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MAY 2014
AUG^{to} 2014

Cork and Limerick minors must meet again



Cork's Rebecca Walsh and Donna Mulcahy of Limerick in Kilmallock. Pictured on the front page masthead of today's County is Claire Sexton.

Picture: ©INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Cork Limerick

3-8
2-11

It's back we go again after an exciting contest in Kilmallock failed to find a winner in the All-Ireland Minor A championship final as Cork and Limerick battled it out to win their first title in front of a huge crowd.

Limerick raced into a seven-point opening-half lead but Cork settled and had it down to three by the break after playing with the aid of a gale in the opening half.

Limerick were strong in attack and it took the Cork defence a while to get their measure but the pace of Cork substitutes Amy O'Connor and Aisling Wallace

troubled Limerick's defence and helped open up the play which suited Cork.

Cork dominated the closing quarter of the game as they held Limerick scoreless and they almost got a winner. Despite playing with the aid of the wind, Cork struggled and with Caoimhe Costello striking 1-4 and Caoimhe Lyons and Aoife Wilson adding one each, Limerick had a seven-point lead with five minutes to the interval.

With Leanne Browne playing as an extra defender against the wind, Cork found it hard to get past the Limerick defence, but in a three-minute spell before the break Rachel O'Shea pointed twice from frees and when Kate O'Keefe

grabbed a vital goal Cork back in the game and it was 1-7 to 1-4 at the break.

Cork converted two 45s inside five minutes of the restart but with the wind to their backs Limerick responding with two to keep ahead. Cork dug deep and worked hard. Joanne O'Keefe and substitutes Lisa Lynch and Ellen Twomey put their stamp on the game with some excellent play they got the ball inside fast where the inside line were caused a lot of bother for the Limerick defence.

Kate O'Keefe struck for a goal set up by Amy O'Connor who won possession from a clearance and drove forward past two Limerick defenders before off delivering in-

side to O'Keefe who finished well. Now just a point separated the sides and as they exchanged points it remained nerve-racking. Limerick's Caoimhe Costello got a vital flick from far out and it finished in the net to put them four ahead but it was to be their last score as Cork dominated from here on in.

Rachel O'Shea pointed a free to put just a goal between the sides and in the next attack captain Aisling Wallace won possession but a timely flick from Sinead McNamara denied her an equaliser. However, Kate O'Keefe was in support and she finished over the line to level matters with six minutes remaining.

Both sides battled for a winner with the majority of possession but

the Limerick defence stood strong to set up a replay on Saturday next in Charleville at 2.30pm.

Cork C Casey; K Falvey O'Driscoll, A Crowley; R Sheehan; L Mc Evoy, E Benaime; L Coppinger; J O'Keefe; C Sexton, H Looney, N Sheehan; K O'Keefe; L Collins, R O'Shea. Subs: A Wallace (c) for N Sheehan (18), A O'Connor for L Mc Evoy (hvt), E Twomey for C Sexton (38), L Lynch for L Coppinger (41), R Walsh for A Crowley (50). Scorers: K O'Keefe 3-1, R O'Shea 0-5 (0-3 45, 0-2 fs), A O'Connor 0-2.

Limerick: L O'Neill; K Hennessy, S Mac Namara, S Sheehan; J Wilson, R Delee, T Fitzgibbon; D Mulcahy, K O'Leary; D Murphy, C Costello, A Wilson; L Browne, K Mulqueen, C Lyons. Subs: S Shanahan for S Sheehan (26), A Scanlon for L Browne (34), L O'Riordan for K Mulqueen (45), N Tuile for T Fitzgibbon (55). Scorers: C Costello 2-6 (0-3 fs, 0-1 45), C Lyons 0-3, A Wilson, K O'Leary 0-1 each.

Referee: Alan Le Grue (Kildare).

Minor league finals dominated Easter weekend with three finals played at Castle Road. The B final ended in a draw, and Sarsfields and Brian Dillon's were back on Wednesday night to battle it out for the title.

Cloughduv Glen Rovers

5-11
0-9

A well-balanced Cloughduv side took the Minor A league title with a solid performance as they overcame Glen Rovers in a good game at Castle Road.

Cloughduv led 2-4 to 0-6 at the interval thanks to good performances from Ann Marie Ryan and Megan Buckley with scores that helped them hit the front after Michelle Hyde and Lorna Hickey were on target for the Glen girls. Both sides battled hard in the second half but Cloughduv's strength

Minor leagues

was vital. With Rachel Hurley, Mairéad Corkery and Derbhla Ahern all to the fore, they ran out winners to be crowned league champions after a good contest.

Sarsfields Brian Dillon's

1-10
1-3

Having ended level 1-6 apiece on Easter Monday it was back to the drawing board again on Wednesday evening and another exciting con-

test as Sarsfields and Brian Dillon's met in the Minor B league final. Julie Allen settled Sars with a goal five minutes in and with Hollie Herlihy on target with two points and Lucy Allen, Emma Casey and Lucy Kelly adding one apiece they led 1-5 to 0-2 at the interval. Sinead Mills was on target for Brian Dillon's with a pointed 45 and one from play as they worked hard to breach a solid Sarsfields defence.

Lauren Barry struck for a Brian Dillon's goal and with Mills adding a point, the gap was closing. But Sarsfields settled back into the game with five more points to ensure they held their lead to the final whistle and claimed the title.

Bride Rovers Ballinascarty

5-2
2-1

Bride Rovers took the Minor D ti-

tle with an impressive display against a battling Ballinascarty side at Castle Road. They set the foundations for victory with three first-half goals from Katie Connor, Emma Hazelwood and Laura Quirke. With Katie Connor and Clare Crowley exchanging points, Bride Rovers held the upper hand at the break, leading 3-1 to 1-1.

Ballinascarty showed fierce determination from the restart but failed to narrow the gap and it was Emma Hazelwood with a goal who extended the Bride Rovers lead. Megan Ryan got one back for Ballinascarty but despite huge pressure they failed to build on it as the Bride Rovers defence stood firm.

Maeve Leahy put the result beyond doubt with a goal and when Kate Connor added a point, the title was secured by Bride Rovers.

Féile Na nGael

Féile Na nGael is down to the semi-final stages. Ballincollig, Newcestown, Aghabullogue and Charleville are the last four standing in division 1 after they came through their respective groups on Sunday. In division 2, Slabh Rua, Cobh, Douglas and Bride Rovers booked their places in the last four. The semis will take place as below and the finals will take place in Castle Road on Friday.

Wednesday April 30

Division 1 Semi-finals Castle Road
Ballincollig v Charleville 8.30pm
Aghabullogue v Newcestown 7.30pm

Division 2 Semi-finals Ballinure
Cobh v Slabh Rua 8.30pm
Douglas v Bride Rovers 7.30pm



CORCAIGH

Deag agus Bán



1 CHLOE CASEY C. Ní Chasthasaigh Sanyfields	3 ORLAITH O'DRISCOLL O. Ní Dhrisceoil Cloughduv	4 AINE CROWLEY A. Ní Chualaoich Kilbrittain/Timoleague
2 KELLY FALVEY C. Ní Fháilbhe Glen Rovers	5 REBECCA SHEEHAN R. Shiocháin Douglas	6 LEAH McEVOY L. Ní Fhíobhul Killeagh
7 ELLEN BENAİM E. Ní Bandín Killeagh	8 LIBBY COPPINGER L. Coipíngéir St. Columba's	9 JOANNE O'KEEFFE S. Ní Chaoimh St. Catherine's
10 CLAIRE SEXTON C. Ní Sheasáin Barryroe	11 HANNAH LOONEY S. Ní Luanaigh Killeagh	12 NIAMH SHEEHAN N. Shiocháin Ballinhassig
13 KATE O'KEEFFE C. Ní Chaoimh Millstreet	14 LINDA COLLINS L. Ní Choileáin Courcey Rovers	15 RACHEL O'SHEA R. Ní Shé Carrigaline
16 Sarah O'Sullivan S. Ní Shúilleabháin Bishopstown	17 Ellen Twomey E. Ní Thuama Carrigaline	18 Rebecca Walsh R. Bhreathnach Fr. O'Neill's
19 Jennifer Kiely S. Ní Cadhlá Tracon	20 Caroline Murphy C. Ní Mhurchú Kilbrittain/Timoleague	21 Aisling Wallace A. Bhailis (Capt.) Glen Rovers
22 Lisa Lynch L. Ní Loingsigh Valley Rovers	23 Hayley Ryan H. Ní Riain Blackrock	24 Amy Curtin A. Ní Curtáin Douglas
25 Keeva McCarthy C. Ní Cartáigh St. Finbarrs	26 Meabhdx Sexton M. Ní Sheasáin Barryroe	28 Amy O'Connor A. Ní Chonchúir St. Vincent's

Manager: John McElvaine · Selectors: Mary Harrington, Graeme McIver, Dave O'Connell · Physio: Orla Coughlan



LUIMNEACH

Glas agus Bán



1 LAURA O'NEILL L. Ní Néill Na Píarsaigh	3 SINÉAD MacNAMARA S. Ní Chonmara Na Píarsaigh	4 SHANNYN SHEEHAN S. Ní Shiocháin Templeglantine
2 KATIE HENNESSY C. Ní hAonasa Ballyagran	5 JANE WILSON S. Ní Liam Na Píarsaigh	6 REBECCA DELEE R. Ní Dhuilé Newcastle West
7 TARA FITZGIBBON T. Ní Giobáin Ballyagran	8 DONNA MULCAHY D. Ní Mhaolchathaigh Killeedy	9 KAREN O'LEARY C. Ní Laoire Newcastle West
10 DEBORAH MURPHY D. Ní Mhurchú Knockaderry	11 CAOIMHE COSTELLOE C. Ní Choistealla (Capt.) Adare	12 AOIFE WILSON A. Ní Liam Na Píarsaigh
13 LEANNE BROWNE L. de Brún Na Píarsaigh	14 KATE MULQUEEN C. Ní Mhaolchaoin Ballybrown	15 CAOIMHE LYONS C. Ní Liatháin Monaleen
16 Orla Condon O. Chondáin Knockaderry	17 Sarah Shanahan S. Ní Sheanáin Killeedy	18 Helena Fitzgerald A. Ní Ghearáilte Adare
19 Leah O'Riordan L. Ní Riordáin Ballyagran	20 Aisling Scanlon A. Ní Scannláin Killeedy	21 Niamh Tuile N. Tuile Treaty Girls
22 Eilánah Mulcahy E. Ní Mhaolchathaigh Killeedy	23 Marie Danagher M. Ní Dhanathair Ballyagran	24 Marian Quaid M. Uaid Bruff
25 Mainéad Clancy M. Ní Lannchaidh Ballybrown	26 Lisa Ryan L. Ní Riain Munroe Boher	27 Shauna Tobin S. Tobáin Newcastle West
28 Aoife Barry A. de Barra Munroe Boher	29 Neamh Curtin N. Ní Curtáin Ballybrown	30 Kiana Carroll C. Ní Chéarúill Newcastle West

Manager: Willie Banks · Selectors: Adrian O'Sullivan, Rose McMahon · First Aid: Margaret Delee · Physio: Sara Fitzgerald · Liaison Officer: Liz Hennessy

BANNER IS RAISED AT KILMALLOCK

CLARE ended the three-in-a-row hopes of Cork with a pillar-to-post victory in the second semi-final at Kilmallock.

Colm Honan's charges will play Kilkenny in the final next week as a result of this success.

While clearly a surprise result, the Bannerwomen have troubled their Leeside rivals on numerous occasions in recent years, beating them in the Munster final in 2012 and only losing at the same juncture of this competition after extra time last season.

Clare started well with a couple of points from long-range Chloe Morey frees and it took Cork until the 13th minute to get on the board via the excellent Jenny O'Leary.

Breathing

A 17th minute goal from Fiona Lafferty, after good work from Ellen Horgan and Laura McMahon, gave Clare some much needed breathing space.

Horgan drew the cover before laying off to McMahon, and she transferred quickly to Lafferty, who finished well.

Cork managed to steady the ship with points from Orla Cotter and O'Leary.

They also had a goal disallowed for a square ball, while Denise Lynch was called upon to make a

Clare 1-12
Cork 0-11
CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 1

smart save and Clare went in at half-time leading by 1-4 to 0-4.

Crucially, Morey (free) and McMahon hit the first two points of the second half early on.

That was important as O'Leary and Katrina Mackey responded and by the 51st minute, the gap was down to two with Cotter and O'Leary finding the target once more.

Morey landed her sixth free to open to margin to three once more, but it wasn't until Nikki Kaiser converted another placed ball in injury-time that Clare's supporters could relax slightly.

With Róisín McMahon, Máire McGrath and Carol O'Leary magnificent in the Clare defence, Cork never looked like getting the goal they needed to rescue themselves.

CLARE: D. Lynch, R. McMahon, M. McGrath, C. O'Leary, C. Morey (0-6), N. O'Dea, E. Consideine, K. Lynch, O. Duggan, C. Hennessy, F. Lafferty (1-0), D. Murphy, N. Kaiser (0-4), L. McMahon (0-2), E. Horgan. Subs: C. McMahon, L. Loughnane. CORK: A. Murray, L. Treacy, A. Geary, J. O'Callaghan, G. O'Connor, S. Hayes, E. O'Sullivan, R. Buckley, A. Thompson, J. White, D. Cronin, J. O'Leary (0-4), M. O'Neill (0-1), O. Cotter (0-4), K. Mackey (0-1) Sub: J. Casey (0-1). REF: G. O'Dowd (Limerick)



BATTLE: Cork's Jennifer O'Leary with Fiona Lafferty



Camogie comeback
Cork and Limerick minors must meet again in Charleville: 7

MAY 2014

CAMOGIE DIVISION TWO FINAL

Maginn ready for Cork test

BY CIARAN WOODS

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION TWO FINAL
CORK V DOWN
Sunday, Clane (Kildare), 2.30pm

THIS WEEKEND marks the biggest test yet of Orla Maginn's new role as the full-back on the Down senior camogie side.

Recognised as a forward throughout her career, the Clonduff player has been asked to take up post on the edge of her own square by manager Mickey McCullough this season, and to date it's a switch which has worked out well for both the player and her county, despite her initial reservations.

"It's a new step for me anyway, and it's just been a case of trying to settle into it some way. The big difference is that instead of letting the opposition worry about what you're going to do, you're the one who is trying to second guess what your opponent is going to do. You're the last in line in front of the goalkeeper, so it's about keeping the players in front of you right as well. You have to just try and keep your head about you, and I've been lucky enough to have a few very strong, very experienced players in there around me. It's a nerve-wrecking position, or at least it is for me anyway."

Down set their stall out at the start of the year to use the National League as a stepping stone, to blood players in a competitive environment and to find a settled team. However, they've had to re-set their sights a number of times as the positive results keep coming for the Mourne girls.

"Mickey was very clear at the start



POACHER TURNED GAME-KEEPER...Orla Maginn has been embracing her role as a repurposed full back

Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

of the year about the goals he wanted to achieve. The league was always a case of taking things as they came, not the main goal of the season by any means. The championship remains Down's main goal, as it has been for a number of years, but what the league has done is that it has provided us with a lot of confidence. It's been a long time since Down won six games on the bounce, and we keep

getting stronger with each game that passes."

Down have a number of absentees through injury ahead of this weekend's tie, most notably Sara-Louise Carr who remains sidelined, but the depth of their squad and the level of competition within it ensures that Down will still field a formidable side against the Munster girls this Sunday.

It's going to be a tough ask, but with a National League title on the line, the full-back insists that her side will not be found wanting when the challenge is thrown down to them.

"We wouldn't know much about Cork. It's been a long time since we played them even at Championship level, and they would have had quite a high turnover of players since then. But Cork are Cork at the end of the

day, you know that they're going to bring a very skilful and physical game, and it's going to be tough.

"But we're looking forward to it. We'll enjoy it of course, but by the same token we'll be going all out for a win, to try to keep this positive run going and to set us up even further for Championship."

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CHAMPIONS: Waterford celebrate their All-Ireland Minor B camogie championship final victory over Derry, (Waterford 4-6, Derry 0-2), at Naomh Peregrine GAA club, Dublin.

Picture: Caroline Quinn

Waterford's minor camogie stars win All-Ireland glory

WATERFORD4-6
DERRY0-2

The team commenced the 2014 championship away on 16th March at Craobh Chiarain, Clonsaugh when they played and beat Dublin on a score of Dublin's 2-6 to Waterford's 2-11. Unfortunately, Westmeath

were also in their group and had to withdraw from the competition which meant that Waterford's remaining group match was against Derry and was played on 22nd March at Dunganny where Derry were



The Waterford Minor Camogie team who were crowned All Ireland Minor B Camogie Champions after defeating Derry in Dublin.



Beth Carton, Waterford, jumps after scoring her second goal past Derry goalkeeper Erin Burns in the All-Ireland Minor Final. Photos: Caroline Quinn.

victorious by the smallest of margins (Derry's 3-07 to Waterford's 4-03).

Finishing runners up meant a trip to Naomh Peregrine last Saturday (19th April) to play the All Ireland semi-final against Down where our team was again victorious to progress into the All Ireland final. The match finished up Waterford 2-12 to Down's 2-5.

The other semi-final saw Derry play Kildare who were easy winners on a score of 6-6 to Kildare's 1-6.

In the final Waterford team won the match on a score of 4-6 to 0-2 which was not expected particularly as the previous encounter between the two teams had been so close with Derry winning.

Waterford elected to play

against the wind in the first half and started strongly with Lorraine Bray opening the scoring before player of the match Beth Carton got her first score when she struck into the net.

Derry responded with a point but then Waterford's Caoimhe McGrath scored a point and Beth Carton scored a point from a free and then followed up with another goal to ensure that Waterford were in control of the game.

As halftime approached Waterford scored a further 1-1 for no reply. First up was a point by Caoimhe McGrath followed by a Jessica Glavin goal. Waterford headed in at the halftime break 3-4 to 0-1.

The start of the second half saw Waterford take up where they had left off when Lorraine

Bray scored her second point and then Beth Carton scored her third goal to extend the distance between the two teams. Lorraine Bray then scored her third point from a free to complete Waterford's scoring. Derry did score a consolation point but this Waterford team excelled on the day and were ably prepared by team management of Shane Ahearne, Joey Carton and Maurice Cahillane.

WATERFORD PANEL: Briana O'Regan (De La Salle), Sarah Coughlan (Lismore), Laoibhse Dunbar (Captain, St Anne's), Sarah Geoghegan (Lismore), Courtney Healy (De La Salle), Róisín Cahillane (Cappoquin), Bronwyn Grace (St Anne's), Iona Heffernan (Ferrybank), Lorraine Bray

(Cappoquin), Jessica Glavin (Cappoquin), Caoimhe McGrath (Brickeys) Joanna Houlihan (Lismore), Orla Flynn (Clonea), Beth Carton (De La Salle), Molly Curran (Brickeys), Catherine Kelly (St Anne's), Dawn Power (Dungarvan), Niamh Ahearne (Ferrybank), Elizabeth McGrath (Butlerstown/Tramore), Hannah Murphy-Nix (Brickeys), Doireann Flynn (Gaultier), Cadhla McGrath (Brickeys), Rachel Donnelly (Brickeys), Sibeal Harney (St Anne's), Sara Judge (Gaultier), Haley Cox (De La Salle), Catherine Haessey (Brickeys), Taylor Murray (Dungarvan), Emily White (Portlaw).
Management team: Shane Ahearne, Dan Geoghegan, Maurice Cahillane.

GALTIR RETAIN FEILE CROWN

The 2014 camogie Feile was played on Monday 20th April at the Ballygunner GAA grounds in Waterford City and the 2013 champions retained their title to once again represent Waterford in June. This Galtir team is well balanced and they won most of their games easily during the competition. Galtir beat Dungarvan in the semi-final who then went onto win the Shield against Portlaw.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Munster Minor Shield Final versus Clare which is on Sat 3rd May at 3pm in Killehenry. The Adult county team play Tipperary in the Munster Senior Champ on Mon May 5th at 6.30pm in the Ragg County Tipperary.

MAY 2014



Waterford captain Laoibhse Dunbar receives the All-Ireland Minor B cup from Marie O'Brien.

CHAMPIONS: The Waterford players begin the celebrations after they defeated Derry in the All-Ireland Minor B Camogie Championship Final in Dublin. Below left: Molly Curran, Jessica Glavin, Briana O'Regan and Beth Carton celebrate after the match and below right: Waterford captain Laoibhse Dunbar lifts the cup. See page five for report and reaction. Photos: Caroline Quinn.



No penalty for delay as Meath mourn defeat

Down arrive late and claim victory with a flourish in the closing stages

CAMOGIE

DOWN 0-14

MEATH 1-9

CONALL COLLIER

MEATH made a brave effort for a place in the National Camogie League Div 2 final at Iniskeen (Monaghan) on Sunday afternoon, but were overhauled in the closing stages of a tight semi-final by a physically stronger Down side.

Dublin referee Karl O'Brien allowed some latitude to Down who delayed the start of the game by about 15 minutes as they claimed they were delayed on the way to the ground. However, they arrived at 1.30 for 2.0 start and it would have been possible for throw-in at the appointed time.

Down however needed time to warm up, which was granted, and that delay may have worked against Meath. Then there was a further delay as the umpires noticed that a net wasn't properly attached and a man with a ladder had to remedy that.

Meath were out of sorts for the opening 10 minutes as they tallied five wides and struggled to get into the game while Down were quickly into their stride.

Meath also found it difficult to cope with Down's ploy of playing corner forward Brid McGourty as an extra defender just inside her own half and she made the opening for the Ulster side's first point.

She ran

unmarked to take a pass from a free and set up Nicola Braniff who sent over from close-range while Niamh Mallon added a second for Down soon after.

When Meath got going, they had warmed up from 1.0 to 1.30, they registered some poor wides before they settled. Jane Dolan converted a brace of frees with a point from play by Aoife Minogue giving the Royals a 0-3 to 0-2 first-quarter lead.

For all their possession for the remainder of the half Meath only added two more Dolan points (one free), but they restricted Down to just a 30th minute '45' from Catherine McGourty after Emily Mangan made a save. Then Dolan found the net with a clever finish in added time and sent Meath into the break with a 1-5 to 0-3 interval advantage. Down resumed the second-half smartly and reeled off points from Catherine McGourty (two), Mallon and Paula Gribben, but a battling Meath side maintained their advantage with Edel Guy, who moved to full-forward, and Minogue on target.

Down then received a boost when Catherine McGourty claimed a two-pointer - she sent over directly from a sideline cut, but Dolan converted a free at the other end as Meath maintained a narrow 1-8 to 0-9 third quarter advantage. That Meath managed only one further point, a Dolan free with nine minutes remaining, accurately reflects the dominance of the Down girls for the closing stages. Catherine McGourty added another Down point and was then denied a goal by a superb Mangan save, but a brace of points from Lisa McPolin drew the sides level (1-9 to 0-12) with three minutes remaining. The Down onslaught continued and Catherine McGourty ('45') and Braniff both split the posts to seal victory



Jane Dolan surges forward for Meath during Sunday's National Camogie League Div 2 semi-final against Down at Iniskeen.

PHOTO: MARY BURKE

for the Ulster team.

Down - M McNally, J Fowler, C McGovern, K Tinnelly, C Rocks, L McAisley, F Carr, A Keown, L McPolin (0-2); C McGourty (0-6 two '45s', one sideline), P Gribben (0-1), C Clarke, N Mallon (0-2), N Braniff (0-2), B McGourty. **Subs** - O McGinn for Clarke half-time, A McAleenan for Rocks 54 mins.

Note: a point direct from a sideline is worth two points.

Meath - Emily Mangan (Blackhall Gaels), Laura Maguire (Killyon), Claire Coffey (Na Fianna), Tracy King (Kilmeash), Aine Keogh (Kilallick), Emma Coffey (Na Fianna), Emma McGill (Ratoath), Jane Dolan (Blackhall Gaels 1-6 five frees), Aoife Maguire (Killyon), Aoife Minogue (Dunderry (0-2)), Edel Guy (Trim 0-1), Cheyanne O'Brien (Kilalea), Sinead Hackett (Dunboyne), Ellen Burke (Dunboyne), Kate Hackett (Boardsmill). **Subs** - Fiona O'Neill (Dunboyne) for King and Kristina Troy (Blackhall Gaels) for Burke both half-time, Fia O'Brien (Kilalea) for McGill 38 mins.

Referee - Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

REACTION MEATH MANAGER JOHN DAVIS

"We didn't play as well as we could have, but we lost the game and we have to deal with that," Meath manager John Davis told the *Meath Chronicle*.

"The reality is that we probably aren't ready to go up to Div 1 anyway and we are probably better off playing at this grade for the moment."

"Once we can stay in Div 2 and produce some more quality players, then we will be moving in the right direc-

tion, we wouldn't gain anything at the moment in Div 1 apart that we might get well beaten in every game, that wouldn't do any good."

"We will turn our attention now to the Leinster Intermediate Championship, we will play Kilkenny in that, we will see how good we are then."

"After that we have the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship at home to Waterford

in the first game on Saturday 21st June.

"There is plenty of scope for improvement if we are good enough, it will represent progress if we can qualify again for the semi-finals," he added.

NEXT UP

SUNDAY 11th MAY
Leinster Intermediate Championship - Meath v Kilkenny, quarter-final.

SATURDAY 21st JUNE
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship - Meath v Waterford.

Cork sides will have work cut out

SUNDAY

Irish Daily Star Division 2 League final: Cork v Down, Clane, 3pm.

THESE teams are both unbeaten, but got stern semi-finals tests from Laois and Meath respectively.

Laois threw everything at Cork, but they held on, 2-6 to 0-8 the margin at the finish. Down had to do likewise to overcome Meath by two points.

Cork haven't won this title since 2005 but Paudie Murray and his selectors Jason Downey, John O'Donovan and Esther O'Leary are blending a nice team together.

It's Cork's second team bat-

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

ting against a first 15 from Down, but they've experienced players in Sara Hayes, Catriona Foley and captain Amanda O'Regan, plus young players such as Leeanne O'Sullivan, Laura Treacy, Kaitlyn Hickey and Niamh O'Keefe.

TOMORROW

All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship final replay: Cork v Limerick, Charleville, 2.30pm.

In a thrilling contest last weekend, both sides had chances to take the title but it

wasn't to be. Limerick dominated the early stages but Cork battled back to almost snatch a late winner. The introduction of Amy O'Connor and Aisling Wallace to their inside line brought huge pace which troubled Limerick. With Ellen Twomey and Lisa Lynch also superb when introduced, Cork hit Limerick hard.

Limerick have excellent forwards who like to get fast ball into them but when Cork cut off the supply last weekend they struggled to find scores. Their main forward Caoimhe Costello is one of the best under-age players at this level.

Cork showed huge spirit to come back from a shaky start

and this has been their hallmark all season. Kate O'Keefe was superb last weekend, firing in three goals, and no doubt Limerick will be keeping a close eye on her. Last Saturday they focused on tying up full-forward Linda Collins by double marking, but O'Keefe stepped up to the mark.

Orlaith O'Driscoll, at full-back, got the measure of Limerick danger woman Kate Mulqueen, but the Cork defence will have to be tight as Limerick are excellent on the break.

The sides are evenly matched and it's hard to pick a winner.



Members of the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) Camogie team at their medal presentation function following their win in the Higher Education Purcell Shield competition. Captain, Amanda Dorgan, is seated middle front row. Picture: Mike English.

All Ireland Minor Championship Final results

By Camogie Results
Posted 26/04/2014



All Ireland Minor A Final

Limnack 2-11 Scorers: C Costelloe 2-6 3F 1'45, C Lyons 0-3, A Wilson & K O'Leary 0-1 each

Cork 3-8 Scorers: K O'Keefe 3-1, R O'Shea 0-5 1F 2'45, A O'Connor 0-2

All Ireland Minor B Final

Waterford 4-6 Scorers: B Carton 3-1, J Galvin 1-0, L Bray 0-3, C McGrath 0-2

Derry 0-2 Scorers: A Shaw 0-2

All Ireland Minor B Shield Final

Antrim 6-11 Scorers: E Elliot 4-2, N Adams 1-4, T O'Neill 1-1, R Kelly & D Elliot 0-2 each

Dublin 3-10 Scorers: C McDonnell 1-2, C Carolan 0-3, A Wade 0-1, A Gorman 1-1, M Hetherton 0-2, L Butler 1-1

All Ireland Minor C Final

Meath 1-13 Scorers: A Minogue 1-7, M Thynne 0-3, A Gaffney 0-2, F O'Brien 0-1

Armagh 0-05 Scorers: S Kelly 0-2, E Smyth, S Kiernan & A O'Hare 0-1 each

Féile semi-finals take place tonight

THE Cork camogie Féile na nGael semi-finals took place in Castle Road and Ballinure GAA grounds this week and it was Newtown and Charleville who emerged to contest the Division 1 final after victories over Aghabullogue and Ballincollig respectively, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Charleville notched up 3-2 to Ballincollig's one goal to book their place in their first Division 1 Cork Féile final.

It was similar story for Newtown as they emerged to make it to their first final with a goal to spare over Aghabullogue in a nail-biting contest, 6-2 to 5-2.

Division 2 is where a lot of attention is focused this year with the winners of this heading to national Féile in Antrim in June. Douglas and Sliabh Rua will battle it out for that honour, after victories over Bride Rovers and Cobh — Sliabh Rua 4-4 Cobh 0-1, Douglas 5-6 Bride Rovers 3-2.

The stage is now set for the finals and these will take place tonight in the Camogie Grounds Castle Road, Blackrock. The Division 2 decider, Douglas v Sliabh Rua, is at 6.30pm and this is followed by the Division 1 final, Newtown v Charleville at 7.45pm.

The Cork Féile na nGael skills competition will take place in Castle Road on Wednesday at 6.30pm.

Two participants per club are allowed and names are to be submitted to the county registrar Taryn Lynch at registrar.cork.camogie@gaa.ie

MAY 2014



FINAL COUNTDOWN: Clare's Eimear Considine at Semple Stadium yesterday ahead of the Camogie League Division One final between Kilkenny and Clare, part of next Sunday's double-header with the Allianz Hurling League Division One final between Kilkenny and Tipperary.

Picture: Insho

Tipp board axe Kennedy

by John Fogarty

Tipperary's may pull out of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship after Eoin Kennedy was axed as manager following a series of run-ins with the county board.

News of the Borrisoleigh man's exit broke on Wednesday night and it was confirmed yesterday by a county board statement released by PRO Jim Symons.

It read: "At a fully county board meeting, it was decided by officers and clubs to remove the manager of the Tipperary senior camogie team as a result of ongoing difficulties between the manager and the county board."

"It is hoped that we have a new manager in place as soon as possible."

However, *The Irish Examiner* understands Kennedy retains the backing of the players and it remains to be seen what action they may take in support of him. There are suggestions they may withdraw services similar to the stance recently taken by a number of the county's senior ladies footballers.

Kennedy was only appointed in January, succeeding Conor Ryan following schools success in Tipperary, Offaly and Cork. Ryan only serve one of a two-year agreement.

Tipperary open their All-Ireland campaign against Derry in group one on June 28. Kilkenny, Offaly and Clare are the other teams in their section.

Milford get tough start to defence of crown

By Mary Newman

THE WEEKS are flying by and all eyes were on the county championship draws which took place at the last board meeting. Back in the senior grade for the first time in over 10 years, 2013 senior B champions Glen Rovers were first out of the hat and they will meet Cloughduv.

Three-in-a-row chasing Milford will meet the side that denied them in 2011, Douglas and that is one to keep an eye on.

Defeated finalists Ballincollig clash with Killeagh, while 2009 champions St Catherine's meet the 2010 champion Inniscarra.

Ballinhassig will meet Courcey Rovers with St Finbarr's down for a tie against Barryroe.

The losers of round one will go into the hat and will be drawn to play against each other in round two.

The winners from round one go to round three where they meet the winners of the back-door ties. Draws for these games will be made after round one.

The senior B, intermediate and junior championships will again be played on a round-robin basis with two groups, and the top two in each going forward to contest the semi-finals.

The junior B championship wasn't drawn as a doubt remained over one club's participation. It will be made at the next county board meeting. Interesting times ahead as the race for the title is already being plotted and planned.

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS
Round 1: Glen Rovers v Cloughduv; Douglas v Milford; Inniscarra v St Catherine's; Ballincollig v Killeagh; Ballinhassig v Courcey Rovers; St Finbarr's v Barryroe

SENIOR B COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Section 1: Mallow, Fr O'Neill's, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Aghabullogue, Clonakilty

Section 2: Ballygarvan, Valley Rovers, Carrigaline, Eire Og

INTERMEDIATE Section 1: Newcestown, Tracton, Blackrock, Brian Dillon's

Section 2: Enniskeane, Sarsfields, Newtownshandrum

JUNIOR A Section 1: Douglas, Bishopstown, St Vincent's, Youghal

Section 2: Kildorrery, Na Piarasigh, Sliabh Rua, Watergrasshill

JUNIOR C Section 1: Valley Rovers, Courcey Rovers, Ballinora, Blarney, Banteer

Section 2: Millstreet, Ballyhea, Castletyces, Carrigrohilly

Section 3: St Finbarr's, Killeagh, Cobh, Buttevant

Player attitude

Clare's Niamh O'Dea catches a high ball over Rena Buckley of Cork during last week's National League game in Kilmallock.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

CORK'S DIVISION One National League semi-final loss to Clare left a lot of supporters hugely concerned in Kilmallock last Saturday.

One supporter told me it was like watching an inter-provincial team that had got together for the first time a couple of hours before the game.

The minor final lifted spirits somewhat. A great performance after a slow and worrying start, Cork kept calm and in my view it was Limerick that walked away breathing a sigh of relief as it was Cork that had the momentum at the end and lots of it.

It's a whole new ball game today, and anything can happen, as the teams go at it again in Charleville at 2.30pm. Here's hoping for a repeated performance from the start and that minor title we're craving.

Cork's senior performance was bleak and it isn't the first time recently.

The whole demeanour of the team needs to change. You can criticise management all you like but the players' approach and attitude is awful.

We're into May and some Cork players have trained with the Cork panel a handful of times. It's every excuse in the book, lack of effort, lack of sacrifice to make a session.

And the players' lack of sacrifice is so evident on the field. It's only when you make great sacrifice and you give something everything you've got, that you'll do everything to get the return.

And when that return doesn't come you're gutted. I haven't seen many 'gutted' Cork players in defeat for a few years now.

I witnessed this last year after we lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny. Was every player on that panel hurting? A little bit disappointed maybe, but hurting?

Honestly? In my view, no!

How could you hurt when you only decide that you're going to start making a real effort in June? You're beaten in August.

I can guarantee you if the players started making the effort and sacrifices the previous December and January both on and off the field then it would hurt. Then you'd shed tears.

Then it would be a long number of weeks before you could even talk about the defeat and you'd never, ever be able to watch a DVD of it.



MAY 2014

needs to change



Cork's Aisling Thompson gets her pass away under pressure from Clare's Laura McMahon and Deirdre Murphy during last week's National League semi-final.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Cork girls deserve all of our support

CORK SUPPORTERS are being urged to get behind the minor team today and to head to Charleville as they battle it out with Limerick in the replay of the minor All-Ireland final. For the last eight weekends the two minor sides have been in action and they have brought us from winter into summer and still they continue to provide huge entertainment. Last weekend's game was a thriller as the huge crowd that was in Kilmallock will testify. This afternoon these girls need another big crowd in their bid for glory. It's not too late to jump into your car and head to Charleville for today's 2.30pm start and to lend vital support to a wonderful group of girls, who have worked hard to bring Cork its first title at this level.

Dates are set for semi-finals

AT last Monday's meeting, closing dates were put on competitions in a bid to get all leagues up to semi-final stages. With the last rounds down for decision on the second weekend in May the closing dates for results to be in are as follows: Senior and Senior B league closing date May 18. Intermediate league closing date May 21. Junior A, B and C leagues May 21. Clubs are reminded to get their results to the section co-ordinators and to the county PRO for tables to be updated.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

I was handed a video of our 1996 All-Ireland defeat to Galway at the time and I've never, ever watched the game. And I never will.

I took All-Ireland defeats badly.

Is that poor sportsmanship? I wouldn't think so. I always congratulated our opponents but inside I died and couldn't talk about the game until the following year.

But that isn't in the players today. Ok it's probably in a handful but that's all, a handful.

And I don't know why in one sense. Because when I look at the ladies foot-

ballers and their hunger and their consistency over the past 10 years I question why it isn't across the board, across both codes.

I absolutely give Eamonn Ryan incredible credit for that. But it's more than Eamonn. It's the players too. That is either inside you or not.

I think maybe we need to take a few steps backwards to look at the root cause. Maybe it's because from a young age we don't have the volume of talent anymore and regardless of your approach to training or your lifestyle, you get selected.

The players bring that lackadaisical approach up through the ranks with them so sacrifice, commitment... Because that casual approach is certainly within the senior squad today and to be honest with you I'm angry over that.

In my view, they have a duty to the Cork jersey they are handed and for them to dismiss it isn't acceptable. Players demanding to know before

games if they're selected or not and if not then they won't travel... What's all that about? I know what I'd do there.

You know I'll bump into the girls after this column and some will treat me coolly because of what I've written. But the very ones that will do so are the ones I'm writing about.

Those that are making the sacrifices, are giving it everything they have, won't have a problem with it at all. There are too many sulks on the Cork panel. Giving out when they're not selected, crying and giving out when they're taken off — after playing dismally, they think they're better than what they actually are.

I hear that the young players are nervous and afraid of making a mistake. That really takes the biscuit.

It's not as if Paudie Murray is an aggressive manager, if anything he's too nice. Matthew Twomey, Brian Barry and Billy Dillon are similarly nice guys.

So I put this down to the 'Celtic Ti-

ger children' who don't want to be upset, want everything to go their way and when it doesn't... It's a case of 'Poor me'. They need to realise that they are adults now, take some responsibility, get out onto the pitch and grow up.

What disappoints me the most is that Cork are throwing away All-Irelands.

I lost many All-Irelands. They were hard All-Irelands to win because for a number of years we unfortunately came up against a formidable Kilkenny team and no matter what we did they defeated us. They were star-studded, led by the intensely competitive, Angela and Ann Downey. Yet that isn't the case today.

There is no team that isn't capable of being beaten out there. I believe we left an All-Ireland behind us last year and will do so again in 2014 unless the girls very quickly do something about it. It's the players that need to shoulder the responsibility here.

Saturday
3rd May, 2014
Charleville GAA, Cork
2.30 pm

All Ireland Minor A Championship Final Replay Cork v Limerick

Clár Oifigiúil • Luach €2

John O'Sullivan
And Stairthair



CORCAIGH

Dearg agus Bán



1
CHLOE CASEY
C. Ní Chasthasaigh
Sarsfields

2
KELLY FALVEY
C. Ní Fháilbhe
Glen Rovers

3
ORLAITH O'DRISCOLL
O. Ní Dhrisceoil
Cloughduv

4
ÁINE CROWLEY
A. Ní Chruallaigh
Kilbrittain/Timoleague

5
REBECCA SHEEHAN
R. Shíocháin
Douglas

6
LEAH McEVoy
L. Ní Fhlobhuí
Killeagh

7
ELLEN BENAİM
E. Ní Bandín
Killeagh

8
LIBBY COPPINGER
L. Coipingéir
St. Columba's

9
JOANNE O'KEEFFE
S. Ní Chaoimh
St. Catherine's

10
CLAIRE SEXTON
C. Ní Sheasáin
Barryroe

11
HANNAH LOONEY
S. Ní Luanaigh
Killeagh

12
NIAMH SHEEHAN
N. Shíocháin
Ballinkessig

13
KATE O'KEEFFE
C. Ní Chaoimh
Millstreet

14
LINDA COLLINS
L. Ní Choileáin
Courcy Rovers

15
RACHEL O'SHEA
R. Ní Shé
Corrigaline

16 Sarah O'Sullivan
S. Ní Shúilleabháin
Bishopstown

19 Jennifer Kiely
S. Ní Cadhla
Tracton

22 Lisa Lynch
L. Ní Loingsigh
Valley Rovers

25 Keeva McCarthy
C. Ní Cartagh
St. Finbarrs

17 Ellen Twomey
E. Ní Thuama
Corrigaline

20 Caroline Murphy
C. Ní Mhurchú
Kilbrittain/Timoleague

23 Hayley Ryan
H. Ní Riain
Blackrock

26 Meabhdx Sexton
M. Ní Sheasáin
Barryroe

18 Rebecca Walsh
R. Bhreatnach
Fr. O'Neills

21 Aisling Wallace
A. Bhailis (Capt.)
Glen Rovers

24 Amy Curtin
A. Ní Curtáin
Douglas

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

Manager: John Middleton Selectors: Mary Harrington, Graeme McIver, Dave O'Connell Physio: Orla Coughlan



LUIMNEACH

Glas agus Bán



1
LAURA O'NEILL
L. Ní Néill
Na Píosaigh

2
KATIE HENNESSY
C. Ní hAonasa
Ballyagran

3
SINÉAD MacNAMARA
S. Ní Chonmara
Na Píosaigh

4
SHANNYN SHEEHAN
S. Ní Shíocháin
Templeglantine

5
JANE WILSON
S. Ní Liam
Na Píosaigh

6
REBECCA DELEE
R. Ní Dhulé
Newcastle West

7
TARA FITZGIBBON
T. Ní Giobáin
Ballyagran

8
DONNA MULCAHY
D. Ní Mhaolchathaigh
Killeedy

9
KAREN O'LEARY
C. Ní Laoire
Newcastle West

10
DEBORAH MURPHY
D. Ní Mhurchú
Knockaderry

11
CAOIMHE COSTELLOE
C. Ní Choistealla (Capt.)
Adare

12
AOIFE WILSON
A. Ní Liam
Na Píosaigh

13
LEANNE BROWNE
L. de Brún
Na Píosaigh

14
KATE MULQUEEN
C. Ní Mhaolchaoimh
Ballybrown

15
CAOIMHE LYONS
C. Ní Liatháin
Monaleen

16 Orla Condon
O. Chondán
Knockaderry

19 Leah O'Riordan
L. Ní Riordáin
Ballyagran

22 Eilánah Mulcahy
E. Ní Mhaolchathaigh
Killeedy

25 Máiréad Clancy
M. Ní Lannchaidh
Ballybrown

28 Aoife Barry
A. de Barra
Murree Boher

17 Sarah Shanahan
S. Ní Sheasáin
Killeedy

20 Aisling Scanlon
A. Ní Scannáin
Killeedy

23 Marie Danagher
M. Ní Dhunachair
Ballyagran

26 Lisa Ryan
L. Ní Riain
Murree Boher

29 Neamh Curtin
N. Ní Curtin
Ballybrown

18 Helena Fitzgerald
A. Ní Chearrait
Adare

21 Niamh Tuile
N. Tuile
Treaty Gaels

24 Marian Quaid
M. Uaid
Bruff

27 Shauna Tobin
S. Tobin
Newcastle West

30 Kiara Carroll
C. Ní Chearúill
Newcastle West

Manager: Willie Banks Selectors: Adrian O'Sullivan, Rose McMahon First Aid: Margaret Delee Physio: Sara Fitzgerald Liaison Officer: Liz Hennessy



Rebels land crown with gutsy display

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Cork 1-12
Down 2-6

PLAYING with passion and determination, Cork upset the form book to deny hot favourites Down in a super Division Two National League final in Clane yesterday.

In a tough game where not an inch was given by either side, Cork turned in a magnificent second-half display to take the title after trailing 1-4 to 0-6 at the interval. A Nicola Braniff 10th minute goal helped Down to a slender one-point interval lead.

Cork played with huge confidence in the second half and with Sara Hayes, Catriona Foley and Leeanne O'Sullivan doing huge work, they keep the pressure on Down.

Amanda O'Regan had Cork on level terms by the eighth minute after the sides had earlier swapped points. When Sinead O'Neill pointed, Cork took the lead for the first time in the contest.

Cork had to stand tall as Catrine McGourty stood over a penalty but with Jess Kavanagh denying her with a superb save Cork then upped the pace of their game.

Substitutes Caroline Motherway, Kaitlyn Hickey and Jennifer Hosford had brought fresh legs to Cork's bid for glory and they were dominating the third quarter. Cork applied huge pressure on the Down defence but scores were hard to come by.

Catherine McGourty grabbed a Down goal against the run of play and when Niamh Mallon pointed they were three in front with 12 minutes remaining.

Twice Cork came close to grabbing an equaliser and the pressure finally told when a long range Amanda O'Regan free went all the way to the net.

With the title there for the taking Cork pushed for the finishing line.

Amanda O'Regan pointed a free and with Laura Treacy and Player of The Match Caroline Sugrue adding further points Cork were three clear.

Down battled to get back but their was no way through a solid Cork defence.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan 1-7 (1-6 f), C Sugrue 0-3, L Treacy, S O'Neill 0-1 each.

Down: C McGourty 1-3, N Braniff 1-0, N Mallon 0-2, B McGourty 0-1.

CORK: J Kavanagh, S Buckley, L O'Sullivan, N O'Keefe, S Harrington, C Foley, S Hayes, L Treacy, H O'Regan, C Sugrue, C Desmond, S O'Neill, J Hennigan, A O'Regan, M Cahalane.

Subs: C Motherway for H O'Regan (h/t), K Hickey for J Hennigan (h/t), J Hosford for M Cahalane (42), C O'Neill for S O'Neill (58).

DOWN: M McNally, J Fowler, C McGovern, K Tinnelly, C Rocks, F Carr, E McCormick, A Keown, L McPolin, C McGourty, P Gribben, S McCullough, N Mallon, N Braniff, B McGourty.

Subs: A Rogan for K Tinnelly (37), A McAleenan (46).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Cork pay the price in replay loss to Limerick

Limerick 3-11
Cork 1-9

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

A POWERFUL performance from a strong Limerick side helped them create history as they took their first minor A All-Ireland title in Charleville on Saturday.

Last weekend Cork dug deep coming back from seven points down to force a replay but this time out the energy and fight needed simply wasn't there. Nine games in as many weeks finally took its toll on a Cork side that will look back with regret on missing out last week, when the game was there for the taking at the final whistle.

Despite playing against a strong wind in the opening half it was Limerick who took the game to Cork. They showed they meant business as they fired over three points inside the opening five minutes Cork's reply was a Rachel O'Shea point as they struggled to settle into the game.

Cork hit the front seven minutes in Kate O'Keefe forcing the ball over the line after Laura O'Neill had

denied Linda Collins with a fine save. Rachel O'Shea converted a free but still Cork were battling to get into the game as Donna Mulcahy Karen O'Leary and Rebecca Delee did huge work for a Limerick side who hurled with huge confidence.

With Caoimhe Costello causing a lot of trouble for the Cork defence Limerick hit the front. Cork failed to clear their lines in possession and it was who Costello, who snapped up the chance to send the ball to the net.

Rachel O'Shea replied with a free, but despite playing with the strong wind advantage Cork could not get make any headway as the tight marking Limerick defence closed them down at every opportunity.

Again the sides swapped points and in a four minute spell Cork showed a glimpse of what they were capable of Hannah Looney, Joanne O'Keefe, Aisling Wallace and Kate O'Keefe pointing as they shook off their markers with confidence and it was Limerick who were glad to hear



Aoife Wilson, Limerick, getting away from Cork players Kelly Falvey and Rebecca Walsh during the Munster Minor A Hurling Championship game at Charleville.

Picture: Dan Linehan

the sound of the half time whistle as Cork went in 1-8 to 1-4 ahead.

Limerick showed fierce determination from the start of the second half and dominating in all sectors they wiped out Cork's lead to get back on level by the 42nd minute and such was their dominance Cork were unable to get the ball past the half way line for the opening quarter as they came at them in waves.

Driven on by the superb Rebecca Delee and Tara Fitzgibbon they completely blotted out any attack or momentum Cork tried to build and with Costello, Leah O'Riordan, Caoimhe Lyons and Kate Mulqueen on target it was level pegging as the game entered the final quarter.

Twice Costello converted free's as they hit the front and it was 24 minutes into the second half before Cork added to their tally with Rachel O'Shea converting a free and this was to be their only score of the half.

In a minute Limerick clinically finished the game as a contest Costello finishing to the net after winning possession from a battled clear-

ance, and when Aoife Wilson set up Caoimhe Lyons with an excellent pass, the title was heading Shannon side.

Cork did win a late penalty but Lisa Lynch's effort was stopped and cleared to safety. Player of the Match Karen O'Leary had the final say with a long-range effort sailing sweetly between the posts on a day when every thing Limerick touched turned to magic.

For Cork a disappointing end to a campaign where they had battled back time and time again but this time the hearts wanted to do it but unfortunately it wasn't to be.

Scorers for Limerick: C Costello 2-6 (0-4 f), C Lyons 1-1, A Wilson, K O'Leary, K Mulqueen, L O'Riordan 0-1 each.

Cork: R O'Shea 0-5 (0-4 f), K O'Keefe 1-2, H Looney, A Wallace 0-1 each.

LIMERICK: L O'Neill, K Hennessy, S McNamara, L Browne, J Wilson, T Fitzgibbon, D Mulcahy, R Delee, K O'Leary, D Murphy, A Wilson, L O'Riordan, K Mulqueen, C Costello, C Lyons.

CORK: C Casey, K Falvey, O O'Driscoll, A Crowley, R Sheehan, R Walsh, E Benaim, L Coppinger, J O'Keefe, C Sexton, H Looney, R O'Shea, K O'Keefe, L Collins, A Wallace (c).

Subs: A O'Connor for C Sexton (26), L Lynch for L Coppinger (34), E Twomey for E Benaim (52).

Referee: Aiden O'Brien (Wexford).

Middleton is left feeling downbeat

CORK manager John Middleton was bitterly disappointed as his charges failed in their bid to take a title he so desperately wanted to win and he wasn't afraid to show his emotions.

"I am bitterly disappointed for the girls they put so much into this and to lose again this year in a replay is just so, so disappointing.

"Last year we lost out to Kilkenny and to have it happen again this year is

hard, to contest four minor All-Ireland finals and to come away with nothing is heartbreaking. "These girls have put in huge effort since November and to lose is hard to take, today was the 64th time we have been together this year and the commitment and dedication they put into this campaign was unreal."

Sitting down and speaking about the game John felt that the tough

REACTION

By Mary Newman

campaign simply took its toll on the players who had to go to a three-way play-off in their section to make it to the semi-final.

"Really, it was tough to be out week after week and hard to keep the momentum going, eight weeks in a row is gruelling and at inter-county level it is hard, a lot of the panel

are Leaving Certificate students and they were no doubt under pressure but they simply kept going week in week out.

"I suppose we came from seven points down last Saturday to get level and grab a draw and we really probably should have won it, we ran them ragged in the last quarter but today Limerick played with that huge intensity and determination and we just didn't seem to be able to match it.

"We needed to be further ahead than four points at half-time as the wind was so strong and they used it to huge effect in the second half.

"We worked so hard to get to the final and we could not have asked for a better bunch of girls they are a credit to their parents, their clubs and themselves, I have no doubt a lot of them will go on to represent Cork at a higher level in the not to distant future."

MAY 2014

CAMOGIE

NL Div 1 final: Kilkenny 1-15 Clare 0-4; **Div 2 final:** Cork 1-12 Down 2-6; **Div 3 final:** Westmeath 3-7 Dublin 1-5; **Scorers for Westmeath:** D McGrath 0-3 (frees), C Murtagh, C McCrossan, L Thompson 1-0 each, M McCormack 0-2, M Scally, P Greville (free) 0-1 each; **Scorers for Dublin:** G Kelly 0-4 (three frees), E Gaffery 1-0, S Kehoe 0-1; **WESTMEATH:** F Keating, R Scally, E McCormack, T Lynch, F Leavy, P Greville, S King, E Tate, M McCormack, M Scally, J McCormack, C McCrossan, S McGrath, D McGrath, C Murtagh; **Subs:** J Egan-Maybury for J McCormack (29), L Thompson for S McGrath (45), N Kiernan for Tate (55), C Concoran for M Scally (60); **DUBLIN:** S Nic Coltr, C O'Leary, G Ryan, G Free, R Noctor, M Kelly, D Johnston, E Maher, C Burgess, A McGrath, G Kelly, E Flanagan, E Gaffery, R Collins, S Kehoe; **Subs:** K Farrell for Flanagan (29), J Elbert for Noctor (half-time), M O'Reilly for McGrath (50), L Quinn for Maher (55), G Smyth for O'Leary (58); **Referee:** J McDonagh (Galway); **Div 4 final:** Kerry 1-10 Limerick 1-10; **Scorers for Kerry:** S Murphy 0-8 (six frees, two 45s), J Fitzell 1-2; **Scorers for Limerick:** C de Bháil 0-7 (five frees, one 45), E Kennedy 1-0, K Carroll, M Creamer, M Fitzgerald 0-1 each; **KERRY:** M O'Carroll, T Moran, A Fitzgerald, S Horgan, O Young, P Diggin, M Costello, N Leen, AM Leen, E Ryall, L Collins, G McNamara, J Fitzell, C Godley, S Murphy; **Subs:** J O'Keefe for Godley (40), J Cronin for Ryall (45); **LIMERICK:** C Fitzgerald, G Lee, N Barry, C Neville, M McCarthy, L Scanlon, N Curtin, C de Bháil, R Noona, K Carroll, E Kennedy, M Lynch, M Clancy, M Creamer, S Tobin; **Subs:** M Fitzgerald for Clancy, S Clins for Lynch (both half-time), N Tuite for Noona (45); **Referee:** W Cole (Cork); **All-Ireland MACC final replay:** Limerick 3-11 Cork 1-9.

Thirteen proves unlucky for all!

Kerry 1-10 Limerick 1-10 Irish Daily Star Camogie Div 4 final

KERRY and Limerick will have to go at it all over again to decide the destination of the *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division Four trophy after this thrilling draw.

Limerick led at half time by 1-6 to 0-4 after eking out an early two-point advantage before two pointed frees by Sara Murphy (frees) and a score from play by Jessica Fitzgerald edged Kerry ahead.

But when Elaine Kennedy's long ball dropped into the Kerry net, Limerick pushed on for the five-point lead.

Lead

Four points from placed balls from Murphy gave Kerry the lead though but an injury-time point from Limerick's Caitrin de Bháil snatched them a deserved draw.

KERRY: M O'Carroll, T Moran, A Fitzgerald, S Horgan, O Young, P Diggin, M Costello, N Leen, AM Leen, E Ryall, L Collins, G McNamara, J Fitzell 1-2, C Godley, S Murphy 0-8 (frees, 2 45s), Sub: J O'Keefe for Godley (40), J Cronin for Ryall (45); **LIMERICK:** C Fitzgerald, G Lee, N Barry, C Neville, M McCarthy, L Scanlon, N Curtin, C de Bháil 0-7 (5fs, 1 45), R Noona, K Carroll 0-1, E Kennedy 1-0, M Lynch, M Clancy, M Creamer 0-1, S Tobin, Sub: M Fitzgerald 0-1 for Clancy (ht), S Clins for Lynch (ht), N Tuite for Noona (45).

THOMP' OF THE CHARTS

Westmeath 3-7 Dublin 1-5 Irish Daily Star Camogie Div 3 final

IT TOOK a late goal to confirm their superiority but Westmeath were deserving victors as they annexed the *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division Three title.

Caitriona Murtagh grabbed a seventh minute goal for the Lakesiders, but the vital score was Caoimhe McCrossan's major that had Westmeath leading 2-2, 0-2.

Dublin's Elaine Gaffery found the net in the 43rd minute as they trailed by just 2-3 to 1-4 but McCormack got two points and Laura Thompson goal as the Westmeath celebrations began.

WESTMEATH (scorers): D McGrath 0-3 (fs); C Murtagh, C McCrossan, L Thompson 1-0 each; M McCormack 0-2; M Scally, P Greville (f) 0-1 each; **DUBLIN** (scorers): G Kelly 0-4 (frees); E Gaffery 1-0, S Kehoe 0-1.



PRESSURE: Mairead Power and Laura McMahon of Clare battle for possession during yesterday's final

STARS

KILKENNY joint-boss Graham Dillon admits that the hurt of last season is driving his side on after they romped to the *Irish Daily Star* Division One Camogie title at Semple Stadium.

Dillon and Niall Williams led the Cats to last year's All-Ireland final where they lost out to Galway on a 1-9 to 0-7 scoreline.

But they've already gone part of the way towards making up for that by banking a first League title since 2008 after a comprehensive 1-15 to 0-4 win over Clare in Thurles.

Dillon said: "There's a lot of hurt among that group of players, the same group of players that lost on All-Ireland final day last year.

"They know themselves they didn't perform that day and have a lot to make up for this year.

"So it's just another step along the road to hopefully getting back to an All-Ireland final — and hopefully taking that extra step then.

"It (the League) was important to us after the bad ending to last year, to brush that to the side and push on.

Tough

"We approached each game as it came and ended up in a semi-final. We had a tough game against Wexford and knew today we'd have a job to do. We that job and we're happy with that."

The Cats were rarely troubled as they secured their first national silverware in six years against the Banner in yesterday's *Irish Daily Star* League decider.

This competition provided the Noreiders with their last success at senior level and on this evidence, they will make a bold bid for All-Ireland honours later this year, having fallen at the last hurdle last September.

Dillon is pleased with the depth Kilkenny have at their disposal ahead of the Leinster Championship opener against Offaly.

He said: "We have a couple of new girls in that are superb additions to the thing but even as a squad, it's an extremely strong squad.

"They work very hard and push one another on in training. We were just saying the other night, there's no easy options in training.

"Everyone who picks you up is going to give you a hard time. We



Kilkenny 1-15 Clare 0-4 Irish Daily Star Camogie Div 1 final

are working hard in training and luckily we were able to bring it onto the playing field today.

"We knew that it was going to go one of two ways. It was either going to be an open hurling match or it was going to be a battle, and luckily enough we kind of dictated it and it turned into an open hurling match.

"We knew if it went that way we definitely had the hurlers to kick on

so we're happy enough."

The Clare defensive unit was clearly unsettled by the loss of Eimear Considine to injury in the seventh minute, with the Kilmaley player being taken off on a stretcher with a knee injury.

Conditions

Kilkenny had suffered their own misfortune before the throw-in though with influential full-forward Shelley Farrell unavailable due to an ankle knock.

They settled reasonably well though and, with the conditions



DELIGHT: Colette Desmond and Sara Hayes of Cork celebrate at the end of the game

SUGRUE SEALS THE

CORK produced a storming last quarter to deny Down in a pulsating *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division Two final in Clane.

Former All-Ireland senior winning captain, Amanda O'Regan, shot a goal and seven points for the Leesiders, while Caroline Sugrue was awarded player-of-the-match.

Catherine McGourty and Fionnuala Carr fought hard for Down but they

Cork 1-12 Down 2-6 Irish Daily Star Camogie Div 2 final

could not deny their rampaging opponents in the closing stages.

Points

Down got off to a dream start with a sixth minute goal from Nicola Braniff and with McGourty amongst the

MAY 2014

LEAGUE SUCCESS WITH A POWERFUL DECIDER DISPLAY///

IN STRIPES



LIM' IT TO WIN IT: The Limerick team celebrate winning the Minor A final

Limerick late showing sees them through

Limerick 3-11 Cork 1-9
All-Ireland Minor A Camogie final replay

LIMERICK produced a storming second-half effort to claim the All-Ireland minor A camogie title in the replay at Charleville. Limerick got off to a very good start to lead by three points but Kate O'Keeffe edged Cork in front when pouncing on a rebound to grab a goal.

It was nip and tuck from there to the last five minutes, when Hannah Looney, Joanne O'Keeffe, Aisling Wallace and Kate O'Keeffe all found the target to give the Rebels a 1-8 to 1-4 half-time lead.

Limerick were level by the 42nd minute, thanks to points from Costelloe (free), Leah O'Riordan, Caoimhe Lyons and Kate Mulqueen. Costelloe followed up with two pointed frees before Cork finally got their first score of the second half, via a 54th minute Rachel O'Shea free.

Scoring

The Shannonsiders made sure of their win by scoring two goals in the last five minutes. The first was an opportunistic score by Costelloe before Aoife Wilson set up Caoimhe Lyons to score.

LIMERICK (Scorers): Caoimhe Costelloe 2-6 (0-4fs); Caoimhe Lyons 1-1; Aoife Wilson, Karen O'Leary, Kate Mulqueen, Leah O'Riordan 0-1 each.

CORK (Scorers): Rachel O'Shea 0-5(4fs); Kate O'Keeffe 1-2; Hannah Looney, Aisling Wallace 0-1 each.

Freyne to the Four in final

Roscommon 3-11 Antrim 1-9
Ladies Football League Division 4 final

KIERAN Kilkeny's Roscommon romped to victory over Antrim in Saturday's Tesco Homegrown Ladies National Football League Division 4 final in Tullamore.

An eight-point win for the Rossies secured not only the silverware, but also promotion to Division Three.

Roscommon's first League title since their 2009 Division Three win owed much to full-forward Martina Freyne's goal less than 20 seconds after half-time.

Freyne's strike knocked the stuffing out of Antrim, who trailed by just four at half-time. But any hopes of a fightback at were extinguished by Freyne, as Roscommon could even afford the luxury of 13 wides.

ANTRIM: E. Mallon; N. Cooper, E. Kelly, J. McCavane, N. Kelly, C. Carey, S. McLaughlin; S. Graham, A. Tubridy; K. McGuinness 0-4 (1f), C. Timoney 0-3 (1f), R. Fulton; H. Doherty 0-1, M. Cooper 0-1, M. McGourty 0-1. Subs: B. Scullion for Tubridy (36), A. McAtamney for Fulton (39), C. Scannell for N. Cooper (49), C. Moane for Doherty (62).

ROSCOMMON: C. Manning; F. Beirne, S. Brady, G. Duffley; J. Clegg, A. McLoone 0-1, R. Finliss; C. Regan 0-1, S. Kenny; E. Callaghan 0-1, J. Higgins 1-0, L. Fleming 0-3, S. Tully 1-5, M. Freyne 1-3 (0-3f), N. McHugh. Subs: C. Beirne 0-2, for McHugh (in), 25, J. Downey for Freyne (52), C. Rafferty for Higgins (57), N. O'Beirne for Clegg (57).

REFEREE: C. McManus (Meath).

ALL SMILES: Kilkeny's Edwina Keane, Miriam Walsh and Colette Dormer celebrate; (inset) Denise Gaule is presented with the Player of the Match award by Irish Daily Star Sports Editor Eoin Brannigan and (below) Kilkeny's Aoife Neary surges past Róisín McMahon at Semple Stadium



making controlling the sliotar difficult, they led by a point (0-2 to 0-1) approaching the end of the opening quarter.

They opened up from there though, with points from player of the match Denise Gaule and a Miriam Walsh brace stretching the margin to four.

Clare's inexperience showed itself at this juncture, in what was their first ever national final at the highest level, as they began to chase goals rather than take the point-scoring opportunities presented to them. Missing a couple of early frees also betrayed their nerves.

It was no coincidence that their longest-serving operator, Deirdre Murphy, presented their chief threat and she scored a lovely point to make it 0-5 to 0-2.

Interval

Kilkenny finished strongly though, and points from Gaule (free), Leann Fennelly, Aine Connery and Walsh gave them a seven-point interval lead.

Chloe Morey landed a trademark long-distance free immediately after the restart but that would be Clare's last score until Murphy's

injury-time point.

Instead, with Mairéad Power and Jacqui Frisby completely on top in their full-back line, and Ann Dalton, Gaule and Walsh dominant, Kilkenny exerted themselves.

Gaule brought her tally to six points with four well-taken scores, while Walsh and Fennelly also found the target.

Aoife Neary goaled from close range in the 41st minute to cement their superiority and though the likes of Murphy, Kate Lynch and Máire McGrath put up a brave resistance, Clare were never going

to deny their opponents.

KILKENNY: E. Kavanagh, M. Power, K. McDonald, J. Frisby, C. Dormer, E. Keane, E. Aylward, A. Dalton 0-1, A. Dunphy, A. Connery 0-2, M. Walsh 0-4, D. Gaule 0-6 (3fs), M. Quilty, L. Fennelly 0-2, A. Neary 1-0.

Subs: C. Phelan for Connery (51), M. Dargan for Walsh (54), A. Kinsella for Aylward (59).

CLARE: D. Lynch, R. McMahon, M. McGrath, C. O'Leary, N. O'Dea, C. Morey 0-1 (0-1f), E. Connolly, K. Lynch, O. Duggan, D. Murphy 0-3 (0-1f), F. Lafferty, C. Hennessy, N. Kaiser, L. McMahon, E. Horgan.

Subs: K. Horgan for Connolly (17), C. McMahon for Hennessy (19), H. McMahon for K. Horgan (45), V. Loughane for E. Horgan (46), K. Cahill for Duggan (50), A. Griffin for O'Leary (59).

REFEREE: G. O'Dowd (Limerick)

DEAL FOR REBELETTES

points, they lead by one at half time, 1-4 to 0-6.

Early

Brid McGourty and O'Regan exchanged scores early in the second half before Jessica Kavanagh saved Catherine McGourty's penalty in one of the game's defining moments.

McGourty made up for that with a goal to put Michael McCullough's

side clear but they failed to score again.

O'Regan brought the teams level with a goal from a 25th minute free that dropped just under the crossbar and late points from O'Regan, Laura Treacy and Sugrue sealed the verdict.

CORK: J. Kavanagh, S. Buckley, L. O'Sullivan, N. O'Keeffe, S. Harrington, C. Foley, S. Hayes, L. Treacy 0-1, H. O'Regan, C. Sugrue 0-3, C. Desmond, S. O'Neill 0-1, J. Hennigan, A. O'Regan 1-7(1-6fs), M.

Cahalane. DOWN: M. McNally, J. Fowler, C. McGovern, K. Tinnelly, C. Rocks, F. Carr, E. McCormick, A. Keown, L. McPolin, C. McGourty 1-3, P. Gribben, K. McMullan, N. Mallon 0-2, N. Branniff 1-0, B. McGourty 0-1. REF: R. Kelly (Kildare).



RED HOT: Cork captain Amanda O'Regan with the Division 2 trophy after beating Down in the final

Cats already eyeing glory in September



National Camogie League Div 1 Final
KILKENNY 1-15
CLARE 0-4

Darragh Ó Conchúir
Semple Stadium

The pain of losing last year's All-Ireland final is the motivation driving Kilkenny this year and judging by the manner they swatted Clare aside in the Division 1 final of the camogie league at Semple Stadium yesterday, it could take them all the way to September glory.

Joint-manager Graham Dillon made no bones about the prominence that loss to Galway has in their thoughts this term, and its role in giving the county their first national title since winning this competition six years ago.

"There's a lot of hurt among that group of players; the same group of players that lost on All-Ireland final day last year" said Dillon.

"They know themselves they didn't perform that day and have a lot to make up for that this year. So it's just another step along the road to hopefully getting back to an All-Ireland final and hopefully taking that extra step then."

They couldn't wait for the league to get back on the horse.

"It was important to us after the bad ending to last year, to brush that to the side and

push on. We approached each game as it came and ended up in a semi-final. We had a tough game against Wexford and knew today we'd have a job to do. We did that job and we're happy with that."

"We knew that it was going to go one of two ways. It was either going to be an open hurling match or it was going to be a dogfight, and luckily enough we kind of dictated it and it turned into an open hurling match."

"We knew if it went that way we definitely had the hurlers to kick on so we're happy enough."

The Noreiders certainly handled the occasion much better, as a sizeable crowd turned up in Thurles for the curtain-raiser to the hurling final. Last year's experience was an obvious help in that regard, while this was Clare's first ever appearance in a senior national decider.

Colm Honan's crew looked nervous early on, particularly in failing to convert a couple of good, early opportunities from frees. And as Kilkenny edged ahead, they began to chase goals in the first half, when they needed points to remain in touch.

In fairness to the Banner women, who defeated the champions of the past two years, Cork in the semi-final, they were not helped at all by the loss of wing-back, Eimear Considine to a knee injury in the seventh minute. That definitely unsettled them and their defensive unit was definitely weaker for the reshuffle.

REBEL ROAR: Cork goalkeeper Sinead Ni Rinn and teammates celebrate winning yesterday's Camogie Division 2 League final against Down. Picture: Inpho

The opening quarter was cagey, with the wind and pre-match rain making playing conditions difficult. They opened up though, with player of the match Denise Gaule and the excellent Miriam Walsh shooting points to make it 0-5 to 0-1 after 20 minutes.

It was no coincidence that Clare's longest-serving operator, Deirdre Murphy presented their chief threat and she scored a lovely point to make it 0-5 to 0-2.

Kilkenny finished strongly though, and points from Gaule (free), Leann Fennelly, Aine Connery and Walsh gave them a seven-point interval lead.

Chloe Morey landed a trademark long distance free immediately after the restart but that would be Clare's last score until Murphy's injury-time point.

Instead, with Mairéad Power and Jacqui Frisby completely on top in their full-back line, and Ann Dalton, Gaule and Walsh dominant, Kilkenny exerted themselves further Gaule brought her tally to six points with four well-taken scores, including three from play, while Walsh and Fennelly also found the target.

Aoife Neary goaled from

close range in the 41st minute to cement their superiority and Emma Kavanagh made a good block, with Frisby completing a goal-line clearance, to deny Ellen Horgan a consolation goal.

And though the likes of Murphy, Kate Lynch and Máire McGrath put up a brave resistance, Clare were never going to deny Kilkenny.

"We have an extremely strong squad. They work very hard and push one another on in training. We were just saying the other night, there's no easy options in training. Everyone who picks you up is going to give you a hard time."

"We are working hard in training and luckily we were rewarded."

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Gaule (0-6, 3fs), M Walsh (0-4), A Neary (1-0), L Fennelly, A Connery (0-2 each), A Dalton (0-1).

Scorers for Clare: D Murphy (0-3, 1f), C Morey (0-1f).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Dormer, E Keane, E Aylward, A Dalton, a Dunphy, A Connery, M Walsh, D Gaule, M Quilty, L Fennelly, A Neary.

Subs: C Phelan for Connery (51), M Dargan for Walsh (54), A Kinsella for Aylward (59).

CLARE: D Lynch, R McMahon, M McGrath, C O'Leary, N O'Dea, C Morey, E Considine, K Lynch, O Duggan, D Murphy, F Lafferty, C Hennessy, N Kaiser, L McMahon, E Horgan.

Subs: K Horgan for Considine in (7), C McMahon for Hennessy (19), H McMahon for K Horgan (45), V Loughnane for E Horgan (46), K Cahill for Duggan (50), A Griffin for O'Leary (59).

Referee: G O'Dowd (Limerick)



Semi victory forged in busy fixture schedule

BY NIAL MCCOY

DOWN camogie manager Alistair McGilligan believes their busy schedule helped them get the better of Antrim in their NWP Recycling Ulster Senior Camogie Championship

semi-final at the weekend.

The Mourne county girls were outstanding after the break, turning a five-point interval lead into a 17-point winning margin, coming out on top on a 3-18 to 0-10 scoreline.

"We have had an advantage were we maybe have played more games than Antrim in the last few weeks and I think that showed," said McGilligan. "The regular games have stood to us well."

Star of the show was Portaferry forward Niamh Mallon who chipped in with a tidy 2-7 from play.

McGilligan, however, was keen to stress that it was a team effort and now the focus switches to their final against Derry.

"It turned out to be a great display from Niamh Mallon, but she can't do it all by herself," he said.

"She received some great ball into her. A couple of times Niamh could have went closer to goal and on occasions laid the ball off, but she's exceptionally talented."

"She's now taken on the leadership as captain and I think she's starting to settle into that role and it's bringing out the best in her."

"I'm delighted that we never conceded any goals and Maria [McNally] in goals had a great game. The defence on many occasions threw themselves in front of shots and even 21 yard frees and that shows the team spirit and the pride in wanting to keep a clean sheet. The desire to keep the score down was great to see. We will try to take away the demons of the defeat to Derry last year. We are in a lot better place coming into the game."

The final will be held at Pádraig Esler, Newry on Sunday, June 1.



DOWN ON THEIR LUCK...Antrim's Natalie McGuinness and Aoife Keown of Down race to win the ball



Costelloe and Lyons make it safe for Treaty



ALL-IRELAND MINOR A CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL REPLAY

CORK 1-9
LIMERICK 3-11
Therese O'Callaghan
Charleville

Limerick made history in Charleville on Saturday, claiming their first All-Ireland minor A camogie championship title, and they thoroughly deserved it. Late goals from Caoimhe Costelloe and Caoimhe Lyons put the game beyond Cork's reach.

Both managers made adjustments from the drawn match. However, it was Limerick who came from four points down at the interval to triumph by eight. They also kept the Rebels scoreless from play for the second 30 minutes.

"This is huge for Limerick," said manager Willie Banks. "But this is only a stepping stone. The junior team and Joe Quaid's intermediate team are very strong too. They are going to be pushing for silverware."

