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END OF YEAR

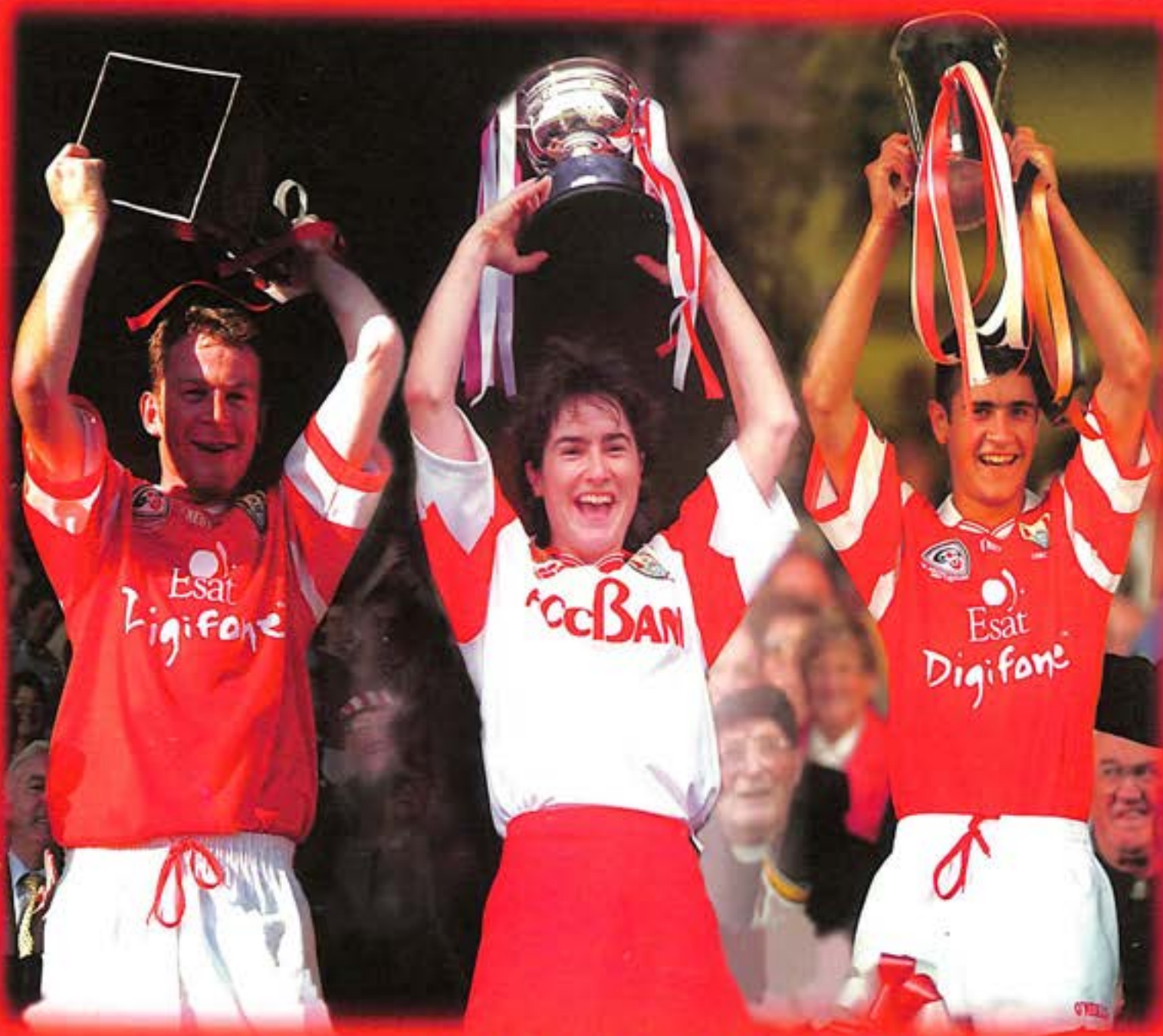
CORK YEAR BOOK

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CORK'99



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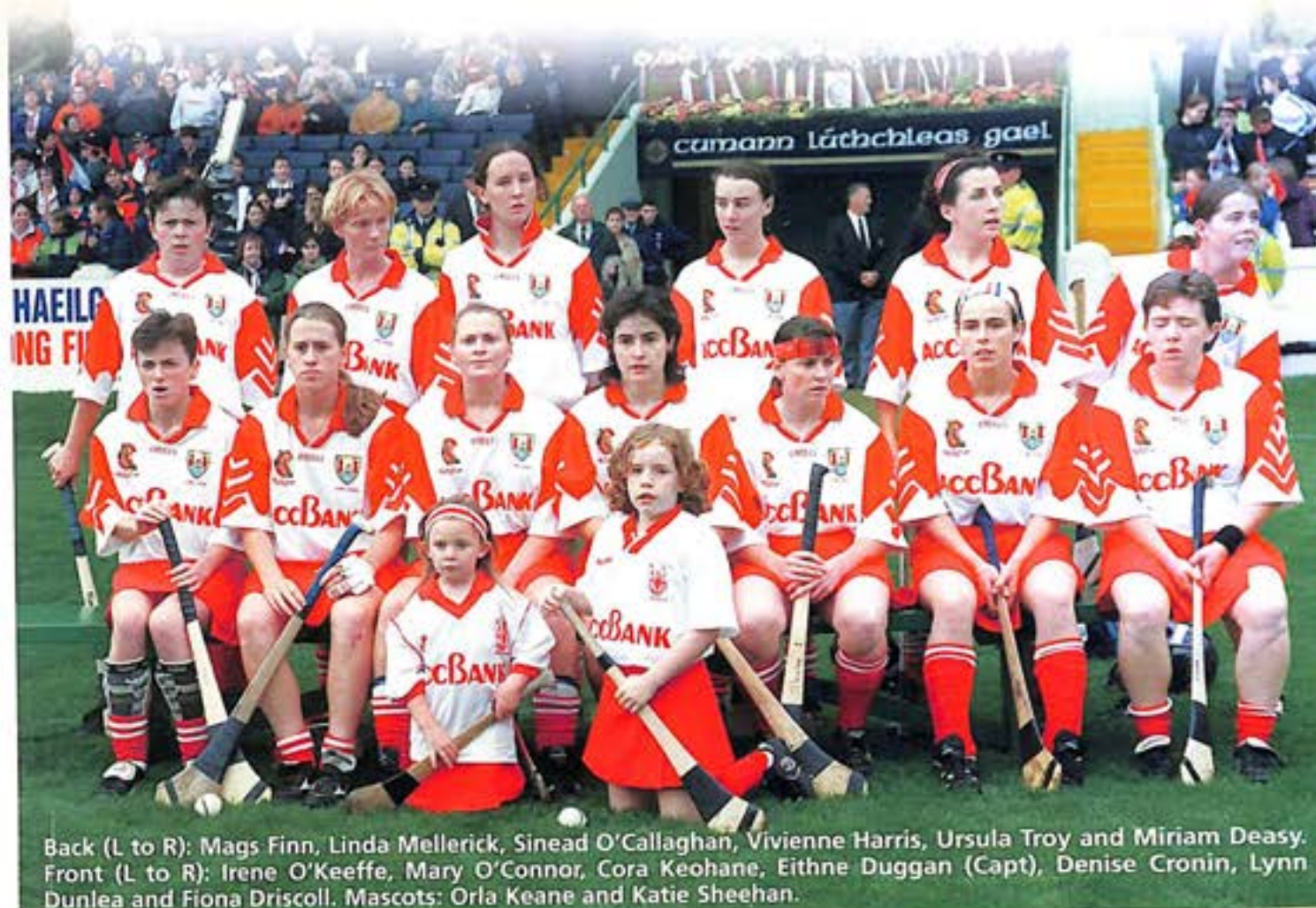


A HAPPY TRIO...

Cork Captains, Donal Murphy, Eithne Duggan and Cathal McCarthy in gleeful mood after leading the U.21 Hurlers, Senior Camogie and Minor Hurlers to victory in the respective '98 All-Ireland Championships



Cork.. '98 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions



Back (L to R): Mags Finn, Linda Mellerick, Sinead O'Callaghan, Vivienne Harris, Ursula Troy and Miriam Deasy. Front (L to R): Irene O'Keeffe, Mary O'Connor, Cora Keohane, Eithne Duggan (Capt), Denise Cronin, Lynn Dunlea and Fiona Driscoll. Mascots: Orla Keane and Katie Sheehan.



Now for the Three-in-a-Row

By Mary Newman McCarthy

As I sit down to begin my review, the words of a famous song spring to mind "Where Do I Begin" and it seems somehow appropriate to pen these words in a year that was "A Corker" for the ladies of the Rebel county.

Going into 1998 as All-Ireland Senior and National League champions, all the pressure was on Cork to retain their titles, with strong opposition expected from Galway and the ever improving Tipperary and Clare.

The Senior National League got off to a good start early in March and with two wins under their belt the Senior team and officials headed off for a week's holiday at

the Green Fields Apartments in Gran Canaria and returned refreshed and ready for action.

Qualifying for the final, after a tough hour in the semi-final when they travelled to Antrim to take on the home side, we were all set up for a classic, with Galway seeking revenge for the All-Ireland defeat the previous September and Cork determined to prove their superiority.

Ballinasloe provided the ideal venue for an excellent final, with Cork retaining their title on a 1-16 to 2-9 scoreline and more importantly laying down a marker for later in the year when hopefully all going well the sides would meet come the

first Sunday in September. Eithne Duggan accepted the League trophy on behalf of a Cork side determined to capture more honours before the year's end.

The Munster Championship provided ideal preparation for the All-Ireland championship, which is run on an open draw basis, on a glorious evening at Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork and Tipperary served up a classic, in keeping with the traditions of the two counties. After a hectic contest Cork took the title with four points to spare, however the game was not without its cost, as an injury to Lynn Dunlea was to keep her out of the championship clash with Dublin on July 4th.

CORK '99

CORK YEAR BOOK

Fielding in the opener, minus the injured Lynn Dunlea, Mary O'Connor and Vivien Harris, Cork introduced newcomers Caoimhe Harrington, Paula O'Connor and Ursula Troy to Senior Championship camogie and cruised past a Dublin side that offered little opposition and set up Cork for a clash with Clare in the semi-final. With Lynn Dunlea, Mary O'Connor and Vivien Harris available for selection it was a strong Cork twelve which took the field at Nowlan Park on August 1st in the second game of a double header featuring the two semi-finals at neutral venues on the one day. With Galway earlier in the evening scraping past a spirited Tipperary side to reach the final, Cork went out in determined fashion to join them. Following a shaky start, a goal mid-way through the first half settled the side and they went on to qualify for the county's 33rd All-Ireland senior final appearance and another clash with Galway.

On the first Sunday in September, Eithne Duggan led Cork proudly to Croke Park, with one player Ursula Troy making her first appearance in a Senior final.

Galway set the pace with early points but Cork settled well and two goals inside two minutes gave them a two point cushion at half time but with the driving rain and wind against them Cork were fully aware of the enormous task facing them on the restart.

Cork's longest serving player, Linda Mellerick, showed the heart and spirit of this team with her second half display, winning ball and running at the Galway defence time and again, she caused them all sorts of problems, her team mates rallied around and to a woman showed just what makes this Cork outfit so special.

Captain Eithne Duggan urged her troops on from her full back position and they responded magnificently, with the defence on top, the forwards picked off their scores and it was Cork who finished stronger to win a tremendous All-Ireland decider.

Eithne Duggan became the first player from the Bishopstown club to lead a Cork Senior team to All-Ireland victory. Inniscarra's Irene O'Keeffe was selected as R.T.E. player of the match, whilst Glen Rover's Linda Mellerick had the same honour bestowed on her by the Lucan Spa Hotel, at a post match function hosted by the Cork Reception Committee in Dublin led by their secretary, Tom Barry, a native of Carrigtwohill, indeed this group have on previous All-Ireland Camogie final occasions hosted this evening for which the Cork officials and players are ever grateful.

Having suffered defeat in last year's Minor Final, the county set about reversing that result and worked hard to reach the Munster Final where they met Tipperary, the Ragg was the venue for an epic encounter that went to extra time to decide a winner. All-Ireland champions Galway provided the opposition in the semi-final at

Loughrea where it took a last minute pointed free from ice cool Rachel Maloney to put Cork through to meet Derry.

Home advantage at the excellent Ballincollig venue was the setting for the All-Ireland minor final, where a tremendous display saw Cork take the county's first minor All-Ireland title since 1983. Sarah Hayes from Courcey Rovers club, won the player of the match award, presented by Beleck China. For Amanda O'Regan of the Douglas club it was a special occasion as she now adds an All-Ireland medal to those won by her father Mick O'Regan and mother, Christine nee Pinfield.

The county fielded in the Intermediate Championship and against all the odds qualified for the final. Their opening game versus Armagh turned out to be a one sided affair, with Cork running out convincing winners. Limerick provided the semi-final opposition and because they were defeated in the first round of the senior championship they were eligible to play their strongest team against Cork and having come within two points of Galway, were favoured to go all the way. However they reckoned without Cork who served up a marvellous display to qualify the county for its third All-Ireland final in 1998. Junior National League champions, Down, were to spoil the party and deny the Leeside ladies when at Páirc Uí Rinn, they took the Intermediate All-Ireland title back to Newry for their county's first title with four points to spare.

Having been defeated in the 1997 All-Ireland Junior final, hopes were high for 1998 and Cork faced Tipperary with confidence at Caherlag in their opening championship game of the season. Leading at half time by seven points, Cork failed to capitalise on their chances in the second half and Tipperary ran out convincing winners.

For the season ahead, hopes will be high that many of the minor side will now blossom forth and gain promotion to the junior ranks where they will be valuable assets to the side.

At club level, Newtownshandrum having won the "B" title in 1997, were promoted to participate in the Senior County Championship and eleven teams went into the hat for the eagerly awaited draw. After some hectic games last season's defeated finalist Fr. O'Neill's had a chance to gain revenge for '97 when they again made it through to take on county champions, Bishopstown, in the final.

The Erins Own club hosted the final of Cork's most prestigious camogie championship at the splendid Caherlag venue. Holders Bishopstown were determined to hold onto their title, whilst Fr. O'Neill's so desperately wanted to atone for the previous year's defeat and take the Science Cup to Ballymacoda for the first time.

Fr. O'Neill's led from the off and holding a slender lead at half time were putting it up to the champions, however at the final

whistle it was Bishopstown who took the honours with Sheenagh Morley leading them proudly to victory.

In the Munster Club Championship, Bishopstown faced the champions Grenagh-Ballingarry from Limerick, leading at the break ten points to one goal, the Cork representatives were defeated by a strong Grenagh side who went on to retain their title.

With the county's involvement in three All-Ireland finals, local championships in all grades suffered and ran behind schedule. At time of going to press, Barryroe await the winners of the Eire Og/St. Finbarr's semi-final replay to see who their opponents will be in the Senior "B" final.

The Junior "A" final will see Watergrasshill and Tracton meet to determine the honours, the "B" final will have Milford take on Barryroe or Youghal.

The game continues to grow at underage level throughout the city and county and once again the leagues at all levels proved to be a tremendous success.

Feile na nGael continues to be the county's major underage competition and 1998 proved no exception with the highly skilful Inniscarra side being crowned Cork Feile champions, however whilst they were not to take ultimate honours at national level, they were excellent ambassadors for the county.

Gemma O'Connor, St. Finbarr's, took the Cork skills title with Alison Burke, Glen Rovers, taking second place and Claire Crowley of Ballinhassig, third. Milford took the under-12 league title when they defeated a gallant Ballinhassig side. Fr. O'Neill's were crowned the under 14 "B" champions while Milford finished the year in style, taking the under 14 "A" title. The under 16 leagues and championship are at their concluding stages as yet another hectic year for the Cork Camogie Board draws to a close.

Sciath na Scoil also continues to prosper with 55 schools now participating eagerly to reach the ultimate stages at Páirc Uí Rinn. To be in attendance at any of the finals is a treat, as the level of skills, determination, and total devotion to their school is a pleasure to witness. Ultimate honours went once again to Scoil Oilibheir, Dublin Hill, in the C1 final, St. Patrick's Gardiners Hill, took the C2 title. Honours in the D1 section were taken by Bunscoil Mhuire, Youghal, Barryroe taking the D2, Ballygarvan the D3 and Berrings the D4. The Mini-Sevens title went to Milford and in its inaugural year the indoor fifth class league title was also taken by Milford.

The Cork senior side are now busy fund raising for a well-earned holiday in the sun and hopefully, on their return, will achieve their goal of three-in-a-row of senior All-Ireland titles.

And wouldn't it be wonderful to welcome in the Millennium by making it four-in-a-row!

A WINNER!

That's Linda Mellerick

By Finbarr McCarthy



Linda Mellerick

Picture the scene. Sunday, September 6th, ten minutes into the second half of the All-Ireland camogie final. Cork lead Galway by one point. Facing driving wind and rain, not many in the attendance of 10,500 gave the champions much hope of retaining their crown.

However, the one player who stood head and shoulders over all others was midfielder Linda Mellerick, who gave her best ever display in the red and white. "Now in the twilight of an astonishing career, during which she has won every honour in the game many times over - '98 was her fifth All-Ireland success - the Glen Rovers star gave a performance that will rank with the very best seen at Croke Park at any level of competition." Not my words, but those of experienced "Examiner" reporter, Brendan Larkin, in his match report and few if anyone would disagree.

Linda has been playing camogie since her school days in St. Patricks, where her undoubted talent was nurtured by John Ring. Indeed it is her one regret that she never won an All-Ireland colleges Medal, despite several attempts. In fact one would form the opinion that winning that medal was the only reason she went to school. Joking of course!

To date every honour in the game has come her way (see panel) and she has the unique distinction of being the only Cork player to captain her county to All-Ireland honours on two occasions. That such success has been achieved is no accident. Her dedication to training for both club and county is exceptional. Like most camogie players, it involves many sacrifices, with disruption to both work and social life - a common occurrence. Yes she will complain about the winter training (doesn't everyone). But it is done and it has brought it's rewards.

There has of course been disappoint-

ments. For the first few years of her inter-county career, Kilkenny were the dominant force in camogie and regularly thwarted Cork ambitions. In fact, on four occasions in recent years, they have recorded victories over Cork in All-Ireland finals.

A highly skilful and determined player, Linda has graced the playing fields of Ireland with distinction, whether it be in 'The Glens of Antrim', The Fields

ROLL OF HONOUR

- 5 All-Ireland Senior Medals
- 7 Cork County Senior Medals
- All-Ireland Minor and Junior Medals
- 3 All-Ireland Club Medals
- 1 Intermediate County Medal
- 4 Munster Club Medals
- Cork Captain 1993-1997
- Glen Rovers Winning Captain 1996
- Twice named Player of the Match in All-Ireland Final
- Twice Jury's Sportstar of the month
- National Irish Bank Camogie Player of the Year 1993
- Eirecell '98 Camogie Player of the Year

of Athenry' or on 'The Banks of the Lee'. Every game is approached in the same manner. It is there to be won, so why not win it.

Team coaches at Glen Rovers, Noel Lynam and Finbarr O'Neill, speak glowingly of her commitment, while Club Chairperson Nora Newman, who has seen so many great players, says "Linda ranks with the best" and her contribution to

Glen's outstanding run of success in recent years, has been brilliant, culminating in her captaining the county winning side of 1996.

To play top class camogie for such a long period, you need the support and encouragement from those closest to you. Linda receives it in abundance from her parents plus her brothers and sisters. Younger sister, Karen, was an accomplished player and were it not for a serious injury, could well have joined Linda on the Cork Senior team.

Down through the years I have seen many camogie players in action for both club and county and I have no hesitation in saying that Linda Mellerick ranks with the best of them. As well as the high level of skill she displays, the one other outstanding feature of her play is her determination. Many times in the past we have witnessed her exhortations to her colleagues. The clenched fist and the determined look of a player who hates to lose, has seen her teams out of many a crisis.

It is only fitting that we finish where we started with this year's All-Ireland Final or to be precise, the aftermath of that fabulous triumph. As we concluded a very enjoyable and constructive interview for 96/103FM Sport high up in the press box of the Hogan Stand, she spoke about the fantastic game that had just finished. She paid glowing tributes to her colleagues and to all who had helped her during the year. She was looking forward to a winter of celebration, content in the knowledge that she had played her part in a memorable win. As we left the famous old stadium that night, just as the seagulls were gathering, there was a spring in her step and a glint in her eye, because at that moment there was little wrong with life. And you know something? She was right.

Mary O'Connor

...the female version of "Teddy Mac"

Mary O'Connor this year did "a Teddy Mac" by winning an All Ireland Camogie medal and an All Ireland Football medal. It was a truly remarkable achievement in the sense that the dual player in the women's games is a rarity. Both camogie and football management's now look for the famous 110% commitment from their girls and do not want to share them with other codes.

Having annexed her camogie medal this year by helping beat Galway, Mary belatedly joined the footballers and a short few weeks later landed her second medal, scoring six points in the final and winning the "player of the match" award in the process. Heady stuff but like all talented players the seeds were sown a long time ago.

About ten years ago a young Mary was passing the hurling field in her native Killeagh and spotted the local under age coach practising frees with two under 12 players. Rain was cascading down but it didn't stop the young hurlers and their coach - or the girl! For Mary asked her mother to bring her home for the gear so she could go practising with them. Mother knew it was pointless arguing with her eleven year old daughter in sporting matters so she acquiesced and Mary duly presented herself for coaching. The coach at this stage was a little taken aback by her enthusiasm but considering the family she was coming from, where substance counts for more than show, he shouldn't have been.

That year Mary went on to win a County under 12 hurling medal with Killeagh, playing at centre field along with fourteen other boys. Her feats weren't confined to hurling. Though Killeagh were beaten by Kinsale in the under 12 county quarter final of that year, the Kinsale notes in the Southern Star recorded "the legend of Mary O'Connor will be spoken about for many a long day". Those of us who saw her playing in these games were always struck by her athleticism and great skill but above all else her steely determination. The boys knew better than to take her



MARY O'CONNOR

Ladies dual star

lightly. She was as good as any of them and better than most.

Of course that pedigree did not come from nowhere. Her sister Helen had won two All Irelands as a minor with Cork. All her brothers played as did her other sister Ann. At that time of course, Killeagh was the home of camogie, annexing the All Ireland Club Title in the early eighties. In those day's quality camogie players such as Pat Moloney, Cathy Landers, Marion Sweeney and Ann Leahy were household names. The camogie conveyor belt seemed never ending. But the late eighties and early nineties saw all that go into a decline. Girls like Mary were getting rarer. Still the secondary school, St. Mary's High School in Midleton, provided plenty of opportunity for sport and here she teamed up with her current Cork Senior camogie colleague Fiona O'Driscoll who was slightly older and something of a prodigy at the time. Unsurprisingly they won the Munster senior colleges' title in 1991 and that team

was captained by her sister Ann.

On completing her secondary education Mary pursued a course in sport and recreational management and she now works as the Gaelic Games Development Officer at the Limerick Institute of Technology. Her change of location has unfortunately forced her to move clubs and these days she plies her trade with Granagh-Ballingarry in Limerick who recently won the Munster club championship.

For one who has achieved so much success on the sporting field she goes beyond mere modesty to, at times, quite a degree of self-criticism. Every game is analysed to the Nth degree and self-congratulatory plaudits not handed out very often. Training is taken very seriously and begins every year on St. Stephen's Day. Her workload of training and matches is comparable to any inter county hurler and footballer and this year's live televising of the All Ireland Camogie Final was a double edged sword, (albeit a welcome one) for her and the other girls - pleasing to be getting some recognition at last allied to the pressure of having to perform to a much wider audience.

While her ability at camogie is well known her prowess as a footballer is of the highest calibre as three recent performances will testify. In the All Ireland Intermediate semi-final she scored seven points. In the All Ireland final she scored six and in the Munster Club senior final she scored two goals and four points against Ballymacarbery of Waterford, rated as one of the finest club sides in the country. All these scores were from the centre forward position and all were from play! She has enjoyed great success with her club Donoughmore with whom she has won three county senior championships in a row.

For the present though Mary O'Connor, at 21 years of age, with four All Ireland medals to her name is as committed as ever. Happily we can report that the resolve that brought her into that sodden field in Killeagh all those years ago is still very much alive.

By Damian Irwin

HOGAN STAND ANNUAL

National Camogie Review

P. J. Fulham reviews the runners and riders in an epic season of camogie.

Cork collected their 19th All-Ireland senior championship title when they got the verdict by four points over Galway in this historic Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior final. This was the third successive meeting of the sides. In 1996 Galway made history by winning their first title by two points. Cork got revenge last year by four points. They met in the National League and again four points was the difference in Cork's favour.

On the path to the final Cork had a massive 3-18 to 1-3 first round win over Dublin while Galway had just two points to spare over Limerick, 1-15 to 2-10.

Both semi-finals were staged at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on a very pleasant Saturday evening. This was the first time for this to occur and it created a great atmosphere. In the opening tie Galway had a 2-11 to 0-14 victory over Tipperary in a very entertaining game. In the other semi-final Cork had a comprehensive 2-15 to 1-9 win over Clare.



Cork senior captain Eithne Duggan receiving the cup from camogie President Fileas Ni Bhreaslain

Sunday September 6th was the date for the 67th All-Ireland final. Croke Park was wet and wind swept but the 10,436 patrons enjoyed the afternoons fare. It was the first All-Ireland to be televised live and the last to be played with the Canal End in its present form. The teams were evenly matched on most parts of the field and gave a fantastic display of speed, style and skill.

Although Cork chose to play with the wind in the first half Galway were first to score, a point from a free by Colette Nevin, followed by an Imelda Hobbins point from play. Cork's very accurate free-taker and excellent full forward Lynn Dunlea had equalised with two of her nine point total by the fifth minute. Points were exchanged twice before Colette Nevin gave Galway the lead on the 19th minute. This was short lived however, as Irene O'Keeffe collected a Linda Mellerick pass and sent a sizzling ball to the net for the first goal of the match. Galway replied immediately with a point by the hard working Therese Maher and from the puck out a Sinead O'Callaghan shot rebounded off the crossbar into the hands of Irene O'Keeffe who blasted to the net for her second goal inside of a two minute period. Galway's spirits were not daunted as they again exchanged points, leaving the half time score Cork 2-7 Galway 0-9.

Cork turned over against a strong wind and by the end of the third quarter Galway had reduced the deficit to just one point. On the 22nd minute Cork led by two points. At this stage it was an edge of the seat affair. Galway substitute Denise Gilligan gained possession and from ten metres out and with only the goalie to beat sent the sliotar inches wide.

Cork notched off two more points from Lynn Dunlea and retained the O'Duffy cup on a scoreline of 2-13 to 0-15.

