Dervan in the Gala Intermediate All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Inpho

## Fleming is relieved to get a second day out

CORK captain Ann Marie Fleming was relieved that her side had got themselves another day out but was disappointed with the outcome, writes MARY NEWMAN.

"Disappointed that we didn't win, we could have won it at the end but to be honest it's just a huge relief that we're still in with a chance.

"When we got the goal it was great to draw level but we still had to contend with one or two scares."

Ann Marie was disappointed that Cork failed to build on their half-time lead: "Before the break we got the upper hand. We enjoyed a lot of possession and were controlling the game for a long time in the first half but we let them back into it at the start of the second half when they hit four points without

reply.

"I suppose we were lucky to come out of it with a draw.

Ann Marie had huge praise for her team mates: "The girls gave it everything and we never ever gave up. That has been a mark of our team all year."

Cork Coach Bobby Thornhill was also happy enough to come away with the draw. "We had played Galway a few times in the last few years and they are hard to beat. They proved it again today that they are a good side.

"This was an All-Ireland final and, like us, they were very determined. I suppose on the balance we are happy to get a draw, we were three points down and looked to be in a bit of trouble but the goal was a

welcome boost and it brought us back into the game."

He was also happy with the way his charges stood up to the challenge posed by Galway: "It was a tough physical battle but the girls stood up to it well. Everyone of them gave it everything and we can ask for no more from them."

Bobby knows it will be another tough test next time out: "We came into today game with a few injuries and we picked up a few today but we'll be hoping to be fit and ready for the replay.

"It's a whole new game now. The girls go back to their clubs this week for local county championship games and we will be hoping that everybody will be ready for the next day out."

An indication of Galway's dominance in the second half was that Cork went 21 minutes without a score and in that period Galway dealt efficiently with anything Cork threw at them, which was very little as they struggled to make any headway.

To their credit they did create some chances but they lost the services of Emer Watson after the full-forward was tackled and bundled to

the ground as she bore down on goal. Despite strong claims for a penalty, play continued as Galway cleared their lines to safety.

With three minutes of normal time remaining Cork began to regain their form and Michelle Browne cut the deficit by pointing a free. From the puck out they again applied pressure but Galway dropped an extra player back into defence and held their lines.

As the clock ticked towards injury time Galway looked to have done enough but still Cork searched for the vital score, and as they did against Derry in their semi-final outing, they laid siege to the Galway goal to produce one. Pamela Mackey drove a long ball goalwards and substitute Niamh Dilworth battled hard to win possession.

Surrounded by Galway defenders, she hand-passed the ball over their

heads to midfielder Maria Walsh who calmly put it in the net.

Through the second half we had several stoppages for injury and an indication of this was the large amount of added time to be played, in all we had seven minutes.

In this time both sides had several chances to grab a winner, Cork's Pamela Mackey was harshly pulled up for over-carrying and as superb free-taker Martina Conroy stood over the free just inside the half-way line, it looked curtains for Cork but the ball sailed wide.

At the other end Cork had a chance but they also failed to convert it and so it finished all square. Cork know they got out of jail and certainly another display like the one they produced in the second half will not be good enough.

**Scorers for Cork:** M Browne 0-6 (0-4f), E Watson 1-1, M Walsh 1-0, M Watson, L Power 0-1 each.

**Galway:** M Conroy 0-10 (0-7 f, 0-1 45"), T Rutledge 0-3, C Bowes, C Murray 0-1.

**CORK:** J Kavanagh; A M Fleming, C O'Neill, A Sheehan; P Mackey, R Curtin, C Motherway; M Walsh, H O'Mahony; M Watson, M Coleman, L Power; D Luby, E Watson, M Browne.

**Subs:** L Weste for Sheehan (24), M Reidy for D Luby (41), A Watson for R Curtin (45), N Dilworth for E Watson (inj 57).

**GALWAY:** D Ward; J Coone, N Lawless, K Brien; C Gill, S Dervan, C Kelly; P Kenny, A Lynskey; C Bowes, C Murray, M Conroy; T Rutledge, G Kelly, L Parry.

**Subs:** M Skehill for L Parry (45), C Conroy for C Murray (65).

**Referee:** Alan de Guise (Kildare).



SEPT 2009

# Late goals ease the Barrs through

## Kildorrery win maiden camogie junior title

Kildorrery 1-6  
Castlelyons 1-3

St Finbarr's 4-10  
Rockbán 1-6

**SEASONED** campaigners St Finbarr's had too much in the tank for relative newcomers Rockbán in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final in Ballincollig on Saturday evening.

A highly competitive opening half saw the Barrs, with too much strength all over the park, pull away from their opponents and a brace of second half goals eased them into their fourth semi-final in a row.

A blinding sun was the only element the players had to contend with in an otherwise glorious evening for a championship match which started at a fine pace.

Valerie Mulcahy gathered from the throw-in and pointed to give Rockbán a relaxed start. Vivienne Harris hit a free two minutes later before a Sheila Burns free and another Mulcahy point had the score three points to one after just six minutes. An excellent Harris point narrowed the gap to one with the scores coming as fast as the tempo of the game.

Play settled however and despite Rockbán's great start they failed to score for the next 18 minutes, due mainly to some great defending by the Barrs defence.

On a fine open pitch, Harris looked very sharp and was finding space. Another great strike from 50 metres saw her register her third point inside the opening 10 minutes.

Rockbán were playing well with Sile Burns, lining out at centre-forward, roaming out to the middle of the pitch and sending in some good ball. The down side to that being that Rockbán's most lethal forward was going to pose no threat that far out.

The St Finbarr's full-back line, in particular Trish Doyle, was having a fine game as was Lynda O'Connell with Jenny Duffy again doing a lot of sweeping.

Equally Catriona Foley, despite having her hands full with Harris, was also doing her bit.

Seventeen minutes in came a controversial moment. Orla O'Sullivan brushed past her marker and bore down on goal. Her thunderous strike



St Finbarr's Orla O'Sullivan, scorer of 2-2, goes past Rockbán's Sarah Ryan in their Evening Echo Senior County Championship match at Ballincollig.

Picture: Kieran Boyde

By LINDA MELLERICK  
Evening Echo SCC

rocketed back off the post with both the Barrs players and mentors convinced that it was the back post the ball had struck and that a goal should be awarded. The umpire disagreed.

At 0-4 to 0-3 and no score for 11 minutes O'Sullivan broke the famine and struck over. Burns replied with a fine point and evidence of what she was capable of if nearer to goal. Harris scored her fifth point of the half with a free and Niamh Goulding added another to leave the half-time score 0-7 to 0-4.

Within 20 seconds of the re-start O'Sullivan goaled. A long free in from Gemma O'Connor was blocked

on the line with O'Sullivan first to react. Margaret Howard gave the perfect response with a fine point. Rockbán were fighting hard but were up against it once O'Connor burst into the game after a quiet enough first half. O'Connor pointed and again Rockbán responded with a Burns' free.

The next five minutes decided the game. An excellent Barrs move involving Duffy, O'Connor and Niamh Goulding saw the latter finish superbly to the net. Niamh Cooke pointed and O'Sullivan had goal number two when she once again went low to gather, turn and finish clinically. The score 3-9 to 0-6 showed no way back for Rockbán. A Sheila Burns long-range free spun off the hurley of goalkeeper Barbara Ann Corcor-

an to the net however an O'Sullivan point and Cooke goal gave St Finbarr's the final say.

**Scorers for St Finbarr's:** O O'Sullivan 2-2, V Harris 0-5 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), N Goulding 1-1, N Cooke 1-1, G O'Connor 0-1.

**Rockbán:** S Burns 1-3 (1-1 f, 0-1 45), V Mulcahy 0-2, M Howard 0-1.

**ST FINBARR'S:** BA Corcoran, C Myers, T Doyle, M McCarthy, L O'Connell, J Duffy, C Spellman, B Maher, G O'Connor, R Myers, V Harris, N Cooke, N Goulding, O O'Sullivan, H Morgan.

**Subs:** C Harrington for C Myers (26), V Maher for H Morgan (41).

**ROCKBÁN:** E Harte, N Keohane, S Ryan, M McSweeney, C Foley, C Foley, M Burns, L Crowley, S Dilworth, M Griffiths, S Burns, S Brickley, T Howard, V Mulcahy, M Howard.

**Subs:** E Casey for S Brickley (25), L Ryan for M McSweeney (46), C Coleman for T Howard (49).

**Referee:** Mike Kelly (Ballyheal).

KILDORRERY won the Evening Echo Junior C Camogie Championship title thanks to a superb display from their defence at Rathcormac, writes MARY NEWMAN.

There was little between the sides throughout but in the end, the heart and determination of Kildorrery won out giving them their first camogie title at this level.

The winners were dealt a killer blow 17 minutes into the game when they lost the services of full-forward Orla Murphy with a knee injury. In the short space of time she was on the field Murphy had made herself a serious contender for player of the match as she tore the Castlelyons defence apart striking two excellent scores before retiring.

It took nine minutes for the game's opening score, Orla Murphy striking a long range effort over the bar and seven more minutes elapsed before we had the next. Orla Murphy first timing Trisha Collins' pass to the roof of the net to increase Kildorrery's lead.

Castlelyons battled to get on the scoreboard but they failed to breach the strong Kildorrery rear-guard.

Twice substitute Niamh Walsh hit the crossbar as Kildorrery piled on the pressure, but Castlelyons found the range with a free to the net but it was rightly deemed a square ball and Kildorrery breathed a sigh of relief. Aoife Hennessy extended the lead with a point before Emily Sexton got Castlelyons on the scoreboard six minutes into injury time pointing a free.

From the start of the second half Castlelyons showed huge improvement but it was Kildorrery who had the first score of the half as Niamh Walsh pointed but Marie Therese Murphy grabbed a Castlelyons goal to cut the lead to two points.

Emily Sexton pointed to leave the minimum between the sides and as Valerie McCormick and Christine Carroll exchanged scores Kildorrery held their slender advantage and crucially never allowed Castlelyons draw level.

Kildorrery introduced substitutes. One of them, Ann Marie McCarthy, struck two vital late points to put three between the sides securing victory.

Kildorrery centre-back Ciara Lynch was rightly named "Player of the Match" which was presented by county board president Kay Dunne.

**Scorers for Kildorrery:** O Murphy 1-1, AM McCarthy 0-2, A Hennessy, N Walsh, V McCormick 0-1 each.

**Castlelyons:** MT Murphy 1-0, E Sexton 0-2 (0-1 f), C Carroll 0-1.

**KILDORRERY:** J Dawson, H Hennessy, N Hennessy, D Murphy, B Allen, C Lynch, J Hennessy, C Hanley, E McCarthy, L Hanley, V McCormick, M O'Brien (c), T Collins, O Murphy, A Hennessy.

**Subs:** N Walsh for O Murphy (inj 17), AM McCarthy for A Hennessy (41), S Coughlan for T Collins (58).

**CASTLELYONS:** Michelle Barry, Mairéad Barry, E Phelan, M Howard, M O'Sullivan, N Barry (c), A O'Sullivan, S O'Shea, C Carroll, A O'Brien, M T Murphy, T O'Connor, E Sexton, C McAuliffe, K Murphy.

**Subs:** P Carroll for T O'Connor (21), I Fenton A O'Brien (40).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## O'Connor absence will be huge loss

ST FINBARR'S captain Vivienne Harris was happy that her side had shown improvement since their championship encounter with Ballygarvan. "This was as tough a game as Ballygarvan. We've improved but still have more to do."

"Our back line was excellent again, they keep us in games at times."

What was pleasing for the captain was the number of players who contributed to scoring up front.

"That was really great. It's good that we weren't

relying on one or two to do all the scoring which has been the case sometimes in the past."

The standard of hurling was good, something which Vivienne agrees with.

"It was good because it's a beautiful day. Camogie

is a summer sport and should be played in the summer. The championship runs far too late now and we don't know what we're going to head into in the coming weeks. It needs to be pulled in for club players."

A down side for Barrs is

the loss of star player Gemma O'Connor from here on who heads to Chad with the armed forces on October 1st.

"Gemma's loss is huge, she's a big player and her loss will be immense. We'll just have to cope with that as best we can."



# Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final

# Superb Offaly Fulfill Destiny With Power Packed Display

By Kevin Corrigan

Offaly.....3-14

Waterford.....2-8

THERE were great scenes of celebration in Croke Park on Sunday last when Offaly captured the All-Ireland Junior Camogie title for the first time with a sensational victory over a Waterford side who had no answers.

crucially, they didn't allow Waterford to get any closer than six points.

By the three quarter way stage, Waterford's demeanour suggested that they knew this game was beyond them. They just couldn't get any joy out of

clinching second goal and was particularly influential when the game was somewhat competitive in the opening quarter.

It was a near perfect performance by Offaly who will now be relishing the opportunity to step up to intermediate ranks.

In the opening quarter, Offaly practically owned the ball as they bombarded the Waterford goal but there were grounds for concern as they failed to make this count on the score board.

Offaly hit a couple of bad wides from Arlene Watkins and Michelle Davis while an



13 September 2009; Offaly players celebrate after the match. Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE



13 September 2009; The Offaly team celebrate with the cup. Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

SEP 2009



It was an exceptionally professional and clinical performance by Offaly as they took control of the game from an early stage, made their superiority count on the scoreboard once they got over a somewhat nervous opening quarter and snuffed all life out of Waterford by the closing ten minutes.

It was a remarkably comfortable win by Offaly who suffered a heart breaking defeat to Clare in last year's All-Ireland final when they fell to a dramatic last gasp goal.

That defeat instilled a fiery determination to bounce back into the Offaly girls and they achieved their ambitions with style and substance.

Their 3-14 to 2-8 win was also a remarkable turn around as Offaly had suffered a humiliating fourteen point defeat by Waterford in the first round of the championship in Kinnitty earlier in the summer. At the time Offaly had not got the trauma of the previous September's All-Ireland final defeat out of their system but the Waterford defeat and the manner of it proved to be a season defining experience.

It told Offaly that they had no God given right to return to Croke Park on All-Ireland final day but more importantly, they knuckled down after this and qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final with wins over Dublin and Down.

It is difficult to explain the difference between a fourteen point defeat in July and a nine point victory on Sunday but the All-Ireland final was a more accurate reflection of the difference between the teams - Offaly had easily defeated Waterford in the All-Ireland semi-final last year and that coupled with the comprehensive nature of Sunday's win suggests that the defeat earlier this year was a mere blip, one of those freak results that can crop up from time to time.

In hindsight, it was probably the best thing that happened Offaly - It meant that there was absolutely no room for complacency and it was a fiercely determined Offaly team that took to the Croke Park field.

Offaly hit the ground running and by half time, captain Marion Crean had one hand on the cup as her charges led by 1-11 to 0-4.

Even when Waterford scored a quick fire goal and a point at the start of the second half to cut the deficit to six points, Offaly didn't panic - They kept their composure, kept trying to do the right thing and

a magnificent Offaly defence and with the winning post in sight, there was no stopping the Faithful women. Goals from Siobhan Flannery and Arlene Watkins finally put the game out of Waterford's reach and in the last ten minutes, Offaly were able to relax and savour the whole atmosphere.

Waterford's second goal from Aine Lyng four minutes from time wasn't even a consolation score and this was as one sided a final as you are likely to witness all year.

Every Offaly player played their part in this victory but like any game, there were some players who put their head above others. Audrey Kennedy displayed calm nerves and steady hands in goals and one late save from Karen Kelly was right out of the top drawer.

Lorraine Keena, Michaela Morkan, who did well to contain Waterford's best player, Aine Lyng, and Sheila Sullivan were on song in a no nonsense defence. In years to come, Offaly's forwards may get a lot of the credit for this win as they scored a fine 3-14 but special praise must go to the defence. As a unit they were superb, they tackled fairly and tenaciously and built the foundations that provided the platform for the forwards to pull the trigger.

Arlene Watkins and Marion Crean controlled midfield and up front, Elaine Darmody produced a player of the match performance at full forward. She scored the first half goal that really put Offaly on the road to victory and was a constant thorn in Waterford's side. It was particularly apt that Darmody had such a productive afternoon as she was full back when Clare got their winning goal in last year's All-Ireland final but on Sunday, her scoring exploits were instrumental in the win.

Darmody was magnificent but the supporting cast also played starring roles with Tina Hannon, Michelle Davis, Siobhan Flannery and Karen Nugent all making a scoring contribution and playing really well in general play.

Special mention has to be made of Michelle Davis. At 37, she is the 'mummy' of this Offaly team and has given years of unstinting service to Offaly camogie, many of them when Offaly were struggling to make their mark. Sunday was a richly deserved reward for her and it was very fitting that she played a heroic role in Offaly's wish. Davis fired over three points, set up the match

Elaine Darmody penalty was saved on the Waterford line and for a few minutes, it looked like being one of those days.

Offaly did register points from Arlene Watkins, Elaine Darmody (Free) and Michelle Davis (Two) to lead by 0-4 to 0-2 after fifteen minutes. The amount of possession they had warranted a much bigger lead and this was a concern but at the same time, Offaly were so superior throughout the field that it was difficult to envisage them not winning, even at that early stage.

In the second quarter, however, Offaly put daylight between the teams. Tina Hannon fired over a point and then Elaine Darmody strode through the heart of the Waterford defence to score a very good goal, managing to flick the ball to the net even when losing her balance.

A Karen Kelly free kept Waterford in the hunt but Offaly then upped the ante by several notches. A great spell of attacking play yielded points from Elaine Darmody (Four, three frees), Siobhan Flannery with a powerful shot that could have been a goal, and Tina Hannon as Offaly pulled clear. A Patricia Jackman point left Waterford trailing by 1-11 to 0-4 at half time and up to their necks in trouble.

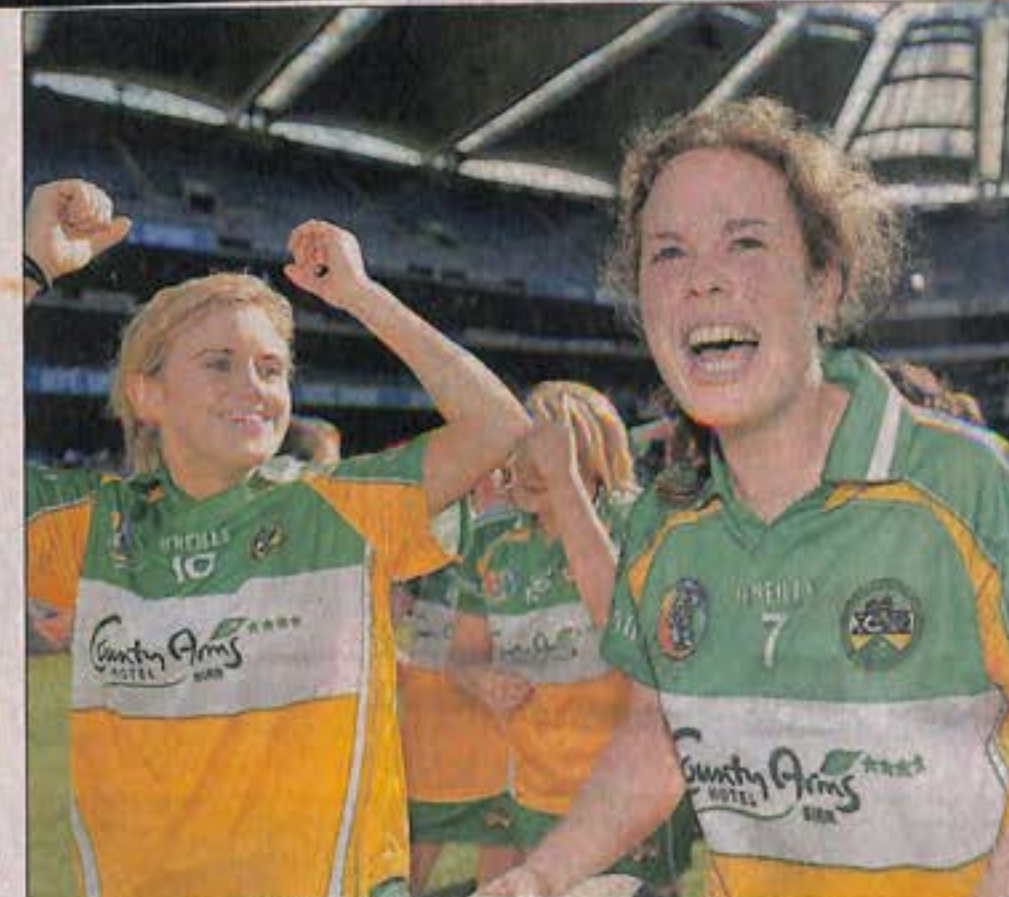
There had to be some resistance in Waterford and to their credit, they did throw caution to the wind early in the second half. An Aine Lyng point was followed by a Patricia Jackman goal to cut the deficit to six points.

Another couple of scores might have really tested Offaly but instead they displayed ice cool nerves with Michelle Davis firing over a hugely important point in the 5th minute. While Waterford got two more frees in the next few minutes, Elaine Darmody floated over a lovely point for Offaly. Ahead by 1-13 to 1-7 with fourteen minutes left, there was no way Offaly were going to let it slip this time.

Michelle Davis did the donkey work to set up Siobhan Flannery for a very clinical goal in the 18th minute. Arlene Watkins added a magnificently taken goal in the 19th minute and in the last ten minutes, Offaly were able to saunter home. Their final point came from the stick of Karen Nugent and while Waterford got in for a late goal and a point, this was very much a case of shutting the door after the horse had bolted.



13 September 2009; The Offaly captain Marion Crean lifts the New Ireland Cup. Waterford. Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE



13 September 2009; Offaly's Sheila Sullivan celebrates after the match. Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

## THE SCORERS

**OFFALY:** Elaine Darmody 1-6 (Four frees), Siobhan Flannery and Arlene Watkins 1-1 each, Michelle Davis 0-3, Tina Hannon 0-2, Karen Nugent 0-1.

Aine Lyng 1-3 (Two frees), Patricia Jackman 1-1, Karen Kelly 0-3 (Two frees), Nicola Morrissey 0-1.

**WEXFORD:** Aine Lyng 1-3 (Two frees), Patricia Jackman 1-1, Karen Kelly 0-3 (Two frees), Nicola Morrissey 0-1.

## THE TEAMS

**OFFALY:** Audrey Kennedy; Fiona Stephens, Lorraine Keena, Karen Brady; Sheila Sullivan, Michaela Morkan, Linda Sullivan; Arlene Watkins, Marion Crean; Aoife Kelly, Elaine Darmody, Michelle Davis; Tina Hannon, Karen Nugent, Siobhan Flannery; Subs - Jean Brady (for Siobhan Flannery (55m), Aoife Corrigan (for Aoife Kelly, 59m), Emma Dunne (for Michelle Davis, 62m).

**WEXFORD:** Ashling O'Brien; Vicky Gaffney, Sally O'Grady, Kate Marie Hearne; Grainne Kenneally, Mary O'Donnell, Shauna Kiernan; Mairead Murphy, Charlotte Maher; Shona Curran, Aine Lyng, Nicola Morrissey; Patricia Jackman, Karen Kelly, Aine Breathnach. Subs - Jenny Simpson (for Shona Curran, half time), Aisling Kelly (for Aine Breathnach, 51m), Marie Russell (for Vicky Gaffney, 58m).

REFEREE: Pat Walsh (Armagh).



13 September 2009; Offaly manager Joachim Kelly celebrates with his daughter, and Offaly player, Aoife Kelly after the match. Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final, Offaly v Waterford, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE



# Rachel's on a roll

RACHEL MOLONEY, the top Cork scorer in the All-Ireland camogie final, hasn't been resting on her laurels since the big win last week. Tomorrow, her club — Courcey Rovers — gears up to meet St Catherine's in the club championships. "It's a big deal for us. We're a small club and we really want to perform well there," says Rachel, who scored seven points in the Cork-Kilkenny match.

The 27-year-old from Ballinspittle didn't relax until the last minutes of the All-Ireland. "I was very nervous at half-time. We definitely hadn't played to our potential in the first half and we were only three points ahead at that stage. Whatever wind was there, Kilkenny had it in the second half and they're a very good team. It was only in the 58th minute when we were seven points up that I thought, okay, we've won now anyway."

Rachel is single and lives at home with four of her siblings. She works in the HSE's Department of Public Health. "My degree is in nutrition but there's not a whole lot of openings in Ireland for nutritionists — sports nutrition isn't huge."

**What shape are you in?**

I'm in good shape. I've been doing hard training since January — three times a week with the county and twice a week with the club. I like running and going to the gym and that's what I do in winter so I keep in good shape all year round.

**Do you have any health concerns?**

Only the knocks I pick up while playing. I might have to worry about them in later years but for the moment I'm not going to.

**What are your healthiest eating habits?**

I'd rather run late than miss breakfast — I always have it. I take flax seeds every day. Playing sport, you also have to be good on the water intake. I eat a lot of fish — it's great for your skin and hair.

**What's your guiltiest pleasure?**

I'm generally very good and don't eat sweet things but I'm a coffee fiend. I'd have three Americanos a day — I try to balance it with water.

**What would keep you awake at night?**

Not much — I'd be a worrier during the day but it doesn't affect my sleep. If I'm worried about something, like a big match coming up, I might have dreams about it but it wouldn't stop me sleeping.

**How do you relax?**

Shopping or just sitting watching TV or doing a crossword. I'm not a great cinema-goer — on a night off, it's nice to be at home.

**When did you last cry?**

Our manager gave an excellent speech before the All-Ireland and it was very emotional. A lot of girls had tears in their eyes and so did I.

**What would you change about your appearance?**

My nose is a bit crooked and one of my eyes is bigger than the other — others wouldn't see it but I notice it. I'd get rid of my freckles as well.

**Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**

I really admire Steven Gerrard. I'd invite him to see what he's like in the flesh. I'd also invite Venus and Serena Williams because they're mentally very strong. They always seem to get it right and I'd like to know how they do that.

**What's your favourite smell?**

Coffee.

**What trait do you least like in others?**

I don't like people who tell lies.

**What trait do you least like in yourself?**

I guess I'm a bit of an over-analysar about every situation in life, which makes life difficult for myself.

**Do you pray?**

Yes — I go to Mass every week and I pray every night. I'd be quite religious. My granny, Maureen Moloney, is very religious — she said a novena before the All-Ireland.

**What would cheer up your day?**

Catching up with a friend.

Helen O'Callaghan



**CAMOGIE CHAMP:**

Rachel Moloney would rather run late than miss breakfast. She also eats a lot of fish, saying it's great for skin and hair.

Picture: Denis Minihane

## Saints bid for place in last four

ST CATHERINE'S and Courcey Rovers battle it out for a place in the last four of the Evening Echo Senior Championship tomorrow in Castle Road Camogie Grounds, Blackrock (3.30), writes MARY NEWMAN.

Both had first round victories back in June and it has been a long wait for the quarter-finals as the loser's rounds were being decided.

St Catherine's are being mentioned by many as dark horses for the title this season.

They had a good first round victory over a strong Cloughduv side.

They will be determined to book a semi-final spot.

Cork senior Orla Cotter spearheads their challenge and she will have plenty of support from Denise Twomey, Denise Leahy, and captain Faith Noonan, while Carolyn Motherway, who joined the club this season from Dungourney is a big asset as they go in search of their first senior title.

Courcey Rovers were full value for their first-round victory over Inniscarra.

Cork senior duo Rachel Moloney and Sara Hayes are superb players to have in any club side and they had plenty of assistance from senior pannelist Christine O'Neill, who is a solid defender.

They have plenty of up-and-coming young talent, none more so than in 15 year-old Julia Mulcahy and Aisling Moloney, who played superbly in their championship debut against Inniscarra.

St Catherine's lost out at quarter-final stage last season to eventual champions Douglas.

They were considered extremely unlucky not to have made it through in the first game where a point deep in added time gave Douglas a replay.

They are a well-balanced outfit and they have been threatening to make the breakthrough for the last two seasons.

Courcey's are very determined and they will provide tough opposition.

They have made good progress at under age level and they have been team building with the younger players.

It has been so long since round one that the early season form shown by both sides will have at this stage gone out the window, however, having come so very close last season St Catherine's may have just that little bit extra in the tank to push on and secure themselves a semi-final spot.





# Linda Mellerick

## Clubs at the business end of a tough season

IT'S down to the last seven as the Evening Echo Cork Camogie championship enters an important few days for a number of clubs.

St Finbarr's are the first team to reach this year's semi-final by virtue of their 4-10 to 1-6 victory over Rockbawn last Saturday.

St Finbarr's looked impressive, but it is hard to judge how much they have improved as Rockbawn, despite giving a very good account of themselves in the opening period, were well beaten in the second and are a bit off the mark yet for competing at senior level. It's only their second season up and they can be proud of their achievement, but they need more players coming through if they hope to advance at this level.

I have a bit of a concern regarding the senior B competition. In three or four years time most teams will have made the step up.

However, it will be a step eventually reversed as many of them won't survive the top flight. The wheel will turn with those winning intermediate moving up into senior B.

Each club in turn will win senior B, but that doesn't alter the fact that many will remain of intermediate standard. They will be destroyed at senior level, feel despondent and apply to move back down again. They will, in all probability, win the senior B championship again in their first year downgraded and then move up again for the cycle to continue.

The Barrs seemed to show a significant improvement to the team which lined out against Ballygarvan a few weeks ago and the fact that four of their inside six scored



Michael Magner and David Fitzgerald (Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel) presents the August Glanmire and District Sports Award to Emer O'Farrell (Sarsfields and Cork Camogie Player). Included are members of her family Emmet Fennell (husband), parents Una and Eamonn, brothers Peter and Barry, Gus and Deirdre Fennell. Picture: Mike English

will please them.

However, one can't ignore the fact that the club will be without Gemma O'Connor for the remainder of the championship as she heads to Chad on October 1 with the armed forces.

It is a huge blow to the side as they bid to regain the title they last held in 2006, but sometimes when teams are faced with a challenge they step up to the mark and one

might see the players, typically sitting back waiting for Gemma to see them through, raise their game and take on more responsibility.

We all wish Gemma well as she faces the toughest challenge of all and look forward to her safe return.

St Catherine's and Courcy Rovers meet today in the second of the quarter-finals and that game should be a close one. Courcy's can turn it on when they want to.

They failed to show up last year in their opening encounter with Milford and suffered a humiliating defeat. However, their performance against Ballygarvan six weeks later was to their credit, despite going down by six points.

A thriller of an opening round against Inniscarra saw Rovers advance by a single point in a high scoring 3-11 to 4-7 encounter.

Once again St Catherine's secured

a one-point victory over Cloughduv. It is hard to predict a winner here. A lot will be required from the inter-county players from both sides. After much debate, I'll tip St Catherine's.

I haven't seen Milford play this season. Their only championship game to date against Ballygarvan saw them emerge with a 4-9 to 0-10 victory. When one considers the challenge Ballygarvan gave the Barrs you would believe that Milford's victory was a big scalp.

Nevertheless, Ballygarvan can play poorly too and reports are that they were poor that day against Milford. Milford, despite losing their way these past couple of years, still have the players and rumour has it that the North Cork side are putting in a tremendous effort this season.

They take on Inniscarra next Wednesday in the second game of a double header in Pairc Ui Rinn under lights. Inniscarra accounted for Barryroe via the back door after their first round defeat to Courcy's. One would expect Milford to make it to the semi-final here.

The opening double-header is a big one with champions Douglas taking on Cloughduv. I expect to see Cloughduv really raise their game for this one and it could be a hum-dinger.

However, I can't see them taking Douglas. A lot will be required of Briege Corkery too and how she'll feel just three days after an All-Ireland football final.

Under lights too is difficult. I've never played under lights, but I still believe that there must be a blind spot when a high ball is coming in.

The very best of luck to the Ladies Footballers tomorrow as they bid for an incredible five-in-a-row.

## CAMOGIE

### BISHOPSTOWN

Well done to the Cork team and selectors following a great win in Croke Park last Sunday from all in Bishopstown Camogie Club. We hope all the girls who made the bus trip enjoyed this day and thanks to the adults who accompanied them and for making the day out possible. Back to training again now, with club fixtures coming up again soon, Corcaigh Aba.

**U10:** A friendly league competition is happening at the moment, and having played both the Barrs and Douglas, the girls are to play Ballycollig on Friday, September 25.

**U11:** The girls are looking forward to their final against St Finbarr's, which has been fixed for Sunday, October 4.

**U13 and 15:** Competitions in this age group are just starting, but no dates are fixed as of yet.

**U16:** The league play-off will be coming up shortly so training is continuing for that.

**Senior:** Best of luck to the senior team who are playing Valley Rovers today. The game is a must win and is on in Ballygarvan at 5.15pm. And well done to Miriam Crowley, who is on the Cork intermediate panel, which drew the All-Ireland final with Galway last weekend. The replay is fixed for October 4.

### ST CATHERINE'S

St Catherine's 4-3 Carrigrohilly 2-0.

**U13:** A Imokilly league final 2009: We played host to Carrigrohilly in this Imokilly League final and our girls started very well and we dominated the first half with Emer O'Brien scoring a point in the first minute, followed by a goal from Maeve Walsh. A further point from a free by Emer O'Brien was then followed by a goal from Meabh Mulcahy. Joanne O'Keefe completed the St Catherine's first-half scoring when she goalied in the 22nd minute.

Carrigrohilly were to come more into the game in the second half, goaling twice, but with Emer adding a point and Joanne a goal we ran out comfortable winners. Well done to all our girls on this hard earned victory, they were deserving winners on the night.

**Team:** Bláithín O'Keefe, Emma Spillane, Mary Galvin, Leanne Hartnett, Meabh Mulcahy, Kate Mulcahy, Joanne O'Keefe, Katie England, Aine Mulcahy, Maeve Walsh, Emer O'Brien, Laura Ahern.

**Subs:** Ciara McCarthy, Alison Fitzgerald, Niamh Clahessey, Katie Norman, Alice O'Keefe, Nicole.

**Scorers:** J O'Keefe 2-0, M Walsh 1-0, M Mulcahy 1-0, E O'Brien 0-3.

**Senior championship:** Today we play our county quarter-final against Courcy Rovers; this match is fixed for the Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, with a 3.30pm throw-in. Our girls have trained very hard during the long break since their first game against Cloughduv back on June 28. Hopefully they will emerge victorious.

**Intermediate All-Ireland final:** Cork and Galway will have to meet again after playing out an exciting draw in last Saturday's All-Ireland final played at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick. Cork will be relieved to get a second chance as it took a goal in the last minute to level the scores.

Well done to Liz, Carolyn and Denise and, hopefully Cork will be successful in the replay which is scheduled for Oct 10th.

### YOUGHAL

Youghal v Carrigrohilly U11 Imokilly League final: Our U11's had an unbeaten road to the final of the Imokilly league which took place on Saturday, September 12 at Youghal GAA grounds. The sun was splitting the stones to what turned out to be a thrilling and nail biting final. Both teams arrived full of excitement on a gorgeous day in the seaside town. The game was always going to be a tight affair and it took 15 minutes before a score was

to come. Shauna O'Connell provided plenty of balls into her forwards for Youghal and her work was rewarded with Erin Galvin getting a goal from play. Carrigrohilly responded with a great point from play five minutes later. Shauna O'Connell also got a point from play before the half time whistle. Our goalkeeper and captain, Niamh Kelly, also pulled off two fine saves in this half showing great confidence and leadership between the posts. Louise Dempsey shined for us throughout the game, clearing and delivering plenty of balls from the half back line.

The second half started with as much anticipation as the first with Emer Farrell, Catriona O'Keefe, Ciara Crowley and Chloe Landers all doing Trojan work in the forwards to try and snatch a goal for us.

Our back line of Niamh Roche, Elizabeth Brennan and Laura White were under pressure in the second half as Carrigrohilly piled on the pressure. This paid off for Carrigrohilly as they got two goals from play. This didn't put our girls' heads down as 10 minutes later the hard work and determination of all the girls on the pitch rewarded them with a well deserved goal from Aoife O'Neill. Unfortunately, with most of the ball down in our forward line, we could not con-

vert with numerous wides from play. Carrig again responded to this with another point from a free and with the clock ticking we ran out of time to try and come back, in the end losing out by a solitary point. This was heart-wrenching for this young team and their trainers, Janette Power and Carmel Dempsey, but we are determined to come back and do bigger and better things next year. We would like to thank everyone that supported the girls on the day and also a big thank you to Doyle's Take Away in Youghal for providing food for the girls afterwards. It was greatly appreciated.

**Final Score:** Carrigrohilly 2-2, Youghal 2-1.

**Team on the day:** Niamh Kelly (Capt), Elizabeth Brennan, Laura White, Niamh Roche, Louise Dempsey, Catriona O'Keefe, Shauna O'Connell, Emer Farrell, Aoife O'Neill, Chloe Landers, Erin Galvin, Ciara Crowley.

**Subs Used:** Clodagh O'Keefe for Elizabeth Brennan.

**Subs:** Fidelma Flavin, Aine Forest, Ciara White, Amy Henliff & Lucie Sheehan.

After a great effort from the our underage





## Best wishes

CORK camogie clubs and county players and officials join me in wishing the Cork ladies footballers and their mentors and back-room team all the best in Croke Park tomorrow as they go in search of another All-Ireland title.

Special wishes to Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery who will be hoping to add another medal to their every growing collection.

LEFT: Participants in the recent Over-30s camogie match as part of the Kilbrittain-Timoleague Camogie Club 21st birthday celebrations.

**TWENTY-FIRST** birthday celebrations were the order of the day recently as the Kilbrittain/Timoleague camogie club celebrated its coming of age.

Famed for their prowess on the hurling fields it was decided to get camogie up and running in the Kilbrittain GAA club in 1988.

Prior to this the ladies in the club had played football and the formation of the camogie club came about as a result of the winding up of the Kilbrittain Ladies Football Club, which had operated for a number of years.

With a lot of girls coming to play camogie from the neighbouring parish of Timoleague it was decided to give the club an official footing and recognise the neighbouring area.

Remarkably success was quickly achieved with the Club historically winning three county titles in three successive years.

In 1990 the junior B Championship title was annexed as they defeated St Finbarr's by a point.

In 1991 the club continued their winning ways as they took the Junior A crown, again just one point separated them from Éire Óg in a thrilling final.

Promotion to Intermediate proved to be no obstacle as they blazed a glory trail in 1992 to reach their third final in-a-row in three different grades and again it was a close call in the final where they had to go to a replay before the title was secured over Brian Dillon's in a low scoring replay.

Promotion followed to senior B and after many years of featuring in both county finals and semi-finals the club finally made the breakthrough and captured the highly sought after Senior B county title in 2004.

And it was a very proud day as club stalwart Sadie McCarthy cap-

# Celebrations aplenty as club comes of age

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

tained Kilbrittain/Timoleague to victory.

The club also captured the Senior A league title in 2005 captained by Miriam Deasy.

Success at underage level also arrived at the progressive club and in 1992 the U18 team made it a double when they added the county title to the Intermediate one as they defeated Bishopstown.

The club has worked tirelessly to continue to promote the game with the U14s taking a league title in 2004 and the signs of a revival are good with the club's U10s side reaching the West Cork Final this year and the U12 C team winning the league while they have also qualified for the West Cork Final which will be played in the coming weeks.

As 2009 dawned club members were anxious to mark their club's 21st birthday, and no better way to do it than holding a party.

In conjunction with the Kilbrittain Festival it was decided to organise an Over 30s camogie match and many famous faces once again donned the black and amber as they lined out to show that they had not forgotten their skills.

August 3 was a red letter day and despite appalling weather conditions the participants were not deterred and the sense of excitement in the dressing room was huge as old team-mates rubbed shoulders again



Former Cork senior player Miriam Deasy on the left with her aunt Ide Crowley at the Kilbrittain/Timoleague celebration match.

as the banter and jokes flowed.

Eventually two teams were selected with one team wearing the black and amber of Kilbrittain and the other team wearing the maroon of Timoleague.

The two teams marched onto the field as the underage players of the club formed a guard of honour and, following a few quick stretches, referee Barry O'Sullivan who is the current chairman of the club and one of the trainers of the successful three in-a-row winning team got the game under way.

Also present was fellow three in-a-row trainer John Madden, who

was kept busy as umpire.

Having contributed hugely to the club over many years at all levels it was great that both Barry and John were involved on the day.

The game itself was superb and the skill level was testimony to why the club was so successful at adult level for many years.

It was a very proud moment for many families as many of the young girls are now following in the footsteps of their mothers and aunts and also play for the club and the youngsters watched in amazement and quickly realised that they themselves did not invent camogie and that indeed mammy or auntie could do just what they always said they could.

Kathleen Deasy, who has been the club first aider since the foundation, was on hand to administer assistance, but she was happy to report a quiet day, with no injuries.

Kathleen has voluntarily given of her time and given fantastic service to the Club over the past 21 years, a service which the club players greatly appreciated.

Many famous players have donned the club colours with pride but none more so that Miriam Deasy, who

without doubt, is the heart and soul of Camogie in the club.

Miriam has won practically every honour in the game. The sports officer at CIT ended her inter county career on a high as she captaining Cork to a historic first senior B title. Current cork senior panellist, Marion Murphy is also hugely influential in the club whilst stalwarts such as Sadie McCarthy and names such as O'Sullivan, Desmond, Murphy, O'Regan and Coughlan have all played huge parts in the club's history.

Every player that participated on the day enjoyed it and only wished that they could turn back time.

Following the success of the event it is hoped to organise a game again next year, with some former players hoping to fly home from abroad.

Following refreshments and a chat, the Clubs Player of the Year Award was presented to current senior player, Máiréad Dullea.

Máiréad is in her second year with the Club and proves a vital cog at midfield as they participated in the Senior B Championship.

Also as part of the birthday celebrations a very successful camogie camp was held from the July 6-10 and great fun was had by all the young girls as coaching was given by senior club players under the guidance of Miriam Deasy with Cork players Gillian Harrington, Marion Jagoe, Marian Murphy and Ann-Marie Fleming.

While the club is at present going through transition at senior level, the future looks bright and recently young and old club members travelling to Croke Park to support the Cork senior teams and panellist Marian Murphy and her team-mates as they overcame Kilkenny to retain the O'Duffy cup.

Well done to Kilbrittain/Timoleague, enjoy the remainder of your birthday celebrations in the weeks ahead.

## CLUB NOTES

teams in their 100k league games this year, we decided to treat the girls to some fun, a bus was organised and we took the road to Croke to support the Cork Camogie team. We would like to thank Brookes Super Valu, Youghal for kindly sponsoring our lunch packs for over 50 girls.

Also big thanks go to the parents and adults who travelled with us Youghal Camogie Club will be holding a Fun Table Quiz at Youghal GAA Club on Saturday, October 24. Lots of Prizes and Auctioning of a framed and signed Cork Jersey from all of the 2009 senior football Team €40 per table of four, Time 7.30pm. A great night is guaranteed so please come out and support the club.

### BRIAN DILLON'S

Dillon's got off to a great start in this second round Championship against St Mary's last Saturday.

Both teams were fighting hard in the first half, Ruth Brosnan penned the scoring for Dillon's with a classy point followed by a superb goal from Sara Attridge and Michelle Ring added to the lead with another well

taken point putting Dillon's ahead by two points at the end of the first half.

The Dillon's girls in defence were rock solid. Sarah Cotter, Rebecca Myers, Eilish Porter, Kate O'Brien, Sara Attridge and Karen Henry repelled every attack from St Mary's and kept feeding midfield and the half-forward line. Pressure was on both teams but Dillon's came out the stronger team in the second half and all players showed great spirit.

Points from Susan-Kate Brosnan, Donna Carroll, Ruth Brosnan, Michelle Ring and two goals scored by Caoimhe Rodgers put Dillon's on the path to victory. Captain Orla Ni Shuilleabhain, Rebecca O'Mahony and Alison Smith made it impossible for St. Mary's to mount an attack from their own half and they also fed the ball to the full forward line. Rock solid Saoirse Rodgers gave another great display of goalkeeping. Well done girls, a game to be proud of, thanks to coach John Ring and mentors Niall McLoughlin and Liz O'Mahony. Good luck in your next match. Fulltime Score: Brian Dillon's 3-8 St. Mary's: 1-1. Team: S Rodgers, S Cotter, R Myers, E Porter, K O'Brien, S Attridge, K Henry, S Brosnan, O Ni Shuilleabhain, R O'Mahony, D Carroll, C Rodgers, R Brosnan, M Ring, A Smith. Subs: K Luby for A Smith, Sadhbh Shannon.

Emma Sharpe, Niamh O'Mahony, Niamh Cotter.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: Caoimhe Rodgers: 2-0, Sara Attridge: 1-0, Michelle Ring: 0-3. Ruth Brosnan: 0-2, Donna Carroll: 0-2.

Susan-Kate Brosnan: 0-1.

U18 Championships v. Mallow Dillon's got off to a slow start in this Championship against Mallow. Scores from Rebecca O'Mahony, Clair Dooley and Caoimhe Rodgers goal in the first half encouraged and motivated the Dillon's team. Dillon's came out playing much better in the second half with scores from Claire Dooley and Jane Dooley. Both teams were equally matched in the second half and gave a great performance.

Mallow had clocked up seven points ahead of Dillon's in the first half and this is what won the game for them. Great team play and skill was evident from the Dillon's girls. Thanks to coaches Therese Drummond and Clair O'Mahony. Good luck in the next round of this Championship.

Team: S Rodgers, E Kelly, S Cotter, R Myers, O Ni Shuilleabhain, S Attridge, L Bradfield, S Brosnan, C Dooley, D Carroll, M Ring, J Dooley, R O'Mahony, C Rodgers, R Brosnan. Subs: Kate O'Brien for Eadaoin Kelly, Sarah O'Donovan, Sadhbh Shannon.

Mallows: 1-15 Brian Dillon's: 2-5

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: Jane Dooley: 1-1, Clair Dooley: 0-3, Caoimhe Rodgers: 1-0, Rebecca O'Mahony: 0-1.

### GLEN ROVERS

Today is a big day for our U14 team as they meet Killeagh in the final of the U14 blitz, the final had to be postponed due to bad weather recently but its all systems go as we head for Castle Road today with an 11.30am throw-in, support welcome for the girls in this game.

Our second U16 team comprising of a lot of young players gave a determined display when they met Castletyons recently and despite losing out the girls battled to the very end and showed huge commitment and dedication, well done to everyone and to Pat and Mary for all the work with the team.

Thoughts now turn to the Seandun U15 and 13 competitions for the girls with game scheduled to take place from this weekend on.

### Senior/Junior teams

Our senior team are busy preparing for the last game in their group of the round-robin series where we will meet Carrigaline on Sunday, October 4. Our junior team will parti-

cipate in the junior shield competitions where they are draws in a group with Ballinascarty and Passage.

**Well done:** Well done to Denise Luby who performed excellently as Cork recorded a draw with Galway in last weekend's All-Ireland Intermediate final, we look forward to the replay on October 10.

**Underage:** Our underage coaching academy is back at full strength again after the break and players are reminded that from U12s downwards its Sunday at 11.45am and Tuesday at 5.45pm. New members are welcome to come along.

### SEANDUN

Clubs in Seandun are reminded that this division will be holding a bag pack fund raiser on next weekend Friday October 3 and Saturday October 4 in the New Dunes Stores Patrick Street.

All clubs in the division are asked to come along and lend a hand any club who have not been allocated a time are asked to contact Secretary Helen Duggan or Chairperson Ross Corcoran for details.



## Three times All Ireland junior club champions The Harps play Leinster club championship semi-final

Although The Harps of Limerick is a relatively young camogie club, their incredible achievements to date have put them firmly on the camogie map. Recently they claimed an incredible fourth consecutive Leinster county title following a replay with St Brigid's, and remarkably this weekend they hope to advance to a fourth consecutive Leinster junior club championship final.

With three All Ireland club titles already in the bag, The Harps are recognised as one of the most formidable teams in the club championship. Away to Month Champions Kilmessan, The Harps official Mary Donohue says their progress is down to a number of seasons.

"We had a tremendous good run in Féile in the late 90's and early 00's. We went from winning Division Three to being runners-up in Division One when we were beaten by Sliabh na nUilleann, who were one of the top clubs in Féile at the time.

"Kieran Franks came in as team manager in 2006 and that started our good run. Tommy Carroll took over this year and thankfully so far we are still in a winning mode."

What makes the story all the more intriguing is that the camogie club is only 15 years old. Having already defeated Myshall in the provincial quarter-final. The Harps big players include Louise and Aine Mahony.

Playing at home, Kilmessan will look to Sarah Ross, Caoimhe O'Leary and Lisa Brian who impressed against Wicklow champions Donard/Glen last weekend.

The other semi-final is between St Laurence's Kildare and Offaly's Drumcullen. The Offaly side will hope to emulate the Faithful County's magnificent success in Croke Park a couple of weeks ago.

The Leinster junior club final is fixed for October 10<sup>th</sup> - the same date as the Gaelic All Ireland intermediate championship replay between Cork and Galway. The Rebels live to fight another day after Maria Walsh's late goal in the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday denied the Maroons at the death.

**Fixtures:**  
Kilmessan (Meath) v The Harps (Laois), Sunday, 2.30pm, Kilmessan, Co. Meath.  
St. Laurence's (Kildare) v Drumcullen (Offaly), Sunday, 2pm, Oldgrange, Co. Kildare



## President's September Blog

It's almost the end of a thrilling intercounty season. The Intermediate players of Cork and Galway extended the season until 10th October when they drew the All Ireland Intermediate Final at an exciting game recently in Limerick.

As we await the replay, on the field activity continues with a club championships at county and Provincial level reaching the final stages.

There's plenty of other action going on also. Here's some dates that indicate forthcoming national activities:

Date	Activity
Week commencing 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Announcement of nominations for 2009 Camogie All Stars
10 <sup>th</sup> October	All Ireland Colleges 7s
Mid October	Release of Camogieprose - our new ezine to members - check our website to register your contact details
17 <sup>th</sup> October	National meeting to discuss 2010 Intercounty Features Programme - open to county officers and team managers
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Cullite Development Squads Activity Day in Croke Park
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Sterly International in Inverness involving Camogie players from Nancy Murray Cup and Maise Ní Chennéide Cup competitions
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Announcement of 2009 All Stars at Annual All Stars Banquet, City West Hotel
Early November	Publication of new Camogie magazine <i>On the Ball</i>
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Camogie National Congress to ratify new National Camogie Development Plan and consult on proposed changes to our rule book <i>An Treoir Oifigiúil</i>

As you'll see from above, two new communication activities are planned between now and the year end. These are the launch of an ezine newsletter to members and the launch of *On the Ball* our new twice yearly magazine. We're keen to keep you informed of all that's happening in the Camogie world so watch out for these.

I've just undertaken visits to Donegal and Derry County Boards and then Mayo last night. Excellent development work going on and good ideas on improving access to coaching and playing opportunities. Great to hear about the involvement of Carrick on Shannon (Leitrim), Sylane (Galway) and Western Gaels (Sligo) along with Na Bridesoga, Castbar Mitchells and Westport in the work of Mayo County Board. You can encourage and support this new teams by giving their young players games opportunities particularly in the age ranges under 8-12s.

Ar aghaidh leis an Chamógaíocht!

Joan O'Flynn  
Uachtarán  
September 2009

## Ulster senior B and intermediate club finals previewed

It is a big weekend for Ulster Camogie as the Ulster Senior "B" and Ulster Intermediate Club Championships draw to a close.

In the Senior "B" final holders Lavey from Derry will battle it out with Armagh's Keady for the chance to progress to the qualifying stages of the Junior All-Ireland Championship.

Lavey overcame Down champions Clonduff in the semi-final, while Keady came through a sternest test with Eglishe of Tyrone.

"We're looking forward to the game against Keady, they showed great character to overcome Eglishe. We know that we will have to be at our best on Sunday, our ultimate goal is to progress in the competition and hopefully go one better than last season," said Lavey coach Gila Downey.

In the Intermediate final Castletara of Cavan will face Antrim's Loughgall.

Loughgall defeated Derry neighbours Slaughtneil 11s in a thrilling encounter at Loughgall last weekend.

Castletara were made to work for their final place against Armagh's Derrydown in the other semi-final, a goal at the death sealing a one point victory for the Cavan side.

### ULSTER CAMOGIE FIXTURES

Sunday 4th October-Double Header- Droichead, Tyrone

Ulster Senior B Final (All Ireland Junior Club Qualifier)

Lavey (Derry) v Keady (Armagh)  
1.00pm  
Referee: Colum Canning (Antrim)

Ulster Intermediate Club Final

Castletara (Cavan) v Loughgall 11s (Antrim) 2.45pm

10TH OCTOBER - Double Header

Ulster Minor Final  
Antrim v Derry

Ulster U14 Championship Cup Final  
Time and Venue TBC



## CAMOGIE

Leinster Junior Club C'hip  
quarter-finals: Harps Laois 1-16  
Kilmessan Meath 2-7; St Laurence's Kildare  
3-10 Drumcullen Offaly 1-15.

## Antrim mourns the passing of Eithne Dougan

Antrim Camogie has lost one of its greats with the passing of Eithne Dougan at the weekend. Eithne had a long and distinguished playing career that spanned three decades winning two Senior All Ireland Medals with Antrim and four Antrim Senior County medals with Dunloy Cuchullains.

During and after her playing days, Eithne took an active part in the administration of Camogie in Dunloy and promoted the game and Irish culture in general during her teaching career in first St. Joseph's Primary in Dunloy and later in Our Lady of Lourdes Ballymoney.

Although domiciled in Canada for many years, she kept in touch with the hurling and camogie successes of her native parish and made regular trips home to coincide with major games for the club. Four years ago, when the Dunloy club honoured the 1955 Antrim Senior County Champions Ti Cuchullain, she made her way home to enjoy the evening of nostalgia.

Ar dheis Dé go raib a hanam uasal.  
Seamas Mac Giolla Fhinnéin



## Rovers on a roll

Valley Rovers  
Bishopstown

2-12  
2-11

A POINTED 45 with the second last puck of the game gave Valley Rovers the points in this senior B championship round robin series game in Ballygarvan.

Valley led at the break 1-8 to 0-5 thanks to an Eileen Foley goal and points from Foley, Liz Bugler and Maryanne Hawkes.

Bishopstown upped the pace in the second-half.

With four minutes on the stop watch the sides were level as Ciara Healy pointed a free.

However Rovers were not going to be denied, Lucy Hawkes pointing a 45 on the stroke of the full-time whistle.

Ballyhea 1-14  
Watergrasshill 2-5

BALLYHEA capture the Evening Echo Junior A championship title in Fermoy on Saturday last thanks in no small way to a superb display from their defence while captain Maria Walsh and Mary Coleman were very much to the fore.

Centre-back Karen O'Leary was magnificent all thorough and was named as player of the match award following a magnificent hour.

The opening half saw Ballyhea lead by a point 1-7 to 2-3 at the interval after Watergrasshill had opened up a four point lead with two goals inside three minutes from Laney O'Leary and Aisling Murray.

Marie O'Neill had Watergrasshill on level inside a minute of the restart but they had to wait 22 minutes for their next score as the Ballyhea defence stood firm. Mary Coleman and Michelle Walsh continued

to win a lot of ball ensuring a strong supply to their forwards where Maria Walsh hit five points and Mary Coleman struck two superb long-range efforts.

Watergrasshill battled hard to find a response substitute Cathy Walsh pointed on 23 minutes but they could find no way past a solid Ballyhea defence that were not going to be denied their moment of glory.

Ballincollig 1-14  
Eire Og 1-8

BALLINCOLLIG ensured themselves of a semi-final spot in the Evening Echo senior B championship as they maintained their unbeaten run with a six point victory over Eire Og who are still very much in the hunt for the second qualifying spot.

