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MAR 2015
to
JULY 2015

Flannan's finally secure a final spot

At Clarecastle

St Flannan's College 2-4 Presentation Kilkenny 1-5

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YET another superb display of character and guile as St Flannan's finally secured a historic place in the All-Ireland Senior A final on Thursday.

Following a dramatic see-saw drawn battle in Nowlan Park almost a fortnight previously, St Flannan's embraced their first home tie in four matches to lead from start to finish in front of a large home support in blustery Clarecastle.

That said, typifying their roller-coaster adventure through the provincial and All-Ireland series to date, it was far from straight-forward and would take another determined act of defiance to keep the defending champions at bay in a tense final quarter before eventually hearing the welcome sound of John O'Leary's final whistle.

Supersub Amie Wiley's impact was immediate to grab St Flannan's second goal and give them a healthy eight point cushion entering the final quarter. However, just as it was in Kilkenny headquarters, it was back-to-the-wall stuff for the Ennis college in this latest grandstand finish as Presentation threw everything at their opponents. St Flannan's simply refused to yield however as they defended obdurately and heroically, with goalkeeper Doireann Murphy throwing herself in front of an Eimear Donnelly penalty rebound, Chloe Devitt expertly hooking Sarah Walsh as she was about to pull the trigger, Sinead Quinn stopping a 20 metre free, Emma O'Connell repelling another Walsh effort while inspirational leader Aoife Keane ultimately broke Kilkenny hearts with her repeated relieving clearances.

As defiant as St Flannan's were in the closing stages, they were equally efficient in the scoring stakes early on as they held a tight grip over their opponents and raided for 1-2 without reply in the opening half.

Having conceded the opening six points in Nowlan Park, it was a case of 'one bitten, twice shy' for St Flannan's as corner-forward Laoise Ryan drifted back into centre-back for Aoife Keane to assume the sweeper's role, positions that both would excel in. Despite being their second outing against St Flannan's, Presentation refused to react or adapt to the tactic and that stubbornness would be duly punished as St Flannan's seized full control.

A Sinead Quinn free and an eye-catching 50 metre point from Zoe McInerney got the home side off the mark in the opening quarter but with much of the play centred around the middle third, neither side was able to obtain any further scores until late in the half.

In the 29th minute, an Emma O'Connell free was gathered by Claire Taaffe who offloaded to mid-fielder Louise Brown and with a point the clear intention, her bounty would be duly trebled when her effort from 25 metres dipped over



goalkeeper Aoife Walsh to nestle in the top right corner of the net.

It would be the perfect boost for St Flannan's heading into the break at 1-2 to 0-0 but with the crossfield wind not favouring either side, they also knew that the game was far from over.

Their belief would get stronger however in an evenly matched third quarter that saw Presentation Kilkenny finally open their account through a Jenny O'Neill free in the first minute only for Sinead Quinn to cancel it out with a like effort in the next passage of play.

That pattern would be repeated once more as Sarah Walsh, who had fired two goals for Kilkenny against Clare the previous Sunday in the All-Ireland Minor Championship, finally got off the mark with a 35th minute point but Clare would better it with an excellent flowing move involving Aoife Keane, Amy O'Brien and finally the impressive Zoe McInerney who fired over to restore a five point advantage at 1-4 to 0-2.

St Flannan's could be forgiven for thinking they had one foot in the final when grabbing a second goal in the 43rd minute. Again Inagh-Kilnamona duo Keane and Quinn would be central to the score with the former's free from her own '65 directed at Quinn whose shot was saved only for Amie Wiley to pull the rebound past Walsh on her own home pitch.

Now eight points clear, St Flannan's were inevitably put under pressure in the final quarter as the holders finally came out of their shell and began to gain momentum with every passing score.

Successive points from Blathnaid Galway, Eimear Donnelly and O'Neill cut the deficit to five by the 52nd minute, with the concentration now turning to goals as they laid siege on the St Flannan's full-back line. A foul on Ciara Phelan did yield a penalty which was confidently struck by centre-back Ciara Murphy only for the crossbar to save St Flannan's, and in the resulting scramble goalkeeper Murphy bravely smothered a point blank rebound from Donnelly.

Following repeated heroics, St Flannan's did finally concede a goal in the 57th minute when Donnelly fed the onrushing Phelan to fire a bullet beyond Murphy to slash the arrears to two.

However, while full-back O'Con-

nell would be called on to stop another effort, it was St Flannan's who had the best chance of the next goal as Louise Brown's pull was somehow kept out by goalkeeper Walsh deep into injury-time.

It was as good as a score though as it relieved the pressure at the other end and finally got St Flannan's over the line, much to the delight of the players, management and supporters.

What a journey it has been but with the final against Seamount, Kinvara to come this Saturday, the most important leg is yet to come.

St Flannan's College

Doireann Murphy (Clarecastle); Aleisha Malone (Corofin); Emma O'Connell (Ballyea); Carol Browne (Ballyea); Laura Brown (Eire Og); Aoife Keane (Inagh-Kilnamona); Chloe Devitt (Ballyea); Sinead Quinn (Inagh-Kilnamona) (0-2); Louise Brown (Corofin) (1-0); Zoe McInerney (Wolfe Tones) (0-2); Lauren McGuane (Kilmaley); Aoibheann Malone (Corofin); Laoise Ryan (Inagh-Kilnamona); Claire Taaffe (Kilnashena); Amy O'Brien (Corofin) **Sub** Amie Wiley (Clarecastle) (1-0) for Taaffe (38 mins)

Presentation Kilkenny

Aoife Walsh (Danesfort); Aoife Farrell (Danesfort); Lucy Power (Clara); Hannah Scott (James Stephen's); Eimear Corr (Thomastown); Ciara Murphy (St Brigid's); Aoibha O'Gorman (Dickabore); Ciara Phelan (Dickabore) (1-0); Jenny O'Neill (Danesfort) (0-2); Eadoin Murphy (St Brigid's); Sarah Walsh (Thomastown) (0-1); Eimear Donnelly (Thomastown) (0-1); Aoife Farrell (Thomastown); Orlaith Conlon (James Stephen's); Blathnaid Galway (Thomastown) (0-1) **Sub** Margaret O'Connell for Farrell (Thomastown) (48 mins)

Player of the Game

Aoife Keane (St Flannan's College)

Referee John O'Leary (Cork)

Above: St Flannan's players celebrate their semi-final replay win;
Left: Action from the meeting of St Flannan's College and Presentation Kilkenny.