The Cup was presented to Cork captain Eithne Duggan by Fileas Ni Bhreaslain, Uachtaran Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael.

"Player of the Match" was Irene O'Keeffe, Cork.
Referee: John Morrissey, Tipperary

First All-Ireland Intermediate For Down:

Down made history when they collected their first All-Ireland Intermediate title at the expense of Cork in this sparkling encounter at Páirc Uí Rinn.

This was the 7th Intermediate Final and Down's third appearance, having contested the inaugural one in 1992.

On the path to the final Cork recorded a 4-16 to 0-6 victory over Armagh and defeated Limerick by one point in the semi-final 3-5 to 1-10. Down got a bye in the first round and also had just one point to spare over Antrim in the semi-final 2-14 to 3-10. In the final Down's scoring ace Mairin McAleenan had the first goal of the game after 19 minutes of play. Cork's Oonagh O'Donoghue rattled the



This was the seventh Intermediate final and Down's third appearance, having contested the inaugural in 1992.

On the path to the final, Cork recorded a 4-16 to 0-6 victory over Armagh and defeated Limerick by one point in the semi-final 3-5 to 1-10. Down got a bye in the first round and also had just one point to spare over Antrim in the semi-final 2-14 to 3-10. In the final, Down's scoring ace Máirín McAleenan had the first goal of the game after 19 minutes of play. Cork's Oonagh O'Donoghue rattled the net just before the break to leave the half-time score Down 1-7 Cork 1-5. The third quarter was very exciting as points were exchanged on three occasions, still with two points the difference. Down added two more points on the 18th and 19th minutes. Neither team scored for the remaining twelve minutes. *Final score:* Down 1-12 Cork 1-8. *Referee:* Bidy Phyllips, Tipperary.

Galway take sixth All-Ireland Junior title

Galway secured their sixth All-Ireland junior title after a thrilling encounter against a gallant Tipperary side in this All-Ireland junior decider which was the curtain raiser to the senior final at Croker.

In the semi-finals, Galway defeated Leinster champions Carlow 3-10 to 1-11. It took a replay to separate Tipperary and Derry 2-9 to 0-11. This was an excellent semi-final again with a four point winning margin. The sides were level on two occasions inside the first eight minutes. Sheena Howard had the first goal for Tipperary in the 14th minute. Two minutes later, Brenda Daniels cancelled this score when she lodged the sliotar in the Tipperary net. At half time Galway held a slender one point advantage of 1-6 to 1-5. Two second half goals by Galway's Lourda Kavanagh and Sandra Tannian ended Tipperary's hopes of victory. *Final score:* Galway 3-11 Tipperary 2-10.

Belleek Pottery Player of the Match: Lourda Kavanagh, Galway. *Referee:* Catherine McAllister, Antrim.

Cork take All-Ireland Minor honours

The All-Ireland Minor Championship commenced in 1974 and since then only seven counties have carved their names of

An Corn Tailteann. Cork head the honours list with nine titles and are the only county to win it three times in a row and have twice achieved this distinction.

In the semi-finals Cork, fifteen times Munster champions defeated Connacht champions and holders, Galway by the minimum score 0-13 to 1-9, while Derry who won the Ulster title on five occasions had four points to spare over Leinster champions, Kilkenny.

The 25th All-Ireland Final was played at Ballincollig. This was the first occasion for Cork and Derry to meet in this competition. The winners produced lots of flair and determination with eight of the team registering scores. Derry fought hard all the way and trailed 1-4 to 2-8 at the break. As the game progressed and Cork continued to dominate, hopes of a first All-Ireland Minor title for Derry were crushed. *Final score:* Cork 3-18 Derry 1-5. *Referee:* Vera Mulcahy, Limerick.

Pearse Galway retain club Championship

Pearse of Galway retained the 1997 All-Ireland Club Championship title when they recorded a 4-6 to 2-5 win over Lisdowney, Kilkenny. The sides were meeting for the first time in the 34th All-Ireland Club Championship final for the Bill Carroll Cup. In the lead up to the decider Pearses defeated Oran, Roscommon in the Connacht final and Loughgiel Shamrock's, Antrim 3-14 to 1-7 in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Lisdowney achieved Leinster honours with a comprehensive win over Camross, Laois, and in the semi-final had just two points to spare over Granagh/Ballingarry, Limerick 3-15 to 3-13.

The final was played in Ballymacward in November in atrocious weather conditions. Pearses seemed well in control from the start and coped with the conditions better than their opponents. A goal by Sharon Glynn in the opening three minutes gave the home side a great start. Angela Downey netted for Lisdowney, but two great goals by Aine Hillary gave Pearses a 3-3 to 1-1 lead at the break.

The second half saw the Leinster side throw all they had at the Champions. Ann Downey goaled from a free during the first five minutes. It was an end to end battle until with twelve minutes remaining, Martina Haverty put the issue beyond doubt with a well-taken goal. *Final score:* Pearses 4-6 Lisdowney 2-5. *Referee:* Aine Derham, Dublin.

National League

Ten counties took part in the National Senior League which was run in two divisions. Galway headed division one. Antrim also qualified for the semi-final. Cork were tops in the other division. Kilkenny, Clare and Tipperary ended level. Kilkenny got the ticket to the semi-final after two play-offs. In the semi-finals, Cork defeated Antrim 5-15 to 2-12 and Galway ousted Kilkenny by three points 3-13 to 3-10.

The final was played in Ballinasloe. It was a ding dong affair all the way through and at the interval, Cork led 0-8 to 0-4.

Therese Maher goaled for the Western side early in the second half to leave one point separating the sides. Lynn Dunlea picked off some nice points from frees before Galway got their second goal and a point by Sharon Glynn left the sides level in the 20th minute. Veronica Curtin put Galway one point up and Cork leveled again. Lynn Dunlea finished in style with a goal and a point to give her side victory on a scoreline of 1-16 to 2-9. *Referee:* Aine Derham, Dublin.

Down collected their first National Junior League with an eight point win over Cork in the final at Ballincollig. It was Down's fourth successive final appearance and they were well-primed for this encounter. 20 teams took part in four divisions. In the semi-finals, Down had a 4-12 to 1-10 win over Tipperary, while Cork recorded a 3-10 to 1-9 victory over Galway.

The first half was score for score with Down holding a slender one point advantage at the break 0-10 to 0-9. In the second half, Down went six points in front without a reply from Cork whose first score of this half came on the 12th minute. Despite Cork's Caoimhe Harrington's ten point tally Down went on to make history on a score of 0-20 to 0-12. *Referee:* Biddy Phyllips, Tipperary.

Munster and Ulster take Gael Linn Titles

The Gael Linn Inter-Provincial semi-finals and finals in senior and junior were staged on the same day at St. Vincent's Park, Dublin in June. The great programme was somewhat marred by heavy rain.

In the senior semi-finals, Leinster defeated Connacht and Munster accounted for Ulster. In the final, Munster secured their fourth title on the trot with an easy win over Leinster. They were superior in most parts of the field and led 1-13 to 0-8 at the break. Munster continued to dominate in the second half over a much depleted Leinster side. Cork County star Fiona O'Driscoll was in great scoring form and notched off 3-9 of her side's total. *Final score:* Munster 6-20 Leinster 1-11. *Referee:* John Morrissey, Tipperary.

In the junior semi-final Munster, the holders, went down to a determined Ulster side and Leinster defeated Connacht. In an exciting final, Ulster collected the title when they overcame Leinster. The first half was a ding-dong affair with the sides drawing level on four occasions. Ulster led 2-5 to 1-5 at the break. A further goal in the second half gave Ulster their title. *Final score:* Ulster 3-12, Leinster 1-12. *Referee:* Noeleen Cormican, Galway.

All-Ireland whirlpool sevens

The 25th All-Ireland sevens, organised by Kilmacud Crokes and sponsored by 'Whirlpool', was held as usual on the eve of the All-Ireland finals. 48 teams participated - 24 in the 'Pronias O'Cronan Cup', and 24 in the Shield.

Cup results: Lisdowney, Kilkenny 2-7 Ballycallan, Kilkenny 1-1; Granagh/Ballingarry, Limerick 4-5 Pearses, Galway 0-1.

Final: Lisdowney 3-5 Granagh 1-6.

Shield results:

Semi-finals: Kilkenny, Louth 4-5 Broadford 0-2; O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim 6-9 Druminess Down 0-0.

Final: O'Donovan Rossa 3-2 Kilkenny 0-5.

Player of the Tournament: Jane Adams, O'Donovan Rossa.

Féile na nGael

National Féile na nGael was hosted by Wexford and was a tremendous success. Twenty-three teams from all over the country were catered for.

Results:

Div 1: Oulart the Ballagh, Wexford 4-6 Templemore, Tipperary 4-5

Div 2: Wolfe Tones, Clare 4-2 Shinrone, Offaly 3-4

Div 3: Harps, Laois 3-10 Glynn Barn-town, Wexford 0-2

Div 4: Butlerstown, Waterford 3-9 Castleblaney, Monaghan 0-2

Pan Celtic

Senior A: Davitt's, Galway 4-10 St Vincent's, Dublin 0-5

Senior B: Éire Óg, Cork 3-3 St Finbarr's, Cork 2-4

Under 16 A: Templemore, Tipperary 3-5 Kinvara, Galway 1-5

Under 16 B: Killeady, Limerick 3-3 Naomh Mearnóg, Dublin 3-1 AET.

CAMÓGIE ROLL OF HONOURS FOR 1998

Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Championship:
Cork 2-13/Galway 0-15

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship:
Down 1-12/Cork 1-8

All-Ireland Junior Championship:
Galway 3-11/Tipperary 2-10

All-Ireland Minor Championship:
Cork 3-18/Derry 1-5

1997 All Ireland Club Championship:
Pearses, Galway 4-6/Lisdowney, Kilkenny 2-5

National Senior League:
Cork 1-16/Galway 2-9

National Junior League:
Down 0-20/Cork 0-12

Senior Gael Linn:
Munster 6-20/Leinster 1-11

Junior Gael Linn:
Ulster 3-12/Leinster 1-12

Ashbourne Cup:
U.C.C. 1-7/W.I.T. 1-6

Shield:
U.C.D. 0-8/A.I.T. 0-5

Purcell Cup:
Mary I Limerick 3-7/St. Mary's, Belfast 1-5

Shield:
T.C.D. 2-6/Tralee R.T.C. 0-1

All-Ireland Senior Colleges:
St. Mary's, Charleville 1-11/Coláiste Bride, Wexford 1-4

All-Ireland Junior Colleges:
Seamount Kinvara 3-8/St. Mary's, Magherafelt 1-2

All-Ireland Sevens:
St. Mary's, Charleville 3-8/St. Mary's, Nenagh 2-7

SCIATH NA SCOL

Our year began with the announcement that Suttons would sponsor our hurling/camogie and football competitions. During the summer, an information booklet was prepared and this was formally launched by the then Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Dave McCarthy, in early September. This booklet was posted to all the schools in county Cork that take part in the promotion of our games. Church and General provide continuous sponsorship at National level and Cork County Board provide us with a grant, which is used to subsidise playing equipment in primary schools.

Both football competitions began in early September and the finals were played in Paire Uí Rinn, beginning on Monday October 20th. A total of 88 teams entered the boys football while 47 schools entered the girls football. There were 13 sections in the girls. Innishannon, under the guidance of teacher, Chris O'Donovan, were the only school to complete the double. There were great scenes of jubilation when Gaelscoil Mhachain won Roinn 4 in the Girls as it was their first success. In the A final, Scoil Chríost Rí continued their dominance while Carrigtwohill Convent won the top section in the Girls for the first time.

The hurling and camogie competitions began in Spring and the finals were played in the first week in June. This year, double sections were introduced where mixed schools had the same section for hurling and camogie. Thus both games were played on the same day and this reduced the travelling for the

schools involved. Eighty-nine teams entered the hurling leagues while 55 schools entered. While no school recorded a double in hurling and camogie, Millstreet and Watergrasshill did complete the football and hurling double. Our thanks to everybody who help make

these eight days such



GEMMA O'CONNOR

of the St. Finbarrs Camogie Club,
winner of the County Féile na nGael
Skills Award

a wonderful spectacle. Our thanks to John O'Callaghan and Eddie McCarthy, who retired from their umpiring posts this year after many years of long service.

INTO/GAA Mini Sevens

This year a total of 151 teams entered this competition. The preliminary rounds were played in eight venues while the finals were played in St. Finbarrs GAA

Club in early May. After an excellent day's competition on six pitches, despite the programme being halted for an hour due to heavy rain, the following schools emerged victorious:

Football: Ovens NS
Girls Football: Carrigtwohill Convent
Hurling: Shandrum NS
Camogie: Milford NS.

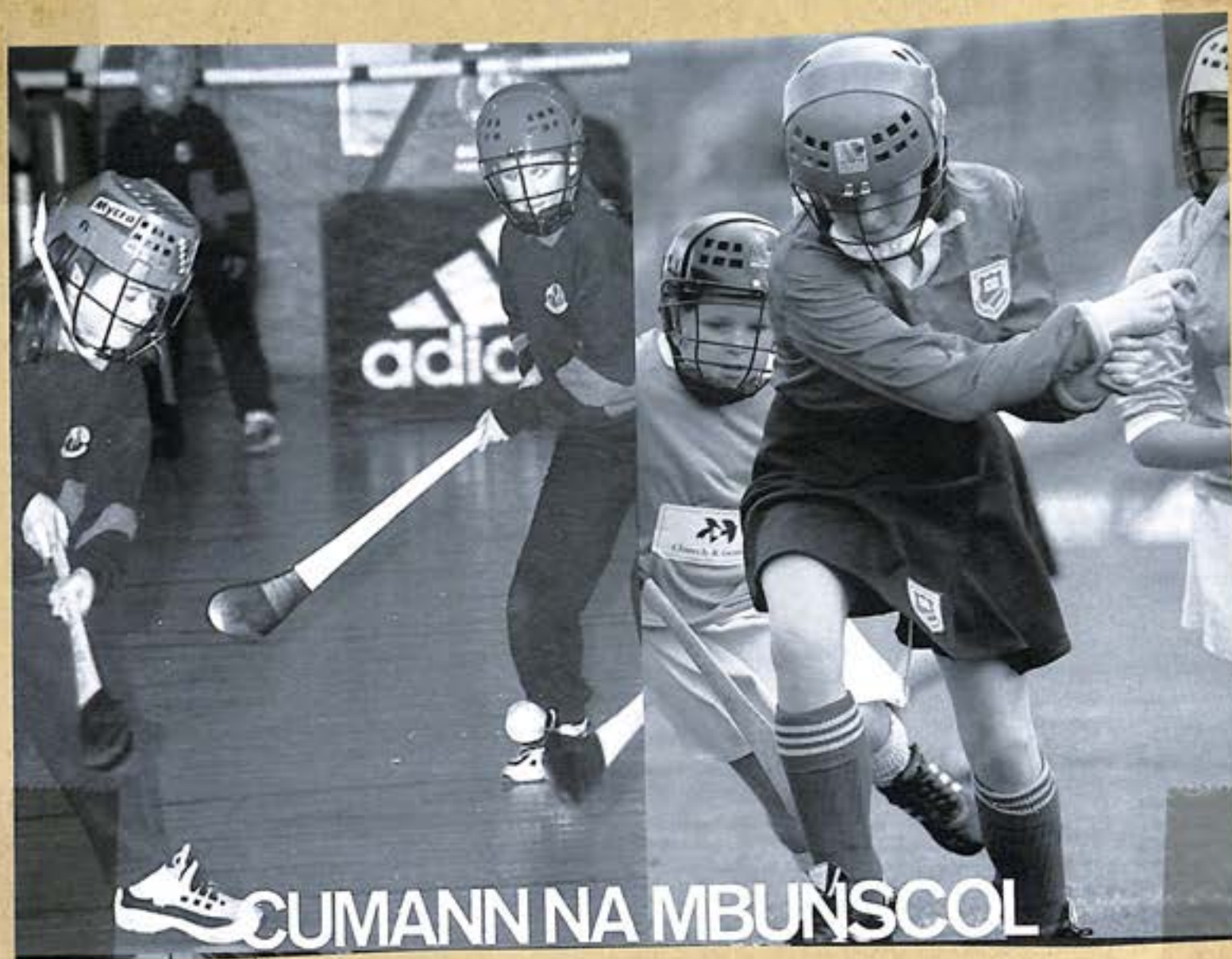
Indoor Hurling and Camogie

One hundred and ten teams entered the 3rd and 4th class blitzes in November. The preliminary rounds were played at 20 venues while the semi-finals were played in the CIT gym. Fifty teams took part in the indoor camogie competition, which was played for the first time. Both sets of finals were played in Neptune Stadium for the first time and this excellent venue added to the entertainment.

These indoor competitions proved that size of school does not matter. In the 4th class competition, St. Anthony's won the competition. This is an all boys school with 800 pupils. However both the 3rd class and camogie competitions were won by Milford NS, a four teacher mixed school. Congratulations to Sheila Thompson who has proved an inspirational coach to this school for many years.

The 4th class outdoor hurling blitz was again organised this year and 56 schools took part at eight venues. A new departure this year was the organisation of 2nd class and 3rd class blitzes in May and June by John Meyler, Development Officer at C.I.T. These were aimed specifically at South city boys and proved a great success.

REPORT BY JIM O'REILLY



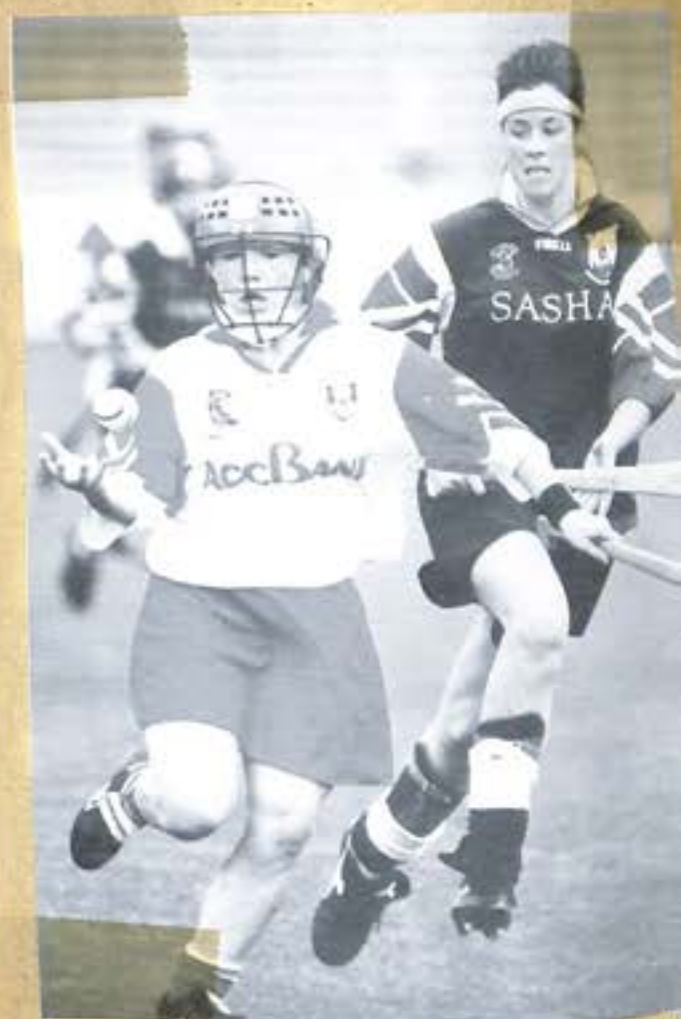
CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL



Galway junior captain Ann Dolan about to receive the cup from Fileas Ní Bhreasláin



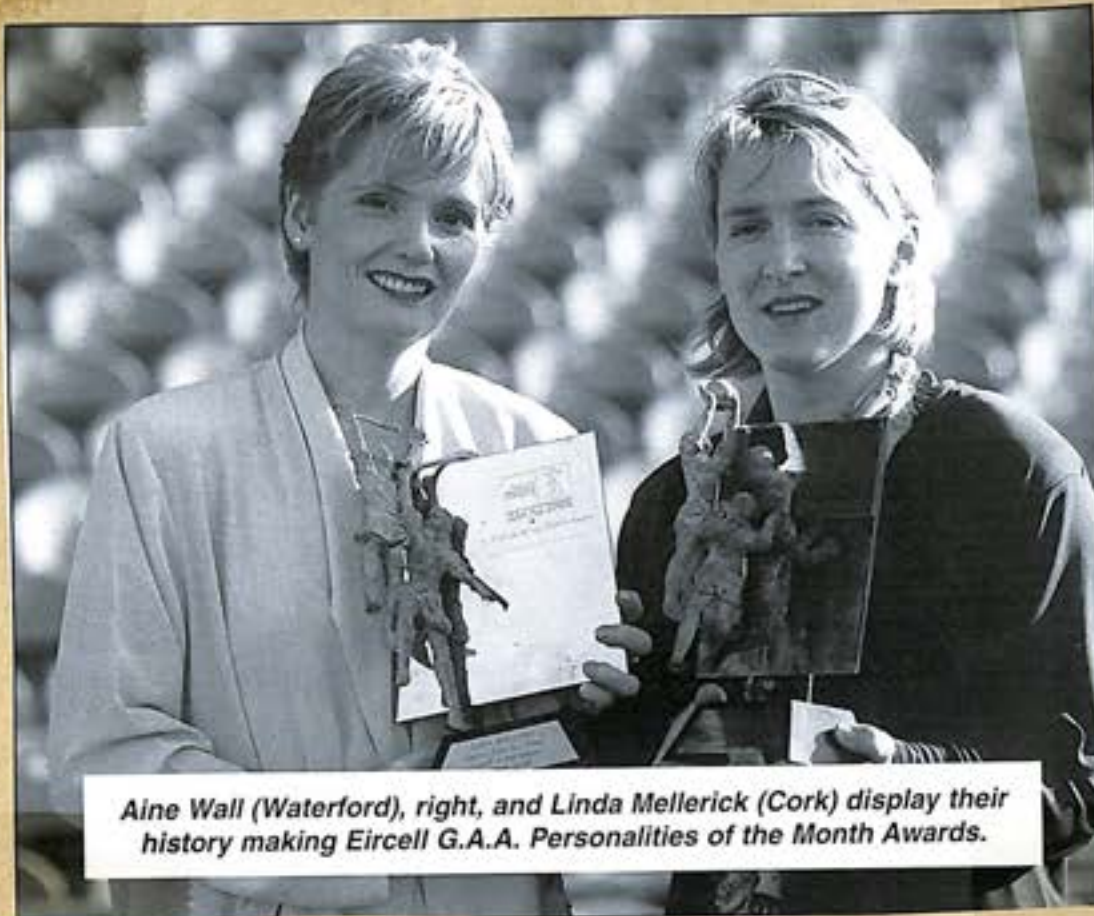
The man who led the Cork girls to victory - Tom Nott



Galway's Tracey Lاهeen seeks to curtail the momentum of Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll in the senior All-Ireland final



Lifting the cup for the Leesiders: Cork camogie captain Eithne Duggan



Aine Wall (Waterford), right, and Linda Mellerick (Cork) display their history making Eircell G.A.A. Personalities of the Month Awards.



The All-Ireland senior camogie champions 1998

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

BALLYHALE VS

The 1997/98 G.A.A. school year was a very significant one for Ballyhale Vocational School, the Boys Senior Hurling Team won the first Leinster Title in the history of the school. The Girls Senior Camogie team won the Senior Colleges B Championship for the first time ever. The girls also won the Leinster Vocational Schools Senior A Championship. The Boys Under 16



Ballyhale VS Camogie Team:

Back: Valerie Sutton, Nicola Hughes, Grace Fennelly, Clara Fennelly, Carol Hughes, Paula Kenneally, Mary Connors, Clara Kinahan, Maria Connolly, Frances Dempsey (Team Coach/Trainer)
Front: Patricia Duggan, Catriona Fennelly, Maresa Fennelly, Miriam Reid, Assumpta O'Farrell, Deborah Walsh, Geraldine Fennelly and Mary Connors.

Sister Lily Scullion Talks To Tommy Mc Quaid

Since 1946 I have been a regular visitor to the Cistercian Monastery in Mellifont and as a consequence I know a lot of the community quite well.

On my most recent visit, late September last, I brought a copy of the 40th Anniversary Issue of Gaelic Sport to give to one of my most closest friends, Fr. Bonaventure, a Meath man, and GAA mad.

Next day Fr. Bonaventure sought me out to congratulate me on the excellence of the publication and during the course of our conversation he said: "Tommy, do you know that one of the greatest ever camogie players is a member of the community in our sister monastery at Glencairn Abbey."



you should call on her". And so at Fr. Bonaventure's prompting, I found myself some two days later, sitting in the visitors room of the Abbey, in the company of Sister Lily Scullion.

Any prefixed ideas I had about nuns living in an enclosed community being austere and aloof, were quickly shattered by Sister Lily. The lady just bubbled with life, a complete extrovert, great sense of humour, it was a joy to be in her company. There was an inner peace surrounding her that seemed to carry over to me, I was so relaxed it seemed we had known each other for years.

We spoke together for nearly two hours during the course of which, Sister Lily unfolded a story of her life which just cries out to be told in a much more detailed and comprehensive manner than I could possibly fit into a normal size magazine article.

Lily as she was known then, was born in Larne on the 12th September, 1944, to Thomas and Margaret Scullion and when she was three, the family, which also included one brother and two sisters moved to Ahoghill, Co. Antrim.

Her parents owned the only catholic farm in the townland which was predominantly protestant, but apart from the 12th of July, when the Orangemen would gather on the road adjoining the Scullion farm and, quite insensitively, bang with gusto on their Lambeg Drums, the community as a whole, got on just fine. At harvest time everybody would work together to save the crops, in times of difficulty everyone was a friend.

As a youngster the only thing that separated the two communities, as far as Lily could see, was the fact that on Sunday's they attended their own respective churches. Whenever Lily raised this question, she was simply told "They go to another church."

The local Parish Priest was a Derryman, Fr. Henry Mc Guigan, who had come to the parish in 1942 and was very enthusiastic about our national games and the Irish language. Lily's first encounter with this grand old man made a lasting impact on her and it happened when she was just 13 years old.

Fr. Mc Guigan came to the school, and never a man to beat around the bush, he

flung a bunch of camogie sticks down on the classroom floor and exclaimed he was looking for girls to play camogie. In a small school with only 22 pupils on the roll, Fr. Henry didn't have a wide choice of potential recruits but such was his enthusiasm, Lily, her sister Mary and two of her pals decided to have go.

A few evenings later the four girls turned up at the local G.A.A. field. Lily was so eager, she was wearing a spotlessly white skirt, just the job for a training session in a field that had soaked up a fair share of rain in the preceding week.