Just three points separated the

sides at the interval 0-7 to 0-4 Patricia Buttner, Denise Cronin Leah Weste Holly Coomey and Marie O'Donoghue keeping Ballincollig ahead as Margaret O'Herlihy, Aoife McCarthy and Ciara McKenna struck points for Eire Og.

It was nip and tuck as the sides swapped second half points Ballincollig maintaining their three point lead 0-10 to 0-7 by the three quarter stage but a goal from Holly Coomey had them six points ahead before Patricia Buttner and Marie O'Donoghue added points.

Eire Og had a goal from Aoife McCarthy but with Denise Cronin and Margaret O'Herlihy swapping points Ballincollig held out to take the points on offer.

Kildorrey 1-6  
Castlelyons 1-3

KILDORREY captured the Evening Echo junior C camogie

championship title but they had to be at their best to deny a determined Castlelyons side.

There was never little between the sides and in the final minutes both sides saw chances go begging.

Seventeen minutes into the game Kildorrey they lost the services of superb full forward Orla Murphy with a knee injury and through the early stages of the game she had been in the thick of the action as she caused the Castlelyons defence a lot of problems striking two excellent score before retiring injured.

Excellent Kildorrey centre back Ciara Lynch was named "Player of the Match" which was presented by county board president Kay Dunne, and it was a fitting accolade given that she celebrated her 21st birthday with her first county championship medal as the heart and determination of Kildorrey gave them their first camogie title at this level.



SEPT 2009

## Ballyhea do most of the damage in second half

By MARY NEWMAN

Junior A championship

Ballyhea 1-14  
Watergrasshill 2-5

A SUPERB second-half display was the key to Ballyhea's capture of the *Evening Echo* Junior A championship title in Fermoy on Saturday.

The contribution of their inter-county duo of captain Maria Walsh and Mary Coleman was vital while centre-back Karen O'Leary was magnificent all thorough with her performance earning her the Player of the Match award.

There was little to choose between the sides in the opening 30 minutes. Ballyhea led by a point 1-7 to 2-3 at the interval but they were lucky to do so after Watergrasshill had gained control with a two-goal blast inside three minutes from Laney O'Leary and Aisling Murray which helped to put them four points clear.

As the first half entered injury time Mary Coleman was in fast to block down Watergrasshill keeper Diane Kelleher's clearance and send it over the line. Marie Walsh and Coleman struck a point each to give Ballyhea the slight interval advantage but it was all still very much to play for.

Marie O'Neill had Watergrasshill on level inside a minute of the restart but they had to wait 22 minutes for their next score as the Ballyhea defence soaked up anything they threw at them.

Karen O'Leary, superb at centre-back all through, had plenty of assistance from Amy Morrissey and Megan McCarthy while Mary Coleman and Michelle Walsh continued to pump ball to their inside-lines where Maria Walsh was in superb form.

She pointing a free before striking four points in a row from play while Mary Coleman struck two superb long-range efforts as the gap widened.

Watergrasshill battled hard to find a response and substitute Cathy Walsh pointed on 23 minutes but they could find no way past a solid Ballyhea defence that were not going to be denied their moment of glory.

**Scorers for Ballyhea:** M Walsh 0-9 (0-3), 0-1-45), M Coleman 1-4, S McInerney 0-1.

**Watergrasshill:** L Bracken, M O'Neill 0-2 (0-11) each, L O'Leary, A Murray 1-0 each, C Murphy 0-1.

**BALLYHEA:** C O'Keefe; C O'Doherty, A Morrissey, V Hennessy; M McCarthy, K O'Leary, O Carroll; Michelle Walsh, S Douglas, M Coleman, S Brosnan, L O'Reilly, N Morrissey, Maria Walsh (c), S McInerney. Subs: T Cagney for L O'Reilly (45).

**WATERGRASSHILL:** D Kelleher; L Barry, M Dorgan, Lynn O'Leary; E Bracken, E Murphy, L O'Reilly; M Kennedy, L Cronin; A Murray, M O'Neill (c), Laney O'Leary; L Bracken, M Buckley, C O'Connell. Subs: C Murphy for C O'Connell.

**Referee:** Peter Downey (Inniscearra).

# Catherine's win a scrappy encounter

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior championship

St Catherine's 0-15  
Courcey Rovers 0-10

IN A game that lacked atmosphere and bite St Catherine's duly qualified for the last four of the *Evening Echo* Senior championship with five points to spare over Courcey Rovers in Castle Road on Saturday.

Maybe it was the lack of a goal that failed to lift the tempo as neither goalkeeper was called on to make a save of any great urgency but credit to both teams as they battled hard to bring the game to life. The stop-start nature of proceedings did little to help with 39 frees in total over the hour preventing the game from gaining momentum.

St Catherine's always looked to have that little bit extra in reserve and an over-reliance on inter-county senior Rachel Moloney to get scores cost Courceys as their forwards failed to make an impact against a strong St Catherine's defence where Carolyn Motherway, Noirin Mulcahy and Liz Power were to the fore.

An indication of St Catherine's strength in defence saw all but one of the Courcey scores come from Rachel Moloney. She started at full-forward but with a limited supply of ball coming through to their inside-line they quickly brought her to half-forward where she proceeded to win ball and frees.

In a close opening half there was little between the sides. Twice St Catherine's pulled away with points from the hard-working Fiona Cotter, Finola Neville and Orla Cotter only for Courcey's to peg them back when Celia O'Driscoll joined Rachel Moloney on the scoresheet and at the break it was 0-6 each.

St Catherine's grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and came out all guns blazing, owning third quarter, and with their inside-line getting a plentiful supply of ball,



Sinead O'Regan of Courcey Rovers, chases St Catherine's Deirdre Twomey during the *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie quarter-final game at Castle Road, Mahon.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Deirdre Twomey fired over two quick points, Finola Neville pointed a free and inside ten minutes they were three points ahead.

Rachel Moloney pointed two frees as Courcey's battled on but with Fiona Cotter and Finola Neville prominent St Catherine's held control.

Neville pointed a free as they maintained the lead and as the game continued Deirdre and Denise Twomey were causing the Courcey's defence a lot of problems.

Deirdre stretched the lead to three points but Rachel Moloney pointed two frees on the trot to bring Courcey's to within a point.

Now under pressure the St Catherine's defence were tested but they stood firm as Courceys battled for an equaliser and lifting the siege, Finola Neville pointed a free before Denise Twomey struck two superb efforts from the far corner to send St Catherine's four ahead.

Finola Neville had the final say pointing the 39th free of a game that



Carolyn Motherway, St Catherine's, blocks Paula Collins, Courcey Rovers.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

despite the closeness of the score line failed to really ignite.

St Catherine's now meet last season's defeated finalists St Finbarrs in next Sunday's semi-final.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** F Neville 0-5 (0-4), Deirdre Twomey 0-3, Denise Twomey, F Cotter, O Cotter (fs) 0-2 each, M O'Keefe 0-1.

**Courcey Rovers:** R Moloney 0-9 (0-7), C O'Driscoll 0-1.

**St Catherine's:** D Leahy; F Noonan (c), N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; O Neville, L Power, C Motherway; O Cotter, M O'Keefe; Deirdre Twomey, F Neville, F Cotter; L Higgins, E Roynane, Denise Twomey. Subs: A M Hayes for L Higgins (h/t), R O'Callaghan for Y O'Neill (54).

**COURCEY ROVERS:** E O'Regan; N O'Reilly, C O'Neill, C Hayes; P Collins, S Hayes (c), S O'Regan; C O'Driscoll, M O'Regan; A Moloney, U Quinn, C O'Reilly; J Mulcahy, R Moloney, E Ryan.

**Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).

## Camogie semi-final line-up almost complete

### ROUND-UP

IT WAS a busy Saturday of action in the *Evening Echo* Camogie Championships at Senior B and Intermediate Championship level as the round robin series of games continued writes MARY NEWMAN.

In section one of the Senior B, Valley Rovers had a point to spare over Bishopstown in a game where there was two penalties during the second half.

Lucy Hawkes pointed her one for Valley Rovers as Riann Nunan sent Ciara Healy's rebounded

effort to the net for Bishopstown.

A pointed 45-metre free from Hawkes with the second last puck was enough to give Valley Rovers the points on offer on a 2-12 to 2-11 scoreline.

Ballincollig maintained their unbeaten run with a six-point victory over Éire Óg to go top of group one.

They led at the break 0-7 to 0-4 and a goal midway through the half from Holly Coomey helped

maintain their advantage to the finish.

With one game to go the win ensures them a semi-final spot, while Éire Óg will be hoping to secure the second place if they overcome Aghabullogue next weekend.

In section two Kilbrittan/Timoleague took their first set of points when they proved too strong for Carrigaline on a 3-10 to 0-6 scoreline, however with Killeagh, Glen Rovers and Ballinhassig chasing the semi-final slots, the result will not alter

their standing.

Sarsfields had to win the last game in the round-robin series of games in their group to secure a place in the semi-final of the *Evening Echo* Intermediate championship and they ensured their place with a victory over a Tracton side who had already booked their semi final spot, Sarsfields were 6-11 to 2-7 winners.

The semi-final pairings will see Fr O'Neill's battle it out with Clonakilty while Sarsfields will face Tracton once again, both scheduled for Saturday next.



# Douglas turn in a stronger finish

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie	
Douglas	4-10
Cloughduv	0-11

TWO second-half goals in a three-minute spell put paid to any hope Cloughduv had of toppling champions Douglas in this Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie quarter-final in Páirc Uí Rinn last evening.

Douglas turned in a strong finish but in truth they controlled most of the second half.

Cloughduv started strongly and the scores were level at 0-3 apiece after 12 minutes.

Play was open with good chances on both sides. The Cloughduv defence were playing very well, with Sinead Corkery superb at full-back.

Katherine Corkery was finding oceans of space at left corner forward and with Una O'Donoghue causing problems with her running game Cloughduv were finding ways through.

Their finishing, however, didn't quite match the build up.

Leading by five points to three after 21 minutes, Cloughduv were rocked and found themselves two points behind three minutes later.

A Mackey free narrowed the gap to one. Then uncharacteristically for Aoife Murray, she failed to gather a through ball and a following a scramble Douglas were awarded a penalty.

Up stepped Amanda O'Regan and her excellent strike gave the three in the goalmouth no chance.

Pamela Mackey added a point and Cloughduv found themselves three points adrift at the break.

It was all Douglas in the second half. A double strike by Martina Harkin saw them lead 3-7 to 0-6 and there was no way back for Cloughduv, despite their best effort to the end.

With the O'Donovans, Katrina Mackey, Harkin and Julia White extremely strong up front there was too much for Cloughduv to contend with and the city side ran out comfortable winners.

Douglas and Milford, who won the second game, will meet in the semi-final next Monday evening.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-4 (10-21), M Harkin 2-0, A O'Regan 1-1 (1-0), J White 1-0, P Mackey 0-2, Aileen O'Donovan 0-2, Aine O'Donovan 0-1.

**Cloughduv:** B Corkery 0-4 (10-3), K Corkery 0-3, U O'Donoghue, M Corkery 0-2 each.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, L O'Shea, L O'Regan, F McSweeney, C Lynch, A O'Regan, E Jordan, P Mackey, H O'Mahony, J White, M Harkin, K Mackey, A O'Donovan, M O'Donovan, A O'Donovan. **Subs:** S Duggan for M O'Donovan (19th).

**CLOUGHDUV:** A Murray, E Dunne, S Corkery, O McCarthy, E Dunne, J O'Callaghan, G O'Sullivan, J Lucey, B Corkery, A Barry, Murphy, U O'Donoghue, S Buckley, C O'Donoghue, M Corkery, K Corkery. **Subs:** J Ring for G O'Sullivan (22nd), A Murray for C O'Donoghue (33), M Lucey for S Buckley (48), S Lucey for A Barry-Murphy (57).

**Referee:** John O'Leary (Mallow).



Inniscarra's Niamh Dilworth breaks through the challenge from Milford's Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final match in Páirc Uí Rinn last night. Picture: Damien Quirke

## Milford are almost caught napping by Inniscarra ladies

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie	
Milford	3-8
Inniscarra	2-8

MILFORD had to withstand a strong last 10 minutes from Inniscarra before booking their spot in the Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final in Páirc Uí Rinn last night.

With 14 minutes of normal time remaining the north Cork side looked home and dry as they led by eight points, but two Inniscarra goals inside five minutes turned the game on its head.

It was a relieved Milford that breathed a sigh of relief at the full-time whistle.

Inniscarra set a fast pace in the opening 30 minutes and inside 10 minutes had three points on the board — two superb long-range frees from Rena Buckley and one from play from Niamh Dilworth helped them to an early advantage.

Milford were finding it hard to break through the Inniscarra defence but 15 minutes in Mairéad Geary first timed to the net to get them level.

Emer Watson and Louise O'Flynn had points to put them two ahead but Emma Kingston, with two superb efforts, tied the sides up and before the break. Joanne Casey and Emer Watson pointed frees to leave it level at

the break, 1-3 to 0-6.

It was a much improved Milford for the second half and driven on by Elaine O'Riordan at centre-back, they hit the front, Louise O'Flynn firing them ahead with a goal inside four minutes of the resumption.

Sinead O'Flynn and Katie O'Mahony traded points on the sixth minute but from here on Milford took over as Inniscarra began to falter.

Watson proved a hand full for the Inniscarra defence and had three points on the trot, two from frees and one from play before she finished to the net from close range and, at 3-7 to 0-7, it looked all over for Inniscarra.

Joanne Casey led the revival, hitting their first score after a 24-minute lapse and suddenly they began to spring to life.

Milford were hampered as they lost the services of their influential captain Elaine O'Riordan with a hand injury.

Inniscarra's Joanne Casey sent a long delivery to the square where Dilworth caught it superbly through a forest of hurleys before firing it to the net to put five points between the sides. With Dilworth now operating at full-forward Inniscarra began to believe that they could get something out of the game.

With full time approaching, Joanne Casey was again involved sending a superb effort from 40 metres low and hard past a wall of defenders to the net and now, with just two points between them, the semi-final place



Milford's Elaine O'Riordan clears her lines as she is challenged by Inniscarra's Emma Kingston. Picture: Damien Quirke

was there to be won.

Milford defended frantically as Inniscarra threw everything they had at them but they met strong resistance. Anna Geary, Deirdre O'Reilly and Aine Watson showed their experience under pressure as they broke up several attacks and cleared to safety in the seven minutes of injury time.

Emer Watson relieved the pressure, pointing a free and despite attack after attack, Inniscarra failed to grab the score needed to give them another day out and certainly they will regret their lapse in concentration in the third quarter that proved costly in the finish.

Milford march on to a semi-final meeting with champions Douglas on Monday next.

**Scorers for Milford:** E Watson 1-6 (10-50), L O'Flynn 1-1, M Geary 1-0, S O'Flynn 0-1. **Inniscarra:** J Casey 1-2 (10-10), N Dilworth 1-1, E Kingston, R Buckley (10-21) 0-2 each, K O'Mahony 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Finn, K Galvin, N O'Brien, L Healy, C Galvin, E O'Riordan (c), S Sexton, A Watson, A Thompson, M Watson, A Geary, M Geary, L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn. **Subs:** D O'Reilly for M Geary (45), O O'Mahony for E O'Riordan (51), M Flanagan for S Sexton (61), C Curtin for S O'Flynn (62).

**INNISCARRA:** S Ni Riain, K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley, R O'Mahony, R Buckley, A Kavanagh, M N O'Sullivan, F O'Connell, L Burke, J Casey, E Kingston, N Dilworth, C O'Brien, K O'Mahony. **Subs:** E O'Keefe for C O'Brien (41), T Mc Carthy for L Burke (51).

**Referee:** Oliver Webb (Tracton).





# Linda Mellerick

WITH the intercounty season coming to a close shortly (after Cork play Galway in the All-Ireland Intermediate final replay on Saturday) it's nice to reflect on a successful season.

Any year you win the All-Ireland senior title, it's a successful year.

The girls deserve all the accolades that are placed upon them after their win and so too do the ladies footballers after a tremendous victory last weekend.

We all made sacrifices in some way. I know job opportunities were turned down as it interfered with playing with Cork and I remember only too well the efforts Sandie Fitzgibbon made in juggling camogie and a career as an international basketball player.

But let's concentrate on now.

Any intercounty player is to be admired for their professional commitment to an amateur sport.

The Kilkenny hurlers are admired nationwide and quite rightly so. Cork hurlers and footballers are greatly admired. It can be tough being an intercounty player at times.

It would be even tougher if you spent hours in the car in an effort to make training night after night, with not a cent claimed in expenses.

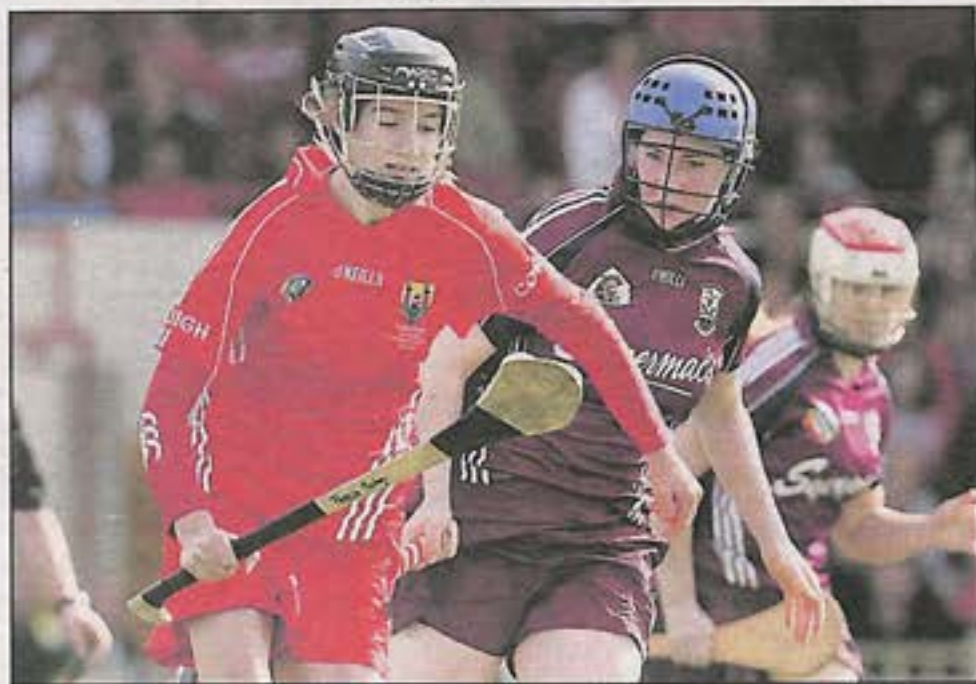
Unfortunately it's the opposite for the girls. Let me give you an example of three players on the Cork's senior camogie team and what they faced week in, week out in their effort to wear the Cork jersey and win an All-Ireland title.

Emer Dillon is a pharmacist in Dublin. Her role is extremely busy and she can't take time off unless she gets cover.

She drove, often twice weekly during the championship, round trips to make training (with not a cent reimbursed).

One week Emer finished work at

## Three ladies travelled that bit longer on road to glory



Cork's Pamela Mackey runs past Galway's Paula Kenny during their Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final draw at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last month. The replay is on Saturday.

Picture: INPHO

She found driving to Cork the easy bit but the journey home tiring after an hour-and-a-half/two-hour training session.

Una would arrive home at approximately 10.30pm and make this trip three times a week, four if her club needed her. As Una says: "You get fairly attached to your car."

Again I put it to Una if it was all worth it and again there is only one response.

"Absolutely. There is no other option for us. I could moan and moan about petrol costs, toll costs, etc. but at the end of the day it's the choice you make and whether you are happy with it or not. If any of us were unhappy we wouldn't have been there and won."

Jenny Duffy is a camogie development officer, based in the Leinster Council GAA Headquarters.

Three times a week she drove the round trip from Portlaoise to Cork. She feels that she would have found this commitment easier than Emer and Una because she can arrange her own work schedule and work around training.

That doesn't change the fact of what it is. Jenny however once again doesn't want any sympathy or accolades.

Winning the All-Ireland with Cork was reward enough.

"I have to say that I wouldn't take back a single mile. It was worth every one. You can't put a price on fulfilling your dreams."

### SARSFIELDS

**U11A Inokilly final:** Sars retained the U11A title which they won for the first time last year, in magnificent style. The scoring prowess of Michelle Barry was a main feature of the game.

Goalkeeper Edel Loneragan was consistent throughout and had a great backline of Aoife O'Brien, Roisin O'Donovan and Shona McCarthy in front of her. Maebh Mullins, at centre-back, was superb, cutting off many Dungourney attacks. Midfielders Clara Crowley and Clara O'Sullivan kept the ball moving, ensuring the forwards received plenty of opportunities. Lucy Kelly linked up well with Maebh Mullins and Michelle Barry, even scoring a goal from midfield. Jessica Long, at full-forward, was one of the stars on the day, her ability to catch ball and strike very impressive.

Inside forwards Alanna Good and Hollie Ferguson were always a threat around the square. Substitute Claire Gillen strengthened the forward line when she came on. Michelle Barry, at centre-forward, was the difference between the teams, scoring 1-5. In this competition unlimited substitutions are allowed and each of our subs, Claire Gillen, Jessie and Kelly Lyons, Aisling and Sinead O'Brien and Jane McAllen impressed when introduced.

We must also mention Gillian Looney who couldn't make the final due to a family wedding. Another absentee was coach, Bryan O'Leary, who had the girls in great shape for the final. Big thanks to Bryan's stand-in Vince Barry.

**Sars 2-5 Dungourney 1-2; Scorers:** Michelle Barry 1-5 (2 f), Lucy Kelly 1-0.

**Team:** Edel Loneragan, Aoife O'Brien, Roisin O'Donovan, Shona McCarthy, Maebh Mullins, Clara Crowley, Clara O'Sullivan, Lucy Kelly (c), Michelle Barry, Hollie Ferguson, Jessica Long, Alanna Good. Subs (all used): Claire Gillen, Kelly Lyons, Jessie Lyons, Aisling O'Brien, Sinead O'Brien, Jane McAllen.

**U16 Championship: Sars 1-9 Bishopstown**

**0-4:** A sweet victory for Sars in this first round championship game after Bishopstown had inflicted a three goal defeat on us earlier in the league campaign.

The tables were turned significantly and it would be fair to say this was one of the most complete performances from a team at this level for many a year.

Sars dominated the match from the beginning and a feature of the game was our ability to score long range points. Rita Crowley, Orlaith Keane and Laura Barry impressed. Thirteen-year-old Sarah Fahy was rock-solid in goal and was well marshalled by the full back trio of Orla O'Sullivan, Sinead Gaffey and Clara Cashman. Ellen Murphy, Isabelle Kearney and Niamh O'Callaghan hurled majestically in the half-back line. Midfielders, Rita Crowley and Orlaith Keane scored 1-5 between them while inside Laura Barry Rachel Long and Clara Cashman all got on the scoresheet. Alanna O'Kelly-Lynch, Jenny O'Riordan, Lisa Fitzgerald and Sarah English also impressed.

**Scorers:** Rita Crowley, 0-4 (2 f); Orlaith Keane 1-1; Laura Barry 0-2; Rachel Long 0-1; Clara Cashman 0-1.

**Team:** Sarah Fahy, Orla O'Sullivan, Sinead Gaffey, Clara Cashman, Ellen Murphy, Isabelle Kearney, Niamh O'Callaghan, Orlaith Keane, Rita Crowley, Rachel Long, Laura Barry, Alanna O'Kelly-Lynch, Lisa Fitzgerald, Jenny O'Riordan, Sarah English. Subs used: Laolise Burke, Katie Walsh, Megan O'Leary, Rebecca Hickey, Isabelle Twomey.

**Minor League/Championship: Sars 3-9 Watergrasshill 3-3:** Despite struggling with an injury, Mairead O'Farrell was one of the stars in a competitive encounter, scoring a hat-trick. Aisling Whoolley was on target with frees and Sandra Dooley contributed two points in the first half. The backs defended well with Karen Comerford, Aisling O'Callaghan and Orla Quinn to the fore.

**Team:** Sarah Gaffey, S. Keane, E. Meaney, O. Quinn, K. Comerford, I. Kearney, A. O'Callaghan, A. Whoolley, N. Hickey, R. Crow-

ley, E. O'Connell, Y. O'Callaghan, M. O'Farrell, S. Dooley, L. Murphy. Subs used: L. Barry, O. Keane, Sinead Gaffey, N. O'Callaghan, T. Kerrigan.

**Intermediate Championship:** After five round-robin games our intermediates have qualified for a semi-final clash with Tracton. To date Sars have beaten Mallow, Tracton, drew with Fr. O'Neill's, Clonakilty and lost to Newtownshandrum.

**Debbie Guckian Street Leagues:** Our street leagues commenced last weekend with all eight teams playing two games each in their respective U8 and U10 sections. The finals will hopefully be played on Friday, October 9, or Saturday, October 10. The club will be a buzz of activity that weekend ahead of our senior hurlers county final against Newtownshandrum on the Sunday.

**Emer O'Farrell:** Emer won her fourth All-Ireland senior medal against Kilkenny last month.

She has enjoyed a superb season with Cork, coming on against Galway to turn the game in the Rebels' favour, scoring 1-2, started against Tipperary and scored 1-1 and scored a crucial goal against Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final. Congratulations Emer, the club is very proud of your achievements. Emer received the August Vienna Woods Sports Award in recognition of her achievements.

Also congratulations to Cork selector Lillian Zinkant.

**Senior hurlers:** We wish the Sars team and management the best of luck in their bid to retain the Sean McCarthy Cup.

**ST VINCENT'S**

Good luck to the U14s who play today against Clonakilty in Castle Road (11am). Good luck to the U11s who are playing Douglas in the Seandun premier final at 12.30 in C.I.T.

The teams will be brought back to the hurling and football club in Blarney Road after the matches for celebrations.

St Vincent's Camogie Club will hold a

worth all the travelling to be part of something so special".

Una O'Donoghue is another who works and resides outside of Cork. Her distance isn't so great but it's a tiring and expensive distance all the same.

Una lives in Clonmel and works for Johnson & Johnson in Cashel. Her shift of 8-4pm is that bit more accommodating but still on a training day Una goes in at 7am to get away early.

Halloween disco on October 18 from 4pm to 7pm. It will be held in St. Vincent's hurling and football club, Blarney Road.

**Training times:** Mon: 6pm to 7pm U14, Tue: 5pm to 6pm, U8s, Wed: 6pm to 7pm U12s, 8pm to 9.30pm juniors, Thurs: 5.30pm to 6.30pm U10s, 7pm to 8pm U16s.

New members always welcome. Anyone wishing to join or find out information about the club just come up at the relevant time to the club complex on Kilmore Road. New volunteers also welcome.

### BALLINCOLLIG

**U8:** Over the past two Sundays we have seen a big increase in numbers and with this in mind the underage section is being reviewed. We hope to have more news next week. Indoor training will commence in November on Friday nights.

We will host neighbours Ballinora on Sunday morning at training time.

**U10:** A very busy section that saw a number of games played during the week; at home to Douglas, Bishopstown and away to Killeagh on Saturday morning. Our thanks to the parents for having the girls available for the matches and in particular to those who travelled to Killeagh early Saturday.

This group of girls have worked hard over the past seven months and the improvements are being seen on the pitch.

With Megan, Seona, Eimear, Katie, Danielle and Alex in top form it was a great match. Also on Friday we saw players give their all against Bishopstown and some great scores from the Ballincollig team secured a great win. Clodagh, Eimear, Sophie, Ali, Avah, Erin, Shannen, Kaitlyn, Alex, Chloe, Erika and Aoife played very well while Megan, Eimear, Katie and Danielle also impressed.

We travelled to Killeagh last Saturday morning. On arrival we learned that our opponents were a no show but the Killeagh club had two teams for us to play. Ballincollig showed the experience of the past number of weeks and were too strong for both Killeagh teams. Clodagh Donovan broke their hearts scoring a

## CAMOGIE

number of excellent goals. Also on the score sheet was Shannon, Eimear and Aisling.

**U11:** This group have two matches to play in the Muskerry section against Rockban and Grenagh. Following wins over Inniscarra, Eire Og, Blarney and Ballinora one more win will ensure a spot in the A semi-finals.

**U12/13:** On our return from Killeagh the U13s played a good challenge match against Douglas. This team has one final match to play against Rockban on Tuesday.

**U16:** We played a challenge match against neighbours Eire Og under lights on Tuesday. Training continues on Tuesday and Thursdays and it is important everyone attends. The championship match against Inniscarra will be fixed at the weekend and is likely to be played the following weekend. Any queries please contact Brenda Barry.

**U18:** A win against Inniscarra has ensured a semi-final place against Milford who beat us earlier this season. Very good performance in the forward line by Patricia Buttiner and Aisling Walsh secured victory against Inniscarra. The defence were very solid. This match will not be played until the Senior B championship has been completed as there are a number of players on both panels.

**Senior B Championship:** An excellent outing last Saturday against neighbours Eire Og has moved us a step closer to the semi-final. In a thrilling encounter, Ballincollig won 1-14 to 1-7.

Ballincollig opened the scoring with a point from 30 metres by Trish Buttiner and this was followed by a free from Denise Croon. Eire Og replied with an excellent point from Aoife McCarthy. It was point for point afterwards with Leah West breaking away and getting a great point. Margaret O'Herby levelled proceedings with an excellent 45 metre free. Trish got another excellent score after a long clearance from Alison Coughlan.

Holly opened her account with a peach of a point and Catriona McKenna scored a great



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## END OF SEASON INTER-COUNTY NEWS

WITH just one inter-county competition to be decided as Cork and Galway await next weekend's replay of the Gala All-Ireland intermediate final, the end of season changes have already begun with the news that Wexford are looking for a new senior management team after the outgoing selectors confirmed their decision to step down, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Manager Stella Sinnott along with Alan Aherne, Noel Ryan, Anne Reddy and trainer Eddie Flynn have decided not to seek a fourth term at the helm.

They guided Wexford to their first All-Ireland senior championship crown since 1975 when they defeated Cork in the 2007 final.

This year they led Wexford to a division one league title, the first in 32 years, at the expense of Tipperary on a day when the county intermediates won the division two title.

Their efforts to regain championship honours were ended by Cork at the semi-final stages, the second time in succession they went out at the last four stage following defeat to Galway in 2008.

Sinnott said she had decided at the beginning of the year that this would be her last with the team saying it was a big commitment. She felt she had brought them as far as she could and maybe a fresh voice might help them to the next level and win back the All-Ireland.

Stella expressed her utmost appreciation to the county board and the clubs for their support throughout and is also acknowledged the contribution of all the players.

In terms of possible successors, it remains to be seen just who will guide Wexford in 2010. Former All-Ireland winning hurling captain Martin Storey, who guided Oulart-The Ballagh to county senior glory in recent years, probably won't allow his name to go forward for consideration owing to the fact that he is set to take charge of the county minor hurlers for 2010.



Cork's Mariah Reidy gets her shot away ahead of the block from Galway's Caroline Murray in the Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final draw at The Gaelic Grounds, Limerick last month. The replay is on Saturday.

Picture: INPHO

# Garda vetting process is put in place

are completed correctly. If a form is not completed correctly it will be sent back to the individual.

All forms that are completed cor-

rectly will be forwarded to the Garda Vetting Unit.

At the conclusion of the meeting the club children's officers were is-

sued with the relevant forms. Any clubs not present should contact the county board's children's officer Noreen Daly for further details.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie news

**CHILDREN'S** officers and club mentors from camogie clubs in the city and county gathered on Tuesday last as Cork signed up to Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael Garda vetting process.

This is in line with "Children First", the national guidelines for the protection and welfare of children. At this stage every club should have an appointed a suitable children's officer as every county board has.

The children's officers will play a huge part in ensuring the implementation of the vetting process in their individual clubs and they were guided through the procedures at the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by former Wexford hurler Ray Quigley, who this season guided the fortunes of the Wexford intermediate camogie team to Division Two National league honours.

Ray is the Garda Vetting coordinator for Cumann Camogaiochta Na nGael and he travelled to Cork at the invitation of the county executive.

Delegates presented were taken step by step through the format and operations of the process in a most professional manner. All queries and questions were answered by Ray.

All present were hugely impressed by the manner in which the whole evening was organised and they will now return to their clubs to get the process under way.

Delegates were informed that the garda vetting process will be handled in the most confidential manner and those who undergo this process will complete a Garda Vetting Application form.

This will be put in a sealed envelope marked "Garda Vetting" and given to their club's children's officer.

The club's children's officer will forward the batch of completed application forms unopened to the county board's children's officer.

The county children's officer will forward to the national authorised person, (known as the authorised signature).

The authorised signature will be examine all forms to see that forms

## CLUB NOTES

point after a superb run from midfield. The final scores of the half came from Maria O'D and a second point for Aoife McCarthy. The second half was equally exciting with superb duels between Sarah Buckley and Clara McKenna in midfield and Alannah McKenna and Denise Cronin on the 45. We scored our first point from a Denise free and she converted a 45 soon after. Margaret O'Herlihy replied with a couple of frees. Holly added a further point before Trish added to her tally. Another long clearance from Alison Coughlan was caught by Leah who played the ball to Trish. She sent a floating ball across the Eire Og penalty box and Holly batted the ball to the back of the Eire Og net.

Eire Og replied with a Margaret O'Herlihy free before Holly added a further point. Eire Og added a further free from O'Herlihy before grabbing a goal.

This was to be their last score and Ballincollig added a Maria O'Donoghue point and another from a 45 from Denise Cronin.

Adelle Kiely was in excellent form over the hour, keeping a close eye on Margaret O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery, and there were great defensive performances from Alison Coughlan, Kate O'D and Aoife Cotter on the Ballincollig side.

Alannah McKenna led Eire Og tirelessly over the hour and was supported by full-back Siobhan Gleeson and Katie McCarthy. Marie Gleeson brought off some great saves for Eire Og while her opposite number, Ashleen Sheehan, was in top form.

Clara McKenna was excellent at midfield and was ably assisted by the speedy Claire Meeney. Leah Weste, work tirelessly over the hour and her vision set up a number of important scores for Ballincollig.

As a team Ballincollig worked hard. They introduced Jennifer Ryle for Claire Ryan at midfield, Orlaith Ni Chathasaigh for Cliona Irish in the half backline and Breda O'Callaghan

for Eimear O'Sullivan at corner back. Both teams have one more match to play next week and then the semi-finals will be fixed. Senior B Ballincollig v Valley Rovers in Cloughduv on Saturday at 5.15pm.

### ST FINBARR'S

St. Finbarr's teams enjoyed very good results in the past week. The U8s got the ball rolling with a good win over Traction while the U11s got the better of Carrigaline. On Saturday, our U16 championship side scored a 6-2 to 0-3 win over Ballinora. Heather Morgan, Niamh O'Regan, Maeve Cahalane and Shirley Burns were in outstanding form. This team will meet Sarsfields in the next round.

Our junior side were in top form against Aghabullogue in the Junior Shield and won by 4-8 to 0-0.

Catherine Barrett, Catherine McCarthy and Shirley Burns got among the goals and it was a very busy afternoon for three players. Shannon McCarthy, Shirley Burns and Sarah Browner, who played in both U16 and junior matches.

Best of luck to our senior squad who meet St. Catherine's in the semi-final of the senior championship at Ballinlough on Sunday at 2pm.

### ST CATHERINE'S

**Senior Championship quarter-final:** On Saturday we travelled to Blackrock to take on Courcy Rovers in the quarter-final of this year's senior county championship.

On a day when conditions were perfect for camogie we emerged victorious by a five point margin.

We started in determined fashion and by the end of the first quarter had opened up a 0-6 to 0-2 lead. Courcy's were to dominate the second quarter and the scores were tied at 0-6 apiece at half-time.

We opened the second half brightly, pointing three times in the first five minutes. For the next twenty minutes the game was delicately balanced with Courcy's pointing on four oc-

casions while we added a further 0-2 to leave us a point ahead with five minutes to play. However we finished with a flourish adding a further four points.

While we would have to be pleased with this result our performance left a little to be desired at times.

Nevertheless we have advanced to the county semi-final which takes place tomorrow against St. Finbarr's in Ballinlough at 2pm.

This is our third season playing at the top level and advancing to the semi-final is our best achievement to date. We would invite everyone to come out and support the girls as we have a tremendous panel of players who have spared no effort in their preparations.

**Team:** D. Leahy, F. Noonan (cl), N. Mulcahy, Y.O'Neill, O. Neville, L. Power, C. Motherway, O. Cotter, M.O'Keefe, D. Twomey, F. Neville, F. Cotter, L. Higgins, E. Roynana, D. Twomey. **Subs:** A. Hayes for L. Higgins, R. O'Callaghan for Y.O'Neill, D. Mulcahy, S. Noonan, M. Daly, J. Hurley, A. Mangar, T. Fitzpatrick, A.O'Keefe, C. McGovern, M. Mulcahy, K. Higgins.

**Score:** St. Catherine's 0-15 Courcy Rovers 0-10. **Scorers:** F. Neville 0-6 (4f), Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2, F. Cotter 0-2, M. O'Keefe 0-1, O. Cotter 0-1(f).

**U10 Blitz:** On Saturday last our U10 squad headed for Rathcoormac to take part in a blitz which was run by Bide Rovers camogie club. There were three teams involved - Bide Rovers, Castletyons and St. Catherine's. Our girls performed very well on the day, defeating both Castletyons and Bide Rovers to run out winners. Well done to all involved.

**Panel of players:** - Sinead Corcoran, Caoimhe Hayes, Caoimhe Galvin, Aoife Hurley, Rebecca Doocey, Emily Walsh, Evelyn O'Keefe, Linda O'Donnell, Caroline Condon, Sinead O'Callaghan, Eileen O'Driscoll, Sally English, Laura Hayes, Niamh O'Regan, Shakira Butler, Emily Tanner, Jennifer Galvin.

**Guess the score:** Well done to Joanne O'Keefe who won our guess the score competition on this year's All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny. Nobody guessed the correct score and Joanne was the lucky winner of the resulting draw.

### FR O'NEILL'S

Date for your Diary: Intermediate county semi-final Saturday: Fr. O'Neill's v Clonsilla, Castle Road Camogie Grounds, Blackrock, 2 pm.

What a year these girls have had so far, training three nights a week in all kinds of weather under the guidance of Mags Finn and Anne O'Neill. What an achievement it is for the team to reach the semi-final.

**Panel:** Clara McGrath, Yvonne Murphy, Ursula Day, Catriona Day, Sarah Harrington, Valerie O'Sullivan, Marie O'Brien, Kate Harrington, Francis Wiggins, Liz Sweetnam, Nora Aherne, Katie Aherne, Denise O'Leary, Nicola Nagle, Geardaoin Kearney, Linda Hayes, Orla Farmer, Marie Harrington, Rachel Aherne, Paula Kenneally, Evelyn Rohan, Annette Griffin, Ashling McMahon, Susan Rohan, Trisha Cusack, Denise O'Sullivan, Caroline Phelan, Rhiona Abernethy. We wish all the best of luck.

The annual camogie fundraiser has been launched - 'Christmas Countdown Extravaganza' on November 8 at 7pm in the Garryvoo Hotel. Mulled Wine will be served on arrival with the nights entertainment of Health and Wellbeing, Gags and Giggles and Green Saffron's demonstration of Aromatic Dishes. Tickets are now available from all committee members.

They can also be obtained from Deirdre Bernard @ 086 8917839 and Jo O'Neill @ 085 7147128. Tickets are €20. There are a limited amount available so get your tickets early.

**News Update:** The U13 Parish League came to a close on Thursday evening. From the semi-finals Wexford and Tipperary emerged to contest the final.

Fabulous weather, great support, a very exciting final was played with Wexford just

edging matters. Celebrations continued into the hall where Amanda O'Regan, captain of the All-Ireland winning Cork team, presented the winning medals, a suitable finale to four fun-filled weeks.

Many thanks to the co-ordinator Mary Kennelick, referee Michael Millerick, team coaches Dan O'Connor, Pat Millerick, Gerry Bernard and Pat O'Sullivan. A marvellous evening was had by all.

The winning team members were: Kate McCarthy, Sophie Kearney, Kate Finn, Keelagh Cullinane, Teresa Pomphrey, Chloe Belton, Sinead Broderick, Niamh Bernard and Orla McHugh. Well done to all the teams who played.

### GLEN ROVERS

Our 14 team played an exciting juvenile county board blitz final before losing to Killeagh last Saturday.

In a close encounter, Killeagh grabbed a late goal to seal victory but not before our girls made them fight all the way.

With several of our side having played U12 this year they have made huge progress and we look forward to seeing them all continuing their progress. Well done to coaches Mary Sheehan and Pat O'Sullivan who worked hard with the team and brought out the best in the players.

Our U15 team begin their Seandun league campaign on Monday when they play St Vincent's in the Glen Field. Players to meet not later than 5.15pm. They continue their games when they meet Brian Dillon's on Thursday.

All roads lead to Castle Road tomorrow when our senior team play the last game in their group against Carrigaline at 4pm with a semi-final spot up for grabs.

Our junior teams have two games pencilled in the junior shield which takes place in the coming weeks.



**Granagh/Ballingarry face Killeedy in the Limerick senior county final**  
Granagh/Ballingarry were not so long ago the linchpins of club camogie in Limerick – winning an incredible 10 senior county titles over an eleven-year span between 1996 and 2006. They were All Ireland club champions in 1998, 1999 and 2003, so it is a bit surprising when you hear them described as the underdog going into Sunday's Limerick senior county final against three-in-a-row seekers Killeedy (at Ballyagran 2.45pm).

Most camogie enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that Vera Sheehan has made her long-awaited comeback to the black and white jersey following a lengthy lay-off to injury. Along with her sister Aoife and Eileen O'Brien, they are just some of the names that have been part and parcel of the Granagh/Ballingarry success stories down through the glory years.

Aoife, a well-known sports journalist, is still only 25, but has been wearing the county jersey for almost 10 years. She says because Granagh/Ballingarry have been out of the limelight and are more battle-hardened, they are capable of upsetting the holders.

"Killeedy are favourites going for three-in-a-row. They have been the form team during the past few years. But, we have won nothing since 2006 so that is incentive in itself. A lot of people think we are an old team but Vera (30) is the eldest. We beat them in the league but as we all know that doesn't matter when you are in the heat of a county final"

Following battles with Newcastle West, Ballyagran and Ahane, manager Eddie O'Brien who is a brother of Eileen, can call on players who already have experienced the winning feeling – Vera and Aoife Sheehan, Eileen O'Brien, Joanne Clifford, Meadhbh Nash and Captain Fiona Morrissey.

However, while Granagh/Ballingarry are seeking their seventh title of the decade, Killeedy are bidding to hold on to the trophy, so this has the makings of a great final. Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Michelle Casey and Dymrna O'Brien are impressive performers. Killeedy were forced to overcome a strong Ballyagran challenge in the semi-final and with two of their panel – Caroline and Lisa Scanlon – already having claimed All Ireland minor B glory with the county, they will desperately want to spark the celebrations once again.



## Killeedy win three-in-a-row Limerick senior county titles 3 In A Row For Killeedy Camogie

### Killeedy 2-10, 1-11 Granagh-Ballingarry

Two forty five on the clock and after Brendan Danaher had the teams named over the pa, Lisa Finn stepped up to the mic to sing the national anthem, the crowd roared and the ball was thrown in, game on for the 2009 senior championship final.

Two early points from Fiona Morrissey and a free from County star Eileen O'Brien were quickly cancelled out by a well executed goal from Michele Casey. Four more white flags from free taker Eileen and one from Tara Power were answered superbly by Noreen Barry and Michelle Casey, keeping the prospect of the three in a row a reality for the Killeedy girls.

Half Time Killeedy 1-03, Granagh-Ballingarry 0-08

Four scores to eight in the first half, and eight scores to four in the second half, a draw possibly, it could have been but as we all know it is goals that win games.

Granagh hit the ground running in the second half and an early goal and point from full forward Mairead Fitzgerald put the Ballingarry girls 6 points to the good, with 20 minutes left on the clock. Could Killeedy come back, well Noreen Barry got the ball rolling, a superbly taken goal followed by four white flags from placed balls from Michelle saw the reigning champs one point to the good with seven minutes left on the clock, granagh full forward Mairead levelled matters, but two points from Dymrna O'Brien and Edwina Mullane put Killeedy back on top. Eileen O'Brien pointed from a placed ball to put the minimum between the sides with time nearly up. The final nail in the Granagh coffin came when Feile skills winner in 2008 Lisa Scanlon scored a majestic point from the right wing, the three in a row in the bag.

### Senior Teams

Granagh Ballingarry Senior Panel

1. Aileen O'Sullivan 2. Fiona Chawke 3. Nollaig Houlihan 4. Amy McCarthy 5. Lisa Potter 6. Aoife Sheehan 7. Fiona Hickey 8. Tara Power (0-01) 9. Meadhbh Nash 10. Eileen O'Brien (0-06 free's) 11. Fiona Morrissey (0-02) 12. Joanne Clifford 13. Siobhan Enright 14. Mairead Fitzgerald (1-02) 15. Niamh Chawke  
Subs used Vera Sheehan

### Killeedy

1. Caroline Scanlon 2. Marie Kinsella 3. Catherine Hayes 4. Norma Barry 5. Bridget Downes 6. Majella O'Sullivan 7. Marian O'Connell 8. Karen Mullane 9. Deirdre Fitzpatrick 10. Orla Curtin 11. Michelle Casey (0-05 Free's 1-01 play) 12. Noreen Barry (1-01) 13. Elaine Foley 14. Edwina Mullane (0-01) 15. Bridget Butler  
Subs used Dymrna O'Brien (0-01), Lisa Scanlon (0-01)

## Semi-finals offer intense battles for supremacy

### TOMORROW

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship semi-finals:

Clonakilty v Fr O'Neill's 2pm;

Tracton v Sarsfield's 4.30pm; Castle Road Camogie Grounds Blackrock  
IT'S down to the last four as the hunt for the Evening Echo Intermediate championship title intensifies this weekend when Clonakilty, Fr O'Neill's Sarsfields and Tracton battle it out for a place in the final, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The Intermediate grade was revived this year and it has proved a resounding success with six teams participating in a round-robin series of games with the top four now contesting this weekend's semi-finals.

Tracton topped their group with four wins out of five followed by Clonakilty and Fr O'Neill's with Sarsfields securing the last spot with a victory over Tracton last weekend.

Clonakilty were defeated in last seasons junior A final but they have bounced back to perform well on promotion to Intermediate.

Dropping down from senior three year ago Fr O'Neill's are working hard to re-establish their club and experienced players such as Liz Sweetnam, Nora Ahern and Frances Wiggins are guiding the fortunes of the young players such as Katie and Sarah Harrington.

Clonakilty boosted no doubt by the success in the club last weekend will be hoping to continue the party and book their place in the county final.

Tracton have performed solidly all through with good victories over Fr O'Neill's, Newtownshandrum and Clonakilty, they lost out to Mallow in round two and were defeated last weekend by Sarsfields.

But they were under-strength and will be at full-strength this weekend. Their inter-county duo of Marion Jaego and Jennifer Lynch with Clodagh Fitzgerald and Julie Ann Kingston should play prominent roles in their battle for a place in the final.

Sarsfields have a strong under-age structure in place and are now a force to be reckoned with. Sars had good victories over Mallow and Tracton while they secured draws in their clashes with Fr O'Neill's and Clonakilty which helped keep them on track and secure the last place in the semi-finals. Boosted by their victory last weekend they will be hopeful of securing a final spot but they know Tracton will be stronger this time.

### TOMORROW

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship semi-finals: Fr O'Neill's v Clonakilty; Castle Road Camogie Grounds Blackrock 2pm; Sarsfields v Tracton; Castle Road Camogie Grounds Blackrock 4.30pm

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Eire Og v Aghabullogue; Cloughduv 5.15pm; Ballincollig v Valley Rovers; Cloughduv 5.15pm

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final: St Catherine's v St Finbarr's; Ballinlough 2pm

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Glen Rovers v Carrigaline; Castle Road Camogie Grounds Blackrock 4pm

### MONDAY OCTOBER 5

Evening Echo Senior Championship Semi Final: Milford v Douglas; Venue and time tbc.

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 6

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Killeagh v Kilbrittain; Timoleague; CT time tbc; Bishopstown v Newcastle; Venue and time tbc

## St Catherine's have nothing to lose on a super Sunday

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

### SUNDAY

Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship semi-final  
St Finbarr's v St Catherine's,  
2pm Ballinlough.

SUNDAY is a huge day for St Catherine's Camogie Club as they bid to reach their first ever Senior County final when they meet St Finbarr's in Ballinlough.

It's a game that St Catherine's will believe they have a chance of winning and St Finbarr's, finalists for the last three seasons in-a-row, would want to approach this game with extreme caution.

St Catherine's are a strong, balanced side. Their steady progress over the past three years has been very impressive. They were the team who pushed Douglas to a replay last season and while Douglas won the replay fairly comfortably, not many teams would have stayed with them on the day.

Obviously Orla Cotter is the side's big name but take a step back to view this team in its entirety and you can list high quality players in Deirdre and Denise Twomey, on their day two very exciting forwards, Fiona Cotter, Faith Noonan, Nólín Mulcahy and Finola Neville.

The Barrs were very impressive against Rockbáin in the quarter final but they won't have it so easy against Catherine's. With Gemma O'Connor out of the picture one wonders who the Barrs will deploy to match Orla Cotter at midfield. She will do considerable damage if left to her own device.

Jenny Duffy, Lynda O'Connell and Trish Doyle will be confident of containing St. Catherine's forward division. It is at midfield and up front where the Barrs will have to work hard. Should they lose the midfield battle they will struggle.

Viv Harris had a storming opening half against Rockbáin in Ballincollig at centre forward. She easily created space and picked off some wonderful scores. Ballinlough is that bit tighter and if Harris is curtailed, then the supply into the Barrs' inside forward line and particularly Orla O'Sullivan will be detrimentally weakened.

O'Sullivan is lethal when she receives the perfect ball in. Very few players go as low to gather a ball. Her turn, burst of speed and clinical finish is the Barrs' jewel in the crown. Getting O'Sullivan the supply though is key.

The pressure is all on St Finbarr's. St Catherine's have nothing to lose. If they win it will be a massive day in the club's history. Should they lose, they will receive no recrimination but regard it as another step forward in their learning curve.

St Finbarr's go into the game as favourites due solely to history and expertise. Take those factors out and we have two evenly matched sides.

This game could prove to be the match of the championship.

### Kilmaley claim back-to-back senior titles in Clare

### Kilmaley claim back-to-back senior titles in Clare

#### Clare Senior Camogie Final

Kilmaley 0-07 v 0-05 Sixmilebridge

Kilmaley dominance continued on Saturday as they eventually edged out a spirited Sixmilebridge challenge to win back-to-back titles. On a special day for Clare camogie who were celebrating their 75th anniversary. After two thrilling semi-finals, this historic decider was expected to be an open encounter, pitting the defending champions against the coming force of Sixmilebridge but in a low-scoring affair that only saw one point from play over the hour, it turned out to be a slog that needed all of Kilmaley's experience to prevail.

That Kilmaley eventually came out on the right side of result was predominantly down to experience. Having been in this situation before and boasting a vastly experienced spine of Denise Lynch at full-back, the multi-talented Eimear Considine outside her and Helen McMahon, captain Emma O'Driscoll and Claire McMahon further forward, they knew that patience was the key to success and overall, they just had the more attacking options and threat. Sixmilebridge on the other hand, despite being fully determined, never really threatened the Kilmaley goal throughout the hour and only for the unerring accuracy of Chloe Morey from placed balls, it is difficult to see how they would have won this tie. Sixmilebridge were quicker off the blocks to open up a two point advantage by the 11th minute but McMahon and Kilmaley soon settled to draw level at 0-3 to 0-3 at half-time.

Kilmaley were better after the break though but were almost dealt a huge blow when Claire McMahon sustained an injury to an ankle in the opening minutes. The former county senior recovered though to tack on two further frees by the turn of the final quarter and give the holders the lead for the first time. With the game slipping from their grasp, Sixmilebridge switched Sinead Tuohy to midfield and they did cut the deficit to only the minimum with only eight minutes remaining when Morey converted another free.

Kilmaley had to dig deep and in the move of the match, finally grabbed a point from play when Siobhan Maher soloed down the left wing and out in a teasing delivery that broke off lively substitute Aisling Darcy to Emma O'Driscoll to point over her shoulder. However with 16 year old Chloe Morey driving Sixmilebridge on at every opportunity, they didn't wilt and set up a grandstand finish when Morey herself was fouled outside the '45 and got up to convert the resulting free in the 57th minute. The game was finally settled in injury-time though when Claire McMahon added her sixth free of the day and although they held a dangerous lead for the remainder, Sixmilebridge hadn't the firepower to take advantage. This was Kilmaley's day and whether they win in style or just win ugly, the main thing is that they are still winning and more significantly are still the standard bearers in the county for everyone else to aspire to.

Kilmaley: E. Griffey, S. O'Halloran, D. Lynch, S. Reidy, L. Higgins, E. Considine, A. Griffey, H. McMahon, E. O'Connor, S. Enright, E. O'Driscoll (0-1), S. Maher, K. Cahill, C. McMahon (0-6 6f), M. Hehir Sub Aisling Darcy for Hehir

Sixmilebridge: A. McNamara, A. Sweeney, D. Shanahan, O. Chaplin, C. Whelan, B. O'Halloran, A. O'Shea, N. Corry, C. Morey (0-5 4f 1'45), S. Costelloe, B. Crowe, S. Chaplin, R. O'Halloran, N. Neylon, S. Tuohy Subs C. Early for Neylon (Inj), J. Chaplin for S. Chaplin, O. Fitzgerald for Crowe, K. Connors for O. Chaplin, M. Hyland for Early

Player of the Game Chloe Morey (Sixmilebridge)



### Cork Camogie Results

Evening Echo Senior Championship Semi - Finals  
Milford 3-11 Douglas 0-9; St Catherine's 1-9 St Finbarr's 1-9.

Evening Echo Senior B Championship  
Glen Rovers 5-11 Carrigaline 0-3; Ballincollig 3-9 Valley Rovers 1-3; Eire Og 3-8 Aghabullogue 0-4.

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship Semi- Finals  
Sarsfields 2-6 Tracton 1-7; Clonakilty 1-12 Fr O Neills 2-8.







LINDA MELLERICK

St Finbarr's 1-9  
St Catherine's 1-9

A THRILLING second-half means St Finbarr's and St Catherine's must meet again in the *Evening Echo* senior camogie semi-final in Ballinlough yesterday.

When Viv Harris pointed a remarkable pressure free with time almost up it looked as if the Barrs had done just enough to see them through to their fourth final on the trot. But St Catherine's sub Lisa Higgins had the final say with an equally sublime point in the third minute of injury time to justifiably force a replay.

St Catherine's looked the stronger and hungrier side in the opening half. Their defence of Faith Noonan, Noirin Mulcahy, Orla Cotter, Liz Power and Carolyn Motherway snuffed out any Barrs threat, and with centerfield more or less by-passed, their clearances were enough to send their half-forward line into action. Jenny Duffy cleared well during this pressure period.

Eight minutes in St Catherine's led by 0-3 to no score, two Orla Cotter frees and a Deirdre Twomey point the providers.

The Barrs were struggling and should have been further behind such was the possession St Catherine's enjoyed.

They looked in serious trouble in the 20th minute when a Barrs attack was broken up by Noirin Mulcahy, play went up field and the ball, mistimed by Trish Doyle, was gathered by Denise Twomey who struck the net. The challengers now led by five points.

Finola Neville stretched it to six with Orla O'Sullivan scoring an important point for the Barrs on the stroke of half-time, their second score of the half to leave it 1-4 to 0-2.

