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Sept 2017



# Ballygarvan too strong

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Ballygarvan	6-7
Clondrohid	0-0

**DOUBLE** celebrations for Ballygarvan as the girls followed the boys win as they proved too strong for Clondrohid in the Allianz DC3 camogie final yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

An exciting first half, which saw Ballygarvan lead by 3-3 to no score. Eva Mangan opened the scoring with a point and this was followed by a goal and a point from Amy Coveney to give her side a 1-2 to no score lead.

Clondrohid battled with Lucy O'Connor, Róisín Murphy and Caoimhe Murphy doing well. However, scores from Susan Harris (0-1), and a goal a piece from Mangan and Coveney, gave Ballygarvan the lead.

Dalbha Lyons opened the scoring in the second half as she blasted to the back of the net. However, credit to Clondrohid who played in their first final and had some great second half performances from Lauren O'Brien, Aoife Lucey, Lucy O'Connor and Caoimhe Murphy. Ballygarvan, led by their keeper Grace Buckley, put the Clondrohid defence under pressure and with further scores from Coveney (0-3) and Mangan (2-1) proved too strong for Clondrohid.

Scorers for Ballygarvan: E Mangan 3-2, A Coveney 2-4, D Lyons 1-0, S Harris 0-1.

**BALLYGARVAN:** Grace Buckley, Tara Kelleher, Sophie Eliffe, Orla Madden, Jemma Looney, Lily Field, Tara Lyons, Lucy Casey, Eimear Geary, Eva Mangan, Amy Coveney, Dalbha Lyons, Susan Harris, Eve O'Herlihy, Sophie O'Shea, Emma Kennedy, Elsie Casey, Sophia Fitzgerald, Eimear Madden, Eve Lyons, Kate Hurley, Ruby O'Keefe, Anna Finnegan, Cara Bowen, Clodhna Desmond, Sophie Mangan.

**CLONDROHID:** Aoife Lucey, Hazel Healy, Lucy O'Connor, Lorraine O'Connell, Aine Sheehan, Lauren O'Brien, Róisín Murphy, Emma Kelly, Helena Healy, Caoimhe Murphy, Aisling O'Leary, Elysia Flanagan, Donna McCarthy, Ruby O'Shea, Lizzy Crowley, Lily Murphy, Rachel Bradley, Aisling Quinn, Darcy O'Brien, Aoife Murphy, Eva McSweeney. Referee: Anthony McSweeney (Sunday's Well).



Lucy O'Connor, Clondrohid, closes in as Ballygarvan player Dalbha Lyons win this ball.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Lauren O'Brien, Clondrohid, winning this ball from Lucy Casey.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Ballygarvan girls Orla Madden and Lucy Casey holding their trophies.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Fiona Twohig, Knockavilla, battles through the Ballinspittle back line.

Picture: Andy Jay



Knockavilla's Ciara Taheny and Ella Ronan on a high.

Picture: Andy Jay



Sinead Fitzpatrick shows her skills for Ballinspittle.

Picture: Andy Jay

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Emma Kelly, Clondrohid, breaking past Ballygarvan player Amy Coveney.

Picture: Dan Linehan



# Laura Shines for champs Blarney

**Blarney** 8-3  
**Minane Bridge** 3-2

## SCIATH NA SCOL

■ Barbara O'Connell

A **MAGNIFICENT** performance by Laura Shine, who scored 4-3, helped Blarney to claim the Allianz DCS camogie title with a victory over Minane Bridge yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn.

A very close first half which saw just a point separate the sides with Blarney ahead.

Laura Shine was Blarney's key player, while Eilish McGuinness stood out for Minane Bridge.

Shauna Dempsey opened the scoring after just a minute on the clock when she struck beautifully to the back of the net having received a perfect pass from Eilish McGuinness.

A minute later the roles were reversed and McGuinness unleashed a superb strike to give her side a two goal lead. Blarney reacted excellently and Laura Shine picked up the ball in the middle of the park, went on a superb run to unleash an unstoppable shot to the back of the net. A minute later Blarney doubled their score when Niamh Power cleverly dropped her hurley and handpassed into the back of the net to make the sides level. 2-0 a piece.

Orlagh Dempsey put Minane Bridge back ahead when she pointed over however this lead was short lived as Blarney's Shine struck to the back of the net again to make it 3-0 to 2-1 in favour of Blarney. Minane continued to close the gap and the impressive McGuinness pointed over once again. With score for score from the sides two key players Shine and

McGuinness, it was Shine who got the final score of the half as she pointed over from a free giving her side a one point lead at the break. 3-1 to 2-2.

The second half was a very entertaining and close contest until the final five minutes with both teams producing some lovely passages of play. There was very little between the sides in terms of possession, however Shine was tremendous in this half and her finishing in the final five minutes was the difference.

McGuinness opened the scoring in this half with a well worked point however Shine pointed over from a free to give Blarney a two point lead. McGuinness gave her side the lead once again as she blasted to the back of the net however it was Shine once again who pointed over for the equaliser 3-2 a piece. Shine continued her scoring tally and added a further 2-1, with Abi Hurley and Niamh Mullane adding a goal a piece to give their side a well deserved victory.

**Scorers for Blarney:** L Shine 4-3, A Hurley 2-0, N Power and N Mullane 1-0 each.

**Minane Bridge:** E McGuinness 2-1, S Dempsey 1-0, O Dempsey 0-1.

**BLARNEY:** Natasha O'Sullivan, Amy Bannon, Danielle O'Riordan, Katie Power, Cara Hurley, Laura Shine, Abi Hurley, Saoirse Breen, Niamh Power, Niamh Mullane, Isobel Downey, Isabelle O'Callaghan, Sarah Forrest, Robyn Linehan, Hayley O'Leary.

**MINANE BRIDGE:** Sarah Kiely, Kellie Murphy, Heather Corcoran, Dawn O'Connor-Murphy, Abby Taylor, Orlagh Dempsey, Emily-Rose O'Brien-McCarthy, Shauna Dempsey, Eilish McGuinness, Clara Bell, Aisling Lowney, Rachel Walsh, Emily Murphy, Sally Whyte, Sarah Kidney, Jessica Foley, Melua Healy.

**Referee:** Ger Harrington (Crosshaven B.N.S.)



Scoil Chroí Íosa, Blarney, players celebrating after winning the Roinn DCS final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Shirley Moloney, PRO, Cork County Camogie Board, presenting the cup to Scoil Chroí Íosa, Blarney, captain Abi Hurley and vice-captain Laura Shine.



Orlagh Dempsey of Minane Bridge in a race for the ball with Scoil Chroí Íosa, Blarney, players Cara Hurley and Laura Shine.

# Riverstown power to victory

**Riverstown** 10-2  
**Frankfield** 4-1

## SCIATH NA SCOL

■ Barbara O'Connell

Riverstown proved too strong for Frankfield as they captured the Allianz C1 camogie title yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Their great start was key to this win, and Frankfield will regret not settling into this final in the first half, when all the damage was done.

A five-goal lead by Riverstown after just 10 minutes of play was always going to be difficult for Frankfield to get back into this game, however, a great performance by them in the second half made it a lot more competitive.

Whatever the teachers said to the team, it worked a treat as they were a much better side in the second half.

Great credit must go to Frankfield for showing great character and great heart.

It was an entertaining game despite the scoreline.

Kate Elliott opened the scoring with a strike to the back of the net in the opening minute.

This was followed with six goals from Lauren O'Brien (2-0), Caoimhe Galvin (2-0), and a further two goals from Katie Elliott.

Credit to Frankfield who continued to battle hard with Kate O'Shea, Lara Sheehan, Aoife O'Donovan, Claire Herbert, and Ellie O'Keefe doing well under pressure.

However, an added point from Eve Hogan gave Riverstown a 7-1

to no score lead at the break.

Riverstown continued as they finished the first half with Evie Twomey striking to the back of the net in the opening minute.

However, a superb point from Laura O'Brien gave Frankfield their first score of the game much to the delight of their huge support, and a score that changed the game.

This score certainly lifted Frankfield and four consecutive scores followed with a goal a piece by Jennifer Sheehy, Kellie Lynch, Laura O'Brien and Olivia Greaney to make it, 8-1 to 4-1.

Riverstown widened the gap once again when Tara Elliott pointed over from long range and this was followed by two superb goals from Kate Fennessy to make it 10-2 to 4-1 and finish the scoring to give Riverstown a well-earned victory.

**Scorers for Riverstown:** K Elliott 3-0, L O'Brien, K Fennessy and C Galvin 2-0 each, E Twomey 1-0, E Hogan and T Elliott 0-1 each.

**Frankfield:** L O'Brien 1-1, O Greaney, J Sheehy and K Lynch 1-0 each.

**Riverstown:** L Kelly, L Lynch, T Twomey, G Seward, I Brennan, E Hogan, C Galvin, K Hackett, E Twomey, K Fennessy, C Rice, A Cronin, S Finn, K Elliott, T Elliott, E Hogan, E O'Brien, L O'Brien, A O'Driscoll, A Brennan, S McDonald, R Cullen, L McGarry, C O'Mahony, R Leahy.

**Frankfield:** K O'Shea, E O'Keefe, Lara Sheehan, T Swanton, A O'Donovan, C Herbert, N Barker, J Sheehy, K McCarthy, Fiona McCarthy, L O'Brien, S Lynch, K O'Sullivan, K Lynch, O Greaney, A Boeg, L Jamani, C Lynch, L Hayes, R Downey, E O'Mahony.

**Referee:** Cathal O'Murchu.



Evie Twomey, Scoil Naomh Íosaf, Riverstown breaking past the Frankfield at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Sophia Lynch, Frankfield winning this ball from Rebecca Leahy in the final yesterday.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Tara Elliott, Scoil Naomh Íosaf, Riverstown breaking away from Ellie O'Mahony, Frankfield.

Picture: Dan Linehan



# Twohig's goal seals cup win

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Knockavilla	1-0
Ballinspittle	0-1

AFTER a very low-scoring, but entertaining game, Knockavilla claimed the Allianz DC4 camogie title with a win over Ballinspittle yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn.

It was a scoreless first half, however, entertaining nonetheless.

Both sides were fully committed to winning the game, but as they were very even all over the pitch, scores were very hard to come by, but it didn't take away from the excitement of the final, which saw both teams bring a huge following to Pairc Uí Rinn.

Aoife and Sinead Hynes, Sinead Fitzpatrick, Tara Hipwell and Emma Casey excelled for Ballinspittle, while Cara O'Sullivan, Fiona Twohig and Ella Ronan impressed for Knockavilla.

The majority of the play was in the centre of the pitch with a great battle between the sides, however, very little scoring chances were created leaving the game scoreless at the break.

Fiona Twohig started the attack in the second half as she dropped a long free into a crowded Ballinspittle box, however, Aoife Hynes defended excellently and broke out of the defence on a great run.

A minute later Twohig had another chance to get the games first score, however, she watched her shot go inches wide of the post.

However, after 26 minutes of play the games first score came when Knockavilla's Twohig blasted to the back of the net to make it 1-0 to no score.



Knockavilla celebrate after the whistle after their victory over Ballinspittle. Picture: Andy Jay

At the other end Ballinspittle were awarded a free from 25 yards out, after a great run by Sinead Fitzpatrick, which Aoife Hynes pointed over to close the gap between the sides.

This half was a much entertaining half with both sides really giving it everything.

Aoife Hynes and Fiona Twohig contested a great battle and great credit to

both girls, who worked tirelessly throughout the game.

Sinead Hynes was excellent for Ballinspittle in defence as was Cara O'Sullivan for Knockavilla, who cleared every ball that came her way.

Scorers for Knockavilla: F Twohig 1-0

Ballinspittle: A Hynes 0-1

Knockavilla: Clara Taheny, Hanna Twomey, Syakira Umann, Aoife O'Donovan, Ava Cullinane,

Ella Ronan, Cara O'Sullivan, Sarah Kenny, Muireann McCarthy, Abbie O'Sullivan, Jane Horgan, Mia Kelleher, Alannah McCarthy, Fiona Twohig, Kate O'Sullivan, Nicole O'Connor, Megan O'Kane, Ciara Dulia.

Ballinspittle: Aine O'Reilly, Pamela O'Donovan, Sinead Hynes, Kelly O'Shea, Sinead Fitzpatrick, Tara Hipwell, Aoife Hynes, Dairé Nyhan (captain), Emma Casey, Alana Crean, Anna O'Mahony, Naíse McCarthy, Sinead Hickey, Jessica Moloney, Marta Sylakowska, Roise O'Donovan.

Referee: Dan O'Connell (Inniscarra).



Sinead Hickey, Ballinspittle, moves in to attempt a block as Knockavilla clear. Picture: Andy Jay



Double winners: Ballygarvan's David Anthony and Ben Flynn with Susan Harris and Orla Madden. Picture: Dan Linehan



Berrings' Malvina Kempa and Eva Costello with the cups. Picture: Andy Jay



Amy Duggan and Eimear Diggin collect the cup after their teams win against Carrigtwohill.

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Ovens NS players celebrate their victory in the Roinn DC2 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane.



Ovens supporters cheering on their side against Scartleigh. Picture: Denis Minihane.



Scartleigh's Kate O'Brien being chased by Leigh Coakley of Ovens in the Roinn DC2 final. Picture: Denis Minihane.

## Ovens girls are too hot for Scartleigh

Ovens	6-3
Scartleigh	0-1

### SCIATH NA SCOL

John Leonard

OVENS won the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC2 camogie title as they saw off the spirited challenge of a gallant Scartleigh side in yesterday's one-sided decider at the CIT Grounds.

The Imokilly side failed to score in the opening half, but to their credit they tightened their defence in the second half and they came close to adding further points.

Ovens had the Imokilly side on the back foot from the start and they opened the scoring with a point from play in the third minute by Aine Herlihy.

Wayward puck-outs were proving to be costly for Scartleigh as Ellen O'Leary increased the Mid-Cork side's lead with the game's first goal from the Imokilly side's 20m line.

Scartleigh had their moments in the opening quarter as Kaitlin Smith and Ciara O'Brien blocked shots by the Muskerry side. Rachel Leahy embarked on some solo runs through the middle but the Ovens defence held firm.

The East Cork side found themselves on the back foot for most of the second quarter as Maeve O'Callaghan, who emerged as the Muskerry side's top scorer, got her first goal in the 12th minute.

Ovens continued to win the Imokilly side's puck-outs as Maria O'Donovan drilled home the Mid Cork side's second goal from the edge of the square. O'Callaghan added two further goals approaching the break to give Ovens an interval lead of 5-1 to

0-0. Niamh O'Shea pointed a free for the Muskerry side three minutes after the interval.

The Imokilly side began to lift the siege as persistent fouling was proving to be costly for Ovens, but Laoise Murphy was winning turnovers in the middle of the park for the Mid Cork side.

O'Callaghan scored her fourth goal and O'Shea pointed a 65 before Scartleigh seized the initiative for the final quarter.

The East Cork side tightened up at the back as Rachel Leahy and Kate O'Brien deflected goal-bound shots by Ovens. The Muskerry side found themselves pinned back for most of the final quarter and Rachel Leahy scored Scartleigh's only point eight minutes from time.

Scartleigh continued to lay siege to the Mid Cork side's goal, but two wayward shots prevented Kate O'Brien from putting further points on the board.

Scorers for Ovens: M O'Callaghan 4-0, E O'Leary, M O'Donovan 1-0 each, N O'Shea 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 65), A Herlihy 0-1.

Scartleigh: Rachel Leahy 0-1.

Ovens: G O'Brien, L Hayes, R Murphy, S O'Connell, S Herlihy, N O'Shea, C O'Brien, L Murphy, N McNabola, M O'Donovan, S McGoldrick, A Herlihy, E O'Leary, M O'Callaghan, A O'Donoghue, M Sweeney, K O'Leary, Rachel Leahy, E Cremin, L Coakley, A Larkin, E Scanlan, A Mullins, R Walsh.

Scartleigh: M Horgan, C Fitzgibbon, K O'Brien, S White, A Geary, K Smith, A Murphy, Roisin Leahy, J Barry, K Curtin, B Smith, E Ryan, C Dawson-Bennett, S O'Connell, A Lee, S French, K Bowden, E Hennessy, E Anderson, S O'Rourke, K O'Brien.

Referee: J Kelly (Scoil Chroí Iosa Blarney).



# Rushbrooke win derby clash

Rushbrooke 3-1  
Carrigtwohill 1-1

## SCIATH NA SCOL

John Leonard

**RUSHBROOKE** claimed the Allianz Sciath na Scol C2 camogie title as they came from behind to defeat Carrigtwohill in a tightly contested East Cork derby at the CIT Grounds.

Scores were at a premium in the opening half as both sides focused on defensive tactics, while Carrigtwohill failed to capitalise on goal scoring early in the second half.

Rushbrooke made the better start as Eimear Diggin launched attacks from placed balls, but Carrigtwohill kept their line intact as Leah Parker was winning turnovers on the edge of the square.

Carrigtwohill began to turn the screw and midway through the opening half Sinead Crowley broke the deadlock with a point from play.

Rushbrooke's first shot came from a 65, but Diggin's long range effort was narrowly off target.

Rushbrooke had Carrigtwohill on the back foot midway through the opening half, but robust tackling by Michaela Horgan and Clara Walsh prevented Rushbrooke from converting this advantage into scores.

Carrigtwohill came close to scoring the game's first goal midway through the second quarter but Katie Ryan's shot from close range was deflected by Lucy Coughlan.

Wayward shooting was also proving costly for Carrigtwohill, approaching the break as they had to settle for an interval lead of 0-1 to 0-0.

Carrigtwohill laid siege to the

Rushbrooke goal on the resumption, but Rushbrooke tightened up at the back as a goalbound shot by Katie Walsh rebounded off the crossbar.

Rushbrooke opened their account in the 24th minute when Vanessa Frawley capitalised on sloppy defending to score the game's opening goal.

Carrigtwohill were exposed at the back midway through the second half as Amy Duggan tagged on a point from close range. Rushbrooke continued to expose holes in the Carrigtwohill defence and Frawley scored Rushbrooke's second goal from the edge of the square.

Persistent fouling was proving costly for both sides in the second quarter and with the game effectively over as a contest, Carrigtwohill, to their credit, added to their total with a goal from Katie Ryan.

Four minutes from time, Frawley added Rushbrooke's third goal following a free in the middle of the park.

**Scorers Rushbrooke:** V Frawley 2-0, A McKeown 1-0, A Duggan 0-1.

**Carrigtwohill:** K Ryan 1-0, S Crowley 0-1.

**RUSHBROOKE:** S Abdurrahman, L Coughlan, E Mackessy, B Donovan, E Ahern, E Diggin, D McKeown, A Duggan, V Frawley, M O'Keefe, A McKeown, C Gilmartin, D Kramer, C Farrell, R McCarthy, C Fitzgerald, L Ryan, B Hurley, A Meacie, A Ryan, N McHale, B McCarthy.

**CARRIGTWOHILL:** H Madden, G Cuddigan, K Dorgan, N O'Donovan, E O'Flynn, M de Burca, M Horgan, C Walsh, S Cooney, S Crowley, L Parker, K Walsh, L Twomey, K Ryan, R Ahern, A Normoyle, S Murphy-O'Connor, A Buckley-Pennell, E O'Keefe, A O'Connell.

**Referee:** M Byrne (Carrigaline BNS).



Rushbrooke team and mentors celebrate after their win over Carrigtwohill in the Sciath na Scol final at CIT. Picture: Larry Cummins



Rushbrooke team and supporters celebrate after their win against Carrigtwohill. Picture: Larry Cummins



Rushbrooke captains and co-captains with the cup; Molly O'Keefe, Vanessa Frawley, Amy Duggan and Eimear Diggin.

# Douglas win battle of the Gaels in Sciath final

## SCIATH NA SCOL

John Leonard

Douglas GS 2-0  
Midleton GS 0-3

**DOUGLAS GS** claimed the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC1 camogie title as they emerged victorious from yesterday's tightly contested decider against Midleton GS at the CIT Grounds.

Scores were at a premium as both sides played a game primarily focussed on defensive tactics.

Douglas captain Caoimhe Nic Aindriú led by example as she launched the game's first attack after winning possession from the throw-in but her shot was deflected a the expense of a 65 by Emma Doney in the Midleton goal. Nic Aindriú put Douglas into the lead with a goal from the 65.

The East Cork side replied with points from play by Gráinne Ní Fhinn and Aoife Nic Gearailt.

With wind advantage in the opening half, the Imokilly side had Douglas pinned back. Persistent fouling was proving to be costly for Douglas, but wayward shooting from placed balls prevented the East Cork side from producing further scores as Douglas held an interval lead of 1-0 to 0-2.

Douglas, with the elements in their favour for the second half missed two point scoring opportunities before Alex Ní Riada levelled matters with a point following a sideline cut.

Midleton had Douglas on the back foot, but the East Cork side failed to convert scoring opportunities from placed balls.

Douglas seized the initiative entering the final quarter and the match winning score came when Niamh Ní Chóinn exposed gaps in the Midleton defence to pounce for her side's second goal.

The East Cork side tightened up at the back as solid defensive work by Ellie Ní Choileáin, Jill Ní Chonnachtáin and Rachel Nic Shuibhne prevented Douglas from putting further scores on the board. Doney pulled off some spectacular saves with time



Gael scoil na Dúglaise captain Caoimhe Nic Aindriú being applauded off the pitch by supporters after winning the Roinn DC1 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Festival of Finals at CIT. Picture: Denis Minihane

almost up.

**Scorers GS Douglas:** C Nic Aindriú 1-0 (65), N Ní Chóinn 1-0.

**GS Midleton:** A Nic Gearailt, G Ní Fhinn, A Ní Riada 0-1 each.

**GS Douglas:** A Ní Charra, E Ní Laocha, N Ní Chóinn, E Ní Mhúmholtáigh, S Ní Dhuinnéach, C Nic Aindriú, M Ní Mhúmholtáigh, C Ní Mhathúna, E Ní Chólmáin, E Halligan, L Ní Aodha, O Ní Aileacháin, M Ní Arrachtáin, C Ní Chonail, E Scott, E Ní Aoláin, M Ní Cárthaigh, Orla Ní Shuilleabháin, M Ní Eithne Ní Lochlainn, C Ní Cheallacháin, R Ní Shíuáigh, L Ní Laoi, E Ní Cionnraith Ní Chearúill, A Ní Chianáin, Orna Ní Shuilleabháin, E De Brú, C Ní Laoire, N Ní Gafraigh, F Ní Grahama, S Halligan, C Ní Mhaolchathaigh, A Ní Chlámháin, C Ní Mhurchú, S Ní Mhathúna.

**GS Midleton:** E Doney, E Ní Choileáin, J Ní Chonnachtáin, R Ní Suibhne, R Ní Mhóghusa, R Ní Rian, A Ní Fhoghtú, E Ní Luain, A Ní Riada, G Ní Fhinn, A Nic Gearailt, L Ní Luineacháin, S Ní Ríordáin Hernandez, L Ní Chonchúir, E Ní Mhánáin, A Ní Neachtáin, E de Buíléir, R Ní Chruaíleach, S Hehir, C Ní Neachtáin, T Ní Chaoimh, S Ní Chroimín, R Ní Fhinn, C Ní Chonchúir, M Ní Chonchubhair.

**Referee:** C O'Callaghan (Minane Bridge NS).



Ella Scott of Gael scoil na Dúglaise trying to dispossess Rachel Nic Shuibhne of Gael scoil Mhainistir na Corann in the DC1 final in the Allianz Sciath na Scol. Picture: Denis Minihane





Coachford captain Niamh Barry-Murphy and vice captain Amy Dineen celebrate with teammates including coach, Michael Horan, after defeating Kilbrittain to win the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Roinn DC6 final. Picture: Larry Cummins



Coachford captain Niamh Barry-Murphy and vice captain Amy Dineen after winning the DC6 Final.



The Coachford girls celebrate after their win in the Sciath na Scol DC6 Final at CIT. Pictures: Larry Cummins

# Coachford win Sciath Na Scol DC6 title

Coachford	2-1
Kilbrittain	0-4

SCIATH NA SCOL

John Leonard

COACHFORD claimed the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC6 Camogie title as they saw off the spirited challenge of gallant Kilbrittain in yesterday's decider at the CIT Grounds.

This was a tightly-contested game that the mid-Cork side could have won by a bigger margin as they were restricted to a solitary point in the second half, while their stubborn defence prevented Kilbrittain from producing further scores.

In a scoreless opening quarter, the Carbery side came close to opening the scoring, but a spectacular save by Edel Downey denied them an early goal. Wayward shooting from placed balls also prevented Kilbrittain from putting points on the board.

Coachford began opened the scoring in the tenth minute when Niamh Barry-Murphy scored the game's opening goal from the edge of the square.

Kilbrittain's Caoimhe Moore won possession from the resulting puck-out and soloed from the middle of the park, but her shot from outside the square was narrowly off target.

Persistent fouling was proving to be costly for the Muskerry side but Rachel Bowen and Orna Cahill won possession from Kilbrittain's frees. The final action of the opening half saw Eimear O'Sullivan score Coachford's second goal to give the mid-Cork side an interval lead of 2-0 to 0-0.

Barry-Murphy pointed a free for Coachford within a minute of the restart, but the tide turned in the Carbery side's favour.

Wayward puck-outs were proving to be costly as Rachel Butler and Anna Crowley each tagged on points in quick succession for Kilbrittain.

Kilbrittain continued to have the Muskerry side pinned back but Edel Downey pulled off some spectacular saves in the Coachford goal at the expense of 65s. Rachel Butler scored the West Cork side's third point from a 65 entering the final quarter.

The Carbery side continued to win possession from Coachford puck-outs in the middle of the park, but they failed to convert long-range efforts into points.

Kilbrittain continued to lay siege to the Muskerry side's goal and, with time almost up, Rachel Butler collected a rebounded shot off the Coachford post to slot over her third point.

Coachford launched one final attack in a bid to put the game beyond the West Cork side's reach, but Shona Dewey pulled off a spectacular save in the Kilbrittain goal with time at a premium.

Scorers Coachford: N Barry-Murphy 1-1 (0-1 65), E O'Sullivan 1-0.

Kilbrittain: N Conlon 0-3 (0-1 65), A Crowley 0-1.

COACHFORD: E Downey, M Ni Bhualach, R Bowen, O Cahill, A Dineen, N Barry-Murphy, C Daly, S Martin, E O'Sullivan, G Kaczoch, J Lehan, A Lucey, S Barrow, C O'Shea, E Long, T Cook, I Ronan, E Corkery, K O'Brien.

KILBRITTAIN: S Dewey, L Conlon, E Butler, N Conlon, R Butler, C Moore, M Collinson, E Hayes, I Bergin, S Walsh, K O'Donovan, N Crowley, R Harrington, C Coughlan, A Crowley, C O'Sullivan, C Callaghan, A Tuthill, L Sheehy, E Hurley.

Referee: M Byrne (Carrigaline BNS).

# Alex's finishing is crucial for Togher

Scoil an Athar Maitiú, Togher	4-3
Scoil Bhride, Eglantine	2-2

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

SCOIL AN ATHAR MAITIÚ, Togher claimed the Allianz Urban C2 camogie title with a win over Eglantine yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

After 10 minutes of play Togher's clinical finishing proved to be the difference between both sides. Heather O'Connor, Eimear Hallahan and Cara O'Neill worked tirelessly for Togher while Evie Thompson, Emma Cantillon and Amy French impressed for Eglantine.

However, it was the finishing of Alex Moynihan which proved to be the difference in this half. A goal and three points from Moynihan added by a goal a piece from Kayleigh Kelleher and Helin Gunes gave the Togher school a 3-3 to no score lead.

Eglantine deservedly got on the score-sheet when Emma Cantillon pointed over superbly from a free. This gave the Douglas side a huge lift and they battled really hard until the end of the half making it 3-3 to 0-1 at the break.

Robyn Sweeney opened the scoring in the second half as she struck to the back of the net from close range. Eglantine reacted excellently and the game's stand out player Emma Cantillon struck superbly at goal but her shot was excellently saved by the Togher keeper Zoe Birmingham.

Eglantine continued to pressure the Togher defence and they got their second score of the game when Orla O'Donovan's long range shot hit the back of the net to make it 4-3 to 1-1.

Maebh McCarthy in the Eglantine goal was superb and made two great saves to deny Togher of widening their lead. Orla O'Donovan was unlucky not to add to Eglantine's tally when she went on a superb run having received a superb pass from Cantillon.

Unfortunately for her, her shot went inches wide of the post. However a superb run minutes later saw her struck over beautifully.

Zoe Hastings created a superb goal scoring chance seconds later when she tried to handpass into the goal however it went inches wide.

As Eglantine pushed on in the final minutes with Emma Cantillon being the creator of every attack, her pass into the forward line saw Nicole Clarke finish to the back of the net and finish the scoring with Togher victorious.

Scorers for Scoil an Athar Maitiú: A Moynihan 1-3, K Kelleher, R Sweeney and H Gunes 1-0 each.

Scoil Bhride Eglantine: E Cantillon 0-2, O O'Donovan and N Clarke 1-0 each.

SCOL AN ATHAR MAITIÚ: Z Birmingham, K Kelleher, A Cotter, B-L Cotter, A Moynihan, E Hallahan, L Morley, H O'Connor, L Dennis, C O'Neill, H Acer, R Sweeney, Kate Cahalane, E O'Riordan, E Good, R Clarke O'Mahoney, G Divil, H Gunes, J O'Flynn, A Noonan.

SCOIL BHRIDE EGLANTINE: M McCarthy, K Aherne 3, E Thompson, M Scallion (Captain), Z Hastings, E Cantillon, E Redmond, O O'Donovan, C Finn, A French, A Manning, N Clarke, C Maaney-Moloney, A Sheehan, A Keohane, A Healy, B O'Farrell, C Ryan, G Sheehan, K Enright, L Ryan, S Aherne.

Referee: Cathal O Murchu.



Emma Cantillon, Eglantine NS gets away from Kayleigh Kelleher, Scoil an Athar Maitiú, Togher, during the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí festival of finals at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Dan Linehan



Nicole Clarke, Eglantine NS, salutes the crowd during the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals. Picture: Dan Linehan



Alex Moynihan, Scoil an Athar Maitiú breaking past Amy French, Eglantine NS. Picture: Dan Linehan



Rushbrooke captains and co-captains with the cup; Molly O'Keeffe, Vanessa Frawley over Carrigrohilly in the Roinn C2 final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals. Teammate Clara Daly after their win; Bartlemy pupils cheer on their team celebrate a goal for their team.



Amy Duggan and Eimear Diggin celebrate at CIT; Coachford captain Niamh Barry-Murphy and Donoughmore fans John Casey, Rory Honohan and P.





Captain Niamh Barry Murphy, Coachford, in action against Kilbrittain.



Coachford captain Niamh Barry-Murphy and vice-captain Amy lift the cup.  
Picture: Larry Cummins



Rena Buckley: Set to focus on camogie this season.

## Camogie club is a growing success

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

**Buckley:**  
There  
wasn't  
enough  
time in day

Denis Hurley

Cork camogie captain Rena Buckley admits her decision to step down from the ladies football panel was due to work and study commitments.

The dual star has played football for Cork since 2003 and camogie since 2004. Running a physiotherapy business as well as studying for a master's degree in UCD meant she struggled to play both codes this season. She didn't feature in the national league and announced at the weekend that her focus would be on camogie.

"I didn't have any extra time, I was caught with work and study and things like that. There wasn't enough time in the day," said Buckley.

"During the league, there's a lot of travel time for matches and I couldn't give up my weekends."

Inniscarra's county camogie title last year saw Buckley installed as skipper and that role also influenced her decision. "I'm the camogie captain and for this year, I'll stick with that as I haven't been with the footballers. I'll review it again at the end of the year."

"I can't speak highly enough of [Cork ladies football manager] Ephie Fitzgerald. I phoned him in early January and I told him that I was studying until May 12, and in fairness, he phoned me on May 12. I appreciated that and he gave me time again after that."

Buckley was speaking at the launch of the second year of New Ireland Assurance's sponsorship of the Cork team.

The Rebels begin their All-Ireland championship campaign against Tipperary on Saturday. They go into the game after losses in the league final to Kilkenny and the Munster final against Limerick. Buckley isn't concerned about a hangover, though.

"We got to the league final and we lost it, we got to the Munster final and we lost it, we realise that we're a little bit off the mark but we realise as well that we're not too far away. We'll just have to put in a little block of training, there's a new championship starting so that brings a freshness. Hopefully, we've learned from the last two competitions and we can bring that experience into the championship."

After a few years sabbatical, Cobh GAA Club resurrected its camogie club in 2008.

Spurred on by the efforts of Mairéad Kearney and Colm Damery the club caters to the hurling needs of girls across Cobh.

From small acorns grows mighty oaks — the camogie club started out with 25 girls training each Saturday morning in year one with numbers growing to 45 in 2009 with the club entering teams in the U11 and U13 East Cork leagues, as well as the U12 County league.

Things progressed quickly in Cobh and in only its third year in existence the camogie club had managed to take in over 80 juvenile players with teams entered in competitions from U11 up to U14.

In 2010 a big effort was made to re-establish the adult camogie in Cobh. This has proven very successful and the junior team is now thriving.

There are many coaches involved with the training of various teams each week and thanks to all the hard work put in by coaches and administrators through the years the club has continued to grow and now has over 180 members. The club now has teams ranging from U8 all the way to Junior.

The Cúl Camp summer camp is run annually for all members. As with all GAA Clubs in the area the club's colours are hugely important to all involved and club gear can be bought from the club shop located in the top GAA pitch. The club appreciates the expense that parents are often put through to get everything so the club offers spare helmets to borrow for training when girls are starting off.

While success on the pitch is not the primary goal for the camogie club wins have been plentiful. In 2011 the U16 team captured the first trophy for the club when they won the County League. In the same year the U14 team got to the final of the Féile competition. In 2012 the same girls were unlucky not to take the minor Championship title losing by a narrow margin in the final.

The Junior team claimed the County League in 2012 to round off a fantastic year. In 2013 the club had a number of teams reaching finals including Minor Championship and U13 Imokilly. Many club girls were also involved in the school team finals last year including the St Mary's Sciath na Scoil final and the St Aloysius Munster and County finals.

The junior team won the County Summer Cup in 2013 against old rivals Charleville 2-6 to 1-7 and backed it up in 2014 by retaining the Summer League Cup following a replay against Na Piarsaigh.

Great times still to come no doubt.



Ballygarvan girls celebrate their win over Clondrohid in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Urban C1 final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Below left: Ballygarvan girls Orla Madden and Lucy Casey joined Ballygarvan boys vice-captain Ben Flynn and captain David Anthony after the team won the Roinn DH3 final. Below



Amy Duggan and Eimear Diggin lift the cup as the Rushbrooke team celebrate after their win against Carrigtwohill.  
Picture: Larry Cummins

May 2017



# Courceys create camogie history

There's a first time for everything as Courceys get their hands on Cork senior league title

## SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

**COURCEY ROVERS 1-11**  
**GLEN ROVERS 1-10**

**SHIRLEY MOLONEY**  
**REPORTS**

JACINTA Crowley scored a late winner as Courcey Rovers got their hands on their first senior title last Friday night.

It was third time lucky for Courceys as this was their third attempt to win the Cork camogie senior league final – and this time it all came together for them.

But they were made work hard for this success as Glen Rovers' late chance for an equaliser saw a Katie Walsh shot come back off the up-right before Lydia Cunningham was denied by a great Sinead O'Reilly save, with the Courcey's goalkeeper instrumental in the winners holding their precarious one-point lead.

Glen Rovers got off to a dream start when they were awarded a penalty inside the opening minute and Denise Luby made no mistake when her shot rattled the Courcey net.

Aisling Wallace put the Glen four points clear before Courceys responded with a Jacinta Crowley 45-metre free.

Glen moved 1-2 to 0-1 ahead before Courceys responded and a brace by Crowley from placed balls drew them to within two, before a Nicole O'Brien point saw the sides separated by three after 20 minutes, 1-3 to 0-3.

Sixty seconds later Linda Collins equalised when she was on hand to score after Luby had made an initial save from a testing long-range delivery from Saoirse McCarthy.

Courceys hit a purple patch and a Crowley 20-metre free followed by a fine Collins effort saw them hit the front four minutes from the break before O'Brien pulled one back for the Glen.

It was 1-5 to 1-4 at half time in favour of Courceys.

Scores from Crowley (2) and Ashling Moloney helped Courceys into a four-point lead after 36 minutes.

Back came the Glen and they scored four points in a row to level this game with just seven minutes left.



**Champions:** The Courcey Rovers team that won the Cork senior league title for the very first time last Friday night.

Jacinta Crowley put the slimmest of margins between the teams with a well-worked point before Glen's Lauren Callanan pointed from a placed ball to level again, 1-10 apiece, with the final whistle looming.

Courceys' defence proved resilient throughout and han-

dled a late Glen surge but when Saoirse McCarthy was brought down, the resultant free was slotted over by Crowley to give Courceys their maiden win at senior level.

### Scorers

**Courcey Rovers:** J Crowley 0-9

(5f, 145), L Collins 1-1, A Moloney 0-1.  
**Glen Rovers:** N O'Brien 0-4, D Luby 1-0, A Wallace 0-2, L Callanan 0-2 (1f), M Hyde, K Walsh 0-1 each.

**Courcey Rovers:** S O'Reilly; E O'Regan, K Keohane, G Hannor; C Hayes, A Moloney (captain), O Twomey; J Crowley, R Crowley; S McCarthy, C O'Neill, Eimear

O'Reilly; L Collins, S Hayes, Elaine O'Reilly. **Sub:** A O'Reilly for Eimear O'Reilly (48).

**Glen Rovers:** D Luby; K Buckley, K Falvey, N Gowan; K O'Connell, L O'Sullivan (captain), S Fahy; L Callanan, L Cunningham; K Walsh, M Hyde, N O'Brien; A Wallace, B Hackett, E Murphy.

**Sub:** S Brickley for B Hackett (hr). **Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).

# Newcestown finish strong to win crown

## INTERMEDIATE FINAL

**NEWCESTOWN 2-14**  
**ENNISKEANE 1-8**

**BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY**

NEWCESTOWN found another gear to finish with a strong closing quarter and claim the county intermediate camogie league title at Bandon on Sunday.

Enniskeane were within a point of Newcestown with 20 minutes remaining, however, try as they might they just couldn't penetrate the resilient Newcestown defence to add to their tally despite a gallant effort.

It took six minutes for a score to be registered, from Enniskeane's Orla Cronin. Two minutes later, an on-form Colleen Long slotted over a placed ball from 45 metres and then she put her side ahead with two

more, one a free.

Enniskeane had yet to find their momentum, however, an opportunistic goal from Cronin put Enniskeane one clear on 18. Long drew the sides level when she slotted over a 45m free before Cronin pointed a great effort to see Enniskeane nudge ahead once again. A super long-range free by Orla Coughlan from just inside the 65 metre line ensured Enniskeane went back in front, but Newcestown were to take the lead once more.

Four minutes from the break, a great piece of play from Collette Desmond saw her set up Long, who made no mistake in rattling the Enniskeane net and two points, from Desmond and Long, had them three ahead. Cronin and Coughlan pointed for Enniskeane as the half finished, leaving Newcestown 1-6



**And the winners are:** The Newcestown team that won the county camogie intermediate league final against Enniskeane.

to 1-5 in front at the interval.

Upon the resumption, Coughlan and Long exchanged points before Cronin slotted over after some great control and stick work to draw the sides level at 1-7 apiece on 32. Suzanne Deasy, marshalling the Newcestown defence from centre back, pointed a superb long-range free to once again see Newcestown ahead and

two from placed balls by Long – either side of a Mannix point – saw Newcestown hold a two-point lead heading into the closing 15 minutes.

From there, Newcestown kicked on and an unanswered 1-4 made the game safe for them. O'Mahony, Meabh O'Donovan and Long (two frees) all had points before O'Donovan sealed the deal

when her shot from 30 metres looped into the side of the net, ensuring they would take the honours.

### Scorers

**Newcestown:** C Long 1-10 (5 45, 3f), M O'Donovan 1-1, H O'Mahony, C Desmond, S Deasy 0-1(f) each.

**Enniskeane:** O Cronin 1-4, O Coughlan 0-3f, L Mannix 0-1.

**Newcestown:** O Dinneen; B O'Leary, F Deasy, A Crowley; M

Lynch, S Deasy, A O'Donovan; T McCarthy, M O'Donovan; Z Griffin, E Crowley, H O'Mahony; C Desmond, M Keneally, C Long. **Sub:** C O'Leary for O'Mahony (49, injured). **Enniskeane:** C O'Donovan; K O'Shea, D Carroll, C Nyhan; C O'Donovan, C O'Mahony; K Scannell; S Curtin, O Coughlan; M O'Regan, R Scannell, L Mannix; S Hurley, O Cronin, K Scannell. **Subs:** A Everard for O'Shea, K Hennessy for K Scannell (both half-time). **Referee:** C Egan (Glen Rovers).

MAY 2017



# Rural or urban, GAA folk are cut from the same fabric



Sport Minister Shane Ross with Patrick O'Donovan TD, who were joined by, from left, Camogie Association CEO Joan O'Flynn, Monaghan footballer Ellen McCarron, Kilkenny camogie player Edwina Keane, Sinead McNulty from Dublin IT, Meath footballer Niamh Lister, and LGFA president Marie Hickey, at the announcement funding to the value of €428,000 will be provided to adult inter-county camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football teams in the coming weeks.

Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

## Historic senior camogie final victory

CAPTAIN Aishling Moloney was delighted to be presented with the Cork County League title cup by Cork camogie chairman Mary McSweeney. This was after a tight game between Courcy Rovers and Glen Rovers.

This was an historic win for the club at Senior A level. The club had contested the league down through the years and it was third time lucky. They won the Senior B championship in 1999 with the club playing in the Senior A grade from the year 2000. This is a difficult grade to get out on top of. Inniscarra defeated Courcy Rovers in the final last year. This year, the game versus Glen Rovers was very hard-fought and exciting.

County players at adult level, Linda Collins (senior), Jacinta Crowley (intermediate) and Christine O'Neill (junior) Level led the Courcys team very well, while Cork minor players Saoirse McCarthy and Grainne Hannon also stepped up to the mark at senior club level.

Trojan defensive play by experienced full back Karyn Keohane caused huge problems for the enthusiastic Glen forwards. Well guarded by Emily O'Regan and Grainne Hannon, Aishling Moloney played her heart out. Sisters Jacinta and Rebecca worked tirelessly and Jacinta clocked out plenty of points on the night.

The experience of Sara Hayes, who has several All Ireland medals, was great to have on the field as a leader of the younger players. Sara and

her player colleague Rachel Moloney played many years with the county team.

Orla Twomey and Ciara Hayes proved to be a huge thorn in the opposition.

Two saves by goalie Sinead O'Reilly were very important. Sinead's sister, Eimear, at wing forward, played her part and their cousin subbed in in the second half and played her part in defending well. A team game from start to finish!

The final score was Courcy Rovers 1-11, Glen Rovers 1-10. The team celebrated back at The Speckled door at The Old Head with a few more trips around the Parish to Corcorans and O'Donovans at the weekend.

The full panel was Sinead O'Reilly, Emily O'Regan, Karyn Keohane, Grainne Hannon, Orla Twomey, Aishling Moloney, Ciara Hayes, Jacinta Crowley, Rebecca Crowley, Saoirse McCarthy, Christine O'Neill, Eimear O'Reilly, Sara Hayes, Linda Collins, Elaine O'Reilly, Aisling O'Reilly, Anna Hannon, Deirdre O'Reilly, Molly O'Donovan and Edel Moloney.



Good effort: The Enniskeane team that lost the Cork camogie league intermediate final against Newcestown in Bandon last Sunday. See page 11 for a full report.

### Iconic Jennifer to enter Hall of Fame

JENNIFER O'Leary is one of, if not the finest, female sports woman that West Cork has ever produced. She's the exception to the rule, that rare sporting talent that can transcend boundaries and her sporting CV highlights this – she has won four All-Ireland senior medals with Cork and eight All-Star awards. She's an icon, a legend of the game, and this Thursday, June 1st, Jennifer will be inducted into the Cork Camogie Hall of Fame at the Maryborough House Hotel, along with three other Leeside legends, Paula Goggins, Stephanie Dunlea Murphy and Liz Towler Meaney. All will be honoured for their contribution, commitment and dedication to Cork camogie. It's an honour that Jennifer deserves, a warrior and leader on the field, and one of the nicest and most genuine people you could be lucky enough to meet. Congrats Jennifer, you're a real Southern Star.

By Kieran McCarthy, Sports Editor



The joy of winning: Ballygarvan girls enjoying the moments following their win over Clondrohid at the Allianz Sciath na Scol camogie final. (Photo: Mike English)



# We need to follow the hurlers' lead



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT might be clichéd and worn out but if any of us ever needed a reminder of the increased percentages that hunger brings to your chances of success in sport, we need not have looked beyond Thurles last Sunday.

Hunger and leadership, throw off the shackles and go out and express yourself. That's how the game should be played.

The hurlers have been inconsistent in that regard over the past few years and it remains to be seen if the win will drive them to even better performances during 2017. I'm sure it will.

They'll be buzzing after a wonderful display that has the county tentatively excited again.

I hope their female counterparts were all glued to the game, whether live or on TV, because over the last 12 months they've lost the bite that's required to win titles.

You could possibly understand it in 2016. Going for three in a row is always difficult.

But this year's league final and their Munster final defeat to Limerick last Saturday was a very disappointing return.

It didn't really matter that Cork lost the league final. The performance was second-rate and against Kilkenny that was a surprise.

The standard of senior inter-county camogie at present is poor.

All the social media and PR work endeavours to mask that, but it's the truth.

Kilkenny are the best team around. Cork are second, and with respect that's saying it all about the others.

That's because Cork aren't a great team at present.

We can look very impressive at times, but that's against weak opposition.

We don't have consistent leaders. We have players who'll shine for 10 minutes and then disappear.

When you want someone to pull a game out of the fire, they aren't there, and I'm questioning why.

Why would players sacrifice so much and then take a casual approach into a game?

I don't feel that enough players are taking responsibility for their performances.

There's something missing, and it's from within.

The panel went back training earlier this year and there appeared to be a spring in their step in the first quarter of the year. But were we fooling ourselves?

It's all well and good looking hungry against the likes of Dublin and Waterford — the challenge isn't there. But once the heat is turned up, the questions are asked.

I remember a few years ago giving out about the same thing. Cork turned it around. They can do it again.



Alan Cadogan of Cork in action against John O'Keeffe of Tipperary in last Sunday's thriller. The Rebels really stepped up to the plate in Thurles.  
Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile



Orla Cronin takes on Sarah Carey of Limerick in the Munster camogie final last weekend, which resulted in a shock loss for the Rebels.  
Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22

**“The standard of senior inter-county camogie is poor. PR endeavours to mask that but it's the truth.”**

But players can't be tagging along for the pride of it all.

They need to get out and make a difference.

The mantra of hunger, aggression, and not accepting substandard efforts should be etched into every player's mentality.

It initially comes from the older players, but they can only do so much too.

When people refer to Cork and the older players they are typically talking about the likes of Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, and Orla Cotter.

But there are other players on that team now for several seasons and it's about time they assumed some responsibility.

The trio mentioned have more than done their bit. We need new leaders.

The championship kicks off on June 19 and the time for talking is over.

In a little over three months, we will

know the All-Ireland champions for 2017. Who will that be?

I believe it can be Cork. But it will take a 360-degree swing in attitude.

Speaking of players with great attitude, the New Ireland Assurance Cork Hall of Fame awards will take place on June 1.

This award was introduced six years ago and since then some great Cork names have been inducted.

This year, Stephanie Dunlea, Paula Goggins, Liz Towler and Jennifer O'Leary will receive their awards in the Maryborough Hotel.

I played for many years with Stephanie, Paula, and Liz and just one season with Jenny.

Paula and Liz were as tough as you'll get, primarily lining out as cornerbacks. Liz was a flyer.

They were part of the team when we won our first All-Ireland in 1992 after a gap of nine years.

Stephanie Dunlea arrived on the scene around 1995, if I recall correctly, and while she possibly lived at times in her sister Lynn's shadow, she was a really tremendous player in her own right.

As a player she was tough and intelligent.

We played together at club level with Glen Rovers and I have great memories of that time.

I've watched Jenny O'Leary over the years, more so than sitting in the same dressing rooms as her, but how could you not admire her great speed and skill?

When Jenny went on a run, jiggling this way and that, the ball seemed to stick to her hurley.

Many former inductees will be in attendance on the day, where once again the years will be erased and it will be as if we all saw each other only last week.

MAY 2017



# Clubs set to get funds this week



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**THE first tranche of Government funding will be issued to Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football inter-county teams in the coming weeks which will reach €428,000 in total in 2017.**

With the 2017 All-Ireland Championships in both codes set to get underway in the coming weeks, this funding will support inter-county Camogie and Ladies Football panels and players in their preparation throughout the year.

This follows the announcement, in June 2016, by the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, of a two-year agreement, commencing in 2017, to provide support for inter-county Camogie and Ladies Football players. This process will provide funding of €500,000 in 2017 and 2018, through Sport Ireland, to support programmes included in a joint proposal by the Camogie Association, the LGFA and the WPGA.

The funding has been released after a consultation process with all Camogie and Ladies Football inter-county teams. As part of this process, workshops were held which were attended by County Board Chairpersons/Secretaries, Team Managers and Player Representatives across both Camogie and Ladies Football.

The financial support is aimed towards programmes such as injury prevention and medical cover; maximising player and team performance; and access to training facilities. The applications received for this funding focused on areas such as Physiotherapy, Strength and Conditioning, Nutritional Advice, Sports Psychology, Performance Analysis, Player Recovery, Medical Cover, Specialised Coaching and Gym/Training Facilities.

Speaking at the announcement, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross said: "This two-year programme of financial support shows the appreciation of the Government for what our inter-county Ladies Football and Camogie players do for our sporting landscape. Every year, we see many thrilling and competitive contests.

Their sporting achievements and the enjoyment that they bring to so many throughout the length and breadth of Ireland deserves to be recognised. I wish all concerned with Ladies Football and Camogie continued success in the years ahead."

Patrick O'Donovan said: "I was delighted to announce this funding programme last June as I believe that it shows the commitment of the Government to the promotion of our national Gaelic Games. Ladies Football and Camogie form such an important part of Irish culture and heritage and the players and clubs are the cornerstone of communities around the country. The schemes which will be funded by the grants allocated today are so important to the continued development of women's sport in Ireland."



The Newcestown panel who landed the 2017 intermediate camogie league crown recently. See left on P42 for more on the victory.



Mark Kenny, New Ireland Assurance Regional Manager with Former Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Award winners, Denise Kelleher and Vivienne Harris, at the 2017 awards this week.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Unquestionably the WPGA has made a significant contribution to Women's Gaelic Games. Huge credit is due to Aoife Lane, Gemma Begley, Valerie Mulcahy, Deirdre Murphy and Co. But all their hard work would be in vain were it not for the buy in of the players nationwide.

I admit to being nervous at the organisations inauguration. I felt that if after an energetic start it petered out, that would be worse than never attempting it at all. My fears were unfounded. It has grown from strength to strength, due to the tireless voluntary effort of the group.

I was invited to a player's representative day in Carton House a few weeks ago. The event was attended by over 80 representatives from various counties.

These reps liaise between the association's committee and their inter-county teammates. A few of us were invited to speak about leadership and how your sporting attributes cross over into your personal and working life. But we were speaking to leaders already.

These players had put themselves forward to work and strive for improved conditions for women in sport and they possibly don't even realise how their individual efforts, no matter how small, as a group make them a strong force.

The theme of the day was around leadership and high performance. The organisers wanted the players to take away learnings for themselves as individuals for all areas of their lives and also for their teams. There were workshops and interaction around how they could possibly influence a group dynamic.

What resonated with me is that the Government funding provided is a significant sum. It's not just a token gesture. There will undoubtedly be tight controls and diligence around the spend and I hope that the results are measurable and felt by those in receipt of it.

It's a large sum of money but there'll be a large pull on it too and when the cake is sliced I hope the net value of it per county is clearly felt.

**"Some might feel that a league title isn't worth much I would disagree."**

Courcey Rovers won their first senior league title last weekend, beating Glen Rovers by a point. It was a great achievement for Courceys, winning the final at their third attempt. Equally, it would have done wonders for Glen Rovers to lift some silverware. It was great to see these two clubs in the final.

And while some might feel that a league title isn't worth much I would disagree.

To some clubs, it's as good as winning a championship. It does a huge amount for their progression because they may not have won silverware before.

It brings excitement, a feel-good factor, and keeps the players believing and coming back for more.

The senior and intermediate inter-county championships throw in next weekend.

Both teams play on Saturday, the seniors away to Tipperary, the intermediates at home to Galway. The panel-splitting headache has arrived again.

## U13 blitz honours Peter's memory

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

OVER the Bank Holiday weekend, young camogie players will participate in two tournaments organised in memory of two great camogie people who sadly are no longer with us.

On Monday in Mallow, the U14 inter-county blitz will get underway at 10am, while in Ballyanley, an inter-divisional blitz will take place.

It's hard to imagine that it's been 18 years since the first U14 inter-county blitz was held (1999) and that just 12 months later one of the chief organisers of the event, James Hurley, passed away after a short illness at a young age.

James' colleagues in Cork colleges, led by his good friend Rob Lott, decided to honour his memory and name the competition after their former chairman and it has become one of the highlights of the camogie calendar.

The Peter Downey Memorial is a new tournament, an inter-divisional competition for U13s, which goes ahead in Peter's home club of Inniscarra where the divisions will be joined by host team to honour the memory of the late referee.

Inniscarra club man and chair of the National Camogie Referees Committee, Peter passed away following a tragic accident and his death was met with shock by all camogie players, mentors, and his fellow referees.

Already, the juvenile board have named their U14 A trophy after him, while the county board presented the referee of the senior county final with the Peter Downey Memorial Trophy.

A total of 26 U14 teams representing the various counties will participate in the James Hurley U14 inter-county blitz over three venues.

There will be three pitches at the Mallow GAA club in use, one in the Town Park Pitch, Mallow, and two pitches in Mournabbey GAA grounds. Games are scheduled to get under way at all venues at 10am with the A, B and C finals scheduled for 2.15pm.

Out in Ballyanley at 10am Muskerry, Avondhu, Seandun, Carrigdhoun, Carbery and Imokilly will join Inniscarra's U13s in a blitz that was the brain-child of club mentor Pat Nolan, who explained the concept.

"This blitz will be all about enjoyment, there will be no winner, we will present the seven captains with the Peter Downey Shield after the games and each player will be presented with a medal. Cathal Egan, Cathal Vaughan and Diarmuid Kirwin will be here to referee and honour the memory of Peter in the best way possible."

Plenty of camogie to enjoy on Monday and in the evening at 7pm, a trip to Castle Road would round off the day nicely, where the senior B league final between Blackrock and Fr O'Neill's takes place.



# Long leads the way in league victory

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Newcestown 2-14  
Enniskeane 1-8

NEWCESTOWN rallied to finish stronger as they hit 1-4 in the closing quarter to take the Intermediate League crown at Bandon.

Despite what the scoreline suggests, this was a tight contest and with 20 minutes remaining just a point separated the sides. Despite huge pressure, Enniskeane were unable to break down the strong Newcestown defence to get level as the last quarter progressed.

Orla Cronin gave Enniskeane an early lead but inside two minutes Colleen Long replied with a pointed 45 and the same player added two points to put Newcestown ahead.

Enniskeane hit the front when Orla Cronin's shot from the wing deceived Orla Dineen in the Newcestown goal but Colleen Long had the team level pointing a 45.

Cronin then pointed to put Enniskeane back in front.

A long range free from Orla Coughlan ensured Enniskeane held their lead until four minutes to the break. Collette Desmond set up Colleen Long, who found the net for a great goal to edge her side back into the lead.

Twice the sides swapped points before the break as Newcestown held their one point lead at 1-6 to 1-5. Orla Coughlan and Colleen Long exchanged early second-half points before Orla Cronin had the sides level 1-7 at apiece.

With both sides digging deep it was Newcestown that regained the lead.

Suzanne Deasy pointed a long-range free and with Colleen Long scoring two frees, before Louise Mannix replied with a white flag, Newcestown held a two-point lead heading into the closing quarter.

With both defences under pressure, it was Newcestown that upped the pace.

They added 1-4 to their tally with Hilda O'Mahony, Meabh O'Donovan and Colleen Long scoring before Meabh O'Donovan sealed the result when her long shot squeezed inside the net for a goal to seal the title for Newcestown.

Scorers for Newcestown: C Long 1-10 (0-3 f, 0-5 45), M O'Donovan 1-1, H O'Mahony C Desmond, S Deasy (f) 0-1 each.

Enniskeane: O Cronin 1-4, O Coughlan 0-3 (f), L Mannix 0-1.

NEWCESTOWN: O Dineen, B O'Leary, F Deasy (c), A Crowley, M Lynch, S Deasy, A O'Donovan, T McCarthy, M O'Donovan, Z Griffin, E Crowley, H O'Mahony, C Desmond, M Kennedy, C Long.

Subs: C O'Leary for H O'Mahony (inj 49).

ENNISKEANE: C O'Donovan, K O'Shea, D Carroll, C Nyhan, C O'Donovan, C O'Mahony, K Scannell, S Curtin, O Coughlan (c), M O'Regan, R Scannell, L Mannix, S Hurley, O Cronin, K Scannell.

Subs: A Everard for K O'Shea (h/t) K Hennessy for K Scannell (h/t).

Referee: Cathal Egan, Glen Rovers.



The Courcey Rovers side who recently captured the senior camogie league title.

# Crowley is top class as Courceys prevail

Courcey Rovers 1-11  
Glen Rovers 1-10

IT was a battle to the finish before a late Jacinta Crowley free swung the balance in Courcey Rovers' favour to give them the Senior League title at the expense of Glen Rovers at Castle Road.

Playing in their third league final at this level, Courceys were determined, but they found stern resistance as a lively and spirited Glen Rovers side pushed them all the way in a superb contest.

Glen got off to a great inside the opening seconds as their keeper Denise Luby took off downfield and dispatched a penalty to the Courcey net after Emma Murphy had been taken down en route to goal with the first play of the game.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Aishling Wallace pointed to extend the Glen lead and they were four points in front before Crowley pointed a 45 to get the Courceys' challenge up and running.

Glen applied a lot of pressure and they were denied a second goal when Katie Walsh's shot was deflected over the bar by Sinead O'Reilly.

Courceys responded to the challenge with Crowley pointing two frees to cut the lead to two points, before a Nicole O'Brien point put the Glen three clear again.

Courceys were level when Linda Collins was in fast to bat a long-range delivery from Saoirse McCarthy to the net and they took the lead when Crowley pointed a close in free.

And with Collins and O'Brien exchanging points, Courceys led 1-5 to 1-4 at the break.

Wallace tied the score up only for Aishling Maloney to restore the Courceys lead and with Crowley picking off two from play and one from a free, Courceys went four points clear.

As the sides battled it out, Glen struck four unanswered points to get back on level terms—Michaela Hyde, Lauren Callanan, and two from O'Brien with seven minutes remaining.

Crowley and Callanan ensured it was level again at 1-10 apiece as the clock ticked towards full-time.

Courceys defence came under a lot of pressure. Twice the Glen came close but Courceys rallied and won a free which Crowley slotted over.

Still the Glen girls wouldn't give in and they were denied an opportunity to equalise with a minute remaining

when Lydia Cunningham's shot came off the crossbar for Courceys to clear their lines under enormous pressure. They pushed again and were denied as Sinead O'Reilly brought off a great save.

Scorers for Courcey Rovers: J. Crowley 0-9 (0-5f, 0-1 45), L. Collins 1-1, A. Maloney 0-1.

Glen Rovers: D. Luby 1-0 (pen), N. O'Brien 0-4, A. Wallace 0-2, L. Callanan 0-2 (0-2f), M. Hyde, K. Walsh 0-1 each.

COURCEY ROVERS: S. O'Reilly, E. O'Regan, K. Keohane, G. Hannon, C. Hayes, A. Maloney (c), O. Twomey, J. Crowley, R. Crowley, S. McCarthy, C. O'Neill, Eimear O'Reilly, L. Collins, S. Hayes, Elaine O'Reilly.

Sub: A. O'Reilly for Eimear O'Reilly (48).

GLEN ROVERS: D. Luby, K. Buckley, K. Falvey, N. Gowan, K. O'Connell, L. O'Sullivan (c), S. Fahy, L. Callanan, L. Cunningham, K. Walsh, M. Hyde, N. O'Brien, A. Wallace, B. Hackett, E. Murphy.

Sub: S. Brickley for B. Hackett (h/t).

Ref: Walter Cole (Buttevant).



At the launch of the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship in Dublin were, from left, senior players Aoife Murray (Cork), Eve O'Brien (Dublin), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Heather Cooney (Galway), Emma Hannon Roche (Waterford), Anna Farrell (Kilkenny), Orlaith Duggan (Clare), Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Jean Brady (Offaly), and Brid Gordon (Wexford). All of the knockout matches in this year's championship will be broadcast live on RTE television for the first time. Also, Liberty Insurance will run a campaign, called 'Squad Goals', which is designed to find Ireland's most skilful camogie squad.

Picture: James Crombie

May 2017



# Boyle backs Tipp seniors to continue upward progression

By Rose Mannion

TIPPERARY play host to old rivals Cork in the first round the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship this Saturday at The Ragg (2.30pm).

Brian Boyle charges will be aiming to get off to a winning start in what is a very competitive group. They have a bye in round 2 before hosting new Munster champions Limerick on July 1st. Tipperary's remaining two games are away, to Wexford on July 15th and the last one to Leinster runners-up Offaly on July 22nd.

Group 1 is made up of Clare, Galway, Dublin, Waterford and All Ireland champions Kilkenny. The top teams from each group will go straight to the All Ireland semi-final on August 19th while those in second and third places respectively will contest the All Ireland quarter finals on August 5th.

This championship is wide open with little or nothing between any one of the teams in either group. Tipp didn't play Cork in last year's championship but did meet them in the League back in March. On that occasion it was only in the closing minutes that the rebels pulled away with the premier girls giving them a scare. Neither players or management however is under any illusion as to how the bar will be raised come championship season.

"We have a tough championship group this year but it's a sign of how far we have come that we are not worrying about anyone else but ourselves and our own standards going into it. We will be taking it one game at a time," admitted manager Brian Boyle. Tipp will no doubt have learned a lot over the last number of months and will be out to avenge that loss last March.



Tipperary manager Brian Boyle

Although disappointed to lose in the Munster semi-final to the eventual winners Limerick last month, the Drom & Inch clubman said it won't derail them from their ambitions.

"Yes we were disappointed not to reach a Munster final but we are determined that one bad day at the office is in no way going to define our season.

"These are a very determined and united bunch of girls who take immense pride in giving their best for their county. They are a pleasure to work with and one can only admire their drive and ambition.

"They only lost to Galway by a goal and Wexford by a point in last year's championship. They missed out on a league semi-final this year on score difference and lost to eventual Munster champions Limerick by a goal in the semi-final.

"We feel we have made considerable progress since then and are eager



At the launch of the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Championship are Cork captain Aoife Murray and Tipperary skipper Mary Ryan, who meet in the opening round this Saturday at The Ragg.

PHOTO: INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE

to put that to the test in the coming weeks," he said.

With a full panel to choose from, Boyle has great praise for his charges and views Tipperary camogie to be in a good state.

"Tipperary senior camogie is in a great place in the last three years where we have reached a Munster final, two all Ireland quarter finals, a league semi-final, won four of our last five competitive games, three of these coming away from home, and we will

need that kind of belief and consistency to come through our group.

"The girls demand that from themselves all the time anyway. There is such an air of positivity around camogie in the county at the moment we are so thankful for all the support we have received from sponsors, media, county board and it is so heartening to see the support get behind Tipperary once again. The commitment and time these girls put into preparing to give their best for their county has to

be seen to be believed.

"We are going to do all in our power to make sure everyone will be proud of the girls. Before a ball is pucked at all the overriding feeling from management has to be of pride to see this team embrace the standards set for them and consistently push the bar higher and demand more of themselves. We hope the county gets behind them and gives them the support they deserve," he said.

Preparations are going well and the Drom & Inch man harbours an ambition to get this senior team to the top of the ladder so he leaves no stone unturned in the preparation stages. He is also in charge of the Intermediate team who also begin their championship campaign this Saturday, away to Antrim so the panel and back-room support will be stretched a little.

Boyle is joined by selectors Sarah Devane (Ballina), Tim Maher (Burgess/Duharra), Bill Mullaney (Newport/Ballinahinch) along with coach Denis Kelly (Borris-Ileigh), Strength & Conditioning team, Robbie Cassidy, Patrick Lowry, Sinead Costello, Maggie O'Grady, while the backroom team is completed by Dr Paul Scully and physio Lauren Guilfoyle.

**Tipperary Panel:** Mary Ryan (Moneygall, Captain), Julie Ann Bourke, Teresa Ryan, Nicole Walsh (Borris-Ileigh), Gemma Grace, Jenny Grace, Caoimhe Maher, Cladhna Maher (Burgess/Duharra), Carol Casey, Orla McEniry, Roisin Howard (Cahir), Orla O'Dwyer (Cashel), Eirena Fryday, Cait Devane, Emer Loughman, Clodagh Quirke (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Miriam Campion, Mairead Eviston, Aoife McGrath (Drom & Inch), Clarnait Walsh (Eire Og Annacarty), Mairead Teehan (Moneygall), Grace O'Brien (Nenagh Eire Og), Keely Lenihan (Newport/Ballinahinch), Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers), Eimear Murphy (Silvermines), Megan Ryan (St Cronan's Roscrea), Jenny Logue (Tullaroan).



## All set for Mayfield Garda camogie blitz

At the launch of the 5th annual Mayfield Garda under 13 camogie blitz to be held at Brian Dillons (Tank Field) GAA club tomorrow were:

1. Twins Tara and Katie Elliott, Sarsfields.
2. Clara O'Mahony, Blackrock; Amy McCarthy, Glen Rovers and Aoife Ring, Inniscarra.
3. Caoimhe Murray, Rockban, Amy Coleman, Na Piarasigh and Lori O'Callaghan, Douglas.
4. Aoife McIver, Carrigaline and Jane Funchion, Brian Dillons.
5. Participants with Tracey Sheehan, Cork camogie board and Supt Mick Comyns.
6. Clara O'Donovan, Ballincollig; Michaela O'Shea, St Finbarrs and Charlotte Higgins, Bishopstown.

Pictures: Eddie O'Hare







Ashling Thompson at launch of the New Ireland Assurance 2017 Cork Camogie championship. First up on Saturday is an away joust with Tipperary.

Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

# Recharged and ready for Tipp

**CORK camogie star Ashling Thompson will continue to be an advocate for mental health, but insists that she doesn't wish to be seen as a celebrity.**

Thompson has received praise for speaking out on depression, which she has experienced in the past. However, she admits that the flurry of media engagements which followed actually led to further anxiety and she is keen to limit her exposure in that regard.

"When I first spoke out, I had every Tom, Dick and Harry ringing me for interviews and I had nobody to tell me what and what not to do and how to pace myself," she said.

"Nothing I ever felt I did was the wrong thing to do but I just felt that I took way too much on at that point, and I definitely became overwhelmed

## CAMOGIE

■ Denis Hurley

and anxious. All that stuff is learning, it was overwhelming but you learn from it. When it comes to mental health, I'll do whatever I can but anything outside of that, I don't involve myself in. "I'm here to play with Cork and that's it. Nothing else outside that matters because, at the end of the day, I have to mind number one."

### Late Late Show

In February, Thompson appeared on *The Late Late Show* special Valentine's Day edition, but in hindsight she would have preferred a different type of interview.

"If I could take it back, I probably would, and go on a separate night," she

said. "The night itself was definitely the wrong situation for me."

Thompson was speaking as New Ireland Assurance launched its second year of sponsoring Cork camogie. Much of the correspondence she receives is to do with mental health, and she is happy to provide advice to those who feel they need help.

"Ninety percent of what I get is on mental health, I get loads of emails and messages, I never get through them all, which is a pity," she said.

"People thank me for having the guts to speak out about it and not really caring what anyone else thinks. At the end of the day, you have to mind yourself and you can't be worried about what anyone else thinks."

"There's the odd negative one, but there are people who don't understand or who are just simply negative in general, looking for any reason to com-

ment. It has almost always been positive."

For Thompson and Cork, the next phase of the year is Saturday's All-Ireland championship opener against Tipperary at . For the first time in four years, her club Milford are not the Cork champions, but the lack of a Munster and All-Ireland club campaign has allowed her to recharge.

"I feel like I'm a lot fitter this year and even my mood has improved," she said.

"I'm looking forward to the year more. Sometimes, you do tend to step off the pedal a small bit when you're going constantly 12 months of the year, it's hard. It was nice to get that break and my fitness has improved, I wasn't this fit this time last year, no way."

"It was nice to come back into the Cork training early to get things together."

## Camogie captaincy and work made up Buckley's mind

THE key factor in Cork dual start Rena Buckley choosing not to play football this year could be said to have been Inniscarra's county senior camogie title in 2016.

That win meant Buckley was nominated as Cork captain the coming year. Running her own physiotherapy business as well as studying for a Master's degree in UCD meant something had to give and the camogie captaincy had the edge over football.

Buckley didn't feature for Cork ladies in the national league and announced at the weekend that her focus would be on camogie.

"To be honest, I didn't have any extra time, I was caught with work and study and things like that," she said.

"There wasn't enough time in the day. During the league, there's a lot of travel time for matches and I couldn't give up my weekends. I'm the camogie captain and for this year, I'll stick with that as I haven't

been with the footballers. I'll review it again at the end of the year."

"I can't speak highly enough of [Cork ladies' football manager] Ephie Fitzgerald. I phoned him in early January and I told him that I was studying until May 12, and in fairness he phoned me on May 12. I really appreciated that and he gave me time again after that."

Buckley was speaking at the launch of the second year of New Ireland Assurance's sponsorship of the Cork team.

The Rebels begin their All-Ireland championship campaign against Tipperary on Saturday.

They go into the game after losses in the league final to Kilkenny and the Munster final against Lim-

erick, as well as the All-Ireland defeat to the Cats last September.

Buckley isn't concerned about a hangover, though. "We got to the league final and we lost it, we got to the Munster final and we lost it, we realise that we're a little bit off the mark but we realise as well that we're not too far away," she said.

"We'll just have to put in a little block of training, there's a new championship starting so that brings a freshness."

"Hopefully, we've learned from the last two competitions and we can bring that experience into the championship."

"You can put whatever slant you want on it, really. At the end of the day, it was a match in Charleville and Limerick beat us by two points."

"You can take any angle you want, they were fully deserving of their win."

"We'll have to look at it and learn from it."

## CAMOGIE/LADIES FOOTBALL

■ Denis Hurley





Cork manager Paudie Murray needs a response from the players who disappointed against Limerick.

Picture: INPHO/Donall Farne

**TOMORROW**  
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland  
Division 1 championship,  
Cork v Tipperary,  
The Ragg, 2.30pm.

**TIPPERARY** have made great strides at underage over the past number of seasons.

They've talked lately about how on their day they can match the top teams at senior level. It's now time for Tipperary to deliver and they'll believe they can do so against Cork in The Ragg tomorrow in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland championship's opening round.

Tipperary have registered just one win over Paudie Murray's Cork side during the past six years. And if they fail to win tomorrow the conviction behind their own words for them will run thin.

Tipperary captain Mary Ryan admits that this is the time.

"I do think that we need that big win. On a couple of occasions now we have come up just short and we get good praise. Everyone says that we are coming, but we still have not actually got the win that we need. It's coming to a time now that we need that big win to keep that confidence-building rather than taking another setback.

"The Munster championship just gone was a disappointing result for us. It was another kick in the teeth because we were expecting to go a step further this year. There was a lot of talk outside of the camp that we were going well, that we would nearly automatically progress, and that we could beat Limerick."

But Limerick took the semi-final 1-14 to 0-14 and went on to

# Cork need to go long against Tipp

## CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

beat Cork in the final.

Tipperary's training has been full on since with this Cork game solely in mind and in their own backyard Tipp will be fired up for this one.

The pressure is all on Cork. They're expected to win.

If they don't it would be a major shock. And if they do, unless it's by a strong margin, there won't be too much excitement.

Cork will go into the game still minus the injured Julia White and Pamela Mackey. After league experimenting it is expected that Gemma O'Connor will return to her usual centre-back position with Ashling Thompson at midfield.

Eimear O'Sullivan and Chloe Sigerson will flank Gemma and will have the task of marking Tipperary's top forwards, Orla O'Dwyer and Nicole Walsh. Roisin Howard is another that'll take a lot of minding while Eirena Fryday is a runner and typically causes damage at midfield.

It is up front where Cork have

yet to consistently deliver. They should net a couple of goals against Tipperary. Not to do so would be a concern.

Fast delivery on a pitch that typically slows the pace of a game is crucial. Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey have tremendous speed. That is an asset that must be capitalised. To slow down play and allow them to be crowded will suit the home side.

If Tipperary play a sweeper, and there is every reason to believe they will, then Cork must start punishing teams for that and start striking long distance points at every opportunity.

## League winners begin their championship run

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland Intermediate championship  
Cork v Galway,  
Charleville, 2.30pm

**DIVISION 2** National League champions Cork open their bid for an All-Ireland crown when they host Galway on Saturday.

Cork will be under a bit of pressure given that the senior team are playing at the same time in Tipperary. On more than one occasion, counties that are fielding two teams have made requests to at least have both games on the same day if at home and if away on different days. This request seems to have fallen on deaf ears again.

Cork had secured the superb Ballinlough venue for the game but the Camogie Associ-

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ation deemed it unsuitable instead lined-up Charleville as hosts. It was strange to ignore the home county's choice.

Cork having won the league in such splendid fashion will be determined to get their championship campaign off to a good start. Undefeated through the campaign they are a settled side however it remains to be seen just how many of the Intermediate squad will be travelling to Tipperary with the seniors.

The sides met in the opening game of the league where Cork recorded a 0-13 to 0-6 victory and

Cork will be hoping to get their championship campaign off to a similar start. Captain Niamh Ni Chaoimh, Sarah Buckley Lauren Callanan, Kaitlin Hickey, Keeva McCarthy, Maebh McCarthy, Jacinta Crowley and Caroline Sugrue should spearhead the Cork challenge.

This year Galway have promoted successful All-Ireland winning minor manager Lorraine Larkin to the role of guiding the fortunes of the Division 2 side. Gerry Helebert from the Ballinadreen club has taken on the role of team coach and they are joined by selectors Kevin Connolly and Marie Porter with Liam Walsh also on the backroom team.

Galway are in the luck their senior squad are conveniently not starting their campaign until tomorrow week. Therefore they will be in a position to field a very strong side.



# Four Cork camogie



Paudie Murray, Cork senior camogie team manager and Marion McCarthy, treasurer, Cork Camogie Board at the Maryborough Hotel for the New Ireland Insurance Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**NEW IRELAND Assurance and the Cork Camogie County Board bestowed a huge honour on four former players at a lunch held recently in the Maryborough Hotel where Stephanie Dunlea, Paula Goggin, Liz Towler and Jennifer O'Leary were inducted into the Cork Camogie Hall of Fame.**

The four players gave tremendous service to the game and their feats were exceptional.

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 are, without doubt, worthy recipients.

Mark Kenny representing New Ireland, paid tribute to the four former players and he praised them for what they had achieved.

"As sponsors, New Ireland are delighted to be here and to be involved in the Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards.

"This is a wonderful way of recognising the achievements of so many great players who have done their county proud.

"We at New Ireland are proud of our involvement with the Cork Camogie teams. This is our second year as sponsors of the county teams and we are delighted to help strengthen the growth of camogie.

"The recipients here today are worthy winners their achievements on the playing field are to be admired.

"When you look back at the names of the previous winners of this award, you get a real sense of how lucky Cork are to have had such inspirational players representing us on the camogie field all of these years. These players are role models for our younger generations who they continue to inspire."

Picking four players every year from the vast collection of greats who have graced the playing fields is not easy, but when you read out the names of those who have been inducted into the Hall Of Fame, they have all been worthy winners.



Former Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Award winners, Denise Kelleher and Linda Mellerick at the awards day. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Former Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Award winners, Mags Finn and Fiona O'Driscoll, both Fr O'Neills, at the Maryborough Hotel. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Christine Mullins, New Ireland Assurance, Tim Barry Murphy, New Ireland Assurance area manager, and Mary Barry Murphy, Cloughduv Camogie Club at the Hall of Fame Awards event. Picture: Jim Coughlan



John Cronin, Esther Coughlan and Michael Bateman, all Cloughduv GAA club at the New Ireland Assurance Camogie Hall of Fame. Picture: Jim Coughlan



# legends honoured



Mark Kenny, regional manager New Ireland Assurance, with 2017 Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Award winners, Paula Goggins, Na Piarsaigh and Inniscarra, Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughduv and Liz Towler Meaney, Cork Camogie, at awards lunch which was held in the Maryborough House Hotel.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

The idea of the Cork Camogie Hall of Fame is the only apt reward for the service these former players have given to the game for so many years and this year's recipients more than deserve to have their names included with their peers.

It is especially fitting that the four wonderful players who have been chosen, enter the hall of fame together and their deeds on the playing fields served as an inspiration to those that came after them.

Speaking at the awards Mary McSweeney chairperson Cork Camogie County Board said:

"Cork Camogie County Board is proud to host this awards initiative with our sponsors New Ireland. Cork Camogie is privileged to have many great sporting days to look back on, all of which are etched in the history of camogie by such great players as those honoured here today.

"The Hall of Fame awards give us an opportunity to publicly honour our Cork camogie legends."

Stephanie Dunlea responded and thanked the board and New Ireland on behalf of the recipients. Unfortunately, due to work commitments in Armagh, Jennifer O'Leary was unable to attend.

Among the large attendance were representatives from New Ireland, including Peadar Deegan and Tim Barry-Murphy, both hugely involved in camogie with their respective clubs, Blackrock and Cloughduv; officers of the Cork Camogie Board and Juvenile Board; and members of the board GPC and THDC, including former presidents Mary Moran, Sheila Golden, Nora Newman and Kay Dunne.

Munster council were represented by president, Rose Malone, and her husband Con, and Marie Kearney. Several of the former Hall of Fame award winners were also present as was Ger Cunningham of Sports Line Communications who did tremendous work behind the scenes with the Cork Camogie Board.



Former Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Award winner, Lynn Dunlea, Cloughduv Camogie with her sister, Stephanie Dunlea, 2017 Cork Camogie Hall of Fame winner.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.