Captain and senior star Caoimhe Costelloe led from the front and her 15th minute goal edged Limerick 1-3 to 1-2 ahead after Kate O'Keefe had handed the initiative to wind-assisted Cork. But, it was the Leesiders who finished the half with points from Rachel O'Shea, Hannah Looney, Joanne O'Keefe, Aisling Wallace and Kate O'Keefe to lead 1-8 to 1-4. By the 42nd minute Limerick had drawn level, 1-8 apiece. Despite some wayward shooting, it

was a case of shoulders to the wheel. The Wilson twins - Jane and Aoife - Rebecca Delee, Kate Mulqueen, Karen O'Leary and Donna Mulcahy played integral parts.

Yet, the outcome was far from decisive, 1-10 to 1-9, with five minutes to go. The celebrations began in earnest when Costelloe found the net and Lyons bundled the sliotar over the line within a three minute spell. They also saved a penalty from Lisa Lynch.

"We felt we were a little bit defensive in the first game," reflected Banks. "We went more attack minded today. We said if we were within five points at half time we would be happy. We made mistakes on the line last week. I will be the first to say it. It is about handling pressure. That is what it is all about."

Scorers for Limerick: C Costelloe (2-5, 4fs), C Lyons (1-2), A Wilson, L O'Riordan, K Mulqueen and K O'Leary (0-1 each).

Scorers for Cork: R O'Shea (0-5, 4fs), K O'Keefe (1-1), H Looney, J O'Keefe and A Wallace (0-1 each).

LIMERICK: L O'Neill, K Hennessy, S MacNamara, L Browne, J Wilson, T Fitzgibbon, D Mulcahy, R Delee, K O'Leary, D Murphy, A Wilson, L O'Riordan, K Mulqueen, C Costelloe (capt), C Lyons.

CORK: C Casey, K Falvey, O O'Driscoll, A Crowley, R Sheehan, R Walsh, E Benaim, L Coppinger, J O'Keefe, C Sexton, H Looney, R O'Shea, K O'Keefe, L Collins, A Wallace (capt).

Subs: A O'Connor for C Sexton (27), L Lynch for L Coppinger (34), E Twomey for E Benaim (54).

Referee: Aiden O'Brien (Westford).

Subs: A O'Connor for C Sexton (27), L Lynch for L Coppinger (34), E Twomey for E Benaim (54).

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Referee: Aiden O'Brien (Westford).

Rebels power to league crown

Cork 1-12
Down 2-6
By Daragh O Conchúir
Camogie League Division 2 final

Cork produced a storming last quarter to deny Down in a pulsating Camogie League Division 2 final in Clane. Former All-Ireland senior winning captain, Amanda O'Regan, shot 1-7 for the Leesiders, while Caroline Sugrue was player of the match.

Catherine McGourty and Fionnuala Carr fought hard for Down but they could not deny their rampaging opponents.

A sixth minute goal from Nicola Braniff helped Down to a 1-4 to 0-6 at half-time.

Brid McGourty and O'Regan exchanged scores early in the second half before Jessica Kavanagh saved Catherine McGourty's penalty.

McGourty made up for that with a goal to put Michael McCullough's side clear.

O'Regan brought the teams level with a goal from a 25th minute free that dropped just under the crossbar and late points from O'Regan, Laura Treacy and Sugrue sealed the verdict.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan (1-7, 1-6fs), C Sugrue (0-3), L Treacy, S O'Neill (0-1 each).

Scorers for Down: C McGourty (1-3), N Braniff (1-0), N Mallon (0-2), B McGourty (0-1).

CORK: J Kavanagh, S Buckley, L O'Sullivan, N O'Keefe, S Harrington, C Foley, S Hayes, L Treacy, H O'Regan, C Sugrue, C Desmond, S O'Neill, J Hennigan, A O'Regan, M Cahalane.

DOWN: M McNally, J Fowler, C McGovern, K Tinnelly, C Rocks, F Carr, E McCormick, A Keown, L McPolin, C McGourty, P Gribben, K McMullan, N Mallon, N Braniff, B McGourty.

Referee: R Kelly (Kildare).

Tipperary camogie team backing Kennedy but stop short of strike

By John Fogarty

Tipperary's senior camogie team have voiced their support for ousted manager Eoin Kennedy - but stopped short of withdrawing their services in protest at his dismissal.

The players met on Friday evening where they expressed their "strong disappointment

in relation to recent events which have occurred within our county set-up".

Their statement continued: "We feel that unnecessary measures have been taken which only serve to hinder our championship preparations at such a crucial stage."

"At present, players feel our efforts are continually interrupted as we strive for

success and the resurgence of Tipperary camogie."

"The role of a Tipperary senior camogie player remains a highly respected and successful position in the minds of players."

"However, our desires to play for our county have been severely upset in recent months as we are presented with these difficulties."

"The players would like to express that we have full faith in Eoin Kennedy and his management team."

Despite the panel's stance, it's unlikely the county board will do a U-turn and reinstate Borrisoleigh man Kennedy.

Their decision to axe him last week came after a number of disagreements between the two parties.

In a statement released last week, the board explained the executive and clubs made the call "as a result of ongoing difficulties between the manager and the county board".

Tipperary lost their Munster semi-final to Limerick earlier this month and are now preparing for their opening All-Ireland group game against Derry next month.

A new manager could be named later this week.

Meanwhile, the Ladies' Gaelic Players Association met in Dublin over the weekend where the Tipperary situation was discussed.

Fourteen players have left the panel in opposition to John Leahy's decision to omit five of their team-mates from the Championship squad.

Leinster Gael Linn interpro champs after edging Munster in thriller

By Daragh O Conchúir

Camogie

Leinster were crowned Gael Linn interprovincial camogie champions in Rathleague, Laois after a thrilling final against Munster.

It took extra time to separate the sides and Niall Williams' outfit

came out on top in a 4-16 to 2-17 thriller.

Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy captained the victors, while Laois centre-back, Sarah Ann Fitzgerald was named player of the tournament, having been a late call-up to the panel.

Indeed, in getting the 11th-hour nod, Fitzgerald became the first

player from a junior county to be selected by Leinster.

Munster thought they had snatched it in normal time, with a point from captain Cáit Devane, but not for the first time Ursula Jacob came to her side's rescue to make it 3-11 to 2-14.

An early Devane goal had given Munster the perfect start but goals

from Siobhan Flannery and Susie O'Carroll gave Leinster a six-point half-time lead.

That gap was stretched to 10 but an Amy Kennedy goal kickstarted a magnificent Leinster comeback.

In the semi-finals, Leinster beat Ulster 6-19 to 1-14, while Munster accounted for Connacht 2-15 to 1-7.

MAY 2014

Clubs need to step up a level

THE Cork minors won the Munster final last Sunday after another epic encounter with Tipperary.

It was nice for them to finish the year with some silverware. The relief and joy with which the victory was met with was telling in itself.

Don't get me wrong, a Munster title should always be met with a degree of joy and it was a good win against a good side.

I understand the cup was brought into the county board meeting last Monday night and initially it was suggested to visit some schools — even though that never materialised.

There was a time we'd have tucked that medal into our back pocket without a second glance, there would have been no visit to the board and not a hint of a school visit.

That was only done for All-Ireland victories. But in truth we are so desperate now for underage All-Ireland titles that we are happy to exaggerate what Munster titles mean anymore.



CAMOGIE

Let's be honest, unless you haven't won it in 20 years a provincial title means little. And once you've bridged that gap, the joy is gone.

Any strong county would consider their year a failure if they failed to win the All-Ireland. I'm quite sure if Limerick win the Munster championship again this year there'll be no pitch invasion, no repeat euphoria of 12 months ago and the year considered a failure unless they go one better.

I've mentioned a number of times the issue we have with underage camogie in Cork so I won't go into it again, but I am wondering when the major overhaul is going to commence.

We can't keep talking and do nothing.

ing. It is typically the development of schools that I focus on but one thing has struck me since I got involved in underage coaching this past couple of years.

The amount of clubs misleading the grading committees about the strength of their teams in a bid to play at a level lower than what they are capable of is certainly impacting the strength of Cork camogie as a whole.

This obsession with winning C and B titles when the teams should really be pushing themselves to play at the level above that is a big problem.

I'd much prefer to be playing in the A grade, winning some, losing some and developing all the time, than walking away with competitions.

Brian Dillon's are a B club for a number of years now. We've reached league and championship finals for the past couple of years.

Won some, lost some — heavily. For the first time in a long time though the club are back playing A in the U16 league for 2014 and I'm delighted with that.

We'll see how the games go. If we don't win it but compete well then we'll stay U16A for the championship and get better.

If we suffer a number of heavy defeats we'll have to revisit it but at least we're trying.

We lost our first game to Milford/Ballyhea by 4-6 to 1-3.



Cork are the Munster Minor camogie champions after they defeated Tipperary in an epic final.



Cork minor selector Graham McIvor celebrated with Cork captain Aisling Wallace at the final whistle.

Just on that and it has nothing to do with our defeat as I've said it before. I'm still aghast that Milford and Ballyhea were permitted to join forces.

I thought at underage that Ballyhea were strong enough in their own right, but if a necessity was there I could have picked a couple of more appropriate mergers in and around north Cork for them.

Milford/Ballyhea are viewed as Milford and they have literally been handed a strong underage structure to their club.

Here we have the back-to-back senior All-Ireland club champions,

who heavily defeated all that stood in front of them last year, who neglected their underage development over much of the past decade as they put everything into this current crop of stars, literally walking into the A grade at underage because of an 'inability to field' story they gave to the board early last year.

They are the biggest draw for players within a 10-mile radius despite competition from Charleville and Newtownshandrum.

St Mary's, Charleville are back competing strongly in second level college's camogie and Milford get their fair share of players from there.

When I look at the effort other clubs are making, some starting from scratch, doing huge work to get their club moving, what has happened here shouldn't have.

A lot of clubs are finding it hard. Believe me there were many days last season when we couldn't field and had to re-schedule and even then play without a substitute.

But, pulling from a mature geographical area, with little residential development envisaged, we've worked hard to get respectable numbers into the club and keep them.

I know the effort it takes and success doesn't come overnight so while I have always been an admirer of Milford, I'll find it hard to admire any future success they may achieve as a result of this amalgamation. It should be reversed.

Gardaí launch U13 camogie tournament in the Glen

Representatives from 12 clubs gathered at the Mayfield Garda station for the launch of the Mayfield Garda U13 camogie tournament which will take place on June 7 at Glen Rovers.

Superintendent Tom Myers himself a member of the Brian Dillon's club and a great worker for camogie was in attendance and hosted the launch and he welcomed the invited guests from each club and introduced the gardai who were present to the young audience and their mentors.

In his address to the guests, Supt Myers explained the thoughts behind the event. He said that in the Mayfield division the gardai have very strong links with sport and the community gardai work closely with local clubs. They were looking at organising something for youngsters and camogie was the chosen sport.

The gardai are working with young people to help them enjoy sport and to give them something to aim towards and to help them on the right path in life. The gardai said they are delighted to once again be organising the tournament.

The feed-back the gardai got from the clubs they invited to participate last year was superb and they are looking forward to a great day's camogie in Glen Rovers, where the 12 teams will battle it out on three pitches during the course of the day.

John O'Driscoll, garda juvenile liaison officer in the Mayfield



At the launch of Mayfield Garda District Camogie Blitz at Mayfield Garda Station were (Front row l/r): Tara Russell (Blackrock), Emer Sheehan (Blarney), Katelyn Harrington (Na Piaras), Ciara Cotter (St Finbarrs), Rionna O'Mahony (Sarsfields), Ericka Lenihan (Ballincollig); Back row: Orla Dunne (Bishopstown), Ciara Murphy (Carrigaline), Chloe St Ledger (Douglas), Hannah Roche (Brian Dillons), Lisa O Riordan (Glen Rovers), and Lorna Shinnick (Ballinora), with Mary O'Sullivan (chairperson Cork Camogie Juvenile Board), Supt Tom Myers and Cork Co Camogie Board PRO Mary Newman. Picture: Derek Connolly

division, is one of the main organisers of the event and he outlined to everybody present what will be happening on the day.

Twelve clubs will participate and they will be divided into three groups of six, games will be 12

minutes aside and will be played under camogie rules, with unlimited substitutions allowed. The top team in each section, plus the best second placed team from the three remaining groups, will contest the semi-finals. On the day refreshments

will be provided and it is hoped that the youngsters will be treated to a lot of surprises.

Last year the gardai from the rapid response unit were on hand with their colleagues and the youngsters had a wonderful day as they tried on

garda caps, jackets and enjoyed the sirens and the whole atmosphere the garda created as they worked flat out to make it a hugely enjoyable day.

Representatives from the clubs were present, while the juvenile county board were represented by chairperson Mary O'Sullivan.

The clubs participating are Blarney, Brian Dillons, Na Piaras, Glen Rovers, Douglas, Sarsfields, Blackrock, St Finbarrs Bishopstown, Ballinora, Carrigaline and Ballincollig.

The young players in attendance showed huge enthusiasm for the forthcoming event.



Back (l to r) Ciara Cotter, St Finbarr's, Tara Russell, Blackrock, Lisa O'Riordan, Glen Rovers, Chloe St Ledger, Douglas, Hannah Roche, Brian Dillons, Emer Sheehan, Blarney, Lorna Shinnick, Ballinora, Katelyn Harrington, Na Piarasigh, Ciara Murphy, Carrigaline, Orla Dunne, Bishopstown, Rionna O'Mahony, Sarsfields, and Ericka Lenihan, Ballincollig at the launch of the Mayfield Garda U13 camogie blitz.

Picture: Derek Connolly

Excitement is growing ahead of Garda blitz

AFTER a hugely successful inaugural Mayfield Garda U13 camogie blitz last year excitement mounts as the weeks count down to the tournament's return.

While enjoying refreshments and some light hearted banter in Mayfield Garda station, June 7 is the date every club representative and player that attended the launch last Thursday evening acknowledged to really looking forward to.

The sun shone down on the event last year. And what a day it was. An electric carnival atmosphere embraced the day from early morning.

Fantastic organisation by the Gardai ensured a free-flowing tournament which added significantly to a day of highly competitive sporting games, Garda dog units, horses, motorbikes, ice cream, BBQ's and song.

Twenty one games were played and the grading perfectly assessed, as almost all of the ties were close and went down to the wire. It was impossible to tell until later in the afternoon who would contest the final stages.

Superintendent Tom Myers and juvenile liaison officer and tournament co-ordinator John O'Driscoll re-iterated the importance of the Gardai engaging with the local community and how the medium of sport is such a fantastic avenue for this.

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

The event will be held this year in Glen Rovers GAA complex. Twelve clubs will take part; Ballinora, Ballincollig, Bishopstown, Blarney, Blackrock, Brian Dillon's, Carrigaline, Douglas, Glen Rovers, Na Piarasigh, Sarsfields and St Finbarr's.

There will be three groups of four and games will run concurrently on three pitches, each at 12 minutes a side.

The top team in each section plus the best placed second team will advance to the semi-finals. Therefore each club will get at least three games.

Blarney had their name safely inscribed on the cup, present in the Garda station at the launch, as they became the inaugural tournament winners.

A player of the tournament trophy will also be awarded; there were many rising stars on show last year with the award going to Blarney's Olivia Murphy. It is already clear, even though only in its infancy, that the prestige of winning this tournament will rank high as the years progress.

Superintendent Myers again promised a number of surprises on the day for the children.

The tournament will commence at 10am sharp.

See you there.



Supt Tom Myers and Evening Echo columnist Linda Mellerick with players from the participating clubs at the launch of the Mayfield Garda District Camogie Blitz at Mayfield Garda Station.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Emer Sheehan, Blarney, Katelyn Harrington, Na Piarasigh, Rionna O'Mahony, Sarsfields, Hannah Roche, Brian Dillons, and Lisa O'Riordan, Glen Rovers.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Tara Russell, Blackrock, Emer Sheehan, Blarney, Katelyn Harrington, Na Piarasigh, Ciara Cotter, St Finbarr's, Rionna O'Mahony, Sarsfields, Ericka Lenihan, Ballincollig. top row (l/r): Orla Dunne, Bishopstown, Ciara Murphy, Carrigaline, Chloe St Ledger, Douglas, Hannah Roche, Brian Dillons, Lisa O'Riordan, Glen Rovers, and Lorna Shinnick Ballinora.

Picture: Derek Connolly

MAY 2014



ULSTER INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
CAVAN V ANTRIM
Breffni Park, Sunday, 2.30pm.

ULSTER ICC



Step forward for Cavan camogs

BY ALAN RODGERS

EFFORTS to put camogie on a firmer footing in Cavan will take an important step forward when they resume action at inter-county level this weekend.

They didn't take part in the National League this year, but have been making a concerted effort at both club and underage county level and are now hoping to maintain that momentum in the adult grade.

Of course, there will be nothing easy when they take on Antrim's second string in the Ulster Intermediate semi-final. Nevertheless, the Cavan girls will be entering the game with a degree of confidence and no shortage of enthusiasm.

John Kearney has been closely involved with them at underage level during the past couple of seasons. He says this weekend's tie is a significant development for camogie in the county.

"We are now fielding teams at u-14, u-16 and Minor, so there is a good basis of players available. In particular, the senior return should help the development of the minors," he said.

"Our hope is that this weekend's game can provide the launching pad for a good season at club level. It's very much a case of getting out of the starting blocks at inter-county adult level again and seeing how things develop."



KEY PLAYER

Roisin O'Keeffe

Playing at centre half forward, Roisin O'Keeffe's efforts will be central to Cavan fortunes against Antrim. She was joint captain of the football team and will be aiming to boost their confidence with a number of important scores in the tie.

We are now fielding teams at u-14, u-16 and Minor, so there is a good basis of players available

"There are about 11 clubs overall now competing at different levels. Our minors this year also progressed well in the All-Ireland competition, so there is plenty of positivity."

"I saw Antrim's minors earlier in the year and was impressed by their strength. Antrim are always going to be formidable opponents, so we're just hoping to give a good account of ourselves."

The fact that the game is being held in Breffni Park is providing it with added prestige for what could well represent a major and timely turning point for Cavan camogie.

comment@gaeliclife.com



ULSTER INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
TYRONE V DOWN
Stewartstown, Sunday, 1pm.

ULSTER ICC



Spring form encourages ahead of knockout date

BY ALAN RODGERS

SOME good form in the National League during the spring is providing plenty of encouragement for the Tyrone camogs as they put the finishing touches to their championship preparations.

Things have been looking up for the Red Hands and they will be hoping to make the most of this newfound confidence against Down in the Ulster Intermediate semi-final this Sunday when they take to the pitch at the grounds of Stewartstown Harps.

But they will have to contend with a number of frustrating injury concerns. Aisling and Maria Jordan, Niamh McNulty and Emma McAliskey are among those expected to miss out. Niamh McNulty's likely absence is a particular concern considering her score-taking record so far this year.

Team official, Jacqui Clarke, though, is still confident that they can give a strong account of themselves. A place in the final against either Antrim or Cavan is up for grabs in the tie and that's a obviously a big incentive for them.

"Our league campaign was really positive because there were good performances against Dublin, Meath and Limerick," she said.

"We lost to Limerick in the semi-final, but even then the players were really disappointed and knew that they could have won the game with



KEY PLAYER

Aisling Corr

One of the most stylish players on the Tyrone team, her ability to get forward and register scores will be especially important in the absence of Niamh McNulty and a number of other starters. She has the confidence and ability to make a key contribution.

great to keep the season going by reaching a provincial final."

Down, of course, will provide a strong challenge, even though it's their second string who will be taking to the field.

Jacqui Clarke is from Newry and is well aware of the strengths of the Mourne girls. However, she also feels that the fact that the game is a home one for Tyrone could make a positive difference for them.

"Obviously the fact that the Down players will be playing their club camogie with the senior team there is going to be a benefit for them," she added.

"We're definitely not overawed and, while I don't know if home advantage is going to be a critical factor, the reality is that the home support won't do us any harm whatsoever."

"Our home matches up until this at have been at Garvaghey which is a great venue. Stewartstown is a lot closer to the home clubs of most of the squad, so hopefully their fellow club members and families will be on hand to give us a boost."

Although Tyrone have a number of injury concerns, they still have a number of players will capable of making their mark.

Niamh Gavin and Emma Fitzgerald at midfield, Aisling Corr in the forwards and team captain, Julie Lagan, will all be aiming to lead by example.

just a bit more effort at important stages.

"This is my first season to be involved with them and I've been im-

pressed with their commitment in training and matches. It would be

comment@gaeliclife.com

THERE was quite the kerfuffle a couple of years ago when the BBC appointed its female sports commentator to Match of the Day, Jacqui Oatley, and despite some huffing and puffing from the dinosaurs amongst us, the sky didn't fall in when she eventually took the mic.

That life continued as normal shouldn't have surprised anyone, in retrospect: when The Sunday Game first threw in, all the way back in 1979, one of its first pundits was female, but the way she remembers it, that was largely a matter of chance.

Tipperary native Liz Howard was working in human resources in Aer Lingus when RTE came looking for someone to talk about careers with the national airline.

Her boss sent Howard off to promote the company, she did her research and made her pitch on the airwaves, making an impression on the late Mick Dunne of RTE Sport.

"Mick rang me and asked me to do some radio work," recalls Howard. "I did it for a couple of years on All-Ireland final day and enjoyed it immensely, but it was just a pastime on the weekend of the All-Ireland, that's all."

When The Sunday Game began on television, however, Howard was initially offered the job of presenter. She was still working with Aer Lingus full-time and felt she didn't have the training necessary for such a key role, but they still wanted her as an analyst, and she spent three years as a pundit covering hurling and football.

We tend to view the 70s now as a cigarette smoke-wreathed nest of outdated attitudes, but Howard doesn't recall any outrageous sexism.

The fact that she knew her brief — her father was the Limerick hurler, Garrett Howard — helped, obviously.

"It never dawned on me that I knew less — or more — than anyone else about the games," she says now. "I grew up in a house where my father and mother were immersed in sport — all kinds of sport, not just hurling and football — and when we went to games, we discussed them afterwards, as people do everywhere."

"There was a bit of a shock for people when I came on, but my aim was to be the eyes and voice of the ordinary GAA follower, and when I say 'ordinary', I don't mean it in a bad way, I mean the person who goes to games and discusses them with their friends afterwards."

"The reaction was generally very positive — I got a lot of letters and cards supporting me, the odd gift, and I felt I was accepted quickly enough."

Howard adapted well to the challenge of live television; she fed off the adrenaline and recalls that it could be easier, in certain ways, than radio.

"I found live broadcasting much better than recording pieces — I found the adrenaline flows when there's a live game, but in general I tended to forget about the camera because I was talking about something I loved and something I felt I knew about."

"Where I was lucky, though, was with Jim Carney, the first presenter. Jim was



'Does this man think I'm a fool?'

Michael Moynihan

The punditry may have changed, but even 35 years ago, The Sunday Game was a talking point for GAA folk on a Sunday night — not least because of its first female expert.



hugely helpful, and being on the show with him was like having a chat with your neighbour. In addition, I found TV easier, in the sense that people can get distracted by other things on screen — what you're wearing and so on — while on radio you just have your voice, and you have to get across the information or your opinion just with your voice."

People get hot and bothered nowadays about The Sunday Game setting the disciplinary agenda, of course, by revisiting and focusing on contentious incidents in the championship, but there was a time when it was even more centrally involved in the GAA's disciplinary procedures.

The programme had an explosive start when Howard was plunged into a controversy surrounding the sending off of Dublin's Jimmy Keaveney in a 1979 Leinster championship football game, just a few weeks after it began broadcasting. She felt the Dubliner's dismissal was harsh and she said so.

"I felt Jimmy was hard done by," says Howard. "I said so on the programme and the Dublin County Board asked me if I'd talk on his behalf about what I had seen at the game at a disciplinary meeting of the Leinster Council. RTE weren't too pleased with me but I've always been

independent and I felt that that was what I believed in. I went to Croke Park for the meeting, which was very interesting. One particular man on the committee kept trying to confuse me by referring to a different incident near the Cusack Stand over and over again, and I was thinking to myself, 'does this man think I'm a fool?' Most of them were very nice, they were just doing their job, but he stuck in my mind. And for all that, it didn't do much for Jimmy, who still got suspended for a month."

Not all the technological

developments in match coverage appeal to Howard. She prefers real-time engagement with the games to the lure of repeated slow-motion replays, for instance.

"When I was involved, I always insisted on seeing the game live, because I wanted to see what people saw at a match, to have the same experience. If you know what you're talking about and you know the rules of the game, I'm not sure if technology can add that much. In fact I think it can be damaging in ways, particularly for referees who only have a split-second to

make a decision, while people in the studio can view an incident over and over again."

"Technology isn't a big improvement — take hurling, which is a hugely instinctive game, and replays over and over again don't correspond to the person making a split-second decision with the ball."

"When it comes to disciplinary hearings, too, technology can be used for and against players — what's caught on video or on television may not tell the whole story, but people can be very trusting of clips they see on screen without being aware of

what went on just before that.

"A case in point would be Benny Dunne being put off in the All-Ireland final a few years ago, when there was a little incident just beforehand which most people wouldn't have seen and which would have given more context to what happened."

After a long career in Aer Lingus, Howard took retirement and works as a HR consultant, but the passion still burns brightly.

"Hurling's in a great place now. There are improvements that could be made — I'm not a huge fan of the league structure, I don't think it helps the standard to have counties in the lower tier, and the demise of Offaly is a concern. That said, you have five counties in Munster which would be on a level footing. Dublin, Galway and Kilkenny in Leinster. I'm looking forward to the summer. Again."

Camogie queen recognised at Lord Mayor's awards

Louise Cashell

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The elite of Cork were honoured at a recent ceremony in City Hall for the annual Lord Mayor's civic awards. Outgoing Lord Mayor Catherine Clancy presented six well-known Cork people with their awards for various contributions to the city. Among the six awarded was the first lady of Cork camogie, Mary Newman, who said the award came as a complete surprise to her. "I'm absolutely delighted with it. The Lord Mayor rung me to tell me about it and at first, I almost didn't believe it. I knew it was true though as I recognised her voice so it was a fantastic feeling."

Mary was born in to a sporting family, her mother worked tirelessly in the promotion of camogie in the local club Glen Rovers, while her father was a renowned soccer player who played with teams such as St Finbarrs Celtic and Wembley. Mary followed in her mother's footsteps and has been heavily



Mary Newman, pictured with her husband Finbarr and mother Nora at a recent Lord Mayor's Civic Awards, where she picked up an award for her contribution to camogie in Cork.

involved in all aspects of camogie for the Glen and more recently as the PRO for the Cork camogie team, and her hard work and dedication to the promotion of the sport resulted in the Lord Mayor's Civic Award. "It's lovely to get it but I think it's more an award on behalf of the club; we have some great women up there who do a

lot of hard work and last year we had a dream year where we won everything we put our hand to. If we had done the Lotto we'd probably be millionaires, it was a dream year so it's nice to top that off with this award. I'm more the driver of the train but there's plenty of others who deserve this award, also."

Also awarded were

former Irish boss Declan Kidney for his contribution to rugby, Cork Ladies Football manager Eamonn Ryan, Pamela O'Connor for service to Cystic Fibrosis campaign, Evening Echo journalist Deirdre O'Reilly for her charity work and Arthur Leahy, a pioneer in the co-operative movement and campaigner for the LGBT community.

MAY 2014

GAELIC PIONEER: Liz Howard pictured at Semple Stadium in Thurles. Although no longer directly involved, Howard maintains a keen interest in the GAA. Picture: John D Kelly

Clubs do honour to Aoife's memory

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

DOUGLAS recently honoured the memory of the late Aoife Downey when they held their annual memorial tournament. The bad weather conditions failed to dampen the spirits of the participating teams and in a close contest it was Douglas who got through to meet Courcy Rovers in the cup final.

Glen Rovers and Ballygarvan contested the plate final and both games were played in a manner befitting the occasion. In the cup final, Douglas proved too strong for Courcy as they retained the trophy called after their late player, and on hand to make the presentation were Siobhan and Sean Downey, Aoife's parents.

Douglas showed plenty of strength as they took the title with Alisha Cremin, Sarah Fahy and Amy Curtin very much to the fore, despite the best efforts of Linda Collins, Clodagh O'Donovan, Rachel Collins, Isobel Lordan and Elaine O'Reilly for a battling Courcy Rovers side.

In the plate final Cork minor captain Aisling Wallace led the Glen attack, tormenting the Ballygarvan defence, notching up some excellent scores to bring her personal tally over the four game to 5-26.

And with Michaela Hyde, Laura Dineen and captain Kelly Fitzgerald also prominent the Glen girls proved to be strong for a spirited Ballygarvan side who battled to the full-time whistle.

As the weather brightened, the Douglas club provided refreshments and a barbecue prior to the presentation of the trophies by Siobhán Downey, who earlier in the day had spoken to all participating clubs and thanking them for turning out to honour the memory of her late daughter who loved camogie so much.

Siobhán presented the Player of the Tournament trophy to Douglas forward Alisha Cremin. Douglas chairwoman Marie Harkin, a former Tipperary All-Ireland camogie star, thanked all the clubs and players who made the day such a special one.

She congratulated Douglas and Glen Rovers and tribute to Courcy Rovers and Ballygarvan for their contribution to a great day in honour of a girl who will never be forgotten.

Tipp dispute comes



Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, with Cork Féile Na nGael skills winner: Cliona Healy, Aghbullogue, second placed Sarah Ahern, Ballygarvan, and third Orla Keating, Ballincollig. See story right for more. Picture: Supplied



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

IT'S an awful shame that just as Tipperary are making strong underage strides again that such a public in-house spat has occurred recently.

The Tipperary Camogie County Board have sacked senior team manager Eoin Kennedy after just five months in the position, only to re-instate him during the week after a player revolt.

While there was unrest between the manager and some of the county board officers for the past seven weeks or so, neither players nor management thought that such drastic steps would be taken as to remove the manager as they prepare for the forthcoming championship which commences on June 28 for them.

The news of Kennedy's removal broke on Tuesday morning May 13 and the Tipp County Board followed up with a statement to the press the following Thursday which confirmed that all was far from well behind the scenes.

It is understood that Tipperary's players were furious after Borrisoleigh native Kennedy was removed from his position following a full board meeting.

It is clear from the statement issued by the board that Eoin was at loggerheads with senior officials and paid the price. The statement confirmed that officers and clubs made the decision "as a result of ongoing difficulties between the manager and the county board."

It went on: "It is hoped that we have a new manager in place as soon as possible."

But the bombshell has been greeted with anger by Tipp's players who held a meeting to voice their internal support for their popular former manager. It worked, because now he's back in charge.

Kennedy, who has enjoyed success at schools level in his native county, Offaly and Cork, succeeded Conor Ryan in

League semi-finals make for a busy week

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

THE week ahead is a busy one with league semi-finals from senior down to junior all pencilled in.

At senior level Wednesday is a busy night when St Catherine's will meet St Finbarr's, but before that on Sunday, Inniscarra and Ballincollig will play off to decide who will meet Douglas on Wednesday in the second semi-final.

The senior B semi-finalists are decided and it's all systems go for Wednesday

night with Kilbrittain/Timoleague through to meet Carrigaline, who have made huge strides in this their first year at senior B grade. The second semi-finalists are Éire Óg who will meet Ballygarvan. Three teams are safely through to the intermediate semi-finals with Sarsfields, Brian Dillon's, and Tracton

having secured their spots in Wednesday night's semi-finals. Blackrock and Enniskeane will play off for the fourth semi-final place and this play off goes ahead on Monday in Blackrock at 7.45pm.

One junior A semi-final goes ahead this Saturday evening when Na Piarsaigh meet Sliabh Rua in Na Piarsaigh at 7.30pm the second semi-final is on Tuesday when St Vincent's travel to Glenville to meet Watergrasshill.

In the junior B league Cobh are through, but they must wait to see who their opponents are as Castlelyons and Inniscarra will play off to decide who get the semi-final place.

The second semi-final has Bride Rovers meeting Ballincollig, both of these junior B semi-finals are down for decision on Friday next May 30. The semi-finalists in the Junior C League are as yet not decided.

ERIN'S OWN
UNDER 14: Well done to our U14 Camogie team, who travelled to Crosshaven recently. From start to finish it was the skill, speed and drive that had this game on edge.

Crosshaven put up a good fight but it was not enough for this fearless bunch of girls, who won with pride. Well done to the coaches Mick Wallace, Diarmuid Cunningham and Niamh Ni Chaoimh, who are taking this team to a new level, full time score 7-4 to 1-0.

Team: Kate Cogan; Orlaith O'Connell, Muireann Kelleher, Clara Milner, Clara Fenton, Clodagh Mc Namara, Alison Taylor, Fiona Murphy, Abbey O'Flynn; Sinead Monaghan.

BRIDE ROVERS
JUNIOR: We made it three wins out of three in the junior league when we beat St Catherine's 3-8 to 0-2 last Tuesday night. Well done everyone, the scheduled game against Castlelyons at the weekend was postponed. The league semi-final is pencilled in for Friday, May 30.

UNDER 12: This week we play two games against Fr O'Neill's away and Youghal at home. Details of these in next week's notes. Don't forget you can stay in touch on twitter @RoversGAA and on facebook.

BLACKROCK
It's been another busy week for all ages. Our U10s travelled to Crosshaven to demonstrate their skills and they made their coaches very proud showing great improvement and a wonderful enthusiasm. To quote one coach the girls were simply outstanding.

Our U11s visited Éire Óg for another round of the Go Games and gave another promising show of skill and determination, many thanks to Éire Óg for inviting us out.

The U12s played the newly formed Nemo Camogie Club in Blackrock on Wednesday and there was a great turnout for both sides. Blackrock settled into the game very quickly and they showed just how well the team have come together over the last few months, a great match and a great result for Blackrock.

The U14s met Barryroe in Blackrock on Friday and while the end result didn't favour Blackrock, it was another committed and developing display from this young team.

Another fine performance from our intermediates on Sunday, with a win over Newcestown. The full time score was Blackrock 5-13 Newcestown 0-7 another fantastic effort by the whole team with goals from Grace Mulqueen, Roisin de Faoite, Michelle Murphy and Katelyn Hickey. Well done to all the players involved and their coaches and mentors, keep up

the great work. The Blackrock Camogie Club Golf Classic will take place on Friday August 8, in Mahon Golf Club. Tee times available from noon to 4pm, €120 per team. For more details contact Peadar Deegan on 085 6181947.

BRIAN DILLON'S
UNDER 8s: We played Aghabullogue at the Tank Field in the Go Games. Great fun was had by all.

UNDER 10: We played away to Glen Rovers in the U10 Go Games, we fielded two teams of eight we played exceptionally well particularly Emily, Lillian, Ruby, Clara and Jane.

UNDER 14: We played Aghada in the Tank Field in the U14 league we were 2-2 to no score down at half time despite loads of chances.

In the second half a free from Molly Garvan and a goal from Olivia Gibson brought us right back in the game however Aghada won out on a score of 2-3 to 1-1. Eve O'Connor and Emma Bradfield were superb in defence.

UNDER 16: We played Ballincollig at the Tank Field in the league Four points from Sinead Mills in the first half, one from Rachel Carroll and Siofra Deane put us in control at half time on a score of 0-6 to 1-0. A superb point from Sinead Mills and a rocket of a goal from Siofra in the second half ensured victory 1-7 to 1-3. Niamh O'Leary at full back was outstanding and Sinead Mills in midfield showed

her class. Eadie O'Connell, Stephanie Mangan and Caroline O'Connor played exceptionally.

YOUGHAL
UNDER 8: The first game of the year was away to Castlelyons where our girls performed brilliantly, many thanks to Pat O'Sullivan and all at Castlelyons Camogie.

Team: Rachel Murray, Aoibhe Daly, Sorcha Kilgannon, Aoife Long, Catriona O'Riordan, Ruby Rose Bullard, Ruby Kennedy.

UNDER 10s: Our under 10s had two games last weekend playing their first game of the year against a very strong Dargourney team. We were short a lot of girls due to commotions however the eight girls that played were excellent and ran themselves into the ground for forty minutes.

Team: Abbie Crowe, Aoibhe Daly, Emma Delaney, Amy O'Connell, Erin Ahern, Lorna Cooper, Eimear O'Regan, Caitlin Murphy.

We headed to Killeagh for the girls second game of the year against our neighbours. Both teams pictured along with Killeagh mentor and Cork legend Mary O'Connor.

Team: Maave Kelly, Jessa Kelly, Aine Walsh, Aoibhe Daly, Emma Delaney, Amy O'Connell, Kate McCarthy, Eimear O'Regan, Lorna Cooper, Caoimhe Delaney. Thank you to our own Louise Dempsey for refereeing both games.

CAMOGIE

Training continues at 10am on Sunday mornings. All welcome. Our U14s played their first league game with their new trainers and we started well working well together making some great blocks and tackles and working the ball well up the field.

Watergrasshill were first to score, we did well in the middle of the field in the first half and worked the ball up to the forwards were Ely Hogan got a lovely goal in the first half.

Watergrasshill got two more points before Eimear Leamy got a goal for us just before half time. Watergrasshill having made a few changes at half time came out very strong in the second half and our backs and keeper did very well to stop them in their tracks. The turn out on the day was good with twenty girls turning out.

Team: A Mc Carthy, J Mc Carthy, C White, A Farrell, E Hogan, C O'Mahony, E Leamy, C Delaney, N Galvin, R Arthur, L Cashman, S Connolly, Clara Kelly, C O'Connell, K Galvin, J Doyle, H O'Keefe, R Geary, Z Donoghue, N Kokoska, A O'Callaghan.

We played Fr O'Neill's and we were down on numbers from the last day so it was confirmed that we would play a 12-a-side game with many of

MAY 2014

at worst of times



Siobhán Downey presents the Aoife Downey Memorial Shield to Glen Rovers captain Kelly Fitzgerald at the recent Aoife Downey Memorial Tournament. See story left for more.

Picture: Supplied

the Tipperary post just five months ago. But it is understood relations between Kennedy and the county board have become increasingly fraught in recent times.

The Tipp players were considering a championship boycott, which has been averted thankfully.

Tipperary are due to open their All-Ireland campaign against Derry next month, having lost out to Limerick two weeks ago in the Munster semi-final, a shock defeat in itself.

Kennedy retained overwhelming support from Tipp's players and this situation contrasts wildly with the

ladies football crisis that has also hit the county.

Football boss and former hurler John Leahy axed five players from his squad recently and 14 others have since walked away in protest. They're still working away on that situation in a bid to solve it in time for championship, but it's not going to be easy.

How often do we hear of unrest within counties between county boards and inter-county teams? Sure Cork are the GAA aristocrats at that since 2002.

I heard, for a number of years, and still recently, of serious unrest in Gal-

Cliona takes next step to become skills champ

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

LAST season's Cork Féile na nGael Skills runner-up made no mistake this time out as with a perfect performance. Cliona Healy, from Aghabullogue, got it spot on to ensure she was crowned skills winner recently.

Cliona is first year pupil in Coachford College and she was a pupil in Aghabullogue National School, where she enjoyed a lot of success on the playing fields winning two Sciath Na Scol medals.

She had the honour of captaining the school team in 2013 when they won the H7 hurling title defeating Kilbrittan.

A superb sports woman Cliona is also the holder of a Cork Féile medal whom in 2012 when at just 12 years of age she helped her club go on to represent the county at National Féile.

Currently a member of the club's U14 and U16 teams, she has lined out in various positions, from goal right up to the forward line.

She's in midfield with the Aghabullogue U14 team and she was a key member of the team that contested the recent Féile semi-final.

Cliona is also a member of the Cork U14 development squad.

Cliona is following in the footsteps of her mother Eileen (nee Buckley), who has given huge service to the Aghabullogue club. As a player and mentor Eileen wore the Cork colours at underage level and is a huge worker for camogie in the Aghabullogue club. Sarah Ahern from the Ballygarvan club was second, while Orla Keating, Ballincollig, was third.

Cliona should be representing Cork at the National Skills competition on Féile weekend but has opted to participate with Aghabullogue. They are taking part in one of the Féile blitz days organised for the Division 1 winners and runner-up and the two defeated semi-finalists from each of the 32 counties.

This is the new format adopted for this year. As a result of Cliona not travelling, Cork will be represented by Sarah Ahern and she will no doubt do Cork proud.

way camogie which was always hovering away in the background. Kilkenny also had a big problem. I recall after the legends tournament last year being in the Croke Park hotel prior to the All-Ireland club final with many of my former team mates and players from opposing counties. Members of our senior board walked in the door together and we greeted each other with genuine warmth.

This didn't go unnoticed by a former Kilkenny player who conveyed astonishment that a) our board were so friendly with each other and not at loggerheads and b) that their relationship with us was so good.

In honesty the Cork camogie players' relationship with the county board wasn't that great in the late 80s and early 90s I felt. But that all changed and the current relationship is very good.

I give Marian McCarthy a lot of credit for that. Players, boards, management teams will always have disagreements.

We all have them, the workplace, clubs, intercounty set-ups. There is nothing wrong with that.

It's leaving the disagreement behind and moving on for the genuine better of the job at hand is always the right thing to do. Of course one's perception of the 'genuine better' is subjective and views different greatly.

Holding bitter grudges is the worst characteristic of all and I often think for those that do, it must be awful to be living inside their head because they must have no peace of mind.

We'll wait and see what happens next with our Munster neighbours. Tipperary are struggling as it is at senior level. This couldn't have happened at a worse time for them. They need to deal with it as a matter of priority and mend the bridges.

Well done to players and mentors on a great display and keep up the good work.

Our second U14 team should have two games in the week ahead in the league. We are awaiting our opponents Sarsfields and Douglas to confirm they are available to play.

BEST OF LUCK: The very best of luck to our girls lining out in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Monday in the Sciath Na Scol final. Scott Olibheir take on Cobh whilst Carrignavar take on Frankfield, we will be there to cheer on our girls and we wish them and their mentors all the very best of luck good luck also today to the Cork teams participating in the Munster finals.

GIVING FOR LIVING FUNDRAISER: Reminder that today Saturday May 24th we will be holding a coffee/tea morning in the club from 10am for the 96/103fm Giving for Living Radiothon in aid of Cancer services in the CUH/ Marymount and Mercy Hospitals. Last year it was a wonderful success and we urge everybody to come along and lend a hand and help us raise funds for a worthy cause. So please, please come along and support this cause.

Cork team selection tough with restrictions

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

TODAY

Munster Intermediate final:
Cork v Tipperary, Kilmallock, 2pm.

MUNSTER competitions dominate the fixture calendar today as the Cork intermediate and junior sides are in action. Rules governing Munster competitions prevent anybody who has won a Munster intermediate medal in the last two years from participating this year. Therefore any player who was a member of the panel in 2012 when Cork were Munster winners is not eligible to participate.

Amanda O'Regan and Carolyn Mother are two players who are eligible as they were not on that team and did not line out at senior level in Munster since 2011.

With a huge number of his National League Division 2 winning side tied up in either college or Leaving Certificate exams, Paudie Murray and his selectors have had a headache putting a panel together.

Cork will field a strong team with Niamh O'Keefe, Leeanne O'Sullivan, Amanda O'Regan, Carolyn Motherway and Sinead O'Neill having lined out on the league winning side.

Minor players Rachel O'Shea, Amy Curtin, Hannah Looney and Kate O'Keefe are not involved in exams and are available to make the step up while Jacinta Crowley, Alanna Barry and Tessa Crowley have plenty of underage inter-county experience.

TODAY

Munster Junior semi-final:
Cork v Kerry, Charleville, 4pm.

The junior competition sees Kerry play for the first time at adult level this season.

They did superbly, taking Limerick to a replay before losing out in the Division 4 National League final. Huge work is going on in the continued promotion of camogie in the county and with the enthusiasm being shown by mentors David Doyle, Kevin O'Mahony, Pete Young, and Patrick Moran it is not surprising that the players are responding.

All of their players, bar one, are members of the Clannmaurice club and this is good as they are familiar with each other. They are captained by Michelle Costello and include Sarah Murphy, who plays her club camogie with Newcastlewest, Aoife Fitzgerald, Saidbhe Horgan, and Gillian McNamara.

The Cork panel included: Louise O'Regan, Aine Crowley, Marian Murphy, Clara Murphy and minor players Claire Sexton, Sarah O'Sullivan, Linda Collins and Lisa Lynch.

CLUB NOTES

the girls playing in new positions.

Fr O'Neill's were very strong in the first half and got a few scores we didn't give up and having made a few changes at half time came out fighting and were unlucky not to score.

Team: Niamh Galvin, Chloe Delaney, Caoimhe O'Mahony, Rebecca Arthur, Lesley Cashman, Emer Hogan, Jenny Doyle, Jennifer McCarthy, Alicia McCarthy, Kate Galvin, Eabha Walsh, Eily Leamy.

U14 Training is on Tuesdays. UNDER 16: The second round of the league for our U16 provided some great hurling from both teams on the night.

Despite the end score it could have been anybody's game, as it was a game that was fought hard by both teams to the very end. We settle with a point coming from Clara Crowley within minutes of the game starting and with pressure put on both sides Eire Og adding scores to the scoreboard put them in front by a point at half-time.

Three times in the game we leveled with Eire Og each time coming from behind our s should tremendous spirit by not giving up at any stage. With full back line Niamh Roche and Eimear Farrell putting in great performances, Shauna O'Connell and

Caitriona O'Keefe playing midfield kept the show on the road with Caitriona adding 2-3 to the score line. We kept the pressure on and ran out winners with an impressive score line of 5-5 to 4-3, scorers were Caitriona O'Keefe 2-3, Clara Crowley 0-2, Clara O'Brien, Clodagh O'Keefe, Ellen O'Brien 1-0 each.

Youghal: Clara White, Amy Hartliff, Niamh Roche, Ellen O'Brien, Chloe Landers, Louise Dempsey, Eimear Farrell, Caitriona O'Keefe, Shauna O'Connell, Clara Crowley, Erin Galvin, Aoife Farrell, Clara O'Brien, Clodagh O'Keefe, Kayleigh Murphy.

Subs: Aoife Flavin for Kayleigh Murphy, Chloe Delaney for Aoife Flavin, Fidelma Flavin, Jennifer McCarthy, Alicia McCarthy.

Down a few players due to injury a great performance was put up by the girls a second night in a row with two games played within the week. We settle quickly with a point from Caitriona O'Keefe.

Na Piaras kept a tight rein on the game throughout not leaving us get away with much. But with determination we came out with a draw 2-6 to 3-3.

Team: Clara White, Aoife Flavin, Niamh Roche, Ellen O'Brien, Chloe Landers, Louise Dempsey, Eimear Farrell, Caitriona O'Keefe, Shauna O'Connell, Clara Crowley, Erin Galvin, Kayleigh Murphy, Clara O'Brien, Clodagh O'Keefe, Fidelma Flavin.

Scorers: Caitriona O'Keefe, Clara Crowley, Clara O'Brien, Clodagh O'Keefe.

With full strength team on the night we prove to strong for the St Vincent girls with a score line of 2-10 at half time. Scorers on the night: Clara Crowley 0-4, Shauna O'Connell 2-0, Erin Galvin 1-1, Caitriona O'Keefe 0-3, Clara O'Brien 0-1, Louise Dempsey 0-1, Clodagh O'Keefe and Chloe Delaney 1-0 each.

Subs: Chloe Delaney for Clara Crowley, Kayleigh Murphy for Aoife Farrell, Alicia McCarthy for Eimear Farrell and Jennifer McCarthy for Erin Galvin.

TRAINING: Junior camogie league will commence next week with Youghal, Watergrasshill, Ring and Butlerstown involved, this is a great way for the teams to keep ticking over while awaiting the championship.

GLEN ROVERS

Our U10s have been as they continued their Go Games hosting visitors Brian Dillon's and then joined forces with our U11s to entertain our Dublin visitors Na Fianna on Saturday. In both outings great enjoyment was had by all and with thirty two players in attendance everybody got game time and enjoyed the evening.

Na Fianna enjoyed their trip to Cork and the games were most enjoyable thanks to our parents who provided refreshment for our visitors and to all who helped out on the day.

Our U14 team turned in tremendous

display to over come Carrigaline in their league game, Clara Bowen gave us an early lead with a point and with Emma Murphy adding a goal before the break it was 1-3 to 1-1 in Carrigaline favour a half time whistle. From the start of the second half we dug deep and with our defence superb Carrigaline could find no way through, up front Emma Murphy gave us the lead with a goal before Mairead McCarthy extended it with another goal.

A third Emma Murphy goal sealed victory after a great performance. We met Kilbrittan/Timoleague in round four of the league and here we started well with a Clara Bowen point and with Emma Murphy adding a second we looked to be in control but wasting a lot of chances we let our opponents take control and it was 3-1 to 0-3 as the game headed for the break.

We upped the tempo with a Mairead McCarthy goal and with Emma Murphy adding two goals we trailed by just four points 5-1 to 3-3 at half time.

Again in the second half we allowed our opponents take control and it was 6-2 to 3-3 as the game entered the final quarter.

Showing great battling qualities we upped the pace and with Emma Murphy and Lisa O'Riordan adding goal we were back in the game, Katie Buckley pointed a later forty five to

Limerick will not be there just to make up numbers

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW
Munster Senior Championship
final, Cork v Limerick,
Charleville 6pm.

IT'S A surprise pairing, no doubt about that, as Cork and Limerick square off in the Munster senior final in Charleville on Saturday evening. Having surprisingly defeated Tipperary in the Munster semi-final by 2-13 to 2-8, Limerick find themselves in unfamiliar territory.

Contesting Munster senior finals isn't a position Limerick often find themselves in.

However, the success of their minor team a few weeks ago in the All-Ireland final for the first time in the county's history highlighted a shift in Limerick's fortunes with some excellent talent on show, particularly forward talent.

I would expect a number of that team to be backing their senior squad.

Caoimhe Costelloe, Caoimhe Lyons, Kate Mulqueen, Rebecca Delee, Karen O'Leary are just some names that spring to mind.

Cork would be expected to win this final comfortably however, the winning margin again dependent on their approach to the game.

Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery return to the side after missing the semi-final win against Clare due to the ladies football national league final.

Jennifer O'Leary is a potential absentee due to the recent passing of her mother (Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis).

The Cork defence is likely to start the same as the previous outing with Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy, Emer O'Sullivan, Catriona Foley and Pamela Mackey filling the two to seven numbered jerseys in front of Aoife Murray. Rena Buckley is sure to regain her position at midfield, her work rate a standout for Cork recently.

Up front one would expect Julia White, Katrina Mackey, Aishling Thompson, Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter to be definite starters.

The switch of Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter to full and half forward respectively paid dividends for both players in the semi-final. While they may well start in their original positions I'd expect movement between them during the course of the game. This is Cork's last competitive outing before championship commences on June 21 with an away game to Dublin and again it is the performance and approach of the players which is most important here, notwithstanding a Munster title up for grabs.

Cork's second championship outing is on July 5 when they travel to Wexford with a third and final group game at home to Galway a fortnight later.

The team is somewhat settled at this stage albeit there will be competition for one or two positions when Cork's complete squad are in full swing post exams.

Management are still toying with a couple of positional switches. Tomorrow is an opportunity to try out a few of them.

Kennedy back at Tipp helm

by John Fogarty

Eoin Kennedy has been restored as Tipperary senior camogie manager after a remarkable u-turn by the county board on Tuesday.

The Borrisoleigh man had been axed last week after seemingly irreconcilable differences with the board. However, following a meeting between players, who had voiced their support for Kennedy over the weekend, and county board officials at The Ragg, he agreed to return.

Kennedy also had the backing of a number of clubs to be returned to the role after being removed at a board meeting a week earlier. However, the decision was

greeted with disdain by players who announced they were standing behind Kennedy although stopping short of withdrawing their services. It is understood they were considering striking ahead of the All-Ireland championship group stages unless he was reinstated to the role.

Interestingly, Carmel Harkin announced her resignation as secretary at the end of the meeting. Tipperary can look forward to their opening All-Ireland game with Derry next month, while the ladies footballers are involved in mediation with manager John Leahy and the county board following the decision by 14 players to quit.

Crafty Cork girls easily retain title

Munster Senior Championship Camogie final	
CORK	1-13
LIMERICK	0-8
Fiona Casey Charleville	

Cork dominated from start to finish in this Munster Senior camogie final at Charleville on Saturday.

With the wind at their backs in the first half, Cork opened an early lead with points by Orla Cotter (45), Jenny O'Leary and Katrina Mackey. Points from Denise Cronin, Gemma O'Connor and Jenny O'Leary ensured the half-time score was Cork 0-9, Limerick 0-2.

Joe Quaid's charges came out fighting in the second half and points from Caoimhe Costello and Niamh Mulcahy saw them make inroads into Cork's

lead.

Hope of a comeback was short-lived though as Mackey turned her marker and made no mistake in rifling to the net ensuring Cork retained their title. Limerick can take heart from a very spirited display, which will stand to them.

The Intermediate final saw Cork beat Tipperary 1-9 to 0-4 while the Juniors beat Kerry in the semi-final, 2-12 to 0-6, and play Limerick in next weekend's final.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey (1-2), O Cotter (0-45), J O'Leary (0-3, 25), D Cronin, G O'Connor (0-2 each).

Scorers for Limerick: N Mulcahy (0-8, 45), M Fitzgerald, C Costello (0-1 each).

CORK: A Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, A Geary (capt), P Mackey, L Tracey, E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, B Corkery, A Thompson, D Cronin, C Foley, G O'Connor, J O'Leary, O Cotter, K Mackey.

LIMERICK: S Moynihan, F Hickey (capt), M Casey, J Mulcahy, K Campbell, S Carey, C Mulcahy, M O'Callaghan, D Fitzpatrick, C Costello, N Mulcahy, N Ryan, M Fitzgerald, A Sheehan, M O'Neill.

Cliona takes top spot

Aghbullogue's Cliona Healy made sure she got it right this time out with a perfect performance to take the Cork Feile na nGael skills title. Last season's runner-up is a first year pupil in Coachford College and previous to that she was a pupil in Aghbullogue National School where she enjoyed a lot of success on the playing fields winning two Sciath Na Scoil medals and she had the honour of captaining the school team in 2013 when they won the H7 hurling title defeating Kilbrittan.

Cliona is also the holder of a Cork Feile na nGael medal from 2012 when at just 12 years of age she helped her club take the Cork title and go on to represent the county at National Feile.

Currently a member of the club's U14 and U16 teams she has lined out in various positions and has lined out in goal right up to the forward line, she lines out at midfield

in the Aghbullogue U14 team and she was a key member of their team that contested the recent Feile na nGael semi-final. Cliona is also currently a member of the Cork U14 development squad.

Cliona is the daughter of Eileen (nee Buckley) and Joe Healy both who are hugely involved in the club. Joe wore the club colours, as did Eileen, and she's a huge worker for camogie in the Aghbullogue club.

In second place was Sarah Ahern from the Ballygarvan club whilst Orla Keating Ballincollig was in third place.

Cliona should be representing Cork at the National Skills competition on Feile weekend but she has opted to participate with her club, Aghbullogue, who are taking part in one of the Feile Blitz days which are being organised for the Division 1 winners and runners-up and the two defeated semi-finalists from each of the thirty two counties.



Camogie Urban C3 final winners, Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane, team captains Abby Hyde and Emma Murphy after their win over St Mary's NS, Cobh, in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Larry Cummins

Murphy and Crowley excel for Oilibhéir

SCIATH NA SCOL

St Mary's NS, Cobh	0-1
Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane	9-4

EMMA MURPHY and Chloe Crowley were the stars of the show as Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane beat St Mary's of Cobh in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Camogie 3C final yesterday in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, writes SEAN GEARY.

Midfielder Murphy scored an incredible five goals with Crowley notching a hat-trick of goals and points.

Carly Virgo also hit the back of the net and Chloe Ahern added a point in an impressive attacking display.

The girls from Ballyvolane took the lead inside two minutes when Crowley lashed home from close-range with Murphy adding the second goal a minute later when she finished confidently into the roof of the net.

Three further goals from Murphy, along with two from Crowley and a few brilliantly taken points from the talented duo put their side firmly in the driving seat.

A nice point from Ahern added to Scoil Oilibhéir's commanding half-time lead.

Murphy scored her fifth goal in the 24th minute before Virgo got on the scoresheet to complete the Scoil Oilibhéir tally.

Despite the scoreline, St Mary's showed admirable spirit to keep fighting to the very end and were rewarded when Rebecca Sheehan scored a late point, but the day belonged to the extremely talented Scoil Oilibhéir side.

Scorers for Scoil Oilibhéir, Ballyvolane: Emma Murphy 5-0, Chloe Crowley 3-3, Carly Virgo 1-0, Chloe Ahern 0-1.

St Mary's, Cobh: Rebecca Sheehan 0-1.

ST MARY'S NS: S Lee-Watson, H Fogarty, L Burke, R Sheehan, A Savage, R Devrey, A Meaney, R Donoghue-Leahy, J Savage, N Donoghue, A Gill, A Carter, S Mulcahy, S Gill, S Moussa, K O'Shea, C Durnan, A Burns.

SCOIL OILIBHEIR: N Condon, A O'Connell, A Hyde, K O'Sullivan, S Lane, A Cuthbert, R White, E Murphy, T McCarthy, C Virgo, C Ahern, C Crowley, C O'Donovan, C Hogan, J Hughes, L McCarthy, S Simons.

Referee: E Kennedy (Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine).



Abbi Hyde in action for Scoil Oilibhéir against St Mary's, Cobh, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

MAY 2014

Two wins make it a good day for Cork

CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

By Mary Newman

Cork 1-9
Tipperary 0-3

PLAYED in Kilmallock last Saturday, it was Cork who led from the start with a point from Killeagh's Hannah Looney to open proceedings in this Munster Intermediate final.

They continued popping over the points with Jess Henigan unerring from placed ball throughout. Tipperary struggled to cope with player of the match Sarah Buckley who dominated at half-back, while setting up countless scoring opportunities for Niamh Burns and Amanda O'Regan.

Cahir's Sinead Kennedy was Tipp's sole scorer in the first half, with Drom/Inch's Michelle Shortt outstanding for her side. Half time Cork 0-6 Tipperary 0-1.

The second half saw a little more pep in Tipperary's step, with Lorna O'Dwyer and Niamh Tracey adding to their tally, but it was all Cork when Sinead O'Neill goalied on 48 minutes.

With Amanda O'Regan and Kate O'Keefe adding points in the last few minutes, Cork secured the title, with Amanda O'Regan receiving the cup from chairman of the Munster Council James Moynihan.

Scorers for Cork: J. Henigan 0-4 (f), S. O'Neill 1-0, A. O'Regan, K. O'Keefe 0-2 each, H. Looney 0-1.
Tipperary: L. O'Dwyer 0-1, S. Kennedy 0-1, N. Tracey 0-1.

Cork 2-12
Kerry 0-6

PLAYED as the curtain raiser to the senior final, Cork set out their stall very early in the Munster junior semi-final with 1-3 on the board within 10 minutes.

Those scores came from Orla Coughlan (goal), Sinead O'Callaghan, and Claire Sexton.

Kerry, via Sara Murphy and Jessica Fitzell, contributed three points, but that was where it ended for the Kingdom in the first half.

Not for Cork as they showed their experience at this level by tapping on further points from Sinead O'Callaghan and Suzanne Lynch. Half time, Cork 1-10 Kerry 0-3.

The second half saw Claire Sexton grab another goal, but Kerry to their credit never gave up, and Sara Murphy and Niamh Leen slotted over from play to leave the final score Cork 2-12 Kerry 0-6.

Cork will face Limerick in the decider, and its looking like a hat trick of Munster titles for the Rebels this year.

Scorers for Cork: O. Coughlan 1-4 (0-2 f), C. Sexton 1-2, S. O'Callaghan 0-3 (0-1 f), S. Lynch 0-2, C. Healy 0-1.
Kerry: S. Murphy 0-4 (0-1 f), J. Fitzell 0-1, N. Leen 0-1.

Rebels retain Munster title in poor final

Cork 1-13
Limerick 0-8

CORK retained their Munster senior championship title in a lacklustre affair at a cold and wet Charleville GAA grounds last Saturday evening.

In fact, one would be forgiven for forgetting that this was a Munster final in May such was the grey sky and equally dull atmosphere.

Cork were never in doubt of losing this game despite a spirited challenge by a Limerick side certainly much improved upon previous years.

The physicality of the game will stand to Cork with the game tight and unquestionably hard with no 50/50 challenge easy.

Cork should have created more goal-scoring opportunities. They had them, but failing to use their outer vision and release the ball faster, led to the opportunity slipping and having to be content with a point instead. Against tougher opposition they'll need those goals.

Cork would also be hoping that



CAMOGIE

their half forward line can win more of their own puck outs.

Limerick looked stylish and fast at times up front but failed to capitalise, their two points from frees in the opening 30 minutes, possibly not a fair reflection on some of the openings they created.

Cork looked to be in second gear. They matched the physical aspect of Limerick's game but opening up the play proved difficult.

The first half was low scoring with Cork entering the dressing room at half time seven points ahead; 0-9 to 0-2, five of those scores coming from placed balls.

One of the best moves of the game came five minutes after the break when good work by Catriona Foley and Emer O'Sullivan led to the speedy Katrina Mackey gathering out around the 21, turning her mark-



Cork's Aisling Thompson (centre) battles with Limerick's Mary O'Callaghan (left) and Claire Mulcahy (right) in Munster Senior Championship camogie final at Charleville GAA Club pitch.

Picture: Janusz Trzesicki

er and finished expertly to the net.

The remainder of the game saw Limerick strike six points and Cork, four. Cork were far from firing on all cylinders but their attitude was good in that they competed well and looked hungry for the ball.

We have yet to see the best of Gemma O'Connor, having spent last season abroad with the army and missing a significant part of this season's league campaign due to a hamstring injury.

She'll get sharper with every game. Catriona Foley, lining out at centre back, back at inter-county duty after a three year layoff, will also be aware that she needs more match practice.

Julia White was an absentee and looks to be side-lined for a number of weeks which is a disappointment but she has a level of winter and spring fitness which will stand to her upon her return.

With a month to go before the

All-Ireland championship commences getting as much match practice as is possible will be the Cork management's objective over the coming weeks and with it a further gelling of a team that have yet to peak.

Scorers for Cork: K. Mackey 1-2, O. Cotter 0-4 (f), J. O'Leary 0-3 (f), D. Cronin, G. O'Connor 0-2 each.

Limerick: M. Mulcahy 0-6 (0-4 f), M. Fitzgerald, C. Costello 0-1 each.

CORK: A. Murray; J. O'Callaghan, A. Geary, L. Treacy; E. O'Sullivan, C. Foley, P. Mackey; R. Buckley, B. Corkery; A. Thompson, G. O'Connor, O. Cotter; K. Mackey, D. Cronin, J. O'Leary.

Subs: M. Walsh for L. Treacy (49), K. Hickey for D. Cronin (53), H. O'Regan for G. O'Connor (59).

LIMERICK: S. Moynihan; F. Hickey, M. Casey, J. Mulcahy; K. Campbell, S. Carey, C. Mulcahy; M. O'Callaghan, D. Fitzpatrick; C. Costello, N. Mulcahy, N. Ryan; M. Fitzgerald, A. Sheehan, M. O'Neill.

Subs: R. Delee for N. Ryan (tht), D. Murphy for M. O'Neill (tht), K. O'Leary for D. Fitzpatrick (40), S. Collins for A. Sheehan (55).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Murray knows side have a lot to do

CORK manager Paudie Murray was content enough after their victory over Limerick.

"A good, tough game for us which we probably needed, not the nicest night for camogie, but I think it was a very worthwhile game.

"We still have obviously a lot of work to do; we've only really got together in the last two weeks but I think that if we can come together and train hard

for the next few weeks we should be fairly ok.

"We're obviously not going to win an All-Ireland the way we're going at the moment but you don't win it in May or June anyway so the main thing is that our attitude seems to be good within the team and it's just a case of working hard from here on."

Has Paudie a plan for the next month's preparation ahead of

REACTION

By Linda Mellerick

championship in four weeks' time?

"Our plan really is to play a number of matches more so than training from now on and get our team together and know positions and playing off each other, that sort of thing.

"We haven't had our first 15 out or close to it

really this year so that really has to be the plan over the next couple of weeks," said Murray.

It's difficult to get good challenge games during the championship season, something Paudie is very aware of.

"Yeah we will (find it hard) so we're trying to do something about that."

Referring back to the Munster final just won Paudie reflected: "I'm quite happy with it (our

performance).

"We were always in control, we were always going to win the game and I suppose it would be easier to get yourself up for a Kilkenny or a Wexford and I mean no disrespect to Limerick in any way.

"But I think they actually had a good team out there tonight. They'd a very good minor team so they're obviously going in the right direction."



Photo Gallery:
You can see more photographs at
www.photosales.eecho.ie



Roinn DC1 final winners, Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield, who beat Scoil an tAthar Tadhg, Carrignavar, in the DC1 final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Velon sparkles for Scoil Niocláis

SCIATH na SCOL

By Seán Geary

Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield 2-3
Scoil an Athar Tadhg, Carrignavar 1-0

LOUISE VELON scored two goals and three points as Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield, overcame Scoil an tAthar Tadhg, Carrignavar to win the DC1 Allianz Sciath na Scol Camogie final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

It was a fiercely-fought contest between two committed teams, but the prolific Velon proved to be the difference between the sides.

Frankfield opened the scoring with a well-struck long-range Velon free after six minutes and the same player scored the first goal with a brilliant strike from distance midway through the half to put daylight between the sides.

Lisa O'Riordan impressed in midfield for Scoil an tAthar Tadhg, Carrignavar, but her side were unable to get points on the board and Velon skilfully knocked over another point after 15 minutes.

Scoil an tAthar Tadhg nearly scored a goal just before the break, but the combination of Heather Mullins, Erin Hosford and Sarah Downey, couldn't smuggle the ball over the line and Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield, led by four at the interval.

Velon added her second goal six minutes after the break before adding her third point in the 26th minute.



Team captain, Louise Velon, in action for Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield, in the Roinn DC1 final during the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Picture: Larry Cummins

O'Riordan finally got the goal her side's efforts deserved five minutes from the end, but Scoil Niocláis held on to win the trophy.

Scorers for Scoil Niocláis: Louise Velon (2-3).
Scoil an tAthar Tadhg: L O'Riordan (1-0).

SCOIL NIACLÁS: A Cummins, R Smith, K Walsh, N Herbert, J O'Sullivan, C Molloy, C McCarthy, S Brennan, J Duggan, C St. Leger, L Velon, C Merritt, L Walsh, C Moynihan, M McTernan, H Cummins, L Calnan, E Smith, A Noonan, A Karunwi, N Costelloe, M Twohig, K Muckerjee, A Murphy, A Mullins O'Keefe.

SCOIL an tATHAR TADHG: S Ahern, M Martin, E O'Flynn, N Sheehy, E Buckley, L

O'Riordan, A Fitzgerald, C Martin, C O'Donovan, J Whelan, K Saunders, L O'Donovan, H Mullins, E Hosford, L O'Sullivan, A McGrath, S Lynch, E Sheehan, S Coughlan, K Kennedy, G O'Donoghue, M Beecher, A Noonan, C Dorgan, S Downey, S Hegarty, D Connolly, S Hegarty.

Referee: E Kennedy (Scoil Bhride Eglantine).



Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield's Robyn Smith and her five-year-old sister Mia hold the cup together after victory in the Roinn DC1 final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday. See more on P46-49.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Defender Lia Burke, Scoil Bhride, Eglantine stays close to the Toghra full-forward Phoebe Bailey at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Eabha O'Mahony: Scored eight goals and five points to fire St Catherine's Model Farm Road to victory.



The St Mary's NS Enniskeane team celebrate their win in the Roinn DC5 Final, against Berrings NS, at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Corcoran stars for St Mary's

St Mary's NS, Enniskeane 3-0
Berrings NS 1-3

SCIATH na SCOL

By Seán Geary

ST MARY'S of Enniskeane overcame Berrings NS by three points in a thrilling encounter in the DC5 West Sciath na Scol final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Berrings made a strong start and nearly scored a few early goals, but St Mary's goalkeeper Miriam Lombard made some

great saves.

The impressive Katie Buckley did however, manage to knock a lovely point over the bar to give Berrings the lead after three minutes.

St Mary's hit back with two goals through Courtney Baldascino and Justine Hennigan midway through the first half as they took control of the clash.

Lombard was finally beaten in the 12th minute when Grace McDonnell scored from close range for Berrings as they moved to within two points.

Joanne Dineen scored a point immediately after the restart as Berrings piled the pressure on, but Hennigan scored a brilliant goal from distance that just dipped underneath the crossbar to move St Mary's four points ahead.

Katie Buckley scored a late free to give Berrings hope, but they couldn't score that crucial

second goal with Kate Corcoran superb in defence for St Mary's.

BERRINGS NS: A Hennessy, A Condon, A Glazier, A Desmond, M Lyons, L Desmond, J Dineen, K Buckley, L Hennessy, F O'Reilly, G McDonnell, S Lucey, R Hughes, C O'Shea, Z McCarthy, A Desmond, C Guiry, A Ring, E Bourke, K Kempa, C O'Connell, D Foley, K Horgan, R O'Connor, K McSweeney, R Wood, S Somers, A Walsh, M O'Connor.

ST MARY'S NS, ENNISKEANE: M Lombard, L Hennessy, T Forbes, O Murray, K Corcoran, G Mulcahy, H Browne, C Baldascino, J Hennigan, L Murphy, R O'Seachain O'Donovan, A Allen, W Plak, K O'Grady, C Ahern, C O'Donovan, R Forbes, C Forbes, J O'Driscoll, C Sexton, A Kenny, A Cullinane, R McGill, S Cooney, K Baldascino.

Referee: Cathal O'Murchú.



Togher GNS captain, Ciara Cotter (middle), with vice-captains, Courtney Duggan and Shauna Kelleher, after their Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí 2014 win over Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Orlaith wins it for her school with late goal

SCIATH na SCOL

By Seán Geary

Scoil an Athar Maitiú, Togher 1-0
Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine 0-0

ORLAITH CAHALANE struck the winning goal in injury-time as Scoil an Athar Maitiú, Togher beat Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine in the Urban 2C final of the Allianz Sciath na Scol in Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

It was an exciting contest with plenty of goalmouth action early on, but neither side were able to make the breakthrough until Cahalane scored late on.

Full forward Phoebe Bailey was a thorn in the side of the Scoil Bhríde defence throughout but Lia Burke and Sínead Larmour were defending superbly for Scoil Bhríde.

Scoil an Athar Maitiú's Aoife O'Neill and Eglantine's Abbie O'Sullivan were having a great battle in midfield but the game was scoreless at the break.

Scoil an Athar Maitiú had Scoil Bhríde pinned back at the start of the second half with half-back Carolanne Sexton quick to quell any possible Scoil Bhríde counter-attacks.

Slowly but surely, Scoil Bhríde started to come back into the game with Destiny Cean O'Leary making her mark and Sínead Crowley nearly scored a goal in the 24th minute but goalkeeper Lily Duff saved well.

The game looked to be heading for extra-time but Cahalane lashed home in the dying seconds to hand her side the win.

Scorers for Scoil an Athar Maitiú, Togher: Orlaith Cahalane (1-0)

SCOIL an ATHAR MAITIÚ, TOGHER: L Duff, C McSweeney, C Cotter, C Dorgan, C Sexton, S Kelleher, A O'Neill, C Hallahan, N Sennaya, K Lee, C Lawani, O Cahalane, P Bailey, L Murray, R Hennessy, L Burns, M Olden, Z Wisniewska, K O'Connor, C Walsh.

SCOIL BHRÍDE, EGLANTINE: M Walsh, L Burke, S Larmour, K Fleury, E Morton, A O'Sullivan, L Birmingham, C Hennessy, C O'Sullivan, E Burke, A Cripps, A O'Connell, S O'Shaughnessy, D Cean O'Leary, S O'Donovan, M Maxim, E Martin, J O'Kelly, S Crowley, R O'Callaghan, R Fraher, J Murphy, E O'Sullivan, M Naumava.

Referee: Dan O'Connell (Bunscoil Christ Rí).



Barryroe NS celebrate their win against Minane Bridge NS in the Roinn DC4 West final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

O'Sullivan, Corkery shine for Cloghroe

Cloghroe 9-3
Scoil Clochar Mhuire, Carrigtwohill 0-2

C1 FINAL

By Barbara O'Connell

CLOGHROE proved too strong for a gallant Scoil Clochar Mhuire side as they claimed the Allianz Roinn C1 camogie title yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Cloghroe got off to a flying start scoring 1-1 in the opening minute, Ailis O'Sullivan with a superb goal and Caoimhe Buckley with a point.

Cloghroe's physicality proved a little too strong and they began to dominate the half landing five consecutive scores.