As it happened, a club game was about to start and the local team was looking for a goalkeeper. Innocently Lily agreed to stand between the posts. "This is great gas," thought Lily, that is until the ball was belted in her direction, and, quick as a flash, she jumped out of the way. "My God girl, the idea is to stop the ball getting past you" screamed one of the senior players. Next time the ball came at her, Lily stopped it but at great cost, her beautiful snow white skirt was now emblazoned with a dirty bid mucky stain, she could have cried. No doubt her Mother did when it came to washing it.

In the next few years, thanks to Fr. Mc Guigan's coaching, Lily developed a talent for the game that eventually would see her emerge as one of camogie's All-Time greats.

Recalling the highlights of her glittering career, Lily singled out Ahoghill's victory in the '69 Antrim Club Championship, their first in twenty one years and what made the success all the sweeter was the fact that along the way they had overcome some very smart teams, including Creggan, Deirdre, the reigning champions and local rivals, Dunloy.

Ahoghill, as Antrim's representatives, then went on to meet and beat, Greenlough and Eglis, to emerge as Ulster Champions. Next stop was Limerick, to take on Ahane, the Munster Champions, in the All-Ireland semi-final. This was a game Lily was eagerly looking forward to but regrettably it turned out to be a disaster for the Antrim girl.

The Ulster champions got away to a flyer, two goals up in three minutes. One from Lily, who was on the top of her form. But then disaster struck, not only for the young star but indirectly for all her

colleagues.

An unidentified stranger ran on to the fields of play and struck Lily a fierce blow across the nose, necessitating seven stitches and an ambulance trip to the local hospital. Subsequently the Ulster Champions, minus Lily, lost their enthusiasm and succumbed 5-0 to 3-2.

Lily was so sickened by this incident that she considered giving up the game completely and indeed would have done, but for another priest she met while doing youth work in Newry. The priest was Fr. Tony Davies, who, just like her first mentor, Fr. Mc Guigan, was camogie mad and persuaded her to tog out for St. Brigids, the local club.

This was a very enjoyable time in her camogie life because, despite a long lay off, she helped the Newry ladies win an Ulster Club Championship. The fact St. Brigids lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Galway Champions, Oranmore, can never diminish Lily's cherished memory of a second Ulster Championship medal.

At competitive level, Lily Scullion's collection of winning medals is extraordinary bearing in mind she played all her camogie career across the border. If she had been born in one of the stronger counties like Dublin, Cork or Kilkenny, her collection of All-Ireland winning medals would have been considerably more than just one.

'67 was the greatest year for the Ahogill girl because that was the year she realised the dream of all who play the game - winning an All-Ireland medal.

Pride of place in her memory bank is the game against Cork in the '67 All-Ireland semi-final, played at the Mardyke, which Antrim won by 5-7 to 2-3, with Lily scoring all five goals, a record unequalled in senior championship camogie.

Lily had fashioned her style of play on that of Kilkenny's hurling legend, Eddie Keher, especially his unique art of hand-passing, a technique which Lily absorbed into her own pattern of play with startling success. On that historic day at the Mardyke, she got the surprise of her life when she was presented with a hurley personally autographed by her hurling idol, which she treasures to this day.

In the All-Ireland final Antrim faced a strongly fancied Dublin team who



Sister Lily pictured with Cardinal Daly at old Mellifont Abbey

had won the title for the preceding ten years but in a thrilling encounter the final score read Antrim 4-2, Dublin 4-2.

The replay was the curtain raiser for the Oireachtas Hurling Final, featuring Kilkenny and Clare and the atmosphere was electric. It was the first time a major camogie game was witnessed by such a huge audience and for everyone of the Antrim team it was like a fairytale - but it didn't upset their concentration. At the end of an enthralling encounter the Northerners had 3-9 on the score board to Dublin's 4-2.

Without breaking breath Lily rattled off the names of her winning colleagues with pride, laying special emphasis on Moya Forde, Mairead McAtamney, Mairead Quinn, Maeve Gilroy, Sue Ward, and goalkeeper Teasie Kearns.

Subsequent to their All-Ireland victory, ten of the Antrim team were chosen for the Ulster Inter-Provincial team which beat Leinster in the final and took the Gael-Linn Cup across the border for the first time.

But despite the honours that were coming her way on the camogie field, off the field a hiatus had gradually entered Lily's life. Yes! the camogie helped numb her inner turmoil but something in Lily's day-to-day life was causing her great distress.

With the benefit of hindsight, Lily now realises it had all begun on the 21st November 1965, that was the day her Mother died, she didn't realise it then, but on that traumatic day the bottom fell out of her world.

For fifteen years following her Mother's death, Lily's life became a time of searching, struggling for a meaning, a purpose to life. Indeed the confusion and struggle to live became so intense she

ended up deeply depressed. In the course of three years, Lily had gone through six different jobs, none of which quenched the void within her.

But something even more disturbing was taking hold. Her spiritual life was becoming effected. For example every evening passing the church she would never miss calling in, now she found herself purposely changing her route to avoid the church. Lily even considered giving up Sunday Mass but that would have meant disgracing her family.

It was while working as a youth leader in Newry that events took a turn. Her employment was very much mal orientated, she felt like an alien in a foreign land, alone and deperate. In this lonely existence, Lily found herself more and more drawn towards the Newry Cathedral. Finally one evening, putting her pride in her pocket, Lily made her way up the long church aisle and with a mixture of fear, shame and confusion, she knelt down and said "Lord, I am desperate, have come to talk to you but maybe at the way I have treated you, you won't want to listen, but I need to talk to someone and I don't know to whom else I can go," that moment Jesus became, for Lily, a person, one to whom she could pour out that was burning her up inside. Amidst tears she experienced the comfort and consolation of a friend, a friend who only listened but who loved and accepted her.

There is a lot more to tell in this extraordinary story of an extraordinary lady but it will have to wait another time maybe in book form - but Lily Scullion now Sister Lily Scullion and has been a contemplative Nun in Glencairn Abbey going on eighteen years now.

And if there is a happier, more contented person in this world, it has not been my good fortune to meet up with them.

Camogie Scene 1998

BY COLLETTE WALSH
COUNTY CAMOGIE BOARD P.R.O.

1998 was yet another eventful year on the Galway County camogie scene. And at the end of the year we can reflect on a season in which:

- the Galway Senior team reached their third final in a row.
- the Galway Junior team captured the Junior All-Ireland in style with an impressive win over Tipperary.
- the Galway Minor team narrowly missed out on a three-in-a-row when they went down by one point to Cork.
- the Galway Intermediate team had a good year, failing by just a point to Limerick in the quarter final.
- the Galway U-14 team won the Connaught Blitz yet again.
- and by the last weekend in October all the adult club county finals were played. This latter fact constitutes excellent work, considering the county's All-Ireland campaigns.

THE COUNTY SCENE 1998

THE GALWAY SENIOR TEAM'S YEAR:

It is a fact of life that success is measured by cups and medals, and in 1998 the Galway Senior Team have none to show. However their participation in two national finals, in itself is success and something that before the 1996 win would have been viewed most favourably. But success makes people want more and defeats in both the national Senior League Final and the Senior All-Ireland Final could be viewed as a failure, but perhaps that is not the case. Up until 1993 Galway had not appeared in a Senior Camogie Final in any compe-

tition, League or Championship, so the fact that in the interim we have won the 1994 National Senior League, the 1996 All-Ireland Senior Final and played in this year's League and Championship finals can only be a good sign of things to come. The fact that next year's League and Championship will be a 15 a-side can only be good for Galway, the winners of the experimental 15 a-side league in '94.

The 1998 senior championship Final will be remembered for many reasons; it was a terrible day.... wind and rain... the first final to be televised live... Therese Maher and Colette Nevin's coming of age.... Denise Gilligan's late hard luck goal chance and last but not least Galway's defeat. Bearing in mind the conditions it was a great game and on the day Cork took their chances while Galway failed to take theirs and so its 2 to 1 to Cork in the All-Ireland saga. But no doubt Galway will be back again. Olivia Broderick was a fine captain all year and her dedication and commitment, which included driving to and from Dublin for training, were exemplary. While the final was a disappointment the highlight for me was the win over Tipperary in the semi-final - an excellent game in which Galway

had to pull out all the stops to win and in which the craft and guile of Ann For was never more evident with her mar winning late goal.

THE GALWAY JUNIOR TEAM'S GREAT YEAR:

The difference between winning a losing was never more evident than the weekend of the All-Ireland Junior a Senior finals. While the Senior team failed to win back O'Duffy, the Junior team won an epic final against Tipperary and when one team celebrated, another team reflected. The Galway Junior All-Ireland win was one of the great games played at Croke Park this year, a game played with great passion, one that Galway were just unwilling to lose, even though they faced a gale force wind in the second half and only led by two points at half time. They refused to be beaten.... sometimes it has to be mind over matter. This was a game where everyone gave everything. The conditions were dreadful, wind and driving rain, but that never stopped anyone if you really wanted to win and they did. Aodh Connolly in goal, super captain Aoife Dolan, wing backs Rita Broderick and Fiona Healy who never gave in, Ailbhe Kelly at centre-back, a star for the future

all combined to tell in effect in a resolute defence. Mid-fielders Veronica Sweeney and Michelle Glynn who have both won "player of the game" awards in the last two All-Ireland Minor finals, displayed the style in Croke Park while Caroline Murray also at mid-field, ran and ran and never gave up. Galway Bafm / Camogie Association player of the match, Lourc Kavanagh has to be one of the most exciting players in Ireland at the moment and with 1-9 in the final who can argue. Aoife



Galway Senior Camogie Team, All-Ireland Finalists 1998
Back Row: Aine Hillary, Ann Broderick, Louise Curry, Therese Maher, Sharon Glynn.
Front Row: Pam Nevin, Anne Forde, Imelda Hobbins, Olivia Broderick (Capt.) Colette Nevin, Veronica Curtin & Tracey Laheen.

Lynskey was disappointed with her semi-final performance and she vowed to make amends in the final and that she did. Sandra Tannian and Brenda Daniels, both have the ability to get goals and they relished Croke Park, rattling the net, while Daniels' all round contribution was also praiseworthy. A team is only as good as the subs and while only one sub was used on the day, Eileen Earls was the tonic needed to win the All-Ireland and her introduction was vital to this success. And while both All-Ireland's didn't come back to Galway the large crowds that welcomed both teams showed the appreciation of the efforts made by both panels by the

camogie supporters in Galway. Well done to the "Juniors".

MINOR TEAM FAIL TO CAPTURE THREE IN A ROW.

Three in a row in any sport is difficult and camogie is no exception. The Galway minor camogie team failed in their bid to capture their third minor title in a row when they went down by one point to Cork in this year's semi-final. To blame the referee for this defeat would sound like sour grapes, because Cork were a good team, and deservedly went on to overwhelm Antrim in the final. However, when a team are one point down and only thirty sec-

onds of injury time have been played, and the losing team are about to shot over the bar and the referee blows the final whistle, it is very hard not to feel aggrieved! However, such is the beauty of sport.

This year Galway had no Connacht Final as Roscommon failed to field a minor team, but to date the Connaught Finals have proven to be of little competitive benefit to Galway. However an appearance in an All-Ireland semi-final, against a team that had come through a hard provincial campaign, without any previous game can be a disadvantage. Now we understand what the Galway



Galway County Camogie Board Officers 1998
Left to right: John Joe Donoghue (Chairman), Martina Uniacke (Secretary), Michael Kennedy (Vice Chairman), Margaret Dolan (Asst. Secretary), Donal Burke (Treasurer), Collette Walsh (P.R.O.)



Galway Minor Camogie Team 1998
Back Row: Jackie O'Brien (Selector), Dermot Connolly (Selector), Sinead Collins, Helen Fahy, Pamela Huban, Michelle Fahy, Rosin O'Connor, Fiona Gherty, Colette Glennon, Patricia Burke, Karen Huban, Brenda Kerins, Regina Glynn, Louise Linnane, Collette Kennedy (Manager).
Front Row: Philippa Coleman, Mary Kelly, Orla Ryan, Sherry Mannion, Doreen Kelly, Orla Curtin, Orla Kilkenny, Elaine Kerins, Karen Ryan, Claire-Anne Spellman, Mary Keogh.



**Galway Junior Camogie Panel
All-Ireland Junior Champions 1998**

*Back Row: Lorraine Donnelly, Aileen Hardiman, Susan Regan, Ruth Cullinane, Caroline Murray, Michelle Glynn, Veronica Sweeney, Ailbhe Kelly, Aoife Connolly, Lourda Kavanagh, Fiona Goherty, Anita Kerins, Maureen Fahy, Collette Walsh.
Front Row: Deirdre Mitchell, Colette Duffy, Ann Murray, Esther Marthyn, Aoife Lynskey, Fiona Healy, Rita Broderick, Ann Dolan, Brenda Daniels, Sandra Tannian, Miriam Lynch, Eileen Earls, Micheal Broderick.*

hurlers have been saying for years. But with many of this team underage again next year and with the introduction of the 15 a-side, next season is another year. Well done to all the minor players and panel for their excellent effort and hopefully next year the amount of injury time will not matter!

THE CLUB SCENE ... WITHIN THE COUNTY.

With 33 clubs within the county, it takes a lot of organising to run off all the competitions. The first championship competition of the year is always the U-14 Feile competition, where the winners travel to the Feile na nGael finals. This year Feile was held in Wexford and after an excellent U-14 county championship Kinvara and Clarinbridge met in the final in Ardahan. This was an excellent game played before a large attendance and on the day Clarinbridge's ability to score three second half goals saw them crowned county U-14 champions for 1998. In Feile they were defeated at the semi-final stage but

the fact that many of the team are under age again next year speaks for itself. They did Galway proud.

The U-13 A final has yet to be completed and at the time of going to press the four semi-finalists are Kinvara, Killimor, Clarinbridge and Ahascragh/Caltra.

The U-13 B final, which went to a replay, saw Renmore defeat Cappataggle after a fine game, where there were great performances from Cathy Bowes from Cappataggle and Aisling Connolly from Renmore, without doubt, stars for the future. Well done to Renmore and hard luck to Cappataggle.

The U-12 A final saw Killimor play Davitts and here Davitts emerged as victor's after a fine performance. In the U-12 B final Clarinbridge overcame a strong Ahascragh/Caltra challenge.

The U-10 competition is probably the most exciting competition and the most entertaining - in the U-10 B final Skehana/Menlough had a fine win, while Davitts overcame Pearses in the U-10 A final by 2 points.

The adult club scene was very entertaining this year with the groupings slightly re-arranged. In the Senior Championship, there were some excellent games attended by large crowds. In the semi-finals, Pearses had a narrow 2 point victory over Mullagh thanks mainly to two Orla Kilkenny goals. The other semi-final saw Davitts take on Shamrocks. After extra time the two teams were still level so this thrilling semi-final went to a replay. In the drawn game Therese Maher excelled for Shamrocks scoring 1-11 of their 1-14, while Lourda Kavanagh accounted for 2-8 of Davitts



Shamrocks - County Senior Finalists

THE CAPTAIN SPEAKS!

Player Profile: Anne Forde (Pearses)

When the Galway Senior Camogie team ran out onto Croke Park for the All-Ireland final tilt with Cork in September, Anne Forde made her way into the full forward position. From famous Kilimordaly hurling stock, Forde (or Ryan as she was known until she fell for the charms of Turloughmore hurling husband Pat!). Anne has been an integral part of the Galway camogie scene for some time now. Seventeen years previously, she had won an All-Ireland Minor medal against Antrim, while in 1985 she was part of Galway's All-Ireland Junior winning side. Anne saw her brothers John, Pascal and Eanna all sample All-Ireland glory with Galway hurlers, but Anne's own sporting achievements coupled with the longevity of her playing career will mark her down as one of Galway's finest camogie players. For the third year in a row, Anne captained her Club, Pearses, to the County Senior camogie title, and despite the Club's subsequent failure to reach their third All-Ireland Club final, Forde's impact on the year had been immense.



DATE OF BIRTH: 11/3/68

NOTABLE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

1 x All-Ireland Feile Skills camogie 1981
1 x All-Ireland Minor camogie medal 1981
1 x All-Ireland Junior camogie medal 1985
1 x All-Ireland Senior camogie medal 1996
2 x All-Ireland Club Senior medals 1996, 1997
1 x All-Ireland Club Sevens 1994
1 x All-Ireland Pan Celtic 1997
5 x County Senior Club medals, plus few underage grades
1 x Co. U-14 hurling medal with Killimordaly
National Senior (1994) & Junior (1985) camogie winners medals with Galway.

INTER-COUNTY DEBUT: Junior 1985, Senior 1986

FAVOURITE GROUNDS: Duggan Park, Ballinasloe

FAVOURITE POSITION: Full forward

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Sharon Glynn (Pearses), Pam Nevin (Mullagh) and Therese Maher (Shamrocks).

INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER: My father, Enda Ryan, Gerry Ahern (Attymon N.S. Teacher), Michael Kennedy (Pearses).

THE HIGH POINT OF YOUR CAREER TO DATE: County final victory of 1992 - it was Pearse's first Senior title.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: The All-Ireland Senior finals of 1997 & 1998.

OTHER PLAYERS WITH PROMISING FUTURE:

Therese Maher (Shamrocks), Orla Kilkenny, Michelle Glynn and Veronica Sweeney (all Pearses).

WAYS TO IMPROVE THE GAME OF CAMOGIE:

Get rid of Cork!

DISLIKES ABOUT CAMOGIE: Running! Narrow goalposts that can move when you shoot for scores! Tony Ward's bollards at training wouldn't be a particular favourite either!

WILL 15 A SIDE CAMOGIE BE A SUCCESS? Yes. It should suit Galway, given the large panel of skilful players that are available. Indeed, Galway have already won the League, when it played on an experimental 15 a side basis a few years ago.

THIS YEAR PEARSE'S COMPLETED THE 3 IN A ROW OF COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIPS. WHAT WERE THE MAIN FACTORS BEHIND THIS SPAN OF SUCCESS?

The work put in by the Club at underage
The dedication and determination of the players
The dedication of the management/selectors
The incentive provided by the fact that we were playing for the Catherine Donnellan Cup.

WHAT DID THE 2 ALL-IRELAND CLUB TITLES MEAN TO THE CLUB AND YOURSELF?

It was a great reward for all those involved in the Club, who supported us when we were not successful. It also made the training in the wet, cold and dark evenings all very much worthwhile.

PEARSES Camogie Club

BY ANN EARLS
CLUB P.R.O.



Club officer's pictured with Micheal O Mhuircheartaigh (left) and Junior Minister Noel Treacy (far right) at the launch of "Pearses of Galway Camogie Camp." (left to right): Micheal O Mhuircheartaigh, Paula Naughton, Mary Burke, Noreen Duane, Michael Kennedy, Collette Walsh, Sharon Glynn, Aggie Burke, Noel Treacy T.D.

As the year comes to an end and we review our year we will look back on what might have been. A three in a row is difficult to achieve in any sport and camogie is no different and on November 1st in Ballymacward our Senior team found that out when we failed to qualify for our third All-Ireland Club final in a row. In recent years in Galway a County Senior Cup is seen as only a stepping stone to All-Ireland club success and when a team wins a County Championship in Galway the All-Ireland win is all that is important.

Maybe this is good, as it makes teams more determined to win the All-Ireland but a County title is also important and putting three County Senior titles back to back, as we did this year, is no mean achievement and maybe next year the hunger will be back again to start all over again. Well done to Captain Anne Forde who captained the Senior side for the last three years, to the excellent team that had not lost a championship match since September 1995 and to the excellent management team of Mike Kennedy, Pat Burke and Mike Donnellan.



County Finalists - U-10 Team plus management



Pearses County Senior Champions 1998

Fielding nine teams in a rural club is not a bad achievement and well done to all the teams and mentors.

The highlight of this year's underage teams was the U-10 team who were narrowly defeated in the County final by Davitts, well done to their trainer Valerie Higgins, selectors Mary Kilkenny and Brid Hogan. In the final, Aoife Kilkenny scored three points and while Pearses lead for most of the game a late Davitts goal saw them snatch victory on a score-line of Davitts 1-2 Pearses 0-3. Well done to goalie Celine Finn, full-back June Connell, one to watch out for in the future; Rebecca Whelan, Maria Laffey and Tara Hogan, Alicia Flannery, Lindsay Beckett, Edel Cuniffe, Elaine Flannery, Niamh Kilkenny, a gifted player, Louise Clancy and Emma Hynes.

The U-12, U-13 and U-14 teams were not so successful this year but well done to them for all their training and effort.

The Minor team went out to Kinvara in the semi-final after an excellent battle and well done to all of them.

As always we were well represented on all County teams, congratulations to Michelle Glynn and Veronica Sweeney who played a major part in Galway's All-Ireland Junior victory and to Club Secretary Collette Walsh who was a selector with that team. Well done to all the Pearses girls on the County Senior team and panel and hopefully next year will bring more success.

Well done also to Orla Kilkenny and Patricia Burke for their participation in the Galway Minor team and the excellent year both of them had at club level.

Once again thanks to our hard working club committee, who meet on a regular basis to run the club very efficiently. Sharon Glynn, Collette Walsh, Aggie Burke, Paula Naughton, Ann Earls, Mike Kennedy, Mary O'Brien, Helen Hillary, Mary Kilkenny, Marion Flannery, Valerie Higgins, Pat Burke, Majella Dwyer, Tracey Lاهen, Mary Glynn and Mike Donnellan.

Mullagh Camogie Club

Mullagh Club got off to a fine start by winning both the County and the Connaught titles in the Set Dancing and Team Quiz events in the C.C.D. competition. In the All-Ireland final the dancers finished second. The dancers were Sinead and Catriona Cahalan, Elaine Walshe, Niamh Cahalan, Jacinta Curley, Colette Hardiman, Lorraine Spain, Catriona Reynolds, Sinead Larkin and Imelda Clarke. They were coached by Marion Walshe. The Quiz team also came second. They were: Marie Clarke, Caroline Whyte and Margaret O'Donnell.

The Club was represented by Pamela Nevin, Olivia Coen, Imelda Hobbins and Anne Hardiman on the Senior County team. They played a major role in the teams quest for both League and All-Ireland titles. Madge Kennedy was also a selector on the Senior County team. Congratulations to Aileen Hardiman on being part of the victorious County Junior team. Also congratulations to Colette Glenon who was part of the County Minor panel who were unlucky to lose out in an exciting All-Ireland Semi Final. Sinead Cahalan and Lorraine Spain collected Connaught medals when they played for Galway in the U14 blitz.

Unfortunately so far County titles have eluded the Mullagh girls. The Senior girls under the management of Michael Kennedy, Paul (HARRY)

Murphy and Madge Kennedy had good wins over Clarinbridge and Mountbellew/Moylough to qualify for the County Semi-Final. They proved a very stiff challenge for Pearses but luck was with the Ballymac girls on the day and they went on to become County title winners.

The Junior team under Margaret Bugler found the going tough in Junior A and are looking forward to playing in Junior B next year. The U14 team had a great campaign in the group matches to reach the Semi-Finals but lost to a very strong St. Colmans side. Our U13 team also won all their group matches but lost out in the Semi-Final to Cappataggle. Imelda Hobbins and Olivia Coen put a huge effort in guiding these teams to their respective Semi-Final stages.

Ann Bugler and Ita Dervan took

charge of U10 and U12 teams. The U10 team were very young and most are underage again next year. The U12 team qualified for a semi-final place against Davitts and it took a replay to get a result. Unfortunately the Mullagh girls will have to wait another year. The U16 girls under the management of Emer Hardiman performed well and reached the quarter final stages against Killimor. Again it took a replay to settle this but the Mullagh girls lost out.

The U18 championships not yet started but the girls are looking forward to their matches and are being coached by Ray Duane. Mullagh Club wishes to thank all the trainers and managers, the generous sponsors of the recent raffle and all who helped in any way during 1998.

Margaret O'Donnell (Secretary)

GALWAY YEARBOOK

GALWAY YEARBOOK



Galway G.A.A. Annual 1998

Ahascragh/Caltra Camogie Club



AHASCRAUGH/CALTRA U-14 B CHAMPIONS

Back Row, L to R: Ann Kelly, (Trainer), Deirdre Leonard, Grace Kelly, Helen Cillinane, James Griffin, (Trainer), Nicola Gavin, Aisling Brophy, Ann Loughnane, Emer Griffin, Valerie Gavin, Tres Hennelly, Sarah Gordon, Anthony Kelly, Trainer.
Front Row, L to R: Melissa Healy, Emma McCormack, Fiona Morgan, Edel Murray, Cathy Egan, Lorraine Loughnane, Sharon McGuire, Laura Kelly, Lenora Lyons, Sarah Noone, Gemma Kelly.

Ahascragh/Caltra Camogie Team had a historic win in the U-14 championship when they won the title for the first time defeating St. Colman's Gort in the final on a score of 1-5 to 1-2. On their path to victory Ahascragh/Caltra defeated Mountbellew, Kiltulla, Killimordaly,

Abbeyknockmoy, Turloughmore, Oranmore in the quarter final and Renmore in the Semi-Final. Great credit is due to the entire panel and to the management of Ann Kelly, James Griffin and Anthony Kelly for their dedication and commitment.



Shauna Murphy from the Shamrocks Club who won Galway U14 Camogie Skills Competition.

Camogie in St. Brigid's

While St. Brigid's failed to win their eleventh Connacht Senior final in a row it was a successful years camogie none the less. We had a big win over Gort in the first round by 5-7 to 0-6, there was great performances from Sandra Tannian, Shauna Murphy in the forward line and Karen Ryan and Siobhan Hardiman in defence. An easy win over New Inn in the second round led to us beating Seamount Kinvara to conclude the group.

A win over Portumna by a six point margin produced a showdown with neighbours St. Raphael's in a repeat of last year's final played at Ballinasloe.

St. Raphael's trailed by two points at half-time but finished victorious in the end by the narrowest of margins. In a day where the stars disappointed our best players were Miriam Monaghan, Siobhan Hardiman, Bernadette Murray and Karen Ryan.

In Junior we reached the semi-final with wins over Mercy Woodford by 5-5 to 0-0. Seamount beat us in the second round but a win over Athenry V.S. saw us through to the quarter-final. A win over Presentation Athenry in the quarter-final by a single point produced another show-down with Kinvara in the Connacht semi-final. An early injury to Captain Karen Ryan hampered our chances somewhat. However, Seamount were convincing winners and subsequently won the All-Ireland title. Our best players were Karen Ryan, Shauna Murphy, Lisa Kelly, Melissa Dolan and Deirdre Burke.