Natasha Barton



St Flannan's hell bent on taking All-Ireland

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**All-Ireland Colleges Senior A
Championship Final**
St Flannan's College v Seamount
College, Kinvara @ Gort,
Saturday 2pm

YEARS of hard work and progression culminate in this Saturday's All-Ireland for St Flannan's. Incremental improvement from junior to senior level had brought this squad to the brink of the most prestigious trophy in post-primary colleges camogie under the guidance of joint-managers Claire Ryan and Laura Linnane who have been there from the outset.

After repeatedly knocking on the door at Junior level, they finally made the breakthrough with a Munster Junior A title in 2013, a victory that catapulted St Flannan's onto a new plain as twelve months later they did likewise at Senior A before retaining that crown in late January.

An All-Ireland final is all new territory but after a titanic two game battle with defending champions Presentation Kilkenny, Claire Ryan is confident that the squad are ready for the ultimate hurdle.

"It really was fantastic to finally beat Kilkenny, and both myself and Laura were so delighted for the girls that their talent was recognised and that their peers in school got to see them reaching the final.

"After the match, teachers and students all remarked how impressed they were with the standard, the quality of their striking, the scores they took and the seamless way they



adapted to different tactical systems over the duration of the game.

"I don't think they [teachers and students] expected it. I mean we've been saying for so long how good a team they are, how talented the players are and that the squad have a realistic chance of winning an All-Ireland this year so now that we have reached the final, it's really exciting to be there, everyone is behind us and hopefully now we can finish it out."

And it wasn't just in the Munster decider and the seesaw tussles with the holders in the All-Ireland series that have made the management team of Claire Ryan, Laura Linnane,

Anne-Marie McGann, Shane McCarthy and Mike Kelly watch through their fingers, as the Clooney-Quinn player points out St Flannan's character was initially carved out in the opening rounds of the provincial championship.

"We are so, so proud of the girls as they have had to battle in every single game they've played this year. All three matches in Munster were equally tough. We played Presentation Thurles in the opening round who are some team. Unfortunately for them, they had to come down and play us and they maybe slipped for the final 15 minutes and we just took

advantage and ended up winning by seven.

"After that match, I think the girls realised the real hunger they did have for it and since then nobody has hardly missed a training session. I mean we have 23 on the panel and there's a minimum of 21 at every training and those that are missing would have a very valid excuse. So every one of the panel is so committed and it's a pleasure to go out and train them.

"Our next match was in Tipperary against Templemore which was the first of our three away matches and wasn't helped by the fact that it was an awful day with pouring rain, a strong wind and everything else that could have been thrown at them but again we came back at the end to win by two points.

"So I think they have been building their character all along and they nearly know by now that they are going to be in a dogfight and no matter what is put in front of them, they have been able to dig out the win.

"I think that has really built their belief in themselves as well, we have always known that they have the talent to do it but half the battle is them believing in themselves and they really do think that they can do it now.

"We're really looking forward to the final, we've kind of a short run up to it and they've had a week of mocks which can be tiring but we'll get back into the swing of things this week and be ready for Saturday."

Standing obtrusively in their path however are Galway neighbours Seamount College of Kinvara who have not only reached the All-Ireland Senior decider but have also managed to

advance to the Junior B version as well, incidentally against Clare opposition as well in the guise of St Joseph's Tulla.

Having accomplished what St Flannan's failed to do last year, namely beating St Mary's Magherafelt in the All-Ireland semi-final, Ryan is very wary of the threat of Kinvara, even if she admits to knowing very little about their make up.

"Honestly, we are going in completely blind and know practically nothing about them. We wouldn't have played them up along and they were surprising winners in Connacht but to reach both the All-Ireland Senior and Junior finals and beat Magherafelt in their own home patch, they obviously have an excellent team.

"So you'd definitely be on your guard and we're not leaving anything to chance. There will be no complacency from our girls anyway. I think we have learned something in every match along the way and have tried to apply it in the next match. And so far that has really served us well so I don't think there will be any need to motivate the girls, now that they are in a final, they will be switched on."

In truth, this squad have been building for this eventuality since the Munster Junior A win in 2013, and therefore will be extra determined to grasp this historic opportunity that for most is perhaps their last to claim All-Ireland glory.

"It is really the core of the Junior team that won the first Munster Final in 2013. There have been a few players that have been added to it but the likes of Aoife Keane, Sinead Quinn and Aoibheann Malone would have been there all along and have been very strong leaders and I think they've really brought on the other girls and have such quality.

"Then you have the addition of the likes of Chloe Devitt and Doireann Murphy which have just been invaluable. I mean Chloe could run for Ireland and Doireann then, I know she'd love to be outfield as well, but I one hundred per cent believe that a goalkeeper is the most important player on a camogie team and only for her down in Nowlan Park in the first half, we wouldn't have had the chance of a replay.

"Overall, there's a big determination to finish with an All-Ireland, particularly as there is eleven Leaving Certs on the team. For them, it's really last chance saloon, the last chance that they are going to have to win an All-Ireland Colleges title. I think that's definitely in the back of their minds and if that's what drives them on, that's brilliant for us.

"They are so serious about it, don't get me wrong they're great craic and mad as box of frogs, but they really genuinely want to win it. It's all they talk about in the corridors and are hellbent on winning it now."

Above: St Flannan's players hold back their Presentation Kilkenny opponent;

Left: St Flannan's players celebrate their 2014 win with joint-managers Laura Linnane and Claire Ryan.

Natasha Barton



QUEENS OF THE COUNTRY

Awesome Oulart-The Ballagh show no mercy as

DEAN GOODISON
in Croke Park
**OULART-BALLAGH 3-13
MULLAGH 0-7**

WONDERFUL, IRREPRESSIBLE Oulart-The Ballagh, queens of the hallowed Croke Park once again. Like dynamos they worked, scurrying, hooking and blocking their way into the record books - two AIB All-Ireland Senior Club camogie titles in four seasons and playing with a gusto that promises more.