The Barrs came back out a tremendously different side. Switching Viv Harris and Jenny Duffy to mid-field was a resounding success.

Within five minutes they were level. Inside two and a half minutes Orla O'Sullivan had struck 1-1, the goal a replica of what she does best. Harris knows the type of ball O'Sullivan needs and supplied it perfectly.

Credit the St Catherine's mentors who spotted the threat and closed the gap in front of O'Sullivan almost immediately.

But the Barrs now sensed a chance. An Orla Cotter free and a well-taken Niamh Goulding point saw the sides

# Higgins lands late leveller to deny Barrs



Orla Cotter of St Catherine's grasps possession as she is challenged by Orla O'Sullivan of St Finbarr's during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in Ballinlough yesterday. Picture: Damien Quirke

still deadlocked with 15 minutes remaining.

The tension was tangible and every ball was critical.

Jenny Duffy was playing a storming game and leading by example. Her clearance on 16 minutes found O'Sullivan again and she placed the Barrs ahead for the first time.

St Catherine's were finding it difficult to find a way through as the entire Barrs defence batted down the hatches. Lynda O'Connell once again wearing her heart on her sleeve.

With 22 minutes of the second half

gone the Barrs led by a point and it was worrying for St Catherine's that they had yet to score from play in this period.

Orla Cotter however won everything around the middle of the field during a six-minute spell and with it St Catherine's edged their nose in front again.

Orla O'Sullivan levelled it and when Harris pointed that free it looked all over. Not so and super sub Higgins deservedly gave St Catherine's another chance in a game no team deserved to lose.

**Scorers for St Finbarr's:** O O'Sullivan 1-5 (0-2), V Harris 0-2 (0-1), B Maher, N Goulding 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-5, Denise Twomey 1-0, F Neville 0-2, Deirdre Twomey, Lisa Higgins 0-1 each.

**ST FINBARR'S:** B A Corcoran, C Myers, T Doyle, C Harrington, M McCarthy, J Duffy, C Spellman, L O'Connell, B Maher, V Maher, V Harris, R Myers, N Cooke, D O'Sullivan, N Goulding.

**Sub:** H Morgan for N Cooke (46m).

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, O Neville, L Power, O Cotter, C Motherway, M O'Keefe, A M Hayes, F Cotter, E Ronayne, F Neville, Denise Twomey, Y O'Neill, Deirdre Twomey.

**Sub:** L Higgins for Y O'Neill (47).

**Referee:** Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

## O'Donovan point seals the victory for Clon

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Fr O'Neill's

2-8

Clonakilty

1-12

A POINT deep into injury-time from Marie O'Donovan helped Clonakilty secure their place in the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship final as they edged out Fr O'Neill's at Castle Road on Saturday.

Fr O'Neill's can deem themselves unlucky not to have got a second chance after they had battled back with an equaliser three minutes into injury-time, after Clon had regained the lead, as Nora Ahern's goal, with a minute of normal time remaining, had given Fr O'Neill's the lead.

Clonakilty controlled the opening half and playing with the aid of the stiff breeze they led 1-7 to 0-5 at the break. Sharon Whelton's ground shot to the net 18 minutes into the game helping to put six points between the sides.

Whelton extended the Clon lead on the restart with a point but a superb move saw Katie Ahern set up Liz Sweetnam for a Fr O'Neill's goal inside five minutes of the restart. A rampant O'Neill's took the game to Clon and points from Gearoidin Kearney and Kate Harrington had the lead down to a point.

Sharon Whelton rallied Clon with an excellent point with 13 minutes of normal time remaining and from here to the 29th minute both defence were on top as the sides battled for a score.

Fr O'Neill's introduced substitute Evelyn Rohan and switching Nora Ahern to full forward proved a good move as she got the last touch to finish Gearoidin Kearney's long range free to the net. But from the puck out O'Neill's were caught as Erica Jennings drilled the ball over the bar for the equaliser.

Sharon Whelton pointed a free to which Nora Ahern replied with one from play and there followed two frantic minutes of play from both sides as they battled for the winner.

With the clock ticking into the fifth minute of injury-time Marie O'Donovan pointed for Clon but up the field swept O'Neill's to almost snatch it at the death, Katie Ahern's ground stroke flying across the face of the goal and wide to the sound of the full time whistle.

**Scorers for Clonakilty:** S Whelton 1-5 (0-2), O-1 45", E Jennings 0-3, H Coughlan, S O'Neill, H O'Regan, M O'Donovan 0-1 each.

**Fr O'Neill's:** S Kearney 0-4 (0-3), O-1 45", N Ahern 1-1, L Sweetnam 1-0, K Harrington 0-2, F Wiggins 0-1.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** C McGrath, O Farmer, U Day, C Day, S Harrington, V O'Sullivan, Y Murphy, K Harrington, F Wiggins, N Ahern, G Kearney, K Ahern, D O'Leary, N Nagle, L Sweetnam.

**Sub:** E Rohan for N Nagle (51).

**CLONAKILTY:** A Deasy, N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forristal, A McCarthy, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn, H O'Regan, Clona O'Regan, J Brennan (c), E Jennings, S O'Neill, H Coughlan, M O'Donovan, S Whelton.

**Referee:** Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

## Ballincollig, Éire Óg and Glen into last four

THREE places were booked in the Evening Echo Senior B championship semi-finals as Éire Óg, Ballincollig and Glen Rovers completed their programmes of games in the round robin series with victories, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Ballincollig, with their semi-final spot already secure, recorded a 3-9 to 1-3 win over Valley Rovers. Though after a close opening half just two points separated the sides as Ballincollig got good performances from Marie O'Donoghue and Patricia Buttimer.

In the second-half Ballincollig applied a lot of pressure as they pulled

away with Orla Ni Chasaigh, Leah Weste and Denise Cronin prominent.

Éire Óg ensured themselves of their semi-final place with a 3-8 to 0-4 victory over Aghabullogue.

The Owens girls led 2-4 to 0-3 at the break goals from Aoife McCarthy and Roisin Murray plus points from Margaret O'Herlihy, Erin Corkery and Rosin Murray helped them keep ahead as Aghabullogue had points from Tina Roche, Sinead Buckley and Ciara Murphy.

In the second-half Éire Óg upped the pace and with Erin Corkery finding the net and points from Aoife McCarthy, Margaret O'Herlihy, Roisin

Murray and Erin Corkery giving Aghabullogue no way back as Éire Óg ensured themselves of the semi-final spot.

Glen Rovers held the upper hand from the throw-in their clash with Carrigaline in Castle Road.

A goal from Aoife Walsh inside 30 seconds settling the city girls Karen O'Connell Sinead Fahy and Denise Luby pointing they extended their lead before Sarah Barry pointed.

Denise Luby grabbed a second Glen goal before the break and a Leeann O'Sullivan point had them 2-5 to 0-1 ahead at the break.

On the turn over Aoife Walsh ad-

ded her second goal and two from Lorraine Kelly had them on the road to victory and a berth in the semi-finals.

Points from Denise Luby, Aoife Walsh and Eileen Riordan powered them safely through though Carrigaline's Sarah Barry added two further points.

Just one semi final place remains to be filled.

On Tuesday Killeagh meet Kilbrittan/Timoleague, and a victory will secure the spot for Killeagh.

It the east Cork side are defeated, it would force a play-off between Ballinhassig and Killeagh.



Oct 2009

## City side have class to return to county final

**TONIGHT**  
**Evening Echo Cork**  
**County Senior Camogie**  
**Championship semi-final,**  
**Douglas v Milford,**  
**Mourneabbey, 7.30.**

MILFORD are close to reaching the county senior camogie final for the first time in five years but face a formidable challenge in getting there when they take on champions Douglas in Mourneabbey this evening, writes **LINDA M ELLERICK**.

Douglas overcame Cloughduv last Wednesday in the first of a double bill at Páirc Uí Rinn while Milford were pushed all the way by an impressive Inniscarra side to emerge with a goal to spare.

Worryingly for Milford on the night was the enforced withdrawal of captain Elaine O'Riordan with a hand injury. She is reportedly fit to play this evening and her presence at centre-back is crucial for the North Cork side.

Once again Douglas gave an excellent second half performance in the quarter-final to shed the stern test presented to them in the opening half by Cloughduv. One could see at half-time that the floodgates were about to burst open for the city side. Three second half goals again shows the strength that Douglas have up front and it is difficult to see Milford coping with their inside six.

But Milford from midfield up is equally very strong and both defences could decide this game. The three Watsons, Aisling Thompson and Anna Geary will prove a handful for Douglas. Had Cloughduv more clinical finishers up front Douglas would have found the quarter-final a sterner test. Their defence was spread many times in the opening period but Cloughduv didn't have the finish.

Douglas were vulnerable at right corner-back last week where Katherine Corkery found oceans of space and caused problems.

Jessica Kavanagh continues to grow with confidence in the Douglas goal and will no doubt be called upon by the Watsons on the night, Emer in particular. Both sides have forwards with goal in mind once in possession and the game promises plenty of action.

Both Douglas and Milford had been out of club action for a while and last Wednesday's quarter-finals will have helped them get back into championship form. A five-day gap though isn't ideal and who has recovered most will be a telling factor.

Milford desperately need to make the breakthrough yet it is difficult to see them taking Douglas if they are in full flow.

**Verdict:** Douglas.

Cashel and Burgess/Duharra qualify for Tipperary county final

**Cashel and Burgess/Duharra qualify for Tipperary county final**  
Tipperary Camogie notes  
www.camogie.tipperary.gaa.ie

**Senior Championship Semi Final**  
**Cashel 1.15, Drom & Inch 2.05**

Drom's hopes of retaining their grip on the Senior title came to a shuddering halt last weekend when Cashel proved too strong in a game that had everything expected from these two great teams. With the wind against them in the first half it was Cashel who settled faster, & at the 15 minute mark Cashel were 4 points up with Drom failing to score, but guilty of some disappointing wides. Also, a contributing factor of Cashel's dominance in this period was the displays from Captain Una O'Dwyer at full back, & Philly Fogarty's display at centre back.

It finally fell to Joanne Ryan to register the champion's first point, quickly followed by another & appointed free from Niamh Harkin to bring Drom back into the game & within a point of Cashel. Niamh Harkin, now working at centre back gave their half back line the strength they needed & her clearances were starting to find her forwards. Both teams exchanged points before Joanne Ryan raided down on Cashel's goal only to see her effort saved by Helen Breen & out for a 45. However, Caitriona Shortt saw her 45 effort glide over the Cashel defence & into the back of the net to give the Drom girls a one point lead at half time.

Cashel came out in the 2nd half with the wind in their backs & quickly set out their stall with points from Claire Grogan & Mairead Morrissey. Now playing in the half forward line for Drom, Joanne Ryan again made one of her trademark runs down the side of the field, & just when it looked as if she had ran out of room, she blasted from an impossible angle to the back of the Cashel net. Suddenly two points down Cashel responded when Cora Hennessy pointed, which was answered with a Drom point from Therese Shortt. Geraldine Kinane was now switched to full forward for Drom, & she was causing trouble for Cashel, but supply was at a premium.

The Cashel half back line were not giving anything easy, & with Jill Horan & Julie McGrath winning the mid field tussles, Drom's last score came in the 15th minute of the half. From there on it was all Cashel, & hitting 7 unanswered points in the last quarter, meant there was only going to be one result. Michelle Shortt from Drom was outstanding, & her style of play is an example to any young girl on how to play the game. Cashel on the day had the experience, & were able to make the most of their periods of dominance throughout the game, while Drom's slow start came back to haunt them.

Cashel are now back into a County Final, & they will definitely want to make amends for their disappointing exit at semi final stage last year. Their opponents, Burgess/Duharra are equally as hungry for success. This will be their third appearance in five years, but have failed to taste success at this level. Both teams are full of top class Camogie players, so to say that we are in for a cracker next Sunday is an understatement. Throw in for this mouth watering tie is 3pm in the Camogie pitch The Ragg. The cream of Tipperary Camogie will be on display.



**2pm:**

**St Finbarr's Jenny Duffy with St Catherine's Orla Cotter and Finola Neville and Fiona Cotter, inset, who were in action in the Evening Echo Ladies Senior Camogie championship semi-final at Ballinlough.**

Picture: Damien Quirk

**Cork and Galway replay Gala All Irl Int final in Nenagh**

THREE weeks ago, a late goal denied Galway a badly-needed win in the Gala All Ireland intermediate camogie championship. Not for the first time this summer, they were stunned at the death. Following on from the disappointing exit of their senior team to an injury time green flag from Kilkenny, their intermediate side looked to have this title in the bag against Cork in the Gaelic Grounds, but Marie Walsh dramatically crashed to the net on full time to force a replay.

It was a cruel blow to Noel Finn's side, which had one hand on the McGrath Cup, which ironically was donated by a well-known Cork referee. So, it is a case of all roads leading to McDonagh Park in Nenagh on Saturday (3.30pm) for the much-anticipated replay.

Galway will have to work hard again, just as they did in the drawn game, coming from three points behind at the interval to surge four points clear coming down the home straight. Goalkeeper Deirdre Ward couldn't be faulted over the hour, and the accuracy of Martina Conroy will once again be vital to the Maroon attack.

Cork meanwhile showed amazing resolve despite much of the contest being dominated by the westerners. Michelle Browne is a superb point taker and Eimear Watson demonstrated her class with her first half goal.

Indeed the Milford girl could be celebrating on the double this week as she helped her club to the Cork county final on Monday night. Outsiders Milford, who sensationally knocked out defending champions Douglas, will go in search of their first senior title when they meet the winners of the other semi-final which ended in a draw between St Catherine's and St Finbarr's.

### CAMOGIE

**ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL**  
Galway 3-10 (A. Lynskey, C. Murray 1-2 each, L. Mitchell 1-0, M. Conroy 0-4 (F), C. Bowles, G. Conroy 0-1 each) Cork 1-5 (E. Watson 1-0, M. Browne 0-3 (0-2F), N. O'Dwyer 0-2)

**LEINSTER JUNIOR CLUB FINAL**  
The Harps Ladies 1-16 (Louise Mahony 0-8 (2F, 1-4S), T. Bennett 1-1, A. Mahony 0-4 (1F), E. Mahony, A. Hurley, Laura Mahony 0-1 each) St. Eunan's Kildare 3-7 (C. Nolan 1-4 (1F), L. Kestley 1-1, L. Bowles 1-0, A. Treacy, M. McCabe 0-1 each)



## A lot at stake in camogie clashes

**TOMORROW**  
*Evening Echo* Senior B semi-final, Éire Óg v Killeagh, Castle Road, noon.

DESPITE the fact the All-Ireland final is the centre of attention this weekend, there are two important games also down for decision.

Éire Óg and Killeagh will battle it out for a place in the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship final, where their opponents will be the winner of Glen Rovers and Ballincollig semi-final which will be decided on October 18.

Éire Óg and Killeagh are keen rivals and have fought out many a battle at the top level. This Saturday promises yet another exciting encounter.

**SUNDAY**  
*Evening Echo* Intermediate final, Sars v Clon, Castle Road, noon.

On Sunday while the main focus down in Riverstown will be on their senior hurlers, the camogie girls will be hoping to get the day off to a good start as they do battle for the *Evening Echo* intermediate championship crown.

Last weekend Sars and Clonakilty made it through two tough semi-finals and both will be hoping to become the first name on the new Nano Nagle Memorial Cup, which was presented to the county board by the Presentations sisters.

The Intermediate grade has been re-introduced this season after a number of years with six clubs upgraded from Junior A.

● See tomorrow for more on both games.

# Fresh ideas needed for Cork to succeed



Milford's Emer Watson keeps the ball under control against Muskerry in last year's championship. Watson is looking forward to Sunday's All-Ireland Intermediate final replay with Galway.  
Picture: Richard Mills

## Watson has all eyes on glory

EMER WATSON, fresh from Milford's superb victory over Douglas on Monday night, is raring to go this weekend and is looking forward to renewing rivalry with Galway, writes MARY NEWMAN.

"I can't wait for the game now to be honest, it's been a few weeks since the drawn game so we are really looking forward to another good clash."

Emer is the holder of All-Ireland colleges honours with St Mary's Charleville as well as All-Ireland senior, intermediate and U16 medals. To date she has won championship medals with her club from U12 to Senior B grade and is hopeful that 2009 will bring further glory to Milford and Cork.

"We are thrilled to be in a county final again, in 2005 Carrighoun beat us and since then we have been trying hard to get there so fingers crossed we will do it this time."

"But that's for next week, we will focus on Galway this weekend and take it from there."

A school teacher in Watergrasshill National School, Emer travels home regularly for training and matches with Milford. The Watson family is totally immersed in camogie. Her mother Ann holds an All-Ireland junior medal won with Limerick in 1977 and Emer is joined on the Cork intermediate panel by her sisters Marie and Aine.

"It is great to have them on the panel

with me, we are used to playing together and we travel to all the games together."

While it has been a very long season for Emer and her team mates it has been a very enjoyable one so far.

"It has certainly been very long season with training every night of the week but we wouldn't have it any other way, to be in an All-Ireland final and a county final is great and sure we just get on with it and prepare to the best of our ability."

Looking ahead to Saturday Emer is confident that Cork will do well.

"We didn't play to our potential last day and we are determined to do better this time out, we are really looking forward to it and we can't wait."

**TOMORROW**

**Gala Intermediate All-Ireland final replay, Cork v Galway, McDonagh Park, Nenagh, 3.30pm.**

IT'S BACK to the drawing board as Cork and Galway renew rivalry on Saturday in Ennis to decide the destination of the Gala intermediate All-Ireland camogie crown, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Last day out a goal from Maria Walsh gave Cork a deserved draw after two determined sides had battled to the finish to find a winner.

Cork, with the senior title secured, are chasing an adult double but they went into the original clash as underdogs against a more experienced Galway 15.

However a tenacious opening 30 minutes saw them match Galway score for score. Galway's Deirdre Ward was the busier of the goalkeepers as the Cork attack applied huge pressure and with four minutes to the break Emer Watson finally edged Cork into 1-7 to 0-7 interval lead.

Cork totally lost their way in the second half as Galway took over around the centre of the field and in the space of six minutes, they had taken the lead. Through the second half battle the Cork attack looked to have lost their sharpness.

An indication of Galway's dominance in the second half was that Cork went 21 minutes without a score as a Cork attack that had performed well in the first half struggled to make any headway.

On Saturday Cork will have to be as sharp as they were in the opening 30 minutes for the entire game while they need to win the midfield battle because if they allow Galway gain control they will be in trouble.

They will also need to keep a firm hand on Tara Rutledge who last day out caused them a lot of bother sending over scores as their confidence soared. Martina Conroy also showed her accuracy from frees, converting seven, therefore the Cork defence must cut out any unnecessary fouling.

Aine Watson was introduced as a substitute and performed well. She also gave a superb display on Monday night as Milford defeated Douglas to book their place in the senior county final and it's expected that she will start here.

A doubt remains over the availability of Regina Curtin who has returned to study in Coventry.

## Milford surprise champs and claim final spot

**Milford Douglas**

**3-11 0-9**

THE REIGN was sweet but it was short.

Milford dethroned 2008 Cork County senior camogie champions Douglas with a powerful semi-final display in Mourneabbey last evening.

Douglas can have no complaints on the night. They came up against a hungry Milford side that, based on this display, will go into the county final against the winners of the Barrs and

Catherine's replay as favourites.

While it took seven minutes for either side to register a score, Jessica Kavanagh in the Douglas goal was already busy.

At a point apiece, Milford were beginning to control the game all over the pitch. Douglas failed for a long period to get beyond midfield as the attacking Aine Watson and Aisling Thompson, aided by the sweeping role of Elaine O'Riordan allowed no way through.

The Douglas defence, which looked vulnerable in the quarter-final, couldn't cope with the resultant pressure and the

By LINDA MELLERICK

Senior camogie championship

skilful play of Marie and Emer Watson and Louise O'Flynn.

When Emer Watson goaled 15 minutes in to put the score at 1-5 to 0-1 it was going to take a mammoth effort by Douglas to salvage the game even at that early stage. Louise O'Flynn's goal five minutes before the break and a saved penalty by Rebecca Finn added further dismay for Douglas with the half-time score 2-8 to 0-4.

While Douglas played with more con-

viction in the second half and held Milford to 1-3 they couldn't find a way through an excellent Milford defence who resolutely swarmed Douglas and in particular Katrina Mackey as she tried in vain to seek a goal which might bring her side back into the game.

Sub Christine O'Gorman had only entered the fray when her pass found Emer Watson, who struck Milford's third goal midway through. O'Gorman was again the provider for Anna Geary's point with three minutes remaining.

Four points from set pieces and one from play was all Douglas could muster,

two points from play during the hour epitomising Milford's disciplined approach.

**Scorers for Milford:** E Watson 2-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), L O'Flynn 1-1, A Geary 0-2, S O'Flynn, M Watson 0-1 each.

**Douglas:** K Mackey 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), A O'Regan 0-3 (f), P Mackey 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Finn; O O'Mahony, N O'Brien, L Healy, D O'Reilly, E O'Riordan, C Galvin, A Watson, A Thompson, M Watson, A Geary, M Geary, L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn, Sub: C O'Gorman for M Geary (42).

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; L O'Shea, L O'Regan, F McSweeney, C Lynch, A O'Regan, E Jordan, P Mackey, H O'Mahony, J White, M Harkin, K Mackey, Aine O'Donovan, S Duggan, Aileen O'Donovan. Subs: M O'Donovan for F McSweeney (41), C Clarke for S Duggan (43).

Referee: Oliver Webb (Tracton).





# Linda Mellerick

## Éire Óg are going to be pushed all the way

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior B Championship semi-final

**TODAY,**  
Evening Echo Senior B  
Championship semi-final,  
Éire Óg v Killeagh,  
Castle Road, 12 noon.

DOWN through the years there has been many a famous battle between Éire Óg and Killeagh at senior level.

with Killeagh annexing five senior county championship titles, and Éire Óg four, things have been close.

Both clubs then went through lean spells with Killeagh withdrawing from adult camogie for a time and concentrating on their underage structures before coming back with a junior B team to take the B championship title.

Three years ago they annexed the junior A crown.

Éire Óg dropped down a grade from senior and captured the senior B crown in 2000 and again enjoyed a brief spell in the top tier before dropping down and regrouping in Senior B.

Both clubs have worked tirelessly and find themselves back in opposite corners once again as they battle it out for a place in the Evening Echo Senior B County final.

Killeagh were fancied by many to make it last year, but they fell to eventual winners Rockbawn at the semi-final stage, while Éire Óg advanced to the final and ran Rockbawn all the way.

This time out they will be hoping to go one better, but first Killeagh stand in their way.

Killeagh are a powerful outfit spearheaded by experienced players such as All-Ireland winning centre-back Mary O'Connor, while the experienced Angela Walsh, Sandra Smiddy, Carmel Deane and Noelle O'Donovan backbone a strong all-round outfit.

They came through the round-robin series in section two undefeated with victories over Carrigaline, Glen Rovers and Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

Éire Óg will be hoping that the experience gained in last year's campaign will stand to them.

Two years ago they lost out at the semi-final stage.

They came through their group losing one game to Ballincollig.

They have fine young players in Katie McCarthy, Ella Kelleher, Claire Meaney and Roisin Murray. They also have Erin Corkery back in their line out this season as well as the experienced Siobhan Gleeson, Alanna McKenna and Margaret O'Herlihy.

**Verdict:** Éire Óg to shade it.



Jubilant Douglas U11 Premier Seandún Camogie Champions who defeated St Vincent's 5-2 to 4-1 in the final at CIT last Sunday. Included in the back row from left, are coaches Derek Costello, Kieran Cummins, Jim Hurley, Mary Harrington, Marie Sheehan and Liam Wall.

MUCH as I'm sure Douglas are hurting right now after they relinquished their 2008 crown to Milford last Monday evening, it is great for Cork camogie that once again we have a relatively new club name competing in the county final.

That is for the first time in five years, Milford last appeared in the final in 2004.

We could well have a newcomer with St Catherine's and St Finbarr's due to replay their semi-final next Monday in Carrigtwohill.

The drawn game between the two provided a great second half.

Credit St Finbarr's for a mighty comeback and credit St Catherine's for not submitting.

It's hard to call it the next day again. Worryingly from a Catherine's point of view is that they failed to score from play for 22 minutes of the second half. With the Twomey's, Fiona Cotter and Finola Neville up front they'll have to get more of a return.

Lisa Higgins' equalising point was a well taken, confident score and one wonders why she didn't start. St Catherine's have the more dangerous inside forward line, taking Orla O'Sullivan out of the picture for the

## Great for camogie to see Milford rise

Barrs. But the St. Finbarr's defence were excellent in the second half.

O'Sullivan needs just one chance. She impresses me every time I see her play and in my view is the most lethal goal scorer in Cork over the past two seasons.

St Catherine's closed the gap there last week pretty quickly after O'Sullivan goalied but in the time they took to do it I was surprised that the Barrs didn't attempt to re-enact the scene. They didn't and in fact their two corner forwards closed in a bit on Orla and it became crowded.

Last season every neutral supporter probably willed Douglas to win the county title. You find out as champions though that the goodwill doesn't last. Let's be honest, as much as people wanted Douglas to win last year, I doubt the sentiments were the same in 2009.

You may be sure that most neutral

supporters are willing St Catherine's to defeat the Barrs next Monday.

A Milford v St Catherine's final would have neutrals split but that's the only scenario where they will be. Should the Barr's reach the final, Milford will be the 'idol of the moment' and should they emerge victorious and claim their first county senior title they'll find themselves in Douglas' shoes in 12 months time.

The Douglas defence was exposed against Cloughduv but Cloughduv didn't have the Watsons, Louise O'Flynn or Anna Geary up front.

Douglas found themselves in unusual territory last Monday evening.

As county champions you are going to receive that kind of attention. It's respect in a way. Milford respected who they were playing and raised their challenge to meet it.

Douglas didn't know how to stop

the onslaught and they were a defeated side from very early on.

However, I believe that this defeat will do them the world of good. Despite their underage success they had never experienced the media coverage and euphoria that surrounded their first senior county title last year.

Now they've felt the flip side of that. Having experienced both, my view is that this team will be stronger next year and play with a desire not evident last week.

They will need to make a few changes but with the conveyor belt they enjoy that shouldn't prove too onerous.

Milford! Is their moment of glory just around the corner? Was the semi-final their final? They've left it behind them before. No doubt, there will be a large north Cork contingent at the replay on Monday evening.

## CAMOGIE

### TRACON

Intermediate Championship County Semi-Final v Sarsfields: Traccon were lead by a very strong full-back line commanded by Trish Harrington.

Their half-back line was also very strong consisting on Karen O'Sullivan, Julie Ann Kingston and Olive Ambrose. Marian Jagoe was superb in midfield and the forwards were well led by Aoife Kiely and Clodagh Fitzgerald as well as goalie Nicola Lynch, who pulled off an amazing save.

**Team:** N Lynch, C Lynch, T Harrington, N Mulane, K O'Sullivan, J Kingston, O Ambrose, M Jagoe, J Lynch, S O'Loughlin, G Hurley, J Griffin, C Fitzgerald, A Kiely and A Dempsey. **Subs:** R Walsh, C Murray, G Ross, A Sinclair, R Lyons, M Buckley, T O'Callaghan, G McCarthy, K Twohig. **Score:** Traccon 1-7 Sarsfields 2-6. **Scorers:** Aoife Kiely 1-2, Jennifer Lynch 0-3, M Jagoe 0-1, Clodagh Fitzgerald 0-1.

### BRIAN DILLON'S

U16 B Championship: Dillon's got off to a fantastic start in this U16 B Championship semi-final against Millstreet. Both teams were fighting hard in the first half. Susan Brosnan opened the scoring with a great point followed by points from Ruth Brosnan, Donna Carroll, Caoimhe Rodgers and Michelle Ring. A super goal from Michelle Ring added to the lead putting Dillon's ahead by 1-4 at the end of the first half.

The Dillon's girls in defence were rock solid.

Sarah Cotter, Rebecca Myers, Ellis Porter, Kate O'Brien, Sara Attridge and Karen Henry repelled every attack from Millstreet. Dillon's came out the stronger team in the second half and all players showed great spirit and determination. Midfielders Susan Brosnan and Captain Orla Ni Shuilleabhain were powerful and fed the ball into the forward line. Donna Carroll along with Ruth Brosnan on the wings were in full flight. Rebecca O'Mahony was powerful. Full-forwards Shauna Ring, Michelle Ring and Caoimhe Rodgers took on their opportunities to score when fed the ball and made it impossible for Millstreet to stop them clocking up a score of 4-2 between them in the second half. Points from Susan Brosnan, Donna Carroll, Caoimhe Rodgers, a goal from Shauna Ring and three goals scored by Caoimhe Rodgers put Dillon's on the path to victory.

Rock solid Saoirse Rodgers gave another magnificent display of goalkeeping. Well done girls a great team game to be proud of! Thanks to coach John Ring, mentors Niall McLoughlin and Liz O'Mahony. Good luck in the final. We hope to see a huge turnout to support the girls in the final. They deserve it.

### DOUGLAS

U11 B: After going through our league campaign unbeaten this year, we reached the final against St Finbarr's. On Sunday morning last, out on a great CIT pitch we unfortunately suffered our first loss. We started very strong in the first half and took the lead with a very fine point by Denise Harrington. Our forward line was kept out by a great display of goal

keeping by the Barrs keeper. In the second half the Barrs got their first point to draw the game. Then in the last few minutes of the game they scored two late goals. We tried hard to get back the goals but on the day were very unlucky to lose this game. Final score St Finbarr's 2-1 Douglas 0-1.

congratulations to St Finbarr's and finally congratulations to the Douglas team on reaching the final from all the coaching team, Derek Costello, Mary Harrington, Kieran Cummins, Liam Wall, Marie Sheehan, Jimmy Hurley. Just to say you did us all proud.

**Team:** Megan Daly, Niamh Daly, Katie Brennan (c), Megan Walsh, Emma Connolly, Sarah Bryant, Eadoin Downey, Chloe McWhinney, Rachel Long, Aine Buckley, Alice Gough, Rachel Corbett, Ellie Devine, Eimear Kelly, Tara Costello, Sarah Mulqueen, Nicole Griffin, Ruth Hickey, Clodagh Buckley, Denise Harrington, Clodagh Deady, Nadya Deony. **Scorers:** Denise Harrington 0-1.

This was definitely a game of two halves as St Vincent's started the second half on fire within the first seven minutes they scored 2-1 to get to one point of us.

Then team captain Eimear Cummins got her back line under control and drove the team on with some great defending.

Ruth O'Halloran then sent a brilliant ball across the box for Niamh Harrington to score her first goal of the day. The game switched both ways until Niamh NiChuanachain picked up a loose ball to score a great goal. St Vincent's didn't give up and again came back with two more goals to make for a very tight finish to the game. Megan Daly in goal brought off some fantastic saves to keep us in front and then Niamh Harrington finally killed off the game with a great goal to give us the victory.

Well done to all the girls on retaining the Seandún title from all the coaching team, Kieran Cummins, Marie Sheehan, Derek Costello, Liam Wall, Mary Harrington and Jimmy Hurley.

**Final score:** Douglas 5-2, St Vincent's 4-1. **Team:** Eimear Cummins (c), Clara Carroll, Niamh Ni Chuanachain, Niamh Lynch, Sarah Sheehan, Eimear Wall, Vika Fleming, Kylie O'Callaghan, Rebecca O'Brien, Jade Fox, Niamh Harrington, Clara Hartnett, Laura Cashman, Seosamh Mulrooney, Ruth O'Halloran, Eimear



# Rochestown Park Hotel



Finbarr McCarthy presents the Cork 96FM C103 GAA Sports Star of the Month award to Cork camogie player Orla Cotter, while Shay Livingstone, general manager Rochestown Park Hotel, presents the joint award to Angela Walsh, Cork ladies footballer. Also in picture L to R., Brian Enright, Michelle Lunnion, Marian McCarthy, Frank Murphy, Ger Lane, Elaine Fitzgerald, and Jerry O'Sullivan.

## Cotter lands award for her camogie endeavours

WELL done to Orla Cotter, who received the 96/103fm Rochestown Park Hotel Sports award for September in recognition of her contribution to Cork's All-Ireland success over Kilkenny writes MARY NEWMAN.

In a joint award ceremony Orla was named winner along with Angela Walsh, who was honoured for her role in the ladies football win.

Angela is also a renowned camogie player having won a senior medal in 2006 and she lines out for the Killeagh camogie team that take on Éire Óg today in the senior B county semi-final in Castle Road.

Orla is the holder of an All-Ireland U16 medal and three senior All-Ireland medals.

She has won provincial honours with Cork and has All-Ireland junior colleges honours as well as senior and junior national league medals.

Orla was the only player to play in two senior All-Ireland finals in the same year in 2006 winning senior and senior B All-Ireland medals.

She won her first All-star award in 2008.

Orla was joined at the function by her parents Brigid and John as well as family members and club officials and players from the St Catherine's club.

The county board was represented by Marion McCarthy while selectors Lillian Zinkant and Mick O'Regan were also present.

## Board are looking for help with collection

TOMORROW is a very important day for the camogie board as the annual collection takes place at half time in the county senior hurling final.

As in previous year collectors are urgently required to come down and help the board.

This year more than ever with the new pitch development how having reached its fruition there is the on going expense to help maintain the facility.

Players, former player's mentors and supporters are urged to come along and give up just 10 minutes of their time to help in the venture.

Collectors are asked to meet at 2.30pm at the covered stand side of Páirc Uí Chaoimh where they will be escorted through the gates and given a spot in the grounds where they can view the game from and then take up the collection at half time.

By MARY NEWMAN

Intermediate Championship final

**TOMORROW,**  
Evening Echo Intermediate  
Championship final,  
Sarsfields v Clonakilty,  
Castle Road, noon

**THIS** year the county board re-introduced the intermediate grade.

The 13 junior teams were divided up with the top six making the step up to intermediate and the remaining seven forming the junior A grade.

We are now down to two teams as Sarsfields and Clonakilty come into Sunday's Evening Echo Intermediate championship final with different histories.

Sars won the senior county title in 1989, but following several years in decline they dropped down to junior grade where they worked hard to re-establish their club.

The hard work is paying off with a strong underage structure now in place.

The club is gearing itself up for one of its biggest weekends in 20 years as they battle to lift the intermediate title and become the first club to win the Nano Nagle Cup.

# O'Farrell will be key to outcome of final

Clonakilty are a relatively new club, reorganised in the mid 1990s after a lapse of almost 40 years.

They have put a lot of work into their underage section.

They won the U16 B championship in the early 2000s and went on to take the minor B and Junior B championship titles in 2007.

Almost all of these players now feature on the junior A side.

Captain Juanita Brennan, Sharon Whelton, Sinead O'Neill, Hazel O'Regan, Erica Jennings and Susan Forristal have performed well to date.

Clonakilty were pinned to their collars to defeat Fr O'Neill's in an exciting semi-final last weekend.

Clonakilty held out with the all-important point coming in injury time from Marie O'Donovan to se-

cure their place in the final.

They were defeated in last season's junior A final, but they have performed well since being promoted to intermediate.

When the sides met in the round-robin series of games in the championship it ended up level 1-7 apiece, while in the league meeting between the sides earlier this year Clonakilty had a 3-5 to 1-3 victory.

These results will count for little tomorrow.

Captain Juanita Brennan had a fine hour for Clonakilty against Fr O'Neill's. Sharon Whelton hit 1-5 of their tally of 1-12, while Erica Jennings, Hannah Coughlan, Sinead O'Neill, Hazel O'Regan and Marie O'Donovan were all on the score sheet as well.

Sarsfields had to be at their best to

book their place in the decider as they edged beating Tracton by two points.

With the game delicately poised Sarsfields moved Emer O'Farrell to centre forward and veteran campaigner Breda Kenny to centre back.

Those moves worked well as Kenny mopped up a lot of ball and drove it down field relieving the pressure on a Sars defence.

All through the campaign Emer O'Farrell has been to the fore for Sars hitting most of scores in all their games.

They are lively in attack with Shirley Crowley, Orla Barry and Aisling Whooley playing well, but they will need more of a contribution from their entire forward division as an over reliance on one or two players will not suffice.

## CLUB NOTES

**Kelly:** Tara Costello, Eadoline Downey, Katie Brennan, Megan Walsh, Jill Donegan, Denise Harrington, Emma Connolly, Sarah Bryant. Scorers: Niamh Harrington 2-0, Niamh Ni Chuanachain 1-0, Clara Hartnett 1-0, Kylie O'Callaghan 1-0 and Jade Fox 0-2.

**GLEN ROVERS:** Senior team: Well done to our senior team who defeated Carrigaline in the last game in the group series to qualify for the semi-final of the Evening Echo Senior B championship. Aoife Walsh gave us a great start with a goal from the throw-in and with Karen O'Connell, Sinead Fahy and Denise Luby pointing, we extended our lead before Carrigaline pointed.

Denise Luby grabbed a second Glen goal before the break and a Leeann O'Sullivan point had us 2-5 to 0-1 ahead at the break. On the turnover Aoife Walsh added her second goal and two from Lorraine Kelly had us on the road to victory, points from Denise Luby, Aoife Walsh and Eileen Riordan extended our lead before the full-time whistle as Carrigaline added two further points. So no denying the girls their spot in the semi-final which they have won on merit. All through the campaign they have shown fierce determination and when one considers we are without Sinead Gallen and Cornelia Shortt, both regrettably out with long term in-

juries, it's a credit to the team that they have fulfilled their ambition of grabbing a place in the last four.

Well done and best of luck in the semi-final on Oct 18.

**Team Kelly Newman:** Zoe Buckley, Aileen Gilton, Beth Walsh, Michelle Hegarty, Lydia Cunningham, Nicole O'Brien, Eileen Riordan (c), Alice Keating, Denise Luby, Karen O'Connell, Sinead Fahy, Lorraine Kelly, Aoife Walsh, Leeann O'Sullivan.

Sub Aisling O'Keefe for Alice Keating (inj). **U16s:** Our U16 team play Douglas tomorrow Sunday in a play-off for a league semi-final spot the game goes ahead at 11.15am in the Douglas Community School pitch, support welcome.

**U15:** Our U15 team got their Seandún campaign off to a winning start with a victory over St Vincent's on Monday night, they were due to play again on Thursday but Brian Dillon's had to cancel this game will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

**U13:** The U13 team will begin their league campaign when they meet St Vincent's at the Glen Field on Wednesday next, players to be in Glen for 5pm.

**U7 TO 9s:** A large contingent of U7, 8 and 9 players headed off to Ballyanley on Sunday last and they enjoyed an excellent day's camogie reaching the final of the Iniscarra blitz and while they lost out they never the less had a superb day and enjoyed it immensely. Many thanks to the Iniscarra club for the invitation and thanks to the players, coaches

and parents who helped out on the day. **Good luck:** Best of luck to our own Denise Luby and the Cork intermediate team who play their All-Ireland final when they meet Galway in Ennis today at 3.30pm.

**GAA draw:** By now most members will have got details about renewing their membership in the GAA draw anybody who is renewing or not re-joining please contact Mary Newman or Deirdre Coleman as soon as possible.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** On Sunday last we played our first County camogie semi-final after an exciting hour's play the score ended level and so we get a second opportunity to reach our first County final.

At half-time we would have been disappointed with a draw as we led by five points and as we entered injury time a point down we would have been delighted with a draw and so, thanks to a late strike from substitute, Lisa Higgins, we have our second opportunity.

We were well on top in the first half with the vital goal coming from Denise Twomey on 20 minutes, considering our first half dominance we could probably have been further ahead. The Barrs started the second half in determined fashion and by the fourth minute the game was all square. A pointed free from Orla in the seventh minute put us back in front but the Barrs were playing well and starting to dominate by the fourth minute they had taken a two-point lead and it seemed like the game might be slipping away from us. But our girls are nothing if not brave and de-

termined and in the next five minutes pointed three times to regain the lead but the Barrs responded again and pointed twice to lead as the game entered injury time.

We had a couple of chances to equalise and just when it looked as if our cause was lost we got the equalising point in the very last attack of the game. This was an exciting hour's camogie and our steady improvement at this level continues.

Well done to all our panel of players and management on another great performance. These are an exceptional bunch of girls and deserve every bit of support that we can give them, replay on Monday night at 7.30pm in Carrigrohilly.

**Team:** Denise Leahy, Faith Noonan(c), Noreen Mulcahy, Orna Neville, Liz Power, Orla Cotter, Carolyn Motherway, Annmarie Hayes, Maeva O'Keefe, Finola Neville, Evelyn Royane, Fiona Cotter, Denise Twomey, Yvonne O'Neill, Deirdre Twomey.

**Subs:** Lisa Higgins for Yvonne O'Neill, Deirdre Mulcahy, Sandra Noonan, Rachel O'Callaghan, Maria Daly, Jill Hurley, Andrea Mangan, Trish Fitzpatrick, Aisling O'Keefe. Scorers: Denise Twomey 1-0, Orla Cotter 0-5(f), Finola Neville 0-2, Deirdre Twomey 0-1, Lisa Higgins 0-1.

**Intermediate All-Ireland final replay:** Best of luck to Liz Power, Carolyn Motherway and Denise Leahy our representatives with Cork Intermediate team who play Galway in the replay of the Intermediate final on Sat next in Nenagh at 3.30pm.





# Co. Galway Camogie

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### Galway Camogie Roll of Honour

Grade	Competition	Year
Senior	Championship	1996
Senior	League	1994, 2002, 2005.
Intermediate	Championship	2004
Junior	Championship	1972, 1979, 1985, 1988, 1994, 1998, 2003.
Junior	League	1985, 1995, 2003.
Minor	Championship	1977, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004.
Senior	Gael Linn	1973, 1974, 2000, 2008.
Junior	Gael Linn	1981, 1995.
Club	All-Ireland Championship	Oranmore: 1973 Athenry: 1977 Mullagh: 1991 Peases: 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002.
U14	Feile na nGael	Sarsfields: 1983, 2007. Mullagh: 1985, 1986. St. Colman's: 1993 Peases: 1988, 1994, 1995. Athenry: 1997



You can choose to view winning teams of the past by clicking on your choice.

Senior  
Intermediate  
Junior  
Minor  
Feile na nGael  
Club  
Gael Linn

## 3rd Level AGM Report

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September signalled the beginning of the college season with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Level AGM taking place. Chaired by Lynn Kelly the AGM took place in Croke Park with delegates representing many of the universities attending. Taking time out of their busy schedules and attending their first colleges AGM in their recent posts was Uachtarán Cumann Camógachta na nGael Joan O'Flynn and Ard Stiúrthóir Sinead O'Connor.

Perhaps the main talking point from the meeting is that after a motion put forward by the executive is that for the first time in competition history both the Ashbourne and Purcell competitions will be run jointly on the same weekend. This can only be good for our game with many of the country's top talents competing for a coveted Ashbourne or Purcell medal. This promises to be a festival of camogie and this year Cork Institute of Technology have requested the honour of hosting the event. It will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2010 and after their near neighbours UCC hosting last year's competition with resounding success we are sure that CIT will leave no stone unturned in reaching the same standard this year.

With the college season being such a short season we are straight into action with the leagues commencing on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. Like last year, Divisions 1 and 2 will be split into geographical sections. After winning Division 2 last year Mary I make the move up to the top division and will compete against Munster's finest UCC, CIT, UL and WIT to see who can top the section. Division 1B will see last year's Ashbourne runners up UCD against NUIG, UIJ and QUB. After a few years in the top flight Garda college drop down to division 2 in a process of rebuilding. Teams competing in Division 2A NUIM, St Pats, UCD II, DET, DOJ and Garda College. While in Division 2B Carlow IT and Tralee will compete against UCC II, WIT II and UL II.

Highlighting the continued growth and strength of 3<sup>rd</sup> level camogie new clubs have been founded in Crumlin and Letterkenny, while Tralee will enter a second strong team to compete in Division 3. This will be run as one day blitzes in different locations throughout the year. The teams competing for honours in Division 3 are therefore Dundalk IT, LIT, St Marys, Sligo IT, Trinity College, Cork Colleges, Marino, Crumlin, Letterkenny and Tralee II.

In the championship UIJ will host Mary I in the qualifier to determine who will play in this year's Ashbourne or Purcell whilst Garda college will take on last year's Purcell winners Athlone IT. These matches will be played on the last weekend in November. In the Ashbourne Cup/Shield qualifier UCC will host old rivals UL in what should be an intriguing contest. Ashbourne hosts CIT have the toughest draw against last year's winners Waterford IT, whilst beaten finalists UCD will play NUIG and the final pairing sees the winners of the Ashbourne/Purcell qualifier playing each other.

Unfortunately Saturday's AGM saw the resignation of Ardchomhairle delegate Louise Byrne. A previous chairperson Louise took the decision to step down after a number of years hard work and dedication. Efficient and organised she will leave a massive gap and all those who had the pleasure of dealing with her wish her every success in the future. Honorary President Bridin Mulligan made a presentation to Louise to thank her for her efforts. Apart from Louise stepping down the committee will remain as last year.

Chairperson - Lynn Kelly

Secretary - Lizzy Flynn

Ass. Secretary - Orla Kilkenny

IT - Shane Darcy

Treasurer - Aidan Ó Mhacadáin

PRO - Fionnuala Carr

Honorary President - Bridin Mulligan

To end on a positive note, President Joan O'Flynn launched the new 3<sup>rd</sup> level camogie website. This website will give up-to-date match reports, latest news and events, Executive contact details, photo gallery and player profiles. Each university will have their own page and will be able to access it and update it on a regular basis. The new website can be viewed at [www.cco.ie](http://www.cco.ie)

## Galway lift the Jack McGrath Trophy in Gala All Ireland Intermediate Replay

Galway 3-10

Cork 1-5

FROM the outset, Galway were intent of putting the disappointment of the drawn Gala All Ireland intermediate camogie championship final behind them, after they let a four point lead slip at the death a few weeks ago in the Gaelic Grounds.

This time at McDonagh Park, Nenaght they showed little respect to the opposition going in at the break, with a 1-6 to 1-2 advantage. A Laura Mitchell goal on 24 minutes putting them into a commanding lead, but Cork duly responded straight from the puck out when Emer Watson fired past Deirdre Ward.

The Maroon attack though were not to be outdone and came out with all guns blazing in the second half. Further goals from Aoife Lynskey and Caroline Murray on 36 and 43 minutes put the game well beyond Cork's reach, sending the McGrath trophy west - a much needed fillip for the westerner girls.

Galway 3-10, A Lynskey, C Murray 1-2 each, L Mitchell 1-0, M Conroy 0-4f, C Bowes, C Conroy 0-1 each.

Cork 1-5, E Watson 1-0, M Browne 0-3 (0-2f), N Dilworth 0-2.



## All Ireland 2nd Level 7's Results

### Pitch 1 Division B (Hill Pitch)

11.30 St Patrick's Dungiven V St Flannan's, Ennis  
Score 0-1 2-5

11.50 Presentation Kilkenny V Gort Community School  
Score 0-9 0-2

12.10 St Patrick's Dungiven V Presentation Kilkenny  
Score 2-4 2-3

12.30 Gort Community School V St Flannan's, Ennis  
Score 0-0 9-3

12.50 St Patrick's Dungiven V Gort Community School  
Score 3-2 2-0

1.10 St Flannan's, Ennis V Presentation Kilkenny  
Score 3-5 2-5

### Pitch 2 Final at 2pm 10 mins a half

St Flannan's, Ennis V St Patrick's Dungiven  
Score 6-7 2-3

### Pitch 2 Division A (Main Pitch)

11.30 Loretto, Kilkenny V BCS Lismore  
Score 4-5 0-3

11.50 St Kilian's, New Inn V St Patrick's, Maghera  
Score 4-3 2-3

12.10 St Patrick's, Maghera V Loretto, Kilkenny  
Score 0-3 3-4

12.30 BCS Lismore V St Kilian's, New Inn  
Score 6-3 4-3

12.50 Loretto, Kilkenny V St Kilian's, New Inn  
Score 6-8 4-4

1.10 BCS Lismore V St Patrick's, Maghera  
Score 1-1 1-2

### Pitch 2 Final at 2.30pm 10 mins a half

Loretto, Kilkenny V BCS Lismore  
Score 2-9 0-5

### Pitch 3 Division C (Far pitch)

11.30 Stella Maris, Tramore V Garrahan Tower  
Score 3-1 3-1

11.50 Rathkeale V Mercy, Woodford  
Score 8-2 1-0

12.10 Rathkeale V Stella Maris, Tramore  
Score 0-5 0-1

12.30 Garrahan Tower V Mercy, Woodford  
Score 2-3 0-0

12.50 Stella Maris, Tramore V Mercy, Woodford  
Score 3-3 1-1

1.10 Rathkeale V Garrahan Tower  
Score 2-4 2-2

### Pitch 2 Final at 2pm 10 mins a half

Rathkeale V Stella Maris, Tramore  
Score 7-6 0-1

## Cashel pushed all the way by Burgess/Duharra in Tipperary county final

Tipperary Camogie notes

[www.camogie.tipperary.gaa.ie](http://www.camogie.tipperary.gaa.ie)

### Senior Championship County Final.

Cashel 2.15, Burgess/Duharra 2.13 (aet)

With three minutes already played in injury time in the second half of extra time, and Cashel down a point, Emily Hayden picked the ball from the wing, and managing to get some space from her marker, an ordinary player would have opted for the point. Not Emily, she raided down on the Burgess goal to see her hand pass effort saved, but her momentum kept her going with Cashel registering the goal to hand them their 15<sup>th</sup> County title, & leave Burgess/Duharra wait another year to try & claim their first.

This county senior final played last Sunday will go down as one of the best displays ever witnessed from two teams who gave everything to their cause. The players gave an exhibition of blocking, striking, catching, fitness and determination.

Burgess had the strong wind in their back and Jenny O Halloran was first to score from play. Claire Grogan answered for Cashel while Therese Brophy and Linda Grogan exchanged points from mid field. With 10 minutes gone sides were level, before Burgess started to pull ahead with points from Eimear McDonnell and Jenny O Halloran. A line ball for Burgess was latched onto by Ciara Gaynor who pulled first time to beat Cashel goalie Helen Breen. Eimear McDonnell pointed to put 6 points between the sides. Claire Grogan & Philly Fogarty hit 2 for Cashel before Burgess hit 4 unanswered points, Eimear McDonnell (2), Aine Mulcahy (1), Amy Kennedy (1). Half time, after a thrilling display from both teams, Burgess were ahead 1.09 to 0.04.

Cashel came out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half with Philly Fogarty restored to her natural centre back position & Emily Hayden back into the inside forward line & immediately points from Claire Grogan, Alison Lonergan & Jill Horan narrowed the margin. Amy Kennedy again pointed for Burgess in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute. At this stage Cashel were applying the pressure but a huge performance from Trish O Halloran at centre back ensured that Cashel weren't getting it all their own way.

Points from Claire Grogan (2), Cora Hennessy (1), & Clodhna Dwyer (1), brought Cashel within 2 points of their opponents. Then, a ball from Allison Lonergan deceived the Burgess goalie & with the green flag raised for Cashel they suddenly found themselves in front for the first time by a point with 5 minutes to go. Eimear McDonnell broke free & she pointed to level the sides at 1.11 a piece at full time. Extra time beckoned.

With two 10 minute halves facing the sides, & after giving so much energy to the game, supporters wondered if the both teams had anything left in the tank.

This was quickly answered, Mairead Morrissey & Emily Hayden pointed for Cashel, before a mistake in the Cashel goalmouth gave Burgess the goal to restore their 1 point advantage at the break of extra time.

Final 10 minutes, & the excitement was unbearable. Amy Kennedy popped up to point for Burgess. Two points up, 6 minutes left, Claire Grogan pointed, 1 point between the sides, 4 minutes left. Jill Horan pointed, sides level, 1 minute normal time left. Eimear McDonnell pointed a free in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute. Burgess ahead by a point. Surely no more could happen. Then Emily Hayden produced a bit of magic, & after 80 minutes of pure brilliant displays of Camogie from both teams, Cashel captain Una Dwyer accepted the cup from County Board Chairman Michael Browne.

Burgess/Duharra must wonder what they have to do to win a title. They gave everything to this game & provided so much entertainment, little consolation but they can be proud of their performance. Some might have thought Cashel were dead & buried at half time of normal time. These girls haven't won 15 titles without battles, & their belief in themselves got them over the finish line. They now go on to represent Tipperary in the Munster championship when the play Limerick Champions Killeedy. This game is fixed for Cashel on this Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> @ 2.30pm. Let's hope they have the full support of all Tipperary as they try to emulate their success of 2007.



# Camogie

**HALIFAX**

Always giving you ext



## Shield success is spur for Isles

By Niall Scully

THE Senior Shield will spend the winter on the sideboard at Farnham Drive. It gives promise of summer days.

Last year Naomh Mearnóg won it. This season Mearnóg became Senior A champions for the first time. "We were just talking about that, so we definitely see the Shield win as something to build on," states Derek McCabe, who manages Erin's Isle with Jude Casey.

"It's nice to finish with a smile and hopefully now we'll push on from here," added Derek as he reflected on the victory over Na Fianna.

It was a high scoring contest - 6-9 to 5-6. "We got a good start, but Na Fianna then stepped it up and they were ahead at half-time," recalls Derek.

Yet the Finglas side displayed character and charm in the second half. And now they want to repeat that performance as they approach the last bend in the Senior A League.

"We have three matches left. We are at the wrong end of the table, but if we finish well we would find ourselves in mid-table."

Coupled with the Shield triumph, that would be the ideal tonic for the new campaign as Isles hope once again to be at the business end of championship and league.

This term they were in the same championship group as county finalists Mearnóg and Good Counsel. They also lost to St Jude's.

Isles have fond memories of 2004.

That was the year they won their first senior championship title.

Their first meeting with St Vincent's ended in a thrilling draw in Portmarnock. Isles took the replay in Parnell Park.

Isles have had some fabulous artists over the years. And they currently possess Dublin captain Louise O'Hara, one of the finest players in Ireland.

Louise has been an example to all, and her deeds have inspired so many young players at the club, whose aim is to get back up there among the elite.

"We'll have three or four of our injured players coming back and we have some good young players coming through, so there's much to look forward to," notes Derek.

"It's great to see new talent emerging. And we are beginning to have quite a nice mix in the side."

"Next season there will be plenty of competition for places, and that will bring everyone on. And with our injury problems behind us we'd be confident that next year will go well."

And that's what Dublin Camogie wants to see too. In that particular parlour, the green Isles have long been the pride of the Parish.

## MEET THE DUBS...



**NAME:** Jean Murphy  
**CLUB:** Skerries Harps  
**AGE:** 22  
**OCCUPATION:** Student (Nutrition & Dietetics)  
**CLUB HONOURS:** Won Senior B league and Senior B Championship 2004, 2009  
**INTER-COUNTY HONOURS:** Under 18 Leinster Championship 2003, Leinster Junior Championship

**2005, All Ireland Junior Championship 2005 & 2006**  
**OTHER SPORTS PLAYED:** Hockey, Ladies Football  
**WHAT'S ON IPOD/MP3 AT THE MOMENT?** It's broken so the radio!  
**BEST PIECE OF ADVICE RECEIVED?** Don't drop the head after making a mistake - concentrate on the next ball  
**FUNNIEST COMMENT HEARD ON THE**

**PLAYING FIELD?** Being asked in a Senior National league match was my tan real (it was!)  
**FAVOURITE JOKE AT THE MOMENT?** What should you say to someone who is stealing your gate? Nothing, they might take a fence  
**SHOULD CAMOGIE HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME RULES AS HURLING?** Yes  
**PERSON YOU ADMIRE MOST?** My Dad

## New fun fad for mums is proving hit

IT'S the latest craze - Camog-aerobics. And it's sure to put Strictly Come Dancing in the shade. It's a super way to get fit and have fun at the same time.