In 1998 all in St. Brigid's School and the County were saddened by the tragic death of Jim Wall's wife, Rita. To Jim, his family and Rita's family we offer our condolences.
Ar dheis De go raibh anam usual Rita.

CLARE YEARBOOK



Wolfe Tones U-14 Camogie Team

Al-Ireland Féile na nGael Camogie Champions Div. 2 and Clare Co. Champions.

Front Row: Elaine Gallery, Lizzie Danaher, Karen Nelson, Cathy O'Loughlin, Laura Linnane, Julie Hyde, Rebecca Foley and Áine O'Callaghan, Back Row: Mairead Elliott, Laura Gordon, Heather Nolan (capt), Sarah Fitzgerald, Danielle McMackin, Anna Brennan, Helen McElligott, Audrey Shanahan.



Newmarket-on-Fergus, U-12A County Champions.

Front Row: Gráinne Crimmins, Fiona France, Deirdre Smith, Michelle Kennelley, Sharon McMahon, Jane O'Leary, Hazel McMahon, Jenny Conroy, Cassandra Casey, Lisa Compt, Ashling Garey, Lisa Fahy, Back: Johanne Dillon, Claire Arthur, Michelle McMahon, Deirdre Smith, Sinead Corbett, Ann Jones, Rachel Killeen, Evelyn Boyce, Marie Donnellan, Nicole Hayes, Ruth Kaiser, Treacy Power.



Searríf U14 C Championship Winners

Back L to R: Denise Bolton, Laura Collieran, Emma Collieran (Trainer) Shéan Myles, Louise Jones, Irene Rodgers, Patricia Long, Maria Brody, Deirdre Maloney, Urla Thornton, Front L to R: Orla Pearl, Helena Moroney, Laura Harte, Norven Maloney (Capt.), Margaret Dillon, Catherine O'Brien, Orla Maloney and Rachel Culloo.

A new challenge for camogie - the end of 12-a-side game

A MAJOR new challenge faces camogie in Clare next year with the introduction on a test series basis of a 15-a-side game. This will mean using the full-size GAA pitch, goalposts etc., with relevant Rule changes also being made. Clubs will have to address this change when selecting their teams. Entering competition as smaller clubs will find it difficult to field teams. However, there is little doubt that the 15-a-side game will make Camogie more attractive. It will become less cumbersome for Club Officials preparing pitches and will allow for the playing of the game before or after other GAA games.

It was very welcome this year that for the first time RTE chose to broadcast the All-Ireland Camogie Final live and it received a tremendous reception from the general public. We are fortunate here in Clare that Clare FM and the *Clare Champion* feature both our games and we are extremely grateful to both organisations for this. It is very difficult to attract sponsorship without extra exposure but we have a committed group of sponsors who have been with us through thick and thin.

This year saw a major breakthrough in Clare Camogie with our Senior team qualifying for the All-Ireland semi-final and earlier in the year qualifying for the play-off stages of the National Camogie League.

Clare began their National Camogie League campaign with a 3-14 to 2-3 defeat by Kilkenny on the 8th March, 1998. They followed this with a 3-14 to 3-10 victory over Wexford on the 22nd March, 1998. They were defeated by Cork on the 2nd May, 1998, by 0-8 to 1-11. Just two days later they had a good victory over Tipperary by 3-11 to 2-12 in a game played in Bodyke.

This victory led to a play-off with Tipperary to qualify for the final stages of the National League. Unfortunately, on the 1st June, 1998, Tipperary defeated Clare by 3-11 to 2-12 in a game played in Bodyke.



PRESENTATION OF GEAR TO CLARE SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM BY MARTIN DONNELLY
From left to right - Edel Arthur, Christy Ryan (Rep. Martin Donnelly), Maire McMahon (capt), Marie Sheedy (Chairperson, Clare County Camogie Board), Tony Castels (Rep. Martin Donnelly), Bernie Ryan (Manager), Cathy Hally.

campaign continued into the Gael-Linn All-Ireland series when Clare defeated Wexford in the All-Ireland quarter-final played in Sixmilebridge. This victory was Clare's first championship win in several years and was a tremendous boost for all concerned. In Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, Clare's involvement in this year's campaign came to an end when Cork, the eventual All-Ireland champions, defeated them. Cork have proved to be Clare's bogey team over the past few seasons and they ran out deserving winners on the day by 2-15 to Clare's 1-9. This year's management team were Bernie Ryan (Clarecastle) and Patricia O'Grady (Sixmilebridge).

In last year's junior league campaign the majority of players were drawn from our U-16 Clare team. Congratulations are due to following panel and although defeated in all games acquitted themselves very well in the competition.

CLARE JUNIOR PANEL:

Sharon Coleman, Emer Wherley, Sinead Toomey, Laura Linnane, Evelyn McGirl, Nicole O'Meara, Teresa Naughton, (Wolfe Tones), Ann O'Sullivan, Doreen Tuohy, Rachel Lynch (Clooney), Marie Crowe, Sinead Fitzgerald (Sixmilebridge), Margaret Littleton (Kilkishen), Lorraine O'Loughlin (Tulla) and Ann O'Regan (Ruan).

kishen), Ciara Barrett (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Ann O'Regan, Orla O'Donnell (Ruan), Denise Lynch, Claire McMahon (Kilmaley).

Management team: Maire Sheedy, Ann McInerney, and Mairead Twomey.

In the Munster U-16 competition Clare were defeated by Cork in the Preliminary round on the 13th April, 1998, in a game played in Cloughduv. The Cork team were simply in a different class, with Clare having their best players in Emer Wherley, Laura Linnane, Denise Lynch, Ann O'Regan, Sharon Coleman and Lorraine O'Loughlin.

The following is the Clare U.16 team who represented us in the Munster Championship:

Sharon Coleman, Mara Hehir, Laura Linnane, Sinead Toomey, Emer Wherley (Wolfe Tones), Michelle Dinan, Doreen Tuohy (Clooney), Denise Lynch and Claire McMahon (Kilmaley), Margaret Littleton (Kilkishen), Lorraine O'Loughlin (Tulla) and Ann O'Regan (Ruan).

Subs: Evelyn McGirl (Wolfe Tones), Nicole O'Meara (Wolfe Tones), Sinead Fitzgerald (Sixmilebridge).

Team management: Des Hackett, Martin and Mary Elliott, Maire Sheedy.

This year the Clare U-18 team qualified for the Munster Final with a good victory over Waterford in the semi-final. The final against Tipperary was played in Shannon. Unfortunately, Tipperary defeated Clare on a scoreline of Tipperary 3-18 to Clare 0-10.

CLARE U.18 PANEL:

Denise Lynch and Mary Lynch (Kilmaley), Cushla Hehir and Claire McGrath (Kilkishen), Caroline Lynch, Amy Collieran, Deirdre Murphy (capt), Edel McMahon, Emily Skehan, Imelda Collieran, Emma Collieran (Clooney), Emer Horan, Deirdre Corcoran (Truagh), Sinead Treacy, Erica Minogue (Whitegate), Michelle McNamara (Bodyke), Niamh McInerney and Noelle Tobin (Sixmilebridge), Ann Marie Arthurs and Lorraine Mulcahy (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Claire O'Loughlin (Tulla).

Team management: Des Hackett, Orla Murphy, Martin and Mary Elliott.

Clare representatives Wolfe Tones na Sionna (U-14s) won both the National Féile and Community Games titles this year. A day later they played in the final of the Clare U-14 A championship and captured the title at the expense of Kilkishen. Congratulations to all involved.

At the All-Ireland Senior Camogie semi-final this year, Clare fielded an U-14 7-a-side team. The team was victorious on when they had a comprehensive victory over Cork. However, it was very disappointing for the players, management and County Board that they did not go on to play in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day. It was pointless, to say the least, to have everyone concerned travelling to Nowlan Park in Kilkenny just to play for ten minutes in this competition. Furthermore, it would have been a tremendous boost for the players to don the saffron and blue on All-Ireland Final day. The future of camogie in Clare, though, is bright with players like these coming through at under-age.

U-14 7-A-SIDE TEAM:

Valerie Hogan (Tulla), Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Milessa O'Connell (Kilkishen), Audrey Shanahan (Wolfe Tones), Karen Corbett (Sixmilebridge), Laura Linnane (Wolfe Tones), Nora Murphy (Kilkishen), Deirdre Cassidy (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Jane Scanlon (Corofin), Lisa Clancy (Corofin).

Team management: Ann McInerney, Caroline O'Connell, Mairead Twomey, Maire Sheedy.

The Clare County Camogie Board appreciates the assistance given by the GAA in provision of pitches, to Pat Fitzgerald, County Secretary.



CLARE SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM

Back row (left to right) - Bernie Ryan (manager), Orla Slattery, Amy Collieran, Sinead Day, Pauline O'Brien, Debbie McDonagh, Marie Collins, Noelle Comyn, Clodagh Lennon, Cathleen O'Loughlin, Patricia O'Grady (selector). **Front row (left to right)** - Fiona Kinsella, Edel Arth, Carmel Duggan, Cathy Hally, Paula Walsh, Ann Keane, Sinead McMahon, Maire McMahon (capt), Deirdre Murphy, Emer Murphy.

and to Michael O'Connor, Bord na nÓg a sincere thank you. We would also like to thank each GAA Club for their help.

A perfect example of the co-operation between the GAA and Camogie was seen this year when the County Camogie Final was staged in Newmarket-on-Fergus after the U-16 Hurling final with a very large crowd in attendance.

This year's Senior Final was an exiting game with the outcome in doubt until the final whistle. Bodyke captured their second title inside three years with their greater experience the difference between the sides on the night. Sixmilebridge fielded a very young side and will undoubtedly gain from the experience. Bodyke represented Clare in the Munster Camogie Championship but were defeated by Granagh-Ballingarry in their first game. As a matter of interest, Granagh-Ballingarry have qualified for the All-Ireland Club Final which will take place in the next few weeks.

Clare Camogie County Board would like to thank all Clubs for their assistance throughout the year. We would also pay tribute to all our sponsors and to all those who supported our Race Night which took place in Shannon during the year.

We would pay special tribute to everyone involved with our FA Scheme in Clare and hope that the work being done in the schools will pay dividend in the years that follow. We look forward with enthusiasm to next year's competitions and hopefully an even better year for Clare in inter-county competitions.

The following are the Officers of the Clare County Camogie Board:

Maire Sheedy, Chairperson; Pauline Moloney, Vice-Chairperson; Orla Murphy, Secretary; Michael O'Halloran, Treasurer; Mary Cusack, P.R.O.; Ann McInerney, Registrar; Ann Marie Russell, Munster Delegate.

In the local Club Championships the following is the Roll of Honour:

Clare Camogie Finals - 1998

U-12A	Newmarket-on-Fergus beat Sixmilebridge
U-12B	Éire Óg beat Broadford
U-12C	Éire Óg beat Ogonnoloe
U-14A	Shannon beat Kilkishen
U-14B	Whitegate beat Kilnamona
U-14C	Scariff beat Broadford
U-16A	Shannon beat Kilmaley
U-16B	Ruan beat Kilmaley
U-18A	Not finalised
U-18B	Not finalised
Intermediate Championship	Clooney beat Kilkishen
Senior	Bodyke beat Sixmilebridge
Division 1 League	Bodyke beat Truagh
Division 2 League	Clooney beat Kilkishen
Division 3 League	Not finalised.

Holy Family School, Ennis Clare Primary Schools' Champions

It had been a long wait for success to visit the Holy Family but when it came, it came at the highest level on the camogie front.

The winning panel was made up of girls from 5th, 6th and 7th classes. The team had been forming over the previous two years, nurtured by the very successful FAS Camogie Scheme.

Captaining the team was Clarecastle native Caltriona Donnellan, a highly impressive performer throughout the campaign. The first game was played against Kilnamona on a wretched day and luck favoured us. Wins followed against Kilkishen, Connolly and St. Conaire's, Shannon in the semi final (probably the most difficult of our games).

The final against Tulla in the Cusack Park was a very festive occasion as all the school travelled to support. The atrocious weather didn't dampen the event and we ran out easy enough winners on the day.

The team had been improving with each game and our best was reserved for the final with Roisin Bhamjee scoring a hat-trick with an inspired performance.

While everybody played well on the day, notable displays were given by Edel Malone at midfield, Emma O'Driscoll at wing back, Emer Naughton in the half forward line and Gillian Conroy who came on as a second-half substitute.

Edel Malone was afterwards chosen to represent a Clare Schools Camogie Team which played at half-time of the Munster Senior Hurling Final in Thurles.



Division 1 Winners - Holy Family Senior School, Ennis.

Back: John O'Connor, (Coach) Niamh Tuohy, Aine Jones, Gillian Conroy, Grainne Quigley, Krystal Carey, Catherine Hennessy, Michelle Carolan, Barbara Howard, Margaret Cooney (Principal). Front: Emer Naughton, Roisin Bhamjee, Kate Sherlock, Edel Malone, Helen McMahon, Aoife Lenihan, Caoimhe Cronin, Emma O'Driscoll, Caltriona Donnellan (C).

A great year, enjoyed by all and hopefully to be repeated in the school year 1998/99.

7-a-side title also won

Our success in the 7-a-side camogie preceded our winning of the Division 1 league and again the finalists were ourselves and Tulla.

The competition was played as a blitz in Newmarket on Fergus G.A.A. playing pitch and due to the restrictions in age because of our school size, we lined out with a lot of notable absentees.

With four teams present and appal-

ling weather conditions, it was decided to play semifinals and finals only. Scariff was our first game and a very dour affair it was. We came out on top by the narrowest margin. Against Tulla in the final, they raced into an easy lead. In the second half and a transformed team, we came out on top to qualify as the team to represent Clare at the Munster's in Dungarvan.

The team was driven to the event by the trainer and a group of very dedicated parents who included Mrs. Irene Malone, John and Mary Hennessy, Dan Lenihan and Marian Quigley. The school thanks these people greatly for the support given and all the other parents (especially Niamh Cronin) who gave freely of their time.

As a result of our participation, Edel Malone was chosen to play before the All-Ireland semi-final between Kilkenny and Waterford.



Edel Malone Holy Family School Ennis played in Thurles and Croke Park.



7 A Side Team Holy Family Senior School, Ennis.

Back: John O'Connor, (Coach), Karina Callinan, Niamh Tuohy, Grainne Quigley, Emma O'Driscoll, Barbara Howard, Margaret Cooney (Principal). Front: Caoimhe O'Neill Forde, Marie Mulcahy, Maria Hennessy, Edel Malone, Aoife Lenihan.

Ruan Camogie Club Report 1998

By Helen Casey

1998 proved to be a very successful year for the Ruan Camogie Club. The club fielded teams in all competitions throughout the year.

We held, what proved to be a very fulfilling U-11 blitz in September of this year. There were 7 teams in all taking part, which included 2 from Ruan. Kilnamona won the blitz for the second year in succession. The blitz was very well organised and the girls enjoyed themselves immensely. The following day the members of the club travelled to Croke Park for the All Ireland Camogie final. The trip proved to be very enjoyable indeed, for all the members. We also had a parish blitz, which saw four local teams involved, competing against one another. The U-12s and U-14s played three games each this year. There was great turnouts for training and the club looks forwards to a promising future for these young girls.

The highlight of the year turned out to be the winning of the U-16 championship. The Ruan girls defeated Kilnamona in the final. They deserved their victory and trained hard over the year. Well done to all involved. Much credit is due to their mentors, George Pilkington and Gearoid Roughan, who put in a lot of time and effort in training the girls.

The minors have had a great run in this year's "A" championship. Victories included wins over Ogonnelloe, in the first round and Sixmilebridge in the quarter finals. At this moment we face Kilkishen in the semi final stages. All the players have time on their side and will be eligible to play again next year.

The Intermediate team reached the quarter finals of the championship and were very unlucky to be beaten by Clooney in the league final. They also took part in the Pan Celtic tournament in Tralee on the 18 of April last. Ruan played At Finbars of Cork, Castlegar of Galway and Kilfinn of Limerick. Despite been beaten in three games, the team showed great potential and promise. A lot of team spirit was shown despite the defeats and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Special thanks is due to Noel O'Donoghue and Jimmy Courtney for all their time and effort over the year. Thanks lads!

The club travelled to Manchester which entailed on a traditional concert, a trip to Altan Towers, a visit to the Irish Centre and a trip to the "Theatre of Dreams". Old Trafford itself. Again a very well organised and enjoyable trip, thanks to all the organisers.

Finally the Club would like to thank

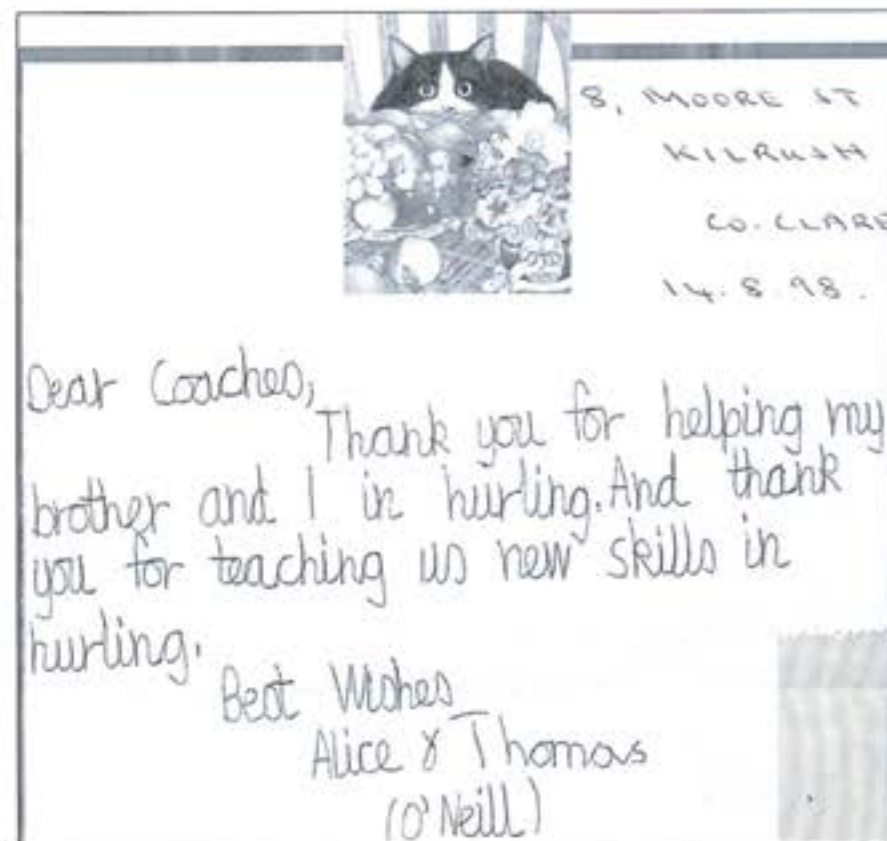
the Tubber abd Crusheen girls for their interest and commitment during the year. It was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the U16 and U18 and juniors who represented Clare during the past year. Ruan would also like to congratulate Crusheen Ladies football

team on their successful year. Finally a special thanks to the heart and sole of Ruan Camogie club, our supporters, sponsors and officers who supported us throughout the year. We can look forward to 1999, a year which promises to be a prosperous one for our club.



U-16 Final Kilmaley Sept 1998.

Back row (left to right): Annetts Lyons, Caroline Bridgale, Jennifer Lyons, Anne O'Regan, Orla O'Donnell, Louise Kirwan, Aine Courtney, Martha Courtney, Mary Lee, Helen Cassidy, Ailish Guithne and Sharon Fitzgibbon. Front row (left to right): Donna Courtney, Marie Cassidy, Michell Lyons, Derbhla Rice, Michelle O'Donnell, Caroline McNulty, Rosaleen Finn, Eileen O'Sullivan, Kimberley Purill and Amanda Drohan.



HURLING ON THE GREEN

Alice and Thomas attended all Hurling on The Green sessions in the Fair Green and showed their appreciation to the Coaches with this card.

Successful year for Éire Óg Camogie

ÉIRE ÓG Camogie Club enjoyed one of its most successful years at under-age level for some time.

Apart from winning the Under-12 B and C championships, the Club has seen a strong revival in camogie in Ennis, and this has been demonstrated by the keen interest of players whose turn-out at training sessions during the season has been satisfying to team mentors and officials alike.

In a thrilling U-12 B final, in which they scored a deserved victory over a strong Kilnamona team, Eimear Griffin and Ciara Normoyle with a goal apiece and a point by Edel Malone gave Éire Óg victory.

Éire Óg completed the double when their Under-12 C team defeated Ogonnellloe in an exciting final.

OFFICERS

Chairman: Tom Wolfe
Secretary: Mary Hennessy
Treasurer: Maura McNicholas
Team Trainers: Noel Normoyle
Kitty McNicholas
Tom Wolfe



ÉIRE ÓG CAMOGIE TEAM - WINNERS OF THE UNDER-12 B CHAMPIONSHIP, 1998
Back row - Noel Normoyle (trainer), Grace Eade, Clare Ann Neylon, Michelle Normoyle, Grain Quigley, Michelle Barry, Marie Hennessy, Barbara Howard and Eimear Griffin. Front row - Fiona Power, Patricia Howard, Sasha O'Brien, Louise Skelly, Emma O'Brien, Ciara Normoyle, Ann Marie Brown and Edel Malone.



ÉIRE ÓG UNDER-12 C TEAM - WINNERS OF CLARE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP 1998
Back row - Noel Normoyle (trainer), Orlagh Collison, Kate Keohane, Eimear Griffin, Emma O'Driscoll, Karina Callinan, Edel Griffin, Ann Marie Garry and Serena Hayes. Front row - Ail Wolfe, Ellen Daly, Erica Sullivan, Loren Hilliary, Elaine Kelly, Edel Malone and Margaret Hogan.

WOLFE TONES CAMOGIE CLUB

The highlight of the year for the Wolfe Tones Camogie Club was the U14s winning the All-Ireland Féile na nGael Division 2 title which was held in Wexford week-ending June 26th.

The Shannon girls were hosted by the Shamrocks Club from Enniscorthy. Captained by Heather Nolan the team won all their matches on the Friday and Saturday and thus qualified for the final on Sunday against a fancied Shinrone team from Offaly.

Trailing by two points at half-time the Shannon girls put on a great display of skill and fitness in the second half, winning on a score-line of 4-2 to 2-5. Twenty hours after winning their All-Ireland title the same team lined out against Kilkishen and retained the U-14 Co. Championship for the fourth year in a row. The Panel of players were as follows: Lizzie Danagher, Karen Nelson, Danielle McManis, Helen McEllinot, Sarah

Anna Brennan, Mairead Elliot, Audrey Shanahan, Deborah Roughan, Eibhlin McCafferty, Deirdre Sheehan, Kathy O'Loughlin, Elaine Gallery, Heather Nolan (captain), Aine O'Callaghan, Rebecca Foley, Laura Linnane and Grace O'Donnell.

Great praise for the performance of this team must go to team mentors Des Hackett, Mary and Martin Elliott.

The Senior team were unsuccessful in their bid to retain the County title and were defeated by a more determined Bodyke team. Fielding a very young U-12 team, though they did not reach the semi-final stages, a gallant effort was made by all and we look forward to future success with this age group.

The U-16 team, captained by Eimear Whorley, defended their county title and were worthy winners against Kilkishen in the final. The U-18 competition saw the Shannon girls narrowly defeated by this year's Co. Champions - Clooney.

The U-11 ground camogie competition proved a great success. The Wolfe Tones

winning the Shield with Newmarket taking the Cup. Much praise and enjoyment was got from this competition by organisers, players and parents.

In early September our Community Games team travelled to Mosney representing Clare and Munster. They took gold medals and were crowned All-Ireland champions.

All in all, 1998 has been a successful year for the Wolfe Tones Club and we look forward to a bright future with much under-age talent.

The Club would like to thank the various sponsors throughout the year, the players for their dedication to the game, the managers of the various teams, their work and dedication; the Chairmen: Donal O'Loughlin for his leadership; Committee members: Carmel Butler, Marian Costelloe; Eliz O'Sullivan and Tony McMahon.

On a sad note, our President, Ben Condon, passed away during the year. He was a great man and a great player.

Clooney hoping for ... CAMOGIE GOLDEN AGE

SEAN EARLS

P.R.O.

Clooney Camogie Club completed a marvellous sequence of Championship successes in the 1998 season, by winning the County Intermediate Championship. In doing so they earned the right to compete at Senior Championship level for the coming season. The club - which was reformed in 1992 - has won at U/12, U/14, U/16 and U/18 level. Clooney are also winners of Division 2 of the Senior League and at the time of writing, have qualified for the U/18 final for the third year in succession.

POPULAR ADMINISTRATOR

Senior Championship will rekindle many fond memories in the parish. It was back in 1933 that Clooney Camogie Club - the first Camogie Club in Clare - was founded by the legendary Mick Hennessy. A Clooney native, Mick was one of the greatest hurlers and G.A.A. administrators Clooney and indeed the Banner County has ever produced. Players and Club Officials alike loved, trusted and respected him.

His administration abilities were not just confined to Clooney hurling and camogie, as he was founder of the Clare Camogie Board and assisted in setting up other clubs in Clare. The local girls trained with the hurlers every Sunday and a few nights a week, at what was then known locally as "Carmody's" field. The local trainer was Patrick Carmody and they acquired much assistance in learning the skill of the game from Cork native, Sean Lee - who was an Insurance agent based in Ennis. He spent much of his time in Clooney.

GOLDEN AGE

The Clooney club of that era dominated Clare Camogie, winning no less than 6 County Senior Championships, Dr. Daly Memorial Cup and Munster Championship. Among the stars of that team were Fanny Corbett, Chris Markham, Babs Clune, Annie Conheady and present Vice President of the club, Dokey McNamara, whose granddaughters, Paula and Nicola Walsh and Triona Gallagher are stars of the present team. Seamus Reddan, President of the Club, was part of the Golden Age of Clooney hurling which was created

in no small way by the tremendous energy, enthusiasm and leadership of Mick Hennessy. They competed in ten County Finals (Cup and Championships), the highlight being crowned Senior Champions in 1942. Seamus recalls the hurlers bringing the girls to their camogie matches on cross-bars of their bicycles.

CLOONEY'S DREAM

Mick would certainly be proud of the achievements of the present wearers of his beloved red and green, who, under the guidance of trainers, Mary Littleton and John Skehan have competed at the top over the past seven years. Hugh Tuohy, Chairperson of the club and fellow officers are at present restructuring the club to cope with the demands of being one of the premier clubs in Clare and to ensure the survival of camogie in the parish as we reach the new millennium. Following the recent



Clooney's Winning Captains 1998 - Carol Lynch, Intermediate Championship, a Deirdre Murphy, Division 2 Senior League, proudly display their trophies watched player Laura Conheady.

success of the minor hurlers and with all the young talent emerging, it is dream of all Clooney supporters that new golden age of hurling and camogie is about to begin.