Very few teams in any sport can ever be as fortunate as Oulart-The Ballagh are now, never mind club camogie. They bond the sublime skills of Mary and Una Leacy, of Ursula Jacob, and of Shelley Kehoe with the doggedness of Ciara Storey, of Shauna Sinnott and of Karen Atkinson. They even throw the flamboyant game of Stacey Redmond into the mix too.

But their secret isn't in that octet, any of which most clubs would love to build a team around. No, Oulart-The Ballagh get contributions from everyone else too. From one to 15 this was a team effort - their best performance of the season at the perfect time.

Colleen Atkinson, terrorised in the semi-final but dominant Sunday. Diane Ryan looked to have the sliothar on a string several times as she flicked and weaved her way past defenders. When was Aoife O'Connor beaten?

Helena Jacob had very little to do but was alert late on to clear potential danger. Stacey Kehoe is making a habit of being in the right place at the right time. Aileen Brennan had no right to win the ball back from a group of three defenders for the last goal and Louise Sinnott was there to pounce - never going to miss her moment.

It's a team that is truly special. It's water under the bridge at this stage but this side should have five All-Irelands. They probably will still have five by the time the vast majority put up their huris and drift into retirement and they will deserve every one.

Mullagh had hunger on their side but you could hardly tell from the rattling they got from the off. The stadium clock showed just 26 seconds when Oulart-The Ballagh laid down their marker and the Galway girls didn't have any answer.

It was Stacey Kehoe, maybe the most improved player in the side this year, that pounced to deliver that early dagger to the Mullagh hearts. The fast Oulart-The Ballagh starts are nearly fabled at this stage, but for their opponents it was the stuff of nightmares.

Rachel Monaghan's second-minute free didn't really settle her side, as they might have still been trying to get their head around an Oulart-The Ballagh formation that saw both Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy line up in the inside forward line and Kehoe at centre-forward.

Jacob pointed after Leacy was fouled to make it 1-1 to 0-1 in the third minute before the Kehoe twins combined for Shelley to notch her first of the afternoon. Then Oulart-The Ballagh split Mullagh open down the middle again.

It was a straightforward Mary Leacy ball into a dangerous area that sister Una Leacy latched on to. When the powerful Wexford forward gets up a head of steam close to goal she is rarely stopped but this time her handpass, if anything, was too sweetly struck and pinged off Catriona Daly to safety.

Maybe the miss knocked Oulart-The Ballagh a little as they proceeded to have their worst spell of the match for the next 14 minutes. They eventually dropped Jacob back in favour of two inside forwards. Not that Mullagh ever looked like hurting the Wexford champions, despite scoring eight goals in their three previous games.

They did add a pair of Monaghan frees to move to two points behind at the start of the third quarter, but she missed two late in the half and her side failed to score again before the interval. Oulart-The Ballagh did register, and three of the scores were frees.

Jacob, who was fouled three times, scored from those three dead balls, although she did miss a difficult one on the right wing when Leacy was taken down. Leacy added a point before the break from a long ball by the excellent Ciara Storey to make the score 1-6 to 0-3 at the switch-around.

Monaghan got the first point of the second period and several Oulart-The Ballagh miscues gave the travelling faithful a little to worry about as minds switched back to the poor second-half against Loughiel. However, after three

dreadful misses, Stacey Kehoe and Diane Ryan combined and the former took her score well in the 39th minute.

That helped any Oulart-The Ballagh nerves and they got a lovely second goal just a minute later. Storey's booming free landed perfectly for Una Leacy who was being watched by two defenders. Without enough space to swing a hurl, the full-forward swept the ball to the net with her right foot to make it 2-7 to 0-4.

A fifth free for Monaghan momentarily halted Oulart-The Ballagh but when Aileen Brennan won possession when isolated on the right wing, and swept a perfect crossfield ball into the lap of Louise Sinnott who drilled to the Mullagh net, the game was up for the westerners.

Brennan also created Stacey Kehoe's second point in the 49th minute before Aoife Donohue got her side's only point from play seconds later.

Una Leacy grabbed her second point from the left side of the posts to make it 3-9 to 0-6 with ten minutes to go.

Jacob scored her only point from play after good work by Shelley Kehoe but Monaghan hit back with her longest free from just inside the '65.

Una Leacy was clothes-lined and Jacob nailed the resulting free and then added another one with four minutes remaining.

Storey almost registered from long range but her booming effort was batted away by the competent Daly in the Mullagh goal, and it was left to Shelley Kehoe to wrap up the scoring for her side with two minutes remaining.

Manager Philip Rossiter got the chance to empty his bench in the last minute and give some of the fringe players a run out in Croke Park, and they may well be needed back at the same venue in the future for a more prominent role as this side shows no signs of slowing down.

Stacey Redmond was named 'player of the game' by the sponsors but there were really 15 heroines for Oulart-The Ballagh. It was left up to Karen Atkinson to do the honours, as captain of this side, and pick up the Bill Carroll Cup for the second time in the club's history.

Oulart-The Ballagh: Helena Jacob; Ciara Storey, Karen Atkinson (capt.).



Karen Atkinson raises the Bill Carroll Cup after Sunday's success.

Colleen Atkinson; Aoife O'Connor, Mary Leacy, Stacey Redmond; Shelley Kehoe (0-2), Shauna Sinnott; Diane Ryan, Stacey Kehoe (1-2), Louise Sinnott (1-0); Aileen Brennan, Una Leacy (1-2), Ursula Jacob (0-7, 6 frees). Subs. - Laura Sinnott for Louise Sinnott (47), Aisling Moran for Brennan (59), Sharon Kehoe for Ryan (59), Bridin Redmond for Redmond (59), also Niamh Sinnott, Katie Murphy, Shauna Redmond, Aine Sheridan, Aoife Dunne.

Rachel Sinnott.

Mullagh: Catriona Daly; Jennifer Coone, Sarah Dervan, Ciara Donohue; Deirdre Kelly, Sinéad Cahalan, Niamh O'Brien; Leona Monaghan, Therese Manton; Rachel Monaghan (0-6 frees), Colette Glennon (capt.), Patricia Manning; Cathy Bowes, Aoife Donohue (0-1), Karen Kennedy. Subs. - Alison Clarke for Kennedy (31), Colette Hardiman for Manning (56). **Referee:** Cathal Egan (Cork).