It's been designed by the Camogie Association, and already it's proving a big hit. Camog-aerobics involves learning the basic skills of camogie, combined with an element of aerobic fitness.

It's aimed at mothers of camogie players who haven't played the sport before, or parents from the local community.

The sessions last for an hour, once a week. The cost is only €20 for the six-week programme.

Good Counsel are running a pilot scheme, and the feedback has been very positive.

"It's a good way of keeping fit and meeting new people," says Dublin Development Officer, Eve Talbot.

"We'd like to thank the Dublin City Council for their support. And it could also be a good way of recruiting new mentors."

Any clubs who would like to find out more about Camog-aerobics can contact Eve at eve@camogie.ie.

All across the city, mum's the word on the street.

## BOARD NOTES

■ Juvenile Championship finals next Saturday and Sunday at Naomh Bríd in Blanchardstown. Competing teams are asked to submit details of their teams immediately for the programme. Dublin minors take on Kilkenny in the Leinster Final on Saturday at a Dublin venue. Check website for details.

■ The last adult final of the year takes place on Sunday between Naomh Mearnóg and Kilmacud Crokes in the Senior B shield final. The County Board intends to hold trials for the U14 county team for the 2010 season on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 Oct 2009 in the Phoenix Park.

- Sat 24th Oct 2pm, Phoenix Park, Division 2 Players  
- Sun 25th Oct 10-30am, Phoenix Park, Division 1 Players  
The Board is aware that the Division 2 players will be back in action the following day in Féile, but clubs should be aware that this will be taken into consideration by U14 management. The Board are not restricting clubs to specific numbers, but we ask that girls of a suitable standard should be sent for these trials.

It is our intention to enter a second U14 team to compete in the Leinster Championship and possibly a third team that would compete in blitzes.

The emphasis next year will be to give as many girls as possible a taste of inter-county competition while at the same time improving the overall standard of camogie within Dublin. Clubs (via camogiesecretary) submitting girls for trials should contact Paul Beecher paul@camogie.ie with name, date of birth, club, playing position.

■ Sincere sympathy to Phil Gough and family of Crumlin on the death of her father.

■ County Convention is fixed for November 29, 2009.

## Counsel keep faith to become inter champs

By Niall Scully

NO SHORTAGE of top goalkeepers at Good Counsel. The number one on the Galtymore Road is the accomplished Lizzie McGuinness.

Minding the castle for the intermediate side is the highly respected Audrey Gaynor, sure and swift in all her work.

Her dad Gerry also knew the value of not conceding goals. He

was a refined central defender with the famous Leinsterville who decorated the Amateur League for years, the beloved club of the great Eddie Harkness.

But Audrey's uncle, Tommy, had a different mission on the pitch: scoring goals. And Tommy Gaynor did that rather well for Limerick, Shamrock Rovers, Dundalk and Nottingham Forest.

But even Tommy's guile wouldn't

easily breach the Drimnagh defence, the newly crowned Dublin intermediate champs.

Last month, on a memorable day at the Iveagh Grounds, they collected the championship as they defeated their neighbours Crumlin.

Counsel then had to win their last league match to complete the double. And they duly did that against St Mark's.

Against Mark's, they played some

lovely stuff in the second half. And the likes of Aoife Roche, Michelle Fitzpatrick and Karina Carroll got some elegant scores.

It's been a fabulous season for the management crew - Stephen Hoary, Gretta Byrne and Andy Molloy, a trio who had nothing but praise for the dedicated squad.

Niamh Humphreys is the captain and also a tidy defender.

And her example set the mood

from the very first whistle of the season. Counsel have a talented squad.

But, more than anything, it's their commitment to work that will see them prosper in the Senior B grade next term.

And even if Tommy Gaynor, with all his experience, puts back on the boots and got hold of a hurley, he'd still find it mission impossible to guide the sliotar past the niece.



# Dual Mary shown courage



MARK  
WOODS

FOR ordinary guys and gals it would have been the end of the road, the end of a quite brilliant playing career.

The medics were describing the horrific injury in terms of 'forget about Cork. It's all over'.

Mary O'Connor, though, is different.

In fact, she's a phenomenon.

Just look at her achievements in the accompanying factfile and you'll get the picture.

What more needs to be said about someone who's won 12 All-Ireland senior medals in camogie and ladies football, seven and five, respectively?

The 2007 camogie final defeat by Wexford was one of those rare afternoons of disappointment and frustration.

But O'Connor still had the prospect of the football final to come against Mayo, Cork's fiercest rivals, and strong hopes of another successful conclusion to the inter-county season.

The Killeagh native, however, didn't make it, as she explained.

"It was the Wednesday night after the camogie final, when I was training with the footballers.

"We were having a practice game and as I came down from challenging for a ball I hyper-extended my knee on falling.

"At the time the doctor thought my cruciate was gone and I had lateral collateral damage, too, the ligament torn off the bone.

"He said he couldn't operate on the cruciate until the other injury healed and that I'd never play inter-county again."

*Mary O'Connor captured her 12th All-Ireland medal this year but her journey to greatness has not been without its ups and downs due to a serious injury scare*

Given that O'Connor had already a bucketful of honours and had nothing to prove to anyone it would have come as little surprise if she called it a day.

"I've always said I want to retire on my own terms so that made me more determined than ever to get back.

"I put my head down and just worked and worked to return to playing.

"I went to the pool in the Quality Hotel in Youghal twice a day for six months, jogging up and down.

"I went back for another scan after about four months and while there was still 80% bruising, the surgeon admitted he had a mistake."

That was the news she had waited to hear and her rehabilitation resumed with even greater urgency — if that was possible — with more remarkable results.

The question was which all of her All-Ireland medals she would keep should the choice have to be made?

"I'd have either of the 2008 medals (the camogie win over Galway in a very tight contest), but the sweetest of all was the football final win over Monaghan.

"I scored two points and contributed to a brilliant team performance."

ABOVE: Cork captain Mary O'Connor raises the Brendan Martin Cup after defeating Dublin in the football final. LEFT: Mary kisses the O'Duffy Cup after beating Kilkenny in the camogie final.

## MARY O'CONNOR

Born: Killeagh

Age: 32

Sports: Ladies football, camogie

Positions: Forward in football, defender in camogie

Hobbies: Reading and cycling

Occupation: Camogie Development Officer

Honours: Football - 5 All-Ireland senior, 6 Munster championships, 3 National Leagues, All-Ireland intermediate and junior clubs, 6 Munster clubs, 12 county championships,

All-Star.

Camogie - 7 All-Ireland Senior titles, 10 Munster Senior titles, 9 National Leagues, 2 All-Ireland Clubs, 3 Munster Clubs, All-Star.

Career influences: My mother and Tommy Seaward

Pet hates: Dublin traffic

Favourite music: Counting Crows, Van Morrison

Favourite film: 1997 Lions DVD

Favourite food: Mammy's Stew.



even & Park Hotel

★ Evening Echo ★  
**LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS** ★



Oct. 2009



# star has great

"After what had happened the previous year I didn't think I'd get the opportunity again."

"Captaining Cork to the five-in-a-row this season was very special, but this wouldn't have happened if I didn't get my act together in 2007."

The second youngest in a family of six brothers and two sisters, sport was always at the centre of home life.

And Killeagh's strong hurling and camogie tradition made it easy enough for her to fall into it as well.

"I was always out in the garden either kicking a football or playing hurling. It was here I first heard the expression 'if you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen'."

"There was no real access to soccer or basketball growing up in the 1980s. You either played GAA or nothing at all."

Little surprise then that her chosen career path should be sport related.

"I studied leisure and recreation in college before taking up the position of GAA Development Officer at Limerick IT for four years."

"I remember we had literally nothing there, no pitch or anything, before the college began upgrading its facilities."

"We won Trench Cups and reached the Fitzgibbon Cup semi-final one year, but got hammered by Waterford IT."

"A short time later LIT dominated hurling."

"After that I was coaching in the primary schools in East Cork for four years."

"Then I was the Regional Development Officer for camogie, covering Munster and south Leinster before the current job came up after about 18 months."

"I'm director of camogie development. There are seven regional development officers around the country and I'm supervising them."



Mary O'Connor, with her sons John and Kevin who played in the East Cork Junior Football final for Glenbowder Rovers on the same day her daughter, also Mary, played for Cork against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior final.

Picture: Ger Bonus

"I make out work programmes for them as well as looking at club structures, player development, schools of excellence, academies, up-skilling coaches and administrators."

"A lot of our work is in developing camogie in places like Mayo, Kerry, Monaghan and Donegal, while also trying to consolidate what we have in the traditional counties, Cork, Tipperary and Clare, for example."

"There's a fierce amount of driving involved. From now until February I could be away four nights of the week every week."

"It actually slots in nicely with my playing career, because once May comes all the clubs are active, playing games etc, and my travelling is reduced."

"Because I'm dealing with volunteers most of my work is at night and during the winter."

"Then during the summer, I'm getting ready to organise next winter's programmes."

"I really love my job. I'm in it now two-and-a-half years."

The question doing the rounds is O'Connor's intentions for next season, not that it requires answering one way or the other just now.

Especially as the dual sensation is hardly eligible for free travel, so there's plenty of time to weigh up the pros and cons.

"For me at the start of every season it is the challenge of getting there and the challenge of keeping your place that keeps me going."

"Once January comes around I'm thinking 'I'm going to have another go at this'."

"I'm going to get myself up, do all the disciplined things, make the hard choices. There's almost a sadistic enjoyment to be had out of it."

"I love a challenge and I enjoy the training and the friendship among both squads."

"I love seeing if I still have the ability to keep my place as I look over my shoulder at all the great players chasing me."

"I love seeing if I can still get up to the high standards of fitness and skill levels required to play for Cork."

"I know the minute I stop enjoying it I will give up."

"There will come a day, when I won't be good enough, quick enough or strong enough and I'll have to cope with that, too."

"If it was only about the All-Ireland medals, I would have retired a long time ago."

"For me it's all about the enjoyment, the camaraderie, the friends. Indeed I've friends for life now after playing with Cork in both sports."

"I've always been a person who thinks 'we've done that right, now what's next'."

O'Connor may have to choose between the two and she will be ready to make that decision, too.

"If you had asked eight or nine years ago, I'd have said camogie, hands down."

"At the time the footballers were

getting hammered every year by Waterford and that was the season over."

"I was a dual player in name only. The skill and fitness levels have improved dramatically in football and both codes complement each other."

"If I had to answer the question now, I'd still say camogie, but it would be very, very marginal."

"Mind you, I still haven't even thought about it."

"Four doubles in five years is something special and great for women's sport."

"It will come to that eventually, but at the moment I'm not even thinking about it."

The influence of football coach Eamon Ryan cannot be stressed enough, not only in O'Connor's success story, but the astonishing rise in Cork's footballing stock generally.

"He's such a fantastic coach that even to go training is a learning experience."

"You take so much from a session that it would be very hard to walk away from that aspect."

"The quality of the training sessions with Eamonn is very high. He's a brilliant coach."

Which leads nicely on to life after playing, a possible Cork coach in either code down the line?

"When I was younger I would have fancied it all right, but now I wouldn't say so because of the job I'm in."

"Managing is far more difficult than being a player, because you have to take everybody's feelings into consideration."

"I might get involved at underage at club level."

It's not easy to switch off completely from sport, but O'Connor is still able to unwind in the company of familiar faces.

"I've 16 nieces and nephews and I try to see them as often as I can."

"They're all at an age where you can have great fun with them, out in the garden and all that kind of stuff."

"I like my own space, too, going for walks and listening to music."

"I have fantastic friends involved in camogie and fantastic friends who have no interest in the sports whatsoever and couldn't care whether I've a dozen All-Ireland medals or none."

"There's a lot of understanding there from my family as well."

"We're very much family-oriented and they all live within five or six miles of the home stead."

"Ann excommunicated herself to Fr O'Neill's all right, but we will forgive her for that."

This Wednesday O'Connor picks up another award, the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the month, in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel and Newbridge Silverware, for September.

There could be no more appropriate recipient!



Rochestown Park Hotel



Evening Echo  
**LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS**





Oct. 2009

## Éire Óg cruise into senior B final place

By MARY NEWMAN

Evening Echo senior B championship

Éire Óg	1-12
Killeagh	0-5

COMFORTABLE all through giving a superb display, Éire Óg advance to book their place in the Evening Echo senior B championship final as they overcame a strong Killeagh side in the semi-final at Castle Road on Saturday.

From the off Éire Óg signalled their intent to reach the final and 11 minutes into the game their captain Alanna McKenna led by example as she grabbed the games opening goal after Killeagh had gone ahead with points from Noelle O'Donovan and Angela Walsh in reply to Margaret O'Herlihy's pointed free.

Walsh cut the deficit with a Killeagh point but the second quarter belonged to Éire Óg as Killeagh battled to try and keep pace Margaret O'Herlihy (4), Aoife McCarthy and Alanna McKenna added six points to their tally without reply to give them a comfortable 1-7 to 0-3 interval lead.

On the turnover Éire Óg never took their foot off the pedal and continued their dominance despite the best efforts of Mary O'Connor, Angela Walsh and Stefanie Beausang.

The second half was ten minutes old before Éire Óg extended their lead Margaret O'Herlihy converting a 45 metre free. And with Roisin Murray, Margaret O'Herlihy and Aoife McCarthy adding points they had their place in the final secured before Shauna Landers and Angela Walsh struck late points for Killeagh.

**Scorers for Éire Óg:** M O Herlihy 0-7 (0-3 f, 0-2 45), A Mc Kenna 1-1, A McCarthy 0-3, R Murray 0-1.

**Killeagh:** A Walsh 0-3 S Landers, N O'Donovan 0-1 each.

**ÉIRE ÓG:** M Gleeson, C McKenna, S Gleeson, E Kelleher, K McCarthy, C Meeney, C McKenna, C McCarthy, C O'Leary, A McKenna (c), A McCarthy, M O'Herlihy, E Corkery, A McCarthy, R Murray.

**KILLEAGH:** C Deane, L O'Connor, M Smiddy, S Smiddy, A M Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill, S Beausang, E Ryan, G Cunningham, Angela Walsh, S Landers, K Murphy, N O'Donovan, J O'Shea.

**Subs:** Annie Walsh for N O'Donovan (1st), K Walsh for K Murphy (50).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

# Clonakilty lift the Nano Nagle trophy

Clonakilty	2-11
Sarsfields	1-8

CLON became the first holders of the Nano Nagle memorial trophy defeating Sars to be crowned Intermediate camogie champions at Castle Road yesterday.

Aided by the strong wind Clon laid the foundations for victory in the opening half, with their midfield pairing of Hazel and Cliona O'Regan dictating matters and, with Erica Jennings, Sinead O'Neill and Juanita Brennan working hard they held the upper hand.

Goals proved crucial and it was Clonakilty's ability to grab two in the first-half that proved vital, 11 minutes in they led 0-3 to 0-2 when Sinead O'Neill finished the first to the net — four minutes later she struck for number two.

Sars battled hard in defence to try and contain the lively Clon attack while their own front unit found scores hard to come by.

With two points on the board inside the opening seven minutes from Rita Crowley and Emer O'Farrell, Sars had to wait until six minutes from the break before substitute Orlaith Keane added their next score.

However, from here to the half-time whistle they came more into the game. Emer O'Farrell pointed two frees in reply as Sharon Whelton struck two for Clon.

Shirley Crowley gave Sarsfields a timely boost when she finished the ball to the net, and Clon led 2-8 to 1-5 as they turned over to play with the wind in their faces for the second-half.

Sars applied early second-half pressure, but the Clon defence as a unit stood firm. By now Sars had switched Breda Kenny to centre-back and with the wind in their favour they drove every ball forward, but credit Clon who mopped up everything that was thrown at them.

Scores were hard to come by as play swung from end to end. Sharon Whelton relieved the pressure as she extended the Clon lead with a point inside five minutes of the resumption, and it was 13 minutes in before



Sarsfields' Shirley Crowley boots home a goal against Clonakilty during the Cork Intermediate Camogie Championship final at Castle Road, Mahon.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

By MARY NEWMAN

Intermediate final

Sars got one back.

To their credit they did test Louise Daly in the Clon goal who was forced into action to clear under pressure on at least three occasions as Sars searched for a goal.

Between the 18th and 23rd minute Emer O'Farrell slotted over two points from placed balls, but maintaining a strong work-rate, Clonakilty continued to hold the upper hand around the centre and with

their half-forward line playing a roving game they won plenty of possession as they held their four-point advantage.

As the game entered the closing minutes Sharon Whelton put the result beyond doubt pointing a free and one from play to ensure Clon were crowned champions.

Sister Patricia from the South Presentation was in attendance to present the trophy to Clon captain Juanita Brennan while Clonakilty's Sinead O'Neill was named Player of the Match.

**Scorers for Clonakilty:** S Whelton 0-9 (0-6f), S O'Neill 2-2.

**Sarsfields:** E O'Farrell 0-6 f, S Crowley 1-0 R Crowley, O Keane 0-teach.

**CLONAKILTY:** A Deasy, N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forristal, A McCarthy, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn, H O'Regan, C O'Regan, S O'Neill, E Jennings, J Brennan (c), H Coughlan, M O'Donovan, S Whelton.

**Sub:** A Kearns for H Coughlan (52).

**SARSFIELDS:** O Butler, D Murphy, S O'Leary, C Barry, G Donoghue, E O'Farrell (c), A Griffin, E Murphy, M Kelleher, S Crowley, O Barry, E O'Connell, A Whooley, B Kenny, R Crowley.

**Subs:** O Kearns for M Kelleher (23), M Lynch for G Donoghue (36), Y O'Callaghan for O Barry (45), C Holland for E O'Connell (57).

**Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).

## Barrs and Catherine's battle it out again for final spot

TONIGHT

Camogie semi-final replay  
St Finbarr's V St Catherine's,  
Carrigtwohill, 7.30pm

IF THIS county senior semi-final replay takes off the way the game ended just eight days ago, then spectators are in for a treat in Carrigtwohill this evening.

An injury-time point gave St Catherine's another chance after they dominated the opening half, yet succumbed to an excellent St Finbarr's

revival.

Whoever learnt most from that meeting will advance to meet Milford in the final next Sunday.

The sides are evenly matched and tactics will decide this game. The Barr's defence kept their side in it during the opening 30 minutes last week when St Catherine's enjoyed the lion's share of possession.

It is up front where St Finbarr's are suspect.

The mantle of responsibility here

lies predominantly with Viv Harris and Orla O'Sullivan.

Harris surprisingly seems to be the only player intent on supplying O'Sullivan the right ball.

Orla Cotter was given the task of marking the Barr's leader and won the battle.

The Barrs style of play isn't capitalising on their jewel in the crown. They have to keep the path to and around O'Sullivan free, giving her plenty of space.

It was when Viv found open space within seconds of moving to mid-field for the start of the second-half that O'Sullivan goaled and brought the Barrs back into the game.

St Catherine's defence is also strong with Faith Noonan, Noirin Mulcahy and Carolyn Motherway tidy, competent and able to deliver long ball.

Midfield will play a bigger role in the open space of Carrigtwohill where Ber Maher can have a big say

for the Barrs and it will be interesting to see if St Catherine's persist with leaving Orla at centre back or move her up.

The open space should also suit Deirdre and Denise Twomey who love to turn their marker and bear down on goal.

St Catherine's have the better spread of forwards capable of taking points. Both defences are strong with both playing their part in the drawn game.





Clonakilty's Sharon Whelton races onto the ball from Sarsfields Sinead O'Leary during the Cork Intermediate Camogie championship final at Castle Road, Mahon.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara

## Clon claim Nano Nagle trophy

**Clonakilty** 2-11  
**Sarsfields** 1-8

CLONAKILTY created history to become the first holder of the Nano Nagle memorial trophy as they were crowned Intermediate Camogie champions in Castle Road.

Aided by the strong breeze in the opening half, Clonakilty grabbed two first half goals and they proved vital as they laid the foundations for victory.

Leading 0-3 to 0-2, Sinead O'Neill hit two goals in the 11th and 15th minute as Sars had two points on the scoreboard from Rita Crowley and Emer O'Farrell with seven minutes played. It was six minutes from the break before Sars hit their third point with Orla Keane on target and with Emer O'Farrell pointed two frees in reply Sharon Whelton's two for Clon. Shirley Crowley gave Sarsfields the goal they needed four minutes into injury time when she finished the ball to the net and it was Clon who led 2-8 to 1-5 at the interval.

Sars threw everything at Clon on the resumption but the Clonakilty defence as a unit stood firm. Sharon Whelton extended the Clonakilty lead with a point inside

five minutes of the restart and as Sars put the Clon defence under a lot of pressure Clon keeper Louise Daly had to be at her best. Thirteen minutes into the second half Sars Emer O'Farrell pointed a free and between the 18th and 23rd minute Emer O'Farrell slotted over two further points from placed balls, but Clonakilty continued to hold the upper hand around the centre, and with their half forward line winning a lot of ball they held their lead. As the game entered injury time Sharon Whelton put the result beyond doubt pointing a free and one from play.

Sister Patricia from the South Presentation present the trophy to Clonakilty captain Juanita Brennan whilst Clonakilty's Sinead O'Neill was Player of the Match.

**Clonakilty:** A Deasy; N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forristal; A Mc Carthy, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn; H O'Regan, C O'Regan; S O'Neill, E Jennings, J Brennan (c); H Coughlan, M O'Donovan, S Whelton. Subs: A Kearns for H Coughlan (52). **Sarsfields:** O Butler; D Murphy, S O'Leary, C Barry; G Donohoe, E O'Farrell (captain), A Griffin; E Murphy, M Kelleher; S Crowley, O Barry, E O'Connell; A Whooley, B Kenny, R Crowley. Subs: O Keane for M Kelleher (23); M Lynch for G Donohoe (36); Y O'Callaghan for O Barry (45); C Holland for E O'Connell (57). **Scorers:** E O'Farrell 0-6 (f), S Crowley 1-0 R Crowley, O Keane 0-1 each.

**Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).

## Eire Óg march onwards to final

**Eire Óg** 1-12  
**Killeagh** 0-5

EIRE ÓG advance to the final of the Evening Echo senior B championship by defeating Killeagh in the semi-final at Castle Road.

Eire Óg grabbed the lead 11 minutes into the game when their captain Alanna McKenna fired home a goal after Killeagh had gone ahead with points from Noelle O'Donovan and Angela Walsh. Margaret O'Herlihy

pointed free an early Eire Óg free to keep them in touch.

Angela Walsh struck a Killeagh point but Eire Óg made all the running and they picked off their scores as Killeagh battled to try and keep in touch. Margaret O'Herlihy, Aoife McCarthy and Alanna McKenna added points to the Eire Óg tally without reply from Killeagh as they opening up a 1-7 to 0-3 interval lead.

On the turnover Eire Óg kept the pressure on and they

continued hold the upper hand as Killeagh tried to get into the game. Eire Óg extended their lead as Margaret O'Herlihy converted a 45 metre free and with Róisín Murray, Margaret O'Herlihy and Aoife McCarthy adding points they had their place in the final secured before Shauna Landers and Angela Walsh struck late points for Killeagh.

Eire Óg now await the winner of the second semifinal between Ballincollig and

Glen Rovers to see who will be their final opponents.

**Eire Óg:** M Gleeson; C Mc Kenna, S Gleeson, E Kelleher; K Mc Carthy, C Meeney, C Mc Kenna; C Mc Carthy C O'Leary; A Mc Kenna (c); A Mc Carthy, M O'Herlihy; E Corkery, A Mc Carthy, R Murray. **Scorers:** M O'Herlihy 0-7 (0-3 f, 0-2 45'), A Mc Kenna 1-1, A Mc Carthy 0-3, R Murray 0-1.

**Killeagh:** C Deane; L O'Connor, M Smiddy, S Smiddy; A M Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill; S Beausang, E Ryan; G Cunningham, Angela Walsh, S Landers, K Murphy, N O'Donovan, J O'Shea. Subs: Annie Walsh for N O'Donovan (16), K Walsh for K Murphy (50). **Scorers:** A Walsh 0-3 S Landers, N O'Donovan 0-1 each.

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## Deserved second chance at semis

**St Finbarrs** 1-9  
**St Catherines** 1-9

ST FINBARRS and St Catherines finished all square in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie championship semi-final and it was back to the drawing board last night to find a winner to contest next Sunday's county final against Milford.

St Catherines' substitute Lisa Higgins forced a replay with a late point in added time when it looked as if the

Barrs had done enough.

After eight minutes St Catherines led by 0-3 from two Orla Cotter frees and a Deirdre Twomey point as the Barrs struggled and when Denise Twomey struck for a goal five points separated the sides. Finola Neville stretched it to six with Orla O'Sullivan scoring a point for the Barrs on the stroke of half time, leaving it 1-4 to 0-2 to St Catherines.

Within five minutes of the restart the sides were level,

with Orla O'Sullivan striking 1-1. Orla Cotter pointed a free and Niamh Goulding replied as the sides remained level.

With eight minutes remaining the Barrs led by a point but St Catherines edged in front again thanks to Orla Cotter. Orla O'Sullivan levelled it and when Vivienne Harris pointed the Barrs looked safe but Lisa Higgins gave St Catherines a second chance and it was no more so than they deserved.

**St Finbarrs:** B A Corcoran; C Myers, T Doyle, C Harrington; M Mc Carthy, J Duffy, C Spellman; L O'Connell, B Maher; V Maher, V Harris, R Myers; N Cooke, O O'Sullivan, N Goulding. Subs: H Morgan for N Cooke (146m). **Scorers:** O O'Sullivan 1-5 (0-2 f, V Harris 0-2 (0-1 f), B Maher, N Goulding 0-1 each.

**St Catherines:** D Leahy; F Noonan, N Mulcahy, O Neville; L Power, O Cotter, C Motherway; M O'Keefe, A M Hayes; F Cotter, R Ronayne, F Neville; Denise Twomey, Y O'Neill, Deirdre Twomey. Subs: L Higgins for Y O'Neill (47). **Scorers:** O Cotter 0-5 (f), Denise Twomey 1-0, F Neville 0-2, Deirdre Twomey, Lisa Higgins 0-1 each.

**Referee:** Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

## Milford power ahead to book place in final

**Milford** 3-11  
**Douglas** 0-9

COUNTY champions Douglas had to relinquish their crown to a determined Milford who booked their place in the Evening Echo County senior camogie champion's final with a powerful se-

mi-final display in Mourneabbey. On the night the better team were victorious and they showed that they will be favourites to go on and take their first title on this display.

The game was seven minutes old before either side to register a score but even early on Milford were in control of the game as all over the pitch

they were on top. An Emer Watson goal 15 minutes put them 1-5 to 0-1 ahead and a Louise O'Flynn goal five minutes to the break saw they race away.

Rebecca Finn stood tall to deny Amanda O'Regan from the penalty spot and, although they did point the resulting 45, Dou-

glas trailed 2-8 to 0-4 at the break. Douglas came more into the game in the second half but the excellent Milford defence were solid Milford substitute Christine O'Gorman set up Emer Watson with a great pass to hit Milford's third goal midway through and when Anna Geary pointed with three

minutes remaining the result was ensured.

Douglas battled to the finish but striking just two points from play over the hour was never going to be enough.

Milford are through to the county final on merit and it will take a very good side to deny them their first title.

**Milford:** R Finn; O O'Mahony, N O'Brien, L Healy; D O'Reilly, E O'Riordan, C Galvin; A Watson, A Thompson; M Watson, A Geary, M Geary; L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn. Subs: C O'Gorman for M Geary (42m). **Scorers:** E Watson 2-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), L O'Flynn 1-1, A Geary 0-2, S O'Flynn, M Watson 0-1 each.

**Douglas:** J Kavanagh; L O'Shea, L O'Regan, F McSweeney; C Lynch, A O'Regan, E Jordan; P Mackey, H O'Mahony; J White, M Harkin, K Mackey; Aine O'Donovan, S Duggan, Aileen O'Donovan. **Scorers:** K Mackey 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), A O'Regan 0-3 (f), P Mackey 0-1. Subs: M O'Donovan for F McSweeney (141), C Clarke for S Duggan (43).

**Referee:** Oliver Webb (Tracton).



LET'S STICK TOGETHER: Cumann Cámogalochta na nGael in conjunction with the Fingal Integration scheme hosted a Social Inclusion day in Tyrrelstown GAA Club. The day was entitled Camán Camán 'Let's Stick Together' with young children from Tyrrelstown's Educate Together and Mulhuddart National Schools in attendance.

### Glasgow festival enjoys visits from St Vincents and Craobh Chiarain

On Friday night Tir Conaill welcomed the Craobh Chiarain and St Vincent's teams from Dublin. These were joined on Saturday by Forth Camanachd for a day of camogie in blustery weather. The teams were evenly matched, with Tir Conaill eventual winners in the final against St Vincents A team.

This was a historic win for Tir Conaill, as it is the first cup win since the current team formed 10 years ago. The team was captained by Aisling Gribbin. Player of the camogie tournament went to Tir Conaill's Marian Holohan, who had an outstanding day in the mid-field.

A bit of light relief was provided at lunch time when players took part in a "skills" competition and a tug of war challenge. Emma from St Vincent's took the honours for the skills competition. However, as none of the teams would give an inch, the tug-of-war ended up in a 3 way draw.

The Hooley went off with its usual swing, courtesy of the Amadhains. The Harps took the opportunity to say cheerio to Hilda Dooley, who has gone to the deep south to continue her studies. We will sorely miss her.



# Rampant Galway gallop free of Cork

## Catherine's deserving of place in decider

By LINDA MELLERICK

Senior camogie championship

St Catherine's	1-20
St Finbarr's	2-9

ONCE again Cork camogie has new county finalists after a devastating second-half display saw St Catherine's reach their first senior final on an excellent Carrigrohilly pitch last evening.

With St Finbarr's leading by a point 0-7 to 0-6 after an impressive first-half during which the sides were level on three occasions, the outcome was hard to call.

However, with the restart St Catherine's shifted into fifth gear all over the pitch and with Orla Cotter playing a blinder in midfield, assisted by the excellent Finola Neville at centre-forward they pulled St Finbarr's apart.

Despite St Catherine's great start where they led by 0-3 to no score after just four minutes, it took them until the 17th to register another score as the St Finbarr's half-back line settled and they gained the upper hand around the middle of the field and half-forward line.

Catherine Barrett was doing the simple things right and looking fitter than they did in the drawn game, the Barrs were piling on the pressure.

Here once again they answered the call, particularly the full-back line of Faith Noonan, Noirín Mulcahy and Yvonne O'Neill, and managed to hold the Barrs, where Viv Harris and Orla O'Sullivan were very active, to just four points from play.

Within a minute of the start of second half the sides were level with an Orla Cotter free.

St Catherine's went ahead in the second minute from the stick of Neville and from there on there was only one team in it.

The Barrs had no answer to the speed and fitness of Cotter who revelled in the space that the big pitch gave her.

Her leadership raised her team mates. Finola Neville picked off three confident points with Fiona Cotter, Evelyn Ronayne and Denise Twomey all working very hard up front.

With a minute of normal time remaining and the score at 0-18 to 0-9 the Barrs continued to fight.

There was a feeling of too little too late when Harris goaled and when Cotter replied with a point from the puck-out that seemed to be it.

When O'Sullivan secured the Barrs second goal a minute into injury time St Catherine's were thankful for their large lead with the gap down to four.

Denise Twomey cancelled any fears Catherine's might have momentarily felt with 1-1 in the space of a minute to give her side a comfortable winning margin, one their superiority reflected and deserved.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-11 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), Denise Twomey 1-3, F Neville 0-3, F Cotter 0-2, L Higgins 0-1.  
**St Finbarr's:** V Harris 1-6 (0-4 f), O O'Sullivan 1-3.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Leahy; F Noonan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; O Neville, L Power, C Motherway; O Cotter, M O'Keeffe; A M Hayes, F Neville, F Cotter; Denise Twomey, E Jayne, Deirdre Twomey. **Sub:** L Higgins for M O'Keeffe (36).

**ST FINBARR'S:** B A Corcoran; M McCarthy, T Doyle, C Harrington; C Spellman, C Barrett, L O'Connell; J Duffy, B Maher; N Cooke, V Harris, R Myers; V Maher, O O'Sullivan, N Goulding. **Subs:** H Morgan for V Maher, N Varian for N Cooke (46).

By MARY NEWMAN

All-Ireland Intermediate final replay

Galway	3-0
Cork	1-5

NO COMPLAINTS about the result of this one as Galway totally outclassed and outplayed Cork to go on and take this Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship title when the sides replayed their final at McDonagh Park Nenagh on Saturday.

First day out Cork grabbed a late equaliser but there was no fear of a repeat performance as Galway were comfortably ahead by 0-15 at the end of the 60 minutes this time around.

As is so often the case with replays, this game failed to live up to the pre-match expectations and in truth it was not a great game.

However, that will not trouble Galway as they added the Jack McGrath trophy to the U16 A title annexed earlier in the season.

From the start the Galway defence was on top while their midfield pairing of Paula Kenny and captain Caroline Kelly were outstanding.

At the end of the first quarter Galway led 0-3 to 0-2 as the sides struggled to make any real headway. Michelle Brown had Cork on the scoreboard first with a point to which Galway sharp-shooting free-taker Martina Conroy replied sending two in-a-row between the posts.

Niamh Dilworth edged Cork ahead but with Galway finding it easier to create chances Aoife Lynskey edged them ahead with a point.

Six minutes to the break the game we had two goals in as many minutes, the first from Galway with Martina Conroy's free from 60 metres dropping short in the square where substitute Laura Mitchell first timed to the back of net.

From Jessica Kavanagh's puck-out Cork responded, Helen O'Mahony winning possession and picking out Emer Watson who fired the ball home.

Five minutes of added time was played in the first half and in that time Martina Conroy pointed two frees while Cathy Bowes scored to leave Galway four points ahead at the break.



Cork's Leah Weste tries to clear ahead of Galway's Caroline Murray during their Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final replay at McDonagh Park, Nenagh on Saturday

Picture: SPORTSFILE

Cork had it all to do in the second half but the expected lift never arrived as Galway stamped their authority on the game.

Caroline Murray and Michelle Browne traded points and six minutes of the restart Aoife Lynskey put the game beyond Cork's reach when she finished Caroline Murray's pass to the net.

Seven minutes later Murray grabbed Galway's third goal and in between Michelle Browne and Niamh Dilworth had points for a Cork side that badly needed a goal.

To their credit they battled hard to get one but there was no way past a solid Galway defence that stood firm as up front their attack finished the game with three unanswered points from Caroline Murray, Aoife Lynskey and Claire Conroy to seal a deserved victory.

Galway captain Caroline Kelly was named Gala Player of the Match after a superb hour at midfield and Cork can have little complaint about the result as on the day Galway were by far the sharper and hungrier side but Cork will rue the opportunities they missed in the first meeting of the sides.



Galway's Sarah Dervan pulls away from Cork's Liz Power in the Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final replay at McDonagh Park, Nenagh on Saturday.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

**Scorers for Galway:** A Lynskey, C Murray 1-2 each, L Mitchell 1-0, M Conroy 0-4 (f), C Bowes, C Conroy 0-1 each.  
**Cork:** E Watson 1-0, M Browne 0-3 (0-2 f), N Dilworth 0-2.  
**GALWAY:** D Ward; J Coone, N Lawless, K Brien; C Gill, S Dervan, H Cooney; P Kenny, C Kelly (c); C Bowes, A Lynskey, C Murray, T Rutledge, G Kelly, M Conroy.  
**Subs:** L Mitchell for G Kelly (inj 14), C Conroy for C Murray (57), L Pardy for M Conroy, C

Glennon for Kenny, S Coen for C Bowes (50).  
**CORK:** J Kavanagh; A M Fleming (c), C O'Neill, P Mackey; L Weste, C Motherway, A Watson; M Walsh, H O'Mahony; M Wiltson, M Coleman, L Power; E Watson, N Dilworth, E Watson, M Browne.  
**Subs:** S Buckley for H O'Mahony (h/t), M Reidy for M Coleman (37), D Luby for M Browne (49), R Curtin for M Watson (50), M Jagoe for N Dilworth (58).  
**Referee:** Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

## Fleming says that Galway were just better

Cork captain Ann Marie Fleming

ANN MARIE FLEMING was disappointed at the full time whistle but admitted that on the day the better team won the day.

"Galway were by far the better side on the day they were hungry for victory. They really put us under tremendous pressure from the

throw-in. They closed us down from the word go and had their homework done, their defence was rock solid and they never put a foot wrong.

"Every time we attacked they made it so hard for us. In defence we were under tremendous pressure and they picked off their scores"

At half-time Cork trailed

By MARY NEWMAN

Match reaction

by four points and the Rebel captain felt that her side were in with a good chance

"In the first half we matched them step for step but they got the vital goal with six minutes to the break and it gave them a half-time cushion of four points."

I put it to Ann Marie that second-half goals were vital to Galway and that Cork were always playing catch up from there on in.

"Yes I suppose the second-half goals killed us to be honest and they got them within seven minutes of each other so it was a double blow."

This is the third year in a

row that Cork have lost the Intermediate final and it is a huge disappointment.

"It really is very disappointing to lose in the final again this year. That's three finals in-a-row we have lost and to be honest we are very disappointed. But we've no excuses, we weren't good enough today and Galway were. It is as simple as that"



THE nominations for the 2009 Camogie All-Stars in association with O'Neill's were announced today with All-Ireland champions Cork being rewarded with 12 nominations and defeated finalists Kilkenny receiving 11 nominations.

Galway are next with nine while National League champions Wexford have five. Tipperary get three nominations and Clare two. Derry, Limerick and Dublin make up the rest of the 45 nominations.

The winners will be announced at a gala banquet in the Citywest Hotel on Saturday, November 7.

Cork's Gemma O'Connor is in line for an incredible sixth consecutive All-Star, while Rebel full-forward Emer O'Farrell is looking to secure her first. Their teammates Aoife Murray, Cathriona Foley, Brieghe Corkery and leading championship scorer Rachel Moloney are amongst those seeking back-to-back awards.

Kilkenny, who contested their first final since 2001, have players nominated in all but four positions including Aoife Neary who was the Cats' sole recipient in 2008. Other nominees include captain Ann Dalton, her midfield partner Collette Dormer, Elaine Aylward and Katie Power.

Beaten semi-finalists Galway look to Aislinn Connolly, Therese Maher and the Kilkenny sisters, Orla and Niamh.

Eighteen-year-old Katrina Parrock is rewarded for the first time following an exceptional season with Wexford. The National League champions also have Rose Marie Breen among their nominations. Tipperary's early season form when qualifying for the league final sees Cait Devane, Claire Grogan and Joanne Ryan in contention.

Clare have two nominations in Chloe Morey and Deirdre Murphy, while Grainne McGoldrick is seeking to join Derry's only other recipient Aisling Diamond who was an All Star in 2007. Dublin and Limerick also have one each.

Commenting on today's announcement, Joan O'Flynn, President of Cumann Camógachta na nGael said: "This year's Gala All-Ireland senior and intermediate championships have been of a high quality. The championship season produced exciting games, close finishes and great skill with Cork and Galway respectively claiming the senior and intermediate titles.

"I am delighted that 45 players from nine counties receive national recognition as All-Star nominees. During the season these players'



Cork All-Star nominees Aoife Murray, left, and Gemma O'Connor, who is in line for an incredible sixth consecutive All-Star, celebrate after winning this year's Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final over Kilkenny.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

# Cork claim 12 All-Star nominations

excellence stood out. We are looking forward to the announcement of the winners on November 7."

## NOMINATIONS

**GOALKEEPER:** Susan Earner (Galway), Aoife Murray (Cork), Cathriona Ryan (Kilkenny).

**FULL-BACKS:** Rena Buckley (Cork), Deirdre Codd (Wexford), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Leann Fennelly (Kilkenny), Cathriona Foley (Cork), Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny), Regina Glynn (Galway), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork).

**HALF-BACKS:** Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Sara Hayes (Cork), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Lizzie Lyng (Kilkenny), Chloe Morey (Clare), Mary O'Connor (Cork), Louise O'Hara (Dublin).

**MIDFIELD:** Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Collette Dormer (Kilkenny), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Deirdre Murphy (Clare).

**HALF-FORWARDS:** Cait Devane (Tipperary), Brenda Han-

ney (Galway), Edwina Keane (Kilkenny), Therese Maher (Galway), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Joanne Ryan (Tipperary).

**FULL-FORWARDS:** Rose Marie Breen (Wexford), Silé Burns (Cork), Aislinn Connolly (Galway), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Orla Kilkenny (Galway), Grainne McGoldrick (Derry), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Emer O'Farrell (Cork).

## CAMOGIE

### All Star Nominations

**GOALKEEPERS:** S Earner (Galway); A Murray (Cork); C Ryan (Kilkenny).

**FULL-BACKS:** R Buckley (Cork); D Codd (Wexford); C Doherty (Kilkenny); L Fennelly (Kilkenny); C Foley (Cork); J Frisby (Kilkenny); R Glynn (Galway); C O'Loughlin (Wexford); J O'Callaghan (Cork).

**HALF-BACKS:** E Aylward (Kilkenny); S Cahalan (Galway); A Marie Hayes (do); S Hayes (Cork); N Kilkenny (Galway); L Lyng (Kilkenny); C Morey (Clare); M O'Connor (Cork); L O'Hara (Dublin).

**CENTREFIELD:** B Cotter (Cork); O Cotter (Cork); A Dalton (Kilkenny); C Dormer (Kilkenny); K Kelly (Wexford); D Murphy (Clare).

**HALF-FORWARDS:** C Devane (Tipperary); B Hanney (Galway); E Keane (Kilkenny); T Maher (Galway); N Mulcahy (Limerick); G O'Connor (Cork); K Parrock (Wexford); E Power (Kilkenny); J Ryan (Tipperary).

**FULL-FORWARDS:** R Marie Breen (Wexford); S Burns (Cork); A Connolly (Galway); C Grogan (Tipperary); O Kilkenny (Galway); G McGoldrick (Derry); R Moloney (Cork); A Neary (Kilkenny); E O'Farrell (Cork).

## All-Ireland finalists top nominations

**CAMOGIE:** All-Ireland finalists Cork and Kilkenny head the nominations for this year's camogie All Stars.

Champions Cork received 12 nominations, one more than the Cats (11). Galway received nine while National League champions Wexford have five followed by Tipperary (3); Clare (2) while Derry, Limerick and Dublin

(all one each) make up the 45 nominations.

The winners will be announced at a gala banquet in the Citywest Hotel on Saturday, November 7. Cork's Gemma O'Connor is in line for an incredible sixth consecutive All Star, while Aoife Murray, Cathriona Foley, Brieghe Corkery and leading championship scorer Rachel Moloney are amongst those seeking back-to-back awards.

## CAMOGIE

**Saturday: Munster Senior Club Championship semi-final:** Cashel (Tipperary) v Kilderry (Limerick), Cashel, 2.30pm.

**Munster Junior Club Championship semi-final:** Feenagh/Kilmeedy (Limerick) v St. Anne's (Waterford), Feenagh/Kilmeedy GAA Grounds, 2.30pm.

**Sunday: Munster Junior Club Championship Pre-Limerick Rd:** Clonakilty (Cork) v Lorrish (Tipperary), Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Rd, Blackrock, 4pm.



Mary O'Connor with the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star trophy and the Brendan Martin Cup for the five-in-a-row Ladies football All-Ireland wins.

Picture: Ger Bonus



# Cork

## All Ireland Camogie

### Champions 2009



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**All Ireland Camogie Champions 2009**

Front Row (L to R): Denise Cronin, Christine O'Neill, Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery, Joanne O'Callaghan, Amanda O'Regan (c), Una O'Donoghue, Rachel Moloney, Cathriona Foley, Elaine O'Riordan.  
Back row (L to R): Julia White, Michelle Browne, Pamela Mackey, Katriona Mackey, Emer White, Marion Murphy, Rena Buckley, Jenny Duffy, Emer O'Farrell, Lynda O'Connell, Lucy Hawkes, Sile Burns, Sara Hayes, Gemma O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan, Jennifer Lynch, Anna Geary, Orla Cotter, Aoife Murray, Emer Dillon.

**Evening Echo**



# Glen look to halt a Ballincollig run to final

**SUNDAY**  
Evening Echo Senior B  
Championship semi-final,  
Glen Rovers v Ballincollig,  
Páirc Uí Rinn, 12.30pm.

BALLINCOLLIG and Glen Rovers get proceedings under way in Páirc Uí Rinn before the senior final, when they battle it out for a place in the senior B decider, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Both sides have come this far with impressive displays since early season and they both used the league competition to introduce younger players to their set up in preparation for championship.

Ballincollig came through their group undefeated with good victories over Newcastle, Aghabullogue, Bishopstown, Éire Óg and Valley Rovers. County Junior A championship and league winners in 2008 they are a young side that have built on their successes at juvenile and minor level in previous years, and with no injury worries reported they go into Sunday clash with a full squad to choose from.

Denise Cronin is a member of the Cork senior panel and is hugely experienced while Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley, Patricia Buttner and Kate O'Donoghue were part of the county intermediate squad.

They are a well balanced side with young players such as Aisleen Sheehan, Alison Coughlan, Aoife Cotter and Samantha Coomey all progressing steadily they are captained by Ashley Lovett.

Glen Rovers have made huge progress this year under the guidance of the legendary Sandie Fitzgibbon.

They came through their group with victories over Ballinhassig, Kilbrittan and Carrigaline but lost out to Killeagh.

Like Ballincollig they have put huge effort into their underage structure and the improvements have been steady as they have also built on juvenile successes in the last three years.

Denise Luby is a member of the Cork intermediate and minor squads while Sinead O'Halloran and Sinead Fahy lined out at U16 level this year with Cork. Experienced campaigner Eileen Riordan captains the side and she has plenty of support from the youthful Nicole O'Brien, Alice Keating and the experienced Aoife Walsh and Aileen Guillon.

They have had to plan without the services of two of their starting 15 with impressive midfielder Sinead Gallen sidelined with a cruciate ligament injury and Cornelia Shortt out with a hand injury. Both are big players for the Glen and they are huge losses to the side. However, they have battled away and shown great fighting spirit to reach the semi-final and they will hope to overcome the double blow and make it to the last stage.

When the side met in the league Glen shaded it but both clubs were minus several players on the day.

There's no doubt that Ballincollig, given their impressive march through their group in the round-robin series, go in as hot favourites and already a mouth watering all Muskerry final is being talked about where Éire Óg await the winners, but the Glen girls will have other ideas about this.

OCT. 2009



Milford captain Elaine O'Riordan is determined not to be on the losing side of this year's county final.

## Maiden crown is on Elaine's mind

By **MARY NEWMAN**  
Camogie

**HAVING tasted the heart-break of losing out in a county final to Carrigdhoun in 2005, Milford captain Elaine O'Riordan is determined not to experience the same feelings at 5pm on Sunday.**

"Losing to Carrigdhoun was awful and I will never forget the feeling.

"The average age of the team was around 17 and it was a wonderful for us we were in the senior final.

"But we were a bit in awe of the whole thing and sure we thought we would be in it every year. It has taken us four years to get back and this time out, hopefully we will be in the winning dressing room."

While she is eagerly looking forward to appearing in her second county final more importantly she deems it a huge honour to be leading out Milford on Sunday as captain.

"When the selectors told me I was captain I was honoured to be chosen. So many of the other girls could have been picked it is a huge honour to lead my club.

"We have a great group of players. Some of us have been together since primary school and if we could win on Sunday it would be a dream come true."

It has always been Elaine's ambition to win a senior county championship medal. She is the holder of underage honours from U12 to senior B championship — the one medal she wants is a senior county.

"I just want one so badly.

"Some of their players have five or six medals. I think maybe Sandie Fitzgibbon has even nine or 10.

"Then I look at a club like Fr O'Neill's and they tried so hard and they eventually won it. It was the great that players like Fiona O'Driscoll, Mags Finn and Colette O'Mahony (the Barrs) battled for years to get a county medal and finally got one. I suppose that would give us heart to keep trying."

The start of the season brought new coaching staff and a new buzz to the Milford camp and they have gone from strength to strength.

"This year Maurice O'Sullivan came on board as trainer and he has been great. Ann Watson and Ellen Ann Geary are selectors with him and he has brought freshness to everything.

"He brought in the younger players such as Niamh O'Brien and Orlaith O'Mahony, who are only 16 and Louise O'Flynn who is still 15 and these girls are not afraid to get stuck in.

O'Riordan is mindful of the huge role she and the more experienced

players on the panel play.

"I suppose we are the older ones and we are a lot more wary and a bit fearful of losing having been there before but the younger ones are great they all stepped up to the mark and slotted in playing senior easily."

It is hard to imagine that Elaine is still a student given that she seems to be playing camogie a long time and this year she makes a return home to Cork to study quantity surveying in CIT having finished construction studies in LIT.

"I am really looking forward to the year ahead in CIT and it will be great to play Ashbourne Cup. I have never played it as LIT only played in the Meagher Cup, so hopefully that will keep me playing camogie in the winter."

Elaine started out in Milford National School under the guidance of current senior selector Ann Watson and Sheila Thompson, whose daughter lines out with the team on Sunday.

"Ann and Sheila did huge work in the school and myself, Lisa Healy, Marie Watson and Anna Geary were all in the same class and we have been playing together ever since."

Progression to play with the club saw Elaine annex many underage honours, but leading Milford to the Cork Féile na nGael title in 1999 was special.

"We won the Cork Féile and represented the county but we lost out to Oulart-The-Ballagh from Wexford and they have gone on to win a few Wexford and Leinster club titles so maybe our turn will come on Sunday."

Having led St Mary's, Charleville to capture an All-Ireland seven-a-side title, Elaine is the holder of six All-Ireland senior colleges All-Ireland medals with St Mary's.

"Vincent Harrington, Ann Marie O'Keefe and Ger Donovan were great at school for the work they put in."

Elaine has huge respect for their opponents St Catherine's and is not surprised to see them in the final.

"They are a club who have made huge strides and at underage level.

"They have produced some great players they were very impressive in the semi on Monday against the Barrs."

With both clubs battling to creating history, Elaine was being cautious when asked for a prediction.

"I don't think there is a raging favourite here and I think it will come down to who really wants it most.

On thing is sure, Elaine O'Riordan will be doing everything in her power from her usual role in the heart of the Milford defence to drive her players forward, as she has done all year.



## Clancy's busy schedule ends with a shot at history for Cats

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie latest

WITH hardly time to catch her breath between the first game and the replayed semi-final clash with St Finbarr's, St Catherine's manager Marie Clancy then had just six days to get her head around her side's first senior county championship final appearance on Sunday.

"It has been a whirlwind two weeks; we played the first round in June and defeated Cloughduv, then we had a long wait while the back-door rounds were played and then the break for the Cork teams.

"We were not back into action until we played Courceys at the end September but then it was the first game against the Barrs."

Marie Clancy has given huge services to the St Catherine's club as a player. She won a Junior B County Championship medal in 1984, but it has been as a guiding light off the field that the most success has arrived.

In 2000, Marie was at the helm when the club made a huge breakthrough to win the Junior B championship.

Three years later they took the Junior A county title and in 2006 the Senior B title was annexed.

Given the gap of three years between each, 2009 looks that it might just be the year when history will be written.

"Well the ambition of every club is to win a senior county title and hopefully we will be the name being written on the base of the county cup on Sunday. We have worked hard to reach the final and it would be superb to win it, the girls deserve it and I am keeping my fingers crossed that we do it."

Marie is fortunate to have a good back-room team and she acknowledges the work put in by her fellow selectors, coach Pat Clancy and Ann Galvin who have been there all the years with Marie.

"We worked hard to reach this final. The first game against Cloughduv we were lucky to win and we worked hard to come through all of our games.

"We had to be at our best to beat Courcey Rovers with five points to spare and we were lucky to grab a draw first day out against the Barrs.

"We are under no illusions about Milford. We know they're a very good side."

Coming from a club and an area steeped in Gaelic games tradition, Marie is very mindful of the huge honour it is for St Catherine's to be in a camogie county senior championship final.

"Rena O'Leary is our club president and one of the founders of the club. She won three senior county championship medals with Old Aloysius and it has always been her ambition to see Catherine's win a senior county title, so hopefully we will not let her down."

Already this year St Catherine's have suffered defeat in a county final losing out to Buttevant in the junior championship decider.

The Catherine's club is a hands-on club. As well as managing the side, Marie is the club senior county board delegate, captain Faith Noonan is club secretary while Ann Galvin is chairperson.

"We all work together and get along grand," says Marie.

Bound tightly together they are determined to give it their best shot on Sunday and not let their parish or community down.



Milford's Aisling Thompson comes under pressure from Inniscarra's Margaret O'Sullivan during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final clash in Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Damien Quirk

## Maurice plans to work his magic with Milford ladies

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie latest

WITH AN intermediate All-Ireland medal safely tucked away in his back pocket, you would imagine Maurice O'Sullivan would be content to just sit back and enjoy the long nights by the fire as the evenings begin to draw in.

Not the case, and as we caught up with the Ballyhea native, he was busy putting the finishing touches to preparations in the Milford camogie camp as he plots the downfall of St Catherine's in Sunday's Evening Echo senior camogie county championship final.

Despite this being his first year at the helm calling the shots with the Milford camogie girls, O'Sullivan is no stranger to coaching camogie teams.

Five years ago he helped guide the fortunes of Ballyhea as they captured the junior B county title and two years later he was again to the fore as they took the junior 13-a-side title.

"I suppose I took a bit of a back seat after that but I know several of the Milford girls and when they asked me at the start of the year to help them out I thought about it and said yes.

"Initially, I only came in to oblige them for a few weeks as the person that was originally to do it was unable to do the job, but sure when I saw the commitment and

dedication that was there, I just kind of stayed put and no one asked me to leave."

This year there seems a different approach and attitude from Milford — since their first outing against Ballygarvan they have looked impressive.

"I suppose it is all down to the girls really, their commitment to training is excellent. We have had between 50 to 60 sessions this year and the smallest number attending has been 20."

A lot of credit must go to the young coach, who during a busy season, has fitted in playing inter-county hurling at intermediate level with Cork as well as club hurling with Ballyhea and sometimes clashes must have been inevitable.

"Sometimes it was not easy to fit in everything but we took it week by week and once I had the schedules I was able to work around them. The camogie board set out the fixture calendar for the club championship games early in the year and it was a great guide, there was a lot of co-operation from the club as well as some weeks I would have to change a training session, but it all worked out well."

Maurice is very appreciative of the help from Milford officials Ann Watson and Ellen Ann Gary, who are selectors with him.

"Both Ann Watson and Ellen Ann Geary are great and we work well together and they have huge experience at this level."

Looking ahead to Sunday's final, Maurice is mindful of the strength of the opposition.

"It took a replay to separate St Catherine's and St Finbarr's and in both games St Catherine's looked impressive. Like us they have put in a massive effort and will leave no stone unturned."

Maurice was introduced to the game by his father Mossie, while his recently deceased grandfather Mossie O'Sullivan played at junior level with Cork.

"My grandfather passed away recently and he was involved in the game and I was reared with hurling, and having attended CIT, where I studied Recreation and Leisure, it was there got into the coaching end of things."

Among the people in CIT that Maurice would have played with and been coached by were Cork senior coaches Frank Flannery and Keith Ricken and both come in for huge praise.

"Frank did a superb job with the Cork senior camogie team this year, while Keith is doing tremendous work in the GAA coaching and they would have been a great help to me while in CIT."

Despite his young age, he found it easy to take command and get the show on the road.

"I suppose Milford down through the years have been one of the strongest underage camogie clubs and they have won an awful lot."