CLOONEY CAMOGIE CLUB OFFICERS 1998

President.....	Seamus Reddan
Vice President.....	Dokey Walsh
Chairperson.....	Hugh Tuohy
Vice Chairperson.....	Angela Ryan
Secretary.....	Ann Lynch
Assistant Secretary.....	Betty Murphy
Treasurer.....	Evelyn Skehan



CLOONEY CAMOGIE CLUB

Back row (L-R) - Manager John Skehan, Doreen Tuohy, Eileen Leyden, Siobhán Hassett, Lou Earls, Caroline Lynch, Emily Skehan, Paula Walsh. Front (L-R) - Eudina McCarthy, Deirdre Murphy, Amy Collieran, Gemma Hassett, Imelda Collieran, Triona Gallagher, Edel McMahon.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

All-Ireland Junior Camogie Finalists 1998



Back Row: (l. to r.) - Siobhán Ryan, Paula Bulfin, Joanne Ryan, Mary Looby, Jane Ryan, Grainne Shanahan, Siobhán Cusack, Fiona Loughnane, Nicola Kennedy. Front Row: Angela McDermott, Niamh Connolly, Alice Deane (captain) Meadhb Corcoran, Tess Bourke, Louise Ryan, Philomena Fogarty, Sheena Joward, Niamh Dwyer, Muireann O'Donoghue, Michaela Graham (mascot). Missing from photograph: Orla Fleming

Tipperary Camogie

By Marion Uí Greacháin



Tipperary Senior Team - All-Ireland Senior Semi-Finalists. Back Row L to R: Jim Madden (Selector), Biddy Phillips (Coach), Triona Bonnar, Nora Dwan, Louise Ryan, Meadhb Stokes, Jovita Delaney, Claire Madden, Siobhán Ryan, Suzanne Kelly, Siobhán Cusack, Niamh Bonar, Brian McDonnell (Selector). Front Row L to R: Una O'Dwyer, Helen Kiely, Dóire Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Noelle Kennedy, Eimear McDonnell, Cathriona Hennessey, Emily Hayden, Sinead Nealon, Helen Kiely.

Congratulations to Cashel who retained the Senior title after seven years. Unfortunately at Munster level they did not do themselves justice in the Munster final and were beaten by last year's Munster champions Granagh/Ballingarry and the eventual winners of this year's All-Ireland Club Championship.

In the Feile Na nGael, Templemore represented Tipperary. They reached the final but were beaten by the narrowest of margins.

In the Feile Na nGael skills competition Elaine Ryan (Portroe) represented Tipperary. Unfortunately after a brilliant performance by Elaine she did not take National honours, but nevertheless represented both her Club and County with pride and dignity.

Tipperary were well represented in the All-Ireland seven-a-side competition in Kilmacudd. Tipperary playing in the Junior All-Ireland Final the following day left a number of clubs without their key players. However they accounted well for themselves even if they did not attain the honours they had in the previous years.

COMPETITION	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP
U/12 'A' Championship	Moneygall	Templemore
U/12 'B' Championship	Moneygall	Burgess
U/12 'C' Championship	Clonoulty	Sean Treacy's
U/12 'A' League	Templemore	Moneygall
U/12 'B' League	Knockavilla	Silvermines
U/12 'C' League	Lorha	Sean Treacy's
U/14 'A' Championship	Templemore	Drom/Inch
U/14 'B' Championship	Portroe	Sean Treacy's
U/14 'C' Championship	Bournea	Lorha
U/14 'A' League	Templemore	Drom/Inch
U/14 'B' League	Burgess	Kilruane McDonagh
U/14 'C' League	Lorha	Burgess
U/16 'A' Championship	Templemore	Drom/Inch
U/16 'B' Championship	Toomevara	Silvermines
U/16 'C' Championship	Lorha	Drom/Inch
U/18 'A' Championship	Not Completed.	
U/18 'B' Championship	Not Completed.	
Junior 'A' Championship	Moycarkey/Borris	Toomevara
Junior 'B' Championship	Clonoulty	Moneygall
(John Hogan Cup) Junior 'A' League	Moycarkey/Borris	Bournea
Junior 'B' League (Terry Griffin Geaney Cup)	Templemore	Kilruane McDonagh
Intermediate Championship	Templemore	Holycross/Ballycahill
Intermediate League (Jimmy Carroll Cup)	Templemore	St. Cronan's
Senior Championship	Cashel	Drom/Inch
Senior League (Ann Fraser Cup)	Burgess	Cashel

Congratulations to all the above winners and commiserations to the losers

INTER COUNTY SCENE

COUNTY SENIOR TEAM:

The first game of the season was against Cork (All-Ireland Senior Champions) on March 1st. in Our County Camogie Grounds, this game we lost by 3 pts. This result inspired all involved to make a very serious effort and a great win followed Kilkenny in Bennettsbridge on March 15th. On Sunday April 26th. we had a convincing win over Wexford. However, a surprise defeat by Clare on May 4th. forced both Tipperary and Kilkenny to meet again within six days to determine who would take part in the semifinals. This game was played on May 16th. and thus ended our League prospects for '98.

In the Munster Championship on June 1st. Tipperary had a good win over Clare. We played Cork in Pairc Uí Rinn on Saturday June 20th. and after an epic struggle Cork shaded Tipp by a single point. This was a great game of camogie and all involved with the team were well pleased with their performance. The players now realising what it took to win Senior games and training for the Championship was stepped up.

In the first round of the Senior Championship old rivals Tipperary and Kilkenny met in Semple Stadium on Saturday July 4th. After a spectacular game of camogie Tipperary emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins. This win earned them a place in the All-Ireland Senior semi-final in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on Saturday August 1st. The opponents were Galway and this game was the first of the two semifinals being played that evening. Cork playing Clare in the other game. Tipperary went down to Galway by 3 pts. The absence of Deirdre Hughes through injury in the Senior Club semi-final and the injury to Claire Madden at the end of the first half was a major blow to the team plus a disallowed goal which had quality written all over it made their task more difficult and ended our hopes for Senior All-Ireland glory for '98.

COUNTY JUNIOR TEAM:

Our first game was the curtain raiser to the Senior game at the County Camogie Grounds on March 1st. where we suffered a huge defeat by Cork and it was clearly evident that much work needed to be done. Limerick again defeated us the following Sunday by 1pt. Next came Kilkenny and a win was vital a great performance on the day gave us a 12 pt victory. We were now putting a settled team together and the league was providing excellent team building opportunities. We next disposed of Clare by a huge score on Thursday April 16th and we faced a very fancied Wexford side on April 26th and notched up another fine win. We were now in the League Semi-final as Limerick had been disqualified from the competition because they had played Interme-



Junior Coach & Selectors.

L to R: Sheila Delaney (Coach), Bernie O'Dowd & Marion Graham.

diate All-Ireland medal holders on their Junior Team. We travelled to Down (a huge journey on the morning of the match) with a very depleted side due to exam commitments by a number of our players. We lost to a strong Down outfit who went on to defeat Cork in the League Final.

Saturday June 27th, saw us face Clare in their home ground and had a convincing win on the day. Next came Cork in the semi-final, despite trailing by 11 points at half time, we held Cork scoreless in the second half and went on to win by 10 points. This was a sweet and memorable victory. We played Limerick on June 25th, in the County Camogie Grounds and lifted the Munster Cup - a fitting reward for great commitment and dedication.

This win in the Munster Final qualified us for the All-Ireland semi-final against Derry again at our County Grounds on Sunday August 16th, which ended in a nail biting draw. Now we had to face the second crossing of the 'Border' in the space of a couple of months to re-play Derry at Bellaghy in Derry on Sunday August 30th. The Northern Team lined out favourites, but Tipperary played with pride, spirit and style and emerged victorious by 4 pts. We had now booked our place in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final Day against Galway - Sunday September 6th.

It was a very wet and windy day and despite losing, our young team gained a multitude of admirers. As Con Houlihan reported in the Sunday World the following week, "As the Tipperary team returned to their dressing room after the game as he watched them go under the tunnel they got younger and younger looking and it was then you realised that this team were mere children who had just served up the best display of camogie he had seen for many a year at Junior level".

COUNTY MINOR TEAM:

The Minors first outing was against Limerick on May 4th, in Mary Immaculate College Limerick Grounds. A convincing victory was enjoyed. The Munster Final took place against Cork on Saturday May 4th, in the Hurling Field at the Ragg. This game went to extra time. It was a scorching hot day and took its toll on the players, in extra time Cork availed of the opportunity to introduce another three subs and with a tiring Tipperary side Cork emerged victorious by 3 points. Much disappointment was expressed at this defeat as a lot was expected of this team. Cork went on to win the All-Ireland defeating Derry by a very high score.

COUNTY U/18 TEAM:

What a pity this competition does not go beyond Munster Final. Some great camogie to be seen at this level.

We were defending our Munster Crown against Limerick on Saturday September 12th, at the County Grounds. We won well, with our players giving an exhibition of score getting. The team was mostly made up of Senior and Junior County players. In the semi-final we defeated old rivals Cork in a

thrilling game on Sunday October 4th. This fine win qualified us for our second Munster Final in a row. Our opponents were Clare and this game was played at Wolfe Tone G.A.A. Grounds, Shannon on Sunday October 11th, and once again the title belonged to Tipperary. Well done to all involved.

GAEL LINN:

Congratulations to the girls from Tipperary who represented Munster in the Gael Linn competitions in June both at Junior and Senior level. Munster recorded another victory at Senior level but the Juniors were unfortunate to be beaten by one point by Ulster, who incidentally went onto take the



Munster Under 18 Champions. Back Row L to R: Tommie Lanigan (Coach), Eimear Kennedy, Brid Kilbane, Niamh Connolly, Joanne Ryan, Norma Maher, Philomena Fogarty, Una O'Dwyer, Sheena Howard, Muireann O'Donoghue, Edel Bourke, Patsy Carroll (Selector), Noel Hennessy (Selector). Front Row L to R: Deirdre McDonnell, Mary Rose Ryan, Emily Hayden, Louise Ryan, Catherine Hennessy (Captain), Michaela Graham (Mascot), Helen Campion, Niamh Harkin, Eimear McDonnell, Norma Coffey, Claire Kennedy.

title.

TALENT WITHIN OUR COUNTY TEAM:

Congratulations to Meadh Corcoran (Moycarkey) a member of our Junior squad who was the first camogie player to receive the a scholarship for combining her sporting talents with her career qualifications. Congratulations also to Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara) who represented Ireland in racquetball and handball in Moscow, also Niamh Dwyer (Thurles) who represented Ireland in Basketball. Congratulations also to Siobhan Cusack (Toomevara) who is at present a member of the Irish rugby team. We have a very talented bunch in our county.

INTER COUNTY REFEREES:

Thankfully Tipperary have two excellent referees who can boastfully say they have both refereed All-Ireland Senior Finals in Croke Park. Last year Biddy officiated at the Senior Final and this year against all the odds John Morrissey finally got the recognition he so righteously deserve. What a pity this honour bestowed on John was clouded by the fact that the Referees Committee in Croke Park have disbanded simply because the Fixtures Committee appointed a male referee. A man was also in charge of the Ladies Football All-Ireland and I did not hear one word of criticism on that issue. We are fast going into the year 2000 everybody is looking for changes in our Association, one change was made and all hell broke loose. Surely if a man is allowed to referee at the same level as a woman throughout the League and Championship campaign he is entitled to officiate in Croke Park. I compliment John on this distinction and also our appreciation of his sterling service as a referee within our County over the years. He did a wonderful

job in Croke Park and long may he continue to do so.

Well done to Biddy Philips on her appointment to officiate the All-Ireland Senior Club Final. Biddy has now got the distinction of refereeing games at all levels. We congratulate her on her achievement.

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE:

The first sod was turned on the site for our new Development in the Camogie Pitch by Michael Lowry T.D. on Saturday March 7th. This was a historic occasion for camogie in Tipperary. At last the camogie players will have the much needed facilities that will bring our field at the Ragg in line with the best Development of its kind in the Country and will be something that all associated with camogie can be proud of.

Supporters and followers within the county will have seen steady and on going progress on our dressing rooms since then. The inside work will soon be commencing, with outside windows and doors in place. When completed it will certainly be a fine development, and will bring facilities to a proper standard for all involved.

Clubs and Patrons who have contributed financially have our appreciation and gratitude. Those who failed to assist in this regard - Well what can one

say!!!!

Sincere thanks to the many people who gave us the use of their time and equipment during the year.

SPONSORSHIP:

Again we had to call on the good nature of a number of people during the year for sponsorship, particularly leading up to the Junior semi-final replay with Derry and our All-Ireland Junior Final. Thanks to all the G.A.A. Clubs who contributed to our appeal to the County G.A.A. Board for their support to Nenagh Co-Op for providing us with K bags and to the many sponsors who contributed to help raise funds to attire the girls for the all-Ireland. Thanks to Hayes' Hotel Thurles who provided both Tipperary and Derry with a beautiful meal after the semi final and for the reception we received after the All-Ireland final.

CONCLUSION:

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow officers, Noel, Bernie, Shiela and Biddy who have given so freely of their time during the year. At times we all felt like throwing in the towel, but continued to struggle on against all the odds and a fair bit of criticism.

Sincere thanks to the G.A.A. clubs for putting your pitches at the disposal of our teams, both at club and county level. We look forward to your continued cooperation. My appreciation also to Tommie Barrett, Martina Oakley and Tim Floyd, for their continued support and help during the year and the much needed use of the office facilities.

Finally I would like to thank the club officers, club and county players for their kindness and courtesy shown to me during the year and I wish them success for the coming season.

Templemore Camogie Club



Templemore County U12 "A" League Champions 1998

Back Row L to R: Martin Bourke, Sinead Bourke, Clarissa Bohan, Marilyn Purcell, Catherine O'Doherty, Emma O'Meara, Sinead Bourke, Grace Hennessy, Jim Brennan. Front Row L to R: Karen Maher, Elaine Bourke, Ciara Johnston, Carmel Phelan, Claire Grogan (Captain), Eimear Buckley, Siobhan Bourke, Marie Bourke, Deirdre Brennan. Missing: Claire Murphy and Laura O'Connor.

1998 has been the club's most successful year since its inception nine years ago, the highlight being the attainment of senior status in 1999 for the first time.

The U12 "A" team had easy victories in the championship over Silvermines, Drom Inch, Moneygall, Ballingarry and Burgess to qualify for the final but a late Moneygall recovery in the dying minutes clinched victory for them on a 5-3 to 3-4 scoreline. In the league final Templemore reversed the earlier defeat with a four point winning margin. The U14 "A" team had easy victories over St. Cronans, Drom Inch, Knockavilla and Toomevara to qualify for the final and in a great final

they emerged victorious over Drom Inch on the score 2-4 to 2-3.

In June they represented Tipperary well in Wexford in the Feile na nGael Division 1 and with victories over Bunclody, Iniscara, Rathnure, Clarinbridge they qualified for the final against Outart the Ballagh. The team put up a great performance and in the early stages of the second half they led by six points. With time almost up, a draw looked the likely outcome but a late Outart point snatched victory. Later they retained the U14 "A" league with victories over Moneygall, St. Cronans and Drom Inch.

The U16 "A" team retained the All-Ire-

land Pan Celtic tournament in Tralee in April with victories over Bishopstown, Craughwell, Clarinbridge and Kinvara in the final on the score 2-6 to 1-5. For the first time the club affiliated a junior "B" team as well as an intermediate team and the club won the county league with victories over Clonoulty, Brian Borus, Drangan, Bournea on the score 7-13 to 1-0. In the championship they went out at the semi-final stage having lost a number of players to the intermediate team. In the intermediate league Templemore were county champions with comprehensive victories over Knockavilla, Portroe and St. Cronans in the final on a 5-5 to 0-1 scoreline. They were similarly impressive in winning the intermediate championship with victories over St. Cronans, Knockavilla, Portroe and a draw with Holycross Ballycahill. In the final they easily disposed of Holycross on a 5-11 to 3-5 scoreline.

Two tournaments were also won, U14 "A" perpetuating the memory of the late P.J. Jones and a junior tournament perpetuating the late Linda O'Connor. The club is equally involved in promoting ladies football and fielded teams at U14, U16, U18 and senior level.

The club was well represented in the various county teams and the following won Munster championship medals: Finia Loughnane (junior), Norma Maher (U18) and Niam Connolly (U18 and junior).



Templemore Junior "B" League Winners 1998

Back Row L to R: Martin Bourke, Noelle Bergin, Aileen Brennan, Leona Bohan, Claire Grogan, Lorraine Bourke, John Grogan, Joanne Carton, Michelle Purcell, Mairead Bourke, Eilish Meagher, Jim Brennan. Front Row L to R: Laura Bourke, Fiona Purcell, Laurena Meagher, Andrina Webster, Elizabeth Jones, Brigid Jones, Siobhan Burke (Captain), Jennell Devaney, Grace Fogarty, Ashling Brennan, Shirley Bergin, Sara Kennedy.



**Claire Grogan Templemore
'Star of the future'**

Cashel back as Senior Champions

Cashel girls bounced back after a six year lapse to take the County Senior title at the hands of a gallant Drom/Inch team. This years championship was a long drawn out affair having played their first round of the championship on Sunday April 1st., the final was not played until August 5th.

In the Ann Fraser final they fell to Burgess. They reached the Munster Final against a strong Grannagh/Ballingarry team who were the champions for the past two years and were not going to relinquish their title too easy. They beat Cashel by seven points although the final score did not do us justice. On Sunday last Grannagh/Ballingarry were crowned All-Ireland Club Champions for the first time ever when they beat St. Vincent's of Dublin by eleven points.

We had many representatives at County level, Meadhbh Stokes, Una O'Dwyer, Iovita Delaney, Triona Hennessey, Emily Hayden, Helen Carnpion all Senior. Philomena Fogarty, Paula Bulfin and Olivia Hayden represented us at Junior level. Billy Coffey was a selector at Minor



Cashel Senior Champions:

Back Row L to R: Martin Browne (Coach), Triona Hennessey, Meadhbh Stokes (Capt), Marie Tobin, Marie O'Dwyer, Ann Barry, Philomena Fogarty, Iovita Delaney, Emma Danney, Sile Nash, Libby Twomey, Ann Marie Fitzgearld, Timmy Moloney (Selector). Front Row L to R: Kailie O'Connell, Maura Tarrant, Helen Carnpion, Norma Coffey, Emily Hayden, Teresa Bourke, Michelle Kennedy, Una O'Dwyer, Geraldine Meagher, Julia O'Dwyer (Selector). Missing from photograph, Denise Manton, Paula Bullin and Martin Kennedy (Selector).

level and again Philomena Fogarty, Norma Coffey, Maura Tarrant and Mary Barron were our Minor representatives... Bulfin and Olivia Hayden who are both undergoing major surgery for injuries received during the year. Get well wishes are sent to Paula

Eire Óg Donohill Camogie Club

Formed February 1998



Members U14 Eire Óg - Donohill Camogie Panel

Back Row L to R: Rita Ryan, Tracy Guerin, Maragert Ryan (Mentor), Joanne O'Doherty, Eimear Quinn, Brid Heffernan, Maragert O'Dwyer (Mentor), Christine O'Dwyer, Aislinn McGrath, Joella Fox (Mentor), Roseanne Hennessey, Anna Kennedy, Antoinette O'Doherty, Claire Dawson. Front Row L to R: Noreen O'Doherty, Aoife Barry, Emma Kennedy, Ann O'Dwyer, Fiona Fox, Patricia English, Sheelagh Carew, Mary Keane, Sinead Barry, Caroline Furlong, Ann Marie Ryan. Missing from photograph is Kay Ryan & Clare Ryan.

The Anne Frazer comes to Burgess

Liam Ó hÓgáin



Burgess U14 "C" County League Winners 1998

Front Row L to R: Aoife Ryan, Ann Marie O'Brien, Bernadette Fogarty, Marian Hogan, Emer O'Connell, Lisa Howard, Claire Maxwell, Sarah Hayes, Claire Kearns, Patricia Hogan. Back Row L to R: Liam Hogan (Selector), Eileen Hogan (Treasurer), Norma Hanrahan, Breda Cosgrave, Michelle Griffin, Aoife Naughton, Margaret Hogan, Aine Mulcahy, Mairead Hogan, Denise Darcy, Tracy Seymour, Emma Hogan, Padraig Meagher (Team Manager). Missing from photo: Elaine King, Mary Ryan, Rebecca Reidy, Tara Collins, Dervla Barry and Elaine Fogarty.

1998 will be held as a very special year in our little club. We had achieved success at every age and level, but a senior title always seemed to elude us. But 1998 was to be our year as we defeated Cashel in the Senior Ann Frazer Cup on Saturday 17th of October in the county camogie grounds. This may be the stepping stone we needed to give us the momentum to win a senior championship county title. We have the material and with the assistance of good management this goal can be achieved.

On the underage front we contested the U12 "B" County Final and were defeated by the smallest of margins, one point by Moneygall, who went on to take the U12 "A" title also. If these underage players progress over the next two years, we should have a strong team for the

U14 championship. Our current U14 team, although very short of players in the U14 age group succeeded in bringing a county league title to the parish when they defeated Kilruane. Our U16 team though entered in a lower grade had to compete in the A championship, we were out of our depth here and the results of our matches bore this out. Nevertheless our players performed with pride.

The U18 championship is going with one win to date under our belt over Templemore. We had a junior team entered for the very first time this year and they performed admirably and adequately although we had to field some very young and inexperienced players. We hope to do much better in this competition in the coming year.

In the inter-county scene we supplied

players to the senior, junior, minor and U18 inter-county teams. The players to the fore here were: Emer McDonnell, Deirdre McDonnell, Sheena Howard, Sinead Nealon, Sinead Collins, Niamh Bonar, Therese Brophy and Amy Kissane.

We would like to thank those involved in the management of our club, who give of their time unselfishly and without such commitment our little club would not function. On this regard we compliment Padraig Meagher (Chairman), Marie Hogan (Vice-Chairman), Deirdre McDonnell (Secretary), Liam Hogan (PRO), our team managers and committee.

Nollaig shona dhíbh eile.

"Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh siad".



Burgess Senior Camogie Panel which defeated Cashel, in the Ann Frazer League Final

Back Row L to R: Brian McDonnell (Manager) Edel Hogan, Josephine McKeogh, Sinead Collins, Eimear McDonnell, Amy Kissane, Niamh Bonar, Sheila Kyne, Niamh Hogan, Catherine Keating and Elaine O'Brien. Front Row L to R: Olive Gleeson, Anne McKeogh, Sheena Howard, Therese Brophy, Nuala Nealon, Sinead Nealon (Captain), Fiona Hanrahan, Deirdre McDonnell, Jenny Slattery (Mascot), Lorraine Gleeson, Olive Slattery and Ailish Kennedy. Missing from photo: Liam Hogan (Selector) Padraig Meagher (Selector), Orla Hogan and Aine Hogan (Players). D.B.

Lorrha Camogie Club 1998 County Champions, A Grand Title Indeed



By: Rose Mannion

Lorrha U12 County League Winners. Front Row L to R: Catherine O'Meara, Colette Cleary, Mary Hogan, Jennifer Lewis, Mairead Hctor (Captain), Elaine Hough (Vice Captain), Jessica Kelly, Emma Naylor, Elaine Bourke. Back Row L to R: Mary Needham, Emma Kennedy, Katie Kennedy, Claire Hough, Bernie Cleary (Club vice chairperson), Catherine Power, Niamh O'Meara, Theresa Barry (Coach), Anne-Marie Mannion, Clodagh Bourke, Martina Houlihan, Rose Mannion (Manager/Coach). Missing from photograph, Catherine Burke, Colette Kelly, Muireann Brophy, Mary Walsh, Treacy Hogan and Natalie Duane.

1998 a year that brought two County titles to our club, titles that were history making in their own way as neither the U/12 or the U/16 s had ever won County titles before. This was a very successful year indeed. Starting off the U/16 championship with a small panel, one can never predict what the sporting season will bring, but one can hazard a guess, so in our first game against Ballinahinch we finished on a scoreline of 3-7 to 3-5. Bournea however proved more difficult as due to holidays and illness, we found ourselves short two of our key players on the evening and also on the loosing side. With all not lost yet, we played Shannon Rovers and secured victory on a scoreline of 4-6 to 4-2.

Clonoulty were our opponents in the Semi-Final and proved to be the most enjoyable of the four with the girls serving up a spirited performance to finish on a scoreline of 2-6 to 1-1. And so to the County Final and yes we were here before, back in '95 when the County Board introduced this 'C' Group and our present day club chairman Liam Mannion agreed to donate a perpetual shield for this competition. We had hopes of putting the Lorrha name on the shield that year, but alas it was not to be. It took us four years to claim this title and now here are in '98 the holders of the County U/16 'C' Championship. Well done to One and all. Sincere thanks to all who supported and

encouraged us along the way.

U/12:

The club witnessed it's biggest panel of girls at this age level with a grand total of twenty seven girls signing up for the championship.

Twenty four of them were again togging out on the day we played our League final.

The championship proved disappointing particualarly our semi-final match against Clonoulty as some of the girls just failed to perform as expected on the day. Training however continued throughout the summer months and we had two good wins against Shannon Rovers and Newrort

which took us to the final against Sean Treacy's. This game had it all and gave great entertainment. Near misses on both sides, mighty saves, heartstopping moments, the lot. The first half of the game saw the ball up and down the

pitch with both sides having equal amounts of possession but unable to score such was the defending from both. At half time both sides remained score less, so it was still all to play for.

Looking fitter and sharper in the second half with more posession now showed how determined we were and after about seven minutes we had netted our first score, a goal which came from newcomer to us this year Muireann Brophy. A change in the forward line brought a second goal from Elaine Hough's hurl, which sealed our victory. The final whistle brought a sea of supporters onto the pitch to congratulate this great 'dream team' on their first ever County win and to witness Runai Coiste Contae Marion Graham present the trophy to the captain Mairead Hctor and vice captain Elaine Hough.

A very sincere thanks from yours truly who was in charge of this team, to all the players, their Parents and all who helped and supported us throughout the year. A special word of thanks to my helper this year Theresa Barry for her commitment to the club.

U/18 COUNTY:

Edel Burke and Eimear Kennedy were members of the Co. U/18 panel that clinched the Munster title for the second year earning yet another Munster medal to add to last years. Well done girls.

We hope that 1999 will prove to be a fruitful year for us as we look forward after a well deserved winter break.