2017 Cork Hall of Fame Award winner, Liz Towler Meaney (2nd from left) with her guests, Pat Meaney, Mary and George Towler.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Mary McSweeney, chairperson Cork Camogie, Sheila Golden, vice-chairperson, and Kay Dunne, Cork Camogie, at awards lunch in the Maryborough House Hotel.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Deirdre Sutton Coleman, Glen Rovers Camogie, Marie Kearney, Sarsfields Camogie, and Mary Newman, Glen Rovers Camogie, enjoying the event.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



June 2017

## O'Leary put her side on road to victory

FOOTBALL

■ Mary Newman

**Newcestown 4-11**  
**Ballygarvan 2-9**

THREE first-half goals helped lay the foundation for victory as Newcestown captured the Minor A league title in Castle Road recently defeating Ballygarvan to be crowned champions.

Ballygarvan made the better start and were four points in front thanks to Cliona O'Leary who pointed before finishing well to the Newcestown net.

Chloe O'Leary had Newcestown on the score board converting a free and they settled into the game with points from Maria Kenneally and Aishling O'Donovan before Chloe O'Leary converted two frees to give them a one-point advantage at the end of the opening quarter.

Working hard Newcestown applied huge pressure and when Aisling O'Donovan found Maebh O'Donovan with an excellent pass she made no mistake to grab the game's opening goal.

Aishling O'Donovan added to the Newcestown tally with a goal and a point as in between Ballygarvan kept working hard Cliona O'Leary pointing a free to keep them in touch.

Newcestown maintained the pressure on the Ballygarvan defence and with Maria Kenneally striking for their third goal they were in control as they led 3-8 to 1-2 at the break.

Ballygarvan started the second half with two quick points Newcestown replied with one but three in row from Cliona O'Leary had narrowed the gap.

Piling on the pressure Ballygarvan were now dictating matters a goal from Elizabeth Guinnane and an O'Leary pointed free put just four points between the sides with 12 minutes remaining.

Newcestown rallied with Chloe O'Leary pointing a 45 and a goal from Maria Kenneally with two minutes remaining gave them breathing space again.

Aishling Finnegan and Chloe O'Leary exchanged points but Newcestown had rallied sufficiently to hold off the Ballygarvan challenge to take the title.

**Scorers for Newcestown:** M Kenneally 2-1, C O'Leary 0-6 (0-4 1, 0-2 45), A O'Donovan 1-2, M O'Donovan 1-0, L Whelan, S Kelleher 0-Teach.

**Ballygarvan:** C O'Leary 1-7, E Guinnane 1-1, A Finnegan 0-1.

**NEWCESTOWN:** O Dineen; K Barrett, A O'Sullivan, A Buckley; C O'Sullivan, M Lynch (c), O Collins; Z Griffin, M O'Donovan; C O'Leary, A O'Donovan, L Whelan; M Kenneally, S Kelleher, E Walsh.

**Subs:** A Tarrant for S Kelleher (40), K Barry for E Walsh (45).

**BALLYGARVAN:** S Ahern; E Murphy, S Lyons, N Lyons; L Murphy, S Wynne (c), S J Brady; E O'Regan, K Dorney; C O'Leary, E McAndrew, R Crowley; A Finnegan, E Guinnane, G Kelleher.

**Sub:** S Eilife for G Kelleher.



The Blackrock camogie side celebrate their recent senior B league title.

# Strong Blackrock lift the title

**Blackrock 2-11**  
**Fr O'Neill's 2-7**

**A STRONG first-half performance which saw them lead 1-6 to 0-1 at the break helped Blackrock carve out victory over Fr O'Neill's in the Senior B league final at Castle Road.**

Conditions were hard on both sides with rain making underfoot conditions slippery but with the strong wind in their favour in the opening half Blackrock made the most of it.

Whilst they did lead by eight points at the interval Blackrock didn't have it all their own way in the opening half. Kaitlin Hickey and Kate Ahern traded early points as they sides settled into the game.

With Hayley Ryan adding two to their tally Blackrock went into the lead. Fr O'Neill's did have chances but with frees falling short and the Blackrock defence holding firm they were unable to make progress.

Hickey pointed twice and as the opening half entered injury time and when Ryan connected with a free dropping into the square Blackrock grabbed the game opening goal to go eight points clear.

Michelle Murphy added to the Blackrock tally with a point and inside four minutes of the restart, Blackrock went 12 points ahead as Cliona Meany reacted quickest after a dropping ball

was batted into her path. Fr O'Neill's rallied and began to gain a grip and they enjoyed a 10-minute spell when everything went their way.

Sarah Harrington took on the Blackrock defence and pointed before Sharon Murphy did likewise and with Keelagh Cullinane taking over the free taking duties they had narrowed the gap before Cullinane took on the Blackrock defence and fired the ball to net.

Michelle Murphy steadied Blackrock with a point but when Cullinane again left her marker in her wake to find the net suddenly three points separated the sides.

Blackrock responded well. Hickey pointed a 45 and Ryan converted a close-in free and with five minutes remaining five points separated the sides.

O'Neill's battled hard and came close. Cullinane pointed a 45. Ryan converted a Blackrock free. And with two minutes remaining Cullinane had the gap at four points. Fr O'Neill's pressed hard but the Blackrock defence stood firm and boosted by their strong opening half performance they held out to take the title.

**Scorers for Blackrock:** H Ryan 1-5 (0-3 1, 0-1 45), K Hickey 0-4 (0-2 45), C Meany 1-0 M Murphy 0-2.

**Fr O'Neill's:** K Cullinane 2-4 (0-2 1, 0-1 45), S Harrington, S Murphy K Ahern 0-1 each.

**BLACKROCK:** C Coughlin; A McCurtain, A Murray, K O'Brien; C Ryan, R de Faoite, T McMahon; A O'Farrell, A Kearney; K Hickey, H Ryan, K Lenaghan; G Mulqueen (c), C Meany, M Murphy.

**Subs:** T Cummins for C Meany, J McSweeney for G Mulqueen, V Norberg for A McCurtain.

**FR O'NEILL'S:** N Nagle; L Woods; L Lawton (c), K McCarthy; D Corcoran, C O'Neill, A Higgins; S Harrington, S Murphy, K Cullinane; K Ahern, K Harrington, C O'Doherty.

**Subs:** A Dalton for K Ahern (41), H Belton for C O'Doherty (54).

**Referee:** Diarmuid Kirwin (Éire Óg).

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Two goals apiece from Mari Moynihan and Chloe Smith were to prove crucial as they were forced to defended for most of the second half as Castlelyons came at them in waves.

Albhin O'Sullivan, Melissa O'Sullivan and Isobel Fenton all worked hard in the opening half to keep Castlelyons in touch and through the second half as the pressure came on Cobh had to be at their best to defend and protect their lead.

Mari Moynihan found the range with Cobh points, while Chloe Smith and Eadaoin Tallon were also to the fore as Cobh held their lead under enormous Castlelyons pressure.

Castlelyons worked hard and notched up the scores with Kate O'Riordan, Melissa O'Sullivan and

Megan McNulty all giving it their all as they continued to eat into the Cobh lead.

Drawing on all their experience Cobh held their nerve and their lead to ensure the title remained in their grasp but not before having to defend with everything they had against a determined Castlelyons, who are coached by former Cork senior hurler Timmy McCarthy.

**Scorers for Cobh:** M Moynihan 2-3, C Smith 2-0, E Tallon 0-4 (0-2 45, 0-1 5).

**Castlelyons:** M O'Sullivan 0-7 (0-5 1), I Fenton 1-1, A O'Sullivan 1-0, M McNulty 0-2, K O'Riordan 0-1.

**COBH:** K Quinlan; P Edmonds, S McKaown, E Moynihan; A Hart, C Smith, N Meaney; C Cashman, E Tallon; K Ronan, L Shanahan, M Foley; E Field, M Moynihan, R Crotty.

**CASTLELYONS:** N Barry; L McGinn; A O'Brien, S O'Sullivan, M Hartnett, N Barry, C McCarthy; A O'Sullivan, M Murphy; B Shanahan, M O'Sullivan, K O'Riordan; M McNulty, M Daly, I Fenton.

**Sub:** E Sexton for M Daly.

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

## Cobh make it three Junior B league titles in a row

**Cobh 4-7**  
**Castlelyons 2-11**

COBH made it three in a row of Junior B league titles when they overcame Castlelyons in the final recently.

It was a fine victory, but not before a stern test from a strong Castlelyons side that fought to the finish to try and get something out of this final.

Castlelyons, who are graded Junior C for but opted to participate in the Junior B league, showed they are more than able for the higher grade as they fashioned out a place in the final with some superb displays.

Their performance will stand to them as they return to the junior C grade for championship.

Aided by the strong wind in the opening half Cobh led by three goals were 4-4 to 1-4 at the break.

Castlelyons worked hard and notched up the scores with Kate O'Riordan, Melissa O'Sullivan and

Megan McNulty all giving it their all as they continued to eat into the Cobh lead.

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**CASTLELYONS:** N Barry; L McGinn; A O'Brien, S O'Sullivan, M Hartnett, N Barry, C McCarthy; A O'Sullivan, M Murphy; B Shanahan, M O'Sullivan, K O'Riordan; M McNulty, M Daly, I Fenton.

**Sub:** E Sexton for M Daly.

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



# 'They are the first ones who'll call themselves feminists. They will be all about running up Patrick's Hill, burning your sports bra'

Aoife Murray has been keeping goal for the Cork camogie team for 16 years, and has seen considerable improvements in the sport at large, but the lack of women actively supporting female teams and sports continues to be a bugbear

## Interview by Brendan O'Brien

**Q: Cork lost to Kilkenny in last year's All-Ireland final, and again in the 2017 league decider, so how disappointing was that?**

**A:** A lot of people have said that we must have been disappointed with the league, but I actually left it in a very positive mood. I thought we had a great league. We had something like 70% possession in the final, but we didn't convert it. That's a positive. We had more scores than Kilkenny, but then the other side is how we didn't win it. So we have been working on that the last few weeks.

**Q: Kilkenny play with lots of bodies behind the ball, how difficult is that to counter?**

**A:** They started that last year. We set up a system like it a few years back and won two All-Irelands with it. There is a little bit of that gone into their game. It works for them and they have a huge amount of players behind the ball, but we went one-on-one against them to an extent and it is something people didn't expect from us. We conceded two goals and lost by three points. As much as it hurts a Cork person to say it, you've got to give them credit. They are deserving winners of everything they have won. We are all going to be chasing them.

**Q: Is it a healthy rivalry or a bitter one?**

**A:** When you have two teams in finals a rivalry will always develop and maybe it is through colleges as well. The likes of UCC playing Waterford IT and UL and so on, so often. It is a rivalry. For me it will never match the rivalry I came on to against Tipperary in 2002 and up to '06 or '07. They were the days when you could go hell for leather on the pitch and then for a drink afterwards. Whereas now everything is a bit more heightened with social media and everything.

**Q: Losing the Munster final to Limerick recently wasn't what Cork needed either**

**A:** It was probably a kick in the arse. We played for 10 out of 65 minutes and we could have won that game so there is a positive and a negative again. We played the most enjoyable 10 minutes I think I've had, but then we lost the workrate and that was the most disappointing thing about the league in that we didn't do the jersey or Cork justice. People in Cork will always be proud of a Cork team that gives 100 percent. You always want trophies, but true followers of sport in Cork just want you to have a bit of pride in the jersey. That's true for the hurlers, footballers and ladies footballers.

**Q: Is the strength and depth improving in camogie?**

**A:** Yes, it has improved. When I started out it



Aoife Murray has been living and working in Dublin for the last six years and has recently begun working with former Dublin corner-back Niall Corcoran in one-to-one sessions at Kilmacud Crokes. Cork begin their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland campaign today away to Tipperary.

was Cork and Tipp. Like, it was Cork and Tipp in the Munster final, in the league final and then in the All-Ireland final. That's completely changed. It's improved because we have guys with good experience who have come in and treated us like men. Sometimes, as a woman, it's not easy having guys shouting at you if you haven't been used to that. It has taken girls a few years to come around to it, but they have come in and treated us like men and we can see that now with all the managements: a lot of ex-hurlers and footballers coming in and seeing us as a stepping stone, as grounds for experience. Some of the guys who came in the year we lost the final to Wexford came in to us afterwards and said: 'that was some experience coming in to Croke Park'. The coverage is improving too and it will again when women start to support women in sport.

**Q: That's huge, isn't it? There's no shortage of women at men's games**

**A:** And they are the first ones who will call themselves feminists, you know? They will be all about running up Patrick's Hill burning your sports bra. They are the ones that will not come down to Páirc Uí Rinn or CIT to follow us or support us. I don't know what the answer is. Maybe it's still not cool enough. I know plenty of women who will take the Monday off if the hurlers or footballers are playing the Sunday so they can go to Rearden's. There would be a lot of money if you did have the answer, but we can see it in our open days. I used to be allergic to them, but now I love them because my nieces and nephews come. It's great to see not only young girls coming, but young boys.

**Q: Cork and Limerick played the last two Munster finals at Kilmallock and Charleville but shouldn't it be straightforward to play more camogie games alongside men's fixtures at bigger venues and in front of bigger crowds?**

**A:** We struggle to get pitches and I can't give out about Charleville, who very kindly gave us their grounds, but at the same time, two of our girls barely got in the gate that day. They were injured. A 17-year old wouldn't get questioned as much going into a pub. There was a bit of a hoo-ha about it and the girls just finally barged in. The following day Cork were playing Tipp in the hurling in Semple Stadium and we were playing in Charleville at three o'clock the day before.

**Q: That situation is a no-brainer, surely?**

**A:** It is a pity... I'm not a big fan of playing before men's games. Look, I play senior camogie, I'm 33 years of age and I would see myself — because it is how I was brought up by my parents — to be equal to all my brothers. And to think I'm a senior player on a second-hand bill to a hurling match... But maybe I have to swallow my own principles to make sure camogie progresses as well.



# Are Tipp ready to ignite?

**A**nother weekend, another classic pairing of Munster teams. The All-Ireland camogie championship throws in today, with Tipp v Cork in The Ragg. Thurles as one of four opening fixtures. Maybe it's the good-natured friction that arises from being a Tipp woman living in Cork, but this clash intrigues me. We can only hope for the same end-to-end thrills the hurlers provided three weeks ago in the first round of the Munster Championship, though we could do without the WhatsApp scandals and rampant rumours swirling around the Tipp camp afterwards.

Lads and their drama, am I right?

Though they only edged out Tipp by a point in their league encounter back in March, Cork will be strong favourites going into the match. They'll be smarting from a surprise Munster final loss to Limerick last month and will want to set down a marker. However, there is a quiet confidence about Tipp this year; a sense the squad, which has been there or thereabouts for the last few years, is ready to step beyond being merely a team with potential. Though they took a while to find their form in the league, they finished strong, beating Dublin and Wexford.

Three of their key players are featured on a striking Tipp FM billboard that popped up in towns around the county. Captain Mary

Ryan is a versatile, stylish hurler with a habit of catching ball over the heads of much taller opponents, while Cáit Devane and Nicole Walsh are clever, aggressive forwards with killer instincts in front of goal. All three will have to perform to their peak if Tipp are to edge out Cork today.

While there's a sense of something about to ignite in Tipp, there's also no getting away from the cold hard stats: Tipp's last All-Ireland win was in 2004 and Cork's was in 2015. Cork have a winning habit and an absolute belief in themselves, an invaluable trait in any team, one which Kilkenny have only recently begun to threaten. Cork's dominance is perhaps best symbolised by their captain, Inniscarra's Rena Buckley, who has won six camogie All-Irelands and four All Stars – not to speak of her football achievements. (The die-hard hurling fan in me was pleased that she chose camogie over football this year, in what must have been an agonising if necessary decision.)

Orla Cotter, another important leader, will most likely be returning from injury



**Eimear Ryan**

hungrier than ever, while Gemma O'Connor's commanding presence is augmented by her ability to effortlessly plant a ball over the bar from the halfway line.

If you're new to camogie and a little confused at how things work on this side of the pitch, let me break it down for you. Similar to the proposed revamp of the hurling championship, the camogie All-Ireland series is played on a round robin basis. There are two groups of five teams, and

you have to play everyone. In this year's draw, Clare, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny and Waterford make up Group 1, while Group 2 consists of Cork, Offaly, Limerick, Tipperary and Wexford. The winners of each group go straight through to the semi-finals; second and third in each group are seeded into the quarter-finals. (The provincial championships, it should be noted, are completely separate from the All-Ireland series.)

This year's championship looks to be wide open. While last year's finalists, Kilkenny and Cork, are obvious favourites to top their respective groups, all the other counties will fancy their

chances at a quarter-final slot. Wexford, who won a three-in-a-row not so long ago (2010 to 2012), are perhaps a power on the wane.

However, the depth of experience on their team can't be underestimated. Kate Kelly, now in her mid-30s, is a fine striker of the ball and one of my favourite players, even as she was breaking Tipp hearts with a winning injury-time free in last year's quarter-final. Galway, whose last title was in 2013, can never be written off either. They looked in flying form in 2016, bowing out in the year's best game: a semi-final thriller against Kilkenny that finished 3-15 to 1-19 after extra time.

Limerick will be buzzing

Wexford's Kate Kelly, now in her mid-30s, is a fine striker of the ball and one of my favourite players to watch, even as she was breaking Tipp hearts with a winning injury-time free in last year's quarter-final.

Picture: Stephen McCarthy

after winning their first ever senior provincial title last month, beating Cork 1-13 to 0-14 – although perhaps it'll be of concern to them that 11 points of their tally came from captain and lethal free-taker Niamh Mulcahy. They face another young up and coming team in Offaly at the Gaelic Grounds today, in what promises to be a cracker – although one would imagine that the bounce of the Munster title should propel Limerick to victory.

Champions Kilkenny, of course, remain the team to beat. Their fitness, decisiveness, and aggression on the ball in last year's championship gave them the necessary edge to overcome Cork and win an All-Ireland for the first time in 22 years; that they retained their league title this year shows mettle and a hunger to retain the O'Duffy Cup as well. Anne Dalton and Denise Gaule are team linchpins at centre back and half forward respectively, while their inspirational manager, Ann Downey, is the first bona-fide camogie star of the modern age to turn mentor. Kilkenny face Waterford today at Walsh Park and should win comfortably.

All in all, it promises to be an exciting summer for camogie fans. It was announced in the last week that for the first time, all knockout games in the senior championship will be broadcast live on RTE. That's five matches: two quarter-finals (August 5), two semis (August 19) and a final (September 10). My delight at this news is tempered by frustration it took until 2017 to make camogie accessible to a ready-made, GAA-mad television audience.

Still, when you consider that last year was the first time that even the semi-finals were broadcast, it's rapid progress. Long may it continue to expand and thrive.

## Going from strength to strength

**Brendan O'Brien**

Liam Egan's name probably wasn't the first on the lips when the Kilkenny camogie side's new backroom operation was being dubbed the 'Dream Team' 18 months ago.

Most casual onlookers would have zeroed in on the fact that the legendary Ann Downey was assuming the role of senior manager. There was the presence of Conor Phelan and Paddy Mullally as selectors, too.

Beyond that, there was Ann's sister, Angela Downey Browne and Breda Holmes, one of the sport's greatest ever players, booked in to lend a hand. It was a 'who's who' management pool and one

that promised better days after the surprise resignation of Fintan Deegan.

Egan had a good reputation around the county for a body of fitness and conditioning work that included a stint training the John Lockes club in Callan, but he has proven to be something of a key secret weapon in the county side's transformation from near-nevers to reigning All-Ireland and league champions.

Beaten in All-Ireland finals in '09, '13 and '14, the feeling was that they needed to abandon the 15-on-15 approach in favour of a more modern strategy. They didn't adopt a sweeper but they do lean heavily on back-tracking midfielders and half-forwards

who can break on the counter at speed.

That's where Egan comes in.

"We had never actually done any sort of strength and conditioning ever before that," captain Anna Farrell explains. "It wasn't something we thought about. We did running, of course, and stuff like that in the winter but never the S&C that we did last year."

"He'd put you through your paces. We never realised the power you could get from some of the things that Liam was showing us. Simple drills that you can do yourself but just tweaking it a little bit to try and maximise your own power."

The really exciting thing

Anna Farrell says strength-and-conditioning coach Liam Egan had a big impact on Kilkenny camogie: 'We never realised the power you could get from some of the things that Liam was showing us.'

Picture: Morgan Treacy

here from Kilkenny's point of view is that it normally takes a few years for the real benefits of these S&C programmes to kick in. And that's a frightening proposition for the rest of the country as they try to catch the Cat's tails.

Like all the best champions, they have evolved since their coronation.

Farrell talks about how the capture of last year's title lifted the weight of those earlier three decider defeats off the shoulders of those players who had featured in some or

all of them. They feel looser now and the high of last September has heightened the appetite rather than sated it.

Three or four players have made the step up from last year's intermediate side that, like their senior counterparts, saw off Cork in the All-Ireland final and the standalone Leinster Championship has recently been added to their league title.

The bid to retain their All-Ireland crown begins in Walsh



Park today against Waterford. "The shackles are kind of off now because of the pressure in trying to win one the last few years," says Farrell. "Once we've won one, players are just more confident and enjoying themselves even more. It doesn't effect the standard at training. It probably drives you on even more."



# Buckley: Cork are not too far away

## ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE

BY DENIS HURLEY

THERE'S still a thesis to be submitted, but the 5am Friday starts are thankfully a thing of the past for Rena Buckley as she focuses on helping Cork win the All-Ireland camogie title.

The Rebels, beaten finalists against Kilkenny last year, begin their campaign with a clash against Tipperary this weekend. Buckley is the captain this year and that was a factor in her choosing camogie over football for this year.

Running a full-time physiotherapy practice in Macroom, as well as undertaking a Master's degree in the discipline in UCD – necessitating a weekly trip to Dublin on a Friday – wasn't compatible with playing both codes (see panel), though things have calmed slightly now.

Cork face four group games between now and July 22nd, against Tipp, Limerick, Wexford and Offaly. The top side in each of the two groups goes straight to the All-Ireland semi-finals, with two quarter-final ties featuring second and third in the groups.

'When it's not knockout championship, it's definitely a different style of competition,' Buckley says.

'Obviously, you're going out to try to win every game, but there is a safety-net, if you lose a game you're not out.'

'I suppose it allows you to develop a pattern of play, rhythm and habits, but obviously every-

one else has that chance too so it's fair game for everyone.

'There's a bigger opportunity to learn as you go along in the championship in a league-type structure, definitely.'

As well as last year's All-Ireland final loss to Kilkenny, Cork fell to the Cats in this year's league decider and then were defeated against Limerick in the Munster final three weeks ago.

Buckley is naturally disappointed, but not despondent.

'We got to the league final and we lost it, we got to the Munster final and we lost it, we realise that we're a little bit off the mark but we realise as well that we're not too far away,' she says.

'There's a new championship starting so that brings a new freshness. Hopefully we've learned from the last two competitions and we can bring that experience into the championship.'

Cork's second group game in the All-Ireland is a repeat meeting with Limerick. The Munster win was the Shannonsiders' first title but Buckley isn't taking it for granted that the natural order will be restored when they clash again.

'You can put whatever slant you want on it, really,' she says.

'At the end of the day, it was a match in Charleville and Limerick beat us by two points.'

'You can take any angle you want, if we lose to Limerick by two points in the All-Ireland we'll be very disappointed, the



Having a laugh: Enjoying the recent New Ireland Assurance's launch of the 2017 Cork camogie championship season were Ashling Thompson, left, and captain Rena Buckley. (Photos: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile)

same as we were after the Munster final.

'They were fully deserving of their win, we'll have to look at it and learn from it.'

When Inniscarra won the county senior championship in 2010, Buckley was honoured with the Cork captaincy the following year and the same is the case after last year's county title win.

There are a few extra duties to be carried out, but, as a member of the panel since 2004, seniority falls naturally on her shoulders.

'It's a great honour,' she says.

'There are extra little jobs, making sure that everyone is happy or that you liaise with the management if anything needs to be sorted.'

'The duties aren't written down or anything but you would be conscious of them. Now, as you go into the more senior stage of your career, you're kind of fulfilling those roles anyway. I suppose that means there isn't a whole lot of difference from last year.'

2016 defeated All-Ireland finalists Cork have been drawn in Group 2 of this year's senior championship alongside Wexford, Tipperary, Offaly and Limerick.



Looking forward: Pictured at the launch were Cork stars, from left, Ashling Thompson, Orla Cronin, captain Rena Buckley, Amy O'Connor and Meabh Cahalane.

## Rena opts out of football set-up

SOMETHING had to give in terms of Rena Buckley's output, and being captain of the Cork camogie team meant that that got the upper hand over football.

She has won 11 All-Ireland senior ladies football titles but has now decided to opt out of the football set-up for the championship.

'To be honest, I didn't have any extra time, I was caught with work and study and things like that,' she says. 'There wasn't enough time in the day, on Fridays I had to go to Dublin so I was up

at five o'clock. During the league, there's a lot of travel time for matches and I couldn't give up my weekends.'

'I can't speak highly enough of Ephie Fitzgerald. I phoned him in early January and I told him that I was studying until May 12, and in fairness he phoned me on May 12. I really appreciated that and he gave me time again after that.'

'The girls have been going quite well and I've been stuck in the camogie so I'll keep it like that and review it again.'

# Cats off to a flier with rout of Waterford

## CAMOGIE

THE Kilkenny juggernaut got its bid for a fourth consecutive national title off to the perfect start with a comfortable win in a south east derby against Waterford at Walsh Park.

The Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie champions went into the Group 1 opener in good heart, having come off another league triumph, and exhibited their well-being with three points in the opening three minutes from Katie Power, Denise Gaule and Julieann Malone.

Beth Carton stemmed the tide from a free but it was a momentary respite as Kilkenny struck for a goal and four points without reply to make it 1-9 to 0-4 at the interval. Carton reduced the margin to seven soon after the resumption but crucially, while the hosts kept their neighbours scoreless until the final quarter, they failed to make any further inroads themselves and were dispensed with in ruthless fashion in that closing period.

The Noreiders hit five consecutive points, including three from frees by Danielle Morrissey, before Power provided a late goal to make it 2-16 to 0-6 at the final whistle.

In the group's other game Dublin got the better of Clare in a cracker at the Parnell's grounds in Coolock by 3-11 to 1-14.

It took a very good second-half effort from David Herity's charges to register the win as they trailed by 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval. Clare moved six points clear with just over 20 minutes remaining but goals from Aisling Maher and Zoe O'Donoghue edged Dublin ahead and points from Ali Twomey and Faye McCarthy (free) confirmed the victory.

In Group 2, Cork used a strong wind to pull away from Tipperary in the second half and record a 1-16 to 1-7 win at The Ragg.

And there was a mild surprise in the other game as Offaly, who have proved doughty championship competitors in recent years, came away from the Gaelic Grounds with a 2-18 to 3-14 success over Limerick.



Katie Power is presented with the Player of the Match award by John Coffey of Liberty Insurance

CAMOGIE	
Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship	
Senior Group 1	
Kilkenny 2-15 Waterford 0-6	
Dublin 3-11 (F McCarthy 0-5, A Maher 1-2, S Kehoe 1-0, Z O'Donoghue 1-0, A Twomey 0-2, M Twomey, E Flanagan 0-1 each) Clare 1-14 (C Morey 1-7, N O'Dea 0-4, O Devitt 0-2, A O'Keefe 0-1)	
Senior Group 2	
Limerick 3-14 (D Egan 1-01, A Scanlon 1-1, M Fitzgerald 1-1, N Mulcahy 0-4, R Delee 0-3, O Curtin 0-2, C Costelloe, Sarah Carey 0-1 each) Offaly 2-18 (S Flannery 1-8, R Brennan 1-0, D Flynn 0-3, A Watkins 0-2, T Hannon 0-2, S Harding 0-2, M Daly 0-1)	
Cork 1-16 Tipperary 1-7	
Intermediate Group 1	
Antrim 5-12 Tipperary 1-12	
Derry 0-14 Kildare 1-4	
Wexford 2-11 Kilkenny 3-8	
Intermediate Group 2	
Cork 2-12 Galway 0-9	





Cork's Aoife Murray and Mary Ryan of Tipperary at the championship launch in Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/James Crombi

# CAMOGIE

All-Ireland SCC Grp 1: Dublin 3-11, Clare 1-14, Waterford 0-8, Kilkenny 2-15; Grp 2: Limerick 3-14, Offaly 2-18, Tipperary 1-7, Cork 1-16; ICC Grp 1: Antrim 5-12, Tipperary 1-12, Derry 0-14, Kildare 1-4, Wexford 2-11, Kilkenny 3-8; Grp 2: Cork 2-12, Galway 0-9, Meath 4-15, Laois 1-8, Down 3-11, Carlow 3-11; Leinster JDC final replay: Offaly 0-10, Wicklow 2-2.

# Rebels bounce back to beat Tipp

Tipperary 1-7  
Cork 1-16

## CAMOGIE

■ Brian McDonnell

**CORK** bounced back from the disappointment of losing the Munster championship by beating Tipperary away in the first round of the All-Ireland round-robin series.

Cork did not allow their hosts an inch in the opening half, against the wind, and built a platform from which to win this opening round of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship by nine points.

Paudie Murray's team tackled ferociously and Tipperary struggled to

place their running game together against a physically-powerful Cork. Indeed, with the wind, Tipperary only managed a single point from play in the first 17 minutes of the second-half, and by that juncture Cork led 1-11 to 0-4.

The impressive Orla Cronin cracked over a smashing left-handed point in the 14th minute, before Róisín Howard fought brilliantly for possession in the 16th minute — the Cahir star worked the ball to Teresa Ryan who, in turn, found Keely Lenihan and the corner-forward drilled over (0-2 to 0-3).

Katriona Mackey added another ex-

cellent point for Cork, before Róisín Howard was fouled and Nicole Walsh converted the resultant placed ball. Another Nicole Walsh tied the game, in the 25th minute (0-4 apiece), but Cork counter-attacks, in the 27th and 29th minutes, gave them a 0-6 to 0-4 interval advantage. Orla Cotter and Libby Coppinger notched the respective points and Tipperary looked in deep trouble.

For the opening 16 minutes of the second-half, Cork were on top and consolidated their dominance with a 1-5 blast to shoot 10 points clear. Orla Cotter (two frees), Niamh McCarthy, Libby Coppinger, and Amy O'Connor were responsible for the points, while Hannah Looney booted home the goal, in the 35th minute.

Tipp rallied with a brace of scores —

Róisín Howard notched one from play in the 52nd minute and then set up Grace O'Brien, for another, a minute later.

Orla Cronin and Katriona Mackey responded for Cork.

Two minutes into injury time, Tipperary finally happened upon a little good fortune, when Ciardha Maher fired home a goal, following Cáit Devane's decision to lob in a late free. Cork, however, closed out the contest well, with late points courtesy of Katriona Mackey and Amy O'Connor.

**CORK:** Aoife Murray; Eimear O'Sullivan, Rena Buckley, Meabh Cahalane; Laura Treacy, Gemma O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson; Libby Coppinger (0-2), Ashling Thompson; Amy O'Connor (0-2), Orla Cronin (0-2), Orla Cotter (0-6, 0-4 frees); Hannah Looney (1-0), Niamh McCarthy (0-1), Katriona Mackey (0-3).

Sub: Lauren Homan for Niamh McCarthy (47).

# O'Shea and Sugrue hit the net for Cork in the opener

Cork 2-12  
Galway 0-9

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

LEAGUE champions Cork got their Liberty Insurance intermediate championship campaign off to the perfect start as they confidently overcame Galway at a blustery Charleville on Saturday.

With the swirling wind favouring the visitors in the opening half Cork had to work hard but they went about the business of containing the Galway challenge from the start. Michelle Skehill had an early point to open the Galway challenge but Cork hit the front with Keeva Mc McCarthy and Rachel O'Shea slotting over. Catherine Finnerty had the sides on level inside the opening five minutes but three in row between the tenth and twenty third minute saw Cork gain the upper hand before a Siobhan McGrath pointed free four minutes from the break

had Galway within two at the break.

Keeva McCarty got the second half up and running with a Cork point and when Rachel O'Shea connected perfectly with a long range free to grab the game's opening goal Cork went six points clear. The sides had swapped points before Galway won a penalty but their goal keeper Catriona Daly failed to connect properly after making the long journey down field. Galway applied pressure and two points in a row narrowed the gap but again Cork upped the pace with Caroline Sugrue firing a rocket to the top corner of the Galway net as the third quarter concluded.

The sides traded three points each Jennifer Barry Lisa Lynch and Keeva Mc McCarthy on target for

Cork while Siobhan McGrath had three for a Galway side that could find no way through the Cork defence for the goal they needed and it was Cork that finished stronger with points from Sugrue and O'Shea to get their campaign off to the best possible start.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Sugrue 1-1, RO'Shea 1-4 (0-2fs), K McCarthy 0-4, L Collins, J Barry L Lynch (f) 0-1 each.

**Galway:** S Mc Grath 0-6 (0-2fs), M Skehill 0-2 (0-1f), C Finnerty 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee; L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh (c); Lisa Lynch, S Buckley, M Lynch; J Barry, L Callanan; M McCarthy, K McCarthy (0-4, one free), K Hickey; R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue.

**Subs:** H Ryan for M. McCarthy (50), L Kelly for J Barry (56), J Crowley for L Collins (60).

**GALWAY:** C Daly; M Howley, C Brennan, M Mannion; E Gilmore, M Connaughton, S Keaveney; M Dunphy, R Black; C Finnerty (0-1), D Higgins, M Skehill P Manning, C Murphy, S McGrath.

**Sub's:** L Casserly for S Keaveney (27), T Rutledge for M Mannion (39), K O'Brien for Manning (56).

Ref: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

# Easy for holders Kilkenny but Offaly take a big scalp

Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Champions Kilkenny got their title defence underway with a facile victory over Waterford at Walsh Park while the big talking point of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship's opening weekend was Offaly's narrow defeat of Limerick in the

Gaelic Grounds. Paddy Kirwan hailed his side's character following the 2-18 to 3-14 win against the Munster champions.

"The first-half we did some great camogie but then we overcomplicated it," he told Midlands Radio 3.

"We brought them back into the game by doing stupid things. We had to win the game three or four times and

nearly lost it. The character was questioned there today. I questioned it at half time - but they showed a great bit of gumption.

"If we lost it there I don't know where we'd turn."

Dearbhla Egan gave the hosts the dream start with a goal but Offaly responded with eight consecutive points. Limerick had further goals from Aisling Scanlon

and Mairead Fitzgerald but Siobhán Flannery, who finished with 1-8, and Rachel Brennan raised green flags for Offaly, while 17-year-old Leaving Cert student Sarah Harding came off the bench to score two vital points.

There was no such drama in Kilkenny's 2-15 to 0-6 win over Waterford with Shelly Farrell and Katie Power goading for the victors.

In the group's other game Dublin defeated Clare 3-11 to 1-14 in Coolock.

In Group 2, Cork used a strong wind to pull away from Tipperary in the second half and record a 1-16 to 1-7 win at The Ragg.

The home team had a mountain to climb at the interval as they trailed 0-6 to 0-4 despite having the advantage of the elements. Cork

punished them after the restart with two converted frees by Orla Cotter, who finished with six points including two from play, as well as efforts from Niamh McCarthy, Libby Coppinger and Amy O'Connor before Hannah Looney kicked a 35th-minute goal.

Ciardha Maher had a late Tipperary goal but Cork were out of sight.



## Senior games schedule decided

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

DATES have been announced for adult championship games. With a tight inter-county schedule, there is little room for manoeuvre. With 13 clubs and one division in the Senior County Championship, there will be seven opening-round games.

First into the ring, for an all-Muskerry clash, are Cloughduv and Ballincollig, pencilled in for July 16, the same day defeated county finalists, Milford, take on St Finbarr's. The day before, the Cork seniors will have been in action against Offaly.

There is a break for a week, as several clubs will have players tied up with the Cork minor or intermediate sides, on July 19 and 22. On July 23, Mallow will make their senior championship debut against the only divisional side in the championship, Carbery.

There are two games down for decision on Wednesday, July 26: county champions, Iniscarra, meet Sarsfields, and Glen Rovers take on St Catherine's. On Friday, July 28, neighbours Douglas and Ballygarvan will go head-to-head.

The losers of the first rounds will play off in the back door on the weekend of August 4-5.

The senior B championship is played on a round-robin basis of 25 games, before four teams contest the semi-finals. The opening rounds are down for the weekend of June 28. Carrigaline meet Fr O'Neill's, Brian Dillon's take on Barryroe, and league winners, Blackrock, make their senior B championship debut against Eire Og.

On July 3, Kilbrittan/Timo-league meet Ballinhassig and Clonakilty face Aghabullogue.

Round two, on July 10, features an all-city clash of Brian Dillon's versus Blackrock. The two games on July 12 are Eire Og against Fr O'Neill's and Barryroe against Carrigaline. On July 16, it's Aghabullogue and Kilbrittan/Timo-league, while Valley Rovers face Clonakilty.

In round three, on the weekend of July 24, Fr O'Neill's meet Brian Dillon's, Blackrock play Barryroe, and Carrigaline play Eire Og.

Onto round four and it's August 16 for Brian Dillon's versus Eire Og, August 22 for Aghabullogue and Ballinhassig, and August 23 for three games: Barryroe versus Fr O'Neill's, Blackrock versus Carrigaline, and Valley Rovers versus Kilbrittan/Timo-league.

Round five will be the last of the round-robin. On September 16, there are three games: Eire Og versus Barryroe; in a repeat of the league final, Fr O'Neill's will take on Blackrock, and Carrigaline meet Brian Dillon's. On September 17 it's Ballinhassig versus Valley Rovers and Kilbrittan/Timo-league versus Clonakilty.



Sarsfields, who represent Cork in the National Féile Division 1 this weekend. The U14s in the male section of the club also won the title on Leaside.

# Féile blitzes on this weekend

**THE national Féile Na nGael camogie and hurling competitions, in association with John West, take place in Carlow, Wexford, and Kilkenny this weekend. The U14 girls and boys will battle it out for the prestigious féile titles.**

This year, there are 112 camogie teams in the national féile: that's 56 hosts and 56 travelling clubs. With seven divisions, this will be the largest-ever camogie féile.

In addition to the national competition, there will be four regional féile blitzes today, involving 27 teams. In total, 336 U14 girls will play camogie this weekend. Cork will be represented

## Camogie/Hurling

■ Mary Newman

by Sarsfields in the Division 1 competition, whilst Newcestown take part in the Division 3 competition.

Eire Og will be heading to a féile blitz day in Ballyboden St Enda's, Dublin. Sarsfields are the reigning National Division 1 féile champions and they will defend their title against clubs such as Davitt's, Kilrush, Knochaville, Thomastown, Lucan Sarsfields, Annacathry, and Gautier.

They battled their way through the Cork competition with victories over St Finbarr's, Iniscarra, Ballygarvan, and Youghal. They overcame Ennis-

keane in semi-final, before defeating Eire Og in the final to retain their Cork crown.

For féile weekend, Sarsfields are being hosted by the St Martin's Club, from Piercetown, Wexford, and they are drawn in group C, with St Martin's, Glynn/Barntown, from Wexford, and Annacathry, the Tipperary féile champions.

The Sarsfields panel is as follows: Faye Lonergan, Orlaith Roche, Amy McNamara, Liz Twomey, Julia Kelleher, Saoirse Desmond, Ashling McAllen, Gaby Cashman, Katlyn Sheehan, Eve McMahon, Olivia McAllen, Cliona Lynch, Emma Mulcahy, Caragh Byrne, Orlaith Mullins, Zoe Callanan, Erin Kelleher, Amy Cashman, Ella O'Brien, Tara Elliott, Eilis Hegar-

ty, Evie Twomey, Caoimhe Galvin, and Megan Sheehan.

Newcestown won the Cork B féile title with a victory over Charleville and they head to Division 3 of the national féile, where they are grouped with St Martin's, Naomh Eoin, and Doon.

Having lost out in the A final, Eire Og will head to a regional blitz in Dublin against Athenry, Inagh-Kilmona, Ballyboden-St Enda's, Cahir, and Crecora. Enniskeane lost in the semi-final to Sarsfields and they are participating in the regional féile blitz in Mallow. They will meet Kilkishen/Bodyske, Cashel, Kilmacud Crokes, and Sarsfields of Galway.

Best of luck to all Cork representatives.

## Cairde ticket allows access to every game for €45

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

FOR the fourth year in a row, the camogie association have come up trumps with an excellent offer available of a season ticket for all the Littlewoods Ireland adult championship games.

The 2017 Cairde Camogie Season Ticket is now on sale and priced at just €45 it is a great opportunity to make sizeable savings for families and friends who attend games through the busy championship season the promotion is also a bid to boost attendances at games and in addition 20% of each ticket sold goes directly to the County Camogie Board where the tickets are sold.

For example: If a ticket is purchased in Cork or Kilkenny with a Cork or Kilkenny address 20% goes to Cork or Kilkenny County Camogie Board and if it is purchased in other counties the same applies.

When tickets are purchased online the rebate to each County Camogie Board is assigned as per the contact/address details of each online transaction.

For example, if a credit/debit card is registered to a Dublin address, 20% goes to Dublin Camogie Board.

When one takes into account that Cork will field teams at both senior and intermediate championship levels in 2017 that will be a total of four senior championship and six intermediate championship games and with entry charges usually either €10 or €15 per game already that is a massive saving.

Factor in also that the Cairde ticket can be used for quarter-finals, semi-finals and on All-Ireland final day the savings are huge. If both teams were to make it to the final that would be approximately fourteen games assuming they don't have to come through qualifiers (these would also be covered by the Cairde ticket).

At €10 per game plus €15 for a semi-final and €30 for All-Ireland final that's a grand total cost of €185 to attend all games. And if it were two parents this would be a cost of €370 to support Cork through championship. The Cairde ticket represents huge value and should be a must-buy for parents of players as well as followers and supporters of our Cork teams. Cairde Camogie Tickets are available from Cork Camogie Board or online at Tickets.ie by following the link Cairde Camogie 2017.

The Cairde Camogie Tickets can also be purchased from Centra and Supervalu outlets nationwide just go to <http://www.gaa.ie/tickets/where-to-buy/> to check your nearest store where you can purchase.

It is also good to note that the Cairde Camogie Season tickets are also available to use in the event of GAA/Camogie double-header fixtures, while this is subject to confirmation in advance of the fixture it is usually honoured.



Cloghduv has been on top for long time

## CAMOGIE

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

SO THE \$64,000 question is what is it that makes a good sporting club?

Is it the achievements, the silverware, the numbers of members, the dedication of the players, the numbers of kids or the standard of volunteerism?

Well in short, it is all of the above and a whole pile more.

The success or lack of success of sporting clubs in Ireland tends to be judged on a host of different criteria however for the purposes of the next five minutes let's judge GAA clubs on their ability to produce stars.

Well if that is the only criteria used you would be hard pressed to look past Cloughduv Camogie Club as one of the most successful GAA clubs in the land.

Set up in the early 80s, Cloughduv Camogie Club can boast an unbelievable amount of national honours garnered by its greatest players.

Since the formation of the club there has been fantastic intercounty representation from the club at all grades with players representing Cork at U16, Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior grades.

That list of players donning the red and white is a credit to both the players and the club that nurtured them and all are celebrated as if they were the only ones.

Of course there is a tendency to look at the likes of Briege Corkery when looking for famous players however there are so many more stars of the game that have come through the Cloughduv Camogie setup.

Corkery herself has managed a record breaking number of All Ireland Titles between football and camogie with the latter bagging her six All Ireland Medals.

This hugely impressive tally is the same number as what another legend of the game Joanne O'Callaghan, has managed to accumulate in her trophy cabinet.

Una O'Donoghue and Stephanie Dunlea are another pair with serious intercounty credentials as the pair have managed a total of 10 All Ireland Titles between them.

Dunlea's six medals make her one of the most decorated camogie players in the land while O'Donoghue could hardly be considered a flop with four All Ireland medals under her pillow.

Another Dunlea, Lynn, is also one with a quartet of All Irelands to her name after some sensational performances for the county.

Last but most certainly not least is Aoife Murray - with an unbelievable seven All Ireland medals. Murray is one of the greatest camogie goalkeepers of all time.

After retiring early the star came back to the cause in 2016. Legends all.

# Cloughduv have



Una O'Donoghue and Ciara Cronin Cloughduv celebrates their victory over the Barrs in 2005.



Four of the seven sisters who played with the the Cloughduv camogie team in 2005: Marie and Briege Corkery and Ora and Joanne O'Callaghan. Missing are Catherine Corkery and Aoife and Eimear Murray.



Briege Corkery has been a stalwart for Cloughduv and Cork down through the years.

**Family connections are at the heart of success for a club who have given a lot back to their county, writes DIARMUID SHEEHAN**

**MANY GAA clubs up and down the country can trace their roots back to the 1800s when the organisation first showed signs of life.**

Other clubs sprung later from the interest that was generated locally by the games that people were seeing while many more clubs morphed out of strife between different factions within the early trend setters.

The origins of camogie clubs tends to have come from a different place.

Many of the early men's clubs were established as a symbol of Irish identity while camogie and ladies football more often than not came about when Irish women stood up and said, if the men can do it, so can we.

Equality and fairness was and always is at the heart of the ladies games however this in no way should give the impression that the girls aren't every bit as competitive as the boys - they most certainly are.

One such club that sprung up approximately 100 years after the organisation found its voice was Cloughduv Camogie Club.

On the 17th December 1962, Cloughduv Camogie Club was founded in Barry Murphy's, Coolmakee.

The trailblazers on the faithful day attendance were Mary O'Sullivan, Geraldine Lynch, Brigid O'Sullivan, Garry O'Sullivan, Catherine Kenneally, Mary Cooper, Kay O'Leary, Denis O'Carroll, John Barry - Murphy and Ann Barry-Murphy.

It was straight into action for the fledgling club with a Junior "B" Championship fixture against Fr Mathew's on the cards and while the defeat was tough to take it wouldn't keep them down for long as the girls rallied and came back in 1963 stronger and more determined.

That will to win manifested itself in a drive all the way to the county final where the new club saw off Fr O'Neills in some style.

That historic first county championship winning side included Brid Walsh, Mary Walsh, Patty Lynch, Geraldine Lynch, Bernie McSweeney, Brigid O'Sullivan, Catherine Kenneally, Nora Shorten, Helen Dwyer, Colette O'Connell, Una Leahy, Ellen O'Reilly, Anne Murphy and Anne Barry Murphy.

Through the 1980s All Ireland minor glory visited Cloughduv Camogie Club when Una Leahy in 1983 and Brid Walsh in 1984 and 1985 brought home medals playing for their county.

Right up to the end of the decade, the ladies in green and gold did their parish and club proud.

Firstly competing for the Kelleher Trophy in the 1984 tournament they were defeated by Ballinora however in 1986 they defeated Aghabullogue and Ballincollig before facing Douglas in the semi-final of junior A.

This last four clash went to a replay before Cloughduv finally saw off their opponents to book their second county



# come a long way

Vibrant club stays in good shape

## CAMOGIE

■ Diarmuid Sheehan

AT PRESENT Cloughduv Camogie Club looks to be in pretty good shape.

Currently there are over 150 playing members donning the green and gold as the club has teams lining out in almost every category imaginable.

2017 sees teams at U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 and Senior "A" representing the club with all sides, regardless of age, able to compete well at their own grades.

The club will undoubtedly see plenty silverware coming through the doors this season.

Cloughduv Camogie is a vibrant club with a host of outstanding players at all ages and this is due to the constant hard work of mentors, coaches, volunteers and of course the players themselves.

The volunteerism at the club helps satisfy a need for success that is instilled in all players early on – around the same time the players learn to have fun.

The volunteers give their time freely to keep the club in its current healthy state and the high levels of support received locally sees no signs of abating.

The club's high standard of administration over the years has also not gone unnoticed at county level and the club is currently very proud to have the current President of the Cork Camogie Board in Mrs. Kathleen Healy, a former Inter-County player herself leading the county line.

The club is immensely proud of all its ambassadors, be they players or backroom, however none generate more pride than the name of John Cronin.

The local legend has been manager of various victorious Cork teams over the years – capturing 5 Minor All-Ireland titles from 1998 to 2003.

John was also manager of the Cork Senior camogie team from 2005 to 2007 with victories in 2005 and 2006.

Regardless of the code or indeed the sport you support, those are hugely impressive statistics.

Another name that can't be ignored when it comes to camogie in Cloughduv is that of Briege Corkery.

Much has been written about the Irish record breaker over the years thanks to the star's exploits with both the Cork footballers and camogie sides but before any of that there was a camogie career with Cloughduv.

Corkery has six All Ireland titles with the small ball and countless successes with Cloughduv over her long and illustrious career.

While silverware is always an important factor in a club, Corkery's attitude and skill levels are really what impresses and what is directly attributable to many of the new local stars taking up the game in the first place.



Cloughduv players, Joanne O'Callaghan, Stephanie Dunlea-Murphy and Aoife Murray on the Cork camogie team who play in the All Ireland final against Tipperary in 2005.

final in their short existence.

Cloughduv went into this one full of confidence however on the day it would be a very well respected and talented Killeagh side that would take the spoils.

The club finished off the decade with a brilliant triumph over Castlemartyr in the Junior "A" County Final which was their most important success to that point.

This meant that the club would head into the 90s as a genuine force in Cork club camogie circles.

The club were subsequently upgraded to the ranks of intermediate where the opposition was always likely to be stiffer however that prospect didn't seem to trouble the Muskerry girls as they won through to the final of the 1991 County Championship where they faced up to Brian Dillons.

This game, played in Ballincollig would see all the hard work for just short of a decade come to fruition as the Cloughduv girls put in a memorable and ultimately successful effort on the day.

The club also had success at the younger age group of U18 that year when the club's representatives defeated Newcestown by (8-7 to 1-2) in their County final.

It was an amazing year for the club as they looked to the future with great enthusiasm.

More wins followed but it was to be after the turn of the century when the major successes would be achieved.

Cloughduv, now a senior club, battled hard and successfully in the senior championship to make their mark.

When a club starts to become successful the players and management staff involved start getting attention and in the case of Cloughduv that has been the case for many years now.



Cloughduv captain Una O'Donoghue lifts the county final trophy after the defeat of St Finbarr's in 2005.

The early days saw Leahy in 1983 and Walsh in 1984 and 85 taking all Ireland minor titles but in the naughties the main intercounty achievements were secured by local players.

Una O'Donoghue captained the Cork senior team that defeated Tipperary in the 2002 All-Ireland final becoming the third hurler from Kilmurphy parish to captain Cork to an All Ireland victory after the famous Dinny Barry Murphy and Kate Dunlea).

Also included were club comrades, Stephanie Dunlea and Joanne O'Callaghan with Aoife Murray substitute goalie.

The Cork team that defeated Tipperary in the 2005 All-Ireland final also included a host of Cloughduv ladies with Stephanie Dunlea, Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray, one Briege Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan all lining out for this historic side.

Cloughduv also had significant in-

fluence on the line in 05 with its very own John Cronin managing this victorious team.

Cronin's sterling contribution as manager of the victorious Cork team was recognised at the Carnegie All Star Awards function in City West Hotel, Dublin when Joe McDonagh former GAA president and Miriam O'Callaghan, President Cumann Camogachta na nGael presented him with the prestigious "Manager of the Year" award.

The contributions made by players and backroom teams at Cloughduv GAA club to Cork camogie as a whole cannot be understated.

Of course names like Corkery will always grab the headlines however as Briege herself would admit the club is far more than one player, one manager or even one team.

The ethos at Cloughduv has always been one of inclusion.

**"The ethos at Cloughduv has always been one of inclusion. The club was founded to satisfy a need locally and it appears that this need is still there"**

The club was founded to satisfy a need locally and it appears that this need is still there.

The local girls still come to the club in their droves, looking to emulate the greats of the game while all the time making their own piece of history.

Cloughduv Camogie Club is a poster child for what can be achieved.

The club started small, developed, grew and achieved at its own pace and now can go toe to toe with the bigger sides in the county.

Cloughduv's members should be really proud of what they have achieved and with the same levels of commitment and drive over the next 20 years who knows just what can be achieved in the Green and Gold.

For now, success on the pitch is only as important as what the club can achieve off it so the quest to increase numbers is and will continue for many years to come.



# Faithful ladies spring a surprise

Hurley trophy is staying on Leaside

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A TOTAL of 26 U14 teams representing various counties recently participated in the James Hurley U14 Inter-county Blitz at three venues in Mallow GAA, Town Park Pitch Mallow and two pitches in Mounabbey GAA grounds.

Despite wet weather conditions making it hard every player gave it their all and it was a most enjoyable day for all participants and again camogie was the big winner.

Games got underway at all venues at 10am and everything ran according to plan up to and including the finals in all sections.

The Cork A side enjoyed a great day defeating Dublin. Limerick Wexford before going on to overcome Galway in the semi-final.

In the final, it was close all through but the Cork girls proved too strong for Kilkenny to ensure the James Hurley trophy stayed Leaside.

Amongst those to impress on the day were captain for the final Rose Murphy, Molly Kelleher, Leah Cooney, and Saoirse Desmond.

Cork B also enjoyed a good day as they defeated Waterford A, Wexford B, and Galway B before going on to meet Kilkenny B in the final.

Here it was nip and tuck all through as both sides battle for the title. As Cork battled to make it a double over the Kilkenny girls it proved tough and took a nail-biting finish.

They held on to record a two-point victory on a 2-1 to 1-2 score line as they ran out winners with Jane Foley, Louise Lyons, Niamh McSweeney and Olivia Lynch all turning in excellent displays to ensure the A and B double was achieved.

The Cork C1 team overcame Limerick B and then went on to draw with Dublin B but they lost out to Laois who went on to record victory in the final. Leah Hall and Orla Mullins were prominent as the Cork girls gave it their all through the day.

In the Shield the Cork C2 team with Jodi O'Sullivan and Vivienne Gleeson in top form beat Kerry, Carlow, and Limerick C and Clare B to run out winners of the Shield competition.

Another year and another successful finale to a competition which has grown and grown down through the years now in its 18th year all credit must go to the organisers for ensuring everybody had a superb day once again despite the horrendous weather which prevailed.

It is wonderful to see the memory of James Hurley being kept alive and with people such as Rob Lott driving the tournament it is sure to continue in the same vein for many years to come.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE one surprise to come from last weekend's Liberty Insurance All Ireland senior championship opening round was Offaly's defeat of Limerick.

Offaly are a dogged, spirited team. Paddy Kirwan hailed his side's character in fashioning the 2-18 to 3-14 win, having lost a one-point game at the beginning of the month in the Leinster Final to Kilkenny.

Offaly carried that form through in getting the better of a Limerick side that were optimistic for the championship having reached the league semi-finals and securing an historic Munster final win over Cork.

The Offaly manager bemoaned an absence of ruthlessness that might have seen the Shannonsiders off earlier but is now looking forward to a potentially exciting campaign.

"That win was probably priceless and to be asked every question under the sun" said Kirwan on Midlands 103. "After being caught by a point the last day, that had to happen."

"The first half we did some great camogie but then we overcomplicated it. I said that to them at half time, we brought them back into the game by doing stupid things. We had to win the game three or four times and nearly lost it."

"The character was questioned there today and I questioned it at half time, I won't deny it but they showed a great bit of gumption."

"If we lost it there I don't know where we'd turn. Wexford next in a fortnight and after beating them in Leinster they'll be mad keen for us. It'll be another battle but we'll look forward to it."

Dearbhla Egan gave the home side the perfect start with a goal but Offaly responded with eight consecutive points.

Limerick had further goals from Aisling Scanton and Mairead Fitzgerald but Siobhán Flannery, who finished with 1-8, and Rachel Brennan raised green flags for Offaly, while 17-year-old Leaving Cert student Sarah Harding came off the bench to score two vital points and have a hand in a key victory.

Kilkenny, as expected, accounted comfortably for Waterford in a South-East derby at Walsh Park.

The All-Ireland and league champions exhibited their dominance immediately with three points in the opening three minutes from Katie Power, Denise Gaule and Julie Ann Malone.

Beth Carton stemmed the tide from a free but it was a momentary respite as Kilkenny struck for a goal and four points without reply. Shelly Farrell netted while Malone added another couple of points to help put nine between them. Carton steadied the ship for Waterford though and it was 1-9 to 0-4 at the interval.

It was Carton again as Waterford re-



Chief Supt Tom Myers and Supt Mick Comyns with both their club players Aine O Callaghan (St Finbarr's) and Sophie Ahern (Brian Dillon's). Pic: Derek Connolly



Jonny and Pa joined Juvenile Camogie Board Secretary Tracey Sheehan at the Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz in Brian Dillon's. Pic: Derek Connolly

duced the margin to seven soon after the resumption but crucially, while the hosts kept their neighbours scoreless until the final quarter, they failed to make any further inroads themselves and were dispensed with in that closing period.

The Noreiders hit five consecutive points, including three from frees by Danielle Morrissey before Power provided a late goal to make it 2-15 to 0-6 at the final whistle.

In the group's other game Dublin got the better of Clare in a cracker at the Parnell's grounds in Coolock by 3-11 to 1-14.

It took a very good second-half effort from David Herity's side to register the win as they trailed by 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval. Siobhán Kehoe's goal after eight minutes gave them an early four-point lead but Clare responded well, Niamh O'Dea's goal setting them up

for a strong second quarter.

Clare moved six points clear with just over 20 minutes remaining but goals from Aisling Maher and Zoe O'Donoghue edged Dublin ahead and points from Ali Twomey and Faye McCarthy (free) confirmed the victory. Cork used a strong wind to pull away from Tipperary in the second half and record a 1-16 to 1-7 win at The Ragg.

The home team had a mountain to climb at the interval as they trailed 0-6 to 0-4 despite having the advantage of the elements, and Cork pulled away after the break.

This winning margin of 1-16 to 1-7 was a convincing win for Cork and a blow for Tipperary.

Clare will need to bounce back this weekend in their meeting with Waterford. Conceding three goals to the Dubs cost them dearly and this is one

“Their character was questioned and I questioned it at half-time, but they showed a great bit of gumption”

area they'll need to improve on.

This game is also a big one for Waterford and one they'll feel they can take. With Galway to come in their next match they will be targeting a positive result in this tie to give themselves a realistic chance of making the knockout stages.

The only other game this weekend sees Dublin host Galway. They'll have a spring in their step following last weekend's victory. This is Galway's opening match and they will go into the game as favourites.

Meanwhile, Kate Kelly has made her retirement public.

She has officially called it a day after 21 seasons with the Wexford senior side. Kate played a huge part in Wexford winning the title after a 32-year gap in 2007. She was a key figure when they won three in a row of titles 2010-2012. We wish her well.



# Garda tournament

Douglas and Innisearra faced off in the other semi-final, with the latter emerging victorious to book their place in the final.

Marching tunes were the order of the day, as the teams paraded around to the music of the two gentlemen bedecked in Cork colours, before both teams stood for Amhran Na Bhfiann.

From the throw-in, Sarsfields hit the front and their determination to hold onto their title proved the difference, with captain Eve Hogan, lifting the Garda Trophy, following the presentation by Superintendent Mick Comyns.

Sarsfields had some excellent players in Orla Mullins, Clodagh O'Donovan, and Orla Murphy who all contributed enormously.

Caitlyn Sheehan turned in a player-of-the-tournament performance to receive a trophy in memory of referee Dominic Rooney, who was present at every tournament.

Sadly, Mr Rooney passed away last October while refereeing a game and the Gardaí have dedicated the award in his memory.

It was presented to Caitlyn by Mr Rooney's wife Margaret and son Adam.

Great credit is due to the Gardaí, who again left no stone unturned to ensure a great day, to the host club Brian Dillons, and to John Hartnett, Blackpool Shopping Centre, who came on board with the Mayfield Gardaí to help with sponsorship.

Plaudits are also due to the 12 participating clubs, who gave it their all.

All involved will now look to 2018, when the host club will be Glen Rovers.



Glen Rovers, who reached the semi-finals.



Blackrock.



Ballincollig.



Bishopstown.







In control: Libby Coppinger drives this ball forward for Cork during Saturday's Liberty Insurance Senior Championship clash against Tipperary at The Ragg.

(Photo: Tom Russell)

# Cork off to winning start

**CORK** 1-16  
**TIPPERARY** 1-7

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

As expected, Cork got their Liberty Insurance Senior Championship campaign off to a winning start last weekend.

In this opening Group 2 encounter, Cork used a strong wind to pull away from Tipperary in the second half at The Ragg and turn a 0-6 to 0-4 half-time advantage into a

nine-point win. Given that Cork came up short in the league final and also lost the Munster championship, this was a welcome return to winning ways for Paudie Murray's team.

Enniskeane's Orla Cronin, St Colum's Libby Coppinger, Katriona Mackey and Orla Cotter were all on target in the first

half as Cork, against the wind, took a two-point lead into the break.

Cork punished Tipp after the restart with two converted frees by Orla Cotter, who finished with six points including two from play, as well as minor scores from Niamh McCarthy, Libby Coppinger and

Amy O'Connor before Hannah Looney displayed her footballing skills to kick a 35th minute goal.

Ciarda Maher goaled for Tipp late on but it was much too late to have any bearing on proceedings, as Orla Cronin, Mackey and Amy O'Connor all added more scores for the Rebels.

Next up for Cork in the championship is a home game against Limerick on June 24th,

with the Treaty County losing their opening match to Offaly last weekend.

**Cork:** Aoife Murray; Eimear O'Sullivan, Rena Buckley, Meabh Cahalane; Laura Treacy, Gemma O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson; Libby Coppinger (0-2), Ashling Thompson; Amy O'Connor (0-2), Orla Cronin (0-2), Orla Cotter (0-6, 4f); Hannah Looney (1-0), Niamh McCarthy (0-1), Katriona Mackey (0-3).

**Sub:** Lauren Homan for Niamh McCarthy (47).

# Rebel ladies tame the Tribeswomen

**CORK** 2-12  
**GALWAY** 0-9

## INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CORK got their campaign off to a strong start in a wet and windy Charleville with a win over Galway in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate championship.

After Galway's Michelle Skehill opened the scoring, Cork responded with points from Keeva McCarthy and top scorer Rachel O'Shea.

Galway responded through Catherine Finnerty, however, three unanswered points from Cork through McCarthy and

two from O'Shea saw Cork three clear after 22 minutes.

Siobhan McGrath scored a Galway free and that was the last score of the half as Cork led 0-5 to 0-3 at the break.

McCarthy added a further Cork point early in the second half before Rachel O'Shea gave Cork the momentum when she collected on the 30-metre line and showed a clean pair of heels to rattle the back of the Galway net. It put Cork six to the good, 1-6 to 0-3, after 38 minutes.

After the sides swapped scores Galway missed a penalty

before Skehill converted a free to see the Tribeswomen trail by five.

A fine McGrath effort kept the Galway scoreboard ticking over, but it was Caroline Sugrue who finished off the game as a contest when she unleashed an unstoppable shot to the top corner from 20 metres to open up a seven-point lead heading into the final quarter.

Jennifer Barry then pointed, before McGrath and Lisa Lynch exchanged points from placed balls.

McCarthy split the posts with

six minutes left to see Cork nine ahead, before McGrath picked off two fine efforts from play to close out the scoring for Galway. A Sugrue point and O'Shea free from 25 metres finished Cork's haul to see them win by nine points.

### Scorers

**Cork:** R O'Shea 1-4 (2f), C Sugrue 1-1, K McCarthy 0-4 (1f), L Collins, J Barry, L Lynch (1f) 0-1 each.  
**Galway:** S McGrath 0-6 (2f), M Skehill 0-2 (1f), C Finnerty 0-1.

**Cork:** A Lee (Na Piarsaigh); L Weste (Ballincollig); S Harrington (Fr O'Neills); N Ní Chaoirbh (Kilkeagh); L Lynch (Cloughduv); S Buckley (Ballincollig); M Lynch (Newcestown); L Callanan (Glen

Rovers); J Barry (Bride Rovers); K Hickey (Blackrock); K McCarthy (St Finbarr's); M McCarthy (Sarsfields); R O'Shea (Carrigaline); L Collins (Courcy Rovers); C Sugrue (Ballinasally).

**Subs:** H Ryan (Blackrock) for M McCarthy (52); J Crowley (Courcy Rovers) for M Lynch (56); L Kelly (Sarsfields) for J Barry (57); N O'Callaghan (Sarsfields) for L Collins (59).

**Galway:** C Daly; M Howley; C Brennan; M Mannion; E Gilmore; M Connaughton; S Keaveney; R Black; M Dunphy; M Skehill; D Higgins; C Finnerty; S McGrath; P Manning; C Murphy.

**Subs:** L Casserly for S Keaveney (26); T Rutledge for M Dunphy (38); E Porter for M Mannion (53); K O'Brien for P Manning (54).

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).





Superintendent Mick Comyns, Mayfield Garda Station, presents the winning Sarsfields captain Eve Hogan with the cup at the Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz at Brian Dillon's. See tomorrow's Echo for a two-page special.



Cillard's Amy O'Sullivan in action during the Féile Skills competition held in the National Sports Campus. Players were marked on their ground stroke, free-taking, goal-taking, jab-lifting, soloing, long puck, and sideline cut. O'Sullivan made history by becoming the first Kerry player to win the competition.

Picture: Cody Glenn/Sportsfile

## Kerry plays host to most skilful U14 camogie player

Eoghan Cormican

Where might you find the most skilful U14 camogie player in the country? Not Kilkenny, not Cork, not Galway, but in Cillard in north Kerry.

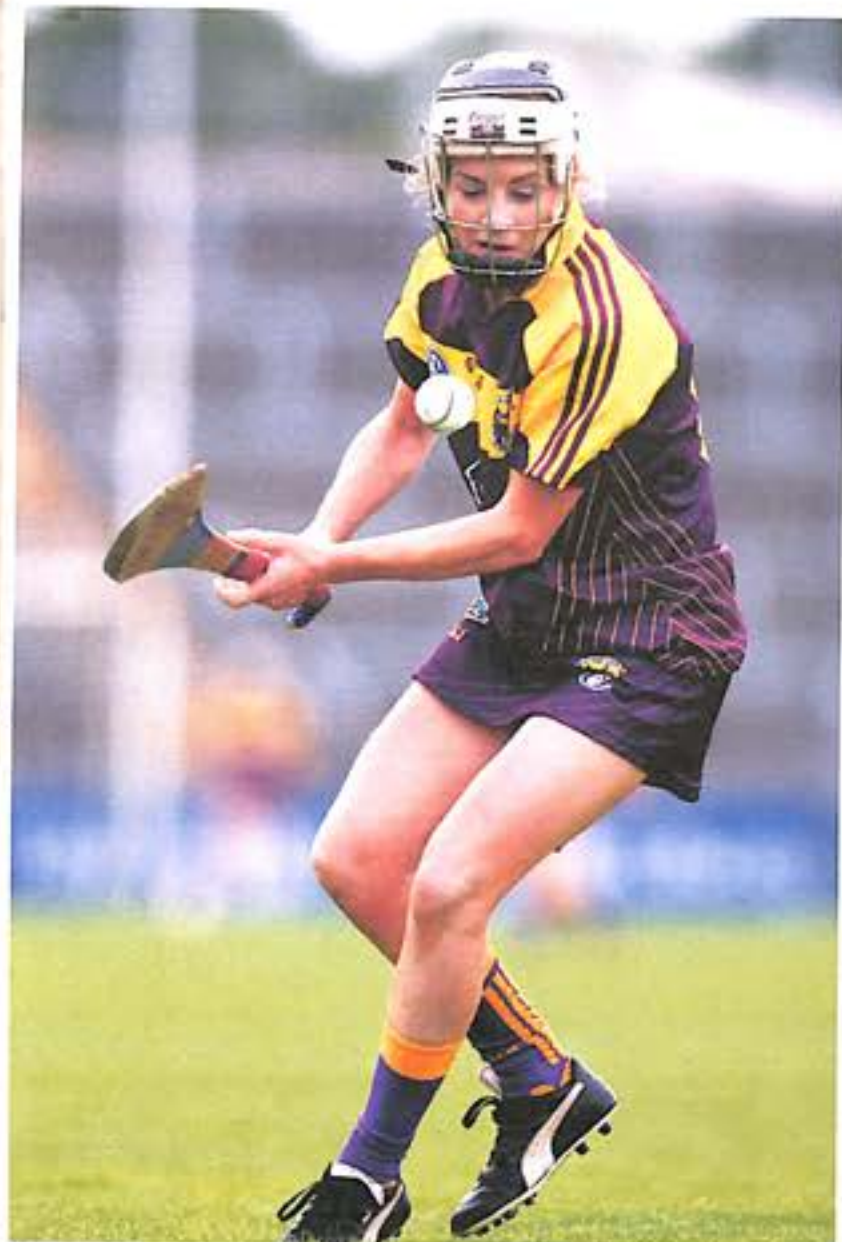
History was made last Saturday when, for the first time in the 39-year running of the Féile Skills competition, the title was won by a Kerry player. Cillard's Amy O'Sullivan beat off representatives from 25 other counties at the National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, with a cumulative score of 225 points. She's in exalted company as past winners include All-Ireland medal winners Vivienne Harris (Cork), Bridget Mullally (Kilkenny), and Sarah Dervan (Galway).

Players were marked on their ground stroke, free-taking, goal-taking, jab-lifting, soloing, long puck, and sideline cut. O'Sullivan's success is further evidence of the rise of Kerry camogie, with the county's junior team overcoming Cork in the Munster camogie final last month.

The Féile Skills winner will be part of the Cillard team — the club is based between Ardfer and Kilmoyley — competing in this weekend's Féile na nGael competition, hosted by Kilkenny, Carlow, and Wexford.

## Wexford Legend Kate Kelly retires from intercounty Camogie

By Camogie Press  
Posted 15/06/2017



by Therese O'Callaghan

One of the greatest players in the modern era, Kate Kelly, has retired from intercounty camogie.

Following an incredible 21 years of unbroken service to the Wexford senior team, the 37-year old has decided to call it a day. She won four All-Ireland Senior medals, and has been honoured with a remarkable nine All-Stars awards.

"It was a tough decision, of course," she said. "You think you will go on forever. You don't want it to end. I knew in my heart last year that could be it. All good things must come to an end."

"I told the girls on the team at the end of April that I wouldn't be coming back, so they have known for a while. I was hoping to slip away quietly, but this week people have been asking if I am going to play. I've had huge support from the players, my club, my family and my husband."

Kate was instrumental in helping the Slaneysiders bridge a 32-year gap to win the O'Duffy Cup in 2007. They went on to complete three-in-a-row between 2010-2012. Among the many honours won by the St Bar's/Shelmals club player during a glittering career, are three National Leagues titles. Kate, who is treasurer of the Women's Gaelic Players Association, will continue to play club camogie.

Wexford begin their 2017 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship campaign with a home fixture against Offaly on Saturday June 24th.



Slinspittle's Anne Marie Collins of Courcy Rovers Camogie and Ladies' Football Club, who finished fourth in the All-Ireland Féile Camogie Skills finals.

June  
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# Dicksboro and Sarsfields take top Féile honours

Top honours for Dicksboro in this weekend's Féile, who landed the Boys Div 1 Cup title, while Cork's Sarsfields retained their top division camogie title.

The Kilkenny side used home advantage to progress past the group stage, before beating Monaleen and Na Fianna in the knockout stages.

They led Co Clare outfit Six-milecross 0-6 to 0-1 at half-time, before three goals sealed the deal in a 3-11 to 0-1 victory at Nowlan Park.

A good weekend for Kilkenny, as James Stephens joined the winners in 22 competitions in hurling and 14 competitions in camogie, winning the Division 1 shield, Dicksboro also

wrapped up a memorable weekend, winning the Division 2 camogie crown.

The competition, which sees U14 teams from around the country compete for national titles, was this year held across Wexford, Carlow, and Kilkenny, with over 8,000 players taking part.

In the camogie section,

Cork side Sarsfields won the Division 1 Cup title for the second consecutive year in a groundbreaking achievement by the girls in blue.

Wins against St Martin's, Glynn-Barntown, and Annacarty saw Sars once again reach the knockout stages, beating Lucan Sarsfields in the quarter-finals before win-

ning out in a tough encounter against Clare's Scariff in the penultimate stage, 2-6 to 2-4.

Co Tipperary's Knockavilla awaited the reigning champions in the final, but with the wind the side captained by Saoirse Desmond took control early, Edie Twomey's two goals in the opening period

handing Sars a handsome 2-9 to 0-1 lead at the break.

With eight of the panel returning from last year's win, the Glanmire side showed plenty of experience, with Olivia McAllen (0-6), Cliona Lynch (0-3, 2f), Katelyn Sheehan (0-3) and Orlaith Mullans (0-1) adding to Twomey's two goals for a 2-13 to 1-2 victory.



Sarsfields celebrate beating Knockavilla to win the camogie Féile na nGael Division 1 final yesterday. The national competition took place at the weekend across Carlow, Kilkenny, and Waterford.

Picture: Tom Beary/inpho

## FÉILE NA NGAEL

### Camogie:

**Div 1 Cup semi-finals:** Knockavilla 1-7 St Brigid's 2-1, An Scarbh 2-4 Sarsfields 2-6;  
**Final:** Sarsfields 2-13 Knockavilla 1-2;  
**Shield semi-finals:** Thomastown 0-2 Gaultier 0-3, Monaleen 4-6 St Martin's 0-2;  
**Final:** Monaleen 1-6 Gaultier 1-1;  
**Div 2 Cup semi-finals:** Rahamney Hurling Club 1-1 Kilcormac-Killough 0-5, Dicksboro 1-3 Clara 0-3;  
**Final:** Dicksboro 1-5 Kilcormac-Killough 0-5;  
**Shield semi-finals:** O'Loughlin Gaels 2-3 Ballygalget 4-2, Modeligo 1-2 Na Fianna 3-7;  
**Final:** Na Fianna 5-1 Ballygalget 6-2;  
**Div 3 Cup semi-finals:** Doon 0-5 Naas 1-7, Portlaoise 0-2 Salthill-Knocknacarra 3-2;  
**Final:** Salthill-Knocknacarra 1-1 Naas 3-9;  
**Shield semi-finals:** Naomh Uinsinn 1-2 Naomh Eoin 2-4, Oylegate-Glenbrien 1-1 Emeralds 1-0;  
**Final:** Oylegate-Glenbrien 0-2 Naomh Eoin 2-4;  
**Div 4 Cup semi-finals:** St Lachlain's 0-1 Muinebhag 3-1, John Lockes 4-1 Young Irelands 0-2;  
**Final:** John Lockes 6-4 Muinebhag 0-1;  
**Shield semi-finals:** Naomh Eanna 1-0 Duffry Rovers 2-8, Mayobridge 3-1 Drumsurn 4-1;  
**Final:** Drumsurn 0-1 Duffry Rovers 4-1;  
**Div 5 Cup semi-finals:** St Dominic's 1-1 Brideoga 2-4, Ferno St Aidans 1-0 Rathgarogue-Cushinstown 3-5;  
**Final:** Rathgarogue-Cushinstown 1-3 Brideoga 1-4;  
**Shield semi-finals:** Denn 0-1 Danesfort 1-4, Edendork St Malachy's 0-1 Kitegan 2-1;  
**Final:** Kitegan 2-3 Danesfort 1-2;  
**Div 6 Cup final:** Rower Instige 0-4 Cliford 3-2;  
**Shield final:** Westport 2-1 St Kevins 1-1;  
**Div 7 Cup final:** Cnoc an Eanaigh 0-1 Windgap 2-1;  
**Shield final:** Laochra Óg 0-0 Paulstown/Goresbridge 1-3.

### Camogie

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1 - Clare 2-19 Waterford 3-9; Galway 3-18 Dublin 1-12.



Clare's Chloe Mores is presented with the Player of the Match award by Michael Cronin of Liberty Insurance. Mores scored 15 points as Clare beat Waterford 2-19 to 3-9.



June  
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# We'll sorely miss mononymous legend Briege



Briege Corkery in action in the 2015 All-Ireland final. Corkery has a reputation as a joker and a maverick, but is a formidable athlete. Picture: Sportsfile

**I**rish female sports stars have a nice line in first-name recognition. Sonia, of course, is the original and most iconic. Since then we've had other heroines: Katie, Derval, Stephanie, and Annalise. Women's Gaelic games, however, seems to be lacking in mononymous personalities.

Except for Briege. Everybody knows Briege.

Along with teammate and fellow dual star Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery is the most decorated GAA player of all time. She has 17 senior All-Ireland medals (11 in football, six in camogie) and between the two codes, she's amassed 16 All Stars. However, she hasn't featured for either the camogie players or the footballers so far this year. Cork football manager Ephie Fitzgerald recently confirmed that it's unlikely Corkery will play inter-county football this season; it remains to be seen if, like Buckley, she'll commit to the camogie for 2017.

Today, Cork play Limerick in the second round of the camogie championship, a chance to avenge their defeat in the Munster camogie final five weeks ago. Will Corkery make an appearance? Will management keep her in reserve until the latter stages of the championship, then spring her? Or will Cork's fixtures keep rolling by over the weeks and months, sans Briege?

If the latter is the case, neither the ca-

mogie or ladies football championships will be the same without her. She's a phenomenal player, one that any team would love to have in their arsenal. Her athleticism, bravery, and sheer work-rate are hard to match. She can play pretty much anywhere, as likely to block a shot in the full back line as to pop up unexpectedly for a goal herself. She travels. She regularly pulls off the paradoxical feat of showing up all over the field without ever being caught out of position.

I encountered her on the pitch a few times in the early 2000s, playing on various underage inter-county teams. Even then, her drive, focus, and confidence on the ball were so total that I assumed she

was a couple of years older and wiser than me; it turns out she's younger by a couple of months.

Corkery has a reputation for being both a joker and a maverick, a formidable athlete who does things her own way — even against conventional wisdom. A farmer in her day job, she thinks nothing of milking 400 cows the morning of a match. Mary White's excellent 2015 book *Relentless* recounts a moment early on in Eamonn Ryan's tenure as football manager where he told the players that while he wasn't going to impose a drinking ban, he expected them to mind themselves. According to legend, Briege Corkery stood up and said: "I have a pint bottle before every match and I intend on still having it." To Ryan's credit, he didn't sanction her. If Corkery could perform so consistently with the pint bottle as part of her routine, why change it?

A testament to her towering influence: In 2010, the only year in recent memory that the Cork ladies football team failed to capture the All-Ireland title, Corkery was taking a year out, travelling in New Zealand. Dublin won that year, beating Tyrone in the final. When Cork look back on their stunning string of titles since 2005, they must wonder if that blip could have been averted by Corkery's presence.