Defensive rock Storey sings the praises of

OULART-THE BALLAGH defender Ciara Storey was delighted by the level of her side's defence after they shut out Mullagh to take home their second All-Ireland in four seasons.

The rangy county Senior was exemplary as part of a back six that conceded just one point from play, and she was keen to pay tribute to those around her.

'I have to say, the forwards are very good, but it was all about the backs today,' enthused Storey. 'We stuck together, nothing got by us. If it ever came in Mary Leacy was back, Stacey Redmond was there, midfield were coming back,

they just couldn't get by us.'

'We knew their two corner-forwards; so fast and so skilful. We knew that they'd be running around but we'd our homework done, we knew what we were doing and we stuck to them.'

'In the first-half they were coming in strong. Me, Colleen (Atkinson) and Karen (Atkinson), we just had to keep them out. I know we gave away a few frees but they were far out and we kept them out, we wouldn't let them inside us.'

Daughter of 1996 hero Martin, Storey says to win again

with the girls she grew up with is a special feeling.

'It's absolutely brilliant. I know there was a few of us away but to come back and to go out there - it's brilliant playing out there - to come home and win with the girls that you grew up with, there's no better feeling.'

At the other end of the field, Stacey Kehoe has spent the season providing vital scores and injecting an energy into the forward line that they sometimes missed. She was a vital cog in the tactical move that saw her drop to centre-forward and Ursula Jacob start at corner-forward.

MAR. 2015

CROKE PARK

ONCE AGAIN!

Mullagh beaten by 15 points



The Oulart-The Ballagh squad celebrate on the field after collecting their second All-Ireland Senior Club crown.



Aoife Donohue of Mullagh may have the ball, but Oulart-The Ballagh centre-back Mary Leacy ensures she's going nowhere fast during Sunday's final in Croke Park.

her colleagues at the back

'Well, I think for the All-Ireland final you have to bring everything to the table and to bring what we're after bringing so far (this year) wasn't going to be good enough,' explained Kehoe. 'I think that maybe might have just thrown them off track at the start of the game. Thankfully it worked for us there today.'

Not for the first time this season, Kehoe found the net to set Oulart-The Ballagh on their way to victory and she was delighted to contribute. 'I just pulled on the ground and lucky enough I got a good connection with it,' remembered

Kehoe. 'It happened in such a split second that I was just happy to see it going into the back of the net and it put us off to a good start then for the rest of the game.'

It's been a sad few weeks for the community in Oulart and The Ballagh and Kehoe hopes this victory can give the area something to help the grieving process.

'With the tragedies that happened in the parish the last few weeks it's nice to know that the whole parish was behind us. Hopefully we gave them a bit of light at the end of the tunnel there today and brought a bit of light back into the parish.'

Cork hold nerve on a sloppy day for hurling

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Cork 0-6
Wexford 0-4

CORK had to dig deep before they fashioned out a two-point victory over a determined Wexford side in Castle Road on Saturday as they got their All-Ireland minor championship campaign up and running.

Conditions were hard on both sides the gale force wind and damp squally conditions made it very difficult. As players battled for possession there was a lot of sloppy play which resulted in a total of 34 frees being awarded over the hour.

Trailing 0-4 to 0-3 at the interval after playing against the gale force wind, it was expected that Cork would have too much in the tank in the second half as they turned over to play with the elements. But all credit to Wexford, they never allowed them gather any momentum and it was only in the closing stages that Cork edged ahead to take two valuable points in the round-robin series of games.

Lisa Lynch held her composure to strike three second-half pointed frees and it was crucial as Cork closed the game out in the last 10 minutes.

But up to this the game was there for the taking. In the end Cork wore down a dogged Wexford side but only just as they forced them into making mistakes which resulted in frees. As a unit Cork failed to click up front but in defence they held their composure well and this proved vital.

In the opening half, despite winning huge possession, Wexford shot eight wides to Cork's two.

The second half was evenly matched with just one score coming from play. Lucy Kelly striking a superb effort between the posts four minutes into the half to cut the Wexford lead to a point. Despite winning a lot of possession Wexford could not find the range and with the Cork defence closing them down, they failed to score in the second half, but it was not for lack of trying as they won enough possession.

As both sides tired Cork won frees and were level with 10 minutes remaining they edged ahead by the 21st minute and minutes into added time two points separated the sides.

Wexford battled for something and almost came close but despite five minutes of injury time they failed to close the gap as Cork hung on.

Without doubt Cork will need to up their performance for their meeting with Tipperary on March 21, but games are important and bring players on.

Cork will be glad to have got a result from their maiden voyage.

Scorers for Cork: L Lynch 0-3 (fs), M E O'Connor, H Looney, L Kelly 0-1 each.

Wexford: C Foxe 0-4 (0-2fs 0-2 45).

CORK: C Casey (c); K Falvey, C Sigerson, E Casey; E Twomey, R Walsh, R Sheehan; H Herlihy, A O'Callaghan; K McCarthy, L Lynch, H Looney; ME O'Connor, K O'Keefe, H Ryan.

Subs: L Kelly for A O'Callaghan (25), A Crowley for K McCarthy (43), A Kidney for K O'Keefe (inj 45), A M Ryan for H Ryan (45).

WEXFORD: L Brennan; L Carty, S O'Connor, L Foley; A Cardiff (c); D Kavanagh, R Kelly; U Sinnott, N Walsh; A Doyle, E Roche, C Foxe; R Kelly, L Dempsey, L Walsh.

Subs: S Foley for A Doyle (47), O Doyle for L Walsh (58).

Ref: John Dolan (Clare).

CAMOGIE LEGENDS

Saffrons capture the shield

LAST Saturday's cold weather wasn't enough to deter the intercounty camogie veterans from gathering at Na Fianna GAA Club for the 5th Annual Legends Tournament.

This brilliant spectacle, kindly sponsored by The Croke Park Hotel, gives former inter-county camogie players, aged 35 and over, another chance to proudly wear their county jersey in action and rekindle their love for the game as well as old partnerships and rivalries.

The unique 7-a-side tournament played host to six teams including Dublin, Antrim, Cork, Galway, Derry and last year's winners Tipperary.

Dublin, Antrim and Cork competed in Group 1 while Derry, Galway and Tipperary faced-off in Group 2 with two teams from each group advancing to the Semi-finals. The bottom teams in each group would compete in the Shield Final.