Lorrha U16 County Championship Winners. Front Row L to R: Anna Slevin, Jessica Kennedy, Noelle Killeen (Vice Captain), Claire Mahon (Captain), Pauline Hctor, Elaine Hough, Sarah Moran. Back Row L to R: Bernie Cleary (Vice Chairperson), Dairine Moran, Jennifer Hough, Claire Moran, Maeve Kennedy, Ann Hough, Michelle Kennedy, Rose Mannion (Manager).

Cork.. '98 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions



Clean Sweep For Cork Seniors

Of all counties, Cork may feel the most satisfied with their performances over the past season. The senior squad did all that was asked of them. The three cups, the O'Duffy Cup (All-Ireland Senior Championship), the AIB Cup (National Senior League) and the Morrissey Cup (Munster Senior Championship) made the short journey from Linda Mellerick's sideboard to Eithne Duggan's home.

Corn Tailteann (All-Ireland Minor Championship) returned to Leaside following an agonisingly long twelve-year absence. A youthful team reached the All-Ireland Intermediate Final. Cork supplied

half the Munster team that won the Gael-Linn Senior Cup and scooped all individual awards at senior level.

Cork started the season in apprehensive mood. Their celebrated centre-back, Sandie Fitzgibbon, had announced her retirement and it was a tall order for any player to fill her shoes. A number of players were tried during the League. While Cork won all their games, they have not unearthed a player to don Sandie's mantle. Lynn Dunlea notched 1-12 in the final at Ballinasloe against keen rivals, Galway, to keep the trophy in Cork for the fourth successive year.

The three Leinster counties were

blitzed in the opening round of the All-Ireland Senior Championship. Clare were good value for their 1-13 to 1-9 win over Wexford. Despite fielding without Lynn Dunlea, Vivienne Harris and Mary O'Connor, Cork coasted past a poor Dublin outfit. A spirited show by Limerick had Galway rattled but the Connacht county rallied to win by two points.

In the outstanding game of the round, Tipperary marked their return to the senior ranks after an absence of fourteen years, with a superb team performance. They finished a point ahead of Kilkenny in a high scoring game.

The senior semi-finals were staged



Mary Moran's
Camogie Affairs



Mary Moran receives a crystal glass memento from Uachtaran, Joe Mc Donagh, at the Hibernian Sponsored 40th Anniversary Gaelic Sport Banquet in the Burlington Hotel.

together as a very attractive programme at Nolan Park, Tipperary, who were on a high following their win over Kilkenny, had their hopes dashed when their scoring forward Deirdre Hughes suffered a shoulder injury in a club championship match. Galway were also handicapped by injury as the sides took their places. In far the better contest of the two, Galway came back late in the game to claim a place in the final. Without reaching great heights, Cork dealt with the Clare challenge.

The 1998 All-Ireland Senior Final was the first camogie match to be televised live and Galway and Cork put on a display worthy of the occasion. A storm raged over Dublin so violent that RTE enquired on more than one occasion during the morning if the match would go ahead. Playing into the teeth of the gale, Galway made the early running but two well-taken goals by Irene O'Keefe gave Cork the lead which they never lost. Cork defended heroically for the remainder of the game with huge performances from Linda Mellerick and Denise Cronin. Irene won the RTE Player of the Match Award and Linda was honoured with the Eircell Player of the Year Award.

Galway received some measure of consolation when their junior side claimed the All-Ireland Junior Championship title at the finish of a memorable match against Tipperary. This game had everything, excellent skill, impressive scores and spirited play from two top class sides. Lourda Kavanagh was named Player of the Match.

Down made no mistake at their third attempt to secure the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship title. Had they converted the majority of chances that they created they would have defeated Cork's youthful second string by more than the four point winning margin. With several Ashbourne Cup medal holders in their lineout, Down lifted the National Junior League title. It will be interesting to see how they fare in the senior ranks.

Derry Minors had a day to remember when they halted a fancied Kilkenny team in the All-Ireland semi-final. Cork had to fight every inch of the way to engineer a one-point victory in the second semi-final. Cork's great wristwork, combination and ability to shoot points saw them run out comfortable winners against Derry in the final of the All-Ireland Minor Championship. Sarah Hayes, Catriona Kelly, Rosarii Holland, Ciara Healy and Rachael Moloney showed promise for the future.

Twenty years ago, Bernie O'Brien won an All-Ireland Club Championship medal in the colours of Ballyagran. Under her married name, Bernie Chawke, she helped Granagh-Ballingarry oust the reigning champions, Pearces (Galway) and St. Vincent's (Dublin) to lift the Carroll Cup. Granagh-Ballingarry relied heavily on past pupils of St. Mary's, Charleville with the Sheehan and O'Brien sisters, Jean Cullinane and Laura Leslie. Cork senior player, Mary O'Connor, who is working in

Limerick, threw in her lot with Granagh-Ballingarry this season adding strength to the side.

The Ashbourne Cup, the blue ribbon of universities camogie, was wrestled by U.C.C. from the arms of WIT in a tremendous final. With an array of inter-county talent on both sides, the standard was excellent. Cora Keohane, Muireann Harrington, Eithne Duggan, Ursula Troy and Therese Brophy lifted their game to great heights for the Cork college while Sinead Nealon (Player of the Tournament), Esme Murphy, Bridget Mullally and Michelle Fennelly played their hearts out for Waterford.

Sinead O'Callaghan, who was honoured with the Examiner Junior Sports Star Award, lead St. Mary's, Charleville to a three in a row in the All-Ireland Senior Championship. Eileen O'Brien, Laura Leslie, Caoimhe Harrington and Niamh Bowles combined with Sinead to play delightful camogie. Newcomers to camogie, Seamount, Kinvara, defeated all-comers to win the All-Ireland Colleges Junior Championship.

A satisfactory season drew to a close with the Development Committee launching their plans to carry the Camogie Association into the new millennium. One of their suggestions, the fifteen-a-side game on a full-sized G.A.A. pitch, will already be in place on a pilot scheme in 1999. Their remaining proposals will come before a special Congress later in the year.

Freshford '98 Camogie Queens



Freshford - County Senior Camogie Champions

Back: Julie Ryan, Caltriona Cormack, Kathleen Ryan, Margaret Hickey, (capt.), Gillian Dillon, Martina Maher, Margaret Kavanagh, Mary Ellen Butler, Mary Ryan, Cora Dowling, Breda Dooley.
Front: Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Sinéad Connery, Imelda Kennedy, Esther Kennedy, Paula Dowling, Sinéad Costello, Mairéad Costello, Helen McGrath, Emma Fitzpatrick. **Mascot:** Georgina Power. *photo: Tommy O'Neill*

In July '98 St. Lachtains won the county senior camogie title for the first time since the foundation of the club in 1984. Though they lost three finals in recent years nevertheless it was expected that eventually the years of underage success at local and national level would bring senior success.

They were highly impressive through the whole year as they beat Tullogher, St. Brigids, Lisdowney and, in the semi-final, Shamrocks, all in some style.

St. Brigids were quite a different proposition in a very tough final. But from the time Imelda Kennedy goaled from an early

free the Freshford girls were in the driving seat and well deserved their three point half time lead. Gillian Dillon-Maher's goal ten minutes from time built an unassailable lead and the St. Brigids challenge eventually faded. The final score read 3-10 to 2-3.



Graig-Ballycallan - County Senior Camogie Finalists

Back: David O'Neill (selector), Katie Dunphy, Deirdre Treacy, Laura Sweeney, Mary Purcell, Orla Ryall, Una Hennessy, Johnny Ronan (selector), Ursula Walton, Aisling Byrne, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Mary Ryall, Richie Moran (trainer), Aoife Brennan.
Front: Catherine Keogh, Deirdre Malone, Pauline Comerford, Ann Marie Ryall, Mary McGrath, Michelle Fennelly, Sinéad Millea, Margaret Comerford, Tracey Millea, Aoife Neary. **Mascot:** Laura Ronan. *photo: Tommy O'Neill*



The Cup that Cheers!

Margaret Hickey waves the Cup in the air after St. Lachtains defeated St. Brigids in the Kilkenny County Senior Camogie Final.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Gaelic Games Award winners at the 1998 Smithwicks Sports Awards dinner: Charlie Carter (Hurling), Brigid Mullally (Camogie), DJ Carey and Duxie Walsh (Handball), Noel Skehan (Hall of Fame). *Photo Tom Brett*

KILKENNY YEARBOOK

Kilkenny - Leinster Minor Camogie Champions

Kilkenny qualified for this year's Leinster Minor Camogie championship final by virtue of a 4-5 to 2-2 win over Laois whereas Wexford qualified with a 2-10 to 1-3 win over Dublin.

In the final which was played in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny emerged victorious over Wexford on a scoreline of 3-7 to 1-7. In the All-Ireland semi-final against Derry which was played in Castledawson the Kilkenny team was defeated by 2-8 to 1-7.

25 Leinster Minor Camogie Championships have been completed since the competition's inception in 1974. Kilkenny lead the roll of honour having won this championship on 10 occasions.

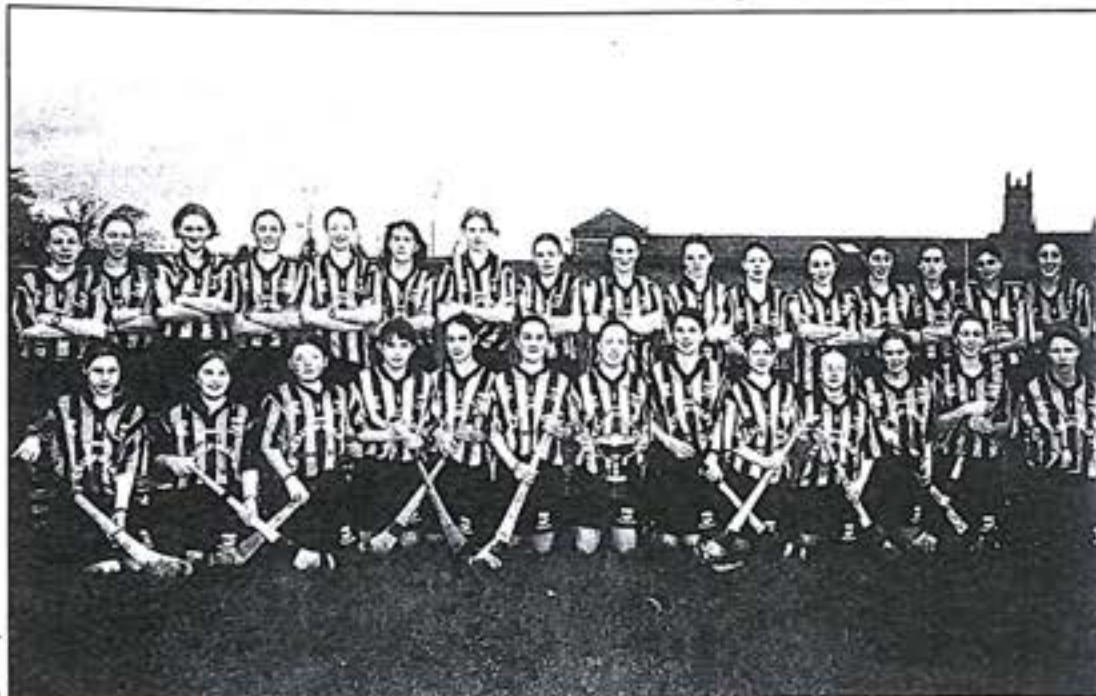
Kilkenny have appeared in the final 17 times & Dublin have done so 18 times, winning on 9 occasions. Wexford with 6 wins out of 11 final appearances complete this very short list. Of the other Leinster counties, only Westmeath (twice), Kildare & Offaly have ever managed to make it to the decider.

The record for the longest winning sequence is held by Kilkenny with 6 wins in a row between 1988 & 1993. Dublin completed a 5 in a row sequence between 1980 & 1984. Wexford longest sequence was a 3 in a row between 1994 & 1996. Kilkenny first won the cup in 1974, the inaugural year.

Panel: Laura Comerford (Emeralds), Eimear Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Linda Crennan (Lisdowney), Sarah O'Gorman (Emeralds), Ciara Fennelly (Shamrocks), Caitriona Treacy

(Thomastown), Angela Kenneally (Mullinavat), Karen Morrissey (St. Martin's), Bronagh Neary (St. Brigid's), Lizzy Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Aoife Neary (James Stephens), Sinead Connery (Freshford), capt., Caitriona Cormack (Freshford), Brenda Kenny (Piltown), Ann Walsh (Rower-

Inistioge), Fiona Dowling, Mairead Lawlor, Aoife Fitzpatrick (all Freshford), Aine Mackey (Windgap), Sinead Fitzpatrick (James Stephens), Ciara Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Jane Gibbons, Eimear Phelan, Laura Hanlon (all James Stephens), Bernie Ryall (St. Brigid's), Sinead Kavanagh (Freshford), Aoife Treacy (Danesfort)



Leinster U-14 Camogie Champions

Back: Jackie Frisby, Meabh Dalton, Marie O'Connor, Caroline O'Dowd, Susan Kennedy, Deirdre Delaney, Sinéad Corrigan, Aoife Neary, Grace Dermody, Kay Gaffney, Emily Dermody, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Terry Mackey, Bríd Mackey, Mary-Anne Murphy.

Front: Breda Kavanagh, Caitriona Maher, Sarah Buckley, Lisa Millea, Fiona Kenny, Siobhán Hickey, Fiona Dowling, Edel Maher, Catherine Kavanagh, Nicola Minogue, Ailish Kenneally, Mairead Lawlor, Patricia O'Neill.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Leinster Minor Camogie Champions

Back: Aoife Fitzpatrick, Mairead Lawlor, Aoife Treacy, Linda Crennan, Karen Morrissey, Jane Gibbons, Laura Hanlon, Caitriona Treacy, Ciara Fennelly, Brenda Kenny, Aine Mackey, Bernie Ryall.

Front: Fiona Dowling, Angela Kenneally, Lizzy Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Aoife Neary, Caitriona Cormack Sinéad Connery (capt.), Sarah O'Gorman, Laura Comerford, Bronagh Neary, Ann Walsh.

Missing from Photo: Ciara Murphy, Eimear Phelan.

photo: Tommy O'Neill

Camogie Club News

ST. LACHTAINS

Sweet Senior Victory

On the 17th July '98 was seen the culmination of fourteen years hard work when St. Lachtains won the county senior camogie title for the first time. After losing three finals in recent years we had wondered if we would ever win one!

On the way to winning the title St. Lachtains beat Tullogher, St. Brigids, Lisdowney and, in the semi-final, Shamrocks.

St. Brigids were our final opponents in a very tough encounter. We had a great start when Imelda Kennedy goaled from a free, spurred on by this, we led at half time by three points. Gillian Dillon-Maher's goal ten minutes from time signalled the end of the St. Brigids challenge. The final score read 3-10 to 2-3. Tears of joy flowed as team and supporters celebrated a great win.

Congratulations to the girls, the selectors and trainer Tom Ryan. Many thanks also to Paddy Flynn, groundsman of St. Lachtains for all his help during the year. Imelda Kennedy was voted 'player of the game' and received her trophy from the late Jim Dobbyn, long time friend of Freshford and Kilkenny camogie.

Panel: Helen McGrath, Paula Dowling, Mary Ellen Butler, Sinéad Costello, Margaret Hickey (capt.), Mary C. Ryan, Margaret Kavanagh, Esther Kennedy, Mairéad Costello, Gillian Dillon-Maher, Imelda Kennedy, Martina Maher. Subs: Cora Dowling, Kathleen Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Julie Ryan, Sinéad Connery, Breda Dooley, Marie O'Connor, Fiona Dowling, Caitriona McCormack. Trainer: Tom Ryan, Selectors: Sheila Dowling, Maura Costello, Teresa Dillon, Donal Heaphy.

Underage Success

After the success of the U-14 team in 1997, little was expected from the team. However they performed very well in the county Feile defeating St. Annes and James Stephens. But against Mullinavat in the semi-final we started well but were hit for five second half goals which ended our hopes.

In the championship we had good wins over St. Brigids and Emeralds to reach the final against Mullinavat. This time we extracted revenge for our earlier defeat and regained the county title. The county U-14 team regained the Leinster title this year and our representatives were: Fiona Dowling (capt.), Mairead Lawlor, Sinéad Corrigan, Nicola Minogue, Breda Kavanagh, Marie O'Connor, Catherine Kavanagh, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Grace Dermody and Caitriona Meagher.

While our U-16 team was beaten in the county final by Shamrocks, we were well represented on the county team which won the Leinster title. Sinéad Connery captained the side, which included Sinéad Kavanagh, Caitriona McCormack, Fiona Dowling, Mairéad Lawlor and Aoife Fitzpatrick.

The U-18 team was beaten in the Roinn A final by St. Brigids. On the county side were Mairéad Costello, Mary C. Ryan, Emma Fitzpatrick, Cora Dowling and Mary Ellen Butler.

The U-21's lost to St. Brigids in the county semi-final. The primary school side defended their Roinn A title convincingly.

The club thanks all their trainers, selectors, committee and supporters for their commitment and encouragement to us all year, with a special word of thanks to our trainer Tom Ryan.



St. Lachtains U-14 Roinn A County Champions '98

Back: Marina Butler, Grace Dermody, Marie O'Connor, Ann Beckett, Breda Purcell, Claire O'Donnell, Ann Marie Bergin, Marian Maher, Ciara Hayes.

Middle: Ciara Brennan, Caitriona Maher, Aileen Marnell, Sinéad Corrigan, Danielle Minogue, Caitriona Kavanagh, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Aine Connery, Niamh Kennedy.

Front: Aoife Fitzpatrick, Mairead Lawlor, Maria Kennedy, Fiona Dowling, Breda Kavanagh (capt.), Nicola Minogue, Catherine Kavanagh, Sarah Theloke.



Scoil Ruadháin, Tullaroan, Primary Schools Roinn D Camogie Champions 1998.

Back: Ruth Grace, Aisling Pollard, Linda Sweeney, Lorraine Maher, Mary Maher, Ciara Fennelly, Karen Maher, Claire Walsh. **Centre:** Emma Maher, Aine Doherty, Lisa O'Dea, Elaine Tynan, Rachel Hogan, Jacinta Doran, Mary Walsh. **Front:** Nicola Fennelly, Yvonne O'Flynn, Gillian Walsh, capt., Sarah Grace, Leandra Pollard, Claire Doherty.

KILKENNY

YEAR BOOK

Leinster U-14 Camogie Champions

1998 proved to be a very successful year for Kilkenny's U-14 team. Having won the Leinster Championship in '97 the young camogie stars of the future were victorious again in '98. With a panel of 33, trainer Noelle O'Driscoll had a difficult task when naming her team for each of the five games. The teams first outing was in April against Wexford with Kilkenny winning by 3-6 to 2-4. They next played Dublin in a classic game which ended level 4-4 to 3-7.

As the camogie championship is played on a home and away basis we next faced Wexford at home and won by 2-12 to 2-4. We defeated Dublin by 2-4 to 1-2 but then had to face the same opposition in the Leinster final. Played in Dublin Kilkenny put on a storming performance to win by 4-3 to 1-5.

Scorers in all games were: Aoife Neary 9-13, Edel Maher 3-3, Maire O'Connor 2-1, Emily Dermody 1-1, Aoife Fitzpatrick 0-1.

Castlecomer Community School

The senior camogie team had a reasonably successful year.

They won the inaugural Kelly Tournament run by Muckalee club. They reached the semi-final of the Leinster B competition after three victories but lost narrowly to Kilcormack.

They reached the final of the Kilkenny senior schools championship. En route they beat Callan and Thomastown but had to give best in the final to Presentation Kilkenny.

Castlecomer CS Senior Camogie - Kelly Tournament Winners

Back: Ned Lawlor, C. Coogan, C. Roche, N. Maher, L. Dowd, M. Murphy, E. Maher, A. Shore, L. Crennan, A. Farrell, G. Hughes, M. Phelan. **Front:** L. Stapleton, M. Dillon, M. Coady, C. Dowling, D. Coonan (capt.), T. Keogh, E. Cantwell, N. Butler, S. Lyons, R. Doran. **Missing from photo:** K. Morrissey.

photo: Tommy O'Neill



Loreto Secondary School - Kilkenny First Year Downey Cup Champions

Front: Marina Butler, Nicola Minogue, Ciara Lawlor, Fiona Dowling, Mairead Lawler (Captain), Aoife Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Delaney, Orla Lawlor, Anita Gittens. **Middle:** Elaine Gittens, Caitriona Kavanagh, Tracy Lynch, Ciara McKenna, Vicky Lawrence, Laura Lynch, Laura Brennan, Louise Hogan, Caroline Hoyne, Deirdre Cotterell, Michelle Pembroke, Jenny Doherty, Orlaith Ryan, Ria Loughlin, Sarah Kennedy. **Back:** Elaine Tierney, Christine Kelly, Sinead Corrigan, Grace Dermody, Emma Dunne, Eimear Cashin.



St Brigid's College Callan - Leinster Senior Camogie Shield Winners 1998

Back: M. O'Dea, G. Dillon, A. Tennyson, L. Kenny, M. Comerford, AM Raitice, O. Kearney, A. Neary. **Middle:** N. O'Driscoll (trainer), A. Treacy, A. Carey, P. Doherty, L. Sweeney, L. Lawlor, B. Neary, N. Fitzpatrick. **Front:** E. Maher, C. Saunders, D. Treacy, ME Butler (capt.), N. Murphy, A. Neary, B. Marrell.



CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

BLACKS & WHITES

Camogie Revival

This year camogie was revived in Skeoughvosteen after a few years lapse. Due to great work being done at primary school level it enabled Blacks & Whites to field teams at primary and U-14 levels.

Our primary school teams reached the finals of the Roinn B Championship but had no luck at the final hurdle.

Pride of place must go to our U-14 team who captured the Roinn C County Championship in June. It is hoped to field at U-14 and U-16 in 1999.

Many Helpers!

Many thanks must go to Caitlin Brennan-Kelly for coaching our U-14 girls and Tony Dalton N.T. for our success at primary level.

Congratulations to Carolyn O'Dowd and Maeve Dalton who won Leinster U-14 championship medals with Kilkenny.

The club would like to thank the parents, supporters, and the GAA club for use of Tom Walsh Park and anyone who helped in any capacity during the year.

Club Officers '98

Chair: Bernie Cleere

Vice-Chair: Breda O'Dowd

Secretary: Mary Murphy

Joint Treasurers: Ned Moran, Mary Murphy.



Skeoughvosteen - Primary Schools Finalists '98

Back: Mary Claire Murphy, Tara Kelly, Kristeen Joyce, Michelle Moloney, Miche Kelly, Aimee Murphy, Helena Wall, Aine Doyle, Majella Kelly.
Front: Ciara Kirwan, Kim Nolan, Brid Doran, Lisa Hayden.



Blacks & Whites Roinn C U-14 champions 1998

Back: Catherine Morrissey, Kristeen Joyce, Grace Hughes, Caitlin Brennan-Ke (coach), Brigid Hearne, Kate Doyle, Andrea Savage, Jennifer Lennon, Michelle Ke Doireann O'Neill, Sarah Murphy.
Middle: Marie O'Brien, Kate Byrne, Lisa Hayden, Aimee Murphy, Michelle Molone, Carolyn O'Dowd (Capt.), Maeve Dalton, Mary-Claire Murphy, Brid Doran.
Front: Aine Doyle, Tara Kelly, Majella Kelly, Emma Ryan, Kim Nolan, Jane Maher.

GLENMORE

What a Year!

A tremendous year again for the Glenmore Camogie club! Winning the Intermediate championship really put the icing on the cake for such a small club. On 15th August the county final was played in Hugginstown between Glenmore and Thomastown.

Glenmore had a great start with a fine goal scored in the first minute by Brigid Mullally. Thomastown goaled soon after but from then to the end it was all Glenmore, winning by a convincing scoreline of 4-12 to 2-3.

Glenmore have previously won one Junior B title and two Junior A titles and we are delighted to have added the Intermediate title to our collection. A great achievement for a small club, in existence only eight years with a small panel of fifteen players.

Thanks to All

Much credit is due to trainer Seamus Hennessy and all the

players who worked so hard. The club was very busy during the year with several fundraising events and we had fine social trips to Killarney and Wexford.

Thanks to our supporters, Tom Sheehan's Garage, our team sponsors. Congratulations to Joan Aylward who wed Pierce Hendrick during the year.



Glenmore - County Intermediate Champions '98

Back: Tom Sheehan (sponsor) Valerie Boyle, Marie Hanrahan, Marie Ennett, Catherine Hartley, Joan Aylward, Margaret Aylward, Mary Dowling (selector), Annette Phelan, Seamus Hennessy (trainer).
Front: Fidelous Doherty, Martina Murphy, Margaret Hehir-Doherty, Brigid Mullally, Brigid Murphy, Jo Dowling, Marie-Therese Doherty, Denise Drohan, Geraldine Cotterell. At front: Helen Murphy.

CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS

BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS

A Good Year at Underage

Shamrocks Camogie Club had a good year all round. Our talented U-10 team showed great potential in the Thomastown blitz. The primary school team were Roinn B winners beating a skilful Skeaghvosteen side and many of the same players won the O'Loughlins U-12 blitz. Our U-14's were beaten in the semi-finals by Mullinavat but did the county proud when representing Kilkenny in the Feile finals in Wexford, where they were hosted by Buffers Alley.

Our U-16 team beat Graig-Ballycallan, Rower-Inistioge and in the county final a hotly fancied Freshford team. They played excellent camogie throughout the year. The U-18 team was very young this year and were beaten by eventual winners Graig-Ballycallan.

The U-21's also reached the county final, defeating Dicksboro but failed to St. Brigids, Ballycallan. In defeat they showed great spirit which bodes well for next year as all except one player is underage again. Our best players in the final were Eleanor Walsh, Maresa Fennelly in goal, Grace and Catherine Fennelly, Marie Walsh, Olive Ryan and Nicola Hughes.

Our Junior team gained valuable experience from this year's campaign. The seniors were beaten by a classy Freshford side in the championship.

Thanks

The club wishes to thank all the parents and supporters who provided transport and assistance during the season particularly for the Feile weekend. We all look forward to a very successful '99.



Shamrocks - Primary Schools Roinn B Champions

Back: Imelda Moloney, Natasha Knox, Ellen Molloy, Noreen Sullivan, Christabel Walsh, Aisling O'Dwyer, Orla Ryan, Keeva Fennelly, Roisin Fennelly, Aisling Costello, Deirdre Cullinane. **Front:** Melissa Morrissey, Deirdre O'Brien, Elaine Kelly, Belita Fennelly, Lisa Millea, (capt.) Siobhán Kenneally, Mary Aylward, Leona Kinahan, Lorna Fennelly.