Buckley added another goal and a point to her tally while a point by Ann Marie Coleman and a goal each by Amy Corkery and O'Sullivan who got her second, gave Cloghroe a 4-3 to no score lead at the break.

Great credit to Scoil Mhuire who came out battling hard in the second half. Alannah

Ngwa, Wendy Irohane and Rachel O'Gorman fought really hard and began to dominate for the opening 10 minutes.

However, a quick ball up field was into the hands of Amy Corkery who fired a shot but was excellently saved by Louise O'Brien. Corkery who looked dangerous in front of goal and had another opportunity minutes later.

This time she didn't miss, burying it to the back of the net to make it 5-3 to no score at that point of the game.

Caoimhe Buckley added another goal a minute later but then much to the delight of the supporters, Scoil Mhuire's Chloe Roche hit over to put the Carrigtwohill side on the scoreboard for the first time in the game.

Kayla O'Riordan added another point a minute later to make it 6-3 to 0-2.

The final few minutes showed just how good Cloghroe were when they managed to score three more goals by O'Sullivan, Ellen Murphy and Corkery to give them a well deserved victory.

Scorers for Cloghroe: A O'Sullivan and A Corkery 3-0 each, C Buckley 2-2, E Murphy 1-0, A Marie Coleman 0-1.

Scoil Clochar Mhuire: C Roche and K O'Riordan 0-1 each.

CLOGHROE: A Guigley, C Doyle, K Lordan, J Sullivan, A Babington, A O'Sullivan, E Murphy, H O'Leary, A Marie Coleman, C Keane, C Buckley, E O'Connor, A Corkery, T Wealer, M Lynch, L Murphy, A O'Sullivan, O Brown, N Roche.

SCOIL CLOCHAR MHUIRE: L O'Brien, C McCarthy, A Ngwa, W Irohane, R O'Gorman, A Oduwale, L Horgan, K O'Riordan, C Roche, M Kjanika, C Horgan, G Cotter, R Cashman, R Barry, D McCarthy, L Cotter, T Keohane, K Cronin.

Referee: D Cashman (Sunday's Well).



Ciara Doyle captain of Cloghroe NS, raises the cup aloft after beating Scoil Clochar Mhuire, Carrigtwohill, in their Allianz Sciath na Scol C1 final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: David Keane.



The Ballinspittle NS team celebrate their win over Ballygarvan NS in the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC3 final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: David Keane

Keating's scores prove decisive

Ballinspittle NS 4-3
Ballygarvan NS 3-3
(AET)

DC3 FINAL

By BARBARA O'CONNELL

GOALS can win you games.

That certainly was the case yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn as it took 10 minutes of extra time to decide a winner in this highly entertaining game between Ballinspittle NS and Ballygarvan NS with Ballinspittle's captain Fiona Keating's goal and overall performance proving to be a winner in the Allianz DC3 camogie final.

A fantastic game of camogie which went right down to the wire with both teams battling hard until the bitter end.

Ballinspittle opened the scoring after six minutes with a well taken goal by Keating, who eventually went on to get all her team's scores.

Ballygarvan reacted well and within a minute were on the scoreboard with a superb strike to the back of the net by the impressive captain Clíodhna O'Leary.

Ballinspittle began to dominate for the next five minutes with Keating and Siobhan O'Donovan impressing in the middle. However, Heather Bateman, Molly Kelleher, Isabelle Fitzgerald and Kate Dorney all

worked hard for Ballygarvan.

Keating added another point before the break while Ballygarvan's Molly Kelleher had a long range strike hit the back of the net to leave the sides level at 1-1 at the break.

The second half saw Ballygarvan step up a level and an early goal by O'Leary put them ahead for the first time in the game, 2-1 to 1-1.

This was followed by a 40-yard strike that dropped into the back of the net by O'Leary again.

This woke Ballinspittle up who managed to score 2-2 through Keating.

Ballygarvan finished the stronger scoring two more points by O'Leary, however in the final minute they could have lost it when Keating found her-

self one on one with goalkeeper Heather Bateman. Bateman produced a wonderful save to deny Keating and send the game into extra time.

In the second half of extra time, a superb strike from Keating to the back of the net gave her side a sweet victory.

Scorers for Ballinspittle: F Keating 4-3

Ballygarvan: C O'Leary 2-3, M Kelleher 1-0

BALLINSPIITTLE: T O'Donovan, C Hannon, L Collins, R Nyhan, N Domoney, M Collins, S O'Donovan, C Galvin, F Keating, M O'Leary, L Patton, D O'Brien, S Scanlon, A McCarthy, A O'Donovan, A-Marie Collins, D Nyhan, C O'Donovan, E Casey, N McCarthy.

BALLYGARVAN: H Bateman, E Field, K Dorney, N Cussen, S Lyons, E O'Donoghue, C O'Leary, A Finnegan, R Crowley, M Kelleher, I Fitzgerald, O Harte, R Connolly, E Roche, M Shears, E Bracken, E Finnegan, I Lyons, S Ring, C O'Donovan.

Referee: D Cashman (Sunday's Well).



Scoil Naomh Mícheál, Upper Glanmire, players celebrate their victory. Picture: Denis Minihane

Goals seal the deal for Upper Glanmire side

SCIATH NA SCOL

Scoil Mhícheál Naofa, Upper Glanmire 4-1
Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac 2-2

AFTER a close contest, Scoil Mhícheál Naofa, claimed the Allianz DC4 title with a win over Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn, writes **BARBARA O'CONNELL**.

A close contest in the first half saw the Glanmire school ahead by a point, 2-0 to 1-2, a goal apiece from Nikki Barry and Caitriona Lane while Katie Quirke and Caoimhe Hazelwood got on the scoresheet for Scoil Bhríde with a goal and two points respectively. The second half was much the same as the first with both teams battling hard. Fiona Barry and Aoife Cowman worked tirelessly in the middle for Rathcormac while Aisling McAllen and Nikki Barry excelled for Scoil Naomh Mhícheál. Caoimhe Hazelwood got the first score of the second with a beautiful strike to the back of the net extending their lead by two points, however this lead didn't last too long as Gaby Cashman hit the net from a tight angle to put her side ahead by a point, 3-0 to 2-2. Both teams battled hard till the end with Katie Quirke having two opportunities to put her side in the lead. Two wonderful strikes on goal but a superb double save from Liz Twomey denied Quirke to put her side ahead.

Although the Rathcormac side looked the most likely to score in the final few minutes it was Scoil Mhícheál's Olivia McAllen who blasted a goal with Gaby Cashman adding another. Nikki Barry added a point and finished the scoring at 4-1 to 2-2. Great credit is due to both teams who showed great spirit and determination right till the end.

Scorers for Scoil Mhícheál Naofa, Upper Glanmire: N Barry 1-1, C Lane, G Cashman and Olivia McAllen 1-0 each.

Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac: K Quirke 1-0, C Hazelwood 0-2.

SCOIL MHICHEÁL NAOFA, UPPER GLANMIRE: L Twomey, L O'Connell, A Cashman, C O'Callaghan, L Barry, A McAllen, K Hyde, N Turpin, N Barry, C Lane, G Cashman, J Kelleher, O McAllen, C Perry, A Walsh Vaughan, K Kelleher, H McNamara.

SCOIL BHRÍDE, RATHCORMAC: E Quinlan, S Tobin, S Hayes, R Walsh, Z Cody, K Quirke, F Barry, A Cowman, L Hicks, A Murray, C O'Sullivan, C Hazelwood, C O'Flynn, A Keating, H Lees, K Biggs, N O'Sullivan, N McCarthy, R Howe.

Referee: J Kelly (Blarney)



Scoil Bhríde Rathcormac, supporters cheering on their side against Scoil Naomh Mícheál, Upper Glanmire. Picture: Denis Minihane

St Fergal's girls make it two from two

St Fergal's, Killeagh 5-1
Clonpriest, Youghal 0-1

SCIATH NA SCOL

By Barbara O'Connell

DOUBLE celebrations for St Fergal's of Killeagh as the girls followed the boys' win in the previous game, to claim the Allianz Roinn DC5 title with a win over Clonpriest at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Inspired by Amy Kearney who scored 3-1, St Fergal's got off to a great start with Kearney scoring 2-1 in the opening 10 minutes.

This was followed by a great goal scored by Niamh O'Connor to give St Fergal's a 3-1 to no score lead at the break.

St Fergal's started the second half in bright fashion with Niamh

O'Connor creating the first chance of the half after four minutes of play. She found herself one-on-one with the keeper however an excellent block from Laura Smiddy denied O'Connor a goal.

This save gave Clonpriest a lift and they began to battle really hard from here on with Lucy Byrne and Jenny Doyle pushing forward.

Both Byrne and Doyle had scoring chances however great defending by Chloe Motherway and Sarah Roche kept them scoreless.

After 10 minutes of play in the second half St Fergal's once again

got on the scoresheet with a goal a piece from Amy Kearney and Joanna Keniry to finish the scoring and giving St Fergal's a well deserved victory.

Scorers for St Fergal's: A Kearney 3-1, N O'Connor, J Keniry 1-0.

ST FERGAL'S: A Bulman Heffernan, J Fogarty, A Murphy, S Roche, C O'Donovan, G Landers, C Motherway, A Kearney, J Keniry, A McCarthy, H Swift, S Smiddy, A Sheehan, A Clifford, K Gould, N O'Connor, M O'Donovan.

CLONPRIEST: L Smiddy, C Coffey, E Hickey, L Goggin, E Connors, L Byrne, R Geary, L Geaney, L Fitzgerald, C Griffin, C Geary, S O'Driscoll, C Miller, S Foley, D Goggin, J Doyle, A Roche, A Lynch, C Griffin, R Buckley, A McCarthy.

Referee: Paul Brophy (Glounthanne).

MAY 2014



Scoil Chroí Iosa, Blarney, players celebrating their victory in Roinn DC2 in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals at Páirc Uí Rinn
Picture: Denis Minihan

Cremin displays incredible talent

Scoil Chroí Iosa, Blarney 8-3
Naomh Iosaf, Riverstown 4-0

SCIATH na SCOL

By Barbara O'Connell

SCOIL Chroí Iosa, Blarney, inspired by the impressive Orla Cremin, who scored 8-3, claimed the Allianz DC2 title with a win over Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Riverstown yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Cremin, was instrumental throughout for the Blarney side, but equally as impressive was Scoil Naomh Iosaf's Molly Lynch. Both girls showed great skill and took all their scores excellently.

Lynch opened the scoring with her well-taken point after

six minutes of play. Soon after, Cremin showed how dangerous she could be, scoring a goal and a point within a minute, both from very tight angles. Amy McNamara put the sides level at 1-1 with a well taken goal.

Lynch put her side ahead once again when she saw her long-range strike drop into the net, however it was Cremin who added another point to make it 2-1 to 1-2 to the Riverstown side.

Cremin added a goal and a point before half-time to give the Blarney side a two-point lead at the break. 2-3 to 2-1.

Riverstown got off to the perfect start in the second half with Lynch scoring a superb goal to put her side a point ahead, however this lead didn't last too long with the unbelievable talent of Cremin, who scored four consecutive goals in the next five minutes.

Lynch added another goal and a point to her tally, however once again Cremin finished with another two goals, making her score all of her team's tally.

An incredible performance from Cremin and definitely a player to look out for in the future.

Emma and Jennifer Murphy, Amy Linehan and Orla Cremin impressed for Scoil Chroí Iosa, while Molly Lynch, Shauna

Murphy, Sarah O'Callaghan and Amy McNamara excelled for Scoil Naomh Iosaf.

Scorers for Scoil Chroí Iosa: O Cremin 8-3

Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Riverstown: M Lynch 3-2, A McNamara 1-0.

SCOIL CHROÍ IOSA: C Creedon, R O'Brien, E Murphy, L O'Sullivan, M Dunne, J Murphy, R Lafferty, A Linehan, A Downey, A McNamara, A Twomey, A Cronin, B Martin, O Cremin, E Walsh, S O'Brien, A Moynihan, M Kelly, K Forrest, K Cronin.

SCOIL NAOMH IOSAF, RIVERSTOWN: S Murphy, S Walsh, C Leddy, M Slattery, A Cosgrove, S O'Callaghan, S Long, M Lynch, R O'Mahony, N Condon, E Murphy, A MacNamara, K Crowley, O Ringly, C Lynch, M O'Connell, C Considine, K Carroll, L Fitzgerald, L Crowley, J Harris Hausmann, Ayokunnu Fashade, E MacMahon, C Byrne, L Murphy, M Murphy, O Roche, A Watson.

Referee: B O'Tuama (Castlemartyr)



Team captain Louise Velon in action for Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield, against Carrignavar's Lisa O'Riordan in the Roinn DC1 final.
Picture: Larry Cummin



Twins Hannah and Abbie Cummins who have played together in three finals for Scoil Niocláis, Frankfield.
Picture: Larry Cummin

ULSTER INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL CAVAN V DOWN/TYRONE

Breffni getting a second look

Replay date means that manager John Kearney gets another chance to make notes on his side's potential opponents

BY CIARAN WOODS

CAVAN'S management team were very interested spectators in Ballyholland on Wednesday night, as they were afforded another opportunity to size up the opposition ahead of this Sunday's Ulster Intermediate final at Páirc Esler (1pm).

With extra-time not having been played at the end of the drawn semi-final clash between Down and Tyrone last weekend, a mid-week replay decided who the Breffni girls would take on in this Sunday afternoon's decider at the Marshes.

Cavan will certainly head into the final feeling fresher, their opponents having to deal with a punishing schedule of three games in seven days, while the opportunity to study them up close will also have benefited the Breffni management team as they decide upon their approach to Sunday's game.

Despite this, Cavan boss John Kearney insists that his side will be taking absolutely nothing for granted as they head to Newry bidding claim a first Ulster Intermediate crown.

"There is nothing to bring teams and players on as much as games do. They may be feeling the affects of a few bumps and knocks, and there may be a bit of tiredness in their muscles, but our opponents are going to have two good, tough and very competitive outings under their belt, they're lining out for a third time, and have had plenty of opportunities to



FINAL COUNTDOWN...Cavan's Rosie Crowe will play a vital role for the Breffni girls

Picture: Barry Cragg / SPORTSFILE

rectify any problems that they have encountered along the way."

Cavan qualified for the decider thanks to Antrim's failure to fulfil their semi-final fixture, and the manager admits that the lack of competitive action ahead of Sunday's game is a concern.

"We have won the Junior title for

the past two years, so I suppose we're looking forward to Sunday to see whether or not we're at this level. Unfortunately we didn't have a semi-final, so we have nothing to measure ourselves against, and I suppose that's the one concern we would have heading into an Ulster final is that we're maybe not as prepared for it as

we could otherwise be. But we'll just have to take it as it comes, and see what it comes down to on the day."

It's a return to the big stage and a provincial decider for the Breffni girls this Sunday afternoon, and Kearney is in no doubt about the importance of a win as the county attempts to climb the camogie ladder.

Playing in this championship has given us the opportunity to rebuild a team, and to help build the status of camogie both within the county and on the provincial stage

"Playing in this championship has given us the opportunity to rebuild a team, and to help build the status of camogie both within the county and on the provincial stage. It's an ideal barometer for us to see where we're at."

"A lot of our girls have played in big game situations before, both in camogie and ladies football. They have been around the block, and this is another fantastic opportunity for the county. We might not know yet where we're at... but we're not afraid of finding out."

c.woods@gaeliclife.com



YOU KNOW THE DRILL...The Derry camogs have been involved in so many finals, and have another provincial one to look forward to this weekend with Down providing the opposition

Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

ULSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL DOWN V DERRY

Another decider for Derry

The Oak Leafers have made winning a habit, and the Ulster final gives them a chance to bounce back from a poor league

BY CIARAN WOODS

FINDING suitable opponents for the Derry senior camogs to take on in challenge games has been one of the most testing problems facing manager Joe Baldwin in recent weeks and months.

As they attempted to bridge the gap from National League to Ulster Championship, Baldwin sought out friendly games for his troops to help

bring them up to speed and to try out the sort of tactics they have been working hard on in-house.

However, a series of failed attempts forced him to think outside the box... and he believes they are now reaping the rewards.

"It has proven to be extremely difficult. You can train all you want, but players want to play games. Thankfully the Derry league has continued,

and 26 of our girls play in Division One of what has been a very competitive Derry Senior League, so that will stand to them.

"With the county, we had tried to get a number of challenge matches with both top club sides and also counties like Dublin and Kildare, but at every turn we were faced with teams pulling out on us, sometimes at the eleventh hour which was extremely frustrating for us.

"So we had to look at other solutions, other sides who could help us gain that competitive edge, and we started playing against club minor hurling teams.

"That does bring a level of physicality, therefore increasing the risk of injury, but it does bring a level of pace to the game which is what we have needed."

Armagh's decision to pull out of their scheduled semi-final clash means that Derry head into this Sunday's Ulster final somewhat cold and not fully knowing where they are at.

Baldwin's plans have been hampered by a number of injuries affecting key members of his squad, but he has faith in the ability of others to step up to the mark.

"Grainne McGoldrick is still a couple of weeks away," he said.

"She had an innocuous challenge in a friendly match with her club, and has hurt her knee. It's just going to take time. Sinead Cassidy is a similar story with damaged ligaments in her knee.

"You could rush the girls back, but we have to look at the bigger picture. We've got an All-Ireland senior Championship getting underway in a few weeks time, and we have to think ahead.

"Dungiven's Aine Kelly has been going great for us, but unfortunately she has torn a hamstring as well and misses out this weekend.

"Thankfully we have a very competitive panel, a lot of girls who saw game time in the National League, and they are more than able and willing to make the step up."

It was an unusual National League in many ways for Derry.

For a team which had become so accustomed to winning over recent years to have gone through their league campaign without registering a win was a strange turn of events. However, the players and management were all very much aware that there was a bigger plan involved.

"The National League was gone straight away," Baldwin continued.

"The reality is that there is really no relegation... you basically nominate where you want to play.

"Derry want to play at the very top level, despite how difficult that is. Due to club commitments, 20 of our girls were on the go all over the winter. Therefore the duration of the National League was the only chance they got to have a breather, so we only trained one night a week.

"We brought girls in and allowed them to play at the very top level. Because there was no relegation, we were able to basically approach the National League as we wanted to. Hopefully, it will stand to us in the long run."

Derry's focus is of course leaning towards the All-Ireland Senior Championship, where the group games will

get underway next month. In what is a massive boost to both Derry and Ulster camogie, it has been confirmed that two of the Oak Leaf county's games will be played at home, with both Tipperary and Kildare travelling. Derry meanwhile will be on the road to tackle both Offaly and Kilkenny.

It would be easy then to slip into the trap of thinking that this weekend's Ulster Senior Championship final is little more than a stepping stone, or indeed a distraction, for a Derry outfit whose sights are set elsewhere.

However, Baldwin insists that his side will certainly not be found wanting as they go out to retain their provincial crown.

"When I went to speak to the Derry board at the start of the year, straight away they told me that one of the priorities was to try to retain their Ulster title.

"It's your own provincial Championship, it's always special to win. Maybe it has been undermined by the likes of Armagh withdrawing, but for us it remains extremely important.

"Realistically, it's probably our best opportunity to claim silverware this season. You simply cannot have enough Ulster Championship medals, and we'll be going all out to take a win this weekend."

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THREAT...Down's Niamh Mallon tore Antrim apart in the semi-final, and she'll aim to repeat the trick in Newry on Sunday

Picture: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

We brought girls in and allowed them to play at the very top level. Because there was no relegation, we were able to basically approach the National League as we wanted to

May 2014

Clubs are better off going it alone

U14 blitz will draw big crowd to Mallow

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

MANY of you will have read my column a couple of weeks ago where I aired my opposing views to the 2013 amalgamation of Milford and Ballyhea at underage level.

I'm hoping that many of you saw Milford/Ballyhea's response to that which was printed in the letters section of the *Evening Echo* on Monday last.

As I stated last Monday evening in response to that letter, "I remain steadfast in my opinion that this merger shouldn't have happened and is unjust to many other clubs in Cork."

I also said that I would state some facts here tonight which contradict some of the statements made in the letter.

Francis Killeen and George Fitzgibbon stated the following: "If Linda had firstly checked with any member of the Milford/Ballyhea mentors and clubs she would have been informed of the ongoing struggle to form panels for underage games."

"This means youngsters who participate in training do not get the rewards of playing matches and the spirit, resilience, team cohesiveness, sense of achievement and accomplishment and development that playing matches can engender."

"So often either of these clubs were not able to field full teams and therefore give youngsters the chance to enjoy sport and develop the skills of camogie."

"The focus and values of Milford/Ballyhea have always been youth development not just in sport but commitment to providing an environment where young children and adolescents can confidently interact with others, develop social skills, sports skills, exercise, and flourish. These values and priorities are central to any decisions made by Milford/Ballyhea including those regarding amalgamation."

"At all times and in all their decision making Milford/Ballyhea have kept as the primary focus the development of young girls who wished to participate in sport."

So it's all about participation is it? Let's look at the four years pre-merger and both clubs' ability to field at underage.

2009: Ballyhea fielded at U12C league, runners-up, and U14D league, runners-up.

Milford participated at U12B, U14A and U16A.

2010: Ballyhea competed in U12B league, winners, and the U14C championship.

Ballyhea also fielded at U16C reaching both the league and championship finals and winning the latter.

Downey tournament proves a huge hit



Siobhan and Sean Downey present the Player of the Tournament to Alicia Cremin (Douglas) in memory of their daughter Aoife at the Douglas memorial tournament.

Milford competed in U12B, U14C and U16A.

2011: Ballyhea fielded in U14B and U16B. Milford fielded in U14C and U16C.

2012: Ballyhea competed in U14A (coming out of their section).

Ballyhea competed in the U16C league, runners up, and U16C championship, winners.

Milford competed in U14C (coming through their section).

Milford also competed in the U16C league and championship.

2013: Milford and Ballyhea applied to the board to merge at U14, 16 and 18 as they had problems fielding. Shockingly, considering the facts of the previous four years they were granted permission to do so for a 12-month trial period. This period was extended into 2014, which is a concern.

Milford/Ballyhea reached the U14A

championship final last year, losing to Aghabullogue by two points.

It is obvious from above that there was no issue with fielding in either club with Ballyhea in particular enjoying much success reaching many finals and winning some.

I'm not saying they didn't find it difficult at times. We all find it tough.

This year Brian Dillon's have girls who have just turned 13 playing U16. We don't have a large number of girls in any grade playing in their own age group.

We, as are many clubs, are back filling teams with very young players. I recall last year not being able to field for an U16B championship game and our chairperson and a mentor going door to door to get girls out.

We succeeded. That's what it takes. This year alone six clubs, two in North Cork, pulled out of underage

leagues due to having problems with fielding.

I could go on forever about the clubs that are finding it tough. But they are persevering.

So I don't accept that Milford and Ballyhea should have been handed this easy fix; a decision that now propels them head and shoulders above many other clubs.

The entire theme of the respondent's letter to the *Evening Echo* last week was 'player participation', that giving girls the chance to play was what it was all about, nothing else; winning wasn't even hinted at. Why then just three weeks ago did Milford/Ballyhea withdraw from the U14A league citing a few heavy defeats as their reason for doing so? I'll always believe clubs should only amalgamate if they've no other choice.

THERE WILL be plenty of underage camogie action as teams head to Mallow this Bank Holiday Weekend for the annual James Hurley Memorial U14 inter-county camogie blitz which gets under way at 10am today.

Twenty four teams in total representing 12 counties will participate in a competition which commemorates the memory of the late James Hurley.

He was a former chairman of the Cork Colleges committee and worked hard to promote colleges camogie.

He sadly passed away and the Cork Colleges committee fittingly decided to honour his memory in the best way possibly by promoting the game at the level where he worked so hard.

The competition is one which is looked forward to eagerly by players and is in its 15th year. The majority of players that will be participating would not have been born when the late James, who was then chairman, and his committee came up with the idea to organise a blitz competition. Sadly James passed away just 12 months after the first blitz had been held and it was such a success his colleagues in Cork colleges decided to honour his memory and name the competition after their former chairman.

Each year the event invariably signals the start of the school break for secondary school players and it has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration.

The trophy which the sides will compete for in the main competition was presented to the college by the Hurley family and it commemorates a wonderful worker for colleges camogie who was a teacher in St Aloysius Sherman Crawford Street at the time of his death. With weather conditions promising to be favourable a trip to Mallow is well worth while.

Games will be played on a round robin series and a total of four pitches will be in operation during the day with games on going to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Over 600 girls will participate and all are eagerly looking forward to a great day's camogie.

A lot of hard work has gone into preparing the teams and a huge word of thanks goes to the mentors for the many months of preparation they have put.

Games commence at 10am and it promises to be an exciting day for the future stars of camogie.

Leagues draw to a conclusion

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

ADULT LEAGUE competitions are drawing to a conclusion with finals and semi-finals down to be decided in the coming week, as the first trophies for 2014 will be handed over.

The first of the finals goes ahead tomorrow evening at Castle Road at 5pm and it is an all-northside meeting of near neighbours St Vincent's and Na Piarasigh.

Both have put in good league campaigns and will be anxious to claim the bragging rights in this highly competitive league.

Na Piarasigh overcame a good Sliabh Rua side to make it to the final while St Vincent's had three points to spare over a strong Watergrasshill side in their semi-final clash.

At senior level, St Catherine's proved too strong for St Finbarr's in their semi-final clash on Wednesday night and await the winners of the Douglas-Inniscarra semi-final.

The final is scheduled to be played next Friday.

Newly-promoted Carrigaline will contest the senior B league final after they overcame Kilbrittain/Timoleague with two points to spare on a 2-8 to 1-9 scoreline.

The second semi-final featuring Ballygarvan and Éire Óg is down for decision tomorrow Sunday in Ballygarvan at 7.30pm, the final is pencilled in for Friday next.

Near neighbours Sarsfields and Brian Dillon's will contest the intermediate league final after they both safely negotiated their respective semi-final clash on Wednesday night.

Sarsfields had a 2-20 to 0-6 win over Blackrock, while Brian Dillon's had the upper hand over Tracton on a 2-12 to 1-10 scoreline to book their place in the final which will go ahead tomorrow week.

The Junior B and C leagues are also nearing conclusion with finals down for the weekend of June 7-8.

BLACKROCK

U8: The U8s travelled to Tracton for a U8 Go Games blitz and beautiful sunshine brought out big numbers for a wonderful morning of matches. Many thanks to Tracton for inviting us.

Our U10s and U12s travelled to meet Rockbar for another round of Go Games where well matched sides provided great competition and a chance for all of the girls to get involved. Well done to all.

The U13s visited Cloughduv where a challenging match left both sides looking forward to meeting again. Many thanks to Cloughduv for inviting us.

Our intermediate team took on Tracton in the last round of the intermediate league. A great match with both teams upping the ante but the end result did not favour us and with three teams already through to the semi-finals our next challenge was to meet Enniskeane in a playoff for the fourth spot.

This game took place in Blackrock on Monday last where sheer determination gave us the win we needed and a place in the semi-finals against Sarsfields. Full time score was Blackrock 4-9 Enniskeane 1-6.

Another busy week for all involved, well done to all the players involved and their coaches and mentors keep up the great work.

Our golf classic will take place on Friday August 8 in Mahon Golf Club. Tee times available from 12 noon to 4pm, €120 per team for more details. Contact Peadar Deegan on 086-6181947.

DUNGOURNEY

U8: Congratulations to all our U8s who played so well in their first Go Games matches against Aghada with 21 girls fielding. We played three games of seven-a-side and all



The Bishopstown Minor C team who won the league title after getting the better of Millstreet.

Goals prove crucial in Bishopstown win

Bishopstown
Millstreet

4-4
2-8

MINOR CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

BISHOPSTOWN HELD out to take the Minor C 13-a-side league title in a highly competitive contest as they held off the strong challenge of Millstreet to take the title with two points to spare at the full-time whistle in Castle Road.

Millstreet were fast out of the blocks and putting huge pressure on the Bishopstown defence opened a three-point lead as Maire Ellen O'Connor, Leanne Kelleher and Kate O'Keeffe kept the Bishopstown defence busy.

Bishopstown keeper Sarah O'Sullivan was in great form as she held her lines under huge pressure from

the Millstreet attack, and with her defence lead by Niamh Foley and Caoimhe Broderick in good form also Bishopstown grew in confidence and two points in a row saw them cut the deficit.

Millstreet kept up the pressure and responded quickly with two points but with Bishopstown piled the pressure on the Millstreet defence they hit the front thanks to a Clodhna Richardson goal.

Boosted by this, Bishopstown continued to lift their game and we had a goal at each end of the field in the space of minutes. Bishopstown extended their lead with an Eirne Ni Dheasmhunaigh goal, only for Millstreet to respond with a Kate

O'Keeffe goal to level matters.

Bishopstown's midfield of Niamh Stevens and Meagan Delaney did huge work and they hit the front with a Laura O'Neill goal. They were not going to relinquish their lead from here on once they got their noses in front.

All through, the sides were evenly matched with no more than two points between them. Millstreet never gave up and kept the pressure on to the final whistle but the Bishopstown half-backs of Una Stevens, Aisling Broderick and Leanne Leisk held firm and did not allow Millstreet any leeway to get closer than two points as Bishopstown held out to take the title.

Scorers for Bishopstown: E Ni Dheasmhunaigh 2-2, C Richardson, L O'Neill 1-0 each, S O'Sullivan 0-2.
Millstreet: K O'Keeffe 2-2, ME O'Connor-Kelleher 0-3 each.
BISHOPSTOWN: S O'Sullivan, C Broderick, L



Eirne Ni Dheasmhunaigh scored 2-2 for Bishopstown.

Leisk, U Stevens, N Foley, A Broderick, N Stevens, M Delaney, S O'Sullivan, L O'Neill, C Richardson, E Ni Dheasmhunaigh, J Kearney.
Sub: E Richardson for J Kearney.
MILLSTREET: M Lane, C Murphy, S Deanehy, L Murphy, J Dunne, D O'Reilly, M E O'Connor, K O'Keeffe, C O'Keeffe, L Kelleher, S Sheehan, A Barry, C Collins.
Subs: U Buckley for A Barry, D Murphy for S Sheehan.



The combined Cork camogie and hurling teams who will play Waterford in the Shannon Airport Primary Go Games at half-time during Sunday's Munster SHC quarter-final replay in Thurles tomorrow.

Picture: Mike English

MAY 2014

Board begin fundraising with clothes recycling day

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

A REMINDER that on Saturday next the Camogie Board will hold a fundraising venture at Castle Road when a clothes recycling day will be held.

Clean dry clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, bed linen, curtains, towels and toys will all be accepted at the Castle Road Camogie Grounds in Blackrock between 10am and 4pm.

The board is urging everybody to get cleaning out their wardrobes and presses and to help them by leaving as many bags as you can at the collection point.

The board are hoping to get huge support from all camogie players and their families and friends and indeed their good neighbours in Blackrock and surrounding areas for the event.

A lot of hard work and effort went into getting the Castle Road facility up and running and they are calling on all supporters of camogie to help them with the push to bring the final phase of their plan to fruition.

The Camogie board are to be complimented on the superb facility that they have in place at Castle Road and anybody who has played on the pitch will agree it is one of the best in the county. Since the pitch opening in mid 2008, temporary dressing rooms are in use but the board hope to finish the development by the end of 2014 and County Board chairperson Marion Mc Carthy is calling on camogie and non-camogie supporters to drop off their bags and help the fundraising venture.

"We are eager to get the final phase of our complex completed and make it one of the best camogie grounds in the country, times are tough and money is tight but we have got huge support for all our fund raising ventures so far and once again we hope that we will have the support of everybody. There is huge goodwill towards Cork camogie and are hugely grateful to everybody who has and who continue to support us. We are hoping for huge support as people clean out their cupboards in anticipation of a good summer."

"We are appealing to the clubs to encourage their members to support this event as we continue fund raising for phase three of our development and we look forward to the continued-goodwill and support."



The St Vincent's team which beat Na Piarraigh at Castle Road to capture the Junior A League trophy.

St Vincent's win thanks to Amy

St Vincents
Na Piarraigh

3-7
2-7

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

ST VINCENT'S beat Na Piarraigh by a goal in their Junior A League final in Castle Road.

The result was in the balance right to end, but St Vincent's hung on, but only just as Na Piarraigh applied huge pressure to force a replay but it wasn't to be as the St Vincent's defence held their lines through six minutes of injury time to be crowned champions.

Na Piarraigh led 2-4 to 2-3 at the break after St Vincents had taken an early lead. Amy O'Connor was in good form at corner forward and was putting the Na Piarraigh defence under pressure when in possession.

Nicole Crean pointed an early free to give St Vincent's the lead and when Amy O'Connor took on the Na Piarraigh defence and headed for goal she made no mis-

take from close range.

Emma Buckley converted a Na Piarraigh free before pointing from play to cut the deficit and as play swung from end to end, Amy Lee did her bit as she denied St Vincent's with an excellent save.

Na Piarraigh hit the front when Trisha Coleman finished to the net after Erin McElhinney's long-range delivery into the square found her and she made no mistake.

Inside two minutes the lead changed hands again when Amy O'Connor was set up in front of goal after St Vincent's intercepted a Na Piarraigh free out of defence and the goal boosted St Vincents and from the re start Olivia Dupuy pointed to stretch their lead further.

Emma Buckley again pointed and now applying a lot of pres-

sure Na Piarraigh began to keep the St Vincents defence busy.

Trisha Coleman got a touch on an Emma Buckley free to find the net to put Na Piarraigh back in front.

Orla Bourke and O'Connor exchanged points before the break and battling hard, Na Piarraigh held on to their slender lead to the half-time whistle.

The sides again exchanged early second-half points, but Nicole Crean had St Vincent's back on level terms inside 10 minutes with a pointed free. It took a superb Amy Lee save to deny Amy O'Connor from point blank range as St Vincent's went in search more.

Beginning to gain the upper hand, St Vincent's were back on level terms by the three quarter stage with an Amy O'Connor point and when Amy Wilson's long range effort deceived the Na Piarraigh keeper and finished in the net St Vincent's were a goal in front.

O'Connor and Crean pointed to

stretch the advantage, but Na Piarraigh battled hard and kept the pressure on, twice forcing Michelle Gould to be at her very best in the St Vincent's goal as they searched for the vital score, twice they won 45s which Orla Bourke converted.

Now with just a goal between the sides it was back to the wall at both ends of the field, Na Piarraigh gave it their all but St Vincent's were not going to be denied as their defence stood firm they hung on to take the league title.

Scorers for St Vincent's: A O'Connor 2-3, A Wilson 1-0, N Crean 0-3 (ft), O Dupuy 0-1.

Na Piarraigh: T Coleman 2-0, O Bourke 0-3 (0-2 45s), E Buckley 0-3 (0-1 ft), O Connolly 0-1.

ST VINCENTS: M Gould; A O'Regan, L Lynch, A Power; C O'Keefe Homan, A O'Leary; S Hendrick (c), N Crean; D Manning, H O'Keefe, A Wilson; A O'Connor, A O'Connell, O Dupuy.

Subs: L Coffey for A Power (44), S King for A O'Connell (51).

NA PIARRAIGH: A Lee; A Hannon, T Lynch, S Simpson; V O'Connor, G Morrissey, R Rourke; O Bourke, N O'Connell; S Roche, O Connolly, E Mc Elhinney; E Buckley, L Crowley, T Coleman.

Sub: D O'Regan for A Hannon (inj 50).

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

RENA TEAMS UP FOR THE MEDICAL LEAGUE!

FOOTBALLER Rena Buckley, who co-owns a physiotherapy centre in Ballincollig, won her eighth GAA Division 1 league title when Cork beat Dublin at Parnell Park.

The Inniscarra dual star runs the centre - at the Classis Lake Medical Centre - with her business partner, Brian O'Connell. They also operate a similar centre in Macroom.

Rena graduated in 2009 with a BSc in Physiotherapy from UCD. She has since worked in various practices in Cork and Kerry.

Both she and Brian are members of the Irish Society of Physiotherapists. They are therapists for a number of clubs, including Ballincollig GAA and Eire Og in Ovens.

Among the attendance at the match

in Parnell Park was retired Cork football legend Juliet Murphy who runs a health and fitness club in Ballincollig. Since her retirement Juliet has been kept very busy. Apart from teaching in Crosshaven, she has also been running a social running programme at a Cork hotel and a 'Desk to 5km' course in Pzifers.



Rena Buckley



CAMOGIE

THERE are just two weeks to go before the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship gets underway.

Nine teams will be split into two groups. Group one will consist of Wexford, Galway, Cork and Dublin while Tipperary, Offaly, Kilkenny, Clare and Derry make up group two.

The groups look to be more evenly placed this year with the top five counties, Galway, Wexford, Cork, Kilkenny and Clare split into three and two respectively.

Cork will begin their campaign away to Dublin on June 21, a handy opener. Galway and Wexford meet on the same day in Galway.

On July 5 Cork will take to the road again to face Wexford with a home game against Galway on July 19.

July 26 and August 2 have been set aside for group play-offs before a quarter-final date on August 9 with the semi-finals fixed for August 23.

While it's always great to have games, timing is crucial. Should a county find themselves in a play-off and then a quarter-final, they could be involved in pretty intense, competitive games on August 2, 9, and 23 and that's assuming a quarter-final replay isn't needed on August 16.

Who are the favourites to lift the O'Duffy Cup? Kilkenny, with a 100% group record and subsequent league winners are undoubtedly up there.

Cork, after a fragmented league campaign, still reached the semi-final. A poor showing on the day saw Clare advance, but Cork are still the county others fear most when it comes to championship.

Despite some poor semi-final displays over the past number of years, I still think that mindset is out there.

It won't be, however, if we fail to make the final again. Cork have reached one final since their last victory in 2009. Semi-final losses in 2010, 2011 and 2013 and a final against Wexford in 2012 is where it sits and there is no denying Cork need to at least reach the final this year.

Galway's league campaign was very poor on the back of their second All-Ireland senior title last September, their first since 1996.

To be fair, that was probably expected as they quite rightly enjoyed their success far beyond what is the norm.

In fact I'm still seeing pictures of both cups (intermediate champion-

Final date is a must for Cork

Dillon's will hope to go one step better

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan comes under pressure from Deirdre Murphy of Clare during the National League semi-final. Cork are still the team to be feared most, but they need to reach this year's All-Ireland final at least if they are to maintain that kind of respect.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

ship) at events even now. That's not healthy at this point and I don't see Galway winning back to back titles. Wexford are Wexford and while they are not the force they were two years ago, they haven't gone away and all it takes is one mighty resurgence for them to have a great year, so they certainly are in with a chance.

Clare let themselves down in the league final and I felt sorry for them. It didn't do our brand any good either, but that happens and as I've said before it's a pity so few games get full coverage on TV.

There are great games that are never seen by the wider public and

everything then hinges on the couple of games that are televised. If they happen to be poor it does more damage than it should to the promotion of our game.

Counties have woken up to the threat that Clare can be. They are a good side and can no longer be casually dismissed.

They should take Derry, Offaly and Tipperary. They'll have a huge motivator in the league final defeat when they face Kilkenny again at home on July 12.

Tipperary seem to have resolved their in-house problems with Eoin Kennedy reinstated as manager after the players backed him 100% to stay.

Such is their loyalty and desire to prove a point, expect them to give spirited challenges.

Cork are the only team Tipperary seemed to raise their game for in recent times. They give it everything and then go out and lose to the likes of Dublin and Offaly.

With three teams advancing from each group to the knockout stages, it's pretty easy to eliminate Dublin from group one and Derry and either Tipperary or Offaly from group two, although Offaly will surprise a few along the way.

There is nothing like championship to kick start the summer. I'm looking forward to it.

Senior league final

St Catherine's 1-8
Inniscarra 1-7

A pointed free deep into injury time was enough to give St Catherine's the Senior League title and deny Inniscarra glory in a close contest at Castle Road.

Playing with the aid of a strong wind in the opening half, St Catherine's led 1-5 to 1-1 at the break but it looked as if it would not be enough as Inniscarra fought back to go ahead by one point with seven minutes of normal time remaining. However, showing huge composure and battling spirit, St Catherine's hit two late points to secure the title. Annette Fitzgerald gave St Catherine's a dream start with a goal and with Orla Cotter prominent, St Catherine's added to their tally as the Cork player hit two points in a row. Joanne Casey had Inniscarra on the score sheet by the 12th minute with a point and a Margaret Cosgrave goal two minutes later put them within a point of St Catherine's.

Rallying her side Orla Cotter hit two points in row and with Michelle Tobin adding to their tally, St Catherine's went four clear. Inniscarra keeper Sinéad Ni Riain kept

her composure under a lot of pressure as she denied St Catherine's with good saves.

Senior B League final

Ballygarvan 1-11
Carrigaline 0-9

Ballygarvan's greater experience proved vital as they overcame the challenge posed by Carrigaline in the Senior B league final at Castle Road.

Newly promoted this season, Carrigaline turned in a splendid performance, and they are more than capable of being in the shake up come championship, but on this occasion the day belonged to Ballygarvan.

Having dropped down to Senior B grade in 2013 Ballygarvan had the edge with experienced performers such as Catriona Kelly, Mary Hallahan and Suzanne Lynch vital to their cause, under 16 player Michaela Buckley acquitted her self well whilst new signing Lyndsey Connell from Carlow proved a huge asset in goal. Her long puck out both with and against the wind put huge pressure on the Carrigaline defence all through the game.

It was Inniscarra who were dominant in the second half and with Rena Buckley performing well in their attack they kept the St Catherine's defence busy. Four Joanne

Despite playing against the wind Ballygarvan made a good start with Catriona Kelly and Catriona Keohane on target with points but Carrigaline settled into the game with Rachel O'Shea hitting three points in-a-row to edge them in front.

Twice Rachel Keohane and Hayley Fitzgerald swapped points but Rachel Keohane pointed on the half-time whistle to level 0-5 a piece.

Ballygarvan's Catriona Kelly pointed to edge them in front and with Michaela Buckley confidently pointing the gap began to open. Catriona Kelly pointed a free before Rachel Keohane finished to the net.

Twice the sides swapped points but still Ballygarvan held their lead and with players such as Catriona Kelly and Rachel Keohane leading the way they opening up and eight point lead.

Rachel O'Shea narrowed the gap with two points but Ballygarvan had done enough to secure the title.

Casey points had them level and as they continued to pressurise the St Catherine's defence, they grew in confidence.

Casey put them in front for the first time in the contest on 23 minutes when she converted a 45 but St Catherine's replied with a Michelle Tobin point, their first of the second half, on 24 minutes. With the sides level both defences were under pressure and it was St Catherine's who regained the lead with a Carolyn Motherway point. Inniscarra dug deep and Niamh Dilworth levelled matters with a superb long range strike with a minute remaining. As the game entered injury time the battle for a winner continued. Orla Cotter won a free which she duly converted, just before the final whistle.

St Catherine's: V O'Donnell; E Spillane, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; F Cotter, E Roynane, M Mulcahy; O Cotter, O Neville; M O'Keefe, R O'Callaghan, C Motherway; A Fitzgerald, M Tobin, J O'Keefe. Subs: M Rohan for F Cotter (inj 46). Scores: O Cotter 0-5 (0-10), A Fitzgerald 1-0, M Tobin 0-2, C Motherway 0-1.

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; R McCarthy, A Sheehan, M Buckley; K Jones, R O'Mahony, D O'Callaghan; K O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; M Cosgrove, J Casey, R Buckley; C Looney, N Dilworth, A Twohig. Subs: A Twohig for R McCarthy (inj 51). Scores: J Casey 0-6 (0-20s 0-2 45), M Cosgrove 1-0, N Dilworth 0-1.

Referee Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

INTERMEDIATE and junior league finals are on the agenda this week as Sarsfields and Brian Dillon's meet in the intermediate decider while Ballincollig and Cobh clash at junior B level to decide the title. There is an early throw-in for the intermediate final — to avoid a clash with the senior hurling game between Cork and Waterford in Thurles — and both sides will be anxious to carve their names on the title. Brian Dillon's lost out in last year's final after extra time to Newtownshandrum and they will be hoping to make amends. Sarsfields are anxious to make the breakthrough at adult level and following on from a lot of underage success, they will be hoping that this will happen for them.

Both sides have some excellent players but with exams in progress it depends on whether players are available to play. Brian Dillon's will look to Susan Kate Brosnan, Sinead Mills, Saoirse Rodgers and Emer Keane to lead the way.

Sars will be hoping for big performances from Emer Fennell, Chloe Casey, Katie Barry and Jenny Murphy. Ballincollig's second team face Cobh in the junior B final and it will be an interesting clash as both came out of the same section of the league to make it to the decider.

When the sides last met Cobh recorded a 1-7 to 0-3 victory and again as with the Intermediate final it remains to be seen if both sides will have their players that are currently sitting exams available.

FIXTURES

SUNDAY JUNE 8

Intermediate League final Sarsfields
Brian Dillon's Castle Road 11am.

TUESDAY JUNE 10

Junior B League final: Cobh v Ballincollig
Castle Road, 7.45pm.

JUNE 2014



2014 Mayfield Garda Camogie U13 Blitz Winners: St. Finbarr's.
Picture: Derek Connolly.

Hurley shines as Barrs claim Garda Blitz title



ANOTHER successful Mayfield Garda U13 blitz took place at Glen Rovers GAA grounds last Saturday.

With over 240 children partaking, parents, mentors and family friends, the day passed off smoothly and efficiently.

It was predicted that Saturday would be a showery day, yet apart from a very brief shower the sun shone down on all three playing fields from early morning, making it once again a very pleasant and enjoyable event.

It was hard to predict who the semi-finalists would be, particularly with the fourth semi-final spot coming from the best placed second team from the three groups.

Blarney topped group one, Douglas group two and Sars group three.

St. Finbarr's advanced by two points as the best placed second team from group one, beating off a strong challenge from Glen Rovers.

How important those two points came to be with St. Finbarr's becoming the overall tournament winner two hours later.

The Barrs beat a fancied Douglas side 2-1 to 0-2 in the first semi-final with a cracking game between Blarney and Sars ending all square at full time; 1-2 apiece.

Five minutes a side additional time was played with a last minute goal by Sars putting them through; 2-2 to 1-3. So the final was set.

Both panels lined up behind Garda horses, Pa "The Piper" Hurley and Tom "The Bomber" Roche and paraded around the pitch before



ABOVE: Action from Douglas and Glen Rovers match last Saturday.
LEFT: The Douglas U13 Camogie players with the Garda Mounted Unit.
Picture: Derek Connolly

standing for the National Anthem. Let's hope it's the first of many parades and anthems for these young rising stars.

If the semi-finals were good, the final was even better. Played in Glen Rovers' middle pitch, a very large pitch for the young girls after a long day, didn't disappoint with their commitment and skill.

At half time, Sars led 1-2 to 0-1 having had the wind at their back. With 15 minutes a side St. Finbarr's had it all to do. Emer Hurley, who scored the Barrs only score of the opening half, always looked dangerous when in possession.

She was short-listed for player of the tournament entering the final along with the likes of Niki Barry

and Molly Lynch from Sars. Her second-half performance clinched the deal. Scoring two further points and setting up her side's goal St. Finbarr's held on to win by a point amidst huge excitement.

Once again the horses proved to be a big attraction for the girls as well as the Garda dog unit, patrol cars and motorbikes. Plenty of re-

freshments were again on hand including a BBQ, ice cream, drinks and treats.

Thanks once again to An Garda Síochána and the community policing unit at Mayfield Garda station, in particular Superintendent Tom Myers and tournament co-ordinator John O'Driscoll.

It was another fabulous day.



Pa "The Piper" Hurley and Tom "The Bomber" Roche parade both teams around the pitch before the final of Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz Final held in Glen Rovers.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Supt Tom Myers, Mayfield Garda Station, with St Finbarr's captain Aoife O'Neill and Linda Mellerick.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Supt Tom Myers (Mayfield Garda Station) presents player of the tournament to St Finbarr's Emer Hurley with Linda Mellerick at Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz Finals.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Captains Aoife O'Neill St Finbarr's and Aoife Roche Sarsfields with Garda Mounted Unit

Picture: Derek Connolly



Defending champions Blarney at the Mayfield Garda Blitz. Pic : Derek Connolly

Picture:



Blackrock and Bishopstown players with their eye on the ball.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Reserve Garda, Ross McCabe with Community gardai Enda O'Dwyer (Glen/Ballyvolane), Denis Howard (Mayfield), Michael O'Connell (Watercourse Road), and Sgt John O'Connor (Anglesea St) on duty at Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz.

Picture: Derek Connolly



Garda Mounted Unit, Garda Dog Unit, Emergency Response Unit and Garda Command and Control Unit attending the Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz.

Picture: Derek Connolly

JUNE 2014

Ground hurling is the



Lord Mayor Cllr Mary Shields and Mary O'Riordan present the Val O'Riordan Camogie Cup to Togher captain Aoife O'Neill at last night's Hurling by The Lough. Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Marie Finn, presents the Mick Finn Memorial Cup for Boys, to Conor Hegarty, Glasheen Boys, also included is John Daly, Lough Credit Union. Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Traolach O'Callaghan, chairman of the Barrs Camogie Street Leagues presents the St Finbarrs Camogie Cup to Caitlin Crowe, Greenmount. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

IT WAS a 'delightful dozen' for the participants of Iomaint Cois Locha - Hurling by the Lough - this year which celebrated 12 years a growing and drew to a close this week, bathed in summer sunshine.

Over 150 children made up of 12 teams from primary schools across the southside played in the magnificent setting of the Lough over three action-packed nights.

Each night hosted six very entertaining games which saw plenty of talent both from the Boys and Girls from schools such as: Greenmount, Maria Assumpta, Morning Star, Togher, Gaelscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa, St Joseph's, St Marie's of the Isle and Glasheen.

It was fantastic to see such a huge turn out of parents and supporters, and the fabulous weather played a huge factor in the great amount of support.

Organiser of Iomaint Cois Locha Mick Finn paid tribute to all those who promote hurling in the schools and to the children for playing.

"In a city with a long and proud hurling tradition, it is great to see young children playing the game in such a built-up, urban location, said Finn.

"It was fantastic to see such huge support from teachers and parents. The atmosphere around the Lough on all three nights was electric."

"I would encourage schools to continue to seek help from the GAA to help keep the great game of hurling alive in this area," he said.

During the three evenings I spent at the Lough, I couldn't help but notice the mixture of young and older generation at the event. It was fantastic to see. Mothers, grand mothers, fathers and grand parents all took pride of place on the sidelines (outside the rope of course) as they cheered on their team. Seeing Cork legend Niall Cahalane cheer on his daughter Orlaith, who played for Togher, while another Cork Legend Gerald MacCarthy's grandson Cian starred for Glasheen. Another thing that struck me was seeing past players of this tournament come up to watch. One in particular was 'Barrs



BARBARA O'CONNELL
HURLING BY THE LOUGH

man, Aidan Fitzpatrick who was watching with his two children, and not because he had a relative playing, but just because of his love for the game and his interest in watching this tradition grow each year.

For anyone walking around the Lough for the past few evenings, it must have been pure bliss to see so much activity in a controlled environment, with so much laughter, clashing of hurleys, screams from the sidelines, whistles blowing. This is what summer evenings are all about. And for anyone walking around on Wednesday evening, they got an extra special treat with Tony McCarthy's wonderful céili in full swing at the other side of the Lough.

Hurling by the Lough was the start for many Cork Hurling Stars. Cork and St Finbarr's greats such as Charlie and Gerald MacCarthy and current Cork Hurler, Damien Cahalane, all featured with their schools at this tournament. It's great to see 'Ground Hurling' been the main emphasis, as it gets all players involved and keeps the game moving quickly, as it should be.

Last evening was the Finals Night. Six finals in total. All the competitors were led down Lough Hill by Barrack Street Band in a throw-back to the old Lough Parish Leagues of the 50s.

Once again it was a glorious evening and the final game was a cracker to end the tournament. It was between Glasheen and St Joseph's Boys with Glasheen scoring a last minute goal to win 2-0 to 1-0.

At the end of the tournament all children were awarded a medal and were all happy to have played their part in this year's event. An event like this deserves recognition to the



Glasheen Boys were winners of the the Mick Finn Memorial Cup at the Hurling by the Lough last night. Picture: Jim Coughlan.



The Greenmount team which won the St Finbarr's Camogie Cup at the Hurling by the Lough last night. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

winner by the Lough



The Togher Boys team which won the Donie Cremin Memorial Cup at the Hurling by The Lough last night.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

people who ran it and Finn was fulsome in his praise for all involved.

"Without the support of the Lough Credit Union this event could not take place and I would like to thank Pat and all involved for their steadfast support," said Finn.

"I'd also like to pay tribute to all those who organise the pitch, referee and umpire the matches and generally give us a hand out. Special mention to Ivan O'Mahony who is responsible for much of the organisation; also our thoughts are with co-organiser Donie Doolan who is currently out of action for a short spell.

"Thanks too to the following without whom Hurling by the Lough could not be such a success: City

Council (Stephen Scully) for having the Lough in such a resplendent state; the Evening Echo for its unrivalled coverage; Mick McCarthy of O'Connell's Butchers, The Lough; Tayto Ireland; Gerald McCarthy Trophies; Stephen Aherne; Barrack Street Band; Canon Hodnett and the Lough Parish community; to the Lyne family of Valentine Villas; Jim Sullivan (St Finbarr's for lining the pitch and helping with logistics); Daire Sargent, John Browne, Donal Whooley, Michael Sheehan, Danny O'Donoghue, Denis Harrington, Plunkett Carter, Eoghan Finn, Jack O'Brien, Tadhg Drinan, Noel Forde, Kevin Murray, Aidan Hegarty.

"We now look forward to next year's event."



Ber Cremin presents the Donie Cremin Memorial Cup for Boys, to joint captains, Finn McEniry, Eoghan Hallahan and Luke O'Shea, Togher Boys.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Donal Whooley, organising committee member presents the Sean Condon Memorial Cup to joint winners (drawn game) Cillian Goulding, Morning Star Boys and Thomas Hourihan, Greenmount Boys. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Denis Bohane, secretary St Finbarr's H&F Club presents the Danny Hobbs Camogie Cup to Jade Barrett, Glasheen Girls.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Glasheen girls were the winners of the Danny Hobbs Camogie Cup at the Hurling by the Lough last night.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Togher Girls School were the winners of the Val O'Riordan Camogie Cup at the Hurling by the Lough last night.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Home is where the heart is

BY CIARAN WOODS

DERRY skipper Meabh McGoldrick is relishing the opportunity to be part of a senior camogie match on Derry soil. Home ties have been like hen's teeth for the Oak Leaf county, who so often fell foul of the Association's rules on half-way venues.

This Saturday though (1.45pm), Clare will visit Celtic Park, and McGoldrick knows that her side must make the most of the familiar surroundings.

"There has been a big push through all of the clubs to get a good crowd there, especially underage players for who I feel it is important to be able to have players to look up to, to be able to see what it is that they're working towards, and to be able to see first hand the sort of senior championship games which they aim to play in later in their careers."

"It's always nice to play in front of a bit of support."

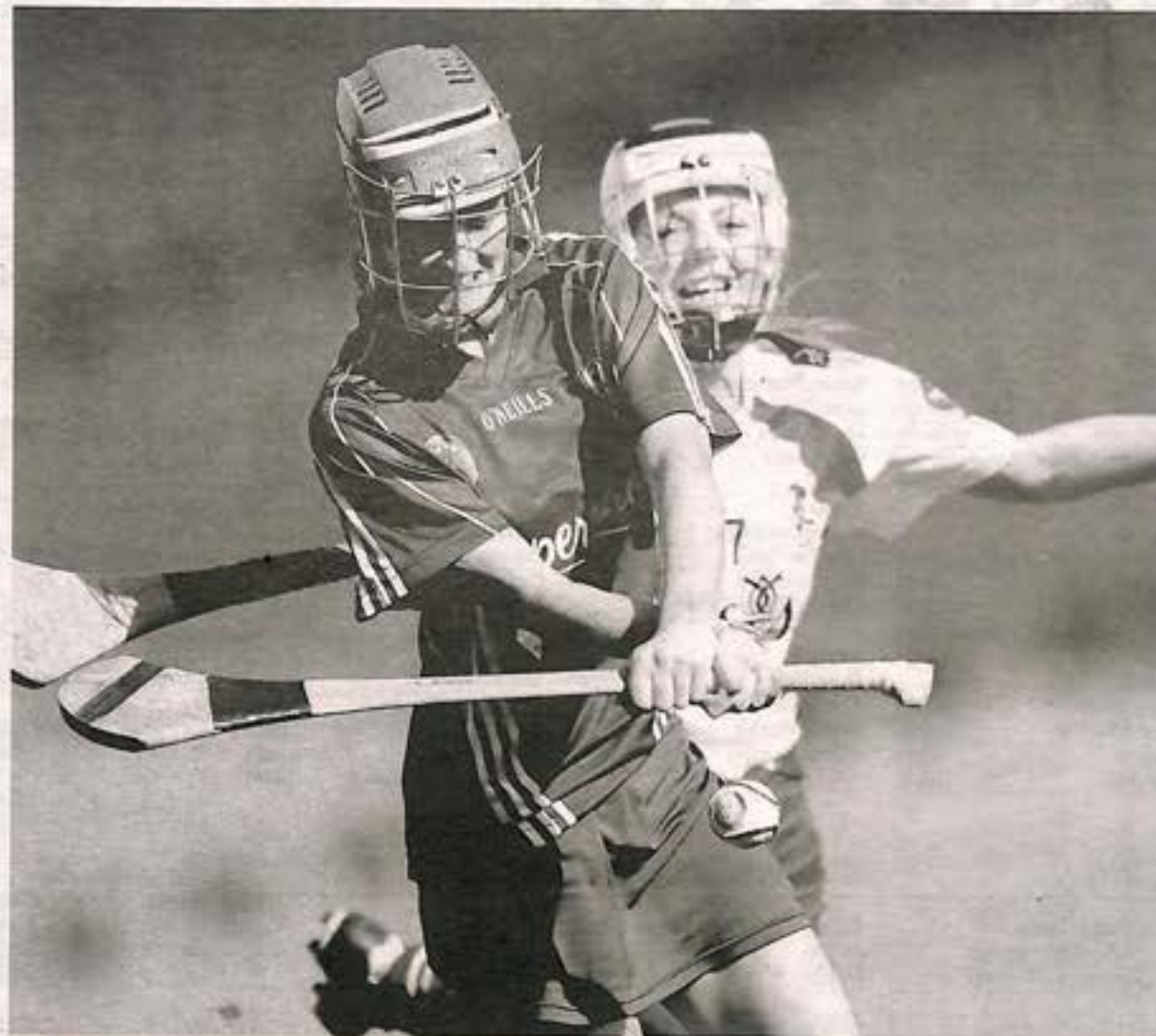
"For those half way games, it's really only close family and a handful of die-hard supporters who tend to make the trip, so hopefully we might be able to pick up a few more supporters for this Saturday's game as people decide to go along and give it a watch."

Realistically, Derry will need to draw on every possible advantage available to them, in what is set to be a really significant measure of where exactly the Oak Leaf county are at, as they go up against one of the teams tipped to once again make an impression on the All-Ireland race.

It's a tough opener, but it isn't going to get any easier as the games progress.

"It's a really tough game to open up with, but they are all extremely tough games in this division," said McGoldrick.

"Clare were in the latter stages of the All-Ireland last year, Kilkenny are probably favourites as they have been knocking on the door and will be extremely driven and motivated to finally get over the line."



HOME COMFORTS...Derry's Meabh McGoldrick, seen here chasing Galway's Deidre Burke, is hoping that the side can boast a bigger crowd than usual against visiting Clare

Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

"We got the better of Tipperary last year but no doubt they too will have improved, and with Offaly you always know that you're in for a very tough game there as well. So there will be nothing easy over the coming weeks."

Derry's recent Ulster title win made it three in a row for the Oak

Leaf county as this batch of players made their own little piece of history.

That success, McGoldrick reveals, provided a timely and welcome confidence boost for the players as they prepare to embark on their All-Ireland adventures.

"I think the Ulster title is important for your own confidence heading

into the All-Ireland series," she said.

"It was a very nice boost to receive so close to the All-Ireland campaign starting, and it does help when you're going into these games with one title already behind you."

"I think the gap between teams in Ulster isn't anywhere near as big as some people might have you believe."

For those half way games, it's really only close family and a handful of die-hard supporters who tend to make the trip

All the teams are very evenly matched.

"If you take for example the fact that Down beat Antrim in Ulster, yet Antrim are playing at a higher level in the All-Ireland series. Then there's the rivalry which exists between Ulster sides. It's a hugely competitive provincial series, which makes it all the more satisfying to win."

If McGoldrick needs any advice on calling coin tosses or any other aspect of leading a county senior side into Championship battle, then she need look no further than her older sibling Grainne who has done it so often in the past.

Meabh too though knows the score, and will be hoping that she can bring the same sort of success to the county senior fold as she did as skipper of the all-conquering Eoghan Rua club outfit, starting with a win this Saturday.

"I'm looking forward to it of course, it's going to be something different."

"Hopefully we can get a good crowd into Celtic Park and make an occasion of it."

"But at the end of the day the most important thing is that we go out and produce the sort of performance which hopefully will lead us to a positive result."

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ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP ONE ANTRIM V GALWAY

Loughgiel to the fore as Saffrons chase win

BY CIARAN WOODS

THERE will be a distinctly Loughgiel flavour to things when Antrim play host to Galway in the first round of the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship series this Sunday afternoon (2.30pm).

That's because the vast majority of players, as well as the management team, will come from the Shamrocks club.

Following a managerial change last month, it was decided that Loughgiel would basically represent Antrim in the All-Ireland series, with a sprinkling of players from other clubs welcome to join them.

The side are under the manage-

ment of Mickey McFadden and Aidan 'Flash' McKeown, as well as current senior club players Johnny Campbell and Mark 'Duck' McFadden.

It must be hard keeping a distinct line between club activities and those on the county front, but captain Emma McMullan reveals that Friday night is 'county' night for the side, where their full focus is on inter-county activities.

It's a system which appears to be working, but she knows Sunday will tell a tale.

"We've been training away, things have been going well and we do fancy our chances of coming out on the right side of it," she said.

"It's an incredibly tough group, so a good start is important. Hopefully we can get things going with a win on Sunday, because that would be a great way to get things going."

"We know it's not going to be easy, but we know that we have the players there who are capable of getting us a result, and with home advantage we're keen to make this happen."

The main injury concerns ahead of this weekend's opener centre on attacker Maire Mulholland and goalkeeper Danielle McMichael.

It's not going to be easy for Antrim

We know that we have the players there who are capable of getting us a result

against the Tribeswomen, but in a group which also contains Kildare, Limerick and Tipperary, the captain is keen to see her side strike an early blow.

"We can't wait, to be honest," added McMullan.

"We're all really looking forward to it and at this stage we just want to get started. We're approaching things very positively, and hopefully that will be clear from how we go about things on Sunday."

"We're confident, we know it's going to be a massive challenge, but it's a challenge that we're ready for."

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JUNE 2014

Fixtures

This weekend's other All-Ireland Camogie fixtures...

All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship
Armagh v Roscommon
Sunday, Derrymacash, 2.30pm

All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship
Down v Westmeath
Sunday, Castlewellan, 2.30pm

Keohanes and Kelly on song for Ballygarvan

Ballygarvan 1-11
Carrigaline 0-9
SENIOR B
By Mary Newman

BALLYGARVAN'S greater experience proved vital as they overcame the challenge posed by Carrigaline in the Senior B league final at Castle Road. Newly promoted to Senior B this season Carrigaline turned in a splendid performance and they are more than capable of being in the shake-up come championship but on this occasion the day belonged to Ballygarvan.

Having dropped down to Senior B grade in 2013 from Senior A Ballygarvan had the edge with experienced performers such as Catriona Kelly, Mary Hallahan and Suzanne Lynch vital to their cause. U16 player Michaela Buckley acquitted herself well while new signing Lyndsey Connell from Carlow proved a huge asset in goal; her long puckout both with and against the wind put huge pressure on the Carrigaline defence all through the game.

Despite playing against the strong wind Ballygarvan made a good start with Catriona Kelly and Catriona Keohane on target with points but Carrigaline settled into the game with Rachel O'Shea hitting three points in a row to edge them in front. Twice Rachel Keohane and Hayley Fitzgerald swapped point but the final say was with Ballygarvan as Rachel Keohane pointing on the half time whistle to level if level 0-5 a piece.

By the three-quarter stage Ballygarvan had done huge damage; Catriona Kelly pointed to edge them in front and with Michaela Buckley confidently pointing the gap began to open. Catriona Kelly pointed a free before Rachel Keohane finished to the net. Twice the sides swapped points but still Ballygarvan held their lead and with players such as Catriona Kelly and Rachel Keohane leading the way they opening up an eight-point lead. Carrigaline battled hard and put on the pressure but Lyndsey Connell denied them with good goalkeeping. Hayley Fitzgerald pointed twice, Catriona Kelly responded with a pointed 45 but still Carrigaline worked away and battled for a goal, but again they were denied by good Ballygarvan defending. Rachel O'Shea narrowed the gap with two points but Ballygarvan had done enough to secure the title.

Scorers for Ballygarvan: C Kelly 0-6 (0-3fs 0-1 45), R Keohane 1-3, C Keohane, M Buckley 0-1 each.

Carrigaline: R O'Shea 0-5 (0-4fs), H Fitzgerald 0-4.

BALLYGARVAN: L Connell, M Hallahan (c), B Keohane, A Keohane, M E O'Donovan, L Kennefick, M Moynihan, S Lynch, C Murphy, M Buckley, R Murphy, C Keohane, C O'Sullivan, C Kelly, R Keohane.

Subs: C Dillon for M Buckley (54), H Walsh for R Murphy (54), K Sullivan for M Hallahan (57), R O'Halloran for C Keohane (61).

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Douglas).

We all should be wary of Wexford



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

AFTER mentioning last week that the old guard in Wexford are capable of resurgence in 2014 and end up having a great season, they captured the Leinster championship last weekend with a five-point victory over Kilkenny.

Wexford aren't the old guard in terms of the average age of the group, they were fairly young when they won their first All-Ireland in 2007 and adding three more between 2010-2012 were possibly tired and lacking the appetite last season more than anything else.

Surprisingly, Wexford have gone very much off the radar in a very short space of time and opposing counties would need to be wary of that. Many feel that Kilkenny are favourites for the All-Ireland. They are certainly up there but are far from the finished product.

They never shake off the challenge of Wexford easily and the Slaneysiders seem to have their bite back.

Kilkenny went into the Leinster final as favourites after claiming division one league honours at their ease and also continuing their good league form into their Leinster campaign when they easily disposed of Offaly in the semi-final.

Both Wexford and Kilkenny met in the league semi-final where Kilkenny won by three points.

In a game where Kilkenny completely dominated for long stages, Wexford staged a late comeback scoring 1-2 without reply that cut Kilkenny's lead to three points.

The longer you leave Wexford in a game the greater threat they become.

The Kilkenny management team would have been happy with their run into the final and



Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presents the Senior B League trophy to Mary Hallahan, captain of Ballygarvan. See story left for match report. Picture: Mary Newman

the All-Ireland series which commences next weekend.

They went through the league unbeaten and the way they dealt with the Offaly threat, who to be fair do give a lot of teams a spirited challenge, was encouraging in itself.

Kilkenny also showed a rootless streak against Clare in the league final, something they have historically been missing.

This time around though it was once again the familiar names which shone for Wexford.

Four points down at the break with the breeze at their backs for the second half, Kilkenny had reasonable grounds for optimism.

But the game was pushed beyond their reach in a critical 10 minute spell after half-time.

Having had a rather subdued first half, Kate Kelly burst into the game with a vengeance. Within the first minute she raced clear to place Ursula Jacob for a great goal.

A minute later the hardwork-

ing Brid Gordon tagged on a point and in the 40th minute Kate Kelly superbly caught a 45 from Jacob to palm to the net. With Kilkenny just managing a point in reply suddenly Wexford were 10 points to the good.

But that was the end of Wexford's scoring.

From there to the finish Kilkenny largely dominated play but despite their best endeavours could not get the tonic of a goal that might have given their challenge a real impetus.

Banner victory for Supermacs

by Declan Rooney

A takeaway order with a difference landed Supermac's in court yesterday. However, the fast food restaurant group emerged with a tasty victory after the hearing.

Pat McDonagh appeared at Galway District Court after Galway City Council summoned his company, Supermac's Ireland Ltd, for illegally displaying a banner congratulating the Galway camogie team on their 2013 All-Ireland championship win.

Solicitor for the council, Edward Molloy, said Supermac's was in breach of local planning laws which prohibited the erection of advertising banners or signs on buildings.

Initially, an enforcement notice was served on April 30 last year in relation to a large banner which advertised Supermac's full Irish breakfast on his restaurant at 36 Eyre Square, Galway. Supermac's failed to take the banner down within the seven days allowed. Council planning enforcement officer, Brian O'Connell, told the court the banner was still up on May 10. When the site was revisited in October, it had been replaced with one congratulating the team.



Supermac's in Eyre Square, Galway, with the offending banner. Picture: Andrew Downes

Defence solicitor Michael Ryan said Supermac's admitted breach of the laws in relation to the original advertising banner, but that the second banner was an unrelated matter.

Judge Mary Faly said it would be "inequitable" to convict Supermac's on the latter sign. She said she had no problem "aesthetically" with the new sign, but she urged Mr McDonagh not to use "such garish advertising" as the breakfast advert on his restaurant. She said a lot of people did not want to see images of "sausages, rashers, and black puddings, given the problems we have in this country".

Both parties were instructed to pay their own legal costs.



St Catherine's, winners of the Senior Camogie League title.

Picture: Mary Newman.

Cotter holds her nerve for St Catherine's

St Catherine's 1-8
Inniscarra 1-7

SENIOR LEAGUE

By Mary Newman

A POINTED free deep into injury-time gave St Catherine's their first senior county league title as they denied Inniscarra in a closely contested final in Castle Road.

Weather conditions were not great with a strong wind and overcast showery conditions making life difficult for the players and playing with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half St Catherine's led by four points, 1-5 to 1-1 at the interval. Inniscarra would have been pleased to have contained St Catherine's to just four points and they proved this as they fought back to go into a one-point lead with seven minutes of normal time remaining.

St Catherine's showed that little bit of extra experience and never panicked as they battled back with two late points to secure the title.

Annette Fitzgerald gave St Catherine's a dream start with the first attack as she grabbed an early goal with Orla Cotter prominent. St Catherine's added to their tally with two points in a row without reply.

Joanne Casey opened the Inniscarra account 12th minute in with a point and a Margaret Cosgrave goal two minutes later had the St Catherine's lead down to a point.

Cotter led the St Catherine's revival as she hit two points in row and with Michelle Tobin adding to their tally they were four points ahead. Inniscarra goalkeeper Sinead Ni Riain had to be at her best under a lot of pressure as she denied St Catherine's with good saves and as the half-time whistle sounded it was still anybody's title for the taking. Inniscarra were dominant from

the start of the second half and with Rena Buckley performing well in their attack they kept the St Catherine's defence under huge pressure.

Four Joanne Casey points between the ninth and 14th minutes had Inniscarra on level terms and Casey had them in front for the first time in the contest on 23 minutes when she converted a 45.

St Catherine's replied with a Michelle Tobin point their first score of the second half on 24 minutes and now with the sides again level, both defences were under a lot of pressure. St Catherine's regained the lead with a Carolyn Motherway point but from the puck-out Inniscarra's Niamh Dilworth replied to once again level matters.

As the game entered injury time the sides battled for a winner; Cotter showed her determination as she won possession and took on the Inniscarra defence with a solo run and won a free which she

duly converted with the game deep into injury time. Inniscarra had no time to respond with the final whistle sounding seconds later after an exciting contest.

With both sides set to meet in the first round of the championship we can look forward to another exciting contest.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-5 (0-1f), A Fitzgerald 1-0, M Tobin 0-2, C Motherway 0-1.

Inniscarra: J Casey 0-6 (0-2f), 0-2 45f, M Cosgrave 1-0, N Dilworth 0-1.

ST CATHERINE'S: V O'Donnell; E Spillane, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; F Cotter, E Roynane, M Mulcahy; O Cotter, O Neville; M O'Keefe, R O'Callaghan, C Motherway; A Fitzgerald, M Tobin, J O'Keefe.

Sub: M Rohan for F Cotter (inj 45).

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; R Mc Carthy, A Sheehan, M Buckley; K Jones, R O'Mahony, D O'Callaghan; K O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; M Cosgrave, J Casey, R Buckley; C Looney, N Dilworth, A Twohig.

Sub: A Twohig for R Mc Carthy (inj 51).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

As it was they were left to rely heavily on the free scoring of Denise Gaule to keep in touch.