Her ability to turn a game on its head is exceptional. One of my favourite ever goals in camogie is Corkery's in the 2015 All-Ireland final against Galway. Ten minutes from the end, she cleanly robbed the ball 40 yards from the Galway goal and arrowed into the space that opened up in front of her, before finishing low into the corner of the net. It was a goal remarkable for both its opportunism and composure, and it sealed the win for Cork.

**T**here's a bite to Corkery too, a certain flintiness that keeps her motivated. When the influential Eamonn Ryan stepped down as football manager in 2016, there was talk about whether the team would be able to maintain its incredible consistency without him. Legendary Mayo footballer Cora Staunton said in an interview that the change would be "unsettling for Cork for the first while but with the calibre of player they have and a winning mentality, you could never write them off".

To me, Staunton's comments seemed fairly measured and respectful, but Corkery saved this quote on her phone and made sure all her teammates knew about their perceived vulnerability in other camps. It might be hard for most people to see how someone could draw fiery motivation from this nuanced statement — but then, most people don't have 17 All-Ireland medals.

No one could blame Corkery for taking a step back at this stage — she's been going with both inter-county teams

since 2004, in a two-track career that must amount to hundreds of games at the top level. There's a lot of miles on the clock, not to mention her club duties with Cloughduv in camogie and St Val's in football.

On top of all this, she's had to advocate for player welfare, particularly in the case of dual stars. For years, herself, Buckley, Meabh Cahalane, and others have had to grapple with fixture clashes between the camogie and football championships.

The situation came to a head on a Sunday in July 2015, when they were caught between a camogie fixture at 2pm at Páirc Uí Rinn, and a Munster football final at 6pm in Mallow. "All we want is a day between the two games," Corkery said at the time. This simple request couldn't be accommodated. The two games went ahead, with Cork uncharacteristically but understandably flat in the football; they lost by nine points to Kerry.

That such an unfair situation would ever happen to a male dual star is unthinkable; the GAA would never allow it. Women's Gaelic games, however, are governed by a complicated system of associations — the Munster championship is overseen by the Munster Ladies Gaelic Football Association, which is separate from the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, which in turn is separate from the Camogie Association. If ever there was an argument to amalgamate the women's associations under one umbrella, the wellbeing of players like Briege Corkery is it.

## Camogie action

As a result of their performance in the U14A Cork Camogie Feile, Enniskeane, U14 Camogie Club qualified to represent Cork in the regional Féile competition played in Mallow on Saturday last. This was a tremendous honour for the girls and they all represented their club and county with distinction.

Drawn in a group consisting of Newcastlewest and Sarsfields (Galway), the girls defeated Newcastlewest in their first game on a score of 6-9 to 3-2.

This victory ensured they qualified for the semi-final and so their defeat by Sarsfields in the second game in the group (3-5 to 3-2) was of little consequence.

Unfortunately for Enniskeane, a fortuitous goal by Kilkeshin-Bodyke of Clare proved to be the pivotal score in the semi-final with the Clare girls winning on a score of 2-2 to 1-3 in a very high-quality match.

Though disappointed, the girls should be extremely proud, as the club is, of their efforts and they were wished well in their remaining county league and championship matches this season.

Panel: Claire Forbes, Sophie O'Donovan, Katelyn Sheehan, Hannah Buckingham, Molly O'Boyle, Labhaoise McCarthy, Erica O'Driscoll, Emma O'Driscoll, Emily Corcoran, Aoife Sheehan, Orla Moore, Caragh Hennessy, Lauren Corcoran, Lauren Buttimer, Ruth Forbes, Deirdre Browne, Saoirse Fleming, Laoise Markey and Laura Cullinane.

The main game over the weekend saw the senior camogie team get its championship campaign underway, as they made the trip to Enniskeane on Saturday to face Brian Dillons.

Sile Burns was in excellent form in the first half, scoring three goals as Barryroe led by 4-5 to 0-7 at half-time, Rachel Sheehy with the other goal.

The second half was a much tougher affair as Dillons had the wind behind them but the Barryroe defence held firm. Points from Burns (three) and Claire Sexton ensured that Barryroe took victory, 4-10 to 2-10.

**Team:** Eimear White, Meabh Sexton, Karen McCarthy, Aileen O'Riordan, Jennifer White, Ger Collins, Rebecca McCarthy, Kate Whelton, Róisín Dulka, Claire Sexton (0-3), Elaine Ryan, Debra O'Leary, Rachel Sheehy (1-0), Sile Burns (3-7), Caroline McCarthy.

**Subs:** Aisling Sheehy, Grace Tobin, Therese McCarthy, Hannah Whelton. **Management:** Tom Farrell, William Sheehy, Batt Whelton, Denis Cahalane, Elaine McCarthy.



Eimear  
Ryan



## The DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR interview



Kate Kelly announced her retirement from senior intercounty camogie last week after a career that spanned 20 years. It yielded four All-Irelands and 27 goals and 315 points from 88 Championship appearances. The former Player of the Year opened up on some of the highs and lows of those magnificent two decades.

# Parting from her great love

*"Someone told me when the time is right to give up you'll know, and that's what I've gone on. It never crossed my mind this winter but you do take it year by year. There's no point saying I'm going to be there for the next 10 years. I'm not!"*

Kate Kelly, 2015

**T**HE support on her wrist is an irritant, with the club championship scheduled to get under way on Monday. She got a bang that has taken a week for the swelling to reduce and been told to come back for an x-ray. It will wait until Tuesday.

This is a woman who has wrapped a broken finger in lollipop sticks to play, who even tried to go out in a 7s match with her AC joint in ribbons. She couldn't strike the ball so it was a full-forward, catch-and-handpass job.

She will be at Innovate Wexford Park this afternoon as the Yellowbellies get their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship under way against Offaly but for the first time since joining up 21 years ago, her role will be as a supporter, to her former teammates and brother John, who is joint manager.

Kelly has been throwing on a Wexford jersey every year since an underage blitz in 1991. Clubmate Emma Carroll sat with her on the bus. Sitting behind them were Claire O'Connor and Michelle O'Leary. Aine Codd was there too. They graduated to become fixtures and leaders on the senior squad, with the next batch of kids calling them The Zimmers.

One by one, they all stepped away but Kelly was as constant as oxygen. As reliable too. An All Star in the scheme's inaugural season in 2004. Player of the Year three seasons later. Last November, a campaign that saw her finish top scorer with 5-49 was rewarded with a record-equalling ninth All Star.

She pointed a stunning winner to deny Tipperary in the All-Ireland quarter-final but the semi-final ended in defeat, after extra-time, to Cork. Kelly landed a free from distance early in the supplementary period to give Wexford the lead. It was to be her last ever score of the 27-315 she would accumulate in 88 championship appearances.

"I didn't feel my game changed a whole lot," she says, sitting in the canteen at Waterford IT where she works as IT and card services manager. "More than anything it was the recovery. I found that a bit harder. And last year, motivation to go training. When the games were on, I loved it as much as 10 years ago."

"You think about it a lot more too when you're older. You think about whether it might be your last game. You get a little more emotional, a little more worked up about it. You have to learn to manage your nerves a bit more."

"In saying that, I always enjoyed it so once you get out on the pitch, and you're over that first few minutes, as (former manager) JJ (Doyle) used always say, 'Express yourself'. When you're out there and into it, I don't think you think of anything else."

It is telling that she had tried to slip away quietly. Kelly informed the players a month ago and wanted to leave it at that but she underestimated her status. The queries were coming thick and fast and so a statement was issued. What happened next took her completely by surprise.

"I was very overwhelmed by the reaction, which was quite touching, to be honest. I didn't expect it by any manner or means. It was mixed emotions, people congratulating you and also commiserating. They don't know really what to say and I didn't know what they should say either!"

She had never been one for taking stock and seems to have been completely surprised that anyone would care that she was calling it a day.

"Maybe in five or 10 years' time we'll sit back and realise what we achieved when we did but at the minute it just feels part of what we're doing, trying to achieve again," she said in an interview two years ago. Now?

"Maybe I just didn't like to get carried away with myself. I just played. If you get carried away with what people are thinking or saying about you, that you're this and that, it only adds more pressure if you're going out the next day to live up to something. So it's easier maybe to block it out."

In truth, she is being asked to explain something she never thought about. It was simple.

She just played.

**P**eggie Doyle won All-Irelands with Wexford alongside her sister Mary in 1968 and 1969. Seán Kelly was like-minded in that he lived for Gaelic games. They fell in love, married, settled down in Screen and had nine children. Kate recalls a simple but idyllic lifestyle

Kate Kelly in action for Wexford. Kelly's family fostered her love of GAA. 'Growing up, wherever we went... if we went to the beach, we brought our hurls.'



around the farm and they all played. Even now, there is only one of the lads that doesn't tog out anymore. The eldest, Denis, is 42 ("he won't give up!") and coming off a brilliant year with the juniors. The youngest, Joe, is 27 now and scored 2-7 when the Shels won their first county senior championship in 2014. Mag played with Wexford too.

"My dad was fanatical and my mother won two All-Irelands with Wexford. And we always played in the yard. There was the gate and a pillar across where we made two goals. We were just constantly going to matches. If we couldn't all fit in my father's car the rest went with my aunt, who lived down the road and had two sons, so that was packed too."

"Growing up, wherever we went... if we went to the beach, we brought our hurls. Even if you went walking across the field, you always brought your hurley with you — you might need it to knock down something to walk through!"

"This time of year, silage season, when all the lads would be in and after they got their dinner, we'd go out for a big pucker-around in the yard. It used to be crazy."

Peggie has filled every role in administration between county board and club committee, and is currently secretary of the GAA club. She has also served as selector and manager at various levels and was involved in the establishment of the camogie club.

"She hurried with the likes of Oylegate and married into the Shels and has been involved in every way. I'd say she's done every role. She was chair for years, over us as a team and my father was over us. That was their hobby. That was what they lived for. I don't ever remember doing anything else. We never did any other hobbies. Maybe there were too much of us and it was easier to bring us to the hurling field!"

When she got the call-up to the senior panel, Wexford were coming off three All-Ireland final losses in the previous five seasons and the team was breaking up. Meanwhile, that same year, the hurlers had everyone dancing on the crossroads.

"We used to go to all the games into Wexford Park or Croke Park. And when you got old enough to travel yourself you were working out whether to go on the train with friends. We're having the banter about it now that the buzz is back around the hurlers. We may get the old crew back together. Four or five in one car, four or five in the next car. There's a whole generation in Wexford that's missed that."

"I remember '96 with my aunt in the car after the All-Ireland, out through the sunroof the whole way home. It was crazy! You look at my niece and nephews. They haven't seen that. But at least they got it on the women's side."

It took a while. Kelly and her compadres were coming off winning an All-Ireland U16 title in 1995 and with not much experience left around them, endured some awful days. The 43-point hammering (7-24 to 0-2) at the hands of Cork in Oylegate on July 3, 1999 was a low point but it didn't sour them.

"You don't think about it. You were just delighted to be playing with Wexford. Maybe I had an optimistic outlook and thought we were gonna win every time. I was never fazed by it. I do remember one

year, my mother coming home saying they were thinking of pulling out the senior county team and just having a junior and she went crazy, saying there were people wanting to be over the team and players wanting to play. I suppose there was a few years that it wavered a bit. I don't know what it was. Maybe it was the '95 team, so much of my clubmates there as well. Maybe we just enjoyed the banter of it. It was good craic."

"We went off to Dundalk or Derry one year to play and were staying overnight. We went to the cinema and someone said 'The bus is on fire'. We didn't believe it but when we ran out the bus was on fire! Some great memories. We were hanging out with our best friends, having some laugh."

In 2000, another Wexford team reached an All-Ireland U16 decider and as Mary Leacy and co emerged, so did hope. Leacy was joined later on by her younger sister Una, who would become Kelly's regular bus buddy. It was fitting, given that the Leacys' mother Margaret was a teammate of the Doyle siblings in the late '60s.

They got to a league final in 2004 and another three years later. Cork beat them by a point second time around but rivalries were resumed shortly after in the championship and Kelly hit six points as Wexford prevailed by 10 in Ballincollig. When the teams met again four months later, in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park, Una Leacy plundered two goals and Kelly three points to cement the O'Duffy Cup's residence in the Model County for the first time since 1975.

"The semi-final day to me was a great day. Just getting to the final. And the four weeks that came after that... it was like we were floating around on air. I don't think it faded any of us. And when you look back on our performance against Cork, everyone went out and tore into it, hooked and blocked. They were going for three-in-row and it was our first day in Croke Park."

"All the supporters came out onto the pitch... I remember trying to make my way up through the crowd and I was nearly getting knocked out, people turning around saying 'Who's this one pushing?' and then seeing it was me. It was brilliant."

They were completely taken aback by the homecoming.

"My mother kept saying to me 'You know Kate, I don't think you realise this is going to be big when you get to Wexford' and I was 'What are ya on about? There'll probably be about 10 people.'"

"We came into Wexford and they made us get off the bus and walk over the border. The TV cameras were there. I was like 'Yeah, yeah. Done. Whatever.' So we got into Gorey, we went under the bridge and around the corner and there were people on the sides. We were going mad on the bus saying 'For God's sake, there's a few people after coming out, would you not let us off the bus to get out to them?'"

"We went around the corner and the whole street was packed. We couldn't believe it."

They were unable to get over the line the next couple of years and we wondered if they were one-hit wonders.

"I think after 32 years, it was our dream come true. I remember still bouncing around on cloud nine the following April or May. We went on our team holiday in





Year	Appearances	Scores
1996	1	0
1997	1	0
1998	1	0-7
1999	1	0
2000	2	0-8
2001	2	0-11
2002	3	1-16
2003	3	1-8
2004	4	3-22
2005	3	3-12
2006	5	2-21
2007	7	1-40
2008	6	0-27
2009	4	1-15
2010	7	2-5
2011	9	0-13
2012	6	0-12
2013	6	1-13
2014	5	3-3
2015	5	4-33
2016	7	5-49
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>27-315</b>

March and when we came back, people were still wanting us to bring the cup to places. Maybe unbeknownst to ourselves we were still living in the past." They were utterly dominant from 2010 to 2012, completing a rare three-in-a-row. "There were so many leaders that could step up to the mark. You weren't relying on one person. It could have been anyone. And winning builds confidence. It just is a different mentality. You can understand why Kilkenny (hurlers) kept winning. You don't see yourself being beaten." Others are sated by one though.

"I think we were so disappointed in 2008 and 2009 that we weren't going to get caught again after 2010. Everyone was as focused when they went back. In 2007, it was everything that it should have been. It was magical but it was 32 years built into celebrating. It wasn't that we didn't try the years after, maybe we were trying too hard. But we were lucky we got the opportunity again in 2010."

Kelly was a gifted footballer too, every bit as good as with a hurley in her hand. She won two All-Irelands with the Shels and played in another with Wexford just

**Retiring is tough for Kate Kelly. 'It's hard to imagine that I'm not going to be running out with them. Maybe it's a bit raw.'**

Picture: Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile

two weeks after the first time scaling the mountain with the camogie team.

The memories flood back, rushing from the furthest reaches of her mind, each having value and meaning. Losing an All-Ireland club camogie final in 2002, winning the county in 2013 after a lengthy gap. The physical battles with Gemma O'Connor and Therese Maher, Jacqui Frisby getting in the flicks and touches that drove you mad, Linda Mellerick running up and down the pitch like an Energiser bunny, being helpless as Ann Downey dominated. My, what a time.

**R**etirement didn't come easy, not least because she doesn't feel diminished physically or in terms of ability. Her last campaign confirmed as much. She has just turned 37 though and got married two

years ago to Shels man, Chris Gordon. "I just felt it was time to call it a day... wanting to do other things, give it a year or two with the club, seeing how they go through the process. Be more relaxed about it, not be so focused on nutrition and fitness. And I suppose maybe working in Waterford didn't help. Maybe if I was at home and had a little bit extra time in the evenings... it was a culmination of a few things but I probably just felt it was time."

So much has changed in 21 years, when mobiles were homes and there was no social media. Training meant laps and backs and forwards. Now it's gym work, DEXA scans, nutrition, recovery. She embraced it all — anything to get better — but it takes over your life. "I never really saw it like that. Maybe I wanted to see what was on the other side before I had family."

Kelly has 14 nephews and nieces. More grandchildren for Seán and Peggie would be nice. "I'd like to have kids. We'll see what happens."

She is treasurer of the WPGA and believes giant strides are being made in terms of the treatment of players and the profile of camogie and ladies football. Meanwhile, she coaches the club U18s and will always be involved. She has known nothing else.

What will she miss? "The big day and the excitement of getting ready for the big match. Throwing on the purple and gold jersey. The level of competition and playing at the top is huge. And obviously the county girls. Now I'll just go back to fighting with them all the time! But it was great going out fighting against other counties together. You'd have to say I played with some of the best players and you'd miss that."

"I always thought I'd like to get to Croke Park and then I'll give up but it just slipped away. I tried it for four years. I should have given it up at the three-in-a-row! But I never even contemplated it."

"I've done some miles around the country playing. Some enjoyment."

A good run. "I had a great run. Yeah." She hasn't looked through the scrapbooks she and her mother have kept, or watched any old videos or DVDs.

"I'm kind of avoiding it. It is kind of emotional. You're giving up something you've always done and always known. It's just a big change. Even the game next Saturday, I'd be a bit apprehensive about going."

"It's just been a way of life. It's just been something I've always done so it's hard to imagine that I'm not going to be running out with them. Maybe it's a bit raw."

It's tough. "It is tough."

Her eyes have moistened considerably now, giving you the deepest, most human indication of how difficult the parting is.

"When people say it was a sacrifice, I don't feel that's how it was. It was something I loved doing."

## Hat's entertainment



Former Cork camogie captain Anna Geary was among the competitors for the Most Stylish Lady, at The Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh racecourse. Picture: Kenneth O'Halloran



# Sluggish Galway pull up their socks

Plenty to look forward to in Junior A

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Junior A Championship always throws up great games across both sections in the last few years, we have had some terrific clashes.

Again it will be played on a round-robin format. There are only eight teams and they are divided into two groups of teams four, the top two in each group emerging to contest the semi-finals.

Last year's final went down to the wire as Newtownshandrum, with a late rally, denied Na Piarasigh the title. With eight minutes remaining Na Piarasigh looked to have done enough as they led by three points but they were hit with a strong Newtown finish that yielded 1-2 without reply, enough to swing the game in the North Cork girls' favour to see them take their first adult title in 10 years.

Newtownshandrum are now plying their trade in the intermediate grade and Na Piarasigh will fancy their chances of taking the title this year. They are through to the league final and they will hope to bring that form to the championship campaign. Last season's Junior B champions Ballyhea will fancy having a crack off of the A title, while 2015 B champions Banteer are another side to watch out for as are St Vincent's, with Cork senior Amy O'Connor and Lauren Homan.

Watergrashtill, defeated in last season's semi-final by Newtownshandrum, are considerably strengthened this season by the transfer back to them of Marie O'Neill, who returns to her former club following several successful years in the Milford colours. Former Rockbawn and Cloughduv player Catriona Foley, who captained Cork to senior All-Ireland success had transferred to Watergrashtill as has Aishling Whoolley, moving from Sarsfields, and ex-Waterford player Deirdre Nugent. They are four huge acquisitions for them. Watergrashtill are through to the Junior A league final and it will be interesting to watch their championship progress.

Games start on Monday when Na Piarasigh meet Bride Rovers, on July 2 its Ballyhea meeting Banteer and the following night St Vincent's and Watergrashtill meet in what should be a top class clash.

On July 5, Bishopstown take on Youghal. Round two games get under way on July 17 when Banteer meet Na Piarasigh, on July 25 there are two games on the agenda St Vincent's meeting Bishopstown and Bride Rovers against Ballyhea, on July 29 it's Youghal versus Watergrashtill.

Round three on August 16 it's Bishopstown versus Watergrashtill and the last three games are all on August 23 when Youghal meet St Vincent's, Banteer face Bride Rovers and Ballyhea are in opposition against Na Piarasigh.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick



Camogie Association President Catherine Neary present the trophy to the Sarsfields captain Saoirse Desmond after their Féile win. See story on P40 for details. Picture: INPHO/Tom Beary



The Sarsfields camogie players celebrate winning the Féile last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Tom Beary

“It wasn't lack of effort. It's 10 weeks since we played a game in the league semi-final and you never actually know how that's going to affect you”

establish a six-point lead but crucially that was down to two by the interval (2-5 to 0-9) as Andrea O'Keefe hit points from play at either end of a brace of converted frees by Morey.

The former All-Star hit the first three scores of the second half to edge Clare ahead but Beth Carton, who scored five points for Waterford, kept the Déise girls in contention until an Aine O'Loughlin goal gave Clare some daylight.

Substitute Becky Kavanagh breached the Banner defences a third time but an Aoife Keane rocket two minutes from time sealed the deal for Patricia O'Grady's side.

Both sides had tasted defeat last weekend and so victory was imperative to keep their aspirations of making the top three of Group 1 and securing a place in at least the quarter-finals alive.

This weekend's fixtures sees Cork take on Limerick in Páirc Uí Rinn and Offaly while Wexford square up in Innowate Park, Wexford.

Cork will go into this game with confidence after a strong win over Tipperary on the opening weekend. This will either be a humdinger or Cork will win comfortably. Twice Limerick took Cork last year before the game that really mattered in Páirc Uí Rinn – the final game of the group series.

Cork inflicted a 3-17 to 1-9 defeat on the visitors with that winning margin flattening Limerick.

I know Cork will be itching for another go after their Munster final defeat and in the expansive Páirc they should prove too much for the Munster champions.

Limerick will see this as a must-win game for them.

The winners of each group will head

straight for the semi-final while second and third placed will go into a quarter-final tie.

Cork will be favourites to top group 2 while it'll be a close call between Offaly, Limerick, Tipperary and Wexford as to who will make two and three on the list.

For that reason, Limerick must throw the kitchen sink at Cork.

After a disappointing finish to their league campaign, Wexford will be eager to put on a good display in front of a home crowd and start their campaign with a win.

However, it won't be easy as they come up against an Offaly team who are full of confidence after their impressive display against Limerick.

Offaly's win was by the narrowest of margins and they know another win for them could help them secure a place in the knockout stages.

GALWAY were coming off a 10-week lay-off since losing the league semi-final to Kilkenny when they faced a Dublin side last weekend who had competed in the Leinster championship and enjoyed an opening All-Ireland group victory over Clare the week previously.

It's therefore no surprise that Galway were sluggish to begin with but they ended up with a comprehensive victory.

Faye McCarthy ended up as Dublin's leading scorer with a goal and four points.

The goal arrived from a long distance free and gave the hosts a six-point advantage at the Parnell's ground but two goals from Aoife Donohue before half-time nudged Galway ahead.

Ailish O'Reilly helped herself to 11 points as Galway curtailed Dublin to three second-half white flags and Rebecca Hennelly goaled from a penalty late on to put the seal on a 3-18 to 1-12 win. Galway manager Mark Dunne declared himself unconcerned by the slow start.

“It wasn't lack of effort. It's 10 weeks since we played a game in the league semi-final and you never actually know how that's going to affect you mentally until you get out on the pitch.”

“I thought once we settled in and chipped a few scores away, the team started to do what we've been training to do. The good side of that is that we took a knock and we came back.”

He agreed that Donohue's brace of goals before the break were killer blows.

“They were crucial and we always looked like we had a bit of a threat when we got it up there.”

We were just struggling to get it up there I suppose. It was a bit stop-start at times but it was a perfect time to get them.”

While conscious that there is a long way to go in the competition, Dunne was very satisfied with the result.

“It's great. I suppose we were that eager waiting for it we were over-eager, so it'll be good.”

You'd expect that should settle us going on from here but it's only one win.

It's a competitive championship, it's a competitive group so there's a few things we've to learn from today but if you can't enjoy the wins, there's no point.”

Clare bounced back after their first-round defeat to Dublin. With Chloe Morey on target from frees and play she struck 15 points to give Clare's championship hopes a real lift with a 2-19 to 3-9 win over Waterford at Cusack Park.

Goals from Kate McMahon and Niamh Rockett helped Waterford



# Five teams in round robin contest

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE intermediate camogie championship has just five teams and will be played on a round-robin basis, followed by the semi-finals.

Last year's junior A county champions, Newtownshandrum, return to the intermediate grade, after a short sojourn at junior A level.

Enniskeane, having lost out in last year's final to Blackrock, will be focused on going one better this year. Newcestown won the league title with nine points to spare over Enniskeane. Now in their second season down at intermediate level, they will be hoping to capture the title and return to senior B grade. Their minor team were crowned minor A league champions.

Enniskeane have excellent players in Cork senior, Orla Cronin, and in Orla Coughlin and Louise Mannix, and they will be determined to win this year.

Tracton and Sliabh Rua will be hoping to emerge from what is a very small group of just five clubs who will battle it out for the title. Games will be played on a round-robin basis, followed by the semi-finals.

The opening round gets underway on Monday next, June 26, when Newtownshandrum take on Newcestown; the following night, Sliabh Rua meet Tracton.

Round two is on July 11, when Tracton and Newtownshandrum clash. On July 17, Enniskeane get their campaign underway against Sliabh Rua.

There are two games in round three on July 2: Enniskeane against Tracton and Newcestown against Sliabh Rua. In round four, on August 1, Tracton meet Newcestown and Enniskeane meet Newtownshandrum. The last rounds are on August 23 and 24, a repeat of the league final, with Newcestown meeting Enniskeane, while Newtownshandrum take on Sliabh Rua.

On their impressive league form, Newcestown will go in as favourites to take the title. They are building a strong base with their U14s, having won the division two Cork Féile and their minor team is very successful.

In round-robin championships, clubs have four games before the semi-finals. Holidays and unforeseen circumstances all combine to make it a little bit harder, with so many games to be played.

It is a pity that the intermediate champions group is so small and maybe the time has come for a change. Several minor sides would benefit hugely by making the brave step up. They would get better-quality games at a higher level and this would, in turn, make the intermediate grade better, but that is something for another day. For now, we look ahead to the championship.



The Sarsfields team that won the Féile last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Tom Beary

# Sars delight in successive titles

**SARSFIELDS made it back-to-back Division 1 Féile na nGael titles in scorching heat last weekend.**

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

They enjoyed a few days of camogie and confidently retained their crown.

Sars were hosted by the St Martin's, Lynch, Eve McMahon, Caragh Byrne, Saoirse Desmond, Tara Elliott, Caoimhe Galvin, and Megan Sheehan were all to the fore.

They got the defence of the title off to a great start as they overcame Glynn/Barntown on a 1-10 to 0-1 score line with Orlaith Mullins, Cliona Lynch, Katlyn Sheehan, Evie Twomey and Olivia McAllen all on the score sheet.

In their second game, Sars proved much too strong for Annacathay as

they notched up 6-10 whilst keeping a clean score sheet. Mullins, McAllen, Lynch, Eve McMahon, Caragh Byrne, Saoirse Desmond, Tara Elliott, Caoimhe Galvin, and Megan Sheehan were all to the fore.

Saturday saw St Martin's provide the opposition in Buncloody and again Sars were far too strong notching up 1-12 to St Martin's 1-0 as they secured themselves a quarter-final spot against Dublin representatives Lucan Sarsfields. Again the Sars defence was on top as they conceded no score and with their attack notching up 3-4 a

semi-final place was secured.

Sunday saw the squad head to Ferns for their semi-final outing and here it was a real test as Scariff battled to the finish in a tough contest. It was nip and tuck all through with scores hard to come by.

At half-time Sars led 1-4 to 0-3 with Cliona Lynch, Gaby Cashman and Katlyn Sheehan prominent. Scariff narrowed the gap to a point with an early second half goal and with just a point between the sides the game was up for grabs.

Sars responded with points from Olivia McAllen, Cliona Lynch, and Orlaith Mullins but Scariff battled back with a point and a late goal to ensure a nervous finish until Sars held out on a 2-6 to 2-4 scoreline to book a final spot

against Tipperary side Knockavilla.

Playing with the wind in the opening half of the final Sars got off to a great start with an early goal Evie Twomey goal and holding the upper hand they picked off points. McAllen, Lynch, Katlyn Sheehan and Mullins added to the tally and with Evie Twomey grabbing her second goal Sars were in control as they led 2-9 to 0-1 at the break.

Knockavilla came up against a determined Sarsfields defence in the second half. And such was their dominance Knockavilla only added a point to their tally as Sars ran out winners on a 2-13 to 1-2 score line.

A huge achievement for Sarsfields, well done to the players and mentors who ensured the title was retained in such splendid fashion

## Sarah remembered by Blarney club tournament

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TODAY, Blarney camogie club honour the memory of one of their former players, Sarah Buckley, who died in October, 2009.

Sarah loved camogie and being on the playing field. The daughter of Ray and Margaret, from Blarney, Sarah was a huge GAA follower and spent all of her time playing camogie with her friends on the U14 team.

During her illness, Sarah was a patient in the Crumlin Hospital, in Dublin, and she was visited by the Cork senior camogie team, led by their 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 over an 18-month period.

To honour her memory, the club, in consultation with the Buckley family, organised a very successful U14 tournament. The first one was held just nine

months after Sarah's death and it has since become an annual event.

Sarah was an under-14 player. Every year since the tournament's inception, the same four clubs have participated in it, with Blarney being joined by their good friends St Finbarr's, Ballinascarty, and Glen Rovers to compete for the Sarah Buckley Memorial Cup and Shield. All participating clubs are honored to help commemorate the memory of such a wonderful young camogie player.

Every year, the clubs look forward to their trip to Blarney and it is always a great occasion, as the teams battle it out to take the title. Game are always hugely competitive and they will be twenty minutes

aside. In the event of a draw, five minutes aside of extra-time will be played.

Two pitches will be in operation and this speeds up the day for the youngsters and avoids teams hanging around, while other games are played. Proceedings will get underway at 1pm, and pitch two, which is just across from the main Blarney GAA pitch, will see the host club, Blarney, meet last year's winners, Glen Rovers.

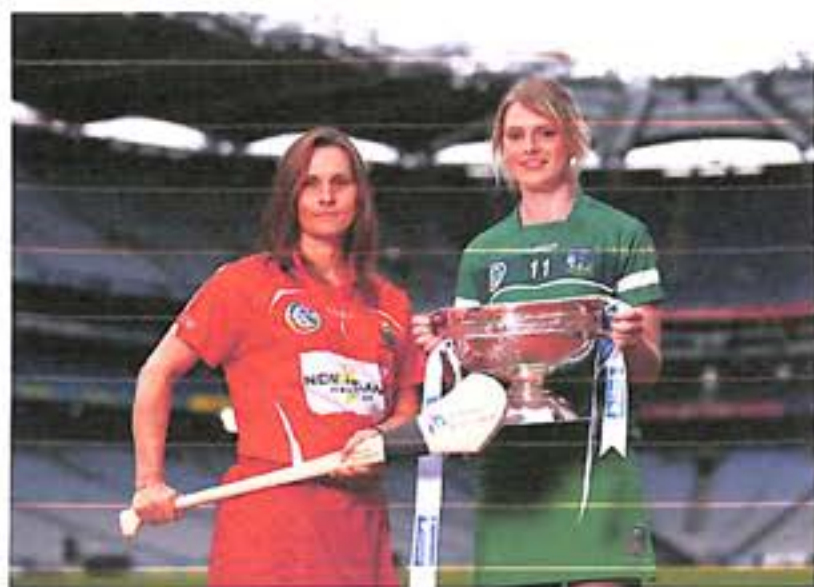
On the main Blarney GAA pitch, St Finbarr's and Ballinascarty will play at the same time. The losing teams will meet in the shield final, with the winners contesting the cup final.

A lot of hard work goes into the day: the Blarney ladies ensure everybody is well looked after, whilst Gerard Casey, Ann Coleman, and Dave Bannon and the club do huge work to ensure the success of the day.



## TEAM NEWS: Cork missing key stars ahead of Limerick clash

By Camogie Press  
Posted 23/06/2017



A big crowd is expected in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday for the clash of Munster champions Limerick and Cork in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship. The home side, no doubt, will be seeking revenge since losing that historic provincial final. Interestingly, this is the seventh meeting of the teams in the past two years, sharing three wins apiece to date.

The Shannonsiders, who are captained by Ahan's Niamh Mulcahy, made a disappointing start to their campaign suffering a narrow one-point loss to Offaly in Round 1. This year they welcome back Sarah Carey to her familiar centre-back position, and manager John Tuohy is boosted as well by the return of 2016 captain Lorraine McCarthy who has recovered from a cruciate injury. Fiona Hickey is also available for this crucial tie having missed the Offaly game as she was on her honeymoon.

Several of the victorious All-Ireland Minor team from 2014 are now regulars in the Senior lineout - the likes of Laura O'Neill, Sínead McNamara, Karen O'Leary, Caoimhe Costelloe, Deborah Murphy and Rebecca Delee. The 2017 Minor captain and 2016 Soaring Star nominee Dearbhla Egan has made a few starts too this season in attack. Management can also call on Niamh Ryan and Caoimhe Lyons who were part of the UL Ashbourne winning side in February. But Máiréad Ryan who impressed in the league has a knee injury while Marguerite McCarthy misses out as well.

Meanwhile, Cork have enjoyed a positive start to the championship following their victory over Tipperary. They are captained by Inniscarra's Rena Buckley, and the high profile dual player's sole focus this season is Camogie. However, it is still unclear if Brieghe Corkery will return - the Cloughduv player has not been involved with either code yet this year.

However, and despite some of the intermediate players not being available due to their away fixture with Carlow, Haudie Murray's squad should be formidable opponents. Orla Cotter, Hannah Lacey, Amy O'Connor, Sarah

and Libby Coppinger were among the score getters against the Blue and Gold and they should be to the fore again.

Julia White and Pamela Mackey are both out with leg injuries though. Mackey is continuing her rehab but this match may come too soon for her. Her twin sister Katrina will face a late fitness test, as will Eimear O'Sullivan. Chloe Sigerson and Lauren Homan will be looking forward to getting back to the action after completing their Leaving Cert this week.

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship Group 2: Cork v Limerick, Páirc Uí Rinn, Saturday June 24th, 2.30pm, Referee: Pádraic McNamara (Clare)

## Ball in Cork court for Carlow game

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**TODAY**  
Liberty Insurance  
All-Ireland Intermediate  
Championship  
Carlow v Cork, 2.30pm

WHEN the sides met two months ago in the Littlewoods Division 2 League semi-final Cork's ability to notch up an impressive 18 points to Carlow's 1-7 helped them secure a place in the league final where they overcame Derry.

In round one of the championship Cork were impressive as they survived the challenge posed by Galway. Two second-half goals helping Cork put the game out of Galway's reach with Rachel O'Shea and Caroline Sugrue striking to give Cork the upper hand.

Carlow got their campaign off to a start when they took on Down where it finished level, 3-11 apiece. Carlow have made steady improvements, their minors have taken back to back All-Ireland Minor C titles and club side Myshall were crowned intermediate club champions. The Premier Junior title was captured last September and there is huge optimism in the county as the profile of the game rises.

With four wins from five games in the league they enjoyed a good campaign and they will be hoping to build on this and emerge from the group and book themselves an All-Ireland semi-final spot. Against Down Elenore Treacy hit an impressive 1-6 and all through the league campaign and last year's championship she has been their standout forward.

They recovered from an eight-point deficit to snatch a draw against Down and in doing so showed tremendous battling qualities. Mark Brennan will look forward to the challenge the league champions will pose to his sides but knows they cannot afford a lapse similar to their last out against Down.

Cork today even more important. Limerick's defeat makes their encounter with Cork today even more important. They certainly won't want two defeats on the trot. You would expect they'd have the belief that they can win this game after beating Cork three times in the past two seasons. But in Cork's home patch and in championship mode, Cork should take the points.

There are still doubts around Pam Mackey and Eimear O'Sullivan, the former out with a broken leg since Cork's league game with Kilkenny and the latter with a hamstring strain. Both players would be a big loss. There is a good chance that Pam will make it and Paudie Murray

will give her as much time as possible before deciding his lineout. Leanne O'Sullivan is the obvious choice to come in and with a bit of reshuffling Lauren Homan, who impressed when introduced against Tipperary, could also be handed a starting slot.

Julia White is out for another three weeks. On her day, her first touch, lightness of feet, and speed is fantastic. Julia needs consistent game time to get her back to her best after missing the past couple of months so the sooner she returns to full training and competitive action the better.

If Cork remain disciplined and get first to the ball in order to cut out conceding frees then this game is only going in their direction. 1-13 to 0-14 was the score when Limerick took the Munster title. Eleven of their points came from free-taker Niamh Mulcahy. She is the best around.

If Cork's work-rate is where it should be, they will win with a bit to spare.

## Niamh Mulcahy looking for consistency from Limerick

By Camogie Press  
Posted 22/06/2017



By Daraugh Ó Conchúir

NIAMH MULCAHY is looking for greater consistency from Limerick as they bid to resuscitate their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship ambitions against Cork in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

John Tuohy's women lost to the Leesiders in the National League Semi-Final but beat them to secure an historic Munster Championship victory earlier this month.

They fell to Offaly in their opening Group 2 outing of the All-Ireland Championship however and with Wexford and Tipperary to come after this weekend, their backs are already up against the wall.

The Shannonsiders have been in Division 1's last four for three consecutive seasons but failed to translate that spring form to the summer in 2015 and 2016, despite the brilliance of Mulcahy. The captain is hoping that this year will be different and that perhaps the Munster Championship success will bolster their belief.

"It was massive" Mulcahy declares. "The county had never won a senior title be it League, Championship or Munster Championship. I suppose you can only be the first team to do something once and it was nice to be a part of that."

"The last two years we haven't produced anything like the same in the Championship. Winning Munster suggested we were still progressing and hopefully this year, we're looking to be that bit more consistent in Championship."

"This year everyone seems tuned in. We kind of have, I won't call it a Group of Death 'cos both groups are really tough, but on last year's pecking order, the other four teams were four of the top six so we have our work cut out for us and we know that. We're working hard and the way the system is, I know it's a cliché but it's

you have to take every game as it comes. One loss, one slip-up and it puts you under pressure if your aim is to qualify from the group."

The other side of that coin is that the competitiveness means teams invariably take points from one another and so even defeat against Cork, while far from ideal, would mean it is not a lost cause.

"Absolutely. I think most people now prefer this to any sort of a knockout system. It guarantees you games and as a senior intercounty player, that's what you want."

"It's often no team in a group goes unbeaten so if you do have a slip-up it's not the end of the world and you can hopefully rectify it the following week. It's good that the matches are close enough together that you don't have time to dwell on it, be it you have a good result or a bad result. You have to pick yourself up and concentrate on the next game straight away."

June  
2017

## Cork likely to win with a bit to spare over Limerick

TODAY

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior championship:  
Cork v Limerick, Páirc Uí Rinn, 2.30pm

IT'S been a topsy-turvy ride for Limerick's senior camogie panel over the past number of weeks.

Fresh and on a high from their first ever Munster senior championship victory at the expense of Cork, they came back down to earth with a bump a fortnight ago when Offaly snatched a point victory in their opening championship game on Limerick's home turf.

It was a high-scoring game, 3-14 to 2-18, and there was no shame in the defeat, but Limerick would have been hoping to tuck those points safely away. That defeat could prove to be the game that denies them a quarter-final spot come August. The winners of each group will head straight for the semi-final while second- and third-placed will go into a quarter-final tie. Cork will be favourites to top group 2 while it'll be a

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

close call between Offaly, Limerick, Tipperary, and Wexford as to who makes two and three on the list.

Limerick's defeat makes their encounter with Cork today even more important. They certainly won't want two defeats on the trot. You would expect they'd have the belief that they can win this game after beating Cork three times in the past two seasons. But in Cork's home patch and in championship mode, Cork should take the points.

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Julia White is out for another three weeks. On her day, her first touch, lightness of feet, and speed is fantastic. Julia needs consistent game time to get her back to her best after missing the past couple of months so the sooner she returns to full training and competitive action the better.

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If Cork's work-rate is where it should be, they will win with a bit to spare.



# "Cork are playing catch-up" – Amy O'Connor

By Camogie Press  
Posted 24/05/2017



By Daragh O'Conchuir

PACY Cork attacker Amy O'Connor has conceded that Kilkenny hold the whip hand in Camogie right now, after winning the last two League titles and holding the position of firm favourites to retain their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior crown also.

Having known pretty much nothing only success since joining the Cork Senior squad just after her Leaving Cert, and enjoyed her fair share of it before that too in both Camogie and soccer. O'Connor has had a bit of adjusting to do.

The Rebels went into last year's All-Ireland Final with the carrot of securing a third consecutive Championship dangling but they were completely outperformed by their traditional rivals.

They returned this year emboldened, determined to be better and skated through the group stages and Semi-Final of the League.

Once more however, they were unable to escape the Kilkenny shackles in a decider, conceding a goal before they knew the match had even begun and never really landing a blow.

Even when they got things right they were unable to make an imprint. Such as when O'Connor cut back onto her left in the second half and had a shot that was destined for the net sensationally blocked by Catherine Foley. It was that sort of day. It's been that sort of time.

Losing the Munster Final to today's opponents Limerick did little to improve the mood but a win over last year's quarter-finalists Tipperary in the opening round of the All-Ireland Championship got the show back on the road.

"I suppose the League Final didn't go our way really" agrees O'Connor.

"Kilkenny are outstanding to be quite honest with you. They've huge strength in depth at the moment. They've a huge panel and their second team would probably be as good as our first team. They're good all over the pitch and can bring on any one of their panel to do a job for them, which is a huge bonus for them. At the moment, I can't see anyone beating them."

It seems a strange admission, but O'Connor puts it down to realism. That is not to be mistaken with defeatism however. That is not her way.

Having played in a European Championships semi-final at U19 level with the Republic of Ireland – she is on a soccer scholarship at UCC, where she studies pharmacy – and garnered two All-Irelands already despite just turning 21, the St. Vincent's clubwoman has high standards.

Yet she goes as far as to place Galway alongside Kilkenny on the top pedestal, both above Cork right now. The target, she says, is to reach the knockout stages and take it from there.

She may be young but one suspects that O'Connor is not lacking in cuteness.

"Galway seem to be going under the radar too with not many people talking about them. They're a super team and just as good as Kilkenny if you ask me. Those two are definitely the top two in the country at the moment.

"We have a bit of a chasing game to play before we catch up to both of them but we're just taking it week by week and we'll see where it takes us. Our goal, I suppose, is to get out of the group and see how we go."

Limerick will travel to Páirc Uí Rinn today (2.30pm) with plenty of confidence following their recent historic success but Cork got the upper hand in the League Semi-Final and have generally done so in recent years.

O'Connor remains on message though and is taking nothing for granted.

"Limerick will be a huge test for us. They've beaten us in the Munster Final already this year. We've played each other so many times over the last number of years and it's always a tough contest. Niamh Mulcahy is an excellent freetaker, as good as anyone in the country, male or female."

Cork need to be wary. The game of catch-up continues.

Full Fixtures



Susan Kate Brosnan tries to clear past Tracton's Aoibhinn Kidney in the 2015 Intermediate final.

Picture: Des Barry



Caroline Craughan and Anne Cunningham at the Brian Dillon's Camogie Club victory dinner.

Picture: Brian Loughree



## Buckley delighted to beat Limerick

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

"YEAH, we're very happy," stated Cork captain Rena Buckley after Cork's comprehensive victory over Limerick in the All-Ireland championship last Saturday.

"Training has been going well and I suppose we had a bit of a point to prove after the Munster final. Conditions were exceptional and things just fell for us today."

"But you know its early in the year yet, so we'll keep the head down."

Cork's style in the game and their spread of scorers was impressive.

"Absolutely, you'd be very proud of the forwards, they did excellently well."

"I suppose today they had a lot of the ball to be fair and they did very well with it."

"Look, Limerick beat us fair and square in Charleville and we had that in the back of our minds coming in today but there's nothing won in June, we've a long way to go so we'll keep working away."

Buckley agreed that Cork were a different team today than that which took to the field for the Munster final.

"Well conditions are one thing, they would have suited us a lot better today. We're a light fast team and that suits our play."

"If we were playing today on a tighter pitch and it was heavy ground we wouldn't get the scores that we got today so that helped."

"Limerick probably weren't up for the game as much today."

"They got a bit of a setback against Offaly whereas we had a stronger game against Tipperary so things were teed up a bit nicer for us than for them really."

"We're in a strong position now in the round robin system and we have Wexford next week and Offaly after that so that's the first section of the championship."

"We'll sit down after that and see where we're at."

"I wouldn't be getting carried away at this stage."

Today will certainly boost confidence, though, is it a good launching pad as such?

"Absolutely and we've a few to come into the team as well so that's great. Compared to last year we definitely have a couple of more options, like Chloe (Sigerson) played well, Libby (Coppinger) played well, Niamh McCarthy played well up front so that's a big boost to us."

"Limerick are a good team but Galway and Kilkenny are a step ahead of us all at the minute so we'll have to up our game again if we hope to be playing teams on a fine day in September."

"We've got to two finals this year and we lost the two so we're conscious of that and we won't get carried away."

# Magnificent Cork rack up the points

## CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Cork	1-27
Limerick	0-11

**THIS Cork performance, last Saturday, in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Group 2 second round, against Limerick, was one of their best in a long time.**

They obliterated Limerick with magnificent point-scoring. While Limerick were poor, Cork were on fire.

Cork played it fast, long, and often diagonally, splitting Limerick wide open. I can't recall the last time Cork struck seventeen points in a half, and fourteen of those came from play. They finished with 1-27.

Orla Cotter was magnificent, her first touch making it all look so easy. She scored seven opening-half points, four from play. Orla Cronin, Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson also picked off top-class points. Cork were cruising at the break.

In an open, expansive game on the excellent Páirc Uí Rinn pitch, Cork were in full flow. These conditions suit them best. Cork's defence were composed and strong, with Gemma O'Connor, Laura Treacy, and Chloe Sigerson dominating the half-back line. They worked the ball out well, only using the hand pass to get out of trouble. The ball was delivered long, with Aishling Thompson prominent in midfield.

Orla Cotter lined out at right corner-forward, but pulled out as a third mid-fielder/half-forward as soon as the ball was thrown in, leaving Niamh McCarthy and Hannah Looney as a two-player full-forward line. Such was the speed at which Cork attacked and switched the play, it wasn't crowded out on the 40, where player-of-the-match, Cotter, lorded it.

Cork's confidence is growing. Amy O'Connor and Orla Cronin hit some lovely scores, alongside Katrina Mackey, who struck 1-5. O'Connor's speed caused consternation. Orla Cronin, after having a great day out against Tipperary, got four excellent points. Hannah Looney's strength at full forward proved too much for Limerick. Five of Cork's forwards got on



Niamh McCarthy, Cork, skips away from Muireann Creamer, Limerick, in the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Senior Camogie game at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlan

the scoreboard. If I was to be picky, the one concern is that Cork didn't score a few goals, with all their possession. Katrina Mackey scored the one almost on full-time, after two first-half chances went begging. Amy made a brilliant run through, but her hand pass was blocked. And a Hannah Looney shot across goal went narrowly wide, as Niamh McCarthy just missed getting a touch to it. But 27 points is a fantastic return, 19 of them from play. With two wins from two Cork are on their way to a semi-final spot. They play Wexford at home, next Saturday, in round three.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter 0-11 (0-6 f), K Mackey 1-5, O Cronin 0-4, A O'Connor 0-4, H Looney 0-2, A Thompson 0-1.

**Limerick:** N Mulcahy 0-7 (0-6 f), R Delee, O Curtin, C Costelloe, C Lane 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, M Cahillane, L Treacy, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, L Coppinger, A Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, K Mackey, H Looney, N McCarthy, O Cotter.

**Subs:** P Mackey for C Sigerson (51).

**LIMERICK:** L O'Neill, F Hickey, M Creamer, S McNamara, N Ryan, S Carey, J Mulcahy, K O'Leary, C Costelloe, D Murphy, R Delee, N Mulcahy, A Scanlan, O Curtin, D Egan.

**Subs:** M Fitzgerald for N Ryan (33), C Lane for A Scanlan (47), M Quaid for F Hickey (49), N Curtin for O Curtin (54).



Orla Cotter, Cork, shoots, despite the efforts of Judith Mulcahy, Limerick. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Lynch injury overshadows impressive Cork victory

Cork	1-11
Carlow	0-7

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**DIVISION 2 National League Champions** Cork continued their unbeaten championship run as they overcame the challenge posed by Carlow in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate championship at the Netwatch Training Centre grounds at Fenagh on Saturday.

Cork lost the services of defender Lisa Lynch just five minutes into the game with a serious leg injury when the sides were level 0-1 apiece, an injury which saw the Cork player removed to hospital.

Rachel O'Shea opened the Cork account with a pointed free to which Elenore Treacy similarly replied for Carlow before the injury saw Cork lost the service of Lynch.

It was close all through the opening half as the

sides exchanged points. Elenore Treacy kept Carlow in the contest with four pointed frees whilst Lisa Abbey had what was to be their only score from play. Keeva McCarty pointed two Cork frees and with Hayley Ryan adding one Cork were on level before Elenore Treacy edged the home side back in front and it was 0-5 to 0-4 in Carlow's favour at the interval.

On the resumption Carlow stretched the advantage with Elenore Treacy again showing her accuracy, pointing a free Cork replied before Treacy had what was to be Carlow's last score of the game.

With Carlow failing to breach the Cork defence from play, Cork were gaining a grip and 45 minutes in they hit the front with Linda Collins rounding her marker and finishing superbly to the net. From here

on in Cork took control hitting six points without reply as the closed the game out.

Caroline Sugrue had two points in a row and with Keeva McCarthy, Linda Collins, Kaitlin Hickey and Collins all on target Cork finished superbly ensuring they go top of the group with three games to go.

**Scorers for Cork:** L Collins 1-2, K McCarthy 0-3 (0-2 f), C Sugrue 0-2, H Ryan, J Crowley, R O'Shea (f) 0-1 each.

**Carlow:** E Treacy 0-6 f, L Abbey 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee, L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh, L Lynch, S Buckley, M Lynch, L Callanan, F Neville, K Hickey, K McCarthy, H Ryan, R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue.

**Subs:** J Crowley for L Lynch (in 5), M Buckley for H Ryan (43), L Kelly for R O'Shea (53).

**CARLOW:** N Doyle, L Nolan, A Ryan, N Canavan, M Nolan, E Brennan, M O'Shea, E Treacy, S Kavanagh, M Doyle, L Abbey, A Breen, T Wilson, R Sawyer, E Cody.

**Subs:** A Murphy for A Breen (53), A Breen for M Nolan (55), E Sinnott for E Cody (56).

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Dublin)

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland SCC Grp 2:** Cork 1-27 Limerick 0-11, Wexford 1-19 Offaly 0-15;  
**ICC Grp 1:** Kildare 3-12 Antrim 3-10, Kilkenny 1-7 Derry 1-13, Tipperary 2-15 Wexford 1-7;  
**Grp 2:** Carlow 0-7 Cork 1-11, Down 2-11 Laois 1-14;  
**U16BCC:** Antrim 3-19 Kilkenny 1-9, Offaly 9-12 Meath 1-8.



# Murray content with Cork's reversal of fortune

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
**Camogie**

Manager Paudie Murray sounded an understandably positive note after Cork turned around their Munster final defeat to Limerick in definitive fashion with a 1-27 to 0-11 victory in their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 2 clash at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Murray had been critical after his charges had failed to reach expected levels both in the provincial decider and the preceding National League final that they lost to Kilkenny.

The St Finbarr's clubman instructed captain Rena Buckley to play with the wind in the first half when she won the toss, having experienced facing the elements in the initial period in their opening round win over Tipperary.

They cut loose and led by 0-17 to 0-5 at the interval, with Amy O'Connor's pace causing a lot of problems, while Orla

Cotter was unerring from placed balls and Katrina Mackey and Orla Cronin were also dangerous.

"It was job done, another game out of the way," was Murray's summation on RedFM. "The group stage is really about getting results and we've two from two. Wexford next week and if we win that, I think it means we're qualified and that's key."

"You look at the Munster final and first of all you look at the referee that day. I think he gave over 40 frees, a stoppage every 38 seconds. They got 1-13, 11 of that from frees and that tells its own story. Today was a different day, the ball was moved a lot quicker and I thought at times we played some very good hurling."

"We played heads-up hurling all over the pitch. We know that Limerick really won't be one of the superpowers. There will be stiffer tests ahead but at the end of the day, it was a good performance and I'm happy with it."

**Cork's Ashling Thompson leaves Limerick's Sinead McNamara in her wake during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork.**

Picture: Jim Coughlan

"We have been training very well. I suppose I get frustrated sometimes that we're not delivering on the pitch on match day but we're starting to put things together now. We're that bit behind Kilkenny the whole time so it's important we use all these games to get better."

Limerick were unable to make any inroads with the wind behind them and again, were overly reliant on Niamh Mulcahy, who ended with



seven points. In contrast, Cork had an impressive spread of scorers as Cotter finished with 0-11 while Mackey, who passed a late fitness test, booted home a late goal to register 1-5. O'Connor and Cronin added four each on a very satisfying day for the Leesiders.

In the group's other game,

Wexford overcame the challenge of Offaly by 1-19 to 0-15. Kate Kelly brought a 21-season run of Championship camogie to an end when announcing her retirement last week but the Model County outfit showed that they still have plenty of firepower against a team that displayed lots of character in the second half and will still hold aspirations of reaching the last six.

Chloe Foxe, Una Leacy, Linda Bolger, and Joanne Dillon were much too hot to handle for the visitors, and Foxe had 1-2 inside four minutes to help Wexford establish a six-point lead.

It was 1-12 to 0-4 at the break but Offaly were much improved in the second half as Arlene Watkins, Oragh Kirwan, and Ann Marie Guinan cut the deficit but Leacy tagged on four points to bring her tally to seven and Dillon finished with four, while Mary Leacy and Ciara Storey excelled in defence to hold off the charging Faithful girls.

## Cork's Orla Cronin unconcerned by quick turnaround

By Camogie Press  
Posted 29/06/2017



By Daragh Ó Conchúir

THERE is a full programme of matches this weekend in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, which means that Group 2 teams Cork, Wexford and Limerick face a seven-day turnaround.

The first two play each other at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday (2.30pm) so any perceived disadvantage or advantage does not apply.

Both sides have 100% records at this early stage, as Wexford got their campaign under way last Saturday with a good victory over Offaly while Cork were much too strong for Limerick to move them top of the table with two wins from two outings.

Something has to give and Wexford will not want for motivation, having been touched off by the Leesiders in extra-time in last year's All-Ireland Semi-Final.

If there are any worries about not having enough time to prepare for such a clash, Cork's Orla Cronin isn't displaying any signs of it. The Enniskeane forward points out that players relish the continuity of games.

"We won't take it handy but we'll try recover as best we can and look to Wexford" said Cronin on Red FM. "It's summer, it's peak season. It's when we want to be playing and we're looking forward to it."

There were signs in the demolition of Limerick that Cork were rediscovering their mojo. Manager Paudie Murray expressed satisfaction afterwards that the players were finally transferring their work on the training paddock to match day and Cronin believes that the hard yards under the instruction of Murray and his coaching staff is paying off.

The 21-year-old scored four points from play, a tally equalled by Amy O'Connor, while Katrina Mackey finished with 1-5 and the ultra-reliable Orla Cotter accumulated 11 points. Finding scores from more areas of the pitch is still vital, says the Leesiders.

"The last time we met Limerick in the Munster Final in Charleville. Losing to them stuck to us and we weren't going to forget it. A lot of work went into training after that. All the hard work and training paid off."

"There was savage defending from the backline and it just set us up in the forwards. Lovely pitch in Páirc Uí Rinn, lots of space and play the wings. When we started at that pace, picking off the scores, it was never look back from there."

"We have worked on our shooting. You can't be depending on one or two players. When there's a lot of running involved in our game, one to 15 have to be able to take their scores."



*If there is ever a global shortage of butter then Cork camogie star Amy O'Connor (21) will hold all the power ....*

**What's the one thing you can't live without?** Oxygen.

**What would I find in your fridge right now?** A lot of butter. I think my mam is afraid that the world is going to have a shortage of butter at some stage.

**Name one element your sport could/should take from another?** Wear shorts instead of skorts! The skorts are not very flattering!

**What do you think about when you're alone in your car?** How long more have I left to drive ... I hate driving.

**Pick two celebrities to be your parents:** I wouldn't change mine for the world.

**What do you think cats dream of?** New ways to annoy people and be sneaky.

**If you could play any other sport for one day what would it be?** Tennis, but I'm not sure if I'd be any good at it though.

**If you joined a circus, what would you perform?** Nothing too acrobatic anyway because I'm not very flexible!

**If you could get rid of one county in Ireland what would it be and why?** Dublin is probably everyone's answer, isn't it? We all know that Cork's the real capital.

**What would you do if you found a penguin in your freezer?** I'd probably scream!

Pacy Cork attacker Amy O'Connor is an all-round sports star who has excelled both in camogie and soccer. Having played in a European Championships semi-final at U19 level with the Republic of Ireland — she is on a soccer scholarship at UCC, where she studies pharmacy — and garnered two All-Irelands already despite just turning 21, the St Vincent's clubwoman has high standards, and will be a key player for the Rebels in this year's senior camogie championship.



# Mulcahy dynasty continuing to produce the goods for Limerick

**Cliona Foley**

Family dynasties are nothing new in the GAA but inter-county camogie is particularly loaded with them at the moment.

Most prominent are the three Farrell sisters for All-Ireland champions Kilkenny, the Mackeys in Cork, the McGraths of Galway and the Cassidy's of Derry, who helped Slaughtneil to this year's surprise All-Ireland club title.

Three Mulcahys started for Limerick when the Shannonsiders won the 2014 All-Ireland Intermediate Championship but the eldest of the trio, wing-back Claire, is watching captain Niamh and corner-back Judith from the sidelines now after a very happy addition to the family.

Twins Killian and Finn were born six months ago and, given that her husband is Leinster and Ireland hooker Sean Cronin, they'll surely be blessed with sporting genes.

Claire doesn't care what the twins grow up to play just as long as they have fun and, ideally, in a team situation.

"If they are sporty I'd really love them to be involved in team sport rather than an individual one because I know just how much enjoyment that brings," she says.

"Working with a group of people is such a fantastic thing, as we've found with sport. You have so much fun and make such great friends when you're part of a team."

She's back training again locally with a club in Dublin where she's now living but also back travelling down to Limerick to resume her club commitments with their native Ahane.

Sporting genes run in the Mulcahys' family as their father Ger and their mother Vera (nee Mackey, a niece of legendary hurler Mick) were both prominent players for Limerick.

Vera played in two All-Ireland club finals and in the 1980 All-Ireland senior final where



Sisters and Limerick camogie players, from left, Judith Mulcahy, and Claire Cronin, with sons Finn and Cillian, age six months, and Niamh Mulcahy, at the announcement that the WPGA has joined forces with Pat The Baker in a five-year revenue-sharing arrangement that will see a percentage of all sales go to the WPGA Player Development Programme. The deal, the first of its kind for women in sport in Ireland, means players in every county squad will be supported off the pitch through WPGA services, including careers advice, scholarships, personal coaching, counselling and skills workshops, all of which will help players reach their potential in their professional and personal lives.

Picture: Seb Daly

And that historic provincial victory in Charleville came back to haunt them last weekend when the Rebels struck back with a vengeance and beat them heavily in the group stage of the All-Ireland Championship.

After suffering a one-point defeat to Offaly in their first game Limerick must now win their two remaining Group 2 games against Tipperary and Wexford to make the quarter-finals.

That means today's clash with Tipp in Thurles (3pm), which has been moved from The Ragg to form a double-header with the Tipperary v Westmeath hurling qualifier, is an absolute must-win.

Manager John Tuohy has admitted that their 3-14 to 2-18 loss to Offaly was particularly costly.

"We targeted that game as a win and didn't get it. Our form has dropped a little since we won the Munster title," he said. "That can happen to sides after they win something they've been trying to win for years but now the focus has to be on our performance against Tipperary."

The WPGA represents 1,300 players in 55 inter-county squads and its new five-year partnership with Pat the Baker is based on a percentage of sales of their new 'Be Healthy' wholemeal loaf.

Limerick were pipped by Cork in a replay.

The sisters tease their dad, outflanked on all sides by his wife and three daughters, that he always wanted a son and has finally got his wish with the arrival of twin grandsons.

The importance of close family support for all busy women's players was underlined this week when the Women's Gaelic Players' Association (WPGA) announced a new sponsorship deal with Pat The Baker.

The launch featured several inter-county players and their families, including phenomenal Sligo footballer Etna Flanagan, a 41-year-old mum of four who will be lining out against Leitrim tomorrow in the Connacht intermediate final.

With only five years between the three Mulcahys did they fight growing up?

"Oh yes, of course!" youngest Judith (25) laughs. "We still fight, mostly over who drives to training. Myself and Niamh are both living at home at the moment and we both hate driving. And then there's the 'where's my gear?' stuff before training. All the usual things with sisters."

They certainly couldn't be more different in their career choices which reflect the eclectic profile of women's inter-county squads these days.

Claire is a marketing executive, Niamh is a national school teacher and Judith studied public health and is a primary care co-ordinator in Newcastlewest.

Their particularly tight-knit family and closeness in age definitely helped develop their game.

"We were always practising together and going training together," Judith recalls.

"We played a bit of everything growing up. I focussed on basketball and camogie and only gave up the basketball in first year in college because it clashed with the camogie."

"Niamh played a bit of international soccer and Claire played hockey for Munster and with Pembroke in Dublin. You'd have those mad weekends where we'd all be rushing off to a match, especially when we were younger."

"Mum would be gone with Niamh, Dad would be bringing Claire somewhere and I'd be

thrown off somewhere else but we weren't the only family like that," she stresses.

She was in her usual number seven spot when Limerick caused a sensation this summer by beating Cork 1-13 to 0-14 to win their first Munster senior title.

Niamh was also her usual metronomic self that day with a tally of 0-11 from frees.

Having pushed Cork to within two points last year it was not a total shock, especially as Limerick have been bolstered by the return of Sarah Carey to centre-back this year.

Other key players are Karen O'Leary, Rebecca Delee, Caoimhe Costelloe and Caoimhe Lyons but losing Mairead Ryan to a recent cruciate injury was a blow.

## Camogie previews

### TODAY

**Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship Group 1**  
Galway v Waterford, Kenny Park, Athenry, 3.45pm, (C. Egan, Cork).

Galway backed up their impressive league form with a comprehensive victory over Dublin in their opening championship match.

The Tribeswomen racked up an impressive 3-18 against the Dubs and manager Mark Dunne will be hoping for more of the same from his side. They face a Waterford side who have struggled so far in this year's campaign with back-to-back losses against tough opposition in Kilkenny and Clare. The Déise will hope for a big performance when they travel to the West aiming to keep their championship quarter-final hopes alive.

**Verdict:** Galway  
Kilkenny v Clare, Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, 5.00pm, (O. Elliot, Antrim).

\*Double-header with Round 1 All-Ireland Hurling Championship Qualifier Kilkenny v Limerick @ 7.00pm\*  
Reigning All-Ireland champions Kilkenny will be looking to add to their opening day success against Waterford when they face the Banner County today. The Cats are full of confidence having already secured this year's League title and it will take a very impressive outfit to take them down. Clare quickly bounced back from their opening day defeat to Dublin with a much-needed victory over Waterford. Clare's form has been

mixed so far this year and they will need their very best if they are going to shock Kilkenny.

**Verdict:** Kilkenny  
**Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship Group 2**  
Cork v Wexford, Pairc Uí Rinn, Cork, 2.30pm, (R. Kelly, Kildare). This is a crunch tie in Group 2 between two heavyweights who have both started their campaigns with a 100% record. Cork have been far superior in both outings in this year's Championship with wins against Tipperary and most recently against Limerick. Orla Cotter and Katrina Mackey have

been in fine form for the Rebels. Wexford got their campaign off to winning ways last weekend with an impressive display against Offaly as they began the post Kate Kelly era. Wexford will be looking for revenge on the Rebels after they knocked them out at the semi-final stage in last year's Championship.

**Verdict:** Cork  
Tipperary v Limerick, Semple Stadium, Thurles, 3.00pm, (E. Cassidy, Derry).

\*Double-header with Round 1 All-Ireland Hurling Championship Qualifier between Tipperary v

Westmeath @ 5.00pm\*

This is a crucial match in the battle for a quarter-final spot in Group 2, with both sides hoping that they can register their first wins of the campaign. Brian Boyle's Tipperary side were beaten by Cork in their opening match and he will be hoping they bounce back quickly with a win over their neighbours. Limerick manager John Tuohy would have been disappointed after last weekend's comprehensive loss to Cork having already lost their opening game to Offaly.

**Verdict:** Tipperary



**CORK** camogie star Orla Cronin was surprised at how comprehensive last Saturday's All-Ireland championship win over Limerick was, but hopes that the Rebels can maintain their momentum this week as Wexford loom on the horizon.

Given that they lost to the Shannonsiders in the Munster final in May, Cork might have been expected a stiff test in their second round-robin game in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday, but this was almost all-one way traffic.

Cronin scored four as Cork recorded a 19-point win, having led by 0-17 to 0-15 at half-time. The Enniskeane attacker admitted that she didn't expect such a lack of resistance.

'I suppose we didn't,' she said.

'The last time we played them was in the Munster final and it stuck to us, we weren't going to forget it.'

'A lot of hard training has gone into the last few weeks and we knew today that we had to get the win. I think it all really paid off and it was good to see that.'

Along with Cronin, Amy O'Connor also scored four points while Katrina Mackey got 1-5 and Orla Cotter was her usual reliable self from dead balls, contributing 11 points. It wasn't all about the forward though, as Cronin made clear.

'There was savage defending from the backs and it just set us up in the forward line then,' she said.

'Páirc Uí Rinn is a lovely pitch, you can play the wings, and it just came off for us. When we started at that pace, kicking off scores, we never looked back.

'We've worked on our shooting, you can't just be depending on one player or two, you don't win games with that. When there's a lot of running involved in our play, we need to have players who can take their scores and we showed

# Ruthless Rebels rout Treaty

## CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Four-middable:** Cork and Enniskeane camogie star Orla Cronin scored four points in the impressive championship win against Limerick last weekend.



that there today.'

Having had a nine-point win over Tipperary in their opener, Cork had a small margin for error while Limerick came in off the back of a loss to Offaly. The visitors played against the wind in the first half and saw their opponents quickly move out of sight.

Cork had a five-point lead by the 11th minute and Cotter (two), O'Connor and Cronin had them 0-11 to 0-2 in front by the 17th minute. Limerick's Niamh Mulcahy and Cotter exchanged placed balls before Rebecca Delee pointed for Limerick to register their fourth on 20. Cotter showed hard work and effort to point on 21 and with it bring Cork's tally to 13 before Hannah Looney got on the scoreboard on 24.

Mulcahy slotted over a close-range free five minutes before

half-time but Cronin, Ashling Thompson and Cotter ensured Cork were 12 ahead at the break.

The second half resumed with Cork maintaining their dominance on the game and they had five more on the board before Limerick opened their account. Two Cotter frees either side of a Mulcahy placed ball put Cork 0-24 to 0-7 to the good on 43 minutes and though Mulcahy and Caoimhe Costelloe reduced the margin for Limerick, they were only consolation scores.

Cotter and O'Connor slotted over two more before Mackey goaled when she kicked to the net on 58 after an earlier effort had come back off the upright. Next up is Wexford this weekend, so no time to rest on any laurels.

'We won't take it handy but we'll try to recover as best we can,' Cronin said.

### Senior Camogie C'ship Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	49	21	28	6
Wexford	1	1	0	0	22	15	7	3
Offaly	2	1	0	1	39	45	-6	3
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	10	19	-9	0
Limerick	2	0	0	2	34	54	-20	0

'It's summer, it's peak season, it's when we want to be playing, so we'll be looking forward to it.'

#### Scorers

**Cork:** O Cotter 0-11 (6f), K Mackey 1-5, O Cronin, A O'Connor 0-4 each, H Looney 0-2, A Thompson 0-1.

**Limerick:** N Mulcahy 0-7 (6f), R Delee, O Curtin, C Costelloe, C Lane 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Murray, L O'Sullivan, R Buckley, M Cahalane, L Treacy, G O'Connor.

**C Sigerson:** L Coppinger, A Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, H Looney, N McCarthy, K Mackey.

**Sub:** P Mackey for Sigerson (50).

**Limerick:** L O'Neill, F Hickey, M Creamer, S McNamara, N Ryan, S Carey, J Mulcahy, K O'Leary, C Costelloe, D Murphy, R Delee, N Mulcahy, A Scanlan, O Curtin, D Egan.

**Subs:** M Fitzgerald for Ryan (32), C Lane for Scanlan (45), M Quaid for Hickey (48), L Leonard for Curtin (55), S Collins for Egan (55).

**Referee:** F McNamara (Clare).



**Lygarvan players** after taking on their challenges at the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Squad Goals semi-final in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. The competition was designed to identify the best camogie players.

Picture: Tommy Dickson/Inpho



July  
2017

## Golf classic to raise funds for camogie ground

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TO raise funds for the ongoing development of Castle Road, the Cork Camogie Board are holding a golf classic on Friday, July 7, at the Muskerry Golf Club.

Cork Camogie's dream to have a home of their own was fulfilled by the opening of the superb facility at Castle Road. It is one of the best playing surfaces in the country.

The facility was financed by fundraising and grants, enabling Cork Camogie to own the facility and push on with fundraising for the third and final phase of the project.

Dressing rooms and a club house are being built and have an estimated opening date of mid-July.

Camogie has been played in Cork since 1905 and 65 clubs are now registered in the county.

They have membership of in excess of 10,000 and for Cork Camogie to have a home of its own is a huge achievement, and testament to the huge voluntary efforts of camogie personnel down through the years.

Since the facility opened, teams have been changing in Portakabins, and while they are invaluable, they are not suitable for the needs of the growing numbers of players using the facility.

At the moment, the board have to allow three hours between games to ensure teams can get changed and ready.

Croke Park won't allow Senior National League games to be played at the best playing surface in Ireland, because the facilities don't meet their requirements.

The building of dressing rooms will alleviate this problem and will ensure more high-profile games can be played on what is a superb pitch.

The board's golf classic, next Friday, is at Muskerry Golf Club, Cork, and is an 18-hole three-person team event open to males and females or mixed stableford. There is a separate competition for teams with golfers without official handicaps - (H/Cap limited to gents = 18, ladies = 24).

Tee times are available from 8am to 5pm, excluding 12.30pm to 1.30pm, which is reserved for members. The cost per team is €200 and this will include a meal.

The board are also seeking sponsorship for tee boxes, at €50, so, if individuals or companies cannot enter a team, they may consider helping the board by sponsoring a tee.

Billy Dillon is the man to contact, on 087-3287340, for people who would like to support the Cork camogie venture.



Amy O'Connor, Cork, is challenged by Muireann Creamer of Limerick.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.

# U16 sides start championship run

**THE championship begins for the Cork U16 A and B teams tomorrow when the A side take on Clare and the B squad travel to meet Dublin in the first game in the round-robin section of matches.**

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

had five points to spare over Tipperary.

In the run up to that final they disposed of the challenges of Waterford and Limerick. All eyes are now firmly focused on the All Ireland series and having reached the semi-finals last year Cork will be hoping to go one better this year.

Cork have prepared well for this campaign but it will be tough there are major injury worries to Molly Lynch and Player of the Match in the Munster final Ellen Murphy and both are unlikely to figure whilst Hannah

O'Leary and Ciara O'Sullivan will both be marked absent due to holidays.

Cork, however, have a strong panel and with players such as Emma Murphy, Ali Smith, Fiona Keating Lisa O'Riordan and Ciara Ring they will apply huge pressure on the home side as they bid to get their campaign off to a good start.

Clare failed to qualify for the Munster final losing out by three goals to Tipperary at the semi-final stage. They participated in the shields final which was for the defeated semi-finalists where they defeated Waterford Player of the match in the Shield final Lorna McNamara Gretta Hickey, Aoibhinn Ryan Rachel Daly and Fiona O'Brien will spearhead the Clare challenge.

The Cork B side made it a Munster double as they overcame Clare to take the title, the B panel have worked side by side with the A squad and this has proved a huge success, preparations have gone well with several practice games played and they will be hopeful of getting their challenge off to a good start against the Dublin B squad.

Dublin are at a huge advantage because with their A sides also playing at home tomorrow, therefore, they have both squads together. Cork will travel in determined form and look to Lucy Wallace, Tara McCarthy, Eva Rose Boylan and Siobhan O'Donovan to get the day off to a good start.

Cratloe is the venue for the A game at 2.30pm while it's a 3pm start for the B side in O'Toole Park Crumlin.

## Competitive junior B, C championships include second teams

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

teams from Charleville, Ballinascarty, Ballinora, and Cogh. Charleville, Ballinora, and Ballinascarty all enjoyed good league campaigns, which is an indication of the strength of the teams in these clubs.

Last season's junior C champions, Ballinora, are fitting in well at the B grade and they will be hoping to continue their progress come championship.

They begin their campaign against Newcestown on Monday next. On the same night, Glen Rovers travel to league champions, Cogh, St Finbarr's take on Ballincollig, Douglas meet Charleville, St Catherine's head to Ballinascarty, and Inniscarra host

Sarsfields. Many clubs in the junior C championship are also second adult teams and here we have Courcay Rovers Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Valley Rovers, Mallow, St Vincent's, Na Piarasigh, Valley Rovers, and Mallow all fielding their second adult teams.

This year, there are new clubs in the junior A grade and it is great to see Castlemartyr and Kinsale entering teams at adult level for the first time. Kilworth are in their second year at junior level and they are a club working hard to establish the game in their area.

In a short time, they have formed underage and adult sections and they have huge enthusiasm. Ag-hada are making huge strides at underage level and this augurs well for the future of their adult team and their championship gets underway on Tuesday.

THE junior B and C championship are usually hotly contested. This year should be no different.

Many clubs are fielding second adult teams and, at junior B level, there are twelve teams divided into two groups of six. As in the junior A championship, the top two will go to the semi-final, after the round-robin stages.

Of the twelve teams entered, eight are the second adult teams of the clubs.

Ballincollig, Douglas, Newcestown, St Finbarr's, St Catherine's, Glen Rovers, Sarsfields, and Inniscarra all field two adult teams.

It's an indication of the growth in the game that these clubs can put out another 15, but they face tough challenges.

They will be playing against first-string adult



# Momentum must be maintained



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**WEXFORD** star, Kate Kelly, announced her retirement recently, having made her championship debut in 1996.

She was at Innovate Wexford Park last Saturday to cheer on her former teammates, as well as her brother, John, who is joint-manager (with Matty Flynn O'Connor), when they faced Offaly in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland championship.

It was Wexford's first outing. With Mags D'Arcy also withdrawing from the squad and with Offaly having beaten Limerick in their opener, there was speculation that last year's semi-finalists might be vulnerable, but they won 1-19 to 0-15.

Chloe Foxe, Una Leacy, Linda Bolger, and Joanne Dillon were too much for the visitors, and Foxe had scored a goal and two points inside four minutes as Wexford established a six-point lead. They were never threatened afterwards, although Offaly did improve considerably after the break.

The goal came as Foxe finished from a Shelley Kehoe side-line and the hosts never looked back. Dillon, Una Sinnott, Bolger, and Leacy also raised white flags, while Offaly had to rely on three converted, placed balls by Arlene Watkins. The score was 1-12 to 0-4 at the break.

Paddy Kirwan's side were much-improved in the second-half, as Watkins, Orlagh Kirwan, and Ann Marie Guinan reduced the deficit, but Leacy was on fire, scoring four more points to bring her tally to seven.

Dillon finished with four, while Mary Leacy and Clara Story excelled in defence to hold off the Faithful girls.

There were signs in the demolition of Limerick that Cork are rediscovering their mojo. Manager, Paudie Murray, said he was pleased that the players were finally transferring their work on the training field to match day.

Just after the final whistle, when emotions are high, might not be the best time to interview a manager. Paudie has often been vocal in his disappointment at Cork's failure to put their game plan into action.

Having been critical of his side's performance against Limerick, in the Munster final recently, and of their failure to reach expected levels, he was far happier last weekend.

Playing with the wind in the opening half, Cork were majestic and led at the break 0-17 to 0-5. Interviewed post-match, Paudie played down the significance of the win.

"It was job done, another game out of the way," he said.

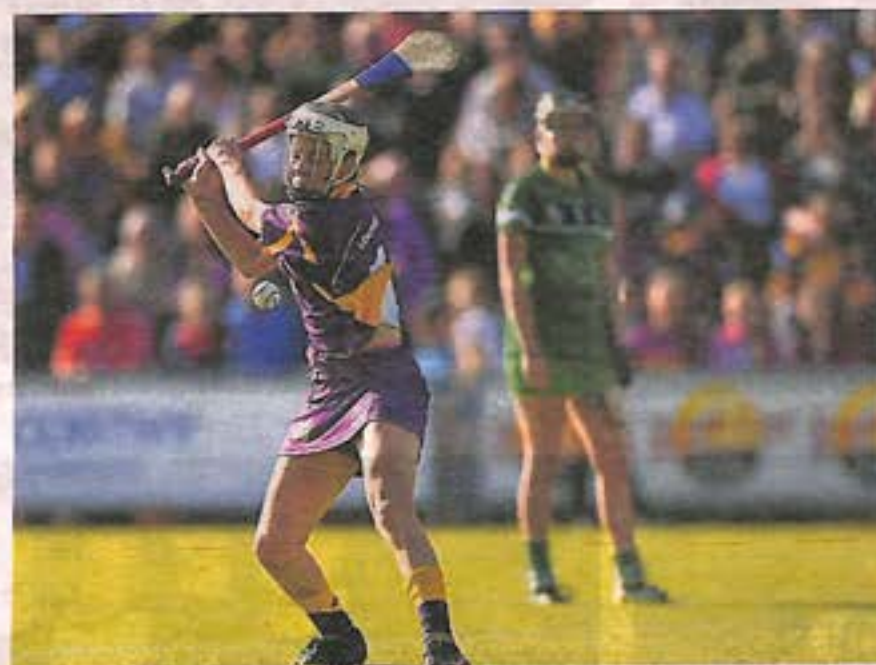
"The group stage is really about getting results and we've two from two. Wexford next week, and, if we win that, think it means we're qualified and that's key, really."

Referring to the swing in the two



Cork's Ashling Thompson in action against Limerick, at Páirc Uí Rinn, last weekend. The Rebels were in top form and take on Wexford this afternoon, also at home.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan



Kate Kelly, Wexford, scores a penalty against Limerick in 2015.