Shamrocks - Kilkenny Feile winners '98

Back: Deirdre Dempsey, Niamh Kelly, Janelle O'Brien, Aisling Walsh, Lisa Ryan, Margaret Malone, Orla Ryan, Keeva Fennelly. **Front:** Christabel Walsh, Gemma Walsh, Amy Kehoe, Cathleen Cummins, Jenna Kenneally, Ciara Kinahan, Emily Dermody, Jenny Walsh, Siobhán Kenneally, Elaine Kelly.



Shamrocks - U-16 Roinn A Camogie Champions

Back: Emily Dermody, Krystle Fennelly, Deborah Walsh, Maria Connolly, Paula Kennedy, Breda Walsh, Mary Connors, Aisling Walsh, John Kenneally. **Front:** Jenny Walsh, Jenna Kenneally, Ciara Kinahan, Carol Hughes, Ciara Fennelly (capt.), Assumpta O'Farrell, Geraldine Fennelly, Siobhán Dermody, Lisa Ryan.

CAMOGIE GETS ITS OWN "FAIRY GODMOTHER"

With the huge interest, and upsurge in support of Camogie, and Ladies Football too, it was inevitable that Camogie in Kilkenny --- one of a growing number of commercially marketable Camogie counties --- would, sooner or later, be sponsored by a "Fairy Godmother" of its own making. "She" arrived in the form of the Caulfield Super-Valu chain of stores.

As a result of negotiations between the Caulfield Management and officers of the Kilkenny Camogie Board, last April, it was agreed that Caulfields would be the sole sponsors of all Kilkenny Camogie teams for the duration of the 1998 Championships and Leagues. So, for the first time in its history, the Kilkenny Camogie Board would be in a position to "do its own thing", with its own monies, gleaned from a very lucrative sponsorship deal. They were no longer dependant on "hand-outs" from their male counterparts in the Kilkenny County Board of the GAA. The sponsorship afforded them the freedom of being able to provide all their teams with the most professional equipment, medical care, and after-match catering. Their playing gear would carry the "Caulfield Super-Valu" logo. The new jerseys carried a very distinctive design, incorporating the Kilkenny City coat of arms on its sleeves, a design that was not missed by the designers of the hurlers' jerseys. They too carried the same designs on their sleeves. While the sponsorship did not yield the exposure an All-Ireland Final might bring, nevertheless, all parties concerned, were delighted with the deal. The Caulfield family have always been



Sponsors Meet Players

Tom Caulfield, Brigid Mullally, Miriam Holland (Captain), Noelle O'Driscoll (Board Secretary), John Caulfield and Pat Synott, Manager Caulfield's SuperValu Callan at the presentation of sponsorship.

Photo Tom O'Neill

very supportive of the GAA. A younger member of the extended family, Sean, has been hurling with Kilmacow for years. He is the proud possessor of two All-Ireland Junior Championship medals with Kilkenny in 1988 and in 1990.



Kilkenny Senior Camogie Team in their Caulfield "SuperValu" Sponsored Kit

Front: Laura Sweeney, Mairead Costello, Sinéad Costello, Martina Maher, Miriam Holland, Sandra Gleeson, Bridget Barnaville, Marina Downey, Grace Fennelly.

Back: Caitriona Ryan, Ursula Walton, Margaret Hickey, Margaret Comerford, Bridget Mullally, Gillian Dillon, Tracey Millea, Kelley Long, Una Murphy, Eleanor Walsh, Pauline Comerford, Anne Downey.

Photo Tom O'Neill



Kilkenny hurler DJ Carey matches his skills with his international hockey playing sister, Caitriona.

Camogie Club News

LISDOWNEY

All Ireland 7-a-side Champions

Lisdowney broke new ground in 1998 when on their first appearance in the All Ireland 7-a-side championships they won convincingly.

Semi-final Exit

Early success in 1998 against Shamrocks, Tullogher and St. Brigids saw Lisdowney into the semi-final. But after a two month wait for the game, on 10 July Lisdowney were outclassed by the in-form Ballycallan girls who were worthy and deserving winners on the night. So after two hectic years of non-stop camogie the girls could have a well deserved rest!! Or could they?

Ready for the Sevens!

Plans were quietly put in place

to reward the players for their efforts of the previous years. Hotels, meals and a whole weekend was organised to include the Kilmacud Sevens along the way!

Clubs from the 32 counties participated. Lisdowney, St. Brigids, Freshford and Tullogher all travelled from Kilkenny. Lisdowney emerged victorious from their section and qualified to meet old rivals St. Brigids in the semi-final. It proved to be a top class game which drew a great crowd. Lisdowney just about got the upper hand to avenge their championship defeat and won by three points.

A Memorable Victory

Their final opponents were Granagh/Ballingarry from Limerick. This was a thoroughly

entertaining clash. Lisdowney won because of the exceptional performances of defenders Kel Long and Sandra Gleeson, elusive midfielder Marina Downey and forceful forwards Ann and Angela Downey. Goalkeeper Miriam Holland was outstanding in every game.

A New Challenge

The big question for next year concerns the introduction of 15 side. Many clubs will be under pressure. All clubs will need time and experience to help them find their feet. No doubt that players will be very eager to commit themselves to the changes in the new year and we hope that with a blend of experience and new players Lisdowney will find the right balance to remain at the top.

THOMASTOWN

A Good Year

1998 proved to be another good year for camogie in Thomastown. Three of our teams reached county finals and even though no trophies were won great credit must go to all players for putting such time and effort into training.

Our primary school team competed in the schools league. They were beaten in the final. Sr. De Lourdes and Brid O'Shea are to be thanked for their time and dedication at this level. At underage we competed in all competitions from U-14 to U-21 and reached the knock out stages in all levels. In U-16 and U-21 we reached the finals. Our

U-16's who came through a tough group but were unfortunately beaten by a stronger Tullogher side.

At U-21 level we reached the final also by beating Tullogher and then getting a walk over from Clara in the semi-final. In the final we were narrowly beaten by a very fancied Rower Instioge side.

No luck in Intermediate

The Intermediate team was trained by Ann Marie Brennan and Tom O'Keeffe. They did tremendous work by guiding the team to the final for the second successive year but alas, were beaten by Glenmore. Hopefully

1999 will prove to be third time lucky.

Under 11 Victory

This year at U-11, clubs organised their own tournaments and our U-11's under the guidance of Helen Farrell and Michelle Conway won the James Stephens tournament.

Well Done to All

Congratulations to all players who represented the club at county level. Well done and thanks to all involved in training our underage teams. The club could not exist without the assistance of such a willing band of workers.

Camogie Club News

MULLINAVAT

A Great Year

1998 was a great year for Mullinavat camogie club winning three county finals at U-16 and U-18 Roinn B and the Junior Championship. They also reached finals at U-14 level in championship and Feile na Gael. This is the first time in the history of the Camogie club that the Junior Cup came home to Mullinavat. So there were great celebrations all round. The girls are hoping it won't take as long to bring home the Intermediate title.

Mullinavat played the Rower in the Junior final in what was a very exciting game. The Rower fought to the very end but eventually went under by 2-7 to 1-6.

The U-18 girls won their final well beating James Stephens by 3-8 to 1-5. The U-16 girls again met James Stephens in their final. The first game ended level but in the replay the girls made sure the cup came home to Mullinavat.

Panel: Joanne Quinn, Paula Madigan, Fiona Sutton, Lorraine Roche, Etain Aylward, Jean Murphy, Patricia Duggan, Elaine Aylward, Brigid Raftice, Denise Duggan, Mary Ann Murphy, Angela Kinneally (Capt.). Subs: Catherine Walsh, Ellen Grant, Sarah Kelly, Margaret Delahunty, Catherine Butler, Fionnuala Wall, Aileen and Marie O'Keefe.

The camogie club wishes to thank the Hurling club for the use of the pitch and Jim Conway for always having it in great playing condition. We also thank Andy Aylward and Mick Carroll for training the teams.

Club Officers:

Chair: Margaret Ann Raftice
Secretary: Anna Kavanagh
Treas. & PRO: Majella Sutton.

**Mullinavat U-18 Camogie Champions Roinn B '98**

Back: Majella Sutton (selector), Mick Carroll (trainer), Valerie Sutton, Nora Sutton (capt.), Sinead Maddocks, Aida Kinneally, Ann Marie Raftice, Fiona Sutton, Mary Ann Murphy, Elaine Aylward, Anna Kavanagh (selector).

Front: Paula Madigan, Tricia Duggan, Brigid Raftice, Etain Aylward, Louise Foskin, Joanne Quinn, Angela Kinneally, Ann Aylward, Jean Murphy.

Missing from photo: Kathleen Atkins, Brigid Aylward.

**Mullinavat Junior Camogie Champions '98**

Back: Nora Sutton, Brigid Aylward, Valerie Sutton, Ann Aylward, Anna Kavanagh (capt.), Ann Marie Raftice, Aida Kennedy, Brigid Duggan, Etain Aylward, Tricia Duggan, Mick Carroll (trainer).

Front: Kathleen Atkins, Joanne Quinn, Louise Foskin, Ellen O'Neill, Deirdre Aylward, Angela Kinneally.

At front: Marie Atkins. **Missing from photo:** Caroline Dwyer.

Camogie Club News

ROWER-INISTIOGE

What a Year!

1998 will always be remembered as a special year in the history of Rower-Inistioge Camogie Club. The club is indebted to the officials who put in so much ground work with our younger players. Deirdre Brennan, Carmel Cahill and Rita Brennan put in a huge effort in coaching and training these teams. Well done to all concerned.

The amount of time and effort devoted to coaching, training and promoting camogie by a small dedicated band of officials was nothing short of heroic. The fledgling club was rewarded for ambitious plans adopted at last year's AGM. A record number of teams fielded during the year U-10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21 and Junior.

Rower-Inistioge U-21 Roinn B Champions

Back: Sian Murphy, Geraldine Tierney, Deirdre Brennan, Miriam Lyster, Siobhan White, Mairead Holohan, Kathleen Cahill, Anne Walsh, Linda Cotterel, Becky Dempsey.

Front: Linda O'Neill, Elaine McCarthy, Briona Langton, Geraldine Holohan, Lizzie Lyng, Emer Lyng, Tracey Flood, Aine Holohan.

Rower-Inistioge School Camogie Team 1998

Back: S. O'Mahony, S. Lyng, AM Lawlor, L. Doran, G. Dunphy, O. O'Mahony, C. Hogan, A. Cahill, B. Treacy, D. Brennan (coach).

Front: L. O'Mahony, S. Holohan, C. Walsh, L. Cassin, E. Hynes, S. Cullen, S. Hynes, A. O'Neill.

Junior Team

For the first time we fielded in Junior ranks with a very young team. We stormed through an exciting and tough campaign beating Carrickshock, Mooncoin and St. Annes en route to the county final. The final against Mullinavat was a thrilling game, skilful and tense but Mullinavat's all round strength and experience gained them the title by 2-9 to 1-8. Later the Juniors entered the Clane Sevens and won the competition with Lizzie Lyng winning 'player of the tournament'.

U-21 Championship

With the same panel of girls involved, club history was made when they won a first ever U-21 title at the second attempt, having lost the 1997 decider. The final victory over Thomastown was hard earned

after a close fought encounter. With all girls eligible for next year a great effort should be made to win the A title. Well done to our players who played on Kilkenny county teams, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Anne Walsh, Siobhan White, Miriam Lyster and Deirdre Brennan.

The club is deeply grateful to all our sponsors during the year, Michael Lyng Motors, John Kelly, Builder, Fintan Murphy, Marty Butler, Tom Morrissey, Builder, Grace Bros, O'Donnell's Lounge.

Officers '98

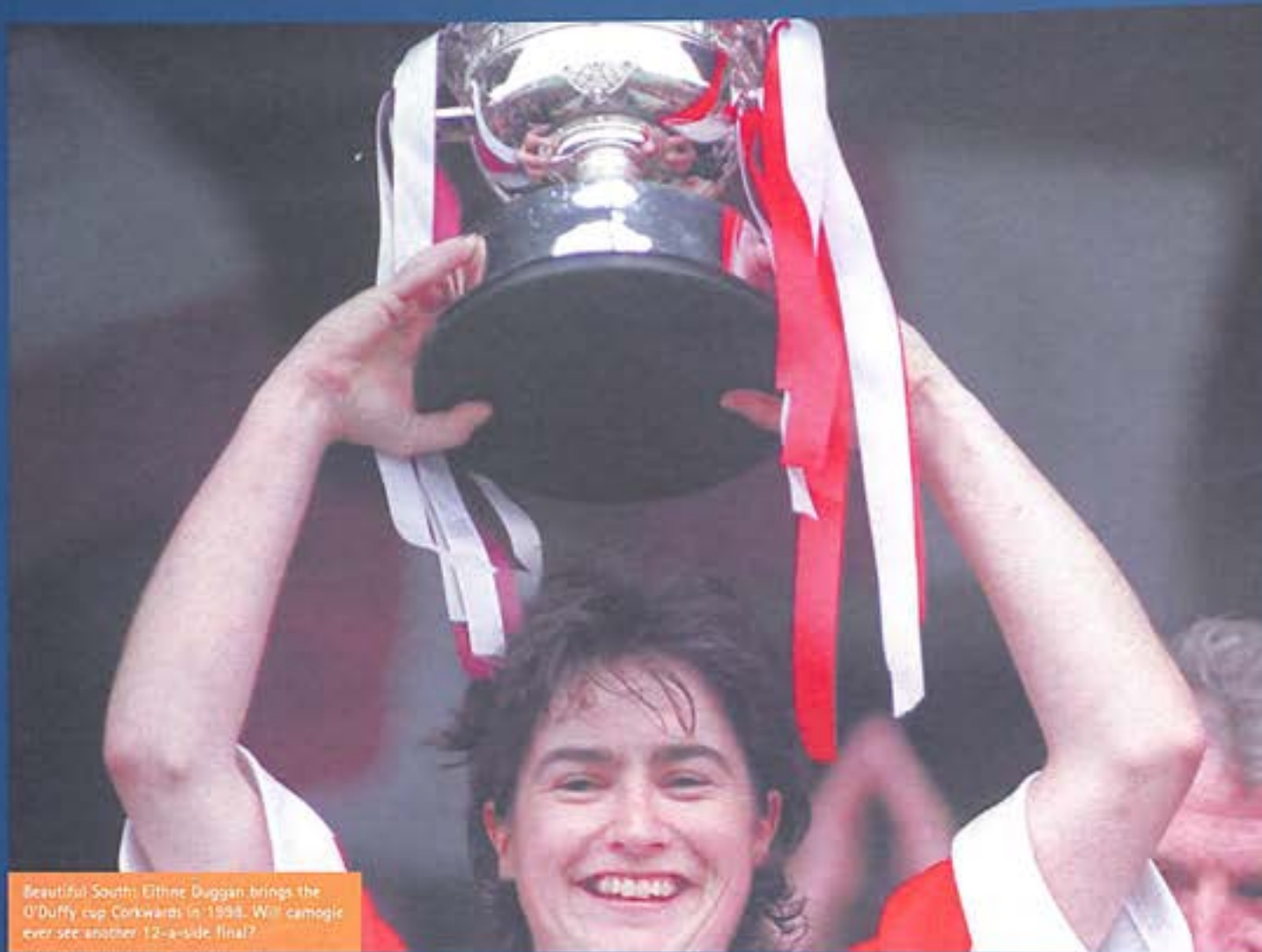
Chairman: Sean O hUiginn
Vice-Chair: Mary Lyng
Secretary: Benny Holohan
Treasurer: Mary Cotterel
Committee: Rita Brennan, Carmel Cahill, Maurice McCarthy, Kathleen Corcoran, Deirdre Brennan.





The Future is Sweet 15

Television revolutionised the game in 1998. Now in the flush of increased attendances, a surge of player interest and the highest profile in its history, camogie is about to reinvent itself to create a whole new ball game.



Beautiful South: Eithne Duggan brings the O'Duffy cup Corkwards in 1998. Will camogie ever see another 12-a-side final?

The square box, rather than the lipped sliotar, will determine the future of camogie. Unexpected viewership figures for the televised All Ireland final in September, and a big attendance despite one of the worst downpours of a sodden summer, all contributed to the sense that everything has changed among the Camogs.

A development plan which proposes 15 a side teams, larger pitches, and the introduction of shorts as an option for players came as an addendum to the revolution. The rule changes will eliminate some of the biggest obstacles which have faced the Ladies game through its history.

Before every camogie match, posts have to be erected and pitches marked within the GAA field. This means that camogie cannot be played as a curtain-raiser to other GAA matches, an option which is quite appealing in counties where the game is being promoted from a small base.

The rule changes were largely inspired by the experience of women's football. Camogie's pedigree dates to the days before the fairer sex were accorded the privilege of voting and were regarded as too weak to compete in the Olympic games.

The feisty lassies from Craobh Ceitinn were lucky to be tolerated playing the game at all, so they could not be expected to play on full pitches. While the rules have been changed on dozens of occasions since, one suspects that this thinking lies at the bottom of the camogie world.

Fifteen a side play will be tried for a one year period. Following its instincts that the past of camogie should not be allowed to become its future, the sport's Development Report have already recommended that the experiment

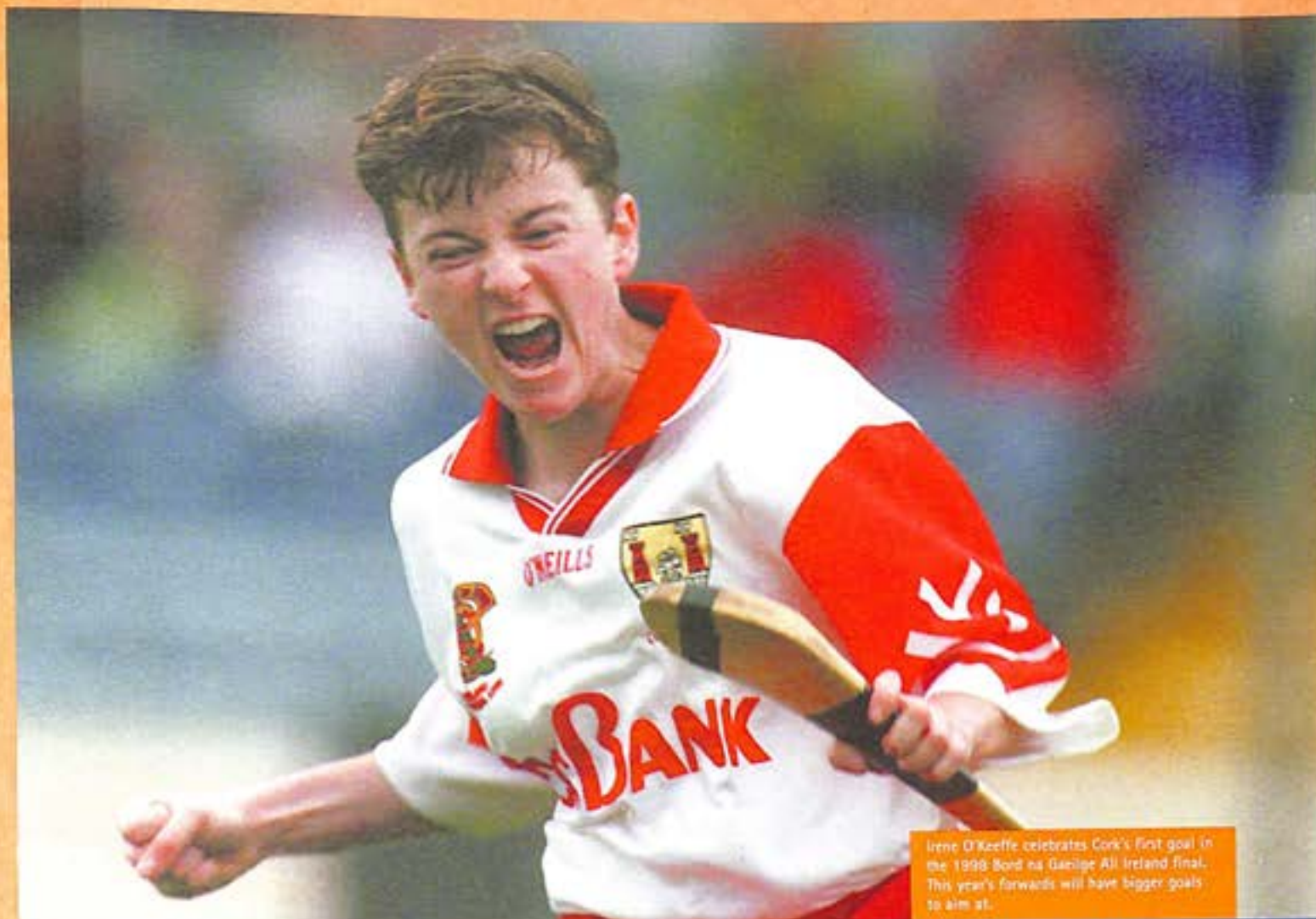
be retained.

When the committee went on tour to talk to camogie people around the country, the single biggest issue they faced was lack of recognition. This broke down to media recognition, in television, radio and newspaper coverage, something which has largely been addressed by coverage of the All Ireland final and club finals.

The clubs felt that greater financial support was needed, something which could be solved by affiliating with the GAA. Although support at local level was reasonably forthcoming, it was felt that affiliation to the GAA would bring increased sponsorship options and bring security to the association. Camogie could avail of GAA coaching FAS schemes.

The big goalposts would increase skill levels as well, at present girls are shooting at smaller goalposts, while some people felt that skirts presented camogie with a special identity the vast majority of players wanted the option of wearing shorts for reasons of comfort and to avoid the possibility of them coming off. Years after the event the loss of Angela Downey's skirt in an All Ireland final is still keeping the re-run machines warm in RTE.

Merging with the GAA will pose problems of a different kind. One of the oldest women's sporting organisations in the world (strangely, women's tennis and women's hockey were also pioneered in Dublin), the Camogie Association has survived through a series of largely self-precipitated crises to get this far and is within five years of its centenary as a separate body. The proposal is to retain an identity within the GAA structure similar to handball, which of course has its own tradition and founding date.



Irene O'Keeffe celebrates Cork's first goal in the 1998 Bord na Gaeilge All Ireland final. This year's forwards will have bigger goals to aim at.

The accident is one of history. Handball looked to the guiding hand of the GAA in the 1920s to impose an amateur ethos to a sport which was suited to an occasional gamble and a public house environment. Camogie was regarded as women's play by the GAA at the time, who stayed well clear of the never-ending disputes which almost wrecked the organisation.

Allying camogie to the GAA will, in the view of the development committee, help raise the profile of the game even higher.

The future for the GAA as a whole is exciting. A Strategy Document drawn up by the Minister of Sport in 1997 identified the fall-off of participation in sport among women as one of the biggest problems facing the promotion of sport in Ireland.

Camogie have 80,000 members, the largest women's sporting body on the island. Womens hurling and womens football could conceivably, at a future date, command playing numbers as great as for the men. It is then that the real significance of the pioneers who first proposed a merger between the bodies can be judged.

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Plans For A New Future For Camogie

A merger with the G.A.A., 15-a-side-teams instead of 12-a-side teams that have been the norm down the years, new competitions and suggestions to recruit new members. These are some of the many proposals in an ambitious Development Plan drawn up by a special committee established by the Camogie Association designed to bring the Association firmly into the 21st century.

The Development Committee was established in November 1997 to review progress and to formulate a Development Plan for the Association, which will be 100 years old in 2004. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sean McCague (Monaghan), obviously worked very hard over the past year and covered much valuable ground before completing a very comprehensive and thought-provoking report.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that the Camogie Association is not affiliated to the G.A.A. There is a very close association between both organisations and the G.A.A. provides accommodation for the Camogie Association at Croke Park as well, of course, playing facilities at national and local level.

But the Camogie Association is still not officially part of the G.A.A. That may change soon, however.

One of the changes suggested in the Development Plan is a merger of the Camogie Association with the G.A.A. to benefit from the organisational strength of the larger organisation and have clubs offer field games to the whole family.

The view put forward is that both Associations have much to gain from such a merger, which would be phased in over a three year period following the adoption of such a move by the Annual Congress of both Associations.

The Association has already launched a trial period of one year (1998-99) for a 15-a-side team format, instead of the long-standing twelve-a-side

formation and as part of this trial has extended the playing area to the full G.A.A. regulation pitch size.

The report advocates that these changes should be retained. Many even at this early stage will agree with this suggestion as it is not uncommon to see long-hitters in the game sending the ball over the end-line from deep in their own half because of the shorter playing area.

Such moves should also help to add to camogie's already high appeal as a skilful and appealing spectator sport.

Another interesting proposal is that the age limit for the minor championship be raised from sixteen to eighteen years. It is argued that such a move would help to alleviate the fall-off between sixteen and eighteen.

Another interesting proposal and one with much merit is that approaches be made at all levels to have camogie games played with hurling and football matches in order to bring the sport to a wider audience.

This is not exactly a radical move. On a few occasions in the past camogie games did form part of a

such a joint venture was promoted on a regular basis it would certainly do much to help win new supporters for camogie both at playing and spectator level.

As for winning new supporters for the game, the Development Committee suggests that efforts be made to achieve a 20% growth in membership over the next five years through growth in existing clubs and through the development of new camogie units in existing G.A.A. clubs and schools which do NOT already play camogie.

Other suggestions in the report include the introduction of an All-Ireland "B" Championship and a new Veteran level competition to retain and attract former players.

It is also suggested that the Rules regarding uniform be amended to allow for the wearing of skirts or shorts.

Camogie is an exciting sport with the potential to attract many more players, spectators and supporters in general. The changes recommended by the Development Committee will enhance the appeal of the game, strengthen its organisational structure and turn the focus towards future growth and development.



Veronica Curtain (Galway) left and Denise Cronin (Cork) in action in the '98 All-Ireland camogie final. Will we see a change of uniform in the '99 final?

double bill involving the women's game and a hurling or football tie and if

Changing Times In The South



Back Row: (l to r) - Seamus McCarthy (Tipperary), John Moloney (Tipperary), Noel Walsh (Clare), Tony Browne (Waterford), Tony Healy (Cork) Jim O'Sullivan, The Examiner, Michael McMahon and Stephen Cahill (St. Joseph's Doora / Barefield, Clare, Declan Moylan (Limerick), Fr. S. Gardiner. Front Row: (l to r) - Declan Browne (Tipperary), Aine Wall (Waterford), Christy Cooney (Cork), Con Murphy (Cork), Mick O'Connell (Kerry), Sean Kelly (Kerry), Johnnie Clifford (Cork), Liam McSweeney (Clare), Noreen Lynch (Limerick), Irene O'Keefe (Cork), Donie Nealon (Tipperary).