Wexford's defence was superb especially Noeleen Lambert and corner backs Karen Atkinson and Deirdre Codd. Mary Leacy was also outstanding and upfront it was also the accustomed names of Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob (1-8) and Karina Parrock that shone. The victory will put a spring in Wexford's step ahead of their opening game away to Galway next weekend.

My predictions for next Saturday; of course Cork are hot favourites to take Dublin in O'Toole Park.

They'll receive a physical challenge but it won't be enough for Dublin. I think Wexford will take Galway in Galway.

Therese Maher is a huge loss for Galway this season but she was right to retire.

Clare make the long journey to Derry yet despite this it would be a major upset if they failed to get their two points here and

Kilkenny will be expected to overcome Offaly at home in Nowlan Park.

The intermediate championship also throws in next weekend with Cork at home to Kilkenny on Sunday. It'll be a busy weekend for Paudie Murray but at least Cork's second team are at home.

You know this panel can go a long way in this championship. Their league win was a great boost.

I've wondered here before why

more players aren't enticed to play at this level for Cork.

It's an adult competition, with All Ireland honours up for grabs, the final played as a curtain raiser to the senior final in September and televised.

Who wouldn't want that?

With both the senior and intermediate panels training together in addition to the league victory I think the attraction has improved but it's not even close to where it could be. This season might change that hopefully.

Fennell drives Sars on for first silverware

Sarsfields 1-10
Brian Dillon's 1-6

INTERMEDIATE

By Mary Newman

A FIRST adult title since 1989 for Sarsfields as they were crowned county intermediate league champions with four points to spare over Brian Dillon's at Castle Road on Sunday last. Both sides showed fierce determination as they battled it out. Emer Fennell was superb for Sarsfields as she steadied her side when the going got tough, showing all her experience as she battled to win her first medal with her club after many years of service. Young Sinead Mills was in top form at mid field for Brian Dillon's and showed her skills with three fine points, in the finish Sars despite coming under huge pressure stood firm to take the title with Katie Barry, Jenny Murphy and Ellen Murphy doing huge work as Brian Dillon's gave it their all in search of a goal to get back into the game.

Sars made a good start with a Lucy Allen point but aided by the wind Sinead Mills had Brian Dillon's lead with two points in a row. Maebh McCarthy who had a superb hour for Sars levelled matters inside six minutes and they hit the front with a Lucy Allen goal after good work from Holly Herlihy.

McCarthy stretched their lead with a point but Brian Dillon's Caroline Craughan kept her side in touch with a point.

Fennell pointed a Sars free but a

Caoimhe Rodgers goal three minutes from the break cut the deficit and with Sinead Mills pointing the gap was down to one.

Aided by the strong wind Sars quickly extended their lead driven on by Fennell who pointed twice they kept the pressure on the Dillon's defence. Caoimhe Rodgers pointed a free to again put two between the sides but Sars continuing to hold a grip around the middle of the field kept their foot on the pedal and three points without reply had them five clear as the game entered injury time. Brian Dillon's pressed hard and they were rewarded with a Caroline Craughan point but the Sarsfields defence stood firm to deny them the vital goal they needed to get back into the contest.

Scorers for Sarsfields: E Fennell 0-5 (0-1f 0-1 45f), L Allen 1-1, M Mc Carthy 0-3 J Donoghue 0-1.

Brian Dillon's: S Mills 0-3 (0-1f), C Rodgers 1-1 (f's), C Craughan 0-2.

SARSFIELDS: C Casey; M Fleming, K Barry, C Ahern; N Hickey; J Murphy, E Murphy; E Casey, E Fennell; J Allen, M Mc Carthy, H Herlihy; C Holland, L Allen, C Tobin.

Subs: L Casserley for C Tobin (h/i), G Donohue for J Allen (43).

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Walsh; E Keane, N O'Leary, D Keane; E Sharpe, A Dorgan, S Cronin; S K Brosnan, S Mills; E O'Connell, C Craughan, J Dooley; L Barry, C Rodgers, T Desne.

Sub: R O'Mahony for S Cronin (55).

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).



Millstreet, the winners of the Rural School Camogie Final.

Picture: John Tarrant

JUNE 2014



COMING UP ROSES: Camogie star Anna Geary celebrates becoming the Cork Rose at the Silver Springs Moran Hotel in Cork at the weekend. The three-time All-Ireland winner, from Milford, will represent the Rebel county at the Rose of Tralee International Festival in August.

Picture: Niall Browne



Galway senior camogie player Niamh McGrath



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

SATURDAY

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship group 1 Cork v Dublin
O'Toole Park, Crumlin 2.30pm.
CORK travel to O'Toole Park to take on hosts Dublin in their opening Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship qualifier tomorrow.

They travel without the services of Gemma O'Connor and Catriona Foley, due to personal commitments flagged a number of months ago.

Permission was granted for their non-attendance as this game, while undoubtedly being very much respected, was always going to be one which handed championship debuts to players such as Laura Treacy and Hannah Looney.

Should these players step up to the plate during the group qualifiers it most certainly would place Cork in a stronger position than twelve months ago in terms of options.

Catriona Foley and the aforementioned duo didn't figure last season and they have added a much needed and healthy competitive environment.

The ever dependable Aoife Murray mans the posts with Joanne O'Callaghan, Maria Walsh and Laura Treacy at two to four respectively.

Maria Walsh regains her full-back position for the championship opener having held it sporadically throughout the league.

She's a player that lives on the edge, something that's needed and welcomed in the square.

To try and curb that for fear of her seeing red could diminish a key component of her make up. All too often Cork have come out the wrong side of physical battles.

Little point in complaining about it afterwards; they need players to step up and match it.

Emer O'Sullivan, who looks to be enjoying her season, lines out at right half-back with Rena Buckley at centre and Pam Mackey on the left flank.

Aisling Thompson and Joanne Casey take the midfield positions.

This presents Casey with an opportunity to push for another starting slot going forward. She needs to grab it tomorrow or may not get another chance.

Aisling, despite a quiet afternoon

season taking the Division Two National League title and in doing so showed they are more than a match for any opposition.

They played with superb confidence all through the league and in the final defeated a fancied Down side.

Kilkenny recorded two wins out of five in their league campaign and failed to qualify Laois pipping them as they went in search of a result that would have given them a chance of a play off.

Kilkenny like Cork have both panels working together and they will be expected to retain

all of their Intermediate side that contested the league. Orla Handrick, Laura Walker, Stacey Quirke, Sonia Buggy, Megan Farrell and Aisling Butler have featured strongly in all of their outings and they will be expected to spearhead their challenge as they go in search of an opening round win.

Cork have prepared well for this clash despite several of the side having been tied up in leaving cert.

The side has a nice blend of youth and experience with two former All-Ireland winning senior captains in their line up.

Amanda O'Regan, captain this year, and Catriona Foley's experience has proved invaluable through the league.

Sara Hayes, Colette Desmond and Carolyn Motherway are also hugely experienced players and in the league final led by example.

The younger panel members were not found wanting and answered the questions when required to do so, Leeanne O'Sullivan has had a superb league campaign, Sarah Harrington, Jessica Hennigan



At the Camogie Association launch of the 2014 Liberty Insurance Championship at Croke Park were. Back: Kate Kelly, Wexford, Lorraine Ryan, Galway, Sabrina Larkin, Tipperary, Eimear Considine, Clare, Louise O'Hara, Dublin, Sinead Cassidy, Derry and Anna Geary, Cork. Front: Leanne Fennelly, Kilkenny, Patrick O'Brien, CEO Liberty Insurance, Aileen Lawlor, president Camogie Association, and Aoife Kelly, Offaly.

Picture: INPHO

Rebels have the talent to outplay Dubs

against Limerick in the Munster final, is having a very good couple of seasons.

She can be hugely influential if on her game and Cork will be hoping her good form continues.

Up front Hannah Looney, who has been showing up well with the intermediates and at training, deserves her chance at right half forward. Denise Cronin and the hard working Breige Corkery, Katrina Mackey,

Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary complete the starting 15. Julia White remains unavailable but will recommence training next week.

It may not be Cork's strongest line-out but it's the perfect game to give certain players a feel of championship intensity and no doubt that is what Cork's management are seeking to do as they prepare for a very stern test in Wexford in a fortnight's time.

Cork defeated Dublin 8-18 to 1-4 in their opening league encounter back in March in CIT.

They will without question receive a tough physical challenge in O'Toole Park. They'll feel it but skill will eventually win out.

Cork Team: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Treacy; E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, P Mackey; A Thompson, J Casey; H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery; K Mackey, O Cotter, J O'Leary.

League form will stand to Cork in championship

SUNDAY

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship; Round 1, Cork v Kilkenny, Ballincollig; 2.30pm.

CORK and Kilkenny get their All-Ireland Intermediate Championship campaign off to a start on Sunday when they meet in Ballincollig. Twenty four hours earlier, both county's senior teams will have been in action and both camps will be hoping that their intermediate squads will remain intact for their clash in Ballincollig.

Cork have had a superb

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

all of their Intermediate side that contested the league. Orla Handrick, Laura Walker, Stacey Quirke, Sonia Buggy, Megan Farrell and Aisling Butler have featured strongly in all of their outings and they will be expected to spearhead their challenge as they go in search of an opening round win. Cork have prepared well for this clash despite several of the side having been tied up in leaving cert.

The side has a nice blend of

youth and experience with two former All-Ireland winning senior captains in their line up. Amanda O'Regan, captain this year, and Catriona Foley's experience has proved invaluable through the league. Sara Hayes, Colette Desmond and Carolyn Motherway are also hugely experienced players and in the league final led by example. The younger panel members were not found wanting and answered the questions when required to do so, Leeanne O'Sullivan has had a superb league campaign, Sarah Harrington, Jessica Hennigan

and Maedhbh Cahalane showed plenty of ability as Cork defied the odds to take a league title that was richly deserved by a group of players who have worked really hard. Their commitment to training has been excellent and the management team of Paudie Murray, Jason Downey, Esther O'Leary and John Desmond will be pleased that their side is ready for their challenge. League and championship are different affairs, but Cork — with confidence gained from a splendid league campaign — should have enough to edge this one

Ballincollig withstand Cobh's late push

Ballincollig
Cobh

4-10
3-8

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

IN a high scoring Junior B league final Ballincollig just about edged it in the closing stages to be crowned champions after a highly entertaining contest.

New signing Sinéad O'Callaghan had Ballincollig on the scoreboard with a pointed 45 and they had added to their tally before Cobh responded as Erica Field pointed a 45. Ballincollig began to gain the upper hand and with Sinéad O'Callaghan and Orlaith Jennings causing problems for the Cobh defence Ballincollig stretched their lead 1-5 to 0-2. Cobh began to settle into the contest and a goal from Megan Foley had them back in the game.

Three pointed frees and one from play saw Cobh set the pace but strong Ballincollig defending saw them closing the half leading by a point 1-5 to 1-4.

Ballincollig upped the ante from the start of the second half and three unanswered points from O'Callaghan, Orlaith Chathasaigh and Lauren Cooper extended their lead.

Cobh were soon within shouting distance again with Nicola Sawani finding the net for a goal and applying all the pressure Foley and Field hit two points in a row to get their side back level.

Ballincollig substitute Aisleen Sheehan grabbed a vital goal and a Lauren Cooper point swung the momentum back in Ballincollig's favour. But Cobh were not going to give up and fighting and were again back on when Field found the net before a point tied it up once again.

Ballincollig introduced Kate Green and Ciara O'Callaghan who brought fresh legs to their challenge and they threw everything at the Cobh defence in search of regaining the lead. Emma Donovan edged Ballincollig back in front with a goal before Sinéad O'Callaghan put the game out of Cobh's reach with a point. Cobh added a point to their tally and maintaining the pressure they searched for a goal but the Ballincollig defence held out.

Scorers for Ballincollig: S O'Callaghan 2-4 E Donovan, L Sheehan 1-0 each, L Cooper, O Ni Chathasaigh O Jennings 0-2 each.

Cobh: E Field 1-5 (0-5 f's), N Sawani 1-0, M Foley 1-1, K Quinlan, C Smith 0-1 each.

BALLINCOLLIG: L Doyle; D Power, L Weste, M O'Leary; F O'Brien, C Irish, S Barry (c); O Jennings, E Murphy; C Henrigan, S O'Callaghan; L Cooper; O Ni Chathasaigh, E Donovan, F Ryan. Subs: A Sheehan for F Ryan, K Green for D Power, C O'Callaghan for L Cooper.

COBH: E Walsh; M Tierney, M Moynihan, C McGrath; S McKeown, E Talton (c); N Meaney; L Van Wijnen, A Higgins; M Foley, C Smith, K Ronan; E Field, N Sawani, K Quinlan. Sub: D Walley for K Ronan.



The Ballincollig team which won the Junior B League title.



The Sarsfield's team which won the intermediate league.

Five clubs head away to play Féile na nGael

CORK Division Two Féile na nGael winners Douglas head north this weekend to represent Cork at National Féile na nGael.

Douglas will participate in division one in a year where a change to the format sees the division one winners Newcestown, defeated division one finalists Charleville and defeated semi-finalists Ballincollig and Ballygarvan all heading to Féile regional blitz day tournaments to be held in four different counties which is a reward for their efforts.

The Féile proper will be contested by clubs who won their counties Division Two Féile titles and it is structured down to division five

where the weaker counties winners will all have a chance to bid for Féile titles proper.

The new format in theory denies the stronger teams, who won their county's division one titles the honour and chance to bid for the prestigious national Féile title proper and while the thinking behind the new format is all about participation and not the huge volume of competitiveness that Féile sometimes brought with counties in both hurling football and camogie going to huge extremes in their preparation of youngsters, it must be disappointing for a club such as Newcestown who won their first Division One Cork title not to be heading to Antrim.

I'm sure most of the hurling and

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

football clubs that took the Division One titles are experiencing the same thoughts. Ask any player who has played in national Féile and they will tell you it is a dream come through.

It remains to be seen how the new format works in all codes and the feedback will be interesting but it must be a huge disappointment to Division One winners in all codes not to be battling it out for the Féile title proper.

Douglas head to Antrim where they are paired with home club

Ruairi Og Tobar Phádraig, Newbridge and they will be hoping to add another Féile title to the ones annexed in previous years.

With the new format there will be a Féile shield competition for the teams who don't make it through the group stages with group winners going on to the Féile semi-finals.

The Cork Division One winners Newcestown's reward is a day out in Thurles Sarsfields, Tipperary where they will battle it out with Kilmaley, Silvermines and Lucan Sarsfields for a place in the final which takes place in Semple Stadium.

Division One runners up Charleville head to their regional blitz day to Clara, Kilkenny where they will play Good Council, Glen-

more and Nenagh with the final going ahead in Nowlan Park if they are lucky to make it from the group.

Defeated semi finalist in Division One Aghabullogue make the day trip to Galway in for meetings against Inagh- Kilnamona, Faughs Celtic and Carnamore these game take place in NUIG with the final in Pearse Stadium, Ballincollig are off to Laoise as their reward for reaching the semi final and they will meet Truagh- Clonlara, Kilmacud Croker and St Thomas the group winners advancing to the blitz final in O Moore Park.

We wish all participating teams representing Cork today the very best of luck as they bid for Féile or regional honours.



Galway camogie manager Tony Ward.

Tribe plan without star Maher

THE All-Ireland senior camogie championship throws in today.

Defending champions Galway will start their campaign with a show-down against Wexford in Group one in Athenry.

Galway might have struggled in this year's national league but manager Tony Ward is happy they are ready for the defence of their All-Ireland crown.

It will be Galway's first competitive outing since they lost to Clare two months ago in a league play-off. That came after a dismal series of results in the regular part of the competition which saw them finish with just two wins, one of which was a walkover, while they suffered a shock defeat to Limerick.

Galway manager Tony Ward was interviewed during the week by RTE on this thoughts ahead of championship throw-in, as manager of the All-Ireland champions.

He doesn't read much into what happened in the league and says they are not prepared to give up their All-Ireland crown easily.

He said: "For sure we were disappointed with how the league went for us but I think it



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

was understandable when you consider some factors.

"After the All-Ireland celebrations, we were about six weeks behind most other counties in beginning training, while we were away on a holiday too.

"However over the last month we have stepped up preparations for the championship and I am satisfied we are ready for the challenges that lie ahead."

Besides last season, Galway's only other All-Ireland success came in 1996 when Ward was again in charge. He was the boss when they tried to retain their title the following year and also in '98, only to lose to Cork in both finals, and thinks he has learned from the experience of that failed push for back-to-back crowns.

"After getting our hands on the first All-Ireland we got a little carried away and probably felt that plenty more would follow," he recalled.

"Unfortunately it did not work out like that, although we reached the two finals after the first one which we won. Regarding the 1997 final, we thought that we just had to turn up to win but Cork had other ideas.

"Certainly I learned from the experience of trying to defend the All-Ireland and I would like to think it can stand to me in the coming championship."

It is a championship that will not feature All-Star Therese Maher after it was announced in April that she had retired the inter-county scene with Galway. And Tony says it has been hard planning without Maher for the Championship.

He added: "Therese owed Galway nothing and was a fantastic servant for the county.

"While we sort of expected her to bow out, it has still been hard to get used to her not being around. Her departure has left us with a huge gap to fill but it has opened the door for other players to stake a claim for a spot in the team.

"We are fortunate that we have quite a talented squad and several players who might not have played much for the county at this level before have caught the eye in games and training this year."

Meanwhile, Ward predicts an open Championship this season.

"When you look at the sides' involved, many are well capable of making the knockout stages.

Wexford might not have done as well last year as they had in others but they still possess a hugely experienced and talented squad.

"You can say the same about Cork, who simply cannot be ruled out. Kilkenny have been there or thereabouts over the last five years with an improving team and they will be buoyed by having won the recent league.

"Clare did not do themselves justice in the league final and they can show it in the championship. And then there is Offaly, who could count themselves unlucky in losing to Wexford in last year's All-Ireland quarter-finals.

"All in all it promises to be quite a competitive championship where you cannot really expect any easy games. Once you get a victory you know you are well on the way to making the quarter-finals at the very least and that is all we are thinking about.

"We are not looking past the Wexford game and realise that now we are the holders, we are up there for all of the other sides to have a pop at."

It all starts today; Dublin host Cork, Galway as mentioned entertain Wexford (featuring on *The Sunday Game*). Clare travel to Derry and Kilkenny and Offaly meet in Nowlan Park. Where will it all lead to on September 14?

Camogie club notes

ERIN'S OWN

Our U14s played Kildorrery on a beautiful sun-drenched Saturday at home. On the day Erin's came out on top with a scoreline of 3-3 to 1-0. Well done to Erin's Own, who played with a lot of skill, and determination and all the coaches involved.

BRIDE ROVERS

JUNIOR: We plan to participate in a camogie blitz at Castlelyons this Friday and to meet St Catherine's in a challenge match next Monday, June 23.

U14: We played U14 league in Rathcoormac on Wednesday, details next week.

U12: We travelled to Erin's Own on Tuesday to play U12 against the Caherlag side report next week.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @RoversGAA and on facebook.

GLEN ROVERS

Our U14 team gave a superb display before losing out to Féile champions Newcestown in a game that was there for the taking. A shaky start saw us trailing by seven points before we got into the game and the huge commitment and determination shown as we battled to the final whistle was a credit to player and mentors alike, well done to all.

Now that exams are over its back to the training grounds for our underage team and all U16 are reminded that training is Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. U13 and U14 also at the same times.

Our U10s continued their Go Games when we welcomed Na Piaras in glorious sunshine, our U8s go their Go Games off to a start with a trip to Ovens and we will be continuing in the week ahead with both teams in action versus Brian Dillon's and Douglas.

Parents will get text with arrangements.

FUNDRAISER

Don't forget our clothes recycling day today Saturday June 21.

Get rid of all you unwanted items: clothing, belts, shoes, handbags and toys. No pillows, blankets or duvets, or books.

Spread the word around to all you friends to drop their stuff to club today 9am to 4pm.

Anna of the Roses

Congratulations to Cork Captain Anna Geary on her Selection as Cork Rose on Saturday last at the Cork Rose Ball. Anna will represent Cork at the International Rose of Tralee and best wishes of all camogie followers will go with her.

Galway's Lorraine Ryan, left, and Cork's Anna Geary at the launch of the All-Ireland Camogie Championships at Croke Park. Picture: Ramsey Carr



Rebel Rose keeps busy

Daragh Ó Conchúir



Anna Geary is a winner. Three All-Irelands. Four All-Stars. Four National Leagues, with Cork. Two All-Ireland club titles with Milford.

But her success isn't confined to camogie.

Last weekend, she was crowned Cork Rose and is already being talked up as a strong contender to claim the Rose of Tralee sash and tiara next August down in the Kingdom.

Certainly, she has a tremendous story to tell and no better woman to tell it. Little wonder she chose a career change to PR and communications. She's a natural.

The Rose thing nearly didn't happen and it wouldn't have if it had come in the way of camogie. The schedule fitted in neatly though and Geary has no problem being busy.

"I can be bored and idle when I'm 40, right now I'll take all the opportunities," she laughs.

"I only missed one training session out of the whole lot of them. That was because for the last few weeks, we had training on Friday night and normally we wouldn't. Last Friday and Saturday, the (Cork Rose) finals were on in Silver Springs so obviously I didn't think it would be wise to go out training in a ball gown!

"I said no initially (to the Rose) when I thought I wouldn't be able to give the commitment.

"But then one of the girls on the Cork team rang me and said the All-Ireland semi-finals have been moved to the 23rd, when normally the semis and the Rose are on the same weekend.

"But I'd already said no to the lady who approached me to be sponsor and then she rang me back with two days to go. She said 'this is the last year you're eligible, it's now or never' and I started to think 'God, you never regret doing something but you might regret not doing it'. It was an experience, meet new



CAMOGIE COUNTDOWN: Cork's Anna Geary with Galway's Lorraine Ryan at the launch of the 2014 Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship in Croke Park.

Picture: Sportsfile

people... It's surreal because I woke up this morning and I had 17 voicemails."

Geary has already achieved a higher profile than any other camogie player by virtue of her involvement in the documentary *Skin In The Game*, which also included Michael Carton, Eoin Cadogan and Lar Corbett. It gave a unique insight into the type of sacrifices required by amateur players to perform at the elite level of Gaelic games. It meant a lot to Geary to be able to represent the sport she loves so much.

"When I was doing it, I was conscious that you weren't just representing yourself, you were representing the entire Camogie Association so everything you did was an extension of them.

"But it received for the most part very positive coverage and it was good to see camogie being showcased as well as the hurling.

"In the last 12 months, the Irish women's rugby team and Katie Taylor have really made people stand up and take notice of women in sports. The Camogie Association now is really driving that and doing its own things to make people notice camogie. Which is what you really want because the more we seem to be in the spotlight and the more the media take notice, it means increased



Cork Rose Anna Geary with her father, Michael and mother, Ellen Ann.

Picture: Niall Brownen

participation and that's what the GAA is all about. You want it in every club in every place, rural and urban. That's the future of the game to make sure you have the numbers."

There were many memorable scenes in the documentary. The combination of power and athleticism that the Camogie Association is currently emphasising in its own current 'Our Game, Your Game' campaign was evident in clips of the game, while shots of Geary's bikram yoga session ended with her being inundated with Facebook and Twitter messages. There were five marriage proposals.

The highlight though came towards the end though, as she spoke about Cork's loss in the All-Ireland semi-final.

She might have won it all but as she began crying, describing her love of the game and her absolute devastation by the defeat, you understood why. It was pure desire.

"They got it in one take, the first time. It was afterwards when the cameraman was there and he turned around and said 'we don't need to do anymore, she looked like a broken girl in that, it was great!'

"Sometimes when we talk about camogie and there's such positivity and passion because we love our game, when you're talking about a loss when you put that much time and effort in it, it's good for people to see the rawness and how much it means. Particularly with camogie players because it means as much as it does to any inter-county player."

It still does. "It probably means more now than five or six years ago. I remember winning All-Irelands in 2005 and 2006 thinking we can do this every year. But the longer you go, the more you appreciate every win because you realise you might not get another opportunity to get a cup.

"I might never get a chance to play in Croke Park again for Cork and I was here every year from 2003 to 2009 and it

was something you probably took for granted. But the level of competition that is now in our game, you can't predict the final four anymore.

"Years before, you had a good chance of picking who'd be in the final so from an entertainment point of view, it's fantastic for the game that you are seeing that. From a Cork point of view, it's not. I won't lie. I would love to say we're going to be in Croke Park every September but it shows how far the game has gone."

Being on an equal footing with the lads was a key element of *Skin In The Game* and a credit to Cork producer Jacqui Hurley — herself a former Cork camogie player. Fortunately, the game now has a sponsor that is driving that equality campaign.

"I'd have to thank Liberty Insurance for that, putting us on the same pedestal as the men, treating us as equals. You see them involved in the World Cup.

"They couldn't have come in for a better year in hurling and camogie in terms of the entertainment so there's a bit of pressure on us now to reproduce that. And a bit of pressure on Cork as well to be in the final so hopefully we can produce that."

With Geary leading them out on match day, you couldn't bet against it.



Louise O'Hara (Dublin), Leanne Fennelly (Kilkenny), Aoife Kelly (Offaly), Anna Geary (Cork), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Sinead Cassidy (Derry), Elmear Considine (Clare) and Sabrina Larkin (Tipperary) at yesterday's launch of the Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship

RAMSEY CROOK / SPORTSFILE

Cork forwards blitz their Dublin rivals

CAMOGIE

By Daire Walsh

Cork 4-24
Dublin 0-5

THE DYNAMIC full-forward line of Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary were in devastating form at O'Toole Park on Saturday.

Cork eased to victory over an underwhelming Dublin side in their opening Group 1 encounter of the 2014 Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship to set them up for a tilt at the All-Ireland.

With a grand total of 4-19 amassed between them, the Rebel inside line provided a constant threat to the opposition defence, and although stiffer tests lie ahead for Paudie Murray's charges, the attacking potential of the team will provide the Cork management team with plenty of encouragement.

Cork's 2013 campaign ended in a heartbreaking one-point defeat to Kilkenny at the semi-final stage, and having also lost the previous year's final against Wexford, the Rena Buckley-led side will not be lacking motivation in the current campaign.

Following three defeats from as many outings in last year's competition, Dublin were hoping for a bright start to the proceedings in the Crumlin venue, but disaster struck just two minutes into the action. Net-minder Kate Whyte looked set to gather Mackey's point attempt with relative ease, but after stepping over the line with the ball in her hand, the green flag was subsequently raised.

Dublin did respond well to the concession of this goal with well-taken points from Laura Twomey and Miriam Twomey, but after St Catherine's star Cotter opened her personal account from a 12th minute 45, Cork opened up significant daylight with a brace of quick-fire goals.

Barryroe's O'Leary brilliantly re-



Jennifer O'Leary was in fine scoring form for the Rebel girls as she scored 2-9 against Dublin in their opening All-Ireland Championship game.

gistered the second goal of the day after gathering a long-ball inside the defensive cover, and Cotter's speculative effort from the left-wing deceived the helpless Whyte moments later.

Having gotten some early nerves out of their system, Cork were now playing with greater confidence, and with Cotter dictating much of the play in a roaming role, Dublin's chances of success appeared bleak.

Briege Corkery, Mackey, Joanne Casey and Buckley (free) all contributed to the scoreboard as the half wore on, and with the excellent O'Leary adding four majestic points to her already impressive haul, Cork brought an insurmountable 3-9 to 0-2 lead into the second half.

Buckley's long-range strike ensured that Cork had shot 2-9 without reply, and they added another Mackey single after the restart before half-back Aisling Carolan fi-

nally ended a lengthy barren spell in front of the posts for Dublin.

This only offered a brief respite to Colum King's outfit, though, and by the time skipper Louise O'Hara added the hosts' fourth point 16 minutes from time, Hannah Looney, Mackey (two) and Cotter (two) had all split the posts in emphatic style.

Cotter's third score of the half soon followed, and when Dublin full-forward Sarah Ryan was issued with a straight red-card for a wild pull on Cork custodian Aoife Murray, an already lop-sided tie became even more disjointed.

With a numerical advantage now on their side, and a 22-point cushion at their disposal, Cork could easily have taken their foot off the gas during the final-quarter. Yet, with so much at stake in a fiercely-competitive group, they could not allow their standards to drop, and 0-2 apiece courtesy of corner-forwards Mackey

and O'Leary eliminated any notion that the visitors were going to ease off.

Dublin secured a hard-earned point from substitute Evie Kehoe three minutes from the end, but an exceptional display by an ever-professional Cork side, capped by the terrific O'Leary's late 1-2 salvo, puts them in a positive frame of mind ahead of a crunch meeting with Wexford.

Scorers for Cork: J O'Leary 2-9 (0-4 ft), O Cotter 1-5 (0-1 45), K Mackey 1-5, R Buckley (ft), J Casey, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery 0-1 each.

Dublin: L O'Hara (ft), A Carolan, L Twomey, M Twomey, E Kehoe 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Tracey, P Mackey, R Buckley, E O'Sullivan, J Casey, A Thompson, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery, K Mackey, O Cotter, J O'Leary.

Sub: A Geary for O'Callaghan (43).

DUBLIN: K Whyte, E Whyte, S O'Toole, G Quinn, A Carolan, M Moynihan, C Rigney, E O'Meara, L Twomey, A Twomey, L O'Hara, M Twomey, O Durkin, S Ryan, A Fanning.

Subs: A Bugler for O'Toole (44), A Ryan for Durkin (51), E Kehoe for M Twomey (57).

Referee: O Elliott (Antrim).

Cork fall to Kilkenny as Hanrick shines in Ballincollig

Kilkenny 1-10
Cork 0-12

CORK lost to Kilkenny at Ballincollig in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship yesterday.

The visitors dictated matters in the opening quarter, and with Orla Hanrick unerring from frees and Laura Norris striking one from play, they opened up a four-point advantage as Cork struggled to find their feet.

Cork finally got on the scoreboard with a Caroline Sugrue point and with Amanda O'Regan and Carolyn Mother-

way adding to their tally they were back in the game. Twice the sides swapped points before the break where Kilkenny led 0-6 to 0-5.

On the resumption, Kilkenny grabbed a goal as they worked the ball with ease past the Cork defence for Hanrick to hand-pass to the net but they had to wait 10 minutes for their next score.

As the tide began to turn in Cork's favour Amanda O'Regan pointed two frees. Hanrick had one from play but in a superb quarter Cork dominated hitting five points with reply.

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

O'Regan with three from placed balls, and Jennifer Hosford and Caroline Sugrue with one each, ensured Cork took the lead with five minutes on the stopwatch.

Kilkenny substitute Kelly Ann Cottrell cut the deficit with a point.

And when Lydia Fitzpatrick levelled it with two minutes remaining a draw was on the cards. The failure of Cork's defence to clear their lines saw Orla Hanrick strike a point a

minute into additional-time which proved to be the winner.

Cork stormed up-field and should have won a free, with fouls on Jennifer Hosford and Maebh Cahalane when in possession both left go unchecked as the final whistle sounded.

The Camogie Association has to take a good look at sending match officials to games of this high importance without supplying neutral linesmen or women. It does not look good to have an official from a participating county working the sideline.

Scorers for Kilkenny: O Hanrick

1-7 (0-4 ft, 0-1 45) KA Cottrell, L Norris, L Fitzpatrick 0-1 each.

Cork: A O'Regan 0-7 ft, C Sugrue 0-2, C Desmond, C Motherway J Hosford 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: K Maher, E Frisby, C Foley, S Quirke, C Alward, A Fahy, T Muldowney, Kinsella, L Fitzpatrick, S Crowley, L Carey, M Fennelly (c); L Norris, O Hanrick, M Farrell.

Subs: A Farrell for A Kinsella (26), A Gannon for L Norris (44), S A Quinlan for S Crowley (53), K A Cottrell for L Carey (57).

CORK: J Kavanagh, H O'Regan, L O'Sullivan, N O'Keefe, S Buckley, C Foley, R DeFaioite, J Crowley, C Motherway, C Desmond, C O'Neill, C Sugrue, K Hickey, A O'Regan (c), J Hennigan.

Subs: K O'Keefe for C O'Neill (17), J Hosford for J Hennigan (th-1), M Cahalane for R De Faioite (th-1), A Corkery for H O'Regan (inj 52), N O'Brien for J Crowley (54).

Referee: Aidan Ryan (Clare).

KATE STRIKES TO STUN THE CHAMPIONS

GALWAY'S bid to defend their senior camogie title suffered an early setback after old rivals Wexford inflicted a 2-12 to 1-11 defeat on them at Kenny Park.

Wexford led at the end of a lively first half thanks to the quality of Shelly Kehoe and Josie Dwyer at midfield and Ursula Jacob's scoring prowess, while they could also thank goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy, who deflected Niamh McGrath's penalty over the crossbar.

Helena Jacob's side flew out of the traps in the second half with points from Dwyer and Jacob followed by a Fiona Rochford goal.

CAMOGIE round-up

Galway showed their mettle when a pass from Brenda Hanney was finished to the net by Orlaith McGrath and Aislinn Connolly levelled soon after.

Brilliant

Hanney was denied a goal by another brilliant save by D'Arcy before Kate Kelly's injury time effort flew all the way to the Galway net before Jacob added a point.

Irish Daily Star League champions

Kilkenny defeated Offaly by 5-16 to 0-8 at Nowlan Park. First-half goals from Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, Ann Dalton and Aisling Dunphy saw the hosts surge into a 4-6 to 0-6 lead before Aoife Neary raised a green flag after the restart.

Clare put their League final disappointment behind them with a 3-11 to 1-8 win over Derry at Celtic Park — the same score as when the teams met last year.

Deirdre Murphy, Fiona Lafferty and Lisa

Derry were excellent in the second half but failed to capitalise on their possession — though Karen Kielt did scramble a 43rd-minute goal.

Cork were in total control on their way to a 4-24 to 0-5 victory over Dublin at O'Toole Park.

Paudie Murray's side were magnificent, with Jenny O'Leary hitting 2-9 while Orla Cotter (1-6) and Katrina Mackey (1-4) were the other beneficiaries of the midfield domi-



DELIGHT: Wexford boss Helena Jacob celebrates

JUNE 2014

Wexford push Galway's title defence off course

By Daragh O'Conchúir
Camogie

Galway's campaign to defend their Liberty Insurance senior camogie title met with an early setback after old rivals Wexford inflicted a 2-12 to 1-11 defeat at Kenny Park on Saturday.

Wexford led at the end of a lively first half, thanks to the superiority of Shelly Kehoe and Josie Dwyer at midfield, and Ursula Jacob's scoring prowess. They could also thank goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy, who deflected Niamh McGrath's penalty over the crossbar. Helena Jacob's side flew from the traps in the second half with points from Dwyer and Jacob followed by a Fiona Rochford goal.

Galway showed their mettle when a pass from Brenda Hanney was finished by

Orlaith McGrath and Aislinn Connolly levelled soon after.

Hanney was denied a goal by another brilliant D'Arcy save before Kate Kelly's injury-time effort flew all the way to Galway net and Jacob pointed to secure the win.

League champions Kilkenny accounted for Offaly at Nowlan Park, 5-16 to 0-8.

The visitors opened the scoring with an Elaine Dermody free but three quick goals shattered their resistance. The first came from Katie Power, who flicked Aoife Neary's delivery to the net. Michelle Quilty then finished from close range after a storming run. The third was a brilliant solo effort from Ann Dalton. Aisling Dunphy added another just before half time to make it 4-6 to 0-6.

Kilkenny focussed on points after the resumption, although Neary did pounce for a fifth goal.

Clare put their disappointing league final effort behind them with a 3-11 to 1-8 win over Derry at Celtic Park.

The hosts began well and their captain, Meabh McGoldrick, had two points on the board when Deirdre Murphy goaled for the visitors. Derry steadied the ship but were rocked by Fiona Lafferty's goal. And when Lisa Loughnane rifled a shot to the net, it was 3-5 to 0-4. It was 3-7 to 0-7 at half-time but Derry were excellent in the second half but failed to capitalise on their possession, with the notable exception of Karen Kieft, who scrambled a 43rd minute goal. But Clare were always comfortable.

It was very easy for Cork at O'Toole Park against a Dublin side, who despite two early points from Ali and Miriam Twomey, were never in contention as they lost by 4-24 to 0-5. Paudie Murray's girls

were magnificent, with Jenny O'Leary helping herself to 2-9. Orla Cotter (1-6) and Katrina Mackey (1-4) were the other beneficiaries of the midfield dominance of Joanne Casey and Ashling Thompson.

Scores for Cork: J O'Leary 2-9 (0-4), K Mackey 1-5, O Cotter 1-5 (0-1 '45), R Buckley (1), J Casey, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery 0-1 each.

Scores for Dublin: L O'Hara (1), A Carolan, L Twomey, M Twomey, E Kehoe 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Tracey, P Mackey, R Buckley, E O'Sullivan, J Casey, A Thompson, H Looney, D Cronin, B Corkery, K Mackey, O Cotter, J O'Leary.

Sub: A Geary for O'Callaghan (43).

DUBLIN: K Whyte, E Whyte, S O'Toole, G Quinn, A Carolan, M Moynihan, C Rigney, E O'Meara, L Twomey, A Twomey, L O'Hara, M Twomey, O Durkin, S Ryan, A Fanning.

Subs: A Bugler for O'Toole (44), A Ryan for Durkin (51), E Kehoe for M Twomey (57).

Referee: O Elliott (Antrim).

FÉILE NA nGAEL FINALS

Hurling

Div 1 Cup semi-finals: Cuchulainn-Dunloy (Antrim) 1-7 Kilcormac-Kiloughrey (Offaly) 0-5, Naomh Eamon (Laois) 2-3 Kevin Lynch HC (Derry) 5-11; **Final:** Kevin Lynch HC 0-11 Cuchulainn-Dunloy 1-4; **Div 1 Shield final:** Watergrasshill (Cork) 2-5 O'Donovan Rossa (Antrim) 2-6; **Div 2 Cup final:** Naas (Kildare) 3-12 O'Connell-Glenbrien (Wexford) 0-1; **Div 2 Shield final:** St John's (Antrim) 0-8 Swatragh (Derry) 1-10; **Div 3 Cup final:** Slaughtneil (Derry) 0-6 Ferbane/Bellmont (Offaly) 1-3; **Div 4 Cup final:** Corofin (Clare) 1-6 St Brigid's (Dublin) 1-4; **Div 5 Cup final:** Bray Emmets (Antrim) 4-9 Clann na nGael (Meath) 0-1; **Div 6 final:** Barrow Rangers (Kilkenny) 3-10 Naomh Moninne (Louth) 1-3.

Camogie

Div 1 Cup final: Loughgliff Shamrocks (Antrim) 3-3 Cashel (Tipperary) 1-5; **Div 2 Cup final:** Gaultier (Waterford) 3-4 Tullamore (Offaly) 1-1; **Div 2 Shield final:** Na Flannas (Meath) 1-2 Bredagh (Down) 2-1; **Div 3 final:** Clonkill (Westmeath) 2-4 Naas (Kildare) 1-5; **Div 3 Shield final:** De La Salle (Waterford) 5-5 Eglishe (Tyronne) 0-2; **Div 4 Cup final:** Kilsconner (Galway) 1-2 Muinecheag (Carlow) 0-3; **Div 4 Shield final:** Ballerin (Derry) 0-3 Carnew Emmets (Wicklow) 0-1; **Div 5 Cup final:** Leitrim 0-0 Sligo 0-2.

LADIES FOOTBALL

Leinster SFC: Dublin 6-14 Kildare 1-9; **Munster SFC:** Cork 7-22 Clare 1-6; **Munster IFC:** Waterford 2-12 Limerick 0-11; **Ulster SFC:** Armagh 1-15 Donegal 1-9; **Monaghan** 5-14 Cavan 1-5.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland SCC Grp 1: Dublin 0-5 Cork 4-24, Galway 1-11 Wexford 2-12; **Grp 2:** Derry 1-9 Clare 3-11, Kilkenny 5-16 Offaly 0-8; **ICC Grp 2:** Cork 0-12 Kilkenny 1-10; **PJCC:** Armagh 2-8 Roscommon 3-12; **JACC Grp 2:** Limerick 2-8 Offaly 1-4.

Four camogie legends have been honoured

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

COSTCUTTERS and the Cork Camogie County Board honoured four former players at a lunch held in the Maryborough Hotel where Denise Cronin, Eithne Duggan-Fitzpatrick, Mel Cummins-Clinton, Mary O'Connor were the recipients of Hall of Fame awards. It was a fitting tribute to four players who have given tremendous service to the game. The judging panel of Mary Moran, Nora Newman and Sheila Golden once again had a huge task, but they came up with four players who were without doubt worthy recipients. Paul Roche, marketing manager of the Barry's Group speaking on behalf of Costcutters, and paid tribute to them. "Mary, Mel, Denise and Eithne are worthy winners their achievements on the playing field are to be admired. When you look back at the names of the winners in the first three years of this award you get a real sense of how lucky we have been as a county to have such inspirational ladies representing us." The very first inductees to the Hall of Fame were Marie Costine, Betty Sugrue, Pat Moloney and Marion McCarthy, who won a combined 24 All-Irelands between them. The second year Sandie Fitzgibbon, Colette O'Mahony, Cathy Landers and Mary O'Leary had 16 between them, while

last year's recipients Linda Mellerick, Lynn Dunlea, Fiona O'Driscoll and Irene O'Keeffe amassed 21 All-Ireland medals between them. Picking four players every year from the vast collection of greats who have graced the playing fields is not easy, but this year's recipients are certainly worthy of inclusion. "Cork Camogie County Board is proud to host this awards initiative with Costcutters," said county chairwoman Marion McCarthy. "Cork Camogie is privileged to have many great sporting days to look back on. The Hall of Fame awards, honouring former players, will be a regular feature going forward. "This year we have already won the four adult Munster titles and the Division 2 National League — and hopefully we will add a few All-Ireland titles come September." Among the large attendance were representatives of the Barry's Group, officers of the Cork Camogie Board and Juvenile Board, members of the board GPC, former presidents Mary Moran, Sheila Golden, Nora Newman and Kay Dunne, former Hall of Fame award winners and Ger Cunningham, Sports Line Communications, who did tremendous work behind the scenes.

Wexford the acid test for Rebels



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

WE ALL knew that Dublin weren't going to be a threat to Cork last Saturday in their opening Liberty Insurance All-Ireland campaign, but 4-24 is excellent scoring on any day.

Certainly in recent challenge games Cork are amassing some impressive scores and seem to be enjoying their hurling of late. While little could in truth be learned from the game Laura Treacy and Hannah Looney among others showed up well. It is really only next weekend which will give the Cork management an idea of where they are at when they travel to Wexford in what promises to be a mouthwatering tie.

As predicted, Wexford accounted for Galway in Athenry inflicting a 2-12 to 1-11 defeat on their opponents. It was a tight and exciting affair with Mags D'Arcy denying Galway with a couple of excellent saves.

Wexford led at the end of a lively first half thanks to the superiority of Shelly Kehoe and Josie Dwyer at midfield, and Ursula Jacob's scoring prowess. They could also thank goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy, who deflected Niamh McGrath's penalty over the crossbar.

Helena Jacob's side flew out of the traps in the second half with points from Dwyer and Jacob followed by a Fiona Rochford goal. Galway showed their mettle when a pass from Brenda Hanney was finished to the net by Orlaith McGrath and Aislinn Connolly levelled soon after.

Hanney was denied a goal by another save by D'Arcy before Kate Kelly's injury time flew all the way to the Galway net and



At the Maryborough Hotel for the 2014 Costcutter Camogie Hall of Fame Awards were L to R: Award winners Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers, Mel Cummins-Clinton, South Pres., Paul Roche, Head of Marketing, Barry Group (sponsor), Marian McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board, John McAllen, Commercial Director of the Barry Group, award winner Mary O'Connor, Killeagh, Denis Cronin, Head of Buying, Barry Group and Eithne Duggan-Fitzpatrick, Bishopstown.

Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

Jacob pointed to secure the win.

On paper Wexford have a dynamic team. Their full-back line consists of Noleen Lambert, Karen Atkinson and Deirdre Codd. You'll get nothing easy from them. Mary Leacy continues to hold the centre-back position. Josie Dwyer is playing some great hurling at midfield, a player that has often impressed yet possibly lived in the shadows of such names as Ursula Jacob, Kate Kelly and the Leacys. Dwyer was named as player of the match last Saturday.

Up front Wexford have Jacob, Kelly and Katrina Parrock in addition to Una Leacy, returned after a year out. All the big household names from their three in a row side of 2010-2012 remain. And the hunger is back. It won't be the darkest of moments if Cork are defeated but a win would drive them further on. For a number of reasons a good Cork performance is important regardless of where they sit at the end.

League champions Kilkenny accounted for Offaly at Nowlan Park, 5-16 to 0-8. The visitors opened the scoring via an Elaine Dermody free and Kilkenny keeper Elaine Kavanagh was forced into a smart save from Arlene Watkins.

Three quick goals shattered Offaly though. The first came from Katie Power, who flicked Aoife Neary's delivery to the net. Michelle Quilty finished from close range after a storming run.

The third was a brilliant solo effort from Ann Dalton, who collected possession 50 meters out and cut a strip through the Offaly defence before sending an unstoppable shot to the net. Aisling Dunphy added another before half-time to make it 4-6 to 0-6.

Kilkenny focused on points after the resumption, although Neary did pounce for goal number five and though Dermody brought her own tally to six points, the result was never in doubt.

Clare put their league final performance behind them with a 3-11 to 1-8 win over Derry at Celtic Park — the same score as when the teams met last year.

The hosts began well and their captain Meabh McGoldrick had two points on the board when Deirdre Murphy goaled. They steadied the ship once more but were rocked back on their heels by a Fiona Lafferty goal. When Lisa Loughnane gathered possession from Murphy's sideline and rifled a shot to the net, it was 3-5 to 0-4.

With the score 3-7 to 0-7 at half time Derry were excellent in the second half but failed to capitalise on their possession, with the notable exception of Karen Kieft. The centre-forward scored three points and Eimear Mullan did scramble a 43rd minute goal but Clare were always comfortable.

Two games from group two take place this weekend: Derry host Tipperary and Clare travel to Offaly.



Sponsors Sinead's Hair Studio and Munster Stainless Steel handing over new club jerseys for our U9 and U10 panels to Inniscarra Camogie Club chairman Tim Buckley.

Vaughan bags two for Banteer

INTERMEDIATE

By Mary Newman

Banteer	5-9
Millstreet	4-8

BANTEER edged it over Millstreet to take the Junior C league title in high-scoring contest in Cloughduv.

Banteer led 2-4 to 1-3 at the interval thanks to first-half goals from Karen O'Keefe and Aisling O'Brien and points from Lisa Howard, Eleanor Twohig, Michelle Twohig and Una Twohig.

Alanna Barry, with 1-2, and Maire Ellen O'Connor with a point, ensured Millstreet were well in contention through the opening half.

On the resumption it was end to end action. Banteer showed huge strength as they took the game to Millstreet with the experienced Imelda Vaughan proving a handful for the Millstreet defence, while Una Twohig, Aisling O'Brien and Michelle Twohig were very much to the fore as Banteer continued to keep the pressure on.

Imelda Vaughan added 2-1 to the Banteer tally, while Mairead Weathers grabbed a goal Aisling O'Brien, Aine Cott, Michelle Twohig and Una Twohig were to the fore with points.

Eimear Twomey had two Millstreet goals and Alanna Barry contributed 1-5 in the second half.

Banteer closed ranks and never allowed Millstreet much leeway as they hung on to record victory and take the league title.

Scorers for Banteer: I. Vaughan 2-1, A. O'Brien 1-1, M. Weathers, K. O'Keefe 1-0 each, M. Twohig 0-2, U. Twohig 0-2 (ft), L. Howard, E. Twohig, A. Cott 0-1 each.

Millstreet: A. Barry 2-7, E. Twomey 2-0, M. E. O'Connor 0-1.

BANTEER: N. Long; M. McAuliffe, K. O'Donoghue, E. O'Donovan; R. Twohig, G. Cashman, V. Weathers; U. Twohig, M. Twohig; L. Twohig, M. Weathers, L. Howard; K. O'Keefe, I. Vaughan, A. O'Brien.

Sub: A. Cott for M. Weathers.

MILLSTREET: E. Cronin; L. Denny, C. Murphy, J. Dunne; A. J. O'Reilly, L. Murphy, D. Looney; Alanna Barry, K. O'Keefe, S. Sheehan, L. Keane, M. E. O'Connor, E. Twomey, R. O'Brien, Ava Barry.

Subs: K. Sheehan for O. Looney (40), M. Lane for A. Barry (45).

Cork U16s handed a very tough draw

IT'S CHAMPIONSHIP time and the U16 squads are ready to go tomorrow at A and B level for their first game in the round-robin series.

The A squad are in a tough group where Kilkenny, Galway, Clare and Dublin will provide the opposition. The B squad will defend the title won last season in a group with defeated finalists last season Waterford, Derry and Antrim.

With the provincial championship played earlier in the season mentors had a good chance to assess their charges.

Kilkenny are always tough opponents and they will provide a stern test to the U16 A side's aspirations in Castle Road tomorrow. In their Leinster campaign they overcame Offaly before losing out to Dublin and Wexford by the narrowest of margins.

U16 CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

They reversed the loss to Wexford to take the Leinster Shield.

Up front they have an excellent performer in full-forward Danielle Morrissey and her tussle with Niamh O'Leary will be one of the key.

Cork lost out to a Tipperary comeback in the Munster final and were disappointed to do so having defeated Clare in a tough semi-final encounter. Having led by four points at the interval they failed to build on their lead and this is something manager Anthony Nagle and his backroom team of Frances Killeen and Ken Bullman will have worked on since.

Cork cannot allow Kilkenny to come at them as they did against Tipp and their defence and midfield will have to work hard to ensure this.

Cork have players with a lot of experience. Sinead Mills, Chloe Sigerson, Michaela Hyde and Keava McCarthy, all performed well in the provincial campaign.

While the A squad are in action in Castle Road the county U16 B team will be in Walsh Park in what is a repeat of last season's All-Ireland final when they meet neighbours Waterford. Cork are the title holders having won superb final last season but now it's time to defend the crown. It doesn't come any harder are they face a Waterford side who defeated them in the Munster final on the last weekend in March.

A lot of very hard work has taken place since then and the selectors Pauline O'Regan, Mike Boland and Ger Horgan have worked extremely hard. They know their side did not do themselves justice in the provincial final.

It will be a tough task especially

going into the oppositions home pitch and given that it's Waterford's first choice squad.

In the Munster final they allowed Waterford dictate an opening half where they hit 1-9 but a strong Cork fight back saw them come to within two points. In Beth Carton they have a superb player who will do huge damage if allowed. She finished with 10 points to her credit in the last meeting.

Up front Cork will be looking for a bigger return from their attack and players such as Nora O'Riordan, Geraldine Collins, Chloe Collins and Saoirse O'Sullivan they will not be found wanting.

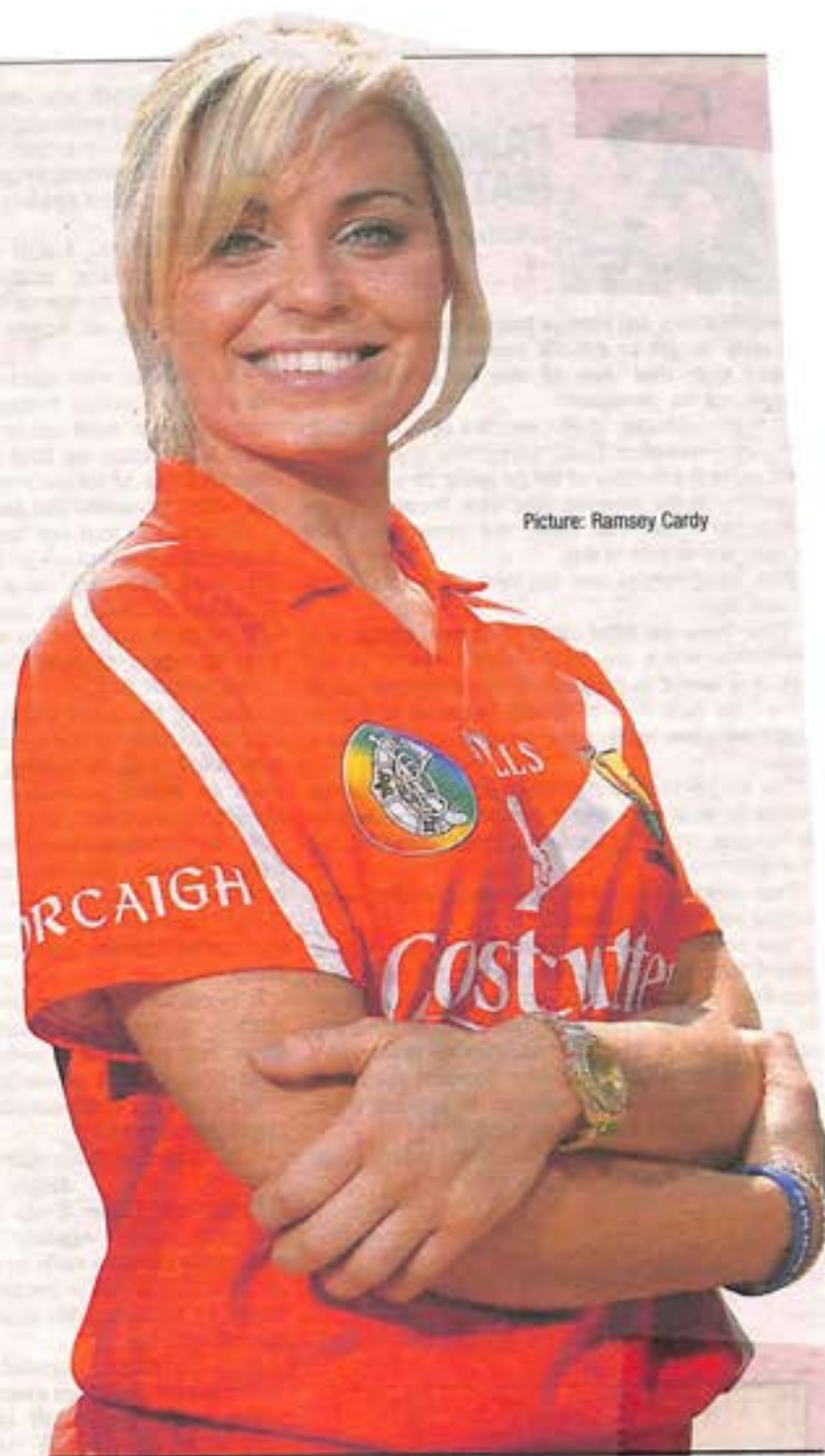
FIXTURES TOMORROW

All-Ireland U16A championship Round 1: Cork v Kilkenny Castle Road, 2.30pm.

All-Ireland U16B championship Round 1: Cork v Waterford, Walsh Park, 2pm.

JUNE 2014

"I'll get the balance right: I'll wear my boots some days and my high heels the others!"



Picture: Ramsey Cardy

"I love the Irish language. Becoming fluent is on my bucket list! I would have a good command of it and as well as that I speak decent French and German, even a few sentences of Japanese!"

"I love the Irish language. Becoming fluent is on my bucket list! I would have a good command of it and as well as that I speak decent French and German, even a few sentences of Japanese!"

One of the lines in the poem was 15 years may have passed since Cork brought it home but in this room there is a real that can shine at the dome."

Geary explains how it came to be that she tried for the Cork Rose.

"I was approached by my sponsor Colin's Bar in Milford in previous years and I had said no, I am too busy. This year they asked again and I said I have too many commitments."

"Then I thought about it, it is the last year I would be eligible to do it age wise. So I sat down and thought, was it possible? Would it clash with being the captain of Cork? (Which is something I feel so privileged to be)."

"I looked at the all-Ireland semi finals which are usually at the same weekend. This year for the first time in 11 years the all-Ireland semis were pushed back a week. If we were fortunate to get there, and I was lucky enough to go through, there would not be a clash."

"I am not extremely superstitious but sometimes things happen, and maybe for a reason. So I decided to go for it."

"It is going to be tough trying to balance but I think the two might actually complement each other. I get to wear my boots some days and my heels the others, I get the best of both worlds."

Geary is steeped in the history of GAA. Her uncle Martin Geary played inter-county hurling with Waterford and his son Niall played football with Cork and Nemo Rangers.

Her first cousin, Lorcan McLoughlin, currently plays with the Cork hurlers and his brother, John McLoughlin, is with the Cork footballers.

And for August, will Geary have her game face on?

"I cannot wait. I don't think I can articulate the sense of privilege I feel to represent Cork. The fact that there were 52 contestants in the Cork Rose is a testament to how important it is to Cork."

"Tralee is going to be a once in a lifetime experience."

"Someone said to me there are 30 or more Roses down there, that means you should come away with 30 or more couches you can sleep in places all around the world!"

"I am going down to make friends and meet new people. I want to put my best foot forward."

"I am looking around for my dress. We need to have 20 outfits for the week, which is a lot, but I do love shopping!"

"I would describe my style as feminine with an edge. I love wearing girly dresses but I am someone who wants to flatter myself rather than follow fashion trends."

"You won't see me walking around Cork on a nice sunny day in a pair of hot pants. My figure does not agree with that! So I like fashion but it's what suits my shape."

"You have to be conscious of what you put into your body, the food you put in is the fuel to the car. That is not to say I don't have my ice cream or bar of chocolate. Those treats make things that little bit easier if you are having a bad day."

"I practice Bikram Yoga to help me de-stress and relax. And in my spare time I love hanging out with my friends and family, everyone is busy these days so it's important to make time."

"My mam, my dad and my younger brother especially keep me grounded. There is a good bit of banter around the place!"

"My boyfriend, Kevin and I have been together a good few years and he is well used to me! He is very supportive. I truly cannot wait to represent Cork."

"You have to be conscious of what you put into your body, the food you put in is the fuel to the car. That is not to say I don't have my ice cream or bar of chocolate. Those treats make things that little bit easier if you are having a bad day"

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship

Derry v Tipperary, Swatragh, 2.30pm

A relatively young outfit, the Premier County face a tough away assignment to Derry who have impressive performers in their ranks, including Meabh McGoldrick and forward Karen Kieft. Derry, should have too much firepower and strength for Tipperary and expect them to collect their first points of the championship.

Verdict: Derry

Offaly v Clare, St Brendan's Park, Birr, 2.30pm

Clare hit the ground running last weekend with a good win over Derry and Colm Honan's charges will be aware that a win over Offaly will put them in a strong position to reach the knock-out stages of championship. Eimear Consideine is back in action after recovering from a knee ligament injury sustained in the league final. Claire McMahon hit 0-7 last weekend, (0-4 from frees) while Deirdre Murphy and Fiona Lafferty also impressed.

Offaly, suffered a heavy defeat to Kilkenny and need a win to keep their championship hopes alive. Elaine Dermody, is their chief scoring threat, from play and frees, and Clare will need to remain defensively disciplined.

Verdict: Offaly

JUNE 2014

Wow!

Picture: Niall Brownen

Picture: Niall Brownen



Cork camogie captain Anna Geary only entered the Cork Rose contest when she realised there would be no August clash with a potential All-Ireland semi-final. She tells JANE MC NAMARA why she says no to hot pants and yes to ice cream — and her quest to find 20 new outfits

YOU don't become a Cork camogie star and captain of the side without having a fierce dedication to teamwork. And newly-crowned Cork Rose Anna Geary has taken that sporting mentality into the annual contest.

"I am not just representing myself and Cork, but the other 51 girls," she says proudly. "We are all in the conga line, I just happen to be leading it."

The 26-year-old from Milford will be trading in her boots for her heels this August when she heads to Kerry to represent Cork at the Rose of Tralee.

Geary, a marketing professional with Dell software, says: "Only a few times in my life have I been speechless and winning the Cork Rose was one of them."

"You don't know what the judges are looking for, you can only be yourself because it will show through if you are trying to be someone else. I went to enjoy the experience. It surpassed all my expectations."

Although well known for her sporting prowess, Geary says she has had an interest in the Rose of Tralee since her cousin was named Limerick Rose in 2000.

"I was captivated when Olive (Geary) was a part of it."

"I think there are a lot of parallels between it (the Rose of Tralee) and the GAA."

"It's all about being proud of who you are and proud of where you come from."

"The GAA is part and parcel of our her-

itage. The Rose is a celebration of all things Irish. I am representing Cork and it's an honour. It's a celebration of your roots."

"Only a few times in my life have I been speechless and winning the Cork Rose was one of them"

Geary says for her the Rose is a lot more than a 'beauty' contest.

"The judging process testifies to that. It's about the whole package. It's about how you get on with everyone and the group dynamic. It's about your interests, intelligence, articulations."

"Are you passionate? You might be standing on the stage in the dome for five minutes that is shown on RTE, but ultimately there is a whole lot that goes on for the six or seven days before."

"It's not about being the perfect person. It's about being the person that people resonate with."

"It's about being the ideal normal person, if that makes sense."

"The GAA is part and parcel of our heritage. The Rose is a celebration of all things Irish. I am representing Cork and it's an honour. It's a celebration of your roots"

"If you look at the past winners they have been extremely talented, absolutely. But they have been women that can stand in a room and hold a conversation."

"I have spoken with people who know past winners and all of them have said the same thing, they are extremely grounded women, as well as being holistic and talented people."

"It encapsulates everything about the person. Everyone has their various talents."

And what will Geary's talent be?

"I have not decided yet! For the Cork rose I composed my own poem about the experience, in Irish and English."

Cork girls send out a very clear message

CAMOGIE

CORK sent out a clear signal of intent at O'Toole Park on Saturday afternoon, as they kick-started their Group 1 campaign in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship with a comprehensive 4-24 to 0-5 success over Dublin, writes DAIRE WALSH.

It was essential that the Rebels laid down a marker ahead of a tough assignment against Wexford, and although Cork manager Paudie Murray feels that improvements can be made to his side's play, he was pleased with their overall application in the southside venue.

"I suppose we were happy enough. 4-24, I think it was a good score. Some positives out there. We have Wexford up next, so that's going to be a different kettle of fish altogether," Murray remarked afterwards.

"Certainly, we'd want to be a little bit more clinical in front of goal. Our work-rate would probably want to increase a bit, but I can only say positive things about today."

"I suppose we were kind of fortunate with two goals. A team playing a seven-man defence, it took us a small (bit of) time to get used to it. Once we re-arranged things after 10 minutes, I think that we started to hurt from there."

Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the game for Murray and his management team was the accuracy of their forwards, and in particular the triumvirate of Katrina Mackey, Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary, who contributed 4-19 between them.

If Cork are to advance to the knock-out stages, they will need big displays from this aforementioned trio, but Murray feels that, on their day, all six forwards are potential match-winners.

"Our forwards are good. They're very, very sharp. I think there was very good movement today, to be fair to them. I think any one of our six forwards really, once they're in the scoring zone, are capable of scoring," said the Cork boss.

With a win under their belt, Cork are now free to concentrate on a second consecutive away trip to Wexford on July 5. The Stanleysiders are aiming to reclaim their crown following a disappointing 2013, and although last year's finalists Galway and Kilkenny are also expected to be in the shake-up, Murray believes that Wexford pose the biggest threat.

"We have Wexford to come. I know they won the Leinster title two weeks ago. I was very, very impressed with them. There is very little talk about them, but I would certainly think they're the team to beat really."

"They look very well organised. The day we played them in the league that was one of the things I could see on the line. I think they're certainly the team to beat. I know there's a lot of talk about Kilkenny, but to me Wexford will certainly have a big say in the Championship this year," added Murray.

Attitude key if Cork are to win

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship round two: Cork v Waterford, WIT Waterford, 2pm.

ROUND TWO of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate championship is on tomorrow and it is a tough one for Cork as they make the journey to Waterford for a meeting against the home side.

Following last Sunday's clash, where Cork lost out to Kilkenny, they will need to get a win under their belts this week with two games to go against Meath and Wexford. Waterford on the other hand had a two-point victory over Meath last weekend.

Last Sunday in the opening half Cork were flat and lacked the pep in their step we had seen through a superb league campaign and the hunger just was not there.

They know they left it behind them as they allowed Kilkenny back into the game after they had finally settled and began to dominate the second-half. A shaky start allowed the visitors get four points ahead before Cork registered their first score and this is something that will be of concern.

Their failure also to close the game out when leading by two points with minutes remaining was also a huge disappointment.

I felt if Cork had gone three points clear Kilkenny would not have come back, however they did with three late points without response and Cork are now looking for a result to get back on track.

Cork overcame the Waterford challenge in the league to book their semi-final spot but Waterford were minus the Lismore contingent who were tied up with All-Ireland club duties. This time out they will be stronger with Patricia Jackman, Karen Kelly, Pauline Cunningham, and Nicole Morrissey all back performing well last week.

Paudie Murray and his selectors will be looking for a much improved display from his charges this time out. Failure to take scores proved costly last weekend and while their defence had to withstand huge pressure and coped well the final minutes saw Kilkenny finally break them down and grab the vital scores needed to record victory.

Sarah Hayes missed out last weekend due to an injury and it is hoped that she will be fit to line out or take some part this weekend as her experience and ability is vital to Cork. Having done so well in the National League, taking the Division 2 title, losing last weekend was a blow to Cork but if they can settle into the game and get early scores on the board the pressure will not be as intense as it was last week. Up front a big improvement is needed and a greater return from play vital if any headway is to be enjoyed.

A huge test awaits against a strong home side, but if the Cork's attitude to the game is right they have plenty of ability to win this one.

Banner repel brave Offaly's fightback in Birr

By Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Clare made it two out of two in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship holding off Offaly by 1-10 to 1-8 in a titanic battle in Birr on Saturday.

There was nothing between them early on as Siobhán Flannery twice and the excellent Tina Hannon replied to

scores from Niki Kaiser, Claire McMahon and the experienced Deirdre Murphy. McMahon edged Clare ahead once more and they opened some daylight when Fiona Lafferty found the net. Offaly had plenty of scoring chances though but shot 11 wides in that first half, although much of the credit for that should go to a magnificent Clare full-back line in which Máire McGrath was the star player.

It was 1-7 to 0-4 to Clare at half-time but Offaly were better in the second half, keeping Clare to just three points.

They had two penalties and a 21-yard free in the final quarter too, as they threw everything at Colm Honan's side. Elaine Dermody (twice) and Siobhán Flannery had shots saved, though Dermody did register a point from a rebound after keeper, Denise Lynch — herself a point-scorer with a free from distance —

blocked Flannery's penalty.

As well as that, Flannery finished to the net from close range after Dermody's effort from the 21-yard free was blocked by McGrath. Time ran out on Offaly, however.

In the other senior game, Derry beat Tipperary 2-12 to 1-9 in Swatragh. Tipperary had more than enough chances to win the game but struggled to convert them to scores. That meant that despite a good start, that includ-

ed points from Cáit Devane and Sarah Fryday, they were rocked back on their heels by a deflected goal from Gráinne McGoldrick, who finished with 1-3. Karen Kieft was excellent for Derry in the second half and brought her tally to five points.

Amy Kennedy scored an excellent goal for Tipperary but when Gráinne McNicholl found the net at the other end, that was enough for Derry to cement a 2-12 to 1-9 win.



At yesterday's Costcutter Camogie Hall of Fame awards were, from left: Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers; Mel Cummins-Clinton, South Pres; Marian McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board; John McAllen, commercial director, Barry Group (sponsor); Mary O'Connor, Killeagh and Eithne Duggan-Fitzpatrick, Bishopstown.

Clare edge a titanic battle while Derry get past Tipp of an iceberg

CLARE won a titanic clash with Offaly by 1-10 to 1-8 in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship in Birr.

The visitors had the better of the opening period, with a goal from Fiona Lafferty giving them a 1-7 to 0-4 interval lead.

A late Siobhán Flannery goal brought Offaly to within touching distance but it was Clare that held on for the vital win.

In the other senior game, Derry beat Tipperary 2-12 to 1-9.

CAMOGIE

Despite a good start, that included points from Cáit Devane and Sarah Fryday, Tipp were caught by a deflected goal from Gráinne McGoldrick, who finished with 1-3.

Karen Kieft was excellent for Derry in the second half and brought her tally to five points. Amy Kennedy responded with an excellent goal but Gráinne McNicholl found the net at the other end to cement the win.

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Group 2: Derry 2-12 Tipperary 1-9; Offaly 1-8 Clare 1-10. Intermediate Camogie Championship Group 1: Galway 2-11 Tipperary 2-6; Limerick 4-21 Antrim 2-3. Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship Group 2: Kilkenny 4-20 Wexford 0-1. All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Group 1: Offaly 3-13 Limerick 2-7; Tipperary 7-16 Wexford 0-6. All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship Group 2: Galway 3-10 Clare 2-13. All-Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Group 1: Dublin 2-10 Meath 2-3. All-Ireland U16B Camogie Championship Group 2: Tipperary 2-4 Antrim 1-8; Waterford 5-15 Cork 0-10. All-Ireland U16C Camogie Championship Group 2: Wicklow 1-5 Kerry 8-18.

McCarthy soars in attack as Cork beat Cats

Cork 4-15
Kilkenny 0-3

AN OUTSTANDING display from a focused and well-prepared Cork side saw them run out easy winners in this All-Ireland U16 A round one clash with Kilkenny in Castle Road yesterday.

Up front, Keeva McCarthy was superb notching 3-7 of the Cork tally but as a unit the Cork attack and midfield was superb as they found each other with superb unselfish distribution of the ball, while, in defence, they dealt with excellent efficiency with anything Kilkenny threw at them.

Nicole Garvey gave Kilkenny an early lead with a point but Cork replied with a Keeva McCarthy point and when the same player won and finished a long-range ball to the net Cork settled into the game. McCarthy, Aoibhinne Kidney, Michaela Hyde and Sinead Mills added points as Cork took control. Eadaoin Murphy pointed a Kilkenny free but Cork finished the half strongly to lead 2-7 to 0-2 Keeva McCarthy adding a point before finishing the rebound to the net after Aoife Walsh had denied Aoibhinne Kidney with a good save.

The second half belonged to Cork and stronger in all sectors they continued to

U16 CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

dominate adding points. Rachel Harty had goal number three and with Keeva McCarthy grabbing her third the result was a foregone conclusion before Danielle Morrissey pointed a late Kilkenny free. Cork face Dublin next weekend and will be hoping for another big performance.

Scorers for Cork: K McCarthy 3-7 (0-3ft), R Harty 1-0, A Kidney 0-3 (0-1ft), M Hyde 0-2 (0-1ft), S Mills 0-2 L Homan 0-1.

Kilkenny: N Garvey, E Murphy (f), D Morrissey 0-1 each.

CORK: M Hennigan; R Killeen, N O'Leary, S O'Leary; K O'Connor, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; N O'Leary (capt), E McAndrew, S Mills; A Kid-

ney, M Hyde, R Harty; K McCarthy, L O'Neill.

Subs: L Homan for S Mills (52), L Kelly for M Hyde (52), C Mulcahy for R Killeen (52), L Willis for R Harty (54), C Keating for K McCarthy (54).

KILKENNY: A Walsh; A O'Connor, M Doherty, C Roche; C O'Shea, N Garvey, E Moore; A O'Carroll, M Kennedy; E Murphy, M Teehan; E Dolan; N Fleming, D Morrissey, H Hoynes.

Subs: A Morrissey for N Fleming (35), K Drennan for E Dolan (51), C Murphy for H Hoynes (51), H Irish for C O'Shea (52).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Waterford 5-15 Cork 0-10

A stronger Waterford starting 15 proved stronger than Cork's second string when the sides met in Walsh Park in round 1 of the U16 B All-Ireland Championship.

Waterford's Beth Carton

and Anna Corcoran led the way as Waterford built up a 4-10 to 0-5 interval lead.

Cork battled hard to get into the game with Nora O'Riordan, Chloe Collins and Sarah Costello working hard but the gap was simply too big to breach as the home side, with Anne Corcoran, Courtney Healy and Aisling Power all impressing, held their lead to the full time whistle.

Cork now take on Derry in next weekend's round two clash.

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton 2-10, A Corcoran 3-0, M Dunford 0-2 C Healy A Power, K McMahon 0-1 each.

Cork: N O'Riordan 0-8, C Collins 0-3, S Costello 0-1.



Camogie Hall of Fame Awards at Maryborough

At the Camogie Hall of Fame Awards at the Maryborough Hotel were:

1. Liz Walsh, Barry Group, receiving flowers from Marian McCarthy, chair of Cork Camogie Board.
2. Anna Geary, Cork Camogie Captain, and Paul Roche, Barry Group.
3. Diarmuid O'Donovan, Cork County Board, and Ger Cunningham, Sportsline Communications.
4. Mary Newman, Cork Camogie Board, Marian McCarthy, Cork Camogie Board, and Liz Walsh, Barry Group.
5. Kathleen Healy, Cork County Camogie Board, Kay Dunne and Sheila Golden.
6. Nora Newman, Marian McCarthy, Mel Cummins-Clinton and Mary McSweeney.
7. Mary O'Connor, Irene O'Keefe, Eithne Duggan and Fiona O'Driscoll.
8. Finbarr McCarthy, Cork 96FM, Christina O'Regan, Amanda O'Regan and Noreen Daly.