At 10 minutes a half, the games were short, sharp, action-packed and full of goals. In the end it was Dublin and Cork who progressed from Group 1 and Galway and Tipperary from Group 2, Derry and Antrim meeting in the Shield final.

In the semi-finals Galway eased past Dublin, and Tipperary sealed an all-group 2 final by beating Cork.

In the Shield Final, Antrim met Derry in an Ulster camogie clash, Antrim restored pride for group 1 by scraping a win over their near-neighbours and secure the bragging rights in the northern province.

It was then time for a highly anticipated final clash between Galway and Tipperary. Having averaged 4 goals each per game thus far in the tournament, the Mobhi Road crowd expected a huge scoreline.

However, the teams were far closer-matched than expected and Tipperary managed to secure a two point win on a 2-6 to 3-1 scoreline. Tipperary lifted the Biddy Phillips Cup for the second year running and Emily Haden was awarded Player of the Tournament.

Red-hot Oulart ooze class



JUST CHAMPION: Oulart-The Ballagh celebrate after defeating Mullagh in the All-Ireland Club senior camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Ray McManus

Oulart-The Ballagh (Wexford) 3-13
Mullagh (Galway) 0-7
By Daragh O Conchúir

Senior club camogie final

Oulart-The Ballagh were in ruthless mood when crushing Mullagh in yesterday's AIB All-Ireland Club senior camogie final at Croke Park. The Wexford squad, backed by Karen

Atkinson, Ursula Jacob and the Leacy sisters, Mary and Una, didn't take long to show their class.

Forty seconds had elapsed when Stacey Kehoe fired a first-time shot beyond Catriona Daly for a goal. Rachel Monaghan converted a free for Mullagh but Ursula Jacob did likewise at the other end before Shelly Kehoe put four points between them. But the Wexford girls pushed on and it took a brilliant point-blank save by Daly to

deny Una Leacy a second Oulart goal.

Monaghan converted a run of frees but missed two chances while Jacob was unerring at the other end, slotting three in a row. Una Leacy finished excellently off her left after a strong catch under pressure from Sarah Dervan and that left Philip Rossiter's team leading 1-6 to 0-3 at the interval.

Mullagh showed huge intent on the restart but Monaghan's pointed free was

all they had to show for their efforts. Instead, Una Leacy pounced on some hesitancy in the Mullagh full-back line to stab home from close range in the 40th minute — a goal which sucked the life from the Mullagh challenge. Louise Sinnott had Oulart's third goal in the 47th minute, having been left completely unmarked, seconds before being replaced.

Stacey Kehoe, Jacob, Diane Ryan and Shelly Kehoe added white flags to leave Oulart-

The Ballagh 15 points to the good when the final whistle was sounded.

Meanwhile, Piltown held off a late rally from champions Lismore to claim their first AIB All-Ireland Club intermediate camogie title in the curtain raiser (1-10 to 1-9).

Scorers for Oulart-The Ballagh: U Jacob 0-7 (6fs); Stacey Kehoe 1-2; U Leacy 1-1; L Sinnott 1-0; Shelly Kehoe 0-2; D Ryan 0-1
Scorers for Mullagh: R Monaghan 0-6 (fs); A Donohue 0-1
OULART-THE BALLAGH: H Jacob,

C Storey, K Atkinson, C Atkinson, S Redmond, M Leacy, A O'Connor, Shelly Kehoe, S Sinnott, D Ryan, Stacey Kehoe, L Sinnott, A Brennan, U Leacy, U Jacob.

Subs: Laura Sinnott for Louise Sinnott (47); B Redmond for O'Connor (59); a Moran for Brennan (59); Sharon Kehoe for Ryan (59)

MULLAGH: C Daly, J Cone, S Dervan, C Donohue, D Kelly, S Catalan, N O'Brien, L Monaghan, T Manton, R Monaghan, C Glennon, P Manning, C Bowes, A Donohue, K Kennedy.

Subs: A Clarke for Kennedy (46); C Hardiman for Manning (57)
Referee: C Egan (Cork)

Oulart overwhelm Mullagh to land title

OULART-THE BALLAGH 3-13
MULLAGH 0-7

AIB ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL

OULART-The Ballagh returned to the top of the club camogie tree with a convincing victory in this ultimately one-sided decider at Croke Park.

The Wexford squad is laced with experience, with four players who captained the county to All-Ireland glory in recent years in this year's successful club captain Karen Atkinson, Ursula Jacob and the Leacy sisters, Mary and Una.

They are renowned for their goal threat and with Mullagh guilty of some lax defending, they capitalised to establish their supremacy.

They found the net inside the first minute and with two more in the second half, established a strong lead that Mullagh were always unlikely to reel in, given the lack of any real goal chances of their own.

The Connacht crew were caught napping after just 40 seconds, when two Oulart forwards managed to drift onto a loose ball behind the defence and it was Stacey Kehoe that sent a first-time shot off the sod beyond Catriona Daly for a goal.

Mullagh showed real intent at the start of the second half but Rachel Monaghan's pointed free was all they had to show for it.

Instead, Una Leacy pounced on some hesitancy in the Mullagh full-back line to stab home from close range in the 40th minute and her little

jig of delight told you that she knew it was a key score.

Packie Dervan's charges never stopped trying but there wasn't the same belief about them after that score.

Louise Sinnott made the game safe with the simple task of grabbing Oulart's third goal in the 47th minute, having been left completely unattended by the opposing defence seconds before being replaced.

SCORERS - Oulart: U Jacob 0-7 (6fs); Stacey Kehoe 1-2; U Leacy 1-1; L Sinnott 1-0; Shelly Kehoe 0-2; D Ryan 0-1
Mullagh: R Monaghan 0-6 (fs); A Donohue 0-1
OULART - H Jacob, C Storey, K Atkinson, C Atkinson, S Redmond, M Leacy, A O'Connor, Shelly Kehoe, S Sinnott, D Ryan, Stacey Kehoe, L Sinnott, A Brennan, U Leacy, U Jacob. **Subs:** Laura Sinnott for Louise Sinnott (47); B Redmond for O'Connor (59); a Moran for Brennan (59); Sharon Kehoe for Ryan (59)
MULLAGH - C Daly, J Cone, S Dervan, C Donohue, D Kelly, S Catalan, N O'Brien, L Monaghan, T Manton, R Monaghan, C Glennon, P Manning, C Bowes, A Donohue, K Kennedy. **Subs:** A Clarke for Kennedy (46); C Hardiman for Manning (57)
REF - C Egan (Cork)

Piltown hold off Lismore for first title

PILTOWN 1-10
LISMORE 1-9

AIB ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL

PILTOWN held off a late rally from champions Lismore to claim their first AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie title in bitterly cold conditions at Croke Park.