How times have changed in Gaelic Games in Munster! Just take a look, for example, at the inaugural annual awards by the Munster Council. Kerry and Cork, who have dominated the football scene in the South for so long, "out in the cold" as far as the award for the Player of the Year in the South is concerned, and such giants in hurling as the Rebel County, Tipperary, Clare and Limerick all on the outside looking in with regard to the corresponding selection in hurling.

And the Manager of the Year Award, presented to a backroom official in football, also went to a mentor from outside of the "Big Two".

Yes, the times they are a changing down South.

It proved a case of the Brownes' night, with the unrelated Declan, of Tipperary, and Tony, of Waterford, chosen as the Munster Council's Footballer and Hurler of the past year.

Both were in tremendous form in the past few years and there will be general

agreement with the selections.

Declan Browne earned a place in the history books as Tipperary's first-ever All Star in football when named the Eiricell left full forward. Tony Browne also joined the Eiricell All Stars ranks with his selection at midfield in hurling.

This welcome innovation by the Munster Council catered for the broad spectrum of Gaelic Games. Not only was handball, camogie and ladies football included but recognition was deservedly given to the clubs and to a number of people who have served the Association well in a variety of roles.

Irene O'Keefe, who scored Cork's two goals in their successful defence of the Bord na Gaelige All-Ireland senior championship in the final

against Galway, won the camogie award. Those were her first goals at headquarters in a distinguished career stretching back to 1990 and she was subsequently named as the RTE Player of the Final.

Tony Healy, one of the most exciting young prospects in handball, was honoured in that sport. The Ballydesmond club man, who celebrates his 21st birthday this month, won the All-Ireland Intermediate 60 x 30 singles title last



The Tipperary Trio (l. to r.): Alice Darcy, Drom-Inch; Angela McDermott (Cappawhite); Therese Brophy (Burgess); who won Ashbourne Cup medals with U.C.C.

One tough customer

Uncompromising, unshakeable, ultra-competitive, Mary O'Connor enjoys playing camogie at midfield for Cork. **Diarmuid O'Flynn** caught up with her

ANYONE WHO has ever seen Roy Keane in action would have to admit — this is one tough cookie. Hard-working, hard-running, hard-tackling. Uncompromising, unshakeable, ultra-competitive, and utterly consistent. A winner, through and through.

Anyone who has ever seen Mary O'Connor would say exactly the same thing. On the field, she is everything he is. The difference is, and despite the fact that this season alone, she won All-Ireland senior camogie medals at both club and county level, and also added an intermediate ladies football medal for good measure, more of us know about and have seen Roy Keane. Oh, and, he gets a few bob more for his troubles.

From the first time I saw Mary O'Connor play, she reminded me of Keane. From her midfield position, she was, very simply, the boss. No more than average size, in height and weight, but every ounce bristles, live strength driven by bottomless heart and relentless drive. The kind of player who, while she may lose, or her team may lose, will never be beaten. Never. There simply is no defeat.

Meeting her at Limerick's Institute of Technology, where she works as the full-time GAA Officer (employed by the Munster Council, and we need more of them), one wondered did she see herself as a tough cookie? It took many seconds of contemplation, but then, "Tough? Yeah, I would, I suppose. I'd see myself as a worker



A WORKER: "I'd see myself as a worker on the pitch. I mightn't do all the scoring, but I'll work all day for you, up and down the pitch. That's the way I play."

on the pitch. I mightn't do all the scoring, but I'll work all day for you, up and down the pitch. That's the way I play." No matter who is in the way.

Tough, in my definition, is not just about dishing out pain, though that may, of necessity, come into it at times. It's more about taking pain, absorbing it, both physical and mental, and still having the courage and strength to carry on, right to the death. And I'm making the following statement here now in all seriousness: based on what she showed me in that short interview in LIT, Mary O'Connor is as tough a customer as any athlete I've ever met.

In 1996, in the first half of the All-Ireland senior camogie final, Mary got a belt on the hand. "A finger was dislocated, and someone tried to pull it back into place. But nobody realised it was broken also — in fact, the joint was shattered." Nevertheless, Mary went back into the fray, and despite the intense pain, played on into the second half. That, by itself, is testament

enough to the competitive spirit burning in this superb athlete.

But even more frightening is what has happened since: "In fact, I'm not supposed to be playing any more, because the surgeon told me that if I keep playing, it's going to keep on breaking. Luckily, it only broke once last year. It doesn't bother me now, but in the beginning, when I came back after the injury, and especially in the cold weather, it did. Now, I wear a special glove to protect it. But it's still kind of sore when you catch a ball or anything like that."

That finger is now permanently swollen at the joint, permanently fragile, permanently susceptible to breaking easily. It's also her working hand, playing camogie, the hand she sticks in the air to catch the ball. Yet, still she plays. Fearlessly. Incredible courage.

Mary had an early introduction to hurling and camogie, in the famous nursery of Killeagh, in East Cork. Encouraged by a

man called Tommy Seaward, to whom she still gives great credit, she started in the U-10 parish leagues, but soon, was good enough to play on the boys U-12 side. In fact, won a county title with them.

"I played with some great players on that side: Joe Deane, Johnny Walsh, John Irwin and those." There however, her hurling career ended: "I felt I was getting enough hurling with the camogie, now playing up to U-16 level, but I was also getting older, and becoming more aware of the fact that I was a girl playing on a boys team. Physically, I was still able for it, but mentally, I felt I didn't belong any more."

Not on a hurling team, perhaps, but now, she was hooked on camogie: "I just got infected with the bug. I couldn't put the hurley down. If there was no-one else there, I'd train away on my own."

"Camogie was very strong in Killeagh at that time, and we got to two Féile na nGael U-14 All-Ireland finals. We lost both, the one in 1990 by just a point, after extra time. We were a bit gutted after that."

However, it didn't deter Mary: "I just could not stop playing. After national school in Killeagh, I went to St Mary's High School in Middleton, and in my first year, I won a Munster senior camogie schools medal. I just kept going and going — I was fierce into it from the age of about 8 on, and my enthusiasm for the game has never dropped since. I love the game."

One of the hallmarks of Mary O'Connor's game, is her endless stamina. This is the result of a lot of hard and very lonely work.



TEAMWORK: Mary O'Connor coaching the camogie team at the Limerick Institute of Technology.

Picture: Kieran Clancy

"I train a lot on my own at the start of every year, a habit I got from about the age of 17. It's not easy to train on your own, especially in the worst months, January, February, March. But I'd do it, three times a week. I used to cycle down from our own house to the woods in Killeagh, nearly three miles, and then do a run of about four miles down there." Soon, that hard work paid off: "I first made the Cork team when I was 18, in the League. Full-back, a nightmare. My favourite position is centre-back, although I'm enjoying myself now at mid-field, for Cork." Yes, and creating nightmares for others.

THIS YEAR, camogie will go through a quantum change, from 13-a-side, to 15-a-side. This will make it much easier to set up a game, as there will no longer be any need for special markings and goal-posts, on hurling pitches. Full-size, same shape. Mary is looking forward to it and would love the No. 6 jersey. But that's not the only bee she has in her bonnet, regarding camogie regulations. Apart from the nonsense of the absolute non-contact rule (ignored by some of the better referees, but still strictly enforced by the dinosaurs, leading to games with more stoppage time than playing time), there is the fact that camogie has no advantage rule. All fouls must be blown up, which doesn't

please Mary: "It's absolutely ridiculous, and may have cost us the All-Ireland in 1996. Twice we were through, but called back for frees awarded to us, both of which we missed. It's nonsense, rewards the team that fouls, punishes the victim further. It should be changed, and soon."

While we were on the subject of being bothered, Mary had another problem she would like to see addressed. Media coverage, or the lack of it — "especially the lack of coverage of games other than the All-Ireland finals. Up along, you wouldn't get the same amount of coverage, there are some big games you wouldn't even know were being played, unless you were in the game. It doesn't bother me personally, but it does bother me for camogie."

"We badly need more coverage. Ladies football is taking off, with 31 of the 32 counties now fielding inter-county sides. But senior camogie is confined to about seven or eight teams."

"That's not good enough, for a sport that's been around for generations. More media exposure is badly needed."

Women's team sports is a growing industry, and is getting more and more media coverage. However, a bit like the GAA club championships, it will take some time before they are fully established in the sporting calendar.

In the meantime, it's tough, being a woman in team sport: "Recently, Pat Spillane was saying that Gaelic Football is a very selfish sport, but camogie is even more so. You see plenty of hurlers and football-

ers whose girlfriends are prepared to put up with losing a lot of their social life, but I don't think there are so many boys prepared to do the same for us."

"But it's hard to ask someone to stay in on a Saturday night, when everyone else is going out, just because you have an important game next day. Over the last few years, I've sacrificed a lot, in terms of my social life, but at the moment, it doesn't bother me. Camogie players usually have to retire earlier than hurlers, in their late 20's. At that stage, they want to get back to a more normal life, whereas the hurlers have the back-up to keep going. In general women will have to sacrifice their sporting careers to take care of the family, while the men can keep going. But I'm still only 21, and I'm happy enough to be playing away."

For the moment, that's all Mary O'Connor wants to do. Play away, camogie and football. Her ambitions are all sporting — "A long-term goal would be to win a senior football All-Ireland with Cork. But I wouldn't mind captaining Cork to an All-Ireland camogie title. If I could get a job back in Cork, and go back to my club, and maybe win a county, see what happens."

When I asked if she has any personal ambitions at all, her answer was pretty revealing: "Well, marriage isn't one of them at the moment anyway. I'm too young, grand the way I am. But no, the only goals I have at the moment are all sporting." Dedicated sports nut. Revealing also is her choice of sports heroes — "I really admire Linda Mellerick and Denise Cronin — they

are two players I really look up to, and they really helped me when I first came on to the panel. I think Denise Cronin's contribution to Cork camogie over the past few years is very underestimated — I would rate Denise as one of the top camogie players in the country at the moment."

"In Gaelic Football, I think Larry Toppkins was the first real professional, the way he trained, and the way he approached the game. But I never felt more sorry for anyone, with his injuries."

"In hurling, I always had tremendous admiration for Ger Cunningham. I used to go to matches just to see him, because he's always bring off a sparkling save. In soccer, Roy Keane, for his play, but not always for his temperament."

No out-and-out strikers there, no prima donnas. All workers: "Yes. I think scoring stars are too often looked at, while those who get the ball to them are largely ignored. I mean, fair play, to score under pressure is tough, but I think Linda Mellerick for example, has shown how important it is to have a worker."

Too often, the likes of Mary O'Connor miss out on the sports limelight. Usually, they are the type that like to keep their heads down anyway, but often also, it takes a second look to appreciate exactly how valuable they are to any side, the work-rate, the little things done well.

Next time you see Granagh/Ballingarry or Cork in camogie, Donoughmore or Cork in Ladies football, look for her.

She won't be hard to find.

SOUTH EAST CAMOGIE RECEPTION



Pictured at the reception in the Owenabue Inn, Carrigaline honouring girls from the South East Division who won All Ireland medals recently were Ollie Hallahan, Chairman Ballygarvan Camogie Club (representing Catriona Kelly), Sarah Hayes, Rachel Moloney, Aine O'Regan, John O'Sullivan, representing Linda O'Sullivan, Emer Dillon, Mary Bugler, Chairperson, Carrigdhoun Camogie Board and Elizabeth Bugler.

SOUTH EAST CAMOGIE

All-Ireland medal winners honoured at Carrigaline

It was indeed a very proud and happy occasion for camogie in South East Cork on Friday night of last week, at the Owenabue Inn Restaurant in Carrigaline when seven All Ireland medal winners of 1998, from the Carrigdhoun camogie division were honoured at an historic and special function.

In the presence of their families, friends, their club officials and officers of the Carrigdhoun camogie and G.A.A. boards, they were the recipients of beautifully cut Galway Crystal from the chairperson of the South East camogie board Ms. Mary Bugler, who extended congratulations to the six girls on the Cork All Ireland minor winning panel namely, her own daughter Elizabeth Bugler, Valley Rovers, Rachel Moloney, Sarah Hayes and Aine O'Regan, all

Courcey Rovers, Emer Dillon, Ballygarvan and Catriona Kelly, also of Ballygarvan who was unavoidably absent, and her trophy was accepted on her behalf by her team mentor Ollie Hallahan.

The seventh recipient was Ballinhassig's Linda O'Sullivan who was a member of the Cork senior All Ireland winning panel - currently on holiday with her team mates and her father, John, proudly accepted the trophy on her behalf.

OF PRAISE

The chairperson having wished all the Celtic cross winners every success for the future then had a special word of praise for the Carrigdhoun under 15 team winners of the Cork county inter-divisional title for the first time and also praised the Carrigdhoun senior team for their great display against Newtownshandrum, while the selectors of both divisional teams, were also worthy of congratulations for their commitment. In gen-

eral she said, "1998 was a very successful year for Carrigdhoun camogie and all the clubs in the division who were represented at the function, had reasonable success."

Finally, stated Mary Bugler, "I wish to thank Jim Forbes who organised the function and all the officers of the S.E. G.A.A. board for their help and co-operation since the camogie board was founded six years ago. We would not be here tonight only for you."

The chairman of the South East GAA board, Mr. John Twomey in the course of his address stated "I've been at many functions in the division but I've never been at a function with an assembly of seven All Ireland medal winners. You are the heart and soul of camogie in the South East. First and foremost I want to congratulate those seven wonderful young ladies 'our magnificent seven' in bringing national honours to this the smallest division in the county. This isn't just a miracle, but the result of the groundwork and the spade work of many people

and now you are enjoying the fruits of your labour."

"I wish" he concluded, "to congratulate Mary Bugler for her vigorous leadership for camogie in S.E. Cork over the past 3 years and Theresa Murphy for the previous 3 years and all the other officers, for their commitment in the promotion of the game, together with our divisional schools coach Joe McGrath, and our divisional treasurer Jim Forbes, for their work for camogie."

Also present were the following S.E. camogie officials, Marion Fleming, Ballinhassig, competitions sec, Breda Brady, Tracton, minutes sec, Mary Hurley, Ballygarvan, treasurer; Patsy Downing, Courcey Rovers, asst. treasurer; Noreen Quinn, Courcey Rovers, PRO; and Liam Webb, sec. S.W. G.A.A. board. Unavoidably absent were John and Eileen McNamara, SuperValu, Kinsale who are sponsors of the Carrigdhoun Camogie teams, who sent their apologies.

- "Carrigdhoun"

Carrigdhoun association reviews very busy year

The A.G.M. of the Carrigdhoun camogie clubs' association was held at the Riverstick Community Hall on Thursday of last week and the following is the detailed report of a very busy year which was ready by fixtures secretary Marion Fleming.

The venue for our indoor blitz was once again in Riverstick on Sun, March 3rd. Eight teams were entered at under 11 age group. Six highly competitive matches were played and Carrigdhoun B were eventual winners. At under 10 level, ten teams entered and a great competition ensued. Ballygarvan 'A' took the honours on penalty shots, having drawn with Courcey Rovers 'A' in a most exciting final resulting in a score of one goal a piece.

In all we ran south east leagues for under 11, under 13 and under 15 age groups and a Carrigdhoun Cup competition open to all clubs participating in the division. An under 17 competition in the form of a blitz plus a skills competition were also planned for but pressures of time, other fixtures and the ever recurring inclement weather dashed any hopes of fulfilling these events.

THE CARRIGDHOON CUP

This competition was put in place to cater for girls graduating from the juvenile ranks. It ran similarly to the leagues in the preliminary rounds. Here, the two top teams were automatic finalists. Five substitutes were allowed for each game bar the final where only three were permitted. Many clubs disappointed, with few fixtures fulfilled and only five matches played. The Carrigdhoun final was held in Ballinacorney. Valley Rovers were victorious defeating Courcey Rovers 2-12 to 2-7. A silver cup sponsored by John McNamara was presented to the Valley Rovers club with a beautiful set of silver pendants. A less detailed set was given to the runners-up.

'97 UNDER 17 LEAGUE

A great effort was made to finish this competition during the last week in August '97 but all plans came undone, due to the very bad weather we had just then. Semi-finalists were as follows: Tracton v Courcey Rovers, Ballygarvan v Valley Rovers. Eventually on 15/11/98 Valley Rovers beat Ballygarvan and Tracton gave a walk over to Courcey Rovers. In the final Courcey Rovers defeated Valley Rovers.

HEALTHY

The treasurer, Mary Hurley's report was detailed and showed that the Board's finances are in a healthy state with a balance of £649 in account. It is hoped to set some fund-raising in motion during the year.

The chairperson Mary Bugler who was stepping down after three years in the position thanked all who had helped her during her term. "We in the Carrigdhoun clubs' association have made our mark and our name and we are acknowledged for our leadership in the promotion of camogie. Other areas are now looking up to what we have done." "However," she stressed that some clubs were not participating in some competitions - participation is the main thing and this politics into playing matches must stop at both club and divisional level."

She went on to congratulate the divisional u-15 team on its inter div. success. "They fought tooth and nail in the final and their heart and determination would encourage any team." But she continued "in congratulating the Carrigdhoun senior team, I would have to say that some players have an attitude problem towards Carrigdhoun. I would appeal to delegates and clubs to encourage girls to play for their division."

APPEAL

Mr. John Twomey, Chairman

sion and he made a special appeal for a co-ordinated effort in setting out a programme for a Carrigdhoun senior camogie county title by the year 2000. "It's an achievable target, with the array of talent in the division, especially following this

year's great achievement when seven all Ireland medals were brought to Carrigdhoun."

SE camogie PRO Noreen Quinn, thanked their main sponsor John McNamara, Super Valu, Kinsale, all the club PROs, Jim Forbes, Echo reports, John Newman and Noel Horgan, Southern Star reports, and photographer, Howard Crowdy for other help and co-operation throughout the year.

The Carrigdhoun senior camogie selectors for 1999 were elected, Theresa Murphy, Courcey Rovers, Mary Bugler, Valley Rovers and Billy Dillon, Ballygarvan. The Carrigdhoun u-15 selectors are John Quinn, Courcey Rovers, Billy Dillon, Ballygarvan and Ballinacorney will nominate a selector shortly.

OFFICERS

The election of officers for the Carrigdhoun Camogie Association for 1999 was presided over by Mr. John Twomey and resulted as follows: Chairperson, Mary Hurley, Ballygarvan, vice-chairman Martin Morgan, Carrigdhoun, Fixtures Secretary, Mary Gubler, Valley Rovers; Minutes secretary, Brid Buckley, Tracton; treasurer, Patsy Downing, Courcey Rovers; asst. treasurer, Geraldine Cremin, Sliabh Rua; PRO Noreen Quinn, Courcey Rovers. The first meeting for 1999 will be held on Ash Wednesday Feb 17th at 9 p.m.

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS SENIOR

July 4. Thurles: Tipperary 3-11; Kilkenny 3-10.

July 4. Ennis: Clare 1-13; Wexford 1-9.

July 4. Dublin: Cork 3-18; Dublin 1-3.

July 4. Limerick: Galway 1-15; Limerick 2-10.

SEMI-FINALS

August 1. Kilkenny: Galway 2-11; Tipperary 0-14. August 1. Kilkenny: Cork 2-15; Clare 1-9.

FINAL

September 6. Cork 2-13; Galway 0-15.

INTERMEDIATE

FINAL: September 21. Pairc Ui Rinn: Down 1-12; Cork 1-8.

JUNIOR

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

August 16. Thurles: Tipperary 3-10; Derry 2-13. August 17. Carlow: Galway 3-10; Carlow 1-11.

FINAL

September 6. Galway 3-11; Tipperary 2-10.

NATIONAL LEAGUES FINALS

SENIOR

May 30. Ballinasloe: Cork 1-16; Galway 2-9.

JUNIOR

May 31. Ballinacorney: Down 0-20; Cork 0-12.

LADIES FOOTBALL

ALL-IRELAND FINALS

SENIOR

October 4. Waterford 1-16; Monaghan 4-7. DRAW, October 25. Waterford 2-14; Monaghan 3-8. replay.

INTERMEDIATE

September 19. Ballinasloe: Cork 4-14; Laois 3-7.

JUNIOR

October 4. Louth 4-8; Roscommon 2-9.

SEMI-FINALS

SENIOR

The Galway Sports Stars of the Year Awards for 1998 were understandably dominated by the personalities who helped to bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to the county for the first time since 1966. Michael Donnellan was the Footballer of the Year ... John O Mahony was the Manager of the Year and the Team of the Year was the All-Ireland champions. Dymphna Burke, the staunchest and most loyal supporter of Galway football, received an Award for Special Dedication and Corofin was named as the Club of the Year. The Hall of Fame Award went to the county's outstanding defender of the 1960's, Enda Colleran. The other Gaelic Games category winners were; Joe Rabbitte (hurling) and Therese Maher (camogie). Rabbitte had an outstanding year, captaining Athenry to their third SHC title in five years ... he also won the Award in 1991.

Barryroe success celebrated

All those associated with camogie, hurling and football turned out in their hundreds for a grand celebratory dinner at the Spa and Leisure Centre, Inchydoney Island, on Saturday night, January 16. This was Barryroe's great night when scarcely a house in the parish wasn't represented. With an attendance of over 350, it shows what success down along the different grades, but most especially at under age level, means towards the success of any progressive club.

Presiding at the function were Noreen Fleming, president of the Camogie Club, and Barry O'Flynn, chairman of the GAA Club. Noreen Fleming described 1998 as a momentous year for the Barryroe Camogie Club, the highlight being the winning of the senior B county championship final against no less a team than St. Finbarr's of Cork. Their junior team was only narrowly beaten in the county final and their minors also went a long way in the championship. Further to that, she said the local National School Camogie team won the Sciath Na Scol competition and the Sacred Heart Secondary School team in Clonakilty was made up primarily of Barryroe girls.

Great as their run of team successes were, she said that three players who won All-Ireland honours with Cork were the jewels in the crown for the club. Cora Keohane in goal helped Cork to put two senior All-Irelands back-to-back and in the minor All-Ireland Rosalie Holland (full-back) and Jennifer O'Leary (corner-forward) stamped their dominance on a Cork team for a great victory. She paid a special tribute to their coaches, Martin Moloney and Tony McCarthy who put so much time and endeavour into preparing the various teams and all the supporters group and the GAA who gave them every support with the pavilion and grounds.

PRAISED

Speaking on behalf of the Cork County Board, Mary Nunan-McCarthy complimented Barryroe for their great run of success during the nineties which has now seen them joining the elite in senior A status. She paid a glowing tribute to Cora, Rosalie and Jennifer who helped Cork to two great All-Ireland victories and had a special word of praise for the club's

former president, Mai Whelton, who organised the resurrection of camogie in Barryroe, just twelve years ago.

After Club PRO, Ann Sheehy, had made presentations to Cora, Rosalie and Jennifer, Josephine Cahalane, captain of the senior team, responded on behalf of all the players, with a special word for the clubs coaches. The 'Satellite Award' which goes to the 'Player of the Match' in the county final, was presented by John Sexton to Rosalie Holland and speaking in Irish complimented this outstanding long-striking defender who at the tender age of sixteen has distinguished herself so competently at full-back for Cork and centre-back for Barryroe, so much so that she was acclaimed 'Player of the Match' in the county senior B final against St. Finbarr's.

In a rollicking address, Martin Moloney said it was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and disciplined group of players and with his fellow coach, Johnny McCarthy, they went through the performances of each player to select the 'Player of the Year' and the ultimate winner was Linda McCarthy for her sterling defensive play all through the year and Eileen Carroll was declared the most promising up and coming player. In conclusion, Martin Moloney spoke about the 'Barryroe Song', composed and sung by J. Googan with backing from his Jamboree colleagues, Oliver and Martin.

This song, which depicts the sporting highlights of hurling, football and camogie in Barryroe, was recently recorded and retails for £5 with all proceeds going to Mount Carmel Hospital, Clonakilty. This is a very commendable gesture which every household in the parish and beyond should support wholeheartedly.

GAA TOO

Turning to the GAA, Barryroe chairman, Barry O'Flynn, opened his remarks by paying a great tribute to the Camogie Club but remarked that the GAA Club had quite a share of success, especially at under age level.

Their Junior B footballers won the divisional championship and put up quite a good performance against Rathfriland Rovers in the county championship. The junior C hurlers won both the divisional league and championship and the minor hurlers also won the league and championship and had the hard luck of losing the county league final in the last minute to Watergrasshill. The under 16 team won the belated

1998 championship final and had the hard luck of losing the divisional championship final in the last minute to Ballinacorney in a game which was played under driving rain. Barry remarked that all of these results indicated a bright future for Barryroe.

In a very touching contribution, the runal, Pádraig O Murchú, spoke about the GAA heritage video which Barryroe club was involved in last year. For this video, four clubs, one from each province, were selected. Clubs were selected for their contribution to Gaelic games, camogie, community affairs and provision of grounds and pavilions. It's on the basis that Barryroe measured up to all those requirements so well that the club was selected to be filmed by an RTE crew. This video is now rolling all the time in the Heritage Centre in Croke Park and anybody with minutes to spare at a game at headquarters should try to see it.

The guest speaker, Niall Cahalane of Castlehaven and Cork football fame, said management and coaching were becoming very much the order of the day for all teams, both county and club and he cited the recent film on Galway's build up during the year.

He said Barryroe was a parish which produced sporting personalities of many codes and great credit is due to those who take on the onerous task of organisation.

The medals, numbering about 350 in all, were presented by Mary Nunan-McCarthy and Niall Cahalane and club secretary, Pádraig O Mathuná remarked that two of the recipients, Michéal White and Batt Whelton were gaining their tenth South West junior championship award.

Fr. Richard Hurley, PP (himself a prolific hurler in his playing days with Newcestown) spoke of the great potential for all grades of sport in Barryroe and said that the victories of the camogie and under age hurlers during the winter months gave a great lift to the morale of the people.

At the conclusion, to acknowledge the great camaraderie that exists, the GAA Club presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Camogie Club. Also present at the function was Seán De Barra, runal, South West Cork Board, and among the general attendance we met Dan Murphy, who captained the Cork under 21 hurling team which won the All-Ireland last year. Dan has a great affinity for Barryroe since his father worked in the local creamery science graduate many moons ago.



Stephanie, Michelle, Jacqueline, Deirdre and Lynn Dunlea at Canovee GAA social at Lynch's Lodge Hotel Macroom.

Courcey Rovers GAA dinner



Hilary Calvert, Chairperson, Courcey Rovers, Camogie and Shirley Maloney, secretary, Cork County Camogie Board seen at the recent Courcey Rovers GAA dinner in the Atlantic Manor Hotel, Garretstown.

Camogie club celebrates



Ollie Hallahan, chairman, Ballygarvan, seen making a presentation to Catriona Kelly and Emer Dillon who were part of the All-Ireland winning minor camogie team, pictured at the recent Ballygarvan Camogie Club dinner in Carrigaline.