Picture: Tony O'Connell



JUNE 2014

Jackman leads Waterford's charge to victory over

Waterford
Cork

4-13
2-8

A DISAPPOINTING performance from Cork saw them at the receiving end of an eleven-point defeat in WIT on Saturday in Round 2 of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship. Cork can have no excuses for their performance as it was well below

par and they simply never got to the required level as a focused Waterford totally dominated the second half of a game where they were had been lucky to lead 2-7 to 1-7 at the break. The opening quarter was close as the sides exchanged points and Cork took the lead with a Kaitlin Hickey point before Colette Desmond's long-range effort ended in the net to give Cork a four-point

CAMOGIE
By Mary Newman

advantage. Cork failed to build on their advantage and with Waterford coming at them and drawing frees Trisha Jackman had the sides on level converting a long-range effort before drilling a 20-metre free to the net. Twice the sides swapped points and with

both well in the game there was little between them. Waterford took the lead for the first time in the contest when Karen Kelly won possession and was allowed huge room to go unchallenged from midfield to the edge of the square before drilling the ball to the net to give her side a one-goal interval lead. From the start of the second half Waterford showed their strength

an O'Regan-inspired Cork outfit in championship

and two goals inside the opening five minutes had Cork reeling. Nicola Morrissey flicking a high ball to the net before Lorraine Bray slotted home. Struggling in all sectors Cork were all over the place, Sara Hayes was superb as she battled hard to get Cork back into contention but she failed to lift the spirits of her side who failed to break Waterford's hold on the game.

The half was 18 minutes old before Jennifer Hosford gave Cork a glimmer of hope when her lobbing shot looked to have just got a deflection as it found the net. Cork pressed but squanders a few scoring chances before Colette Desmond pointed but Waterford finished strong Niamh Rockett and Trisha Jackman adding three points to their tally to ensure the points were secured for Waterford.

With games to come against Meath and Wexford Cork will be hoping to get their campaign back on track but it will take a much improved performance to do so.

Scorers for Waterford: P Jackman 1-6 (1-3 f), L Bray, K Kelly 1-2 each, N Morrissey 1-1, N Rockett 0-2.
Cork: A O'Regan 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), C Desmond 1-1, J Hosford 1-0, K Hickey 0-2, R O'Shea 0-1.
WATERFORD: B Kavanagh, S Prendergast, P Cunningham, C Whyte, M Murphy, F Morrissey, S Kiernan; C Maher, S Curran; L Bray, P

Jackman, S Cummins; K Kelly, N Rockett, N Morrissey.

Subs: Z O'Donoghue for N Morrissey (45), R Geoghegan for K Kelly (56), E Hannon for F Morrissey (58), V O'Brien for N Rockett (59), I Heffernan for C Maher (59).

CORK: J Kavanagh; H O'Regan, L O'Sullivan, N O'Keeffe; S Buckley, S Hayes, C Foley; J Crowley, C Desmond; J Hosford, K Hickey, C Sugrue; K O'Keeffe, A O'Regan, R O'Shea.

Subs: S O'Neill for J Crowley (27), C Motherway for H O'Regan (30), M Cahalane for C Sugrue (inj., 31), J Hennigan for R O'Shea (50), C O'Neill for K O'Keeffe (55).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

BEST OF LUCK NEXT TIME: Clare's Orlaith Duggan consoles Offaly's Siobhan Flannery after the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Championship clash at St. Brendan's Park, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Picture: Inpho/James Crombie



Clare shot garners huge respect

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

A photograph from a weekend camogie clash has become an internet sensation. Inpho's James Crombie captured Orlaith Duggan consoling a crestfallen Siobhán Flannery after Clare defeated Offaly in a thrilling All-Ireland senior championship clash on Saturday. The photo agency posted the image on their Twitter feed, using the caption 'Respect', and a snowball effect ensued, as it was soon being shared and viewed on Facebook too.

Before long, it was sparking a huge reaction on Clare FM and by Sunday evening had already been viewed by 120,000 people. That number continues to grow, and Duggan is a bit bemused by the fuss.

"It's crazy, isn't it?" laughs the 20-year-old speech and language therapy student at NUIG.

"It's a nice shot, credit to the photographer. Myself, I can't really be taking much credit. It's a natural reaction for everyone after a game, to shake hands or whatever."

Duggan, who hails from the Clooney Quin club, had a simple but very generous message for Flannery.

"Funnily enough, I do remember what I said. I just said to her that Offaly were still in it. It was a tough game and both teams left it all on the pitch."

"We were delighted but they were devastated then, after such a thrilling match. We all know what it feels like to lose tough, close games so it was a natural thing to do."

Anna Geary - The Rose of Tralee

Cork's camogie captain Anna Geary will represent her county in a different way at The Rose of Tralee festival.

Anna, who has won numerous GAA titles - including three All-Irelands and two All-Stars - will now represent Cork off the pitch and on the stage.

Anna entered the race to become the Cork Rose because she wanted represent her community in this uniquely Irish competition.

"The Rose of Tralee is part and parcel of being Irish for over 50 years so I resonate well with it because it is about being proud about where you come from and representing that place on stage. So, when I was approached to do it, I realised that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I said if I was to be picked I would be honoured to represent Cork."

According to Anna: "The Rose of Tralee is different from other competitions, in that it is about the whole person; your intellect and your personality is tested on stage as you are speaking with the MC. It gave me many opportunities for self-reflection - with individual interviews, tours and events throughout the course of the competition - and I have learned a lot about myself along the way."

The competition has also allowed Anna to form new and strong relationships with many different people.

"It was an amazing experience. I got to meet amazing people who I now call friends. In life, that is what ultimately creates your memories and not just the Roses, but the guys who were involved in the escorts, the committee and the past Roses were very helpful."

"They were there for me 100 per cent, supporting and encouraging you, which is truly admirable and shows a lot about people's character. That's why I would consider those girls to be friends because they were there, every step of the way and they still are and I am really looking forward to representing those girls in Tralee."

According to Anna, the real challenge when contending for the Cork Rose is time: "It is about balancing your time and I am very fortunate in that I am working full-time and I am also currently Cork camogie captain, which lends itself to a hectic schedule."



PROFILE

Location
Milford

Best thing about Cork
The people

Worst thing about Cork
Traffic jams

"I sometimes have to rush from one thing to another. So, for me, the real challenge was to making time but when you experience what I have experienced you realise it has all been worth it."

There is much to do and prepare for before Anna goes to Tralee.

"There are a number of events I will be involved in over the next few weeks,

where I will be guest of honour. I also must have 26 outfits in my suitcase ready and packed up for Tralee. So, both the events and looking for outfits will need quite a bit of time and there will be a lot of travelling on my agenda for the next few weeks."

Anna feels privileged that she has been chosen to be Cork's representative

in the Rose of Tralee.

"I was and I still am still shocked I won. I have to pinch myself every now and again. For a long time I wanted to get involved with the Rose of Tralee and now feel very privileged to be the Cork Rose. I know that people often over-use that phrase a lot but privileged best describes how I feel on being chosen."

Rebels need to get a top performance

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance
Senior Championship
Group One, Round 2

Cork v Wexford,
Wexford Park 3.15pm.

TOMORROW'S second round group championship tie between Cork and Wexford is possibly the clash of the group one series and a tight, exciting, competitive game is expected.

The last time Cork and Wexford met in championship was the All-Ireland final of 2012. There was a lot of unrest in the Wexford camp last year. Mid-June, Martin Lynch's tenure as senior camogie manager ended following a meeting with players, the executive of Wexford's board and the management team.

Former manager JJ Doyle agreed to step back in and manage the team for their upcoming championship. It was always going to be difficult for anyone replacing JJ; such was the iconic status he enjoyed amongst the players, bringing four titles in six seasons to the county plus an Intermediate title. Helena Jacob, sister of Ursula manages the side for 2014.

Ten of the Wexford side that lined out last week against Galway (winning by four points) were on the All Ireland starting fifteen of 2012 with Fiona Kavanagh coming on as a second half sub in that final. The ten are Mag's D'arcy, Karen Atkinson, Noleen Lambert, Mary Leacy, Deirdre Codd, Kate Kelly, Josie Dwyer, Fiona Rochford, Katrina Parrock and Ursula Jacob.

Retired from that team are two key players in defence - Clare O'Connor - who I hugely admired as an attacking corner back and Catherine O'Loughlin - a tower inside at full back. No question but they are very difficult players to replace. Darcy and Atkinson remain in the same positions. Noleen Lambert and Deirdre Codd were right and left half back respectively and are now both in the full back line. Wexford's defence at the time were superb. They may have lost a little pace hence their new positioning.

Cork need to run at this defence. Katrina Mackey in particular should prove a handful. Kate Kelly played at midfield in 2012. She has lost a bit of pace and isn't as influential as she once was. However I wouldn't rule out a good performance coming from her still. She is capable of picking off some lovely points from distance at right half forward and when on her game, is on her game. Fiona Rochford was never a star performer, living in the shadows of a star studded forward line, but she works hard and every now and again will pop up for a point. While not a huge individual threat every team has a player like her and their work rate sometimes goes unnoticed. Katrina Parrock was also a star of the 2012 final - Wexford's full forward line that day blitzed Cork. We allowed our half back line to get completely drawn out and we were destroyed for pace inside. Wexford had their homework done and knew Cork's defence didn't have great pace. Ursula Jacob is what makes Wexford click. She is without question the leader and is the primary target for almost everything they do. I credit Ursula and her mental resolve that she carries this burden so well and almost always delivers, with no dirty stroke or fuss. Jacob's perceived lack of pace is deceptive. She has pace and is physically very strong. Cork need someone pacy to get out in front. Cutting off the supply to Jacob is equally important. This is Cork's first real test and come 4.30pm on Saturday afternoon we will know how near or far away they are from honours. Wexford are a team to watch out for this season. They are beatable. The result either way won't matter a huge deal tomorrow in terms of emerging from the group. But the performance is crucial. Cork need a big game tomorrow, if for no one else but for themselves.

CORK TEAM: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Treacy; E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, P Mackey; A Thompson, G O'Connor; J Casey, D Cronin, B Corkery; H Looney, O Cotter, K Mackey.

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

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July 2014

A VERY TOUGH TASK

Camogie side up against Rebelettes

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

CONFIDENCE IS sky high in the Wexford camp after a last-gasp victory over Galway (2-12 to 1-11) in the Liberty Insurance Senior camogie championship last week. However, laurels aren't for resting on and the Slaneysiders will need to be even better to see off Cork in Wexford Park on Saturday (3.15).

The Leesiders had a win too in week one, a facile success over a Dublin team which remains woefully inadequate at this level. Their 4-24 to 0-5 victory was nothing more than what was expected and the lack of a competitive game can only be an advantage for Wexford.

Jennifer O'Leary was tormentor-in-chief when the Rebelettes visited Hollymount in the league and took the two points home, and she was on fire again against the Metropolitans with a score of 2-9. With Katrina Mackey and Orla Cotter also racking up scores, Cork will be ready for the hosts' challenge.

Wexford were good in patches against Galway. While their execution wasn't always top-notch, they were ready for the fight and played with the intensity of a team with something to prove. The starting 15 may be trusted again versus Cork.

Una Leacy has stepped up her rehabilitation from a knee operation but is still some time off returning. No major injuries were picked up in club duty during the week which means manager Helena Jacob has a large squad of players ready to play.

In defence, Ciara Storey continues to stake her place for a starting spot. The full-back has impressed for the club and is ready if needed. However, it's seems unlikely that Jacob would take the chance and perform a complete reshuffle in defence to accommodate the Oulart-The Ballagh clubwoman, despite her form.

After the midfield carried a lot of the burden against Galway, the half-forward line need to step up against Cork and chip in. Certain experienced players also need to show more in the forwards or risk losing their place as the championship heats up.

Jacob has a viable option in the forwards with the return of Lisa Bolger who potentially adds a different element to the front six. The St. Martin's player will hope to get minutes under her belt against Cork and may well be one to break into the starting 15 later in the season.

If Wexford win the formula is simple, a victory over Dublin in two weeks' time and a semi-final place is theirs. A loss to Cork and everything turns messy - both sides will harbour hopes of topping the group, while Galway will also be back in contention for the automatic last four spot. The two that miss out face the prospect of quarter-finals.

This is a big match for both sides but Wexford will see it as an opportunity to put down a marker and to make up for a scrappy league loss. The carrot of a semi-final place being all-but secure will be too much for the purple and gold to let slip and they should take victory in a hard-fought tussle.



Deirdre Codd will feature in the Wexford defence on Saturday.

July
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McCarthy's big scoring sees Rebels stretch away

CAMOGIE

Cork 3-15
Dublin 1-6

DESPITE what the scoreline suggests this was a hard-fought competitive encounter in Castle Road yesterday writes MARY NEWMAN.

The result was in the melting pot up to the closing minutes until Cork went into second gear and finally killed the challenged posed by a Dublin side, who caused them plenty of bother in this round two All-Ireland U16A championship clash.

Cork were hit early by the intensity of the Dubs challenge as the visitors raced into a five-point lead inside three minutes, points from Niamh Griffin and Claire Murray giving them the lead before Ciara Glynn finished to the net.

Cork got back into the contest as they took the game to their opponents and with Keeva McCarthy pointing four placed balls in a row, the gap was down to a point inside 20 minutes.

Three minutes into injury-time Aoibhinn Kidney set up McCarthy for the levelling score and adding another from play so Cork led 0-6 to 1-2 at the break.

Despite playing with the aid of the stiff breeze in the second half, Cork found it hard to extend their advantage - twice the sides swapped points, Michaela Hyde and McCarthy on target and it was level ten minutes in as the Dubs battled for every ball with huge intensity.

Two Keeva McCarthy points edged Cork ahead but Grace O'Shea replied with one as the Dubs dug deep.

With nine minutes remaining, Cork upped the tempo and finally shook off the strong Dubs challenge opened up a four-point lead, McCarthy and Sinead Mills finding the range.

Inside a minute Cork were out of sight Laura Wills and McCarthy grabbing vital goals that killed the visitors. McCarthy finished up with a tally of 2-13 as she grabbed her second goal to the sound of the full-time whistle to see the points safely secured for Cork, who now travel to Galway next weekend for round three.

Scorers for Cork: K McCarthy 2-13 (0-4 45, 0-3 11), L Wills 1-0, M Hyde, S Mills 0-1, Dublin: C Glynn 1-0, N Skehan 0-3 (0-2, 45 0-1 1), A Griffin N O'Shea C Murray 0-1 each.

CORK: M Hennigan; R Killen, N O'Leary, S O'Leary, K O'Connor, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; N O'Leary, E McAndrew, S Mills, A Kidney, M Hyde, R Harty, K McCarthy, L'Neill.

Subs: L Homan for R Harty (37), L Kelly for K O'Connor (inj 37), L Wills for M Hyde (50).

DUBLIN: N Burnett; E O'Flynn, S Quinn, S Murphy, M Lewis, C Griffin, R Mc Loughlin; A Griffin, E Mc Govern, N Skehan, J Buckley, E O'Leary, G O'Shea, C Murray, C Glynn.

Subs: O Murphy for J Buckley (h/t), J Fay for E O'Leary (51).

Derry 4-5
Cork 2-5

DESPITE battling hard the Cork U16 B side failed to overcome the challenge posed by Derry in their round two clash in Ashbourne yesterday.

Derry led 3-1 to 1-2 at the interval and they added to their tally to run out winners despite good work from Cork goalscorers Courtney Horgan and Lorna Hickey, while Emma Buckley, Ciara Crowley and Sarah Costello also contributed to the Cork tally.

€8k for garda who 'heard ankle snap' during arrest

by Ray Managh

A young garda whose ankle ligaments were torn in a vicious street assault, turned out for her county only days later in an All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park, a judge has heard.

"I got through the whole match on pain killers, anti-inflammatories, and adrenalin, but I felt my absence might affect the team's performance," former Tipperary centre back Ciara Gaynor told the High Court.

She told Ms Justice Mary Irvine that the whole of the Tipperary team had not performed as well as they were capable of in the 2002 all-Ireland and had lost to Cork.

Barrister Ciara Daly told a Garda compensation hearing in the High Court that Garda Gaynor had been on patrol duty in

Sundrive Rd, Dublin, where she was stationed in 2002, and had asked a group of youths to disperse and move on.

Garda Gaynor, a native of Nenagh, now stationed at Castleconnell, Co Limerick, said that as she walked away she heard a youth swear at her.

"I returned to arrest him for a public order offence and he just went crazy," she told her counsel.

"As I tried to handcuff him he struggled and kicked out. I heard my right ankle snap."

Judge Irvine heard that the incident had taken place on August 23, 2002, and Garda Gaynor had a date with destiny at Croke Park only 23 days later.

"That day [August 23, 2002] I went home and iced my ankle, strapped it up and went to bed," she said. "It was badly swollen and next day I had it

X-rayed at Naas Hospital but there was no bone fracture. I was prescribed painkillers and anti-inflammatories and given crutches for weight-bearing purposes."

Garda Gaynor said she maintained camogie training in Tipperary three times a week leading up to the all-Ireland and had managed on medication and heavy strapping.

Ten days after the incident she had returned to duty and less than a fortnight after that was in the colours of Tipperary at Croke Park.

Garda Gaynor sued the finance minister, who pays the Garda compensation bill, after the State had accepted there had been malice involved in the assault.

Judge Irvine said Garda Gaynor, although receiving treatment from the team physiotherapist, had



Ciara Gaynor: All-Ireland camogie finalist.

not specifically sought medical treatment. She awarded the garda €8,000 compensation. The judge also awarded her special damages of €1,050 which included €500 in respect of bandages she had used to strap up her ankle to carry on her duties as a garda and camogie training and matchplay.

Garda Gaynor said she had retired from club and county camogie in 2005, but had returned to club camogie in 2007. Her injury had cleared up completely after two years.

Denise Cronin, younger sister of Cork senior hurling captain Pa, will line out with her team today against 2012 All-Ireland camogie champions Wexford.
Picture: SPORTSFILE



Wexford will put it up to the Rebels

THERE are four group All-Ireland championship games taking place this weekend.

Without question, the pick is Cork against Wexford in Wexford today.

Offaly and Derry could be a close affair in Tullamore if Elaine Dermody is curtailed, but one would expect Offaly to advance.

Galway would be expected to easily overcome Dublin in Athenry and there should be no shock (yet, there could be) in the Ragg as Tipperary host Kilkenny.

The Ragg is the only pitch where Tipperary are likely to cause an upset.

They are a million miles from winning the All-Ireland, but are capable of a spirited performance in a tight, often overgrown, pitch.

Last weekend Clare won their second championship outing when just holding off Offaly by 1-10 to 1-8 in a tight battle in Birr.

One would have expected Clare to win by a greater margin, but Offaly can be dogged.

I just think that Clare don't have the flair up front to fully challenge for honours.

There was nothing between the sides early on as Siobhán Flannery (twice) and Tina Hannon replied to scores from Niki Kaiser, Claire



McMahon and Deirdre Murphy. McMahon edged Clare ahead once more.

They opened some daylight when Fiona Lafferty found the net.

Offaly had plenty of scoring chances, but shot 11 wides in that first half, although much of the credit for that should go to an excellent Clare full-back line in which Máire McGrath gave a player-of-the-match performance.

It was 1-7 to 0-4 to the victors at half time, but Offaly were better in the second half, keeping Clare to just three points.

They had two penalties and a 21-yard free in the final quarter as they threw everything at Colm Honan's side.

Elaine Dermody (twice) and Siobhán Flannery had their shots saved (the penalties weren't very well struck it must be said) though Dermody did register a point from the rebound.

Flannery finished to the net from

close range after Dermody's effort from the 21-yard free was blocked by McGrath. But time ran out on Offaly.

It just goes to show how much Tipperary have regressed in recent years at senior level when the lost to Derry 2-12 to 1-9 in Swatragh.

They are making strides at under age, but it looks like it'll be a long time before Tipperary are the powerhouse they once were in camogie.

They had more than enough chances to win the game, but struggled to convert them to scores.

That meant that despite a good start, that included points from Cáit Devane and Sarah Fryday, they were rocked back on their heels by a deflected goal from Gráinne McGoldrick, who finished with 1-3.

Karen Kieft was excellent for Derry in the second half and brought her tally to five points.

Amy Kennedy scored an excellent goal for Tipp, but when Gráinne McNicholl found the net at the other end it was enough for Derry to cement a 2-12 to 1-9 win.

All eyes will be on Wexford today. Wexford will be as buoyed up for this clash as Cork will be.

In a recent interview Ursula Jacob said "I think we learned quite a bit from last year's All-Ireland semi-final (loss) and the lessons

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork	1	1	0	0	36	5	2
Wexford	1	1	0	0	18	14	2
Galway	1	0	0	1	14	18	0
Dublin	1	0	0	1	5	36	0

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clare	2	2	0	0	33	23	4
Kilkenny	1	1	0	0	31	6	2
Derry	2	1	0	1	30	32	2
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	12	18	0
Offaly	2	0	0	2	19	44	0

have stood to us this season.

"Also, the loss gave us a slightly longer break than we had been used to over the previous three years and that did not do us any harm as we were able to get a proper rest from playing.

"It was fantastic to get the win over Galway at the start of the group as it gave us a great platform, which hopefully we can build on over the coming weeks as the championship goes on.

"But really we are not looking past the Cork game. They beat us in this year's league and have never been easy opponents for us."

That says it all really.

Cork know what they face. It promises to be a cracker.

Wexford catch out Cork early on

By Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Wexford look like they're a team on a mission this year and they hit Cork with a sensational first-half blitz to inch closer to a place in the semi-final of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship semi-final.

Helena Jacob's side beat champions Galway in their opening tie and proved their mettle once more at Wexford Park although they had to withstand a strong second half fightback.

The hosts came flying out of the traps and were leading by

two points when Siona Nolan picked out Katrina Parrock with a superb long ball and she goaled from close range.

Kate Kelly and Parrock combined in the 20th minute to set up another goal for Brid Gordon and Wexford were leading by 2-10 to 0-4 at half time.

Cork were a completely different outfit after the resumption and a string of points from Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter (two) and Joanne Casey, plus a Katrina Mackey goal reduced the margin to five.

Wexford steadied the ship and with Ursula Jacob bringing her tally to 10 points, they won by 2-14 to 1-11.

Offaly got their first win of the campaign, edging out Derry in a humdinger by 1-17 to 2-11.

Playing against the wind in the first half, the hosts were quickly out of the blocks and built a 1-9 to 0-3 lead by the 25th minute. Tina Hannon was in terrific form scoring five points in the opening period - seven in total - while also setting up the goal for Arlene Watkins.

There was little between the sides in the second half with Grainne McGoldrick, who scored nine points, keeping Derry in touch.

Entering the last ten minutes, Offaly made the decisive break with points

from Elaine Dermody, Watkins and Hannon.

Kilkenny beat Tipperary 2-21 to 0-7. Denise Gaule, Katie Power and Aisling Dunphy were amongst the scorers as they led by 0-12 to 0-5 at half time, with Cáit Devane and Alice Fogarty on the mark for Tipp.

It was one-way traffic in the second half though as Michelle Quilty and Shelly Farrell hit goals and Gaule brought her own tally to seven points, while Tipperary only managed a paltry two points in that period.

Champions Galway got their campaign back on track with a comfortable win over Dublin by 3-21 to 1-5.



Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan keeps her eye on the ball as Wexford's Brid Gordon moves in to challenge during Saturday's All Ireland Camogie Championship Group One clash at Wexford Park.
Picture: Inph



The Douglas side that won their Cork Division 2 Féile, represented Cork at the Recent Féile Na nGael competition in Derry.

Picture: Supplie

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

NO TIME for rest or reflections for the Cork U16A and B sides, who continue their All-Ireland championship campaigns tomorrow.

The A side have another home game when they entertain Dublin in Castle Road, while the B side make the journey to Ashbourne for a meeting with Derry.

The U16A team were simply superb last weekend as they confidently dealt with Kilkenny.

All over the field they were excellent.

The skill level was excellent, their work rate, 100 per cent, as the chased down every ball with huge intensity.

They blocked and hooked and chased their players into submission and in truth Kilkenny did not know what hit them.

It was evident that a lot of work has gone into this team since the disappointment of losing out to Tipperary in the Munster final.

From the throw in Cork never took their foot off the pedal.

On the sideline also their mentors kept them focused and made sure they never slacked off.

Their whole approach was a joy to watch.

Up front Keeva McCarthy, at full forward, was superb, notching up 3-7 of the Cork tally.

Sinead Mill's ground hurling was excellent and she never once let up as she kept the ball moving at every opportunity.

Michaela Hyde and Aoibhinne Kidney got on the score sheet with two fine effort each and substitute Lauren Homan chipped in with one.

As a unit this Cork attack and mid field are well tuned in, and their ability to find each other with superb unselfish distribution of the ball is a joy to watch.

Whilst the defence was not really tested they dealt efficiently with anything that was thrown at them.

Niamh O'Leary is confident around goal and it will take a good full forward to beat her.

Clare Sigerson at centre back was another who had an imposing presence from the throw in and those around her, were all to the fore.

Cork U16s ready for All Ireland ties

It's great to get a good start to their campaign, but now Cork must continue the trend and not let up as every game in this round-robin series is vital.

With games to come against strong Galway and Clare sides every result is vital.

On Sunday last Clare and Galway couldn't be separated and it ended all square in a high-scoring game.

These are battles Cork have to face but first let's look at Dublin.

They lost out to Offaly in the Leinster final in a cracking contest which went down to the wire.

Offaly edged it 2-8 to 1-10.

In the Leinster championship they had victories over Wexford and Kilkenny before losing to Offaly in the group stages.

This is their first outing in the All-Ireland championship as they had a bye last weekend.

Huge strides have been made in Dublin camogie as has been seen in the impressive displays turned in by the county minor side already this year.

The huge amount of work from grassroots upwards is beginning to show and the drive is on as they continue to build on this base and bring the players up the ranks to the counties adult teams.

Already the county is fielding three adult teams in senior, intermediate and junior grades and this is a positive step for them.

This season they have new manager.

David Pearson is in his first year with the side and he is joined by Brendan Skehan, Mary Gibney, Robbie Lewis and Niall Mullen.

It's a completely new Dublin panel to the side that lost out to Cork on a 7-2 to 0-11 in last season's championship, despite this they went on to contest the semi final losing out to eventual winners Tipperary.

Losing out to Offaly in this season's Leinster final was disappointing for them and they are out to make amends and get a good start to their All-Ireland campaign.

All of the players on their panel have come through the counties development squads and they will be hoping that players such as Sinead Murphy, Megan Lewis, Ellen McGovern, Jessica Fay and Grace O'Shea will lead the way for them.

The Cork U16B side will be hoping to put the disappointment of losing their opening round game to a strong Waterford side behind them as they head to Donoughmore Ashbourne for a meeting with Derry.

This is Derry's only U16 squad and they are a strong side who took the Ulster title as they overcame Antrim on a 3-6 to 1-9 score line.

They will be looking for big performances from players such as Shannon O'Kane, Therese Mellon, Aoife McNab, Shauna Doherty, Dara McGuckin, and Jackie Donnelly.

Cork will look to Chloe Collins, Sarah Costello and Nora O'Riordan to lead the way to what they hope

Cairde Ticket great value

THE camogie association have introduced a new and exciting ticketing package for all of the All-Ireland senior and intermediate championship games, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Called 'The Cairde Camogie Ticket' it is in the form of a season ticket/loyalty ticket and entitles the holder to admission to all the Liberty Insurance senior, intermediate and junior championship games. The ticket can be used for the All-Ireland semi finals and finals. The cost of the ticket is €40 and when one considers that the Cork senior and intermediate sides will play eight championship games before hopefully reaching the semi final and final stages, which could include another four games, the ticket is superb value for money. Tickets can be purchased in most Centra or SuperValu stores or by going on line to the GAA ticket sale website and save yourself some money.

will be the result that gets their campaign back on track.

FIXTURES SUNDAY JULY 5 U16 A All-Ireland Championship Round 2: Cork v Dublin Castle Road.

U16 B All-Ireland Championship Round 2: Cork v Derry Donoughmore Ashbourne 3.15pm.

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Championships begin to get off the ground

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Hanna Kelleher and Eva Costello, Inniscarra and Louise O'Sullivan & Shauna Cronin, Valley Rovers line out in the U8 Camogie blitz held in Ballynanly recently.



CHAMPIONSHIP season is upon us as this week signalled the beginning of the *Evening Echo* championships in all adult grades.

Right through to county finals each week we will keep you updated with fixtures, venues and results as they happen so keep an eye every Saturday on the camogie pages as each championship from senior to junior C unfolds.

Games already played in the junior A championship saw Na Piarsaigh record a victory over Kildorrery, while Douglas had a point to spare in a close all-city clash with Bishopstown in Ballinlough. Watergrasshill also had a point to spare over Sliabh Rua.

On Wednesday next, Youghal and St Vincent's meet at 8pm in Castle Road.

On Sunday, the Junior B championship gets underway and with this played on round-robin basis there are plenty of good clashes in store. St Catherine's host Ballinacollig at 7pm, while Glen Rovers meet Carrigaline in the Glen Field at 7pm, and Cloughduv play Inniscarra in Carrigadrohid at 7pm.

Already, the first round of the junior C championship has taken place. Ballinora had a round one victory over Blarney. Valley Rovers and Courcey Rovers shared the points in a game where the sides failed to be separated.

Castlelyons and Carrigtwohill battled it out with Castlelyons coming out on top in a high-scoring contest, while Millstreet held the upper hand in their clash with Ballyhea.

On Sunday it's on to round two where Blarney will be hoping to get the better of Valley Rovers, and Ballinora will be bidding for their second victory when they host Banteer on Monday.

Looking ahead, the intermediate championship gets underway on July 26 when Enniskeane take to the field for their first championship game in the grade follow-

ing their promotion, when they take on Sars. The following day is a busy one with Newcestown versus Tracton, Blackrock versus Brian Dillon's.

Wednesday night sees the first of the senior county championship games when Ballinhassig and Courcey Rovers meet in Brinny at 7.30pm.

Next into the arena will be Glen Rovers and Cloughduv on Friday night in Castle Road at 8pm. The

Glen girls make their return to the senior championship after a lapse of several years following their promotion this season.

The same evening in Blarney at 7.30pm All-Ireland Club champions Millford take on Douglas in what will be one of the clashes of the championship.

The following evening the last of the first round games sees Inniscarra meeting St Catherine's in Castle Road at 7.30pm.

Senior B championship games featuring Mallow against Fr O'Neill's and Aghabullogue versus Kilbrittain-Timoleague have to be rescheduled due to the Cork U16 A and U16 B teams' involvement in vital All-Ireland championship games the same weekend. Definite games scheduled are July 28 when Ballygarvan meet Valley Rovers, and Carrigaline clash with Eire Og on July 30.

Buckley Memorial to draw teams to Blarney

IT'S a very special day today for the Blarney Camogie Club as they honour the memory of one of their former players, the late Sarah Buckley who passed away in October 2009 after an illness that cut her young life short, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Sarah was the daughter of Ray and Margaret from Blarney and she was a huge camogie and GAA follower. She spent all of her time enjoying the game with her team-mates on the U14 team.

During her illness Sarah was a patient in the Crumlin hospital in Dublin and she was visited by then Cork senior camogie team led by captain Amanda O'Regan on the morning after the side won the All-Ireland final. Sadly, Sarah passed away just a month later despite a brave battle with her illness over an 18-period.

To honour her memory the club, in consultation with the Buckley family, organised a very successful U14 tournament just nine months after Sarah's untimely death and this has gone from strength to strength as it has become an annual event.

Down through the years the Blarney club have invited St Finbarr's, Ballinascahy and Glen Rovers to participate for the Sarah Buckley Memorial Cup and Shield and all of these clubs look forward every year to the day and deem it an honour to be chosen to help commemorate such a wonderful young camogie player.

All games are 20 minutes a-side and in the event of a draw five minutes a-side extra-time will be played. This year the club have two pitches in operation and proceedings will get underway at the 1pm in Blarney GAA pitch, where St Finbarr's and Ballinascahy meet and at the same time on Pitch Two, which is just across the road by the playground, the hosts meet Glen Rovers.

The losers of these games will meet at 2.15pm in the Plate final on the Blarney GAA pitch and at 3pm the winning teams will battle it out in the Cup final.

There will be a presentation of medals to the four participating teams and this will be followed by the presentation of the Plate and Cup to the winning captains.

The hard-working Blarney committee has laid on refreshments for all participants and with such a hectic schedule of games this will be welcomed by all participants. It promises to be a great day as the youngsters from Blarney, Glen Rovers, St Finbarr's and Ballinascahy join forces to pay tribute to the memory of a wonderful young camogie player and her family.

Counties encouraged to pick camogie's best

CELEBRATING camogie's 110-year anniversary, each county is being encouraged to select a Player of the Decade as a way of marking the association's special birthday.

The county players of the decade from each county will be recognised on All-Ireland final-day on September 14 in Croke Park. The chosen players will have played in the period 2005-2014 inclusive, because at the Centenary celebrations in

2004 players from earlier eras were recognised. The association has issued guidelines for choosing the players and the criteria for County Player of the Decade in that they must be role models both at club and county levels.

Also to be taken into consideration is their excellence at inter-county level and the longevity of their playing career. Dedication and commitment to county is another important feature that will be

needed.

To ensure that the nominated player from each county is honoured in Croke Park on All-Ireland final-day each county must name their County Player of the Decade to the Camogie Association no later than Monday, August 26.

With many great players having graced the playing fields for Cork there is sure to be a lot of interest in who the Cork player will be.

Wexford deliver



Wexford's Brid Gordon with Joanne O'Callaghan of Cork.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Cork 1-11
Wexford 2-14

CORK received a frightening first half awakening in Wexford Park on Saturday afternoon in their senior group championship tie against the home side.

This was the game which would inform Cork's management where their side were at in terms of All-Ireland potential and they got their answer.

It was September 2012 all over again as Wexford blitzed Cork for pace up front. But Cork's problems started further out the field with their half forward line losing significantly, with the exception of Breige Corkery, and their midfield also coming out second best.

With an incredibly strong wind at Wexford's backs they took only minutes to settle and led 1-4 to 0-1 after 11 minutes.

Katrina Parrock's goal was Parrock back to her brilliant best as she rounded Maria Walsh, who lost her footing, and rocketed the ball from the right corner past Aoife Murray.

Wexford's aerial fielding was simply outstanding, their movement and ability to find each other, textbook teamwork.

Cork did everything they could to try and stop the onslaught.

Pam Mackey moved to full-back, Laura Treacy to left half-back and Anna Geary replaced Maria Walsh, the three now marking Parrock, Kate Kelly and Ursula Jacob respectively.

Still the Wexford trio lauded it as most of Wexford's play headed down Kelly's and Jacob's wing. What did go opposite was also won by Jackie Quigley at left half-forward.

Poor start killed the Cork challenge

IT WAS obvious from the faces on all of Cork's mentors after their six-point defeat to Wexford that they were hugely disappointed with their side's performance, particularly the opening half, which left them facing a difficult task at half time.

But the positive side to Saturday's outcome is that they are now aware of what they face come the latter stages of this year's championship.

Manager Paudie Murray reflected on the afternoon and what's ahead for his side as they move forward; their next outing at home to Galway on July 19: 'I'm disappointed with the first half, especially the first 20 minutes.

"Conceding two goals the way we did was disappointing.

REACTION

By Linda Mellerick

"We were quite loose around the middle of the field and our half forward line and not putting enough pressure on their delivery into our full back line. Second half was certainly much better; we were unlucky for a couple of goals.

"Are Wexford six points a better team than us at the moment?

"I think they are. To me they're favourites to win the All-Ireland without a shadow of a doubt and we've got probably another four weeks really to see can we squeeze it up a small bit."

Jenny O'Leary coming back and

Julia White recovering further from her recent illness gives options?

"Well yeah we've Jenny and Julia to come back, we've Catriona Foley, Sarah Hayes and Anna Geary pushing hard for places; I think the important thing that we wanted from today was questions asked, which we got.

"It's up to us now to come up with the answers. I've always said we need 20 players going into a quarter final or semi-final so you know we're building towards that.

"We're definitely in a quarter-final and I don't think that's the end of world whatsoever.

"Galway won an All-Ireland last year going through that route so if we can learn from today it'll stand to us."

Wexford ladies destroy Rebels

WEXFORD look like a team on a mission this year, and they hit Cork with a sensational first half blitz.

But Helena Jacob's side had to withstand a strong second half fightback.

Wexford were leading by 2-10 to 0-4 at half time.

But Cork were a different outfit after the resumption, and reduced the margin to five.

Steady

Wexford were able to steady the ship though and with Ursula Jacob bringing her tally to 10 points, they won by 2-14 to 1-11.

Offaly got their first win of the campaign, edging out Derry in a humdinger by 1-17 to 2-11.

Offaly were quickly out of the blocks and built a 1-9 to 0-3 lead, but Derry rallied before the break with two goals in two minutes.

The second half was close, but entering the last ten min-

CAMOGIE NEWS

utes, Offaly made the decisive break for the win.

Champions Galway got back on track with a comfortable win over Dublin by 3-21 to 1-5. Miriam Twomey opened the scoring for Dublin after 31 seconds, but it was all Galway from there as they scored 1-12 without reply before the interval.

Kilkenny beat Tipperary 2-21 to 0-7. They led by 0-12 to 0-5 at half-time, and it was one-way traffic in the second half, with Tipp managing a paltry two points.

TUSSLE: Wexford's Mags Darcy and Josie Dwyer and Cork's Gemma O'Connor



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2014

JACOB POINTS THE WAY



WEXFORD'S Ursula Jacob is presented with the player of the match award by Annette Ni Dhathlaol, Head of Marketing Liberty Insurance after Wexford hit Cork with a sensational first half blitz to inch closer to a place in the semi-final of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship.

Helena Jacob's side beat champions Galway in their opening tie and proved their mettle once more at Wexford Park although they had to withstand a strong second half fightback from the Rebels.

The hosts came flying out of

the traps when Katrina Parrock scored a goal from close range. Kate Kelly and Parrock combined in the 20th minute to set up another goal for Brid Gordon and Wexford were leading by 2-10 to 0-4 at half time.

Cork were a completely different outfit after the resumption and a string of points from Ashling Thompson, Orla Cotter (two) and Joanne Casey, plus a Katrina Mackey goal reduced the margin to five.

Wexford were able to steady the ship though and with Ursula Jacob bringing her tally to 10 points, they won by 2-14 to 1-11.

a wake-up call



Wexford's goalkeeper Mags Darcy and Josie Dwyer with Gemma O'Connor of Cork.

Another blistering movement by Kelly and Parrock saw the latter's brilliant pass across goal doubled on to the net by Brid Gordan and when Jacob hit two points from play in quick succession Wexford led 2-8 to 0-2 and Cork were shell shocked.

Cork needed to limit any further damage to the break and with Gemma O'Connor dropping back for the remaining nine minutes, they held par; the half time score 2-10 to 0-4.

Cork's second-half performance gives them reason for hope. They too held Wexford to four points against the wind, scoring 1-7.

Wexford had capitalised more in front of goal when they had the

advantage. Cork could have possibly got another goal but Mags Darcy did gift them their goal on 39 minutes when she opted to take on Orla Cotter instead of driving the ball up the field when she had plenty of time to do so. Cotter dispossessed and offloaded to Katrina Mackey who finished to an empty net.

There are a couple of weak links in Wexford's armour: Siona Nolan at right half back and Fiona Kavanagh at centre forward are two. Kavanagh gets away with it such is Wexford's style of play, everything going to the wings.

Breige Corkery did expose Nolan but inside, Wexford's full back line, in particular Deirdre Codd in the

second period, were tremendous.

Without question Wexford have raised the bar again.

Cork looked tired at times but teams always look tired when they are playing a superior force and on Saturday Wexford were the superior force.

Cork have work to do, but unlike 2012 when Wexford played an average campaign and rocked an unsuspecting Cork in the final, this year there will be no surprises. Cork know what level they need to be at.

They lost by six points, not an insurmountable task by any means. Jennifer O'Leary and a fitter Julia White will come back into the starting fifteen for sure

and they have time to address matters.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-3, O Cotter 0-4 (0-3 ft), J Casey 0-2, A Thompson, G O'Connor 0-1 each.

Wexford: U Jacob 0-10 (0-6 ft), K Parrock 1-1, B Gordon 1-0, J Quigley 0-2, K Kelly 0-1.

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, L Treacy, E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, P Mackey, A Thompson, G O'Connor; J Casey, D Cronin, B Corkery; H Looney, O Cotter, K Mackey.

Subs: A Geary for M Walsh (19), J White for D Cronin (h/t), S Hayes for H Looney (51), C Foley for J O'Callaghan (58).

WEXFORD: M Darcy; D Codd, N Lambert, K Atkinson; S Nolan, M Leacy, S Sinnott; S Kehoe, J Dwyer; K Kelly, F Kavanagh, J Quigley; U Jacob, K Parrock, B Gordon.

Subs: S Redmond for S Nolan (45), L Bolger for S Kehoe (54), F Rochford for K Parrock (58), L O'Leary for S Sinnott (59).

Referee: Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

Cork need a win to keep title hopes alive

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship; Round 3
Cork v Meath, Castle Road, 2.30pm.

IT'S very much in the lap of the gods for both sides as they come into this Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship clash in Castle Road tomorrow, *writes MARY NEWMAN.*

For both it is simply a case of trying to get a result and hope that results in other game will go their way.

And hopefully force a play-off for a semi-final spot.

At this stage it seems unlikely that either Kilkenny or Waterford will slip up but Meath come to Cork with a game to play against Kilkenny and if they were to get a result on Saturday against Cork and then defeat Kilkenny they would be in with a chance.

Kilkenny are on full points having defeated Cork, Wexford and Waterford, Waterford are behind them with victories over Cork and Meath and both have a game in hand therefore unless Waterford lose to Meath and Cork win their games versus Meath and Wexford it looks impossible to see Cork forcing a play off.

Cork, having lost out to Kilkenny and Waterford, will be hoping to get a victory under their belts in what has turned out to be a difficult and disappointing championship campaign.

Hopes were high following on a wonderful National League where Cork defied all the odds to take the Division Two title. However, losing their first championship game to Kilkenny proved a disaster and was something they never recovered from. Failing to hold the lead against Kilkenny when they looked to have the game won was a huge blow and given the controversial circumstance where an injury-time free saw the visitors grab victory was a sickeningly cruel blow. Waterford were always going to be tough and so they proved as they simply held all the aces in game where Cork failed to produce anything like what they were capable of.

Meath ran Waterford close in a 1-9 to 1-7 game where sharpshooter Jane Dolan contributed all but one point of their tally.

The sides met in the National League in early March when Cork ran out 3-7 to 0-8 winners. This time out it's championship and with Meath chasing a result it will be tough.

Having lost Sara Hayes and Catriona Foley to the senior side last weekend, Cork will be forced into making changes but we can expect to see players such as captain Amanda O'Regan, Leanne O'Sullivan, Hazel O'Regan and Jessica Kavanagh in the starting 15 as Cork battle to get something out of this championship campaign.

Cork need new leaders



Wexford's Katriona Parrock gets away from Maria Walsh of Cork during last weekend's game.

CAMOGIE FIXTURES

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Liberty Insurance All Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Meath Castle Road 2.30pm.
Junior C Championship: St Fennan's v Killeagh Ballygiblin 7.30pm
Sunday July 13th

All Ireland Under16 A Championship: Cork v Galway Athenry 1.30

All-Ireland Under16 B Championship: Cork v Tipperary Castle Road 1.30p.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Junior C Championship: Ballinora v Blarney Ballinora 7.30pm; Millstreet v Ballyhea Millstreet 7.30pm.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Junior A Championship: Douglas v Bishopstown Ballinlough 7.30pm
Junior C Championship: Cobh v Buttevant Cobh 7.30pm.

CORK'S defeat last Saturday to Wexford in their All-Ireland group championship clash was deflating to say the least.

It wasn't so much the defeat. I said before the game that if Cork came out the wrong side of it, it wouldn't be the end of the world, but what was important was a good Cork performance.

We got neither the result, nor the performance.

That was what disappointed.

Cork's game plan went completely out the window after a disastrous 11-minute start which saw Wexford hit 1-4 to Cork's single point. Yes the wind was strong but we should have done better against it.

Wexford defended better than us when they were facing into it in the second-half. Once again our defence were exposed but it would be wrong to lay all the blame there as Cork were beaten all over the field, and that inevitably places huge pressure and focus on the defence.

The biggest concern for me was Cork's lack of leaders. In the past, Cork always had leaders; those who would take back control of a game that was falling from them and drive their side forward. Or at least try to do so.

I didn't hear or see any of that.

Great teams have leaders. I will acknowledge Brieghe Corkery doing her best in the opening half to make some headway, but she was the only one for me that did so.

In the second-half Cork did step it up a bit all over the pitch and worked harder but when one looks at the flair and confidence of Wexford's opening 30 minutes, we never reached those heights.

The players and management know this



themselves; I'm not pointing out anything new to any of them.

The question is, are we good enough? Certainly we have weaknesses in the team. Yet let's not lose all hope yet. High-performing teams do not necessarily have the best individual talent and ability available, which means that other variables such as motivation, responsibility, focus, communication and leadership are high on their agenda and of paramount importance.

This is what I believe Cork need to work on.

We've all heard that quote before. 'If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got'.

Management can only do so much. When the players cross the line the responsibility is theirs and they must realise as individuals and a group that they are letting themselves down in this regard over the past couple of years.

Despite the fact that this isn't an all-conquering team, they are better than what they are producing. They need to do whatever it takes to express themselves the way they are capable of.

Anything can happen yet. No All-Ireland was won or lost last Saturday. Wexford, while very impressive, can be

beaten. We need to find the right formula for stopping that plentiful supply getting into their forward line.

Their full back line of Deirdre Codd, Noleen Lambert and Karen Atkinson is very strong. We didn't utilise space or our speed last Saturday and Wexford always seem to win the tight battles. We need to speed up the play, spread them and run them.

From what I understand that was the game plan but it fell down, all too quickly. When that occurs it's very hard to stop but it does need some few on the pitch to step up and pull it back together.

Cork have another tough game next weekend, at home to Galway, and the importance of this has now risen significantly, from a psychological point of view.

The one aspect I do think management need to change is the four times a week schedule. I think it's too much, particularly when the sessions are so intense. Not only did the players look tired, which as I said in my report, often happens when a team is being well beaten, but they didn't look to have the appetite.

How can Wexford's hunger be greater than ours? They looked far fresher. Three times a week is enough in my view. The players too have to be sensible and rest on rest days, not take part in some other activity.

Elsewhere, Galway easily disposed of a weak Dublin threat; 3-21 to 1-05. Offaly had an exciting 1-17 to 2-11 victory over Derry while Kilkenny beat Tipp 2-21 to 0-7. No surprises with those results really.

In group two this week, Kilkenny travel to Cusack Park to face Clare, for a repeat of the league final and Tipperary host Offaly.

Push on to get fans behind team

THE Cork county board is putting on huge push to get as much support as possible to Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday next, July 19 (2.30pm) when the county senior team take on All-Ireland champions Galway in what is a crucial game for Cork **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

A lot of emphasis has been put on by the Camogie Association to get supporters to the Liberty Insurance Championship games.

The sale of a new ticket, which covers all championship games at all adult level, has proved a huge success as this ticket for €40 admits the holder to all games and will include entrance to the All-Ireland semi-finals and final.

These are still on sale online in any Centra or SuperValu store.

The promotion of Go Games at the intervals for the last two Cork U16 games in Castle Road and for the All-Ireland minor final, saw underage players display their skills, with Newtownshandrum, Charleville, Youghal, Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan and Blackrock all having time on the stage.

For Saturday next, four clubs who sport the red and white of Cork and maroon of Galway have been chosen to play at half-time, and it is the turn of Courcy Rovers, Bishopstown, Sliabh Rua and Blarney to show off their talent.

A huge call is going out to all clubs to get their girls to the game and to ensure Cork have huge support on the day.

Groups of underage players will be admitted free and they can be accompanied by two adults per 10 players.

The county board is also organising a raffle for clubs who bring groups to the game.

July 2014

U16s in hunt for semis

IT'S Round 3 of the All-Ireland U16A Championship and the third week in-a-row for both Cork teams to take the fields tomorrow to face Galway and Tipperary respectively in their bid for semi-finals spots in both the A and B All-Ireland championship competition.

Contrasting fortunes also as they A team continues to get the results with another victory last weekend over Dublin to make it two out of two. For the B side, Sunday's clash with Tipperary is a must-win encounter if aspirations of retaining the title won last season are to be fulfilled.

Both sides have put in huge effort in their campaigns and for the B side it has been a tough group as they are paired with first choice teams from Waterford, Derry and Antrim.

Having lost out to Waterford in the opening round last weekend's clash with Derry was always going to be tough but Cork showed fierce battling qualities and finished strong however it was thanks to a strong opening half that Derry finally edged it with two goals to spare.

Tomorrow Tipperary are visitors to Castle Road and this is their second string. Already they have lost out to Antrim and with games to come against Waterford and Derry they will be looking for a win to keep their aspirations alive. Mathematically it would be possible for Cork to force a play off were they defeat Tipperary and Antrim but it would take a lot of results going their way.

Already this season the sides have met with Cork recording an excellent 1-9 to 0-2 victory in the Munster Semi Final and it is such a pity that these two sides didn't meet earlier in this All-Ireland campaign as both being second teams in their respective counties a good start for either would have helped settle them for the bigger clashes that were to come.

Tomorrow is a must-win clash and

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

hopefully Cork will get it right and get results to go their way as a huge effort has gone in and they deserve to get a break.

All eyes will be on the Under 16 A side as they make the trip to Athenry in Galway for a meeting with the home side. Cork top the group with victories over Kilkenny and Dublin and with a game to go against Clare a win tomorrow would guarantee a semi final spot irrespective of the result in the last game. Without doubt Galway will pose a huge threat and it promises to be a cracking contest, they have just one game played where in a high scoring contest they finished level with Clare on a 3-10 to 2-13 score line.

They are a strong well balanced outfit under the guidance of Lorraine Larkin and she will be hoping her side can go one better this year after suffering defeats in the final of 2012 and 2013 at the hands of Dublin and Tipperary. The Galway team include eight of the 2013 defeated All-Ireland final teams Taragh Maloney captains the team with Aisling Downey, Sinéad Minihan and Mairead Burke also survivors from last season. New players into the panel this year included the promising Sarah Healy who was crowned the counties Feile Na Gael skills winner twice Siobhan McGrath and Sarah Spellman.

Last season the sides met at semi final stage with Galway advancing with two point to spare after a thrilling contest, this season Anthony Nagle, Frances Killeen and Ken Bulman are at the helm after successfully guiding the Under 16B side to the title and they have left no stones unturned in their preparations.

Last weekend despite the score line at the final whistle Dublin provided a stern test, having raced into a five point lead inside five

minutes of the throw in they took the game to Cork. To their credit cork showed huge maturity and never panicked as they worked away and eat into the lead before turning over a point ahead at the break. Through the second half Dublin pinned them in their own half as they battled to break Cork down but all credit they stood the test with superb displays from each and every one of the side. Tomorrow will be a similar game as Galway will come at them hard but Cork are a well balanced mature side and they won't be found

wanting. Keeva McCarthy is proving a hand full for defences, Michaela Hyde Sinead Mills and Laura Willis also round the range and kept the Dublin defence busy. Down through the years at under age level Cork and Galway clashes have always been thrillers and there is never a lot between the sides, both counties put huge emphasis on their under 16 teams and the work that goes in is huge. In recent years Galway have enjoyed success whilst cork are still hoping to make a break through and rekindle days of old

when the championship was dominated by them. In their two outings to date Cork have impressed, Galway like wise in their recent outing where they were disappointed to only record a draw after a good display against a very good Clare side. Cork need another good performance tomorrow and if the semi-final spot is secured, it's there for the taking, and having closely observed the manner in which this outfit goes about their business a cork victory will not come as a surprise but it will be hard earned.



All eyes on the ball at the recent U9 mini game between Ballygarvan and Blackrock in Castle Road. LEFT: The Blackrock U9 team who participated.



Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Ashling Thompson (Cork) and Mags D'Arcy, pictured with Patrick O'Brien of Liberty Insurance and Camogie President Aileen Lawlor, will be in action in All-Ireland semi-finals this weekend.

July
2014

Cats edge past the Banner

By Daragh Ó Conchúir
Senior camogie championship

Kilkenny repeated their league final defeat of Clare in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship at Cusack Park, but it was a much more competitive affair on this occasion.

The Noreiders had 15 points to spare at Semple Stadium last May but having struggled with the occasion of their first ever national decider at senior level, Clare were much more composed this time around.

Still, Kilkenny deserved their 1-13 to 0-12 win and had to show plenty of resolve after being reduced to 14 players with the dismissal of ace free-taker, Denise Gaule. The Cats led by 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time, and when Aisling Dunphy pounced for a goal straight after the resumption, it was looking good for last year's All-Ireland finalists.

They were nine points clear at one stage and still eight points ahead when Denise Gaule was sent off. That was the signal for Clare to up the momentum. Chloe Morey was unerring from placed balls — driving over from 65m and 70m — as Colm Honan's side clawed themselves back into proceedings.

It was up for grabs but Kilkenny's defence held out. The league champions are now closing in on a place in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In the weekend's other senior tie, Offaly recorded a second victory of the campaign by virtue of a 0-17 to 1-11 scoreline against Tipperary at The Ragg. This was their first win over their Premier County rivals in three games and it seems likely to have earned them a place in the All-Ireland quarter-finals, unless Derry pull off a shock win over Kilkenny.

The first half was even, and Offaly went in at the break leading 0-8 to 1-4. Tipp resumed with all guns blazing and led 1-7 to 0-9 seven minutes into the second half but Offaly's riposte was impressive. Elaine Dermody's sixth point made it 0-13 to 1-8 in the 44th minute and they held the upper hand from there.

In the intermediate championship, Cork defeated Meath by 2-12 to 0-10 in the Camogie Grounds, while Trish Jackman scored six points and Lorraine Bray plundered a goal as Waterford came out on top against Wexford, 1-13 to 0-4 at Fraher Field.

Limerick completing a clean sweep in Group 1 with a 3-23 to 0-9 win over Tipperary. That brings their score differential at the end of the four successes to plus 76 points, marking them favourites to go a step further than last year's final appearance.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland SCC Grp 2: Clare 0-12 Kilkenny 1-13; ICC Grp 2: Cork 2-12 Meath 0-10; Waterford 1-13 Wexford 0-4; U16ACC Grp 1: Wexford 2-10 Limerick 4-4; Grp 2: Dublin 2-13 Kilkenny 3-6; U16BCC Grp 2: Waterford 4-13 Derry 3-8; Cork 1-12 Tipperary 0-4; U16CCC Grp 2: Wicklow 1-2 Laois 7-14.

KILKENNY EARN BATTLING WIN OVER CLARE



BRAVE EFFORT: Dejected Clare players after losing to Kilkenny in their Camogie Championship clash at Cusack Park on Saturday

CATS EARN STRIPES

KILKENNY repeated their League final defeat of Clare in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship at Cusack Park.

However, it was a much more competitive affair on this occasion.

The Noreiders had 15 points to spare at Semple Stadium last May, but having struggled with the occasion of their first ever national decider at senior level, Clare were much more composed this time around.

Resolve

Still, Kilkenny were deserving 1-13 to 0-12 winners and had to show plenty of resolve after being reduced to 14 players with the dismissal of ace free-taker, Denise Gaule.

They led by 0-7 to 0-3 at half time and when Aisling Dunphy pounced for a goal straight after the resumption it was looking good for last year's All-Ireland finalists.

They were nine points clear

CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

at one stage and still eight points ahead when Gaule was sent off.

That was the signal for Clare to up the momentum. Chloe Morey was unerring from placed balls — driving over from 65m and 70m — as Colm Honan's side clawed themselves back into proceedings.

The result was right in doubt until the end but Kilkenny's defence held out as Clare sought the goal they needed to pull off a famous comeback and avoid their first defeat of the campaign.

It wasn't to be though, and the league champions are now closing in on a place in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In the weekend's other sen-

ior tie, Offaly recorded their second victory of the campaign by virtue of a 0-17 to 1-11 scoreline against Tipperary at The Ragg.

This was their first win over their Premier County rivals in three games and it seems likely to have earned them a place in the All-Ireland quarter-finals, unless Derry pull off a shock win over Kilkenny.

Leading

The first half was evenly contested and Offaly went in at the break leading narrowly by 0-8 to 1-4.

Tipp resumed with all guns blazing and led 1-7 to 0-9 seven minutes into the second half but Offaly's riposte was impressive.

Elaine Dermody's sixth

point made it 0-13 to 1-8 in the 44th minute and they always held the upper hand from there.

In the intermediate championship, Cork defeated Meath by 2-12 to 0-10 in the Camogie Grounds, while Trish Jackman scored six points and Lorraine Bray plundered a goal as Waterford came out on top against Wexford, 1-13 to 0-4 at Fraher Field.

Limerick made it another resounding victory, completing a clean sweep in Group 1 with a 3-23 to 0-9 win over Tipperary.

That brings their score differential at the end of the four successes to a remarkable plus 76 points, marking them out as clear favourites to go one step further than last year's final appearance.

O'Regan stars as Cork overcome Meath by eight

Cork
Meath

2-12
0-10

CORK were full value for their eight-point victory over Meath in this Liberty Insurance Intermediate All-Ireland Championship Round Three clash in Castle Road on Saturday.

But the pity is that the result proves irrelevant as Kilkenny and Waterford cannot be caught as they top the group irrespective of the results of the fourth-round games next weekend.

Cork played with huge

determination and it is a pity that they allowed the first game against Kilkenny slip away from them in additional-time a result that effectively sealed their fate in this championship. From the throw-in they took the game to Meath and with captain Amanda O'Regan unerring from frees they built up a 0-5 to 0-1 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Jane Dolan added to the Meath tally with two pointed frees but with Colette Desmond and Kaitlyn Hickey impressing at midfield Cork held the upper hand and a goal from Amanda O'Regan

CAMOGIE
By Mary Newman

three minutes from half-time saw them comfortable ahead 1-8 to 0-3 at the break. Cork continued to impress in the third quarter despite Jane Dolan getting an early Meath point and with Amanda O'Regan continuing to punish any misdemeanours with great accuracy Cork stretched their lead and with 10 minutes on the stop watch they led 1-12 to 0-7. Aoife Minogue having added to the Meath scoreline with two splendid points.

Meath battled hard and they upped their game and began to play with a bit more drive Jane Dolan and Sinead Hackett pointed to put six between the sides and as they pressed for more the Cork defence held firm under sustained pressure. Any hopes of a revival in additional-time were dashed when Sinead O'Neill finished to the net before a late Sinead Hackett point for a Meath side that needed a result to stay in contention for a semi-final spot brought the contest to its conclusion.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan 1-11 (0-8 f, 0-1 45), S O'Neill 1-0, A Barry 0-1.

Meath: J Dolan 0-6 (0-5 f), A Minogue, S Hackett 0-2 each.

Cork: J Kavanagh; L Weste, L O'Sullivan, C Motherway; H O'Regan, C O'Neill, R De Faoite; C Desmond, K Hickey; K O'Keefe, S O'Neill, N O'Brien; R O'Shea, A O'Regan, A Barry.

Subs: N Byrne for N O'Brien (h-t), M Cahalane for R O'Shea (40).

MEATH: E Mangan; L Maguire, C Coffey, F O'Neill; A Keogh, E Coffey, E Mc Gill; R Winters, S Maguire; K Hackett, J Dolan, A Minogue; C O'Brien, E Guy, F O'Brien.

Subs: K Troy for C O'Brien (38), S Hackett for F O'Brien (40), A Pagan for E Guy (45).

Referee: Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

Ulster camogs go on the All-Ireland trail

SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP TWO
KILKENNY V DERRY
Saturday, Clara, 2.30pm

THE CHALLENGE of trying to overcome a Kilkenny outfit with a 100 per cent record in this year's All-Ireland Senior Championship the daunting task ahead of the Derry camogs this weekend as they prepare to travel south.

The Oak Leaf side have one win under their belt this term, that 2-12 to 1-09 win over Tipperary gained at Swatragh in round two. That win though has been sandwiched between two defeats for Derry, having lost out by 3-11 to 1-09 to Clare in the opener, and last day out were on the receiving end of a 1-17 to 2-11 reversal at the hands of Offaly in Birr.

To put some perspective on this

weekend's game, that same Offaly team were hit for 5-16 by the Cats in the opening round of fixtures, and they went on a scoring spree once more as they hit 2-21 past Tipperary. It's an enormous task for

This weekend's other Group Two game sees Tipperary travel to Clare, and with the Banner expected to record a comfortable win, it means regardless of their result against Kilkenny, Derry should retain fourth spot in the table.

INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP ONE
TIPPERARY V ANTRIM
Saturday, The Ragg, 2.30pm

WITH Antrim having recorded two losses from their two outings so far, the Saffron representatives will be hoping for a change in fortunes when

they take to the field for their third National League outing this Saturday afternoon. Only this weekend's opponents Tipperary have had a worse run than Antrim, the Premier county having endured three losses from three outings.

Antrim turned in a pretty solid performance against Galway in the opening round, four points the margin of defeat.

The same could not really be said for their second outing of the campaign, 4-21 to 2-3 the final scoreline in their tie against Limerick, and the predominantly Loughgiel contingent will be hoping for a much better showing this time out.

With a game against Kildare also still ahead of them, this is Antrim's opportunity to get their Championship campaign underway, and it would have to be considered as a ma-

jor setback if they returned with anything other than two points in the bag.

PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
ARMAGH V LAOIS
Sunday, Athletic Grounds, 3.15pm

HAVING conceded their last game away to Westmeath last weekend, Armagh will be hoping to get things back on track this Sunday afternoon when Laois visit the Athletic Grounds. Their decision not to field last day out means that the Orchard girls are rooted to the foot of the table with no return from three attempts. Having lost out by seven points to third-placed Roscommon and by 14 points to league leaders Dublin prior to that failure to fulfil their fixture in Westmeath, it looks like it will continue to be an uphill struggle for Ar-

magh from now until the finish, however soon that may be.

PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
DUBLIN V DUBLIN
Sunday, Portaferry, 3.15pm

PRIDE of place at the top of the league table is the prize on offer for Down if they can manage to defeat current leaders Dublin on Sunday afternoon. The Mourne girls currently trail their Metropolitan counterparts by two points, but Down's vastly superior score difference means the Ulster side would leapfrog Dublin if they can get the win they desire in Portaferry. Having lost out to Laois last time out, Down will be hoping that was merely a blip on their charge to the semi-finals, and a win this Sunday would get them very much back on track.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance Group 1, Rd 3
Cork v Galway,
Páirc Uí Rinn, 2.30pm.

AS with their game against Wexford a fortnight ago, victory against Galway tomorrow in their third and final group championship round tie isn't a prerequisite to advancing to the knockout stages for Cork.

A win is still important for them. They felt low after their defeat to Wexford and need a lift. There is no greater cure than to give a good performance later.

Cork still have a few problems to iron out and the team isn't settled as of yet. That isn't due to a high standard of competition for places. It's more to do with the fact that

they are struggling in certain positions and are working various equations to try and rectify that.

Catriona Foley and Julia White are two players Cork badly need to step up to the mark. Should these two players do so it gives Cork far greater options.

Based on the game against Wexford, Gemma O'Connor will possibly be positioned at centre-back. There was a time I believed that Gemma's best position was mid-field, and it was, but at this point in her career I think she's best-placed at centre-back. That isn't a 'putting her out to pasture' move by any means. Cork need her there. Should she regain the form of two years ago in such a pivotal position her influence will be immeasurable. She'll lead from there.

Anna Geary, having lost her place for Cork's opening two rounds, came on against Wexford after 19 minutes. While Ursula Jacob grabbed four points from play, Anna did settle things a bit and it is expected that Cork's captain will start tomorrow.

Should she do so, she'll be anxious to prove a point in what I believe will be the full- or corner-back position.

Maria Walsh didn't have her best of days in the Cork jersey, substituted for Geary, and will want to atone for that. Should she line out at full-back.

Three years ago I felt Pamela Mackey could be a potential leader for Cork in defence in time, taking over the mantle from Mary O'Connor and Gemma O'Connor. It hasn't happened yet and for such a tenacious player with speed she needs to find the form that had her once earmarked as one of the game's best defenders.

Cork lost their shape during an opening 11-minute spell against Wexford. They got hit for 1-4 and another 1-4 by the 21st minute. Heads dropped.

Thinking about the ball that's gone won't do you any good. It's always about the next ball but you could see from the demeanour of some players that they were beating themselves up and giving too much head space to what had gone before.

They re-grouped a little with Gemma falling back as a sweeper and their performance in the second half was much better.

Little point in dwelling on the Wexford game except to take some positives from it and learn from

the mistakes.

It's all about tomorrow now. The next game, the next ball.

Cork will need more of a return up front. Jennifer O'Leary, recently married, is an absentee but she is the only one. Other than that Cork have a clean bill of health.

At home Cork should raise their game. Galway will come prepared and focused. They travel to Cork on Friday evening.

Galway's championship campaign got off to a poor start with Wexford inflicting a 2-12 to 1-11 defeat in Athenry in June. They were keen to lay down a championship marker on their home patch and were disappointed not to have done so.

Tony Ward is without the services of Therese Maher, who has retired. Lorraine Ryan captains the side while up front Brenda Hanney, Ailish O'Reilly and Clodagh McGrath are vital.

They got their campaign back on track against Dublin, as expected. Aislinn Connolly returned to the side and along with Niamh McGrath at centre-forward, they pose a strong threat.

It should be a lively, competitive hour.

Cork can finish in second place in the group

AS THE group stages draw to a close Wexford and Kilkenny respectively top their group.

There is little doubt that Wexford will finish top of the Group One table with their final game against Dublin today. Cork and Galway have both lost to Wexford and so their pairing today will determine who finishes second or third. Both sides advance to the quarter-finals against Clare and Offaly. Today's result will determine who plays whom.

In a repeat of their league final defeat of Clare, Kilkenny and Clare met at Cusack Park last weekend but it was a much more competitive affair on this occasion, with the black and amber winning 1-13 to 0-12.

Kilkenny had 15 points to spare at Semple Stadium last May, but having struggled with the occasion of their first ever national decider at senior level, Clare were much more composed this time around.

The report from the game stated: 'Kilkenny were deserving winners and had to show plenty of resolve after being reduced to 14 players with the dismissal of Denise Gaule for a straight red'.

They led by 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time and when Aisling Dunphy pounced for a goal straight after the resumption it was looking good for last year's All-Ireland finalists.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

They were nine points clear at one stage and still eight points ahead when Gaule was sent-off. That was the signal for Clare to up the momentum. Chloe Morey was unerring from placed balls, driving over from 65 and 70 metres out, as Colm Honan's side clawed themselves back into proceedings.

The result was right in doubt until the end but Kilkenny's defence held out as Clare sought the goal they needed to pull off a famous comeback and avoid their first defeat of the campaign.

I understand that overall the standard wasn't high and it was a poor game. This All-Ireland title is wide open with Wexford possibly the favourites at this point in time. I keep saying however that they are beatable.

In the weekend's other senior tie, Offaly recorded their second victory of the campaign by virtue of a 0-17 to 1-11 win over Tipperary at The Ragg. But it won't be enough to see them



Chloe Morey, seen here in for a clash of the ash with Denise Cronin of Cork, was unerring from placed balls in their loss to Kilkenny.

Section 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wexford	2	2	0	0	38	25	4
Cork	2	1	0	1	50	25	2
Galway	2	1	0	1	44	26	2
Dublin	2	0	0	2	13	66	0

Section 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilkenny	3	3	0	0	74	27	6
Clare	3	2	0	1	45	39	4
Offaly	4	2	0	2	56	75	4
Derry	3	1	0	2	47	52	2
Tipperary	3	0	0	3	33	62	0

through.

The group stages close today. Cork and Galway and Wexford and Dublin are in action in Group One. From Group Two Clare host Tipperary and Derry travel to Kilkenny. Clare and Kilkenny are expected to ad-

vance, as are Wexford. The only unknown is Cork-Galway.

Kilkenny's scoring average, both for and against, looks impressive but they are in the weaker group with an extra game so we won't get carried away with that. While Cork look the best of Group One in this regard, Wexford playing Dublin today will blow that out of the water with an expected significant points' difference at the end of play.

It's only stats but they have a role to play.

I'm looking forward to today's game against Galway. It's a big one for both sides.

Galway are taking it very seriously, as they should do. Even though they are sure of advancing they travelled to Cork last evening

and arranged a puck around today with a local club.

As All-Ireland champions and with just one victory against Dublin behind them it is hugely important for them that they win today.

Just as I think a victory is significant for Cork, ahead of the knockout stages a good performance and a confidence boost is just what is required.

I don't think Galway will win the title this year. I thought they were fortunate to do so last year. But they did and great credit due to them.

We'll see what happens today. I'm expecting Cork to put the Wexford game behind them and come out all guns blazing, anxious to atone for that and prove to themselves that they have what it takes.



July
2014

LEADING ROLE:
Galway's Niamh Buckley tries to break away from Cork's Rona Buckley in Saturday's All-Ireland Camogie championship Group 1, game in Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Inshu

McGrath nets on the double for classy Leesiders

U16 CAMOGIE

By Darren Kelly

Galway	5-11
Cork	0-8

GOALS win games and it was Galway who grabbed them in this All-Ireland U16A championship tie in Galway yesterday.

The visitors were hit with a three goal opening half Galway goal blitz Carrie Dolan, Siobhan McGrath and Mairead Burke the tormentors as the Cork defence struggled with the intensity of the home sides attack.

Galway led 3-4 to 0-6 at the interval points from Lauren Homan, Michaela Hyde, Isobel O'Regan, Sinead Mills and Keeva McCarthy ensuring Cork stayed in the hunt.

Galway extended their lead Siobhan McGrath finding the net and they added five points to Cork's one from Sinead Mills as they began to put the game out of Cork's reach. Keeva McCarthy had one back for Cork but a strong Galway finish saw Siobhan McGrath adding a point before substitute Lynsey struck for the home sides fifth goal.

Scorers for Galway: S McGrath 2-1, C Dolan 1-3, T Maloney 0-4 (0-2 f), M Burke, A Lynskey 1-0 each, E O'Donovan 0-2 (0-2 f), S Spellman 0-1.

Cork: K McCarthy 0-3 (0-3 f), S Mills 0-2, L Homan, M Hyde, I O'Regan 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Healy, S Brehony, R Black, E Gilmore, C Hanley, A Downey, S Ni Fhrighil, T Moloney, S Minahan, L Helebert, S Spellman, E O'Donovan, M Burke, C Dolan, S McGrath.

Subs: E Gaffney for A Downey (h-t), A Lynskey for S Spellman (42), S Cannon for E Gilmore (51), T McNally for L Helebert (57).

CORK: M Hennigan, R Killeen, N O'Leary, S O'Leary, K O'Connor, C Sigerson, I O'Regan, E McAndrew, N O'Leary, M Hyde, A Kidney, L Homan, S Mills, K McCarthy, L O'Neill.

Subs: L Willis for R Harty (h-t), L Kelly for N O'Leary (40), C Mulcahy for R Killeen (44), M Barry for M Hyde (48).

Rebels keep their qualification chances alive

U16 B CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Cork	1-12
Tipperary	0-4

CORK controlled this All-Ireland U16B clash in Castle Road yesterday as they kept their qualifications chances alive with a superb victory over Tipperary.

From the throw-in Cork applied pressure and with their defence dealing with anything Tipperary threw at them they settled quickly with points from Clara Crowley, Chloe Collins and Kate Kilcummins before Aoife O'Donnell pointed a Tipperary free.

Continuing to hold the upper hand Cork tacked on the points with Collins, Lorna Hickey and Clare Crowley on-target. With a minute to the break Chloe Collins struck for a goal after good work from Sarah Costello and with the impressive Sarah O'Sullivan pointing Cork led 1-7 To 0-1 at the short whistle. Cork continued to dominate the second half and Tipperary's task was made harder when they lost defender Caoimhe McGrath for a second yellow card offence.

Scorers for Cork: C Collins 1-3 (0-1f), S O'Sullivan 0-3, C Crowley 0-2, K Kilcummins, L Hickey (f), M Rohan, S Costello 0-1 each.

Tipperary: A O'Donnell 0-3 (fs), S Buckley 0-1.