"They have always been a good senior club side. This year the older players especially are really focused on the county championship."

"A lot of the older players have taken on responsibility and the younger ones have stepped up to the mark and every one of them has put in huge effort."

As the clock ticks towards Sunday, Maurice has plenty of time to put the final touches to his plans.

"At present I find myself unemployed so there is plenty of time for camogie training and hopefully once the final is over I'll be able to hunt around and pick something up."

He is hoping that Sunday will round off a superb year on and off the playing fields for him.

"I suppose winning the All-Ireland was a great thrill and to have a medal is something special, but now it would be great if my contribution as a trainer can help in some small way to help Milford achieve their dream."

One gets the impression that, win or lose on Sunday, we will be hearing a lot more from Maurice O'Sullivan as his total dedication and professionalism to camogie and hurling is plain to be seen.



# Milford have the recipe for success after heartbreak

## Captain Faith happy to just get on with job

A COUNTY senior championship final is a major occasion for any player or mentor but when you are the club secretary and team captain as well as a hectic few days is guaranteed, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

That's the scenario facing Cork-based Garda Faith Noonan as she looks forward to Sunday's *Evening Echo* senior camogie championship final in Páirc Uí Rinn. "I suppose I will be busier than usual being club secretary as well as captain but it has worked out fine all year and we will just get on with the job."

Being named as captain at the start of the season was a huge honour and a role which she has enjoyed.

"In our club the players pick the captain so it was a great surprise and a huge honour that my team-mates chose me."

"To captain your club is special and to do it in a county final at any grade is something never to be forgotten." The club is a special place for Noonan. It's where she started out at a young age and learned her skills.

"I wandered down to join the club with players such as Liz Power and Sandra Noonan and we are all still playing. I played with the boys teams in Conna National School and then went on to Loreto Fermoy where we played colleges camogie. "We didn't win a lot but it kept us playing outside of club training and all the extra games helped keep us interested."

Going on to college in Carlow IT where she won a Purcell Cup medal, Faith then headed off to Templemore and was fortunate to play in the Ashbourne Cup with the Garda College where they won the Ashbourne Shield.

"Ashbourne camogie is a great competition and I really enjoyed it. To win the shield was special and is something you never

forget. Playing Ashbourne you meet up with lot of players from other counties and you tend to remain friends."

Faith is very conscious of just how close St Catherine's came to not reaching the final.

"We know we are lucky to be in it. Lisa Higgins gave us a second chance with her equalising point and really that was a game that could have gone either way."

"We led at the start but the Barrs came back into it and we were very lucky to get a draw." Last Monday night St Catherine's overcame the Barrs in the replay to make it to their first senior final but again they had to be at their best.

"The Barrs were ahead by a point at half-time and in the second half we began to gain the upper hand."

"However they came back strong and grabbed two goals and they made us fight all the way before we were able to secure our place in the final."

At the start of the year St Catherine's were hoping to go at least one better than last season's quarter-final loss.

"Last year we lost out in the quarter-final and our aim was to go one better this year. Since the beginning of the year we have taken every game as it has come and it is great to be in the final. You look at the teams that are in it every year and hope that some day we will get there so it is a huge bonus for us and we will give it our best shot."

Looking ahead to Milford she knows they will not be an easy team to overcome.

"This is their second time in a county final and Milford are a strong side. They beat a strong Douglas side and have been very strong at underage level. We will have to really be at our best to beat them and fingers crossed it will go our way."



Picture: Damien Quirke

Should Orla Cotter (centre) start at midfield, St Catherine's will need her to reign supreme there.

**SUNDAY**  
*Evening Echo* Cork County  
Senior Camogie final,  
St Catherine's v Milford,  
Páirc Uí Rinn, 2.30pm.

**A HUGE** crowd is expected in Páirc Uí Rinn this Sunday for a Cork county senior camogie final pairing no one predicted back in March.

Yet Milford and St Catherine's are an hour away from county honours after dethroning Douglas and St Finbarr's respectively in the semi-finals.

Both sides gave magnificent performances in the semis. Was that their final or is there another such game in either side?

Milford's last appearance in the final was in 2004 when a titanic battle saw them defeated by Carrigrohoun in a pulsating game.

Since then Milford have failed to reach the same heights with a few disappointing seasons. At times they suffered heartbreaking defeats by the narrowest of margins when a game seemed won; at others they just didn't perform.

Milford were a young side with many of their stars still in college



**LINDA MELLERICK**

and spread both nationally and internationally.

The young have returned to the nest however, and with it Milford have flourished.

Maurice O'Sullivan has the side in great shape and Milford will need this level of fitness against a Catherine's side that equally are at their peak.

While Elaine O'Riordan might be the big name in Milford's defence at centre-back, she is surrounded by five good defenders who hunted in packs against Douglas and closed out any goal threat. Deirdre O'Reilly is very experienced. O'Riordan will have the task of marking Finola Neville who grows in confidence with every game.

Orlaith O'Mahony and Lisa Healy possibly have the job of holding Denise and Deirdre Twomey. As a unit, if Milford defend the way they did against Douglas there will be few goal

scoring opportunities for Catherine's.

This is an area of concern for St Catherine's. They are not renowned for their goal scoring capabilities. They might get a random one, but they are not lethal in front of goal. Milford on the other hand are.

Emer Watson will think goal every time. Marie Watson and Louise O'Flynn can find the net and Anna Geary will also put the head down and go. With three games behind Milford and four behind St Catherine's in reaching the decider the goal stats reads as follows, Milford - 10, St Catherine's - two. For this reason Milford will start as favourites.

Midfield is where St Catherine's will look to triumph. Should Orla Cotter start there, and one expects she will, Catherine's will need her to reign supreme.

Cotter is in superb form, but she will need a very strong ally for the full hour against Aine Watson and Aisling Thompson. Milford are strong here and very attacking.

Cotter equally likes to run through and she did this to perfection in Carrigtwohill. She possibly won't have the space to do it to the

same extreme on Sunday.

St Catherine's have a defence to be proud of. They may not have big senior inter-county names, but Faith Noonan, Liz Power, Carolyn Motherway, Orna Neville, Yvonne O'Neill and Noírin Mulcahy are a hard back six to break down.

Mulcahy will have her hands full with Emer Watson and one-on-one Watson will get round, as she does most players. Keeping the ball from Watson and closing down the supply will be crucial. They will need to be on top of their game again to stop a formidable forward line.

When one considers that Christine O'Gorman came on as a sub the last day and Regina Curtin didn't figure due to college commitments abroad, it shows the strength in depth that Milford possess.

Big games require big performances from big players. This game will be a battle. It's a tremendous occasion for both clubs, a new experience for St Catherine's.

Based on both semi-final performances the game should be fast and open. It has the ingredients of a great final.

**Verdict:** Milford.



# Linda Mellerick



**I'M LOOKING forward to tomorrow's senior county final.**

**CIT will be boosted by the inclusion of Cork intercounty player Denise Luby.**

## Students back in the swing

WITH students well settled back into the studying routine attention turns to camogie activities writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Round one of the third level leagues begin soon.

The opening game has pitted local rivals UCC against near neighbours CIT.

UCC will have home venue for their opening game and on home territory they will be spearheaded by senior inter-county players Jill Horan from Tipperary, Orla Cotter from Cork and Sara Collins from Limerick in their line-up.

CIT are strong campaigners every year. They are boosted by the inclusion of Cork inter-county players Elaine O'Riordan and Christine O'Neill while Julie McGrath, Denise Luby and Charlotte Kearney will be hoping to provide them with the inspiration needed.

Other games to note in round one of Division 1A is the meeting of WIT against UL.

WIT have several the Kilkenny underage stars while UL have Aine Lyng back in their line out.

Elsewhere in Division 1, UCD will host UUJ who have excellent players in Eleanor Mallon and Michaela Convery from Antrim, Karen McMullan, Sara Louise Carr, Paula Gribben, Karen Tinnelly and Meabh McGoldrick. UCD have lost Wexford's Mary Leacy and Cork star Rena Buckley from last year's panel and they will be huge losses.

Purcell Cup winners Athlone IT will take on Ashbourne Shield winners NUIG while Queens have a bye in the first round.

In Division 2, the second string of UCC will play against IT Tralee who will be hoping to continue the progression made. WIT second side will host UL seconds, whilst Carlow IT have a bye.

In Section 2B UCD seconds have a local derby against DIT who are in the process of re-building. After a few years in the top-flight Garda college made the decision to drop a grade and re-build.

With many players based in the Leinster area they decided to join this section and they will travel to St Pat's. The third Dublin college sees DCU take on NUIM.

Most of the colleges will be using the league to prepare for Ashbourne or Purcell competitions.

Expect it to be a great game and hopefully won't be disappointed. It may turn out the opposite.

St Catherine's never give up and have caught teams in the last minute or so. What if things go wrong for them tomorrow and they go behind early on by five or six points?

Will the inexperience of a first county final appearance suddenly burst to the surface or will they remain composed? They have shown great composure to date and this should continue tomorrow.

I'm torn between both clubs — and that's the joy of being a neutral supporter — you can really enjoy a game. If I'm honest though I think at this stage that Milford need this county title more.

St Catherine's won't agree I'm sure but I feel their rise to senior status and journey to their first final tomorrow has been a rapid and resounding success. Tomorrow won't change that regardless of the result whereas at this point Milford need some senior silverware.

Having said that, there are no guarantees that because you are in a county final that you'll get there again. It has taken Milford five years. For that reason St Catherine's will want to grab this opportunity every bit as much as their opponents.

Ever since 2004 I have secretly willed Milford to win a senior title. They were very young in '04 and as the years went by I was beginning to feel they had lost their opportunity. Not so and they deserve great credit for re-grouping and putting in such a determined effort this year.

Surely they themselves will crawl off the pitch in Páirc Uí Rinn tomorrow rather than leave this title behind them.

Yet sentiment doesn't win finals. As I read somewhere recently, 'It's not about going that extra mile, it's about going that extra inch. Don't run to the tape, run beyond it'.

It is that approach in close encounters that sees a team through.

Should St Catherine's reign supreme tomorrow I and many others



The Successful Douglas camogie coaching team of Derek Costello, Marie Sheehan, Kieran Cummins, Mary Harrington and Liam Wall, who led the U11 premier team to Seandún victory over St. Vincent's at CIT last Sunday.

## Goal threat can swing it for resolute Milford

will be pleased for them too. It is incredible how year after year new teams contest the final.

No wonder Cork camogie is so strong. No longer are one or two clubs dominating. Many of us felt we were possibly viewing a future period of dominance by Douglas 12 months ago. Not so! Douglas will be back but Milford and St Catherine's aren't going anywhere either.

Pat Clancy has done tremendous work with St Catherine's. He has worked and watched this young team grow and he too deserves success at the highest level.

In nine years this team has come through from Junior B to a Senior A county final and one has to both ad-

mire and applaud this progression. Winning Junior B in 2000, Junior A in 2003, Senior B in 2006 and now in a senior county final is another great Camogie success story.

Orla Cotter has become a tremendous player. I remember a few years ago saying that she had great potential and was going to be a fine player.

I think she has surpassed that. She has been one of Cork's most consistent performers over the past two seasons.

When the going got tough, Orla delivered. That for me is what counts. There are many players who shine when things are going well and victory isn't in doubt.

It's who stands up when you are in a battle that does it for me.

Orla's sister Fiona has a remarkably similar style to her sister but has yet to reach her potential.

She has shown flashes of great speed and skill in their last two games but has then disappeared for a while. She is young and will develop into playing a more consistent role.

It is St Catherine's lack of the 'killer instinct' in front of goal that could prove their downfall tomorrow. Two goals in four championship outings, the second coming in injury time when the game was won in the semi-final replay, isn't a great return.

Milford on the other hand have scored 10 and with a game less played. 'Goals win games' could well prove true tomorrow.

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

Well done to Catherine McCarthy, Orla Hurley and the team of coaches.

### BALLINHASIG

#### U16 CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Ballinhasig 3-8 Milford 2-5  
Team: A. Walsh, U. O'Leary, M. O'Reardon, C. O'Leary, E. O'Donovan, J. O'Leary, A. O'Brien, A. Cullinane, O. Murray, C. Mahon, C. McCarthy, G. O'Callaghan, N. Sheehan, A. Lee.  
Subs: E. Mahon for C. Mahon.

### GLEN ROVERS

It has been a hectic week of games once again as the good weather keeps us all in the playing fields.

On Sunday last our U16 A team turned in a superb display as they defeated Douglas to qualify for the league semi-final.

We made a good start as Sinead O'Halloran fired over five points and one from captain Alison Dowling saw us led at the break 0-6 to 0-2.

From the start of the second half Douglas applied pressure and hit a point but a superb goal from Sinead O'Halloran helped us maintain our lead despite Douglas grabbing a goal. Lauren Callanan hit a point and with Chloe Noonan and Sinead O'Halloran adding goals the result was going our way despite a late Douglas goal. Well done to everyone on a superb performance we now look ahead to a league semi-final meeting with Milford.

Team: K. Lee, C. O'Sullivan, S. Bosteed, N. O'Sullivan, J. Hordford, N. O'Brien, L. O'Sullivan, A. Dowling, A. O'Keefe, S. Fahy, S. O'Halloran, M.

Sheehan, C. Noonan, L. Callanan, B. O'Mahony.

### U13 TEAM

Our U13 team opened their Seandún campaign with a victory over St Vincent's at the Glen Field. Niamh Gowen opened the scoring with a goal and with Lorna Hickey adding a second, we were ahead by two goals at the interval.

Through the second half, both teams worked hard but our defence stood firm while up front Niamh Gowen and Aisling O'Brien added a goal while Michaela Hyde added a point to seal victory. Well done girls, we hope to play our next game in the week ahead against St Finbarr's details will be given at training on Monday night.

Team: E. Sheehan, K. Chisholm, E. McCarthy, S. O'Connell, N. Kelly, C. Noonan, K. Falvey, K. Fitzgerald, L. Dineen, A. O'Brien, M. Hyde, F. Rea, L. Hickey, N. Gowen.

Subs: All Used: E. Foley, T. Maher, S. Quinn, E. O'Donovan, S. Foley.

### COUNTY SENIOR B SEMI-FINAL

Our senior team play the Senior B county championship semi final on Sunday in Páirc Uí Rinn at 12.30 against Ballincollig. We hope to see a big support at the game which is being played before the senior camogie county final, therefore it promises to be a great day of camogie. Good luck to the girls and their mentors. Come on the Glen!

### GET WELL

We send our best wishes to Sinead Galen who had an operation on her knee on Thursday. Get well soon.

### TABLE QUIZ

A hint to all club supporters to get ready and studying as our parents committee headed up by Sean and Trevor are organising a fundraising table quiz which they hope will take place on Friday, November 6, all going well. We will have further details on this next week.

### COACHING COURSE

We are in the process of organising a foundation level camogie coaching course. Former players, parents or current players who would be willing to lend a hand for one hour a week coaching at underage level are asked to give their names to Mary Newman as we are organising the course for early November.

### GAA DRAW

The receipts have been sent out for the GAA Draw. The new draw takes place the last Friday in October, please ensure you contact Mary or Deirdre to let us know if you are staying in the draw as money needs to be collected and handed in.

### MUSKERRY

The Muskerry underage competitions are at semi-final stages.

In the U13 A semi Iniscarra overcame Ballinora to meet Eire Og in the final.

In the U13 B Aghabullogue beat Blarney. Upcoming fixtures: Saturday, October 17 U11 A semi final Ballincollig v Iniscarra in Ballincollig at 11.30. Aghabullogue awaiting the winners.

U11 B venue Iniscarra; Eire Og v Blarney 11am Ballinora v Rockban 12.30. Sunday 18: U13 B semi-final: Ballincollig v Rockban in Ballincollig at 4pm.



# St Catherine's and Milford vie for title

## Central Council to review fixtures

By MARY NEWMAN  
Intercounty fixtures

By MARY NEWMAN  
Club history

SINCE the competition's inception in 1932, a total of 18 clubs have had their names engraved as holders of the most prestigious Cork camogie title.

Fourteen clubs, three divisions, one university and one school have garnered the honour of being crowned Cork Senior County champions.

Tomorrow St Catherine's and Milford aim to make it a historic first as they contest the final.

In 1932 a group of school girls took the Science Cup for the first time, when the pupils from St Aloysius became the inaugural winners.

1933 saw Nora Kelleher carry the trophy in triumph as Muskerry took their first title and they had to wait until 2007 before Catriona Foley followed in her footsteps.

Kitty Cotter led Mayfield to their crown in 1935 and in 1936 there were new champions as UCC led by Lil Kirby defeated Hillside.

Lee Hosiery were led by Mary Valley to the first of their successes in 1937, again in 1938 new champions climbed the victory rostrum as Old Aloysian's Past pupils were crowned champions. Captained by Renee Fitzgerald, the club would go on and add 14 more titles to their collection.

1947 heralded success for another divisional side when Imokilly defeated Lee Hosiery, Imokilly in later years added a further five titles.

Mary Delea led Blackrock to glory in 1948 when the Rockies proved to strong for the champions Imokilly as they brought the first of two titles to the famous club.

1950 was Glen Rovers' year as Siobhán O'Brien led her side to victory over Blackrock, Glen went on to add a further 21 titles and lead the roll of honour with the most titles to their credit.

We had to wait until 1969 before another new name was added to the roll of honour and it was again past pupils who were creating their own bit of history when Mary Crowley led the South Pres girls to title number one, in later years two more titles were added.

Again a big gap until 1977 when Mid Cork were to the fore with the emergence of Éire Óg as champions



Clonakilty's Aileen McCarthy gathers the ball from Sarsfields' Emer O'Farrell and Rita Crowley during the Cork Intermediate Camogie championship final at Castle Road, Mahon

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

led by Marion McCarthy (nee Reck).

The Ovens girls have added to their achievements on three further occasions.

East Cork was to the fore as Breda Landers led Killeagh to their first success in 1980 four more titles followed.

A big gap between 1980 and 1997 before new champions emerged when Eithne Duggan led Bishopstown to the first of their four county championship successes.

In less than two years we again had new champions when Stephanie Dunlea held the trophy aloft for the girls from Cloughduv — they retained the title the following year.

In 2003 Fr O'Neill's finally broke the hoodoo that had followed them

when Fiona O'Driscoll carried the Punch Shoe Care Trophy in triumph to Ballymacoda, after O'Neill's defeated Inniscarra. The following year divisional side Carrigdhoun took their first title led by Ballygarvan's Catriona Kelly. Cloughduv were back the following year as Inniscarra again suffered heartbreak.

Twenty-one years of trying came to an end for Colette O'Mahony in 2006 as her beloved Blues finally took the title, with Lynda O'Connell receiving the trophy from her fellow club member and Barrs selectors county board chairperson Marian McCarthy. Gerald McCarthy was Barrs boss that season.

Divisional side Muskerry bridged a 72-year-gap in 2007 before last year

Douglas took their first crown spear-headed by the youthful Julia White and the Mackey twins Pamela and Katriona, as proud captain Amanda O'Regan became the first Douglas woman to lift the trophy.

A new chapter is about to be written as Milford's Elaine O'Riordan and St Catherine's Faith Noonan attempt to become the first from their respective clubs to lift the coveted trophy.

### CORK COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

Glen Rovers 22; Old Aloysians 15; Imokilly 6; Killeagh 5; Éire Óg 4; Bishopstown 4; Cloughduv 3; South Presentation PP 3; St Aloysius School 2; Lee Hosiery 2; Blackrock 2; Muskerry 2; Mayfield 1; UCC 1; Sarsfields 1; Fr O'Neill's 1; Carrigdhoun 1; St Finbarr's 1; Douglas 1.

WITH THE inter-county calendar completed Central Council are holding a fixtures review in Croke Park today.

Two officers from each county board plus the managers of inter-county teams, adult and underage were invited to attend.

The day includes a number of recommendations to be discussed during workshops:

#### Minor Championship

Keep current format for the three minor grades.

Start the minor A later in the season with the final to take place in mid October.

Start the minor B and C later in the season so that the finals to take place before the end of September.

#### Junior Championship

Two groups of four teams. Each team in group plays each other once.

The group winners go straight through to semi-finals.

The second placed teams go straight through to quarter-finals.

Bottom four teams play-off for final places in the quarter-finals.

Semi-finals between the two group winners and the quarter-final winners.

A draw will take place to determine who the winners of each qualifier will meet in the quarter-finals.

A draw will take place to determine who the winners of each qualifier will meet in the semi-finals.

#### Nancy Murray Cup

Structure to remain as is but with top two teams going straight to final.

#### Senior Championship

Two groups of four and each team in group plays each other once.

The group winners go straight through to semi-finals.

The second placed teams go straight through to quarter-finals.

Bottom four teams play-off for final places in the quarter-finals.

Semi-finals between the two group winners and the quarter-final winners.

#### U16

It is proposed that the U16 A and B grades to remain the same as 2008.

#### National leagues

It is proposed that the structure for the national league also needs to be considered.

## All-Star event highlights cream of the crop

By MARY NEWMAN  
All-Star tickets

A REMINDER that the camogie All-Star presentation evening will be held on Saturday, November 7 in City West Hotel, Saggart.

The 45 nominees were announced earlier this week and the All-Stars team will be announced on the night.

This year, in a new departure, we will

see the introduction of awards for the top 15 intercounty players who competed in the junior league and championships.

The 15 players chosen will be announced shortly.

The awards will be designed and crafted by Jarlath Daly, the renowned sculptor, who also crafts the All-Star Awards.

The young player of the year and the manager of the year will also be announced on the night.

The All-Stars are the social highlight of the camogie year and it is hoped all units of the association will support the event clubs and county boards are encouraged to come along and support their players.

Tickets cost €75 each and they can be ordered from the camogie website. Closing date for ordering tickets and payment is Tuesday, November 3. The evening starts with a reception at 7pm, followed by dinner and entertainment.

Accommodation at City West can be booked directly with the hotel — the cost is for B&B is €88 per room.

Thontact is sdoherty@citywesthotel.com and anybody attending is advised to mention your attendance at the Camogie All-Stars to avail of this rate.

It is a Black Tie evening and one which is hugely enjoyable and central council is urging support for same.

## Milford's Geary ready for St Catherine's 'acid test'

by Sarah O'Donovan

### Cork senior A camogie final

MILFORD'S surprise victory over county champions Douglas in the semi-final of the Cork Senior A championship secured the north Cork girls a place in the final for the first time since 2004, while opponents St Catherine's will be appearing in their first ever final.

With a shade more experience and three semi-finals under their belt, Milford will be slight favourites, but with both sides quite similar in style this game has the makings of a thriller.

St Catherine's will look to Cork senior Orla Cotter to lead the charge, while Milford will expect much from

the Watson duo up front, captain Elaine O'Riordan at centre-back and Anna Geary at centre-forward.

Former All Star Geary views tomorrow's clash as a real acid test.

"It has been a long year in that we played our first round in June and waited three months to play the next round and then played the quarter-final and semi-final in the space of six days."

Few gave them any hope against Douglas in the semi-final but an explo-

sive first-half ensured Milford's passage long before the final whistle.

Geary is anxious her team-mates don't dwell on the semi-final victory.

"Milford beating Douglas by that margin surprised a lot of people but it means nothing if we can't produce the same kind of intensity on Sunday."

"St Catherine's are a very balanced side with no real weak link, and they like to give fast, direct ball to their forwards so we will be under serious pressure."

"The last county final we played in was an epic, 6-11 to 5-11, but at the final whistle we took no consolation from losing in a great county final and the same will apply Sunday."



Orla Cotter: will lead St Catherine's bid to win first Senior A final.



Anna Geary: former All Star claims St Catherine's "have no weak link".





## Cork Camogie Board

### SENIOR FINAL

# Milford v St. Catherines

at 2.30p.m.

Referee: Colette O'Mahony  
(St. Finbarrs)

### SENIOR B SEMI FINAL

# Ballincollig v Glen Rovers

at 12.30p.m.

Referee: Walter Cole



Sunday 18th October  
2009  
Páirc Uí Rinn

OCT. 2009



**I**s cúis athas dom fáilte a chur romhaibh go leir go dtí Páirc Uí Rinn ar ocaid an Cluiche Cheannais Camogaiochta Síneair 2009. Tá suil agam go mbeidh la iontach again agus cluiche den scoth a imirt sa staid iontach seo.

I would like to extend a Cead Mile Failte to the players of Milford and St Catherines, team management, Club officials, supporters. Referee Colette O'Mahony, St Finbarrs and her officials to Páirc Uí Rinn today where Milford and St Catherines meet to decide the destination of the Punch Shoe Cup for 2009.

Both teams will be hoping to take their first ever senior title so no doubt we can look forward to an exciting contest between two sides who have served up some tremendous games in this years championships.

Welcome also to the players and management of Glen Rovers and Ballincollig who contest the Senior "B" Championship Semi Final as a curtain raiser to today's final.

On behalf of the County Board, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all clubs, players, mentors and officials who took part in the Senior Championship of 2009, because of their participation we have enjoyed a very successful championship.

I would also like to thank the Clubs and City Division GAA who hosted championship games this season and to all who officiated at the games. Your help and co-operation is very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks to Cumann Luthleas Gael Coiste Chontae Chorcaí for facilitating this final and to all who helped with today's fixture.

A special word of thanks to the Evening Echo who have generously sponsored our Championships this year and for their ongoing support of our game.

I hope this final we will see two sporting teams displaying all the skills of the greatest field game for women in the world. Enjoy the game and may Camogie be the real winner.

Maire Ni Charthigh

## County Final Thriller in Store

By Mary Newman

St. Catherines and Milford will make Camogie history this afternoon as they face each other in the final of the Evening Echo Senior camogie championship for the first time. One of them will carve out a unique honour as they will become the first team from their club to be crowned Cork Senior Camogie Champions.

It's been a hectic season with Inter county games at national league and championship level all year the success of our Senior team in capturing the Gala All Ireland senior title for the second year in a row making it six wins out of eight final appearances ensure they are without doubt the camogie team of the decade and we salute their achievements. The county board determined that Cork would be represented in the Munster club championship on October 24th have had to play several game under lights in the last fortnight but this has added to the magic of the championship and certainly is something that we will see a lot more of at all levels in the months and years ahead.

It's a new final pairing and both clubs have arrived here on merit St Catherines had to call on all their resources to defeat Cloughduv in their first outing whilst Courcy Rovers made them fight to the finish to reach the semi-final. On the day St Catherines looked to be exiting the championship at the hands of St Finbarr's but a late equaliser had us all back to Carrigtwohill on Monday last when they made no mistake to book their place in this afternoons decider.

Milford have had huge under age success taking titles from under 12 to Senior B and now they have reached the senior final for the second time having lost out to Carrighoun in the 2005 decider.

They defeated Ballygarvan in round one before progressing to meet an Inniscarra side that pushed them to the limits, county champions Douglas provided their semi final opponents and under the lights of Mourabbey the Milford girls turned in a polished display to make it to today's final.

Both sides have plenty of young talent the Cotters, Neville's and Twomey's have shown plenty of confidence as St Catherines marched to today's showdown while youngsters such as Louise O' Flynn, Cliona Galvin and Orlaith O' Mahony have been excellent in Milford's campaign. Experienced campaigner Elaine O' Riordan leads Milford while Faith Noonan captains St Catherines. Both are players who have given so much to their respective clubs and they will be hoping to make it to the history books of their own club by becoming the first player to captain a winning senior county championship sides.

Whether the Punch Trophy winds it way to North Cork or East Cork tonight be assured it will receive a huge welcome, the first one is always so special.



## MILFORD CAMOGIE CLUB HISTORY

**M**ilford camogie club was formed in January 1997. Milford Camogie Club officers in 1997 were: Cathaoirleach: Ann Watson, Runai: Lelia Long, Treasurers: Breda Fitzgibbon and Helen Sheehy, P.R.O: Triona O' Friel, delegate to the county board: Claire Donegan, Sheila Golden (Cathaoirleach of Cork County Board), Marian McCarthy (vice-chairperson), and Noreen Mannix of Grenagh Camogie Club attended the first meeting. Before forming the club the Milford girls won All-Ireland Community Games in 1996 and 1997 and numerous Sciath na Scoil competitions, coached by Sheila Thompson N.T. and Ann Watson. The club caters for all age groups of girls in the parish and is a great source of recreation for our youth.

The club has won every county title from under 12 to Senior B as well as reaching the Feile Na nGael finals in 1999 and 2007 and the All-Ireland semi-final in 2000.

It has won the All-Ireland Kilmacud 7's in 2005 as well as the All-Ireland under 16 A and Senior Pan Celtic Finals in 1999 and 2005.

These young ladies have distinguished themselves in the local teams and in the camogie successes of St. Mary's Charleville and Hazelwood College Dromcollogher. Many of these girls have represented Cork at inter-county level, which included three members of the Milford club captaining Cork's three in a row minor teams. They were:

Maria Watson 2001

Elaine O' Riordan 2002

Anna Geary 2003

They have also played at junior, intermediate, and senior levels with Cork. Anna Geary has won two All Star Awards in 2005 and 2006.

In 2009, Grainne Sheehy won the All-Ireland Feile Na nGael skills competition.

The Milford Camogie Club continues to grow and provide a good healthy sport for all the girls in the parish. The following officers for

## MILFORD



16. Sarah Sexton	22. Christine O Gorman	27. Annette Lordan	32. Rebecca Connolly	Selectors: Maurice O Sullivan, Ann Watson, Ellen Ann Geary. Sponsor: Collins Bar
17. Katie Galvin	23. Noelle O Riordan	28. Geraldine O Connor	33. Kallie Hodgins	
18. Clara Curtin	24. Nicola Browne	29. Regina Curtin	34. Caroline Watson	
19. Emma Browne	25. Sarah Fitzgibbon	30. Grainne Sheehy	35. Sarah O Flaherty	
20. Aileen O Flynn	26. Rebecca Sheehy	31. Katie Dillane	Manager/Trainer: Maurice O Sullivan	
21. Maire Flanagan				



## ST. CATHERINES CAMOGIE CLUB - BRIEF HISTORY

**S**t. Catherines Camogie Club was first affiliated in October 1980 with the Cork County Board. In 1984 the club achieved its first success winning an area league final and also the County B Championship. Current club President Rena O' Leary was a member of that team as was current senior team manager, Marie Clancy.

After a number of years at Junior A level the club regraded to Junior B and won the County title in 2000. There are a number of connections from that team to this years panel including Annemarie Hayes, Ann Galvin (current selector and Club Chairperson), Lisa Higgins, Andrea Mangan, Faith Noonan, Yvonne O' Neill, Noirin Mulcahy and Denise Twomey. Around this time the work put in at under-age level began to bear fruit with the club winning a number of under age counties including U 16 B and U -18 B in 2001, U 14 B in 2002, U 12 in 2004 and most significantly U 18 A titles in 2005 and 2006.

At this stage the club had also made significant progress at adult level winning the County Junior Title in 2003 and the Senior B title in 2006. The club has progressed in its three years playing at Senior level to its current position as county finalists and hopes are high for success in Sundays decider. It is also notable that our second team were also county finalists this year at Junior B level.

Couch, Pat Clancy, has been a tremendous influence on the club at adult level and his commitment over fifteen seasons has been huge. Likewise fellow team management members Marie Clancy and Ann Galvin have made outstanding contributions as players, selectors and club officers. Club President Rena O' Leary was a great player for both club and county in her playing days and her enthusiasm for the game continued after she finished playing. Indeed most players involved in Sundays final would have been introduced to camogie by Rena at under age level and she is rightly regarded as the mother figure of camogie in the St. Catherines club.

As our club made progress over the years a number of our players have been involved with County teams with a lot of Sundays panel having worn the red jersey at different levels in recent years. As recently as last weekend Denise Leahy, Liz Power and Carolyn Motherway were involved with the Cork Intermediate team while earlier in the year Finola Neville and Fiona Cotter were part of the Cork U 16 team with Billy Neville also involved as a selector. Currently our best known player would be Orla Cotter who has achieved success at Senior All Ireland level in recent years as well as recognition as an All Star in 2008.

Win or lose on Sunday the game of camogie is prospering in our club and its future looks very solid with current players helping out with underage teams. St. Catherines G.A.A club has always been very supportive to our club with their excellent facilities made readily available.

Best of luck to our girls and our management team in Sundays Final and hoping all goes well on the day.

### CURRENT CLUB OFFICERS

President	Rena O' Leary	Treasurer	Marie Clancy
Chairperson	Ann Galvin	Asst. Treasurer	Lisa Higgins
Vice Chairperson	Orla Cotter	P.R.O.	Brigid Cotter
Secretary	Faith Noonan		
Asst Sec	Rena O' Leary		

## ST. CATHERINE'S



16. Lisa Higgins	21. Jill Hurley	Marie Clancy (Manager) Pat Clancy (Coach) Ann Galvin (Selector) John O'Meara (Team Physio)
17. Deirdre Mulcahy	22. Andrea Mangan	
18. Sandra Noonan	23. Trish Fitzpatrick	
19. Rachel O'Callaghan	24. Aisling O'Keeffe	
20. Maria Daly	25. Cliona McGovern	





OCT. 2009



Player of the match, Orla Cotter.

## Cotter is thrilled by award

By MARY NEWMAN

Match reaction

IT HAS been a superb year for Orla Cotter and yesterday the St Catherine's midfielder wore her heart on her sleeve as she powered her club to their first senior camogie championship title.

The smile on her face told its own story as the quiet and unassuming hero relished the moment.

"I was shocked when you announced it was me!

"I am thrilled to be accepting it but really it is on behalf of everyone that I am doing so.

"I just got back into it and just focused on each game, we drew with the Barrs last week and then had the replay on Monday night and it was just straight into the final so we really hadn't much time to think about anything.

"We knew we had to perform to the very best of our ability if we were to win it and once the game started the nerves disappeared.

"Milford had beaten Douglas in the semi-final and they were the champions so we knew we had a tough hour ahead."

Orla was conscious of the historic occasion for Catherine's, and she had huge praise for the club's back-room and her team-mates.

"Our selectors and mentors all worked very hard to make this happen, not just this year but since the club won the junior B titles back in 2000, it has been steady progress all the time and we are just thrilled to be senior county champions."

Earlier in the season Orla played a huge part as Cork captured back to back senior All-Ireland titles but yesterday was something special.

"It's great to win a championship at any level. I am just so proud that today is St Catherine's day.

While victory is a tribute to the many people who have worked with all of these players down through the years without their hard work we would not be here today."

Orla felt their defence played a huge part in the victory.

"Our full-back line was brilliant and they mopped up everything Milford threw at them, they hooked, blocked and flicked the ball away out of the danger zone and cleared huge ball up field.

"Once we stayed with them and kept hitting over the points it kept us in touch. They came back strong and got on level and a goal was always going to be important — I think God it was us that got it.

# Saints march in at

## Catherine's claim first crown ever



LINDA MELLERICK

St Catherine's  
Milford

1-12  
0-12

**WORTHY Champions!** For the first time in their club's history St Catherine's were crowned Cork County Senior Camogie champions after a tremendous performance full of heart and endeavour in Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Milford can have no complaints on a day when they were beaten by a better side. Yet until Evelyn Ronayne goaled with seven minutes remaining this game was there for the taking for both sides in a rip-roaring second half.

A jittery opening period saw play take a while to settle and when it did it was St Catherine's who looked the more composed.

Two Orla Cotter frees and a Marie Watson point gave St Catherine's the seven-minute advantage.

Two minutes later Rebecca Finn denied Catherine's a goal opportunity and when the ball broke up the field Sinead O'Flynn hit wide with what should have been the levelling score.

Finola Neville burst through and drew a penalty with 11 minutes played and up stepped Cotter. Milford were relieved when Orla seemed to lose control of the lift but recovered well to strike over putting just two between the sides almost midway through the half.

Orla Cotter was covering huge ground, winning centerfield and surprisingly Milford didn't make a change here. Denise Twomey was also clearly winning her position with relative ease while centre back Elaine O'Riordan was doing her best to try and stem the tide.

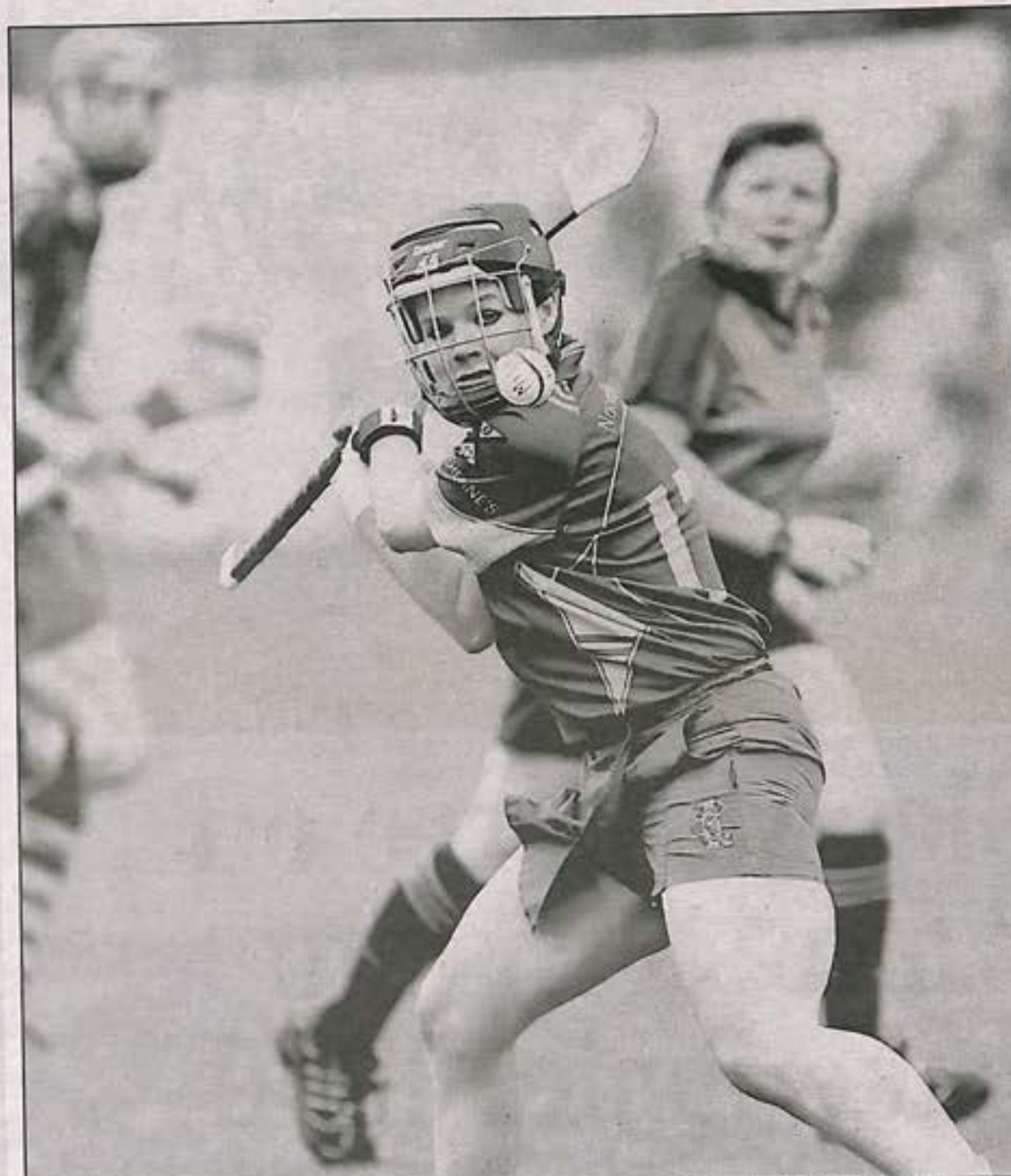
A goal chance fell to Milford with fifteen minutes on the clock but it was pushed out and the resultant '45 was converted by Emer Watson.

At this stage St Catherine's were growing in confidence and didn't look like a team playing in their first senior county final.

Their entire defence, hugely dependable all season, were outstanding.

Once again Milford fell into their bad habit of trying to walk the ball through, even at an early stage. Their short passes and slow play was blown away by a forceful and assertive defence where Carolyn Motherway, Faith Noonan and Noírin Mulcahy in particular were superb.

Mairead Geary had the side's level on nineteen minutes and for the first and only time in the game Milford went in front when Maria Watson



St Catherine's Denise Twomey winds up to send her team on another attack against Milford during the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

### Player of the Match

While this was a great team performance Orla Cotter was tremendous from start to finish. Covered the entire pitch during the hour. A great leader.

### Ref Watch

With 16 frees awarded in the first-half, St Finbarr's Collette O'Mahony was possibly a little too fussy. She relaxed in the second-half and the game flowed more freely.

### Turning Point

With the sides level Evelyn Ronayne's goal on fifty three minutes swung the pendulum in St Catherine's favour.

Victory was on the cards.

### Score of the game

Milford threw everything at Catherine's to try and grab an equaliser. Denise Twomey's well-taken point with two minutes remaining sealed St Catherine's triumph.

## Clancy: It is a great day for club

By MARY NEWMAN

Match reaction

Douglas and that kept a little bit of the pressure from us.

"All through the game we worked hard, our defence was superb and they never gave the Milford forwards any room at all, our midfielders were superb and they ensured a steady supply of ball.

"It was pretty evenly

matched all through, we led by three points but they pegged us back to get on level with six minutes remaining. At that stage the next score was vital and Evelyn struck a super goal.

"I think that was a huge blow to Milford, we added a point near the end and that gave us a four-point advantage, but to be honest we weren't safe until the final whistle.

"Credit to Milford they gave it every single thing they had I know they must be gutted to have lost out today, but they are good side and they will be back."

Marie had huge praise for her side.

"These girls have worked so hard to be champions and today is their reward.

"It is a great day for the club and we will certainly enjoy it."

ST CATHERINE'S manager Marie Clancy was still in a state of shock and a bit emotional after Faith Noonan had held the Punch Trophy aloft to the grey skies in Páirc Uí Rinn.

"To be honest I am trying to get my head around it all, it's a great day for us, we came into the game as underdogs and it suited us, Milford were favourites having defeated the champions



# end of jittery final

## Collig far too slick for Glen

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior B Camogie semi-final

Ballincollig	5-14
Glen Rovers	1-5

A PHYSICALLY stronger and more experienced Ballincollig advanced to the final of the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship and a mid Cork showdown with neighbours Éire Óg after the curtain raiser in Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

In the opening quarter the sides were evenly matched but with Ballincollig winning the midfield battle they wore the Glen down. Enjoying plenty of possession they were constantly putting the Glen defence under pressure as they picked off points from play and frees.

With the half-time whistle approaching it was 0-8 to 0-2 and the Glen were finding it difficult to make headway against a strong Ballincollig defence, while their own defence was under constant pressure.

Twenty-eight minutes in Maria O'Donoghue finished to the net to stretch Ballincollig's advantage 1-8 to 0-2.

On the turnover Ballincollig's Holly Coomey and Denise Cronin fired over two points but the Glen responded as they finally began to apply pressure in front of goal — Aoife Walsh finishing to the net to give them a much-needed boost.

Ballincollig responded with a Denise Cronin point and a goal from Leah Weste on the three-quarter stage gave the young Glen side a mountain to climb.

To their credit, they tried to get into the game but they could never match the strength or experience of their opponents.

Denise Luby added two points to their tally but in the closing seven minutes Ballincollig hit three goals to ensure their place in the final was secured.

**Scorers for Ballincollig:** D Cronin 1-8 (1-4f), H Coomey 1-4, M O'Donoghue 2-0, L Weste 1-2.

**Glen Rovers:** D Luby 0-5 (0-3f), A Walsh 1-0.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A Sheehan, E O'Sullivan, A Kieley, A Coughlan, C Irish, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter, S Buckley, S Coomey, O Ni Cathasaigh, L Weste, D Cronin, P Buttimer, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey.

**Subs:** M O'Sullivan for S Coomey (42), C Ryan for P Buttimer (43), J Ryle for M O'Donoghue, B O'Callaghan for E O'Sullivan (51).

**GLEN ROVERS:** K Newman, Z Buckley, A Guiton, B Walsh, N O'Brien, L Cunningham, M Hegarty, E O'Riordan (c), A Keating, D Luby, K O'Connell, S Fahy, L O'Sullivan, A Walsh, S O'Halloran.

**Subs:** L Kelly for L O'Sullivan (37), A O'Keefe for E O'Riordan (45).

**Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).



St Catherine's captain, Faith Noonan, is presented with the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Cup from Marion McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board, at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

### THREE REASONS WHY ST CATHERINE'S WON

**1 DEFENCE**  
The entire St Catherine's defence were inspirational yesterday. To keep Milford, who had scored 10 championship goals in reaching the final, goal-less was a tremendous achievement. Noírin Mulcahy deserves special mention for doing such a great job on Emer Watson.

**2 ORLA COTTER**  
Has had an incredible season and capped it off yesterday with another Player of the Match display. Her work rate was phenomenal, her free taking impeccable and it was her delivery to Deirdre Twomey which created the move for the only goal of the game.

**3 THE GOAL**  
With the sides level after 53 minutes a goal was going to be the deciding factor and it was Catherine's Evelyn Ronayne who got it. Milford dominated from 44-51 minutes scoring four points without reply. The goal not only halted their momentum, but gave Catherine's a three-point lead.

struck her second point.

Denise Twomey levelled it again before Evelyn Ronayne blasted over with the goal at her mercy.

Points from both sides saw St. Catherine's enter the dressing room leading 0-7 to 0-5 and considering their dominance Milford must have been relieved.

Anna Geary's point typified the style of play Milford should be adopting within a minute of resumption, fast and direct.

Two Cotter frees cancelled out Milford's revitalised start and pushed the gap to three.

Geary again, one of Milford's better players on the day, struck her

third and second point of the half to keep the fight in her side.

While Milford stepped up the tempo they were closed down in attack time and again by a defence who were the catalyst for St. Catherine's finest hour.

St. Catherine's were growing in confidence. Spreading the play and splitting Milford's defence Fiona Cotter, Denise and Deirdre Twomey were causing huge problems. Deirdre Twomey's two points in quick succession now stretched their lead to four and the game seemed to be slipping from Milford.

But credit their enormous response. Led by Maria Watson, Elaine

O'Riordan and Anna Geary Milford fought back and in a fantastic seven minute spell had the game back on level terms again.

The game was suddenly there for the taking for either side and a goal was always going to decide it. With seven minutes of normal time left Orla Cotter won possession in the middle of the field. She supplied Deirdre Twomey who fed Ronayne inside who made no mistake from close range to the delight of a large and very enthusiastic St Catherine's following.

Milford piled the pressure on as they searched for the equaliser as the crowd sat on the edge of their

seat. Denise Twomey coolly slotted over an immensely important insurance point and now Milford needed two scores, one a goal, just to level it.

Louise O'Flynn pointed three minutes into injury time to leave a goal between the sides and when referee Collette O'Mahony blew the full time whistle with the puck out it was a joyous occasion amidst joyous scenes for a club well deserving of this their sweetest victory of them all.

**Scorers For St. Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 pt), E Ronayne 1-1, Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2.

**Milford:** A Geary 0-4, E Watson 0-3 (0-1 f 0-1 45), M Geary 0-1, M Watson 0-2, L O'Flynn 0-2.

**ST CATHERINES:** D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, O Neville, L Power, C Motherway, O Cotter, M O'Keefe, A M Hayes, F Neville, F Cotter, Denise Twomey, E Ronayne, Deirdre Twomey.

**Sub:** L Higgins for A M Hayes (41).

**MILFORD:** R Finn, O O'Mahony, N O'Brien, L Healy, C Galvin, E O'Riordan, A Watson, D O'Reilly, A Thompson, M Watson, A Geary, M Geary, L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn.

**Subs:** C O'Gorman for S O'Flynn (38), S Sexton for C Galvin (41), A O'Flynn for M Geary (55).

**Referee:** Collette O'Mahony (St. Finbarrs).



# Glory for Catherine's in final cracker

Cork Senior A Camogie final

St. Catherine's 1-12  
Milford 0-12

by Sarah O'Donovan

ST. CATHERINE'S captured their first Cork senior A camogie title at the expense of favourites Milford in a nail-biting encounter at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The destination of the title was in the balance with seven minutes remaining as Milford had come from four-points down to draw level. However, Evelyn Ronayne's goal sealed victory for the East Cork ladies women and it was well merited.

St Catherine's dominated from the start, giving the North Cork girls little space to engineer scores and led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time.

Saints full-back Noírin Mulcahy was outstanding as time after time she snuffed out promising Milford attacks while goalkeeper Denise Leahy showed great composure all through.

Orla Cotter's punished Milford's mistakes to the maximum and sent over six points from frees as well as making an outstanding contribution from general play.

St Catherine's were far sharper in attack with Denise Twomey giving an exhibition at corner-forward berth. Twomey rowed in with three points from play while sister Deirdre tormented the Milford defence, contributing two points.

A resurgence from Milford, led by captain Elaine O'Riordan and centre-forward Anna Geary mid-way through the second-half, nearly salvaged a draw but Deirdre Twomey's probing ball found Ronayne who turned and smashed to the net to put the game beyond doubt.

Milford had one chance in added time but Louise O'Flynn's shot sailed over the crossbar.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** O Cotter, 0-6f, E Ronayne 1-1, D Twomey 0-3, D Twomey 0-2.

**Milford:** A Geary 0-4, E Watson 0-3 (0-1'45, 0-1f), L O'Flynn 0-2, M Watson 0-2, M Geary 0-1.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, O Neville, L Power, C Motherway, O Cotter, M O'Keefe, A M Hayes, F Neville, F Cotter, D Twomey, E Ronayne, D Twomey.

**Subs:** L Higgins for AM Hayes (40).

**MILFORD:** R Finn, O O'Mahony, N O'Brien, L Healy, C Galvin, E O'Riordan, D O'Reilly, A Watson, A Thompson, M Watson, A Geary, M Geary, L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn.

**Subs:** C O'Gorman for S O'Flynn (38), S Sexton for C Galvin (40), A O'Flynn for M Geary (55).

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

## CAMOGIE

### MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB

Semi-final: Cashel Tipperary 0-26 (C Grogan 0-7 (0-3f), E Hayden 0-6, C Hennessy 0-5, A Loneragan 0-3, C O'Dwyer 0-2, S Hayes, M Morrissey, J Horan 0-1 each) Killeedy, Limerick 0-2 (O Curtis, M Carey 0-1 each)

### MUNSTER JUNIOR CLUB

Semi-final: St Anne's Waterford 3-16 (K Kelly 1-9, Z O'Donohue 1-4, T Gallagher 1-0, J Simpson 0-2, C M Riber 0-10) Feenagh/Killeedy, Limerick 0-5 (C O'Regan 0-4, J O'Gorman 0-1)

OCT. 2009

THE SHAPE I'M IN

Mary O'Connor

# Leading lady

CORK Ladies' Football captain Mary O'Connor, 32, says the team are still in fantastic form and "on a high" after their one-point victory over Dublin in this year's all-Ireland final.

"But I don't think the magnitude of our success and of what it means to win five-in-a-row has really hit us yet. It may even be a few years before we look back and fully realise it."

"The players have been having club games since the all-Ireland but we've been meeting up at weekends and going to different parts of the county with the cup, so we're constantly re-living it and it'll be that way for a while."

She played centre-back in this year's camogie All-Ireland final, winning her seventh all-Ireland medal.

One of a family of nine — she has six brothers and two sisters — Mary is single and recently built a house in her native Killeagh in east Cork. She works as a camogie development officer.

**What shape are you in?**

I'm in pretty good shape. I've been doing high-level training five nights a week for the last nine months. But that's going to change because I'm going to take a break now from training.

**Do you have any health concerns?**

None at all — my health really is my wealth. The Tuesday after the camogie final I developed a bit of a sore throat and a bit of flu so I had to frantically try to get rid of it before the football came around.

**What are your healthiest eating habits?**

I'd always have at least two litres of water a day, up to three if I'm training. I eat a lot of fruit. I live by the rule of five a day. I don't take butter, mayonnaise or sauces of any kind. In November and December, I allow myself to have the odd treat but I stay away from things that are known to be bad for you.

**What's your guiltiest pleasure?**

Chocolate's my biggest vice followed by the odd can of coke. I'm partial to the stimulant it provides but it's on the banned list 'til November when training finishes.

**What would keep you awake at night?**

I recently built a house, so for the last few months what needs to be done there has been keeping me awake. When I've got a big game on the horizon, that'd keep me awake — I'd be visualising the game and what has to be done on the day.

**How do you relax?**

I like to go for walks and listen to music. I also like hanging out with my family, relaxing and having a laugh with them. Family's very big for me.

**When did you last cry?**

In 2007, when I got a bad enough knee injury. It meant I was going to miss the final I'd been training for all year. It was huge then — now I wonder what was I crying about?

**What would you change about your appearance?**

Apart from the wrinkles, I'd like to be a few inches taller — I'm 5ft 6in.

**Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**

Ryan Giggs, Barack Obama and Bobby Charlton — I'm a big Manchester United fan.

**What's your favourite smell?**

The smell of a new hurley. Once you use it, that smell quickly goes. It's a smell that invokes memories of when I was a child in Killeagh, going into the late Sonny McCarthy's shed — he used to make hurleys. It was great, getting a new hurley and that smell of the ash and knowing this was your own hurley — that was the treat in the 1980s when I was growing up.

**What trait do you least like in others?**

Tardiness — being late.

**What trait do you least like in yourself?**

I tend to be impulsive and can act without thinking sometimes.

**Do you pray?**

Yes, every week — my mum and dad instilled faith in us and now I have faith and attend mass every week.

**What would cheer up your day?**

Random acts of kindness — seeing a young fellow picking up a woman's shopping bag and bringing it to her car for her.

Helen O'Callaghan

**REBEL SPIRIT:** Mary with the All-Ireland ladies' football cup.  
Picture: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE







## CAMOGIE SOARING STAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

All Ireland Camogie champions Offaly have secured six awards in the inaugural year of the Soaring Star Camogie Awards, an awards scheme introduced to recognise players from the All Ireland junior camogie championship grades.

The awards will be presented at the All Star award ceremony in association with O'Neills in the CityWest Hotel on November 7th.

In the New Ireland Cup, Faithful County top scorer Elaine Darmody from Drumcullen leads the way with club mate Fiona Stephens being selected at corner back. Joining them is goalkeeper Audrey Kennedy and Karen Brady both of whom were part of a very solid Offaly defensive unit, which also includes Michaela Morkan at centre back. The sixth Offaly award goes to ace attacker Arlene Watkins.

Beaten finalists Waterford have forward duo Karen Kelly and Áine Lyng among the winners. Kelly was also prominent at the weekend leading St Anne's to the Munster junior camogie club championship final.

Laois and Down also have two representatives, while Meath have one.

Niamh Coyle helped Roscommon achieve a historic victory in the Nancy Murray Cup coming from five points down to defeat Armagh in the final by three. She is Roscommon's representative at number nine. Kildare's Susie O'Carroll has been rewarded in the half forward line following a prolific season with the Lilywhites.

Speaking at the announcement today, President Joan O'Flynn said, "The inaugural Soaring Stars Camogie Awards recognises the various strands of the All Ireland

championship. It rewards individual player excellence in the second tier national Camogie All Ireland championships.

"I am particularly delighted that the achievements of Offaly and Roscommon, both of whom won their first All Irelands in 2009 are recognised along with Waterford who reached their first All Ireland final this year. Congratulations to all 15 players who are wonderful exponents of our game and demonstrated leadership, skill and commitment this season".