Picture: Matt Browne/SPORTSFILE

said: "You look at the Munster final and, first of all, you look at the referee that day. I think he gave over 40 frees, a stoppage every 38 seconds. They got 1-13, 11 of that from frees, and that tells its own story."

"Today was a different day. The ball was moved a lot quicker and I thought, at times, we played some very good hurling."

"We played heads-up hurling all over the pitch. We know that Limerick really won't be one of the superpowers.

the end of the day, it was a good performance and I'm happy with it."

"We have been training very well. I suppose I get frustrated, sometimes, that we're not delivering on the pitch on match day, but we're starting to put things together now. We're that bit behind Kilkenny the whole time, so it's important we use all these games to get better."

While Cork are in the driving seat for a place in the knockout stages and will be targeting direct qualification to

**“Many feel there were signs in the demolition of Limerick that Cork are rediscovering their mojo.”**

their last two games, against Wexford and Tipperary, to have a chance of reaching the quarters.

This weekend, Galway have home advantage over Waterford, and Clare travel to Nowlan Park, ahead of the Kilkenny versus Limerick hurling clash.

Cork host Wexford in Páirc Uí Rinn, at 2.30pm, while Tipperary and Limerick will battle it out in Semple Stadium, as a curtain raiser to the Tipperary versus Westmeath All-Ireland qualifier.

On song Burns is too hot to handle

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE championships are up and running and as it goes on we will focus on the games as they happen here on our *Evening Echo* camogie pages.

The first game in the Senior B championship saw Barryroe and Brian Dillon's meeting in Enniskeane. Brian Dillon's hit the ground running with two early points Claire Dooley and Sinead Mills on target before Barryroe's Sile Burns replied with a point. Claire Sexton pointed a free and it was point for point before Barryroe's Rachel Sheehy got the game's opening goal and they added to their tally as Sile Burns converted a free.

Both defences came under a lot of pressure but with the Barryroe midfielders moving the ball quickly Sile Burns in the Barryroe inside line enjoyed a lot of possession and she showed her class grabbing her side's second goal. Barryroe kept the pressure on and winning a penalty which Burns converted she followed it up grabbing her hat-trick as Barryroe were in control. Brian Dillon's dug deep and points from Jane Dooley, Sinead Mills and Susan Kate Brosnan narrowed the gap but with Burns pointing it was 4-5 to 0-7 to Barryroe at the break.

The second half was a much closer affair with the wind behind them Brian Dillon's rallied, goals from Jane and Claire Dooley narrowed the gap, and Barryroe again replied but working hard Brian Dillon's got the deficit down to three points. Led by Burns, who had a superb hour, Barryroe finished strong with Claire Sexton adding two points to their tally as they ran out winners with two goals to spare on a 4-10 to 2-10 score line.

In the other Senior B first round clashes Blackrock and Eire Og couldn't be separated in their meeting at Brinney where they shared the points on a scoreline of Blackrock 0-13 Eire Og 2-7. We will hopefully have report on this game next week.

Fr O'Neill's turned it around to run out winners in their opening round clash with Carrigaline in Castle Road, Carrigaline led 1-9 to 1-3 at the break but a strong second half saw Fr O'Neill's run out winners on a 4-10 to 1-13 score line.

Na Piarasigh and Banteer had the honour of getting the Junior A championship up and running and the city side made no mistake as they recorded a comprehensive victory. Stronger in all sectors Na Piarasigh had notched up 2-8 in the opening half with Erin McElhinney, Casey Coleman and Orla Connolly all on target.

They continued to hold the upper hand to run out winners on a 4-11 to 0-1 scoreline and set themselves up nicely for their second game where they will meet Banteer.



# Wexford sunk by rampant Rebels

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Cork** 3-18  
**Wexford** 0-9

**A POWERFUL display by Cork ensured their bid for Liberty Insurance All-Ireland semi-final spot is guaranteed as they demolished Wexford in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.**

For 47 minutes this was Cork at their best as all over the pitch they held the upper hand, their movement on and off the ball was superb, their distribution excellent and they played with purpose and determination.

They did have a lapse in the third quarter but Wexford were simply not at the races as Cork hit them with huge intensity from the throw in.

Cork settled quickly and had registered five attacks before Wexford crossed the half way line as every Cork player sent out the signal they meant business.

With the games first attack, Amy O'Connor landed a point. Shelly Keogh drilled over a point in reply but from here to half time Cork, despite playing against the stiff breeze, were unstoppable.

Orla Cotter pointed a free before adding three from play and with Oral Cronin and Katrina Mackey finding the range Cork were 0-6 to 0-1 ahead at the end of the opening quarter.

With Gemma O'Connor strong in defence, ably assisted by Chloe Sigerson and Pamela Mackey, Wexford found it hard to gain any foothold and Cork had added three points to their tally before Amy O'Connor won a penalty having been hauled down in the square.

Up stepped keeper Aoife Murray to drill the ball to the net, Siona Nolan struck a magnificent long range effort between the posts and as the half time whistle sounded Cork went to the dressing room 1-9 to 0-2 ahead.

With the wind to their backs we expected Cork to run riot in the second half however it was Linda Bolger who had the half opening score converting a Wexford free.

Katrina Mackey and Una Leacy exchanged points before Ashling Thompson had two in row to stretch the Cork



Cork's Orla Cotter bursts past Wexford's Joanne Dillon during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

lead four minutes in but it was to be 13 minutes again before Cork registered a score as Wexford began to gain a grip.

Crowding midfield, they won possession and points from Shelly Kehoe and Linda Bolger (2) gave them a bit of momentum but Cork regained their shape with four unanswered points.

Una Leacy added to the Wexford tally with two in between, Cork did likewise and they finished with a flourish Niamh McCarthy and Leanne O'Sullivan adding goals to send Cork into round four undefeated.

**SCORES FOR CORK:** O. Cotter 0-6, (10-3f's), K. Mackey 0-5, A. Murray (pen), L. O'Sullivan, N. McCarthy 1-0 each, O. Cronin, A. Thompson 0-2 each, A. O'Connor 1-0, Coppinger, G. O'Connor 0-1 each.

**WEXFORD:** U. Leacy 0-3, L. Bolger 0-3 (0-2f's), S. Kehoe 0-2, S. Nolan 0-1.

**CORK:** A. Murray, M. Cahillane, R. Buckley(c), L. Treacy, P. Mackey, G. O'Connor, C. Sigerson, L. Coppinger, A. Thompson, O. Cotter, O. Cronin, H. Looney, K. Mackey, N. McCarthy, A. O'Connor.

**Subs:** L. Homan for A. O'Connor (42), L. O'Sullivan for P. Mackey (58).

**WEXFORD:** N. Pottier, A. Leacy, C. Storey, K. Atkinson, B. Gordon(c), M. Leacy, S. Nolan, A. Cardiff, S. Kehoe, C. Foxe, U. Sinnott, S. Kehoe, L. Bolger, Leacy, J. Dillon.

**Subs:** E. Walsh for C. Foxe (10), S. O'Connor for A. Leacy (35), S. Sinnott for U. Sinnott (38), N. Fortune for J. Dillon (50), C. Donohue for B. Gordon (51).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Cork's Amy O'Connor is tackled by Wexford's Amy Cardiff during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Cork boss happy but feels there's still more to do

CORK manager Paudie Murray as always, took his side's victory in his stride.

"There's lot done a lot more to do" motto very evident from his demeanour, but never-the-less he was happy with the win.

"Yes, it was a good win for us and one which in all probability gives us a semi-final spot with one game to go against Offaly," Paudie Murray said.

"But overall, I thought it was a bit of a mixed bag for us really. Some very good and some not so good things really so I think we've a bit of work to do still. "We are measuring ourselves on the top two we have some work and a lot more to do really to be anywhere near where we want to be."

Murray looked for a bit more intensity this week from his side and he felt he got it but again more is needed.

"We got the intensity we wanted for twenty to twenty minutes when our work rate was outstanding

### REACTION

■ Mary Newman

but then we took our foot the pedal.

"I know Wexford did rearrange their line out a bit but as I said it was a mixed bag good and bad all through and again a lot more is needed."

For 13 minutes in the second half Cork went without registering a score and this was something Paudie commented on.

"We did have a lack of intensity midway through the second half we need to be playing at a high tempo all through Wexford crowded mid field a bit and at one stage we had defenders with no one to mark."

"We were sending ball to nowhere and with a strong wind I felt this needed to be better but again this is something we will be working on to get right."

With Offaly left to play in two weeks' time, and his

side guaranteed a semi-final spot, Murray is happy where they are at in terms of performance.

"It's all about working towards the next game and the next challenge. We will continue to work and prepare for each game as it comes, we know what we need to do to and to be fair the girls are working hard."

"Offaly in two weeks time away so we will focus on that now."

Long-serving Gemma O'Connor was pleased with Cork's win but knows its early days yet.

"It's good to get a win again today and to be heading into the last game undefeated, we are playing well at the moment and our hurling is sharp," Gemma O'Connor said.

"After the defeat at the hand of Limerick in the Munster final we knew we needed to work hard, training is going well everybody is putting in huge effort and with one game to go we will be aiming to get the right result and top the group."

## Cork face toughest test yet with Meath

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship Round 3: Cork v Meath: tomorrow in Trim: 2.30pm.**

IT'S a top of the table clash on Saturday, as Meath host Cork, in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship. This is a round three game and both teams are unbeaten to date.

It is also the clash of the current and former National League Division 2 champions. Meath took the title in 2016 with Cork the present holder.

Meath got the series off to a winning start as they demolished Laois hitting an impressive 4-15 whilst conceding 1-8; they followed that on with a victory in round two over Galway away from home with five points to spare.

They again found the range striking a goal and 15 points as they held Galway to 2-7.

2017 has been a historic year for Meath camogie with their first appearance in Division 1 of the Littlewoods National league where they found the going tough losing out to Limerick, Clare and Galway.

They did, however, run Offaly to two points and that was a game that gave them a huge boost as they looked ahead to participating in the Intermediate championship.

Manager John Davis has had to plan his year without a number of key players including Kristina Troy, Aine Keogh and Aoife Thompson, three players, who contributed enormously to the counties successes of the past three years.

The continued improvements in the county has seen them move steadily up the ranks from participating in division 4 to division one.

There is an abundant supply of talented young players coming through from the under-age ranks and along with the more experienced players such as Jane Dolan, Megan Thynne, Aoife Minogue, and Claire Coffey, the standard is improving consistently.

Cork are going well, having got off to a great start as they overcame Galway 2-12 to 0-9.

They followed it up with a hard-fought 1-11 to 0-7 victory over Carlow to go top of the table with Meath.

In their clash with Carlow, Cork lost the services of Lisa Lynch with a knee injury, and it looks as if she will be out for the rest of the season.

Caroline Sugrue, Lauren Callanan, Rachel O'Shea, Keava McCarthy, Linda Collins and Jennifer Barry have all been to the fore for the league champions.

Captain Niamh Ni Chaoimh has led by example as her side continues their quest to win a place in the last four.

A win on Saturday would put Cork in a good position with Laois and down to play but it will no doubt be the biggest test to date.



# Mulcahy leads Limerick to victory

Camogie

Daragh O Conchuir

John Tuohy admitted he had to present his players with some home truths when he felt "they didn't do justice to the Limerick jersey" against Cork last week — and he was delighted with the response as they edged out Tipperary 1-20 to 3-12 at Semple Stadium to keep their hopes of qualifying from Group 2 of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship alive.

Skipper Niamh Mulcahy shot an incredible 15 points while Sarah Carey excelled at centre-back, goalkeeper Eaura O'Neill made a point-blank save from Orla O'Dwyer in the 52nd minute, and Orla Curtin scored a crucial goal six minutes later.

The magnificent Cait Devane responded immediately with her third goal of the game, but Limerick had done enough to prevail.

"The girls played outstanding stuff from start to finish," said Tuohy on Sporting Limerick. "I suppose we took our eye off the ball a couple of times. Tipp got a couple of

goals and made it hard for us. "In the second half, the girls put up a sterling display and played very well."

"Tipp are a very strong team. They expected to beat us but to come back after being beaten by Cork showed the character of this team."

"Our performance against Cork wasn't acceptable. They didn't do justice to the Limerick jersey, I felt. That passion and pride had to come back into our game. We have to play a more defensive game in the sense that our blocking and hooking has to be right and we have to track back when we haven't got the ball. The players bought into that in the last couple of weeks. We've worked on that very hard in the field."

"There were a few harsh words between players and myself but it was all in good faith. The players know I believe in them and believe they are a superb set of players. They've been very professional from the start. You will have off-days. Cork are a super side. They're flying at the moment and one of the favourites to win the All-Ireland this year."



**GOALMOUTH ACTION:** Cork's Amy O'Connor somersaults through the air after a clash with Wexford goalkeeper Niamh Potter and Amy Cardiff during Saturday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Further evidence of the veracity of that last statement was provided in Páirc Uí Rinn as Cork became the first team to reach the knockout stages, with a third win in as many games, dismissing Wexford with ease by 3-18 to 0-9.

The visitors were unable to land a glove on their hosts and trailed at the interval by 1-9 to 0-2. Orla Cotter, Katrina Mackey, and Amy O'Connor were all multiple-point-scorers before O'Connor was dragged down in the square as half-time approached and goalkeeper Aoife Murray made the long journey up the pitch, burying the sliotar to

the Wexford net.

The Model County improved in the second half with Linda Bolger, Una Leacy, and Shelly Kehoe raising white flags but it was very easy for Cork as Cotter, Mackey, Gemma O'Connor, and Ashling Thompson all shot points before Niamh McCarthy and Leanne O'Sullivan pounced for late goals.

In Group 1, Kilkenny needed an injury-time point from Denise Gaule to deny Clare a famous victory at Nowlan Park where it finished 1-14 to 3-8. The reigning Player of the Year held her nerve to convert from a free

after Chloe Morey had landed a brace to edge the visitors in front.

It was a stunning effort by Trish O'Grady's side, first-half goals from Aine O'Loughlin and Vera Loughnane giving them an early foothold. However, Kilkenny showed the mettle of champions with a couple of points from Gaule to go in level at the break 0-8 to 2-2.

When Julieann Malone goaled early in the second half, it seemed inevitable that the champions would kick on, but O'Loughlin handpassed her second major immediately and it was nip and tuck from

there to the end.

Meanwhile, Galway were far too strong for Waterford, prevailing by 5-28 to 1-10 at Kenny Park. The home team had nine different scorers and Ailish O'Reilly and Noreen Coen, in particular, made hay, accumulating 2-6 and 2-4, respectively. Finola Keely claimed the other goal while Aoife Donohue (0-6) and Niamh McGrath (0-5) were others who would have enjoyed their days.

It was a difficult outing for Waterford, whose goal came courtesy of Becky Kavanagh, while Lorraine Bray struck four points.

## Pitching in



Briege Corkery, Cork camogie player and footballer; Killian Young, Kerry footballer; and Alan Brogan, former Dublin football star; in the garden of Age Action client Carmel Gormley (not pictured) in East Wall, Dublin, as Age Action and Bank of Ireland launched the Bank of Ireland Backyard Blitz, which will see 320 bank volunteers swap their calculators for watering cans and their spreadsheets for spades to give their older neighbours a 'dig out' in their gardens. Picture: Naoise Culhane

### CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland SCC Grp 1:** Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 1-8, Dublin 0-15 Waterford 1-10;  
**ICC Grp 2:** Down 3-19 Galway 5-10, Meath 3-9 Cork 0-17;  
**Premier JCC Grp 1:** Dublin 3-10 Offaly 0-5, Westmeath 6-28 Waterford 1-9;  
**U16ACC Grp 2:** Waterford 1-15 Clare 1-10, Cork 3-10 Wexford 2-11;  
**U16BCC Grp 1:** Derry 6-17 Meath 1-2, Offaly 3-14 Kilkenny 1-6;  
**Grp 2:** Cork 8-12 Westmeath 0-8, Louth 1-11 Dublin 1-7;  
**U16CCC:** Carlow 3-4 Roscommon 2-4, Tyrone 5-17 Cavan 1-3.

July  
2017



# Murray: Cork need to match the top two

CORK 3-18  
WEXFORD 0-9

## CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THERE'S a lot done but more to do – that's the message from Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray after the county's latest win.

The Rebels laid down a serious marker in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship at Páirc Uí Rinn last Saturday afternoon when they trounced Wexford by 18 points in this Group 2 game.

This was Cork's third group-stage win in a row, following good results against Tipperary and Limerick, and it pushed them to within touching distance of the semi-finals.

Murray's happy with what he has seen so far as last year's defeated All-Ireland finalists gear up for a championship assault again this year but he stresses that Cork have some way to go to compete with Kilkenny and Galway.

'We measure ourselves against the top two – that's the standard that we need to compare ourselves against,' Murray told *The Southern Star*.

'We did a lot of good things against Wexford and we've

**'We have to measure ourselves against the top two, Kilkenny and Galway. Granted we are doing a lot of good things, there are positives, however we still have a fair bit to go.'**

looked at the video of the game and examined the stats we've had back and they've shown that there is a lot of stuff there that we need to improve on to be at the level of Kilkenny and Galway.

'That's key this season – the need to get to their level.

'Our ball retention in the second half was poor, our distribution to the forward line could have been a lot better than it was, our work-rate wasn't as good as it could have been so there are areas that will concern us.'

'We have to measure ourselves against the top two. Granted we are doing a lot of good things, there are positives, however we still have a fair bit to go. What we are playing at the moment will not beat the

top two.'

Cork dominated from the off against Wexford and the visitors were unable to land a glove on their hosts and trailed at the interval by 1-9 to 0-2.

Orla Cotter, Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor were all multiple point-scorers before O'Connor was dragged down in the square just before the break and goalkeeper Aoife Murray made the long journey up the pitch pay by burying the sliotar to the Wexford net.

The second half saw more of the same as Cork cruised to victory as Cotter, Mackey, Gemma O'Connor and Ashling Thompson all shot points before Niamh McCarthy and Leanne O'Sullivan pounced for late goals.

While Cork have been scoring freely – 1-16 against Tipperary, 1-27 versus Limerick and now 3-18 against Wexford – they'd been mean in defence, coughing up just 1-27 in three games (ten points per match).

'We have tightened up but you also have to take into account the opposition so far,' Murray pointed out.

'Limerick depend an awful lot



Hands on: Cork's Libby Coppinger (St Colum's) controls this ball against Wexford in last Saturday's Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship game at Páirc Uí Rinn.

(Photo: Tom Russell)

on Niamh Mulcahy and Wexford depend a lot on Una Leacy so when you come up against Kilkenny and all the forward talent they have then you're going to be in a lot harder match. It's the same when you go in against Galway who are strong in attack.

'Certainly, for 20 to 25 minutes against Wexford, our intensity, our work-rate, our movement of the ball was as good as anything – but we need to do that for 60 minutes to compete with the bigger two.'

'We are starting to put it together, whether we can put it together enough to beat the top two remains to be seen.

'We have roughly four weeks before a semi-final, likely to be against either Kilkenny or Galway, so we have that time to get it together.'

Cork are well in control of Group 2 and face their last game away to Offaly on July 15th. Only a massive turnaround will deny the Rebels top spot as they have a scoring difference of +46 compared to Of-

faly (-6) and Wexford (-11) who are the only teams that can oust them from top spot.

The top team in both groups go into the semi-finals, while the second and third place teams meet in quarter-finals. The likelihood is that Cork will encounter the loser of this weekend's Group 1 heavyweight tie between champions Kilkenny and Galway in the last four – that's what Murray is priming his team for, the real test to see where Cork stand this season.

## Senior Camogie C'ship Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cork	3	3	0	0	76	30	46	9
Offaly	2	1	0	1	39	45	-6	3
Wexford	2	1	0	1	31	42	-11	3
Limerick	3	1	0	2	57	75	-18	3
Tipperary	2	0	0	2	31	42	-11	0

# 'Cronin's having her best season for Cork camogie'

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ENNISKEANE'S Orla Cronin is having her best season in a Cork jersey, according to manager Paudie Murray.

This is her fourth year on the senior panel and she has already won two All-Irelands but Murray feels Cork are now seeing the best of the 21-year-

old West Cork woman who is firing on all cylinders in the Rebels' attack.

'Orla is having her best season so far, no doubt about that,' Murray said.

'She's motoring well this year, she's in great shape, her fitness levels are very high and she is playing with a smile on her face.

'She got two points against Wexford, four against Limerick, two against Tipperary, that's a good return for a centre forward.'

Murray was impressed with Cronin against Wexford last weekend and he also praised a number of the team's younger guns, including St Colum's dual star Libby Coppinger.

'Meabh Cahalane had probably her best game for Cork in two years, Chloe Sigerson who was a minor last year is going very well, Libby Coppinger had her best game with Cork so far, Niamh McCarthy also had her best game as well so that's good that they are all putting their hands up; that's exactly what we want,' Murray said.



Flying form: Orla Cronin has impressed this season.



# Rebels aim to keep eye on prize

Clon come out on top in their first game

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**KILKENNY** got a massive fright when they were pushed to the pin of their collar and escape with a draw in Nowlan Park last Saturday.

It puts some pressure on them as they travel to Galway for their round three Group game today. A defeat would almost certainly push them into a quarter-final with Galway going the direct route to the semi-finals.

Galway face Clare and Kilkenny host Dublin in their final group game on July 22 so the outcome today is critical for both sides.

It's not always a bad thing to go the indirect route. The extra game has stood Cork well in the past.

I would suspect though that the pep in Kilkenny's step has dipped a little. That's not surprising; they've been dominant and claimed all silverware over the past 18 months.

Still, unless they win back to back All-Ireland titles they won't be considered a fine team. Ann Downey is very aware of this and would love nothing more than to win successive titles. She admits that they must improve considerably to defeat Galway today and avoid a nervous conclusion to their Group.

The champions needed an injury-time point from Denise Gaulle to snatch a draw against Clare at Nowlan Park last weekend and Downey says that it could prove a priceless result for the Noreiders, especially if they come away from Kenny Park in Athenry with nothing.

They are without Edwina Keane and Kelly-Ann Doyle due to injury but Kilkenny are not far off full strength. Ann wasn't making excuses but suggested that a period of inactivity, while their opponents were battle-hardened, might have been a factor.

"We have to put it behind us and learn from it and just look forward to going up to Galway and hopefully give a performance there," said Downey on KCLR.

"We were three weeks off since the last Waterford game so it's a long time waiting for the next game to come around, whereas Clare... this was their third game in-a-row so they had those few games under their belt.

"But we're not making any excuses. They out hurried us. They were a class apart, running off the ball for one another and they took their goals quite well. So, we have to go back to the drawing board and we have a lot of work to do."

Limerick bounced back from their heavy defeat to Cork with an impressive two-point win over Tipperary as Niamh Mulcahy was back to dominating proceedings from placed balls. She finished with fifteen points in a 3-12 to 1-20 victory.

Tipp must be disappointed that a strong scoring return of 20 points didn't get them over the line but if you concede three goals, it's hard work to pull them back. Limerick manager



Cork's Hannah Looney bursting past Wexford's Aine Leacy and Siona Nolan during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship tie at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



COOL CUSTOMER: Cork manager Paudie Murray in charge against Wexford.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

John Tuohy couldn't hide his delight. They had left Páirc Uí Rinn dejected but a week is a long time in sport.

"The girls played outstanding stuff from start to finish," said Tuohy on Sporting Limerick. "I suppose we took our eye off the ball a couple of times, Tipp got a couple of goals and made it hard for us."

"In the second half, the girls put up a sterling display and played very well."

"Tipp are a very strong team. They expected to beat us but to come back after being beaten by Cork showed the character of this team."

"Our performance against Cork

wasn't acceptable. They didn't do justice to the Limerick jersey I felt. That passion and pride had to come back into our game."

"We have to play a more defensive game in the sense that our blocking and hooking has to be right and we have to track back when we haven't got the ball. The players bought into that in the last couple of weeks. We've worked on that very hard in the field."

"There were a few harsh words between players and myself but it was all in good faith. The players know I believe in them and believe they are a superb set of players. They've been

**"Cork won't get carried away. They were always going to top group 2."**

very professional from the start. You will have off days.

"Cork are a super side. They're flying at the moment and one of the favourites to win the All-Ireland this year."

So what of Cork? 1-16 against Tipperary, 1-27 against Limerick and 3-18 against Wexford is making people stand up and take notice.

From those three games, they've conceded 1-27. It's true Cork are going well, but they have still a lot to work ahead of them.

They faded for a time last weekend and you won't get away with that against stronger teams.

Cork won't get carried away. They were always going to top group 2.

There are bigger days ahead but if they keep working hard and keep a strong work ethic going, they will certainly have a big say in August and hopefully September.

Clonakilty 2-12

Aghabullogue 2-6

CLONAKILTLY and Aghabullogue battled it out in their opening game of the round robin series of the Senior B championship in Cloughduv.

Clonakilty opened with point from Sinead O'Neill but Aghabullogue hit the front with a Ciara McCarthy goal. From the puck-out Clonakilty regained their lead with a Hannah O'Hea goal and three points without reply had them in control.

Putting the Aghabullogue defence under a lot of pressure they added to their tally with a goal and from Sinead Maher and a Sinead O'Neill point had them further added before Edel Tarrant struck for an Aghabullogue goal before the break where it was 2-5 to 2-0 in favour of Clonakilty.

Clonakilty were out of the traps fast on the restart and adding three points to their tally they led by eight. Aghabullogue needed a response and they got it Jill Kiely with a point and two from substitute Cliona Healy narrowed the gap.

Healy added tremendously to the Aghabullogue attack on her introduction and the Clonakilty defence were now coming under a lot of pressure. Up front, they responded with two points in row and with Ciara McCarthy and Niamh Brady exchanging points Clon held their lead.

Cliona Healy cut the deficit with a point Clonakilty again replied with a Sinead O'Neill to go seven clear.

Aghabullogue's Cliona Healy had the final say with a point as Clonakilty held on to the final whistle to get their campaign off to a good start.

Clonakilty will be hoping to keep the winning streak going when they meet Valley Rovers in their second game whilst Aghabullogue will be hoping for a better result when they take on Kilbrittan/Timoleague, both games down for decision on July 16.

**Scorers for Clonakilty:** S Maher 1-2, H O'Hea 1-0, S O'Neill, N Brady 0-3 each, C Ryan 0-2, J Brennan, C Dullea 0-1 each.

**Aghabullogue:** C Healy 0-4, C McCarthy 1-1, C E Tarrant 1-0, J Kiely 0-1.

**CLONAKILTLY:** M Hurley, C O'Leary, M Copping, A O'Neill, O Lowney, M Deasy, C Allman, L Copping, A O'Leary, S O'Neill, S Maher, C Ryan, J Brennan, N Brady, H O'Hea.

**Subs:** C Dullea for H O'Hea, S Hayes for S Maher.

**AGHABULLOGUE:** E Tarrant, M Cotter, E O'Connell, L Moynihan, J Kiely, K McCarthy, M McCarthy, C McCarthy, N Doherty, J Tarrant, E Tarrant, S Dineen, K Denehy, K Ward, M Crowley.

**Sub:** C Healy for K Ward (40).

**Referee:** John Horgan (Gleann na Laci).

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland SCC Grp 1:** Galway 5-28, Waterford 1-10, Kilkenny 1-14, Clare 3-8;  
**Grp 2:** Cork 3-18, Wexford 0-9, Limerick 1-20, Tipperary 3-12;  
**ICC Grp 1:** Derry 2-15, Tipperary 0-8, Kilkenny 0-10, Kildare 2-9;  
**Grp 2:** Galway 2-7, Meath 1-15;  
**Premier JCC Grp 1:** Waterford 1-6, Dublin 3-10, Wicklow 0-5, Westmeath 3-22;  
**Grp 2:** Armagh 0-10, Kerry 0-11, Roscommon 2-11, Clare 1-4;  
**U16A/C Grp 1:** Dublin 3-13, Galway 2-13, Kilkenny 5-10, Limerick 0-4;  
**Grp 2:** Clare 3-10, Cork 1-9, Waterford 2-14, Tipperary 1-10.

July 2017



## U16 sides take stock after early defeats

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THERE'S time to dwell on what might have been as the Cork U16 A and B sides face into their second game in their respective All-Ireland championships tomorrow in Carrigrohilly.

Despite it being Munster hurling final day the camogie games are going ahead and Cork will host Wexford in the U16 A game with Westmeath the opponents in the B clash.

Its Wexford's first game in the series whilst Cork having already lost out last weekend to Clare will be hoping for an improved performance. A win is vital to stay in the hunt for a place in the last four with games to come against Tipperary and Waterford Cork need to win all remaining ties.

Selector Michael Boland whilst disappointed to have lost to Clare last weekend knows his side are capable of a lot more. Injuries and holidays deprived Cork of several key players last weekend and he is hoping to have a stronger panel on duty tomorrow for the visit of Wexford.

In grade B, Westmeath lost out to Laois on a 3-13 to 1-5 last weekend and Cork having lost out to Dublin will be hoping to get their campaign back on track. The B games throws in at 1pm with the A at 3pm.

**LOCAL ROUND-UP:** On the club scene the Senior B championship continues when Blackrock and Brian Dillon's meet on Monday and here both clubs will be looking for their first victory. Brian Dillon's lost out in their opening round game to Barryroe whilst Blackrock and Eire Og finished all square.

On Wednesday Eire Og and Fr O'Neill's meet in Castle Road at 7.30pm. O'Neill's recorded good victory in round one over Carrigrohilly and they will be looking to extend their run. Barryroe following on from their first round victory take on Carrigrohilly in Bandon at 8pm on Wednesday.

The junior championships are up and running and in the Junior A, Ballyhea had a 1-9 to 0-2 victory over Banter to get their campaign off to a winning start. Watergrasshill recorded a 6-8 to 4-3 win over St Vincent's. Youghal got their campaign off to a good start as they defeat Bishopstown.

In the Junior B championship Ballinora had a win over Newcestown second team, league champions Cobh had to battle to the finish before getting a result over Glen Rovers' second string. Sarsfield's second team were too strong for Inniscarra whilst Ballinasally overcame the St Catherine's second team.

Ballincollig second string got the upper hand on the St Finbarr's junior B side. In the Junior C championship Na Piarlagh overcame neighbours St Vincent's, Castle Lyons proved too strong for Kilworth in their round one clash.



Cork's Laura Doyle putting pressure on Lynda Daly, Clare, in the All-Ireland U16 A championship in Cratloe last weekend.

# Cork unable to claw Clare back

Clare 3-10  
Cork 1-9

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**CLARE recorded a victory over Cork in round one of the round robin series points of the All-Ireland U16A Championship in Cratloe.**

Clare raced into an early lead with five points on the bounce Beck Foley with the first in the third minute and Lorna McNamara and Lynda Daly both striking a brace each to have the home side ahead by five points with eight minutes played.

Clare increased their lead when Lorna McNamara finished to the net

Cork's Sally McCarthy opened their account converting a free which Lorna McNamara replied to maintain the Clare lead. Fiona Keating pointed for Cork but again Clare responded Lynda Daly slotting over.

With four minutes of time remaining in the opening half, Lisa O'Riordan in the Cork goal denied Clare twice.

Then Lorna McNamara pointed a Clare free, Fiona Keating pointing from play to leave the half time score Clare 1-8 Cork 0-3.

Cork went on the attack from the throw in Rachel Daly in the Clare goal

had to be at her best twice before Beck Foley slotted over a 45 for the home side.

Cork hit a purple patch over the next five minutes as they ran at Clare and adding the next three points they narrowed the gap but Lorna McNamara converted from placed ball before substitute Aoife Corey grabbed Clare's second goal.

Cork responded adding two points in a row but Clare were not letting up and continued to pressurise the Cork defence.

They won a penalty Beck Foley struck low to the net to put the tie beyond Cork.

Cork converted a free before Fiona Keating struck for a goal with two minutes remaining, a disappointing start

for Cork but with games to come against Wexford, Waterford, and Tipperary still plenty of room for optimism.

**Scorers for Clare:** L McNamara 1-5, B Foley 1-2, L Daly 0-3, A Corey 1-0.

**Cork:** F Keating 1-2, S McCarty 0-3, S Sheehan, E Murphy, O Cremin, C Dooley 0-1 each.

**CLARE:** R Daly, C Hehir, R Minogue, S Daly, E McNamara (c), C Kelly, S Ryan, C Halpin, B Foley, F O'Brien, L Daly, A Ryan, L McNamara, G Hickey, S Lenihan.

**Subs:** A Hannon for G Hickey, A Corey for A Ryan, S Ni Chonail for S Ryan, E Cotter for L McNamara.

**CORK:** L O'Riordan, C Murphy, M Cotter, C Ring, C O'Leary (c), L Doyle, A Smith, J Sheehan, S Sheehan, O Cremin, M Barrett, S McCarthy, E Murphy, F Keating, C Finn.

**Subs:** C Dooley for C Finn, C Coleman for O Cremin, A Keating for S McCarthy, H Sexton for Sheehan.

**Referee:** John McDonagh (Galway).

## Rebels left disappointed as the Dubs kick-on after break

Dublin 2-14  
Cork 1-10

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

DESPITE being level at half-time Cork failed to close the game out in the second half as Dublin got their U16 B championship off to a winning start.

An important spell which saw them hit Cork for 1-3 without reply with eight minutes remaining was the catalyst for the Dubs victory.

Having opted to play into the breeze in the opening half Hannah Clarke got the Dubs off the mark early but Cork took the lead when Kaitlin Holland, Tara McCarthy, and Eva-Rose Boylan all pointed.

Hannah Clarke pulled two back as they narrowed the gap 0-4 to 0-3. Siobhan O'Donovan had Cork two up but again Dublin responded courtesy of Meghan Rock.

Mairead Crowley and Elena Kelleher stretched the Cork lead but Dublin were equal to the task with Clodhna Nicoletti pointed twice and the leveller came from the same player as she pointed a 45 to make it 0-7 apiece at the break.

Dublin hit the front early as Clodhna Nicoletti got the show on the road with her fourth point and with Meighan Rock adding to the tally Dublin went two clear.

Dublin applied a lot of pressure but Kate Corcoran in the Cork goal was equal to the challenge.

Eva-Rose Boylan brought Cork to within a point, Ciara Golden in response.

Dublin hit a purple patch with Clodhna Nicoletti

put Dublin three clear converting a free and a Megan Benson point had them four points in front.

And when Chloe O'Connor grabbed a goal and Meighan Rock a point Dublin were suddenly 1-13 to 0-8 in front Cork upped the pace with points from Kaitlin Holland and Mairead Crowley but the killer punch came with six minutes remaining when a long ball from Clodhna Nicoletti was finished to the net by Chloe O'Connor.

Cork had a goal back with Eva-Rose Boylan converting a penalty but Dublin had the last word when Ciara Golden pointed to ensure the points were secured.

**Scorers for Dublin:** C O'Connor 2-0, C Nicoletti 0-5, H Clarke, M Rock 0-3 each, C Golden 0-2, Megan Benson 0-1.

**Cork:** E-R Boylan 1-2, K Holland, M Crowley 0-2 each, T McCarthy, E Hurley, S O'Donovan, E Kelleher 0-1 each.

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



# Captain Ryan seeking consistency from Tipperary

Camogie

## Daragh Ó Conchúir

After losing both their opening Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship outings, Tipperary are propping up Group 2. However, with every team apart from Cork having suffered at least one defeat, the two quarter-final spots available for finishing second and third remain up for grabs. Offaly, Wexford, Limerick and Tipp are scrapping for their lives. The Premier County girls conclude their campaign with two away games against Wexford and

Offaly, but if they can chisel out victories, the likelihood is that they will advance to the last six. They performed reasonably well before losing by nine points in their opener against Cork, but the two-point loss to a Niamh Mulcahy-propelled Limerick a fortnight ago was a bitter blow. The trip to Innisfree Wexford Park will bring back memories of last year, when they led by eight points in the All-Ireland quarter-final, only to lose to an injury-time point by the now-retired Kate Kelly. "We came so close," recalls team captain Mary Ryan. "It probably was our best game of

the year and it was a pity to fall short by that one point. It's been a few years since we got past that quarter-final stage. We turned around then and beat them in the league this year, which was a huge boost for us." The problem for Brian Boyle's side is that they find it difficult to back up good performances. That showing against Saturday's opponents should be their standard. "This is it. When you beat teams like that, you're saying: 'This is what we can do.' It's trying to get that consistency to do it game after game." Ryan has been a member of the Tipperary panel since



**Tipp captain Mary Ryan is hoping the county can build on underage success.**

golden period from 1999-2004. There have been tough days since, but the 29-year-old Moneygall defender remains a key operator, earning comparison with former Kilkenny hurling great Tommy Walsh for her aerial ability, despite often being smaller than her opponent. "There was that era in the early 2000s, when we were

strong. That's a long time ago at this stage. You wouldn't really want to be thinking about it too much and driving yourself cracked over it, but we've seen some underage success in Tipp from 2010 onwards and we're always hoping we'll build on that and step up and that's what we're still aiming for. "When you start, you just want to play. We did hit a lull and, at that time, it probably did get hard, but there's a great set-up the last couple of years, it's very positive and everyone just wants to hurl. I'll keep going as long as I'm enjoying it and as long as I can contribute."

## Dolan goal puts Meath in control

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Meath	3-9
Cork	0-17

MEATH grabbed top spot in their group with a hard-earned win over Cork in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship in Trim on Saturday.

Meath had to be at their best to carve out a win under intense late Cork pressure, but a Jane Dolan goal on 60 minutes helped the home side survive as, despite five minutes of added time, Cork failed to cut the deficit.

Dolan had the game's opening goal within a minute and when Caroline Quinn added a second soon after Meath were in control.

Cork battled to gain a foot hold and with Katelyn Hickey, Rachel O'Shea, Keava McCarthy, Maeve McCarthy, and Caroline Sugrue all on target, they settled.

Dolan, Aoife Minogue, Megan Thynne and Cheyenne O'Brien had added to the Meath scoring spree and they led 2-5 to 0-7 at the interval.

The sides traded points as the second half developed and by the three-quarter stage, Meath led 2-8 to 0-9, but they had to work hard and defend as Cork came at them.

Keava McCarthy and Thynne swapped points and with Sugrue and Minogue doing likewise the gap was still at four.

Three points without reply from Keava McCarthy saw the gap narrowed as Cork pounded the Meath defence, but a Dolan goal after good work by Thynne had the home side back in the driving seat.

Keava McCarthy, Sugrue and Linda Collins had Cork points, but Meath just about hung on to gain a valuable victory.

**Scorers for Meath:** J Dolan 2-2, A Minogue 0-4 (0-2 fs, 0-145), C Quinn 1-0, M Thynne 0-2, A Gaffney, E Leddy 0-1 each.

**Cork:** K McCarthy 0-6 (0-4 fs 0-1 45), R O'Shea 0-4 (0-3 fs), K Hickey, L Collins, C Sugrue 0-2 each, M McCarthy 0-1.

**MEATH:** E Mangan; E Coffey, E Burke, C Coffey; A Keogh, A Maguire, L Donoghue; C O'Brien, M Keogh; M Thynne, A Minogue, A Gaffney; E Leddy, C Quinn, J Dolan.

**Subs:** K Troy for E Leddy (h/t), S Hackett for C Quinn (56), M Clince for M Keogh (58).

**CORK:** A Lee; L Weste, R Killeen, N Ní Chaoimh (c); S Harrington, S Buckley, L Callanan; F Neville, J Barry; K Hickey, K McCarthy, M McCarthy; R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue.

**Subs:** M Lynch for R O'Shea (42), H Ryan for M McCarthy (53).

**Referee:** Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

## Form sees the Rebels in group driving-seat

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

CORK head into their final group championship game tomorrow on the back of three impressive wins and there is little to suggest that any shock will occur or that they won't top group two of the Liberty Insurance Division 1 senior championship.

Two high-scoring victories over Limerick (1-27 to 0-11) and Wexford (3-18 to 0-9) after a strong opening win over Tipperary (1-16 to 1-7) has certainly got the girls enjoying their hurling. The speed and flow of their play is undoubtedly stronger than 12 months ago. We all know however that there are bigger days ahead.

If the final games go as you would predict them to, then Cork will face Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final on August 19. So, no one inside the Cork camp is getting carried away but training is going extremely well, with a determined focus within the group.

They still have injury concerns. Niamh McCarthy is struggling with a hand injury, Maeve Cahalane is doubtful with a hamstring strain while Julia White, despite being back training, isn't quite 100%. Pam Mackey is back in full flight and going well.

The positive is that Cork have greater options this year. Lauren Homan may start and Emer Sullivan is also back to fitness.

Offaly are an admirable side. Their effort and commitment on the pitch is always 100% and at home in Blir they're sure to come out all guns blazing. Cork will weather that storm and get stronger as the game progresses. Offaly sit second in the group but that statistic reads more favourable than it is. They've played just two games with one win and have a scoring difference of minus six.

What places them second is the fact Limerick and Tipp, despite having the same number of wins are behind on scoring difference due to heavy Cork defeats, while Wexford have won just one game from three on a scoring difference of -11. You would expect Offaly to fall further down the table tomorrow.

They won a thriller against Limerick in the opening round after a gutsy performance (2-18 to 3-14) but lost round two away to Wexford (1-19 to 0-15). Considering the hammering Cork inflicted on Wexford you can only see this game going one way. It doesn't always work like that but considering Cork's work rate has significantly improved they should win comfortably.

Surprisingly there are two senior club games down for Sunday after a long day out on Saturday but rightfully, players will go back to their clubs for several games next week on the back of a month's intercounty championship



## WEST CORK MINUTE



If Cork intermediate camogie forward Caroline Sugrue could get rid of one county in Ireland, Kilkenny would be cut after what happened in last year's All-Ireland final...

**What's the one thing you can't live without?** My phone.

**What would I find in your fridge right now?** Bits of everything, it's always full.

**Name one element your sport could/should take from another?** The rule of playing the hurley, great for forwards but a disaster for backs.

**What do you think about when you're alone in your car?** Usually singing along with the radio or trying to plan the day.

**Who has been the biggest influence on your sporting career?** My family, I always wanted to be better than my brothers, and Tom Kenny - I was obsessed with him when I was younger.

**Pick two celebrities to be your parents:** I wouldn't change mine for the world.

**What do you think cats dream of?** When they are going to eat next.

**If you could play any other sport for one day what would it be?** Basketball, it's not weather dependant.

**If you joined a circus, what would you perform?** Acrobatics, I used to do gymnastics.

**If you could get rid of one county in Ireland what would it be and why?** Kilkenny, for obvious reasons after last year's All-Ireland final.

**What would you do if you found a penguin in your freezer?** Make sure it had its own shelf, so it wouldn't eat anything else in the freezer.

**Before we let you go, teach us something that we don't know:** The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the world in a lifetime.

Caroline Sugrue is a key forward on the Cork intermediate camogie team that is looking to go one step further than last year when they lost the All-Ireland final to Kilkenny. Former UCC student Caroline (23), who captained the college to the 2016 Ashbourne Cup final and plays with Ballinascorthy, is also an important figure on the Carbery senior camogie team and she scored 2-5 in the recent championship win against Mallow.



## Caoimhe to shine in Croke Park

KILBREE U14 camogie starlet Caoimhe Murphy will make history this Sunday.

She will become the first girl from Kilmeeen National School and the club to play at half-time in Croke Park when she takes part in the Go-Games during the break at Sunday's All-Ireland SHC semi-final between Cork and Galway.

Kilmeeen NS girls defeated Cloghroe NS to win the county camogie title; Caoimhe was captain and top scorer in this match and was chosen to play in Croke Park.

It is a great honour for Caoimhe, her family, school and club to be selected for Croke Park.

Caoimhe will also represent Cork in the All-Ireland long puck finals in Dublin, later in August.

Caoimhe has won the following medals in the past 12 months: U12 county camogie league, U14 county camogie championship, U12 Carbery camogie league, U14 Carbery camogie championship, U14 West Cork football championship, U14 county football championship, U12 football league, U12 hurling league, U13 Community Games camogie county, Silver medal at Munster U13 camogie community games final, Sciath na Scol football with Kilmeeen NS, Sciath na Scol camogie county winner with Kilmeeen NS, and Community Games county long puck champion.



# Underage league is starting to hot up

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE U14 and U16 league competitions are drawing to their conclusions.

Already All-Ireland Féile champions Sarsfields have secured their place in the U14 A final after their 6-16 to 2-3 semi-final victory over St Finbarr's. The second semi-final takes place today when Enniskeane take on Inniscarra at 1.30pm in Éire Óg. The final is next Saturday.

In the U14 B League quarter-finals Castlelyons overcame Charleville on a 5-7 to 3-8 score line. Newcestown had three points to spare over Courcsey Rovers 4-9 to 4-6. Cloughdub won the all Mid Cork clash as they got the upper hand on near neighbours Ballincollig, 3-9 to 3-4, while Aghada defeated Na Piarasigh 3-6 to 1-0.

The semi-final pairings are Newcestown versus Castlelyons today in Castle Road at 12pm. Cloughdub met Aghada last night with the final down for decision on Saturday next.

At U14 C, Fr O'Neill's recorded a 4-6 to 2-3 win over Dungourney. Middleton were too strong for Clonakilty. Buttevant overcame St Vincent's and Millstreet got the better of Barryroe. The semi-finals are Millstreet meeting Middleton today at 12pm in Whitechurch with Fr O'Neill's and Buttevant clashing on Thursday. The final is on Saturday.

In a high-scoring contest Ballincollig edged out Sarsfields in a section playoff in the U16 A grade on a 6-7 to 2-16 scoreline.

In the quarter-finals, goals were vital as Charleville got the upper hand on Éire Óg, 3-6 to 0-12. Ballinora and Ballincollig will meet on July 25 in Ballinora with the winners playing a semi-final against Carrigaline on August 12.

The second semi-final is between Charleville and Inniscarra a date for this is to be confirmed with the finals scheduled for August 19.

In the U16 B league quarter-finals Aghabullogue recorded a 6-16 to 1-0 victory over Brian Dillon's. Ballinhassig had a 4-6 to 1-13 win over Fr O'Neill's. Blackrock and Bishopstown met last night in their quarter-final clash with Enniskeane down to meet Douglas in Enniskeane on Sunday.

The semi-finals are down for July 29 with Ballinhassig facing the winners of the Blackrock versus Bishopstown clash and Aghabullogue awaiting the winners of the Douglas v Enniskeane quarter-final.

At U16 C level Youghal overcame Tracton. Barryroe defeated Middleton. Banteer were too strong for Valley Rovers, while the last of the quarter-finals is Tuesday when Cloughdub host Buttevant at 7pm. The semi-finals take place on July 29 with Barryroe versus Cloughdub or Buttevant and Banteer taking on Youghal. Final on August 19.



Glen Rovers camogie players Aoife Mulcahy and Kate O'Neill at the Glen Rovers Cúl Camp.

# U16 sides are back on track

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT WAS a good weekend for both the Cork U16 A and B teams as both got their respective All-Ireland campaigns back on track recording victories over Wexford and Westmeath respectively.

Having lost both their opening round clash the previous weekend Cork needed to get results to ensure the quest for qualification stays on course.

The B games got proceedings under way in Carrigtwohill with Westmeath providing the opposition and from the throw-in Cork dominated and at the half-time whistle they led 2-10 to 0-1.

Cork continued to dominate in all sectors through the second half and

with Elmeare Hurley, Sinead O'Donnell, Sinead Hurley, Tara McCarthy, Eve Rose Boylan and Cliona Casey all to the fore Cork romped home on an impressive 8-12 to 0-6 score line.

As it stands Laois head the group with two victories over Westmeath and Dublin followed by Cork and Dublin with one win each to their credit the meeting of Cork and Laois today in Durrow at 2.30pm.

The U16 A side had to battle to the finish before securing a two-point victory over Wexford.

Wexford hit the front early with Anais Curtin pointing and inside five minutes they were four points in front with Ciara O'Connor adding a goal. Cork settled with a Fiona Keating goal and two points from Sally McCarthy edged them clear.

Again Ciara O'Connor had Wexford in front but Cork dug deep and at the break, Cork led 1-6 to 1-3.

Curtin narrowed the gap with two Wexford points on the resumption but Cork hit back and regained control to lead 1-8 to 1-7. Wexford were applying huge pressure and it paid off when their main threat Curtin found the net to edge them back in front.

The sides exchanged points as Wexford held their lead but Cork working hard were on level pointing before substitute Ellen Murphy grabbed a goal to

edge Cork in front. Now pushing hard Cork added a second with Fiona Keating stretching the lead 3-10 to 2-8 but Wexford dug deep with two Curtin points and one from substitute Kate Foley bringing them to within two points.

Despite huge pressure, Cork held out for a deserving victory.

This afternoon, the B squad are heading to Laois for a meeting with the home side while tomorrow the A squad will meet Waterford in Carrigtwohill at 2.30pm for what are vital games for both squads.

Waterford are top of the group with good wins over Tipperary and Clare and they will prove a huge challenge to Cork tomorrow.

# Cork camogie mourns the loss of two great supporters

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE last week has been a sad one for Cork Camogie as the sport lost two people with very close connections to all things camogie with the passing of Nellie O'Brien and Nancy Zinant.

Both ladies would not have been well-known camogie players but each in their own way helped contribute enormously to Cork camogie. Nellie was the mother of former Cork Camogie Board chair and current treasurer Marion McCarthy, while Nancy was the mother of former Cork selector and inter-county player Lillian Zinant.

Both ladies passed away within a day of each other at the weekend and all camogie personnel were sad to hear of their deaths.

When Lillian Zinant played and was a Cork selector, her parents George and Nancy followed the teams everywhere and after George passed away Nancy was still one of Lillian's greatest fans. A lovely lady she always chatted about the games and had

huge knowledge of everything in GAA and camogie circles in her beloved Sars and Cork.

To Lillian and her sister Paula brother Pat and the extended family we send our thoughts and prayers on the loss of their dear mother and grandmother.

Nellie O'Brien was a great Barrs woman and supported her daughter Marion in her role as Cork chairperson for many a year, always willing to lend a hand. Mrs O' as I always called her was a regular in Castle Road at matches and even as late as the Senior League final in May when in ill health she was there sitting in Marion's car keeping an eye to what was going on.

She loved her trips to the Barrs for bingo and the game of cards took her travelling near and far. Her

garden was also her pride and joy and she loved nothing better than to potter way in it.

Nellie loved nothing more than to help out when the camogie board held their annual collection at the county hurling final and after everything was over at the game she was there on hand making the tea and entertaining as the counting went on long into the night. The huge welcome she extended to us all as we arrived at her door will always be remembered, the hospitality and above all the big smile made you feel so welcome. Nellie was a true Blue and the Ladies Club of St Finbarr's did her proud on Monday and Tuesday last as she was taken to her resting place.

Marion and Catherine have both lost a beloved mother and great friend and we in camogie have lost a wonderful supporter and more so a lovely lady, she lived to a wonderful age and passed in her 96th year. To Marion, Catherine and the extended family goes our thoughts and prayers.

July  
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# Cork camogie is in cruise control

## Collig's junior Bs defeat Douglas

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THIS weekend sees the race for the Senior County Championship get underway when St Finbarr's and Milford open the 2017 campaign at 2pm in Castle Road tomorrow, followed by the all Mid-Cork meeting between Cloughduv and Ballincollig at 5pm also in Castle Road.

It has been a busy week as all the other adult championships continued from senior B down to junior C grades and with all of these championships played on a round robin league basis plenty of games to keep mentors and players busy.

It was round two in the Senior B Championship and in section A, Carrigaline bounced back from losing their opening game to Fr O'Neill's as they got the upper hand on a Barryroe side that had opened with a victory over Brian Dillon's.

The game between Éire Óg and Fr O'Neill's did not go ahead due to bereavement in the Fr O'Neill's club while Brian Dillon's were unable to field in their clash with Blackrock.

This was also the case with Kilbrittan/Timoleague in their first round game against Ballinhassig. The remaining round two games are down for the week ahead when Aghabullogue meet Kilbrittan/Timoleague and Clonakilty take on Valley Rovers. Clonakilty have a win to their credit already having defeated Aghabullogue whilst Valley Rovers had a bye in round one.

Round two in the Intermediate Championship is down for next week and on Monday, Tracton meet Newtownshandrum with Sliabh Rua facing Enniskeane on Tuesday.

Round two in Section A of the Junior A Championship and it's Banteer meeting Na Piarsaigh in Ballyanley on Monday at 8pm. Bride Rovers and Ballyhea are down to meet on July 25 as are St Vincent's and Bishopstown.

Section A in the Junior B Championship saw Ballincollig record their second win as they defeated Douglas 3-11 to 1-6. Newcestown and St Finbarr's ended level on 1-4 apiece. Charleville continued to impress as they recorded a 4-15 to 1-7 win over Ballinora. In Section B Glen Rovers held on to edge out St Catherine's on a 4-12 to 4-11 scoreline. Cobh had their second win as they defeated Inniscarra.

In the Junior C championship Castlelyons overcame Kilworth in round one. Na Piarsaigh defeated St Vincent's, and Millstreet were unable to field against Blarney. Round two will see Blarney hosting St Fanahan's on Monday, Aghada are at home in their clash with Millstreet in the same night and on Tuesday Na Piarsaigh meet Courcy Rovers in Na Piarsaigh at 7.30pm.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WITH just two games left in group 1 of the Liberty Insurance Division 1 Camogie Championship, I think it's safe to say that Kilkenny and Galway will break out of the group and the battle will be between Dublin and Clare (with Waterford out) for third spot.

Dublin currently lie third on six points with Clare on four. They both have a game left, but they both take on the group's strongest teams in Kilkenny and Galway respectively.

Now, you'd expect both these two to win their respective games, but Clare drew with Kilkenny in Nowlan Park two weeks ago and maybe there's another big game in them against the Westerners.

If they fail to win they're out and Dublin will advance to the quarter-finals with, possibly, Galway as you'd expect Kilkenny to beat Dublin.

Dublin manager, former Kilkenny hurler David Herity, however, doesn't fear his native county's female hurlers.

"There's a lot of ifs have to go wrong for us not to qualify, but we know the only way of guaranteeing qualification is getting a result against Kilkenny.

"I know it's easier said than done, but the girls did brilliantly to get a draw against them in the Leinster Championship before they beat us in extra-time.

"It's brilliant to have that experience and have that match under our belts and know we can go out and play with a little more freedom and play with confidence; that we got a result against them already and we just need to kick on and finish the group on a strong note. That's what we want to do.

"We've been performing very well for the last four months between the end of the league, the Leinster Championship and now the All-Ireland round-robin. Winning is a habit and we intend to keep on going now.

"We know how strong (Kilkenny) are and they have a few players back since then. Shelly Farrell is back and flying it in the corner. Clare got a draw against them so we know they won't be caught again. But the opportunity is there to get a result against them. And for us to guarantee qualification and 100% rubber-stamp it, the result will do that.

"To be the best, you have to beat the best and that's what Kilkenny are so we look forward to that."

The above ties don't take place until next weekend and you can be sure that, in the meantime, they'll be in the wings watching their group two opponents in action as Offaly host Cork and Tipperary travel to Wexford today.

Cork won't be caught and will comfortably top this group. An ankle injury to Maeve Cahalane means she is replaced by Eimear O'Sullivan, and Lauren Homan comes in for Niamh McCarthy who is struggling with a hand injury.



Cork's Pamela Mackey wins the ball from Wexford's Stacey Kehoe and Mary Leacy during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Dublin camogie player Laura Twomey was in Parnell Park for an AIG Insurance holiday travel insurance promotion. Picture: Sam Barnes/Sportsfile

It's been a while since Cork can introduce subs as strong as those coming off the field and that's very encouraging. Homan is new to the scene and, with minimal game-time, she has shown signs of great potential at this level.

A game like Offaly will be another great hour for her as she comes up to the speed of senior inter-county camogie.

She'll need this as whatever about the speed today, it'll notch up to greater levels come August and September.

Offaly will be looking to bounce back from their recent defeat to Wexford. Apart from Cork, this group is still all to play for and manager Paddy

Kirwan knows that a win for The Faithful County could prove crucial as it piles the pressure on Wexford, Limerick, and Tipperary.

Wexford and Tipperary, in Innova Park, is a crunch tie with both teams still hoping to make it to the knockout stages. However, it is Wexford who are in pole position, having picked up a vital win over Offaly in their opening match.

Wexford faced a heavy defeat against Cork in their last outing and they could have done with a game the week after that instead of waiting three weeks. Tipperary are still looking to register their first points of the campaign after defeats to Cork and Limerick.

**"Cork won't be caught and will comfortably top this group..."**

A win this weekend would put them back into contention for a spot in the top three, a loss will certainly eliminate them.

Tipperary have talked themselves up a lot in the past couple of seasons. To finish this campaign with zero wins would be catastrophic for them. They need this victory, even if it isn't enough to see them through.

Surprisingly, and obviously, the clubs agreed to this, there are two senior club championship games down for decision on Sunday as the SE Systems sponsored championship kicks off.

St Finbarr's and Milford meet at 2pm in Castle Road followed by Cloughduv and Ballincollig at 5pm. Both games should be entertaining.



# O'Gorman helps Milford ease past

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

**Milford 3-13**  
**St Finbarr's 0-8**

MILFORD comfortably advanced to round three of the SE Systems Cork camogie senior championship in Castle Road yesterday after casting aside the challenge of a very poor St Finbarr's performance.

Milford didn't set the stage alight either and have much to do if they have their sights on regaining the crown they lost last season. But they still had plenty in the tank to dispose of a Barrs side that lacked any direction or purpose to their play.

Coming into the game you felt that St Finbarr's might give Milford a good run, but from the outset, with their defence in complete disarray, standing too far off their opponents, Milford were in for a goal as early as the fifth minute. Rachel Myers found herself in front of goal within seconds of the throw in but her flick went wide and despite Rebecca Duggan in the Milford goal being relatively busy during the hour, she was never really threatened.

As it was St Finbarr's relied too much on Gemma O'Connor, who tried hard but was well marked and looked tired after her championship game with Cork the day before.

Milford raced into the lead and were well deserving of their 2-9 to 0-4 half-time advantage. A new scoring forward has emerged with Eimear O'Gorman striking 2-1 and Laura Stack again stepping up to strike three alongside the ever dependable Emer and Maria Watson.

Despite the Barrs showing that bit more urgency to their play in the second half, any hope they had of a revival was short lived after a cross ball by Ashling Thompson was blocked by keeper Claire Spellman, only for Emer Watson to volley a beauty to the net. The ground was undeniably rock hard and maybe that contributed to some poor first touch and scrappy play as the game failed to excite.

Milford move on and St Finbarr's go the back-door route with a lot of work to be done beforehand.

**Scorers for Milford:** E O'Gorman 2-1, E Watson 1-5 (0-1 4-5, 0-2 f), L Stack 0-3, M Watson 0-2, D O'Brien 0-1, S Sexton 0-1.  
**St Finbarr's:** K McCarthy 0-4 (f), G O'Connor 0-3 (0-1 p, 0-1 f), E Hurley 0-1.

**MILFORD:** R Duggan, D Hayes, R Finn, A Galvin, E O'Riordan, A Watson, L Hanley, O O'Mahony, A Thompson, L Stack, K Galvin, M Watson, E O'Gorman, E Watson, D O'Brien.  
**Subs:** S Sexton for D Hayes (36), C Reidy for L Stack (50).

**ST FINBARR'S:** C Spellman, A Egan, M Cahalane, S Punch, R Finn, E Ryan, C Ryan, L O'Connell, A Shannon, E Ryan, G O'Connor, I Keegan, K McCarthy, R Myers, C Keating.  
**Subs:** E Hurley for R Myers (38, inj), G Cahalane and B Mumpada for I Keegan and E Browne Ryan (46), G Fitzgerald for A Egan (50), N Varian for C Keating (53).

**Referee:** D Kirwin (Éire Óg).



Cork's Orla Cotter is chased by Kilkenny's Collette Dormer in last year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final in Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

# Four wins from four for Rebels

**Cork 1-13**  
**Offaly 0-11**

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

**WITH four wins from four, Cork topped group two of the Liberty Insurance Division One camogie championship on Saturday. They beat Offaly in Birr.**

While their group challengers have a game in hand, they've all dropped points, as Cork comfortably sit with 12.

That will all count for nothing in the semi-final, and while Cork manager, Paudie Murray, was somewhat disappointed with his side's performance on Saturday, feeling they still have a lot to do, it was no harm at all that Offaly pushed Cork to the limit.

After the three preceding, rampant performances, it would be easy to get ahead of yourself.

Cork played against a strong wind that blew into the corner in the opening half and which made the game difficult. Offaly tore into the game from the throw-in, with Ann Marie Guinan and Siobhan Flannery (2) hitting points. From midfield, Ashling Thompson replied with two fine points in the seventh and eighth minutes, but Offaly were leading by four, before Hannah Looney scored a goal in the 17th minute, after a good pass by Orla Cronin.

It was a flat performance from Cork, but they did show flashes of excellence, such as a brilliant solo run and point by Gemma O'Connor. Aoife Murray was called upon to make a good save just before the break, as Cork took a one-point lead into the dressing room (1-06 to 0-8).

Two Offaly points, from Arlene Watkins and Flannery, on either side of an Orla Cronin score, had the sides level thirty-eight minutes in, but they failed to score again until the 62nd minute. Three Orla Cotter points, two from play, and a point apiece from Amy O'Connor and substitute, Julia White, enabled Cork to run out five-point victors.

Cork's demeanour after the game showed they were disappointed with their performance, but their group

campaign has been strong overall.

Their foot won't come off the pedal in training, and Saturday was a reminder of how every performance must stand on its own two feet. There is little point in looking back. It's all about August 19 now.

**Scorers for Cork:** H Looney 1-0, A Thompson 0-3, K Mackey 0-3, O Cotter 0-3 (0-1 f), O Cronin 0-2, G O'Connor, A O'Connor 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, L Treacy, R Buckley, P Mackey, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, L Coppinger, A Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, K Mackey, O Cotter, L Homan, H Looney.  
**Subs:** J White for L Treacy (47).

**Scorers for Offaly:** S Flannery 0-6 (0-3 f), A Watkins 0-2, S Harding 0-2, A Guinan 0-1, OFFALY: M Jennings, J Brady, T McDonald, L Sullivan, R Egan, A Brennan, G Teahan, O Kirwan, M Morkan, D Flynn, M Daly, A Watkins, P Delaney, S Flannery, A M Guinan.  
**Subs:** S Harding for A Brennan (15, inj), Referee: Owen Elliot

# Cloughduv hang on to win courtesy of first-half goals

**Cloughduv 2-7**  
**Ballincollig 0-12**

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TWO first-half goals gave Cloughduv a cushion when Ballincollig applied the pressure in the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship clash in Castle Road yesterday evening.

The younger Cloughduv side raced into a four-point lead in the first three minutes, with Ciara O'Leary pointing and Aoife Murray scoring a penalty after Rachel Hurley had been fouled en route to goal.

Cloughduv led 2-3 to 0-5 at the interval. With Briuge Corkery at centre-back and the hard-working Suzanne Bateman, Niamh O'Leary, and Mairead Corkery giving their all, they troubled Ballincollig.

Ashley Lovett pointed a free for Ballincollig, but Cloughduv responded with Bateman and Niamh O'Leary points. Moving the ball fast, Cloughduv

were dictating matters, but Elaine Casey narrowed the gap with a point, before Aoife Murray denied Ballincollig with a great save. Ballincollig's confidence grew, with Ashley Lovett pointing twice. There were then just two points between the sides.

Cloughduv grabbed their second goal with a minute to the break, when Suzanne Bateman's long-delivery deceived the Ballincollig goalkeeper. Sarah Buckley scored a point in response.

On the resumption, Ballincollig picked off two points. Ciara O'Leary replied, as Cloughduv held their lead and, with Aoife Murray in superb form, Ballincollig could find no way through. She denied them with some excellent saves. Cloughduv drove the ball to their inside line, where Suzanne Bateman

pointed, but again Ballincollig responded. With three minutes remaining, four separated the sides.

Ballincollig gave it everything as they chased the game. Two pointed frees had them within a point as the game entered the third minute of injury time, but with Mairead Corkery solid, dropping deep into their defence, Cloughduv twice cleared.

**Scorers for Cloughduv:** S Bateman 1-3, A Murray 1-0 pen, C O'Leary 0-3, N O'Leary 0-1.

**Ballincollig:** A Lovett 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-1 4-5), E Casey 0-2, D Cronin, S Buckley, O O'Leary 0-1 each.

**CLOUGHDUV:** A Murray, L Riordan, A Kelleher, A Buckley, J Bateman, B Corkery, A Corkery, M Corkery, C Hughes, K Verling, N O'Leary, S Bateman, R Hurley, C O'Leary, J Verling.  
**Sub:** C Twomey for K Verling (57).

**BALLINCOLLIG:** LM O'Mahony, A Kiely, K O'Donoghue, S Keating, C O'Riordan, P Buttner (c), O Keating, A Cotter, S Buckley, L Wells, M O'Donoghue, S Coomey, A Lovett, E Casey, D Cronin.

**Sub:** O O'Leary for C O'Riordan (52).  
**Referee:** Andrew Larkin (Shamrocks).

# Rebels' victory secures semi-final place

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork made it four wins from four in Group 2 of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship with a 1-13 to 0-11 win over Offaly at St Brendan's Park in Birr but manager Paudie Murray deemed it their poorest performance of the campaign.

Last year's beaten finalists must now await the final round of matches next week as well as the quarter-finals before returning to action in

the All-Ireland semi-final on August 19. Murray revealed All-Ireland champions Kilkenny along with Galway had representatives in attendance in Birr to run the rule over the Leesiders and maintained that they would not have seen anything to worry them.

"First of all I'm happy with the win," Murray said. "The negative would be that we never really brought our level of intensity or workrate to compare with the first three games. But in defence of the girls, we had qualified, so the result was irrelevant. We just

never got into gear compared to our first three games. Offaly were going to be a tough test anyway. The wind was a factor too."

Niamh McCarthy and Méabh Cahalane missed out though Murray stated that their absences were largely precautionary. On the plus side of the ledger, Julia White and Eimear O'Sullivan returned to action. Murray hopes a clean bill of health between now and the semi-final.

"You just hope everyone comes through the club championship and that gives us

three-and-a-half, four weeks of intense training. We've really got to up it to have a chance in the semi-final because this display will not do."

Offaly, who had Siobhan Flannery (0-6) in fine form, made good use of the elements in the first half and were good value for a four-point lead but a Hannah Looney goal, followed by a couple of points from Katrina Mackey, made it 1-6 to 0-8 in Cork's favour at half-time.

Aoife Murray kept the hosts at bay with some fine saves before Cork, who had Ashling

Thompson and Katrina Mackey looking sharp, finished strongly with six of the last seven points.

The second-half introduction of Chloe Foxe proved significant at Innova Wexford Park as she weighed in with 1-2 to edge the hosts to a 2-12 to 2-7 win over Tipperary that moves them into second and in pole position for a quarter-final berth, though all four teams are still in contention. Una Leacy did the damage in the first half with 1-2 while Cúit Devane kept Tipp in touch at the break (1-5 to 0-4).

Two pointed frees from Linda Bolger opened up a six-point gap but the visitors roared back into proceedings with two goals in three minutes from Orla O'Dwyer and Eirena Fryday to make it 1-7 to 2-4.

Matty Flynn-O'Connor and John Kelly sent Foxe into the fray and the dividend was immediate. The St Martin's teenager converted a free immediately and O'Dwyer equalised but Foxe pounced for a goal in the 44th minute to give Wexford a lead they would never relinquish.



# Clare could beat Galway tomorrow



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

**IF Clare lose to Galway at home tomorrow, they are out of the All-Ireland senior championship for another season.**

Galway will go into the game as favourites, but Clare could spring a surprise. I don't believe they will if Galway are fully prepared, and they should be if they want to avoid leaving anything to chance. But Clare did draw with Kilkenny a few weeks ago.

You would suspect that Kilkenny weren't tuned in for that game but maybe I'm not giving Clare enough credit. Dublin travel to Kilkenny full of hope that they'll decide their own destiny but the chances are that they'll be relying on Galway to defeat Clare.

If both Kilkenny and Clare win, Galway, Dublin and Clare will all finish on six points. With Galway on a points difference of +33 points it is hard to imagine them being caught, which would leave Dublin and Clare fighting it out on points difference to make it to a quarter-final play-off.

In group two, Cork are content in the confirmation of their semi-final on August 19th allowing for several club games this week. That's very welcome. Thankfully, Cork went the direct route because, if they didn't, club players would be still sitting in unknown territory for their opening round. I believe there is a solution to finding a greater balance between club and county.

Tipperary are out of the running after three defeats from three in group two. Considering group two is fairly well balanced, outside of Cork, it is a very disappointing season for Tipp, not to have managed a win (so far). They need to go back to the drawing board. Their last game is hugely important, even though it is meaningless from a qualification perspective, not only for them personally and the fact that they need to try and get something out of the year, but the impact that remains for others.

Wexford sit on six points after three games with Offaly and Limerick on three. Offaly host Tipperary. Limerick host Wexford. These are two crucial games. If Wexford win, they're home and dry in second place. If they lose Limerick will then finish on six. But they would need to beat Wexford by thirteen points to pip them.

However, Wexford can also be pipped by Offaly if they beat Tipperary by six points. Wexford need to do it themselves and win as there are too many permutations out there for them if they don't. If Wexford and Tipperary both prevail then Offaly will go through over Limerick as they currently have a points advantage of +7.

Taking Cork, Kilkenny, and Galway out of the equation every year, the battle between the other counties is hugely exciting. That's what you want in a championship.

It's a pity the gap between the top three and the rest is so vast. We'll know this evening who has made it through. Clare and Galway meet in Cusack Park Ennis today. Kilkenny



Niamh McCarthy, Cork, in action against Muireann Creamer, Limerick, last month. Cork, like Kilkenny and Galway, are that bit better than the chasing pack every summer. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Limerick camogie players, sisters Judith Mulcahy and Claire Cronin with sons Finn and Cillian, and Niamh Mulcahy, after the WPGA teamed up with Pat The Baker. Picture: Seb Daly

host Dublin in Tom Ryall Park. Offaly and Tipperary clash in Birr and Wexford travel to Bruff to take on Limerick.

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland SCC Grp 1:** Clare 0-11 Galway 2-11, Kilkenny 3-14 Dublin 0-8;

**Grp 2:** Offaly 2-13 Tipperary 3-13, Limerick 0-11 Wexford 1-13;

**ICC Grp 1:** Westmeath 2-18 Offaly 2-4, Waterford 6-8 Wicklow 1-9;

**Grp 2:** Galway 2-8 Carlow 1-13, Meath 1-14 Down 0-17, Laois 2-7 Cork 1-18.

## Leinster

**MCC semi-finals:** Offaly 4-12 Dublin 3-11, Kilkenny 2-10 Wexford 1-7;

**MBCC semi-finals:** Dublin 3-11 Carlow 0-6, Kildare 5-9 Westmeath 1-18;

**Shield semi-finals:** Westmeath 4-14 Meath 2-7, Laois 1-11 Carlow 2-5.

July 2017

## Mallow ready for the senior stage

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**TOMORROW SE Systems Senior Championship, Mallow v Carbery, Coachford, 7pm**

MALLOW make their Senior Championship debut tomorrow when they take on the only divisional side entered in the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship, as they face Carbery in Coachford.

After landing their first Senior B crown in 2016, Mallow were promoted to senior for this season.

In the senior league they found the going tough against Ballygarvan and Courcy Rovers but they will have used the games to find their feet at the higher level.

Coached by Cathal O'Callaghan and Brian Boyle, Mallow will be determined to enjoy a good debut.

They have excellent players in Katherine Coakley, Michelle Browne, Bronagh Ganley, Emma Coakley, Maura O'Connell and Emily Fitzpatrick, and having reached the top level the aim now is to establish themselves and lay a solid foundation for the future.

Carbery will be tricky opponents for the debutants.

They are backed by senior B clubs Clonakilty, Kilbrittan/Timoleague and Barryroe, intermediate sides Enniskeane and Newcestown and junior team Ballinascarty.

With a huge panel of players to pick from, they will be coming from a strong base.

In 2015 they reached the quarter-final before being edged out by St Catherine's.

They entered the championship last season but failed to field but this year they are organised and will prove a handful for any opposition.

Amongst the players eligible to field with the divisional side are Barryroe's Sile Burns, Eimear White and Ger Collins, Clonakilty's Sinead Maher, Sinead O'Neill and Hannah O'Hea.

Cork intermediate Caroline Sugrue, Clara Crowley, Myra Barrett, Ballinascarty, Orla Coughlan, Cork seniors Libby Coppinger, Clonakilty, and Orla Cronin, Enniskeane, Coleen Long, Colette Desmond and Suzanne Deasy, Newcestown. If they are all available the divisional side will hard to beat.

Traditionally it is hard for divisional sides to get organised but this year Carbery have got it together with former Cork senior hurling selector Jerry Ryan from Ballinascarty and Paul Crowley, Kilbrittan, at the helm.

They are well organised and ready for the challenge.

Looking through the array of talent at their disposal they will be hard to contain but Mallow will give it one hell of a shot to get a win under their belts.

# Wexford and Tipp battle through to last eight

Daragh Ó Conchúir

## Camogie

Calculators and rulebooks were as important as hurleys and helmets on Saturday as the knockout pairings of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship were decided.

The big focus centred on the Group Two permutations with Wexford, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly battling to secure the two remaining quarter-

final slots (runaway group winners Cork progressed directly to the semi-final).

In the end, Wexford and Tipperary advanced to the last eight with respective victors over Limerick and Offaly.

It was heartbreaking for Offaly who would have advanced had they scored one more point.

But it was Brendan Boyle's side who progressed thanks to their 3-13 to 2-13 triumph at St Brendan's Park, Birr.

"We were disappointed that the Championship hadn't

gone the way we wanted it to and (this) was about rectifying that and getting a result" said Boyle. "That's all we had in our heads. We didn't track any other results. We just wanted to look after ourselves."

Ciartha Maher scored two goals for the Tipperary girls and Orla O'Dwyer another, but Offaly would never back off. Siobhán Flannery (who finished with 1-8) and Tina Hannon with a wonder goal kept Offaly in touch. Orla McEniry saved Michaela Morcan's second-half penalty

however and with Cáit Devane registering five points and Megan Ryan three from play, Tipp did just enough.

Wexford made sure of second place and ended Limerick's aspirations with a 1-13 to 0-11 win in Bruff.

Youngsters Joanne Dillon and Chloe Foxe gave Wexford an excellent start, hitting a goal and point respectively. Foxe finished the half with four points and Una Leacy had two but Niamh Mulcahy ensured the home side were still competitive, shooting six

points to make it 1-8 to 0-8 at the change of ends. The second half was extremely tight but Limerick struggled to make inroads against an excellent Wexford defence and their season is over.

In Group 1, Kilkenny were too strong for Dublin and now join Cork in the semi-finals but Dublin also made the last six as Galway held off a strong Clare unit.

As a result, the quarter-finals, which will be televised live on RTE on August 5, will see Galway play Tipperary

while Wexford face Dublin.

In Group 1, Galway saw off Clare by 2-11 to 0-11 at Cusack Park, Ennis.

Once more, the home side were driven on by the prodigious shooting of Chloe Morey, who accumulated eight points but Galway had a greater depth of contribution. Dublin were never in contention against Kilkenny, falling by 3-14 to 0-8 at Tom Ryall Park. Two goals in the space of four minutes from Miriam Walsh and Danielle Morrissey stunned the Metropolitans.



# Killeagh could edge Courceys out of it

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**MONDAY: SE Systems Senior Championship: Killeagh v Courcey Rovers Castle Road, 7.30pm**

WHEN the draws were made for the SE Systems Senior Championship, this game stood out as one not to be missed. Killeagh and Courcey Rovers are among the county's emerging clubs and, with huge work going at all levels there is an array of talent coming up the line.

Killeagh have impressed in recent years underage. At minor level they have been shining and have brought up young players who are now the backbone of their senior team. Last season they overcame St Finbarr's in round one only to be drawn against then champions Milford in round two where they made their exit.

League form this season would be little indication of where they are at as they would have fielded minus their inter-county players in a lot of games.

They did play out a high-scoring draw with county champions Inniscarra on a night when both sides had their intercounty players available but they lost out to St Catherine's and Sarsfields.

They have three players, Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney and Chloe Sigerson, on the current Cork senior squad.

Treacy has blossomed into a superb defender. Fearless and determined, she will anchor the Killeagh defence where Chloe Sigerson is also likely to line out.

Cork intermediate captain Niamh Ni Chaoimh, Ellen Benaim, and Leah McEvoy should all feature in defence.

Caoimhe Harney impressed last season while Ciara Daly is another of the players who should feature in the Killeagh line-out on Monday.

Courcey Rovers took their first ever senior title, edging out Glen Rovers in a thrilling senior league final two months ago. It was end-to-end action as two committed sides went at it from the throw-in. Courceys went five points clear but had to call on all their reserves as it was level with two minutes remaining. They managed to grab the vital score, and the win will see them go into championship in confident form.

Cork U16 mentor Mike Boland, Carrigtwohill, is coaching Courceys this year with Brian Hayes and John Hynes.

They will be minus the services of Christine O'Neill and Sara Hayes who played such a huge part in the league success. Julia Mulcahy, who did figure earlier in the season, is also unavailable. They still have plenty of young players in form like Linda Collins, Saoirse McCarthy, Grainne Hannon and will push Killeagh all the way.



Cork U16 camogie keeper Lisa O'Riordan under pressure from Waterford's Annie Quinn in the All-Ireland U16 A clash in Carrigtwohill.

# Keating helps U16s past Déise

**Cork 1-16  
Waterford 3-6**

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**THIS was a good result for the Cork U16 A side to ensure their All-Ireland aspirations remain alive.**

The U16 A game was a cracking contest played in blistering heat in Carrigtwohill. Cork held a comfortable 10-point lead as the game entered the last quarter but a late Waterford rally yielded two late goals to ensure a nervous finish as Cork had to battle hard to hold on.

Ellen Murphy and Aoife Fitzgerald exchanged early points but a Fiona Keating goal inside five minutes settled Cork. With Fitzgerald, who was

superb at full-forward for Waterford, pointing a free the gap was narrowed before she grabbed a goal to edge the visitors in front. Cork responded well, points from Ellen Murphy, Hannah O'Leary and Isobel Sheehan edging them in front.

Waterford were back on level by the end of the opening quarter and with Casey Coleman and Aoife Fitzgerald exchanging points Cork held a one-point interval lead, 1-5 to 1-4.