CORK: MK Cullinane, S Keating, A Sheehan, A Hennessy, K Bohane, K McCarthy, G Hannon, R Keane, A Shannon, K Kilcummins, C Collins, S O'Sullivan, L Hickey, C Crowley, S Costello. **Subs:** G Collins for A Shannon (in 38), N Roche for S Keating (44), R McNamara for L Hickey (48), M Rohan for C Crowley (55), M O'Reilly for K Kilcummins (55).

TIPPERARY: K Jones, A Sheedy, E Ryan, M Kinnane, L Kelly, A Quigley, C McCarthy, C Ryan, U Quigley, R Foley, E Ryan, A O'Donnell, L Cuneen, C Linehan, C O'Connor. **Subs:** S Buckley for E Ryan (29), H Phelan for C Linehan (29), K Ardubuckle for L Cuneen (40), L Brislane for R Foley (42).

Referee: Michael Ward (Laois).



NO HOLDING BACK: Cork's Buckley and Kilkenny of Galway and (below) O'Connor and Geary embrace

JACOB TURNS ON STYLE TO DOWN DUBS

WEXFORD and Kilkenny secured their passage to the semi-finals of the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship after convincing wins over Dublin and Derry respectively.

Ursula Jacob was the star for Wexford in their 5-19 to 0-13 Group One win over Dublin in Parnell Park after she ended the game with 1-10, including six points from play.

Break

Jacob hit the net through a long-range free and Shelly Kehoe and Katie Kelly also scored first half goals as they moved into a 3-13 to 0-4 lead by the break.

Dublin improved after the break but by then Wexford were already looking comfortable winners.

Kelly netted her second goal midway through the second-half before Stacey Kehoe completed the rout with the fifth goal five minutes from the end.

Ali Twomey top scored for the disappointed Dubs for whom Mairi Moynihan also impressed.

Meanwhile, in Group Two, Kilkenny had little bother in seeing off the challenge of Derry in Clara in a 4-16 to 1-5 win.

Michelle Quilty and Katie Power shared the Kilkenny goals between them.

Kilkenny led 1-13 to 1-2 at half-time, Derry's goal coming from Aileen McCusker.

Back in Group One, Cork and Galway met in Páirc Uí Rinn in a match to decide the runners up in

Camogie round-up

the group and in the end, it was Cork who finished with an impressive 0-15 to 0-7 win.

Orla Cotter was the pick of the bunch with nine points, six from frees, while Katrina Mackey and Julia both contributed three points from play.

The teams were tied at 0-5 each at the break.

However, after the teams traded frees in the early stage of the second-half, Cork upped the tempo and pulled clear.

Aisling Thompson and Gemma O'Connor caught the eye alongside Cotter, as Cork rattled off nine points in a row to win it.

In Group Two, Clare clinched second spot thanks to a 0-19 to 0-9 win over Tipperary. Claire McMahon top scored with six points.

Rivals

All that means, that Kilkenny and Wexford move into the semi-finals while Clare will meet Galway and Cork play Offaly in the quarter-finals on August 9.

Meanwhile, Carlow and Limerick will meet in the Liberty Insurance Premier Junior 'A' final.

Carlow overturned a half-time deficit to beat Offaly 5-15 to 3-8 in Newbridge. In the other semi-final, Limerick edged out Munster rivals Kerry by 1-10 to 1-5.

Courceys seen as favourites to beat Ballinhassig in the championship

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TONIGHT,

Evening Echo Senior Championship, Ballinhassig v Courcey Rovers, Brinny, 7.30pm

BALLINHASSIG and Courcey Rovers are first into the ring as the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship race gets underway on Wednesday in Brinny.

Ballinhassig, in their second year in the grade, will be anxious to get a result and avoid going into the losers' round but they will face a stern test from a very strong Courcey Rovers side who in recent years have been threatening to make the big breakthrough.

They are a strong side with a nice mixture of youth and experience in their line-out, Sara Hayes has enjoyed a great year on the inter-county stage where she played a huge role as Cork captured the Division Two National League title while Christine O'Neill, Jacinta Crowley and Linda Collins also featured with Cork teams this season. They enjoyed a good senior league campaign where they made it to the semi-final and they have put in huge work under the guidance of former Na Píarsaigh senior hurler Mark Prendergast who came on board this season.

Ballinhassig, now in their third year in the senior grade, will be hoping to build on their good run last season when they reached the



Courcey Rovers' Sara Hayes.

quarter-final losing out by a point to Killeagh in a game that was a superb contest. This year, with Denis McCarthy at the helm they will be well-prepared for the challenge they face as they bid to establish themselves and go a few steps further. They made a decision not to participate in the senior league given that a lot of their panel are students who were studying away from home but they have prepared well for championship.

They, like Courceys, have a nice mixture of youth and experience. Goalkeeper Linda Griffin, her sister Cork senior player Eimear O'Sullivan, Deirdre Coomey and Catriona Collins are among the lifeblood of the club and they will give it their all to ensure victory is secured. They will be joined by captain Emma O'Donovan, Karen Coleman, Hailey Cullinane and Orla Murray in a bid to secure victory.

Courceys will go in as favourites but this won't be a worry to a Ballinhassig side that has plenty of determination.

Models and Cats book semi spots

WEXFORD and Kilkenny are through to the semi-finals of the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship following convincing respective wins over Dublin and Tipperary.

Ursula Jacob was the star for Wexford in their 5-19 to 0-13 Group 1 win over Dublin in Parnell Park after she ended the game with 1-10, including six points from play.

CAMOGIE

Shelly Kehoe and Katie Kelly also scored first-half goals as the Models moved into a 3-13 to 0-4 lead by half time.

Kelly netted her second goal midway through the second half before Stacey Kehoe completed the rout with the fifth goal five minutes from the end.

Meanwhile, in Group 2,

Kilkenny had little bother in seeing off the challenge of Derry in Clara in a 4-16 to 1-5 win.

Michelle Quilty and Katie Power evenly shared the Kilkenny goals between them.

The Cats led 1-13 to 1-2 at half time.

Back in Group 1, Cork and Galway met in Páirc Uí Rinn in a match to decide the runners-up in the group and in the end,

it was Cork who finished with a very creditable 0-15 to 0-7 win.

In Group 2, Clare clinched second spot thanks to a 0-19 to 0-9 win over Tipperary. Claire McMahon top scored with six points.

Kilkenny and Wexford move into the semi-finals while Clare will meet Galway and Cork play Offaly in the quarter-finals on August 9.



MARCH: Julia White.

Rebels find form ahead of quarters

Murray's mood lifts with win

MATCH REACTION

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

Cork 0-15
Galway 0-7

AN emphatic win for Cork on Saturday in their final group qualifier in Páirc Uí Rinn against All-Ireland champions Galway.

The only conclusion from this game was determining who came second or third in Group One and based on that, second would play Offaly and third would play Clare in a double-header quarter-final on August 9. But for both sides it was much more than that.

Heading into a quarter-final knockout having won just one game from three is not ideal and psychologically a victory was important.

A few personnel and positional switches worked well for Cork. Gemma O'Connor, in the running for the Liberty Insurance Player of the Match accolade which went to Orla Cotter, was excellent at centre-back, afforded an almost free sweeping role as Galway held a player outside. Anna Geary returned to the side with her possession and distribution very effective. Orla Cotter, operating at right half-forward but playing much further out than that, struck nine points, three from play, in a good afternoon for the St Catherine's player.

Cork had the majority of possession in the opening 30 minutes but Galway's defence had the measure of Cork's forward division, in particular Heather Cooney and Ann Marie Hayes. Cork were jittery at times and dropped ball that should have been theirs.

Cork led 0-4 to 0-2 23 minutes in but three points between the 28th and 32nd minute saw Galway edge in front.

They lost Laura Treacy to a hand injury on 27 minutes. Winning good ball, even if her distribution needs



Cork's Orla Cotter clears from Therese Manton of Galway during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship Group 1 clash at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

Picture: INPHO

work, her loss was felt during that period.

Orla Cotter pointed her third (second from play) to leave it level at the break — 0-5 apiece.

The second half was all Cork's. They won almost every ball between the two 45s with Aisling Thompson, Breige Corkery, Cotter and Gemma O'Connor carrying and taking on Galway.

With Cork running at their challengers, they broke down the tenacity of the Maroon's defence and picked off some lovely points, three from Julia White, who had by now come into her own. Katrina Mackey also causing problems. Serious questions about Galway's capability of winning back-to-back All-Ireland titles hang in the air.

While the win was great for Cork and sets them up nicely, there is still

a lot to work on. Cork never threatened for goal. On 33 minutes Orla Cotter had possession and pointed. Had she passed inside to the unmarked Denise Cronin, a goal was on for Cork.

They need to have the vision and killer instinct when a sniff of a goal is on. Susan Earner, Galway's keeper, had very little to do, apart from puck the ball out 15 times. At times, Cork waited for the ball instead of going to meet it thereby relinquishing possession that should have been theirs.

At the other end, despite having limited possession, Galway threatened for goal midway through the second quarter. Aislinn Connolly's strike was too laid back and the alertness of Aoife Murray thwarted the danger.

The positive is that Cork's per-

formance was much better than two weeks ago. The switches worked and they looked like a cohesive team with a game plan.

If they can increase their speed and intensity up a couple of notches and find that instinctive finish in front of goal, they have a chance of glory as we enter the critical stages.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-9 (0-6 f), K Mackey, J White 0-3 each.

Galway: N McGrath 0-3 (0-2 f), B Hanney 0-2, E Kilkenny, O McGrath 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, M Walsh, A Geary, P Mackey, G O'Connor, L Treacy, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, J Casey, B Corkery, J White, K Mackey, D Cronin.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for L Treacy (27 inj), S Hayes for A Thompson (60).

GALWAY: S Earner, T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Cahalane, A M Hayes, L Ryan, M Dunne, N Kilkenny, A Connolly, N McGrath, E Kilkenny, O McGrath, B Hanney, A O'Reilly.

Subs: N Coen for M Dunne (h-t), M Cooney for A O'Reilly (48), O Kilkenny for O McGrath (55).

Referee: Ger O'Dowd (Limerick).

Championship season gets into swing

teer on Monday.

The Intermediate championship gets under way on July 26 when En-

niskane play their first championship game against Sars. The following day is a busy one with

Newcestown versus Tracton, Blackrock versus Brian Dillon's.

Tomorrow night sees the first of

County camogie player of the decade to be honoured

To celebrate camogie's one 110 years each county selected a county Player of the Decade as a way of marking the association's special birthday.

The county players of the decade from each county will be recognised on All Ireland Final day on September 14 in Croke Park. The chosen players will have played in the period

2005-2014 inclusive as for the Centenary celebrations in 2004 players from earlier eras were recognised.

The criteria for county player of the decade is that they must be role models at club and county levels, and their excellence at county level and the longevity of their playing career. Dedication and commitment to county is an-

other important feature that will be needed. To ensure that the nominated players are honoured in Croke Park on All Ireland Final day each county must name their county player of the decade to the Camogie Association no later than Monday, August 26.

There is sure to be a lot of interest in who the Cork player will be.

the Senior County Championship games when Ballinhassig and Courcey Rovers meet in Brinney at 7.30pm. Next into the arena will be Glen Rovers and Cloughduv when on Friday night in Castle Road at 8pm the Glen girls make their return to the Senior championship after a lapse of several years following their promotion this season. The same evening in Blarney at 7.30pm All Ireland club champions Milford take on Douglas in what will be one of the clashes of the championship the following evening the last of the first round games sees Inniscarra meeting St Catherine's in Castle Road at 7.30pm.

Senior B championship games featuring Mallow against Fr O'Neills and Aghbullogue versus Kilbrittan/Timoleague have to be rescheduled. Definite games scheduled are July 28 when Ballygarvan meet Valley Rovers and Carrigaline clash with Eire Óg on July 3h.

It's that time of year as championships at all levels get into full swing this week from Senior to Junior C.

Already some games have been played in the Junior A championship. Na Piarasigh had a victory over Kildorrey whilst Douglas had a point to spare over Bishopstown. Watergrahill also had a point to spare over Sliabh Rua and the championship continues on Wednesday when Youghal and St Vincents meet at 8pm in Castle Road.

Already the first round of the Junior C championship have taken place. Ballinora had a round one victory over Blarney. Valley Rovers and Courcey Rovers shared the points, Castlyons and Carrigtwohill battled it out with Castlyons coming out on top in a high scoring contest, whilst Millstreet held the upper hand in their clash with Ballyhea. Ballinora will be bidding for their second victory when they host Ban-

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CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

Baldwin seeking improvement

BY CIARAN WOODS

A DISAPPOINTING 20-point loss on their trip to Kilkenny last weekend brought the curtain down on Derry's All-Ireland Senior Camogie campaign, and manager Joe Baldwin admits that it was not the end of season the Oak Leaf side would have chosen to finish with.

Their Senior Championship Group Two campaign yielded one win from four outings, their victory coming over Tipperary, but it was the margin of those losses which will have been most disheartening for a side who certainly didn't lack in effort over recent weeks.

It was always going to be a massive step up for Derry from intermediate to senior level, but circumstances also played their part this season, the Oak Leaf outfit only getting underway late in the day. They were one of the last management teams to be appointed.

Despite the setbacks in what was a roller-coaster campaign, Baldwin believes progress was made.

"Our win over Tipperary was a notable one as it was the county's first win for 60 odd years," he said.

"We put in a decent performance against Offaly, were very unlucky not to have got something out of it, and then were completely blown out of the water by Kilkenny.

"There was progress made. Tipperary was a notable win, and of course there was the fact that Derry also picked up a third consecutive Ulster title, but you would expect this bunch of girls to achieve that.

"The big difference this year was the personnel involved. I could list you up to a dozen names off the top of my head, real quality players, who for one reason or another did not play for Derry this year.

"So to some degree there had to be rebuilding done. From my point of view, it was only year one of three.



BEHIND THE PACK...The Derry camogs found it tough against the big guns this year

Picture: Ramsey Cardy / SPORTSFILE

"Of course you want progress to be instant, but that's not going to happen, so what we have to do is to look at these successful counties and what they are doing, and try to use that as the template going forward."

Baldwin believes that, just as is the case in football and hurling, a substantial gap now exists between the very top level teams and those striving to get there, with the challenge for Derry being how they can manage

to bridge that gap and become real contenders.

"Senior camogie is what it is, and it is phenomenally different to anything you will experience at Intermediate level," he said.

"Not to make excuses, but there are probably two tiers in senior camogie at present, where you have Cork, Wexford, Clare and Kilkenny out on their own, then with a gap before Derry and Dublin fall in behind.

"The positive for Derry is that they have youth on their side. It's going to take a couple of years for Derry to fully get their heads around playing at this level, but they now know where the bar is set and the sort of level which they must strive to meet. The question for Derry now is how to get there."

Baldwin's commitments with QUB, who hosted the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup weekends in 2014, meant that Derry were always playing catch-up.

He insists that in 2015 his troops will be in optimal shape to hit the ground running, but he believes that Derry as a county need to start thinking outside the box, pushing their own agenda, and splashing a bit more cash if they are going to get to where they so badly want to be.

"Brian Kealey is excellent from a strength and conditioning point of view, and we would like to get him to work much earlier next season.

"The big problem with Derry is that you're geographically isolated. If you're in Clare or Tipperary or Limerick, then you are an hour from top quality challenge games. We're not, we're not getting that sort of preparation.

"Where the budget is going to have to stretch is to more weekends away to allow us to push the boat out and say that we need to go away for weekends and play these teams. It's been a similar problem for Derry and Antrim hurlers as well.

"Unless there are plans put in place for at least two trips down south to play those sort of teams around May time, then we could be hitting our heads off a brick wall again."

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CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

Saffron camogs aiming to stay in contention

BY CIARAN WOODS

THE Antrim senior camogs play host to Kildare this weekend in search of the win which would keep them in the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship reckoning.

Antrim, who are predominantly represented by the Loughgiel club this year, currently have two points on the board.

A win against the Lilywhites would raise them to four points, the same number as Galway as well as this weekend's opponents.

Therefore, nothing less than a win will do for the Saffrons in their rearranged clash as it is now effectively a knockout game with everything on the line.

Their last outing yielded Antrim's

first win of the campaign as they hit 6-8 in their romp of bottom of the table Tipperary.

So Antrim will head into the game full of confidence and should record the win which will extend their stay in the competition for another few weeks at least.

Meanwhile at Premier Junior level, there is due to be an all-Ulster derby clash between Armagh and Down, but the Orchard county's participation or otherwise remains very much up in the air.

Having conceded their game against Westmeath, they suffered a heavy defeat to Laois last day out when they conceded 6-20 and managed to score just seven points in return.

Down, on the other hand, continue to go from strength to strength, and last weekend fired up a remarkable tally of 5-17 against Dublin to reinforce their position at the summit of the table.

Niamh Mallon's importance to the Mourne county side was again underlined as she helped herself to a personal haul of 3-9.

If they can keep their sharpshooter fit and firing for the rest of the campaign, as she is now, then this could be the year that the Mourne county finally make that breakthrough on which they have been waiting for so long.

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KEY COG...Niamh Mallon is vital to Down's chances

Picture: SPORTSFILE



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Ballinhassig turn up heat on Courceys

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Ballinhassig 3-8
Courceys Rovers 1-11

A GREAT night for Ballinhassig as they pushed aside the tag of underdogs to record a victory in this *Evening Echo* Senior Camogie Championship opening round game at sun-drenched Brinny last night.

Even before the throw-in the determination in the Ballinhassig camp was evident to be seen they were focused and ready with coach Denis McCarthy urging them to go out and show just what they could do. They did their coach proud none more so than their inter-county player Eimear O'Sullivan who was hugely impressive marshalling their defence in the pivotal role at centre back. Full-forward Catriona Collins was superb and used her strength around the goal to huge effect.

The work-rate of Deirdre Coomey and Orla Murray was superb and players such as Niamh Sheehan, Hayley Cullinane and Jayne O'Leary played themselves to a standstill while 16 year-old Geraldine Collins had a dream senior debut contributing 1-1 to her side's tally.

Courceys gave it their all, but they never matched the huge intensity that Ballinhassig showed. Full-forward Linda Collins was always dangerous in possession but Ballinhassig did a good job in cutting out the supply of ball to the Courceys danger woman and in the finish it was the difference between the sides.

They dominated the second quarter but once Ballinhassig regained their focus it was game on again.

Ballinhassig had a dream start inside 10 minutes they had raced into a 2-2 to 0-1 lead. Catriona Collins fired home 1-2 in reply to Linda Collins' early point for Courcey



Niamh Sheehan, Ballinhassig, solos through from midfield to create the first goal with a well-placed pass to Catriona Collins. Picture: Larry Cummins

Rovers. Orla Murray collected Eimear O'Sullivan's long delivery after eight minutes and blasted it to the net as Courceys reeled from the early Ballinhassig onslaught. But Courceys settled and hit five scores without reply, Linda Collins showing the Ballinhassig defence a clean pair of heels before firing the ball to the net and with Jacinta Crowley Sara Hayes and Linda Collins (2) pointing it was level pegging with Courcey beginning to gain control around the middle through Aisling Moloney.

Ballinhassig stood strong and dug deep and a Geraldine Collins point saw them regain the lead before the same player sent a lobbed shot from the wing to the net. With Catriona Collins continuing to cause prob-

lems on the edge of the square, Ballinhassig stretched their lead to five points before the break, 3-4 to 1-5.

The opening quarter of the second half belonged to Courceys. Driven on by Sara Hayes and Christine O'Neill, they cut the lead with Jacinta Crowley unerring from frees striking four and in between Orla Murray and Catriona Collins kept the scoreboard ticking in Ballinhassig's favour.

With six minutes remaining Catriona Collins pointed twice, but from there on it was backs to the wall for Ballinhassig as Courceys came at them in waves. Jacinta Crowley pointed a free to cut the lead to four and again the Ballinhassig defence had to stand firm under huge pressure. Sara Hayes blasted a close in free over the bar as the game entered

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

A FEW worthy contenders from both sides but Ballinhassig defender Hayley Cullinane did huge work on the wing for her side clearing a lot of ball with excellent ground no nonsense hurling and for this she gets the nod on this occasion.

TURNING POINT

WITH 10 minutes to go and clinging to a three-point lead after Courceys had cut the deficit with four points in a row, Catriona Collins struck a crucial point from almost 40 metres out after a superbly executed pass from Deirdre Coomey.

ENTERTAINMENT

THOSE in attendance were treated to an excellent contest between two sides that showed fierce determination and both must be credited for the way they played in such intense heat. The game had supporters on the edge of their seats to the full-time whistle.

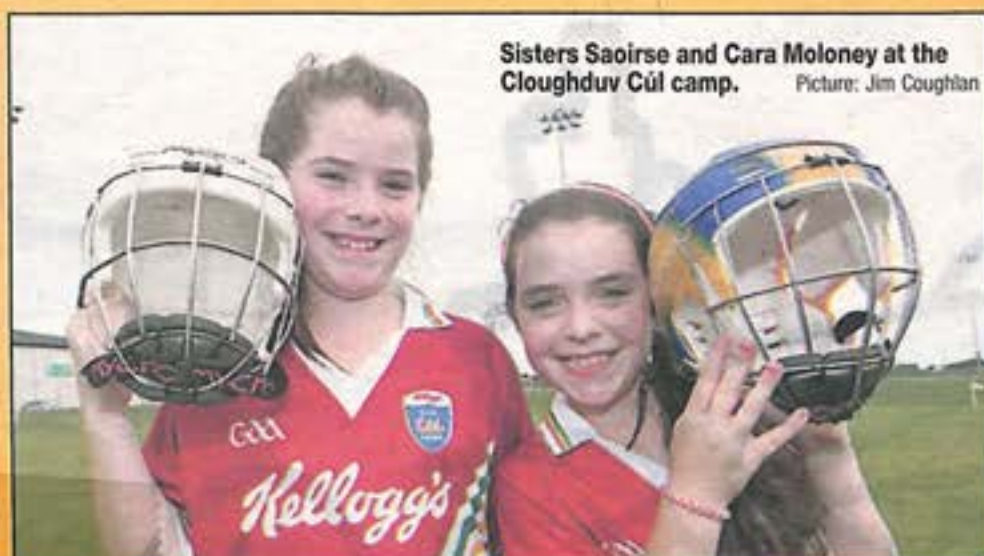
REFEREE WATCH

HUGE credit must go to referee Peter Downey who stopped the game on a few occasions particularly in the opening half to sensibly allow water breaks given the heat that players had to contend with. It showed huge respect for the player's welfare.

injury time and for the next five minutes it was frantic stuff as Courcey searched for an equaliser and Ballinhassig battled to hold their lead. Hold it they did as they consigned Courceys to the losers' round and celebrated a well-deserved victory for themselves.

Scorers for Ballinhassig: C Collins 1-6 (0-3 ft), O Murray Collins 1-1 each.
Courceys Rovers: J Crowley 0-6 (0-5 ft), L Collins 1-3, S Hayes 0-2 (0-1 ft).
BALLINHASSIG: L Griffin, K Coleman, M Reardon, E O'Donovan (c), Coleman, O'Sullivan, H Cullinane, Sheehan, E Jordan, R Moynihan, D Coomey, O Murray, G Collins, C Collins, J O'Leary.
Sub: C Butler for A Coleman (41).
COURCEYS ROVERS: C Duggan, S Keating, C Hayes(c), J Lordan, A Keating, K Keohane, S Hayes, A Moloney, J Crowley, E O'Reilly, R Crowley, C O'Neill, A O'Reilly, L Collins, E O'Reilly.
Subs: P Collins for I Lordan (14), E Moloney for E O'Reilly (52).
Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

KIDS SHARPEN UP THEIR HURLING AND FOOTBALL SKILLS AT CLOUGHDUV CÚL CAMP



Sisters Saoirse and Cara Moloney at the Cloughduv Cúl camp. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Anna Devine and Aoife Murphy take a breather from the action. Picture: Jim Coughlan

July
2014

Championship kicks off in style

TONIGHT gets a busy weekend of *Evening Echo* Senior County Camogie Championship games underway, with two games on Friday and one Saturday.

Championship will also continue into the following week with two games down for decision on Monday night.

All-Ireland champions Milford are chasing three in-a-row and will take on Douglas in Blarney, and this is one which is eagerly awaited since the championship draws were made. It brings together two of the finest club sides in the county with both fielding top class teams with a host of inter-county players in action.

Milford will have Marie Walsh, Anna Geary and Aisling Thompson, while Douglas will have the Mackey twins Katrina and Pamela and Julia White. Added to this Jessica Kavanagh, Amy Curtin, Amanda and Louise O'Regan are key players for Douglas, whilst Sarah Fahy is a young player who has impressed for them all season and will cause huge problems for the best of defenders.

Milford without doubt are a top class side and chasing three in-a-row they will be hard to beat. All over the field they are strong and they also have a strong bench which is vital at this level. Players such as double-winning captain Elaine O'Riordan, Eimear O'Friel captain Rebecca Finn and Lisa Healy have blossomed into superb players.

For this opening round, the Watson's — Maria, Emer and Áine — will be marked absent as they are currently out of the county and they will be a big loss, however with a strong back-up Milford will have a contingency plan in place with able replacements.

Douglas are possibly one of the sides that are nearest to Milford at the moment and they will match them for pace and ability, and if they can get a good start and stay the distance they could consign the champions to a backdoor but it will take a huge effort but one Douglas are well capable of. This has the makings of being one of the games of the championship.

Milford's captain Deirdre O'Reilly and Douglas's Katrina Mackey battle for possession. The two sides meet again tonight.



FIXTURES
FRIDAY
Evening Echo Senior Championship:
Douglas v Milford, Blarney 7.30pm; Glen
Rovers v Cloughduv, Castle Road 8pm.
SATURDAY
Senior Championship: Inniscarra v St
Catherine's, Castle Road 7.30pm.

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Glen Rovers are delighted to be stepping back into the senior grade after a lapse of a number of years and they have worked tirelessly to dine at the top table once again and will be looking forward to taking to the field on Friday.

They face a tough meeting with Cloughduv in Castle Road promoted following their victory in the Senior B last season they are a young side captained by Lydia Cunningham.

Having won two minor county championships, they will be built around several of those players, including Lauren Callanan, Jennifer Hosford, Nicole O'Brien, Leeanne O'Sullivan, Karen O'Connell and Denise Luby.

Former county star Sandie Fitzgibbon guides the Glen, and a win would be a dream debut for her young charges.

Cloughduv, with four Cork senior players in their starting 15, will have other ideas. Briege Corkery, Joanne O'Callaghan, Catriona Fo-

ley and Aoife Murray are key players for the mid-Cork side managed by Jim McEvoy.

Having won the minor league title with a victory over Glen Rovers earlier this year, they will be confident that their younger brigade will step up to the plate with confidence and blend in with their experienced performers.

Orlaith O'Driscoll, Clara O'Leary, Derbhla Ahern and the Corkery's, Aileen and Máiréad, are excellent players and they will be confident of advancing.

On to Saturday and it's a repeat of the senior league final when Inniscarra and St Catherine's renew rivalry in Castle Road. The sides served up a top class game in the league decider, with St Catherine's taking the title with a late injury time point to deny Inniscarra just when it looked as if they had done enough.

Former Cork senior hurling manager Denis Walsh has done huge work this season with St Catherine's and they will be one of the sides tipped to be at the business end of things come the final shake up.

The same applies to Inniscarra

who are a very good side. As in the league final there won't be much between these two teams. Inniscarra have fine players in Cork seniors Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey, and St Catherine's likewise. Orla Cotter is a huge performer for them and with Carolyn Motherway, Fiona Cotter, Noreen Mulcahy, Evelyn Ronayne and Orna Neville in their line-up, they will be determined to repeat their league victory.

Inniscarra know they should have closed the league final out when they took the lead but a lapse in concentration handed the initiative to St Catherine's and they grabbed it to go on to take the title this time out Inniscarra will not make the same mistake. They are without Liz Hayes who is currently out of the country travelling but with Niamh Dilworth, Katie O'Mahony, Karen Jones and Sinéad Ní Riain in their line they are well capable of advancing.

Also this weekend there are several Senior B, intermediate and junior championship games on the agenda see Saturday's camogie pages for previews on these games.

Powerful start is crucial for Saints

CAMOGIE

By Olan Allen

St Catherine's 1-10
Inniscarra 0-9

ST CATHERINE'S are safely through to the next round of the Evening Echo Senior County Championship after a deserved win over Inniscarra in the opening round at Castle Road on Saturday evening.

A great start by St Catherine's which saw them race into a 1-3 lead after six minutes put the game beyond Inniscarra who were playing catch up for the remainder of the game, but in fairness they never gave up and must now look to the loser's group if they are to progress in this year's championship.

Cork senior player Orla Cotter gave another masterful display for Catherine's and had caused enough damage to Inniscarra's hopes before Rena Buckley was moved back on her after 20 minutes and this curtailed Cotter's impact.

The game opened with a goal for Catherine's after three minutes when Rachel O'Callaghan soloed through the Inniscarra defence and her shot at goal was deflected to the net by goal keeper Sinéad Ní Riain.

A minute later a 45 metre free from Orla Cotter was deflected over the bar by Ní Riain and Catherine's continued the pressure with another point by Cotter and O'Callaghan.

Slowly the Muskerry side began to get to grips with the Catherine's attack with Karen Jones, Mary Buckley and Rosemary O'Mahony catching the eye.

Three further points had Catherine's ahead by nine on the 20th minute, before two pointed frees by Joanne Casey left Inniscarra trailing 1-6 to 0-2 at half time.

Niamh Byrne had Inniscarra's first score from play four minutes into the second half. Casey tried to bring Inniscarra into the game from placed balls but each time Catherine's were able to go up field and reply immediately.

Orla Cotter had her side's last score 10 minutes from time to see them lead 1-10 to 0-5.

Inniscarra then dominated the final ten minutes as they went in search of goals. The Catherine's backline held firm with Fiona Cotter making some telling runs out of defence and any frees they conceded were severely punished by Casey.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O. Cotter 0-6 (0-1 f, 0-2 45), R. O'Callaghan 1-1, J. O'Keefe, M. Tobin, M. Roban 0-1 each.
Inniscarra: J. Casey 0-5 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), N. Byrne, C. Healy, N. Dilworth 0-1 each.
ST CATHERINE'S: V. O'Donnell, E. Spillane, N. Mulcahy, Y. O'Neill, F. Cotter, E. Ronayne, M. O'Keefe, O. Neville, B. O'Keefe, R. O'Callaghan, O. Cotter, A. Mangan, A. Fitzgerald, M. Tobin, J. O'Keefe.
Subs: M. Walsh for Mangan (40), M. Roban for Fitzgerald (47).
INNISCARRA: S. Ní Riain, K. Jones, S. McCarthy, M. Buckley, A. Kavanagh, R. O'Mahony, A. Sheehan, J. Casey, K. O'Mahony, C. Healy, R. Buckley, N. Dilworth, N. Byrne, M. Cosgrave, T. McCarthy.
Referee: A. Larkin (Douglas).

McCarthy revels in victory for his Ballinhassig outfit

THE McCarthy name is synonymous with Ballinhassig. Seanie and Marion are the holders of All-Ireland medals and brought huge honour to their club but on Wednesday evening it was Denis McCarthy who was the hero as he helped mastermind a superb victory for his beloved Ballinhassig.

Having to pull him away from the celebrations was hard but he was thrilled with his side's performance.

"We are delighted to get a win tonight. We know this is very good Courcay Rovers side. They gave it

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

their all and that was all we could ask them to do. We told them believe in themselves and finally they did. We are three years up in senior grade and yes it is tough.

"I suppose we are boxing a bit above our weight but if you believe in yourself it is half the battle. Every one of our players showed huge determination and we never allowed our heads

drop and kept working away."

I put it to Denis that they got a great start and in the finish the two early goals were vital as Courcays battled to get something. To be honest, we couldn't have planned it. We raced into a 2-2 to 0-1 lead and as I said earlier it's about confidence and these scores gave us that.

"We started to believe we were as good as Courcays and we matched them step for step.

"We are delighted with the win and it is a huge boost for our club."

Denis paid tribute to his fellow selectors Michael Coomey, Billy Jordan, Conor Moynihan, Angela Murphy and Mary O'Mahony for the huge work they have done.

"We could not field in the senior league, we didn't have the numbers but we kept at it.

We have had 30 training sessions and in the last few weeks we played seven games, tonight was the first time we have had everybody together and it is great to win, we will drive on from here now."

Leesiders continue to show signs of potential

THERE were no surprises last week in the final group round stages with Wexford trouncing Dublin 5-19 to 0-13, Kilkenny beating Derry 4-16 to 1-5 and Clare taking Tipperary 0-19 to 0-3.

The only uncertainty heading into the weekend's games was the outcome of Cork and Galway in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Some people felt the game could well end in a draw. That looked pretty much plausible at half-time as despite the fact that Cork dominated possession they were only level due to Galway's strong defending. Yet, as soon as Cork opened up their play and ran at the westerners they were well deserving of their eight-point victory.

Galway will not win back-to-back titles, of that I'm sure.

I said previously that they picked up a handy All-Ireland last year; that Cork threw the opportunity away by losing their semi-final by a point to Kilkenny, after a very poor display. This year the teams are stronger, that is Wexford are back fighting. I don't overly rate Kilkenny, then again you can't overly-rate Cork at this point either.

However, Cork seem to be, and I don't want to tempt fate, finding form, and it's at the right time.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

There is still a lot to work on. I felt at times last weekend we were still too slow in our delivery, particularly around the middle of the park where our half-forward line was playing deep.

The player in possession might have time to do that but their team-mate inside who has made a quick move is now being closed in on. We were also slow at times in coming to the ball and Galway swept in front of us and gathered.

When we moved it fast, when we always move it fast, that's when we open up teams. It's how Wexford opened us up two weeks ago in that first 22 minutes or so.

Jennifer O'Leary will come back into the side and her speed should only further frighten the opposition.

Gemma O'Connor certainly improved matters in her centre-back role. She holds a presence there. Anna Geary also added strength. Joanne O'Callaghan has done very

little wrong this year and one can't deny her commitment, focus and work she puts into her game. Plus she's great to have around, a very positive influence. Laura Treacy lined-out at left half-back last weekend. I think at this early stage of her senior inter-county career that she is best-placed in the corner. Her ability to win the ball is good.

Her distribution needs work. That'll come for her.

We pumped too many high balls into our forward line in the opening half. We're fast but very light so I was surprised that this happened so often. When we played it low and wide we started to show potential.

I will still harp on about our lack of vision and mind-set to go for goal.

We didn't remotely threaten the net last week. We got one against Wexford but that was more a mistake by Mags D'Arcy than anything we created. We have no problem scoring goals against the weaker counties but we rush to get rid of the ball at times when playing strong opposition, happy to take the point.

We will need goals against the likes of Wexford, if that clash comes to pass again, because you rarely clock up a large number of points against them.

Aoife Murray has been the best goalkeeper in the country over the past decade by a mile. Mags D'Arcy and Susan Earner often come in for awards based on their county's success but they aren't a patch on Aoife.

Cork will struggle to replace her when the time comes. I often watch her warm-ups, I take notice of her focus, her precision, her alertness, her puck-outs, her bravery.

She is the ultimate professional and it must give great confidence to her full-back line knowing such a force is behind them. Having a great goalkeeper is so important.

Cork play Offaly and Galway play Clare on August 9 to determine who will join Galway and Wexford in the semi-final. It's crazy that we don't have a venue for that double-header. Apparently, Kilkenny and Wexford will be on opposite sides in the semis so the winners of the quarter will end up playing one or the other of the Leinster sides.

Cork's Orla Cotter attempts to block Niamh Kilkenny of Galway in the final group round stage game last weekend.
Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



ERIN'S OWN U10s

We were very proud to be playing in Páirc Uí Rinn at half-time in the Cork v Galway game, the girls had a blast and they loved seeing the Cork senior camogie team. Our girls had a great day and they played fantastic. Well done to all the players and to their coaches and to Cork Camogie for a lovely day.

We travelled to Killeagh to play Go Games, we were very strong but it was a great game with both teams showing great skill. The team on the night was Gráinne Guest, Sophie Hodnett, Ella Collins, Amy Gettings, Aoife O'Donoghue, Lucy Hurley, Ciaraith Lyons, Rebecca Foley, Ciara Mulcahy, Molly Galvin, Well done to all.

U13

We have played a number of games in the U13 competition and have showed great spirit throughout. We have played Youghal, Killeagh, Carrigrohilly and have come out of the group and will carry on to play the winners of the other groups. Well done to the girls for showing their determination.

BRIDE ROVERS JUNIOR

The first round of the junior county championship will be against Cloughduv on Monday, July 28.

CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who supported our Munster Hurling final 'Guess-the-score' competition. This year's winner was Tomas Kearney, Barnahash and the line seller was Liam Cahill.

The 'First Friday' collection of old clothes, bags and shoes is coming up again, at Rathcommac Hall, Friday, August 1, 7pm to 7:30pm. All contributions appreciated. Don't forget you can stay in touch day-to-day with all the latest news on Twitter, @RoversGAA, and on facebook.

KILMEEN / KILBREE U10s

The U10s were out in force again, showing us how it should be done. We fielded two teams against some very determined opposition in Enniskeane.

Team: Leah Murphy, Alison Collins, Margaret Collins, Rachel Deasy, Caoimhe Murphy, Mary Murphy, Amy Girdwood, Niamh McCarthy, Maeve O'Neill, Orlaith O'Neill Callanan, Heather Brimble, Laura O'Sullivan, Orlaith Kirby, Sinead O'Sullivan and Orla O'Donovan.

U13

Our U13s continued their league campaign in Barryroe where we were the stronger side on the night. The final score was Kilbree 7-14, Barryroe 0-0. We will play Cienakilly on Friday evening in the next round.

Team: Jessica O'Driscoll, Leanne Sheehy, Aile O'Neill, Emma O'Driscoll, Mairead Crowley, Ruth O'Driscoll, Rebecca Hurley, Alice Twomey, Alyssa Hannah, Orla Kenefick, Orla Dineen, Sinead O'Donovan, Jane O'Sullivan, Rachel Deasy, Maebh O'Neill, Caoimhe Murphy, Heather Brimble.

CUL CAMP

A record number of over 120 children are attending the ever successful Cul Camp in Rossmore, this week.

GLEN ROVERS

Lots of activities this week as all our underage and adult teams were busy last Sunday. Our junior team lined-out for their championship game v Carrigaline and while our opposition were unable to field a junior side they did bring a mix of senior and junior players and we played

out an excellent challenge game. Our next junior game will hopefully be Thursday night. Players need to confirm their availability ASAP when you are contacted regarding your availability.

Our U13 team made it back-to-back victories in the U13 Championship when we overcame the challenge of Blarney.

All through our girls worked hard and with excellent displays in all sectors we ran out convincing winners with good performances all-round. Well done girls. Our next U13 championship game is on Tuesday next in Glen Govers when we host Ballincollig at 7.30pm.

Our U10s enjoyed another Go Games outing when they went to Bishopstown and they are off to Aghada on Tuesday next. Our U8s will also have been in action last night. Our summer schedule of training for beginners up to the age of 12 is Tuesday at 6pm and Friday at 6.30pm.

Well done to the Cork senior team on their victory over Galway last week which ensured them of a quarter-final spot against Offaly on August 9. Best of luck to the Cork U16 teams today in their All-Ireland championship outings.

We extend our sympathy to the Daly and O'Riordan families on their recent bereavements.

Ahern's Fr O'Neill's overcome Mallow

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

THE Senior B championship got underway on Wednesday and it was Fr O'Neill's who took the points in their clash with Mallow in Ballinlough.

Under the guidance of former star Nora Ahern they confidently brushed aside the challenge posed by Mallow and Nora will look ahead with confidence as she bids to guide her charges in the weeks ahead.

Attention now turns to next Wednesday evening when Éire Óg and Carrigaline meet in Castle Road, and on Thursday it's Kilbrittan or Timoleague against Clonakilty and both these games have the potential to be thrillers.

Last season's defeated finalists Éire Óg will be determined to make it back to the final this year. They have been knocking on the door and would dearly love to win back promotion to senior.

They have fine players like Margaret O'Herlihy, Maebh Ellen Desmond, Katie McCarthy and Siobhan and Grainne Hutchinson.

Carrigaline are participating at Senior B level again this year after winning the intermediate championship last season.

They previously participated in the Senior B grade but dropped down to intermediate and re-grouped and won back their place in the Senior B grade.

They are a fine side with plenty of strong players. Ellen Twomey is a strong performer and with Sarah Cotter, Mairead Maguire, and Rachel O'Shea in their line-out they will trouble Éire Óg.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague are a side who have made huge strides and they continue to impress and with players such as Emer O'Sullivan, Marion Murphy, Miriam Deasy and Siobhan Sexton in their line-out they will be one of the teams favoured to take ultimate honours this year.

Clonakilty are always tough campaigners and were unlucky not to take honours in 2012 when they took Barryroe to a replay in a thrilling final only to lose out narrowly when the sides renewed rivalry.

Back-boned by their Cork intermediate players Hazel O'Regan and Sinead O'Neill they will be a team to keep an eye on as this very competitive Senior B championship unfolds.

Enniskeane and Sarsfields get the intermediate championship up-and-running this evening when they meet in Castle Road.

Enniskeane, promoted this year following their victory in the junior A championship in

The St Finbarr's camogie team, who won the Sarah Buckley memorial tournament last weekend.



2013, find themselves with a tough opener when they face league champions Sarsfields. The sides met in the league with Sars coming out on top in a high-scoring contest with six points to spare.

Sars will be hoping that this will be their year. Cork minor goalkeeper Chloe Casey is joined by younger players Holly Herlihy, Lauren Casserly, Katie Barry and Maeve McCarthy who was hugely impressive in their league final victory over. Former Cork senior Emer Fennell is one of their more experienced performers and she showed in the league final just how vital she is to the side. Enniskeane will be determined to get a good start to their career in the higher grade and they showed during the league campaign that they are more than capable of being there.

Captain Louise Duggan, Claire O'Mahony, Orla Coughlan, Katie Buttimer and Orla Cronin will spearhead their challenge to get a result in this one.

It's an all-city clash when Blackrock and Brian Dillon's meet on Sunday.

When the sides met in the league, Brian Dillon's recorded a comprehensive victory 4-12 to 3-6 and they will be hoping that the trend will continue for them on Sunday. They reached the league final where they lost out to

Sarsfields and they will be looking for big performances on Sunday from players such as Susan Kate Brosnan, Niamh O'Leary, Jane Dooley and Sinead Mills.

Blackrock had a good league campaign and reached a play-off for a place in the semi-final losing out to Enniskeane.

Under the guidance of former Cork intermediate coach Bobby Thornhill they are looking forward to the championship campaign where they will be bidding to go one better and put the league result against Brian Dillon's behind them.

Kaitlyn Hickey is a key member of Cork's senior squad, Roisin De Faoite, Michelle Murphy, Aileen Nagle and Hayley Ryan are among the players Thornhill will look to.

On Monday, the intermediate championship continues when Tracton and Newcestown meet in Castle Road.

Tracton lost out in last year's final by a point to neighbours Carrigaline in a thrilling contest that went to a replay.

They would dearly love to go all the way and put a lot of disappointment behind them.

They have some fine, young players coming up the ranks, Aoibhinne Kidney and Chloe Castleton are two of the younger brigade and this year they are boosted by the inclusion of

Emma Kingston in their ranks who transferred allegiances from Inniscarra. She is a huge addition to their line-out and she will join her sister Julie Ann in their side bid for a good start to their championship campaign.

Newcestown re-graded to intermediate last season and through this year's league campaign four the going tough.

They have a strong underpinning structure in place and they are bidding to lay down a good foundation for some of these players coming through in the future.

Key players for them will be Cork intermediate Colette Desmond and with Lisa O'Sullivan, Cathy Lordan, Suzanne Deasy and Jennifer Donovan in their line-out they will give Tracton a tough hour.

The Evening Echo junior championship continues on Wednesday where St Vincent's will be hoping to record their second victory.

Having overcome Youghal earlier this week they meet a Bishopscastle side who lost out narrowly to Douglas in round one. Watergrashill with a win over Sliabh

Rua already meet a Kildorrey side who lost out to Na Piarasigh. On Thursday its Youghal and Douglas in Castle Road where Douglas will be bidding for a second victory as the round-robin series continues.

On Monday, St Catherine's and Ballinacarty meet in the Evening Echo junior B championship Cloughdun meet Bride Rovers, with Ballincollig hosting Charleville.

A busy schedule of Junior C championship also on Sunday. Killeagh host Cobh, Blarney are busy with two games on Monday, they meet Valley Rovers in Blarney and on Friday they travel to meet Banteer, Courcy Rovers clash with Ballinora in Ballinspittle.

There's plenty of action so take note, along and support your club teams.

FIXTURES

TODAY

Evening Echo Senior Championship: Inniscarra v St Catherine's Castle Road 7.30pm

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship: Enniskeane v Sarsfields Castle Road 2pm

All-Ireland U16 A Championship: Cork v Clare Clarecastle 2.30pm

All-Ireland U16B Championship: Cork v Antrim Donoughmore Ashbourne 3.15pm

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship: Blackrock v Brian Dillon's Castle Road 3pm

Evening Echo Junior C Championship: Blarney v Valley Rovers Blarney 7.30pm

MONDAY

Evening Echo Senior Championship: St Finbarr's v Barryroe Cloughdun 7.30pm; Ballincollig v Killeagh Carrigrohilly 7.30pm

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship: Newcestown v Tracton Castle Road 7.30pm

Evening Echo Junior B Championship: St Catherine's v Ballinacarty St Catherine's 8pm; Cloughdun v Bride Rovers Cloughdun 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Evening Echo Senior B Championship: Éire Óg v Carrigaline in Castle Road 7.30pm

Evening Echo Junior A Championship: Bishopscastle v St Vincent's St Michael's GAA Blackrock 7.30pm; Watergrashill v Kildorrey Kildorrey 8pm

THURSDAY

Evening Echo Junior A Championship: Youghal v Douglas Castle Road 7.30pm

FRIDAY

Evening Echo Junior C Championship: Banteer v Blarney Banteer 7.30pm; Courcy Rovers v Ballinora Courcy Rovers 7.30pm

Sarah Buckley Memorial proves a success

BLARNEY camogie club hosted the fifth annual Sarah Buckley Memorial Tournament last week, writes BARBARA O'CONNELL.

The host club, Blarney, along with Ballinacarty, Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's U14 camogie teams played superb camogie which is a wonderful tribute to the memory of Sarah.

The opening round of games saw Glen Rovers defeat Blarney and St Finbarr's overcome Ballinacarty in two very entertaining matches.

The Plate final was contested between Blarney and Ballinacarty and despite the heavy rain, both teams were excellent. With both sides exchanging goals, Blarney came out on top, winning the

west Cork side, Ballinacarty who emerged the winners.

The Cup final saw city rivals, Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's go toe-to-toe for the spoils.

The opening half was truly a battle of wits and with both sets of defenders hard at work, it was Glen Rovers who led at the interval 1-2 to 1-1.

In the second half, after two goals in quick succession from in-form Barrs' forward Eimear Hurley the Toghier side started to take a grip of this intriguing contest. As Glen bravely fought their way back into this game, Barrs' back six were more than equal to the task, and dealt well with everything the Glen threw at them.

Barrs' goalkeeper, Orla Keane, made some critical saves at crucial times and the Blues started to grow in ascendancy. Their central pairing of Emma Olden and captain Ilana Keegan were now winning the midfield tussle and the St Finbarr's forwards were finding more room inside, adding some late scores to put the result beyond doubt.

Barrs ran out winners on a scoreline of 6-1 to 1-2, becoming the first side to retain this cup.

Sincere thanks to Blarney for hosting this wonderful competition and, in particular, the Buckley family, Ray, Margaret, Ciaran and Shane, and to Ger Casey who organise this fantastic annual tournament to honour the memory of Sarah.

CAMOGIE

By Rory Noonan

Milford 1-10
Douglas 0-6

MILFORD took the first step to retaining their Evening Echo senior county camogie title with a deserved win over Douglas at Cloughduv last night.

The defending county, Munster and All-Ireland club champions showed they won't be giving up any of these titles easily as they led from start to finish.

With the outstanding Ashling Thompson dominating from midfield they took the game to Douglas and she was able assisted by the likes of Sarah Sexton, Anna Geary, Deirdre O'Reilly and Marie O'Neill, to name a few.

For their future opponents in this championship the worrying thing was they were far from their best and will only get better as they go on.

Missing the Watson sisters, who were on holiday, their squad will get even stronger with their return and though it's early days they showed that once again they will be the team to beat.

Douglas would be one of the sides fancied to give them a run for their money and overall they won't be too disappointed with their showing.

Like Milford, they were short a number of players and will look at this as an improved showing on the hammering they got from Milford last year.

For them Julia White, Pamela Mackey, Sarah Fahy and Katrina Mackey were in good form, but they will know just one point from play is not good enough at this level.

It took Milford just two minutes to go in front when O'Neill scored from a free and three minutes later they were unlucky not to goal.

A great ball from O'Reilly found Christine O'Connor, but her effort was well saved by Douglas keeper, Jessica Kavanagh.

O'Reilly pointed to increase their lead, with Douglas' first real chance coming after eight minutes.

A Fahy effort was batted out by O'Riordan to see it remain at 0-2 to no score.

Milford took a firm grip on the game after 15 minutes when a defensive mix-up by Douglas

Milford off and running once again

Milford's Deirdre O'Reilly gets away from Douglas' Katrina Mackey during last night's Evening Echo Senior Camogie Champions game in Cloughduv.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Photo Gallery:
You can see more photographs at
www.photosales.eecho.ie

let O'Neill in to goal and even at this early stage it was not looking good for the southside club.

Eimear O'Friel added a point before Katrina Mackey opened Douglas' account after 18 minutes.

She got a second from a free, with Marie Flanagan replying at the other end for Milford. Mackey on target again from a free and she got the last score of the half, again from a free, as Milford led 1-4 to 0-4 at the break.

O'Reilly increased their lead just 20 seconds into the second-half and O'Neill added another to increase their lead to

1-6 to 0-4.

Katrina Mackey pulled a point back for Douglas from a free, with Christine O'Connor replying for Milford.

With 42 minutes gone it was Milford's turn to be thankful to their keeper, Rebecca Finn, who saved from White.

Alicia Cremin was also unlucky not to goal for Douglas when her effort from distance went narrowly wide, with 46 minutes gone.

Four minutes later Amanda O'Regan pointed from a free for them, which proved to be their last score of the tie.

In a strong finish O'Neill ad-

ded a point from a free, with O'Connor and Flanagan also scoring as Milford ran out deserving winners of a top-class camogie tie.

Scorers for Milford: M O'Neill 1-3 (2f), D O'Reilly, C O'Connor, M Flanagan 0-2 each, E O'Friel 0-1.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-5 (4f), A O'Regan 0-1 (1f).

MILFORD: R Finn; D Hayes, E O'Riordan, L Healy, M Walsh, A Geary, S Sexton; O O'Mahony, A Thompson; C O'Connor, D O'Reilly, K Galvin; M O'Neill, M Flanagan, E O'Friel. **Sub:** A O'Flynn for O O'Mahony.

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; S Long, P Mackey, E Jordan; R Sheehan, L O'Regan, A Curtin; K Mackey, J White; C Nason, S Duggan, A Cremin; A O'Donovan, A O'Regan, S Fahy. **Sub:** M Harkin for S Long.

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwin (Eire Ogi).



Cork star Briege Corkery was top scorer for Cloughduv in their draw with Glen Rovers last night.

Luby penalty forces sides to do it all again

Cloughduv 1-8
Glen Rovers 1-8

CAMOGIE

By John Leonard

CLOUGHDUV and Glen Rovers will have it all to do again as last evening's first round game in the Evening Echo Senior County Championship at Castle Road finished in a stalemate.

The Blackpool side, who made a return to the top flight after participating in the B championship for a considerable number of years, showed that they meant business as they held the upper hand for most of the opening half.

The mid-Cork side staged a second-half rally and held a three-point advantage, but in the closing stages the Glen were awarded a penalty from which Denise Luby drilled home a goal to level the scores with time almost up.

The Glen made the better start with a point by Nicole O'Brien followed by a pointed free by Luby from the Cloughduv 45-metre line for an early two-point advantage, before Katherine Corkery opened the Mid-Cork side's account with a pointed free from a difficult angle outside the Blackpool side's 20-metre line.

O'Brien and Cloughduv's Joanne O'Callaghan traded points before the Mid Cork side had the Glen pinned back, but wayward shooting was proving to be costly.

Luby pointed a free for the Glen from the Mid Cork side's 45-metre line and Katherine Corkery replied with a point from play to leave the minimum between the sides at the end of the first quarter.

Cloughduv had the Blackpool side on the back foot approaching the break but were to be denied two goal-scoring opportunities before Briege Corkery equalised with a point after Becky Hennigan won possession from a Glen puck out to leave the scores tied at 0-4 apiece at the half-time.

The mid-Cork side upped

the ante after the interval and Katherine Corkery put Cloughduv ahead for the first time with a pointed free from the Glen's 45-metre line within a minute of the restart.

This lead was promptly cancelled out as Lydia Cunningham levelled matters with a quick point.

Glen Rovers promptly found themselves back on the defensive and they were caught off guard as Briege Corkery pounced for the game's opening goal in the 32nd minute.

The Glen had the mid-Cork side camped deep inside their own 20-metre line for much of the third quarter but they were to be denied further scores.

Sinead O'Halloran tagged on a point following a free in the 42nd minute to reduce the deficit to two points.

O'Callaghan tagged on two points for Cloughduv entering the final quarter and Megan Buckley added a further point as they proceeded to put the game beyond the Glen's reach.

Trailing by five points Aisling O'Keefe pointed for the Glen and this was followed by a point from a 45' by O'Halloran with five minutes remaining to bring the Blackpool side close before the scene was set for a dramatic finish.

Scorers Cloughduv: B Corkery 1-1; K Corkery 0-3 (0-2 f); J O'Callaghan 0-3; M Buckley 0-1.

Glen Rovers: D Luby 1-2 (1-0 pen; 0-2 f); S O'Halloran 0-2 (0-1 45); N O'Brien 0-2; L Cunningham & A O'Keefe 0-1 each.

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray; N McCarthy, E Dunne, A Kelleher; M Corkery, C Foley, O O'Driscoll; J O'Callaghan, R Hennigan; D Ahern, K Corkery; A Barry-Murphy; AM Ryan, B Corkery, M Buckley.

GLEN ROVERS: K Lee; Z Buckley, L O'Sullivan, N Gowen; K Falvey, L Callanan, K O'Connell; J Hosford, L Cunningham; D Luby, S Hayes, A O'Keefe; K Fitzgerald, N O'Brien, A Wallace.

Subs: S O'Halloran for Fitzgerald (29) & S Fahy for Hayes (38).

Referee: W Cole (Burtvart).

Story of the game

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

PLENTY to chose from the Milford side with Marie O'Neill and Anna Geary in top form. But Ashling Thompson was simply outstanding and gets the nod.

TURNING POINT

THOUGH it was early in the game, Milford's goal from Marie O'Neill, after 15 minutes put them five points up and from here they drove on to victory.

SCORE OF THE MATCH

A NUMBER of the Milford points were superb, with the pick of them being Eimear O'Friel's in the first half. The passing move that led to the score showed Milford at their best.

REFeree WATCH

INTER-COUNTY referee, Diarmuid Kirwan, showed why he is considered one of the top officials in the country and added to the spectacle by letting the game flow as much as he could.



Douglas player Pamela Mackey gets her shot away as Milford's Eimear O'Friel closes in.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

July
2014

Camogie

with Niall Scully

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CLOSE CALL: The Dublin Under-16A team which lost 1-10 to 1-13 to Galway in their last thrilling game of this year's All-Ireland championship at Parnells GAA Club, Coolock on Saturday.

GALWAY EDGE OUT BRAVE DUBLIN 16'S

IT WAS Dave Pearson's birthday last Saturday. Dave is the manager of the Dublin U16's.

They lost to Galway, 1-14 to 1-10, in the All-Ireland U16 'A' Championship at Parnell's. Not quite the perfect present. "To see the girls smiling is good enough for me," said Dave.

Even before the throw-in, Dublin were out of contention, but you wouldn't have thought so. They played with commendable spirit.

Unbeaten Galway were very much in the frame. This was their third win from four. "We topped the group and we are into the All-Ireland semi-final, and that is where we wanted to be," stated Galway boss, Lorraine Larkin. Galway struck late to take the victory. They led for the first time six minutes from the end.

"Dublin really put it up to

us. We were a bit slow to start. But once we got going, we did well and we finished strongly," added Lorraine.

"Fair play to the girls. They put in a great effort right till the finish. We play Wexford now in the semi-final, so fingers crossed."

Dublin knew that Galway were always capable of producing a late spurt. "Yes, we had been warned about that, and that is exactly what happened. They really picked it up five minutes from the end," reflected Dave.

FANTASTIC

"It was a very good game. Their 'keeper kept them in it. We had chances that on another day would have gone to the back of the net."

"All our girls were fantastic. But I felt Galway deserved their win. They kept going

right till the end. Just like we did, but they got the scores."

There were grey clouds in Coolock and the sun had gone on holidays. It took people a while to adjust to the climate change. There were also pockets of gentle rain-fall as the hour rattled along with slices of sweet skill and no lack of conviction.

There were some mighty scrambles as the players sought to dig out the sliotar and get it onto the stick.

The hosts got the ideal start. A goal from Grace O'Shea after two minutes. She found herself in a yard of space and she made the most of it. The Blues sent over some fine emails. The best of them came from Niamh Rock from way out on the left.

The Dubs had the half-time advantage - 1-7 to 0-6, and the second period was even more

compelling than the first.

Three points from Ellen McGovern kept Galway at bay. But the Tribeswomen were coming hard on Dublin's shoulder. And they were helped with scores from Eimear O'Donovan (2), Taragh Moloney, Carrie Dolan and Sinead Minihan.

RANGE

On 54 minutes, Dublin still led by two, but then came Galway's golden goal as Ava Lynskey found the basket with a dainty first-time connection from close range.

The Corrib then filled with confidence. Points from Marie Farrell and Leanne Freaney took them four points clear.

Just on the last whistle, McGovern came within a whisker of a Dublin goal, but Sarah Healy made the save-of-the-day.

Dubs determined to build blue stairway

DUBLIN have put the huris under the stairs. "It was a difficult season. There's no doubt about that," admits manager, Colum King.

It was Colum's first year in the job. The high-point was a draw in division 1 of the league against Tipperary at Trinity Gaels.

But Colum maintains that Dublin's closing championship chapter last week against Wexford in Parnell Park could be a blue spark.

"As a group, it is important for the players to stick together. It is just a matter of the panel believing in themselves."

"I feel they have plenty to look forward to. There are many positives to take from the campaign."

One of them was the introduction of new faces. "We brought in a few players from the minor squad. We didn't want to throw them in too soon."

"We wanted to let them settle into the panel and learn their trade, and, hopefully, now they can start kicking on and complement our more experienced players."

"It is always the experienced players that you turn to. And we are lucky to have such figures who lead by example."

"Looking to the future, it is all about knuckling down, bringing more players through to put pressure on the established players."

"The skill is there. It is not easy to show it when you are under pressure in games, but that second half against Wexford proved what the side is capable of."

"The catching, the striking, the movement....it was all there. And the attitude was never in question. There's so much to build on."

"The target for next year would be different than what it was for this season," states Colum as the Dubs seek to ignite the renaissance that would light up the sport.

BOARD NOTES

■ Under 16A: Tough luck on our under 16A team and management who lost 1-10 to 1-13 to Galway in a brilliant game in the All Ireland series on Saturday at Parnells GAA Club, Coolock. This ends their involvement in the All Ireland series for this year.

■ Under 16B: Best wishes to under 16B team and management in the All Ireland semi-final v Derry on Saturday 9 August.

■ Premier Juniors: Best wishes to our Premier Juniors who play Westmeath in O'Toole Park on Sunday in their final group game of the All Ireland series. Dublin may be involved in play-offs depending on results from Sunday's fixtures.

■ Minor A and Minor B: Best of luck to the Minor players and managements who will be in action on 17 August in the Leinster Minor Championship. Minor A v Offaly Away. Minor B v Louth at home.

■ We are Dublin Summer Cup and League 4/5: Erins Isle v Naomh Padraig (Summer Cup) takes place on Thursday 31 August in O'Toole Park at 7pm. Play off (League 4/5) continues on Thursday night. If Dublin are involved in play-offs arising from next Sunday's Premier Junior county results the proposed league timetable may be effected.

■ Puc Fada: Best wishes to Stephanie (Naomh Meamrog) in the National finals in the Cooley Mountains on the Bank holiday weekend.

■ Under 15/16 Summer Gala Blitz: This non-competitive Summer Gala Blitz took place in the Phoenix Park as the culmination of 4 weeks of games where the emphasis was on participation and enjoyment. Well-done to 13 participating teams and to Paddy Baker (Good Counsel) for driving this very worthwhile effort. It is hoped to grow this event next year.

■ Under 13 Development Squad: The remaining sessions for this School of Excellence have been scheduled as follows: Friday August 15; Friday August 22; Friday August 29. All sessions will take place in the Camogie Grounds Phoenix Park with a 7pm start. If for any reason these arrangements have to be changed a notice will be posted on this website. Correspondence regarding the School of Excellence should be sent to John at dubcamsoe2014@gmail.com

■ Reminder to clubs to vote for the Camogie County Player of the Decade. The County Board is organising the Dublin County Player of the Decade Award (2005 - 2014) as part of the 110th year celebrations of the Camogie Association. The County Player of the Decade refers to playing seasons in the period 2005-2014 inclusive. Criteria for County Player of the Decade: Role model/sportsmanship (club/county) 30%; Playing excellence at county level 30%; Longevity of playing career (club/county) 20%; Dedication/commitment to county 20%. Only one nomination will be accepted from each club - a club cannot nominate one of its own players. Names must be returned to An Rúnal no later than Friday 1 August.

Dubs to deliver Premier performance

DUBLIN will be seeking their fourth win in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Junior Championship when they host Westmeath on Sunday.

They will thread with care. They beat Westmeath in division 3 at Mullingar on a day when the Lake County could only muster a point.

But then in the league final at Edenderry, Westmeath took gold in a very accomplished display

where Pamela Greville and Mairead McCormack excelled.

In the championship, the Blues have beaten Laois away, Armagh at home and Roscommon away.

The Dubs lost their last outing in Down. Dublin, Down and Laois top the table on six points apiece.

This Dublin side have flourished in the last couple of years, and they contain impressive strength in depth.

Dave Dunning and his management crew oversee a highly motivated group, who possess a cluster of richly talented personnel.

Sile NicCoitir, is one of the best 'keepers in the business, assured centre half-back, Michelle Kelly, is a sister of Dublin hurler, Peter, Georgina Kelly can pot them from anywhere on the table, while captain, Elaine Gallery, is class.

McKeown 'disappointed' with Saffron season

BY CIARAN WOODS

ANTRIM'S senior inter-county camogie season came to an end last weekend, as a one-point loss at the hands of Kildare meant they failed to secure the point they needed in order to force a play-off.

It was in many ways an unusual season for the Saffrons, with Loughgiel stepping in to represent the county in the All-Ireland series after some internal and managerial wranglings.

Aidan McKeown was one of the Shamrocks management team who have been doubling up in their duties over recent weeks, and he feels that the county board must act now to help ensure Antrim are contesting and competing properly in next year's competition and beyond.

"It's not the way Antrim should be, going forward. Our girls put in a big effort and gave it all they had, but at the same time I have no doubt that it would be more beneficial to have the full pick of the county and have a proper Antrim side taking part in these competitions.

"The reality is that there is some serious talent out there in Antrim, and it is disappointing the way things went this year. Hopefully, they can be worked out, so that things can be done properly next year and beyond.

"I know they have started a lot of



CAM DOWN...Loughgiel flew the flag for Antrim this year alone

Picture: Michael Costello

development work, particularly at underage level, but I think they have to give serious thought to what direction the county senior side is going as well."

It was an All-Ireland campaign where little to nothing was expected

from Loughgiel, but the players showed a drive and determination to do their very best as Antrim's representatives. The highlight was certainly their commanding win away to Tipperary at Thurles, and McKeown points out that they were a puck

of the ball away from making the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship semi-finals, something which would have been unimaginable just a few short months ago.

"We went into the Kildare game with good confidence. We knew we

could possibly have got a result against Tipperary, but we wouldn't have expected to have won by so much. It left us in a good place for Kildare, but they were a team who knew that a win would take them straight into the semi-finals, so they were well up for it as well. In fairness to them, they're a very strong side."

Few club sides could boast the level of preparation that Loughgiel have enjoyed over recent weeks, and McKeown is hoping that the Shamrocks can turn those inter-county exploits into success on the domestic stage.

They were to face Creggan in the quarter-final, but the withdrawal of the south-west club means that the Shamrocks now face into a semi-final against either Dunloy or Ballycastle as their first outing, something which McKeown knows is far from ideal.

"Games like that are exactly what you're looking for to bring you on, and there's no doubt that it did help us, but it's over now and we have to keep on preparing for our own club series which is only a matter of weeks away.

"We have a few niggly injuries, you're only working from a club panel and it takes its toll playing that level of competition week on week, so hopefully we can get those cleared up and be ready to go."

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Cork use sweeper to upset Banner

U16 CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Cork 0-11
Clare 1-3

CORK advanced to the All-Ireland semi-final after they fashioned out a superb victory over Clare in Clarecastle on Saturday.

This was a must-win game for both sides and Cork got it spot on. Their tactic of playing Sinead Mills back helping out in defence was a master stroke as it closed down the space the Clare attack had, plus it allowed space for the Cork attack to play open hurling in front.

All over the field Cork worked hard and they had built up a 0-3 to 0-1 lead by the end of the opening quarter. With Chloe Sigerson and Michaela Buckley superb in defence and Sinead Mills impressive, Cork dictated matters and it was 0-6 to 0-2 as the opening half entered injury time.

After an excellent 30 minutes from a determined Cork, who worked so hard, Clare grabbed a life line 30 seconds before half time when Sarah Loughnane won possession from Emma Kennedy's long delivery and finished to the net. It left just a point between the sides at the break.

From the restart Cork set about extending their lead. Michaela Buckley and Keeva McCarthy pointed from frees, but Clare applied huge pressure.

The strong Cork defence worked their socks off and as a unit they closed down the Clare attack to such an extent that they held them to a single second half score that coming two minutes into injury time.

Cork deserved huge credit bouncing back from a defeat at the hands of Galway to win this vital game and set up a semi-final meeting with Tipperary on Sunday next.

Scorers for Cork: K McCarthy 0-5 (0-2 f, 0-1 45); M Buckley 0-2 (0-1 f); S Mills, L O'Neill, L Kelly, R Harty 0-1 each.

Clare: S Loughnane 1-0, R Conway 0-2 (0-1 45, 0-1 f), A Duggan 0-1.

CORK: M Daly; K O'Connor; N O'Leary; S O'Leary; C Sigerson; M Buckley; I O'Regan; E McAndrew; M Barry; L Hogan; N O'Leary (cl); A Kidney; R Harty; K McCarthy; S Mills.

CLARE: R Keating; E Kennedy; A Tuohy; S Glynn; O Cotter; A Barrett; C Haher (cl); L Foley; R Conway; A Duggan; R Begley; C Davitt; S Loughnane; N Mulqueen; A Keating.

Subs: E Duggan for C Davitt (16); L Solan for R Keating (11); K Lyons for A Keating (38); C Doyle for N Mulqueen (46); A Ryan for S Loughnane (55).

Referee: Ger O'Dowd (Limerick).

Tipperary and Galway set up U16A final repeat

By Daragh O Conchúir

Camogie

Tipperary and Galway set up a repeat of last year's All-Ireland U16A camogie final after wins over Cork and Wexford respectively.

Tipperary are in the hunt to win a third title in four seasons after a thrilling 4-12 to 3-8 win over Cork in Kilmallock.

Carol Kennedy was hugely influential from centre-back as they held a 2-9 to 1-1 half-time lead.

Chloe Kirwan had a goal after 30 seconds and Keely Lenihan grabbed the second, while Grace O'Brien was accurate from frees and Orla O'Dwyer also notched up a

couple of points.

Caoimhe McCarthy scored an important goal for Cork but Tipperary were in charge.

Cork, with captain Niamh O'Leary prominent, thundered into it in the second half and scored four points in the opening 10 minutes to cut Tipp's advantage to two.

The Premier girls responded impressively though and two goals from O'Dwyer saw them through.

Galway had a more comfortable passage, accounting for Wexford 3-17 to 0-10, with Siobhán McGrath and Carrie Dolan (2) the goal scorers.

July
2014



Cork Rose and camogie star ANNA GEARY is looking forward to representing the Rebel

My Weekend

Fri Sat Sun

County in the annual Rose of Tralee festival that runs from August 15-19. Here she tells us how she enjoys nothing more than a good cuppa, a good day's shopping, a good night out with friends and a good lie-in at the weekend.

Why wasting time is never wasted time for our Anna

● TELL us a little about yourself?

I am from Milford, a small village in north Cork, but have been living in Cork city since I finished college. I am 27 years young. I have a business degree and a post-grad in public relations. I work for Dell Software as a marketing developer. I love sport, fashion, dancing, movies and food. I am lucky to call myself the captain of Cork camogie team and am also honoured to be the 2014 Cork Rose of Tralee. I have one brother, Thomas, and two dogs.

● What's your favourite way to unwind on a Friday night?

DVD, my pyjamas, good company and a few treats thrown in. Normally I have training on a Friday so I can justify the indulgence.

● The Late Late Show or Graham Norton?

I like both for different reasons. I have always wanted to present *The Late Late Show*, especially *The Late Late Toy Show*! I love Graham Norton's presenting style. He makes the guests feel at ease but he can throw any type of question at them. He is hilarious.

● Would your weekend feature retail therapy?

Absolutely! A one word answer need only apply here. It's therapy for the soul. I love looking at all the styles and colours. Plus it is supporting the economy.

● Favourite weekend outing/spin/walk?

Going out for dinner

● Favourite restaurant for dinner at the weekend?

Eco in Douglas, SoHo on Grand Parade, or McCarthy's Bar and Bistro at Edenhall.

● Is there a brunch spot you like to go to?

Amicus on Paul Street has a great atmosphere — a great way to start a 'shopping day'.

● Do you like to entertain at the weekend? Do you catch up with family/friends?

You cannot under-estimate the power of a good cup of tea and a chat. It can instantly put you in a good mood. Because I lead a busy

life, I really cherish the time I spend with my family and friends. Some of my friends are abroad or scattered around Ireland so it is great when we can all come together for a reunion. Dance-offs galore.

● Favourite bar/pub for drink and what is it?

Well, anytime I go out in Cork with my team-mates we hit Costigan's, The Courthouse, The Wash, then finish in the ever-reliable Reardens — always guaranteed a good night out there! The Classic can also be on our route and let's not forget the Castle bar; who doesn't love the Castle bar? Going for a quiet drink is a rarity for me during the



When she's not performing duties as this year's Cork Rose, Anna is leading the Cork camogie team as captain of this year's Senior Championship side.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Picture: Polina Clarke

camogie season, especially in the last few years trying to balance club and county camogie but Sober Lane or SoHo can be nice to relax and have a few.

● Do you enjoy lie-ins or are you up with the lark?

I'm a night owl through and through. I love lie-ins but I seldom get the opportunity. I love lazy mornings when you can potter around the house in your pjs, do a little cleaning, have a long breakfast and then watch TV. I'm a firm believer that wasting time is not time wasted. It is re-energising.

● Does sport feature in your weekend?

Of course, GAA matches always feature in my weekend, men or women, hurling or football. Whether it's watching *The Sunday Game*, travelling to a game as a supporter or playing myself, GAA is always apart of the schedule. Then you have the rugby and tennis to watch. My boyfriend Kevin opened my eyes to the world of watching darts too and I even ventured out of my comfort zone and watched the

soccer World Cup this year — though I think that has as much to do with the RTE panel as it was for the soccer. They are entertaining.

● Cinema or DVD at the weekend? What's the most recent one you enjoyed?

That is a tough one as I love both...sometimes a DVD is nice as you don't have to have to move outside the door after a busy week. The last DVD I watched was *Friday Night Lights*. It was about American Football and it was brilliant.

● What TV programmes do you watch at the weekend?

I love watching *Friends* re-runs, they still make me laugh. *Rules of Engagement* is also a funny show. I wouldn't say no to *Sex and the City* repeats either. *Home and Away* is also on the list of priorities to get through.

● How do you unwind on a Sunday night?

Normally I am travelling back from somewhere, either visiting, a Cork Rose event or a camogie match so I turn up the tunes in the car and I sing out loud.

Barrs send Barryroe through back door

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

CHAMPIONSHIP games at all levels ensured supporters were spoiled for choice in the glorious summer weather in the week gone by.