The 2009 Soaring Star Camogie Awards:

### GOALKEEPER:

Audrey Kennedy (Offaly)

### BACKS:

Fiona Stephens (Offaly)  
Eimear Moynan (Laois)  
Karen Brady (Offaly)  
Karen Tinelly (Down)  
Michaela Morkan (Offaly)  
Louise Donoghue (Meath)

### MIDFIELD:

Louise Mahony (Laois)  
Niamh Coyle (Roscommon)

### Forwards:

Arlene Watkins (Offaly)  
Catherine McGourty (Down)  
Áine Lyng (Waterford)  
Susie O'Carroll (Kildare)  
Karen Kelly (Waterford)  
Elaine Darmody (Offaly)

## Catherine's embark on Munster journey

### TOMORROW

Munster Senior Club semi-final  
St Catherine's v Kilmaley (Clare)  
Ballynoe, 11.00

Just fresh from capturing their first Cork senior camogie championship title St Catherine's step out to represent Cork on Saturday when they do battle against Clare county champions Kilmaley, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The Clare side recently made it back-to-back county titles as they held off the challenge of Sixmilebridge in a low scoring county final on a 0-7 to 0-5 score line.

Kilmaley were pushed to the limits to hold their crown and it was the experience of players such as Denise Lynch Eimear Considine, Helen McMahon, and captain Emma O'Driscoll that pulled them through. They had to dig deep as Sixmilebridge put up a huge challenge to wrestle the title from their grasp and it took an injury-time pointed free from Claire McMahon to finally secure the title.

St Catherine's made history taking their first title on Sunday last and fresh from that success will be fired up for their forage into Munster; there will be three changes to their line out as full-back Noreen Mulcahy headed off to Australia on Wednesday.

Having postponed her departure on number of occasions her commitment to the club was rewarded on Sunday when she gave a superb display leading the St Catherine's defence with her long clearances down field when under pressure.

Fiona Cotter and Finola Neville will be out of the county on a school mid-term break holiday in Paris and will be missed as they performed well also last weekend.

St Catherine's are a strong outfit with Orla Cotter giving a sterling display at midfield as they were crowned champions and she was ably assisted by the Twomey sisters Denise and Deirdre, Captain Faith Noonan and full-forward Evelyn Roynane who grabbed the vital goal that finally sealed the result.

It has been a long time since a Cork club enjoyed any success at Munster level but St Catherine's will be determined to put that right and advance to the final.

### TOMORROW

Munster Junior Club semi-final  
Clonakilty v Kilkishen (Clare)  
O'Callaghan's Mills GAA Grounds,  
2.30

For the first time this year Cork have been permitted to enter a team in the Munster Junior club championship and its the Intermediate champions as the third county championship winning club in the county who represent Cork.

Already Clonakilty have recorded a victory over Tipperary side Lorrha in the preliminary round stages and they head off to Clare to take on junior county champions Kilkishen.

Sinead O'Neill, Sharon Whelton Erica Jennings and Hazel O'Regan will be to the fore as they battle for a place in the decider. Kilkishen defeated Corafin to take their first title in 20 years champions and they will be determined to give it their best shot to make it to the Munster final.



Oct. 2009

# Cork's best young

## BISHOPSTOWN

U11: Well done to the girls on a good performance in the Seandún Under 11A final against St Finbarr's. Despite their best efforts, they came out on the wrong side of a 4-1 to 1-1 score line.

U13 v St Vincent's: Our squad was devastated by the flu and we had to run around houses close to the pitch to get some Under 10 and 11s to make up the team and a special thanks to Laura, Meabh, Aoife, Rachael and Sophie who came out at a few minutes notice and stepped up to U13. This was a tough match and the score 5-6 to 1-1 complimented us a bit too much. We played well and with great contributions up the centre from Caoimhe, Niamh, Laura, Eime and Megan. Our two corner-backs, Ellen and Cliona had their hands full with two tricky corner-forwards but coped well. We had a good spread of scores, with goals from Laura, Eime, Alison and Niamh.

U15 v St Finbarr's: This was a very tight match and closely fought especially in the first half. The Barrs were very sharp and went in at half-time 2-0 to 1-2. In the second half our girls upped their game and we scored another 1-4 with the Barrs just getting 0-1. Sarah Murphy and Ruth Hayes played well at midfield and Shiomha Ni Dheasunaigh stood out at centre-back.

U11 Seandún final v Barrs: This was a very tight match, but things never really ran properly for the girls. The first half was nip and tuck with both sides going in 0-1 to 0-1, with Julie O'Sullivan in goal in her first match pulling off some very fine saves. In the second half Barrs were first on the scoresheet with a goal but within a few minutes it was back to level with a great goal from Laura O'Neill. While Laura went very close to scoring a few more goals, the Barrs got a point to get ahead which was then followed by a quick goal. After that the girls fought very hard to try and get back into the game but the Barrs defence wouldn't let them through. The game finished with a few more scores for the Barrs. The girls were very disappointed with the loss but vowed to train even harder and come back and try and win it next year. There was great performance from full-back (and captain) Laura O'Sullivan, Meabh Broderick and Aoife O'Toole, Rachael Leisk, Emily Carr, Caoimhe Dineen, Emer Ni Murchú, Grainne Houlihan, Laura Power, Alice Townsend, Julie Noonan.

U11 friendly v Blarney: Our U11s bounced back from their loss in the Seandún final with a win against Blarney who were preparing for their U11 play-offs. There were good performances all over and this more reflected the girls' true form. We changed the team around a lot and got a spread of scores from the team. Our back-line was very tight again and midfield played well and controlled the game. The forwards were full of running and picked up some good scores.

## ST CATHERINE'S

Senior County final 2009: Sunday October 12 2009 is a day that will be etched forever in the memory of all who were present to witness a first ever Senior County Championship success for St Catherine's camogie club. It is hard to believe that in nine years our club has advanced from winning a County Junior B Championship to Sunday's heady heights of senior county championship success. It is a truly magnificent achievement for an outstanding bunch of players and their brilliant management team.

Sunday's emotional high was a long way from the way we felt just two weeks earlier as we were a point behind in injury time in our drawn semi-final against St Finbarr's when Lisa Higgins scored that invaluable equaliser to give us a second chance. Our season turned on that moment as we won the replay comfortably and went into Sunday's final in the perfect position of outsiders. Again our girls delivered another huge performance and in doing so wrote themselves into the history books of both St Catherine's and Cork camogie.

Faith Noonan accepted the cup on behalf of St Catherine's and thanked everyone for their contribution to the team's success.

Team: Denise Leahy, Faith Noonan (c), Noírin Mulcahy, Yvonne O'Neill, Orna Neville, Liz Power, Carolyn Motherway, Orla Cotter, Maeve O'Keefe, Anne-Marie Hayes, Finola Neville, Fiona Cotter, Denise Twomey, Evelyn Roynane, Deirdre Twomey. Subs: Lisa Higgins for Anemarie Hayes, Deirdre Mulcahy, Sandra Noonan, Rachel O'Callaghan, Maria Daly, Jill Hurley, Andrea Mangin, Trish Fitzpatrick, Aisling O'Keefe, Cliona McGovern.

Scorers: O Cotter 0-6 (0-5), 1-0 (penalty) E Roynane 1-1, Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2.

Our homecoming in Ballymoore on Sunday night was very special and the huge turn out was greatly appreciated by the players. Every player member from one to 25 can feel proud of their contribution to this magnificent success with the man-



All-Ireland winning camogie captain, Amanda O'Regan pictured with Colin Gurhy, sales manager, James O'Sullivan, director, Tim O'Driscoll, manager, Pat O'Sullivan, director, and Frank Barry, financial controller, at M&P O'Sullivan Cash & Carry.

Picture: Diane Cusack

## Claire shines as Douglas retain U16 championship

DOUGLAS retained the U16 A championship title when they defeated Ballinhassig in an exciting final in Coachford last Sunday.

A close opening 30 minutes failed to separate the sides at the half-time whistle and they turned around deadlocked at 0-3 each.

Sinead Duggan, Clare Shine and Clodagh Duggan were on target for Douglas with points, while Emma Jordan struck two and Clodagh McCarthy one for Ballinhassig in the opening half.

During the 30 minutes both sides gave it their all as both defence stood firm under enormous pressure as they battled to gain control of the game.

On the turnover both sides dug

Douglas  
Ballinhassig

2-10  
0-5

deep and were still on level when Douglas were boosted by a goal from Shannon Dempsey.

Ballinhassig responded with a Niamh Sheehan point 11 minutes in.

Aine O'Donovan, Shannon Dempsey and Claire Shine added points as Douglas began to stretch their lead, but Ballinhassig battled hard, however they met strong resistance from a resilient Douglas defence in which Alison Peate, Sarah Kavanagh and Joy Leo were in top form as they closed down every Ballinhassig attack.

A goal from the Douglas cap-

tain Aine O'Donovan and further points from Claire Shine, Aine O'Donovan and Shannon Dempsey saw the title head back to Douglas before Orla Murray hit Ballinhassig fifth point.

Afterwards Claire Shine was named player of the match.

Scorers for Douglas: S Dempsey, A O'Donovan 1-2 each, C Shine 0-4 (0-2 45"), C Duggan, S Duggan 0-1 each.

Ballinhassig: E Jordan 0-2, C McCarthy, N Sheehan, O Murray 0-1 each.

DOUGLAS: S O'Mahony, E Lynch, A Peate, A Hourihane, A McDonald, S Kavanagh, J Leo, S Duggan, C Hickey, C Duggan, C Shine, R Baxter, S Dempsey, A O'Donovan, E Kavanagh. Subs: L Cooney for R Baxter (h/t), A Downey for C Hickey (h/t), E McCarthy for E Kavanagh (50), M Mulrooney for A Hourihane (51).

BALLINHASSIG: A Walsh, U O'Leary, M Reardon, C O'Leary, A Lee, E O'Donovan, J O'Leary, E Jordan, A O'Brien, A Cullinane, O Murray, C McCarthy, C Mahon, N Sheehan, E Mahon.

Ref: M O' Kelly (Ballyhea).

agement team of Marie, Pat and Ann playing a huge part in this achievement. Victory celebrations will not last too long as next weekend will see our initial outing in the Munster Club Championship as we take on the Clare champions. This game is fixed for Ballymoore on Saturday at 11am and there will be some enforced changes for this game with Noreen Mulcahy a definite absentee as she heads off to Australia on Wednesday. Noreen could have made this trip last June but her commitment to her club meant she postponed the trip on a number of occasions. That commitment was rewarded on Sunday when Noírin gave one of her finest performances ever in a St Catherine's jersey and in wishing her bon-voyage on her trip we look forward to her return to resume her defensive duties next year.

## YOUGHAL

Minor D county semi-final: The Youghal girls had it all to play for on Sunday when they went to the new camogie grounds in Blackrock to play Barryroe in the U18 D county semi-final.

nal.

It was a low-scoring game but that wasn't to say that it was a bad one as the girls gave all they could but the scores were not forthcoming on the day. Two points came from play by Edel O'Connell in the first half and the teams were level going into the break, the girls had it all to play for going into the second half. Leah Broderick was on top form in the half-back line, along with captain Niamh Quill who showed skill and composure when attacking the ball. There was an outstanding performance from Roisin O'Keefe, who started in at half-forward and moved into midfield, her classy performance and skill helped produce the scores from play.

In the second half Shaheen Joyce racked up two points from frees but the Barryroe girls came back and scored a goal. Youghal were down four points when Shaheen Joyce answered them with a lovely point from play, unfortunately we were down a goal and there were only minutes to go, Amy Motherway re-

ceived a free from the 65' and dropped a nice ball into the forwards but the opportunity was missed and the final whistle blew.

Team: Sarah Coughlan, Amy Motherway, Marie Ahern, Shannon Watson, Michaela Dalton, Niamh Quill (c), Leah Broderick, Shaheen Joyce, Robyn Healy, Roisin O'Keefe, Susie Fitzgibbon, Edel O'Connell, Nora Sheehan, Clara Siochru, Ellie Budds, Anife Siochru, Shelly O'Brien, Jane Walsh, Chloe Daly, Sally-Ann Quill, Aisling Siochru. Sub: Shelly O'Brien for Shannon Watson.

Well done girls, the club is very proud of the performance and your effort throughout the year. The girls are back in action next weekend with the junior team when they face Grenagh in the Junior County Plate semi-final.

Juniors: Youghal took on St Vincent's for the second time this year, Youghal first met St Vincent's back in July in the first round of championship beating them well on Vincent's home ground, Copper Alley was the venue for the first round of the

county plate. Youghal started off well with a point from Katie Sloane in what was going to be a very high-scoring game for Youghal with Sarah Flavin on top form with 1-7. The scores followed fast with midfielder Catherine O'Donoghue knocking over two points from play. Corner-forwards Roisin O'Keefe and Clara O'Siochru set up the play for full-forward Kerri Hancock who ended up with a personal tally of 1-4 from play.

Yet again full-back Marie Ahern made it impossible for the St Vincent's forwards to come through with any scores from play. Player of the game goes to Niamh Quill who played consistently throughout. Full-time score Youghal 2-14 St Vincent's 0-2.

Team: Sarah Coughlan, Ann O'Connell, Marie Ahern, Sinead Sweeney, Chloe Daly, Niamh Quill, Michaela Dalton, Katie Sloane, Catherine O'Donoghue, Shaheen Joyce, Kerma McCarthy (Captain), Sarah Flavin, Roisin O'Keefe, Kerri Hancock, Clara O'Siochru.

Subs used: Kelly McCarthy for Chloe Daly (25 min) Aisling Siochru for Clara Siochru (h/t).

The juniors now advance into the second round where they will meet Grenagh.

Good luck: Our own Shaheen Joyce is representing the club with the Cork development squad, and she will be travelling to Croke Park on Bank Holiday Monday to take part in an inter-county blitz. Good luck Shaheen and we are all very proud of you.

## BRIAN DILLON'S

Junior league: Therese Drummond got the opening score for Dillon's the team who started very well and with Jane Dooley clocking up another point and Donna Carroll scoring a superb goal and point, the first half finished with Dillon's ahead by a goal. Dillon's fought back strongly in the second half and both teams were very close to the finish. The back line was very strong and great play from Sarah Cotter, Claire O'Mahony, Lucy Bradfield, Deirdre Ring and Sara Attridge. Amanda Don-

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

**THE** Cork development squad, under the guidance of coaches Miriam Deasy, Nora Ahern and Marion Jagoe head to Croke Park on Monday.

The Cork contingent will join with developments squads from Armagh, Limerick, Kilkenny, Donegal, Wicklow, Mayo and Kildare to enjoy a full day's activities at headquarters.

Earlier in the season Cork hosted the Coillte Developments squads' blitz at the CIT Grounds, Bishopstown when the squads from Kilkenny, Limerick and Tipperary join with Cork to show off the many skills they had learned over the four weeks of their development programme.

The feedback from the event was that it was most enjoyable and a huge success.

The blitz was all about participation and there were no winners or losers on the day. It was all about the young players getting game time, participation, development and enjoyment.

On the day there were many young players that caught the eye and on Monday their progress will once again be monitored as the national blitz day takes place.

The initiative is part of the strategic plan for camogie and it's aim is to improve the skill level and enjoyment of the game at U14 level in the selected counties.

The programme is supported by the Irish Sports Council and the counties have participate in coaching sessions and blitz competitions since June.

Coillte, the forestry and forest products company, began their involvement with the initiative in 2004 and since then it has grown in stature and has gone from strength to strength.

Joan O'Flynn president of the Camogie Association praised Coillte for their involvement with the venture: "The partnership between the Camogie Association and Coillte is a significant contribution to growing our sport, encouraging young players to continuously improve their camogie skills will ensure that they enjoy our national game and continue playing it into adulthood."

"The partnership also supports the



# talent off to Croker



The Cork Coillte development squad pictured after training in CIT.

development of camogie coaches in eight counties in 2009 and it is really important that young players are encouraged to develop and improve their skills rather than win at all costs.

"The ethos of the Coillte Development Squads initiative is one of fun and skills improvement. The support of Coillte is highly valued and appreciated by all in camogie and we are delighted with their ongoing association for our sport."

County chairperson Marion McCarthy has huge praise for the initiative which has proved a huge success in Cork.

"We were delighted that Cork were chosen as one of the counties to participate in this year's programme. Our coaches Miriam Deasy, Nora Ahern, and Marion Jagoe are among the best in the country and they have imparted some of their vast experience and knowledge to our young camogie players during the coaching sessions and the blitz competitions which took place earlier in the year.

"The focus of the programme has been on the skills of camogie and that has been of huge benefit to the 30 players who took part."

Squads will arrive at Croke Park at 10.30am where they will be welcomed

by president Joan O'Flynn.

The counties have been broken up into four groups, thus giving all the girls involved maximum time on the pitch therefore each girl on a panel of 30 will get two matches each.

Again the emphasis of the day will be on enjoyment, participation and learning, allowing all players and mentors to enjoy their day. The players will also enjoy a visit to the Croke Park Museum.

After the games there will be a presentation of medals in the Hogan Stand and representatives from Coillte will be in attendance on the day which promises to be an unforgettable

table one for the young participants.

The Cork development squad is as follows:

Niamh Connolly (Na Piaras), Ailise Sisk (Killeagh), Dyane Shannon (Ballinascorthy), Jessica Keating (St Finbarr's), Melissa Roddis (St Vincent's), Amy Maye, (Carrigaline), Vicky Withers, (Banteer), Shannen Joyce, (Youghall), Jennifer Hosford (Glen Rovers), Megan O'Donovan (Kilbrittain), Joan M O'Leary (Valley Rovers), Kate McCarthy (Enniskeane), Mary McGuinness (Tracton), Laura McCarthy (Kilbree), Aisling Fox (Douglas), Katie Walsh (Sarsfield's), Kate O'Sullivan (Aghabullogue), Rebecca McAree (Clonakilty), Aoife O'Sullivan (Courcy's), Grace Marum (Blackrock), Ellie Dineen (Millstreet), Aoife Finn (Fr O'Neill's), Laura O'Carroll (Inniscearra), Meadhbh Murphy (Dungourney), Jennifer O'Mahony (Newcestown), Siobhán O'Kelly (Ballyheal), Ciara Copps (Newtownshandrum), Rachel Murphy (Castletynes), Emma Deasy (Barryroe), Claire Byrne (Cloughduv).

cropper at the final hurdle against a stronger Clonakilty team on a score line of 2-11 to 1-8. No silverware, but what a season they've enjoyed. The team have improved no end and the future must be bright with some exciting players coming through, well done to the entire panel, Emmet, Aidan, Fr Ted, Ray and Donal.

Upcoming fixtures: U18 D Minor County Final: Sars v Barryroe, Saturday, 31st October in Brinney at 2.00pm.

U16 C County Final: Sars v Eire Og, weekend 7/8 November (venue & time to be confirmed).

## GLEN ROVERS

Unfortunately our senior team came out second best against a stronger Ballinacorney side in the semi-final of the championship in Pairc Uí Rinn on Sunday last, it was very disappointing for the girls and their mentors who to date have enjoyed a superb season where in total they lost just two games. It has still been a hugely successful and enjoyable season. The team has improved enormously and to reach the county semi-final minus the service of Cornelia and Sinead was a huge achievement, with so many young minor and U16 players in the line-out, the future is bright with some exciting players coming through. Well done to the entire panel and their mentors and all who assisted with the teams and on match days. Thoughts now turn to the senior league semi-final which is pencilled in for Sunday November 8.

Minors/U16 semi-finals: Our minor (U18) team will play the semi-final of the championship on November 15 while our U16 A team will meet Millford on Saturday October 31 in the league semi-final in Mallow at 11.30am.

U15: Our U15 team will travel to the Tank Field today to meet the home side in what will be their third game in the Seandún championship. Having defeated St Vincent's our game with Douglas was scheduled for last night. Results and updates of both games in next week's notes.

U13: Our U13 team head to Togher on Thursday next for a meeting with St Finbarr's under lights. Players to meet at club at 5.15pm for the bus to the Barrs.

Underage coaching: A reminder to our Sunday morning girls that there is no training tomorrow because of the bank holiday, training as usual on Tuesday night and everybody is to bring runners and boots.

Table quiz: Just to give everybody plenty of notice that we will be holding a table quiz on Thursday November 12 at the club, teams of four and a great night is assured so we ask everybody to pencil the date into your diaries and come along and support the venture on the night.

Good luck: Best of luck to Jennifer Hosford who heads to Croke Park with the Cork U14 development squad on Monday; we are sure this will not be the last time Jennifer will be on the famed pitch, enjoy the day Jennifer!

Training: Mon and Wed, Senior Minor and Junior players at 6pm; Under 13 to 16 at 5.30pm; Tuesday, Beginners up to and including U12's at 5.45pm to 7pm; Sunday, Beginners up to and including U12's at 11.45am to 1.15pm. New and old members welcome.

## BALLYGARVAN

Junior Shield County semi-final: The Ballygarvan girls put Valley Rovers under a lot of pressure in the first quarter of the County semi-final of the Junior Shield competition played last Saturday. However, the Valley's defence were difficult to penetrate and this period yielded only two points for Ballygarvan. A well-taken free by Maeve Moynihan deceived the Valley's goalie and found the back of the net. Valley Rovers quickly responded with a goal which reduced the Ballygarvan lead to just two points despite them having the bulk of possession. However, hard work led to Ballygarvan finding the net for the second time when wing forward Bernadette Keohane doubled on another free taken by Moynihan. This was followed by a point from Rosanne Byrne just before the short whistle. Michelle Dunne opened the scoring in the early minutes of the second half with her second point. Again Valley Rovers responded with a point at the other end. This was to be their final score in the game. In defence, Laura O'Callaghan, Barbara Brown, Anne Keohane and Denise Crowley made it very difficult for the Valley's forwards, and Katie O'Donovan stopped two certain goals. Sara Quilligan and Maeve Moynihan added a further three points before the final whistle. Well done and best of luck to all the girls who now look forward to the county final in this competition.

Panel: Katie O'Donovan, Anne Keohane, Barbara Brown, Roslin Ni Sheen, Aine Walsh, Laura O'Callaghan, Denise Crowley, Maeve Moynihan (1-1), Kate O'Sullivan, Bernadette Keohane (1-0), Marion Keohane, Sara Quilligan (0-3), Rosanne Byrne (0-1), Michelle Dunne (0-2), Roslin O'Halloran, Katrina Keohane, Francesca O'Halloran.

## Sinead's save denies Dillon's

Douglas  
Brian Dillon's 1-3

0-7

A NAILBITING and highly exciting Junior A League semi-final clash saw Douglas advance to the final after they held out against strong Brian Dillon's pressure with goalkeeper Sinead O'Mahony denying Dillon's from a close-in free in the dying seconds with a superb save. Points from Therese Drummond, Donna Carroll and Jane Dooley and a goal from Donna Carroll helped give Brian Dillon's an interval lead of a goal after a close, opening half where Tracey McCarthy with two pointed

freed and Semma Long with one from play ensured Douglas kept in touch.

Throughout the first half Dillon's defence was under pressure, but good play from goalkeeper Sinead Rodgers and defenders Sarah Cotter, Deirdre Ring and Sara Attridge ensured Douglas were held at bay.

The second half belonged to Douglas on the scoreboard as they began to pick off points. Jill Kelleher led the fightback with one before Semma Long had them within a score of Dillon's. Tracey McCarthy pointed a free to level matters before Siobhán O'Brien struck the winning point with five minutes remaining.

Brian Dillon's battled hard to get back into the game, but they could not breach the strong Douglas defence that stood solid in the closing stages to ensure their place in the final was secured.

Scores for Douglas: T McCarthy 0-3 (ft), S Long 0-2, J Kelleher, S O'Brien 0-1 each.

Brian Dillon's: D Carroll 1-1, T Drummond, J Dooley 0-1 each.

DOUGLAS: S O'Mahoney, S Long, N Leo, L McCarthy, C Murphy, C Driscoll, M O'Mahoney, J Kelleher, C Murphy, S O'Brien, T McCarthy, M Cullinane, O Curtin, C Kavanagh, S O'Regan. Subs: L O'Mahoney for O'Curtin (ft), D Connolly for Lorraine McCarthy (40) L Nason for C Murphy (55).

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Rodgers, S Cotter, A Dorgan, C O'Mahony, L Bradford, D Ring, S Attridge, O Ni Shuilleabhain, C Dooley, D Carroll, J Dooley, M Kelly, T Deane, S Brosnan, T Drummond. Sub: R O'Mahony for M Kelly.



St Catherine's Orla Cotter receives her Player of the Match award from Joan O'Flynn, National President of the Camogie Association during the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie final at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Subs: R O'Mahony for M Kelly.

## SARSFIELDS

U13A Imokilly final: Our girls showed tremendous courage and determination to beat Killeagh in a hard-fought U13A Imokilly League final. We entered the final with the favourites tag, having won all our games in the lead up, including our game against Killeagh, our opponents in the final. Shannon Croker got Sars on the scoreboard with an opening goal and Sars kept the pressure on the Killeagh defence for the opening quarter. With Lauren Casserly excelling at full-back, Sarsfields added another goal, this time a cracking shot from full-forward Chloe Ahern. Though scores were hard to come by we kept up the pressure with Leanne Burke, Hollie Herlihy and Maeve McCarthy proving vital. We conceded a goal and a point before the Allen twins teamed up and Lucy popped one over just before the break leaving a scoreline of 2-1 to 1-1.

With everything to play for in the second half Sars struggled to contain a determined Killeagh team. Great

points from Killeagh ensured a nail biting end to this contest and Lucy Allen added a much needed 1-1 to her days tally to keep Sars in the game. It was Lauren Casserly's pointed free which was eventually the difference between the two sides as Sars ran out winners by the narrowest of margins. Team captain, Mary Fleming thanked her coaches and mentors before giving three cheers for a gallant Killeagh team.

Team: Chloe Casey, Mary Fleming (c), Lauren Casserly, Kasey Marnell, Leanne Burke, Sarah Fahy, Maeve McCarthy, Hollie Herlihy, Lucy Allen, Shannon Croker, Chloe Ahern, Julie Allen. Subs: Amy Cooney, Elaine Connolly, Katie Barry, Michelle Barry, Clara Mullane, Courtney McCarthy, Emma Casey.

U16 C Championship semi-final: Well done to Jenny Murphy and her U16s who have qualified to play Eire Og in the U16 C county final over the next few weeks as they defeated St Finbarr's on a score line.

Sars 3-9 St Finbarr's 0-1

Scores: O Keane 0-5 (0-3 ft), A

O'Kelly-Lynch 1-0, R Egan O'Neill, K Walsh 1-0 each, Rita Crowley, Laura Barry 0-2 each, Rachel Long 0-1

Team: Sarah Fahy, Orla O'Sullivan, Sinead Gaffey, Katie Walsh, Ellen Murphy, Isabelle Kearney, Niamh O'Callaghan, Orlaith Keane, Rita Crowley, Rachel Long, Laura Barry, Clara Cashman, Lisa Fitzgerald, Jenny O'Riordan, Sarah English.

Subs Used: Alannah O'Kelly Lynch, Roslin Egan O'Neill, Audrey Byrne, Lucy Allen, Isabelle Twomey.

Minor D Championship: This was by far the toughest game we had in this competition and following a very close game we just about deserved to finish on top. One of the heroines of the night, despite struggling with an injury was Mairead O'Farrell who scored a hat-trick. Aisling Whoolley was on target with frees and Sandra Dooley contributed two points in the first half. The backs defended well especially Karen Comerford. Aisling O'Callaghan and Orla Quinn, Yvonne O'Callaghan was everywhere in the second half and helped drive them on and Laura Barry had the final say with

a well-taken point. Full-time score Sarsfields 3-9 Watergrasshill 3-3

Scores: Mairead O'Farrell 3-0; Aisling Whoolley 0-3 (0-2ft), Rita Crowley Sandra Dooley 0-2 each, Eimear O'Connell, Laura Barry 0-1 each.

Team: Sarah Gaffey, S Keane, E Meaney, O Quinn, K Comerford, I Kearney, A O'Callaghan, A Whoolley, N Hickey, R Crowley, E O'Connell, Y O'Callaghan, M O'Farrell, S Dooley, L Murphy. Subs Used: L Barry, O Keane, S Gaffey, N O'Callaghan & T Kerrigan

This team has now qualified to play Barryroe in the county final on Saturday next October 30 at 2pm in Brinney. Well done Gillian & Col

Decky Guckian U8 and U10 Street Leagues: Our Decky Guckian sponsored Street Leagues were held on Friday, October 17 in Riverstown under lights! Over 90 girls (eight teams) were involved and the atmosphere was electric. We are indebted to Decky Guckian for his sponsorship once again this year. Full report later.

Intermediate county final: Unfortunately our intermediate team came a

# Cotter relishing crack at Cashel as Catherine's seal final spot

by Therese O'Callaghan

CORK camogie star midfielder Orla Cotter is eagerly looking forward to St Catherine's first Munster senior club final appearance when they meet 2007 All-Ireland club champions Cashel at Mallow next weekend following their defeat of Clare outfit Kilmaley in the semi-final, 1-7 to 1-3, at Ballynoe on Saturday.

Building on their recent historic first Cork County championship victory,

21-year-old Cotter says the east Cork club which is home to Cork senior hurling manager Denis Walsh, is now entering bonus territory.

"When we won the Cork county final that was everything, it was our first time in the final so we were all on a high. But now that we have progressed to a Munster final, we realise there is more to achieve. We are representing Cork and for that reason alone we want to do our best," she said.

"Since winning the county final a



Orla Cotter helped see off Clare's Kilmaley at Ballynoe on Saturday.

week ago we have been busy going around with the cup, but when we went back training, our next goal was the provincial championship. We are delighted to be in the Munster final, and to have got there short three of our players is encouraging."

Cotter's sister Fiona, and Finola Neville were on school tour in Paris, and full back Noreen Mulcahy has departed to Australia since their county final triumph. Cotter and Neville will be available next weekend.

In very difficult conditions the Cork side, after playing against the cross wind, led at half time, 0-4 to 0-1, and it was Cotter's goal in the second half that finally saw off the visitors, whose green flag came in the dying stages.

Meanwhile, Clonakilty of Cork also created history reaching the Munster junior club decider after they saw off Kilkishen of Clare, 3-4 to 0-7 at O'Callaghan's Mills. They meet Waterford champions St Anne's in next weekend's final.



OCT 2009

# Camogie

with Niall Scully

HALIFAX  
Always giving you ext



## Crokes crown tough season

CROKES lost the toss but that was all. They travelled back from Portmarnock with a new and very welcome friend – the Senior B Shield.

A nice way to reach season's end, and just the spur to have the boots polished for spring.

Kilmacud and Mearnóg reached the Senior B Shield final. But where to play it? The coin landed in favour of Mearnóg.

On the scoreboard, Crokes won handsomely. But that wasn't the complete picture.

"The scoreline didn't reflect how tight the game actually was," noted the Crokes chief, Mick Noctor.

"It was a very good game. It was competitive and close right through. Mearnóg kept right in it."

"We just got the goals at the right time, and that put a bit of distance between the teams. We were very happy to win it. It meant a lot to the girls, and it's lovely to get something from the season."

It was a testing campaign for the Stillorgan team. They finished midway in the league.

"It was a bit up and down to be honest," explained Mick. "We came out on the wrong side of a couple of one- or two-point matches. But this is just the lift we wanted. It will build the confidence for next season."

Crokes have been busy building bridges of their own – from the juvenile department on to senior ranks.

"Players are now begin-

ning to come through from our juvenile structure and that's exactly what we want to see. It's really starting to happen big time, and all the work that has been going on in the juvenile grade is now paying off."

"That has always been the principal aim. Bring the kids through and give them the opportunity to play a good level of adult camogie."

"We are keen now to keep everything moving forward, and, thankfully, it's all working out well."

Kilmacud's second adult side perform in the Intermediate Division 2 standard. There's some excellent prospects among them, and also the crucial dash of experience.

This year, as always, Crokes showed all their vast experience in putting on their annual All-Ireland Sevens. Nobody does it better. From dawn to dusk the workers are out in Paire de Burea, Silver Park and all the other venues.

It's one of the highlights of the camogie year.

This September, RTÉ radio were broadcasting live from the event and they remarked on what a fabulous show it was. The facilities in Glenalbyn are also top notch. No better place to refine the first touch than the hurling wall and indoor hurling arena.

And the way things are going in the camogie compartment, they'll want to start making more space in the trophy cabinet.

### LUCAN AND BRID ARE FÉILE STARS



SILVER SERVICE: (Above) Lucan Sarsfields celebrate their Division 3 Féile na nGael win over Thomas Davis. (Below) Naomh Bríd, who beat Na Fianna in the Division 2 Féile na nGael final



## Beagan is beaming at Lucan treble

DOWN in the village they are still talking about the Dublin U-15A Championship final. Match of the season between Lucan Sarsfields and St Oliver Plunkett's/ER.

Both clubs have worked hard at the camogie craft over the years. The harvest is there for all to see. Lucan won it by a point. It came from Orla Beagan in the eighth minute of injury-time. It was one of those days when you wanted to give the teams a share of the Cup for six months each.

"It was just a great occasion," enthused Lucan PRO, Gary Beagan. "Every girl did their bit to squeeze the title from such a gallant Plunkett's side."

The triumph capped a memorable day for Lucan. They completed a treasured treble.

"Winning three County Championship titles was unbelievable," added Gary. "Camogie continues to grow in Lucan. We have two teams at every age group and the numbers keep on increasing in the Nursery."

Lucan's under-14s also reached a final, and the 12th Lock still echoes to the drum beat of the club's famous All-Ireland Féile heroics.

It's the first time Lucan have secured the U-15 title. It suggests bright days ahead for the club, and indeed Dublin camogie.

The 15s' success was backboned by outstanding displays from goalkeeper, Kate Whyte, and defenders, Grace Mulhern and Ailise Dowling. The 13s also defeated Plunkett's in the final. Solid defending was also critical in a close first half. Aoife Clancy was the proud captain, Amy Conway scored 3-1 and Laura Morrissey was rewarded with the player-of-the-match distinction.

The Lucan 12s had just two points to spare over St Jude's. Orla Carroll and Amy Conroy got the goals. Conroy got the player-of-the-match accolade. When the Jude's pressure was at its height, she retreated to midfield and made some telling clearances.

The overall players-of-the-day plaudits went to the hosts, St Brigid's, who did such a splendid job. The Dublin Camogie Board couldn't have asked for more.

With such effort being put in, on and off the pitch, no wonder the small ball is smiling brighter than ever. Someday soon it might just bounce back all the way up the Jones' Road.

## Board notes

■ Many thanks to Erins Isle for hosting the finals of Div 2 and 3 of Féile na nGael and to Thomas Davis for hosting Division 3 of competition.

■ 92 girls from across Dublin turned up for the trials on Saturday and Sunday to select next year's U14 panels.

■ Eimear Butler, Aine Fanning, Jacinta Buckley, Joan Twomey, Fiona Ní Shúilleabháin and Paul Beecher observed the girls and selected the panels to go forward.

■ Training starts in St Brigid's next Sunday morning 1st November at 9am, all selected girls have been informed and should attend.

■ Many thanks to all who participated in the U8-9 Blitz in the Phoenix Park.

■ Convention is on Saturday 28 November in St Olafs.

■ Clubs are reminded to submit their articles for Dublin GAA Yearbook 2010 immediately to [dubyearbook2010@live.ie](mailto:dubyearbook2010@live.ie).

## Berkeley takes two

THE Berkeley Road keeps on picking up the awards. Ciara Berkeley is one of the finest young players in Dublin.

She achieved a nice distinction lately – two player-of-the-match awards in the same day.

Firstly, Ciara helped Vincent's to the Dublin U-14 Championship title. She was outstanding as Vins beat Lucan in the final.

Then, a few hours later, she came on as sub as Vincent's defeated St Oliver Plunkett's/ER in the U-16 final.

Ciara contributed 1-6, and again she was selected as the player of the match. Not a bad day's work.

Her quality is well known at this stage. Last April she collected the Hal-

fax/Evening Herald Dublin GAA Player-of-the-Month award.

Back then she had excelled as Vincent's lifted the Dublin Féile Division 1 crown. Ciara was voted the player of the tournament.

That month she was also brilliant against Wexford in the Leinster Championship. She gave a display that even had the Slaney folk applauding.

At Paire Naomh Uinsionn, the Marino management can't speak highly enough of her.

Her dedication to training is an example to all.

She's the essential team player. Long may the Berkeley Beat keep flourishing.

## MEET THE DUBS

ANNE GRIFFIN

CLUB: Ballyboden St Endas. AGE: 21

OCCUPATION: Insurance Representative

CLUB HONOURS: Won Leinster and Dublin Senior Championships 2008; Dublin championship 2006

INTER-COUNTY HONOURS: Junior All-Ireland titles 2005, 2006

OTHER SPORTS PLAYED: Football and basketball

WHAT'S ON IPOD/MP3 AT THE MOMENT:

James Morrison, Calvin Harris

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE RECEIVED: Think positive and train as if you were playing a match

ANY SUPERSTITIONS? Not really

just have to put on fake tan

and paint my nails

SHOULD CAMOGIE HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME RULES

AS HURLING? Yes

PERSON YOU ADMIRE MOST:

Joe Canning





# Éire Óg will be looking to gain revenge in final

**SUNDAY,**  
Evening Echo SBCC final,  
Éire Óg v Ballincollig,  
Coachford, 2.30pm.

**AN ALL Mid-Cork clash in Coachford as Éire Óg and Ballincollig battle it out the Evening Echo Senior B Championship crown on Sunday.**

Defeated finalists last season Éire Óg have continued to make steady progress at senior B level reaching the semi-final stage two years ago and they will be hoping to finally breach the gap and be crowned champions.

They are a strong outfit and having knocked out a fancied Killeagh side in the semi-final, they will be confident that they can give a repeat performance against their neigh-

**By MARY NEWMAN**  
Camogie

bours Ballincollig.

The experience gained last year has been invaluable to their younger players. They lost out just one game in the group series and that was to Ballincollig by six points but at that stage in the competition they were almost certain of their semi-final spot.

They have fine young players in Katie McCarthy, Ella Kelleher, Claire Meaney, Roisin Murray and Erin Corkery, who made a return this season after an absence. Add in players of the calibre of Siobhan Gleeson, Ciara and Alanna McKenna and Margaret O'Herlihy and you have a fine solid group of players.

Ballincollig powered their way to the final with an impressive semi-fi-

nal win over Glen Rovers.

Last season's junior county champions came into this year's Senior B grade as one of the teams tipped to take the title and so far this season they have looked impressive.

They have put in a huge amount of ground work since early season and they have continued to grow in confidence. They came through their group undefeated with good victories over Newcestown, Aghabullogue, Bishopstown, Éire Óg and Valley Rovers.

They are a young side, the majority who have come up the ranks together. Denise Cronin is a member of the Cork senior panel and is hugely experienced while Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley, Patricia Buttimer and Kate O'Donoghue were part of the county intermediate squad.

They have plenty of young players

such as Aisleen Sheehan, Alison Coughlan, Aoife Cotter and Samantha Coomey and an indication of the strength of their panel is that their team captain failed to make the starting 15 last day out. It remains to be seen if she can stake a claim to a place in the starting 15 on Sunday.

When the sides met in the group series Ballincollig's ability to pick off points proved crucial as they recorded a 1-14 to 1-8 win.

Éire Óg will have learned a lot from that game. With players on both sides having battled together as Muskerry lifted the senior county title in 2007, it makes Sunday's clash all the more interesting.

Ballincollig go in as favourites but that will not bother an Éire Óg side who all through have shown fierce commitment and spirit.

It promises to be a thriller.



Ballincollig's Patricia Buttimer strikes off on a fine solo run. She will be a key player in the all-Mid Cork final on Sunday.

Picture: Damien Quirke

## Catherine's can end busy time with final win

**SATURDAY,**  
Munster Camogie Senior Club final,  
St Catherine's (Cork) v Cashel (Tipperary),  
Mallow 2.45pm

ST CATHERINE'S bid to become the first Cork club in 13 years to capture the Munster Club Championship title when they take on holders Cashel in Mallow on Saturday afternoon **writes LINDA MELLERICK.**

Glen Rovers last captured the title in 1996 and for a county as strong as Cork it is too long since a Munster camogie title came to Leeside.

St Catherine's have had a hectic number of weeks with a drawn county semi-final, replay, county final and Munster semi-final played within the space of three weeks.

They are on the crest of a wave after their first ever county title success and will need to be in top form again against the might of Cashel.

A cracking Tipperary County final which went to extra time saw Burgess lead Cashel by a point three

minutes into injury time in the second half of extra-time. Emily Hayden broke through for the goal that broke Burgess hearts to win by 2-15 to 2-13.

Cashel have a number of experienced inter-county players with Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Una O'Dwyer, Emily Hayden, Cora Hennessy and Jill Horan among their number.

Cashel overcame Killeedy in the Munster semi-final on October 17 while St Catherine's had four points to spare over Kilmaley of Clare last Saturday, 1-7 to 1-3.

Once again Orla Cotter was the driving force behind St Catherine's victory, a win which was never in doubt despite the low scoring.

**SATURDAY,**  
Munster Junior Club Championship Final,  
St Anne's (Waterford) v Clonakilty (Cork),  
Mallow, 1pm.

Cork Intermediate champions Clonakilty take on Waterford standard bearers St Anne's in the opening game in Mallow on Saturday as both battle for the pro-

vincial junior club championship crown.

Clon had to battle hard before overcoming the strong challenge posed by Clare champions Kilkishen on Saturday last, while St Anne's turned in powerful display as they disposed of Limerick champions Killeady. They are a strong outfit with plenty of experience in their line out, among the players who will figure strongly in the side are inter-county players Karen Kelly, Mairead Murphy Jenny Simpson Charlotte Raher and Pauline Cunningham. The game is continuing to grow in the county and there has been huge progress made at inter-county level also with the county underage and adult teams having all performed exceptionally well in the current season.

Clonakilty will go into Sunday's clash determined to record the first leg of a Cork Club provincial double. They have excellent players in Sharon Whelton, Sinead O'Neill, Hannah Coughlan and captain Juanita Brennan and they will give it everything in the quest for the club's first provincial title.





Shauna Ahern, Cork, in action against Joan O'Leary, Kilkenny, during the Coillte Camogie Development Squads 2009, which took place in Croke Park. Coillte Camogie Development Squads day, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

## Facile victory in camogie

**CAMOGIE/SHINTY:** Goals from Cavan's Margaret McBride and Ashling Corr of Tyrone proved vital as Ireland recorded a 2-2 to 0-0 victory over Scotland at Inverness. **Scorers** — Ireland: M McBride, A Corr 1-0 each; C McSorley, L Day 0-1 each.

# Cashel cruise to title win again

## Munster Senior Club Camogie final

Cashel (Tipperary)	4-20
St Catherine's (Cork)	0-12



**Brendan Larkin**  
Mallow

**C**ASHEL, led by county star Clare Grogan, had little difficulty retaining their Munster senior championship title at Mallow on Saturday.

Vastly experienced against a side that were appearing in their first final, the Tipperary champions held all the aces in terms of strength, skill and score-taking and had things wrapped when leading 3-12 to 0-7 at the break.

Apart from Grogan who scored 1-8, Cashel has plenty of stars in centre back Philly Fogarty, midfielders Jill Horan and Linda Grogan, while up front Alison Lonergan, Cora Hennessy, and Emily Hayden were threats.

It was tough luck on St Catherine's who won the Cork title for the first time last month but their attacks could make no impact against a well marshalled Cashel defence while they were over-reliant on midfielder Orla Cotter for scores.

By comparison Cashel had no lack of firepower and goals from Lonergan (2) and Hayden had them 14 points clear after a wind assisted first half.

St Catherine's threatened a goal minutes after the restart but Denise Twomey blazed over the bar and the Cork side never threatened there after. Grogan continued to impress and her hard work was rewarded with a goal at the three quarters stage.

**Scorers for Cashel:** C. Grogan 1-8 (0-2 frees); A. Lonergan 2-2; E. Hayden 1-1; C. Hennessy 0-4; C. Dwyer 0-2; L. Grogan, J. Horan, P. Bullfin 0-1 each.

**Scorers for St. Catherine's:** O. Cotter 0-7 (0-6 frees, 0-1 45); Denise Twomey 0-4; Deirdre Twomey 0-1.

**CASHEL:** H. Breen; C. Ryan, U. Dwyer, N. Dwyer; P. Bullfin, P. Fogarty, J. McGrath; J. Horan, L. Grogan; C. Hennessy, M. Hennessy, C. Grogan; A. Lonergan, E. Hayden, C. Dwyer.

**Subs:** S. Hayes for C. Dwyer (45); D. Ryan for C. Ryan (50); C. O'Sullivan for A. Lonergan (55); J. Peters for M. Hennessy (55); S. O'Donnell for C. Hennessy (58).

**ST. CATHERINE'S:** D. Leahy; O. Neville, F. Noonan, Y. O'Neill; A. M. Hayes, L. Power, C. Motherway; O. Cotter, M. O'Keefe; Deirdre Twomey, F. Neville, F. Cotter; Denise Twomey, E. Ronayne, L. Higgins.

**Sub:** S. Noonan for Y. O'Neill (45).

**Referee:** P. Whelan (Waterford).

## CORK COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL OF HONOUR

Glen Rovers .....	22
Old Aloysians .....	15
Imokilly .....	6
Killeagh .....	5
Eire Og .....	4
Bishopstown .....	4
South Pres P.P. ....	3
St. Aloysius School ..	2
Lee Hosiery .....	2
Blackrock .....	2
Cloughduv .....	3
Muskerry .....	2
Mayfield .....	1
U.C.C. ....	1
Sarsfields .....	1
Fr. O Neills .....	1
Carrigdhoun .....	1
St Finbarrs .....	1
Douglas .....	1



# Kelly the hero as St Anne's prove too strong for Clon

**Munster Junior Club Camogie  
final**

**St Anne's (Waterford) 3-6  
Clonakilty (Cork) 0-9**

by **Brendan Larkin**

THREE second half goals propelled St Anne's to victory in this Munster club junior camogie final at Mallow on Saturday.

The victors play at senior level in Waterford and this proved to be the decisive factor in a keenly contested decider.

St Anne's laid the foundations for victory in the first half while playing against the wind. They defended superbly against the incessant Clonakilty pressure with goalkeeper Carolyn Ahearn and corner back Lorna Behan to the fore.

The Waterford champions turned over a point down (0-5 to 0-4) after the Clonakilty tactic of playing only two in the full forward line while aided by the wind backfired.

It was still close for 15 minutes of the second half but once the outstanding Karen Kelly set up Kate Rockett for her side's first goal, St Anne's sensed victory. Two more goals followed quickly from Kelly and Zoe O'Donoghue as the Waterford girls took control. They ran out comfortable winners despite the best efforts of Clonakilty's Erica Jennings, Sinead O'Neill and Sharon Whelton who hit seven points.

**Scorers for St Anne's:** K Kelly 1-5 (0-4f); K Rockett, Z O'Donoghue 1-0 each; J Simpson 0-1.  
**Scorers for Clonakilty:** S Whelton 0-7 (0-5f); S O'Neill 0-2.

**ST ANNE'S:** C Ahearn, E Fitzgerald, L Mooney, L Behan, C Whyte, A Maher, S Kavanagh, C M Maher, K Rockett, N Rockett, J Simpson, M Murphy, Z O'Donoghue, K Kelly, M C Dunphy.  
**Sub:** S Cummins for M C Dunphy (55).

**CLONAKILTY:** A Deasy, N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forrester, A Kearns, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn, C O'Regan, H O'Regan, M O'Donovan, E Jennings, C Nagle, S Whelton, S O'Neill, H Coughlan.  
**Sub:** E O'Donoghue for H Coughlan (45).

**Referee:** E Browne (Tipperary).

**Emily Hayden:**  
"Cork clubs  
always difficult  
to beat."

Picture: Des Barry



## Cashel wary of Catherine's challenge

**Munster Club camogie finals**

by **Therese O'Callaghan**

IT is difficult to predict a winner of today's Munster senior club camogie final given the ease with which Cashel and St Catherine's of Cork have progressed to the decider.

However the Tipperary outfit certainly have the advantage in the experience department — they were crowned All-Ireland club champions in 2007 and claimed the national Kilmacud Sevens title for the first time in

September. Despite those stats, county star Emily Hayden is warning against complacency when they travel to Mallow today.

"Every player needs to play well, and sometimes you find on the day it is not the big names that will pull you over the line."

Hayden, who is also chairperson of the Tipp club (with her mother Jean as secretary), believes Cork clubs are always difficult to beat.

"Our aim was to win the county because we didn't get to the final last year. Winning that was as good as winning the All Ireland. But, now that we

are in the Muster final we will be giving it our best shot. We don't know too much about St Catherine's. We know there are lots of clubs in Cork and over the past few years different winners have come through, so their championship is very competitive."

St Catherine's best known player is Orla Cotter and the Cork midfielder is key to the East Cork outfit's hopes. However the Rebel champions are without full back Noreen Mulcahy who left for Australia after their county final success. The curtain-raiser is the Munster junior final between Clonakilty and St Anne's Waterford.

### CAMOGIE

#### MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

**Final:** Cashel (Tipperary) 4-20 (C Grogan 1-9 (0-4 frees), A Loneragan 2-1, E Hayden 1-1, C Hennessy 0-3, C Dwyer 0-3, S Hayes, L Grogan, J Horan 0-1 each)  
**St Catherine's (Cork) 0-12** (O Cotter 0-7 (frees), Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2).

**MUNSTER JUNIOR CLUB Final:** St Anne's (Waterford) 3-6 (K Kelly 1-5 (0-4 frees), K Rockett, Z O'Donoghue 1-0 each, J Simpson 0-1) **Clonakilty (Cork) 0-9** (S Whelton 0-7 (0-5 frees), S O'Neill 0-2).

OCT. 2009

## Concession of two late goals costs Clonakilty the title

By **MARY NEWMAN**

**Munster junior camogie**

**St Ann's (Waterford) 3-6  
Clonakilty (Cork) 0-9**

IT WAS a bridge too far for Cork representatives Clonakilty as Waterford champions St Ann's lifted the Munster Junior Club Championship title in Mallow on Saturday as two late goals finally sealed the contest.

Clon failed to make use of the strong wind in the opening half and leading by just one point at the half-time whistle it

was always going to be tough.

Through the opening half they created plenty of chances but the St Anne's defence held firm, Annette Maher at centre-back was a tower of strength, while captain Mairéad Murphy and Niamh Rockett did huge work around the field, as they battled hard to stay within striking distance of Clonakilty.

Sharon Whelton and Sinead O'Neill hit five Clon first-half points in reply to Karen Kelly who was on target with four for St Anne's.

From the early stages of the game it was obvious that Kelly was a big player for the Waterford champions, her work

rate was huge as she roamed from full-forward, causing the Clon defence a lot of problems — but it was 0-5 to 0-4 in favour of Clon at the interval.

On the resumption it was Clonakilty who made the running as they dug deep against the strong wind. With Hazel O'Regan dropping back as an extra defender they limited St Ann's to just one point in the third quarter — Jenny Simpson striking one in reply as Sharon Whelton converted two Clon frees to stretch their advantage, 0-7 to 0-5.

Over the hour it was very much a stop-start game with lots of frees and it continued as Whelton converted two for

Clon while Kelly struck one.

Twenty minutes in St Anne's were back level with Karen Kelly setting up Kate Rockett for the game's opening goal and inside 10 minutes we had another two, Kelly striking a long-range free to the roof of the net to give St Anne's the lead with eight minutes remaining.

Clon battled hard to get on level but the St Ann's defence stood firm and one minute into injury time they put the result beyond doubt, Zoe O'Donoghue finishing to the net to give Clonakilty no way back.

● St Anne's full-forward Karen Kelly

was named player of the match, which was sponsored by Fred Archer Jewellers, Cork.

**Scorers for St Anne's:** K Kelly 1-5 (0-4f); K Rockett, Z O'Donoghue 1-0 each; J Simpson 0-1.  
**Clonakilty:** S Whelton 0-7 (0-5f); S O'Neill 0-2.  
**ST ANNE'S:** C Ahearn, E Fitzgerald, L Mooney, L Behan, C Whyte, A Maher, S Kavanagh, C M Maher, K Rockett, N Rockett, J Simpson, M Murphy (c); Z O'Donoghue, K Kelly, M C Dunphy.

**CLONAKILTY:** A Deasy, N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forrester, A Kearns, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn, C O'Regan, H O'Regan, J Brennan (c), E Jennings, M O'Donovan, H Coughlan, S O'Neill, S Whelton.

**Sub:** E O'Donoghue for H Coughlan (44).  
**Referee:** Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).



## Buttevant come out on top

Buttevant 1-9  
Na Piarasigh 0-8

BUTTEVANT made it a double when they captured the Junior B league title as they defeated Na Piarasigh under the lights in Mallow, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Buttevant were on the scoreboard first thanks to a point from captain Dawn Farrell but Na Piarasigh levelled quickly with a point from Trisha Coleman.

Buttevant, with Eimear Healy causing the Na Piarasigh defence a lot of bother, hit the front with a goal and two points from Healy.

Piarasigh replied with two Gillian Morrissey points.

Buttevant put the Na Piarasigh defence under a lot of first-half pressure and with Eimear Healy adding two points to their tally, they extended their lead as Danielle Moynihan replied with one for Na Piarasigh to leave Buttevant ahead 1-5 to 0-4 at the interval.

The sides swapped early second-half points Orla Bourke on target for Na Piarasigh with Eimear Healy again striking Buttevant's before Michelle O'Keefe adding one to put them five points clear.

However, Na Piarasigh upped the pace and came more into the game. They had the Buttevant lead down to three points as Gillian Morrissey and Orla Bourke, with one each, cut the deficit.

Buttevant rallied and Eimear Healy pointed a free but again Orla Bourke replied but that was Na Piarasigh last score as the Buttevant defence held firm.

**Scorers for Buttevant:** E Healy 1-7 (0-3f, 0-1 45"), D Farrell, M O'Keefe 0-2 each.

**Na Piarasigh:** G Morrissey 0-3(f's), O Bourke 0-3 (0-2f), T Coleman, D Moynihan 0-2 each.

**BUTTEVANT:** D O'Keefe, J O'Flynn, M Sheedy, N Crowley, A Walsh, T Roche, S Breen, D Farrell (c), E Harrington, S Buckley, N Curran, M O'Keefe, D O'Callaghan, S Sheehan, E Healy.

**Subs:** R Harrington for D O'Callaghan (40), E Madigan for S Buckley (50), L Harrington for M O'Keefe (50).

**NA PIARASIGH:** L Kelly, N O'Donovan, S Sloane, T O'Donovan, L Burns, J Cronin, C Allen, G Morrissey, P Kearney, O Bourke, D Moynihan, D O'Regan, K Delea, M Coade, T Coleman.

**Sub:** S Roche for K Delea (55).

# Douglas looking to finish on high note

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie news

ASIDE from the Senior B championship final tomorrow in Coachford at 2.30pm where Éire Óg and Ballincollig battle it out for honours, four competitions, two at junior level and two at minor will be decided this weekend.

It will be a busy afternoon in Brinny with two minor championship titles up for grabs.

In the minor C final Douglas will field their second team at this level as they take on Enniskeane.

Douglas had a good victory over Newtownshandrum to book their place in the final, they have a wealth of talent at their disposal and players such as Alison Peate, Sinead Duggan, Nicola Leo and Claire Shine are experienced campaigners.

Enniskeane overcame Tracton to make it to the final and they will be hoping that players such as Kate McCarthy, Sinead Curtin, Louise Duggan and Aisling O'Callaghan will guide them to victory.

The board organised a Minor D Championship this season and Sarsfields, who are enjoying a good season at underage level have made it through to meet Barryroe to decide the destination of the title.

Sarsfields will field a strong 15, many of whom lined out with the club's intermediate side that contested the county final recently, players such as Rita Crowley, Orlaith Keane and Aisling Whooley will be vital to Sars.