Snow fell as the teams came out on to the pitch and did their warm-ups, but had thankfully abated by throw-in.

Lismore started well, with their half-back line particularly dominant, but after Aoife Hannon landed an easy free, Piltown hit back with three points in two minutes. Edel Long started the mini-flurry when her dropping shot

was batted over Lismore goalkeeper Tanya Morrissey.

The Piltown defence had been dominant throughout, confining Lismore to two points from play. Player of the Match Kelly Anne Doyle was magnificent at left half-back, using the speed that has made her the U18 400m hurdles record-holder to turn defence into attack.

SCORERS - Piltown: A Talbot 0-4 (3fs, 145); C Blackmore 1-0; L Norris 0-2; N Cullen, K Power (5), E Long, C Holden 0-1 each. **Lismore:** A Hannon 1-7 (6fs); N Morrissey, G Kennedy 0-1 each.

PILTOWN - A Norris, J Power, E Kenny, J Norris, D Phelan, K Duggan, K Doyle, L Norris, A Talbot, N Cullen, K Power, E Long, C Holden, C Blackmore, L Long. **Subs:** G Cullen for Talbot (47); L McCarthy for Holden (58); K Phelan for D Phelan (50+).

LISMORE - T Morrissey, N McElmurry, S Prendergast, M Russell, A Houlahan, S Kiernan, S Fenton, G Kennedy, S Durran, N Morrissey, A Hannon, S Williams, R Geoghegan, T McKelvey, J Houlahan. **Subs:** L Buckley for Williams (58); S Duggan for McElmurry (46); A O'Brien for Houlahan (46)
REF - P Dowd (Meath)

Girls aiming to mark first appearance with title

THE GIRLS of Gorey Community School will be aiming to mark their first-ever appearance in an All-Ireland camogie final with a victory when they take on Holy Rosary College from Mountbellew in Galway in the Senior 'B' decider on Thursday.

And hopes are high that they have saved their best performance until last as they bid to make up for the disappointment of their hurling counterparts' loss in the Rest of Leinster decider last week.

The profile of camogie has been raised significantly, not alone in the school but in the entire north Wexford area, by the exploits of this fine side. They have qualified very much on merit, recording victories in the group stages over Coláiste Bríde (Enniscorthy), F.C.J. Buncloody and Borris before wins in the Leinster semi-final and final respectively against Offaly sides Tullamore and Banagher.

Huge strides have been made over the last three years, with Gorey moving up from 'C' to the 'B' division in October and making an immediate impact,

winning their provincial title at the first attempt. Regardless of the outcome on Thursday, they will take their place in the 'A' division next year.

Every team needs a good goalkeeper and Marie Kennedy fits the bill with her solid shot-stopping and excellent puck-outs.

The solid defensive performance so far has meant that opponents have been restricted to an average of about six points.

Though not the tallest of full-backs, Róisín Egan has led the way with speed and determination. At corner-back Aoife Hughes has caught and cleared many balls, while in the other corner Aoibheann Doyle has demonstrated excellent skills and given away very little.

At centre half-back Doireann Kavanagh has led fantastically and has proved a real rock while Ciara Goland has worked extremely hard at wing-back. Lorna Cushie has enjoyed an outstanding year on the other wing.

At midfield Orla Crowe has dominated while team captain Catriona O'Brien has possibly been the most consistent player of all with her leadership and overall workrate.

At centre-forward Ellen Roche has led the line of attack, as well as being the free-taker and putting in tremendous work in every game. Róisín Wheatley is a much-improved player and her forte is her ground hurling.

Caoimhe Roche has speed to burn and has left many an opponent in her wake, while Orla Molloy can be a real match-winner.

At full-forward Hayley Murphy has been very dangerous and can destroy any defence, while Donna Morrissey is a clever corner-forward and has taken some very good points in the last few games.

Lorna Whitty displayed very good touches and skill when introduced in the last match, and Sarah Lively is an incredibly determined player who will give it her all.

Finally the squad's youngest player, Muireann O'Connor, is also a very determined young lady and is definitely one for the future.

Without doubt the defining characteristics of this team are the work ethic, determination and will to win. Given this positive attitude, win, lose or draw this group of girls have done themselves, their families and their school proud this season.

On another positive note for camogie in Gorey Community School, four young players - Orla Molloy, Orla Crowe, Róisín Egan and Aoife Hughes - took part in the 'Camán and Run' challenge at half-time during the All-Ireland club finals in Croke Park on Sunday.

This was a huge honour for the school as only eight in Ireland were selected to participate.

With the experience of playing in Croke Park just days behind them, they have the potential to lead from the front on Thursday. The venue and time have yet to be decided.

Lismore contingent will boost Waterford

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW
Irish Daily Star Division 2
National League
Cork v Waterford,
Mardyke, 1.15pm.

ROUND TWO of the league and a tricky encounter for holders Cork as they host Waterford on Sunday in the Mardyke writes MARY NEWMAN.

Waterford always provide strong opposition and travel on the back of a comprehensive opening round victory over Tipperary. They will be strengthened this weekend by the return of the Lismore contingent, who were involved in All-Ireland Intermediate club championship up to last weekend and they will provide a huge challenge to Cork's aspirations.

With the Cork Division 1 team also in league action against Kilkenny, it may deplete the Division 2 side somewhat as six players lined out with both squads in the opening rounds two weeks ago.

The Rebels got their campaign off to a great start with a hard earned victory over Down. In that game they had to really dig deep to take the points on offer through a goal with the last puck. This young Cork side worked hard and never allowed the game drift away thus ensuring they were there in the closing stages when it was up for grabs.

There were impressive displays from a lot of players but the Division 2 team need to be able to hold onto players such as Leanne O'Sullivan, Julia Mulcahy, Finola Neville, Orla Cronin, Caroline Sugrue and Lauren Callanan. If these players have to line out in the Division 1 game which follows this one it could seriously take from the side but hopefully they will be able to balance it out.