At senior level Cloughduv-Glen Rovers and Ballincollig-Killeagh will have to do it all again after they couldn't be separated in exciting contests. St Finbarr's consigned Barryroe to the back door as did Milford, who overcame Douglas. In the Evening Echo Senior B championship newly promoted Carrigaline got their campaign up and running when two late goals inside three minutes gave them victory over Éire Óg. Ballygarvan did likewise, a late goal ensuring they overcame Valley Rovers in an all-Carrigdhoun clash. In another tight contest Clonakilty got the upper hand on Kilbrittain/Timoleague, with a 2-6 to 1-7 victory in their opening game in the round-robin series. Sarsfields had to call on all their resources as they got the upper hand on last season junior A champions Enniskeane in the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship, while a point separated Brian Dillon's from Blackrock, as the northsiders held their nerve to the finish in a tight contest.

Tracton signalled their intent with a victory over Newcestown. Bishopstown overcame a fancied St Vincent's side in the Evening Echo Junior A championship, and Youghal got back to winning ways with a 1-9 to 0-6 win over a Douglas side, who had won their first game against Bishopstown.

In the Evening Echo Junior B championship Bride Rovers showed they will be to the team to beat this season when they proved too strong for Cloughduv.

The Evening Echo Junior C championship clash saw Millstreet recorded a victory over Carrigtwohill, as did Ballinora who overcame Courcy Rovers.

● With all the focus on the Cork senior team's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland quarter final clash with Offaly next Saturday the fixtures schedule is restricted. However today in the Evening Echo Senior Championship at Coachford, Enniskeane meet Newtownshandrum at 12pm. Tomorrow at Castle Road in the Evening Echo junior A Championship Na Piarasigh and Sliabh Rua meet at 12pm.

On Wednesday in the Evening Echo Senior C championship Aghabullogue get their campaign up and running in Castle Road at 7.30pm against a Mallow side who lost out in round one to Fr O'Neill's. On Friday in the Evening Echo Junior B Championship Carrigaline host Cloughduv and Ballincollig travel to Ballinascorthy.

Keep an eye on the Cork camogie website and the Cork camogie facebook page for all fixtures and results which are updated daily.

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

TOMORROW

All-Ireland U16 A Championship semi-final:

Cork v Tipperary, Kilmallock, 2.30pm.

CORK face Tipperary tomorrow in the All-Ireland U16A semi-final, a repeat of the Munster final, as the Rebels take on the provincial champions and current All-Ireland champions.

After losing out to Galway in round three, Cork bounced back last weekend in a do-or-die game against Clare, as they confidently recorded an 0-11 to 1-3 victory. It was good to see the spring back in their step again.

Having overcome the challenges of Kilkenny and Dublin it was a big blow to lost out to Galway, but maybe in the long run the defeat will stand to them as sometimes at under age level players become a little complacent.

Against Clare, Cork had to win and from the throw-in they played with huge composure and were always in control. When Clare came at them the Cork defence was superb, holding Clare to just one score in the second half.

Cork will be determined to make amends for losing the Munster final to Tipperary on a day when victory looked to have been secured, leading by four points with three minutes of normal time plus five additional minutes of injury time remaining.

All through the game Tipperary looked dangerous but Cork fought hard and were well in control but somehow lost their way and paid the price. It was a heartbreaking, cruel lesson but Cork will have learned a lot from it, with almost four months hard work under their belts.

In the last meeting Cork allowed Tipperary top much room on the ball and this is something they will need to tighten up on. They have strong players in Keely Linehan, Caoimhe Burke, Chloe Kirwin and Grace O'Brien.

Under the management of Brian Boyle, Tipperary have won all their games in the group series. They recorded a comprehensive 7-16 to 0-6 opening round victory over Wexford, went on to notch up 6-18 against Offaly, conceding just 1-7, and it was more of the same as they brushed aside Limerick on a 3-16 to 0-5 scoreline.

Impressive scorelines and huge victories but sometimes this can have a very negative effect, as we saw when Cork were simply not tuned in for the huge intensity of the Galway challenge in their third match.

Bouncing back against Clare, Cork dictated matters and showed huge work-rate and a hunger to win. In defence they were superb and tactically



Cork's Julia White gets to the ball ahead of Galway's Aislinn Connolly during their recent Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 1 clash at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: INPHO

Cork girls to have learned from defeat

got it spot on playing with Sinead Mills back as an extra defender to create huge space up front.

The Cork backroom team must be credited with the way they are approaching all their games and certainly last weekend they had their homework done as they closed down Clare's danger players.

Cork had the advantage of one game extra in their group.

It's been 2003 since Cork captured

an U16 A All-Ireland. Last season the first U16 B title was won under the guidance of this year's A management team of Anthony Nagle, Ken Bulman and Frances Killeen.

Losing to Tipperary in the Munster final was a huge disappointment but a lot has happened since.

Are Cork good enough to win this one? I defiantly think they are.

I have been hugely impressed since that day back in April on a

bleak cold day on an atrocious pitch. Yes it will take a huge effort and 60 minutes and more of full concentration, as in the Munster final we saw how Tipperary grabbed a lifeline when Cork lost concentration.

Cork need to be back in an U16 A All-Ireland final and come tomorrow evening I think we'll have just about booked our spot, most likely against Galway, who meet Wexford in the second semi-final tomorrow.

CLUBS NOTES

KILBREE

U13: Kilbree U13s continued their winning ways in the Carbery League beating Clonakilty last Friday evening in Ahamilla. The final score was Kilbree 5-2 Clonakilty 1-0. All Carbery U13 league fixtures results and updated league table are available on www.kilmeenkilbree.com.

Panel: Sarah O'Donovan, Sinead O'Donovan, Aife O'Neill, Kate O'Donovan, Mairead Crowley, Ruth O'Driscoll, Emma O'Driscoll, Alice Twomey, Rebecca Hurley, Caoimhe Murphy, Heather Brimble, Maeve O'Neill, Siobhan Kennedick, Cara Collins, Rachel Whent, Orla Dineen.

BRIDE ROVERS

Junior: The first round of the junior county championship was against Cloughduv on Monday and our girls enjoyed a comprehensive 4-14 to 1-4 win.

U15: Our U15s met Aghada in Roscliffan on Wednesday and were defeated 3-6 to 0-4, the final round of the Imokilly league is against Dungourney on August 6.

U13: Recent result's Imokilly league Bride Rovers 2-5 Sars 5-9, Cork County league Bride Rovers 6-2 Castlemartyr 3-1.

The 'First Friday' collection of old clothes, bags and shoes is coming up again, at Rathcormac Hall, Friday, August 1st, 7pm to 7.30pm. All contributions are much appreciated.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @RoversGAA and on Facebook.

GLEN ROVERS

Well done to our senior team and mentors

who battled to the finish and secured a well deserved draw in our Evening Echo Senior championship clash with Cloughduv on Friday last.

Returning to the senior grade after a lapse of a number of years we were delighted with the huge support we received from all sections of our club.

It was great to see so many former players in attendance supporting our girls and their mentors Sandie Kelly and Deirdre, thanks to all who came along we look forward to seeing you at the replay.

The game was close all through, we took an early lead only for our opponents to come back to level bin half time, all through the second half it was close but Cloughduv took a

five point lead with eight minutes to go.

Undeterred we kept working hard and got back on level, well done to everybody we look forward to the replay with huge enthusiasm.

Due to a bereavement in the Ballincollig club our U13 championship game had to be postponed but in the week ahead we will play Ballincollig on Tuesday in the Glen Field at 7.30pm and on Thursday we meet Douglas in Douglas time to be confirmed.

Our Junior B championship game versus Inniscarra will be played on July 14 in Inniscarra.

Best of luck to Michaela Hyde and the Cork U6 A team who play Tipperary in Kilmallock on Sunday in the All Ireland semi-final.

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Cork's Joanne Casey gets away from Galway's Lorraine Ryan during their All-Ireland Camogie Championship group game.

Picture: INPHO

Cork can build on Galway win

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior quarter-finals: Cork v Offaly, 2pm, Clare v Galway, 4pm, Gaelic Grounds, Limerick (Extra time if necessary)

IT'S hard not to see Cork advance to another All-Ireland semi-final.

Of course nothing can be taken for granted and Offaly will provide a spirited challenge, but Cork should win comfortably.

Much has been said about this Cork team under-performing all season yet their defeat of champions Galway in their final group stage three weeks ago has given them renewed vigour.

The players needed that performance and time will tell how much the leash has loosened.

If a good performance and comfortable win doesn't materialise in the Gaelic Grounds, the doubts will creep in again.

I don't expect this to be the case even though Cork only secured a four-point victory over Offaly in CIT last March.

It's always a different ball game in August. Cork were trying to get momentum going in training and were missing a number of first-team players.

One feels that even if Offaly do have a second-half lead tomorrow, they won't have the belief or intensity to hold on to it and see



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan wins possession from Galway's and Aislinn Connolly.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



CAMOGIE

the game home.

They will play a defensive game, possibly with a sweeper. That's all well and good but considering they rely so much on Elaine Dermody, typically at centre-forward, offering Cork that same defensive strategy won't help get scores on the board.

If Cork play the flanks and play it fast they'll still notch up the

scores.

Offaly's strides over the past number of seasons has been exciting to watch.

It's good for the game and all that jazz, however the step up can't be understated and it's going to take a lot more underage success and a number of years before Offaly have the strength in depth to seriously challenge for All-Ireland honours.

They have done huge work at underage and in 2014, for the first time in their history, an Offaly school claimed All-Ireland post primary honours when St Birr's won the junior A title over St Mary's, Charleville.

In 2009 Offaly created history by winning the county's first

All-Ireland junior championship which earned them a spot in the intermediate grade.

In 2010 they followed up with victory in the All-Ireland intermediate championship which elevated them to senior status.

In 2012 Offaly made it into the All-Ireland senior semi-final.

They failed to make the semis last year and so that was a step back.

Offaly give 100% commitment in every game and this is what has them punching above their weight time and again.

In recent challenge games against Clare and Limerick Offaly played themselves up.

In a recent radio interview, manager Aidan Franks has played up his team's chances.

Rather than coming in under the radar he wants to impress upon his team publicly that they are good enough to beat Cork.

Cork will possibly field the same team that lined out against Galway.

While Jennifer O'Leary has returned to training after her wedding, she will possibly start on the bench, but will figure.

After club championship first-round ties last week, Cork had a few niggling injuries, but all are expected to come through.

Laura Treacy, substituted with a bad knuckle injury the last day out, will also be hoping to make it.

O'Dwyer hurts Cork with show of pure class

Tipperary 4-12
Cork 3-8

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

TIPPERARY laid the foundation for victory in this All-Ireland U16A championship semi-final in Kilmallock yesterday with a blistering opening 30 minutes aided by the gale-force wind and they were full value for this 2-9 to 1-1 interval lead as Cork struggled to get to grips with the intensity of their play.

Playing direct hurling and driving the ball to their inside line with the wind in their favour, they led 1-3 to 0-0 inside the opening 10 minutes. Chloe Kirwin striking the game's opening goal inside 40 seconds of the throw-in.

All over the pitch Tipp held the upper hand and when Keeley Lenihan stroled past the Cork defence and finished to the net with two minutes to the interval, Tipp led by 13 points.

Lauren Homan lifted the Cork spirits with a goal before the break but trailing by 11 points Cork had it all to do in the second half.

From the restart, Cork got into the game and playing with determination they pinned Tipp back. Keeva McCarthy had an early point to which Grace O'Brien replied but this was to be Tipperary's only score until the 28th minute as Cork took over.

Five points without

reply cut the deficit as a battling Cork refused to die and when Keeva McCarthy got the last touch to finish Lauren Homan's long ball to the net just two point separated the sides with five minutes of normal time remaining.

Tipp responded well. Keely Lenihan pointed before the excellent Orla O'Dwyer got inside the Cork defence to finish to the net, again Cork showed huge heart as they replied with a Keeva McCarthy goal, but from the puck out O'Dwyer put the game beyond Cork with a rocket to the net before the same player hit a late point to ensure the holders advanced.

Scorers for Tipperary: O O'Dwyer 2-3, G O'Brien 0-5 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), K Lenihan, C Kirwin 1-0 each, S Meagher, K Meagher, C Condon, C Bourke (f) 0-1 each.

Cork: K McCarthy 2-5 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), L Homan 1-1, A Kennedy 0-2 (f).

TIPPERARY: C Bourke; C Brennan, C Mullaney, C Floyd; E Loughman, K Kennedy (f), E Murphy; S Buckley, C Maher; K Linehan, C Condon, O O'Dwyer; C Kirwin, G O'Brien, S Meagher.

Subs: M Ryan for C Floyd (34), M Coffey for C Kirwin (52), E Mc Donald for S Meagher (61).

CORK: M Daly; K O'Connor, N O'Leary, S O'Leary; C Sigerson, M Buckley, I O'Leary; E Mc Andrew, M Barry; L Homan, N O'Leary (f), A Kennedy; R Harty, K McCarthy, S Mills.

Subs: L O'Neill for E Mc Andrew (25), M Hyde for M Barry (36), L Willis for R Harty (57).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Ballincollig show their class to advance to semi

Ballincollig 2-23
Éire Óg 1-12

MUSKERRY JAHC

By Kevin Murphy

BALLINCOLLIG outclassed Éire Óg in this Ballincollig Credit Union JAHC quarter-final game in Cloughduv.

A powerful second half performance from Ballincollig sealed an impressive victory after they led by 0-12 to 0-7 at the break. The victors dominated the third quarter with some excellent point scoring while their team captain John O'Brien rifled to the net after 41 minutes.

Both sides were evenly matched in the opening exchanges and Ballin-

collig's Stephen Coughlan clipped over the opening score of the game.

Éire Óg's Paul Ryan is an excellent free taker and he rifled over a brace to keep his side in touch.

This local derby was certainly free flowing and Ballincollig's Aidan O'Donovan clipped over an excellent point to edge his side in front, 0-5 to 0-4 after 12 minutes.

Further points from Cian Dorgan (free) and Colm O'Connor increased that lead before Éire Óg's John

Malone landed an exquisite score which reduced the gap to the minimum.

Crucially for Ballincollig, they finished out the opening period very strongly with excellent points from John O'Brien and Killian Kelleher which gave them a five-point cushion at half-time.

On resumption, Ballincollig tacked on scores through John O'Brien and Aidan O'Donovan (free) while Keith O'Riordan kept the Ovens outfit in touch with a placed effort.

The victors showed no sign of relenting with Killian Kelleher landing some excellent points from play.

A beautiful delivery from Cian Dorgan was neatly dispatched to the net by John O'Brien which effectively ended this game as a contest.

Ballincollig dominated the final quarter with points from Cian Dorgan, Killian Kelleher and Aidan O'Donovan stretching their lead.

Éire Óg scored a consolation goal from Eoin Lyons after Ronan O'Toole's initial effort was blocked by Niall Connaughton, while Ballincollig completed an impressive victory with a Stephen Coughlan goal. Ballincollig will now face Cloughduv in the semi-final of the competition.

Scorers for Ballincollig: J O'Brien 1-4, A

O'Donovan, 0-6 (0-4 f), S Coughlan 1-2, K Kelleher 0-5, C Dorgan 0-3 (0-1 f), B McElligot, C O'Connor, J Murray 0-1 each.

Éire Óg: P Ryan 0-4 (0-3 f, 0-1 65), K O'Riordan 0-4 (0-3 f), E Lyons 1-0, G McSweeney, J Malone, D O'Shea, R O'Toole 0-1 each.

BALLINCOLLIG: N Connaughton; S Murphy, K O'Sullivan, C Collins; S O'Sullivan, C Harris, B O'Halloran; C Dorgan, D McDonnell; B McElligot, C O'Connor, K Kelleher; S Coughlan, J O'Brien, A Donovan.

Subs: JP Murphy for J O'Brien (47), T Collins for C Collins (50), J Murray for A O'Donovan (55), N Purcell for C Dorgan (55).

ÉIRE ÓG: C Kelly; D Sheehan, A O'Leary; S Desmond; K O'Sullivan, B Corkery, P O'Sullivan; G McSweeney, R O'Toole; K O'Riordan, L Murphy, E Lyons; J Malone, D Murphy, P Ryan.

Subs: D O'Shea for L Murphy (44), D McCarthy (44), C Hutchinson for P O'Sullivan (45), D Kelly for P Ryan (50m).

Referee: M Moynihan (Glenagh).



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

KILKENNY and Wexford will be interested spectators in the Gaelic Grounds today as they sit and wait the outcome of the two quarter-finals between Cork and Offaly and Clare and Galway, throw-ins at 2pm and 4pm respectively.

Both were safely through to the semi-final three weeks ago having topped their groups and await their August 23 showdown. It'll be five weeks at that stage since both counties would have played their last competitive game and at times you'd wonder if topping the group is the route to go.

Of course, you go out to win every game but the lengthy lay-off, as happens with the provincial champions in the GAA, can leave teams struggling to maintain momentum.

Winning a provincial championship is significant, of course, and I still believe there is nothing like winning an All-Ireland title having gone the direct route, but topping a group is merely a league structure and gaining or dropping points along the way means nothing if the title is won.

Cork, last season, contested an extremely weak group and advanced to the semis comfortably. They then faced a lengthy lay-off and, in truth, their first

real competitive game came in the semi-final against Kilkenny where they looked as flat-footed as if merely playing an early morning challenge game.

Trying to get decent challenge games is hard in senior camogie. There are really only three or four counties capable of winning the All-Ireland and they tend to stay away from each other in this regard, understandably.

They are then left with typically playing minor club hurling teams. They do get the odd good tussle here.

I don't see Offaly posing Cork a problem today. Aidan Franks, their manager, is publicly playing up his squad and they will go into the game holding no fear of Cork but when it comes to it, even if Offaly do give Cork a challenge in the opening half, I don't see them sustaining it.

If Cork start sharply we could have a very one-sided

game.

Offaly camogie has certainly put its hand up in recent years, thanks primarily to former Offaly hurler Joachim Kelly.

Joachim took over the Offaly team at the beginning of 2008. They were a junior outfit then but by the time he finished, at the end of 2011, they had a season in the senior ranks behind them. The senior experience has been up and down but generally positive. There was an All-Ireland semi-final in 2012 and a one-point defeat by Wexford in last year's quarter-final.

This season, Franks has had to do without cruciate victim Lorraine Keena, and Triona McDonald, who moved to Dubai for work.

They won just two of their four group outings, losing heavily to Kilkenny in round one; 5-16 to 0-8 and to Clare 1-10 to 1-8 before recording victories over Derry, 1-17 to 2-11 and Tipperary 0-17 to 1-11. It is

telling that Offaly's victories were against two of the weaker competing counties, along with Dublin with Tipperary and Dublin not picking up a single point throughout. Whatever about Dublin as they were in a tough group against Cork, Wexford and Galway, Tipperary's showing was dismal whereby they were in a group that contained Derry and Offaly.

The earliest records of camogie in Offaly are from the 1930s when there were clubs in Mucklagh, Ballycommon, Ballycumber, Tullamore, Kilmoughey, Rahan, Lusmagh, Druncullen and Kinnitty.

In the mid-1930s Offaly reached the Leinster final only to be defeated by Wexford. After World War II, the game declined in the county and it was largely through the efforts of Clare-born Mary O'Brien that camogie was re-established in Offaly in the 1970s. From 1973-79 Tullamore was

the only club in the county and as a result was allowed to play in the Laois Championship which it won in the first year of entering.

By 1979 clubs had been formed in Birr, Druncullen, Clara and Kilmacmac so the Offaly camogie county board was reformed and in 1980 senior, junior and minor championships were played.

Although the county has enjoyed little success in provincial championships the emergence of clubs in Coolderry, Shinrone, Lusmagh, Kinnitty, Killeigh, Banagher and Ballycommon has ensured that the game remains on a sure footing in Offaly.

Clare and Galway should be a close encounter. If Clare bring their 'A' game to the table they could cause an upset and eliminate the All-Ireland champions. Clare need this victory.

Galway need to significantly raise their performance too.

Considine cracking the dual code

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie

The dual issue continues to dominate in GAA circles thanks to the efforts of Cork's Aidan Walsh, Damien Cahalane, Eoin Cadogan and Clare's Collins brothers, Podge and Seán.

Clare hurling manager, Davy Fitzgerald is adamant it cannot be done but his Cork counterpart Jimmy Barry-Murphy — himself one of the greatest dual players of all time admittedly in an era when it was less of a challenge than nowadays — has

labelled the "experiment" a success.

In the women's Gaelic codes, the highest profile dual players have been Leeside too, with Brieghe Corkery, Rena Buckley and Angela Walsh farming a hatful of All-Ireland medals in the past decade.

Eimear Considine doesn't have the same profile yet, but the 22-year-old's name might just have more resonance after this weekend's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final, when her Clare side face champions Galway.

She grew up in football country and was down at the Kilmihil pitch almost as soon

as she could walk. Camogie didn't come into focus until her teens and with no local club, Kilmalee became the destination.

County recognition followed quickly in both codes, as it did for her sister Ailish, who is currently rehabbing a cruciate injury. Kilmihil won an All-Ireland junior club title in 2008 and Considine was player of the match when Clare claimed the intermediate All-Ireland the following year.

The camogie team has been making its progress at a higher level, beating Cork to win the Munster title in 2012. This year, they reached a first national senior final when

making the League decider but Considine suffered a medial lateral ligament injury to her knee after five minutes and Clare never recovered.

She is fully fit now though and played in the latter part of the group stages, while also lining out for the footballers as they bowed out of the championship with defeats to Kerry and Westmeath. She admits it can be difficult to combine the two but the rewards, which include representing Munster in both codes, outweigh the sacrifices.

"One season I pulled out halfway through was because I couldn't manage it" says

Considine. "It is tough to deal with. The footballers are after losing a lot of girls that were involved in both, now focusing on the camogie. But it can be done."

"In the League there were a lot of clashes so it was just a case of the most important game in the day. So it's not picking one over the other, it's just the most important game on the day."

"My favourite sport depends on the year. I'm originally from a football area but this year the camogie team are still in the championship, so the camogie is the most important this year."

Another issue to contend with is the mental gymnastics



Eimear Considine: Now fully fit after recovering from a ligament injury.

required in being a forward in football and defender in camogie. "It's so different. One day you're going out and you have a target of getting three points today, and the next day you're not letting someone get scores. It's a completely different mindset."

Cork and Galway make it through

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie

Galway and Cork joined Wexford and Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-finals after a day of huge drama at the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday.

Cork advanced, as expected, from their quarter-final but it was no surprise that Offaly made them work all the way before prevailing 2-21 to 1-15 after a fantastic game.

The crucial score was an early goal from Denise Cronin when her miss-hit shot somehow beat everyone while player of the match, Orla Cotter slotted some vital points. Offaly were giving as good as they got, though, and Siobhán Flannery and Elaine Der-

mody had eight points between them to keep their side in contention, trailing by just 1-13 to 0-9.

Flannery was magnificent for Aidan Franks' team and got a goal on her way to a fine individual tally of 1-7, but Cork had too much all-round firepower to go with the 11 points provided by the outstanding Cotter. Amy O'Connor scored an injury-time goal to put a more flattering gloss on the final scoreline.

In the other game, there was never much between holders Galway and Clare in their much-anticipated clash. Tony Ward's crew took the lead early on thanks to Niamh McGrath but it was nip and tuck and a brace of pointed frees by Claire McMahon soon pushed the League runners-up ahead.

That lead didn't last long.



Cork camogie captain Anna Geary leads her team onto the field against Offaly at the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday.

though, and Emma Kilkelly pounced for a 15th minute goal to edge Galway ahead

again. McGrath and McMahon exchanged a couple of scores and it was 1-6 to 0-6 at half-time.

A rainstorm forced referee Mike O'Kelly to halt proceedings for a period in the second-half with a goal still between them. When they resumed, it was Clare who increased the tempo and points from a Chloe Morey penalty and McMahon left just the one between them, before McMahon brought the game to extra-time.

Aislinn Connolly fired a critical goal for Galway two minutes into the third period and though Clare did manage to reduce the deficit to a point approaching the 80th minute, a pointed free by McGrath saw the westerners through 2-10 to 0-14.

■ All-Ireland semi-finals (August 23): Galway v Kilkenny; Cork v Wexford.

spie twins, Niamh Kindlon and Cathriona McConnell.

Verdict: Monaghan

Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship quarter-finals

Cork v Offaly, The Gaelic Grounds, 2pm

It would be easy for this year's Cork captain Anna Geary, recently-married Jenny O'Leary, Brieghe Corkery, Rena Buckley, Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor and Co to have called it quits at this stage but they clearly retain a voracious appetite for glory. The prospect of going a fifth championship without reaching the Promised Land is too much to bear and with players of the calibre of Katrina Mackey and Julia White having gained vital experience in recent years, are driven to succeed this time around under Paudie Murray.

Offaly have improved in the course of their Group 2 campaign. They suffered a horrific 23-point loss at the hands of League champions Kilkenny early on but the two-point defeat by Clare probably restored confidence.

Verdict: Cork

Clare v Galway, The Gaelic Grounds, 4pm

The question, of course, is where are Galway at? Does Tony Ward have them timing their run, to be primed from this juncture onwards? The failure to make an impact in the spring wasn't a huge surprise after ending an 18-year famine since they garnered the breakthrough All-Ireland.

Clare are physically strong and they have shown good mental fortitude too to recover from a 14-point defeat in the League final by Kilkenny. That was their first ever national senior decider

AUG.
2014

Liberty Insurance Senior Championship Quarter-Finals

2.00 pm Cork v Offaly
4.00 pm Clare v Galway

Cotter's excellence key to Cork victory



LINDA
MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Cork 2-21
Offaly 1-15

CORK did enough to secure their All-Ireland semi-final spot without ever truly exerting themselves in the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday.

Despite the expected strong opening start from Offaly, Cork were never in danger of losing this tie. Offaly's hard work was erased on nine minutes when goalkeeper Eleanor Clendennen let in a stinker leaving it level on 1-1 to 0-4.

When Julia White pointed four minutes later Cork never relinquished their lead. The gap had opened to 1-13 to 0-9 at the break.

As Cork ran at Offaly they resorted to cynical fouling. Katrina Mackey winning three frees in a row for a jersey pull as she rounded with ease. Ger O'Dowd should have taken stronger action on this but his failure to do so permitted it to continue. Finally, in the second half, he booked two Offaly players as they sustained two tactics.

Excessive blowing of the whistle and failure to play any advantage once again reduced the game to a patch of what it could have been, but at this stage it is almost a waste of time complaining about how referees and the rules are holding back the game of camogie.

More positively, Gemma O'Connor completely dominated the second half; Aoife Murray was excellent throughout. While not having to deal with any clear shot on goal she was alert off her line, strong under the dropping ball into the square, distributed effectively and the distance

in her puck outs was superb at times. Rena Buckley once again worked hard, while Aisling Thompson came far more into the game. And with Ger O'Dowd allowing little ball to be contested, Orla Cotter was accurate from frees.

Cork have added to their panel in recent days with football star Angela Walsh and Amy O'Connor, back from international soccer duty, called up. There may be a few eyebrows raised, but with Cork struggling for strength in depth, if the players are available the management are right to take them. Amy played when available for the Cork minors this season and deserves this promotion.

With the game having died it re-ignited somewhat when Siobhan Flannery finished a 20-metre free to the net after Cork were caught napping.

Two further points from the same player had the gap suddenly down to six.

It was noticeable that Sheila Sullivan, a two-time All-Star at left half-back, was dropped from the starting 15 for internal reasons. It was her deliveries after her introduction on 52 minutes which led to Offaly's resurgence.

But Cork were still never really troubled.

A precision pass from Aisling Thompson almost on full-time found the young O'Connor, who had roamed free, and she finished coolly and clinically to the net.

The gap should have been greater than nine points and Cork know a performance like that won't see them through against Wexford in two weeks' time.

Again Cork failed to create decent

goal chances against a weak side. Denise Cronin's ninth minute strike was one that shouldn't have gone in.

O'Connor's was a nice take but the game was over at that stage. If we need a goal when the game is in the melting pot, the concern is, can they create one?

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-12 (0-10 ft), D Cronin, Amy O'Connor 1-0 each, J White, K Mackey, B Corkery 0-2 each, J Casey, J O'Leary, G O'Connor 0-1 each.
Offaly: S Flannery 1-8 (1-6 ft), T Hannon 0-4, E Dermody 0-2 (0-1 ft), A Watkins 0-1.

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, A Geary, L Treacy, P Mackey, G O'Connor, E O'Sullivan; R Buckley, A Thompson; O Cotter, D Cronin, J Casey; J White, B Corkery, K Mackey.
Subs: A Walsh for J Casey (45), A O'Connor for K Mackey (54), S Hayes for E O'Sullivan (56).
OFFALY: E Clendennen; F Stephens, L Sullivan, M Crean; D Flynn, M Morkan, J Brady; A Kelly, S Flannery; T Hannon, A Watkins, C Cleary; AM Guinan, E Dermody, N McCabe.
Subs: S Sullivan for C Cleary (52), M Wyer for N McCabe (56).
Referee: Ger O'Dowd (Limerick).



Cork's Katrina Mackey attempts to dodge the attentions of Offaly's Fiona Stephens in their Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Championship Quarter-Final at The Gaelic Grounds in Limerick.

Picture: Ryan Byrne/INPHO



PROFESSIONAL: That was the verdict of Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray.

Paudie: Wexford will be a tougher test

CORK manager Paudie Murray was content but realistic after the game. "I think we were professional, we did enough. It was a game we were always expected to win, it was an awkward one. "I thought our first half display was very professional to be honest; they did what we asked of them. The second half was probably a small bit scattered, maybe we upset it with the subs but we felt it was important to give

MATCH REACTION

than win by a cricket score. "Obviously that display today won't beat Wexford. 2-21 will; it's a big, big score. If we score that in our next game, we'll win it. But we will be under massive pressure in two weeks' time, have no doubt about it." He felt Cork had Offaly split at times but were stopped in their tracks a number of times by cynical fouling. "I think we did our gameplan to perfection in

probably, if we were playing against Wexford or Kilkenny, there is no way some of the things that went on would go on in those games.

"In the second half, we didn't stick to the gameplan which is probably the most disappointing thing out of today. We wanted to move the ball. I think we rushed our shots a bit but, look, to be fair, it was probably hard too in one way, we were probably in third gear there really.

very professional job; they prepared themselves very well so I think there are a lot of positives there. I think we're getting better with every game but again I will stress, we're going to be under massive pressure in two weeks against Wexford."

Their semi-final opponents have proved too strong in their big meetings over the last few years.

"We're going to have to be flat out to beat them but I think the bottom line is we realise that."

Killeagh are capable of prevailing in replay

**CAMOGIE
TOMORROW**

Evening Echo Senior Championship replay: Killeagh v Ballincollig; Carrigtwohill, 7pm

THIS one was billed to be a thriller and first time out the sides didn't disappoint at all throughout the tie. Another close contest is on the cards when they face each other at the same venue tomorrow evening. Ballincollig went into the opening game as favourites but Killeagh, under the guidance of Kevin O'Connor, put them under pressure from the throw-in an never allowed them take control. Ballincollig made the early running taking a slender lead but with the Killeagh defence getting on top they led at the interval by a point and through the second half the sides were level on several occasions. Ballincollig hit the front but again the spirit shown by Killeagh was superb as they battled back twice to ensure they were not going to be denied. Both sides had chances to win it but failing to find the range they lived to fight another day. Again this one will be close,



Killeagh's Hannah Looney races away from Ballincollig's Cliona Irish, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship clash at Carrigtwohill.

Picture: David Keane

both sides have excellent performers, the Ballincollig defence will be mindful of the threat Angela Walsh posed to them the last day out and they will need to stop the supply as in possession she caused havoc in the first game. The Killeagh defence were superb and Ballincollig will be looking

for more from their attack. Interestingly, in the first meeting, both sides struck four points from placed balls and 1-5 from play indicating just how closely matched they are. Both have superb free-takers, Kate Murphy for Killeagh and Sinead O'Callaghan for

Ballincollig showed great accuracy and they will punish any indiscretions and both defences will have to be disciplined. It promises to be another close one, hard to predict a winner. Killeagh look to be the team in-form at the moment and if Laura Treacy, who missed the drawn game

through injury, is fit to line-out it could just tilt the scales in their favour. Both sides will be hoping their senior inter-county players, Denise Cronin for Ballincollig and Laura Treacy and Hannah Looney come through the All-Ireland senior quarter-final against Offaly the day before.

Cloughduv favourites to defeat Glen side

CAMOGIE

**TOMORROW
Evening Echo Senior Championship replay: Cloughduv v Glen Rovers, Castle Road, 11am.**

NEW kids on the block, Glen Rovers showed huge determination in the first game as they battled with all their might to get back into a match that looked to have gone Cloughduv's way as they led by five points with eight minutes remaining.

They now face into tomorrow's replay minus several of that side due to injury and holidays and they will be calling on some of their younger brigade to step up to the plate and fill the gaps.

In the drawn game, Glen Rovers made the early running but gradually, Cloughduv got back into the game and it was level pegging at the break and remained tight until Cloughduv grabbed a goal and tacking on two further points, hit the front.

Battling back, Glen held their composure and fired over two points before Denise Luby had them level scoring a penalty.

Both sides had chances to win. Cloughduv squandered goal chances. Glen had three late chances in their bid to grab a winner as they camped in their opponent's half to no avail.

Cloughduv, back-boned by Cork seniors Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Catriona Foley and Briege Corkery, will be favourites to get it right this time out. Glen are minus Denise Luby, Nicole O'Brien and Zoe Buckley who were all injured in the first meeting between the sides and with three of their starting 15 the last day marked absent due to holidays they will have a young side on duty with a huge task on their hands but the northsiders are a spirited outfit.

Former great Sandie Fitzgibbon is at the helm and with her former team colleagues Deirdre Sutton and Kelly Newman, two experienced mentors at her side, aided by Frankie O'Sullivan and Tom Luby, she will have huge support as she urges her charges to stand up and be counted in this replay.

Cloughduv will be firm favourites but don't write off Glen. Cloughduv will have four players on duty with Cork on Saturday in the All-Ireland quarter-final against Offaly but are happy to have the game go ahead.

Glen did seek a postponement due to their lack of numbers but were unsuccessful, given their casualty list and the closeness of the first game between the sides it hard to predict anything other than a Cloughduv victory.

Busy week ahead on camogie front

ANOTHER week of glorious summer weather and plenty of *Evening Echo* championship action decided.

Clonakilty edged Kilbrittan/Timoleague in a tight contest to get their campaign up-and-running.

Mallow suffered their second defeat in the round robin series of the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship when Aghbullogue got their campaign up-and-running in a low-scoring contest which finished 1-9 to 2-2 in the Mid Cork side's favour.

Coachford was the venue for the *Evening Echo* Intermediate championship meeting between Enniskeneane and Newtownshandrum where Enniskeneane bounced back from their opening-round defeat to Sarsfields to get the better of Newtownshandrum on a 2-18 to 2-6 scoreline.

In the *Evening Echo* Junior A championship, Sliabh Rua got a victory under their belts in their

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

second game as they overcame the challenge of Na Piarsaigh in a tight battle where two points separated the sides at the full-time whistle, 0-10 to 0-8 the final score.

In the *Evening Echo* Junior B Championship Bride Rovers were to strong for Cloughduv.

The *Evening Echo* Junior C championship saw league champions Banteer continue their winning ways with a victory over Blarney. Ballinora continued to impress also as they had a victory over Courcsey Rovers. Ballinascarty overcame St Catherine's when they travelled to Coma.

WEEK AHEAD

Another week of interesting games will continue with games in all grades starting tomorrow with two *Evening Echo* Senior champion-

ship replays (see previews on this page). Also tomorrow, in the *Evening Echo* Junior B championship, Inniscarra travel to meet Bride Rovers at 7.30pm.

In the *Evening Echo* Junior C championship, Millstreet will be hoping to continue their good run of successes when they host Castletelyons at 4pm, also on the fixtures' list is the meeting of St Fanahan's and Cobh in St Fanahan's, Killeagh and Buttevant meet in Killeagh.

One game in the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship has Aghbullogue with a good win over Mallow tucked away safely, now meet a Kilbrittan/Timoleague side battling for their first victory having lost out to Clonakilty. At the time of going to print this game may be switched from Monday to Thursday so keep an eye to the Cork camogie website for fixture updates.

On Tuesday, it's *Evening Echo* Junior A championship and an all-city meeting between Douglas and St

Vincent's clash at Castle Road at 7.30pm and both will be anxious to get a second victory under their belts having lost a game each.

On Wednesday, in the *Evening Echo* Junior C championship, Blarney meet Courcsey Rovers, Banteer host Valley Rovers while in the *Evening Echo* Junior A championship it's Sliabh Rua and Kildorrery in Castle Road at 7.30pm.

On Thursday, Na Piarsaigh and Watergrasshill meet in Castle Road at 7.30pm, a game that is vital to both sides having won and lost a game each they are on equal points and whoever can get a win here will be favoured to go through to the semi-final. In the opposite section, the meeting of Bishopstown and Youghal is also an important one, both sides have won and lost a game each.

Keep an eye on the Cork camogie website and the Cork camogie facebook page for all fixtures and results which are updated on a daily basis.

Killeagh goals kill off a brave Ballincollig

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Killeagh 4-7
Ballincollig 1-11

FROM the throw-in Killeagh were focused on the job in hand and they never allowed Ballincollig settle into this Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship replay last night in Carrigrohilly.

With Angela Walsh causing huge problems at centre-forward for the Ballincollig defence and the excellent Laura Treacy doing trojan work in the same line, Killeagh held the upper hand.

In defence, they had superb performers in Jessica O'Shea and Niamh O'Keeffe, whilst young Chole Daly slotted in well at midfield in place of the injured Brid Stack.

Kate Murphy slotted over an early free to settle Killeagh and from the puck out Angela Walsh blasted the ball to the net for the first of her three goals after good work from Enna O'Neill. Sinead O'Callaghan and Jessica Hennigan had Ballincollig within a point as they began to win possession. However, two quick points had the Killeagh lead back to three.

Killeagh stretched their advantage when Laura Treacy reacted quickest to find the net after they were denied from the penalty spot and with the sides swapping points twice before the break Killeagh led by two goals 2-5 to 0-5.

Ballincollig applied early second half pressure but the Killeagh defence stood strong and when Angela Walsh grabbed Kate Murphy's long range free on the edge of the square there was only one outcome and that was a goal and three minutes later she made it a hat trick collection Chloe Sigerson's superb delivery and finishing with deadly accuracy. Twice Sinead O'Callaghan found the range as Ballincollig dug deep and a Denise Cronin goal 13 minutes into the half cut the deficit to seven points. Again the Killeagh upped their work rate and held their composure under a lot of pressure as Ballincollig came at them. Points from Angela Walsh and Ciara Daly steadied Killeagh as the game entered the closing minutes and with Ballincollig beginning to get a foothold they struck three points without reply. However, despite tiring a little, Killeagh had done enough for 55 minutes to ensure their passage was secured as Ballincollig look to a back door meeting with Courcy Rovers.

Scorers for Killeagh: A Walsh 3-2, K Murphy 0-4 (Pst), L Treacy 1-0, C Daly 0-1.

Ballincollig: S O'Callaghan 0-7 (0-4fs, 0-245), D Cronin 1-0, J Hennigan 0-2, P Buttimer 1-0, Dorgan 0-1 each.

KILLEAGH: S Beausang; Aoife Walsh, M Smiddy, N O'Keeffe, C Sigerson, M O'Connor, L McEvoy, J O'Shea (c), C Daly, H Looney, Angela Walsh, L Treacy, E O'Neill, K Murphy, N O'Donovan.

Sub: A M Walsh for C Daly (inj 55).

BALLINCOLLIG: A Sheehan, A Kiehy, L Weste, A Coughlan, A Cotter, K O'Donoghue, S Buckley, S Coomey, M O'Donoghue, P Buttimer, L Dorgan (c), C Ryan, D Cronin, S O'Callaghan, J Hennigan.

Sub: S O'Sullivan for C Ryan (dvd).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

The Glen outpaced by super Corkery sisters

Cloughduv 1-17
Glen Rovers 0-9

THE pace and speed of Breige and Máiréad Corkery were effectively the difference between the sides in this senior A championship first round replay at Castle Road yesterday.

The Glen and Cloughduv played out a draw two weeks ago when Cloughduv had led by five points entering the final eight minutes. But this time, the west Cork outfit finished the game strongly.

The Glen, despite a competitive opening 20 minutes and a strong restart after half time, had no answer at midfield to the running game of the Corkery girls. Running at the defence, in the open space of Castle Road, put The Glen under intense pressure.

It was difficult to know who had advantage at times, such as the swirling nature of the wind which rose and dropped continuously over the hour.

Joanne O'Callaghan, operating in the unfamiliar position of full forward, finished a good Cloughduv move after just three minutes.

The Glen composed themselves, with their defence battenning down the hatches but, from midfield up, their distribution to the inside forwards was poor. Lack of communication and the high ball in meant they were struggling to make headway up front, despite enjoying equal possession.

Denise Luby possibly should have gone for goal when she opted to strike over the bar on 18 minutes.

With Katherine Corkery also enjoying the running game, Cloughduv started to pick off points and four in the final ten minutes of the half gave them a 1-6 to 0-2 half-time lead.

The Glen played the majority of ball down their right flank in the opening half, thereby denying one of



Photo Gallery: You can see more photographs at www.photosales.echo.ie

Cloughduv's Katherine Corkery races past Glen Rovers' Lauren Callanan, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship replay at Castle Road.

Picture: David Keane

their best forwards in the opposite corner the opportunity to get into the game.

They switched this in the second half and Sinead O'Halloran had four points on the board inside seven minutes, three from play.

The Glen's five-point to two return gave them reason for hope as they strove to capitalise on their good restart but three points inside two minutes midway through from Katherine Corkery, Aoife Barry-Murphy and Niamh O'Leary killed their momentum.

Cloughduv got stronger as the game wore on. With their defence attacking and midfield dominating, there was only so much pressure a defence can take. Despite the best efforts of Karen O'Connell, Lauren Callanan and Leanne O'Sullivan, Cloughduv ran riot in the final five minutes of play, picking off five points, compliments of Breige (3) and Máiréad (2).

The Glen did have their moments and Aoife Murray was busy, particularly entering the closing stages when she made a double save. The distance in her puck-outs in both halves was particularly impressive, putting her side on the attack time and again. But both sides missed scoreable chances and this they'll have to address as they advance, Cloughduv to the quarter-finals and The Glen via the back door.

Scorers for Cloughduv: K Corkery 0-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), B Corkery 0-5, M Corkery 0-3, J O'Callaghan 1-0, A B Murphy 0-2, N O'Leary 0-1.

Glen Rovers: S O'Halloran 0-5 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), D Luby 0-2, L Cunningham, J Hosford 0-1 each.

GLEN ROVERS: K Lee; S Busteed, L O'Sullivan, N Gowen; K Falvey, L Callanan, K O'Connell, J Hosford, L Cunningham; A Wallace, A O'Keeffe, S Hayes; S O'Halloran, D Luby, N O'Brien.

Subs: K Fitzgerald for S Hayes (45).

CLOUGHUV: A Murray; N McCarthy, E Dunne, A Kelleher; A Corkery, C Foley, O O'Driscoll; M Corkery, B Corkery; N O'Leary, K Corkery, B Hennigan; A M Ryan, J O'Callaghan, A Barry-Murphy.

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

CORK INTO SEMI-FINAL



Cork's Orla Cotter is presented with her Liberty Insurance Player of the Match Award by Galway Hurler Joe Canning after her side's 2-21 to 1-15 win over Offaly to keep their bid for a first All-Ireland title since 2009 intact.



BREIGE CORKERY

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CAMOGIE > ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL

Clare bow out after stormy affair

Galway 2-10 Clare 0-14 (after extra-time)

at Gaelic Grounds, Limerick

CLARE bowed out of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship in the most heartbreaking fashion in the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday evening, losing out in extra-time after dominating the All-Ireland champions for most of the eighty minutes.

The Banner side can look back on a catalogue of chances missed and their inability to score from play, Deirdre Murphy accounting for one white flag, thirteen others coming from placed balls. This is not to take away from the bravery of Clare's display, particularly the hard working backline, led by the heroic Maire McGrath from full back. They gave everything and didn't really deserve to be on the losing end of a game that had multiple controversies.

The first of those concerned the weather. About fifteen minutes into the second half a storm blew into the Gaelic Grounds and within seconds there was driving sheet like rain which affected visibility and made conditions close to unplayable. If that wasn't enough there was lightning which appeared to be right over the stadium. Clearly the pitch was now dangerous. By then most of the crowd had retreated to the back of the stand as the rain blew into the first twenty rows of the covered stand.

Both sets of management were remonstrating with the referee and Clare definitely wanted their team off the field. Referee Mike O'Kelly from Cork allowed play to continue and while it did Galway's Niamh McGrath landed a free from fifty metres to make the scoreline Galway 1-9 to Clare's 0-8. Perhaps it was the visibility issue or maybe distraction from the storm battering the ground, but the score which was signalled with a white flag from the umpire was not recorded on the scoreboard and as we were to subsequently learn, by the match referee.

From the puckout the play was stopped as O'Kelly came to the sideline to discuss the deteriorating situation with match officials and some help from Galway and Clare managements. By now Clare manager Colm Honan was waving their players to the dressing room and a number of players scampered towards sanctuary. However the referee immediately stopped the retreat and ordered both sets of players to remain on the field, in a huddle, under a deluge, while he and some officials discussed what to do.

This was a ridiculous sight. Both sets of players at the mercy of the elements in the middle of the field while officials argued what was clear to all in attendance. Common-sense prevailed after about four minutes of discussions and there players were taken off the field and the game was delayed to allow the storm to pass.

There were still ten minutes to play and Galway held a four point lead although the scoreboard only said three. After seventeen minutes the players re-emerged to cheers and the game restarted but with Galway's total reading 1-8 instead of 1-9.

by
Emmet Moloney



With championship elimination staring them in the face Clare simply took over the last ten minutes which would stretch into fourteen. Giving everything the Banner came at the All-Ireland champions in waves. Chances were created, spurned and created again. Galway were now reduced to last resort fouling and from one of these Chloe Morey blasted a twenty metre free for goal only to see it deflected inches over the bar.

With time almost up another Galway foul saw Claire McMahon point a free from thirty five metres. We were now in jury time. Clare mounted one last attack and sweeping move saw Niamh O'Dea set free on goal about forty metres out. As she began to motor with intent she was deliberately tripped and Clare were justifiably awarded a free at the outer range of McMahon's range. To her credit she drove the ball between the posts to see the official score tied at 0-11 to Galway's 1-8.

From the ensuing puckout we had

the full time whistle and shortly after the announcement of extra time. Naturally Galway supporters and management were somewhat irate as there was little doubt about Galway's score actually being 1-9 and not 1-8. There was some murmurs suggesting they wouldn't return for the extra time and their management did appear to talk to officials five minutes before the Galway team finally reappeared.

While the Galway case was solid it shouldn't be forgotten that Clare had monopolised possession during the last five or six minutes and could have gone for goals had they known the correct score. Referee Kelly did not tell the freetakers that the scoreboard was wrong so in truth Clare did change their approach in the last few possessions, content with a point that they thought was an equaliser.

The situation was somewhat farcical and merely added to the bizarre nature of an afternoon that was now stretched into an evening. When the extra time started there was an air of inevitability about Galway receiving most of the officiating benefit of the doubt and that appeared to be the case.

The killer score in extra time came from Galway in the very first minute. Sub Anne Marie Starr gained possession and travelled quite a long way before handpassing across the Clare

goal mouth where Aislinn Connolly was unmarked. She shot to the net and a three point lead for Galway which they wouldn't relinquish.

Naturally Clare replied with a Claire McMahon free but that was all they could muster in the first period despite piling on the pressure on the Galway rearguard which it must be said played with fortitude.

The second period of extra time began with a point from play from Galway's Orlaigh McGrath and the Galway lead was re-established at three, 2-9 to 0-12. With the summer slipping away them Clare once more found resolve and threw everything into attack. Chloe Morey moved to centre back where she cleaned up, Naomi Carroll, Deirdre Murphy and Laura McMahon drove forward as Maire McGrath continued to deal comfortably with anything that got back the half backs.

Once again the champions relied on close marking and subsequent fouls to hold up Clare attacks. Two frees resulted for Claire McMahon and with three minutes to go the gap was down to one. Clare also shot three pivotal wides in that dominant spell, two from long range frees. With time running out Galway smuggled the ball upfield and were awarded a close in free which Orlaigh McGrath struck over and seconds later O'Kelly blew for time.

It was a very difficult loss for Clare to take as they certainly had much more possession than Galway and created numerous chances which were missed. Clare ended with eleven wides to Galway's four. In an intense game where both sets of backs were dominant, Clare's inside line could never escape the stranglehold of the Galway defenders who had no compunction about fouling if danger was developing.

Clare's only score from play was a brilliant point from Deirdre Murphy nine minutes into the second half. The rest would come from frees, twelve struck from Claire McMahon, one from Chloe Morey. However that little piece of luck needed to win tight matches against quality opposition deserted them, four or five times a Clare goal beckoned and with it would certainly have come victory, but the gods frowned on the Banner, the sliotar was blocked, deflected or scrambled to safety and Galway lived on.

Galway's first goal came on thirteen minutes and was the only score that separated the teams at the break. One of the few moves that split the Clare defence, a Niamh McGrath hand pass freed Emma Kilkelly and she rattled the net. The Banner backs, who were magnificent throughout, will be disappointed however as they had chances to clear before the goal



chance was created.

Clare's first half return was six Claire McMahon frees and already the pattern of the game had emerged with both defences on top, opportunities from play being restricted and not then take. Galway had 1-6 on the board at the break, four Niamh McGrath frees complimented by white flags from Kilkelly and Emma Hennelly.

The deluge arrived with Galway four points in front, although the start of the second half had been all Clare, who once again couldn't make that superiority count on the scoreboard. The last fifteen minutes saw a siege on the Galway backs but one they resisted through tenacious defending.

For the last fifty minutes of the contest Galway could only muster 1-4 in total and this is testament to the sheer domination of the Clare backline. Goalkeeper Denise Lynch made one telling save and had no chance with both goals, while the full backline, led majestically by Maire McGrath was completely on top. McGrath would face three different Galway opponents, none of which managed to make any impression.

Elsewhere Chloe Morey in the corner and Carol O'Leary also cleaned up continuously, Morey moving to centre back to good effect later in the game, allowing stalwart centre back Niamh O'Dea go forward in search of scores. Fellow half backs Eimear Considine and Roisin McMahon were also prominent and hurled plenty of ball.

In midfield Kate Lynch and Naomi

Carroll were effective throughout and held the centre, hoovering up many of the breaks.

It was in the forward division where Clare struggled although this could never be explained by a lack of commitment. Every forward threw themselves into the contest but Galway had a definite physical edge defensively and they used this advantage to snuff out many potential attacks. Deirdre Murphy was identified as a major threat and she had plenty of company for the entire game, usually a second Galway defender or midfielder.

Claire McMahon was imperious from placed balls, shooting twelve frees and missing only one, but from open play she too was marshalled well. Aoife Keane looked dangerous at times at corner forward but was unable to escape the tight clutches of the Galway full backline but won a couple of scoreable frees as a result of her threat. The same was true of full forward Fiona Lafferty.

The half forward line of Niki Kaiser, Lisa Loughnane and Murphy were not starved of ball throughout but struggled with the numbers Galway had defending and the strength of the champions rearguard. Sarah Dervan, captain Lorraine Ryan, Heather Cooney and Shauna Healy were all stars for Galway in defence. Clare were dispossessed on a number of occasions and blocked down, constantly pressured on the ball, this probably accounting for the bulk of the eleven wides.

Clare used two subs over the eighty minutes, Laura McMahon making a

definite impression when she came on with twenty five minutes to go, while Aoife Griffin was also prominent when introduced for the last ten minutes. Both replacements stayed for extra time.

Clare will take little consolation from the knowledge that they were good enough to take the All-Ireland champions scalp. They could and should have won this game. After the game that told in the faces. Clare owned the ball for long periods but couldn't put the Tribeswomen away. As championship lessons go, this was a tough one to take.

Clare

Denise Lynch, Chloe Morey (0-1, 1 free), Maire McGrath, Carol O'Leary, Eimear Considine, Niamh O'Dea, Roisin McMahon, Kate Lynch (capt), Naomi Carroll, Niki Kaiser, Lisa Loughnane, Deirdre Murphy (0-1), Aoife Keane, Fiona Lafferty, Claire McMahon (0-12, all frees) Subs Laura McMahon for Loughnane (36 mins), Aoife Griffin for Considine (50 mins).

Galway

Susan Earner, Therese Manton, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Sinead Cahalan, Shauna Healy, Lorraine Ryan (capt), Rebecca Hennelly (0-1), Niamh McGrath (0-6, all frees), Emma Kilkelly (1-0), Orlaigh McGrath (0-2, 1 free), Anne Marie Hayes (0-1), Ailish O'Reilly Subs Breda Hanney for O'Reilly (17 mins), Aislin Connolly (1-0) for Kilkelly (42 mins), Gina Glynn for Cahalan (44 mins), Anne Marie Starr for Hennelly (53 mins), Noreen Coen for Hanney (58 mins), Aislin O'Reilly for Coen (start of extra time).

Referee: Mike O'Kelly (Cork)

Opposite page:

Clare's Niki Kaiser tussles with Lorraine Ryan of Galway;
Below: Clare manager Colm Honan on the line.

INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Top: Clare line out for the national anthem before their All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Final meeting with Galway at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick on Saturday;
Middle: Clare's Niki Kaiser and Lorraine Ryan of Galway clash during the match;
Below: An exhausted Niamh O'Dea takes a moment after the final whistle.

INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Emotions run deep

Emmet Moloney

emoloney@clarepeople.ie

COLM Honan found it difficult to describe his emotions in the immediate aftermath of Saturday's two point extra time loss to All-Ireland champions Galway. Very proud of the effort his team put in, the Clare manager could not fault their commitment and what they gave over the dramatic eighty minutes.

The game had taken almost two hours and with his shattered team around him on the field after the match, his disappointment was obvi-

ous too. On Clare's inability to score enough from play, he was quick to point to Galway's defensive tactics.

"I wouldn't point to that really. We weren't allowed go through, they just wouldn't let that happen. You don't have to score from play if you're being pulled down. You could hear it from the sideline, they were not going to let us get past. Okay you don't get it from play but you put the subsequent free over the bar," he said.

On the scoreboard controversy Honan put it simply.

"We worked off the scoreboard and took our points accordingly. To

be honest it was one of the strangest games I've ever experienced. I never played in any game like that in my hurling career," he added, referring to the weather delay and the scoreboard controversies.

On the decision to leave the players on the field during the worst of the deluge Honan was adamant players should have been taken off earlier.

"We wanted them to come off but he (the referee) wouldn't let them leave the field. We eventually got them into the tunnel but it was a lottery by then. I never saw anything like that before," he said.

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GAMEON

THE 2014 CLARE SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS HERE



CHAMPIONSHIP CAPTAIN'S HAVE THEIR EYES ON THE PRIZE:
Lisa Kennedy (Kilmaley); Carol O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Chloe
Morey (Sixmilebridge); Marie McNamara (Kilkishen); Fiona Lafferty
(Inagh-Kilnamona); Edwina O'Brien (Clooney-Quin); and Julie Anne
O'Meara (Truagh-Clonlara) prepare for the championship.

Natasha Barton



Some of the championship captains get to grips with the Anne McMahon Cup. Natasha Barton

OUR PUNDITS >



Catherine O'Loughlin

Clare's first All-Star winner in 2005, having also previously been nominated in 2004.



Sylvia O'Brien

Former Clare player who was a member of the 1993 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship winning side.



Carol Toomey

Former Newmarket-on-Fergus goalkeeper and captain of 2011 winning side. Has won titles for her club at all grades.



Brid MacNamara

Clare Camogie PRO and back-to-back National PRO of the Year winner in 2011/12.

Carrigaline hoping to continue good start



Glen Rovers' Lauren Callanan clears her lines as Cloughduv's Katherine Corkery closes in, during their Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship replay at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

IT IS going to be another very busy week of *Evening Echo* championship action with clubs determined to get fixtures played before students return to school and colleges, thus limiting their availability to weekends after the summer break.

Wednesday is going to be a busy evening with *Evening Echo* Senior B and Intermediate championship games galore.

One game that is sure to catch the eye is the all-Carrigdhoun meeting between Valley Rovers and Carrigaline.

In their first year in the Senior B grade, Carrigaline have made a great start to the round robin series of games with a victory over last year's defeated finalists Éire Óg.

In a close contest Éire Óg looked to have done enough to take the points, but a strong closing five minutes saw Carrigaline grab two late goals to seal victory and they will be de-

termined to guarantee themselves a semi-final spot.

They have good players in Ellen Twomey, Sarah Cotter, Mairead Maguire and Joanne O'Keeffe and Tony O'Donovan and his backroom team will have them ready for the big challenge Valley Rovers will produce.

Valleys lost out in their opening game against fellow divisional neighbours Ballygarvan in a tight contest where a last minute goal saw Ballygarvan take the points on a 2-9 to 1-9 scoreline.

Valley Rovers are a good side. Liz Bugler, Aisling Glavin, Eanna Coughlan, Jennifer Murphy and Susan O'Leary will be determined to record a victory this time out as anything else will not suffice to keep their interests alive in this highly competitive *Evening Echo* Senior B championship.

Fr O'Neill's, with a good victory to their credit over Mallow, take on Kilbrittain/Timoleague, who lost narrowly to Clonakilty in their first

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

game, and drew with Aghabullogue on Thursday last.

O'Neill's will be hoping for their second victory over a Kilbrittain/Timoleague side who need to pick up two points to stay in the hunt.

The meeting between Tracton and Blackrock is important for both sides. Tracton have one victory to their credit having defeated Newcestown in their opening game, Blackrock lost out to Brian Dillon's in their opener.

A Tracton victory would see them nicely poised with just one game to go against Brian Dillon's. Blackrock need a victory to keep their interest alive as two defeats would almost certainly end their interest in this championship.

Tracton have excellent players in Jennifer Kiely, Nicole Mullane,

Karen O'Sullivan and Clodagh Fitzgerald, with Emma Kingston joining her sister Julie Ann this year. Last year they took Carrigaline to a replay before losing out in the final and they are determined to atone for that and reverse that this year but they will have to be on top form to overcome a Blackrock side who know they need to win this one.

Roisin De Faoite, Aileen Nagle, Clodagh Coughlan Aoife MacCurrian and Carol Ryan backbone the challenge of a young Blackrock side under the guidance of former Cork intermediate coach Bobby Thornhill and they will battle all the way to stay in contention in this championship.

Having lost out by a point to Brian Dillon's, they will be hoping to get a result this time and they will be hoping to have Kaitlyn Hickey available this time out having been without her in their opening game due to work commitments.

The Cork intermediate is a big

player for them.

Brian Dillon's go in search of their second victory when they meet a Newcestown side who lost out to Tracton in their opening game.

Newcestown have been struggling a bit. They have a strong underage set-up and in a year or two a lot of these players will be coming through and they will be a huge boost to their adult team.

In their game against Tracton they struggled and they will be hoping to turn in a much-improved performance against a strong Brian Dillon's side. Susan Kate Brosnan, Niamh O'Leary, Jane Dooley and Shauna Cronin should be too strong for the challenge that Newcestown will produce.

However Newcestown are renowned championship campaigners and with their backs to the wall they will fight to the end to secure victory here with Suzanne Deasy, Lisa O'Sullivan, Evelyn Crowley and Colette Desmond giving it their all in a bid to stay in contention.

Camogie star happy to see women's role

by Sean O'Riordan

While the first women only officially joined the Army as non-combatants in 1980, their involvement in the Defence Forces goes back to the foundation of the State, when Brigid Lyons Thornton played a role in establishing the Army Medical Corps.

Women were only allowed to serve as nursing and medical staff up to the

establishment of the short-lived Women's Service Corps in January 1980, when they began to train and serve in conventional military roles.

Women proved so adept that their non-combatant role was withdrawn in 1992.

Unlike some other Western armies, there are no restrictions on the appointments open to women in the Defence Forces and

they have served in some very dangerous positions and places.

The Defence Forces have had a female deputy battalion commander in Chad; women bomb-disposal personnel; heavy-vehicle mechanics; snipers; armoured personnel carrier drivers; ship's captains; and pilots.

A Defence Forces spokesman said it "is a testament both to the

progress of the organisation and moreover to the enormous contribution made by the Women of Oglagh na hÉireann during the past 34 years".

Although still small in number, the Defence Forces have been increasing the percentage of female personnel over the past 30 years.

Corporal Gemma O'Connor is one role model the Army is proud

of; and she's not only well-known in the Defence Forces but on GAA pitches throughout the country.

Gemma, currently serving as an instructor in the 1st Brigade Training Centre in Cork, is a five-times All Ireland camogie medal holder. She'll be hoping for a sixth medal with Cork this year, but her team will first have to overcome Wexford in the semi-final on August 23.

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in Army grow

Gemma has been deployed overseas in Liberia, Chad, and Lebanon.

"It's definitely a job with a difference. There's a sense of pride, camaraderie, teamwork, and motivation. Women can definitely hold their own with men in the Defence Forces," said Gemma who joined the Army 11 years ago.

"I think targeting schools [for new female recruits] is a great idea."

Although single, she said she would welcome more family-friendly policies in the Defence Forces to encourage more women to join up.

Meanwhile, just to encourage more new recruits — male or female — it was pointed out that there is a huge educational plus in joining the Defence Forces. They will pay to educate recruits from Leaving Certificate up to a master's



Gemma O'Connor: A job with a difference.

Vincent's book place in semis

ST VINCENT'S secured their semi-final spot in the Evening Echo Junior A Championship when they recorded a 4-4 to 0-3 victory over city neighbours Douglas in Castle Road on Tuesday.

Sliabh Rua did likewise with their second victory when they had too much strength for a gallant Kildorrery side who battled to the final whistle. Watergrasshill overcame Na Piarasigh to book their place in the last four when they had a three-point victory, 0-10 to 0-7, in an exciting contest.

Bishopstown and Youghal finished level, 3-7 each in an exciting contest in Ballinure and with both sides on level points they will have to meet again to decide who advance to the semi-final to join St Vincent's, Watergrasshill and Sliabh Rua.

In the Evening Echo Junior B Championship, Glen Rovers had a 3-12 to 3-2 victory over Inniscarra. Ballinascorthy continued to impress as they recorded a 2-9 to 0-6 victory over league champions Ballincollig. Bride Rovers are blazing a trail of victories and they had a 4-10 to 0-7 win over Inniscarra.

The Evening Echo Junior C Championship continued with Buttevant getting the upper hand on Killeagh, 1-9 to 1-3.

Come out and support Cork's quest for final

SATURDAY next is a big day for Cork camogie when the senior team take on Wexford in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland semi-final in Thurles.

It's been three years since Cork graced Croke Park on All-Ireland final day and the task facing the side on Saturday is a huge one. Tomorrow, Cork followers will flock to Croke Park to support our hurlers and only rightly so, but we must also get behind our camogie team next week. Thurles is the second home for Cork teams, we love playing there and we love when the red and white jerseys emerge from the tunnel.

It's a short journey from Cork so let's get behind our team. It's a 2pm throw-in and the game will be followed by the two All-Ireland U21 hurling semi-finals at 4pm and 6pm so it will be a great day's entertainment.

Clubs are urged to make plans to head to the game and to bring your underage players up to Thurles. Wexford will travel in huge numbers as their U21s are in action in the main match, and we need to get support there for our girls.

Go Geary

ON BEHALF of Cork camogie clubs and followers, we extend our best wishes to our Cork senior captain Anna Geary, who will represent Cork in the Rose of Tralee next week. We will be watching and hoping for a Rebel victory.

Mary Newman

Rose festival could be a thorn in Cork's match plans

AHEAD of the draw for the All-Ireland semi-finals last Saturday I wasn't sure who I was hoping Cork would meet.

When Wexford was pulled out of the hat I said, 'I'm glad it's Wexford, I'd prefer to meet them in the semi-final than the final'.

If we were paired with Kilkenny I'd probably have said 'I'm glad we didn't get Wexford'.

I think it's good that we weren't particularly concerned, if that is the term to use, on who Cork drew.

When I say we, I mean the Cork management because speaking with Paudie Murray after the quarter-final win over Offaly, he didn't express a preference either way.

Make no mistake Cork have a huge task on their hands next Saturday. Wexford are firm favourites. But passages of Cork's play in the second half of their group game in early July gives them reason for optimism.

And you may be sure that Paudie and his co-mentors will have their homework done on how best to play the Shaneyiders.

They would have learned an awful lot from their July encounter and so maybe that game, that first-half roasting and subsequent defeat will turn out to be a blessing.



LINDA
MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

But they have a problem.

Without question the Rose of Tralee and Anna Geary's participation is a serious concern. I haven't agreed with this from the outset.

Anna left the Cork camp after the quarter-final win last Saturday and went on tour with the festival. This is a two-week heavy schedule of early mornings and late nights.

Her team-mates won't see her until the game. It's the worst preparation I can possibly imagine.

Cork comfortably accounted for Offaly, the only worry, their ability to get goals.

The second game between Galway and Clare was probably the worst quarter-final I've seen in years and if Galway, having won by two points, by some miracle manage to get past Kilkenny I would seriously worry about a) the spectacle the final will be and b) the standard of our game, which I think has significantly dipped in recent years.



Cork defender Anna Geary with Rose of Tralee presenter Daithí O'Shea. The Cork's captain festival schedule can't be good preparation for next Saturday's clash with Offaly.

Picture: Domnick Walsh / Eye Focus LTD

Many will say the game is faster today and it's a better game. I don't agree apart from the odd great game such as the 2012 Cork v Wexford All-Ireland final where Wexford were massively impressive.

I look at some senior inter-county players today and I'm amazed that they are in the position they are in. There are a number of players who wouldn't have got a senior call-up 15 or 20 years ago. But with a shortage of top players out there what choice do management teams have?

Galway and Clare had no game-plan whatsoever last Saturday. It was like watching an underage game where players just hit the ball forward and hope something will come from it.

The standard was poor enough until we had a thunderous downpour where visibility was impossible. Mike O'Kelly quite rightly stopped the game for 15 minutes or so with approximately 10 to go.

For some strange reason the players remained on the field while the mentors from both sides seemed to be having a strong debate with the referee just in front of the stand. This lasted far too long. Eventually the players, visibly drenched, made their way for cover.

When the game resumed, Galway led by three points. The hurling

worsened, understandably due to the conditions. Clare pulled two back.

When Galway won a free out on full-time to possibly win the game, the sliothar was struck directly to a Clare forward all of five yards away.

She in turned was then fouled and Clare converted the free to draw the game.

The thought of sitting through extra-time was agonising. The only reason I stayed was because I had committed to staying around for the semi-final draw afterwards.

Worse was to come. Everyone was now feeling cold in the damp stand.

There was a gap of approximately 25 minutes before extra-time resumed. This was due to Galway feeling they had been denied victory by a point. They felt, and many Galway supporters in the stand did too, that the scoreboard and the ref hadn't awarded them a point.

Sure there was nothing they could do; the referee wasn't going to change his tally just because Galway felt he needed to. The game had to continue anyway and an appeal sent in afterwards if they felt one was warranted.

Eventually, after all the hold-ups, Galway won by two points. That stops the appeal anyway.

But if Galway go any further in this competition I'll eat my hat.

Busy week ahead in the Evening Echo championship

It is going to be another very busy week of Evening Echo championship games, with many clubs are determined to get fixtures played before students return to school and colleges.

Wednesday evening will be particularly busy with Senior B and Intermediate championship games.

One game that is sure to catch the eye is the all-Carrigdhoun meeting between Valley Rovers and Carrigaline. In this, their first year in the Senior B grade, Carrigaline made a great start to the round robin series of games with a victory over last year's defeated finalists Eire Og.

In a close contest, Eire Og looked to have done enough to take the points but a strong closing five minutes saw Carrigaline grab two late goals to seal victory and they will be determined to make it back-to-back victories which would guarantee them a semi-final spot.

They have good players in Ellen Twomey, Sarah Cotter, Mairead Maguire and Joanne O'Keeffe. Tony O'Donovan and his back room team will have them ready for the big challenge Valley Rovers will produce.

Valleys lost out in their opening game against divisional neighbours Ballygarvan in a tight contest where a last-minute goal saw Ballygarvan take the points on a 2-9 to 1-9 scoreline.

Valley Rovers are a good side. Liz Bugler, Aisling Glavin, Ena Coughlan, Jennifer Murphy and Susan O'Leary will be determined to record a victory this time out as anything else will not suffice to keep their interests alive in this highly competitive Evening Echo Senior B

championship. With a good victory over Mallow to their credit, Fr O'Neill take on Kilbrittan/Timoleague who lost out narrowly to Clonakilty in their first game, and drew with Aghabullogue last Thursday.

O'Neill will be hoping for their second victory over a Kilbrittan/Timoleague side who need to pick up two points to stay in the hunt.

The meeting between Tracton and Blackrock is important for both sides. Tracton have one victory to their credit having defeated Newcestown their opening game. Blackrock lost out to Brian Dillon's in their opener.

A Tracton victory would see them nicely poised with just one game to go against Brian Dillon's. Blackrock need a victory to keep their interest

alive as two defeats would almost certainly end their interest in this championship.

Tracton have excellent players including Jennifer Kiely, Nicole Mulane, Karen O'Sullivan and Clodagh Fitzgerald. And with Emma Kingston joining her sister Julie Ann this year in the Tracton colours, they have a fine side. Last year they took Carrigaline to a replay before losing out in the final and they are determined to atone for that and reverse that this year but they will have to be on top form to overcome a Blackrock side who know they need to win this one.

Roisin De Faoite, Aideen Nagle, Clodagh Coughlan Aoife MacCurrian and Carol Ryan are the backbone of a young Blackrock side under the guidance of former Cork Intermediate coach Bobby Thorn-

hill and they will battle all the way to stay in contention in this championship.

Having lost out by a point to Brian Dillon's, they will be hoping to get a result this time out. They hope to have Cork intermediate player Kaidyn Hickey available having had to do without her in their opening game due to work commitments.

Brian Dillon's go in search of their second victory when they meet a Newcestown side who lost out to Tracton in their opening game. At present Newcestown are struggling a bit.

They have a wonderful strong underage set up and in a year or two a lot of these players will be coming through and they will be a huge boost to their adult team. In their game against Tracton they struggled and they will be hoping to turn in a

much-improved performance against a strong Brian Dillon's side. Susan Kate Brosnan, Niamh O'Leary, Jane Dooley and Shauna Cronin should be too strong for the challenge that Newcestown will produce.

However Newcestown are renowned championship campaigners and with their backs to the wall they will fight to the end with Suzanne Deasy, Lisa O'Sullivan Evelyn Crowley and Colette Desmond giving it their all.

Our Intercounty team needs all our support in

Thurles this Saturday

Plenty of action as championships heat up

St Vincent's recorded a 4-4 to 0-3 victory over city neighbours Douglas in the Evening Echo Junior A championship to secure their semi-final spot. Sliabh Rua did likewise with their second victory in the group as they overcame a gallant Kildorrery side who battled to the final whistle.

Watergrasshill had three points to spare over Na Piarsaigh to book their place in the last four, 0-10 to 0-7 the score line in an exciting contest. Bishopstown

and Youghal finished level 3-7 each and with both sides on level points in the group they will have to meet again to decide who advanced to the semi final to join St Vincent's Watergrasshill and Sliabh Rua.

In the Evening Echo Junior B championship, Glen Rovers had a 3-12 to 3-2 victory over Inniscarra. Ballinacorney continued to impress as they recorded a 2-9 to 0-6 victory over league champions Ballincollig. Bride Rovers are

blazing a trail of victories and they had a 4-10 to 0-7 win over Inniscarra.

Evening Echo Junior C championship continued with Buttevant getting the upper hand on Killeagh 1-9 to 1-3 the full time score here. Cobh had a win over St Fanahan's 0-7 to 0-2 to secure themselves a semi final spot. Castlelyons had the upper hand in their meeting with Ballyhea 2-9 to 1-4 to ensure they made it to the last four.

Saturday is a big day for Cork Camogie when the senior team take on Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final in Thurles. It's been three years since Cork graced Croke Park on All-Ireland day and the task facing the side on Saturday is huge.

Wexford are expected to travel in numbers. It's a short journey from Cork to Thurles, and clubs are being urged to make plans to head to the game and to bring their underage players along. It's a 2pm throw-in, and the game will be followed by the two All-Ireland Under 21 hurling semi-finals at 4 pm and 6pm so it will be a great day's entertainment.



Lydia Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) is a picture of concentration as she keeps her focus on the sliotar despite the incoming challenge from Jane O'Donoghue (Kildare) during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final in Dr Cullen Park on Saturday. The Cats won the game, booking their place in the September 14 final. Their senior counterparts will be hoping to do the same this weekend.

Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho

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SPORT ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Girls set up All-Ireland final date

KILKENNY	1-16
KILDARE	0-7

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

Impressive Kilkenny booked their place in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final when they easily disposed of Kildare in Dr Cullen Park.

The big showdown will be on September 14.

Kilkenny started the game brightly and were two points to no score up after only three minutes. Anna Farrell was on target within 30 seconds after latching on to a breaking ball on the 21 metre line and Mags Fennelly shot Kilkenny's second point in the third minute.

Siobhan Hurley responded for Kildare in the 7th minute when she pounced on a poor Kilkenny clearance before tapping over from 40 metres. Orla Handrick responded for Kilkenny with a point from the

resulting puck-out.
NARROWED GAP

Siobhan Hurley then drilled over a free from 45 metres in the 9th minute after she was fouled to narrow the gap for Lilywhites. Sarah Crowley tapped over a massive score from 50 metres after gaining possession from Aine Kinsella to leave it at 0-4 to 0-2 after 10 minutes.

Susie O'Carroll responded for Kildare with a free in the 17th minute after Deirbhile Byrne was fouled. Kilkenny finished the half well and grabbed six unanswered points.

The first came from an Orla Handrick free in the 18th minute. Kilkenny were then awarded a penalty within 60 seconds after Lydia Fitzpatrick was fouled. Orla Handrick tapped over the penalty to extend the Cats advantage.

Mags Fennelly got in on the act with a point to make it 0-7 to 0-3 after 20 minutes. Laura Norris continued Kilkenny's good run with a point from play from 14 metres af-

ter latching on to an Orla Handrick pass.

Kildare nearly got in for a goal in the 27th minute, but the brilliance of Kilkenny goalie, Anne Marie Lennon saved the day. Deirbhile Byrne gained possession on the edge of the small square and she spotted Clodhna McSweeney free on the far side. Lennon read Byrne's pass perfectly and reacted to bat the ball away.

SECOND POINT

From the resulting clearance Laura Norris gained possession on the 21 and shot her second point. Siobhan Hurley stopped the rot for Kildare when she scored from a free in the 31st minute to leave it 0-9 to 0-4 at half time.

Kildare started the second half brightly. They were awarded a penalty in the 32nd minute after a defender was adjudged to have pulled down Susie O'Carroll. Melissa Lyons effort was saved by Catherine Foley and Kilkenny cleared there lines.

Susie O'Carroll opened the second half scoring when she tapped over a free to narrow

the gap to 0-9 to 0-5. Kildare looked to be all fired up. Second half sub Aine Gannon opened Kilkenny's account with a well taken point from play in the 40th minute after gaining possession from an Aine Kinsella pass.

Clodhna McSweeney responded for Kildare and cut the gap to four with a minor from play after good link up play with Emer Reilly. Kilkenny applied the brakes then and finished the game strongly, scoring 1-6 without reply.

Mags Fennelly started the burst with a point from play from out near the sideline and 21 metres distance. Lydia Fitzpatrick then tapped over a point from play in the 49th minute.

Orla Handrick continued Kilkenny's good run when she converted a free in the 50th minute. Mary O'Carroll, who only came on as a sub a minute earlier, got in on the scoring act with a point in the 53rd minute.

HANDRICK ON THE MARK

Orla Handrick, who was outstanding from placed

balls, tapped over another free after Mags Fennelly was fouled in the 59th minute. Mary O'Connell then got in for Kilkenny's goal in the 60th minute after gaining possession on the edge of the small square. She flicked the ball home after Kildare failed to clear their lines.

Aisling Butler pointed for Kilkenny in added time before Siobhan Hurley tapped over a free in the 63rd minute for Kildare.

It was too little too late as Kilkenny ran out good winners and set up a final shoot-out against Limerick, who narrowly defeated Waterford in the other semi final.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Orla Handrick (0-5, four points frees); Mary O'Connell (1-1); Mags Fennelly (0-3); Laura Norris (0-2); Sarah Crowley, Anna Farrell, Aine Gannon, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Aisling Butler (0-1 each). **Kildare** - Siobhan Hurley (0-4, three frees); Susie O'Carroll (0-2, one free); Clodhna McSweeney (0-1).

Kilkenny - Ann Marie Lennon, Edel Frisby, Catherine

Foley, Therese Muldowney, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Megan Farrell, Aine Kinsella, Stacy Quirke, Sarah Crowley, Anna Farrell, Laura Norris, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Orla Handrick, Mags Fennelly (capt).

Subs - Laura Walker, Aisling Butler, Aine Gannon, Catherine Connolly, Emma Comerford, Sarah Ann Quinlan, Meave Mansfield, Mary O'Connell, Aisling Nolan, Sonia Buggy, Kirsty Maher.

Kildare - Roisin O'Connell, Jane O'Donoghue, Aoife Trant, Fiona Trant, Clodagh Farrell, Carol Nolan, Emer Reilly, Melissa Lyons, Caroline Forde, Regina Gorman, Siobhan Hurley, Clodagh Flanagan, Clodhna McSweeney, Susie O'Carroll, Deirbhile Byrne.

Subs - Alison Hyland, Niamh Concannon, Laura Sheahan, Niamh Breen, Catriona Temple, Hannah McDonnell, Ciara Mooney, Sabine Kennedy, Sinead O'Carroll, Niamh Egan, Orla Bambury, Claire O'Sullivan, Maebh Walsh, Louise Qualter, Emma Barry.



Siobhan Hurley (Kildare) tries to get away from Aine Fahey (Kilkenny) during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final in Dr Cullen Park. Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho



Kilkenny goalkeeper Ann-Marie Lennon takes the sliotar clear as Kildare's Deirbhile Byrne closes in during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final. Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho



Anna Farrell (Kilkenny) keeps her eye on the sliotar as Carol Nolan (Kildare) looks on during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final in Dr Cullen Park. Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho



Lydia Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) gets away from Jane O'Donoghue (Kildare) during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final in Dr Cullen Park. Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho

Tribune Sport

TITLE ON THE LINE

Galway's Molly Dunne celebrates at the final whistle after the quarter-final win over Clare.

PHOTOS: INPHO/RYAN BYRNE

Defending All-Ireland camogie champions face tough test against unbeaten Kilkenny

DARREN KELLY

AFTER surviving a test of character in their quarter-final against Clare, Galway's camogie side face the ultimate challenge this Sunday when they meet an undefeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final Gaelic Grounds in Limerick (4pm).

The Noreiders are league champions, on 10 wins out of 10, and with their minor and senior hurlers plus their intermediate camogie team already going to Croke Park, there's a positive feeling in the Marble County.

In a repeat of last year's All-Ireland final, Kilkenny will be looking for revenge and stated their intent in February when they outplayed Galway 2-11 to 0-8 in the league.

Kilkenny added wins over Derry, Clare, Limerick and Wexford to take league honours and took that form into the championship dispensing of Offaly, Tipperary, Clare and Derry.

With 12-66 scored in four games, Kilkenny can count on Denise Gaule, Aoife Neary and Leanne Fennelly for scores while the full-back line of Mairead Power, Kate McDonald and Jacqui Frisby has only conceded

one goal in the Summer.

Kilkenny are the form team while Galway's has been slightly

It's in attack where the maroon and white need a significant boost

erratic but their 2-10 to 0-14 win over Clare in the All-Ireland

quarter-final will give confidence. Goals from Emma Kilkelly and Aislinn Connolly proved turning points a fortnight ago while Niamh McGrath's seven points were important but Tony Ward's charges will know they need to improve.

Galway's defence have been reliable and restricted Clare to just one point from play over 100 minutes and they will need to be equally tight. Molly Dunne and Niamh Kilkenny announced their arrival in Championship 2014 with two sterling performances and gaining control around the middle will be critical.

It's in attack where the maroon and white need a significant boost. Despite the referee's constant whistling the last day, Galway still only managed three points from play. McGrath has performed strongly this year and the return of Ann Marie Hayes to full forward looked to reap dividends but the All-Ireland champions will need others to step up.

Kilkelly and Orlaith McGrath are likely starters and it'll be interesting if Ann Marie Starr gets the nod after her productive cameo appearance. Otherwise, Rebecca Hennelly, Ailish O'Reilly, Brenda Hanney, Aislinn

Connolly and Noreen Coen should ensure plenty of competition for the final spots.

Quite simply, Galway need a performance. The quarter-final showed signs that the Tribeswomen are back on track but they will need to be at their desired level to keep their ambitions intact.

No doubt, it's in Galway and should it come, this will be intriguing afternoon and their win against Clare will stand to them against a Kilkenny side inactive for five weeks. If it doesn't, then their reign as Queens of camogie will end around 5.30pm on Sunday.

ALL-IRELAND U-16 CAMOGIE FINAL

U-16 camogie side hope to make it third time lucky

GALWAY'S U-16 camogie side will face Tipperary in the All-Ireland final in the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday (2pm) in what is a curtain-raiser to the senior All-Ireland quarter-final between Galway and Kilkenny.

In a repeat of last year's decider, both sides are unbeaten but Galway will be hoping for third time lucky after final defeats to Dublin and Tipperary

over the last two years.

Lorraine Larkin's charges topped their group with wins over Cork, Kilkenny and Dublin following an opening day draw against Clare, and they were professional in dismantling Wexford in the semi-final with Carrie Dolan and Siobhan McGrath providing the goals in a 3-17 to 0-10 win.

Puc Fada champion Sarah Healy is between the sticks;

Roisin Black and Aisling Downey backbone the defence; Taragh Maloney and Sinead Minihan form a good midfield duo; while in attack, Dolan (4-12) and McGrath (5-6) are capable of scoring goals, with Eimear O'Donovan (1-19) influential as well.

It'll be a strong Tipperary outfit who defeated Cork 4-12 to 3-8 in the semi-final and the Tribegirls will have to watch out

for players like Orla O'Dwyer, Grace O'Brien, Karen Kennedy and Chloe Kirwan.

Overall, the hurt of two final defeats should motivate Galway and if they can add another gear, they will be thereabouts when the destination of the silverware is decided.

Meanwhile, in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa Senior Championship, two Nicole Duggan goals last week secured Davitts

their first win of the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa Senior Camogie Championship as they beat Athenry 2-13 to 1-9.

In a tight contest, the teams were level three times before a Maria Breheny point made it 0-10 to 1-7 after 40 minutes.

Noreen Coen scored the Athenry goal while Jessica Gill contributed three points but Duggan's two majors before the 45th minute proved the differ-

ence. Breheny and Lourda Kavanagh added white flags for Davitts before Coen and Eimear Keane reduced arrears. But Davitts secured their first win of the campaign.

Senior fixtures: Tuesday August 26 (6.45pm): Ardahan vs Portumna; Killimor vs Kinvara; Pearses vs St Thomas. Wednesday August 27 (6.45pm): Athenry vs Mullagh; Castlegar vs Davitts.

The hunger is just as strong, says Ryan

By Camogie Association
Posted 22/09/2014



Retaining a title is notoriously difficult, even for sporting giants. History shows us that you can multiply the odds significantly when it comes to a breakthrough team replicating their success in the following campaign. Eight months after winning their All-Ireland in 2012, Donegal were described by Joe Brophy as "a footballing superbug". Yet they were booted out of the championship in emphatic fashion by Mayo just a few months later.

Last September, Clare gave an exhibition of hurling in the All-Ireland final replay that had pundits punting. Many predicted that Davy Fitzgerald's men were changing the landscape of the game and were destined to dominate. This season, they were gone by early July.

So you look at Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie champions Galway, and you wonder. The outpouring of emotion that followed their success last year was a result of manic hunger. The legendary Therese Maher finally scaled the summit at the 17th attempt, having joined the squad a few months after the county had claimed its first title.

Maher's crusade and the Galway drought were inextricably linked, being one and the same. Having lost five finals, finally getting over the line had a value no Sotheby's auctioneer could quantify.

But did it have a price? Maher decided to end her stellar career on a high. But apart from her loss as a player and totem, would the desire to go to the well be the same? Would the appetite be sated?

That they failed to make the league semi-finals wasn't that much of a concern last losing to both Wexford and Cork in the group stages of the championship, and the manner of the latter defeat, was, it also left them with a quarter-final against league finalists, Clare.

There were many suggestions that Tony Ward's squad would succumb to the Bannerwomen. What they produced that day in the most extreme weather conditions, to chase out the victory in extra time, suggested that they are ready and willing to go to the well.

"For both teams it was an all-merciful battle and the fact that we did come out of it the right side, we can look back and say that it was a great character test," reflects Galway captain, Lorraine Ryan.

"It does show that we still have the hunger that might have been questioned going into it. So we'll take the positives from that and hopefully that will drive us on another step for Sunday.

"I think (the hunger) is just as strong. We were questioned a few times, even though within the group ourselves we knew we wanted it as much. Definitely the hunger, the heart, the determination is all there. We just need to perform.

"With Wexford, we just fell short in the last few minutes. We got over Dublin and then the second half against Cork we fell apart alright.

"Going into the Clare game we knew it was going to be an awful battle. We took what we learned and thankfully we got through it."

Another factor in the equation is that Galway weren't tearing up trees in the early part of last year's campaign either. It was really only when they got to the knockout stages that they started flowing. Certainly, had they not wanted it really badly, they would not have gotten through in a game that had to be stopped for 11 minutes, such was the inclemency of the weather in Ummick.

The challenges get more difficult as you progress through and blocking their way to a place in the final on September 14 is the Kilkenny team they defeated in last year's decider.

The Noreiders are not going to be short on motivation as a result and appear to have moved on well, annexing the league title and earning a direct route to the last four via a 100% record in their group.

Galway will look to the same big players to head the resistance. Maher's loss in this area is acknowledged but Ryan is a natural leader herself and there are plenty of others in the squad too she insists.

"We're a very close bunch and I don't think it really matters who's captain within the panel. Even though Therese was a natural leader and we do miss her, there are so many leaders on this team that have been playing together for 10, 12 years.

"It's different people on different days that will show leadership which a team needs. You need leaders on every line. It's not about one or two anymore. It's about 15, 20, 25. We're thankful we have that."

Aug.
2014



Edel Frisby (Kilkenny) in action against Deirbhile Byrne (Kildare) during the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final in Dr Cullen Park.
Photo: Donall Farmer/Inpho



Kiltormer Camogie

PLAYER	COUNTRY/CITY
Adienne Cormican	UK
Ruth Kilkenny	UK
Averil Glynn	UK
Clodagh Glynn	Australia
Marion Kelly	Australia
Stacey Coen	Australia
Eileen Glynn	Dublin
Eimear Glynn	Carlow

DUE to a variety of factors, including emigration, migration to Dublin, and pregnancies, only six of the 15 girls who guided Kiltormer Camogie Club to the 2009 County Intermediate title are still involved with the club's senior team.

Lack of interest and pregnancies have played their part, but the biggest problem the East Galway club faced and continues to battle is emigration.

"It seems to me as soon as girls finish college they're gone. And I don't blame them; there are no jobs here for them. They are getting up and leaving because there is no reason for them to stay here," said team captain Lynn Donnelly.

Hugely talented Clodagh Glynn, along with Marion Kelly, Adrienne Cormican and Stacey Coen have all spent time in Australia, with Cormican currently residing in London.

Ruth Kilkenny and Averil Glynn have relocated to England. The mass departure of a large chunk of the team, coupled with players such as Eileen (Dublin) and Eimear Glynn (Carlow) relocating for jobs in Ireland has had a devastating effect on the club.

Camogie champions are left to pick up the pieces

BY CLODAGH MCGRATH

LOSING nine of the girls who guided Kiltormer Camogie Club to the 2009 County Intermediate title has been a big blow to the players who have stayed behind.

Pregnancies and migration to Dublin have also been factors in so many players leaving, but key players like Clodagh Glynn, Marion Kelly, Adrienne Cormi-

can and Stacey Coen have left for Australia.

Cormican now lives in London, where Ruth Kilkenny and Averil Glynn are also based.

Sisters Eileen (Dublin) and Eimear Glynn (Carlow) have also moved in search of work.

"Initially, they were all going for a year or two but once they move there, they settle and are gone for good," said team captain Lyn Donnelly this week.



Eight of the Kiltormer girls who started the 2009 County Intermediate Final have either emigrated or moved to Dublin in search of work.

Cork in with shout of producing shock

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final, Cork v Wexford, Semple Stadium, Thurles, 2pm.

CORK'S All-Ireland semi-final tie with Wexford tomorrow is the most challenging and important semi-final fixture that the county has faced in 21 years.

In 1993, Cork faced red-hot favourites Kilkenny in the semi-final. No one gave us a chance. It was Collette O'Mahony's three goals from close in-frees that saw us through and we went on to win the All-Ireland title a month later.

Since then Cork has largely been favourites to win semi-finals or, at the very least, were odds-on to do so. Rarely has Cork found themselves as strong underdogs. But that is where they find themselves and should they win tomorrow it will go down as one of our greatest victories, even without a medal yet won.

Cork can win this game; they need to believe that. It's going to take a mammoth effort from everyone involved. It's going to take Cork winning balls they aren't even entitled to win; just like Tipp did last Sunday. But it can be done.

Every decade or so a new county appears as a major force in camogie. Cork are always there or thereabouts but the likes of Galway, Tipperary and now Wexford come to the fore and tend to dominate for a period of time before fading back into the shadows.

It's been Wexford's turn since 2007. That was the year they broke their 32-year wait for an All-Ireland senior title.

Cork took the next two titles in '08 and '09 but Wexford were still hovering and took three-in-a-row from 2010 to 2012. And during those years, credit



Wexford's Katrina Parrock gets away from Cork's Maria Walsh during their group championship game in July. Picture: INPHO/Dan Sheridan

where it's due, they raised the bar. Last year some of the Wexford team retired, others travelled and the remainder lacked the sort of hunger required to maintain that top performance.

This year though, they are revitalised, the early 2013 summer finish paying dividends as a refreshed Wexford take to the field.

While losing the league semi-final to Kilkenny, Wexford topped this season's Group One of the championship, a group which contained Cork. Kilkenny topped group two.

Cork and Wexford met on July 6, Cork suffering a 2-14 to 1-11 defeat. The blistering pace of Wexford out of the blocks caught everyone by surprise. Wexford led 1-4 to 0-1 after 11

minutes, the dynamic trio of Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock causing havoc.

Granted, Wexford's wind advantage was incredibly strong but the speed and directness of their play blew Cork away. The 2-10 to 0-4 half-time gap was justified.

Cork's second-half performance improved considerably where they scored 1-7 and held Wexford to four points.

Paramount tomorrow is not giving Wexford a similar start. Cork, I've no doubt, have their homework done and cutting off the supply to that triangle of the aforementioned trio is crucial. In that sector they have speed, physical strength and scoring power.

But it isn't just up front where Wex-

ford are impressive; their full-back line of Deirdre Codd, Noleen Lambert and Karen Atkinson are as teak-tough as you'll meet at this level. The commanding figure of Mary Leacy then sits at centre-back.

Cork have great speed up front, particularly in Julia White, Jennifer O'Leary and Katrina Mackey. That has to come to the fore tomorrow. Spreading Wexford, playing to the sideline chalk and running them is the only answer.

Trying to beat Wexford with brute force won't work. They will win the majority of the physical battles.

While respectful and mindful of Wexford's stars Cork also need to play their own game. Should they manage both, they can take this.

Camogie crunch

Wexford must deliver in clash with Cork

DEAN GOODISON

Sports reporter

THE MOST open All-Ireland Senior camogie championship in years reaches the semi-final stages this weekend with all four teams involved harbouring realistic hopes of winning the two matches required to become national champions.

Kilkenny are the current bookies' favourites. The Kittens are league champions but have it all to prove after they tanked at the final hurdle last year, the decider against Galway. Wexford were vying for favouritism until the draw was made and the Slaneysiders were handed the perceived tougher task of the group winners, a battle against Cork (Thurles, Saturday, 2 p.m.).

Helena Jacob's side started the season in okay form but the shoots of what were to come were evident in the Leinster final defeat of Kilkenny. If a big win was needed to light the fire that only flickered early in the season, the success against the old foes was it.

The start of the championship saw a new forceful Wexford, one that responded to adversity in a last-gasp defeat of defending champions Galway (2-12 to 1-11). That game could so easily have slipped away but for once in Athenry the visitors got the rub of the green and maybe a

belief that better things lay ahead.

If the defeat of the Tribeswomen was helped by lady luck, the demolition of Cork in the first-half at Wexford Park was achieved with clinical precision (2-14 to 1-11). The hosts scythed through the Leesiders and with powerful running, dynamic forward play and combatant defending - more of the same will be needed this week.

Dublin were disposed of with the minimum fuss in the final group game (5-19 to 0-13), just like Cork and Galway had done previously to the Metropolitans, and so Wexford booked their automatic spot in the semi-finals. Saturday's opponents had the 'advantage' of another game in the meantime, a quarter-final against Offaly, but their challenge proved to be minimal.

The worry for Wexford is that they haven't played a proper game since the win against Cork on July 7. The break will give the players freshness and that's a positive but it's more difficult to know if the rust has begun to form.

Cork will certainly be ready. They were embarrassed in the first-half in Wexford Park last month and will be more than keen to avoid a similar fate. Orla Cotter has been superb for the Rebelettes in recent weeks but they have plenty of strength in depth with the likes of Briege Corkery, Julia White and Gemma O'Connor all dangers to Wexford hopes.

One distraction Wexford won't have to deal

with is the Rose of Tralee which one of the Cork stars, Anna Geary, competes in this week. She started on the bench for non-performance related issues in the round-robin game between the sides but was a noticeable influence when she came on late in the first-half.

The Millford clubwoman is currently second favourite for the competition and Cork boss Paudie Murray will no doubt be hoping that her participation in the last four clash will not be further muddled by winning the annual pageant.

The only selection problems Jacob has are good ones. Only Louise O'Leary is unavailable after injuring her wrist in a club match last month. Otherwise the Wexford boss has a full panel to choose from, barring any late training injuries. That squad includes Eimear O'Connor, who has recovered from illness, and vitally Una Leacy who has been training for the last three weeks following a knee injury.

Leacy will need to make an impression if Wexford are to win this game. Cork are tough, talented and stinging from the disappointments of recent years.

However, the Slaneysiders' defence, bolstered by the return of Deirdre Codd this year, has enough to keep Cork's attacking sextet quiet, and the forwards are explosive enough to see Wexford into their fourth final in five years by a narrow margin.

Down ready despite their long lay-off

BY CIARAN WOODS

DOWN V ROSCOMMON

Sunday, Leixlip, 4.00pm

REMEMBER the scene from Michael Collins when he sent the boys out on early morning missions, and he paced the floors waiting for word of their safe return?

Down camogie boss Alastair McGilligan admits that he felt many of the same emotions last weekend as the bulk of his panel lined out for their clubs in Senior Championship semi-final action just a week before their All-Ireland semi-final clash this Sunday.

Thankfully, all came through unscathed from the rip-roaring ties, and the manager should have all o p -

tions available to him on Sunday.

This week both Catherine Rocks and Jenny Fowler returned from their overseas travels which took them on a voluntary charity missions to Thailand and Mozambique. The manager jokes that although he has no major concerns over their fitness levels, he knows that their stick work may well be more than a little bit rusty.

The biggest concern for McGilligan is the lack of competitive action his players have seen in red and black. Apart from a few challenge games against the Portaferry minor hurlers, on-field action has been at a premium, meaning some of McGilligan's troops will be thrown in the deep end on Sunday.

"We've gone five weeks without a game. We had built ourselves up for the Armagh game only for them to pull out, and by that stage it was too late to try to arrange another game for the Sunday.

"Then the following week we weren't sure whether or not we were going to be in a play-off against Laois.

"We also had a challenge match arranged against Loughgiel for last Tuesday night, but because of the club championships having been put on at short notice last weekend, we had to pull the plug on that as well.

"There will be a couple of girls who are coming back from longer term injuries who, although they played for their clubs last weekend, won't have had any games with us at all, and that in fairness is a concern, how we go about incorporating them back into the side for this weekend's game."

Roscommon provide the op-

CAUTIONS...Down boss Alastair McGilligan is concerned a lack of preparation may hamper his side

KEY THREAT...Niamh Mallon will lead the line for the Mourne girls in their All-Ireland semi-final

position this weekend, the Connacht side standing between Down and a place in another All-Ireland decider, and having beaten them once this year already, the Down boss knows that his side have the ability to make it a double success... provided they approach the game correctly.

"We played Roscommon earlier on in the year, and it wasn't by any means a great performance from ourselves.

"We travelled to Roscommon, which for the girls from the Ards was a six hour bus trip. We struggled in the first half, played a lot better in the second half, and we take a lot of positivity from that.

"You don't ever want to go into things too confident, or over confident, and there are always plenty of David versus Goliath games where the underdog has upset the odds and taken scalps because teams haven't prepared properly for it or haven't been mentally right.

"We have to make sure we're in the right place both physically and mentally this Sunday."

It was at this stage last year that Down exited from the Championship race when they fell to Kildare, but 12 months on, the manager feels that the Mourne girls are in a stronger position to push on towards that thus-far elusive All-Ireland title.

"Kildare are a very good side, and they have shown that since then as they have continued their rise through the intermediate ranks.

"Last year was a disappointing year, a lot of girls away and injured, and it was just a very poor year for Down.

"This year everybody is onboard that you would want to be there, a full 29 to pick from which certainly wasn't the case last season.

"You're looking to hit the ground running, make an impression in the first ten minutes.

"If we can manage to do that, then we should be well on our way."

Verdict: Down



The Limerick team celebrate with manager Ger Curtin after their win over Carlow in the Liberty Insurance Junior A Camogie Championship final at Flannans Club, Moneygall, Co Offaly.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland SCC semi-final: Wexford 1-9 Cork 1-9; JACC semi-final: Carlow 1-6 Limerick 2-8; Poc Fada, Cooley Mountains 1 P Jackson (Wexford) 29 pucks, 62m, 2 C Daly (Galway) 29/15, 3 M McMahon (Limerick) 29/5, 4 S Carthy (Dublin) 32/21, 5 L Dougan (Derry) 32/3, 6 A Murphy (Armagh) 37/11, 7 N Mackin (Louth) 38/24.

No room for regrets, says Rebels ace Corkery



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship semi-final

Wexford v Cork

Today: Semple Stadium, 2pm

Referee: A Lagnee (Kildare)

Bet: Wexford 4/6

Cork 6/4, Draw 15/2

Eoghan Cormican



Her passion for both codes rekindled, Briege Corkery is once again enjoying summers spent in the red shirt.

Of the 11 campaigns representing Cork at senior level, 2013 ranked among the most draining, the most testing. The camogie season again ended without the coveted piece of championship silverware, while the footballers, off the back of successive championship defeats, stuttered all the way to September's finishing line.

At 27, Corkery is determined her remaining years at

the inter-county table will be without regret.

"It is getting harder to keep both codes on the road. You are getting older and of course you find it more difficult. You have to mind yourself more. You must realise you are not going to be playing sport forever," says the Cloughduv native.

"There is only another couple of years left in a few of us. We've been on the go for more than a decade now. You want to end on a high note. You want to be as successful as you can be while you are still out there. If you don't have that desire to win, there is not much point being out there."

"Keeping the enjoyment is down to myself and the respective management teams. As you get older, it is harder to enjoy because you have to train harder to get and keep fit. Then, you also feel you need a bit of time for yourself. This year, I am really enjoying it, more so than last year. I realised there is only a few years left in me and I might as well enjoy it while I am out there. I don't want to have regrets when I go."

Corkery will line out at full-

forward in today's All-Ireland camogie semi-final joust with Wexford, talk of regret returning to our conversation.

"I think our main aim for this year is not to come off the pitch with regrets. That is particularly emphasised given what happened in Thurles during last year's semi-final."

"Kilkenny wanted it more. We went in a little bit complacent. We had too many regrets after last year that we didn't do this right or that right. This year, we can't have regrets. We are going to have to perform."

"Wexford already beat us in

Some choice ties await from the minor championship draw

THE minor championship draws were made at the senior and juvenile county board meetings recently and it will be all systems go as summer holidays are over and underage players return to school.

In the Minor A Championship, holders Glen Rovers, chasing three in a row, face a tough task against a strong Cloughduv side, who beat them in the recent league final.

Last year's defeated finalists Killeagh, backboned by three of the Cork minor team, take on a Sarsfields side who — having won the B league recently — made the decision to go up into the A grade.

Despite a back door for the first round losers, everybody will be anxious to get off to a winning start. Blackrock versus Courcey Rovers is another one to catch the eye, while the combination side Millford-Ballyhea take on Douglas.

In the Minor B Championship, defeated league finalists Brian Dillon's will meet Fr O'Neill's, while Cillard from Kerry were given permission to enter the Cork championship and they will make the journey to Carrigaline for their first game.

In the Evening Echo Minor C Championship the all-city meeting of neighbours Na Piarasigh and St Vincent's is one that will be

worth a visit.

The minor A, B, and C championships will be played on a back-door system while the minor D championship will be played on a round-robin basis, given there are just five teams in this grade.

Any clubs not involved in championship at adult level on the weekend of August 30-31 will be out in first round minor action

Evening Echo

Minor A Championship

A Killeagh v Sarsfields

B Cloughduv v Glen Rovers

C Millford-Ballyhea v Douglas

D Courcey Rovers v Blackrock

Evening Echo

Minor B Championship

A Newtownshandrum v Ballincollig

B Cillard v Carrigaline

C St Finbarr's v Eire Og

D Ballinhassig v Aghabullogue

E Fr O'Neill's v Brian Dillon's

F Enniskeane v Inniscarra

G Kilbrittain/Timoleague v Ballygarvan

H Sliabh Rua v Valley Rovers

Evening Echo

Minor C Championship

A St Catherine's v Blarney

B Barryroe v Millstreet

C Youghal v Tracton

D Ballinora v Carrigrohilly

E Charleville v Bishopstown

F Na Piarasigh v St Vincent's

G Clonakilty/ St Colm's v Cobh

Evening Echo

Minor D Championship

Bride Rovers, Castlelyons, Banteer, Ballinascorthy,

Newcestown (round robin)

Indeed, Cork have not slain the Model County in the knockout stages of the championship since 2009, the county's most recent All-Ireland final triumph arriving a month later. Corkery's camogie medal haul stands at four, her collection of football Celtic-crosses double that figure.

"We are just after hitting a funny spell with the camogie. The talent is there. We just need to get together as a unit and pull it off. We have Wexford on Saturday and it is going to be an epic match for us. We will need to be at 110%

and all 20 girls used will have to be performing out of their skin. Too many times have we come up short against Wexford."

"When I came on board we lost one or two All-Ireland finals and then we had the succession of wins in 2005, 2006 and 2008, our last being 2009. We have been waiting a while now to get back. We want to win it. We want to perform. We are taking every game as it comes so you can't talk about finals when the semi-final has yet to be put away. Wexford is the sole focus."

Campaign hots up as days grow cool

THE evenings are getting shorter, a sure sign that a lot of our *Evening Echo* championship competitions are reaching the business end of things.

In the *Evening Echo* Senior Championship two games are down for next week. On Monday, Douglas take on Barryroe in Enniskeane at 7pm, while on Wednesday Ballincollig and Courcey Rovers meet in Cloughduv at 7pm.

In the *Evening Echo* Senior B Championship Valley Rovers put losing their first game to Ballygarvan behind them as they overcame divisional neighbours Carrigaline.

They were full value for their 3-6 to 1-3 victory and they will be determined to make it two wins in a row when they meet Eire Og in the

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

last game in the round robin series on August 31.

Carrigaline will be looking for an improvement on the same night when they take on Ballygarvan.

In the other section Kilbrittain/Timoleague got their first victory under their belts as they edged it over Fr O'Neill's with a point to spare 3-6 to 2-8 the score at the full-time whistle.

Aghabullogue are in a similar position to Kilbrittain/Timoleague and are undefeated, after a draw and a win. They face into round three tomorrow in Castle Road at 6pm battling to get a victory over a



Erin's Own U12s team and mentors, who played in the U12 Camán To Thurles, celebrating 110 years of camogie.

Clonakilty side lining out in their second game, after beating Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

As always the senior B grade is once again proving to be hugely competitive the scorelines in all of the games have been very close.

There is little between teams in both sections. As they go into the concluding rounds the semi-finals spots are still very much up for grabs.

In the *Evening Echo* Intermediate Championship Brian Dillon's signalled their intent with an 8-6 to 1-6 victory over Newcestown, to make it two wins out of two.

Blackrock overcame Tracton to record their first victory having lost out to Brian Dillon's in round one, and they meet Newcestown on August 29.

Tracton and Brian Dillon's clash on the same night. A Tracton victory would help them stay in contention and if Blackrock can over come Newcestown it could end up with three teams in a play-off for the two semi-final spots.

However, boosted by their victory over Newcestown, Brian Dillon's will be confident of shaking off the Tracton challenge and booking their semi-final spot.

In the *Evening Echo* Junior A Championship Bishopstown and Youghal will have to meet again in a bid for a semi-final spot after both finished their group on level points. The sides clash on Monday next in Castle Road at 7.15pm.

St Vincent's, Watergrasshill and Sliabh Rua are already safely through.

The semi-finals are down for de-

cision on August 31 the pairings are St Vincent's v Sliabh Rua, Watergrasshill Bishopstown or Youghal.

In the *Evening Echo* Junior B championship Ballinascorthy, Ballincollig, Bride Rovers and Glen Rovers are all still in the hunt for the semi-final spots.

Glen Rovers and Cloughduv meet tomorrow in Glen Rovers at 7.15pm. Bride Rovers take on Carrigaline away at 7.15pm, while Charleville host St Catherine's at noon.

The *Evening Echo* Junior C Championship is down to quarter-finals stage.

Castlelyons meet Cobh on August 31 on their own patch. Buttevant will meet the winners of section A, where Banteer Valley Rovers and Ballinora are all going well with games still to be completed in that section.

Schools hold the key to sporting success

SUNDAY'S hurling loss was hugely disappointing but some of the comments I heard afterwards were even more so.

We have a young team here that were within seconds of winning an All-Ireland title last September. They won Munster just a few short weeks ago and had the whole county excited.

How quick many of the Cork public were to turn on them. There was nobody more hurt or disappointed than those involved with the Cork set-up.

I would think they just wanted to stay within each other's company, hidden away for a couple of days, have their own postmortem in whatever way they saw fit. I heard Jimmy Barry-Murphy afterwards say that he felt sorry for his players and the supporters.

Many of the 40,000 Cork supporters were in Dublin for a great day out and haven't given the loss a second thought. There are, of course, a large number of true Cork supporters who would be very disappointed and who the loss would affect.

It was interesting to hear Donal Óg Cusack on *The Sunday Game* talk about the development structure within Cork GAA. As he was speaking I found myself nodding away, like those dogs your Dad used to have on the dash of his car.

It was because the same problems he highlighted are the exact same problems I've mentioned a number of times in my column over the past few years with regards camogie — the state of camogie in our second level schools, which is all but non-existent now, how our development squads aren't going to help matters and how we haven't won an underage A camogie title since 2001.

If Cork had won the All-Ireland last September or if Cork had beaten Tipp would any of this be brought up now? Maybe not, but while Cork has



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

talent available it was only a matter of time before the lack of underage success caught up. An All-Ireland victory here and there doesn't mean there isn't a problem brewing.

I was surprised at the reaction to Donal's comments.

I met people who said: 'Jeez did you hear what Donal said; he's dead right'. As if what Donal said were the words of a prophet. Surely it didn't take Donal Óg to say it for people to realise there was an issue.

I enjoyed his comments about Cork's Centre of Excellence though. That was funny... "It's two pitches!" I myself think that the provision of even 20 pitches isn't going to solve the problem.

Premier League clubs have centres of excellence or academies. They work. But they are full-time players getting full-time coaching.

Just because you put a fancy name on something or throw materials at it doesn't mean you're going to start churning out the players.

Whether you bring the development squads once a week for a number of weeks to a field or a centre of excellence it's all the same. In my view, it's a waste of time unless there is consistency.

These players will just go back to their schools (possibly play some other sport) and their clubs, where the standard isn't where it should be. That's where they get their day-to-day coaching.

The development squads should be complementary, to add that extra bit, not do the day job. Because it isn't possible to do it every day; the players have too many other com-



Whether you bring the development squads once a week for a number of weeks, it's a waste of time unless there is consistency.

mitments. Underage players are utilised in too many teams.

Cork GAA has money so there is no excuse for them in my view with regards primary school and second level development. Cork Camogie doesn't have similar funds.

However I've said in the past that we need to get it from somewhere and hire coaches for our schools. The volunteerism isn't as it used to be. This is where the biggest loss to Cork camogie is as far as I can see.

It's the same with the hurlers. Oh the happy memories of going to Harty Cup finals. And I wasn't even playing camogie then. But I still remember the incredible atmosphere of a game I wasn't emotionally involved with at the time.

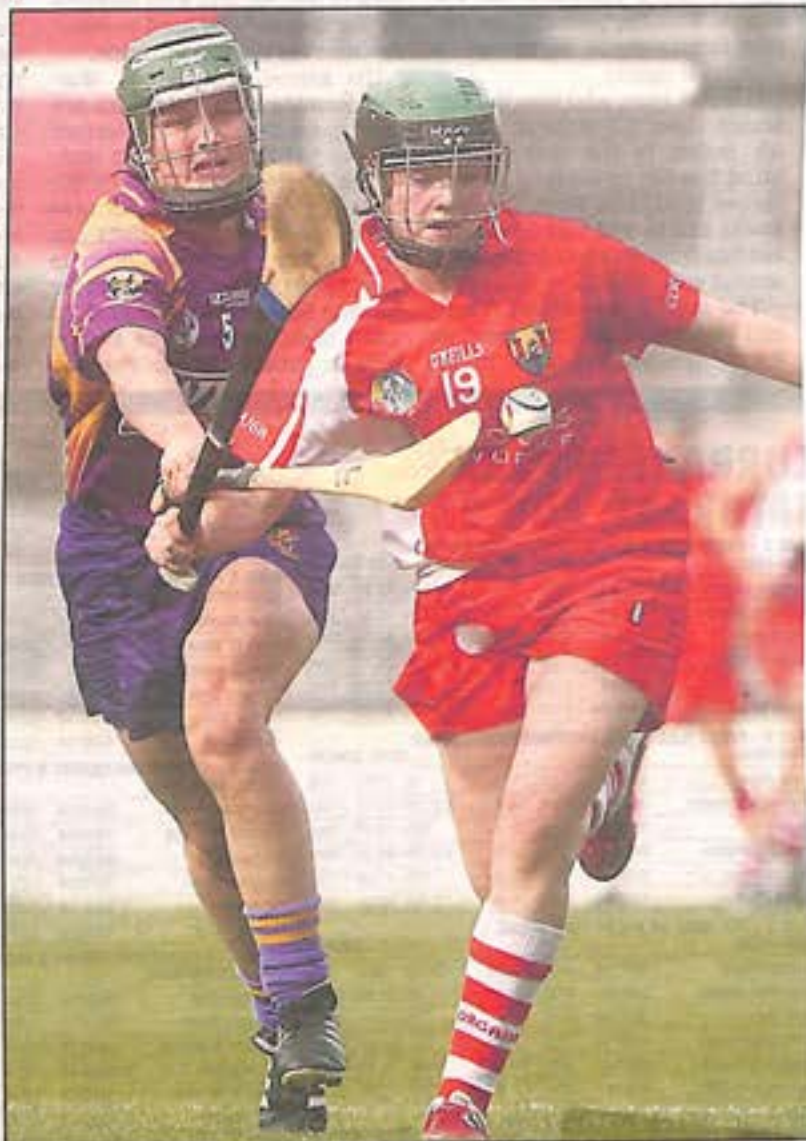
We love our sport in Cork. But we love too much of it; hurling, football, soccer, basketball, athletics, rugby. And we want to play it all. We've produced some incredible sportspeople; we punch above our weight on an international scale; Derval, Sonia, Rob, Roman, Roy (is there something there in the male 'R' name?)

Even our current local camogie stars are on the Irish U19 soccer team, the likes of Amy O'Connor and Clare Shine.

Unfortunately for camogie we seem to be suffering more than most. We have lost our fair share to other sports. I don't see too much changing in this regard.

The only way to counteract that in some way is to fight for your players. Get out there, get the numbers and have a greater pool to select from. You get the players young.

We need to get into our schools — full-time.



Current camogie stars on the Irish U19 soccer team include Clare Shine.

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CORCAIGH



CUIL	CUILINÍ	6SM	SAOR POCANNA	
				1st HALF
				2nd HALF
				TOTAL

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Paudie Murray (Bainisteoir), Matthew Twomey, Brian Barry, George Fitzgibbon, Billy Dillon

1 AOIFE MURRAY
A. Ni Mhuiri
Cloughduv

2 JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
S. Ni Cheallacháin
Cloughduv

3 MARIA WALSH
M. Bhreathnach
Milford

4 ANNA GEARY
A. Ni Ghadhra (Capt.)
Milford

5 LAURA TRACEY
L. Ni Threasaigh
Killeagh

6 GEMMA O'CONNOR
G. Ni Chonchúir
St Finbarr's

7 PAMELA MACKEY
P. Ni Mhaca
Douglas

8 RENA BUCKLEY
R. Ni Bhuachalla
Inniscarra

9 AISLING THOMPSON
A. Nic Thomáis
Milford

10 JOANNE CASEY
S. Ni Chasthasaigh
Inniscarra

11 DENISE CRONIN
D. Ni Chroínín
Ballincolig

12 BRIEGE CORKERY
B. Ni Chorca
Cloughduv

13 JULIA WHITE
S. Ni Bhanáin
Douglas

14 ORLA COTTER
O. Nic Oitir
St Catherine's

15 KATRIONA MACKEY
C. Ni Mhaca
Douglas

IONADAÍ

16. JESSICA KAVANAGH
S. Chaomhánach
Douglas

17. SARA HAYES
S. Ni hAodha
Courcy Rovers

18. EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN
E. Ni Shuilleabháin
Ballinhassig

19. CATHRIONA FOLEY
C. Ni Fhoghlú
Cloughduv

20. LEANNE O'SULLIVAN
L. Ni Shuilleabháin
Glen Rovers

21. HAZEL O'REGAN
H. Ni Rhiagáin
Clonakilty

22. HANNAH LOONEY
H. Ni Luanaigh
Killeagh

23. JENNIFER O'LEARY
S. Ni Laoire
St John's

24. SARA BUCKLEY
S. Ni Bhuachalla
Ballincolig

25. COLETTE DESMOND
C. Ni Dheasúnaigh
Newcestown

26. AMY O'CONNOR
A. Ni Chonchúir
St Vincent's

	CUIL	CUILINÍ	6SM	SAOR POCANNA
1st HALF				
2nd HALF				
TOTAL				

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Helena Jacob (Bainisteoir), David Kennedy, Gerry McQuaid

1 MAGS DARCY
M. Ni Dhercháil
Na Fianna, Dublin

2 DEIRDRE CODD
D. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

3 NOELEEN LAMBERT
N. Laimbeart
St. Martin's

4 KAREN ATKINSON
C. Nic Aidicín
Oulart-The Ballagh

5 SIONA NOLAN
S. Ni Nualláin
Monageer Boolavogue

6 MARY LEACY
M. Ni Laithéasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

7 SHAUNA SINNOTT
S. Siandáil
Oulart-The Ballagh

8 JOSIE DWYER
S. Ni Dhubhair
Ferns

9 SHELLEY KEHOE
S. Nic Eochaidh
Oulart-The Ballagh

10 KATE KELLY
C. Ni Cheallacháin (Capt.)
St. Ibar's

11 FIONA KAVANAGH
F. Caomhánach
Buncloody

12 JACKIE QUIGLEY
S. Ni Choigligh
Rathnure

13 URSULA JACOB
U. Jacob
Oulart-The Ballagh

14 KATRINA PARROCK
C. Ni Pharóg
St. Ibar's

15 LISA BOLGER
L. Ni Bholguir
St. Martin's

IONADAÍ

16. LAURA BRENNAN
L. Ni Bhraonáin
Rathnure

17. BRID GORDON
B. Ni Mhuirneacháin
Blackwater

18. FIONA ROCHFORD
F. de Rosfort
St. Anne's

19. UNA LEACY
U. Ni Laithéasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

20. STACEY REDMOND
S. Ni Réamonn
Oulart-The Ballagh

21. AINE LEACY
A. Ni Laithéasa
St. Ibar's

22. CIARA STOREY
C. Stoiri
Oulart-The Ballagh

23. LINDA BOLGER
L. Ni Bholguir
St. Martin's

24. STACEY KEHOE
S. Nic Eochaidh
Oulart-The Ballagh

25. CIARA O'CONNOR
C. Ni Chonchúir
Rathnure

26. CIARA DONOHUE
C. Ni Dhomhú
St. Ibar's



Corcaigh v Loch Garman

REFEREE: Alan Lagrue (Cill Dara)

KILKENNY
GET THEIR
REVENGE

JOY: Katie Power and Shelly Farrell

KILKENNY earned some measure of revenge for their All-Ireland senior camogie final loss to Galway last year by overcoming the champions by 4-12 to 3-7 in this year's semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds.

They await a replay of the Cork-Wexford semi-final to find out their opponents in the decider after that game finished in dramatic style — Una Leacy grabbing an injury-time goal to level matters at Semple Stadium.

Niamh McGrath opened the scoring for Galway after five minutes but it was Kilkenny who got the bit between their teeth.

Denise Gaule had the Noreiders level from the next attack and wing-back Elaine Aylward sent over a fine score to put them ahead.

Mullinavat sharpshooter Michelle Quilty pounced for a goal after 12 minutes to put some daylight between the teams.

Stretched

The advantage soon stretched to six points but Galway remained composed and points from the McGrath sisters, Niamh and Orlaith, looked to have steadied the ship.

Kilkenny struck another major blow when midfielder Ann Dalton ventured forward to rifle a shot beyond Susan Earner with 10 minutes to go in the first half.

Aisling Dunphy added a point to put eight between them but Orlaith McGrath breathed life into Galway with a goal to leave it 2-5 to 1-3 at half time.

Tony Ward had already introduced Aislinn Connolly and Ann Marie Starr in the first half but it was another substitute, Brenda Hanney, who had the biggest impact.

The former skipper had a goal within five minutes of coming into the fray to put just two points between them.

Kilkenny switched Shelly Farrell and Katie Power and the move paid handsome dividends as Farrell responded to Galway's increased tempo with a goal.

Galway showed their courage with another goal from Hanney, who was proving a real handful for Kilkenny, but the league champions have learned from last year's experience and displayed their maturity.



FOCUSED: Cork's Jennifer O'Leary and Kate Kelly of Wexford

All-Ireland Senior Camogie
Championship SEMI-FINALS

They tagged on points to squeeze the life out of Galway and Gaule rounded off a good final quarter on a with a goal to put the issue beyond doubt.

KILKENNY: E. Kavanagh, M. Power, K. McDonald, J. Frisby, C. Phelan, L. Fennelly, E. Aylward 0-1, C. Dormer, A. Dalton, D. Gaule 1-5 (0-1f), A. Dunphy, A. Connery, M. Quilty 1-0, K. Power 0-2, S. Farrell 1-1. Subs: E. Keane for Frisby, A. Neary for Quilty, G. Walsh for Connery.

GALWAY: S. Earner, T. Manton, S. Dervan, H. Cooney, S. Cahalan, S. Healy, L. Ryan, M. Dunne, N. Kilkenny, R. Henneley, N. McGrath 0-4 (2fs), E. Kilkenny, O. McGrath 1-1, AM Hayes, A. O'Reilly. Subs: A. Connolly 0-1 for O'Reilly, AM Starr 0-1 for Kilkenny, B. Hanney 2-0 for Henneley, E. Heaverty for Dunne, G. Glynn for Healy.

REFEREE: C. Egan (Cork)

In the other semi-final on Saturday, it looked like Katrina Mackey's goal mid-way through the first half would decide this very tight affair but Leacy made no mistake in the dying moments after tremendous work from Katrina Parrock to deny Cork.

Jenny O'Leary did have a chance to snatch it for the Leesiders late on from a difficult free tight to the sideline but her effort drifted wide.

Both teams utilised an extra defender as the emphasis was placed on not conceding. Having said that, neither side will be happy with their shooting as they racked up the wides.

The six yellow cards issued by Alan Lagrue bore testament to the competitiveness and intensity of the affair though.

Ursula Jacob's point was the only score of the game when Mackey took a pass from the excellent Angela Walsh to beat Wexford goalkeeper, Mags D'Arcy. Orla Cotter and Brieghe Corkery quickly raised white flags to open a four-point gap.

That was as much as ever separated them though and points from Ursula Jacob and Kate Kelly, sandwiching a score from Cotter, left it 1-3 to 0-3 at the break.

Leacy was introduced to the fray at half time by Helena Jacob and she was amongst the scorers as Wexford reduce the margin to the minimum.

Points from Jenny O'Leary and Mackey restored the goal advantage for Cork though and that's what was between them when Leacy made her dramatic intervention to ensure a second bite of the cherry for Wexford.

CORK: A. Murray, J. O'Callaghan, E. O'Sullivan, A. Geary, L. Treacy, G. O'Connor, P. Mackey, R. Buckley, A. Thompson, J. O'Leary 0-2, A. Walsh, B. Corkery 0-2, J. White 0-1, O. Cotter 0-3 (2fs), K. Mackey 1-1. WEXFORD: M. D'Arcy, D. Codd, N. Lambert, K. Atkinson, S. Nolan, M. Leacy, S. Sinnott, J. Dwyer, S. Kehoe, K. Kelly, F. Kavanagh, J. Quigley 0-1, U. Jacob 0-5 (4fs), K. Parrock, L. Bolger. Subs: U. Leacy 1-1 for Bolger, B. Gordon for Kavanagh (4fs), 0-1 for Kehoe (5f).

REFEREE: A. Lagrue (Kildare).

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2014

Cork face replay as Wexford's Leacy nets at death



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship semi-final
WEXFORD 1-9
CORK 1-9
Daragh Ó Conchúir
 Semple Stadium

Cork went agonisingly close to booking a return to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final, having missed out last year. Paudie Murray's girls may still make the decider but they

allowed an excellent opportunity to slip at Semple Stadium on Saturday, having led for three-quarters of this semi-final and having had many chances to be further ahead.

They were still a goal clear entering injury-time but Una Leacy came off the bench to rescue Wexford with a dramatic injury-time goal.

Wexford beat Cork in the 2012 final to complete a three-in-a-row and after a difficult season last year as they dealt with two changes in management and the loss of key players to retirement and other commitments, have looked much like their old

selves during this campaign.

For a long time it looked like Katrina Mackey's goal midway through the first half would decide this very tight affair but, as she has done many times in her career, Leacy made no mistake after tremendous work from Katrina Parrock to snatch the draw.

Jenny O'Leary had a chance to snatch it for the Leesiders late on from a difficult free tight to the sideline but her effort drifted wide.

Ursula Jacob's point was the only score of the game when Mackey beat Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy. Orla Cotter and Briega

Corkery quickly raised white flags to open a four-point gap to put Cork in control.

That was as much as ever separated them though, and points from Ursula Jacob and Kate Kelly, sandwiching a score from Cotter, left it 1-3 to 0-3 at the break.

Leacy was introduced to the fray at half-time by Helena Jacob and the manager's sister, Ursula, was on the mark 20 seconds after the resumption.

O'Leary replied but a brilliant point by Jackie Quigley, followed by another from Leacy, left the minimum between them. O'Leary, Cotter

and Mackey scored for Cork, with another substitute, Fiona Rochford, scoring for Wexford, which left a goal between the sides.

Cork looked like they would see it out at this juncture, although the margin was never a comfortable one.

Jacob did bookmark a Julia White point with two good scores but when Corkery fired over from a difficult angle, it looked like Cork had done enough.

They were to rue their eight second-half wides though, and the 12 in total, as Leacy gave Aoife Murray no chance in the 61st minute.

The replay will take place on Saturday.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-3 (2f); K Mackey 1-1; J O'Leary, B Corkery 0-2 each; J White 0-1 each.

Scorers for Wexford: U Jacob 0-5 (4f); U Leacy 1-1; J Quigley, F Rochford 0-1 each.

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

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, D Codd, N Lambert, K Atkinson, S Nolan, M Leacy, S Sinnott, J Dwyer, S Kehoe, K Kelly, F Kavanagh, J Quigley, U Jacob, K Parrock, L Bolger.

Subs: U Leacy for Bolger (2f); B Gordon for Kavanagh (4f); F Rochford for Kehoe (52). Referee: A Lagrue (Kildare).

Dalton leads way as Cats power past champions



Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship semi-final
KILKENNY 4-12
GALWAY 3-7
Daragh Ó Conchúir
 Semple Stadium

Kilkenny earned some revenge for their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final loss to Galway last year by overcoming the champions (4-12 to 3-7) in yesterday's semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds.

Ann Dalton was magnificent at midfield for the winners, Leann Fennelly and Elaine Aylward were sound in defence, while Shelly Farrell and Denise Gaule hit the crucial scores.

For their part, Galway were carried out on their shields but apart from Orlaith McGrath and substitute Brenda Hanney, their best players were defenders Sarah Dervan and Sinead Cahalan.

They didn't function sufficiently well enough as an attacking unit to keep the trophy out West.

Niamh McGrath opened the scoring for Galway after five minutes but then Kilkenny took charge with points from Denise Gaule and Elaine Aylward.

Kilkenny were asking a lot of questions of the Galway defence and Mullinavat sharpshooter Michelle Quilty scored a goal after 12 minutes, after an uncharacteristic error from Susan Earner.

The advantage soon

Lethal Fetherston shoots down Kingdom

Roscommon 4-10
Kerry 2-13
By Jordan Murphy

All-Ireland U21BHC

Champions Kerry were dethroned by a Thomas Fetherston-inspired Roscommon side in Saturday's high scoring All-Ireland U21BHC semi-final at Cusack Park, Ennis.

The Kingdom, without ace marksman Pádraig Boyle, had no answer to Fetherston, who finished the game with 3-1.

A Fetherston brace helped the Rossies to a 2-5 to 1-6 interval lead and though Kerry stormed back to lead midway through the second half, Roscommon

finished in style to book a final meeting with Kildare.

Scorers for Roscommon: T Fetherston (3-1), R Fallon (1-7, 5f, 1'65), R Kelly (0-2).

Scorers for Kerry: D Mackessy (1-2), D Collins (0-5, 2'65's, 1f), K Fitzgerald (1-0), D Griffin (0-3), B O'Leary (0-1), P McGrath (0-1), K Carmody (0-1).

ROSCOMMON: N Fallon; P Dolan, L Kildine, W Boyle; C Coyle, C Dolan, C Fallon; J Brennan, C Duignan; P Kenny, T Fetherston, H Rooney; R Fallon, J Henry, R Kelly.

Subs: S Keane for C Fallon (45), D Mulry for Kenny (46), S Kilcommins for Rooney (56).

KERRY: J Wallace; T Barrett, K Hanafin, T Casey; F Horgan, D Fitzell, M O'Halloran; B O'Leary, P O'Connor; D Collins, D Griffin, P McGrath; D Mackessy, K Fitzgerald, K Carmody.

Sub: D Leahy for O'Connor (45).

Referee: Tony Carroll (Offaly).

stretched to six points but Galway remained composed and points from the McGrath sisters, Niamh and Orlaith, looked to have steadied their ship.

Kilkenny struck another major blow, however, when brilliant midfielder Ann Marie Starr in the first half but it was another substitute, Brenda Hanney, who had the biggest impact after coming on at half-time. The former skipper had a goal to her name within five minutes to narrow the gap to two points.

Aisling Dunphy added a point to put eight between

them but Orlaith McGrath breathed life into Galway with a smart finish for a goal to leave it 2-5 to 1-3 at half-time.

Galway boss Tony Ward had already introduced Aislinn Connolly and Ann Marie Starr in the first half but it was another substitute, Brenda Hanney, who had the biggest impact after coming on at half-time. The former skipper had a goal to her name within five minutes to narrow the gap to two points.



Cork's Jennifer O'Leary watches as her late free goes wide in the All-Ireland senior camogie final against Wexford. Picture: Inpho/Cathal Noonan

Kilkenny switched Shelly Farrell and Katie Power and the move paid dividends as Farrell responded to Galway's increased tempo with a goal of her own.

Galway showed their courage with another goal from Hanney, who was proving a real handful for Kilkenny, but the league champions have learned from last year's experience and displayed huge maturity down the finishing stretch.

The normally reliable Gaule had struggled with her free-taking — as had Niamh McGrath — but the Kilkenny ace began to find the target from play in the final quarter

as the Cats squeezed the life out of Galway.

Gaule rounded off a very good final quarter with a goal to put the issue beyond doubt.

Meanwhile, Limerick defeated Carlow (2-8 to 1-6) in the Liberty Insurance junior A camogie final in Moneypgall. Elsewhere, Sinead Meagher scored a hat-trick of goals and Grace O'Brien slotted nine points as Tipperary cruised to a 3-13 to 1-7 success in the All-Ireland U16A final against Galway, while Waterford beat Derry in the U16B final at Radley Park by 6-17 to 3-5.

In the U16C decider at Geraldine Park, Laois beat Kildare by 2-8 to 1-4.

Scorers for Kilkenny: D Gaule 1-5 (0-1f); A Dalton 1-3 (0-1f); S Farrell 1-1; M Quilty 1-0; K Power 0-2; E Aylward 0-1.

Scorers for Galway: B Hanney 2-0; N McGrath 0-4 (2fs); O McGrath 1-1; AM Starr, A Connolly 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby, C Phelan, L Fennelly, E Aylward, C Dorrer, A Dalton, D Gaule, A Dunphy, A Connery, M Quilty, K Power, S Farrell.

Subs: E Keane for Frisby, A Neary for Quilty, G Walsh for Connery.

GALWAY: S Earner, T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Cahalan, S Healy, L Ryan, M Dunne, N Kilkenny, R Hennessy, N McGrath, E Kilkenny, O McGrath, AM Hayes, A O'Reilly.

Subs: A Connolly for O'Reilly, AM Starr for Kilkenny, B Hanney for Hennessy, E Haverly for Dunne, G Glynn for Healy.

Referee: C Egan (Cork).

Cork denied by a very late goal



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Cork 1-9
Wexford 1-9

IT WAS absolutely gutting and spirits were low in the immediate aftermath of this All-Ireland semi-final tie in Semple Stadium on Saturday after Wexford scored an equalising goal in additional-time to deny Cork a more than deserved victory.

The reaction from both camps told its own story. Cork knew, goal aside, that they left this game behind them while Wexford were more than delighted to be given a second chance.

Cork got everything right with their gameplan. Wexford rarely got close to Aoife Murray and when turned over or under pressure were forced to shoot wide against an extremely disciplined defence.

If you had said before the game that Cork would hold Katrina Parrock and Kate Kelly scoreless and Ursula Jacob to just a point from play you'd have pre-booked our train tickets for September 14. Cork did just that, but poor decision-making up front and some poor wides when Cork should have pushed the game beyond Wexford's reach was what cost them a victory.

Both sides had a similar count of wides but Cork's were more attainable.

The players would do well to remember that they could have won this game by nine or 10 points such was their superiority. There is little point in dwelling on the draw. Get re-energised for next weekend and go out and do it again. Confidence should be high.

It was a tense game for the most part, particularly in the first-half; very defensive with both sides holding firm and Wexford playing an extra defender. Wexford endeavoured to pull out Cork's half-back line but they didn't budge.

Alan Lagrue flashed six yellow cards, most of them uncalled for, didn't help matters.

To bring on a sub the calibre of Una Leacy at half-time was a worry and she proved to be the tormentor with the all-important goal.

Jennifer O'Leary had a chance to be the hero of the hour with a last-grasp free, won from the resultant-puck-out, but to be fair the



Cork's Aisling Thompson is closed on by Shelley Kehoe of Wexford in the All-Ireland Camogie semi-final at Semple Stadium.

Picture: INPHO

angle was difficult. And with Alan Lagrue debating with his umpires for over three minutes on an off-the-ball incident by the goal-mouth, Jenny had far too much time to over-think her strike.

She couldn't be blamed. Cork should never have been in that position.

Gemma O'Connor was excellent throughout, combining her sweeping role, with good deliveries. Cork, at times, pumped a few high balls inside in the opening half which Wexford dealt with.

None of the four midfielders were making an impact in the opening 30 minutes but Aisling Thompson and, in particular, Rena Buckley raised their game in the second half.

Once again Wexford's fans out-numbered Cork's about four to one. The people of Cork need to get out and support this team next Saturday, they deserve it. Each club needs to be phoned and asked to make the journey for the replay.

Every inch matters.

Murray takes positives from drawn clash

REACTION

PAUDIE MURRAY had every reason to be somewhat downhearted after he saw his side draw an All-Ireland semi-final they should have won.

But at the same time he was upbeat about their performance. "I suppose we have to take the positives out of it really. I think the first thing is that we stuck to our plan which is good.

"When they got the goal we kept our composure and worked the ball up for a free and were probably unlucky not to score that. "I think, player-for-player, we were better, better all over the pitch and we can only be positive looking forward to next week. I know the game is going to bring on Wexford but equally it'll bring us on as well. "I don't think we've anything to fear. We missed a couple of scores but they did as well.

"I think we were harshly dealt with a few times with certain tackles that were allowed to go on today compared with two weeks ago, so there's no consistency there, especially our inside forwards who took some very hard tackles.

"But you know we just have to look forward to next week now; it's another day out, it's an All-Ireland semi-final and I think, 'what have we got to be afraid of?," he said. Coming in today as hot underdogs and to take the game to Wexford like that must give the side huge belief for next weekend?

"Yeah I think there were an awful lot of players came of age there today; they really, really came up trumps so I think they can take massive confidence from that."

Paudie acknowledged that at half-time Cork could have been an additional four or five points ahead. "Yeah we never really shoved on our advantage. Now I'd say the wind wasn't the easiest either. Look, we just have to drive on now. I would hope the players would be disappointed but I think it should give us a lot of confidence."

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-1, D Cotter 0-3 (0-2 f), B Corkery, J O'Leary 0-2 each, J White 0-1.

Wexford: U Jacob 0-5 (0-4 f), U Leacy 1-1, J Quigley 0-2, F Rochford 0-1.

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

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, D Codd, N Lambert, K Atkinson, S Nolan, M Leacy, S Sinnott, J Dwyer, S Kehoe, K Kelly, F Kavanagh, J Quigley, U Jacob, K Parrock, L Bolger.

Subs: M Leacy for L Bolger (14-1), B Gordon for F Kavanagh (48), F Rochford for S Kehoe (51).

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare)

LEACY RESCUES WEXFORD



UNA LEACY came off the bench to save Wexford with a dramatic injury-time goal at Semple Stadium and ensure a replay of their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final against Cork next Saturday.

It looked like Katrina Mackey's goal midway through the first half would decide this tight affair but Leacy made no mistake as the teams finished 1-9 apiece. Jenny O'Leary had a chance to snatch it for the Leesiders late on from a difficult free tight to the sideline but her effort drifted wide.

Both teams utilised an extra defender as the emphasis was on defence. However, neither side will be happy with their shooting as they racked several wides.

The six yellow cards issued by Alan Lagrue bore testament to

the competitiveness and intensity of this semi-final.

Ursula Jacob's point had been the only score of the game when Mackey took a pass from the excellent Angela Walsh and then beat Wexford goalkeeper, Mags D'Arcy.

It was 1-3 to 0-3 at half-time and Wexford did reduce the margin to just one with points from Jackie Quigley and Leacy.

Points from Jenny O'Leary and Mackey restored Cork's goal advantage though, and that's what was between them when Leacy made her dramatic intervention to ensure a second bite of the cherry for Wexford.

Cork's Gemma O'Connor (pictured above with Annette Ni Dhathlaoi, head of marketing at Liberty Insurance) was named as Player of the Match.

BREN' SETS THE RECORD

Colin DUFFY

BRENDAN Cummins claimed a record eighth M Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada title at the Annaverna Mountain in Louth yesterday.

The Tipperary native took his fourth title-in-a-row in 54 shots.

Derry's Ruairi Convery was three shots behind to take second place, with Laois goalkeeper Eoin Reilly finishing third.

"It means a lot, it's extra special now, having gone one past Ger Cunningham's record," Cummins said.

Title

Cummins beat off stiff competition to take the title, with the field also including last year's All-Ireland winning goalkeeper, Patrick Kelly from Clare, and Alan Nolan.

Earlier, Waterford's Patricia Jackman won her sixth All-Ireland Camogie Poc Fada title in succession.

In the most dramatic contest in years Jackman,

Galway's Caitriona Daly and Limerick's Martine McMahon all finished the course in 29 shots, but Jackman's final shot finished 62 metres over the finish line, with Daly and McMahon behind her.

HURLING: 1st Brendan Cummins (Tipperary) 54 pucks, 63 metres; 2nd Ruairi Convery (Derry) 57 pucks, 65 metres; 3rd Eoin Reilly (Laois) 57 pucks, 30 metres.

CAMOGIE: 1st Patricia Jackman (Waterford) 29 pucks, 62 metres; 2nd Caitriona Daly (Galway) 29 pucks, 15 metres; 3rd Martine McMahon (Limerick) 29 pucks, 5 metres.

U-16 HURLING: 1st Donal McKernan (Antrim); 2nd Jack Coyne (Galway); 3rd Alan Kelly (Laois).



CHAMP: Cummins with his trophy

AUG.

2014



Galway's Heather Cooney battles with Kilkenny's Shelly Farrell in the All-Ireland camogie championship semi-final in Limerick. Stories on women's sport are generally outnumbered by about 20 to one.

Picture: Ryan Byrne

SPORTS SECTION

With high hopes going into the junior A camogie championship final on Sunday, Carlow felt prepared for anything. On the day though things didn't seem to go their way and despite sterling work to make it this far, they failed to show their full potential.



Carlow left wondering what might have been as dreams slip away

Limerick
Carlow

2-8
1-6

By Kieran Murphy



THIS was one of those games. What might have been? For the Treaty County, this was a wonderful success but for the vanquished, they will forever wonder whether they just didn't play well on the day or whether they were simply not let. After their heroics at club and county level in the not too distant past, this was a step up in class

for Carlow and perhaps it was a lack of games at this level which caught them out.

Yet they did ask serious questions of their opposition. After surviving an early scare when Carlow keeper Mary Coady swept the ball away from the danger zone with three attackers bearing down on her, Carlow created their own chances.

The exchanges were close as Eleanor Treacy put Carlow in front with an early free. Caitrin de Bháil levelled with a similar effort for the eventual winners.

At two points each, Ciara Quirke saw her shot saved by Limerick goalkeeper Laura O'Neill. The Myshall dynamo was denied at least twice more in the half by the agile net-minder.

"We had a few goal chances but the Limerick goalkeeper made a few great saves. You can't blame the girls for going for them but hindsight is great. If any had gone in, we could have won the match and maybe if we had taken points, we would have gone into the lead at half-time," speculated Mary Coady afterwards.

It was an interesting point. At B level, those chances would probably have been taken against lower ranked teams but this was a different class. At half-time Carlow trailed 0-3 to 0-2.

Coady came to Carlow's rescue immediately after the restart when she kept out a shot from Sarah Collins. Ominously, Lisa Scanlon converted the resultant 45 to put two points between the sides. On 35 minutes a free stretched the Limerick advantage and Carlow were struggling.

Further pressure yielded the killer goal when Brid Scanlon forced the ball home from close range. Quirke replied with a successfully taken free and Carlow hopes lifted slightly when Ciara Mullins pointed. Scanlon and Quirke exchanged points from placed balls before the roof came in on Carlow's lingering hopes.

This time, Sarah Collins got in behind the Carlow defence and the keeper was exposed. Eight points behind, it would have needed something extraordinary to save Carlow. They had plenty of possession in the final quarter but were unable to break down the Limerick defence. Quirke did steal a goal as the game entered injury time when her well-struck free went in at the near post.

Carlow were left to rue the day

and Mary Coady probably got it in one afterwards. "I think we would all agree that we didn't play to our best today."

If we had, we would have won, but there is no point in talking like that now.

Limerick were a very good team, don't get me wrong, but if we had come in and were beaten by a better team, we would be a little less disappointed.

It is disappointing. We would like to have won and pressed on for Croke Park next year. We will have to go for it again," she said defiantly.

Limerick: Laura O'Neill; Leanne Browne, Noreen Barry, Caitriona Neville; Marguerita McCarthy, Tara Fitzgibbon, Lisa Scanlon (0-5, 3fs, 2 45s); Mairead Clancy, Katie Hennessy; Donna Mulcahy (0-1), Muireann Creamer, Caitrin de Bháil (0-1f); Brid Hannon (1-0), Sarah Collins (1-1), Rebecca Noonan. Subs: Rosemary Rea for De Bháil (12 mins), Kristy Carroll for Clancy (h/t), Margaret Lynch for Noonan (42 mins), Niamh Curtin for Hennessy (50 mins), Grace Lee for Neville (58 mins).

Carlow: Mary Coady (St Mullins); Shannon Kavanagh (MLR), Kate Nolan (Myshall), Breege Nolan (Myshall); Eimear Byrne (MLR), Lisa Abbey (Naomh Brid), Michelle Nolan (Myshall); Ciara Mullins (Myshall), Tara Wilson (Myshall); Marian Doyle (Myshall) (0-1), Lorraine Bible (MLR), Eleanor Treacy (Ballinkillen) (0-1f); Ciara Quirke (Myshall) (1-4, 1-

3fs, 1 45), Eileen Murphy Capt (St Mullins), Ali Ruschitzko (Myshall). Subs: Margaret Coady (MLR) for Byrne (35 mins), Olivia McDonald (MLR) for Murphy (41 mins), Áine Ryan (MLR) for Ruschitzko (58 mins).

Referee: John Horgan (Cork)



Carlow's Eleanor Treacy in action against Leanne Browne, Limerick

TALKING POINTS

You have to lose one before you win one

At times Carlow showed that they could be a match for anyone at this level.

The problem was that you need to take your chances when they come your way or else you will be punished later on. This is what happened and Carlow were left to rue wasted opportunities. Sunday was a learning curve.

Hopefully this is just a beginning on a longer journey.

Limerick's Midfield Dynamo

Katie Hennessy may be small in stature but she has an engine and a heart as big as a house. She was in the thick of everything and was a doughty performer all through.

Moneygall

The Tipperary venue may be President Obama's ancestral home, which he visited in 2011, but you can be sure he was treated a little bit better by the hosts than the camogie visitors were treated on Sunday. Parts of the clubhouse were out of bounds (which included a toilet) and sanitary facilities were less than adequate for the requirements of players and supporters alike. There was one stall providing over-priced tea, refreshments and chocolate bars. There were no sandwiches available or anything more substantial.

As for the pitch, there were no stop-nets behind one of the goals. Hardly the way to treat All-Ireland finalists in any code.



Carlow Manager's Seamus Kelly, left and Ger Power during the game

REACTION

"It went Limerick's way and that is sport"

By Kieran Murphy

AS the Limerick players took the plaudits from family members, friends and supporters, Carlow players could only look on and wonder. Some of the losing squad shed tears of sadness, others talked to family and friends while others gathered in small groups and consoled each other. Manager Seamus Kelly mingled but still took time to reflect on the happenings of the previous hour and mulled over the direction Carlow camogie could take now.

"Looking at the first half, it was 0-3 to 0-2 in favour of Limerick. We had our goal chances. They had theirs. It went Limerick's way and that is sport. You can't expect to turn up on any given day and have everything going right for you," he said.

He is taking the positives from not just the day but for an entire season. His charges were in the game up to the break and it was a scoring burst of 1-3 in a seven minute spell from Limerick which divided the teams.

"Remember it is not too long ago that Carlow camogie wasn't seen on the map. Now they have contested two All-Ireland finals. The girls are hurting now and, in a way, I am glad they are hurting because they wanted it so badly. At the end of the day, they kept going and since the start of the year they have done themselves proud. They can keep their heads up high."

Kelly went on to praise those who have stuck with Carlow camogie through the lean years and on into great times, which has seen them win a B All-Ireland crown and a national league title. He hopes to see the good work continuing now.

"Bringing youth into Carlow camogie shows the development structures are in place and players are coming through. When they come, there will be years shaping them. It is not easy. Look at Limerick. They are in an intermediate All-Ireland. The juniors are working with them. That is not to say we are not able to get there someday," said the Mount Leinster man.

Revealing the political side of his nature, the manager refused to criticise the choice of venue for the All-Ireland final but his parting shot did indicate that he probably didn't approve of the venue.

"I won't get into the logistics. A pitch is a pitch and is the same for both teams. I will leave you to write the report on that."



Ciara Quirke, Carlow, in action against Donna Mulcahy, Limerick, in the Liberty Insurance junior A camogie championship final in Moneygall
Photos: Ray Lohan



The Carlow team who battled hard in the junior A camogie championship final