Barryroe have worked hard with their underage section and they are determined to go all the way.

Jennifer Madden, Jennifer White, Niamh Madden and Emma Deasy will give it everything as Barryroe strive to end the season on a winning note.

At junior level it's a repeat of the county championship final when Kildorrery and Castletyons renew



Tracton, winners of the South East U13B Championship.

rivalry for the league title. The sides served up one of the best finals at any level when they battled it out for the championship crown where the standard of camogie was superb.

Just three points separated them at the final whistle as Kildorrery took the title. No doubt Castletyons will be determined to reverse that result and this time out they will have fine performers in Emily Sexton, Michelle McAteer and Sinead Connell.

Kildorrery will be equally determined to make it a double they will be hoping to welcome back Orla Murphy to their forward line.

Players such as Aoife Hennessy, Valerie McCormack and Laura Hanley all battling it out to the finish to help them secure the league title.

Again this season the junior plate

competitions have proved a huge success for teams who did not progress in the championship.

The Junior C final has Grenagh and Ballinora in action and both clubs have worked hard to reach the decider.

Both sides will feature a lot of young players Grenagh have Cork Intermediate and minor player Aileen Sheehan in their line out and she is joined by Eleanor Barry Lisa Buckley and Aine Murphy but Ballinora will be hoping to bring their first adult trophy in several years.

The junior shield competition is confined to clubs with second teams and it's down to semi-final stage for the second teams from St Finbarr's and Inniscarra who will meet in search of a place in the final where

the second string from Ballygravan await.

The juvenile board have just one game down for decision this weekend as Milford and Glen Rovers meet in the U16 A league semi-final in Mallow today Saturday.

### TOMORROW

**Minor Junior Club final:** St Anne's (Waterford) v Clonsilla, 1pm, Mallow.  
**Minor Camogie Senior Club final:** Cashel (Tipperary) v St Catherine's, 2.45pm, Mallow.

**Minor D Championship final:** Sarsfield's v Barryroe Brinny 1.30pm.  
**Minor C Championship final:** Douglas v Enniskeane, Brinny 3pm.

**Junior C Plate final:** Grenagh v Ballinora, Ballyanley 3pm.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**Evening Echo Senior B Championship final:** Ballincollig v Éire Óg, Coachford 2.30pm.  
**Junior B League final:** Kildorrery v Castletyons, Ballynoe 2pm.  
**Junior Shield semi-final:** Inniscarra v St Finbarr's, Ballincollig 1.30pm.

### YOUGHAL

WE had prepared well for the county junior plate semi-final coming off the back of a great win in the last round but unfortunately it wasn't to be for the girls.

They had a lot to fight for coming into the second half as they were not playing to their potential and failed to score in the first half. At half time there were some changes bringing on Edel O'Connell and Amy Metherway, the spirits were raised when our captain Kelma McCarthy scored a fine goal. We battled on and kept Grenagh at bay but a couple of unlucky goals resulted in the heads down and chasing back the scores again.

We would like to thank our trainer Mark Burke for dedicating his time to us this year and we look forward to next season and his involvement, we would also like to thank our sponsors The Credit Union Youghal for sponsoring our jerseys and John Sloane Construction for sponsoring our club hoodies. Thank you to the parents and supporters who have braved the wind and rain and travelling throughout the year.

Next on the camogie calendar is the AGM which is held on November 30 November at 7pm in GAA club.

Congratulations to Shannen Joyce who played with Cork development squad on Bank Holiday Monday in Croke Park she had a great game.

The table quiz was held in the GAA Club on Saturday night, and was a great success.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the November 7 for the dinner dance in the GAA Hall which promises to be a great night, you can contact Sinead for your tickets on 087-9338829 after 6pm please.

### MUSKERRY

We are heading to the final games in the Muskerry underage competition the U13A was played last Saturday, where Éire Óg were victorious over Inniscarra. The U13 B final between Ballincollig and Aghabullogue takes place on Sunday, November 8, in Ballyanley. In the U11A Ballincollig play Aghabullogue on Saturday, November 7, in Ballyanley. Ballinora await the winners of Blarney and Éire Óg in the U11B.

### BUTTEVANT

Avondhu U13B final: Buttevant won the Avondhu U13B title with a victory over near neighbours Ballyhea on Bank Holiday Monday.

The scoreline Buttevant 3-9 Ballyhea 0-1 might suggest this was an easy victory but as sometimes happens the game was a different story. Buttevant had a great start and caught Ballyhea with 1-4 in the opening 10 minutes.

Ballyhea came more into the game and with better finishing should have made their dominance count at this

stage of the game. The half-time score was Buttevant 3-5 Ballyhea 0-1.

The second-half started brightly with Ballyhea dominant for the opening quarter but again their forwards couldn't turn this possession into scores.

The latter part of the game was more even with Buttevant adding four more points in the closing stages.

This is a young team and they should take great pride in the skill, determination and all round team work they showed on the day.

Credit to Sean Guinane, Geraldine Barrett, Anthony O'Mahony, Leona Cronin and Deirdre Fitzgerald for the work they have put in with this team all year. Scorers for Buttevant Katie Cronin 1-6, Laura Fitzgerald 1-3, Charlotte O'Mahony 1-0.

On Friday last, under lights in Mallow, our junior B county champions completed the double by defeating Na Piarasigh in an absorbing contest.

Having beaten Na Piarasigh in the championship semi-final, Na Piarasigh came into this game in determined mood.

Like the previous encounters between these two sides this was a tough, determined and skillful game with every ball contested to the fullest.

Buttevant started brightly and were shown the way to victory by their captain Dawn Farrell, who

scored a lovely point from play with one minute played.

Na Piarasigh levelled matters a minute later with a point and we had the lion's share of possession in the opening half with some excellent scores by Eimear Healy left the score at 1-5 to 0-4 at half time.

At the start of the second half both teams shared points and an excellent point from play by Michelle O'Keefe had Buttevant five points to the good five minutes into the second half.

Piarasigh responded with two unanswered points. With just a goal between the sides, Na Piarasigh sensed they were in with a chance going into the last quarter but we dug deep to see off this challenge and a point from a free by Eimear Healy again put four between the sides.

Na Piarasigh responded with their last point on 47 minutes. Buttevant were getting tired with 10 minutes left on the clock and a triple substitution by the Buttevant mentors added fresh legs to the tiring team. Emma Madigan, Roberta Harrington and Laura Harrington replaced three girls who ran themselves to a stand still not just in this match but all year long and the contribution they made in every game cannot be understated.

Darina O'Callaghan, Michelle O'Keefe and Sonia Buckley. As the last 10 minutes ticked by Na Piarasigh came in search of a goal but like many

## Camogie round-up

teams this year they found the Buttevant backs in mean form.

The backs were the foundation on which this double was achieved and Tracy Roche at centre back gave a master class all year while wing backs Amanda Walsh and Sarah Breen excelled.

The full-back line were absolutely awesome. Marie Sheedy, Jane O'Flynn and Nuala Crowley were consistently good. In goal the best keeper in the county, Dawn O'Keefe, was a star.

As the final minutes ticked by Tempers started to fray as the city team tried desperately to force a goal, but the last word came from the Buttevant forwards when Niamh Curran and Sharon Sheehan, who like their team mates are after an outstanding year, carved out an opening for Healy our top scorer to seal victory. The midfield of Eimear Harrington and Dawn Farrell ran the show; they were like conductors conducting an orchestra.

Other girls who played a massive part in this success but were missed on the night, Triona O'Connell, Alyse

Madigan, Ann Cronin, Sinead Cronin, Karen Burke, Jenny Buckley, Liz O'Connell and Michelle Lee.

Scorers: Eimear Healy 1-7 (3frees, 1.45) Dawn Farrell 0-1 (Michelle O'Keefe 0-1, Well Done to Phil Healy, Mick Burke, Robert Harrington and John Madigan).

Condolences: The camogie club would like to express its deepest sympathy to the O'Connell family, Lisgriffin on their recent loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Kids fancy dress halloween party: There is a kids fancy dress Halloween party in the GAA Hall on Saturday 31st from 4 to 6pm. Entry is €3 all welcome activities include, Dancing, Face Painting, Fancy Dress Games and many more this should be great fun for all the kids so come along and have some FUN.

### ST CATHERINE'S

Munster Senior Championship semi-final On Saturday last, we played host to Kilmaley from Clare in the semi-final of the Munster senior camogie championship. This game was played at 11am to facilitate the





LINDA MELLERICK

I RECEIVED a number of texts from friends who said they thoroughly enjoyed the county final last Sunday week between St Catherine's and Milford.

I came home from Páirc Uí Rinn myself with a spring in my step.

The first half wasn't the best but the second half was excellent. When Milford pulled a four-point deficit back and the game was there for the taking the crowd really got behind both sides.

The buzz was incredible. There was a great crowd at the game and it reinforces the fact that an early Sunday afternoon game is the perfect time to host such an occasion.

Moreover, the compact capacity of Páirc Uí Rinn fully captures the enthusiasm of the supporters. It really was a great day, helped in no small way by the attendance of Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta Na nGael, Joan O'Flynn.

Her greeting the players before the national anthem all added to the importance of what is the biggest day in our local calendar year and in the lives of so many players.

One second in sport can change a player, club or county's year. I was thinking Sunday evening that if substitute Lisa Higgins didn't get that equalising point in injury time in the semi-final against St Finbarr's then 2009 would have been a completely different season for St Catherine's to the way it turned out.

As it happens St Catherine's won the replay handily enough and then as underdogs won their first county senior title.

Orla Cotter also grew as a player during those three games. Orla has had a great season but her performances in those crucial games raised her bar considerably and she is now the household name in Cork.

Credit must go to the management team of St Catherine's. Tactically they played a blinder. Many possibly felt that placing Orla at centre-back during the drawn semi-final was done solely to mark Vivienne Harris.

However, this was done because it was felt Ballinlough was a small pitch and midfield could be somewhat bypassed. When Orla O'Sullivan goaled just after half-time St Catherine's were quick to react and brought a

# I played my part in the Cats' win

## Rockies through to final

Blackrock 3-9  
Ballyhea 4-3



St Catherine's Finola Neville and Elaine O'Riordan, Milford, battle for the sliotar during the Evening Echo Cork County Senior camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

player back to stand in front of their full-back and stop the supply.

When the replay was fixed for Carrigtwohill, Orla reverted to mid-field despite the fact that Viv was still operating at centre-forward. Her performance that night was unblemished as she ran riot in the open spaces.

For the county final, St Catherine's didn't alter their defence, despite all the talk beforehand about Milford's lethal forward division. Goals do win games and it was St Catherine's who got the crucial one.

Defence is the best form of attack and when I went to congratulate Pat Clancy after the game, I said to him: 'Go on, have a go at me about the goals', referring to my preview when I said Milford were favourites due to the fact they score goals, whereas St Catherine's typically don't.

Laughing, Pat informed me that he used my preview in his motivational speech on the Friday before the game, before the game itself and at half-time.

Therefore, I'm thinking that seeing as I played such a significant role in St Catherine's success that an invitation to their victory dinner is surely on the cards.

I was happy to see the Twomey's play such fine games, particularly Denise who has been plagued with injury in the past. I can't go without mentioning the tremendous back line of Faith Noonan, Noírin Mulcahy, Yvonne O'Neill, Orna Neville, Liz Power and Carolyn Motherway.

They were absolutely superb. No star performers or big names, each one as honest and dependable as the next. This was a confident, honest ef-

fort by all involved. St Catherine's victory was great for Cork Camogie, just as Douglas's victory was twelve months ago.

Well done and a sincere congratulations to all.

Since then, St Catherine's have marched on. Just six days after their county final victory they defeated Kilmaley of Clare by four points to advance to a first Munster senior club final and they take on Cashel today in Mallow at 2.45pm.

This will be their greatest test of all against a team which contains a vast amount of Tipperary intercounty players.

But then St Catherine's take each game in their stride and will take to the field for their fifth championship match in four weeks in confident form.

BLACKROCK booked their place in the JACL final with a super display as they knocked out county champions Ballyhea under lights in Mourneabbey on Wednesday last.

A close opening half saw Blackrock lead by a point at the end of the opening half Valerie Norberg with a goal and one from a Doireann Ni Mhuire penalty were vital as Blackrock set the pace.

Cait Kelleher hit a point while Ni Mhuire had two. Ballyhea kept in touch with Maria Walsh, Stephanie McInerney and Sarah Douglas on target as they trailed 2-3 to 2-2 at the interval.

Through the opening half the Blackrock defence came under a lot of pressure but with Fiona Norberg in goal bringing off some excellent saves and Roisin De Faoite at centre-back steady, Blackrock held the advantage.

From the start of the second half Blackrock kept the pressure on and they worked hard to extend their lead striking a goal and three points without reply early in the second half as Ballyhea battled to stay in contention.

Blackrock's Grace Mulqueen hit a goal with de Faoite and Mhuire adding points.

Ballyhea hit back with Walsh, McInerney and Douglas added two goal and a point to the tally but the goal belonged to the Blackrock girls as they held on to their lead to book themselves a place in the final where they will meet Douglas.

**Scorers for Blackrock:** D Ni Mhuiri 1-6 (1-0 pen, 0-1 45), G Mulqueen 1-1 Valerie Norberg 1-0 R de Faoite, C Kelleher 0-1 each.

**Ballyhea:** S Mc Inerney 2-0, M Walsh 1-3, S Douglas 1-0.

**BLACKROCK:** F Norberg; T Cummins, C Meaney, J Irwin; M Hurley, R de Faoite, S Naughton; K O'Brien, C Kelleher; K Hickey, K Fleming, D O'Leary; D Ni Mhuiri, V Norberg, S Carroll. Subs: M Moynihan for V Norberg, G Mulqueen for S Carroll.

**BALLYHEA:** C O'Keefe; C O'Doherty, A Morrissey, V Hennessey; M Mc Carthy, K O'Leary, L O'Kelly; M Walsh, S Douglas; N Morrissey, M Coleman, S McInerney; G Crowley, M Walsh (c), T Cagney.

## by Mary Newman

Kilmaley club players and supporters who were anxious to see their hurling team who were also involved in championship action on Saturday afternoon. We played against a very strong wind in the first half and dominated play in most areas. By the 25th minute we had pointed on four occasions. Kilmaley were to register their only score of the half when they pointed in the 30th minute.

We started the second half brightly with a goal and three points in quick succession to establish an eight-point lead.

Though well in control for the remainder of the game, we failed to add to our score. Kilmaley added a further point and a goal deep in injury time to leave us with a four-point advantage at the final whistle.

Our performance on the day was adequate but certainly will not do in our forthcoming Munster final clash with 2007 All-Ireland Club champions, Cashel, which is fixed for Mallow today at 2.45pm.

It is understandable that we would not reach the heights of our county final success especially with some en-

forced changes but hopefully we can raise our game again for today's clash. It was great to see Rachel O'Callaghan making her first start at senior level and she certainly showed that she has a bright future ahead of her.

Carolyn was outstanding at wing back with Maeve having a great game at midfield. It was again great to see our supporters attend in such numbers and hopefully they will turn out again on Saturday next in what will be our greatest challenge to date.

I'm sure our girls will rise to this occasion as they have done all year and we wish them every success in their Munster final.

**Team:** Denise Leahy, Sandra Noonan, Faith Noonan, Yvonne O'Neill, Orna Neville, Liz Power, Carolyn Motherway, Orla Cotter, Maeve O'Keefe, Rachel O'Callaghan, Evelyn Roynane, Annemarie Hayes, Denise Twomey, Lisa Higgins, Deirdre Twomey.

**Subs:** Deirdre Mulcahy for Evelyn Roynane, Maria Daly, Jill Hurley, Andrea Mangan, Trish Fitzpatrick, Aisling O'Keefe, Cliona McGovern.

**Scorers:** Orla Cotter 1-3 (3f).

Deirdre Twomey 0-1, Lisa Higgins 0-1, Evelyn Roynane 0-1, Denise Twomey 0-1.

**GAA/camogie social:** Our annual social will be held on Friday, November 27 in Garryvoe Hotel with music by Natural Gas.

### TRACTON

Our U13 team have played the South east final of the B competition recently, we played Ballygarvan, in Minane Bridge on a very windy Saturday evening. Tracton had their full team and this was very obvious from the score line of 6-8 to no score in favour of Tracton. Tracton were able to score from both play and frees and took nearly every chance they had. They had some excellent players in Chloe Castleton, Jessica Dempsey and Jennifer Kiely although all of their players stood out as they all played to their best ability. Tracton proved way too strong for Ballygarvan on the day.

**Team:** S Healy, L O'Donnell, L O'Callaghan, H Fitzgerald, J Kiely, U Lyons, T Hegarty, C Castleton, L Murphy, J Dempsey, F Cogan, S Harrington, A Lyons.

**Subs:** U O'Brien, E Brady, A Kidney, A Lyons, S Sinclair.

### GLEN ROVERS

There was no let-up in the fixtures over the bank holiday weekend and no rest for our U15 team who had two games pencilled in for the holiday

weekend however the game v Douglas was postponed as our opponents were unable to fulfil the fixture and it was off to the Tank Field on Saturday morning to meet Brian Dillon's.

The storm-like conditions made it difficult for both teams. However, playing with the aid of the elements we built up a 1-2 to 0-1 advantage and turning to play against the wind it was going to be tough. Everybody worked extremely hard as we ran out winners on a 2-4 to 1-2 scoreline to book a place in the final. Well done girls and to your mentors Dave, Kelly, Sean and Aoife who have worked hard to reach the final.

Well done to our junior team who carved out a superb victory in their game against Passage to secure themselves a place in the junior plate final where they will meet Castleryons.

In their first year competing in the junior B competitions the year has been a most enjoyable one and in both championship and league competition everybody has enjoyed plenty of games. The plate competition has afforded us the chance of more game and this ensures plenty of camogie. On Monday we travelled to Passage on dull and miserable day when conditions were hard, the pitch was in excellent condition and both teams were determined from the throw in.

Shauna Busted hit an early point in reply to Passage's two points and a goal from Stephanie Callanan edged us in front. Linda O'Sullivan added a point as we led 1-2 to 0-2.

From the restart both sides were committed and playing excellent camogie they gave it everything. Passage hit back to get on level terms with a goal.

With the game up for grabs both teams pushed to gain control, our defence came under huge pressure but stood firm as we pushed forward and finishing stronger with three points from Edel O'Connell and one from Lauren Callanan four unanswered points we ran out winners on 1-6 to 1-2 score line. Well done to every one of the panel who had to dig deep to carve out a victory, thanks to everyone who came to support the team.

**Team:** K Lee; A Noonan, T Cunningham (c), C Walsh; C O'Keefe, L Cotter, S Callanan; A Dowling, A Murphy; L Harris, S Busted, E O'Connell; T Kenneally; N O'Sullivan, L O'Sullivan, Subs: L Callanan for L Cotter, C O'Sullivan for L Harris, B O'Mahony for L O'Sullivan.

**U13 team:** Our U13 team travelled to Togher to play St Finbarr's under lights on Thursday night on and an excellent performance saw them come away winners and book their place in the Seandun U13A final thanks to good displays from Aisling

O'Brien, Lorna Hickey, Mikaela Hyde, Olivia Harrington, Kelly Falvey and Aisling Wallace, well done to everybody and to mentors Pat O'Sullivan, Mary Sheehan and Tara Cunningham. We now meet Bishopscourt in the final at a date to be fixed.

**U16 A League semi-final:** All roads led to Mallow today Saturday when we meet Milford in the Under16A league semi final throw in is at 11.30am support welcome.

**Table quiz:** We will hold a table Quiz on Thursday November 12 in the Glen Rovers Club starting at 8.30, teams of 4 €30 per team, we urge everybody, players mentors parents and former players top come along, enjoy the night and support our venture which is being held to alleviate ongoing expenses.

**Congratulations:** Well done to Denise Cronin who was a recipient of the Northside and Districts Sports Award for September in recognition of her managing the Cork senior camogie team to All Ireland success, well done Denise an honour richly deserved. Well done to Jennifer Horsford on her performances with the Cork U14 development squad in Croke Park on Monday last.

**Condolences:** Our sympathy Denis and Tracy and the Lynch family on the passing of Denis's sister Cynthia our thoughts are with the family at this time.



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Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy with Cork Camogie players Pamela Mackey, Jennifer Lynch, Katrina Mackey and Julia White, at a civic reception for the Cork Senior Camogie Team to mark their winning of the All-Ireland title for the second year in a row, at City Hall.

Picture: Darragh Kane

# Camogie heroes are honoured by City Hall

**CORK'S All-Ireland winning camogie team have been honoured by the city.**

Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy hosted a civic reception for the team who "raised the spirits of the entire county".

The Lord Mayor said: "I had the privilege of being in Croke Park for the All-Ireland win, and it was great to see so many travelling."

By RONAN BAGNALL

With both the Camogie and Ladies footballers claiming All-Ireland glory, the Lord Mayor said it was important to recognise both achievements separately.

"The two biggest performances from our sporting teams have come from the ladies this year. They have done the city and county proud. The ladies have also been extremely generous of their time, attending

charity events and visiting schools. They have let people share in their success, which is wonderful.

"This event is about thanking them on behalf of the people of Cork and to wish them well for next year. They have a long winter of training ahead of them again, which many people don't realise."

Cork won the O'Duffy Cup on the second Sunday in September, defeating Kilkenny in the final.



Cork Camogie players Aoife Murray, Rachel Moloney and Joanne O'Callaghan at a civic reception for the Cork Senior Camogie Team.

Picture: Darragh Kane



Lt Niamh O'Donoghue, Irish Navy, and Lt Claire Spelman, Irish Defence Forces.

Picture: Darragh Kane



Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy, Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy and Captain Amanda O'Regan with the O'Duffy Cup.

Picture: Darragh Kane



Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy and Marian McCarthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie Board.

Picture: Darragh Kane

## Cashel are just too strong for Catherine's

By LINDA MELLERICK

At Mallow

Cashel	4-20
St Catherine's	0-12

ST CATHERINE'S great run came to an end in Mallow on Saturday when their bid for a Munster club title came unstuck against a hugely impressive Cashel side.

Physically stronger and displaying great skill Cashel had too much strength all over the pitch for St Catherine's to cope with.

Within six minutes Cashel led 1-3 to no score playing against a strong wind and the signs were ominous for Catherine's. Philly Fogarty was a colossal at centre-back and with Jill Horan, Cora Hennessy, Claire Grogan and Emily Hayden firing on all cylinders, scores were coming fast and furious.

Physically this was a tough game for the home side yet at times St Catherine's stood up to their opponents and picked off a couple of nice scores.

Leading 3-11 to 0-7 and turning to play with wind advantage the second half was set up for Cashel to run riot.

Yet St Catherine's weren't going to take this defeat lying down and picked off three points within eight minutes to Cashel's one. But victory was always going to the holders despite this resurgence and when Claire Grogan billowed the net midway through to put the score at 4-15 to 0-11 it was a case of seeing out the clock.

Cashel retained their title in impressive style and on the evidence of this performance will be hard to stop as they seek All-Ireland glory.

For St Catherine's the journey ends for the moment at least. But what a journey it's been.

**Scorers for Cashel:** C Grogan 1-7 (0-1 ft), A Loneragan 2-2, C Hennessy 0-5, E Hayden 1-1, C Dwyer 0-2, L Grogan, J Horan, S Hayes 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-7ft, Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2.

**CASHEL:** H Breen, C Ryan, U Dwyer, N Dwyer, P Bulfin, P Fogarty, J McGrath, J Horan, L Grogan, C Hennessy, M Hennessy, C Grogan, A Loneragan, E Hayden, C Dwyer. **Subs:** S Hayes for C Dwyer (47), J Peters for C Ryan, D Ryan for M Hennessy (48), C O'Sullivan for A Loneragan (52), S McDonnell for C Hennessy (58).

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Leahy, O Neville, F Noonan, Y O'Neill, A M Hayes, L Power, C Motherway, O Cotter, M O'Keefe, Deirdre Twomey, F Neville, F Cotter, Denise Twomey, E Ronayne, L Higgins. **Sub:** S Noonan for Y O'Neill (47).

**Referee:** Peter Whelan (Waterford).





**Camogie champs**  
Ballincollig celebrates  
as the girls in green  
take championship  
from Eire Óg

# Ballincollig make remarkable journey



**ÉAMONN MURPHY**

**BALLINCOLLIG** camogie club have completed their remarkable journey from junior B to senior in four years, writes **ÉAMONN MURPHY**.

The mid Cork side never got their hands on that elusive junior B title after years of near misses, but since taking the decision to go junior A at the start of the 2007 season due to the potential in their youthful side, they haven't looked back.

They won the '07 junior A league and were only pipped in the championship final by Killeagh in desperate conditions. They powered on from there in 2008, blitzing all comers, culminating in an incredible 4-13 to 1-3 county final win over Clonakilty — their old foes from junior B.

Their second team won the junior shield competition and that depth to their panel proved critical this season.

Ballincollig hit the ground running from the throw-in of this year's senior B competition and there was no doubt they were the top team in the grade in 2009. That it was Eire Óg they beat in the senior B county decider last Sunday just made it all the sweeter. The clubs have an intense though usually friendly rivalry, and indeed both teams backboned the Muskerry divisional side that won a senior county in 2007. That experience was invaluable to Ballincollig, as was the success of the Coláiste Choilm schools outfits where both Ballincollig and Eire Óg players enjoyed significant suc-



Torrential rain fails to dampen the Ballincollig team's spirits following their victory in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship final against Eire Óg at Castle Road.

Picture: Kieran Boyde

cess. The Collig were dominant when they met back in September in the group stages, but there's pressure when you've to face a team in a final you've already beaten — just ask the Cork footballers.

It's a credit to their management team of Dave Collins, Pat Murphy, Garrett Irish, Sarah Kidney and Martin Sisk that they were fully tuned in at Castle Road on Sunday, while their big players all struck form. The middle diamond of Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley, player of the match Sam Coomey and centre-back Kate O'Donoghue provided the platform for a slick attack, where Maria O'Donoghue

and Holly Coomey led the line effectively, and Cork senior Denise Cronin made some searing runs from the wing.

They can savour this triumph over the winter in Ballincollig, and the plaudits will go not just to the management and panel, but to the underage mentors who built the club up from a low base at the start of the decade and the committee, headed up by chairwoman Mairead Donovan.

Senior will be a new challenge entirely, but bar experienced full-back Adele Kiely the starting 15 is U21 so time is on their side to become established in the top flight.



Ballincollig captain, Ashley Lovett, addresses the crowd at the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship final.

**LEFT:** Ballincollig's Leah Weste celebrates with teammates, following their victory in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship final at Castle Road.

Picture: Kieran Boyde





# Ballincollig take Evening Echo title

Ballincollig  
Eire Og

3-8  
1-3

BALLINCOLLIG were crowned Evening Echo senior B champions when they defeated divisional neighbours, Eire Og, in Castle Road. The excellent pitch conditions made it easier on both teams, despite the gale-force wind, which finished in rain and hail.

Ballincollig made good use of their first-half wind advantage, and, by the break, led 2-5 to 0-3, with Máire O'Donoghue and Holly Coomey hitting goals at crucial stages. Eire Og battled hard, but they struggled in front of goal. All their scores came from frees, as the Ballincollig defence played it tight, never allowing them any room.

Through the opening half, Ballincollig were on top in vital sections of the pitch, and, at midfield, Samantha Coomey and Sarah Buckley did Trojan work as they kept their inside line supplied with quality ball. Ballincollig slotted over the points: Denise Cronin and Marie O'Donoghue hit two, and Leah

Weste one, as Margaret O'Herlihy kept Eire Og in the hunt with three from frees.

Eire Og tried hard in the second-half, but the Ballincollig defence was on top, limiting them to just one score, a goal from a Margaret O'Herlihy 45, in reply to Leah Weste's hand-passed effort to the net as Ballincollig began to pull away.

All credit to Eire Og, who never gave up and battled to the end, but the day belonged to Ballincollig, as their midfielder, Samantha Coomey, was named 'player of the match' after an excellent display.

**Ballincollig:** A Sheehan; E O'Sullivan, A Kiely, A Coughlan; C Irish, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter; S Buckley, S Coomey; O Ni Chatsaigh, L Weste, D Cronin; P Buttner, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey. Subs: A Lovett (c) for O Ni Chatsaigh, C Ryan for P Buttner, B O'Callaghan for E O'Sullivan. Scorers: M O'Donoghue 1-2, D Cronin 0-4 (0-2f 0-1 45\*), L Weste, H Coomey 1-1 each.

**Eire Og:** M Gleeson; E Kelleher, C McKenna, S Gleeson; C McKenna, C Meeney, K McCarthy; C McCarthy, A McCarthy; A McKenna (c), L Murphy, M O'Herlihy; R Murray, A McCarthy, E Corkery. Subs: E Crowley for E Kelleher, C O'Keefe for C McCarthy. Scorers: M O'Herlihy 1-3 (1-2f 0-1 45\*).

**Referee:** John O'Leary.



Ballincollig's Maria O'Donoghue challenges Eire Og's Siobhan Gleeson in the Evening Echo senior B camogie championship final at Castle Road. Picture: Kieran Boyde

## Cashel power their way into All-Ireland semi

Cashel  
St Catherine's

4-20  
0-12

DESPITE battling hard, Cork representatives, St Catherine's, ceded victory to a superbly strong Cashel side in the Munster club senior final, in Mallow.

With Alison Lornegan hitting two first-half goals and Emily Hayden scoring one, the Tipp champions were dominant, despite playing against the strong wind in the first-half. St Catherine's battled hard, but they could find no way past the strong Cashel defence, in which Philly Fogarty, at centre back, was a tower of strength.

Orla Cotter, Denise Twomey, and Deirdre Twomey kept St Catherine's in the hunt, as they struck first-half points, but it was Cashel who led 3-11 to 0-7 at the break.

On the turn over, Cashel continued to pick off their scores: Claire Grogan, Emily Hayden, Cora Hennessy were all prominent as they powered their way to the All Ireland

semi-final. Cashel centre back, Philly Fogarty, was named as player of the match.

**Cashel:** H Breen; C Ryan, U Dwyer (c), N Dwyer; P Bulfin, P Fogarty, J McGrath; J Horan, L Grogan; C Hennessy, M Hennessy, C Grogan; A Lornegan, E Hayden; C Dwyer. Subs: J Peters for C Ryan, S Hayes for C Dwyer, D Ryan for M Hennessy, C O'Sullivan for A Lornegan, S O'Donnell for C Hennessy. Scorers: C Grogan 1-9 (0-4f), A Lornegan 2-1, E Hayden 1-1, C Hennessy 0-3, C Dwyer 0-3, S Hayes 1-1, C Ryan 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** D Leahy; O Neville, F Noonan (c), Y O'Neill; A M Hayes, L Power, C Motherway; O Cotter, M O'Keefe; Deirdre Twomey, F Neville, F Cotter; Denise Twomey, E Roynane, L Higgins. Sub: S Noonan for Y O'Neill. Scorers: O Cotter 0-7 (f), Denise Twomey 0-3, Deirdre Twomey 0-2, Sharon Whelton 0-7 (0-5f).

**Referee:** Peter Whelan (Waterford).

**St. Ann's (Waterford)**  
**Clonakilty (Cork)**

3-6  
0-9

Cork representatives, Clonakilty, lost out to Waterford champions, St Ann's, in the Munster junior club championship final in Mallow. Sharon Whelton and Sinead O'Neill between them had five Clonakilty first-half points, as Karen Kelly

struck four for St Anne's and Clon led 0-5 to 0-4 at the interval.

Jenny Simpson had a St Ann's point, as Sharon Whelton hit two Clon frees to stretch their advantage, 0-7 to 0-5, but after 20 minutes, St Ann's were on level, with Karen Kelly setting up Kate Rockett for the game's opening goal. Karen Kelly hit a second when her long-range free went to the net, to give St Anne's the lead with eight minutes remaining. Clon battled hard, but the St Ann's defence stood firm. One minute into injury-time, they put the result beyond doubt, with a Zoe O'Donoghue goal.

**St Anne's:** C Aherne; E Fitzgerald, L Mooney, L Behan; C Whyte, A Maher, S Kavanagh; C M Maher, K Rockett; N Rockett, J Simpson, M Murphy; Z O'Donoghue, K Kelly, MC Dunphy. Scorers: K Kelly 1-5 (0-4f), K Rockett, Z O'Donoghue 1-0 each, J Simpson 0-1.

**Clonakilty:** A Deasy; N O'Donovan, S O'Brien, S Forristal; A Kearns, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn; C O'Regan, H O'Regan; J Brennan (c), E Jennings, M O'Donovan; H Coughlan, S O'Neill, S Whelton. Subs: E O'Donoghue for H Coughlan (44). Scorers: S Whelton 0-7, (0-5f), S O'Neill 0-2.

**Referee:** Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).

## Blackrock beat Ballyhea

Blackrock  
Ballyhea

3-9  
4-3

A SOLID performance helped Blackrock book their place in the Junior A League final as they defeated county champions Ballyhea under lights in Mounabbey.

Blackrock lead by a point at the end of the opening half thanks to goals from Valerie Norberg and Doireann Ni Mhuiri who converted a penalty as Blackrock laid the foundations for victory. Cait Kelleher and Doireann Ni Mhuire hit Blackrock points as Ballyhea kept in touch with Maria Walsh, Stephanie McInerney and Sarah Douglas on target as they trailed 2-3 to 2-2 at the interval. The Blackrock defence came under a lot of pressure but with Fiona Norberg in goal bringing off some excellent saves and Roisin De Faoite prominent in defence Blackrock held their lead to the half time whistle.

From the start of the second half

Blackrock kept the pressure on and they stretched their lead striking a goal and three points without reply early in the second half as Ballyhea battled to stay in contention as Blackrock's Grace Mulqueen hit a goal with Roisin de Faoite and Doireann ni Mhuiri adding points. Ballyhea hit back with Maria Walsh Stephanie Mc Inerney and Sarah Douglas adding two goal and a point to the tally but the night belonged to the Blackrock girls as they booked a place in the final with Douglas.

**Blackrock:** F Norberg; T Cummins, C Meaney, J Irwin; M Hurley, R de Faoite, S Naughton; K O'Brien, C Kelleher; K Hickey, K Fleming, D O'Leary; D Ni Mhuiri, V Norberg, S Carroll. Subs: M Moynihan for V Norberg, G Mulqueen for S Carroll. Scorers: D Ni Mhuiri 1-6 (1-0 pen, 0-1 45), G Mulqueen 1-1, Valerie Norberg 1-0 R de Faoite, C Kelleher 0-1 each.

**Ballyhea:** C O'Keefe; C O'Doherty, A Morrissey, V Hennessy; M Mc Carthy, K O'Leary, L O'Kelly; M Walsh, S Douglas; N Morrissey, M Coleman, S McInerney; G Crowley, M Walsh (c), T Cagney. Scorers: S Mc Inerney 2-0, M Walsh 1-3, S Douglas 1-0.

## Buttevant win B league and promotion

Buttevant  
Na Piarasigh

1-9  
0-8

BUTTEVANT added the junior B league to their championship crown, finishing their stay in the B grade with a league final victory over Na Piarasigh, in Mallow. Buttevant captain, Dawn Farrell, pointed to gain the early advantage, but Na Piarasigh levelled with a Trisha Coleman point. Eimear Healy was prominent for Buttevant as they put the Na Piarasigh defence under pressure, hitting a goal and two points as her team extended their lead. Gillian Morrissey replied, pointing two Na Piarasigh free to keep them in touch,

but Eimear Healy added two points to the Buttevant tally, as Danielle Moynihan replied with one for Na Piarasigh, to leave Buttevant ahead 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

Orla Bourke and Eimear Healy swapped points on the resumption. Michelle O'Keefe added one to put Buttevant five points ahead. Na Piarasigh came into the game and they cut the Buttevant lead to three points, Gillian Morrissey and Orla Bourke with a point each.

Buttevant rallied. Eimear Healy pointed a free, but Orla Bourke replied as Na Piarasigh went the distance and battled for the goal that would bring them back into

the game, but the Buttevant defence held firm, as they went on to record a league/championship double to seal a successful season.

**Buttevant:** D O'Keefe; J O'Flynn, M Sheedy, N Crowley; A Walsh, T Roche, S Breen, D Farrell (c), E Harrington; S Buckley, N Curran, M O'Keefe, D O'Callaghan, S Sheehan, E Healy. Subs: R Harrington for D O'Callaghan (40), E Medigan for S Buckley (50), L Harrington for M O'Keefe (50). Scorers: E Healy 1-7 (0-3f, 0-1 45\*), D Farrell, M O'Keefe, 0-1 each.

**Na Piarasigh:** L Kelly; N O'Donovan, S Sloane, T O'Donovan; L Burns, J Cronin, C Allen; G Morrissey, P Kearney; O Bourke, D Moynihan, D O'Regan; K Delea, M Coade, T Coleman. Sub: S Roche for K Delea (55). Scorers: G Morrissey 0-3 (f's), O Bourke 0-3 (0-2f), T Coleman, D Moynihan 0-1 each.

## Hit for six: Glen go into league final

Glen Rovers  
Milford

6-11  
2-11

GLEN ROVERS booked their place in the under-16 A county league final, when they defeated Milford in a high-scoring contest in Mallow.

Aided by the gale force wind, Milford opened up a four-point interval lead, 2-7 to 2-3, as the Glen worked hard to keep themselves in the game. Sinead O'Halloran and Alison Dowling hit two first-half Glen goals, as Helen Bradley and Rebecca Sheehy hit two in reply for Milford.

From the start of the sec-

ond half, the Glen applied pressure, and three points without reply had them within a point, but Milford hit back with a Sarah Flaherty point, O'Halloran and Maire Flanagan swapped points before the Glen got on level as Sinead O'Halloran pointed a free.

With the wind in their favour, the Glen kept the pressure on. Edel O'Connell hit a point to edge them ahead, before a double goal strike from Maria Sheehan had them seven points clear; Rebecca Sheehy hit two in a row for Milford. However, the Glen finished strongly, with Edel O'Connell and Sinead

O'Halloran grabbing goals, while, in between, Sinead Fahy hit a point to secure themselves a place in the final.

**Glen Rovers:** K Lee; N O' Sullivan, S Busted, C O' Sullivan; L O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, J Hosford; A O' Keefe, S Fahy; A Dowling, S O'Halloran, E O' Connell; M Sheehan, L Callanan, B O'Mahony. Subs: A Wallace for B O'Mahony, S Bridgeman for L Callanan. Scorers: S O'Halloran M Sheehan 2-0, A Dowling, E O' Connell, S Fahy.

**Milford:** A Fitzgibbon; R Connolly, N Browne, C Fitzgerald; C Watson, K Galvin, G O'Connor; L O' Flynn, M Flanagan; S O' Flaherty, R Duggan, N O' Connor; H Bradley, R Sheehy, G Fitzgerald. Scorers: M Flanagan 0-4, R Sheehy 1-2, H Bradley 1-0, S O' Flaherty 0-3, L O' Flynn 0-2.

**Referee:** John O' Leary (Mallow).

**MUNSTER GAA AWARDS:** Hurler of the year: Brendan Cummins (Tipperary); Footballer of the year: Pierce O'Neill (Cork); Media Award: Jim O'Sullivan (Irish Examiner); Manager of the year: Liam Sheedy (Tipperary); Club of the year: Crafoe (Clare); Ladies football: Norita Kelly (Cork); Camogie: Aoife Murray (Cork); Distinguished Service to GAA: Frank Murphy (Cork); U21 Hurling player of the championship: Darach Hogan (Clare); U21 Footballer of the championship: Colm O'Neill (Cork); Hall of fame hurling: Seamus Durack (Clare); Hall of fame football: John O'Keefe (Kerry).



Sarsfields Niamh McGrath is presented with her Connacht Young Player of the Year award by Paul Brady, three times World Handball Champion, and Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, at the All Stars banquet.

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# O'Connor seals sixth All Star

## O'Neill's Camogie All Stars

**Goalkeeper**  
Aoife Murray (Cork)

**Defenders**  
Regina Glynn (Galway); Cathriona Foley (Cork); Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny); Anne Marie Hayes (Galway); Mary O'Connor (Cork); Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny).

**Midfield**  
Brieger Corkery (Cork); Anne Dalton (Kilkenny).

**Forwards**  
Katie Power (Kilkenny); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Therese Maher (Galway); Aoife Neary (Kilkenny); Grainne McGoldrick (Derry); Rachel Moloney (Cork).

**Manager of the Year**  
Denise Cronin (Cork).

**Young Player of the Year**  
Denise Gaule (Kilkenny).

**Camogie Soaring Stars**

**Goalkeeper**  
Audrey Kennedy (Offaly).

**Defenders**  
Fiona Stephens (Offaly); Eimear Moynan (Laois); Karen Brady (Offaly); Karen Tinnelly (Down); Michaela Morkan (Offaly); Louise Donoghue (Meath).

**Midfield**  
Louise Mahony (Laois); Niamh Coyle (Roscommon).

**Forwards**  
Arlene Watkins (Offaly); Catherine McGourty (Down); Aine Lyng (Waterford); Susie O'Carroll (Kildare); Karen Kelly (Waterford); Elaine Dermody (Offaly).



The camogie All-Star team, back row from left: Anne Dalton, Kilkenny; Aoife Murray, Cork; Regina Glynn, Galway; Cathriona Foley, Cork; Jacqui Frisby, Kilkenny; Anne Marie Hayes, Galway; Mary O'Connor, Cork; Elaine Aylward, Kilkenny; Brieger Corkery, Cork; Rachel Moloney, Cork; and Grainne McGoldrick, Derry. Front row, from left: Katie Power, Kilkenny; Geraldine O'Connor who collected the award on behalf of her daughter Gemma, Cork; Sinead O'Connor, Ard Stiurthoir of the Camogie Association; Mary Hannifin TD, Minister for Social Welfare; Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association; Tony Towell, O'Neill's managing director; Paul Brady, World Handball champion; Therese Maher, Galway and Aoife Neary, Kilkenny, at Citywest Hotel.

Picture: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE

by Colm O'Connor

**C**ORK'S Gemma O'Connor collected her sixth successive All Star as the All-Ireland champions, and defeated finalists Kilkenny, dominated the camogie awards ceremony at the Citywest Hotel on Saturday night.

The Rebels garnered six awards, one

more than the Leinster girls with Galway (three) and Derry (one) completing the selection.

O'Connor was unable to attend the gala event as she is on army duty in Chad and the statuette was collected by her mother Geraldine. Goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back Cathriona Foley, centre back Mary O'Connor, midfielder Brieger Corkery as well as top scorer in the championship Rachel Moloney all collected their third awards.

Kilkenny quartet Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power all received their first All Stars while team mate Aoife Neary doubled her collections.

Beaten semi-finalists Galway received three awards: Therese Maher, Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes while Grainne McGoldrick was a first time winner for Derry.

Denise Cronin was named the O'Neill's manager of the year following back-to-back All-Irelands with

Cork. The former Glen Rovers and County star led the Rebels to their eighth successive final appearance in 10 years, and to their 24th title overall — just two behind titleholders Dublin.

The O'Neill's young player of the year award went to Kilkenny's Denise Gaule.

Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association said, "The All Stars recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season. The

awards are a treasured keepsake as they signify the achievement of playing camogie to the highest standards. This recognition is now also extended to players from the Junior All-Ireland series through the inaugural Soaring Stars Awards. In a season when 13 different counties won National League and All-Ireland championship titles, the 2009 All Star and Soaring Star winners claim their rightful place as wonderful exponents of all that's best in camogie".



Cork's Cathriona Foley is presented with her Camogie All-Star award by Camogie President, Joan O'Flynn, and Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin

## O'CONNOR INTO RECORD BOOKS AS CORK DOMINATE ALL STARS

ALL-IRELAND champions Cork once again dominated the Camogie All Stars with Gemma O'Connor receiving an unprecedented sixth successive award.

Six members of the 2009 All-Ireland winning Cork team were named in the Camogie All Star team which was announced at Citywest Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday night. It was a special evening for Gemma O'Connor — currently on army duty in Chad — who was rewarded with an unprecedented sixth consecutive All Star.

O'Connor's versatility is highlighted by the fact she has won awards in three different areas of the pitch. The St Finbarr's player was represented by her mother Geraldine. O'Connor was joined by Aoife Murray, Cathriona Foley, Mary O'Connor, Brieger Corkery as well as top scorer in the championship, Rachel Moloney, who are all taking home their third awards. Championship runners-

up, Kilkenny, received five awards with Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power earning their first All Star, in recognition of the Cats reaching the All-Ireland final after a wait of eight years. Aoife Neary also got her second award in two years.

Beaten semi-finalists Galway received three awards. Therese Maher picked up her third while Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes were winners for the second time. Grainne McGoldrick was a first-time winner for Derry.

**CAMOGIE ALL STARS 2009:**  
Aoife Murray (Cork), Regina Glynn (Galway), Cathriona Foley (Cork), Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny), Anne Marie Hayes (Galway), Mary O'Connor (Cork), Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny), Brieger Corkery (Cork), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Grainne McGoldrick (Derry), Rachel Moloney (Cork).

**CAMOGIE SOARING STARS 2009:**  
Audrey Kennedy (Offaly), Fiona Stephens (Offaly), Eimear Moynan (Laois), Karen Brady (Offaly), Karen Tinnelly (Down), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Louise Donoghue (Meath), Louise Mahony (Laois), Niamh Coyle (Roscommon), Arlene Watkins (Offaly), Catherine McGourty (Down), Aine Lyng (Waterford), Susie O'Carroll (Kildare), Karen Kelly (Waterford), Elaine Dermody (Offaly).





The Camogie Soaring Stars team, back, from left; Niamh Coyle, Roscommon; Audrey Kennedy, Offaly; Fiona Stephens, Offaly; Eimear Moynan, Laois; Karen Brady, Offaly; Karen Tinnelly, Down; Michaela Morkan, Offaly; Louise Donoghue, Meath; Louise Mahony, Laois. Front, from left; Arlene Watkins, Offaly; Catherine McGourty, Down; Sinead O'Connor, Ard Stiurthóir of the Camogie Association; Paul Brady, three-time world handball champion; Joan O'Flynn, president of the Camogie Association; Aine Lyng, Waterford; Susie O'Carroll, Kildare; Karen Kelly, Waterford, and Elaine Dermody, Offaly.

Camogie All Stars announced at Gala Banquet in Citywest Hotel

#### Camogie All Stars announced at Gala Banquet in Citywest Hotel PRESS RELEASE

7th November 2009

All-Ireland Champions Cork dominate Camogie All-Stars with Gemma O'Connor getting honoured for an unprecedented sixth successive time. While five players receive All Star awards for the first time.

Six members of the 2009 All-Ireland winning Cork team have been named tonight (Sat) in the Camogie All Star team which was announced at Citywest Hotel.

It was a special evening for Gemma O'Connor – currently on army duty in Chad – who was rewarded with an unprecedented sixth consecutive All Star. O'Connor's versatility is highlighted by the fact she has won awards in three different areas of the pitch. The St Finbarr's player was represented by her mother Geraldine.

Gemma is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back Cathriona Foley, centre back Mary O'Connor, midfielder Brieghe Corkery as well as top scorer in the championship Rachel Moloney who are all taking home their third awards.

Championship runners-up, Kilkenny, received five awards with Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power earning their first All-Star, in recognition of the Black and Amber reaching the All Ireland decider after a wait of eight years. Aoife Neary collected her second award in two years.

Beaten semi-finalists Galway received three awards. Therese Maher picks up her third while Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes are winners for the second time.

Grainne McGoldrick is a first time winner for Derry.

The O'Neills Young Player of the Year award went to Kilkenny's Denise Gaule. This has been an incredible year for the Kilkenny forward who featured prominently in the Cats fourth consecutive All Ireland minor win. The Windgap player amassed an amazing 5-11 between the All Ireland minor semi-final and final. She also had a prolific season in front of the posts with the senior team.

Denise Cronin was named the O'Neills Manager of the Year following back-to-back victories with Cork. The former Glen Rovers and County star led the Rebels to their eighth successive final appearance in 10 years, and to their 24<sup>th</sup> title overall – just two behind titleholders Dublin. After a very successful playing career, Denise took over the management of the Cork team in 2008.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association said, "The All Stars awards recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season. The Awards are a treasured keepsake as they signify the achievement of playing camogie to the highest standards.

"This recognition is now also extended to players from the Junior All Ireland series through the inaugural Soaring Star Awards. In a season when 13 different counties won National League and All Ireland Championship titles, the 2009 All Star and Soaring Star Award winners claim their rightful place as wonderful exponents of all that's best in Camogie".

#### CAMOGIE ALL STARS 2009 IN ASSOCIATION WITH O'NEILLS

##### Goalkeeper

Aoife Murray (Cork)

##### Backs

Regina Glynn (Galway)  
Cathriona Foley (Cork)  
Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny)  
Anne Marie Hayes (Galway)  
Mary O'Connor (Cork)  
Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny)



##### Midfield

Brieghe Corkery (Cork)  
Anne Dalton (Kilkenny)

##### Forwards

Katie Power (Kilkenny),  
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)  
Therese Maher (Galway)  
Aoife Neary (Kilkenny)  
Grainne McGoldrick (Derry)  
Rachel Moloney (Cork)

#### O'NEILLS MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Denise Cronin (Cork)

#### O'NEILLS YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)

#### CAMOGIE SOARING STARS 2009:

##### Goalkeeper

Audrey Kennedy (Offaly)

##### Backs

Fiona Stephens (Offaly)  
Eimear Moynan (Laois)  
Karen Brady (Offaly)  
Karen Tinnelly (Down)  
Michaela Morkan (Offaly)  
Louise Donoghue (Meath)

##### Midfield

Louise Mahony (Laois)  
Niamh Coyle (Roscommon)

##### Forwards

Arlene Watkins (Offaly)  
Catherine McGourty (Down)  
Aine Lyng (Waterford)  
Susie O'Carroll (Kildare)  
Karen Kelly (Waterford)  
Elaine Dermody (Offaly)



# McGoldrick wins her first Allstar

By Niamh Archibald

**D**ERRY'S Grainne McGoldrick picked up her first Allstar at the annual awards ceremony on Saturday night.

The Eoghan Rua star had a fantastic season for the Oak Leaf county, helping them seal the Ulster title and leading the way against Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Grainne, who also received the inaugural *Irish News* Camogie Merit Award this year, helped her club to their first ever senior league title as they sunk Ulster Senior 'B' Club champions, Lavey.

Eoghan Rua take on Derry rivals Slaughtneil in the rescheduled Ulster Premier League final on Sunday.

"I can't believe it. It hasn't truly sunk in yet," said McGoldrick.

"Obviously, I'm absolutely delighted, completely shocked, at picking up the Allstar. Standing on stage with some of the best camogie players in the country is truly an honour and definitely well worth the four-year wait.

"It really means a lot to me to stand there and represent Ulster and Derry and my club, Eoghan Rua, Coleraine."

Five players in total, Kilkenny's Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Ann Dalton, Katie Power and McGoldrick, received their first ever Allstar awards on the night.

Six members of the All-Ireland-winning Cork side picked up awards, with Gemma O'Connor getting her sixth award, the only player ever to do so.

Goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full-back Cathriona Foley, centre-half Mary O'Connor, midfielder Brieghe Corkery, and corner-forward Rachel Moloney all picked up their third awards.

Galway's Therese Maher also collected her third award, while team-mates Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes are winners for the second time.

Speaking at the ceremony, president of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn said: "The Allstar awards recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season."

"The recognition is now also extended to players from the junior All-Ireland series through the inaugural Soaring Star Awards."

In a season when 13 different counties won National League and All-Ireland Championship titles, the 2009 Allstar and Soaring Star Award winner claim their rightful place as wonderful exponents of all that's best in camogie."

Antrim's Laura Connelly missed out on the Young Player-of-the-Year award which went to Denise Gaule from Kilkenny. However, Antrim's Mary Herald was presented with the Sighe Nic an Ultaigh award for her work in administration.

## 2009 ALLSTARS

**Goalkeeper:** Aoife Murray (Cork); **Backs:** Regina Glynn (Galway), Cathriona Foley (Cork), Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny), Anne Marie Hayes (Galway), Mary O'Connor (Cork), Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny); **Midfield:** Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Anne Dalton (Kilkenny); **Forwards:** Katie Power (Kilkenny), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Grainne McGoldrick (Derry), Rachel Moloney (Cork)

## CAMOGIE

**Sunday: All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-finals (2.30pm):** Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) v Cashel (Tipperary), Oulart the Ballagh (Athenry) (Galway) v Loughiel (Antrim), Duggan Park, Ballinasloe.  
**All-Ireland junior camogie championship semi-finals (2.30pm):** The Harps (Laois) v At. Anne's, Dunhill, (Waterford), The Harps GAA, Durrow; Four Roads, (Roscommon) v Lavey, (Derry), Ballyferan, Co. Roscommon, 2pm.

Camogie/Shinty report Scotland 0-0 Ireland 2-2

Camogie/Shinty report Scotland 0-0 Ireland 2-2



Hugh Dan McLennan, Colmille Erinn's Alba, presents Colette McSorley (Armagh and Ireland) her Player of the Match Award at the Annual Camogie/Shinty Ireland v Scotland.

Camogie-Shinty International  
Ireland 2-2  
Scotland 0-0  
By Colín Duffy

Ulster players were also to the fore for the camogie side as goals in either half from Cavan's Margaret McBride and Ashling Corr of Tyrone paved the way to an eight-point win over Scotland at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday.

In mixed weather conditions, defences stood firm in the opening half until McBride burst through for a 26<sup>th</sup> minute goal.

Scotland held the early dominance in this game but were unlucky not to find the target with a succession of early wides.

Picking from just seven clubs the Scots were at a firm disadvantage with Ireland's great skill and fitness coming through as the game progressed.

Managed by Cavan's Eddie Brady, Ger Moran of Roscommon and Louth's Mary Connors the visitors really upped the ante on the restart.

Ireland dominated possession in the second half with Player of the Match Colette McSorley of Co. Armagh and Cavan's Lorraine Day very much to the fore.

Goalkeeper Caroline Connaughton from Roscommon received the cup after the game and was delighted to receive her first International camogie honour.

"We expected it to be a very tough game as there were a few of our side who had played here before, but it was my first time and I am extremely proud with the team," she said.

"The goals are much bigger from our point of view and I'm delighted we kept going to hold out for the win. We only met twice before the game, but we have been playing away with our counties all year so everyone was very fit and it showed out there today."

**IRELAND:** C Connaughton (Roscommon); N Connolly (Roscommon), S Greville (Westmeath), K Walsh (Wicklow); N Breen (Kildare), B Murray (Armagh), R O'Connell (Kildare); M McBride (Cavan), F Bigley (Tyrone); L Day (Cavan), V Crean (Carlow), AM Doran (Wicklow); C Curley (Roscommon), C McSorley

(Armagh), P Greville (Westmeath). Interchange: R McKenna (Monaghan), R Crowe (Cavan), A Corr (Tyrone), M Coady (Carlow), S McQuillain (Monaghan)

**SCOTLAND:** E Cameron; E Wink, L McKay, H Dooley; L McCafferty, B MacDonald, K Myerscough; K Deans, K Smith, Y Connaughton; L Norman, K Munro, F Mathie; J Nicol, O Coughlin. Interchange: K Drain, S Dunstaffnage, M Holohan, J Gillanders, A Gribbon.

Coillte Development Squads Day Out in Croke Park

Coillte Development Squads Day Out in Croke Park



While thousands descended on Dublin city on Bank holiday Monday to participate in the Dublin City Marathon, camogie players from around the country made their way to the 'Theatre of Dreams' that is Croke Park to participate in what may be an once in a life time opportunity to play on the hallowed turf. The girls that attended represented eight different counties including Armagh, Limerick, Cork, Kilkenny, Donegal, Wicklow, Mayo and Kildare. Prior to this day, each of the eight counties ran a six week development squad programme for a squad of 30 under 14 players in their respective counties.