Cork settled quickly on the restart with Orla Cremin and Sally McCarthy working hard and prov-

ing a hand full for Waterford. Four points without reply, two from Fiona Keating and one apiece from Hannah O'Leary and Sally McCarthy had them in a good position. Fitzgerald and O'Leary swapped points before Lisa O'Riordan was forced to bring off an excellent save from Fitzgerald.

Waterford narrowed the gap with a point as they put the Cork defence under a lot of pressure, but Cork hit a purple patch. They fired six points in a row, Ellen Murphy, Fiona Keating (3), Clodagh Finn and Emma Murphy all on target as a 10-point gap opened up.

Waterford were far from finished and they responded well to the Cork challenge. Keeley Corbett-Barry finished after Lisa O'Riordan had saved a

Fitzgerald effort. From the puck-out they pressed again and this time it was Fitzgerald who drilled a shot to the net with two minutes remaining.

Cork held firm under a lot of pressure to record a valuable victory.

**Scorers for Cork:** F Keating 1-5, H O'Leary, Ellen Murphy 0-3 each, I Sheehan, C Coleman, C Finn, Emma Murphy, S McCarthy (f) 0-1 each.

**CORK:** L O'Riordan; C Murphy, M Cotter, C Ring; L Doyle, C O'Leary, A Smith; I Sheehan, C O'Sullivan; S McCarthy, Emma Murphy, Ellen Murphy, C Coleman, F Keating, H O'Leary.

**Subs:** O Cremin for C Coleman (1-1), C Finn for C O'Sullivan (in 42), H Sexton for H O'Leary (59).

**WATERFORD:** E Norris; I Markiewicz, L Hogan, E Flynn; L Sheridan, H Flynn, R Dunphy; K Corbett-Barry, M K Curran; A Quinn, S Leacy, C O'Sullivan; C Carroll, Aoife Fitzgerald, Annie Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** R Kirwin for A Quinn (48), N Crowley for C O'Sullivan (50).

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

# Inniscarra zoning in on the cup named after Peter Downey

IT is down to the finals stage at U14 A, B and C levels this weekend and today Ballinlough hosts the three deciders.

Just to recap on Saturday last, Inniscarra overcame Enniskeane in the U14 A semi-final with six points to spare on a 2-8 to 2-2 scoreline and they will be hoping to carry home the trophy named in memory of one of their finest club men the late Peter Downey when they take on Sarsfields today.

Sarsfields are All-Ireland Féile na nGael champions and they booked their place in the final with a 6-16 to 2-3 semi-final victory over St Finbarr's.

The U14 B final will see Cloughduv and Newcestown.

Cloughduv had to go to extra time before securing their place in the last two, a late goal giving them a 6-5 to 4-8 victory.

Newcestown, with the Cork B Féile title secured, will be hoping to add to their collection of trophies

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

after they recorded a semi-final win over Castlelyons.

Midleton will take on Buttevant in the U14 C final at 2pm, after they recorded a semi-final win over Millstreet. Buttevant edged out Fr O'Neill's by two points, 2-5 to 2-3, in a nail-biting semi.

In the U16 B League quarter-final tomorrow, Enniskeane meet Douglas in Enniskeane.

The U16 B League semi-final on Monday at 6.30pm is in Brinney, where Blackrock face Ballinhassig. And on Thursday in the second quarter-final at 7.30pm it's Ballinora against Ballincollig, in Ballinora.

This evening in Ovens at 7.30pm the Cork U16 and adult long puck competitions take place at 7.30pm.

The pitch in use is the second pitch under the tunnel in the Eire Og grounds. It can be reached by driving past the main entrance to the Eire Og grounds and taking the next right. The pitch is then on the left.

The competition is open to all camogie players and entries will be taken on the night or in advance to the county chairperson by email to chairperson.cork@camogie.ie. The winners of each grade will go forward to represent Cork in the Munster Long Puck which takes place on Monday.

In other underage news, the juvenile board will hold their championship grading meeting on Tuesday next in the Birch Suite Rochestown Park Hotel at 7.30pm, where the draws for the U14 and U16 championships will be made. This will be followed by the monthly county board meeting at 9pm.

The senior board meeting will also go ahead in Rochestown Park Hotel on Tuesday at 9pm and not on Monday as is usual.





Margaret Rooney, wife of the late referee Dominic Rooney, with son Matthew, presents the Dominic Rooney Memorial Trophy Caitlyn Sheehan at Mayfield Garda Camogie Blitz held in the Tank Field.

## Murray not impressed despite Cork's win

CAMOGIE

■ Daragh Ó Conchúir

CORK made it four wins from four in group two of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship with a 1-13 to 0-11 win over Offaly last weekend but manager Paudie Murray categorised it as their poorest performance of the campaign.

Last year's beaten finalists must now await the final round of matches next week as well as the quarter-finals before returning to action in the semi-final on August 19.

Murray will be hoping that his players get through a series of club championship games that gets under way today before knuckling down in preparation for an encounter he insists they will have to be much better for than they were against a stubborn Offaly.

The St Finbarr's clubman revealed All-Ireland champions Kilkenny and Galway had representatives in attendance in Birr to run the rule over the Leesiders and maintained they would not have seen anything to worry them.

"First of all I'm happy with the win," said Murray on Red FM. "The negative would be that we never really brought rate to today's game to compare with the first three games."

"But in defence of the girls, we had qualified, so today's result was irrelevant in one way so 'twas hard to get yourself up for it. I know Galway and Kilkenny were there to watch today and I'd say they went home happy with what they saw."

"We just never got into gear compared to our first three games. Offaly were going to be a tough test anyway. The wind was a factor too."

Niamh McCarthy and Méabh Cahalane missed out though Murray stated their absences were largely precautionary. On the plus side of the ledger, Julia White and Eimear O'Sullivan returned. Murray is crossing his fingers for a clean bill of health between now and the semi-final.

"You just hope everyone comes through the club championship and that gives us three-and-a-half, four weeks of intense training. We've really got to up it to have a chance in the semi-final because certainly today's display will not do. So there's a lot of work to do."

Offaly made good use of the elements in the first half and were good value for a four-point lead but a Hannah Looney goal, followed by a couple of points from Katrina Mackey made it 1-6 to 0-8 in favour of the Leesiders at half time. Aoife Murray was forced into a couple of smart stops to keep the hosts at bay but Cork, who had Ashling Thompson and Katrina Mackey looking sharp, finished strongly with six of the last seven points to retain their 100% record.

## Flannery helping Offaly take flight

Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Camogie

Since breaking through as a 16-year-old with Offaly in 2007, Siobhán Flannery has taken on many roles but has largely controlled games from midfield or especially centre-back.

Today, Offaly host Tipperary at St Brendan's Park in Birr with a place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland quarter-finals up for grabs.

Last Tuesday, Flannery was on 24-hour guard duty as a member of the defence forces. It isn't ideal preparation but it is part of a job she loves so she deals with it.

"Once you get your rest it's fine and here, they're very nice about it," says Flannery. "They won't put you on the day before a big game. You can work around it."

The St Rynagh's star has been deployed in a different position at full-forward this year. Always a major scorer by virtue of her prodigious shooting from long distance, she is causing serious problems closer to goal now with her ball-winning power and accuracy, to such an extent that she was named WPGA player of the month for May.

"It's a big change but I don't mind. I'll play where I'm put. I suppose the forwards is a nice place to be if you want to get on the scoreboard. At centre-back you control everything, at full-forward you have to be patient and wait. When the opportunity comes, and they don't come too often, you have to take them. It's a waiting game sometimes."

## McCarthy on form as Cork win again

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	1-17
Laois	2-7

A STRONG Cork performance ensured they maintained their progression towards a semi-final spot in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate championship as they withstood a late Laois rally to run out winners in Rathdowney on Saturday.

The home side upped the pace to come within three points of Cork with ten minutes remaining but a Caroline Sugrue goal ended Laois's chances of further progression and ensured Cork remain on course.

Cork dominated the opening quarter three points from Keeva McCarthy and one each from Finola Neville, Caroline Sugrue and Linda Collins had them in a comfortable position before Sarah Ann Fitzgerald's long range free bounced in the square and landed in the net. Keeva McCarthy and Fitzgerald traded frees before McCarthy added two to move Cork five clear. Sarah Ann Fitzgerald added to the home sides tally but with Keeva McCarthy and Finola Neville pointing before the break Cork led by six 0-11 to 1-2.

The sides traded three points apiece on the resumption with Sarah Ann Fitzgerald on target for Laois with Caroline Sugrue (2) and Keeva McCarthy keeping the score board ticking over for Cork.

Laois grabbed a second goal fifty minutes in to the game substitute Amy Loughman scooping the ball into the net to leave just three between the sides. With the pressure now on Keeva McCarthy and Niamh Dollard exchanged points but Cork finished strong with Caroline Sugrue grabbing a vital goal and points from Finola Neville and Keeva McCarthy before Sarah Ann Fitzgerald had the final say with a Laois point.

With one game to go against Down, Cork need to win to secure a semi-final spot. Were they to lose they go level on points with Down but at present hold a better scoring average. This is to change but a win would ensure qualification.

Scorers for Cork: K McCarthy 0-10 (0-7 fs), C Sugrue 1-2, F Neville 0-3, L Collins K Hickey 0-1 each.

Laois: S A Fitzgerald 1-6 (1-4 fs), A Loughman 1-0, N Dollard 0-1.

CORK: A Lee, L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh(c), R Killeen, S Buckley, Callanan, F Neville, J Barry, K Hickey, K McCarthy, M McCarthy, R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue.

Subs: M Buckley for R O'Shea (55, M Lynch for R Killeen (55), H Ryan for L Collins (55), J Crowley for C Sugrue (55mins).

LAOIS: L Dunne, A Hogan, R Birmingham, A Hyland, M Collier, A Burke, R Williams, A McEvoy, S Creagh, S A Fitzgerald, L Mahony, N Dollard, E Guidrea, C Conroy, E Ryan.

Subs: A O'Dea for E Guidrea (35), L Keyes for E Ryan, J Dollard for L Mahony (45).

Ref: Aiden O'Brien(Wexford).

Flannery was still a teenager as Offaly enjoyed a golden period, playing in three successive All-Ireland finals. They lost the premier junior decider in 2008 at the death to Clare but made no mistake 12 months later and then in 2010, made the leap to the senior grade by capturing the intermediate title.

"From 2008 up to the first year in senior, they were brilliant years. There was a camaraderie there with the girls. Everything was building towards that. It was just a matter of getting the right bunch of girls at the right time with the right management and it happened."

She is optimistic that with the introduction of a host of young players by Paddy Kirwan, something similar might be about to happen, as they blend with the more experienced mob such as herself, Arlene Watkins, Tina Hannon, and Michaela Morkan.

"We didn't put in any performance against Wexford but all the other games have gone well, the training's been going well so hopefully that's the only slip-up we'll have in the year. We're hitting a peak and hopefully we can push it on."

## Killeagh's class is the difference in big win

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Killeagh	3-13
Courcey Rovers	2-10

KILLEAGH laid down a huge marker with an impressive display in the SE Systems Senior Championship in Castle Road last night as they consigned league champions Courcey Rovers to the back door with a polished performance.

All over the pitch Killeagh possess strength and this was something Courcey's lacked, the physical strength of players such as Laura Treacy, Leah McEvoy, Niamh Ni Chaoimh and Hannah Looney very evident as they took the game to their opponents.

The early exchanges were close and it was level pegging at the end of the opening quarter at 0-3 each until a Rachel Sheehan long range strike hit the post and finished in the net.

Linda Collins showed her class as she equalised, Jacinta Crowley showing huge vision as she delivering a long ball to Collins who collected superbly and glided goal wards before unleashing a rocket to the net to tie the sides up yet again.

Killeagh responded well and finished the half strong with four unanswered points and it was 1-7 to 1-3 in their favour at the break.

Twice the sides swapped points on the resumption and by the three-quarter stage the game was there for the taking and it was Killeagh who did just that as Hannah Looney grabbed two goals in a minute.

Courcey's added two points to their tally but with Killeagh adding three the gap remained at eleven points with three minutes remaining.

Courcey's refused to give up and we were treated to what will possibly be one of the best goals scored in Castle Road when Linda Collins gathered possessions and evading tackle after tackle send the ball to the top corner of the net with pin point precision from an awkward angle.

We still had time for more with Laura Treacy pointed for Killeagh and two Jacinta Crowley points were Courcey's reward as they battled for late goals to salvage the contest but it wasn't to be.

Scorers for Killeagh: H Looney 2-3, L Treacy 0-3, R Sheehan 1-0, C Sigerson 0-2(fs), C Daly 0-2(fs), N O'Donovan 0-2, S Landers 0-1.

Courcey Rovers: L Collins 2-2, J Crowley 0-4 (0-2fs), S Mc McCarthy 0-3, D O'Reilly 0-1.

KILLEAGH: K M Cullinane, R Fogarty, A Walsh, E Treacy, J O'Gorman, C Sigerson, N Ni Chaoimh, C Daly, L Mc Evoy, R Sheehan, L Treacy, N O'Donovan, C Motherway, H Looney, S Landers.

Subs: G Tyrrell for C Motherway(42), K Mc Evoy for E Treacy(51), M Ahen for R Fogarty(54), C Horgan for S Landers(58).

COURCEY ROVERS: S O'Reilly, E O'Regan, K Keohane, G Hannon, C Hayes, A Moloney(c), O Twomey, J Crowley, S McCarthy, R Crowley, Eimear O'Reilly, Elaine O'Reilly, D O'Reilly, L Collins, A Hannon.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



# Inniscarra and Glen face into tough tests

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

**SE Systems Cork Senior A Camogie Championship round 1: (tonight) St Catherine's V Glen Rovers, Bride Rovers GAA Grounds, Rathcormac, 7.30pm**

**SE Systems Cork Senior A Camogie Championship round 1: (tonight) Inniscarra V Sarsfields, Castle Road 7.30pm**

ANOTHER two opening round fixtures in the SE Systems Cork senior A camogie championship take place tonight.

In Rathcormac, if Glen Rovers can curtain St Catherine's Orla Cotter, a thriller could be in store.

The Glen, under the guidance of Dave Ellis, Ken Bulman, Dave O'Connell, and Tara Cunningham at the helm are championing at the bit.

They were so close to winning their first piece of silverware at senior A when they lost the league final by a point to Courcy Rovers.

The Glen are a strong outfit and have to a degree acquitted themselves at times well, after stepping up to the top grade.

Cork senior and captain Leanne O'Sullivan is joined by Laureen Callanan, Lydia Cunningham, Ashling Wallace, Denise Luby, Michaela Hyde and Katie Walsh.

Jennifer Hosford is a huge loss, out with a cruciate injury and Nicole O'Brien and Zoe Buckley have also missed playing time due to injuries.

Orla Cotter is in great form and will take some minding.

But Catherine's are strong all round with great experience at this stage in every line.

Michelle Tobin, Carolyn Motherway, Joanne O'Keefe, Finola and Orna Neville, Evelyn Roynane are surrounded by players up to the task and they will take some beating.

Champions Inniscarra and Sarsfields meet in Castle Road.

Chloe Casey has been out injured and to my knowledge isn't yet back.

She would be a significant loss but Sarsfields have huge talent at underage for the past number of years and they should be coming good.

Inniscarra are very strong currently at underage.

That, aligned to their victorious senior team, predicts a strong future for the club.

They'll be anxious to start blending in some of their younger stars and it remains to be seen if some of them will figure here.

They've huge role models in Rena Buckley, Rosie O'Mahony, Joanne Casey, Niamh McCarthy, and Sinead Ni Riain, who won't be content with sitting on their laurels after last season's magnificent county final win over Milford.

# Inniscarra begin title defence tonight

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**TONIGHT: SE Systems Senior Camogie championship; Inniscarra v Sarsfields; Castle Road Camogie Grounds; 7.30pm**

COUNTY champions, Inniscarra, open the defence of their SE Systems Senior Championship title against Sarsfields this evening in Castle Road.

Inniscarra took the title in superb fashion in 2016. They overcame County, Munster, and All Ireland champions, Milford, with a display of determination and passion.

With all of their players still available for selection, Inniscarra will be determined to show that 2016 was not a flash in the pan and they will bid to retain the crown and make it back-to-back titles.

They are a well-balanced side, with senior inter-county players, Rena Buckley and Niamh McCarthy, superb performers.

McCarthy, having returned to the playing fields following two difficult injuries, has made a huge impact in their inside line and was last year's player of the match in the county final.

In Joanne Casey, in their forward division, they have another excellent player.

They also have Rebecca Keane, Rosie O'Mahony, and Mary Buckley in a very strong lineout, and they will be determined to get off to a good start in the defence of their title.

Sarsfields are the up-and-coming club. The huge catchment area they have has yielded a good harvest, and they are the top underage club in the county, at present.

Two Feile Na NGael titles in the last two years are ensuring the production line is continuing.

And with minor and under-16 county titles under their belts, the players are now moving on to adult grade with huge confidence.

They lost out in the league semi-final to a last-minute Glen Rovers goal, but they performed with huge confidence. If they can bring the same performance to their championship campaign, they will pose problems for any opposition.

Emer Fennell continues to give great service to the club and she has guided the younger players, Lucy Kelly, Jenn Murphy, Maebh Mullins, Claire Mullins, and Edel Lonergan. They are superb players and they will not fear the challenge Inniscarra will pose.

Goalkeeper, Chloe Casey, is out with a knee injury, but they will expect to have her replacement, Molly Lynch, fully fit and ready to go.

She also suffered a recent knee injury, but the expectation is that she will be ready for the championship.

It promises to be an exciting contest that could go either way.

# Mullins goal sees Sars beat champs

CAMOGIE

■ John Coughlan

**Sarsfields 3-13  
Inniscarra 3-12**

SARS produced the first shock in the SSE Systems Cork Senior A Camogie Championship when defeating reigning champions Inniscarra in a pulsating first round clash at Castle Road last night.

Trailing by 11 points at the break it looked very bleak for the young Sars side but credit to them they battled like tigers in the second half and a late Clare Mullins goal ensured them a deserved win.

In the opening exchanges Sars looked a very tentative side and after six minutes trailed by six points.

In that period poor defending allowed Rebecca Keane drill an opportunist goal past the bewildered keeper.

Gradually Sars self-belief began kicking in and with full back Katie Barry and wing back Katie O'Mahony driving their team forward they reduced the deficit to the minimum in the 19th minute.

The Sars keeper then, fumbled a tame shot that ended up in the back of the net as the pendulum swung in the champions' favour.

Ironically Inniscarra scored a third goal courtesy of a Niamh Dilworth strike.

Trailing 3-9 to 0-7 at the break Sars needed inspiration and it was evident they were up for the battle as they squandered two goal opportunities in the opening 10 minutes.

After battering the Inniscarra defence, Sars were rewarded in the 56th minute with a classy Michelle Barry goal that reduced the deficit that gave them the platform they needed.

The onslaught continued and three minutes later Lucy Allen struck a magnificent shot to the back of the net that had the Sars fans in rapture.

Inniscarra basically couldn't get possession and in the final minute Mullins was on hand to strike a fabulous shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Inniscarra had one more possession to level proceedings but Sars held out for a famous win.

Make no mistake this is a young talented Sars side as the champions will now have to regroup and take the scenic route in this championship.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** C Mullins 1-4, L Allen 1-3, M Barry 1-0, M McCarthy 0-3, E Farrell 0-2 (45), E Lonergan 0-1.

**Inniscarra:** J Casey 1-7 R Keane 1-2, M Dilworth 1-1, T McCarthy 0-2.

**SARSFIELDS:** M Lynch, C O'Sullivan, K Barry, N O'Callaghan; E Lonergan, E Murphy, M Mullins; H Herlihy, C Holland; M Barry, E Farrell, K Lyons; C Mullins, L Allen, M McCarthy.

Sub: R Morgan for K Lyons (h-t).

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh; M Buckley, E Kingston, R Quigley; C Looney, R Buckley, K O'Mahony; A Kavanagh, A Sheehan; T McCarthy, J Casey, E Looney; R Keane, N Dilworth, J Burke.

Sub: A Dineen for C Looney (49).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Jovita Delaney who won 5 All Ireland medals with Tipperary Senior Camogie team as goalkeeper was at the Aviva Stadium with her husband Tom Heaphy and their boys Micheal and Corey

## CAMOGIE

**All-Ireland Premier JCC Grp 1:** Offaly 4-24 Wicklow 0-8, Westmeath 1-10 Dublin 2-6;

**Grp 2:** Kerry 5-19 Clare 1-5, Roscommon 0-7 Armagh 3-10;

**All-Ireland U16ACC Grp 1:** Kilkenny 1-7 Dublin 1-12, Limerick 0-4 Galway 5-22;

**Grp 2:** Clare 2-8 Tipperary 1-9, Waterford 2-9 Wexford 5-13;

**U16BCC Grp 1:** Antrim 5-18 Derry 1-13, Meath 3-4 Kilkenny 8-12;

**U16CCC:** Cavan 2-3 Roscommon 5-7, Armagh 8-21 Tyrone 1-1.

## Leinster:

**MACC final:** Kilkenny 4-13 Offaly 1-9;

**Shield final:** Dublin 2-24 Wexford 4-5;

**MBCC final:** Kildare 2-7 Dublin 0-6;

**Shield final:** Westmeath 3-14 Laois 1-8.

# St Catherine's led by six points at half-time and hung on

St Catherine's

1-16

Glen Rovers

0-14

AIDED by the strong wind in the opening half, St Catherine's set the foundations for victory in a highly entertaining, SE Systems senior championship clash in Rathcormac last night.

Leading 0-11 to 0-5 at the interval, they withstood a Glen Rovers rally in the closing minutes.

Cork senior player, Orla Cotter, was unerring from placed balls. She converted nine of her 10 points from frees and a 45. Having elected to play with the wind, St Catherine's were in arrears inside the opening five minutes, as Glen Rovers' Michaela Hyde and Lauren Callanan gave them an early lead.

Joanne O'Keefe slotted over from play to open the St Catherine's account, before Cotter converted a free to level matters. And she edged them in front

## LADIES FOOTBALL

■ Mary Newman

with another free, before Sinead Fahy struck a superb effort between the posts to tie the game up.

Twice the sides swapped points, before St Catherine's hit four without reply to edge four in front. Emma Murphy scored a point to cut the gap, before Cotter converted two frees. O'Keefe added one to leave six between the sides at the break.

The Glen tore into the second-half with two quick points, as Hyde and Nicole O'Brien narrowed the gap, but a Michelle Tobin goal put St Catherine's back in control inside eight minutes of the restart.

Katie Walsh and Laura Hayes swapped points, but two pointed Cotter frees, in the 13th and 14th minutes, put nine between the sides. Now, the Glen took control. Aishling Wallace slotted over from a difficult angle, before Nicole O'Brien converted a free

and a 45, and when Wallace and Hyde again found the range, the margin was down to five.

Cotter relieved the pressure by pointing a free, but, again, Hyde and O'Brien replied, as the Glen pressurised the Saints' defence. With three minutes remaining, twice they threatened goal, before Finola Neville sent a long-range effort between the posts.

**Scorers for St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-10 (0-8 f, 0-1 45), M Tobin 1-1, J O'Keefe 0-2, F Neville, A Hurley, L Hayes.

**Glen Rovers:** N O'Brien 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), M Hyde 0-2 f, A Wallace 0-2, K Walsh, S Fahy, E Murphy 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** D Twomey; A M Rohan, M Walsh, Y O'Neill, O Neville; E Ronayne, M O'Keefe; C Motherway, O Cotter, L Hayes, F Neville, A Hurley; A Fitzgerald, J O'Keefe, M Tobin.

Sub: E O'Brien for M Tobin (48).

**GLEN ROVERS:** D Luby; Z Buckley, K Falvey, N Gowran; K Buckley, L O'Sullivan (c), K O'Connell; L Cunningham, A Wallace; K Walsh, L Callanan, S Fahy; N O'Brien; E Murphy, M Hyde.

Subs: D O'Neill for Z Buckley (h-t), C Boland for K Buckley (45).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

July 2017



# Surprise pairings in quarter-finals

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

ON August 5, Semple Stadium will host the Liberty Insurance quarter-final double-header of Dublin versus Wexford and Galway versus Tipperary. Extra-time will be played in the event of a draw.

The games will also be shown live on RTE television.

I didn't visualise these pairings a week ago. I thought that Tipperary hadn't a chance of progressing.

Up to last weekend, they had lost three games from three, but their 3-13 to 2-13 victory over Offaly, and Wexford's victory over Limerick, saw them finish third in the table, where second and third in group two play in a quarter-final against third and second, respectively, from group one.

Last weekend's final game proved dramatic. Tipperary just pipped Offaly by a point in the table to finish on a scoring difference of -13, Offaly on -14. It was agonising for Offaly, who had at in third position entering the game, but elating for Tipp.

Tipperary's fate wasn't all in their own hands. They needed Wexford to account for Limerick in Bruff. If Limerick, who started the day in fourth, could get the better of Wexford, they would snatch the last qualification berth.

They were unable to make home advantage pay and so it was Tipp who were the big winners, as, with their first victory of the series, they leapfrogged over Limerick and Offaly and gained the prized berth on score difference, with the three sides level on three points.

A points difference of -23 eliminated Limerick at the bottom of the table. This is common where qualification comes down to scoring difference and, because of this, teams will be mindful, in the future, of taking their foot off the pedal in the closing stages. They'll be wary of bringing on substitutes to give them a championship run.

Wexford finished second in group one, with nine points, their only defeat being to Cork.

Meanwhile, Cork finished on 12, with a +50 points advantage over Wexford.

In group one, there were no surprises last weekend, as Galway overcame Clare and Kilkenny had a strong, 13 to 0-8 victory over Dublin.

Dublin will be very happy with their season. Kilkenny and Galway were more or less sure to be first and second. Beating Clare in their opening game, 3-11 to 1-14, was crucial for Dublin.

Wexford and Dublin should be a close tie on August 5, followed by Galway and Tipperary. Galway will be favourites, but anything can happen in a championship knockout. Nerves play a big role.

On the local club scene, we've had our first shock of the championship, with a thriller in Castle Road, last Wednesday evening. Sarsfield's overcame



At the M Donnelly Poc Fada Finals launch were Faye McCarthy, of Dublin, and stiúrthóir camogie, Joan O'Flynn, Martin Donnelly, MD Sports, Vice President of the GAA, Jim Bolger, Poc Fada chairman, Humphrey Kelleher, and Aoife Murray, with Brendan Cummins, of Tipperary, Kevin Moran, of Waterford, James McInerney, of Clare and Anthony Nash.

Picture: Sam Barnes/Sportsfile



Cork's Niamh McCarthy tackles Wexford's Amy Cardiff in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

champions, Inniscarra.

What a victory for them. Having been on holidays, I missed the game, but I understand that Sars applied huge pressure on Inniscarra, and enjoyed significant possession.

As mentioned in my preview, a first round is the most opportune time to snatch a victory against reputable opposition, and Sars are a club that's been to the forefront of underage camogie for several years now.

As shown with Douglas, when they won their first senior title, in 2008, a very young team can win the championship.

That may be putting a curse on Sars and they won't want me building them up. It's very early days, yet, and it's hard to picture them being champions in 2017, but not altogether unimaginable, either.

They'll run a lot of strong teams close and they will certainly be a force

in the medium-term.

The Glen have also made great strides and, while bitterly disappointed with their five-point defeat to St Catherine's, theirs was a very respectable performance, against a seasoned and accomplished side. It's great to see traditional city clubs getting strong again.

From what we've witnessed so far, this championship is wide-open.

In baseball news, Bryce Harper and Ryan Zimmerman each had a pair of home runs, as the Washington Nationals belted eight on their way to a 15-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Brian Goodwin, Wilmer Difo, Anthony Rendon, and Jose Lobaton also went deep, as the Nationals tied a franchise record with their home-run haul.

Travis Shaw and Lewis Brinson registered home runs for the well-beaten Brewers.

Francisco Lindor's go-ahead single

**"I thought that Tipperary hadn't a chance of progressing. They had lost three games**

in the seventh inning earned the Cleveland Indians a 2-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Steve Pearce slugged a walk-off grand slam in the 10th inning to give the Toronto Blue Jays an 8-4 win over the Oakland Athletics.

Brett Gardner's walk-off home run, in the 11th inning, edged the New York Yankees to a 6-5 win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Derek Dietrich homered and added three RBIs to lead the Miami Marlins to a 4-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds, and JD Martinez's grand slam gave the Arizona Diamondbacks a 4-0 win over the St Louis Cardinals.

Kyle Schwarber went deep twice and Anthony Rizzo also homered in the Chicago Cubs' 6-3 win over the Chicago White Sox, and home runs from Manuel Margot and Dusty Coleman helped the San Diego Padres to a 7-0 win over the New York Mets.

Douglas advance to next round with ease

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Douglas 0-23  
Ballygarvan 2-5

DOUGLAS advanced to round three of the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship after a comfortable 12-point victory over Ballygarvan in Castle Road last evening.

Taking a 13-point lead into the dressing room at half-time, the job was more than half done, as despite two Ballygarvan second half goals, one on the stroke of full time, the outcome of this game was never in doubt.

It was a disappointing hour for Ballygarvan who have given better performances.

They had no answer to the Cork senior trio of Pamela and Katrina Mackey and Julia White. But this Douglas victory wasn't just about them.

Douglas had great workers all over the field, particularly Jessica O'Mahony, who had a fine hour, Chloe Nason, Aisling O'Brien, Jessica Kavanagh and Joy Leo.

Ballygarvan were beaten in most sections of the field, despite a huge effort by Eimear McAndrew, Sarah Jane Brady and Catriona Kelly.

With seventeen minutes on the clock Douglas led by 0-9 to 0-2 and in truth there seemed more in them if required.

Their inter-play, particularly that of Katrina and Julia alongside the vision of Pamela Mackey and their off the ball running was impressive.

The scores kept coming for Douglas but Ballygarvan continued to try and find a way through. Douglas' defence was solid though, particularly their full back line and 'Bally' were denied.

Keeper Jessica Kavanagh had a bit to do during the game, possibly more so than her opposite number Sarah Aherne, but there was no real threat of a goal until a brilliant run by Catriona Kelly finished in the back of the net, despite her getting plenty of attention from the Douglas players.

That alongside Bernadette Keohane's last minute goal put a better gloss on a rather tedious spectacle.

Douglas will be happy and Ballygarvan have a chance to make amends via the second-round ties after Cork's semi-final on August 19.

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey 0-11 (0-11, 0-1, 45), J White 0-7, J O'Mahony 0-2, K Holland, C Nason, C Kavanagh 0-1 each.

Ballygarvan: C Kelly 1-3 (0-1, 6), B Keohane 1-0, E McAndrew 0-1, M E O'Donovan 0-1 (1).

DOUGLAS: J Harrington; S Mulrooney, A O'Brien, N Ni Chuanachain, R Sheehan, P Mackey, A Curtin, C Anson, J White; J Leo, K Mackey, J O'Mahony; C Kavanagh, K Holland, D Harrington.

Subs: C St. Ledger for D Harrington (39); R Swanton for K Holland (47).

BALLYGARVAN: S Aherne; A Keohane, S Wynne, M E O'Donovan; S J Brady, A Moynihan, M Moynihan; C Murphy, E O'Regan; E McAndrew, M Buckley, R Keohane; S Quilligan, C Kelly, C Dillon.

Subs: B Keohane for S Quilligan (54). Referee: Cathal McAllister.



## Sarsfields continue winning streak

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Sarsfields	3-10
Inniscarra	1-3

CORK and All-Ireland Féile na Gael champions Sarsfields continue to annex silverware after they added the U14 A league title by overcoming the challenge of a determined Inniscarra side in Ballinlough.

Inniscarra gave it everything and in the opening quarter put Sarsfields under huge pressure as they played with huge intensity.

At the half-time whistle, Sarsfields held a four-point advantage.

Caragh Byrne and Megan Sheehan hit goals while points from Cliona Lynch and Orlaith Mullins helped settle them into the game.

With Gabby Cashman, Emma Mulcahy, and Faye Loneragan all working hard, Inniscarra were kept at bay.

Caoimhe O'Shea and Julie Lyons were on target for Inniscarra as they put a lot of pressure on the Sarsfields defence in the opening half and they would have been happy to go in trailing by just four points.

Both sides came out in determined mood for the second half but an early Sarsfields goal from Eve McMahon stretched their lead to seven points and this was followed by a Cliona Lynch point and now Sarsfields were beginning to pull away.

Inniscarra battled hard and added a point to their tally but with Katlyn Sheehan, Orlaith Mullins, and Cliona Lynch adding points to the Sarsfields tally they had the cushion they needed to push the game beyond the Inniscarra girls reach.

To their credit, Inniscarra never gave up and they battled to the finish but with Saoirse Desmond and Amy McNamara clearing their lines confidently, and Gabby Cashman, Katlyn Sheehan and Cliona Lynch in excellent form, Sarsfields were not going to be denied.

Sarsfields' Cliona Lynch was awarded Player of the Match after notching up six points of her side's tally and turning in an excellent performance.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** C Byrne 1-0, C Lynch 0-6 (0-4 f), M Sheehan 1-0, O Mullins 0-2, E McMahon 1-0, K Sheehan 0-2.

**Inniscarra:** C O'Shea 1-2, J Lyons 0-1. **SARSFIELDS:** F Loneragan; J Kelleher, L Twomey, O Roche; T Elliot, A McNamara, C Lynch; S Desmond, G Cashman; E Mulcahy, K Sheehan, O Mullins; C Byrne, M Sheehan, E McMahon.

**Subs:** Z Callanan for E McMahon; A Cashman for C Byrne; L Murphy for M Sheehan; M Murphy for E Mulcahy.

**INNISCARRA:** J O'Sullivan; L Daly, K Horgan, A Ring; J Lyons, K Lordan, A Harty; K Kempa, R Murphy, F O'Reilly; M O'Leary, N McSweeney; C O'Shea, A McCarthy, C Horgan.

**Subs:** A Power for A Harty; A Logan for M O'Leary; R Hughes for L Daly; R Murtogh for F O'Reilly.

**Referee:** Dave O'Connell (Glen Rovers).



Newcestown's Eabha Sheehan receives her player-of-the-match trophy from Juvenile Camogie Board secretary Tracy Sheehan following the team's victory in the U14 B League final.

# Newcestown power to victory in league

Newcestown	5-7
Cloughduv	1-4

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**NEWCESTOWN and Cloughduv battled hard to gain the upper hand in the first half of this U14 B League final in Ballinlough on Saturday.**

Both sides had chances to gain control, but it was Newcestown who edged in front and at the interval they held a two-point advantage, 1-5 to 1-3.

Caoimhe O'Mahony had a Cloughduv point 10 minutes into the game and an Olga Barry-Murphy goal added to their tally as they battled it out with a determined Newcestown side.

A Caoimhe McCarthy goal and two points, added to three Grace Ryan points, plus a superb save at a vital stage of the game by Margaret Scanlon in the Newcestown goal, ensured they led at the break.

The sides settled into the second half

and for a long spell it was nip and tuck, but Newcestown applied huge pressure as they pushed for scores. Brid Desmond had two goals, Orla Barrett and captain Caoimhe Wilson added a goal each and, with points from Grace Ryan and Orla Barrett, they took a grip on the contest.

Cloughduv tried hard, with Laura Buttimer on target with a point, but Newcestown's strong second-half display saw them add the league title to their Cork Division 2 Féile crown.

Newcestown's Eabha Sheehan was named as player of the match and she was presented with her trophy by Juvenile Camogie Board secretary

Tracy Sheehan.

**Scorers for Newcestown:** B Desmond 2-0, C McCarthy 1-2, O Barrett 1-1, G Ryan 0-4, C Wilson 1-0.

**Cloughduv:** O Barry-Murphy 1-0, L Buttimer, C O'Mahony 0-1.

**NEWCESTOWN:** M Scanlon; T Buckley, E Dineen, C Crowley; A Wilson, G Ryan, R Halahan; J Buckley, A Sheehan; C McCarthy, C Wilson (c), E Collins; S Appleby, O Barrett, B Desmond.

**Subs:** A Goggin for S Appleby, A Crowley for B Desmond.

**Cloughduv:** D Walsh, L Bateman, A Coughlan, K Browne; C Foley, H Kierans, N Kiernan; O Barry-Murphy, L Buttimer; C Sheppard, L Hurley, H Nyhan, T McCarthy, C O'Mahony, A Ryan.

**Subs:** A O'Donoghue for T McCarthy, R Connolly for H Nyhan, A Drinan for C Sheppard, B Kelleher for N Kiernan.

**Referee:** William Wallace (Midleton).

## Midleton take first county title since reorganisation

Midleton	3-9
Buttevant	1-5

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THIS was a great day for Midleton as they annexed their first county title since the club was re-organised three years ago, when they overcame Buttevant to be crowned U14 C league champions in Ballinlough.

Reaching the U14 C final was a huge achievement for both clubs.

Buttevant have worked hard to re-establish themselves and to reach a final is a huge achievement and testament to all the hard work they are also putting in with camogie. It was a huge day for both clubs and the support they received brought a great atmosphere to Ballinlough.

Goals proved vital to Midleton as they set the foundations for victory and at half time they led 2-6 to 0-5

thanks to goals from Vivienne Gleeson and Abbie Foley.

The sides battled it out in the opening half and with Lauren Dunlea, Nicola Guinane and Chloe Trimm on target Buttevant were always in contention.

Midleton had points from Chloe Garde, Caoimhe Murray, Leah Hogan and Caoimhe Murray in the opening half and it helped them hold their lead to the break.

On the resumption Midleton had to work on protecting their advantage as Buttevant came at them. Grace O'Flynn had a Buttevant goal but Midleton added to their tally with points from Caoimhe Murray, Leah Hogan (2).

A Chloe Garde goal was the icing on the cake as it gave Buttevant a mountain to climb.

They battled to the finish but Midleton were not going to be denied as they held their lead to run out winners with Jodie Keegan-O'Connell named as Player of the Match.

**Scorers for Midleton:** C Garde 1-3, V Gleeson 1-0, Caoimhe Murray 0-3 (0-2 45, 0-1 f), Leah Hogan 0-3 (0-2 f), A Foley 1-0.

**Buttevant:** G O'Flynn 1-0, Lauren Dunlea, Nicola Guinane 0-1 each, Chloe Trimm 0-3.

**MIDLETON:** J Connaughton; R McSweeney, O Evans, M Daly, R Hennessy, J Keegan-O'Connell, C Cronin, C Murray, V Gleeson; M Kelly, L Hogan, M Tarrant; A Foley, C Garde, A Fitzgerald.

**Subs:** H Wall for M Tarrant, E Collins for M Kelly, A Purcell for A Fitzgerald, T Geary for A Foley.

**BUTTEVANT:** N McGurkin; B Dunlea, R Brosnan, D Cronin; G Cronin, E Kennedy, R Linehan; C Trimm, A Carroll; N Guinane, L O'Brien, L Dunlea; J Guerin, V O'Connor, L Daly.

**Subs:** S Jewitt for B Dunlea, A Shinnick for C Trimm, T Dunlea for J Guerin, S O'Connell for V O'Connor, G Flynn for L Daly.

**Referee:** William O'Sullivan (Bishopscourt).



# Clinical Carbery show they'll be strong force

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

**CARBERY** 4-25  
**MALLOW** 0-2

**SHIRLEY MOLONEY**  
**REPORTS**

**STAR-STUDD** Carbery showed they have the potential to be real contenders in the SE Systems Cork camogie senior championship after they recorded a 35-point win over senior debutants Mallow in their round one game in Coachford on Sunday evening.

Carbery, with the pick of every team in the division at their disposal, lined out with an impressive array of players that feature on the inter-county scene.

Indeed it was Cork and Enniskeane player Orla Cronin that got proceedings underway when she pointed a 20-metre free inside the opening minute. Four minutes later she split posts before pointing again

after a Libby Coppinger pass set her up to slot over. When Colette Desmond goaled after Clara Crowley's effort was saved, Carbery were already 1-3 to 0-0 ahead, and by half time the lead had swelled to 2-12 to 0-1.

Caroline Sugrue hit 1-3, Cronin scored four points and Caroline Murphy hit two more as Carbery powered in front.

Five unanswered Carbery points within 13 minutes of the restart through Sugrue, Clara Crowley, Desmond (2) and Cronin saw Carbery 2-17 to 0-01 ahead before Sugrue struck for goal after 44 minutes.

Mallow, having accounted for Valley Rovers in last year's senior B final to move up to the top grade of camogie in Cork, found the going tough but they must be commended in never giving up and remaining resolute as they grappled to come to terms with a very strong side.

But Carbery were far too strong and Enniskeane's Orla



**Great start:** The Carbery camogie team that beat Mallow, front from left, Maggie Coppinger (St Colum's), Clara Crowley (Ballinascairthy), Libby Coppinger (St Colum's), Caroline Sugrue (Ballinascairthy), Colette Desmond (Newcestown), Eileen O'Neill (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Zerrica Griffen (Newcestown). Back from left, Caroline Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Caroline O'Donovan (Enniskeane), Orla Cronin, capt (do), Laura Mannix (do), Slobhán O'Driscoll (do), Kate Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Aine Crowley (do), Katie Sexton (do), Moira Barrett (Ballinascairthy), Danielle Carroll (Enniskeane), Therese McCarthy (Newcestown) and Maeve Lynch (do).

Cronin scored her side's fourth goal as they eased into round two.

### Scorers

**Carbery:** O Cronin 1-9 (2f), C Sugrue 2-5, C Murphy 0-6, C Desmond 1-2, M Barrett 0-2, L Coppinger 0-1.  
**Mallow:** B Ganley, E Fitzpatrick

### 0-1 each

**Carbery:** C O'Donovan (Enniskeane); K Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); D Carroll (Enniskeane); M Coppinger (St Colum's); E O'Neill (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); Aine Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); T McCarthy (Newcestown); L Coppinger (St Colum's); C Crowley

(Ballinascairthy); C Sugrue (Ballinascairthy); O Cronin (Enniskeane); K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); S O'Driscoll (Enniskeane); C Desmond (Newcestown); C Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague).  
**Subs:** M Barrett (Ballinascairthy) for K Wall (37); L Mannix (Enniskeane) for S O'Driscoll (37); K Wall for C Desmond (49); S O'Driscoll

for C Sugrue (49).

**Mallow:** C O'Donoghue; E Murphy; M O'Connor; J O'Donnell; M O'Connell; E Harrington; A O'Rourke (capt); E Coakley; A Sheehan; O O'Regan; K Coakley; B Ganley; A O'Shea; E Fitzpatrick; C Woulfe.

**Subs:** R O'Riordan for E Murphy (38); G Ahern for E Harrington (52).

# Looney calls the tune as Courceys defeated

**COURCEY ROVERS** 2-10  
**KILLEAGH** 3-13

**SHIRLEY MOLONEY**  
**REPORTS**

**COURCEY** Rovers will have to take the back-door route in the SE Systems Cork camogie senior championship after their first-round loss to Killeagh at Castle Road on Monday evening.

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

Two goals in two minutes in the second half for Killeagh from Cork star Hannah Looney decided this clash.

Courceys trailed 1-3 to 1-7 at the break, with Rachel Sheehan scoring the Killeagh goal, while Linda Collins replied for Courceys ten minutes before

the break. Four unanswered points from Killeagh before half time saw them hold a four-point lead.

Points from Jacinta Crowley and Saoirse McCarthy kept Courceys ticking over but Killeagh still held the advantage, 1-10 to 1-5.

Two quick goals from Hannah Looney in the 47th and 48th minutes were key as it gave Killeagh a 3-10 to 1-5 lead.

Courceys remained resolute and with Ashling Moloney, Ciara Hayes and Karen Keohane holding firm in defence, they began to claw their way back into the game.

Two Courcey points from McCarthy and Collins either side of a Sigerson 45 metre free had Courceys trailing by

10 with five remaining. Collins did score a late Courcey's goal but Killeagh were never in any real danger.

### Scorers

**Courcey Rovers:** L Collins 2-2, J Crowley 0-4 (2f), S McCarthy 0-3, D O'Reilly 0-1.  
**Killeagh:** H Looney 2-3, R Sheehan 1-0, L Treacy 0-3, N O'Donovan, C Daly (2f), C Sigerson (1f, 145) 0-2 each, S Landers 0-1.  
**Courcey Rovers:** S O'Reilly; E O'Regan; K Keohane; G Hannon;

C Hayes; A Moloney (capt); O Twomey; J Crowley; R Crowley; L Collins; Elaine O'Reilly; S McCarthy; D O'Reilly; Eimear O'Reilly; A Hannon.

**Killeagh:** KM Cullinane; E Treacy; A Walsh; R Fogarty; J O'Gorman; C Sigerson; NNI Chaoimh; L McEvoy; C Daly; N O'Donovan (capt); L Treacy; R Sheehan; S Landers; H Looney; C Motherway.  
**Subs:** G Tyrell for C Motherway (41); M Ahern for R Fogarty (53); C Horgan for S Landers (57).  
**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Galway's Heather Cooney with Cork's Ashling Thompson were in Croke Park yesterday where throw-in times for the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-finals were confirmed. Both semi-finals will take place in the Gaelic Grounds with Dublin facing Kilkenny at 5.15pm and Cork taking on Galway at 7pm. Picture: Morgan Trear





**C**laire predicts a Tipperary win tomorrow. "Being honest, I can see them doing it. It's bound to be close as it has been and everybody is tipping Galway but I have a feeling about Tipp that they have something to prove as they're the underdogs. They can do nothing but throw everything they have at it. I reckon Tipp will sneak it."

Her husband obviously thinks otherwise. He isn't blinded by loyalty — he's making a name as a straight-talker on the SportsJoe hurling podcast — but then he's also an optimist. Two years ago, he was certain Galway would win the All-Ireland. Now he's utterly convinced.

Of the Galway team named to start, only Colm Callanan and Aidan Harte were alive when Conor Hayes lifted the Liam MacCarthy Cup in 1988 but history doesn't hurt this team, he claims.

"It's incredible to say we haven't won an All-Ireland in 29 years. It is hard to believe that with all the talent that has gone through the mill Galway haven't crossed the line but I think it's Galway's All-Ireland to lose."

"I think it's a very settled group. There aren't that many changes — it's effectively the same group of players the last three years and they've a very good management team. You always want to look back on a season and say you won something and Galway have won two cups. I see it as a major success compared to last year. Everybody was saying they nearly beat Tipp in the semi-final

**Former Galway hurler Damien Hayes and his wife Claire and children Eanna and Barry on holiday in Killarney this week. Pictures: Don MacMonagle**

but they won nothing."

What concerns him? Hype a little. That Galway are fancied to beat the reigning champions is, on the surface, an unusual situation.

"It's up to the management and the players not to read anything into that. It's not easy but that's what has to be done."

Then there is the team's path to the final. "It's going to see how much Tipp have improved with this momentum. Effectively, Galway have played three weaker opponents than Tipperary since the league final. It's going to be very interesting that way."

Is a return of two goals in three games a worry even if Galway are averaging a stunning 30 points a game?

"Every game is different. They didn't score goals against Wexford but to be fair Davy Fitz set up his team not to concede

goals but it completely backfired on Wexford. Galway are happy playing their own sweeper with Aidan Harte. His thing is to drive out with the ball and delivering it route one."

"The main thing is it's going to be a good game. There won't be any sweepers. It'll be tactical. I'd say Micheál Donoghue has the edge in the tactical battle because they nearly won last year and this year they annihilated Tipp in the league final."

After that spring day in Limerick, the great Hayes smile was on full show. Mrs Hayes' not so much. Unless there's a draw, it could be a quiet drive back from Dublin to Portumna but it's something they're used to at this stage.

"One of us won't be happy," says Damien, "but we'll overcome it. We both want a great game and if we get that then there won't be too many complaints."

## Croke Park set for record-breaking weekend



Former Galway hurler Damien Hayes warms up for the weekend with his Tipperary-supporting wife Claire and son Eanna while on holidays in Killarney. Galway and Tipperary renew their rivalry in the All-Ireland SHC semi-final at Croke Park tomorrow. Full interview with Damien Hayes: Weekend Sport. Picture: Don MacMonagle





## JOHN FOGARTY

Married to Galway senior hurling for 14 years and now, officially, to former Tipperary camogie star Claire for five, games between the counties now take on a new kind of meaning for Damien Hayes

# 'Mixed' marriage breaks down the borderlines

It started with a sale. In 2009, Claire Grogan walked into the showroom of Al Hayes Motors looking for a car and into Damien Hayes' life. Each knew the other by reputation.

Claire had cursed Damien four years previous when his goal was the beginning of the end for her Tipperary in their All-Ireland quarter-final. Claire was only 13 when they met but Damien knew she had already enjoyed a glittering camogie career.

The slugging was fierce as was the flirting.

"It was a lucky sale, as the man says," laughs Hayes. "I knew Claire and Claire knew me but we had never met. Claire came all the way up to Portumna to buy a car and the rest is history. As I often say, Claire bought a car and ended up getting a lifetime guarantee. I'll never forget the reg - 09-TS-1015. Would you believe, it was traded back into the garage there a couple of months ago and sold on again. It's just a great story for us."

Three years later and they were walking down the aisle. Two three-time All-Stars, Claire, a four-time All-Ireland winner and 2001 All-Ireland club medallist. Hayes, a four-time All-Ireland club medallist. When Claire was winning her first senior title at the tender age of 14 in 2000, Damien was claiming a minor All-Ireland. It was love, obviously, but it was also a partnership. In each other, they saw something of themselves.

"As Claire's dad said on our wedding day, we just had so much in common. We both supported Manchester United, we were both sports enthusiasts who sit down to watch rugby, tennis, golf, even though I wouldn't be as much into golf. We'd be great outdoor people as well. When we met in 2009, I won a club All-Ireland and Claire won a club All-Ireland with Cashel."

A month rarely goes by that the pair don't spend a weekend in Claire's native Cashel. They were there this week before heading for a few days' break in Kerry. Needless to say, Damien heard all about Sunday's game from the in-laws. Croke Park may be too much for their second child Barry, who turns two in September, but three-year-old Eanna will likely join them.

"And he'll be wearing a Galway jersey," insists Damien. "Sometimes he has Tipperary tracksuit bottoms given to him by his granny but I haven't seen a Tipperary jersey."

And, no, although it would be fitting, Eanna's name wasn't inspired by a certain corner-forward who, like Damien, terrorised Tipperary defences. "Believe it or not, we didn't know when we had Eanna whether it was going to be a boy or a girl. When he arrived, we decided on Eanna and somebody looked it up and Eanna was

in Cashel. You'd swear it was something that we had researched. It was just a coincidence."

Of the couple, it will be Damien who will watch on as if he were pucking every ball. "I would always have the real calm approach," smiles Claire. "Damien would get excited watching American football. And the elbows — oh, I'll be black and blue from him constantly elbowing me during the match."

Damien doesn't argue — "I'm the worst spectator of a hurling match ever. I think I am hurling the match and I'd be shoving and pushing into Claire the whole way through."

*"Ger Farragher comes out from corner-forward. Whips it in towards Damien Hayes. Hayes facing Brendan Cummins. Can he get inside Hugh Maloney? Still Hayes. His path blocked the first time. Oooh, a marvellous goal."*

— Marty Morrissey

Five points down and just over 12 minutes to go, it was Hayes' goal that set Galway on their way to the All-Ireland final 12 years ago.

He hadn't scored at the time but Conor Hayes wasn't going to forsake a forward who by the end of his inter-county had bulged the net 25 times, an average of almost one every two matches.

It's the score that he knows he's remem-

**Former Galway hurler Damien Hayes and his wife Claire enjoy a puck around with their son Eanna while on holidays in Killarney.**



bered for most. How he wrestled away Maloney, a marker to whom he was giving several inches and pounds. And that strike past Cummins, the closest thing to a drop-shot without being one.

"It's something people remind me about every day. If I'm selling a car or with people from Tipperary they often bring up the goal I scored against Hugh Maloney. I remember very well. A friend of mine might send me a YouTube clip of it to me. I got a ball from Ger Farragher and the next thing I slipped. The slip ended up being an advantage. I remember swinging and the ball being so low to the ground that it was like a golf stroke. It was a goal we badly needed. Ger Farragher then put a ball over the bar from a free in his own half-back line and we were on our way."

Of the five times Hayes faced Tipperary in championship it was the only time he came away victorious. Of course, it meant more to him than others. In Portumna, they are the Night's Watch, the bridge over the Shannon The Wall. Not that he wasn't adverse to crossing it from time to time. His good buddy John Muldoon, future Connacht captain, and himself studied and played rugby in Nenagh where Hayes was a nifty scrum-half.

"We were friendly with a family in Nenagh, the Burkes. They originated from Portumna and I was playing rugby in the school with John and Ivan Muldoon and Ivan is now doing the coaching over in Nenagh. I went over there and won an U18 All-Ireland medal in '99 and I scored two tries in the final. I'd say that was nearly my last game of rugby because I was hurling and John started to concentrate on rugby."

There was little rivalry with Lorrha, eight kilometres down the N65. "We didn't have much of one with them. Growing up, all we knew was Ken Hogan. Now it's 'the Bonner' (Patrick Maher). Bonner is only living a couple of miles from us and I never see him. Even though I'd be a big fan of his, and his brother has a business beside Portumna, we have no dealings."

But Portumna's proximity with Tipperary was a dig the likes of their bitter rivals Loughrea liked to throw at them.

"Tipperary men" was the insult. "Sometimes it was said. It was never said to me directly but one lad seemingly said to one of ours one time, 'Ye are only a shower of Tipperary lads!' My friend said back to him, 'We're from Portumna, like'. It was said during a match but it wasn't said often."

Nobody could appreciate the rivalry with Tipperary more than Portumna folk like Hayes. Defeats to them obviously lingered longer than others, even those in the league. "We also played them in a (2008) league final in the Gaelic Grounds. That was a game we should have won. The one thing I always remember is that they allowed you to hurl. Now, they would be hurling too but you could do it against them."

"I love the way Tipp hurl when they hurl at full-pelt. I love the way their forwards move and I love the intelligence of the McGraths, Pádraic Maher at the back, Bubbles and Seanie Callanan. But that's only when they're hurling at full-flight. Like all teams, they can be terrible. But it's like watching Dublin and Kerry footballers, when they're at their best anybody would sit down and watch them."

His last appearance in a Galway jersey came as a substitute in the 2014 qualifier when Tipperary outscored them 2-10 to 0-1 in the final 20 minutes. Brought on in the closing stages, he knew it was the end for him, telling his marker Michael Cahill as much as they swapped jerseys at the final whistle, his as dry as it came out of the packing.

**"I gave everything for Galway, put my life on hold... if I could do it all over again I would do exactly the same"**

A Celtic Cross never adorned his mantlepiece but he can live with that knowing what he gave in his attempt to win one. Still, his memory has a way of toying with him. "I played in four finals and we definitely should have won two of them. It's disappointing because I trained so hard and put in so much effort. I'm honoured to have won three All-Stars but it would have finished everything to have won an All-Ireland medal and put it up there with my All-Ireland clubs."

"I gave everything for Galway, put my life on hold. I used to train on Christmas morning, swim inside in the Shannon Oaks Hotel and if I could do it all over again I would do exactly the same. I had great times and great memories. I gave Galway as much as I gave Portumna. Nobody can ever say I only hurled well for Portumna or Galway or that I was only a club or a county man. I gave it absolutely everything. If Galway do it, I'll be delighted. I would love to have won one but it doesn't define you as a man or anything. I went on three All-Stars trips, Claire and I went over to San Fran one year and had a brilliant time. We had the All-Stars event. The Friday night, I won my award and on the Saturday Claire won hers, literally a free weekend in CityWest. We have great memories."

"Would I change any of that? Not one iota."



# Camogie finally goes prime time

**F**or the first time ever this afternoon, the All-Ireland camogie quarter-finals will be broadcast live on RTE.

The double-header is at Semple Stadium, with Dublin facing Wexford at 5pm followed by Galway against Tipperary at 7pm.

Last year's finalists, Kilkenny and Cork, await the winners in the semi-finals on August 19.

Wexford and Galway will be favourites, having come second in their respective groups and both being relatively recent All-Ireland winners — Wexford in 2012, Galway in 2013.

Wexford beat Tipp, Offaly, and Limerick in arguably the stronger of the two groups, but won't be happy with their 18-point defeat to Cork in the third round. Having lost lynchpin Kate Kelly to retirement in June, the Leacys — Mary at centre back and Una at corner forward — are among their most steady, experienced players, but newcomers Chloe Fox and Joanna Dillon are also shining in the attack.

Galway, meanwhile, beat all comers in Group 1 but for champions Kilkenny, with Orlaith McGrath (daughter of Hopper) providing crisp firepower up front. They'll be hoping to strike the first blow in this weekend's double-header.

Dublin will be underdogs against Wexford, but David Herity's team will take heart from victories over Clare and Waterford in the group stages, and by the fact that as recently as this year's league they enjoyed a five-point victory over Wexford.

Twenty-year-old goalkeeper Faye McCarthy has scored an incredible 1-15 in the championship so far; her deadly accurate long-range frees should keep Dublin within touching distance at the very least.

Tipp, meanwhile, made it to the quarters by the skin of their teeth, advancing on a single point in score difference. Their victory over Offaly two



**STRIKING A POSE:** Galway's Heather Cooney during the build-up to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland SCC quarter-finals. Thurles will play host to a quarter-finals double-header today when Dublin take on Wexford before the Galway and Tipperary clash. Picture: Morgan Treacy

weekends ago was their first win in the championship, but with it, all their stars aligned:

they got the required three-point margin to leapfrog Offaly in the table, and Wexford duly beat Limerick to allow Tipp to go through. Despite losses to Cork, Limerick, and Wexford, Tipp racked up decent

scores in each of their

games, with Cait Devane and Orlagh O'Dwyer particularly effective up front.

Unconventional though their route to the quarter-finals was, Tipp are on home turf and will be throwing everything they have at Galway.

If you can, go to Thurles. It's to be a sunny evening; you'll get two must-win matches for the price of one; and best of all, U18s get in free. Having said that, I couldn't be happier that the games will be televised (did I mention that it's for the first time ever?).

For years, camogie fans have looked enviously at the LGFA and their excellent, comprehensive coverage on

TG4 and wondered: Why not us? Last year was the first time that even the semi-finals were televised live. To go from one game broadcast to five in the space of two years is a huge jump in terms of visibility, and I'm delighted for these elite players who are all too used to playing to bare stands. This weekend, they'll have an audience.

Small things demonstrate the gulf between being an inter-county hurler and an inter-county camogie player. A recent exchange on *The Sunday Game* after the brief camogie segment demonstrates this. Jackie Tyrell, who has emerged as a smart and incisive pundit since hanging up his boots, made an off-hand comment that the Kilkenny camogie team would have been watching the weekend's action closely with a view to their own fixture the following weekend. But the

match wasn't televised; the three minutes shown on *The Sunday Game* was likely the only insight the Kilkenny players were going to get.

TV coverage is an indelible part of elite sport now. It's almost unimaginable for a hurler to go out to play a team without having watched them perform or having access to in-depth analysis. But for camogie players, trying to get a sense of how their opposition plays is a mixum-gatherum of word-of-mouth, local radio, and the diligent live-tweeting of games by county PROs. Bare-bones coverage — or none at all — is just the norm.

Maybe it's a blessing in a way. There are certainly fewer angry tweets in the women's codes.

Controversial incidents generally aren't slowed down and analysed frame by frame. Former Cork ladies' football manager Eamonn Ryan

remarked that there was a lot less pressure on his female charges. If they went out and lost a league final or a Munster final, there was no media outcry or talking down of the players. Very often, this allowed them to rebound from the odd defeat; the lack of scrutiny might even have been a factor in their extraordinary streak of 11 All-Irelands in 12 years.

Lack of coverage can mean lack of pressure, but it can also be interpreted as lack of encouragement. That's one extraordinary statistic that emerged from a recent campaign by Lidl to highlight its sponsorship of the LGFA. According to its research, one out of every two teenage girls drops out of team sport; girls are three times more likely to drop out of sports than boys; and seven out of ten girls report 'lack of encouragement' as one of their main reasons for quitting.

When the research also highlights the fact that girls who play a team sport are four times more likely to be confident in their bodies and 80% more likely to have a positive mental outlook, the value of encouraging girls to play sport is clear. When you consider the pressures on young people in general, and teenage girls in particular, we can't continue to allow young female players to slip through the cracks.

Broadcasting games is one way of counteracting this. In fairness to *The Sunday Game*, they've been making a good effort to seed in women analysts alongside the lads of late, with Wexford's Mags D'Arcy (taking a year out from goalkeeping duty) and Galway's Anne Marie Hayes especially impressive. It's nice to see something other than a lineup of suits in studio. This afternoon's coverage will feature no suits at all, with Joanne Cantwell joined in studio by Galway's Aisling Connolly, Cork's Anna Geary, Kilkenny's Elaine Aylward, and Tipp's Jill Horan. Not only will young women get to watch sports heroes of their gender on TV, they'll get to see an all-female panel of experts debate the finer points of the games. I'd call that a win-win.



**Eimear Ryan**

## Foxe hoping to keep Wexford ahead of the pack

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Chloe Foxe is in the vanguard of the new breed of Wexford player, joined by the likes of Joanne Dillon, Amy Cardiff and Sarah O'Connor, with Nicole Fortune inheriting the goalkeeper's role. They have flourished this year but face their biggest test when taking on Dublin in the first of this evening's televised quarter-finals' double-header at Semple Stadium.

Foxe was given a taste of the action as a Leaving Cert student last year but has created a huge impression this

term. The St Martin's sharpshooter was just 10 when the Yellowbellies took over Croke Park a decade ago. Sharing a dressing room with so many legends could have been daunting but Foxe kept her mouth shut and her ears open.

"Players like Kate Kelly would have been one of my true inspirations growing up," says Foxe. "Just playing alongside her last year was so surreal. Just looking at her... the desire to go and fight for every ball as if it was her last is really something I've tried to bring to my game."

"I remember last year in the

quarter-final against Tipp, it was slipping away so easily and to see that ball go over the bar in the dying seconds was just an incredible moment."

Kelly's injury-time winner, after Wexford had trailed by eight, was the last in a lengthy list of heroic feats over 20 years in the purple and gold but her contribution continues, as she drifts around the younger crew on match day. "She's been there in the dressing room as a voice for the likes of me and Joanne and Sarah and Amy. She's someone who gives you a lot of inspiration."

"Before the match she's just telling you to focus on what you have to do. I remember the last day against Offaly, we got a great start and were going really well. We came in at half time and she said to me 'Look, ye had a good first half but that's over now, you may do the exact same in the second half.'"

The entire family is immersed in sport. Foxe's father Ger was a selector with Jason Ryan when Wexford reached the All-Ireland Senior Football semi-final in 2008. Her brother of the same name hurled for the county while all

her siblings play at some level.

Foxe herself has lined out for Wexford at underage level in ladies football and soccer, but camogie always held sway. Her influence was never more obvious than against Tipperary at Innova Wexford Park on July 15.

The computer science student at UCD damaged her hamstring against Cork and after missing too much training, was held in reserve against the Premier County. The visitors scored two quick goals to draw level in the second half, which was the signal for Foxe's introduction. She

quickly scored a goal and a point to put her team in command once more, her finishing tally of 1-2 being the ultimate margin of victory.

"After I had an injury, the lads chose not to start me and I was completely understanding that as I missed training. And I was pleased for the girls that got to come in because everyone is going so hard in training."

"I saw it as an opportunity. I said 'I'm not sitting on the bench for another summer so I better do something when I get in.' The rest is history. With more to be written."

**AUG  
2017**



# Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



## Rebels haven't been tested yet

Cork have eased into the All-Ireland camogie semi-finals without a proper test

WE'RE moving towards the business end of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship and Cork are safely in the semi-finals, as are reigning champions Kilkenny – the question now is who will join them?

This weekend the two quarter-finals take place – Dublin v Wexford and Galway v Tipp – and after that we'll be left with four teams to battle it out for the top prize.

Cork have done all they need to do to get this far, winning all four games in group two of the championship to comfortably progress to the last four – but a concern is that they haven't been tested yet.

Cork beat Tipperary (1-16 to 1-7) in their opening championship game, and then went on to resoundingly defeat (1-27 to 0-11) Munster champions Limerick, the side that beat them in that Munster final.

Wexford was the next encounter, a side Cork are all so familiar with from past epic battles, but Wexford appeared to be a weakened team, especially with the retirement of their highly influential forward Kate Kelly. Cork looked strong with a great team performance that saw them working for each other and finding players in a better position for a pass. Orla Cotter took some impressive scores from distance as did the young Orla Cronin, and goalkeeper Aoife Murray's familiar sprint up the field for a penalty rocked the net and the game ended on a score line of 3-18 to 0-9, a win that all but guaranteed Cork a place in the last four.

Cork's last group game was probably their toughest, winning 1-13 to 0-11 against a determined Offaly side, and afterwards manager Paudie Murray admitted that there was plenty to do.

'I'm happy with the win – but the negative would be that we never really brought our level of intensity or work-rate to today's game to compare with the first three games,' the Rebel boss said. 'In defence of the girls, we had qualified, so today's result was irrelevant in one way so 'twas hard to get

yourself up for it.

'We've really got to up it to have a chance in the semi-final because certainly today's display will not do. So there's a lot of work to do.'

This Cork team has yet to be tested in this senior championship, having won all four games with relative ease. The next few weeks of preparation for their semi-final opponents will be crucial. Training will be intensified and practice games against challenging opponents need to be organised as other teams in the championship have had to fight very hard for their qualifying place so they will be battle ready.

In order for Kilkenny to secure their semi-final spot by the mathematical workings of points and game permutations, they had to ensure they finished their final game with a high-scoring win against Dublin after battling a drawn result with Clare earlier in the championship. They have a number of injured players this year, most notably their solid back Edwina Keane who tore her cruciate ligament earlier this season. They topped their group with three wins and one draw and will be watching carefully this Saturday to see who progresses through the quarter-finals.

It has been an unusual and exciting championship so far. There have been fantastic displays of skill, like Dublin goalkeeper Faye McCarthy's consistent ability to take frees and score from long range, and there have been players who have shot onto the radar for their individual performances, like Limerick's Niamh Mulcahy. Cork rock Gemma O'Connor has thrilled many with her powerful solo runs and scores from the midfield area.

There have been many examples of camogie at its best during the summer but the excitement of this championship so far is mainly built on uncertainty; uncertainty of who was going to progress to the quarter-final stages.

It was certainly not clear-cut or in any way predictable.

While Kilkenny played their



Let's raise it: Cork manager Paudie Murray chats to Gemma O'Connor after the recent win against Wexford. Cork are in the All-Ireland semi-final and awaiting to see who emerges from this Saturday's quarter-finals.

last round-robin game knowing the incentive of a semi-final place was up for grabs, all other teams bar the already qualified Cork and knocked-out Waterford side had an opportunity to reach the quarter-finals, if permutations worked in their counties favour.

All remaining seven counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Wexford, Offaly, Galway and Dublin had a chance to qualify, and these last-gasp pressurised efforts will stand to them as they now face their opponents in Semple Stadium in Thurles this Saturday.

All teams will feel relief on qualifying in their last group game, especially Tipperary who left their last game as the first win in the championship. Having lost three out of four group games, they will count themselves lucky to qualify but also unlucky in the manner in which their season has gone so far as they only lost to Limerick

by two points and were very competitive against Wexford.

While teams will inevitably reflect on the championship so far, another aspect of their preparation will involve firmly closing that chapter as soon as they begin their first quarter-

final training session.

Each team will have their homework to do as they will not have played their opponents in the championship yet this year and so it will be a very busy time on and off the field for both players and management. The

game has got so technical and statistics will be perused and analysed further to spot weaknesses and strengths in their own squads but also in their opponents.

It's all to play for as we speed towards the business end.

## Step in the right direction as RTE will show quarter-finals

I REMEMBER writing an article last year about the need for more media coverage in female sport, and there was a significant step in the right direction when the 2016 All-Ireland senior camogie semi-finals were shown live on our screens.

What makes this season even more enthralling is the fact that the All-Ireland camogie double header, two quarter-finals, will be shown live on RTE 1 this Saturday evening, which is a fantastic step forward once again for the sport.

Dublin will play Wexford in the first game

at 5pm and the second game involves a clash between Galway and Tipperary at 7pm.

These two games are definitely ones to watch as the prospect of a semi-final pairing with either Cork or the All-Ireland champions Kilkenny is at stake.

Following this, the semis and finals will also be shown on RTE so there's no escaping the opportunity to view these hardworking ladies in action.

It's time for you to brace yourself for the games ahead, it promises to be epic viewing.



## Thoughts turn to completing Under-16 leagues

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

WITH the U14 league competitions now done and dusted, thoughts are currently turning to the later stages of the U16 leagues competitions at A, B, and C levels, in a bid to get them all completed before the championship gets under way.

With the Cork under 16A hoping to secure an All Ireland semi final spot, the push is on to try and get the leagues completed and recently the quarter finals in all grades were decided and its now all systems go to get the semi finals and finals decided.

In a high scoring Under16A quarter final Ballinora hit an impressive 4-18 as they overcame neighbours Ballincollig to safely advance to a semi final meeting where they will meet Carrigaline. Ballinora led 1-11 to 1-4.

At the interval and with Cliona Dooley on form striking an impressive 2-15 they secured their semi final spot with Rose Murphy. Aoife Murphy and Kate O'Shea all on the score sheet for them.

Enniskeane overcame the challenge of Douglas in the Under 16 B league quarter final to set up a semi final meeting with Aghabullogue.

Three points separated Blackrock from Ballinhassig as the sides met in the Under 16 B league semi final where it finished Blackrock 3-11 Ballinhassig 3-8.

Cloughduv overcame the challenge of Buttevant to secure an under 16 C semi final spot. Youghal turned in a strong performance as they had to much strength for Tracton to secure their semi final place.

It will be a busy few day as the semi finals at A, B and C levels take place and first one to be decided will be the Under 16 B league semi final where Enniskeane take on Aghabullogue this will go ahead on Monday next August 7th at 7pm in Eire Og GAA grounds Ovens.

In the Under 16 C league, one semifinal goes ahead today, Saturday, August 5, in Castle Road at 12 noon when Banteer take on Youghal.

On Tuesday next, August 8 the second semi final will see Cloughduv take on Barryroe at 7pm.

At time of going to print a venue was still to be announced for this game but keep an eye to the Juvenile camogie board twitter and facebook pages.

The Under 16 A league Semi Finals will go ahead on Saturday, August 12, and Tuesday August 15. On Saturday, August 12, at 7pm at Castle Road it's Ballinora meeting Carrigaline, while on the following Tuesday, August 15, Charleville will meet Inniscarra at 7pm in Mallow.



Briege Corkery, Cork camogie player; Killian Young, Kerry footballer; and Alan Brogan, former Dublin star, promoting the Bank of Ireland the Bank of Ireland Backyard Blitz, which will see 320 bank volunteers give their older neighbours a 'dig out' in their gardens. Picture: Naoise Culhane

# Updates in SE championships

**THE SE Systems championships are continued with games in all grades and this evening we take a look at the latest updates to hand.**

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

The updates position in the Senior B championship is that in section A Eire Og recorded a one point victory in round three over Carrigaline 3-7 to 1-12 the score line as the Ovens girls held on under huge pressure.

Blackrock had a 3-19 to 2-8 victory over Barryroe.

In Section B Valley Rovers overcame Aghabullogue whilst Ballinhassig had a victory over Clonakilty.

As the clubs face into round 4 it is still all to play with the four semi final spots still very much up for grabs.

Round four on August 22 is Aghabullogue against Ballinhassig and on August 23 Barryroe meet Fr O'Neill's. Blackrock take on Carrigaline and Val-

ley Rovers meet Kilbrittan / Timoleague.

The SE Systems Intermediate champions has five clubs battling for the four semi final spots and with two rounds to go Newcestown and Enniskeane are both in good positions with two victories from two outings Newtownshandrum and Tracton have one win each under their belts whilst Sliabh Rua with only one game need a win in their last game.

It may still not be enough but if Newtownshandrum and Tracton were to ere to lost their remaining two games and Sliabh Rua win the three would be on level points with the last spot up for grabs

The Junior A championship is divided into two groups with two to emerge from each to contest the semi finals.

Na Piarsaigh have two wins under their belts as do Ballyhea in Section A and as neither can be caught by the other two sides in the section they are safely through before they meet in the last game in the section on August 23rd.

In Section B Watergrasshill continue to blaze a trail as they recorded their second win as they defeated Youghal and with one game to go against Bishopstown they will be feeling confident.

St Vincent's and Youghal meet in the last game and with one win each to their credit and whichever side wins this one in all probability will go through.

In Section A of the Junior B Charleville are on full points with one game

to go and the remaining spot looks to be between Ballinora and Ballincollig. In Section B championship Cobh and Sarsfields have three wins under their belts, Ballinascarty have two wins, Glen Rovers have one but both are in hot pursuits with two games each to play.

In Section A of the Junior C Championship Castlelyons have two victories with wins over Kilworth and Kinsale. Kilworth and Kinsale recorded victories in round two and three over Castlemartyr and Kilbrittan / Timoleague.

In Section B Courcy rovers recorded a win over Na Piarsaigh before losing out to Blarney. Millstreet overcame Aghada in a high scoring contest.

All eyes will be on Tuesday night county board meeting where the draws for the next rounds in the SE Systems Senior Championship will be made.

## Draws made for Under 14 championship games

LAST year for the first time the Juvenile Camogie board introduced championship at U14 level and this year they have decided to continue with the competitions at Under 14 A B and C levels.

An addition this year to the format is that there will be a back door in all grades, so every team will get at the minimum two championships games. The draws were made recently for the opening rounds. A starting date of the end of August is envisaged.

All Ireland Feile Na nGael winners Sarsfields recently added the cork league title to their haul of trophies as they overcame the challenge of Inniscarra in the league final. They have been drawn to meet Kilbrittan / Timoleague. Another tie that will generate interest is the mid-Cork clash of neighbours Eire Og and Inniscarra; neighbours will also be in opposite corners when Aghada take on Youghal. U14 B League champions and Cork Division 2 Feile winners Newcestown have been upgraded to A for

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

championship and will meet Ballinora. Cloughduv have also been upgraded and will meet Charleville.

The U14 A first round draw is as follows Eire Og v Inniscarra; Ballinora v Newcestown; Valley Rovers v Enniskeane; Kilbrittan Timoleague v Sarsfields; Aghabullogue v Milford Ballyhea; Cloughduv v Charleville; Ballygarvan v St Finbarr's; Aghada v Youghal.

In the under 14 B championship Buttevant having reached the under 14 C League final are upgraded to B for championship as are Middleton who took the Under 14 C league title and amazingly the sides have been drawn together for the first round. Cobh will host Courcy Rovers, it will be a meeting of neighbours as Na Piarsaigh take on Glen Rovers, Castlelyons make the trip to Kilbree, Inniscarra's second

team head to meet Carrigaline. Bishopstown will meet Sarsfields second string, Ballincollig play host to Millstreet. Fr O'Neill's will be at home for their meeting with Blackrock. Mallow will travel to Killcagh and Sliabh Rua will welcome Douglas.

The U14 C championship has Ballinascarty at home where they will meet Dungourney Brian Dillon's will host St Colm's and Kinsale make the trip to Rathcormac for a meeting with Bride Rovers. Ballinhassig are at home to Watergrasshill Inniscarra's third team are at home when they meet St Vincent's. Banteer make the journey to St Catherine's, Grenagh host Kilworth. St Fanahan's will travel to meet Rockban Castlemartyr meet Clonakilty in Castlemartyr. It will be a short trip for Carrigtwohill as they head to Caherlag to meet Erin's Own. Laochra Og participating this year at under 14 for the first time and they take on Tracton and Blarney heading down to meet Barryroe.



Aug  
2017

# All set for exciting day in Thurles

Cork earn a semifinal spot after a close battle

CAMOGIE U16A C'SHIP

■ Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WITH back doors, side doors and sometimes even trap doors to be negotiated, it's only now that the inter-county camogie senior championship gets incredibly exciting.

There is nothing like knockout camogie, and while the final group games a fortnight ago provided a lot of drama, certain sides were waiting on a number of permutations to see if they would make it through.

There are no such variations in knockout games.

It's all or nothing here as Galway and Tipperary and Dublin and Wexford face off in the televised Liberty Insurance championship quarter finals in Thurles today.

Dublin v Wexford throws in at 5pm with Glen Rovers' Cathal Egan adjudicating; followed by Galway v Tipp at 7pm.

The games are later than usual to allow for TV coverage.

Galway are the only side from these four with the potential to win the All-Ireland, and even at that they sit in position three.

But it is at stages like this when shocks happen and Tipperary, having lost out last year by a point seven minutes into injury time of making the semi-final, will be chomping at the bit to go one further.

They had just one win from four in their group series and it was other results that got them where they are today so there needs to be a serious increase in levels.

Thurles is their home patch of course but I'm not so sure that will account for much.

Cait Devane, Nicole Walsh, Erena Fryday and Orla Dwyer will need to give top performances and drive their team against a Galway side who lost just one group game, a five-point defeat to Kilkenny.

Galway have always had scintillating forwards, some incredibly skilful players.

I'm going back as far as the likes of Deirdre Costelloe in the late 1980s.

What a player she was, right up to Veronica Curtin and now Ailish Reilly. They still have many quality forwards.

Despite losing to Kilkenny in early July Galway finished with a nine-point scoring difference over the Cats.

But Kilkenny topped the group with 10 points from four games with Galway on nine. Galway scored 11-65. Granted they notched up a combined 8-46 against Dublin and Waterford but Kilkenny didn't manage that.

Where Galway need to improve and this is the area where the likes of Kilkenny are ahead, is their defence. They conceded 4-43.

Not an altogether dismal showing but you need to look at their opposition. Tipperary will give a spirited performance, are sure to raise the bar on previous performances but it's difficult to see it being enough.



Tipperary's Mary Ryan with Galway's Heather Cooney in advance of today's quarter final at Semple Stadium in Thurles.

Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy



Wexford's Brid Gordon with Dublin's Sile Nic Coitir, whose teams play today in Thurles.

Pictured: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

Wexford, despite the retirement of Kate Kelly and the sabbaticals of Katrina Parrock and Mags D'Arcy managed an impressive group series, winning three from four, their only defeat a heavy one to Cork; 3-18 to 0-9 in Páirc Uí Rinn. They've scored 4-53 and conceded 5-51.

Una Leacy is having a good run, adding impressive long-range point scoring to her list of credentials, after taking over that role from Kate Kelly.

She is deceptive in that while not looking the fittest on the pitch, she can cover ground. And she possesses great strength. If she's in around the square she's always a danger.

Chloe Foxe is making a name for herself and Wexford do need new leaders to emerge.