Waterford are a side that should have produced more by now, always strong contenders they seem to make it so far and then falter. Every year they look to be the form team yet it never happens, last year they had great success at underage level winning the All-Ireland Minor B and U16 B crowns.

They will be hoping to build on this success and make the break through at adult level but since winning the All-Ireland premier junior title in 2011 they have not managed to make the big break-through.

What will have pleased the Cork management was their ability to close out the game last weekend when it was delicately poised. This was an area last season where they fell down a lot especially during the championship when they failed to close out the game against Kilkenny and as a result didn't make it to the semi-final stages.

Last year Cork overcame the Waterford challenge in the league to book their semi-final spot, but Waterford were minus the Lismore contingent and with these players and players of the calibre of Patricia Jackman, Karen Kelly, Pauline Cunningham and Nicole Morrissey all in their panel they will pose a huge challenge to Cork.

Paudie Murray and his selectors will continue to look for another good display against Down the attitude spirit and determination of Cork was superb and another performance such as this would set them up nicely as they head into round three.



Members of the Éire Óg 1974 County Camogie Championship winning team and mentors at their recent reunion.

Memorable night for Éire Óg greats

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

DOWN through the years Éire Óg camogie club have enjoyed great days on the playing fields where amongst the honours won were senior and Munster championship honours.

The club now boast a strong underage section and there is huge work going on in all sections of the club with their adult team participating in the senior B grade.

Recently the club rolled back the years as they honoured some of the people who helped write the history books for the Mid Cork club, when they hosted a special reunion night in the Lee Valley Golf Club.

The memorable event marked the 40th anniversary of the club's first County Camogie Champion-

ship success.

In that game the junior A county championship was won with a comprehensive 9-3 to 1-2 victory over Killeagh.

Many of the players on the team went on to win further honours and set the foundations for the modern era. They were captain Breda O'Leary, Francis Buckley (RIP), the O'Driscoll sisters Mary, Aileen, Noelle and Nancy, Marian Reck, the Lucey sisters, Patsy and Marian, their cousin Noreen Lucey, Teresa Lucey, Mary O'Regan, Rose O'Leary, Hilda Hor-

gan, Eileen Dineen, Anne Brennan, Jackie Lane, Patsy O'Reilly, Grainne Mackey, Sheila O'Brien, sisters Margo and Anna Murphy. They're all names forever etched in history and one of the greatest teams to represent the club.

Nancy O'Driscoll went on to captain Cork to win All-Ireland Junior and Senior championship titles. Rose O'Leary-Malone has given huge service in an administrative role to camogie both in Cork and at provincial and national level.

A lot of the team went on to win senior All-Ireland honours with Cork and enjoyed many great years on the playing fields.

The team, club members, team coach Con Malone who had given huge service to camogie in the club and Fr Liam Ó hici, gathered for a

wonderful night of celebration and nostalgia as the women of 1974 enjoyed a meal and were honoured with presentations to mark the occasion.

Those present relived that special day and no doubt filled in the gaps from the intervening years. Winning the 1974 Junior County Championship title was a momentous occasion for Éire Óg and the people of Ovens parish, with many of the players travelling from as far away as Boston, Switzerland and Brussels to be with their former team mates.

It was a night to remember as they relived their playing days and filled in with lots of chat and laughter on the intervening years. It was on occasion no one will forget for many years to come.

U16s are first into the championship arena

TOMORROW

Munster U16A championship
Semi final; Cork v Limerick,
Castle Road, 2.30pm.

THE PROVINCIAL championships get underway this weekend for Cork and first into the arena are the county U16 A team who met Limerick in a battle for a place in the final.

Limerick go into the contest with a preliminary round game under their belts already while it's a first game for Cork.

Limerick had a hard-fought one-point win over Waterford in a thrilling contest where the lead changed hands several times. In that game with players of the calibre of Leah Kelly,

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Dearbhla Egan and Liz Carmody they looked to be in control as they led by eight points at half time.

However a strong Waterford comeback saw Limerick just hanging on to the full time whistle.

Amongst the players they will be looking to for an improved team performance are Sophie O'Callaghan, Caoimhe O'Brien, Aoife Curtin and Dearbhla Egan, who contributed 3-1 to their tally of 3-8. Cork will need to keep a sharp eye on Egan in the Limerick inside line as she is capable of turning a

game in the full forward role.

They are coached by former inter-county hurling star Gary Kirby and he is joined by a strong management team of Paudie Kelly, Tim Egan, Brian Leahy, Ita Flynn, Julia Carroll, and Rebecca Delee.

Cork — having come so close last year with both their A and B squads — will be hoping to go all the way in 2015.

The management team of Anthony Nagle, Ken Bulman and Frances Killeen remain in office with the A side and they are working hard to ensure they get it right.

With the All-Ireland series played on a separate basis to the provincial

championship they have announced a panel for the provincial series and will work towards their All-Ireland championship campaign after the provincial series is completed thus giving players plenty of opportunity to stake a claim on a place on the panel.

Just five of last season's panel are still underage Megan Daly, Emer McAndrew, Roisin Killeen, Isobel O'Regan and Lauren Homan but with a lot of players graduating from last season's squad they will not be lacking in experience. Players such as Cliona Healy, Rebecca Keane, Kate Wall, Nora O'Riordan, Edel Lonergan are part of a Cork squad who will be hoping to make it to the final.

Hard work pays off as Piltown's camogie dream comes true in

PILTOWN	1-10
LISMORE	1-9

BY T.J. MILLS
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An incredible end to an amazing year - how else could you describe the way Piltown achieved their camogie All-Ireland dream?

The Kilkenny club tasted intermediate honours at a bitterly cold Croke Park, but had to hold a late rally from champions Lismore.

In the end it was the narrowest of wins (1-10 to 1-9), but it was enough to complete a clean sweep of titles that includes the All County League, League, County Championship and Leinster title - a haul achieved with a staggering run of 17 games in which Piltown went unbeaten.

Lismore started the contest well and were on target with a free from Aoife Hannon in the third minute after Triona McGlone had been fouled.

The Piltown response was swift. They bounced back well

after conceding the opening score, hitting their Waterford opponents for a swift 1-3 without reply.