Teams arrived early on Monday and started the day with an address from the President of Cumann Camógachta na nGael Joan O'Flynn. Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie development then spoke to the players and emphasised to all that the day in Croke Park should be cherished and it is not about winning but participating and most of all about having fun. All teams then paraded onto the field in lines behind a lone piper whose sole aim was to recreate the excitement that players feel on All-Ireland Day parading behind the band onto Croke Park.

Many parents took the advantage of the bank holiday to come see their daughters play and this crowd created a wonderful atmosphere of excitement as the girls paraded onto the field. All players then proudly faced the flag and stood to attention for the National Anthem. The day then for each county consisted of a combination of playing on Croke Park, a Museum Tour, indoor wall ball session and talks from inter county players that focused on how to reach your potential and the effects of nutrition on playing performance.

Thanks to Caitriona O'Connor Tipperary and Niamh Cagney Limerick who refereed the games for the day. Both ladies completed Cumann Camógachta na nGael Green Card Course organised for second level students who would like to referee the game.

The day came to a conclusion with each of the girls receiving a medal presented to them in the Hogan Stand by the president of Cumann Camógachta na nGael Joan O'Flynn with the assistance of the Coillte representative Tom Byrne, whose sponsorship is greatly appreciated for this programme. Each team received hurleys, sliotars, cones and fleeces for their squads participation in the programme.

All the girls then got on their buses to make the trip home and although many had very long journeys ahead of them, it didn't seem so daunting when they realised how lucky they were to be chosen to play on this very special day for Camogie in Croke Park.



## Kildorrey forced to extra-time to win title

**Kildorrey Castlelyons** 6-7  
3-6 (aet)

IT took extra-time to decide the destination of the junior C league trophy, as Kildorrey added the title to the championship they won earlier in the season. A determined Castlelyons side made them go to extra-time before the title was secured, but it was in extra-time that Kildorrey finally put their stamp on the game, as they began to put 'daylight' between themselves and their opponents.

The sides were evenly matched all through. Emily Sexton hit two Castlelyons points, before Valerie McCormick scored a Kildorrey goal. Castlelyons set the pace, with Emily Sexton adding two goals and two points, and Trisha Carroll a point, as they led at the break, 2-4 to 1-1. Orla Murphy pointed for Kildorrey as they battled to keep in touch.

Kildorrey's Orla Murphy pointed on the restart, and a goal from Trish Collins put just two points between the sides. Castlelyons responded, as

Catherine McAuliffe hit a goal, and it was ten minutes later before Brigid Allen got one back for Kildorrey. The sides swapped points, with Emily Sexton ensuring the game went to extra-time.

Extra-time saw Emily Sexton edge Castlelyons ahead, but goals from Trish Collins and Mairead O'Brien had Kildorrey five points clear at the break. On the turnover, Kildorrey pulled away. Brigid Allen hit a goal, before Orla Murphy and Val McCormick scored points to ensure Kildorrey of the double, but not before a stern test.

**Kildorrey:** J Dawson; H Hennessy, N Hennessy, D Murphy; B Allen, C Lynch, N Walsh; C Hanley, E McCarthy; L Hanley, V McCormack, M O'Brien; A Hennessy, O Murphy, T Collins. Subs: A M McCarthy for O Murphy, O Murphy for A Hennessy, C Smith for O Murphy. Scorers: E Sexton 2-5, C McAuliffe 1-0, T Carroll 0-1.

**Castlelyons:** Michelle Barry; Mairead Barry, M Howard, S O'Connell; A O'Brien, N Barry, M O'Sullivan; C Carroll, M McAtter; A O'Sullivan, M T Murphy, K Murphy; C McAuliffe, T Carroll, E Sexton. Subs: I Fenton for C McAuliffe, L Spillane for S O'Connell. Scorers: T Collins, B Allen 2-0 each, V McCormack 1-2, M O'Brien 1-0, O Murphy 0-4, N Walsh 0-1.

## Glen edges out Valley in Battle of the Rovers

**Glen Rovers Valley Rovers** 1-11  
1-9

GLEN ROVERS won the battle of the Rovers in Brinney to book their place in the Senior B league final with two points to spare in a close contest.

Little divided the sides but Glen Rovers made the better start and two points from Lorraine Kelly had them in the lead. Valleys responded with Gillian Harrington hitting two but Denise Luby and Sinead O'Halloran had Glen back in front with three points in a row. With the wind in their favour the Glen applied huge pressure on the Valley Rovers defence and they extended their lead with an Aoife Walsh goal.

Valleys cut the deficit with a point from Gillian Harrington at half time as Glen led 1-6 to 0-5.

With wind advantage for the second half Valley Rovers came back into the game and three points in a row from Liz Bugler and Gillian Harrington had them within one of the Glen. Sinead O'Halloran and Denise Luby hit points to put the Glen three clear but a goal from Eileen Foley had Valleys back on level.

With a place in the final up for grabs both sides worked themselves to a standstill, the heavy underfoot conditions taking their toll. Sinead O'Halloran fired over two Glen points and Denise Luby struck one as Glen went back into the lead,

Valleys threw everything at the Glen defence but Michelle Hegarty, Aideen Guiton and Alice Keating left no way through. Katie Richardson hit a late Valleys point but the Glen hung on to book their place in the decider.

**Glen Rovers:** K Newman; Z Buckley, A Guiton, B Walsh; M Hegarty, K O'Connell, N O'Brien; E O'Riordan (c), A Keating; S Fahy, D Luby, L O'Sullivan; S O'Halloran, A Walsh, L Kelly. Subs: A O'Keefe for L O'Sullivan (45), E O'Connell for L Kelly (57). Scorers: D Luby 0-5, S O'Halloran 0-4, A Walsh 1-0, L Kelly 0-2.

**Valley Rovers:** T Hawkes; A Coughlan, M Cottrell, A M Murphy (c); C Hawkes, L Hawkes, E Coughlan; E O'Regan, L Bugler; K Richardson, M A Hawkes, G Harrington; M Forde, E Foley, O'Deary. Subs: J Hawkes for M A Hawkes (h/t), Scorers: G Harrington 0-6, E Foley 1-0, L Bugler 0-2, K Richardson 0-1.

**Referee:** Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association presented Cork players with their Camogie All-Star awards on Saturday. From left: Cathriona Foley, Aoife Murray, Geraldine O'Connor — who collected the award on behalf of her daughter Genna O'Connor — Joan O'Flynn, Rachel Moloney, Brieghe Corkery and Mary O'Connor.

Picture: Pat Murphy / Sportsfile



## Inniscarra into Echo Junior Shield final

**Inniscarra St Finbarr's** 2-5  
1-1

INNISCARRA advanced to the Echo Junior Shield final when they defeated St Finbarr's in Ballincollig recently. The Shield is confined to second teams in clubs, and is most competitive. The semi-final was close, as both teams battled it out. After 20 minutes, Marie Corkery scored the opener, an Inniscarra point, and, playing against the strong wind, they had to be at their best as the St Finbarr's forwards put pressure on their defence. The Inniscarra half backline, of Allana

Twohig, Susan Buckley and Aishling O'Keefe, held firm. With a minute to the break, Deirdre O'Callaghan struck for an Inniscarra goal, to give them a four point interval lead, 1-1 to 0-0.

Against the elements, Inniscarra got the second-half off to a good start. Allana Twohig pointed a free to stretch their advantage. Susan Kenefick hit a St Finbarr's point, but Allana Twohig replied. Inniscarra held the upper hand, with substitute Liz Buckley pointing, but St Finbarr's kept the pressure on, and a Gillian Fitzgerald goal cut the Inniscarra lead to four points.

Claire Sheehan put the result beyond doubt with an injury-time goal to ensure Inniscarra of a place in the final against Ballygarvan.

**Inniscarra:** Amanda Twohig; R McCarthy, M Collins, T Nelligan; S Buckley, A O'Keefe, A Ni Riain; M Desmond, E O'Connell; C Sheehan, Allana Twohig, G O'Mahony; D O'Callaghan, E O'Donovan, M Corkery. Subs: L Buckley for E O'Donovan (50), C Looney for E O'Connell (55). Scorers: Allana Twohig 0-3 (0-1f 0-145), C Sheehan, D O'Callaghan 1-0 each, M Corkery, L Buckley, 0-1 each.

**St Finbarr's:** A Clarke; L O'Connell, N McCarthy, M Collins; C O'Sullivan, S Kenefick, C Sargent; J Mehigan, A McCarthy; G Fitzgerald, V Hosford, C Loughheed; C McCarthy, S Burns, S Browner. Scorers: G Fitzgerald 1-0, S Kenefick 0-1.

## Two goals in first five minutes set Sars on way to minor title

**Sarsfield's Barryroe** 4-9  
2-2

AIDED by the strong wind in the opening half, Sars made a great start to this minor D county championship final, in Castle Road. With two Louise Murphy goals in the opening five minutes, and with Rita Crowley and Nicole Hickey adding points, they set the pace of the game. Barryroe scored 19 minutes into the game, with a goal from Triona McCarthy, but substitute Or-lith Keane replied ten minutes later with a Sars goal to keep her side in control. Before the break, Yvonne O'Callaghan and Rita Crowley added points to the Sars tally, as they led 3-4 to 1-0 at the break.

Barryroe got the second-half off to a perfect start. Lisa Dullea scored a goal, and, playing with the aid of the wind, they applied a lot of pressure on a firm Sars defence. Aisling Whooley and Rita Crowley added

points to the Sarsfield tally, before Sandra Dooley scored a goal. Barryroe added two points, but they still found it hard to break down the Sars defence, where Edel Meaney and Sinead Gaffey stood firm. Up front, Rita Crowley added a point before the full-time whistle, as Sars ran out winners to take the inaugural minor D championship title.

**Sarsfield's:** S Gaffey, S Keane, E Meaney, O Quinn; K Comerford, I Kearney, A O'Callaghan; A Whooley, N Hickey; E O'Connell, Y O'Callaghan, R Crowley; M O'Farrell, S Dooley (c), L Murphy. Subs: O Keane for A Whooley (inj), A Whooley for M O'Farrell (inj), T Kerrigan for L Murphy, S Gaffey for S Keane, O O'Sullivan for S Dooley (inj). Scorers: T McCarthy, L Dullea, 1-0 each, C O'Dwyer 0-1.

**Barryroe:** J Madden; M O'Regan O'Donovan, E Deasy; D Sexton, L Dullea Madden; K O'Sullivan, J White (c); A Weldon, R McCarthy, T McCarthy; P O'Donovan, C O'Dwyer, D O'Sullivan. Subs: F O'Regan for Kay O'Sullivan, A O'Donovan for Deirdre Sexton, C Lordan for P O'Donovan, O O'Regan for A Weldon, C Tyndall for T McCarthy. Scorers: L Murphy 2-0, R Crowley 0-6, S Dooley, O Keane 1-0 each, Y O'Callaghan, A Whooley, N Hickey 0-1 each.

## Goals the vital difference as Douglas battles foul weather to best Blackrock

**Douglas Blackrock** 2-11  
0-8

GOALS win games and in appalling weather conditions Douglas grabbed one in either half to decide the destination of the junior A league title in Castle Road on Saturday last.

The pitch conditions were excellent but the downpour and driving wind made it difficult for both teams. Douglas's Tracy McCarthy pointed an early free to which Doireann Ni Mhuiri replied but it was Blackrock who made all the

early running. They hit two further points from Ni Mhuiri and Katelynn Hickey without reply as they opened up a two-point lead.

McCarthy kept Douglas in touch as she pointed a free but Blackrock kept the pressure on with Roisin De Faoite and Doireann Ni Mhuiri hitting points as they went three points clear 0-5 to 0-2.

Five minutes to the break Jill Kelleher hit a superb Douglas point but still Blackrock held the upper hand around the middle of the field. Douglas were handed a lifeline three

minutes into injury time as the Blackrock defence failed to clear their lines with Semma Long edging the ball over the line in a goal mouth scramble to give Douglas a 1-3 to 0-5 interval lead.

The goal was a boost to the Douglas girls and they grabbed the chance. McCarthy pointed two frees inside eight minutes of the second half and as the rain came down the sides continued to give it their all.

Ni Mhuiri had one back for Blackrock but the Douglas defence closed them down at every turn.

McCarthy and Clara Kavanagh hit two Douglas points to stretch their advantage but with Ni Mhuiri now operating in their half forward line Blackrock were clawing their way back. Two points from Ni Mhuiri had the lead down to a goal but Douglas put the game out of Blackrock's reach when substitute Jenny O'Donovan hit their second goal with seven minutes remaining. Douglas finished stronger with two Jenny O'Donovan points and one from Long to put the title out of reach of a battling Blackrock side.

**Douglas:** Siobhan O'Mahoney, S O'Regan, N Leo, Sinead O'Mahoney, C Murphy, C O'Driscoll, M O'Mahoney, J Kelleher, C Murphy, S O'Brien (captain), T McCarthy, S Long, O Curtin, C Kavanagh, M Cullinane. Subs: O'Donovan for O Curtin (40), L McCarthy for Sinead O'Mahoney (55). Scorers: J O'Donovan 1-3, T McCarthy 0-5 (f), S Long 1-1, C Kavanagh, J Kavanagh 0-2 each.

**Blackrock:** F Norberg; T Cummins, C Meaney, S Naughton; M Hurley, R De Faoite, J Irwin; K O'Brien, D O'Leary; A Brohan, K Fleming, K Hickey; D Ni Mhuiri V Norberg, G Mulqueen Subs: S Carroll for A Brohan (h/t), M Monaghan for V Norberg (41). Scorers: D Ni Mhuiri 0-6 (0-5f), R De Faoite, K Hickey 0-2 each.

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).





Galway All Star camogie nominees who attended the annual presentation banquet in the Citywest Hotel, from left, Sinead Cahalan, Anne Marie Hayes, Susanne Earner, Orla Kilkeny, Niamh Kilkeny, Brenda Hanney, Therese Maher and Regina Glynn.

# Athenry set to see off Ulster rivals in camogie semi-final

## Ward joins Gill on the casualty list but Galway champs to march on

EOGHAN CORMICAN

NOT even the absence of sharpshooters Jessica Gill and Deirdre Ward should prevent four-in-a-row county camogie champions Athenry from advancing to a second All Ireland Club final in three years when they clash with Ulster title holders Loughiel Shamrocks in Sunday's semi-final at Duggan Park (2:30pm).

Gill, whose season ended in September following cruciate ligament damage, is joined on the injury list by Deirdre Ward who aggravated a knee injury in the county final against Kilmor three weeks ago. Ward, who played in goals for the successful Galway Intermediate team, faces a protracted period on the sidelines.

However, the four-in-a-row queens of Galway camogie should be more than capable of seeing off the youthful Loughiel challenge, considering they boast All Star recipients Therese Maher and Regina Glynn amongst their ranks.

With the league and championship titles safely stored away for yet another year, the aim of this Athenry side must surely be to finally get their hands on the Bill Carroll Cup,



Galway camogie All Stars, from left, Therese Maher, Anne Marie Hayes and Regina Glynn with Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, at the 2009 All Stars presentation banquet.

a title which has so far eluded them during their four year reign as Galway champions.

Following their comprehensive defeat at the hands of Cashel in the 2007 final, Midge Glynn's charges only

lost out on a place in last year's decider by virtue of conceding a late Joanne Ryan goal against Drom & Inch in the All Ireland semi-final at Cloughjordan.

However, with Mary

Keogh, Therese Maher and Laura Linnane in fine fettle in front of goals, one has to presume that Athenry will have far too much fire power for their Ulster opponents.

In saying that, Loughiel

full forward Racquel McCarry is widely acknowledged as one of the most promising full attackers in the game. McCarry struck 1-7 in the Ulster final, including a sideline cut and earlier this year

registered 3-5 in the meeting of Galway and Antrim in the All Ireland U18 championship.

But Athenry's greatest asset is undoubtedly their superb defence. 'Keeper' Stephanie Gannon is one of the finest custodians in the country, while Katherine Glynn, Alice Poniard and Dorelle Coen form a solid full back line. Outside them, Ciara Cunniffe, Regina Glynn and Krystle Ruddy present a formidable half-back sector.

The Antrim champions will certainly not be lacking confidence heading to Duggan Park following their surprise victory over All Ireland club champions O'Donovan Rossa in the provincial decider. The Loughiel club had failed to win a county senior title since 2001, but capitalised on the absence of O'Donovan Rossa's star player Jane Adams to claim the spoils.

Laura Connolly, Louise McKeown, Emma McMullan and Aisling McFadden represent their main threats in a side that plays a direct and attractive style of camogie. Overall, however, Athenry are the stronger and more experienced team and it will be a major surprise if they don't advance to the final.





## Tipperary Camogie

**Senior:** Next Sunday, November 15th will see Cashel travel to Oulart the Ballagh in Wexford to take on the hosts in the All Ireland Senior Club semi Final. Throw in for the game is 2.30pm. It will be two weeks since their last competitive game when they claimed their 6th Munster title. This Sunday, Cashel are going into the lions den, fully aware of the challenge facing them. The Wexford champions are steeped in Camogie tradition, and they have contributed a lot of talent to the Inter County scene in Wexford.

Nonetheless, Cashel are looking at their task, their own talent & their own displays that have got them to this stage. Their first real challenge came in the County semi final when they were pitted against Drom. Despite playing against the wind in the first half, Cashel were first to settle into that game and raced into an early lead before Drom registered their first score in the 15th minute. Throughout this game, Cashel showed that they were determined to revisit the glory days, and even when Drom came close, Cashel seemed to just have so much left in the tank that they totally shut the game down on Drom. In one of the best County finals ever, Burgess/Duharra pushed the Cashel girls all the way to extra time. Even then, Cashel kept cool, never panicked, even when it looked as if the game was slipping away from them, they stuck to their task. This belief in themselves finally got them over the finish line & ultimately to this all Ireland semi final clash this weekend.

Cashel are strong throughout the field. Una O'Dwyer at full back has been very impressive, and her return to the Tipp Senior team was equally impressive. Their half back line is like a fortress. Paula Bulfin lets her hurling do the talking, while Philly Fogarty is so comfortable at number 6. Julie McGrath has an engine which could go on for ever and is comfortable at wing back or midfield. Jill Horan herself has had one of her best years for Tipp, and her influence in any game is immeasurable. At wing forward, Cora Hennessy is starting to find her form, and in the last few games has been able to pick off scores from 40 to 50 yards. Claire Grogan even on a bad day can destroy any opposition, and her hunger for the game has grown. She will no doubt be a target for Oulart to restrict her influence. Emily Hayden's tenacity and drive is hugely important to Cashel and she strikes fear into any back line. Alison Loneragan at corner forward will also pose a threat if past games are anything to go by.

Cashel have experienced both loss and victory at this stage since 2006.

They won their only All Ireland title in 2007, so they will desperately want to add to this. Earlier in the year, Cashel won the All Ireland sevens in Kilmacud Crokes, could this be an omen. Best of luck to all associated with Cashel Camogie in Sunday's game.

By Rose Mannion

For the first time in the history of the Camogie All-Star Awards, Tipperary failed to pick up an award at Saturday night's banquet at a packed Citywest Hotel in Dublin.

Tipperary has three nominations in the forward line in Cáit Devane, Joanne Ryan and Claire Grogan. Cáit and Joanne were competing for places in the half forward line which went to Gemma O'Connor (Cork) who received her sixth consecutive all star, Therese Maher (Galway) and Kilkenny's Katie Power.

Claire Grogan missed out in the full forward line with the awards going to Grainne McGoldrick from Derry who received her first all-star while Rachel Moloney (Cork) and Aoife Neary (Kilkenny) picked up the remaining positions.

All Ireland Champions Cork picked up six in total and the icing on the cake came for them when manager Denise Cronin was named Manager of the year. Defeated finalists Kilkenny received five, Galway were very pleased with their three and like Tipperary, Wexford, Limerick and Clare left empty handed.

Unlike previous years, this year marked the inaugural soaring star camogie awards which recognises players from the Junior grade and here six Offaly Junior All-Ireland Champions received their awards from Minister Mary Hannifan, special guest Paul Brady Handball Champion and Camogie's National President Joan O'Flynn who was presiding for the first time since she was elected to office last March.

By far the biggest representation present came from the Faithful County and they had plenty to shout about too when Audrey Kennedy, Fiona Stephens, Karen Brady, Michaela Morkan, Arlene Watkins and Elaine Dermody took their place beside players from Laois, Down, Meath, Roscommon, Kildare and Waterford.

Overall, it was a disappointing night for Tipperary and indeed a disappointing year. With a late start to the season, just a couple of weeks training before the commencement of the National league, Tipp were



Enjoying the Camogie All Stars in the Citywest Hotel on Saturday night last and supporting their college friends were Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers), Soaring Star Award Winners Aine Lyng (Waterford) and Karen Brady (Offaly), Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers). While at the back were old friends Liam Mannion (Lorrha), Mick Spain (Drumcullen), John O'Brien (Killeen) who enjoyed the chat and the occasion. Photo: Rose Mannion.

very fortunate to find a manager the calibre of Fr. Peter Brennan who appointed a strong backroom team to support him. With convention just around the corner, it is expected that training will commence immediately afterwards and Tipp can look forward to better things to come in 2010.

**2009 O'Neills Camogie All Stars:** Aoife Murray (Cork); Regina Glynn (Galway); Cathriona Foley (Cork); Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny); Anne Marie Hayes (Galway); Mary

O'Connor (Cork); Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny); Briege Corkery (Cork); Anne Dalton (Kilkenny); Katie Power (Kilkenny); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Therese Maher (Galway); Aoife Neary (Kilkenny); Grainne McGoldrick (Derry); Rachel Moloney (Cork).

**O'NEILLS MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** Denise Cronin (Cork)

**O'NEILLS YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)

**CAMOGIE SOARING STARS 2009:** Audrey Kennedy (Offaly); Fiona Stephens (Offaly); Eimear Moynan (Laois); Karen Brady (Offaly); Karen Tinnelly (Down); Michaela Morkan (Offaly); Louise Donoghue (Meath); Louise Mahony (Laois); Niamh Coyle (Roscommon); Arlene Watkins (Offaly); Catherine McGourty (Down); Aine Lyng (Waterford); Susie O'Carroll (Kildare); Karen Kelly (Waterford); Elaine Dermody (Offaly).

**O'NEILLS MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** Denise Cronin (Cork)

**O'NEILLS YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)

# Mixed fortunes in semis

BY  
NIAMH  
ARCHIBALD



**T**HERE was heartbreak and joy for Ulster yesterday as Loughgiel failed to reach the All-Ireland Club Senior final, while Derry side Lavey overcame last year's disappointment to reach the Junior decider.

In Ballinasloe, Athlery were too strong for the Antrim side, winning 1-15 to 0-3.

Athlery came out firing in the first half and built an early lead. Captain and three time Allstar Therese Maher scored a personal tally of 1-3.

Emma McMullan and Raquel McCarry put Loughgiel on the scoreboard with finely taken points, but they could not undo the damage of the earlier exchanges.

Loughgiel were playing for pride in the second half and fought hard with the Galway side, only getting three points from Brenda Kerins, Laura Linnane and Noreen Coen.

Loughgiel's Aiden McKeown believes that his side will learn from this experience and come back stronger next year.

"They hit us early in the first half and we were always up against it after that, but I think the girls turned it around and stood up to them in the second-half," he said.

"In the end I think experience told. Some of the younger girls were jittery in the first-half, but they overcame that in the second half and managed to hold them to three points."

It has been 30 years since the Galway side lifted the Bill Carroll trophy, and they will look forward to the final in two weeks when they will face Tipperary's Cashel, who overcame Oulart of Wexford 1-14 to 2-7 yesterday.

In the All-Ireland Club Junior semi-final, Lavey ran out comfortable winners over Four Roads of Roscommon, 3-12 to 0-02.

Mary O'Kane was in fine form once again for the Derry champions, scoring 2-4.

A further goal from Paula McCloy sealed the victory for Lavey, who will now face St Anne's, Dunhill after the Wexford side caused an upset, defeating holders Harps 3-10 to 0-16.

Meanwhile, in the Ulster Premier League final, Eoghan Rua finished off a fine season with a hard-fought victory over Slaughtneil.

The game promised to be a close affair between the two Derry teams, and it certainly lived up to its billing.

The Coleraine side got an early goal but their lead was short-lived as Shauna McGuigan responded for Slaughtneil.

A fine point from Claire Dillon rounded off a great passage of play and saw

Eoghan Rua head in two points to the good at the interval, 1-5 to 1-3.

The second half went much like the first, Meabh McGoldrick firing over a fine point for Eoghan Rua but Mary Kelly responded to narrow the gap back to two.

The game was tough and

physical throughout, which culminated in the sending off of Eilis Cassidy, the Slaughtneil player receiving a second yellow.

Both sides continued to push for the win, with the Eoghan Rua backline coming under increasing pressure, but they remained strong

with some excellent defending, not least from underage players Maria Mooney and Hannah Eastwood.

In the end it was Eoghan Rua who held out for the victory, a fine point from Allstar Grainne McGoldrick sealing the 1-9 to 1-4 win.

**CAMOGIE: All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-finals (2.30pm):** Oulart the Ballagh, (Wexford) v Cashel, (Tipperary); Oulart the Ballagh; Athlery, (Galway) v Loughgiel, (Antrim); Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, 1.30pm.  
**All-Ireland junior camogie championship semi-finals (2.30pm):** The Harps, (Laois) v St. Anne's, Dunhill, (Waterford); O'Moore Park, Portlaoise; Four Roads, (Roscommon) v Lavey, (Derry); Ballyforan, Co. Roscommon, 2pm.

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland SCC SF:** Athlery (Galway) 1-15 Loughgiel (Antrim) 0-3. Cashel (Tipperary) 1-14 Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) 2-7. **All-Ireland JCC SF:** St Anne's (Waterford) 3-10 Harps (Laois) 0-16. Lavey (Derry) 3-12 Four Roads (Roscommon) 0-2.



# Player of the year

Denise Gaul, Kilkenny, is presented with her Leinster Young Player of the Year award by Tony Towell, MD of O'Neills and Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, during the 2009 camogie All-Stars Awards, in association with O'Neills. Photo: Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

## Five All-Stars and Denise is young player of the year

### Camogie

ALL-IRELAND champions, Cork dominated the camogie All-Stars team but Kilkenny had five top performers honoured when the team was announced at the weekend.

Six members of the 2009 All-Ireland winning Cork team were named. It was a special evening for Gemma O'Connor - currently on army duty in Chad - who was rewarded with an unprecedented sixth consecutive All Star. O'Connor's versatility is highlighted by the fact she has won awards in three different areas of the pitch.

The St Finbarr's player was represented by her mother Geraldine.

Championship runners-up, Kilkenny, received five awards with Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power earning their first All-Star in recognition of the black and amber reaching the All-Ireland decider after a

wait of eight years. Aoife Neary collected her second award in two years.

### Denise a winner

Beaten semi-finalists Galway received three awards. Therese Maher picked up her third while Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes were winners for the second time.

The O'Neills Young Player of the Year award went to Kilkenny's Denise Gaul. This has been an incredible year for the Kilkenny forward who featured prominently in the Cats fourth consecutive All-Ireland minor win.

The Windgap player amassed an amazing 5-11 between the All-Ireland minor semi-final and final. She also had a prolific season in front of the posts with the senior team.

### Excellence

Denise Cronin was named the O'Neills Manager of the Year following back-to-back victories with Cork. The former Glen

Rovers and County star led the Rebels to their eighth successive final appearance in 10 years, and to their 24th title overall - just two behind titleholders Dublin. After a very successful playing career, Denise took over the management of the Cork team in 2008.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association said, "The All Stars awards recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season. The Awards are a treasured keepsake as they signify the achievement of playing camogie to the highest standards."

Camogie All-Star team - Aoife Murray (Cork); Regina Glynn (Galway); Cathriona Foley (Cork); Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny); Anne Marie Hayes (Galway); Mary O'Connor (Cork); Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny); Briege Corkery (Cork); Anne Dalton (Kilkenny); Katie Power



Anne Dalton of Kilkenny is presented with her camogie All-Star award by Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association and Mary Hannifin TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs during the 2009 camogie All-Stars Awards in association with O'Neills. Picture: Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

(Kilkenny), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway); Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Grainne O'Neill (Derry), year - Denise Cronin (Cork). O'Neill manager of the year - Denise Cronin (Kilkenny). O'Neill young player of the year - Denise Gaul (Kilkenny).



Nov. 2009

## Éire Óg are tested in the U16 decider

Éire Óg 2-6  
Sarsfields 2-2

ÉIRE ÓG made it back-to-back U16 C County championship successes as they retained their crown with a victory over Sarsfields in Castle Road.

Two first half goals from Alanna Murphy and Ruth Murphy helped Éire Óg set the foundations for victory.

Elaine Scally hit two points while Emma Crowley and Alanna Murphy hit one each as Éire Óg made all the first half running.

Orlaith Keane had a point for Sars as Éire Óg led 2-4 to 0-1 at the break.

As determined Sarsfields took the field for the second half, Orlaith Keane sent a long ball to the net and with Lucy Allen hitting a second and Sarah Fahy a point narrowing the gap. Éire Óg responded with points from Alanna Murphy and Elaine Scally to help secure victory.

Alanna Murphy Éire Óg was named played of the match.

**Scorers for Éire Óg:** A Murphy 1-2, R Murphy 1-0, Elaine Scally 0-3, E Crowley 0-1. **Sarsfields:** O Keane 1-1 (0-1 45'), L Allen 1-0, S Fahy 0-1.

**ÉIRE ÓG:** Eimear Scally, A Gleeson, A Hennessey, C S Murray, A Barry, M Corkery, O Meaney, E Crowley, M E Desmond, Elaine Scally, A Murphy, O Hallissey, R Murphy, J Boyle, G Hutchinson. **Subs:** N O Toole for A Barry (inj 40'), S O' M for O Hallissey (50').

**SARSFIELDS:** S Fahy, R Hickey, S Gaffey, O O'Sullivan, E Murphy, J Kearney, C, N O'Callaghan, O Keane, R Crowley, K Walsh, R Long, L Barry, L Fitzgerald, C Cashman, S English. **Subs:** L Allen for L Fitzgerald, A O'Kelly, Lynch for S English.

## Douglas get boost with two teams

AS THE push continues to get competitions finished, this weekend sees four finals down for decision.

Douglas put their minor A county title on the line on Sunday when they meet Ballincollig in Castle Road and their second team will be hoping to make it a club double when they contest the Minor C final against Enniskeane at the same venue.

The huge volume of underage players coming through the ranks in Douglas enables them to field two teams at this grade and they will be hoping that their work will pay dividends.

Ballincollig, still celebrating their victory in the senior B championship, will be hoping to continue their winning ways, while in the C, Enniskeane will be anxious to annex a minor crown.

The junior shield competition confined to second teams in clubs has Inniscarra and Ballygarvan meeting in the final.

The junior B plate final has Glen Rovers' second team in action against Castlelyons. In the minor B semi-final Mallow and Éire Óg battle it out for a place in the final.

### FIXTURES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Junior Shield Final: Ballygarvan v Inniscarra, Cloughduv noon.

Minor A Championship final: Douglas v Ballincollig Castle Road noon.

Minor B Championship semi-final: Éire Óg v Mallow, Owens noon.

Minor C Championship final: Douglas "2" v Enniskeane Castle Road 2.30pm.

Junior Plate final: Glen Rovers v Castlelyons, Castlelyons 2.30pm.

CORK took six All-Star awards in the end last Saturday night in the City West Hotel.

It was a special evening for Gemma O'Connor who unfortunately wasn't there herself to pick up her sixth consecutive award as she is currently on army duty in Chad.

Her proud mother Geraldine collected the award on Gemma's behalf. What is most significant about these six awards is that three of them have been awarded for different positions on the pitch, the halfback line, centre field and half forward. Gemma's versatility is there for all to see.

All six awards have been thoroughly deserved. Often there is controversy when players pick up awards. Not so the case with Gemma. It is widely acknowledged how great an athlete she is.

I couldn't believe Rena Buckley didn't pick up an award. That was the biggest shock of the night for me. She was dependable all season throughout the group series, in the semi-final against Wexford she had a great game, particularly the second half where she came into her own and she had a storming All-Ireland final.

I was disappointed for Orla Cotter and felt she should have got an award.

Aoife Murray, Catriona Foley, Mary O'Connor, Breige Corkery and Rachel Moloney were the other five Cork recipients.

Kilkenny received five awards, which I felt was a bit generous. Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Alyward, and Aoife Neary were my three. Anne Dalton and Katie Power were the other two selected.

I had selected Therese Maher and Anne Marie Hayes from the West and they duly collected awards, their third and second respectively. Regina Glynn was the third Galway player, selected at right corner back. She replaced Rena Buckley from my listing and I'm still trying to understand how.

The O'Neills Young Player of the Year award went to Kilkenny's Denise Gaule and this award was very well deserved. It has been an incredible year for the dynamic forward who was the leading light in the Cat's fourth consecutive All-Ireland minor victory.

Denise amassed 5-11 between the semi-final and final — more than most would score in an entire season. She also wasn't out of her depth when she lined out with the senior team and has a great future ahead if Kilkenny can progress on 2009's achievements.

Denise Cronin was named O'Neill's Manager of the Year. Denise led Cork to their eighth consecutive final in 10 years and their 24th title — two behind Dublin. That gap will be closed very shortly and well surpassed. It will be a while before

Douglas 2-11  
Blackrock 0-8

GOALS win games and in appalling weather Douglas grabbed one in either half to decide the destination of the junior A league title in Castle Road on Saturday last writes MARY NEWMAN.

The pitch conditions were excellent but the continuous downpour and driving wind made it difficult for both teams to contend with.

Blackrock made all the early running and put the Douglas defence under enormous pressure as they added to further points from Doireann Ni Mhuiri and Katelynn Hickey to earlier efforts without reply as they opened up a two-point lead.

Tracy McCarthy kept Douglas in



Killeagh Camogie Club marked Sheila Spillane's thirty six years contribution to the club with a Surprise 80th Birthday Celebration in her honour and celebrating with Sheila were Cork all Ireland winners, Mary O'Connor and Angela Walsh.

Picture: John Hennessy

# O'Connor's versatility personified in her sixth All-Star award



LINDA MELLERICK

son. She also wasn't out of her depth when she lined out with the senior team and has a great future ahead if Kilkenny can progress on 2009's achievements.

Denise Cronin was named O'Neill's Manager of the Year. Denise led Cork to their eighth consecutive final in 10 years and their 24th title — two behind Dublin. That gap will be closed very shortly and well surpassed. It will be a while before

Dublin win an All-Ireland Camogie title again.

The full All-Star team is named as: A Murray (Cork), R Glynn (Galway), C Foley (Cork), J Frisby (Kilkenny), A M Hayes (Galway), M O'Connor (Cork), E Alyward (Kilkenny), B Corkery (Cork), A Dalton (Kilkenny), K Power (Kilkenny), G O'Connor (Cork), T Maher (Galway), A Neary (Kilkenny), G McGoldrick (Derry), R Moloney (Cork).

Joan O'Flynn's first year as president will close shortly, after the All Ireland club championship finals. To her credit, she has worked tirelessly, visiting counties all over the country, listening to their issues / concerns / recommendations. She

has attended games, committee meetings, functions, PR events nationwide and all this while holding down a full time job.

I have met Joan on a few occasions and I have marvelled to her on how logistically what she is doing should be impossible, not to mind exhausting.

Yet she brushes it aside with a smile as if it isn't a problem at all and that it is an honour. Being President is an honour but it's not a free ride.

It's hard work particularly when in full time employment. We've been fortunate with our President's over the past number of years and the effort they have and continue to make on behalf of camogie.

## Long goal turns final Douglas' way

touch as she pointed a free but Blackrock kept the pressure on with Roisin De Faoite and Ni Mhuiri hitting points as they went three points clear 0-5 to 0-2.

Five minutes to the break Jill Kelleher hit a superb Douglas point but still Blackrock held the upper hand around the middle of the field but failed to build on it.

Douglas were handed a lifeline three minutes into injury time as the Blackrock defence failed to clear their lines with Semma Long edging the ball over the line in a goal mouth scramble to give Douglas a 1-3 to 0-5 interval lead.

The goal was a major boost to the Douglas girls and they grabbed their chance with Tracy McCarthy pointing two frees inside eight minutes of the second half and as the rain cascaded down, the sides

continued to give it their all.

Ni Mhuiri had one back for Blackrock but now they were battling against a much more focused Douglas defence who closed them down at every opportunity.

Tracy McCarthy and Clara Kavanagh hit two Douglas points to stretch their advantage to five points, but with Ni Mhuiri now operating in their half-forward line.

Blackrock were clawing their way back and two points from Ni Mhuiri had the lead down to a goal but Douglas put the game out of Blackrock's reach when substitute Jenny O'Donovan hit their second goal with seven minutes remaining.

Blackrock battled hard to try and get something back out of the game but it was Douglas who finished the stronger side with two Jenny

O'Donovan points and one from Semma Long to put the title out of reach of a battling Blackrock side and into Douglas hands.

**Scorers for Douglas:** J O'Donovan 1-3, T McCarthy 0-5 (f's), S Long 1-1, C Kavanagh, J Kavanagh 0-1 each.

**Blackrock:** D Ni Mhuiri 0-6 (0-5f), R De Faoite, K Hickey 0-1 each.

**DOUGLAS:** Siobhan O'Mahoney, S O'Regan, N Leo, Sinead O'Mahoney, C Murphy, C O'Driscoll, M O'Mahoney, J Kelleher, C Murphy, S O'Brien (c), T McCarthy, S Long, O Curtin, C Kavanagh, M Cullinane. **Subs:** O'Donovan for O Curtin (40), L McCarthy for Sinead O'Mahoney (55).

**BLACKROCK:** F Norberg, T Cummins, C Meaney, S Naughton, M Hurley, R De Faoite, J Irwin, K O'Brien, D O'Leary, A Brohan, K Fleming, K Hickey, D Ni Mhuiri V Norberg, G Mulqueen.

**Subs:** S Carroll for A Brohan (h/t), M Monaghan for V Norberg (41).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyhea).



# Twohill is the star of the show in Newtown's triumph



Aoife Twohill, Newtownshandrum, receives the player of the match award from Tracy Sheehan after the U16 B county league final at the Glen Field.

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 B League camogie

Newtownshandrum	2-6
Killeagh	0-5

**NEWTOWNSHANDRUM** overcame Killeagh to take the U16 B league crown in appalling weather at Glen Rovers last weekend.

The underfoot conditions were good and it made life that little bit easier on the teams who must be commended for turning in a good fi-

nal in such miserable conditions.

Kate Murphy hit a Killeagh point to which Roisin Twohill replied to level matters but again Killeagh took the lead thanks to a Shauna Keniry point. Becky Ryan gave Newtown the lead with a goal and a pointed 45 metre free from Sarah Moloney had Newtown ahead by the narrowest of margins at the interval.

From the start of the second half Newtown applied pressure on the Killeagh defence and a goal from Kara Clifford extended their advantage. Killeagh battled hard to

get back into contention but they met strong resistance from a determined Newtownshandrum defence. A point from Katie Coughlan stretched the Newtown lead as Killeagh's Shauna Landers hit their only score of the second half, pointing a free but the day belonged to Newtown who finished strongly with three points to ensure victory and the title was secured.

Newtownshandrum's Aoife Twohill was presented with the Player of the Match award by juvenile county board chairperson Tracy Sheehan after she had turned in a

superb performance in helping her side to victory.

**Scorers for Newtownshandrum:** S Moloney 0-3 (0-1 45"), R Twohill, A Twohill, K Coughlan 0-1 each, B Ryan, K Clifford 1-0 each.

**Killeagh:** K Murphy 0-3, S Keniry, S Landers 0-1 each.

**NEWTOWNSHANDRUM:** A Ryan, C Griffin, C Herlihy, S Cagney, C Watson, F Twomey, L Hooper, A Twohill, S Curtin, R Twohill, S Moloney, D Cagney, C Coppe, B Ryan, K Clifford. Subs: K Coughlan for C Coppe, M Doyle for K Clifford, S Slattery for D Cagney.

**KILLEAGH:** J Swaine, S Harnedy, L O'Neill, E Benim, S Tracy, L Tracy, S Landers, A R Sisk, J O'Shea, S Keniry, B Fitzgerald, R Culligan, A Walsh, K Murphy (c), N Daly.

Subs: C Daly for N Daly.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## O'Sullivan secures win for Castlelyons

Castlelyons	1-5
Newcestown	1-1

CASTLELYONS took the U16D league title when they defeated Newcestown in Castle Road camogie grounds.

Newcestown were first on the scoreboard with a point from Jennifer O'Donovan inside eight minutes of the throw-in and both sides battled hard as scores were at a premium.

It was 20 minutes before Castlelyons opened their account but in a seven-minute spell Melissa O'Sullivan had pointed two frees and hit a goal three minutes from the interval to leave Castlelyons 1-3 to 0-1 ahead at the short whistle.

On the turnover O'Sullivan was again on target, pointing two frees before Jessica Farrell hit back with a Newcestown goal, however the last say was left to Melissa O'Sullivan, who pointed a free to ensure victory for Castlelyons.

**Scorers for Castlelyons:** M O'Sullivan 1-5

**Newcestown:** J Farrell 1-0, J O'Donovan 0-1.

**CASTLELYONS:** N Barry, S O'Sullivan, S Beirne, D Walsh, C Maye, D O'Flynn, L Dineen, A Dineen, C Murphy, M Mc Nulty, M O'Sullivan, K Daly, E O'Leary, A Murphy, M Walsh.

**NEWCESTOWN:** C Kingston, A Collins, C Loden, L Cadogan, S Murrey, K Murphy, F Kelly, S Lane, E Kennaally, A O'Leary, G O'Mahony, J O'Donovan, M Kelleher, A Buckley, J Farrell. Subs: P Buckley for S Murrey, E Murphy for A O'Leary.

## Glen are put to the pin of their collar by battling Valleys

Glen Rovers	1-11
Valley Rovers	1-9

GLEN ROVERS advanced to the senior B league final with a two-point victory over Valley Rovers in Brinny.

The Glen girls hit the front with two points from Lorraine Kelly, but Valleys responded with Gillian Harrington hitting two to get them back level.

Denise Luby and Sinead O'Halloran restored the Glen advantage with three points in a row and, with the wind in their favour, they applied huge pressure on the Valley Rovers defence.

A goal from full-forward Aoife Walsh had the Glen five ahead, but Valleys cut the deficit with a point from Harrington on the half-time whistle, as Glen led 1-6 to 0-5.

With the wind advantage for the second half, Valley Rovers



Gillian Harrington hit six points for Valley in their defeat by Glen Rovers.

applied early second-half pressure and three points in a row from Liz Bugler and Harrington had the Glen lead down to one. Sinead O'Halloran and Denise Luby hit points to put the Glen three clear but a goal from Eileen Foley had the sides all square.

The underfoot conditions made it hard on both teams but they showed fierce commitment.

Sinead O'Halloran hit two superb efforts over the bar and Luby struck another long-range point as Glen went back into the lead. Valleys threw everything they had at the Glen but they stood firm, clearing their lines under pressure. Katie Richardson hit a late Valleys point but the Glen dug deep to hang on to book their place in the decider.

**Scorers for Glen Rovers:** D Luby 0-6, S O'Halloran 0-4, A Walsh 1-0, L Kelly 0-2.

**Valley Rovers:** G Harrington 0-6, E Foley 1-0, L Bugler 0-2, K Richardson 0-1.

**GLEN ROVERS:** K Newman, Z Buckley, A Guilan, B Walsh, M Hegarty, K O'Connell, N O'Brien, E O'Riordan, L O'Keating, S Fahy, D Luby, L O'Sullivan, S O'Halloran, A Walsh, L Kelly. Subs: A O'Keefe for L O'Sullivan (45), E O'Connell for L Kelly (57).

**VALLEY ROVERS:** T Hawkes, A Coughlan, M Cotrell, A M Murphy (c), C Hawkes, L Hawkes, E Coughlan, E O'Regan, L Bugler, K Richardson, M A Hawkes, G Harrington, M Forde, E Foley, O Deasy. Subs: J Hawkes for M A Hawkes (11).

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

## Inniscarra steal a march in the final

By MARY NEWMAN

U16B championship

Inniscarra	3-8
Brian Dillon's	1-3

JUST a point separated the sides at half-time in this U16B championship final at Castle Road where Inniscarra and Brian Dillon's battled it out for the title in glorious sunshine.

Laura Burke opened the scoring for Inniscarra with a point inside the opening 10 minutes and with Liz Buckley pointing on 16 minutes, they settled quickly.

Brian Dillon's battled to get into the game. Laura Burke had added to the Inniscarra tally before Caoimhe Rodgers got Brian Dillon's on the scoresheet 23 minutes into the contest with a goal.

Despite Inniscarra holding a very slight advantage, Brian Dillon's were well in contention as they worked hard to stay with Inniscarra before the break. Laura Burke and Michelle Ring had traded points to level but Inniscarra were still ahead by the narrowest of margins at the break 0-5 to 1-1.

Within five minutes of the restart Inniscarra extended their advantage, Mary Desmond taking on the Brian Dillon's defence to get through for a goal. Three minutes later Olivia Worth hit Inniscarra's second goal and it gave Brian Dillon's a mountain to climb.

To their credit, they battled on with Rebecca O'Mahony and Donna Carroll hitting points but Inniscarra's ability to grab goals was to prove crucial as the two they grabbed gave them a cushion as Brian Dillon's applied the pressure but they could find no way past a solid Inniscarra defence where goalkeeper Emily O'Donovan was in superb form. She denied Brian Dillon's on a few occasions while Susan Buckley and Allannah Twohill were solid in defence.

Inniscarra's Niamh Byrne pointed twice and Laura Burke hit one before Shauna Kavanagh hit a late goal to give Brian Dillon's no way back and send the title to Inniscarra.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** L Burke 0-5 (0-1 11), M Desmond 0-2, S Kavanagh 1-0 each, N Byrne 0-2, L Buckley 0-1.

**Brian Dillon's:** C Rodgers 1-0, M Ring, R O'Mahony, D Carroll 0-1 each.

**INNISCARRA:** E O'Donovan, O Coleman, S Walsh, Loney, E Loney, A Twohill.

**Brian Dillon's:** S Rodgers, S Cotter, R Myers, E Porter, K O'Brien, S Attridge, K Henry, S Brennan, O N Shurleathain (c), R O'Mahony, D Carroll, R Brennan, C Rodgers, M Ring, S Ring.



# Oulart out to rock Cashel



RONAN FAGAN

AFTER FIVE years of heartbreak they finally delivered Leinster glory, and Oulart-The Ballagh's camogie force are out to make it another first by getting through to the All-Ireland Club championship decider when they host Cashel in Sunday's penultimate round showdown (2.30p.m.).

The Tipperary women, who won the national crown in 2007, captured their sixth Munster title – and fourth within the space of five years – on Sunday week last when scoring a thumping 4-20 to 0-12 win over St. Catherine's of Cork. So, while they certainly boast an advantage in terms of experience, Cashel face a big ask when coming into Oulart's own territory for what promises to be a humdinger.

While October's 3-14 to 1-6 win over Freshford of Kilkenny yielded Oulart's first Leinster title, they are anything but strangers to glory, meaning that they'll be in absolutely no awe of a high-achieving Cashel team which numbers such Tipperary aces as Claire Grogan, Una Dwyer and Philly Fogarty.

Indeed, much of this Oulart crew were involved as the club annexed the



Oulart-The Ballagh captain Mary Leacy is ready to lead the red-and-black into Sunday's All-Ireland Club semi-final against Cashel, convinced that "if we play like we did in the Leinster final we'll have a good chance" of making the final for the first time.

five-in-a-row of All-Ireland Féile under-14 premier crowns between 1998 and 2002, with many of those players having also steered Colaiste Bride of Enniscorthy to All-Ireland Colleges senior and junior honour. Then came the big club breakthrough when they finally won the county senior championship in 2003, and added the next four for good measure.

"But losing to Rathnure last year was a wake-up call," team captain Mary Leacy says, reflecting on their county final defeat to

their keenest rivals. "We just seemed to think that we'd win the county championship every year, so what happened last year was probably the best thing ever."

It certainly means they have a greater appreciation of their opportunities. "We sat down last February, and the three selectors (Brendan O'Connor, Anne Kirwan, and Mary's mother Margaret) said what they expected of us. They set down a strict policy of discipline, and everyone of us has stuck to that.

Training has been brilliant, and the commitment has really been upped a few levels," the inspirational centre-back says, before pointing out: "That's how we're getting the success now."

While Oulart took a while to get their chops around the challenge of winning Leinster, as they continually bit the dust against Freshford, Mary does highlight that: "Much of the more experienced players on the team right now are only 23 years of age, so it's still quite a

young team. It's just been a matter of us gaining experience, and last year's loss to Rathnure really made us want to achieve the breakthrough all the more this time round."

They decided to make a few promises to themselves earlier this year. The first was to win back the county silverware. The second was to win Leinster. The third is to win the All-Ireland. "We actually played Cashel in Cashel two years ago in a challenge, and we did well against them. So we've

nothing to fear," Mary suggests. "The only issue is that it's been five weeks since the Leinster final whereas Cashel have only just won Munster, and it has been hard for us to keep everything going."

"But we've had challenge matches, won the league title (for the eighth year running), and we've had a few weeks of very hard training, and I really believe that if we play like we did in the Leinster final that we'll have a good chance of making the All-Ireland."

## Tipp queens lay down firm marker

CASHEL LAID down a firm marker to the rest of the clubs still involved in the All-Ireland series when they destroyed Cork champions St. Catherine's at Mallow in the Munster final by 4-20 to 0-12.

From the throw-in Cashel launched into attack, and when Alison Lonergan latched onto a delivery from midfield to goal within the first minute, it looked as if they weren't going to be stopped. This belief was added to as Cashel added three more points before St. Catherine's pointed.

Cashel piled on the pressure, and their six forwards all found the target from play, with a lot of scores being achieved from long-range. St. Catherine's tried hard, but Cashel were too strong in defence, aided with a 'player of the match' display from Philly Fogarty. At half-time Cashel were 3-11 to 0-7 ahead, with further goals from Alison Lonergan and Emily Hayden.

With this margin there was no doubt about the result, but Cashel emerged determined not to rest on their laurels. They continued to press on, and the subs introduced were determined to push for a starting-place in the Oulart game.

Claire Grogan had what looked a legitimate goal disallowed, but Cashel had too much class and skill for their opponents, and finished with an admirable tally of scores. This was a superb team display, but Philly Fogarty earned her best-player award, while up-front, Alison Lonergan was ruthless in front of goal, and Cora Hennessey's ability to find the target from 50 yards was also noteworthy.

## Hoping to bridge seven-year gap

ST. IBAR'S were the last Wexford side to make camogie's All-Ireland Club senior championship final, when they lost out to Pearces of Galway out west in Ballinasloe (2-13 to 1-5).

In total, Wexford has contested the final ten times, winning six, with Buffers Alley prevailing on five occasions, to sit joint-second with the Pearces behind eight-time winners St. Paul's of Kilkenny.

The competition was start-

ed in 1964, and Buffers Alley was the first Wexford side to contest the final, losing to Ballyagran of Limerick by 1-3 to 0-1 in 1978. They made amends the following year, with a 2-6 to 1-2 win over Athenry. While the 'Alley succumbed to Killeagh (Cork) in the 1980 decider (4-2 to 1-7), they won the next four finals on the trot, gaining immediate revenge against Killeagh (2-6 to 1-4) before beating Athenry (3-2 to 0-2), St. Mary's of Galway

(3-7 to 0-6) and then Killeagh once again (2-4 to 1-4).

Rathnure broke through to the final in 1992, only to suffer against Glen Rovers of Cork (1-9 to 0-2). But the black-and-amber returned in '95 to make amends, with a 4-9 to 1-5 win away to Toomevara of Tipperary.

Then there was St. Ibar's gallant effort in 2002...and hopefully Oulart-The Ballagh can become the latest Wexford outfit to make it to camogie's big Club day.



Tippi and Cashel ace Philly Fogarty: a big threat to Oulart-The Ballagh.

## Three wins, three losses for Tipp

THREE OUTRIGHT wins – two of them back in the infancy of the competition – form the grand-total of Tipperary's successes in the All-Ireland Club camogie championship.

Celtic of Dublin won the inaugural final in 1964, when they beat Deirdre (Belfast) by 5-2 to 1-0. But the next two championships belonged to Tipp side St. Patrick's of Glengoele, as they shaded Deirdre in the 1965 showdown (3-3 to 2-3) before completing back-to-back titles at the expense of St. Paul's of Kilkenny (5-5 to 2-1).

Tipp didn't make the Club decider again until 1972, when Thurles Sarsfields lost to Austin Stacks of Dublin

(no, not the Kerry version) by 5-4 to 2-1.

It was 1995 before the Premier County champions again made this particular final, with Toomevara coming off second-best on that occasion at home to our own Rathnure (4-9 to 1-5).

Cashel made the final in 2001, only to lose out to Pearces of Galway (2-8 to 0-13). They atoned in 2007 at the expense of another Galway outfit, this time Athenry, when scoring a 1-18 to 0-9 victory.

Hopefully their efforts to add another crown will be ended on Sunday by the current Wexford and Leinster standard-bearers.

# Blackwater step into big time

ALL-IRELAND POST-PRIMARY CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

**K**ILKENNY'S hurlers may well have snatched the headlines in another rip-roaring year for Brian Cody's men, but what a year it has been for Kilkenny camogie too.

Their senior team reached the All-Ireland final and their minor team completed the four-in-a-row.

The success continued at colleges level, where St Brigid's, Callan annexed the All-Ireland Senior 'A' title and Loreto, Kilkenny won the All-

Ireland Junior 'A' title.

All this must bode well for the future of the game in Kilkenny, while some of the other counties look on in awe at their success.

And it's certainly fair to say that a big portion of this success comes from schools, clubs and underage county teams working together.

The benefits of this approach can also be seen in other counties.

At colleges 'B' grade, for instance, there is a great success story emanating from Blackwater CS, Lismore and rising into the Waterford county sides.

In 2008, the Lismore side entered

the 'B' competition for the first time and went on to win the All-Ireland title, beating Colaiste Mhic Naosa Garran Tower from Antrim in the semi-final and Sacred Heart, Tullamore in the final.

Some of this success duly rubbed off on the Waterford junior team, helping them to reach the All-Ireland final, where they lost out to Offaly. The resurgence in Waterford camogie was emphasised more recently when the St Anne's club won the Munster junior title.

Blackwater will now be looking forward with great anticipation to a first tilt at the 'A' title.

A lot of the credit for this success must go to Denis Ring, Fintan O'Connor and all the other coaches involved in Waterford at school, club and county level.

So, where will the various titles go this time round?

Will St Brigid's or Loreto continue the Kilkenny domination or will Christ the King, Cork come to the fore?

Or will some new schools' power emerge and surprise everybody?

It is harder to predict the eventual winners of the 'B' and 'C' grades.

Colaiste Choilm, Cork, will be looking to collect the Senior 'B' title to

add to their Senior 'C' success of four years ago?

St Dominic's, Cabra will be hell bent on going one better than their All-Ireland Junior 'B' title bid of three years ago when they lost to Coachford CC from Cork?

Will St Paul's from Kilrea, in Derry, make up for the disappointment of losing the All-Ireland Junior 'C' final last year and win the Senior 'C' title next March?

Wherever the All-Ireland Colleges titles rest at the end of March 2010, let's hope one and all enjoy their Camogie and may the best teams win at all levels.