Dublin will be fired up. Under David Herity they never give up. They've let in eight goals from four games and conceded 55 points while scoring 4-46,

a points difference of -21. A negative scoring difference will never get you far.

Dublin keeper Faye McCarthy is excellent on frees from within her own area and captain Eve O'Brien, Sile Nic Coitir and Ali Twomey should drive Dublin forward.

The Dubs started their campaign with a win against Clare which proved to be vital as they finished two points clear of the Banner County in the race for qualification to the knockouts.

They were then beaten by a strong Galway team before edging out a spirited Waterford side in Walsh Park. David Herity's side finished off the group stages with a loss to Kilkenny.

However, Sile Nic Coitir feels had it not been for a few silly mistakes against Galway and Kilkenny, they wouldn't have been far off the group's top two. "We really put it to Galway and then just made a few silly

“Tipperary will give a spirited performance, are sure to raise the bar on previous performances but it's difficult to see it being enough

mistakes. Again, it was a few silly mistakes that led to Kilkenny's goals and it kind of sucked the life out of us.”

This will be the second meeting of Dublin and Wexford this year, having already met in the group stages of the National League campaign in May.

The Dubs got the better of Wexford that day and Sile mentioned the rivalry that exists between the two counties. "Wexford are no joke and there's a nice bit of history there, a good long history between us and Wexford."

The Dubs will take a lot of confidence from their recent performances and Sile is relishing being labelled as the underdogs ahead of the game.

"I don't know what people are expecting of us after the annihilation Kilkenny gave us and I think that's a nice way of going into the game as an underdog."

It's Galway and Wexford for me, where Cork and Kilkenny await.

THE draw in this pulsating All-Ireland U16 A round four clash was enough to put Cork through to the All-Ireland semi-final. It was a nail-biting finish, Tipp winning a free four minutes into injury time but the resulting effort dropped short.

Cork led from the throw-in and, despite Tipp leveling it with ten minutes left, Cork edged back in front. They allowed Tipp back into the game but hung on to secure the result that mattered.

An Emma Murphy shot and an Ellen Murphy pointed free had Cork two clear before Emma Murphy won possession from a line ball and finished superbly to the net.

Cork wasted several opportunities before Sally McCarthy pointed a free, but with Emer McGrath and Clodagh McIntyre on target, Tipp settled down. Fiona Keating stretched the lead with a point before the ref failed to allow advantage and called play back to give Cork a penalty after Keating had found the net. Orla Cremin pointed the penalty and, with Emma Murphy pointing from play, Cork were 1-6 to 0-2 up seven minutes before the break.

Emer McGrath pointed a Tipperary penalty after Karin Blair had been fouled. Jill Ann Quirke and Emma Murphy swapped points to leave Cork with a 1-7 to 0-4 interval lead.

Tipp came at Cork on the resumption and a Rose Ann O'Donnell goal cut the deficit. Twice Sally McCarthy and Fiona Keating pointed and in between McGrath had one for the home side.

Two points from impressive Tipp substitute Leah Heffernan and one from Emer Heffernan cut the lead to a goal. Then Laura Shinnors won possession, raced past the Cork defence and fired the ball to the net to level matters.

Points by Sally McCarthy and sub Casey Coleman restored the lead, but points for Tipp from Jill Ann Quirke and Clodagh McIntyre ensured a nervous finish for Cork.

**Scorers for Cork:** Emma Murphy 1-3, F Keating 0-4, S McCarthy 0-4 (0-2fs 0-1 45), Ellen Murphy 0-1 (fs), C Coleman 0-1. **Tipperary:** E McGrath 0-4 (0-3fs 0-1p), R A O'Donnell, L Shinnors 1-0 each, Leah Heffernan, J A Quirke 0-2 each, E Heffernan 0-1 (fs), C McIntyre 0-1.

**CORK:** L O'Riordan; C Murphy, M Cotter, H Seston; L Doyle, C O'Leary (c), A Smith; I Sheehan O'Sullivan; O Cremin McCarthy, Ellen Murphy; H O'Leary, F Keating, E Murphy.

**Subs:** C Finn for H O'Leary (inj hit), A Keating for L Doyle (36), C Coleman for O Cremin (37), S Sheehan for C O'Sullivan (53), M Barrett for I Sheehan (59).

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery; B Conroy, G Fox (c), L Ryan; E Heffernan, S Ryan, Laura Heffernan; S Ryan, E McGrath; K Blair, R O'Dwyer, C McIntyre; J A Quirke, R A O'Donnell, G O'Toole.

**Subs:** E Bourke for S Ryan (35) Leah Heffernan for K Blair (37), L Shinnors for R O'Dwyer (42).

**Referee:** Fintan McNamara (Clare).



## Galway scorch Tipp with early salvo

Liberty Insurance  
All-Ireland  
Camogie quarter-final

Galway 1-22  
Tipperary 0-10

Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Semple Stadium

Galway manager Mark Dunne revealed that it was a healthy respect of the dangers Tipperary offered that saw his charges impose themselves in such deadly fashion early on, scoring the first 10 points.

Tipperary recovered well to trail by just seven at the interval, 0-12 to 0-5, but Ailish O'Reilly's goal early in the second half finished the game as a contest.

The McGrath sisters Siobhán, Orlaith and Niamh were all prominent in those early exchanges, while Maria Cooney and the balletic Niamh Kilkenny were also too hot for Tipp to handle.

Ciartha Maher and Orla O'Dwyer took the fight to Galway in the second quarter and when O'Dwyer pointed at the beginning of the second half, it was just a six-point game.

O'Reilly's goal gave Tipp a mountain to climb however and with the wind at their backs, Galway put the game to bed as Ann Marie Starr, Niamh McGrath, Aoife Donohue and Kilkenny kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Scorers for Galway: A O'Reilly 1-7 (0-6 frees, 0-1 45); N Kilkenny (0-4); N



Galway's Maria Cooney gets her shot away as Tipperary's Gemma Grace comes in to tackle. Picture: Bryan Keane

McGrath (0-3); M Cooney, S McGrath (0-2 each); O McGrath, A M Starr, A Donohue, C Finnerty (0-1 each)

Scorers for Tipperary: C Devane (0-3, 2 frees); Ciartha Maher, O O'Dwyer (0-2 each); M Teehan, Megan Ryan, R Howard (0-1 each)

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, S Dervan, R Black, T Kenny, H Cooney, R Hennelly, L Ryan, O McGrath, A M Starr, N McGrath, M Cooney, N Kilkenny, A Donohue, A O'Reilly, S McGrath.

Subs: N Hanniffy for Cooney (51), C McGrath for Black (55), Shauna Healy

for Kenny (56), C Finnerty for Donohue (58), N Coen for S McGrath (58)

TIPPERARY: O McEniry, C Walsh, G Grace, J A Bourke, A McGrath, Caoimhe Maher, C Quirke, E Fryday, Megan Ryan, O O'Dwyer, C Devane, N Walsh, Mary Ryan, R Howard, Ciartha Maher.

Subs: M Teehan for McGrath temp (23), McGrath for Fryday (33), T Ryan for Caoimhe Maher (37), E Loughman for Bourke (37), M Campton for Walsh (53)

Referee: O Elliott (Antrim)

## Dublin revolution gains momentum

Liberty Insurance  
All-Ireland  
Camogie quarter-final

Dublin 1-16  
Wexford 0-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir  
Semple Stadium

David Herity was basking in the glow of a job very well done as his Dublin side beat Wexford in Semple Stadium to reach the semi-finals of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship for the first time since 1990.

"There's a revolution happening in Dublin," said Herity on RTE2.

"The U16s, the minors, the premier juniors were all in All-Ireland semi-finals. It was up to us to stand up to the plate and get the seniors into it and we've done our job. I'm delighted."

Wexford stormed into an early three-point lead into the wind but Dublin rebounded to lead by 0-9 to 0-4 at half time, thanks to some excellent play by Aisling Maher, Hannah Hegarty, Eimear McCarthy, Eva Marie Elliott and Grainne Quinn, as well as a vital penalty save by goalkeeper and player of the match Faye McCarthy.

McCarthy made two more excellent saves in the second half and added two points from placed balls into the wind.



Dublin's Grainne Quinn and Sarah O'Donovan were full of joy after the All-Ireland camogie quarter-final win over Wexford. Picture: Oisín Keniry

Wexford substitute Linda Bolger pointed from wide on the left to spark a brief revival. Shelly Kehoe shot a brace inside a minute and when O'Connor landed a long-range free it was a three-point game with 12 minutes remaining.

But Ali Twomey pouncing to flick one-handed to the net to seal it.

Scorers for Dublin: A Maher (0-7, 5 frees); A Twomey (1-2); E McCarthy, F McCarthy (frees) (0-2 each); Siobhán Kehoe, E McGovern, H Hegarty (0-1 each).

Scorers for Wexford: C Foxe (0-4 (2 frees, 1 45); Shelly Kehoe (0-3); Stacey

Kehoe (0-2); L Bolger, S O'Connor (1), U Leacy (1) (0-1 each)

WEXFORD: N Fortune, S O'Connor, C Storey, K Atkinson, S Nolan, M Leacy, A Lacey, B Gordon, A Cardiff, Stacey Kehoe, Shelly Kehoe, C Foxe, U Leacy, J Dillon, E Walsh.

Subs: S Sinnott for Atkinson inj (23); L Bolger for Foxe (40), U Sinnott for Cardiff (45)

DUBLIN: F McCarthy, E M Elliott, E O'Brien, G Quinn, H Hegarty, A Carolan, A Woods, M Twomey, E McCarthy, A Twomey, A Maguire, E McGovern, E Flanagan, A Maher, S Kehoe.

Subs: C Donnelly for Maguire (ht), M Moynihan for McGovern (50)

Referee: C Egan (Cork)

# CITY'S REVOLUTION

Camogie

THE goodwill flowed. And flowed. When the team returned to the city, the Liffey had a wink in its eye.

Emotional scenes in Semple Stadium. 27 years swept over the bar and onto the streets of Thurles.

Nobody will begrudge Dublin their victory. It was like the Dublin hurlers being hailed after their many years in the shade.

The sun shone on Dublin on Saturday night, and it



was certainly deserved. As Jim Gavin often says about his own team, and he said

it again at the weekend, a performance like that just doesn't happen.

David Herity could see it coming. And from his days under the maestro, he knows that fitness and industry form the core of any result. The cream can come later. And it usually does when the foundations are right.

"We knew there was a 60 minute performance in the team. It was an incredible performance," reflected David.

People talked about the game changers that overcame

Wexford - there was Faye McCarthy's (left) penalty save, Ali Twomey's goal and golden points from Eimear McCarthy, Aisling Maher and Hannah Hegarty.

A match can turn many corners, but it was the collective that brought the Dubs home. The superb defending. The brilliant half-back line. The blocks, the hooking.

The desire to be first to the sliotar. The hunger in the hurls. And then, at last, the happiness at seeing the clock tick down and you are seven points to the good. Heaven.

## Mighty Dubs earn semi date with Cats

IT'S the All-Ireland champions now in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds on August 19.

Ann Downey's Top Cats. Dublin have nothing to lose. Except the game. David Herity will tell them

to leave it all out there. And let the papers worry about the result.

"We know we'll have to up our game now, but, at the same time, we are delighted to be in the All-Ireland semi-final," states David, who says that Saturday's cherished victory

belongs to everybody in the capital. "It's a credit to all the people that have been working away quietly in the background at all levels."

The Friends of Dublin Hurling put on a special bus. Michael O'Grady now might have to organise a convoy.

### CAMOGIE BOARD NOTES

■ Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship: Congratulations to all concerned on a fantastic win over Wexford to reach the All-Ireland semi-finals for the first time since 1990. Well done to Faye McCarthy on her Player of the Match award emulating Arleen Cushen's feat of 2013. Next up is the All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on Saturday August 19. Appreciation to all those who made the Trip to Tipp. More support will be required in Limerick in two weeks time. Well done to O'Toole's whose young players were involved in the half-time mini-games. Many thanks to the Friends of Dublin Hurling for their support.

■ All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship: The Premier Juniors take on Kerry this Saturday in a bid to reach the All-Ireland final in Croke Park on September 10. Check website for details of venue.

■ Under 16 All-Ireland Championship: Hard luck to the U16B team which went down to a very strong Antrim team in the Preliminary Round 2 game for a place in the semi-finals. Subject to confirmation it looks the U16A team will play Wexford on Saturday in the All-Ireland semi final. Check website for details.

■ Poc Fada: Well done to Elaine Gallery who represented Leinster in the All-Ireland Poc Fada finals over the Cooley Mountains.

■ Senior Club Championships 2017: The draw for the senior championships will be made at the Board Meeting on Monday August 14.

## Twomey Semple-y sensational as camogie starlets aim for final

Ryan Nugent

DUBLIN'S camogie hero Ali Twomey insists there's no reason why the team can't go on to an All-Ireland final after upsetting the odds in beating Wexford.

The Girls in Blue ran out 1-16 to 0-12 winners on Saturday evening.

Twomey (22), from Lucan, scored the crucial goal in Semple Stadium - but insisted the squad have not lost the run of themselves after reaching a first semi-final in 27 years.

With a titanic clash against

Kilkenny in less than a fortnight, a drink rule of a maximum of three bottles has been put in place - but Twomey said the players wouldn't have it any other way.

"We went to one of the girls' houses, had a bit of food and one or two drinks," said Twomey.

### CELEBRATE

"It was nice to celebrate, but we want to have that again, so we weren't losing the run of ourselves," she added.

Yesterday morning the team were in the sea at Portmarnock beach, a recovery

session organised by themselves, with no management, and are back in training this evening.

Saturday's match in Thurles clashed with the footballers' victory over Monaghan at Croke Park - meaning the camogie stars lost out on some support.

But that's not something that played on the mind of the team.

"We definitely lost support to the football match, but it's just what's expected, there's nothing you can really do," Twomey said.

The side tend to be under-

dogs when it comes to the latter stages of the championship, and it will be no different when they take on the Cats in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick on August 19.

"We're never favourites, but we believe ourselves that we can do it," Twomey

said. The match will take on an added dimension, with a five time All-Ire-

land winner with Kilkenny, David Herity, at the helm.

### SUCCESS

And the squad are targeting sustained success over the coming years.

"I've definitely learned more in a few short months with David than all of the years playing before then," she said.

"I wish I had him as a manager since I was 18. Imagine how good we would be now. There's 13 new girls on the panel this year and we've improved so much," she added.



Dublin camogie player Ali Twomey scored the crucial goal against Wexford at Semple Stadium



## Susan earns Poc Fada title

By Camogie Press  
Posted 06/08/2017



SUSAN EARNER retired after a lengthy career with Galway but the former All-Star goalie and All-Ireland winner continues to make an impact at national level, adding her name to the M Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada roll of honour.

Earnar came out on top of a tight completion, in which the six-strong field was separated by just five pocs and just two pocs between the first four.

The 31-year-old Meelick-Eyrecourt star completed the course in 26 pocs and was chased home by Clare's Aine O'Loughlin, on 27.

Defending champion, Cork goalie Aoife Murray also went around in 27 pocs but was 12m behind O'Loughlin.

Wexford legend Mags D'Arcy finished fourth on 28, with the field completed by Antrim's Orlagh O'Hara (29) and Dublin's Eaine Galloway (31).

Earnar's success cemented a senior double in the famous mountains for Galway as Tadhg Haran took the spoils in the men's division.

The U16 Camogie garlands went to Cork however, as Molly Lynch just edged out another Galwegian, Maeve Muldoon. Both completed the track in 31 pocs but Lynch had 57m to spare.

Róisín McCormack from Antrim was third on 32 pocs, with Meath's Abbye Donnelly fourth on 33.

There was a strong Poc Fada influence on proceedings at Semple Stadium, where the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Quarter-Finals were taking place, with Earnar's successor as Galway goalkeeper, Sarah Healy having won the U16 title in 2015 and 2016.

Meanwhile, Dublin netminder Faye McCarthy, who finished third to Murray last year, was scheduled to be in Cooley as Leinster champion but was a star performer in Thurles instead.



St Vincent's and Cork star Lauren Homan.

## Lauren leads Cork to victory

PAIRC UINSINN was the venue for the Munster Minor Shield semi-final of Cork v Waterford on Thursday, July 28.

Cork proved too strong for the Déise girls and advanced to the final on a scoreline of 2-13 to 1-4.

St. Vincent's club player Lauren Homan was instrumental in their win and scored a goal and four points which means she remains Cork's top scorer in this grade.

Her club are so proud of Lauren and are looking forward to supporting her and Cork in the minor final.

Lauren has progressed through the ranks and is now also on the Cork senior camogie panel, who are also looking forward to their own semi-final in Croke Park, with fellow clubmate Amy O'Connor.

These two players have been an integral part of Cork camogie and starred in their club's recent junior championship win over Bishopstown.

We're looking forward to seeing what the rest of the season unfolds for Lauren, Amy, St. Vincent's, and Cork! Uinsinn Naofa Abú.

## Cork U16s playing for All Ireland final place

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW, the Cork U16 camogie team head to the Gaelic Grounds, in Limerick, at 1pm, in search of a place in the All-Ireland final, whilst the intermediates take on Down, at 2.30pm, in Fermoy, in the last game of the round robin series of championship, in a battle for a semi-final spot.

Three-in-a-row-chasing Galway stand in the way of the under-16s making it to the final and, with six of last season's side still available, they will fancy their chances. They have been impressive in the group stages, beating Limerick and Kilkenny, although they did lose to Dublin.

Cork drew in their last game of the series, with Tipperary, which was enough to give them a semi-final spot. Emma Murphy, Ellen Murphy, Fiona Keating O'Leary, and Ali Smith will lead their challenge for a place in the last-four. Galway have Muireann Faherty, Rachel Burke, Niamh Horan, Teegan Canning, and Niamh Niland in their ranks.

With four games played in the intermediate championship, Meath, Cork, and Down are still in the hunt for the semi-final spots. Meath take on Carlow tomorrow and will expect to win here. A win or a draw would put Cork through. Down have drawn three games, with Carlow, Laois and Meath, and they need a win to go level with Cork.

Were Meath to draw with Carlow and Cork to win, Cork would top the group, but were Cork to lose to Down and Meath to win, Cork could be relying on scoring averages to get them through. As it stands, Cork have a plus-twenty scoring difference to Down, but Down have been recording big scores. Cork will be going out all guns blazing for a win to safely secure their spot.

It's Down's first adult team and they are strong. Paula Gribbens is their best player. Having struck ten points in their last outing, against Meath, she will be one Cork need to keep a close eye on.

Niamh Mallon, Grainne Savage, Sara Louise Carr, and Cori Smith have been to the forefront for them in this campaign and they will travel to Cork determined to upset the odds. Their league campaign was poor, as they failed to record a win. However, they have been impressive through the championship and Cork cannot underestimate the challenge they will pose.

Cork, surprisingly, lost to Meath by a point, but had good victories over Galway, Carlow, and Laois, having won the league. The determination is in the squad to join the senior side in the All-Ireland semi-final, but Paudie Murray's charges know they need to put in a big performance to ensure this happens.

AUG.  
2017

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland SCC quarter-finals: Dublin 1-16 Wexford 0-12; Galway 1-22 Tipperary 0-10;

Semi-Final draw: Cork v Galway, Kilkenny v Dublin;

All-Ireland U16ACC Grp 2: Wexford 6-9 Clare 2-5.



Dublin's Faye McCarthy is presented with player of the match award by Tara Kaldanis of Liberty Insurance following Dublin's 1-16 to 0-12 win over Wexford in the quarter-final in Thurles

## Capital gain for camogie girls

IT proved an uplifting and indeed joyous occasion for Dublin's camogie supporters in Thurles last Saturday as Dublin advanced to the semi-finals of the All-Ireland senior championship after beating Wexford by 1-16 to 0-12.

By doing so, the Dubs qualified to their first semi-final since 1990 and the character that they showed throughout was a credit to both the players and management.

Despite falling behind to

## WEEKEND HERO



three early Wexford scores, Dublin controlled the match for large parts with their superb half-back line the foundation for their deserved win.

David Herity (inset) and his back-room deserve immense praise for this resurgence after such a lengthy period in the wilderness.



# Tipperary bow out to powerful Galway

Galway

1-22

Tipperary

0-10

By Rose Mannion at Semple Stadium, Thurles

TIPPERARY were shown the distance they must go to be among the contenders for the All Ireland title as they suffered a fifteen point defeat to a fine Galway side in the quarter final on Saturday evening.

It was a hugely disappointing way for the home side to end the season to a highly charged and motivated Galway side who showed their class and were truly deserving winners.

Played in ideal conditions, the home side were unable to carry over the momentum from the Offaly game into such an important game as the Tribeswomen made it all look too easy. In fairness to Tipp they were up against one of the best teams in the country, something they long to be but a lot more work needs doing.

Both sides were well used to each other from previous meetings but Galway were by far the more hungry side, playing with passion and determination that nothing was going to get

in their way of progress to the semi-finals.

Very young for the most part, Tipperary were unable to match Galway but now know the work that needs to be done to get them to progress in the coming years.

The tribeswomen could only be admired for how they went about their work and it took only a matter of only minutes for the visitors to take control as they sent over point after point which put Tipp under pressure from the off. Tipp were unlucky too to have efforts come off the uprights which didn't help their cause as they showed flashes of quality. Tipp did manage to get the margin back to six early in the second half but the game ended as a contest following the Galway goal.

The 2013 All Ireland champions had ten points on the scoreboard through Orlaith McGrath, Ailish O'Reilly, Niamh Kilkenny, Maria Cooney and the second McGrath sister Niamh

by the 19th minute; all without reply showing the amount of possession they commanded.

Tipperary did re-focus and did try to curtail the rampant visitors with Gemma Grace, Clodagh Quirke, Megan Ryan and Orla O'Dwyer working hard, the latter forcing Roisin Black into a good block when a goal chance presented itself.

Captain Mary Ryan looked to inspire her side as good play led to Ciardha Maher opening Tipp's account in the 21st minute with Cait Devane quick to add a second. Siobhan McGrath responded for Galway with a great point from over her right shoulder.

Tipp's momentum grew further and for a brief period before the break they looked as if they were really going to hit form with Orla O'Dwyer firing over and when Nicole Walsh off-loaded to sub Mairead Teehan she made no mistake as she drove over a great point. Ciardha Maher was next on the scoresheet before Siobhan McGrath brought the first half scoring to a end but Galway were firmly in control, leading 0-12 to 0-5.

Orla O'Dwyer reduced Galway's lead to six immediately after the interval, but the visitors couldn't be curtailed with Niamh McGrath cancelling it out at the opposite end. Galway then



Tipperary's Megan Ryan solos forward with Galway's Rebecca Hennelly giving chase. PHOTOS: INPHO/BRYAN KEANE

proceeded to take back control and stamp out any further Tipp fight-back. Whatever notions Tipp had of one were firmly put to bed when Ailish O'Reilly goalied in the 34th minute. Ann Marie Starr, Aoife Donoghue and Niamh Kilkenny helped Galway to a thirteen point lead and Galway were leading 1-16 to 0-6 after 38 minutes.

Tipp weren't going away though and Cait Devane held her nerve superbly as she drove over three consecutive frees while Galway's response was a point from Niamh McGrath.

Tipp full back Gemma Grace was outstanding when she denied Ail-

ish O'Reilly a second goal in the 46th minute.

Megan Ryan and Ailish O'Reilly traded points while Cait Devane and O'Reilly traded points from placed ball but time was running out. Tipperary could only manage a further point from Roisin Howard with two minutes of normal time remaining when she rounded her marker and drove over.

Galway almost scored a second goal with Siobhan McGrath firing low from close range but Tipp can thank the keeper Orla McEniry who made a great save. However, Ailish O'Reilly and Catherine Finnerty added two points to bring proceedings to a sad close for the home side.

## TALE OF THE MATCH

**SCORERS - Galway:** Ailish O'Reilly 1-7 (0-7 frees); Niamh Kilkenny 0-4; Niamh McGrath 0-3; Maria Cooney, Siobhan McGrath 0-2 each; Orla McGrath, Ann Marie Starr, Aoife Donoghue, Catherine Finnerty 0-1 each.

**Tipperary:** Cait Devane 0-3 (2 frees); Orla O'Dwyer, Ciardha Maher 0-2 each; Roisin Howard, Megan Ryan, Mairead Teehan 0-1 each.

**TEAMS - Galway:** Sarah Healy; Sarah Dervan, Roisin Black, Tara Kenny, Heather Cooney, Rebecca Hennelly, Lorraine Ryan, Orlaith McGrath, Ann Marie Starr; Niamh McGrath, Maria Cooney, Niamh Kilkenny; Aoife Donoghue, Ailish O'Reilly, Siobhan McGrath. Subs: Niamh Hanniffy for M Cooney (51); Clodagh McGrath for Black (53); Shauna Healy for Kenny (56); Catherine Finnerty for Donoghue (58); Noreen Coen

for S. McGrath (59).

**Tipperary:** Orla McEniry (Cahir); Julieanne Bourke (Borris-Beigh); Gemma Grace (Burgess/Duharra); Ciannait Walsh (Eire Og Annacarty); Aoife McGrath (Drom & Inch); Caoimhe Maher (Burgess/Duharra); Clodagh Quirke (Clonoulty/Rossmore); Eirena Fryday (Clonoulty/Rossmore); Megan Ryan (Borris-Beigh); Orla O'Dwyer (Cahel); Cait Devane (Clonoulty/Rossmore); Nicole Walsh (Borris-Beigh); Mary Ryan (Moneygall, Capt); Roisin Howard (Cahir); Ciardha Maher (Burgess/Duharra). Subs: Mairead Teehan (Moneygall) for McGrath (23); Aoife McGrath for Fryday (34); Teresa Ryan (Borris-Beigh) for Caoimhe Maher (38); Eimear Loughman (Clonoulty/Rossmore) for Bourke (38); Miriam Campton (Drom & Inch) for Walsh (53).

**Referee:** Owen Elliott (Antrim).

**Player of the Match:** Tara Kenny (Galway)

Galway had many fine performers but corner back Tara Kenny was the deserved choice as she denied her markers making inroads throughout, particularly in the opening half. The young Sarsfields player showed her sheer grit throughout helping her side to a fifteen point win.

**Score of the Game:** If Orla O'Dwyer had got through for a goal in the tenth minute it would have been superb from the view point of the build up where the Tipp girls showed great team play. However, Siobhan McGrath's 23rd minute point from over her right shoulder out on the wing and in a difficult position and also taking a Caoimhe Maher attack showed real class.

**Turning Point:** Galway's had ten points on the

scoreboard without replay by the 19th minute as they dominated possession. Tipp did however hit back but Galway had a lot of damage done by then. The turning point though was Ailish O'Reilly's 34th minute goal which left Tipp with too much of a mountain to climb.

**Talking Point:** Despite losing their first three games in the championship, Tipp came flying out of the traps against Offaly and after scraping through to the quarter final, it was expected that they would have brought a renewed enthusiasm and energy to the Galway clash. This didn't happen however losing by fifteen points was a cruel way to end the season. However, as players will gradually fit into playing championship for their clubs over the coming months, this young squad can turn their thoughts to next season and how they can learn from this experience.



Tipperary Senior Camogie team that were defeated by Galway in the All Ireland Quarter Final. Back row: Eirena Fryday, Orla O'Dwyer, Keely Lenihan, Julie Anne Bourke, Gemma Grace, Miriam Campton, Megan Ryan, Orla McEniry, Mairead Teehan, Clodagh Quirke, Roisin Howard, Teresa Ryan, Caroline Mullane, Cait Devane, Sabrina Larkin. Front row: Caoimhe Maher, Ciardha Maher, Grace O'Brien, Nicole Walsh, Mary Ryan, Aoife McGrath, Mairead Eviston, Ciannait Walsh, Eimear Loughman, Carol Casey, Jenny Grace



# Players feel they didn't do themselves justice

By Rose Mannion

GEMMA Grace is a hugely proud ambassador for Tipperary camogie and she can take comfort from the fact that she gave a sterling performance for her side despite falling well short against Galway in Saturday's All Ireland Senior quarter final.

"I suppose we were caught off the hop in the first ten minutes and they got that very good strong start," she said reflecting on the poor start.

"It took us a while to settle and get a few scores on the board. We had to re-focus, we had to re-set and play what was in front of us then but unfortunately it didn't work out for us on the day."

However she was complimentary of an excellent Galway side. "There's All Ireland winners and All Stars on that (Galway) team so listen, we want to get up there with the best when we go out there to play the best but unfortunately today wasn't our day," she said.

A fiercely disappointed Tipp captain Mary Ryan admitted her side didn't do themselves justice.

"I suppose it goes back again to we not doing ourselves justice once again but we can't keep falling on that," she



Galway's Slobhan McGrath is blocked down by Tipperary's Eirena Fryday.

began. "Galway were a class act there today and they just got better as time went on. We had a poor start and we just never brought the high energy power and intensity that we were doing in training," she said.

Tipp did fight back for a period either side of half time but the Tipp skipper admitted they left themselves too much to do after their slow start.

"We broke through a few times but didn't get the ball over and then Galway notched up a few points and before half time we tried to claw back in and we got a nice few points but we

never built on that," she added.

Aoife O'Reilly's early second half goal was a massive blow too with Ryan saying "it sort of felt like it came from nothing. We felt very confident and we felt we could have given a good game here today."

Mary Ryan predicts that Galway will take beating going into the semi-final in two weeks time. "They held us up, we didn't have much freedom. The way they attacked, the way their forwards to midfield, they are always attacking so they will take beating," she said.



Tipperary captain Mary Ryan takes on Galway's Ann Marie Starr.

PHOTOS: INPHO/OISIN KENNEL

## CAMOGIE: Munster Minor Championship Final

# Disappointment for Tipperary in Munster final

Clare

1-13

Tipperary

2-6

Report by Rose Mannion in Hospital

IT was a disappointment for the Tipperary Minor camogie team last Wednesday as they lost the Munster final to Clare.

Tipperary got off to a great start when Sarah Delaney won possession and in a great effort of skill picked out Casey Hennessy who struck the back

of the Clare net four minutes in.

Olivia Phelan replied for Clare who were All Ireland finalists earlier in the year, and four minutes later Sinead Conlon cut the margin to one. Clare settled further and began winning a lot of possession and pressing forward but couldn't get through a solid



Tipperary Minor Camogie team who were defeated by Clare in the Munster Final.

PHOTO: ROSE MANNION

## Match Digest

Player of the Match: Aoife Power (Clare)

Scorers - Clare: Aoife Power 0-4 (3 frees); Aine McLoughlin 0-3 (1 free, 1 pen); Shauna Canny 1-0; Sinead Conlon 0-2; Roisin Begley, Bridlin Dinan, Lauren McGrath, Olivia Phelan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Caoimhe Perdue 1-2; Casey Hennessy 1-0; Eibhlís McDonald (free); Caroline Browne, Jean Kelly, Aine O'Dwyer 0-1 each.

Clare: Clara McCarthy; Clara Doyle, Alanna Ryan, Aoife Ryan, Clara Grogan, Emma Kennedy, Laura Foley; Sinead Conlon, Roisin Begley, Aoife Power, Shauna Canny, Laura McGrath; Olivia Phelan, Bridlin Dinan, Aine McLoughlin.

Sub: Sarah Loughnane for Phelan.

Tipperary: Lauren Horgan (Boherlahan); Ruth Hassett (Nenagh Eire Og); Christina Brennan (Drom & Inch); Niamh Long (Drom & Inch); Amy Quigley (Newport/Ballinahinch); Mary Burke (Drom & Inch); Hazel McAuliffe (Nenagh Eire Og); Anna Garvin (Holycross); Jean Kelly (Eire Og Annacarty); Capt. Katie Bourke (Drom & Inch); Eibhlís McDonald (Eire Og Annacarty); Aine O'Dwyer (Cashel); Caroline Browne (Nenagh Eire Og); Casey Hennessy (Boherlahan); Sarah Delaney (Boherlahan).

Sub: Caoimhe Perdue (Cashel) for Burke; Clara Ryan (Silvermines) for Kelly; Emma Flanagan (Newport/Ballinahinch) for Browne.

Referee: Philip Dee (Limerick)

Tipp defence with custodian Lauren Horgan in good form. Clare did have a goal disallowed just on the quarter hour but Aoife Power's free brought the margin back to one.

With a strong cross field breeze swirling that slightly favoured the Banner, Tipperary were unlucky not to pull further ahead before Laura McGrath had the sides level after seventeen minutes.

Clare took over with Power striking two further points, one from a free. A long range free from Aine O'Loughlin put Clare three ahead but the turning point came in the first minute of in-

jury time when Sinead Conlon drove a long ball into the square where Tipp keeper Lauren Horgan blocked it out but Shauna Canny was quickest to react and she whipped a great ground stroke to the back of the Tipp net. Conlon and Bridlin Dinan added two points before the break as Clare led 1-9 to 1-1. Tipp substitute Caoimhe Perdue rattled the Clare net less than a minute of the resumption and Jean Kelly followed up with a point as the Premier girls began to fight back.

Aoife Power kept the Clare flag flying from a placed ball and when Olivia Phelan was taken down in the square,

McLoughlin's intended effort for goal skimmed the crossbar.

Tipp were attacking more with fire play from Jean Kelly, Aine O'Dwyer, Casey Hennessy and Sarah Delaney but Sinead Conlon was outstanding for Clare as was Aine O'Dwyer who added a further point.

Tipp were unlucky with some goal chances going begging while McLoughlin and Roisin Begley kept Clare ahead but all the time Tipp kept fighting back. Perdue scored two points with Eibhlís McDonald finishing the scoring with a free but it wasn't enough.



# Lively Galway trump Tipp in one-sided championship tie

■ O'Reilly's early second half goal wraps up convincing quarter-final success

GALWAY	1-22
TIPPERARY	0-10

DARREN KELLY  
AT SEMPLE STADIUM

GALWAY saved the business end of the title race for their best performance of the year as they made light work of the Tipperary threat in Thurles to secure a 12th consecutive All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final appearance.

An Ailish O'Reilly goal three minutes after the restart ended any hopes the home side had of creating a comeback following the Tribeswomen jumping into a commanding 0-10 to 0-0 lead.

This wasn't a champagne Galway display but rather a calculated dismantling of their opponents. Mark Dunne's team attacked from the off and it took Tipperary 20 minutes to open their account. Even though Brian Boyle's charges did reduce arrears to six, another Galway scoring burst after the break ended any doubts about the outcome of this contest.

The Premier County only scrapped into the knock out series on scoring difference. But with results over the last two years suggesting they were much better (they only lost to Galway by three points in 2016), they were expected to rattle the favourites.

However, that upset came in the opening game in the Thurles double header as Dublin beat Wexford 1-16 to 0-12 to reach the penultimate stage for the first time in 27 years. And very early in the second game, it was inevitable the 'shock' wouldn't be repeated.

Dunne pulled some rabbits out of the hat, including handing Siobhan McGrath her first championship start. And within 20 seconds, Niamh McGrath sent play into her sister's corner and the young Sarsfields forward tormented Julieanne Bourke before finding Orlaith McGrath who opened the scoring.

Four years ago, Galway concluded a subdued group campaign before opening up against Tipperary in the quarter-finals. O'Reilly was the star that day announcing her arrival on the national scene and she starred again with two frees by the fifth minute.

Galway led 0-3 to 0-0 but 60 seconds later, a great team effort delivered one of the game's

best points. Roisin Black and Sarah Dervan combined in mid-field, Ann Marie Starr contributed in the middle before sending partner Niamh Kilkenny through for Galway's fourth point.

Kilkenny turned provider for Maria Cooney on eight minutes before Niamh McGrath made it six not long after. Another Cooney effort continued Galway's control before Orlaith McGrath picked out Kilkenny for the 0-8 to 0-0 advantage.

Admittedly, Galway's consistent tallying slowed and they only added four points before the break. Tipperary finally came to terms with their opponents dropping players back to reduce the supply and gradually played their way back into contention.

Ciadhra Maher, Cait Devane, Mairead Teehan and Orla O'Dwyer all hit the target as they trailed 0-12 to 0-5 at half-time. O'Reilly and Siobhan McGrath got two each for Galway while Sarah Healy also producing one important save. But Tipperary had the slight wind that would go against them after the break.

O'Dwyer got Tipperary's next leaving six between them but their interest in this quarter-final was finished by the 38th minute. Starr found Niamh McGrath for Galway's response but the inevitable major settled the tie.



**GALWAY NOW MEET CHAMPIONSHIP FAVOURITES CORK IN THE ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

Like two internationals trialling for Ireland's senior women's hockey team, Aoife Donohue and O'Reilly displayed their ground passing skills allowing O'Reilly finish past Orla McEniry to make it 1-13 to 0-6.

Starr, Donohue and Kilkenny quickly tacked on points before two Devane frees ended Tipperary's drought. The game was up and lost its shape. Indeed, Galway defenders started creating attack moves with three quarters of their players regularly in the opposing half.

What will concern Galway was a total of 11 wides. It's very difficult to maintain concentra-



Galway's Aoife Donohue aiming for the posts as Tipperary's Ciannait Walsh gives chase during Saturday's All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final at Semple Stadium. PHOTOS: OISIN KENIRY/INPHO.

tion with such a handsome lead and 1-22 is impressive (12-87 in five games or an average of 24.6 points). But bad habits often surface in games like this that won't go unpunished in two weeks time.

Galway now meet championship favourites Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday, August 19, in the Gaelic Grounds. The Tribeswomen will be underdogs with nationwide speculation already preparing for a Cork-Kilkenny decider in September.

But this is where Galway are most dangerous. They haven't been spectacular in 2017 but showed signs of their capabilities in this game. For the 12th consecutive year, Galway are in the All-Ireland semi-finals and that game will decide the success of their year.

They didn't perform when falling to the Rebelettes in 2012, 2015 and the 2015 All-Ireland final. Galway have had success against Cork, including the 2015 league final, but that was the last time the Connacht side beat Cork or Kilkenny in a competitive knock out tie.

Galway are where they want to be, but the meeting with Cork raises the stakes numerous lev-



Galway's Maria Cooney comes under pressure from Gemma Grace of Tipperary

els. However, with commitment like here, they'll believe they could be just peaking at exactly the right time.

Sarah Healy in goal, Black, Tara Kenny, Rebecca Hennelly, Dervan in defence, Kilkenny and Starr in midfield, and O'Reilly and the three McGraths (Niamh, Orlaith and Siobhan) did best for Galway.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy; L. Ryan, R. Black, T. Kenny; R. Hennelly, S. Dervan, H. Cooney; N. Kilkenny (0-4), AM Starr (0-1); A. Donohue (0-1), O. McGrath (0-1), N. McGrath (0-3); M. Cooney (0-2), A. O'Reilly (1-7, six frees, one 45), S. McGrath (0-2). Subs: N. Hanniffy for Cooney (51 mins), C. McGrath for Black (55 mins), Shauna Healy for Kenny (56 mins), C. Finnerty (0-1) for Donohue (58 mins), N. Coen for S. McGrath (58 mins).

**Tipperary:** O. McEniry; C. Walsh; G. Grace, JA Bourke; A. McGrath, Ciadhra Maher, C. Quirk; E. Fryday, Mary Ryan; O. O'Dwyer (0-2), C. Devane (0-3, two frees), Megan Ryan (0-1); N. Walsh, R. Howard (0-1), Ciadhra Maher (0-2). Subs: M. Teehan (0-1) for McGrath (23 mins), McGrath for Fryday (33 mins), T. Ryan for Ciadhra Maher (37 mins), E. Loughman for Bourke (37 mins), M. Campion for Walsh (53 mins). Referee: O. Elliott (Antrim).



## Clare (1-13) vs Tipperary (2-6)

AUG 2 CLARE (1-13) VS TIPPERARY (2-6)



Clare crowned Munster Minor A Camogie champions

Clare 1-13 Tipperary 2-6

NEWS

By Seamus Hayes, The Clare Champion

Hospital in County Limerick hosted the Munster Minor A Camogie Championship final on Wednesday evening, when Clare and Tipperary clashed at this stage for the second year in-a-row.

At the end of an excellent contest Clare were deserving winners and confirmed the widely held view that there is a bright future for the Banner County at adult level.

Despite being hit for an early goal, Clare never panicked and when the half-time whistle sounded, they were eight points clear, 1-9 to 1-1.

Tipperary again struck for a goal early in the second half and when Premier County officials reflect on this tie, they will wonder why Cashel's Caoimhe Purdue was not in their line-up from the outset. Introduced shortly before the half-time whistle, she turned in an excellent performance and caused quite a few problems for the Clare defence. Yet, credit to the backs who excelled, especially Alannah Ryan, Ciara Doyle, goalkeeper Ciara McCarthy and team captain Emma Kennedy.

The game was just three minutes old when Tipperary full-forward Casey Hennessy won possession with only goalie McCarthy to beat. The Tipperary girl coolly handpassed to the net.

Clare had drawn level by the midpoint of the half through Olivia Phelan, Sinead Conlon, Aoife Power and Aine O'Loughlin. From here to whistle, the new Munster champions were outstanding.

Sinead Conlon excelled at midfield and helped to set up a number of key scores. Following a powerful run from midfield, Clare's goal came when Shauna Canny was on hand to flick the sliotar to the net, after Conlon's effort was saved in the 30th minute.

Tipperary returned in determined mood and within the first five minutes, they had struck for 1-1. Clare replied with points from Aoife Power and an Aine O'Loughlin penalty, as they led by six with ten minutes to play.

Tipperary were piling on the pressure but the Banner side's defence was superb and as the game went into injury time, Clare led by nine points.

Tipperary battled to the end and hit the last three points but there was no denying Clare this success and the final whistle brought a great cheer from the Clare supporters at the game.

Earlier this year there was disappointment when the team went down to Galway in the All-Ireland final at Nenagh but they have bounced back strongly and this performance was fully deserving of Munster success.

Credit must also go to the management team of Dervilla Moloney, Eugene Foudy, Stephen Cusack, Michelle McMahon, Darren Hayes and Cathal O'Sullivan.

**Clare:** Ciara McCarthy (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Amy Barrett (Scariff-Ogonnelloe), Alannah Ryan (Kilkishen), Laoise Ryan (Inagh-Kilnamona); Ciara Grogan (Cloonay-Quin), Emma Kennedy (Sixmilebridge), Ciara Doyle (Scariff-Ogonnelloe); Sinead Conlon (Tulla), Róisín Begley (Truagh-Clonlara); Aoife Power (Scariff-Ogonnelloe), Shauna Canny (Killanena), Laura McGrath (Feakle); Olivia Phelan (Sixmilebridge), Bridin Dinan (Tulla), Aine O'Loughlin (Truagh-Clonlara).

**Subs:** Amy Barrett (Scariff-Ogonnelloe) for Canny; Mary Enright (Newmarket) for Barrett (inj); Sarah Loughnane (Sixmilebridge) for Phelan (inj).

**Scorers:** Aoife Power and Aine O'Loughlin (0-4 each); Shauna Canny (1-0); Sinead Conlon (0-2); Róisín Begley, Bridin Dinan and Olivia Phelan (0-1 each).

**Tipperary:** Lauren Horgan; Ruth Hasselt; Christina Brennan; Niamh Linn; Amy Quigley; Mary Burke; Hazel McAuliffe; Anna Gavin; Jean Kelly; Katie Bourke; Eibhlís McDonald; Aine O'Dwyer; Caroline Browne; Casey Hennessy; Sarah Delaney.

**Subs:** Caoimhe Purdue for Burke; Ciara Ryan for Kelly.

**Scorers:** Caoimhe Purdue (1-2); Casey Hennessy (1-0); Eibhlís McDonald (0-2); Anna Gavin, Caroline Browne (0-1 each).

**Referee:** Philip Dee (Limerick).



Libby Coppinger (above left)

## We commend County Board for Confederate flag stance

We warmly welcome the outright condemnation by the executive of Cork GAA County Board of the use of the Confederate flag and the executive's request to Cork supporters to refrain from flying this flag in all GAA stadia.

We further welcome the recent decision of the Cork County Council to confiscate a Confederate flag from flying from a public utility in Charleville. In doing so, we acknowledge its racist origins and its contemporary power to offend. The Confederate flag remains a potent symbol of oppression and subjugation of African American women and men by white supremacists and as a consequence has no place in our national games. We are proud of the GAA as an amateur, community-based and for the most part voluntary organisation.

The GAA here in Cork, as elsewhere, has a unique and distinguished place in the social and cultural life of this country. In this place, a divisive and racist symbol does not belong. Nothing justifies the presence of the Confederate flag at our games. We commend the County Board for its stance.

Rena Buckley, Cork Camogie Captain  
Paudie Murray, Cork Camogie Manager  
Peadar Healy, Cork Men's Football Manager  
Paul Kerrigan, Cork Men's Football Captain



Champions: The Cork minor camogie team that defeated Limerick, 2-13 to 1-5, to win the Munster Minor A Shield in Ballyvaughan, Co Limerick last Wednesday night. Front from left, Moira Barrett (Ballinascorthy), Lauren Homan (St Vincent's), Clara Crowley (Ballinascorthy), Aoife Hurley (St Catherines), Edel Loneragan (Sarsfields), Caoimhe Harney (Dungourney), Laura Hayes (St Catherines), Kate Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Rebecca Keane (Inniscarra) and Róisín Killeen (Ballyhea). Back from left, Sarah Ahearn (Ballygarvan), Katie McCarthy (Aghabullogue), Meabh Lynch (Newcestown), Iana Keegan (St Finbarr's), Aine Crowley (Ballinhassig), Lucy Kelleher (Sliabh Rua), Katie Daly (do), Katie Buckley (Glen Rovers), Orla Keating (Ballincollig), Gráinne Hannon (Courcey Rovers), Saoirse McCarthy (do), Deirdre O'Reilly (do) and Katie Dooley (Ballinora). (Photo: Kate Crowley)



## Molly goes long to take U16 long puck

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A GREAT day on Saturday last for Sarsfields Molly Lynch as she took the M Donnelly All Ireland U16 Camogie Long Puck title as she edged it in an exciting contest in the Cooley Mountains.

Molly just edged out Galway's Maeve Muldoon after both had completed the track in 31 pucks but Lynch had 57m to spare over Muldoon in a nail biting finish.

Roisin McCormack from Antrim was third just one puck behind on 32 with Meath's Abbey Donnelly fourth on 33 pucks.

The Sarsfields player is a member of the Cork U16 and minor squads and is also keeper on the Sarsfields senior team who recently overcame county champions Inniscarra in the opening round of the Cork senior championship. She recovered from a recent knee injury to participate on Saturday where she did Cork proud.

The senior competition was also hotly contested as Cork senior goalkeeper Aoife Murray defended her title.

Galway's Susan Earner who had retired after a lengthy career with Galway continues to add to her list of achievements as she added her name to the M Donnelly All-Ireland Puck Fada roll of honour.

She came out on top in a tight competitions in which the six-strong field was separated by just five pucks and there was just two pucks between the first four such was the battle for the title.

Earner who lines out with Galway club Meelick-Eyre-court completed the course in 26 pucks and was chased home by Clare's Aine O'Loughlin just one behind on 27 pucks, defending champion, Cork goalie Aoife Murray also went around in 27 pucks but was 12m behind O'Loughlin.

Another recently retired legend Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy finished fourth on 28 pucks with the field completed by Antrim's Orlagh O'Hara on 29 and Dublin's Elaine Gallery on 31.

Elaine Gallery was a replacement for Dublin net minder Faye McCarthy who finished third to Aoife Murray last year.

McCarthy was scheduled to be at the competition as Dublin and Leinster champion but she was on duty in Semple Stadium as the Dubs recorded a famous victory over Tipperary to book their Senior All Ireland semi final spot where they will take on Kilkenny. On Saturday McCarthy turned in a star performance and was named as Player of the Match.

Susan Earner's victory made it a great day for Galway as they made it a senior double in the famous mountains as Tadhg Haran took the spoils in the men's competition where it was also close he won it on 51 pucks over 18 metres with the runner up Eoin Reilly.



Cork players Katie McCarthy, Aghabullogue; Grainne Hannon, Courcey Rovers; Roisin Killeen, Ballyhea; Aine Crowley, Ballinhassig; Clara Crowley, Ballinascorthy; Meabh Lynch, Newcestown; Kate Wall, Kilbrittan/Timoleague; Rebecca Keane, Inniscarra; Lauren Homan, St Vincent's; Edel Lonergan, Sarsfield's, celebrate their win over Limerick.

# Cork take the Munster Shield

Cork 2-13  
Limerick 1-5

**THE Cork minors finished their season on a high as they captured the Munster Shield recently as they overcame Limerick in Ballyragan.**

Whilst the score line might suggest a big victory for Cork they had to battle hard to gain the upper hand on a Limerick sides that never gave up.

Cork set about their task from the throw in and electing to play into the wind in the opening half they took an early lead with a Lauren Homan pointed free. Putting the Limerick de-

fence under pressure they extended their lead with a point from Katie Dooley before Lauren Homan pointed her second free.

Limerick opened with a pointed free from Geri-Mai O Kelly but Cork kept the pressure on with points from play. Katie Dooley and Aoife Hayes had one each and Lauren Homan added two.

Putting the Limerick defence under huge pressure Cork held their lead Rebecca Keane with a goal and a Homan pointed free kept them in control. Limericks stayed in touch with Geri-Mai O'Kelly pointing a second free and

with Laura Stack adding a third from play. Roisin Ambrose sent a long range effort all the way to the net as Limerick worked to get something out of the opening half and it was 1-8 to 1-3 in favour of Cork at the interval.

Limerick elected to play with a sweeper into the wind in the second half but Cork continue to hold the upper hand in all sectors as they pushed to put the game beyond Limerick's reach. Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy Lauren human pointed from play. As Cork applied huge pressure Limerick began to give away frees and Lauren Homan pointed twice as Cork held their lead.

Limerick battled to get into the game with Geri-Mai O'Kelly converting two frees but they were unable to breach

CAMOGIE  
Mary Newman

the strong Cork defence. Moira Barrett added a goal to the Cork tally to ensure no way back for the home side.

Cork's Roisin Killeen was named as Player of the Match after an excellent display in the Cork defence.

**Scorers for Cork:** L Homan 0-8 (D-S's), R Keane, M Barrett 1-0 each, K Dooley, L Hayes 0-2 each, S Mc McCarthy 0-1.

**Limerick:** R Ambrose 1-0, G M O'Kelly 0-4 (F's) L Stack 0-1.

**CORK:** S Ahearn, K Daly, R Killeen, K Buckley, O Keating, E Lonergan (c) G Hannon, Se McCarthy, K Wall, L Hayes, K Dooley, L Homan, C Crowley, A Hurley, R Keane, M Barrett, I Keegan, D O'Reilly, C Harney, L Kelleher, M Lynch, A Crowley, K McCarthy.

**LIMERICK:** A Condon, N Lenihan, K Ambrose, A Tangney, C O'Brien, E Cunningham, A Curtin, R Ambrose, L Leonard, A Reynolds, S O'Callaghan, L Stack, A Doyle, G M O'Kelly, L O'Carroll, K Heelan.

**Referee:** T P O'Sullivan (Tipperary).

## Plenty of interesting second round clashes in prospect

WITH the opening rounds completed, the draws for the remainder of the S E Systems senior county championship were made last Tuesday and threw up some interesting clashes.

There were seven winners from round one and seven losers and, firstly, one loser was drawn and got a bye to round two. That was Ballygarvan and the remaining six losers were drawn to contest the back door option and here we will see County champions Inniscarra, who lost out in round one to Sarsfields taking on Courcey Rovers who lost out to Killeagh in opening round.

Mallow, who were defeated by divisional side Carbery in round one will meet a Glen Rovers side who lost to St Catherine's in their opener. Ballincollig and St Finbarr's are the remaining game in the losers round, Ballincollig lost out to Cloughduv whilst St Finbarr's were defeated by Milford.

It was onto the round two draws next but before

this could be done five clubs were pulled to get a bye and advance to the quarter finals. The clubs drawn were St Catherine's, Killeagh, Douglas, Carbery and Sarsfields. The round two drawn then proceeded with the winners of the Ballincollig/St Finbarr's game drawn to meet Milford, potentially setting up a repeat of the first round again if St Finbarr's overcome Ballincollig. Cloughduv await the winners of the Inniscarra/Courcey Rovers clash and the winners of the Mallow/Glen Rovers game will go on to meet Ballygarvan in round two.

The quarter finals draws have Douglas meeting the winners of Cloughduv/Inniscarra/ Courcey Rovers, St Catherine's will take on Carbery, Killeagh await the winners of the Mallow/ Glen Rovers/ Bal-

CAMOGIE  
Mary Newman

lygarvan games and Sarsfields, who had a great first round victory over county champions Inniscarra now await the winners from the Ballincollig/St Finbarr's/ Milford games.

Three games that have now been confirmed are the meeting between Glen Rovers and Mallow - this will go ahead on Monday, August 21st in Castle Road, Ballincollig versus St Finbarr's is down for decision on Wednesday 23rd and the meeting between Inniscarra and Courcey Rovers is, at the moment, pencilled in for the 23rd but may come forward a night to Tuesday the 22nd as it is hoped to play all three games in Castle Road.

Pending the fortunes of the Cork Senior and Intermediate sides in the All Ireland series it is unlikely the championship will progress any further unless Cork are out of the All-Ireland series and, as the picture unfolds, dates will then be put on the round two and quarter final games.

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# Galway expose an aimless Tipp

Back door  
for U16s  
offers lots  
more action

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda  
Mellerick

**THE Galway and Tipperary, Liberty Insurance camogie quarter-final was a huge disappointment.**

I thought Tipp would really raise the bar to challenge Galway, even if I knew it wouldn't be enough.

But what happened in Semple Stadium showed that the gap between the two has widened.

The game suited a running and skilful team like Galway.

It showed up a slow Tipperary side, who appeared to have no game plan or, if they did, it went out the window after the first two minutes and they ended up at sixes and sevens.

Galway played with hunger and enthusiasm.

They never let up.

Galway just blitzed through Tipp's defence and, even when Tipp had a free player inside, she seemed to be in no man's land.

She didn't play a sweeper role, her positioning completely removing her from the game, making it seem as if Galway had an extra player.

Galway led by ten points to no score after nineteen minutes.

Tipperary had barely mustered an attack.

On 21 minutes, Tipp registered their first score, suddenly raised the bar, and hit four more to Galway's two to leave it 0-12 to 0-5 at the break.

When Tipp hit the first point of the second-half, it must have raised a few heartbeats amongst their followers.

But it was a short reprieve, as Ailish Reilly's goal, minutes later, knocked the stuffing out of the brief Tipperary resurgence.

How Ailish got in for her goal typified Tipperary's play.

They just had no positional sense.

Ailish started the move just inside the 40-metre line, passing it out to the wing.

Three Tipperary defenders turned their back on her and ran after the ball.

One hadn't a chance of contributing to whatever was going to happen out there; she was too far away from the play.

Ailish had a free run up through the middle.

She pulled on the return pass to the back of the net.

It was awful defending.

Tipp were second to the ball and, at times, even though they outnumbered Galway by three to one in a tussle, it was Galway that came away with the ball.

I saw no passion in Tipp's play.

It's difficult to know just how good Galway are, based on Tipperary's performance.

Galway manager, Mark Dunne, would be concerned that Tipp scored five points in a nine-minute spell before the break.

He'll have a much different battle on his hands in two weeks' time.

As he stated, when interviewed after the game, Galway are no longer fa-



Tipperary's Mary Ryan with Galway's Heather Cooney, ahead of last weekend's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-finals in Semple Stadium, in Thurles.

Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy



Wexford's Brid Gordon and Dublin's Sile Nic Coitir, ahead of last weekend's All Ireland quarter-final in Semple Stadium, in Thurles.

Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

avourite. Dublin and Wexford was a better game and Dublin manager, David Herity, couldn't hide his delight, when he said that it has been 27 years since Dublin reached an All-Ireland senior semi-final.

It's 32 years since they last won the title. Undoubtedly, the former Kilkenny goalkeeper, with five senior All-Ireland titles to his credit, has brought Dublin a long way, building on their much-improved underage performances over the past several years.

The game started slow, but opened up, with the players relaxing entering the second-quarter.

Wexford opened a three-point advantage, but, once Dublin got used to the occasion, they moved into a 0-6 to 0-4 lead. A huge blow for Wexford was

the loss of experienced defender, Karen Atkinson, who limped off after twenty minutes.

Wexford, after a good start and three early points, scored just once more before the break.

They'd four wides and won a penalty on 32 minutes. But a fine save by Dublin keeper, Faye McCarthy, denied them and things just weren't going well for Wexford, as they trailed 0-4 to 0-9 at the break.

On the other side, Dublin had a spring in their step and looked to be getting stronger.

Their work rate was very good and their nine points came from five difference scorers.

Joanne Dillon tore down on goal two minutes after the restart, but, again, a

**“Tipp had no game plan, or, if they did, it went out the window after the first two minutes**

brilliant save by Faye McCarthy denied her.

Dublin increased their lead to six. Wexford were completely starving their top forward, Una Leacy, of possession.

Entering the last quarter, Wexford raised the tempo and reduced the margin to three.

It got really exciting at that stage.

But Wexford's hard work to get something back from the game was shattered, when goalkeeper, Nicole Fortune, failed to deal with what looked like a relatively easy collect and Ali Twomey struck home.

It finished 1-16 to 0-12.

It's Cork versus Galway and Kilkenny versus Dublin, in a double header in the Gaelic Grounds next Saturday.

THE U16 championship are always hotly contested and as with the U14 championship this year the Juvenile board have decided to implement a backdoor in the U16 A B and C championship thus ensuring plenty of games at this level for the players.

Holders Ballygarvan will defend their crown with a first round meeting against Newcestown and travelling away this could be a tricky opener for Ballygarvan.

Enniskeane will meet Ballinhassig in a home tie for the West Cork side, Blackrock are at home for their meeting with Kilbrittan-Timoleague, and Courcy Rovers will host St Finbarr's Ballinora having already secured their place in the last four in the U16 A league competition will be hoping to bring their good form into championship when they host Milford-Ballyhea.

Sarsfields are at home to a Ballinacolly side that reached the quarter finals of the league.

Glen Rovers will be at home against Eire Og. Carrigaline have secured them a league semi final spot and they will travel to Aghabullogue for their championship opened whilst Inniscarra's first team who are also qualified for the league semi final will be at home against Bride Rovers in championship.

Aghada have a home venue when they meet Charleville who had an impressive league campaign in the B Championship.

Sliabh Rua are at home for their meeting with Douglas, Killeagh host Bishopscourt, Ballinascarty meet Blarney. It's an all north-side affair as Na Piarasigh welcome Brian Dillon's.

Cobh will meet Fr O'Neill's, Barryroe make the trip to Ballyanley to meet Inniscarra's second team, Youghal will meet Kerry club Cillard who are participating in Cork competitions and Cloughduv host Banteer.

In the C championship Kerry Club Causeway will head to Kilbree, Grenagh will welcome Nemo Rangers, Clonakilty make the trip to Middleton whilst Dungourney host Mallow.

St Colm's have a trip to Watergrasshill, Erin's Own are at home for their meeting with Tracton.

Buttevant take on St Finbarr's in Buttevant, Millstreet make the journey to Castlemartyr St Catherine's have a home venue for their clash with Rockban as do Castlelyons when they meet Valley Rovers.

The Juvenile board have put a date of September 3rd for all the first rounds to be played.

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland ICC Grp 1: Antrim 1-6 Derry

3-27, Tipperary 3-14 Kilkenny 1-14;

Grp 2: Laois 2-11 Galway 0-17, Cork 3-

11 Down 0-9, Carlow 0-4 Meath 3-10;

PJCC semi-finals: Armagh 1-11 West-

meath 0-15, Dublin 1-12 Kerry 0-9;

U16ACC semi-final: Dublin 2-8 Wexford

2-11;

U16BCC semi-finals: Laois 1-8 Offaly 1-

5, Antrim 2-15 Galway 3-10;

U16CCC semi-finals: Armagh 4-8 Ros-

common 1-3, Carlow 10-16 Tyrone 1-4.





Ashling Thompson, Cork, gets away from Sinead McNamara, Limerick, in the group stages of the Camogie Championship. Picture: Jim Coughlan.

# Composure is with Cork



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**TOMORROW**  
All-Ireland camogie semi-finals  
Kilkenny v Dublin, 5.15pm;  
Cork v Galway, 7pm,  
Gaelic Grounds.

**PAUDIE Murray is certain about one thing with regards their chances ahead of tomorrow's All-Ireland semi-final with Galway.**

"It all boils down to two things on match day. Being composed and wanting it."

On the uncontrollable, the Cork manager is concerned about the influence the referee will have on the game.

"You just don't know what you're heading into on Saturday and Mark Dunne (Galway manager) would be in the same position. You discuss with your players before games what you can and can't do yet you can go into a league final such as this year where there were five frees in the first half, where everything went."

"Then you go to a Munster final and you've 41 frees. Bottom line is that you expect referees to get the big calls right and I just think that it (the standard) hasn't improved."

Paudie certainly has the credentials to air such views, having been involved in camogie a long time, first as manager of Cloughduv and Cork for the past six seasons.

Galway did look good in their quarter-final but Tipperary fell well below senior standard. They were slow, sluggish, and not at the level of fitness required. They got to a quarter final winning just one group game so it was no surprise really.

Galway can produce moments of impressive hurling and teamwork. The concern in their camp is that they don't consistently produce that for a full hour. They won't have learned a huge amount from the quarter-final.

How Galway set up their 15 will have a



Galway's Heather Cooney will be a key player for her side.

Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

big bearing on their fortunes. If they attempt to pull out their forwards and create space, it won't happen.

They have attacking midfielders in Ann Marie Starr and Niamh Kilkenny. If they hold 15 on 15 and run at Cork they have a better chance of upsetting a solid defence where Laura Treacy, Pam Mackey, Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor are as experienced and solid as you'll get in the game, in front of the best goalkeeper in the country.

Chloe Sigerson has given Cork greater options as while she has maintained a left-half back position it has freed up a top-class substitute in Eimear O'Sullivan. Eimear, who is flying in training, may well start though, for Maebh Cahalane, in completing the back six.

Cahalane is struggling for a while with a form of tendinitis in her Achilles tendon and isn't 100% right. Cork haven't had a clear injury free run all year.

Julia White continues to be protected in that when she's on the pitch she's superb but suffers extreme tightness around the Achilles area and management have to be careful with her. There is every chance due to this that Cork will keep her as an impact sub rather than starting. While that may be disappointing for Julia, what an impact sub to have.

Physically Cork are a stronger team than Galway. And they have speed with it. Down the middle you have Gemma O'Connor, Ashling Thompson, and Hannah Looney alongside Orla Cotter, Laura Treacy, Pam Mackey and Niamh McCarthy.

Siobhan McGrath has come onto the Galway panel this year at left corner forward and has done well, albeit she is slight in stature and won't have it too easy on whoever takes her up and I'm assuming Laura Treacy will be given the task.

Libby Coppinger and Ashling Thompson should hold the centre-field positions but the same fixtures problem that has plagued the game before has arisen, with the ladies' footballers and camogie clash tomorrow. Even if Libby doesn't start with the footballers and plays a second half role, she then faces a 165km journey from Mullingar to the Gaelic Grounds.

Cork have options on the bench, they are playing more direct and they should be hungry to get back into an All-Ireland final. If the game is tight heading down the straight Cork typically finish strong and Galway tend to fade.

If Cork take a healthy lead I also don't expect Galway to have the composure and belief to pull them back. Cork to win.

## Classy Cork go through to Liberty semi-final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	3-11
Down	0-9

THE Cork Intermediate camogie team secured their place in the Liberty Insurance All-Intermediate semi-final by outclassing Down in Fermoy on Saturday.

A fussy referee, who awarded 51 frees, ensured the game was never allowed to flow, and a look at the stats tells its own story.

The Cork defence, on top from the throw-in, limited Down to all but one score from play.

At midfield, Finola Neville and Lauren Callanan held the upper-hand and worked hard to ensure a plentiful supply of possession to their inside lines and, in all sectors, Cork were focused on the job.

A win or a draw was needed to ensure the semi-final spot, and, from the throw-in, Cork took on the Down defence and applied huge pressure.

Despite playing against the stiff breeze in the first-half, Cork held a 2-3 to 0-2 interval lead.

Two goals, from Linda Collins and Maeve McCarthy, gave Cork the vital edge.

Rachel O'Shea was unerring from frees for Cork, whilst Paula Gribben hit eight points from frees, for a Down side who could find no way past Amy Lee, in the Cork goal.

As the game entered the final quarter, Cork had the finishing line in sight. When Grainne Savage denied Finola Neville with a good save, Caroline Sugrue collected the ball and hand-passed to the net to signal no way back for Down, who needed a win to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Cork will meet either Derry or Kildare in next Sunday's semi-final, pending the result of the last game in their section, which is between Meath and Carlow. That will determine if Cork or Meath tops the group.

**Scorers for Cork:** R O'Shea 0-5 (0-4f's, C Sugrue 1-2, L Collins 1-1, M McCarthy 1-0, K Hickey, K McCarthy (f), F Neville 0-1 each.

**Down:** P Gribben 0-8 (7f's), N Mallon 0-1. **CORK:** A Lee; L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh (c); R Kileen, S Buckley, J Barry; L Callanan, F Neville; K Hickey, K Mc McCarthy, R O'Shea; C Sugrue, M Mc McCarthy, L Collins.

**Subs:** M Buckley for K Mc McCarthy (44), S Fahy for K Hickey (55), H Ryan for M Mc McCarthy (56), M Lynch for S Buckley (57), N O'Callaghan for R Kileen (60).

**DOWN:** G Savage; C Mc Gilligan, M McNally, N O'Hagan, C Caldwell, D Magee, S Mc McCullough; A Keown, P Gribben; C Fitzpatrick, S L Carr; A Mc Aleenan; D Toner, N Mallon (c); C Smith.

**Subs:** N Mc McCullough for A Mc Aleenan (28), A Mc Kellop for C Smyth (35), N Mc Cabe for S Mc McCullough (43), G Gallagher for D Toner (44), C Byrne for N O'Hagan (50).

**Referee:** John Dolan (Clare)



## 'Cork are a complete, utter, and total different kettle of fish'

Niamh McGrath, 24, is daughter of Galway legend 'Hopper' and hockey international Geraldine, and is joined on the Galway squad that play Kilkenny in today's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds (7pm) by sisters Clodagh, 23, Orlaith, 21, and Siobhán, 16

### Interview by Daragh Ó Conchúir

Today's All-Ireland camogie semi-finals will both be televised live by RTE with impressive figures recorded for the quarter-finals which were broadcast by the station earlier this month. Dublin's win over Wexford attracted an audience of 102,000 while the Galway-Tipperary match had 92,000 viewers.

**Q: Where are you based at the moment?**  
A: I'm training to be a solicitor with William Fry in Dublin. It's hard to keep it all going. I go home every Tuesday during the Championship for training. Most weeks we train on a Friday so I get down for that as well, and anything we do on a Saturday and Sunday. Your week is so routine. You get to Dublin on Sunday night, get ready for the gym session after work on a Monday or a Wednesday, get all the gear packed for Tuesday, go down and up again, then down again on Friday. You're living out of a suitcase nearly. They're really understanding in work, they're all about the work-life balance. It's not that big a sacrifice anyway. There's a lot of people worse off and it's great to be able to play.

**Q: What are your earliest memories?**  
A: It wasn't necessarily just camogie. We'd go to all Mam's hockey matches when we were younger. She gave up international hockey when she had us but she used to play for Greenfields in Galway and would bring us along. Dad was playing with Sarsfields until around 2002 and Mam used to be working so we used always be down at Sarsfields training too.

**Q: Did you know they were high achievers?**  
A: Not really. You don't pay much heed to it. They'd be very modest. You'd just know from people talking around the club that people would have a lot of respect for them. They'd never blow their own trumpet, our ours either!

**Q: What were the games like at home?**  
A: We had small matches out the back. Me and Clodagh against Siobhán and Orlaith. Siobhán would be a bit small but Dad would be playing as well. We were always outside. Dad was over us as soon as I was around eight, with the Sarsfields U10s team and he's been with us ever since.

**Q: Winning that first county senior title with your sisters and Dad, and then getting all the way to the All-Ireland final in March must have been fantastic.**  
A: That was the best day ever in my camogie career, to win a first county championship with the club. I was the eldest on the team and it's the same group of girls. From that group at U10, we went up and won everything. With another group of stronger players beneath us, we eventually won the senior final. We have such a strong club now built up from nothing. They're going for their fifth U16 in a row this year and we did three-in-a-row minor last year, so the future is bright.

**Q: You are the eldest of six girls. Clara and Laois are still very young at 11 and 9 but you were joined by Clodagh and Orlaith when Galway won the U16 All-Ireland in 2009, and again four years later when annexing the senior title. Siobhán joined up during the summer and made her first start in the quarter-final against Tipperary. What's that like?**

A: You don't really know any different. Three of us are so close in age, we've always played together. It's nice to be playing with your sisters. They know where you are, they know how you play. It's more natural. And Siobhán coming in this year, it's just the same.



**Q: Were ye worried about Siobhán starting her first game so young? Were ye ready to step in if she got a dig?**

A: Of all of us, Siobhán does not need any protection whatsoever! She'd be stronger than me to be totally honest. She's so cool, calm and collected, she doesn't lose the head at all. Nothing fazes her and she's well able to look after herself. She has a good attitude too, a great workrate.

**Q: What's the atmosphere like in the county?**

A: It's been very sad the last week or two with Tony Keady's passing. That has dampened the hype about. He was such a character. Dad and himself would have gone way back. They were the same age and they played with each other right through vocational schools until they retired with Galway. There would have been great rivalry too as Killimordaly are our next door neighbours. Tony had a great interest in camogie. He was at our quarter-final and travelled up from there to Dublin for the hurling semi-final. He was so proud of his daughter Shannon making the Galway U16 team this year. Your heart would go out to them.

The hurlers have taken the pressure off us a bit but in Galway, the hurling and camogie community is so united. Even in my own club, all the senior hurlers go to our matches. In our county final there were two and a half thousand there and the same for the replay. There's great support for camogie.

**Q: Former teammate Molly Dunne retired last year and has moved straight into coaching, with her brother Mark taking over as manager and former Galway and Dublin hurler Niall Corcoran coming in as well. What's it like with Molly taking that new role?**

A: She's a brilliant trainer. She motivates you brilliantly. You'd really have respect for her as a woman who has done it all. She'll be a future manager definitely. There's no shortcuts when Molly is around. And despite being teammates in the past, you wouldn't cut corners. There are boundaries there. She's a selector now.

**Q: What about Cork?**

A: We did well against Tipperary but we're under no illusions that Cork are a complete, utter, and total different kettle of fish. They're so dominant in the past couple of years. They've been in nearly every final in league and championship. The system they play is so tough with the sweeper and the running game breaking out of defence. But we're going well and hopefully we do ourselves justice. Hopefully we'll hit the ground running. There's been too many games where we've underperformed at the start and faltered on the big occasion, haven't done ourselves justice with the calibre of players we have. If we give a performance, we'll see how it goes.

**Q: Have ye talked about tendency to underperform on the big stage?**

A: We have talked about it and tried to address it. We just have to try and get harder, more aggressive and not let the bigger teams dominate us. It seems to be that we can beat them up along but not when it matters on the big day. There's a good vibe now though and it all depends on the day. We'll give it everything we have.

## Cork and Galway could be a game for the ages

### CAMOGIE

John Horgan

THE meeting of Cork and Galway on Saturday night in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at 7pm in the Gaelic Grounds is a mouth-watering prospect.

The teams are meeting for the first time since the 2015 decider when Cork upset the odds, having been beaten by Galway twice prior to that in the National League final and the group stages of the Championship.

Cork returned to the All-Ireland final last year but found Kilkenny too strong and it is worth recording that Galway only fell to the Stripedwomen after injury-time in the semi-final.

They are on their third manager in as many seasons, Mark Dunne taking over from Ollie Bergin, who had in turn succeeded Tony Ward. Dunne is moving closer to his strongest side, although he

might have preferred a sterner test from Tipperary in the quarter-final. They were extremely professional in navigating the group phase but were unable to break down Kilkenny. However, having finally given long-touted minor star Siobhán McGrath her head, they have even more speed in attack and will look to cash in on the offensive threat that is also provided by McGrath's sisters Orlaith and Niamh, Maria Cooney and Ailish O'Reilly.

Cork, of course, are renowned for their ability to smother opposition attacks, the likes of Pamela Mackey, Laura Treacy, and captain Rena Buckley among the stickiest of defenders in the game. In ad-

dition, All-Ireland-winning skipper Ashling Thompson has been a central figure in the game-plan with her athleticism enabling her to sweep up deep in her own half while also forcing turnovers around the field and getting forward for a score or two. Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, and Orla Cotter are just some other who provide plenty of experience while Niamh McCarthy represents the new breed.

Galway have a similar profile in that regard, as apart from Siobhán McGrath, Róisín Black is a newcomer who has appeared to the manor born in defence. At the other end of the experience spectrum, Sarah Dervan's return from injury adds steel to that division. Lorraine Ryan was captain when they won the All-Ireland in 2013 and Niamh Kilkenny remains an absolute joy to watch.

This could be a game for the ages.





Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie  
championship semi-final

## DUBLIN V KILKENNY

Today: Gaelic Grounds, 5.15pm

Referee: Ray Kelly

TV: RTE Two

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

The story of the improving fortunes of Dublin camogie is multi-layered but is rooted in vision and the installation of improved structures.

The seniors' appearance in a first Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final since 1990 at the Gaelic Grounds today (5.15pm) is just the latest signal of the graph's upward spiral, with the second string already booked into the Premier Junior final at Croke Park on September 10.

Even more significantly, the Minors and U16s reached the last four of their campaigns, suggesting that there is a conveyor belt of talent coming through to ensure depth, particularly with many of the All-Ireland U16-winning team of 2012 – the Dubs' first win at that grade in 30 years – now graduating.

Nothing works unless the right people are put in place however and David Herity has been lauded deservedly for his role in taking the Seniors to the next level.

He would be the first to say that he is building on the work of his predecessor Shane O'Brien however. O'Brien brought about a change in culture, establishing a high-performance environment that included bringing Herity into the fold last year.

The Cuala man removed the excuses for non-performance and players responded to being treated as serious athletes by becoming ones.

"He changed everything up completely," says Dublin's leading scorer, Aisling Maher. "It became a much more pro-

# Dublin graduates ready for next level



Dublin's Gráinne Quinn and Sarah O'Donovan overjoyed after the victory over Wexford in the recent Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final at Semple Stadium. Left: Dublin manager David Herity, who 'knows the difference between winning an All-Ireland and losing it, how small the margins are', according to Dublin's top scorer Aisling Maher. Picture: Oisín Keniry



fessional set-up. It was a change to players' lifestyle. It wasn't just going down and training a few nights a week

and trying to put in the effort and commitment for a couple of hours each night at training.

"He very much changed players' attitude to try and act like an athlete. You're watching what you're eating, you're

getting your own training in, you're starting to think about games in the right way, the visualisation side of it is brought in, a proper back-room team is put in place, players are being looked after with proper sets of gear.

"There's someone looking after admin, someone looking after S & C, someone else doing hurling drills, having physios at training. All those little things make a big difference and allow players to feel that the whole set-up overall is worth putting the time and effort into it."

Results improved, ambition was raised and when O'Brien stepped away after two years, Herity took on the mantle. The five-time All-Ireland winner with Kilkenny had already had a significant impact and Maher is effusive in her praise of the former goalkeeper.

"David's been fantastic. He has had the experience himself at the very top level and he knows what it takes. He knows the difference between winning an All-Ireland and losing it, how small the margins are."

"To have a manager who can understand every aspect of the game, that players are amateurs and have jobs and everything outside of it but at the same time, (that the game) monopolises a massive amount of your life so inevitably there's a huge emotional attachment that goes with it. It's everything for a good chunk of the year to every-body playing at this level."

"He understands the level of professionalism you need to bring and how much work is involved in it. He's willing to give us everything he can to push us over the line. That kind of experience, from the

drills and the hurling side, right up to the lifestyle side of it, having someone who understands what that is, how it affects every player differently, everything you need to get everything out of the team, is a huge advantage to us."

Maher, who turns 22 in November, is facing into her final year of medicinal chemistry at Trinity College. Combining her studies with her Camogie commitments can be testing at times but the articulate St Vincent's markswoman, who has been part of the Senior squad for five years, insists it is all about finding the right blend.

"I did an internship for the first six weeks of the summer so I was between Crumlin Hospital and Temple Street for the start of the Championship. The hours in a hospital are very difficult so it's tricky to balance that kind of stuff. You're on your feet all day, it's long hours and then getting to training and trying to be in a good mental and physical shape, eat properly, rested as much as possible and be able to put in a good session for the evening."

"It's the same thing during the year. Dublin's pre-season started in November. Vincent's have been lucky to have successful seasons in the last few years, and would have gotten to the Leinster final, which is the middle of November."

"So it's always busy, it's always a balancing thing but when you're playing sport at this level, you have to be good at balancing things or it's not possible otherwise. You have to get used to it and you have to know when enough is enough and you need to miss a training session to recover and maybe make up for it in your own time."

"People are slow to give recognition to Dublin so as far as we're concerned, we used that as motivation. Kilkenny will be another step up again. What we did the last day won't be good enough but we don't plan on performing at that same level. We'll be looking at what we can do to bring out our best performance against Kilkenny and push on another level."

## Sugrue spurs Cork on to a comfortable win

### INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE QUARTER-FINAL

**CORK** 3-11  
**DOWN** 0-9

BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

A TALLY of 1-2 from Ballinascorthy's Caroline Sugrue helped Cork to a comfortable victory over Down in Fermoy on Saturday as they booked their place in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-finals.

The Rebels were far too strong in this final fixture of group 2 and set their stall out early as Linda Collins struck for a goal in the fifth minute. Collins followed that with a point and while Paula Gribben

opened Down's account in the ninth minute – one of eight pointed frees she would score – it was only a brief interruption to the Cork flow of scores.

Keeva McCarthy and Kate-lyn Hickey added further Cork scores to leave it 1-3 to 0-2 after 16 minutes, Niamh Mallon having got what would prove to be Down's only score from play.

Greater accuracy in front of goal would have had Cork further ahead but it mattered little as Maeve McCarthy ogaed in the 22nd minute following good build-up play from Collins and Sugrue.

That left it 2-3 to 0-2 at half-time and Rachel O'Shea (two) and Sugrue added further

points in the opening stages of the second half. Sugrue's goal came in the 43rd minute, opening up a 12-point lead which Down were never likely to surmount. After a dropping delivery from Fiona Neville, the corner-forward collected possession and impressively fired home.

Gribben did have two Down frees in response, and three more after Sugrue's second point. Cork substitute Hayley Ryan set up O'Shea to point on 56, before O'Shea tacked on two from placed balls to tie up Corks scoring of 3-11 before Gribben closed out Down's account in injury time when she slotted over a 30-metre

placed ball.

In the semi-finals, Cork will face Derry, who had a 3-27 to 1-6 win over Antrim. That game takes place at 2pm on Sunday in Donaghmore-Ashbourne, Co Meath, with the second semi-final between Meath and Kildare taking place at 4pm.

#### Scorers

**Cork:** C Sugrue 1-2, L Collins 1-1, M McCarthy 1-0, R O'Shea 0-5 (4f), K Hickey, K McCarthy, F Neville 0-1 each.  
**Down:** P Gribben 0-8f, N Mallon 0-1.

**Cork:** A Lee (Na Piarasigh); L Weste (Ballincollig); S Harrington (Fr O'Neills); N Ni Chaoimh (Killeagh); J Barry (Bride Rovers); S Buckley (Ballincollig); R Kileen (Ballyhea); F Neville (St Catherine's); L Callanan (Glen Rovers); R O'Shea (Carrigaline); K McCarthy (St Finbarr's); K Hickey (Blackrock); L Collins (Courcey Rovers); M Mc-



Top scorer: Ballinascorthy's Caroline Sugrue in action for Cork against Down in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship (Photo: Trevor Patchett)

Carthy (Sarsfields); C Sugrue (Ballinascorthy).  
**Subs:** M Buckley (Ballygarvan) for K McCarthy (44); S Fahy (Douglas) for Hickey (54); H Ryan (Blackrock) for M McCarthy (55); M Lynch (Newcestown) for Buckley (56); N O'Callaghan (Sarsfields) for Kileen (60).

**Down:** G Savage; C McGilligan; M

McNally; N O'Hagan; C Caldwell; D Magee; S McCullough; A Keown; P Gribben; C Fitzpatrick; SL Carr; A McAleenan; D Toner; N Mallon; C Smyth.  
**Subs:** N McCullough for McAleenan (28); A McKillop for Smyth (35); N McCabe for Toner (43); G Gallagher for McCullough (43); C Byrne for O'Hagan (50).



# Dubs on the rise but Cats will win

Busy weekend for final stage of U16s

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

WE are down to the final stage in the U16 leagues and Ballinlough hosts the B and C and finals today for what promises to be another wonderful day of underage camogie.

The U16 B final gets proceedings underway when Enniskeane take on Blackrock at 11am.

This will be followed by the meeting of Youghal and Barryroe at 12.30pm, while the U16 A semi-finals are also on the agenda for decision today in Carrigaline and Charleville.

Enniskeane overcame Douglas to advance to an U16 B final meeting final meeting with a Blackrock side that had three points to spare over Ballinlough when the sides met in the U16 B league semi-final where it finished Blackrock 3-11 Ballinlough 3-8.

Both these sides are putting in huge work at under age level and it promises to be an excellent final.

Youghal and Barryroe clash in the U16 C final.

Youghal got the upper hand on Banteer in their semi-final encounter on a 2-7 to 1-2 scoreline and having taken the East Cork U15 title recently they will be going all out to add the U16 B county league title to their collection of honours.

Barryroe defeated Middleton in their semi-final outing and they will be hoping to maintain their good progress in the final.

In their outing with Middleton, Claire Tobin, Roisin Dullea, Ciara Collins and Claire Dullea were to the fore and they will battle hard today to take the title.

The U16 A league semi-finals are also on the fixtures sheet for today, and here Charleville and Inniscarra face off in Charleville, with the other semi-final being played in Carrigaline where Carrigaline will take on Ballinlough.

Both of these have a 12pm throw-in.

They promise to be two close encounters.

Charleville will have Cork U16 Laura Doyle in their line-out while Ciara Ring, Ellen Murphy and Caoimhe Buckley are Inniscarra's Cork U16 players.

Carrigaline's Ciara Murphy and Mollie Barrett are also Cork U16s and they will face their fellow inter-county team mate Cliona Dooley when they take on Ballinlough.

A visit to Ballinlough would be a very nice start to the day for the finals, before heading to the Gaelic Grounds to support our Cork senior team in the All-Ireland semi-final at 7pm.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THERE is little doubt that Dublin have made significant strides as a camogie county in 2017.

With their premier juniors already in an All-Ireland final and the minors and U16s reaching the semi-finals, it is evident that the organisation and the establishment of a high-performance structure has combined with grassroots to provide a well-prepared production line of talent.

It's very welcomed and full credit to them. The stronger and widely competitive the senior camogie championship is, the better.

However, today is where it ends for Dublin for 2017. They'll build on their achievements, that's for sure, but there is no chance they'll reach Croke Park.

Kilkenny are in the unfortunate position in that they have it all to lose and little to gain, apart from their All-Ireland final appearance of course. But they'll learn little from today's game.

After a relatively uninspiring group series, it's four weeks since the champions lined out and they'll reach an All-Ireland final without a serious challenge.

Incidentally, their last group game was on July 22 against Dublin where they won comfortably, 3-13 to 0-8.

Wexford's forwards were poor in the quarter-final and they starved their best forward, Una Leacy, of possession.

Dublin will have their hands full this time with a top class forward division, including Katie Power, Anna Farrell and Shelley Farrell.

Cork and Galway on the other hand, whoever comes through there, should have endured a battle and its ideal preparation.

It's 2015 since Cork and Galway last met, in the All-Ireland final, when Cork took the title after being beaten by Galway that year in the league final and group stages.

Galway fell at the semi-final stage last year, after extra-time, to Kilkenny who as we all know went on to win the title. But Galway and Kilkenny are two different animals on the big days.

Kilkenny will dig out a win, Galway will fade out in the closing stages when the game is there to be won.

The McGrath sisters Orlaith, Niamh, and Siobhan provide speed in Galway's attack alongside Ailish O'Reilly and Maria Cooney. Roisin Black is new at full-back and will have a serious test on her hands with Hannah Looney.

It's a strange situation regarding Sarah Dervan. The quarter-final was her first game all season.

The All-Star warmed up several times, but never came onto the field. She played no part in Galway's league or group games. She's back now and Galway may well switch her to number three as it's a risky move placing Black in at full-back against such an experienced forward division as Cork's.



Theresa Fitzpatrick of the New Zealand Black Ferns tries her hand at camogie. Also pictured are, from left, New Zealand Black Ferns Hazel Tubic and Selica Winiata, and Dublin camogie players Aisling Carolan and Claire Donnelly. Picture: Cody Glenn/Sportsfile



Camogie winners, Susan Earner of Galway, senior, left, and Molly Lynch of Cork, U16, after the 2017 M Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada finals. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Cork are athletic. They have power and pace and can cover ground.

They're superbly fit and finish games strongly. Galway aren't renowned for finishing well.

Even when leading in the final quarter, they can collapse. Belief will mean everything today. Belief and hunger, for both sides.

I spoke with former Galway star Sharon Glynn during the week and asked her for her views on the game. Always honest, she'll say it as it is with her strong Galwegian accent.

"Ah, I'd like to say we'll win it but I have concerns. We've seen brief spells of good stuff from players, but nothing to set the world on fire."

"The only game we lost was to Kilkenny in the series, but you have to look at the competition. When we

played Kilkenny I saw no bite, no kick. "Is there a good hour in them as a unit? I don't know."

"If Cork get a lead I think Galway will struggle. We haven't been playing well enough to cope with that."

"The Tipp game wasn't what Galway will experience on Saturday. They had not seconds, but minutes on the ball, before Tipperary closed them down."

"Pam Mackey can mind the best player the opposition have any day she goes out."

"How will Galway cope with Gemma? Her influence is massive. Her quality of delivery is excellent."

"Work-rate off the ball, that's how they need to go about it."

"Are they able to do that for the hour? The jury is still out."

“Offaly gave Cork a right scare in their final game, but that was no harm”

opsis. Cork have been very impressive in the championship to date, albeit again the challenges they faced were never a threat.

Except for Offaly, who gave Cork a right scare in their final game. But that was no harm. In fact, after blitzing through teams, it was great for them to be brought back down to earth again.

Cork are playing more direct this year. They look to be enjoying themselves. You can always tell when a team is enjoying their hurling or whether they are tense and somewhat angry.

At times though, Cork can appear casual and lack bite. It was that lack of aggression and desire for the ball that cost them the three-in-a-row.

It needs to be there today. If it's not Galway can cause an upset.



# Focus returns to SE Systems event

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ANOTHER busy week of championship action starting on Monday when the focus is back on the SE Systems Senior Championship when Mallow and Glen Rovers meet in Castle Road at 7.15pm in the first of the three losers round games.

Glen Rovers lost out to St Catherine's in a highly entertaining first round where the Saints had five points to spare at the full-time whistle, 1-16 to 0-14. Mallow lost out to a strong Carbery sides as they were on the receiving end of a 4-25 to 0-2 score line.

It's Mallow's first season in the senior ranks following their promotion after landing the Senior B crown last season and they went into the clash with a strong Carbery side minus six players who were listed to play. They will expect to be stronger on Monday with players such as Brid O'Sullivan, Michelle Browne, Katie Healy and Laura Willis all to come in.

Glen Rovers battled hard to get a result against St Catherine's but with Orla Cotter on target with 10 points, eight from frees, they were edged out.

It was a game that could have gone either way but in the finish they came up short.

They will be determined to make amends. They have introduced young players Emma Murphy, Niamh Gowen and Katie Buckley to their senior squad this year and all acquitted themselves well in their first championship outing.

Add in the experienced Lauren Callanan, Denise Luby, Lydia Cunningham and captain Leanne O'Sullivan and they have a nice blend in their sides.

**SENIOR B:** On Tuesday in the SE Systems Senior B championship Aghabullogue go in search of their second victory when they take on Balinassag who recorded a win over Clon recently.

On Wednesday, Valley Rovers, with two victories under their belts, take on Kilbrittain/Timoleague who are in search of their first win.

Barryroe having won two and lost one take on Fr O'Neill's who are also going well.

Blackrock will be bidding for their fourth victory when they meet Carrigaline who have lost out in two and won one.

**INTERMEDIATE:** Newcestown continued their impressive displays. With just one round to go it looks like the last semi-final spot will be up for grabs between Tracton and Lillab Rua.

**JUNIOR A:** Na Piarsaigh meet Ballyhea in a game that will decide who tops their section. In section B, Watergrasshill are already through but are meeting between Youghal and St Vincent's on Wednesday is vital.



At the Glen Rovers Cúl Camp were camogie players Teegan Collins-Dineen and Aimee Long

# Galway too much for brave Cork

Galway 5-13  
Cork 3-5

**GALWAY'S bid for three in a row of All-Ireland U16 A titles remains firmly on course as they proved too strong for Cork at the Ragg.**

The game had been scheduled for Saturday last but was postponed as a mark of respect to the late Tony Keady, whose daughter Shannon lined out at right half-back for Galway.

Before the game both teams stood for what was an emotional minute's silence in memory of her dad. It's to the youngster's credit that she gave it her all in the colours her late father so proudly wore.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

From the throw-in Galway, against the wind, applied huge pressure. They moved fast to the ball and their handling, work-rate and distribution was perfect.

Two early points had Galway in the lead before Emma Murphy had Cork's opening score 14 minutes into the game. Three points from Galway arrived before Sally McCarthy pointed a free. Cork were unable to break down a solid and tuned-in Galway defence where Muireann Faherty, Rachel Burke and Keady were in control.

Having absorbed huge pressure the

Cork defence was bound to crack. When Niamh Niland lost her marker in a race for possession her superb ground stroke was only going one place, the back of the net. Inside two minutes Galway hit Cork for two goals when first Aoife Ni Dhonnacha and then Chloe Quinn-Reilly found themselves unmarked.

Hannah O'Leary pointed before the break but with Galway leading 3-5 to 0-3 the signs were not good.

Rachel Murray extended the Galway lead with an early point on the resumption but a Fiona Keating goal lifted Cork. Galway replied with a point before Aoife Ni Dhonnacha got the ball over the line in a goalmouth scramble. Cork grabbed a second goal, with Keating again showing her class.

She finished with hat-trick but Galway now meet Dublin.

**Scorers for Galway:** N McPeake 2-3, A Ni Dhonnacha 2-0, R Murray 0-4, N Niland 0-4 (0-2 F), Quinn-Reilly 1-0, A Brennan, T Canning 0-1 each.

**Cork:** F Keating 3-0, S McCarthy 0-2 (0-1 F, 0-1 Emma Murphy, H O'Leary, C Dooley 0-1 each).

**GALWAY:** N Kelly, S McCartan, A Kelly, J Doherty, M Faherty, R Burke, N Horan (C), T Canning, N Niland, R Murray, C Quinn-Reilly, N McPeake, Ni Dhonnacha, K Moran.

**Subs:** A Brennan for K Moran (39), E Donohue Keady (53), R Hughes for Ni Dhonnacha (56).

**CORK:** L O'Riordan, H Sexton, M Cotter, C Riney, Doyle, S O'Leary (C), A Smith, I Sheehan, C O'Sullivan, H O'Leary, A Keating, S McCarthy, Emma Murphy, F Keating, Ellen Murphy.

**Subs:** C Murphy for A Smith (25), C Dooley for O'Leary (14), C Coleman for Ellen Murphy (39), Cremin for A Keating (56), S Sheehan for C O'Leary (57).

**Referee:** Fintan McNamara (Clare).

# Cork hope to repeat league performance against Derry

TOMORROW

**Littlewoods All-Ireland Intermediate semi-final: Cork v Derry, Ashbourne, county Meath, 2pm.** FOUR months ago the sides met in the Division 2 National League final where Cork put in a tremendous display to take the title on a 2-16 to 1-5 score line.

Now they clash again and the prize is a place in Croke Park as Cork and Derry battle it out for a spot in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate final.

Cork lost out to Kilkenny in last year's final and since then they have only lost one game where they were beaten by a Meath sides who take on Kildare in the second semi-final.

Derry topped group one undefeated with impressive displays against Kildare champions Kilkenny, Tipperary and Antrim. They drew one game with Wexford and this was their only slip-up. Cork came through their group with impressive victories over

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Galway, Carlow, Laois and Down having lost out to Meath by a point.

On Saturday last against Down they were impressive as they confidently secured their semi-final spot.

Derry will be determined after losing out to Cork in the league final. Since that day Niamh McCarthy has lined out with the Cork senior side in championship and is no longer available. Leah Weste has returned to the side following injury and she has settled in well in the Cork defence.

Derry have players of the calibre of Karen Kieft, Emer McGuigan and Aine McAllister they will go into Sunday's tie in confident form. Aileen McCusker and Grainne McNicholl are also big

players and with a place in the final up for grabs they will be determined to reverse the result of the league final.

That day it was nip and tuck in the opening half but Cork led at the break by three points but they turned in a massive second-half display that rocked Derry as Cork romped to victory.

Tomorrow Cork will need to find that same focus they showed against Down. Their defence, in particular, was impressive, spearheaded by Sarah Buckley and captain Niamh Ni Chaoimh, while at midfield Lauren Callanan and Finola Neville turned in a massive hour.

Up front Cork have the forwards capable of troubling the Derry defence. Linda Collins, Caroline Sgrue and Rachel O'Shea are a handful for any defence.

Derry know they need to improve on their league final display. Cork know they need to stay focused.





## CORCAIGH • CORK

DEARG AGUS BÁN • RED AND WHITE

1 A Ní Mhuiri AOIFE MURRAY CLOUGHDAV	3 R Ní Bhuachalla RENA BUCKLEY (C) INNISCARRA	4 L Ní Threasaigh LAURA TREACY KILLEAGH
2 P Ní Mhaca PAMELA MACKEY DOUGLAS	6 G Ní Chonchúir GEMMA O'CONNOR ST. FINBARRS	7 C Ní Sloghar CHLOE SIGERSON KILLEAGH
5 E Ní Shuilleabháin EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN BALLINHASSIG	8 L Coipingéir LIBBY COPPINGER ST. COLUMS	9 A Níc Thomáis ASHLING THOMPSON MILFORD
10 A Ní Chonchúir AMY O'CONNOR ST. VINCENTS	11 O Ní Chróinín ORLA CRONIN ENNISKEANE	12 O Níc Oitir ORLA COTTER ST. CATHERINES
13 H Ní Luanaigh HANNAH LOONEY KILLEAGH	14 N Níc Carthaigh NIAMH McCARTHY INNISCARRA	15 C Ní Mhaca KATRINA MACKEY DOUGLAS

16 • Amy Lee • A. Ní Laoi • Na Pairsaigh  
17 • Meabh Cahalane • M. Ní Chathaláin • St Finbarrs  
18 • Leanne O'Sullivan • L. Ní Shuilleabháin • Glen Rovers  
19 • Julia White • S. Ní Bhanáin • Douglas  
20 • Lauren Homan • L. Homan • St. Vincents  
21 • Finola Neville • F. Ní Nia • St. Catherine's

Manager • Paudie Murray  
Maor Foime • Martin O'Brien  
Selector • Terry O'Leary  
Hurling Coach • Kevin Murray  
Performance Analyst • Niall Collins  
Goalkeeping Coach • Teddy O'Donovan  
Physio • Liam O'Reilly  
Maor Uisce • Sean Cremin, Damien Murray

## Cork survive late rally to reach showpiece

Cork	2-9
Galway	1-9

### GAELIC GROUNDS

**C**ORK withstood a frantic last-quarter rally from Galway to return to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final for the fourth consecutive season.

Last year's runners-up looked to be cruising when points from Katrina Mackey and Hannah Looney within two minutes of the resumption pushed them eight clear. Astonishingly, however, they went 28 minutes without a score and only managed one further point as Galway, driven forward by Aoife Donohue, edged back into proceedings.

Cork lost Gemma O'Connor to an ankle injury in the 46th minute and three minutes later, Galway's powerful sub Niamh Hanniffy hit a goal to reduce the margin to three.

Donohue slotted a free nine minutes from the end of regulation time and Galway were making all of the running but Cork defended magnificently, Rena Buckley, Chloe Sigerson and Ashling Thompson ensuring that the Tribeswomen would not find another goal.

Katrina Mackey finally ended the Rebels' drought right on the hour and despite five minutes of injury-time, they held out for a dramatic victory.

Galway's management pulled a rabbit out of the hat when opting to move their leading scorer Ailish O'Reilly on Gemma O'Connor to prevent the St Finbarr's star from exerting her normal influence.

Orla Cotter appeared to be the chief beneficiary as she got on a lot of ball, while displaying customary accuracy from frees.

Cork would have only had themselves to blame had they lost as they wasted four gilt-edged goal chances, including two early in the second half.

In the end though, they did breach the Galway defence twice and that proved to be the difference between the sides.

The first came as Aoife Murray sent a bullet of a penalty straight and high to the net in the 11th minute, after Niamh McCarthy was dragged down by Rebecca Hennelly.

Cork were well on top for much of that opening period and struck a significant blow just before the change of ends when Cotter scored a splendid solo goal. The rangy St Catherine's player reached high above Róisín Black to fetch Murray's long delivery on the 40m line and cut inside.

She got a sliver of luck when the slotar rebounded to her after her attempted pass to Hannah Looney was mis-hit and poked to the net, and while O'Reilly pointed straight after, it was 2-6 to 0-6 at half-time.

Galway had the wind in the second half but Looney and Mackey stretched the gap to eight and seemed bound for a comfortable passage to the final.

Galway showed courage late on but they had left themselves too much to do.

Saturday, 19th August, 2017 • Gaelic Grounds, Limerick @ 7:00 pm  
Réiteoir: Eamon Cassidy (Derry)

## GAILLIMH • GALWAY

MARÚN AGUS BÁN • MAROON AND WHITE



1 S Ní Éilí SARAH HEALY ST. THOMAS	3 R Ní Dhuibh ROISIN BLACK ORANMORE/MAREE	4 T Ní Chionnail TARA KENNY SARSFIELDS
2 S Ní Dhiobháin SARAH DERVAN MULLAGH	6 R Ní Ionnaile REBECCA HENELLY ARDRAHAN	7 H Ní Chuana HEATHER COONEY (C) ST. THOMAS
5 L Ní Riain LORRAINE RYAN KILTULLA/KILLIMORDALY	8 A M Starr ANN MARIE STARR KILLIMOR	9 N Níc Giolla Channaigh NIAMH KILKENNY PEARSES
10 N Níc Craith NIAMH McGRATH SARSFIELDS	11 M Ní Chuana MARIA COONEY SARSFIELDS	12 O Níc Craith ORLAITH McGRATH SARSFIELDS
13 S Níc Craith SIOBHAN McGRATH SARSFIELDS	14 A Ní Raghallaigh AILISH O'REILLY ORANMORE/MAREE	15 A Ní Dhonnacha AOIFE DONOHUE MULLAGH

Kilkenny	2-11
Dublin	0-9

### GAELIC GROUNDS

**I**T was closer than many predicted but Kilkenny's Double Double bid remains on track as they held off a determined Dublin at the Gaelic Grounds to reach the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

Ann Downey's side have already retained their National League title this year and are now just an hour away from doing the same in the Championship.

It was only in the third minute of injury time however, when substitutes Jenny Reddy and Jenny Clifford combined for the latter to score a goal, that the Cats could relax completely however, having been severely tested by a plucky Dublin.

Kilkenny got off to the perfect start when they broke out of defence in trademark fashion and worked the slotar to Miriam Walsh, who was unceremoniously hauled down by Áine Woods for a penalty.

The 2016 player of the year Denise Gaulé stepped up to the plate and she made no mistake, planting a shot to the right corner of the net with only two minutes elapsed.

Dublin, who were appearing in their first semi-final in 27 years, and chasing a first final appearance in 31, had fallen

three points behind against Wexford in the quarter-final and they displayed their composure once more in working their way back into this contest.

The threatening Siobhán Kehoe got Dublin off the mark with an excellent point after emerging from a ruck with possession. That was the start of a run of four points for the Metropolitans out of the next five scored, two of which came from Aisling Maher, and the margin was down to two.

There was a major talking point in the 29th minute when Catherine Foley was fortunate to escape with a yellow card and a stern talking to from referee Ray Kelly after a high challenge on Kehoe.

Ann Dalton was particularly influential as Kilkenny scored the last three points of the half to lead by 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time.

Dublin were playing into the wind in the second half but they halved the deficit inside six minutes with a point from Kehoe after a great break by Aisling Carolan and a converted free by goal-keeper Faye McCarthy.

It was still a three-point game entering the final quarter when Maher replied to a Danielle Morrissey brace but points from Julieann Malone, Anna Farrell, Michelle Quilty and a wonderful effort by Meighan Farrell saw Kilkenny pull clear.

Maher shot two more points to bring her tally to six but Clifford had the last say with her rocket of a finish to send the Noresiders back to Croke Park on September 10.

16 • Shauna Burke • S. de Búrca • Craughwell  
17 • Shauna Healy • S. Ní Éilí • Ardahan  
18 • Therese Manton • T. Ní Mhantúin • Mullagh  
19 • Noreen Coen • N. Ní Chadhain • Atherry  
20 • Finola Keely • F. Ní C holláil • St Thomas  
21 • Clodagh McGrath • C. Níc Craith • Sarsfields  
22 • Emma Helebert • E. Ní Hóillbeird • Ballindereon  
23 • Laura Mitchell • L. Ní Mistéil • Kiltulla/Killimordaly  
24 • Niamh Hanniffy • N. Ní Anaithe • Oranmore/Maree  
25 • Dervela Higgins • D. Ní Uiginn • Atherry  
26 • Clara Murphy • C. Ní Mhurchú • Clarinbridge  
27 • Catherine Finnerty • C. Ní Fhionnacha • Mountbellew/Moylough

28 • Molly Mannion • M. Ní Mhainnín • Mountbellew/Moylough  
29 • Jesse Gill • J. Níc an Ghaill • Atherry  
30 • Carrie Dolan • C. Ní Dhuiláin • Clarinbridge

Manager • Mark Dunne  
Maor Foime • Niall Corcoran  
Selectors • Damien Curley, Molly Dunne  
S&C • Tom French, Helen Campbell  
Kitman • Mickey Grealish  
Physio • Sharon Morris



# Murray begins the mind games ahead of Cats date



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Senior semi-final

**CORK..... 2-9**  
**GALWAY..... 1-9**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
Gaelic Grounds



Cork boss Paudie Murray has been insisting throughout the summer that champions Kilkenny are significantly superior to anyone else in the championship.

And within minutes of seeing his side book their place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior final against the Cats with a narrow victory over Galway, he was delivering the message once more.

"I'm pretty relieved at this stage" Murray revealed after Cork saw an eight-point lead reduced to two in the second half.

"Our second half wasn't good, our first half wasn't too bad. Fair play to Galway, this team is a good team. They're coming in with a lot of good players and in time this could be a very good Galway team so you've got to pay credit to them."

"We have a great never-say-die attitude and that's what pulled us through."

"I don't know did we deserve it really... looking back on it probably not."

"I'm worried going into the final at this stage facing Kilkenny."

"It probably won't be a great contest; they play 10 behind the ball so we've to do an awful



**REBEL YELL:** Hannah Looney shows her joy after Cork's victory over Galway in Saturday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds.  
Picture: Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile

lot better if we've to have any chance."

"It won't be one for the spectator, it will be a low scoring game. As I said, we've a lot to do to have any chance."

"You'd be hoping Kilkenny have an off day and that we'd

play way above ourselves to have a chance."

Two first-half goals put Cork in a commanding position, leading by 2-6 to 0-6 at half time.

The first came from Aoife Murray in the 11th minute,

the goalkeeper driving to the roof of the net from a penalty, awarded when the direct-running Niamh McCarthy was dragged down by Rebecca Hennelly.

The second was an exceptional solo effort just before

the break from Orla Cotter. The St Catherine's player was very involved in that opening period and she fielded a long Murray free before running at the heart of the Galway defence and prodding the sliotar to the net.

Points from the industrious Hannah Looney and Katrina Mackey stretched the Cork margin to eight. Looney hand-passed over when a goal was on and Mackey, who had hit the crossbar just two minutes into the game, flashed a shot just wide.

Another goal would have finished the contest but instead Galway were emboldened. Cork went 28 minutes without a score, as the brilliant Aoife Donohue propelled the westerners forward. A 49th-minute goal from Niamh Hanniffy helped reduce the margin to two.

Rena Buckley, Chloe Sigeron and Ashling Thompson were outstanding as Cork held firm despite the loss of Gemma O'Connor with an ankle injury, though Galway did spurn some good point-scoring chances. Instead, Mackey slotted a point on the hour to leave Mark Dunne's crew needing a goal and despite persistent pressure, it never arrived.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cotter (1-3, 3f); A Murray (1-0, 1pen); K Mackey (0-2); O Cronin, N McCarthy, A O'Connor, H Looney (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Galway:** A Donohue (0-4, 3fs); N Hanniffy (1-0); A O'Reilly (0-2, 1f); O McGrath (0-2); N McGrath (0-1).

**CORK:** A Murray, P Mackey, R Buckley, L Treacy, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, C Sigeron, L Coppinger, A Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, H Looney, N McCarthy, K Mackey.

**Sub:** E O'Sullivan for G O'Connor (inj (46)), J White for A O'Connor (48), L Homan for K Mackey (60+1).

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy, S Dervan, R Black, T Kenny, L Ryan, R Hennelly, H Cooney, A Star, O McGrath, N McGrath, A O'Reilly, N Kilkenny, S McGrath, M Cooney, A Donohue.

**Sub:** N Hanniffy for M Cooney (40).  
**Referee:** E Cassidy (Derry)

## Downey's Cats pass stern Dubs test



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Senior semi-final

**DUBLIN..... 0-9**  
**KILKENNY..... 2-11**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
Gaelic Grounds



Kilkenny had just a little too much know-how for Dublin but it wasn't until sub Jenny Clifford goalied in the third minute of injury-time that the champions could be assured of a place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final.

Managed by former Kilkenny star David Herity, the Metropolitans have been the story of this year's Championship and winning manager Ann Downey heaped praise on their opponents. She said: "Dublin were unbelievable. They fought for every ball. We could have had a score or two (more) in the first half but that was testament to the great backs Dublin have. The work David has done with them, they really have come on in leaps and bounds."

Downey's side had a dream start when Denise Gaule netted a penalty, after Aine Woods had hauled down Miriam Walsh after two minutes.

They could not build on that though and Dublin scored four of the next five points with Siobhán Kehoe and Aisling Maher to the fore. Kilkenny had the last three points though and led 5-5 to 0-4 at half-time. Kehoe and Faye McCarthy halved the deficit early in the second half but points from Julieann Malone, Anna Farrell, Michelle Quilty, and Meighan Farrell opened up a seven-point gap. Maher shot two more points to bring her tally to six but Clifford had the last say with her rocket of a finish after good work by Jenny Reddy to remove all doubt.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** D Gaule (1-2, 1f), D Morrissey (0-3, 1f); J Reddy (1-0); A Farrell, M Quilty, M Farrell, J Malone, M Walsh, K Power (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Dublin:** A Maher (0-8, 4fs); S Kehoe (0-2), F McCarthy (0-1, 1f)

**KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh, C Foley, D Tobin, G Walsh, C Dorrner, A Dalton, A Dunphy, M Farrell, A Farrell, J Malone, K Power, D Gaule, S Farrell, M Walsh, D Morrissey.

**Subs:** M Quilty for Power (inj (46)), J Clifford for M Walsh (56), M Teehan for Foley (57), J Reddy for Malone (60+1), S Kerr for Dunphy (60+1)

**DUBLIN:** F McCarthy, A Woods, E O'Brien, G Quinn, H Hegarty, A Carolan, E M Elliott, M Twomey, E McCarthy, A Twomey, A Maguire, E McGovern, E Flanagan, A Maher, S Kehoe.

**Subs:** C Donnelly for Flanagan (43), M Moynihan for Maguire (44), D Mullaney for Twomey (47), E O'Leary for McGovern (58).



**LESS THAN A GAME:** Galway's Aoife Donohue is consoled by Cork's Ashling Thompson after the All-Ireland Camogie semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds on Saturday. See Page 12.  
Picture: Diarmuid Greene/Sportsfile

**AUG.**  
**2017**



# Cork up the ante after interval to book final ticket

**Liberty Insurance**  
**All-Ireland Intermediate**  
**Camogie semi-final**

**Cork** 2-10

**Derry** 0-6

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Cork will be doubly represented at Croke Park on finals' day for the second year in a row following a powerful second-half display in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie semi-final at Donaghmore Ashbourne.

The Rebels fell in both senior and intermediate deciders last year but on this evidence, will take a lot of stopping in this grade at least at HQ on September 10.

This was a repeat of the Division 2 League final, which Cork won by 14 points but Derry managed to keep it tight for the majority of the first half, when there were just six points scored until injury time and the teams were level on three occasions.

Karen Kieft got things under way with a pointed free after two minutes and it took

seven minutes for Keeva McCarthy to respond from a placed ball.

Kieft restored Derry's slender advantage from 50m almost immediately but Cork grinded their way to the front, Maeve McCarthy providing the game's first score from play with a neat finish on the run and Keeva McCarthy doing the honours from another free.

Again it was Kieft who was on target for the Oak Leafers to restore parity and that was how it remained until the first minute of additional time,

when Katelyn Hickey fed Collins and the Courcy Rovers attacker found the Derry net.

In the context of what had occurred until then, and arriving as it did just before half time, this had the feeling of being a key moment as it put Cork 1-3 to 0-3 ahead.

Keeva McCarthy and Kieft exchanged pointed frees but Cork began to find a few more space in the Derry half as the game progressed and the Ulster women had to push forward.

Collins, Caroline Sugrue, and Maeve McCarthy put six

between them and though Aileen McCusker became only the second Derry player to score in the 46th minute, it was a momentary respite as Collins pounced for her second goal two minutes later.

That knocked the stuffing out of Ciarán Cunningham's side and his Cork counterpart Paudie Murray was able to enjoy the closing quarter considerably more than was the case 24 hours earlier, when the seniors just held out against Galway.

Keeva McCarthy (two) and Finola Neville kept the score-

board moving and the game was into injury time when Kieft grabbed her fifth point for the honest but outgunned Derry.

**Scorers for Cork:** L Collins 2-1; K McCarthy 0-5(4f); M McCarthy 0-2; C Sugrue, F Neville 0-1 each

**Derry:** K Kieft 0-5(f); A McCusker 0-1  
**CORK:** A Lee, L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh, R Kileen, S Buckley, L Callanan, F Neville, J Barry, K Hickey, K McCarthy, M McCarthy, R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue

**DERRY:** N McQuillan, S Donaghy, B Ni Chaiside, R Bradley, A McCusker, A Ni Chaiside, G McNicholl, A McAllister, K Kieft, A Quinn, E Ni Chaiside, A Kelly, D O'Kane, M Hegarty, M McNicholl

**Referee:** J Dermody (Westmeath).



Kilkenny's Ann Dalton receives the player of the match from Deirdre Ashe of Liberty Insurance

**BARRYROE:** A disappointing weekend culminated in the junior B side exiting the championship at the hands of Randal Óg, 1-19 to 1-10, in a damp Rossmore on Sunday evening.

Page 7 carries a report on that clash, while on page 8 is a report from the intermediate game on Saturday evening in Brinny. Barryroe, to a man, battled to the end but succumbed to a 1-31 to 0-14 defeat against a strong Sarsfields second team.

The camogie team continued their recent run of good form as they captured the county C league title, beating Youghal by 2-4 to 2-2 in Ballinlough on Saturday, Jessica McCarthy winning the player of the match award. **Team:** Therese McCarthy, Naomi Murphy, Roisín Dullea, Áine Moloney, Ciara Collins, Andrea Tobin, Aideen O'Riordan, Roisín McCarthy, Grace Tobin, Chloe Collins, Maeve Whelton, Claire Dullea, Jessica McCarthy (2-1), Ciara O'Sullivan (0-3, 2f), Claire Tobin, Eimear Sheehy.

# Two-goal Collins fires Cork to another final

**CORK** 2-10  
**DERRY** 0-6

**CORK V DERRY CAMOGIE**

**DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR**  
**REPORTS**

CORK will be doubly represented at Croke Park on Finals' Day for the second year in a row following a powerful second-half display in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland intermediate camogie semi-final at Donaghmore Ashbourne.

The Rebels fell in both senior and intermediate deciders last year but on this evidence, will take a lot of stopping in this

grade at least at HQ on September 10th. This was a repeat of the Division 2 League final that Cork won by 14 points but Derry managed to keep it very tight for the majority of the first half, when there were just six points scored until injury time and the teams were level on three occasions, with never more than a point between them.

Karen Kieft got things under way with a pointed free after two minutes and it took seven minutes for Keeva McCarthy to

respond from a placed ball.

Kieft restored Derry's slender advantage from 50m almost immediately but Cork grinded their way to the front, Maeve McCarthy providing the game's first score from play with a neat finish on the run and Keeva McCarthy doing the honours from another free.

Again it was Kieft who was on target for the Oak Leafers to restore parity and that was how it remained until the first minute of additional time, when Kate-

lyn Hickey fed Collins and the Courcy Rovers attacker found the Derry net. In the context of what had occurred until then, and arriving as it did just before half time, this had the feeling of being a key moment as it put Cork 1-3 to 0-3 ahead.

Keeva McCarthy and Kieft exchanged pointed frees but Cork began to find a few more space in the Derry half as the game progressed and the Ulster women had to push forward.

Collins, Caroline Sugrue and Maeve McCarthy put six between them and though Aileen McCusker became only the second Derry player to score in the

46th minute, it was a momentary respite as Collins pounced for her second goal two minutes later.

That knocked the stuffing out of Ciarán Cunningham's side and his Cork counterpart Paudie Murray was able to enjoy the closing quarter considerably more than was the case 24 hours earlier, when the seniors just held out against Galway.

Keeva McCarthy (two) and Finola Neville kept the scoreboard moving and the game was into injury time when Kieft grabbed her fifth point for the honest but outgunned Derry.

Cork will play Meath in the final.

**Scorers**

**Cork:** L Collins 2-1, K McCarthy 0-5(4f), M McCarthy 0-2, C Sugrue, F Neville 0-1 each

**Derry:** K Kieft 0-5f, A McCusker 0-1

**Cork:** A Lee, L Weste, S Harrington, N Ni Chaoimh, R Kileen, S Buckley, L Callanan, F Neville, J Barry, K Hickey, K McCarthy, M McCarthy, R O'Shea, L Collins, C Sugrue

**Derry:** N McQuillan, S Donaghy, B Ni Chaiside, R Bradley, A McCusker, A Ni Chaiside, G McNicholl, A McAllister, K Kieft, A Quinn, E Ni Chaiside, A Kelly, D O'Kane, M Hegarty, M McNicholl

**Referee:** J Dermody (Westmeath).



# Cats will improve for Croke Park

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

DUBLIN earned themselves many new admirers last weekend after a confident and spirited challenge against Kilkenny in the All Ireland semi-final in the Gaelic Grounds.

There are two key reasons why they couldn't manage to topple the champions. First off was their poor distribution and second was Kilkenny's centre-back Ann Dalton.

Dalton was superb. I counted four Kilkenny points as a direct result of her pin-point accuracy in finding a team mate in space. On the other side Dublin gifted possession to Kilkenny several times.

Once again Kilkenny's high challenging came into question with Catherine Foley lucky to stay on the field on minutes. The referee for the final is Antrim's Eoin Elliot. He didn't handle the league final particularly well.

Dublin's work-rate and defending is superb. Kilkenny did find numerous avenues to break through but they were closed down quickly.

David Herity has done great work with this squad. I was impressed by their confidence. This was a massive game and step up for them yet they didn't seem at all fazed by the occasion. This was still a three-point game entering the final quarter. But as expected the champions pulled away. The outcome was never in doubt throughout, even though Kilkenny could never quite put the game to bed. It was always going to be difficult for them against the Dubs.

They were expected to win comfortably and it was more difficult for them to get psyched up. But they saw it rough and we now have the hardest All-Ireland finals to call in recent times.

On their day, if both show up, there is nothing between Cork and Kilkenny. Kilkenny will go defensive again and Cork are just going to have to come up with a plan around that.

Cork's off the ball movement up front is going to be crucial. They have to keep darting left and right, out and in and be that step ahead. The forwards need to give their teammates the field options. Otherwise it's a fifty-fifty ball and that typically puts the defender who just has to get it out of there.

Twelve months ago, Kilkenny took a beating down the centre out of their own plan completely. The instruction in the line, with every ball, was to keep it as close to the white line as possible. Nullifying Gemma O'Connor was their plan.

It is widely felt that if you take Gemma out of the equation you'll beat Cork. That's not doing the other girls justice. Certainly, Cork looked jointed in the minutes following Gemma's departure last weekend but she hadn't been herself anyway, after entering the game with an ankle injury. Cork were already on the backfoot



Dublin's Claire Donnelly chases Kilkenny's Ann Dalton in last weekend's other semi-final. The Cats will seriously test the Rebels' class in the final.  
Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry



Sinead Hurley, Enniskeane camogie captain, receiving the U16 B league trophy from Sandra Corcoran, treasurer of the Juvenile Board and team mentor with Enniskeane.

somewhat and I would suggest it gave Galway more of a boost to see Gemma leave the field than it rocked Cork's experienced defenders. You don't have time to dwell on things like that in the heat of battle, the next ball is coming.

There may be speculation over the coming weeks in the media as to whether Gemma will play a part in this year's decider or not but from a team and management perspective, she's out. They can't spend the next two weeks wondering if miraculously Gemma will somehow make it.

The odds are against her. They need to rejig their team, fill that half back position, work on that and get their side focused.

I don't think Kilkenny will change their format regardless of what they hear from down south.

Cork got the perfect fright last weekend. In my opinion Aoife Murray was player of the match. She was majestic.

What a penalty, what a pull down on 35 minutes as the ball dangerously travelled towards the crossbar. It could have dipped and she safely did the right thing.

What composure under the ball that dropped into her lower body, and what distribution. It's very hard for goalkeepers to receive player of the match awards but what Aoife Murray has given to her teammates for over a decade is just immense. She remains the best goalkeeper in the country, a mantle I believe she has owned for years.

Orla Cotter's goal, while it looked like a fumble at the final stage, was brilliant, for her catch and run through the middle. It dropped at the last second but she got it home. 2-3 from 2-9 came from out the field and that must be a concern for Paudie Murray's coaching team, in addition to the fact that Cork failed to score for 28

**"Kilkenny will go defensive again. Cork are just going to have to come up with a plan around that"**

minutes. Cork need space. They're not going to find it against Kilkenny unless they work damn hard to create it. And that creativity needs to be in the player's mindset.

Every game is different and we shouldn't underestimate Galway's challenge last Saturday. Aoife Donoghue was outstanding and if the free taking of Ailish Reilly was more on song on the day Galway would have been in the position where they could have gone for points in the dying minutes and not have to keep pushing for goal.

But it was Cork that saw the stern challenge through and were deserving of the win.

It's a brand-new day on September 10. Kilkenny will start as favourites. Cork have an open day in Castle Road this Saturday morning at 11am. We eagerly look forward to the build-up.

O'Brien is on target for U16B champs

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Enniskeane	3-18
Blackrock	1-6

ENNISKEANE turned in a superb performance to take the U16 B league title in Ballinlough on Saturday last as they proved too strong for a spirited Blackrock side who battled to the final whistle.

Enniskeane had many heroines in Eimear O'Brien, Tara Sheehan, Justine Hennigan, Daire O'Brien, Hazel Browne, Ciara O'Donovan, Grainne Mulcahy and Sinead Hurley all impressed as Enniskeane playing with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half set the foundations for victory.

Daire O'Brien gave them an early lead to settle them into the game when she sent the ball to the net for the opening score of the game. They set the pace with six Eimear O'Brien, three from Tara Sheehan whilst Daire O'Brien and Ciara O'Donovan added one a piece.

Blackrock battled hard against the hugely impressive Enniskeane defence and they were rewarded with two Alison Grimley points but with Grainne Mulcahy and Sinead Hurley on target with a point each and a Hazel Browne hand passing to the net Enniskeane had opened up a 2-13 to 0-2 interval lead.

On the resumption, Blackrock showed huge spirit and they were rewarded as they added 1-4 to their tally Anna Lucey with a goal and points from Lisa Guerin Maeve Cashman and two from Anne Golden ensured they showed plenty of spirit.

Enniskeane boosted by their excellent opening half display added to their tally with two points from Tara Sheehan and Eimear O'Brien whilst Sinead Hurley added one before Justine Hennigan grabbed a goal.

Enniskeane captain Sinead Hurley was the recipient of the Player of the match whilst she was presented with the trophy by from Juvenile Board Treasurer Sandra Corcoran who also a team mentor with Enniskeane.

**Scorers for Enniskeane:** E O'Brien 0-8, T Sheehan 0-5, D O'Brien 1-1, H Brown J Hennigan 1-0 each, S Hurley 0-2, C O'Donovan, S Mulcahy 0-1 each.  
**Blackrock:** A Lucey 1-0, A Golden 0-2, A Grimley 0-2, L Guerin, M Cashman 0-1 each.

**ENNISKEANE:** K Corcoran; E O'Driscoll, C Sheehan, R O'Driscoll; N O'Donovan, D O'Brien, E Mangari; C Ahern, S Hurley (c); S Fleming, T Sheehan, G Mulcahy; E O'Brien, C O'Donovan, H Browne.

**Subs:** N Ahern for N O'Donovan, L Corcoran for C Sheehan, J Hennigan for G Mulcahy, L Honessy for S Fleming, L McCarthy for E O'Brien, D Browne for H Browne, A Sheehan for C O'Donovan, L Markey for E O'Driscoll.

**BLACKROCK:** H O'Connell, F Buckley, E O'Riordan, E O'Donoghue; F Fitzgerald, M Cashman, A Walsh; A Casey, A Lucey; A Hegarty, A Golden; A Grimley; L Guerin, S McCarthy, O Coughlan.  
**Subs:** E McCarthy for O Coughlan, A Ní Súilleabháin for E O'Donoghue.  
**Referee:** William Wallace (Aghada).



# Worried Murray cautious of clash with Cats

## SENIOR CAMOGIE

**CORK** 2-9  
**GALWAY** 1-9

### DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

CORK manager Paudie Murray has been saying all summer that Kilkenny are significantly superior to anyone else in camogie at present and within minutes of seeing his side book their place in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior final with a narrow semi-final victory over Galway, he was delivering the message once more.

'I'm pretty relieved at this stage,' said Murray after Cork saw an eight-point lead reduced to two in the second half.

'Our second half wasn't good, our first half wasn't too bad. Fair play to Galway, this team is a good team. They're coming in with a lot of good players and in team this could be a very good Galway team so you've got to pay credit to them.'

'We have a great never-say-die attitude and that's what pulled us through. I don't know did we deserve it really... looking back on it probably not.'

'I'm worried going into the final at this stage facing Kilkenny. It probably won't be a great contest; they play ten behind the ball so we've to do an awful lot better if we've to have any chance.'

'It won't be one for the

spectator really, a low scoring game. As I said, we've a lot to do to have any chance really. You'd be hoping Kilkenny have an off day and that we'd play way above ourselves to have a chance.'

Cork had to withstand a frantic last-quarter rally from Galway last Saturday to return to the senior camogie final for the fourth consecutive season.

Last year's runners-up looked to be cruising when points from Katrina Mackey and Hannah Looney within two minutes of the resumption pushed them eight clear.

Astonishingly however, they went 28 minutes without a score and only managed one further point as Galway, driven forward by Aoife Donohue, edged back into proceedings.

Cork lost Gemma O'Connor to an ankle injury in the 46th minute and three minutes later, Galway's powerful sub Niamh Hanniffy goalied to reduce the margin to three.

Donohue slotted a free nine minutes from the end of regulation time and Galway were making all of the running but Cork defended magnificently, Rena Buckley, Chloe Sigerson and Ashling Thompson ensuring that the Tribeswomen would not find another goal.

Katrina Mackey finally ended the Rebels' drought right on the hour and despite five minutes of injury time, they held out for a



In control: Cork's Orla Cronin wheels away from Galway's Niamh McGrath during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Co Limerick. (Photos: Bryan Keane/INPHO)

## Injured Gemma in race to make final

CORK powerhouse Gemma O'Connor is in a race to be fit for the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny on September 10th, says manager Paudie Murray.

O'Connor limped off in the semi-final win against Galway after picking up an ankle injury in the 46th minute, and Murray was downbeat when asked about her chances of re-

covering in time for the clash with the Cats.

'Gemma O'Connor going off was a big, big loss. It's a big worry for the final,' Murray said.

'Today (Sunday), you'd say that there is no chance (she'll be ready for the final). Facing into Kilkenny without the likes of Gemma would be a real uphill battle, to be honest.'

dramatic victory.

Galway's management pulled a rabbit out of the hat when opting to move their leading scorer Ailish O'Reilly on Gemma O'Connor to prevent the St Finbarr's talisman from exerting her normal influence.

Orla Cotter appeared to be the chief beneficiary as she got on a lot of ball, while displaying customary accuracy from placed balls.

### Goal chances

Cork would have only had themselves to blame had they lost as they wasted four gilt-edged goal chances, including two early in the second half.

In the end though, they did breach the Galway defences twice and that proved the difference between the sides.

The first came as Aoife Murray sent a bullet from a penalty straight and high in the 11th minute, after Niamh McCarthy was dragged down by Rebecca Hennelly.

Cork were well on top for much of that opening period and struck a significant blow just before the change of ends when Cotter scored a splendid solo goal.

delivery on the 40m line and cut inside.

She got a sliver of luck when the sliotar rebounded to her after her attempted pass to Hannah Looney was mis-hit and poked to the net to make and though O'Reilly pointed straight after, it was 2-6 to 0-6 at half time.

Galway had the wind in the second half but Looney and Mackey stretched the gap to eight and seemed bound for a comfortable passage to the final.

That was to reckon without the courage of the Galway players but they had left themselves too much to do, and so Cork now have a chance to avenge last year's All-Ireland final defeat to Kilkenny when the teams clash on September 10th - but

they've it all to do, according to Paudie Murray.

### Scorers

**Cork:** O Cotter 1-3 (3f), A Murray 1-0 pen, K Mackey 0-2; O Cronin, N McCarthy, A O'Connor, H Looney 0-1 each.

**Galway:** A Donohue 0-4 (3f); N Hanniffy 1-0, A O'Reilly (1f), O McGrath 0-2 each, NMcGrath 0-1.

**Cork:** A Murray; P Mackey, R Buckley, L Treacy; M Cahalane, G O'Connor, C Sigerson; L Coppinger, A Thompson; A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter; H Looney, N McCarthy, K Mackey.

**Subs:** E O'Sullivan for G O'Connor (in), 46; J White for A O'Connor (48); L Homan for K Mackey (60+).

**Galway:** Sarah Healy; S Dervan, R Black, T Kenny; L Ryan, R Hennelly, H Cooney; A Starr, O McGrath; N McGrath, A O'Reilly, N Kilkenny; S McGrath, M Cooney, A Donohue. **Sub:** N Hanniffy for M Cooney (40). **Referee:** E Cassidy (Derry).

## Rena makes GAA history

On Sunday, September 10th, one of Cork's greatest ever GAA players will create more GAA history.

Cork camogie captain Rena Buckley, a dual star up until this season when she decided to concentrate her efforts on the small ball, will become the first player ever to captain Cork to both a football and camogie senior All-Ireland final.

Buckley has already won a staggering 17 senior All-Ireland medals - 11 with the footballers, six with the camogie team - and in 2015 she captained the Cork footballers to All-Ireland glory in Eamonn Ryan's last season in charge.

Now she is closing in on another unique double.



Holding on: Cork's Libby Coppinger keeps possession of the ball despite the pressure from Galway's Ann Marie Starr.



# honour Declan's memory

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Declan Crowley Memorial U10 tournament organised by Ballinhassig is now in its 17th year.

It honours one of the camogie club mentors who passed away at a young age. It is the highlight of the year for U10 players and the clubs lucky enough to be invited to attend look forward to it each year.

The event usually signals that the return to school and the last Saturday in August is always the traditional date for the tournament and today is the day.

Many of the current Cork senior and Intermediate players would have participated in the Ballinhassig tournament and clubs always look forward to a great day hosted by the club. Today former Ballinhassig club players, former mentors and parents of players past and present will rally around and lend a hand and there is always a great sense of fun and enjoyment as club mentors from all clubs meet and mingle for the annual event.

The Declan Crowley Memorial Cup is the big prize for the winners, but the competition has grown to such an extent that there are now two finals for the clubs who don't reach the cup final, these clubs participating for the Joan Lucy Shield and the Tony Jeffers Shield.

Assembly of teams is at 10am and games will get under way at 10.30am sharp and will run concurrently. It is hoped that the day will be concluded by 3.30pm when all participants will be presented with a medal.

Twelve teams will battle it out for honours and there will be fierce determination as the youngsters give it their all to reach the various finals. The top four teams will qualify for the Declan Crowley Cup that will be the winners of section 1, 2 and 3 and they will be joined by the next team with the highest number of points.

In the event of two teams tying, the team with highest aggregate score will qualify and in the event of two teams tying at this stage, the least core conceded will qualify. The next four teams with the highest points will qualify for the Tony Jeffers shield and each team will play a semi-final. The final four teams will qualify for the semi-finals of the Joan Lucy Plate.

The competition is nine-a-side with panels of 15 players and there is no restriction on substitutions. Games will be 10 minutes a-side.

The Ballinhassig club are emphasising to all mentors and parents attending the Camogie Association's policy on earning and fun through the playing of Go-Games will be the ethos. They are looking forward to another great day as they celebrate and remember those who gave so much to camogie in their club.



The Barryroe camogie team, the winners of the U16 C league title.

# Barryroe hold off Youghal pressure

Barryroe 2-4  
Youghal 2-2

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**IN an exciting U16 C League final in Ballinlough last Saturday, it went down to the wire as Barryroe hung on by two points to take the titles, despite huge pressure from Youghal.**

Youghal opened the scoring with a point from Chloe O'Connell, but from the puck-out Barryroe took the lead. Grace Tobin, at midfield, won possession and set up Jessica McCarthy for the game's opening goal.

Both sides worked hard to gain a

grip and it was nip and tuck before McCarthy grabbed her second goal to stretch Barryroe's lead.

Youghal applied a lot of pressure on their opponent's defence, who stood firm, but the east Cork side had the final say of the half with an O'Connell point to leave it Barryroe 2-0 Youghal 0-2 at the break.

The second half was hugely exciting as the play ebbed and flowed. Youghal came out in determined fashion and they quickly narrowed the gap with a goal from Hannah O'Keeffe. Barryroe responded with a Ciara O'Sullivan

point and two solid defences were kept busy as the forwards on both sides battled for everything.

O'Sullivan converted two frees as Barryroe held their lead, but again Youghal came at them and just four points separated the sides with four minutes remaining.

Pressure on the Barryroe defence saw Youghal win a free, the resulting effort hit the post, but the Youghal girls were relentless and grabbed a goal.

Barryroe were now defending with all their might and with several players dropping back to help hold the lead, it was backs to the wall as Youghal came at them.

Roisin Dullea made a crucial save to clear up field as Youghal battled for the goal to win the game.

Barryroe broke up field with time up and a point from Player of the Match McCarthy gave them a two-point lead at the final whistle.

The trophy was presented to Barryroe captain, Ciara O'Sullivan by chairperson of Cork Juvenile Camogie Board, Mary O'Sullivan.

**Scorers for Barryroe:** J McCarthy 2-1, C O'Sullivan 0-3 (0-2).

**Youghal:** H O'Keeffe 2-0, C O'Connell 0-2.

**BARRYROE:** T McCarthy; N Murphy, R Dullea, Moloney; C Collins, A Tobin, A O'Riordan; R McCarthy.

**GOALKEEPERS:** C Collins, M Whelton, C Dullea; J McCarthy, C O'Sullivan, C Tobin.

**YOUGHAL:** K McCarthy; S O'Driscoll, A Walsh, L Ryan; C Kiely, J Doyle, T Lombard; L Cashman, A Walsh; E Walsh, R Geary, H O'Keeffe; E Hogan, C O'Connell, R Arthur.

**Sub:** E Carey for L Ryan.

**Referee:** Billy O'Sullivan (Bishopstown).

## Push on to complete opening rounds of minor championship

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE draws for the SE Systems Minor Championships took place recently and with holidays over it's all back to the playing fields as championship swings into gear.

With a lot of the clubs still in adult championship the push is on to get the opening rounds of the minor completed.

A date of Monday, September 4 has been put down for all first rounds to be played.

For the losers of round one there is a second chance with a back door system in operation so minor players are guaranteed plenty of games in the weeks ahead.

At Minor A level league winners Newcestown will take on Courcy Rovers, defeated league finalists Ballygarvan will face a strong test for Sarsfields in the opening round of championship.

Buttevant and Mallow are combining for minor

championship as they do not have sufficient numbers to field on their own and they take on a strong Milford/Ballyhea side.

Glen Rovers will host Killeagh and Kilbrittan/Timoleague will welcome Carrigaline.

Fourteen clubs will battle it out for the Minor B championship crown Bride Rovers will host Douglas in round one, Ballinhassig make the short journey in to Togher to meet St Finbarr's, Aghabullogue travel to Enniskeane, Eire Og play host to Na Piarraigh.

Inniscarra head on the road to Charleville, St Catherine's host Ballincollig and Cloughduv go to Ag-hada.

This year the SE Systems Minor C championship provoked a lot of discussions before a decision was made that this will be a 13-a-side competition.

Round one will see Cobh hosting St Vincent's, Youghal are at home for their meeting with Bishopstown, while it's a local affair as Valley Rovers welcome near neighbours Ballinascarty.

Blarney have home venue for their meeting with Fr O'Neill's.

Tracton host Barryroe Clonakilty make the trip to Millstreet, Sliabh Rua head to Blackrock and Castlelyons host Ballinora.

The SE Systems Minor D championship will also be 13-a-side but it was decided to go with a round robin format for this championship.

In group one will be Dungourney, Grenagh, Castlemartyr, Erin's Own, Banteer in group two are Watergrasshill, Kilworth, St Colum's and Rockban.



# Report Dublin v Kilkenny

Kilkenny 2-11 Dublin 0-9

AUG.  
2017

A Top 4 spot is not a bad way to finish the season but though disappointed the word coming from the players walking off the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick was "we know where we have to aim for now". Kilkenny had the edge on Dublin from the moment Denise Gaule goaled a penalty in the first minute after Miriam Walsh was upended in the box. As outsiders Dublin could have done with a start like that with the breeze at their backs in the opening half. As it was Kilkenny would never be headed or levelled. It was an important score, the result of a brilliant passing movement.

But a further 62 minutes would be played before Kilkenny would find the net again – a score that was a little unfair on the challenge put up by a fiercely determined Dublin.

Miriam Twomey was again employed as sweeper and while this was successful from the point of view of curtailing the goal threat of the Cats, the loss of a forward at the other end meant that Dublin never threatened a goal. On top of that the "loose" player Ann Dalton has been around the block and her positional sense and use of the ball won her the player of the match. Her contribution was significant.

Dublin's backs – each and everyone of them – were outstanding. But upfront the attack could not make the desired impact despite their best efforts. No surprise that all of Dublin's four second half substitutions were at that end of the field.

One of the most important progressions of the year has been Dublin's ability to take a knock and recover. After Kilkenny's early goal, Dublin came roaring back and Siobhan Kehoe emerged from a ruck with the sliothar in her paw. The ball sailed over the black spot in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute and Dublin were off the mark. Three minutes later Aisling Maher was on target from her first free. The scores lifted Dublin's hearts on and off the field and the Dublin roar was heard as time and again the Dublin backs hunted down Kilkenny attacks. Eve O'Brien and her corner backs Áine Woods and Gráinne Quinn were growing in stature. In front of them the half-back line of Hannah Hegarty, Aisling Carolan and Eva-Marie Elliott were just as good. Eimear McCarthy was soldiering well in the middle third.

But Kilkenny aren't All-Ireland champions for nothing and the slightest of errors is punished. When Dublin failed to clear in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute Danielle Morrissey was on the spot for a point which was quickly followed by a Denise Gaule score to put Kilkenny 1-2 to 0-2 in front after 15 minutes.

Aisling Maher and Siobhan Kehoe were showing well and when Ellen McGovern placed Maher her finish was precise. Alison Maguire, Ali Twomey and Emma Flanagan had their moments too despite the fact that the numbers were often against them.

Faye McCarthy has been a major part of Dublin's advance this year. Unfortunately the frees that came her way on this occasion were just a little too far and Kilkenny were able to deal with anything that landed near their goal.

Dublin cut the gap to two points eight minutes from the end of normal time in the first half thanks to a perfectly hit free from near the sideline by Aisling Maher. But in that critical closing minutes before the break, the champions gave themselves a huge lift when they hit three unanswered points from Miriam Walsh, Denise Gaule and Katie Power. Kilkenny had the edge in attack - five of Kilkenny's starting forwards scored from play as well as two substitutes - compared to two forwards from Dublin.

While Dublin had to face the slight breeze after the break, their cause was far from forlorn. A free 30 seconds in went narrowly wide before Aisling Carolan broke upfield and from her clearance Siobhan Kehoe (having overcome a very heavy charge in the first half) showed her skill to strike this one off her left side and over the bar.

Four minutes later Faye McCarthy found the distance from 45m to reduce Kilkenny's lead to two points.

Kilkenny however were always able to sneak a score – limiting any damage that Dublin threatened. A pair of points by Danielle Morrissey pushed them a goal in front by the 50<sup>th</sup> minute.

Dublin rang some changes with the introduction of Claire Donnelly, Mairi Moynihan and Doireann Mullaney in a five minutes spell and Eimear O'Leary nearer the end. Aisling Maher raised another white flag from a free but again Kilkenny's greater scoring threat revealed itself as Julieann Malone, Anna Farrell, Michelle Quilty and Meighan Farrell all pointed for the first time.

The inability of the Dublin forwards to make any real impression in the second half wasn't helped by a tendency to bunch with the resultant deliveries landing in what was pretty congested territory – a ploy that suited the Kilkenny defenders.

Nevertheless the spirit was first class and they never threw in the towel. Two more points from Aisling Maher – one a super effort from play left just five points in the game on the hour mark.

But there would be no last minute heroics as the final score in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute – a brilliant goal by sub Jenny Clifford - put a gloss on the scoreboard.

Dublin have much to be proud of and plenty to build on for 2018.

Well done to David Herity, his entire management team, and all the players who have given the camogie family in Dublin so much to admire and cheer about in 2017. Many thanks to all the supporters especially the young players who turned out in droves. Lucan Sarsfields were part of the mini-games and no doubt lots of young players will be inspired by their new heroes. Here's to better days in the future.

**SCORERS FOR DUBLIN: A Maher 0-6 (4fs); S Kehoe 0-2, F McCarthy 0-1 (f)**

**SCORERS FOR KILKENNY: D Gaule 1-2(0-1f), D Morrissey 0-3(1f); J Clifford 1-0; A Farrell, M Quilty, M Malone, M Walsh, K Power 0-1 each**

**DUBLIN: F McCarthy, A Woods, E O'Brien, G Quinn, H Hegarty, A Carolan, E M Elliott, M Twomey, E McCarthy, A Twomey, A Maguire, E McGovern, E Flanagan, A Maher, S Kehoe. Subs: C Donnelly, M Moynihan, D Mullaney, E O'Leary**

**KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, C Foley, D Tobin, G Walsh, C Dormer, A Dalton, A Dunphy, M Farrell, A Farrell, J Malone, K Power, D Gaule, S Farrell, M Walsh, D Morrissey. Subs: M Quilty, J Clifford, M Teehan, J Reddy, S Kent**

**REFEREE: R Kelly (Kildare)**



# Gemma to miss final

## Cork ace out of Kilkenny Croker clash

THE Cork camogie team are preparing for Sunday week's All-Ireland final against Kilkenny without talismanic centre-back Gemma O'Connor.

### CAMOGIE

■ Eamonn Murphy

The All-Star defender limped off in the semi-final win over Galway after damaging ligaments in her knee, which is compounded by an ongoing ankle injury.

Rebel boss Paudie Murray has conceded she won't make the clash with the Cats on September 10, which has cast a dampener on the team's preparations.

"We have to accept Gemma won't be able to play," said Murray. "She had an ankle injury on the Thursday before we played Galway and if you look back at the tape, she took a horrific tackle in terms of how her knee bent."

"She has ligament damage in the ankle and knee and that's a 12-14-week recovery period. It would be impossible to expect any player to be ready to play in a couple of weeks."

"It has taken from the buzz for us a bit because Gemma is one of the greatest players of all-time. She's a key member of our team and would be for any county, but we've explained to the rest of the players we have to push forward now."

"This is an opportunity for others to step up but you have to be disappointed not to have a full deck to pick from. Ideally, you'd be able to have a right cut off Kilkenny with everyone available but we've to control the controllables."

The Leesiders face Kilkenny in the senior decider but will feature in the intermediate final as well, taking on Meath. Murray is manager of both sides and also reached the two finals in 2016, losing to Kilkenny on the double.

"We're not concentrating on 'revenge' or anything like that. We'll have two tough games

as it is, without getting caught up in that. Meath and Kilkenny are both excellent sides and very physical as well."

'She's been a stalwart of Cork camogie over the years. She's certainly a huge loss for us'

Cork must prepare for the All-Ireland senior final without nine-time All-Star Gemma O'Connor, who will miss out through injury.

BY EMMA DUFFY | THURSDAY 31 AUG 2017, 4:10 PM | [HTTP://THE42.IE/3574574](http://the42.ie/3574574)



O'Connor in action against Galway in this year's All-Ireland semi-final.

Image: Oisín Keniry/INPHO

CORK ARE PREPARING for their All-Ireland senior camogie final showdown against Kilkenny on Sunday week without nine-time All-Star defender Gemma O'Connor.

A true leader at centre half-back, O'Connor limped off in the 46th minute of their semi-final win over Galway after damaging ligaments in her knee. Before that game, she had also been struggling with an ankle injury.

## Downey hits back at Cork's 'overly defensive' charge

### Camogie

Cliona Foley

Kilkenny camogie manager Ann Downey has responded to Cork boss Paudie Murray's comments that the Cats will be overly defensive when it comes to defending their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie crown on Sunday week.

Murray fired the first shot ahead of the big re-match im-

als, predicting that the final, a re-match of last year's decider and this year's Division One final victory for the Cats, will be a low-scoring game.

"It won't be one for the spectators," he said. "Kilkenny will play 10 behind the ball and we'll have to do an awful lot better if we're to have any chance."

Camogie legend Downey, who led the Noreiders to their first senior title in 22 seasons last year, has responded,

game we play.

"We don't tell our girls to get behind the ball. What we do is ask them to work hard. Get on the ball as much as you can, get the hook and the block in."

"Paudie's entitled to his own opinion but we'll just concentrate on our own game and that's certainly not the game we'll be playing," Downey added.

Murray confirmed yesterday that Cork's totemic centre-back and nine-time All-Star Gemma O'Connor is out,

due to the medial knee ligament injury she picked up in their semi-final defeat of Galway.

"Sadly Gemma's chances of playing are zero," he said.

"She actually damaged ankle ligaments in training the Thursday night before the semi-final and carried that into that game but the knee is far more serious. This injury usually takes 12-14 weeks recovery time."

"Gemma is worth two or three players to us so it is a

terrible blow to herself and the team but we just have to come to terms with it and drive on," he added.

In contrast Kilkenny have been boosted with the news that forward star Katie Power looks set to make it.

She was forced off after a heavy fall on her arm in their semi-final victory over Dublin but scans have confirmed it is only a soft tissue injury and she did some light hurling this week.

Cork are chasing a double

on Sunday week as they also contest the intermediate final against 2012 winners Meath. The junior final in the Croke Park treble-header is between Dublin and first-time finalists Westmeath.

With Kilkenny doubly involved, the Camogie Association and GAA have come together to offer a joint ticket for €35 which will admit fans to the All-Ireland U21 hurling final on Saturday week and the camogie deciders the next day.



# Murray frustrated by inconsistencies

## Referees named for All-Ireland weekend

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**PAUDIE MURRAY** has repeatedly criticised camogie referees during his tenure as Cork manager.

Is he, always right? Probably not.

But it is the one area that does tend to frustrate many followers of the game far more often than it should. I believe that the current rules prevent us from truly flourishing as a national sport but that isn't what frustrates those involved.

What infuriates is the lack of consistency in applying those rules. One day you can't so much as rub off a player.

On another you can challenge high and aggressively.

Paudie spoke about his concerns ahead of the All-Ireland final on RedFM last Saturday. "We don't know whether it'll be camogie or hurling rules that the referee will apply on Sunday."

"It's the one thing that frustrates me the whole time. We are playing camogie, there are camogie rules, if they don't apply them then scrap them and let's play hurling."

"It's the lack of an understanding of what's going to be let go. Last year's physicality caught us, no doubt about that."

"The high tackle is worrying me. Last week (semi-final between Kilkenny and Dublin) another incident happened."

"To me as a manager you coach your players to the rules and then different rules apply. It changes to make it a more attractive spectacle for TV but come out and tell us what it will be."

"Owen Elliott officiated the league final. I wasn't happy with his display in that final, I told him that."

"I like Owen. We get on well."

"But both goals shouldn't have been given. There were eight or nine steps taken for both and the way he applied the advantage rule was crazy."

Owen from Antrim will be the man in the middle for the final. There are often refereeing decisions as a manager that you feel aggrieved with, that's across every code and on a given day some go with you and others don't.

You can't account for incidents where a referee allows players over-carry to such an extent. That is outside your control but much of everything else should be inside your control unless the referee is ridiculous altogether.

So, in my opinion the players at this stage are seasoned campaigners. Even if only recently an addition to the senior panel, they are around long enough as club and inter-county players at all levels to assess a referee in the first five minutes of a game and adjust accordingly.

Owen Elliott is going to referee the game the way he referees it and the players need to tune into that very quickly.

Leaving aside the referee Paudie moved to the disappointing status of nine-time All Star Gemma O'Connor. "Gemma's not good. She twisted her



Cork's Amy O'Connor is knocked head over heels after a clash with Wexford goalkeeper Niamh Potter and Amy Cardiff during a game at Páirc Uí Rinn this summer. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork manager Paudie Murray has been a critic of the inconsistency in camogie refereeing. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ankle prior to the semi-final at training on the Thursday night and was doubtful for that and then she destroyed her knee.

"The advice we received was 12-14 weeks so that rules her out. She can't walk right now so that tells its own story."

"I'm gutted for Gemma first and foremost. It throws everything out the window with regards our preparations."

"I've hand my eye on Kilkenny for a long time. We just need to revisit our plan. It is what it is."

"From the league, players have put their hand up. We're in a better position this year."

"Had it been last year we wouldn't have coped but we have greater strength in depth now. We're facing a very good team."

"But look, we've had a chat amongst ourselves and we'll give it the best we can. We have a duty to Gemma and Cork's supporters."

We wonder how Paudie will line out without Gemma. There is every chance he'll take a more defensive approach and possibly play a sweeper.

Kilkenny will play a sweeper so that frees up a Cork player and that's where Paudie may deploy her.

The intermediate side face Meath. This bunch of girls so deserve an All-Ireland title.

They have the experience of last year's trip to Croke and the subsequent defeat. That will surely drive them on. It's a final we left behind in 2016, that's for sure.

For Niamh Ni Chaoimh and her side they'll go into the final somewhat under the radar because of the seniors

**"One day you can't so much as rub off a player. On another you can challenge high and aggressively."**

but that's perfect for them. They looked sharp in training on Thursday night.

It's Meath's first team and they topped group two of the championship where Cork came second. If the earlier championship games are anything to go by there is little to separate these two sides.

They met on July 8 in Meath where the home side won out by a point 3-9 to 0-17. If Cork can tighten up at the back, they scored 17 times to Meath's 12 and that augurs well for them.

Meath drew with Down and Cork won comfortably there; 3-11 to 0-9. So, it's all to play for.

The seniors stayed overnight in the Celtic Ross Hotel in Rosscarbery last night and had an open day in Clonakilty this morning.

We're on the final countdown now.

AS THE countdown continues to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland final the referees for the three games to be played on the day have now been confirmed.

It will be a busy day with Cork, Dublin, Kilkenny, Meath and Westmeath travelling to Croke Park on Sunday, September 10 in the hope of taking home coveted All-Ireland titles.

At 2pm Kilkenny's Liz Dempsey will take charge of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate All-Ireland final between Cork and Meath. Dempsey is a member of the Thomastown club and is a hugely experienced official.

She was the referee for the 2014 All-Ireland Premier Junior Final as well as the All-Ireland Junior B Final in 2013. This year she was also the lady in the middle for the Ashbourne Cup Final and All-Ireland Minor A Final.

The big game throws in at 4pm and Owen Elliott of Antrim will take charge of the Senior final between Cork and Kilkenny. Elliott a member of the All Saints Club in Ballymena and was in charge of this year's National League Division 1 Final between Cork and Kilkenny.

He has also refereed Senior Club All-Ireland finals in 2011 and 2012 as well as numerous other finals across various competitions. A very experienced referee it's a huge honour for the Antrim official who previously was the stand by referee in 2015.

Kilkenny will be bidding for back-to-back senior title and will be hoping it's not unlucky 13, while Cork are hoping to go top of the pile as currently they hold 26 senior titles, the same as Dublin.

Meath are bidding to take their first intermediate title whilst cork are hoping to make it title number four, the trophy for the Intermediate final is the Jack McGrath Cup donated by the former Cork referee to the camogie Association.

It promises to be a superb day with the Cork winning teams of 1992 and 1993 being honoured during the day as they celebrate 25 years since their big day.

The day will begin at 12pm with the Premier Junior final where Dublin will take on Westmeath. Philip McDonald of Cavan will referee this game, a well-known official on the inter-county circuit, he is a member of the Bailieborough Shamrocks Camogie Club. He refereed this year's Junior Interprovincial final and has previously been part of match official teams for several All-Ireland finals. This will be his first All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

Westmeath are making huge strides and are hoping to take their first Premier Junior crown whilst the Dubs are looking for their sixth.



# Push on to get Rebel fans to Croke Park

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

WITH the Cork senior team safely through to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior final where they will meet old rivals Kilkenny and the intermediate team through to meet Meath tomorrow week, it's all systems go now.

Thoughts of clubs and schools should be now turning to getting organised in a bid to get as many followers as possible to Croke Park to support the Cork teams as they bid for the double.

It's amazing but if it is the camogie team or ladies football team reach Croke Park the girls never ever received the support they deserve and it is a shame that given Cork's great history of supporting our teams and sporting heroes and heroines we as a county do not get behind our camogie or ladies football teams and give them the support they truly deserve.

Everybody will pay tribute to them and speak highly of them but most wouldn't bother to go and lend support but hopefully in the lead up to the finals we will get behind our teams and give them the support in Croke Park they deserve.

The Camogie Association are working hard to get the crowds to the game and have introduced excellent packages and clubs are being encouraged to get groups organised and head to Croke. It is a great opportunity to go to such a splendid venue and savour the occasion. We see it all to capacity for the hurling and football finals and the rush is now on to get as many people as possible there and to get behind the Cork girls bid for three in a row.

There is a juvenile group offer of €5 for U16s, adult groups can also avail of a discount with groups of 15 adults offered a group rate of €225.

Group bookings and payment for same with a group application form are on the national camogie web site [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie) must be forwarded to the Camogie Office Croke Park Dublin 13.

Alternatively applicants can email their ticket application forms to [tickets@camogie.ie](mailto:tickets@camogie.ie) and they will be contacted in to arrange over the phone payment.

So get working and get your group organised and get behind our Cork teams bid for the Rebel double.

Meanwhile, Kevin Moran can't wait for Waterford's showdown with Galway tomorrow in the All-Ireland final.

There has been a long wait suppose. It's a lifetime really. There's no point not mentioning it, it's been too long.

Galway have their own kit as well and they'll argue the case that it's been too long for them. We're both in the same boat in that sense. Emotionally you can't get too



The Aghabullogue minor team that defeated Éire Óg on Tuesday night to take the minor B camogie league title.

# Aghabullogue take league title

**Aghabullogue 3-11**  
**Éire Óg 1-11**

**WITH a strong second-half display, Aghabullogue had two goals to spare over Éire Óg in this minor B, 13-a-side league final in Castle Road, on Tuesday evening last.**

Brilliant sunshine made conditions easy for both teams and the magnificent surface added to the occasion, as the mid-Cork sides battled it out for the title.

The sides were evenly matched in the opening-half and it was level pegging at the interval. However, goals proved vital. Aghabullogue scored two

**CAMOGIE**

■ Mary Newman

in the second-half and it enabled them to race into a lead they held to the end, despite heavy Éire Óg pressure. Aghabullogue had many excellent displays, most notably from Cliona Healy and Clara McCarthy.

Isobel Sheehan and Ava O'Brien scored two points each for Éire Óg in the opening-half, whilst Marie O'Leary added one.

Niamh Twomey was on target with an Éire Óg goal, while Cliona Healy was on target for Aghabullogue. In the opening-half, Clara McCarthy had four Aghabullogue points, whilst Cliona Healy added one and it was

level-pegging, at 1-5 each, at the half-time whistle. Éire Óg got the second-half off to a good start, with a point, but Aghabullogue went ahead, with a goal from Leah Dineen. With Cliona Healy adding points without reply, they stretched their lead. Healy scored her side's third goal, as the gap began to widen, but Isobel Sheehan got a point back for Éire Óg.

However, McCarthy and Healy were proving a handful for the Éire Óg defence, each adding a point to Aghabullogue's tally.

Éire Óg dug deep and hit four points without reply, Aoibhe O'Brien and Emma Cleary with one each and O'Brien with her second, as the Aghabullogue defence came under pressure.

Sheehan had the gap down to five

points, before Cliona Healy steadied the Aghabullogue nerves with a point that had the margin back to six and they held out to the final whistle to take the title.

**Scorers for Aghabullogue:** C Healy 2-6, C McCarthy 0-5, L Dineen 1-0.

**Éire Óg:** I Sheehan 0-5, A O'Brien 0-4, N Twomey 1-0, M O'Leary, E Cleary 0-1 each.

**AGHABULLOGUE:** E Tarrant, M Cotter, A Riordan, K McCarthy, J Cotter, J Tarrant, E Foley, B Cotter, C McCarthy, S Byrne, K Dennehy, C Healy, L Dineen.

**Subs:** C Barrett for S Byrne, A Healy for L Dineen, K Coney for K Dennehy.

**ÉIRE ÓG:** R Sheehan, C McCarthy, F Murphy, K Nagle, G Collins, C Sheehan, E Quigley, A McSweeney, E O'Leary, M O'Leary, I Sheehan, N Twomey, C O'Brien.

**Subs:** A O'Brien for C Sheehan, E Cleary for N Twomey, M Kelly for M O'Leary.

**Referee:** Frank O'Dwyer (St Finbarr's).

## U14 championship games up and running across county

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT WAS all systems go as the U14 championship first round in A B and C got under way at venues throughout the city and county last week.

Sixteen teams were in action in the A championship Éire Óg got off to a winning start in the all Mid Cork derby with neighbours Inniscarra 1 as they ran out winners on a 4-6 to 2-5 score line. Ballinora booked their spot in the winners round with a victory over Newcestown.

Aghabullogue proved too strong for the combination of Milford/Ballyhea 5-7 to 3-1 the score line here. A late point in injury time gave St Finbarr's a second chance as they secured a draw with Ballygarvan on a 4-9 to 5-6 score line.

Youghal travelled to Aghada and secured a win two goals proving vital as they ran out winners 2-7 to 0-3. Enniskeane, promoted to A for championship, took the step up in their stride as they overcame Valley Rovers. Kilbrittan/Timoleague didn't field against

Sarsfields 1, while Cloughdun were winners in their clash with Charleville.

In the U14 B championship, neighbours Glen Rovers and Na Piarsaigh played out a thriller which ended all square 1-4 each. Na Piarsaigh with a late goal and a pointed free earning themselves another bite of the cherry in a replay which was fixed for last night.

Castletyons had four points to spare over Kilbree, Carrigaline were too strong for Inniscarra 2, and Sarsfields' second team recorded victory over Bishopstown.

Ballincollig got the better of Millstreet; Blackrock had a victory over Fr O' Neill's. Middleton hit 2-8 to Buttevant 1-2 to get a victory. It was close between

Killeagh and Mallow in a low scoring contest Kill-eagh had a two point victory 1-3 to 0-4.

Sliabh Rua ran out winners in their meeting with Douglas. Due to a mix up with a ref the Cobh versus Courcy Rovers game did not go ahead so it's off to Cobh again tomorrow night for Courcy Rovers.

In the U14 C championship Ballinascarty had a six-point winning margin over Dungourney, St Col's travelled to Brain Dillon's but had to give way to the home side, while Ballinhassig were too strong for Watergrasshill. Inniscarra 3 defeated St Vincent's, Grenagh overcame 3-3 Kilworth, and Rockban proved too strong for St Fanahan's.

In a game which saw 11 goals and 13 points recorded Castlemartyr hit 4-13 to pip Clonakilty by a point as Clonakilty's 7-1 wasn't enough. In a clash of East Cork neighbours, Carrigtwohill got the upper hand on Erin's Own, Tracton were too strong for Laochra Og and Blarney defeated Barryroe.



# Cork and Kilkenny set to renew bitter rivalry



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final

## CORK V KILKENNY

Sunday: Croke Park, 4pm  
Referee: Owen Elliott, Antrim  
TV: RTE Two



Eoghan Cormican

You don't have to be an avid camogie follower to know of the growing friction between Cork and Kilkenny.

The country got a proper first glimpse of it when Cork's Hannah Looney and Kilkenny's Collette Dormer pushed one another during the pre-match handshake before last

year's All-Ireland final.

Cork's Gemma O'Connor was also dismissed seven minutes from time for a second yellow card offence.

Kilkenny ended the Rebels' three-in-a-row bid and Ann Downey's side further strengthened their status as the game's outstanding force when defeating Cork in the league final back in April.

That game produced another headline-grabbing incident as the Cork players conducted their warm-down on the field while Kilkenny captain Meighan Farrell accepted the league cup.

Downey took a phone call from KCLR the following morning and didn't dodge the issue when it was raised. "It just doesn't happen, to be honest with you," said the Kilkenny boss.

"We can't control what the Cork people will do. You

wouldn't want to see it happening too often. We just hope that our own team would always show respect to the opposition."

Her Cork counterpart, Paudie Murray, chose not to respond to these comments, but did remark after last month's All-Ireland semi-final win over Galway that Sunday's game "won't be one for the spectators, Kilkenny play 10 behind the ball and we'll have to do an awful lot better if we're to have any chance".

Downey didn't take kindly to Murray's description of their style of play, insisting last week, "we don't tell our girls to get behind the ball".

"Paudie is entitled to his own opinion but we'll just concentrate on our game and that's certainly not the game we'll be playing."

Murray believes the rivalry between the counties is im-

portant for the promotion of the game, even if he's not overly impressed with how he has been portrayed in fostering this relationship.

"I see headlines where I said x, y, and z. If I give Kilkenny a compliment, people say I'm playing mind games. If I play them down, people say I'm a sore loser. I'm probably in a no-win situation," says Murray.

"I think the media are looking to create rivalry because it hasn't been there for a long time. Maybe, you might point the finger at me and say I've helped it along the way."

"Maybe, camogie was getting boring. I remember going to camogie matches when the Cork-Tipperary rivalry of the early noughties was there and it was good for the game. This is good for the game, too. I enjoy that rivalry. I think it important for camogie. Kil-

kenny enjoy rivalry as well. It is in their blood."

Kilkenny won last year's decider 1-13 to 1-9, with Murray claiming Cork's preparation was a long way from the level at which it should have been.

"What annoyed me most last year wasn't Kilkenny, but ourselves. There were things we should have controlled better. That is really what bugged me on the train journey home and leading up to Christmas. We could have handled ourselves better. I don't think we prepared well last year. People were taking short cuts. We fattened on our success. There was no extra bit being done outside of training. We went to Dublin more concentrating on the three in a row than beating Kilkenny."

Are they in a better place 12 months on? "Physically and mentally, yes. You could see that against Galway. We didn't

blow up under the pressure Galway applied in the last 10 minutes. We would have last year. We always pride ourselves on being mentally strong. The semi-final against Galway proved to everyone involved we have that back again. We'll need buckets of that against Kilkenny."

There's also more depth to this Cork panel — Chloe Sigerson and Niamh McCarthy have both come into the starting team this season. "Someone made a point coming home from the semi-final that if Gemma O'Connor had been injured in a game this time last year, she would have been told to go up to corner-forward and stand there because we were so short of players. This year, we were able to bring in three or four subs. We owe it to Gemma and to the Cork people to deliver a performance this weekend."



GAA president Aogán Ó Fearghail, Katelyn Fitzgerald, Glenville NS, Mairéad O'Callaghan Glenville NS, Michael O'Driscoll Glenville NS, and Catherine Neary, camogie president. Katelyn and Michael had the great honour of refereeing the half-time Go Games on All-Ireland final day.  
Picture: George Hatchell



GAA camogie medal winner Laura Stack, Springfield, Dromcolliher, Co. Limerick, who got 8 H1s in the Leaving Cert.



# Wow!

Women on Wednesday!

Fashion | Beauty & Health | Family | Lifestyle

## Into battle

Interview with camogie star  
Niamh as she bids to lead  
Cork to glory: P8/9





# Chaoimh's aiming to level the playing field

Cork intermediate camogie captain Niamh Ní Chaoimh will be in action on Sunday in an All-Ireland final against Meath. MARY WHITE talks to her about teaching, playing sport in school, and the positive influence her parents had on her sporting career

ON Sunday, Glounthaune's Niamh Ní Chaoimh will lead Cork out onto Croke Park, and in the stand her parents Ann and Denis will be just as nervous as they proudly watch their youngest child.

They've been here before, however, as Niamh captained the Rebels in last year's Intermediate Camogie All-Ireland final, only to lose to Kilkenny. This year, hopes are high that Cork's Intermediate team can redeem themselves, but it'll be a tall order against Meath.

Ní Chaoimh plays camogie with Killeagh and football with Erins Own, and incredibly has a senior All-Ireland medal haul that equates to four in football and one in camogie.

As a child, weekends were spent pucking the sliothar or kicking football about in the back garden with her older brothers Shane and Mark — now living in Australia and New Zealand respectively — and from there Niamh progressed to camogie with Erins Own under the guidance of a lady called Hilda Keohane.

But, it was her parents' incredible support as she grew up that gave Niamh such a great outlook on life, and in particular in her career as a primary school teacher at Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin in Ballincollig.

"My parents' input was huge," she says. "They've been an unbelievable support to me."

"Mom wouldn't be too sporty, but she got into it for me. Growing up she was the one driving us down to Dunmanway on a Saturday morning for football trials at 9am, then driving us back up for a camogie match in Mitchelstown. Then dad would follow on to watch the game, and they were just fantastic."

"We're a very close family. With the lads away it's been myself, mom and dad, and we can't forget the dog (Charlie the Jack Russell)! But, I can't stress how important their involvement was."

"Dad played hurling and football for Mayfield and Erins Own, and he's now stuck in Erins Own for the last few years. He's always on the sideline, encouraging people on. He's very positive and that was great to have growing up."

"They've set a massive example for me. Even with my teaching career, you can see that all the parents just want to keep their kids on the straight and narrow and for them to do their best, and as a teacher that's what you want as well."

Having attended secondary school in Colaiste na Píarsaigh in Glanmire, Niamh was known as Niamh Ní Chaoimh and the Irish name followed her to college, so eventually she decided to make it her official name on her passport.

They don't speak Irish at home in Glounthaune, but given her work, Niamh converses daily, while she'll also speak Irish with her college friends.

But, as preparations continue for Sunday's All-Ireland final showdown against Meath in Croke Park, Muinteoir Ní Chaoimh is just another teacher. Along with two other members of staff, she coached the school camogie team to the Sciath na Scoil finals this year, and Niamh sees first hand just what sport can do for children developing at that age.

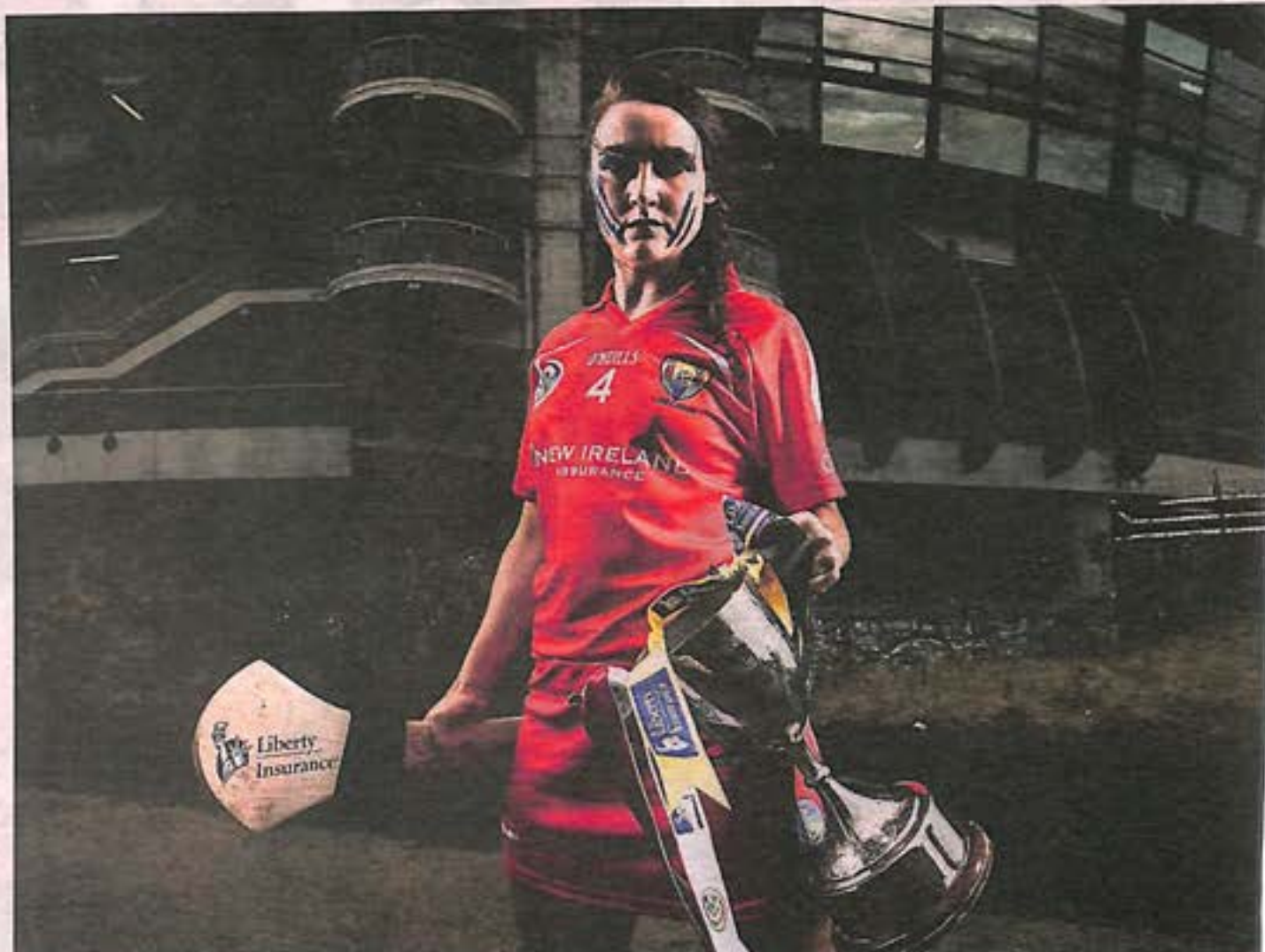
"The most important thing I think it teaches them is social skills. Obviously, there's huge benefits to them being outside, in the fresh air, exercising, but learning social skills is just as important."

"When I got involved coaching the camogie team, you could see the girls growing in confidence every day. They started getting to finals, and that's not the be all and end all because they lost one and they won one, but it taught them how to succeed and it also taught them how to take a defeat, and that makes you resilient."

"They were so engrossed in it and they were chatting among themselves about the games and training, and they were all really good friends looking out for one another and that's fantastic to watch."

"It also teaches them discipline, not only to be dedicated because of their teammates, but to have respect for themselves, the other players, and their coaches."

"It also teaches them about time management, because you



HOPING FOR SUCCESS: Niamh Ní Chaoimh ahead of last year's final against Kilkenny.

Picture: INPHO/Billy Stickland

know if you're playing, you're going to have to commit to training, and you know you have to be on time because others are dependent on you."

But what about pushy parents?

"I haven't had to deal with pushy parents. 99% of the time there's no problem. Parents want the best for their child, and you want the best for the child, so communication is the key — like anything in life."

"If a child is ever struggling with anything, you speak to the parents, and the parents will know. They want to help the child, and you want to help the child, so you'll all work together."

"But, as I say, you can definitely see how playing a sport is so good for them, and I know that myself having parents who were involved in what I did, but who even if they didn't have the time, showed an interest, and that's hugely important."

When Niamh wasn't training with Erins Own in football, or with Killeagh or the Cork intermediate camogie team, she was completing a two-year Masters in Education, for which she will soon find out the results.

"It wasn't easy, but having learned to juggle two different codes, and a career, taking on a Masters was just something to add to the list."

"It was all about being organised. That was the most important thing. The night before I'd have all my meals and my gear ready because you could be gone from 8am in the morning to 8pm at night."

"But, if you're interested in it, you'll do it. I managed my time and that's what you need to do. But, it's the same with everything, if you have the interest and you want to do it, you'll make it work."

Niamh will lead her teammates out onto the turf of Croke Park on Sunday, with the game being broadcast live on RTE2's *The Sunday Game* at 2pm.

In Australia her brother Shane will tune in, and in New Zealand her brother Mark will do the same.

But, standing there in the Hogan Stand with butterflies in their stomachs, will be Ann and Denis O'Keeffe, hoping their youngest can achieve the ultimate in her career on the field of play.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Niamh Ní Chaoimh at the Cork Camogie Senior and Intermediate teams Media Day, in association with New Ireland Assurance, proud sponsor of Cork Camogie, at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork.

Picture: Jim Coughlan





**IN ACTION:** Niamh Ni Chaoimh on the field during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final at Croke Park in 2016, against Kilkenny. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

#### FACT FILE

**Name:** Niamh Ni Chaoimh  
**From:** Glounthaune  
**Club:** Erins Own Football Club, and Killeagh Camogie Club  
**Age:** 26

**Honours in football:** Four senior All-Ireland medals, one senior B, three Munster Senior Championship medals, one Lynch Cup, and one Giles Cup with Mary I.

**Honours in camogie:** One senior All-Ireland medal, two Division 2 League medals, three Munster Championship medals, and one Senior B County Championship medal with Killeagh.

**Your role models in life and why?** My parents, Ann and Denis, have always shown the importance of hard work and how to get on with people.

**My sporting heroes growing up were** Cork dual player Mary O'Connor, and my neighbours Brian Corcoran and Peter Kelly.

**Advice to parents who'd like to get their child involved in sport:** Leave your children try as many sports as they wish, but encourage them to stick with at least one throughout their teenage years.



**GOOD AND BAD:** Goalkeeper Aoife Murphy and Niamh Ni Chaoimh dejected at the end of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park in 2016. Picture: INPHO/Tommy Dickson



**CELEBRATING:** Earlier this year, Niamh celebrated winning the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League 2 Final at Coraistown/Kinnegad GAA, Co. Westmeath. Picture: INPHO/Tom Beary

## 'Work-rate is key to Cork's All-Ireland camogie bid'

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ORLA Cronin is ready to run through a wall to win her third All-Ireland senior camogie championship winners' medal this Sunday.

The Enniskeane woman (22) insists that Cork need to outwork Kilkenny in the Croke Park decider if they want to dethrone a Cats team that has dominated the past two seasons.

Cronin, fitter and faster this season, is enjoying her best year in a Cork jersey, and she puts that down to working harder than ever before.

If you do that, she says, the rewards will come.

'The team who works hardest, who wants it more and who dictates the game, they're the one that will win on Sunday,' Cronin said.

'There is no magic wand, it's pretty simple.'

The West Cork camogie ace will play in her fourth All-Ireland senior final in her fourth season on the Cork panel, and with wins in 2014 and '15, she knows what it's like to win an All-Ireland.

But last year's loss to Kilkenny means she also knows what it's like to lose an All-Ireland final.

'Any team that loses an All-Ireland knows

that it's hard to take,' the fourth-year UCC student said.

'This year we were back early and all we wanted was another chance in an All-Ireland final to show that we are better than how we played last year. We are after getting there.'

'Losing the final was hard but it gave us things to work on.'

'I'm not saying that we used last year's final as motivation because every year is a new year.'

'It wasn't our day last year and we want to make amends for it.'

St Colum's Libby Coppinger will also be in action for Cork on Sunday, increasing the interest here in West Cork.

• Check out pages 21-24 for our four-page preview of the All-Ireland camogie finals.



Cork star: Orla Cronin.

## Gemma to miss Croker decider

CAMOGIE

GEMMA O'CONNOR has been omitted from the Cork camogie team named to face Kilkenny in Sunday's All-Ireland final at Croke Park, 4pm.

O'Connor injured her knee and ankle in the semi-final win over Galway and while no number six has been selected in the team list, with Meabh Cahalane wearing 17, the St Finbarr's colossus will be out.

Cork have had other concerns this past number of weeks, with Cahalane struggling with an Achilles issue while Ashling Thompson was unwell. Eimear O'Sullivan has been patient, working hard in training and gets her just reward. Libby Coppinger retains her place at centre-field.

The Cork team finished training last night with a light puck around and a bite to eat in the Rochestown Park Hotel. They'll travel by train to Dublin on Saturday. The intermediates face Meath in their All-Ireland final at 2pm on Sunday.

**CORK (v Kilkenny):** Aoife Murray, Pamela Mackey, Rena Buckley, Laura Treacy, Maeve Cahalane, Ashling Thompson, Chloe Bigerson, Eimear O'Sullivan, Libby Coppinger, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cronin, Orla Cotter, Hannah Looney, Niamh McCarthy, Katrina Mackey.



# Gemma gutted by injury blow



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

**CORK Camogie supporters received the worst possible news just over two weeks ago when it was announced that Gemma O'Connor would miss this year's All-Ireland senior camogie final.**

Moving towards the twilight of an incredible career, it was a massive blow both to Gemma personally and to the team.

To say she's gutted is an understatement.

"I've been very lucky over my career with regards injuries and then this happens in the All-Ireland semi-final," Gemma O'Connor said.

"It wasn't as if I was running and tore something, it was just a freak.

"Two players fell and one ran into the side of my leg and I heard a small pop in my knee.

"Sometimes when that happens they say that it doesn't necessarily mean it's something serious, but for me it was.

"That weekend, I was staying in Limerick after the game as I was going to a wedding in the Aran Islands the following day.

"That Saturday night by myself, I had an awful night. I was devastated.

"I didn't get to sleep until about 3am and I was up at eight. I didn't know whether to go back to Cork or not.

"I was ok to drive as it was okay to press down and up but it was left to right, my knee movement, that was sore.

"I got onto a friend of mine who said that there was a very good clinic in Galway where they'd do the MRI and give you the results straight away.

"So, I went up and they did it there and then. It's a grade two tear on my medial ligament and I suppose playing at that high level really, being able to try and come back and perform is the problem.

"It's very uncomfortable running in a straight line and I can't turn on it so I'm out for the final.

"In the morning, it's difficult to even get down the stairs.

"When it happened, I played on for about five or ten minutes to see if I could run it off but I had no power in my knee so I was putting myself in more jeopardy as well as the team.

"It's a disaster, the semi-final of an All-Ireland. I just couldn't believe it. And this year .... I suppose during the last few years, after my mam (passed away), I was going back in April, nearly May and my mind was all over the place.

"Whereas this year, I went back at the start of January fresh and determined to give it a real go and then this happens.

"I was like, 'come on, give me a break'. And especially when it's not as if I've 10 years left and I'll be honest, I don't know if it's my last year or not, but I know it's sooner rather than later."

Looking back at last year's final, at



Cork's Gemma O'Connor with Galway's Niamh Kilkenny and Aoife Donohue during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final, at the Gaelic Grounds last month.

Kilkenny's game plan and the defeat, Gemma reflects on that loss.

"It was very hard to pinpoint what went wrong because we never got fully going and you know when you play in finals sometimes when a team is finding it hard to get going with the first few balls you're feeling there's something wrong. No matter how hard to try to maintain that positivity it just wasn't going right for us and from my own point of view at centre back the ball came down the centre just three times.

"What I always try to do, as I know they're going to try and keep it away from the centre and feed the channels, I just try to feed off loose ball or read and intercept the ball.

"I said to Paudie afterwards that I was hardly on the ball.

"But I had something like 13 possessions and while that wasn't the highest I still had an influence in the game but not as I'd have hoped.

"Kilkenny were very smart in their approach."

Referring to Kilkenny's defensive style Gemma states, "Ann Dalton sits back on the 'D' and someone else will fall back into the centre. It crowds it out.

"It's crazy now. Before you'd go out

and if you were hungry enough and won your dual battle you'd be fine.

"It's all tactics now and trying to outdo each other tactically.

"Sometimes it can have a negative effect on your game.

"You want to go out and play the best you can but maybe it takes away that individual performance because you have a role for the team."

Gemma's right but I put it to her that if you work extremely hard on one plan you rarely have another to switch to mid battle because you have worked so hard in training on perfecting your game plan, that you're programmed to it?

"Yeah, and that's where individuals then try to step up and do something different and grab hold of the game," she says.

It was a difficult afternoon this time 12 months ago for Gemma.

Not only were Cork on the backfoot entering the final minutes of the game but she was sent off for a second yellow.

How did that make her feel?

"I thought about it for a while. Maybe the first yellow card, I can understand that.

"I thought it was our free and Denise Gaule had the ball so I went to knock it

out of her hand.

"But the second one, they were impeding my run and all I did was shove a player out of the way, the ball was up in the other half of the pitch and the Kilkenny players ran to the ref's ear.

"He didn't even see it, just gave me a second yellow.

"At that stage, I had been brought out centre field and we were pushing forward but they were cynical, stopping my runs and getting into my head. I got sent off but I didn't think it was a major incident.

"Look, I know sometimes when I go out to play, I'm a target but what I learned from last year was not to react as much.

"I remember the Wexford game in Páirc Uí Rinn this year, I never came across anything so bad as that day.

"I got no protection from the referee that day and that's what frustrates me."

Looking ahead to this Sunday's final, Gemma feels that Cork are ready.

"We need an arrogance about us. It's something we've lacked over the years.

"In the days when Tipperary were beating us, it was arrogance that did it for them.

"I think it's been one of our downfalls over the years where we couldn't continue our success.

"We didn't have that bit of cockiness. I don't know why.

"Was it that we were too nice, that we didn't want to appear too big for our boots?"

"But we need to have it on Sunday."

## McCarthy never expected to be starting

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

NINE months ago, I had a chat with Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy.

She had a great story to tell. She suffered three cruciate injuries, two requiring surgery, yet she received a call to join Paudie Murray's extended panel.

Nine months later, she'll line out in Croke Park, a key member of Cork's senior team. It's something Niamh finds hard to take in.

"I thought I'd be playing intermediate and not even on the senior panel," she said. "I was more nervous at first about going up training and not knowing many of the girls than I was about playing.

"I never expected the intermediates and the seniors to be training together, so that helped. I didn't know what team I was going to be on until they split the panels.

"During the league, he [Paudie] tried out new players. I thought a lot of the players he brought on were doing well and there were still players to come back, like Pam Mackey, Julia White, Orla [Cotter] was out and so was Hannah [Looney], so I thought I was just making up the numbers.

"I wouldn't be full of confidence in myself, anyway, and I really didn't expect to be starting."

Start she did, though, in every championship game, except for the final group game against Offaly, which she sat out due to a hand injury.

Niamh approach is that she has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

"I feel there's less pressure on me than there would be in a club game and that might be weird, but it's just that this is my first year and no-one expected anything of me, least of all myself," she says, laughing. "Going into the semi-final, because I'm typically very nervous, I was thinking to myself: 'What have I got to lose, like absolutely nothing.' Out of everyone there, two years ago I didn't even think I'd be playing club [referring to her injuries], so, I have nothing to lose."

She is pleased with her performances, but feels there is room for improvement.

"I know I could do better and I still feel I haven't peaked. I still think there's a lot of improvement there and I can do better than I have been doing. Some matches, I didn't think I played well at all. I expected more of myself."

At 21 years of age, Niamh will run out as a player in her first All-Ireland senior final. She admits she will be nervous as the big day approaches.

"I'm not nervous yet. Obviously, I will be nervous, it's my first All-Ireland. I have no idea yet, though, if I'll be playing, of what the team will be, but I'm really enjoying Cork. I'm enjoying it more than I thought I would."

“I was like, ‘come on, give me a break’. And I’ll be honest, I don’t know if it’s my last year or not, but I know it’s sooner rather than later.”



# Camogie always Orla's first love

Orla Cronin plays in her fourth All-Ireland senior final in four years this Sunday. **KIERAN McCARTHY** caught up with the Enniskeane star before the big game

IT was always camogie, always,' Orla Cronin says, days out from her fourth senior All-Ireland final on the bounce.

For a player who knows nothing but All-Ireland finals in her four years on the Cork senior panel, she also knows nothing about camogie.

It was her number one love from day one.

Gaelic football didn't get a look in, apart from a bit of Sciath na Scol and, she thinks, primary school trials at one point.

'There was never a choice to be made,' the Knockaneady, Enniskeane woman smiled.

'It was always camogie.'

'I didn't have as much love for football as I do for the small ball.'

'I just stuck to the one and it's worked out well.'

Her last sentence is an understatement.

On Sunday she'll tog out in the Cork half-forward line against Kilkenny in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie final at Croke Park, at 4pm. This will be her fourth senior final in four seasons, winning titles in 2014 and '15 before the three-in-a-row bid was derailed by Kilkenny last September.

Called into the Cork senior panel after completing her Leaving Cert in Bandon Grammar in 2014, Orla is now 22 years old and well used to the big occasion. She's rarely fazed, her journey through the ranks has stood to her.

'When I was growing up the camogie club in Enniskeane wasn't as big, so myself and one of my best friends from home, Sinead (Dermot Curtin's daughter), we started playing hurling with the boys in St Mary's when we were U10 and U12. That was the norm at the time, the girls would train away with the boys,' she explained.

'There was some U10 and U12 training with Enniskeane Camogie Club in Dunmanway because it also takes girls in from Dunmanway and Castletownkenneigh. Dermot used to bring us over to the training there so that's where it started with Enniskeane.'

'It got more competitive at U12, we were competing in a West Cork competition against the likes of Kilbrittain, and it went from there.'

'There was no rule when I was 14 to say, for example, that you had to be 16 to play with the junior team so myself, Sinead



Relaxed: Orla Cronin is well used to the build up ahead of an All-Ireland senior camogie final.

(Photo: Jim Coughlan)

**'In West Cork you're not known for your hurling or your camogie, it's a lot of football down here so to be able to compete at the highest level you need to be able to experience every type of situation and learn from it.'**

ever it was at the time, very early. We were carried along as subs.

'Going off playing with the boys game me more of a physical edge and then playing with the older junior B side when I was younger that stood to me as well.'

'In West Cork you're not known for your hurling or your camogie, it's a lot of football down here so to be able to compete at the highest level you need to be able to experience every type of situation and learn from it,' she added, but hurling was also a big part of home with her older brother Stephen winning county titles with Erin's Own.

'Stephen was minor, U21 when I was growing up so I

with dad. I remember going to his games when he played with St Mary's before he moved to Erin's Own, and he fell into success there winning two county titles. Dad (Humphrey, from Kilbrittain) was involved a lot as well so it all rubbed off on me. I loved it from day one,' Orla said.

A few years ago Enniskeane camogie guru Dermot Curtin told *The Southern Star* a tale of Orla's talent, the time when he challenged his players, and Orla was among them, to shoot the sliothar into a small hole in Mathúnas handball alley in Castletown.

First to do it will get a tenner, Dermot promised.

Orla, his neighbour, made his wallet that bit lighter after her

She had it, he said, that talent needed to rise to the top, so it's no surprise to see her in another All-Ireland final this Sunday and also taking her game to a new level this season.

Cork boss Paudie Murray told *The Southern Star* that Orla is having her best season with Cork this season.

'She's motoring well this year, she's in great shape, her fitness levels are very high and she is playing with a smile on her face,' he said.

Eight-time camogie All-Star Jennifer O'Leary agrees that we're now seeing the best of the UCC student, who is due to start her fourth year in physiology next Monday, the day after the All-Ireland final.

'Owning the centre forward spot on the Cork team Orla

looks stronger and fitter than ever .... She is having one of the best playing years of her life this season,' O'Leary said.

The secret to Orla's success this season is that there is no secret. She traces it all back to hard work.

'As a forward you're worth nothing if you're not working and you're not scoring, and if you work hard then you can get a few scores off that; it's something that myself and the other forwards have worked on this year. We're working hard and the scores have come,' she said.

Again, she feels that hard work holds the key to Sunday's final against a Kilkenny team that has had the edge on Cork in recent meetings, including last year's All-Ireland final and this year's league decider.

'The team who works hardest, who wants it more and who dictates the game, they're the one that will win on Sunday,' Orla said.

'There is no magic wand, it's pretty simple.'

It's no secret that Cork were

flat and out-manoeuvred in last year's All-Ireland final and Orla talks about having no regrets this Sunday because she remembers how she felt at the end of that game.

'Any team that loses an All-Ireland knows that it's hard to take,' she said.

'This year we were back early and all we wanted was another chance in an All-Ireland final to show that we are better than how we played last year. We are after getting there.'

'Losing the final was hard but it gave us things to work on.'

'I'm not saying that we used last year's final as motivation because every year is a new year.'

'It wasn't our day last year and we want to make amends for it.'

Cork's semi-final performance in the win against Galway was far from perfect too, and a big improvement is needed to dethrone the Cats on Sunday.

Orla's up for the job. It's what she's been training for since day one.



# 'I'm not sitting at home in the evening drinking tea'

## Former dual ace still kept very busy

BY DENIS HURLEY

A YEAR ago, Rena Buckley was part of a Cork camogie side aiming to achieve a three in a row only to be undone by Kilkenny.

Twelve months later and the two counties are once again opposing each other on the sport's showpiece day. Having inspired Inniscarra to county championship glory last year, Buckley is the Cork captain this year and she admits that the build-up to this final is different to the 2016 edition.

'The shoe is on the other foot now, there's a definite change in dynamic,' she says.

'Since the final last year, we played Kilkenny in the league final this year and they had a nice cushion again. We're definitely more aware of the fact that they're an excellent team.'

'Last year, we were going in as champions, there was talk of a three in a row. I wouldn't say we were on our high horse, but this year it is definitely different.'

Adding to the feeling of Cork being the challengers is the fact that Kilkenny also beat the Rebels in the national league final. That more recent defeat holds no particular regrets for Buckley, though.

'They are a very good team,' she says.

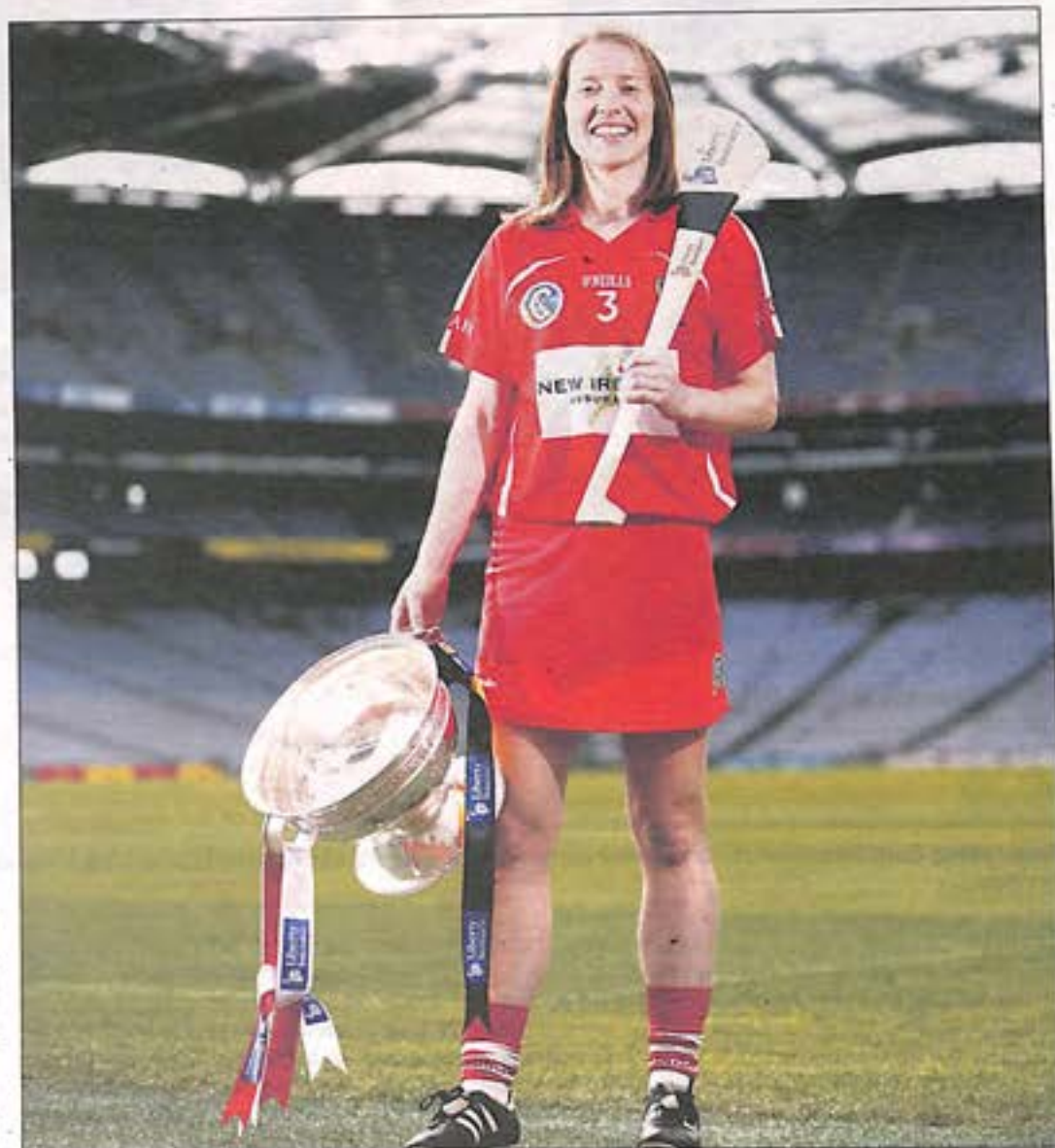
'The initial reaction would have been, "We didn't play well at all," but on reflection, they were very good.'

Another big difference this year, for Buckley personally, is that the Macroom-based physiotherapist is only playing camogie, having won ten All-Ireland ladies' football medals with Cork over the last 11 years.

Demands on her time meant she had to make a call, with the camogie captaincy a key factor in the decision. Naturally, there have been benefits and drawbacks.

'It's definitely a change,' she says.

'In one sense, it's nice that you're at all the sessions, you're in with everything, you're not flying off and worried about matches clashing or anything like that but obviously, I miss the football gang.'



A class act: Cork senior captain Rena Buckley is one of the most experienced GAA players in the country. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)

'I would say though, even if you are only playing one, you're still doing an amount of training, so it's not like I'm sitting at home in the evening drinking tea and saying, "I'd love to be out playing football".'

'You miss being involved with the team and the buzz, particularly at this time of year. You mightn't miss the trips to Donegal in the league but I used to love the knockout games at the

end of the championship.

'When you're playing less games, you're definitely more tuned in for the bigger games.'

'On the other side, I definitely had a great base of fitness last year. With football, you have to be hopping fit. Look, it is what it is.'

Having topped their group in the round-robin stage of the All-Ireland championship, Cork faced Galway in the semi-finals

with the Tribeswomen coming off a quarter-final win over Tipperary.

Victory was achieved, but it wasn't easy.

'We had a five-week gap, that's a long time to be training,' Buckley says.

'You're trying to peak at the right time and the big difference between intercounty and club is that you can't get challenge games.'

'It is trickier, and ever since I've been playing with Cork, Galway have had a good team. They'll be disappointed not to have got something out of it and I'm just delighted that we did.'

All told, Sunday will be Buckley's 22nd time to play in Croke Park. She doesn't have a particular routine in the lead-up to the big games, but she does make sure that she is well rested.

'The week of a big game, I'd make sure I was in bed early, whereas when you're 19 and 20 you stay up!' she laughs.

'I'd know a lot more about nutrition now too. As you learn new things, it'd be silly not to implement them for the sake of routine.'

# Cork dual star Libby is pride of St Colum's

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

LIBBY Coppinger was in Kealkil on Monday night lending her support to the club's minor football team – that included her sister Maggie – in U18 ladies league action against Castlehaven.

There might be only days to go to Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final but St Colum's offered Libby the chance to escape the build-up and surround herself with family and friends.

It was a welcome distraction for the Coomhola, Bantry woman.

It also highlights how Libby has never forgotten her roots.

When St Colum's ladies' football and camogie clubs amalgamated last November, it saw the return of an adult ladies football team to Colum's and it also saw the return of Libby, who had transferred to Bantry Blues when Colum's didn't have the numbers to field a junior football team.

She enjoyed plenty of success with Bantry – winning county junior and intermediate titles – but when Colum's football reformed, Libby didn't have to think twice about re-joining.

'I always said that I'd love to come back if Colum's got a team together,' she said earlier this year, and she was true to her word.

Her family are immersed in Colum's, too.

Her father Tim used to play with St Colum's, her mother Maureen is one of the founding members of Colum's camogie club and her uncle Tony is one of the driving forces in the club, and so too is Libby, even if she doesn't realise it.

Her return to her home football club this year was a massive boost to everyone involved. A dual Cork star with the camogie and football teams, the UCC public health student is Colum's pin-up star, and she was also the first player from St Colum's Camogie Club to be involved in a Cork panel.

'In 2009 the camo-

gie club was only formed and to think just eight years later we have a Cork senior player getting ready to play in an All-Ireland final, it's fantastic,' club chairperson Eilis Nyhan said.

'It's great to have her back in the club. It was a major boost for us. We have a lot of younger players and she's always there to give them advice, and she's there to help the older players as well. She's been an inspiration for everyone.'

'We are all extremely proud, she is one of the nicest girls you could ever meet and she is so down to earth, too.'

A 29-seater bus from St Colum's will head for the capital this Sunday to cheer on their local hero, and more will travel by car to cheer on Libby who will line up in midfield alongside Ashling Thompson, this duo adding energy and work-rate to the Rebels.

(Libby was a used sub in last year's All-Ireland final loss to Kilkenny)

And the kids who she coached for five days at the recent Colum's Cúl Camp will watch their own club-mate in Croke Park live on TV this weekend, and that will feed back into the club again.

Juggling camogie and football hasn't been easy for her and then there was that dual dilemma when the Cork ladies footballers and the camogie team were fixed to play on the same day last month. In the end, the football management released her and she helped the camogie team qualify for the All-Ireland final.

Last weekend Libby was a first-half sub on the Cork football team that lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Mayo but she'll be hoping her luck turns against Kilkenny this Sunday, and for a better outcome than the Colum's v Haven minor ladies last Monday night (Haven won 4-19 to 4-11).

Dual star: Libby Coppinger has lined out for both Cork senior camogie and football teams this season.



Fan-tastic: Cork senior camogie captain Rena Buckley pictured with the O'Driscolls from Coppeen, at the Cork camogie open training session in association with New Ireland Assurance, at Clonakilty GAA Club on Saturday morning.





# Jennifer O'Leary

The voice of experience tackles the topics that matter



## Orla and Libby put West Cork camogie on the national map

We should be so proud of our two senior stars who have shone brightly with Rebels

JUST as I was finishing up my inter-county camogie career, Orla Cronin's was taking off.

Three years ago I decided to retire from senior inter-county camogie, it was the right time to go, we had won the 2014 All-Ireland and I knew myself that it was over – but West Cork's camogie following had no reason to fear that our region wouldn't be represented on the big stage.

Two words: Orla Cronin.

We had one season together, that 2014 campaign, and as my career finished up, she was leading into her second senior inter-county campaign and an adventure that now sees her contest her fourth All-Ireland senior final in four seasons this Sunday; an incredible record.

Orla has been joined in the Cork senior team by Libby Coppinger of St Colum's and while I never played or trained with her, all the reports I've had back have been glowing; another West Cork sportswoman with talent to burn.

Dual star Libby was in the headlines ahead of the All-Ireland camogie semi-final against Galway a few weeks ago when both the Cork camogie team and ladies' footballers were fixed to play on the same day. That's a situation I had hoped we would never see again. It's not good enough and both organisations need to ensure it doesn't happen again. Our players deserve better.

Libby lined out for Paudie Murray's camogie team and played her role in a win that sees Cork back in the All-Ireland final and ready to make amends for last year's loss to the same opposition, Kilkenny.

It's great for West Cork camogie to have two great ambassadors in Orla and Libby, both have enjoyed impressive campaigns and both have contributed to Cork's success this season. I'm going to have a

look at both, starting with Orla Cronin, Enniskeane camogie's pride and joy.

She is having one of the best playing years of her life this season. Incredibly skilful, I always remember her being a wristy camogie player when striking a ball. Orla has shown in championship games this year – against Limerick, Wexford, Tipperary and Galway – that she knows where the posts are as she has weighed in with an impressive ten points in this championship run.

Orla can score with ease from distance and also from difficult angles but also is a very creative and influential play-maker, setting up the likes of Orla Cotter and Amy O'Connor to launch attacks.

Owning the centre forward spot on the Cork team Orla looks stronger and fitter than ever and possesses that grit and determination a player in that pivotal position needs. She will be up against the likes of Ann Dalton, Kilkenny's flawless centre back and playmaker in the final – but I have no doubt that Orla will spoil her game and won't allow Ann to make those surging runs forward or carry out those long and accurate clearances from the back that have become a trademark of her game.

From travelling with Orla to trainings and games in the past – our collection point was at Kevin O'Leary's garage in Bandon – she comes across as a smart, cool and calm character, who always has a smile on her face. Her relaxed attitude will stand to her on the biggest day of the camogie calendar and she will possess no fear. She is a reliable forward who can ably field a high ball coming into Kilkenny's defence and she has all the skills to be a big figure in Sunday's final.

Now, onto Libby Coppinger from Kealkil – this girl amazes



It's my ball! Cork star Libby Coppinger, from Kealkil, does brilliantly to get her hand on this ball during the recent Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship semi-final win (2-9 to 1-9) against Galway at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

me and inspires me with her incredible commitment to both codes in Cork this year. It's a 170km round trip for training, and she's with the camogie team and the footballers. It just highlights her determination. Both Cork camps are lucky to have a player of Libby's attitude and ability.

Many players who are just a stone's throw away from their training grounds will still admit that the constant rush and run to training can often be tiresome and demanding. But here we have a girl who has to pack

her gear, ensure she's eating right, train, study, drive and mentally prepare herself for a journey that will probably take her over two hours every night. Not everyone is made of that committed mettle, but Libby is.

What she brings to the Cork set-up this year is an insatiable work-rate. I've heard someone say recently that she is like Briege Corkery because she never stops and she never gives up.

I compared Briege to a Dura-cell bunny in the past, and perhaps Libby is the latest model.

She possesses great energy in the midfield area and makes her presence felt.

Libby has been given the role of man-marking in the past and has succeeded in making it tough on her opponents. The physicality she has gained through football has added an aggressive and solid dimension to the centre of the field and alongside Aisling Thompson, they are a formidable force.

Libby never shies away from a tackle and will need to bring an endless amount of work-rate if Gemma O'Connor (injured

in the semi-final win), as we all fear, is definitely out for the final. It looks like that centre back position will be filled by another and the demands on the midfield area will be at a premium.

Both Orla and Libby will fly the West Cork flag in Croke Park on Sunday and they'll do our region proud, and hopefully we'll be celebrating Cork senior and intermediate success – both teams are capable of bringing All-Ireland titles back her to Cork.

Best of luck, girls.



# ALL-IRELAND SENIOR AND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINALS

## Cork will have a real job on their hands to take title

ALL-IRELAND  
SENIOR CAMOGIE  
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

### Cork v Kilkenny

Sunday, September 10  
Croke Park, 4pm

THIS is a repeat of last year's derby  
BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

cider in which Kilkenny put paid to Cork's three-in-a-row bid with a four-point victory, and of the National League Division 1 Final, which went the Noreiders' way too. There were just three points separating them at Semple Stadium but just as in September, the sense was that the victors were more comfortable than the margin suggested.

Add the fact that they are now one step from a fourth consecutive national title, a 'Double-Double' and there is no doubt that Ann Downey's side have established themselves firmly as the undisputed number one outfit of the game.

That will rankle with Cork, not least because they have failed to sparkle in those last two major clashes, due to a combination of Kilkenny's quality and their own under-performance. Being accustomed to a place on the top step of the podium, they will want it back.

Neither side pulled up trees in their Semi-Finals. A portion of this can be accredited to the longer lay-offs (five weeks for Cork, four for Kilkenny) compared to facing teams buoyed by quarter-final triumphs a fortnight previously but it would be wrong to minimise the efforts of the players and managements of both Dublin and Galway in terms of performance and tactical application.

Kilkenny did not have it all their own way in the group phase, needing a point from 2016 Player of the Year Denise Gaule to escape with a share of the spoils against Clare in Nowlan Park on July 1.

As has been customary under a management set-up that has always learned lessons from mild setbacks, and a roster that has applied them well, they came out the next week and were full value for a five-point win over Galway in Athenry that helped cement their direct progress to the last four.

They got off to a perfect start against Dublin with a goal from a penalty by Gaule two minutes in, but were still only five points clear by the time substitute Jenny Clifford sent a rocket to the Dublin net in injury time, having struggled with the high intensity and physicality of the Metropolitans, and the direct running of the likes of Siobhán Kehoe.

The Strikeywomen's much vaunted attack spluttered and there were only glimpses of the

counter-attacking game from deep that has yielded such dividends.

Once more though, one expects that there will be an improvement and that Downey will be happier that her charges were put through the ringer rather than enjoying the cakewalk many had predicted.

The depth of the panel was advertised once more too with the continuing blossoming of newcomer Danielle Morrissey, and the impact off the bench of Clifford and Jenny Reddy.

Kilkenny have serious operators in every line, from Emma Kavanagh in goal, right through Anne Dalton, who was magnificent against Dublin, captain Anna Farrell, Katie Power, Gaule and Shelly Farrell to name just a few. Many of those will be smarting from quiet outings last time out and it is reasonable to expect a response.

Whereas the Cats ground it out in the second half in their semi-final, Cork were hanging on against Galway but this was always expected to be a stern challenge given the talent at the westerners' disposal. It said much therefore, that Cork were leading by eight points early in the second half and it could have been much more had they not spurned four goal chances.

What was notable too was that they found a way to win, as they have done so often over the years. Galway had all the momentum in the final quarter but Cork stemmed the tide, thanks to the likes of Chloe Sigerson, Rena Buckley and Ashling Thompson.

Like Kilkenny, some stars did not enjoy their best of days, but Hannah Looney and Niamh McCarthy stood up to the plate and Orla Cotter was exceptional in the first half in particular. Apart from the aforementioned, Aoife Murray and Katrina Mackey are key operators.

The message coming from the Cork camp all summer has been that they are playing catch-up on Kilkenny, even as they cruised through their group with a 100% record. Paudie Murray continued the theme after the semi-final but, beating a team as strong as Galway after a five-week lay-off was no mean feat. Again, one can expect the engine to be running more smoothly on the biggest day of all.

Kilkenny's hunger remains insatiable despite their recent success while Cork's appetite is ravenous after some of the recent reverses. The teams play similar styles, attempting to cut off space in their own halves and to create it in the opposition's, harnessing the speed at their disposal to fashion scoring opportunities.

What measures might be taken to neutralise the opposition strengths will be intriguing. We cannot wait.

## Royal engagement will give Rebels

ALL-IRELAND  
INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE  
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

### Cork v Meath

Sunday, September 10  
Croke Park, 2pm

MEATH are appearing in their first Intermediate Final, while Cork are

returning to the scene of the crime after being edged out by a point by Kilkenny in last year's final.

It has taken the Royals a little while to establish themselves in the second tier after enjoying Croke Park glory when annexing the Premier Junior crown in 2012. They showed that they had found their feet when winning the National League Division 2 title last season however and spent

the spring this term in the rarefied atmosphere of Division 1.

There were some tough outings as they failed to collect anything in terms of points but the experience of operating at a quicker level and higher intensity than anything they would have been accustomed to was invaluable.

John Davis' crew finished the campaign positively, losing by just two points to Offaly, who missed

out on making the knockout stages of the Senior Championship on score difference by one point.

Meath carried that form right through the Championship. Although drawing to Down, they had earlier edged out Cork in a cracker by 3-9 to 0-17 in Trim, assuring themselves of top seeding in the semi-finals.

There the Royals met old rivals Kildare. Buoyed by a quick goal



Daragh Ó Conchúir caught up with Cork camogie star Orla Cotter ahead of this weekend's All Ireland final with Kilkenny in Croke Park

UNDERSTATED and for a long time underrated. For a number of years, Orla Cotter went largely unnoticed about her business, helping others shine in trademark selfless fashion.

In the end, it took having the free-taking responsibilities thrust upon her after Jenny O'Leary's retirement to put the St Catherine's woman in the spotlight and for people to recognise her broader range.

The tall St Catherine's woman has won an All-Star in each of the last three seasons, the tally of four now much more in keeping with her ability. One of the cleanest strikers around, she has an uncanny knack of scoring from distance, but combines application with her more aesthetic skills and is a key element of the Cork method of suffocating the opposition in the middle third of the pitch, combining industry with guile.

This is her 12th season at Senior level. She won the first of five All-Ireland medals while Minor captain in 2006 and has been a key component of the red machine

for most of the intervening period. She is Cork's leading scorer going into Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final against Kilkenny.

One was reminded once more of Cotter's importance in the National League Final, which she sat out until the interval due to a lingering hamstring issue.

Cork had been very poor in the first half but the Irish and PE teacher at Middleton College sparked a renewed effort with three points, including two from play, in the third quarter. It wasn't enough to deny Kilkenny but it left an imprint on the mind.

So did her goal towards the end of the first half of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championship Semi-Final against Galway. Cotter had seemed attracted to the sliotar like a magnet in that opening period as the Leesiders dominated and so it was when she fetched a long Aoife Murray delivery from over the head of Róisín Black just around the '45.

The Ballynoe native turned and made a bee line for the Galway

goal and while the finish might not have matched the build-up for style and execution, and by no means did the net ripple, a green flag was raised. Cork were seven points clear as a result, in a game they won by three.

One imagines that goal was on her mind from the moment she turned.

"Oh nah sure, it kind of opened up so I just kept going," comes the response of someone who doesn't need to big herself up but would never do so anyway.

"My finish let me down - my father's been telling me I need to work on it anyway. By the skin of my teeth it went in at the end, it dribbled over the line but I'll take it. We as a team need to work on our finishing of goals and hopefully we'll be throwing in a few [against Kilkenny]."

Was she trying to pass it to Hannah Looney initially?

"I don't know what I was trying to do really. I thought I saw Hannah half-free out of the corner of my eye but sure by the time I went to pass it, it kind of spilled out of my hands

- but sure it all came off. There was a bit of luck there I think."

She leaves out the soaring catch and run but that is typical. It is all about the end result with Cotter. Her placed-ball routine is a case in point. It isn't classical - she is a left-handed player taking frees on her right - put her conversion rate is high. She is Cork's leading scorer once more going into the decider.

While emphasis has been placed on them scoring just three points in the second half against Galway, there was much to admire about the Rebels' win, particularly off a five-week lay-off.

"We started well, but when we reflected on the game we were disappointed with our second half. Galway showed their worth in that second half, they really came back at us.

"But nothing is ever over at half-time and they kept fighting 'til the very end and to be honest, we were lucky to come out on top at all.

"We were under pressure and to be fair to Chloe Sigerson, Laura



**CORK v KILKENNY**

**CORK v MEATH**

## plenty to work towards

from Kristina Troy and a strong final quarter that yielded seven successive points after falling two points behind, they were able to concede a late goal and still prevail by two.

Jane Dolan has long been acknowledged as one of the most dangerous forwards in the land but she has strong support in the likes of Troy, Megan Thynne, Aoife Minogue and Cheyenne O'Brien.

Cork will be concerned by the three goals they conceded when the sides met on July 8th but apart from that, they have enjoyed a flawless season. The league ended with a 14-point defeat of Derry and they repeated that win over a side that had been campaigning in the top tier for the previous four years in the semi-final.

The margin this time around was 10 points. Linda Collins, who

scored 1-5 from play in last year's All-Ireland and played along with Jennifer Barry in this year's National League Division 1 decider, did the damage with two goals.

Fionla Neville, Lauren Callanan and Amy Lee are just some of the others with Senior experience. Keeva McCarthy and Maeve McCarthy are other threatening attackers capable of scuppering Meath's dreams.

## Understated but no longer under-rated

Treacy, Rena Buckley and a few others, they've all stood up. We stood our ground and we ground it out for the last 10 minutes.

"We just need to work on getting the ball out of defence to set up an attack.

"We were playing defensively towards the end which made it really difficult for our forwards. We were low in numbers towards the top but as long as the scores aren't going in at the other end you'll get by."

The totemic Gemma O'Connor left the fray mid-way through that encounter with damaged knee ligaments, having gone into it with an ankle problem. Manager Paudie Murray has ruled her out of the equation for Sunday and Cork are preparing to take on Kilkenny without her.

The St Finbarr's legend is doing everything she can to possibly make some contribution according to Cotter, who leaves you in no doubt with her words and the tone they are delivered, about the impact O'Connor's absence will have.

"Gemma's injury is a big loss at the moment. We're trying to pick it up again. We're a small bit hopeful but you never know. At the moment we're taking it that she's out. Obviously she's been a central figure for us over the last number of years so we're just trying to figure out where we'll go from here."

"It is what it is. We just have to get on with it and see what we can come up with."

"Kilkenny are the form team at the moment. They've gone through the Championship with no big issues or problems. We know we're going to be up against it. They're reigning All-Ireland champions so we'll give them the respect they deserve but we've just got to find another way and it's all on the day. We'll give it a go anyway."

O'Connor is maintaining a positive outlook and "popping in and out" as the rest of the panel finalise their preparations. For her part, Cotter is raring to go although she isn't sure if missing so much of the spring means she is any fresher.

"I don't know really. There are

so many games in the round-robin system that you make up the ground handy enough in one way. At the time it's a big deal missing training, but I was working away myself to try and get right. But every training session you miss, you're dying to get back."

Cork were denied a three-in-a-row by Kilkenny 12 months ago and though there were only four points between them at the final whistle, the gulf in performance was wider. That has been a massive motivation this year.

"You don't mind losing once you've given it your best but a lot of us felt we didn't perform to our best ability. We felt we didn't really do ourselves justice."

"All credit to Kilkenny, they were the better team on the day, they wanted it more than us on the day and they were worthy winners by all means."

"Then we met them in the National League Final and we were only dying to play them again but they still got the better of us."

"We've one more chance to get it right."



### ALL SMILES AS CAMOGIE CHAMPS PUT TITLE ON LINE

Camogie stars Michelle Quilty, Anna Farrell and Denise Gaulle share a joke during the media night for champions Kilkenny as they prepare for the All-Ireland final against Cork in Croke Park on Sunday. Kilkenny will be hoping for a double victory this weekend as the U-21 hurlers face Limerick on Saturday. See 'People Sport' for the big match previews PICTURE: PAT MOORE



**READY TO GO:** Nowlan Park was a hive of activity during the week as the Kilkenny senior camogie team and the under-21 hurlers went prepared for their All-Ireland finals. Shelly Farrell (main pic) and the camogie team will face Cork in Croke Park on Sunday. Eddie Brennan's under-21 hurlers, seen here in training (inset) take on Limerick in Semple Stadium on Saturday PICTURE: PAT MOORE



# Cork look for revenge on Kilkenny



Finbarr McCarthy

This time last year both Cork and Kilkenny were preparing for the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final. Cork were going for three in a row while Kilkenny were bidding to end a long wait for another O'Duffy Cup. As it was, the most famous cup in camogie made its way to the Marble City.

Now the game's greatest rivals are set to do battle again on Sunday and already the battle lines have been drawn with Cork boss Paudie Murray firing the first shots.

"Well it won't be pretty I can assure you, as we all know how Kilkenny will set up ten or 11 behind the ball in a very defensive formation. The challenge for us is to come up with a game plan that will beat that system," he says.

Kilkenny manager Ann Downey disagrees:



"Paudie is entitled to his opinion but I think he

is wrong, we play to our strengths and that has brought us success and hopefully that will be good enough on Sunday, and we are really looking forward to the game."

The other challenge facing Cork is the absence of Gemma O'Connor: "A huge blow," says Paudie. "Gemma has been so vital to us over many years but again it is something that we have known about since a few days after she picked up the injury and we have adjusted accordingly, but there is no doubt Gemma's experience and quality robs us of a great player."

This sentiment is shared by long serving goalkeeper Aoife Murray, who says: "I'm gutted for her, she's been such a key player for us over many years and has got us out of many a tight corner. You never need motivation in an All-Ireland Final but we have that bit extra now to try and win it for Gemma."

Aoife has played in many finals, winning more than she has lost. She is now based in Dublin for the last few years so what keeps her going?

"I suppose the real answer is I just love playing with Cork, and of course my club Cloughduv. I missed the league a few years but not this year - I wanted to get back early and try and rectify the hurt of last year's loss," she re-

flects.

After the league final loss, Cork entered the group phase of the championship unsure of their format but they were a transformed team, playing brilliant camogie and easily and impressively making the semi-final.

Paudie explains: "We trained exceptionally hard for the league and did only the bare minimum of stick work, once that was done we changed our approach for the championship and we thrilled with the way we played."

The semi-final against Galway was a strange game - an excellent first half and then Cork went over 20 minutes in the second period without a score.

"Well Galway are a good team and we had a five week lay-off and Gemma had picked up a knock in training on the Thursday before and was a doubt, but I was reasonably happy at half-time," says Paudie.

Just after half-time we had a few opportunities to go further ahead and missed them and that gave Galway a chance which they took but I was really pleased, delighted in fact, that we finished that match, especially the defensive work. A lot of things we worked on in training, hooking, blocking and back-up all paid off and it was great to win a tight match and hopefully it will stand to us on Sun-

day," says Paudie. Cork also have a few players returning from injury and that will strengthen their hand and options, even allowing for Gemma's absence.



Cork's Rena Buckley and Kilkenny's Anna Farrell ahead of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Final on Sunday. PHOTO: INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE

day," says Paudie.

Cork also have a few players returning from injury and that will strengthen their hand and options, even allowing for Gemma's absence.

Aoife Murray is in brilliant form in goal, Chloe Sigerson, Laura Tracey, Pamela Mackey and the ever dependable and inspirational captain Rena Buckley anchor a solid defence.

Ashling Thompson's work rate is phenomenal, while in attack Catriona Mackey, Amy O'Connor and Orla Cotter have an eye for goal and will be determined to trouble the champions' defence.

Add in Eimear O'Sullivan, Julia White and Meave Cahalane and it's an indication that Cork have depth in the squad.

And what of the champions? They have done all that is required of them, league winners and they easily saw off the challenge of Leinster rivals Dublin in

the semi-final.

Their team has altered little from last year, Ann Dalton makes them tick and her reading of the game is excellent as is her distribution, while Denise Gaul, Collette Dormer, Shelley Farrell, Michelle Quilty, Katie Power and Megan Farrell will want to show that last year's win was not just a once off, and as we all know, champions are hard to beat.

Like last year, Cork are in both finals. The intermediate team play Meath, but there was an altered approach this year as Paudie explains: "The crossover of players is not as large and we have expanded the backroom team and that helps, I will probably watch the intermediate game from the stand."

One thing is sure, there is little love lost between the teams and that will only heighten the exchanges. Both teams have very differing motivations but the one objective to win the

title, but who will win?

If Cork produce the play that saw them ease through the group, irrespective how Kilkenny are set up, they will win, but the loss of Gemma O'Connor could also shape the outcome.

A close one to call, but Cork to shade it.

## INTERMEDIATE FINAL CORK V MEATH

It is somewhat ironic that since losing last year's All-Ireland Final, Cork have lost just one game, to Meath, in the group phase of the championship having earlier captured the league title in impressive fashion.

Meath have improved immensely over the years and are a strong physical team with good players in Aoife Minogue, Caroline Quinn, Jane Dolan and Kristina Troy and will be determined to score a second win in a short space of time over this Cork side.

Niamh Ni Chaoimh is the Cork captain and is well aware of the Meath challenge. "We saw how good they were in the group, although the conditions were very poor on the day, but we are happy to be back in the final and hopefully performing much better than we did in losing to Kilkenny last year."

This is a very well balanced Cork team and they are deserving finalists, and as well as Niamh, they have excellent players in Lauren Callanan, Linda Collins, Leah Weste, Keava McCarthy, Rachel O'Shea and Amy Lee.

Cork look well capable of exacting revenge for the loss earlier in the championship, and with a strong and focused 60 minutes, they should get the day off to a winning start.

Both games are live on C103, the intermediate final at 2pm with the senior decider to follow at 4pm.

Sport is compiled by LOUISE CASHELL

If you have any comments on SPORT or if you would like a topic covered email: [lcashell@corkindependent.com](mailto:lcashell@corkindependent.com)





The captains for next weekend's All Ireland Camogie final Rena Buckley, Cork and Anna Farrell, Kilkenny

Photo by James Crombie / Inpho

# Rebels out to skin the Cats

BY DIARMUID SHEEHAN

NEXT Sunday will see Cork's senior camogie stars taking to the Croke Park turf for their fourth All Ireland Final in a row looking to win back the O'Duffy Cup from holders Kilkenny.

The repeat of last year's show-piece game, which saw the Cats take the title for the first time in 22 years, will afford the Rebels the chance to exact hefty revenge on the side that broke Leaside hearts this time last year.

After seeing off perennial challengers Galway in the semi-final Cork will go into this one full of the joys of life, but they will be well aware of how difficult it is to depose reigning champions when they make it back to the final showdown.

Cork are led on the pitch this time out by the legend that is Rena Buckley who is going in search of what would be another record for All Ireland medals won. Buckley's

attributes on the pitch will be vital if Cork are to win back the crown however her off field presence will be every bit as influential as she and the management team look to keep focus and calm among the younger members of the squad.

Manager Paudie Murray will also play a major role in the preparations before Sunday's throw in while also playing his part as the game progresses through the inevitable twists and turns.

Cork are going to be without some stars from previous years however the loss of centre back Gemma O'Connor to a knee ligament injury during the semi final win could be the biggest of them all.

O'Connor was having another brilliant year and was looking to be a shoo-in to contest for her 10th senior camogie All Ireland medal, but unfortunately that won't happen this time around.

Kilkenny are looking to make it four major titles in two years as they aim to

retain the All Ireland after already keeping their hands on the league title they also won in 2016.

Ann Downey's side beat Dublin by eight points in the semi-final 2-11 to 0-09 without ever really dominating so there is little doubt that this side have another gear or two to go to.

Players of the standard of Miriam Walsh, Denise Gaule and Anna Farrell with Ann Dalton also likely to have a major impact here.

Cork are hardly short of stars on their side either with Aisling Thompson, Hannah Looney, Katrina Mackey and Buckley, to name just a few, all likely to have a major say in proceedings this time out.

Cork will need to improve on their semi-final display which saw them go all of 28 minutes in the second half without a score. Barren spells like this will be severely punished on Sunday as Kilkenny have plenty fire power up front which will

keep adding to their tally from the first to the final minute.

Cork's defensive pack will also need to be on song if they are not to be over run but this weekend the middle third will be crucial.

There will be a big emphasis on Thompson to see what she can do in an area that will be over crowded for long periods of the game as neither side will be prepared to concede this third of the pitch.

Before the main event gets the go ahead Cork will also compete in the intermediate final after seeing off Derry in the last four a couple of weeks ago.

Having both Cork sides on the final day will be a big boost to Cork camogie, however, all involved will only be too aware that this time last year both sides went for glory and both came away empty handed.

The Rebels will be looking to reverse that in both finals this time out.



Young girls from the Castlelyons Camogie Club at Croke Park.



# Cup tour showed importance of camogie to the county

Trevor Spillane  
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As someone who has been there and done that you might think there's nothing Ann Downey hasn't seen in the camogie world before.

However, the acclaim her all-conquering senior camogie team got from the county after last year's final was something else!

"They hadn't had that reaction before," she said of the players who brought a 12th senior camogie All-Ireland title home last September. "The Cup tour was still going around to clubs and schools after Christmas - we had to put a stop to it to concentrate on the new season!"

"The respect the players got from everyone, no matter where they went, was something else. They realised how much camogie meant to the people of Kilkenny. It was equally as important as hurling - I think it softened the blow of Kilkenny losing the hurling the week before."

Getting their hands on the silverware and ending a 22-year wait for success was a just reward for the effort the team put in. For Downey, now in her second stint as senior manager, a professional approach has paid off.

"I can only compare from the time I was with the team before," she said, speaking at the media night in Nowlan Park ahead of this year's All-Ireland final.

"They were very young,

but the team certainly has matured. Our whole set-up has become so professional, from having Dr Mark O'Brien with us - we never had a doctor with the team before - to physical trainer Liam Egan and Dr Fergus Heffernan.

"He really instilled a belief in the girls that they were good enough to win," she added. "He told them that so often that they began to believe in it and look forward to the big day rather than fear it."

It's not just behind the scenes that Kilkenny camogie has undergone a change. The alterations are mirrored by onfield actions.

## PROFESSIONAL

"The game has become so much more professional," the manager said. "When we were playing we used to go into Delaney's for chips on our way home after training - and sometimes the training would be so hard you wouldn't be able for the chips!"

"Now, the game is totally professional. Noreen Roche, who is the dietitian with the senior hurling team, has been great with the girls."

"They really listen to her - while we might be telling them things when they hear it from a professional they take it in. The players are all caught up in maintaining a good regime, even in the off-season."

"When the players see what goes on in hurling and professional sports that manifests itself into the

camogie world," offered selector Conor Phelan. "If they want to stay at the top they have to do all the strength and conditioning work, as well as working on diet and nutrition."

The hard work continues in the fight for places. Success has bred a competitive attitude into the team.

"There is great competition for places in the panel," Downey said. "We have 36 players in our panel. Four are injured they are still part of the panel, still part of the whole set-up on matchdays."

Keeping the injured players involved is a huge gesture, one that ensures the panel's bond remains intact.

## GREAT PLAYERS

In fairness the girls who are there are all great camogie players," she said. "Their careers aren't going to end just because they are out for a year."

"It's devastating for any player to get an injury, worse still if they were to be cast aside. We find that the girls are happy to be involved, to be there to help out on the day. It makes the injury a little easier to cope with."

Having the players close by was also valuable from a medical point of view.

"Three of those players had cruciate injuries," said Dr Mark O'Brien. "You're talking eight to nine months from operation to return to play."

"What we found this year is that after the injury



occurred we were able to get the injury dealt with and surgery lined up fluidly."

"These players benefitted hugely from prehab - which is before they had surgery - so they get the physio done through the team set-up, have their surgery and then their rehab, which is done under the team supervision."

"That must surely speed up the recovery as well as helping to build up morale," he added. "We would be expecting those three players to be back for the beginning of next year."

While next year may be out of reach for the injured players, the rest of the panel are gearing up for a crunch

game against their old foe.

"Cork are a great team who have set the standard for so many years that you'd hope you can raise your game to their level," the manager said. "They had been going for three in a row last year so they will be looking for revenge this time."

"Last year's final was so

# The Kilkenny senior camogie

## Aisling Dunphy (St Brigid's)

Occupation: Medical Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 U-16 All-Irelands, 2 minor All-Irelands, 4 Leinster Seniors, 3 National Leagues

## Aisling Nolan (Clara)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: Minor All-Ireland, 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, U-14 Leinster

## Anno Dalton (St Lachtain's)

Occupation: Bank Official  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 5 Leinster Seniors, 4 League, 4 All-Stars, Player of the year 2009, 3 Senior Club All-Irelands, 3 Ashbourne Cups

## Ann-Marie Lennon (Blacks & Whites)

Occupation: Manager, Centra Bennettsbridge  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 2 Leinster Senior, 3 League, Minor and U-16 All-Irelands, 3 Ashbourne Cups

## Anna Farrell (Thomastown, captain)

Occupation: Fraud Analyst  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 1

National League, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 1 Leinster Senior, 1 Leinster Senior Club

## Aoife Doyle (Piltown)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, U-15 All-Ireland, U-14 All-Ireland

## Catherine Foley (Windgap)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, 3 All-Ireland handball titles

## Ciaira Phelan (Dicksboro)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 1 Leinster Minor

## Claire Phelan (Lisdowney)

Occupation: Primary School Teacher  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 2 Leinster Senior, 2 Minor All-Irelands, U-16 All-Ireland, 3 All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals

## Colette Dormer (Paulstown/Goresbridge)

Occupation: Architectural Technologist  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 4 Leagues, 2 All-Stars, Intermediate

All-Ireland, 4 Leinster Senior, 2 Minor All-Irelands, U-16 All-Ireland

## Danielle Morrissey (Conahy Shamrocks)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, 2 U-16 Leinster medals

## Davina Tobin (Emeralds)

Occupation: Hair Stylist  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 2 Leinster Seniors, 1 Minor All-Ireland, Leinster Minor

## Denise Gaulle (Windgap)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 1 All-Star, Player of the Year 2016, 4 Leinster Senior medals, 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 2 Minor All-Irelands, 2 U-16 All-Irelands, Young Player of the Year 2009, 4 Ashbourne Cups, 2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges

## Edwina Keane (St Martin's)

Occupation: Farmer  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 4 Leagues, 4 Leinster Senior medals, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 2 U-16 All-Irelands,

## Ashbourne Cup

## Emma Kavanagh (Rower-Inistioge)

Occupation: Secondary School Teacher  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 1 All-Star, 3 Leinster Senior medals, Leinster Minor

## Grace O'Donnell (Young Irelands)

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, All-Ireland Colleges senior medals

## Grace Walsh (Tullaroan)

Occupation: Nurse  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 1 Leinster Senior, Minor and U-16 All-Irelands, 3 All-Ireland Colleges senior medals

## Jacqui Frisby (Ballyhale Shamrocks)

Occupation: Accounts  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 4 Leagues, 1 All-Star, 1 All-Ireland Junior, 2 Leinster Seniors, Leinster Intermediate club medal

## Jenny Clifford (Dicksboro)

Occupation: Sales Assistant  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 1 Minor



Some of the team behind the team - manager Ann Downey with selector Conor Phelan and team doctor Mark O'Brien





Kilkenny senior camogie manager Ann Downey, together with players Denise Gaule, Shelly Farrell, Anna Farrell and Michelle Quilty were all smiles during the camogie media night at Nowlan Park. Like their hurling counterparts, the camogie team have performance-related sponsorship deal in place with Glanbia PICTURE: PAT MOORE

# Quilty calls for strong support to cheer Cats on

**Trevor Spillane**  
tspillane@kilkennypeople.ie

It's hard to believe but after waiting so long for a senior All-Ireland camogie medal, it took a few days before Michelle Quilty fully appreciated she finally had one.

"After waiting so long it was a surreal feeling," said Quilty, who captained the Cats to the O'Duffy Cup last year. "You wake up the morning after the final and even though you've won you still don't fully believe it."

"It doesn't really kick in for a week or so, when you're at home and it hits you that 'yeah, we've won the All-Ireland'. It was a great feeling to have."

Now, the Mullinavat player wants to get that winning sensation all over again. Yes, there was time to celebrate ending the 22-year wait, but the desire to get back to the training ground was a key reason behind Kilkenny's successful return to this Sunday's decider in Croke.

"There are all the duties and commitments that come with winning, but after that it was a case of draw a line under the celebrations and start preparing for the 2017 championship," she said. "It was a clean slate; we all knew that the cup wouldn't just be handed to us, that we had to work hard if we wanted to win it again. Once we came back as a group everyone was so focused on the year ahead."

While Quilty prefers to keep a low profile her long career at senior level, not to mention captaining the All-Ireland champions last year, has raised her status in the game. However, she was quick to point out that this isn't a sole role.

"I'm probably one of the older players on the team now, although I wouldn't like to admit it," she said with a laugh. "I have a fair few years behind me, but the players who have been there over the years have brought a new level to the game in Kilkenny. The strength behind this team is unreal."

"We have a number of leaders on the team," she added. "They are different; there are the more vocal ones who do the talking, while you have others who go out and spur people on through how they play the game."

"I've been there for a number of years and have that bit of experience. I prefer to stay calm and go about my business, but it's good to be there to offer advice or encouragement to the younger members of the panel."

"That can be helpful, especially around final time. People can get nervous before big games but the pitch has the same four white lines, it's still 15 on 15 - you might be playing in a bigger stadium but you have to block that out and play your normal game."

Camogie is enjoying a new lease of life in Kilkenny, helped by the success the

senior side has enjoyed of late. That has brought the game to a new level - the media night for the All-Ireland in Nowlan Park proved that.

It has also been helped along by a performance-related deal with Glanbia, similar to the one enjoyed by the hurlers, as well as the ticket deal offered for both the under-21 and camogie All-Ireland finals. For the players, it's been a boost.

"The professionalism has increased and there's greater awareness around the game now," she said. "The deal that the County Boards are doing at present, bringing the sports together to sell the joint ticket for the hurling and camogie finals, is something that wouldn't have been done before. The profile and awareness of the game is greater than ever."

A greater profile for the game could only be good for players, Quilty reckoned.

"The more spectators and support we have for the final the better it will be," she said. "Often there are times in games when you need that support to drive you on."

It seemed that camogie fought for recognition for so long, but that's changed in recent years.

"That's come with the awareness that surrounds the game today," she said. "Having the semi-finals live on television was a good way to bring the championship to people who may not have gone to games."

The bigger crowds have witnessed some top class performances from the Cats, something the team has appreciated.

"Our championship game against Clare was held here in Nowlan Park before the senior hurlers played Limerick," she recalled. "Come the second half there was a bigger crowd but even from the start there was a lot of interest in the game to see what we were all about."

"Winning the All-Ireland last year has brought more attention for the team, while the hosting of double-headers by the Camogie Association has helped to drive things on."

Now for the 2017 All-Ireland final and a meeting with Cork, a team Kilkenny know inside-out!

"We've played them so many times that you'd know all the individual players by now," she said. "Cork are a formidable side; the amount of All-Irelands they won and titles they've put back-to-back takes great strength in depth in a panel, which is something they've showcased over the last number of years."

"Their ability to win an All-Ireland and then keep that hunger and drive going the following year takes some doing. They are a strong side; Paudie Murray will have them all ready to go for the final."

"They'll be a strong test," she added. "It'll take everything we have to beat them."

good, which is a testament to both teams," she finished.

"It was a great advertisement for camogie, but when you put the black and amber of Kilkenny against the red and white of Cork you're always going to get a good game!"

**PATHS TO THE FINAL**  
Senior Championship, Group One

Waterford 0-6, Kilkenny 2-15  
Kilkenny 1-14, Clare 3-8  
Galway 1-8, Kilkenny 2-10  
Kilkenny 3-13, Dublin 0-15  
**Senior Championship, Group Two**  
Tipperary 1-7, Cork 1-16  
Cork 1-27, Limerick 0-11  
Cork 3-18, Wexford 0-9  
Offaly 0-11, Cork 1-13  
**Senior Championship, semi-finals**  
Kilkenny 2-11, Dublin 0-9  
Cork 2-9, Galway 1-9

## team chasing O'Duffy Cup honours in Croke

All-Ireland, 1 Soaring Star  
**Jenny Reddy (Thomastown)**  
Occupation: Secondary School Teacher  
Honours: 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior, Intermediate All-Ireland, Leinster Senior club medal  
**Julianne Malone (Mullinavat)**  
Occupation: Nurse  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 4 Leinster medals, Leinster club Player of the Year, 4 Senior county medals  
**Katie Power (Piltown)**  
Occupation: PA/Reception Michael Lyng Motors  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 4 Leagues, 4 Leinster Senior medals, 2 All-Stars, Leinster Young Player of the Year, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 2 U-16 All-Irelands, 1 All-Intermediate Club medal, 4 Ashbourne Cups  
**Kellyann Doyle (Piltown)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 1 League, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 1 Intermediate Club All-Ireland medal

**Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 2 Senior Colleges All-Irelands  
**Meighan Farrell (Thomastown)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 2 Leinster Senior medals, 1 Minor All-Ireland, Leinster Senior club medal, Ashbourne Cup  
**Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat)**  
Occupation: Fitness Instructor  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 5 Leinster Senior medals, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 4 Ashbourne Cup medals, 2 U-16 All-Irelands, 4 Leinster Senior club medals  
**Michelle Teehan (James Stephens)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 1 League, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 1 Minor Leinster, 2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals  
**Miriam Frisby (Mullinavat)**

Occupation: Secondary School Teacher  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 1 Leinster Senior, 2 Leinster Minor medals, 3 Senior Club medals, 1 Leinster Club medal  
**Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan)**  
Occupation: Montessori Teacher  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 1 All-Star, 2 Leinster Senior medals, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 4 All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals, 1 Ashbourne Cup, 1 Leinster Intermediate Club medal  
**Niamh Deely (James Stephens)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 3 All-Ireland Colleges medals  
**Roisin Phelan (Conahy Shamrocks)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 Minor All-Ireland medal  
**Sarah Ann Quinlan (Young Irelands)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 1 League, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1



Michelle Quilty led the Cats to the senior All-Ireland title in 2016. Can Kilkenny retain their crown this weekend when they face Cork again in the decider?

Leinster Minor medal  
**Sarah Crowley (Mooncoin)**

Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2

Leagues, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 Leinster Minor medal, 2 U-16 Leinster medals, 2 U-14 Leinster medals  
**Sarah Kent (Danesfort)**  
Occupation: Student  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Leagues, 1 Leinster Senior medal, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 1 Leinster Minor medal  
**Shelly Farrell (Thomastown)**  
Occupation: Account Technician  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 3 Leinster Senior medals, 1 All-Star, 1 Intermediate All-Ireland, 2 Minor All-Irelands, 3 Leinster Senior medals, 2 Ashbourne Cups, 2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges, 1 County Senior Championship medal  
**Stacey Quirke (St Martin's)**  
Occupation: Paediatric Nurse, Temple Street  
Honours: 1 Senior All-Ireland, 3 Leagues, 2 Leinster Senior medals, 1 Minor All-Ireland, 1 U-16 All-Ireland, 2 Purcell Cups, 1 All-Ireland Senior Colleges medal