Edel Long started the burst with a point, tapping over a 21 metre free in the seventh minute. Katie Power followed that up with a 45 after a mix-up in the Lismore defence.

Piltown were getting into the groove and, by the 11th minute, were really motoring when Chloe Holden fired over an excellent point from play.

OPENING GOAL

Things got even better for the title challengers when Chloe Blackmore got in for the opening goal of the contest.

Winning possession from a Niamh Culleton pass, Blackmore drove forward and proved unstoppable as she powered the sliotar to the back of the Lismore net, shooting Piltown into a five-point lead (1-3 to 0-1).

Unstoppable Winning possession, Blackmore proved unstoppable as she powered the sliotar to the Lismore net

Lismore heads were spinning after that salvo, but Nicola Morrissey grabbed a lifeline when she struck an 18th minute point for her side, ending a barren spell in the contest.

Piltown had worked hard to fashion their lead, and were



Elaine Kenny (Piltown) keeps her eyes fixed on the sliotar as Cathriona McGlone (Lismore) moves in to challenge during Sunday's AIB All-Ireland intermediate club camogie final in Croke Park. Photos: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

determined not to let it slip. Katie Power led the charge, responding with another 45 to nudge Piltown that bit further in front again.

The Lismore challenge

kicked in after that score, as they bounced back with a brace of frees from Aoife Hannon. She started with a 35 metre free, adding another from the same distance to leave Lis-

more trailing by a goal with 24 minutes on the clock.

Piltown were just as impressive from the placed ball, something Katie Power proved when she split the posts with

another free from little over 20 metres out. Laura Norris kept their charge going, shooting an excellent point from 35 metres out as they swept back in to a five-point lead (1-6 to 0-4).



The pride of Piltown! The Piltown camogie team who won the All-Ireland intermediate club title in Croke Park on Sunday. The Kilkenny club beat the reigning champions Lismore by 1-10 to 1-9.

MAR. 2015

All-Ireland Croke Park

It had been a good first half for Piltown, but Lismore weren't out of the game by any margin. The champions showed their resolve at the

of six players on the line.

Instantly the gap was cut. Now Lismore trailed by just two points at the break (1-6 to 1-4).

to get up and running again. The new half had barely begun before Chloe Holden helped herself to a point, before Katie Power pushed the victors



Piltown goalkeeper Aoife Norris keeps her cool as she prepares to clear her lines despite pressure from Ruth Geoghegan (Lismore) during the AIB All-Ireland intermediate club camogie final.

right moment when, on the stroke of half-time, they got a real lifeline.

Penalised for fouling, Piltown were hurt on the double when Aoife Hannon rocketed a 20m free to the Kilkenny net, somehow finding space to score despite the presence

Piltown would have been kicking themselves going in only two points ahead. Despite playing against a strong breeze, their possession levels meant they felt they should have been even further ahead.

Despite the setback of that goal it didn't take Piltown long

four clear again in the 35th minute when she converted a free from 21 metres (1-8 to 1-4).

DEFENCE TOOK OVER

If the first half was about the forwards, then the Piltown defence took over after the restart. Stamping their authority on the game they



Kellyann Doyle's display for Piltown saw her earn the Player of the Match award in Sunday's final.



The Champions! A happy Piltown captain Laura Norris is all smiles as she lifts the cup following her side's win in the AIB All-Ireland intermediate club camogie final in Croke Park.

worked hard to limit Lismore's attacking threat. Although Aoife Hannon hit two frees on the trot Katie Power quickly cancelled them out with a similar double.

It was going to take one hell of an effort for the champions to get back into the contest, but it was a challenge they were more than up for. They cut the gap to a goal in the 57th minute with another Hannon free - they had the ball in the net a minute later when Nicola Morrissey tapped home but her effort was wiped out by the referee as Morrissey was in the square when providing the finishing touch, a serious let-off for Piltown.

Still, they kept going. Grainne Kenneally bagged a point before Aoife Hannon then tapped over an injury-

time free to cut the gap to the bare minimum.

Lismore tried hard to get that equalising score, but the Piltown defence held firm. Led by Player of the Match Kelly Ann Doyle, the girls in black and amber remained rock solid until the final whistle confirmed a famous win.

SCORERS: Piltown - Katie Power (0-6, 0-3 frees, 0-2 45s); Chloe Blackmore (1-0); Chloe Holden (0-2); Edel Long, Laura Norris (0-1 each).

Lismore - Aoife Hannon (1-7, 1-5 frees); Nicola Morrissey, Grainne Kenneally (0-1 each).

Piltown - Aoife Norris, Mairead Power, Elaine Kenny, Jennifer Norris, Debbie Phelan, Karen Duggan, Kellyann Doyle, Laura Norris, Alice Talbot, Niamh Cul-

leton, Katie Power, Edel Long, Chloe Holden, Chloe Blackmore, Lorraine Long. Subs: Georgina Cullen, Katelynn Phelan, Carol McCarthy, Lisa McCarthy, Niamh Dermody, Ellen Commings, Sinead McCarthy, Aine Power, Nicola Phelan, Maria Foley, Leanne Dunne, Siobhan Dermody, Fiona Long, Jean Power, Antonia Power.

Lismore - Tanya Morrissey, Niamh Molumphy, Shauna Prendergast, Marie Russell, Aoife Houlihan, Shauna Kiernan, Sarah Fenton, Sharon Williams, Shona Curran, Nicola

Morrissey, Grainne Kenneally, Aoife Hannon, Ruth Geoghegan, Cathriona McGlone, Johanna Houlihan. Subs: Aisling O'Brien, Sarah Coughlan, Sarah Geoghegan, Ellen Curran, Alice Russell, Laura Buckley, Kate Heneghan. Referee - Peter Dowd (Meath)

Limit the threat
Stamping their authority, the Piltown defence worked hard to limit Lismore's attacking threat

MAR. 2015

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL

Mullagh fail to fire in heavy club final reversal

OULART-THE-BALLAGH 3-13

MULLAGH 0-7

DARREN KELLY
AT CROKE PARK

MULLAGH'S best laid plans unravelled last Sunday as Oulart-the-Ballagh made their experience tell to capture a second All-Ireland senior club camogie title at Croke Park.

Goals from Stacey Kehoe, Una Leacy and Louise Sinnott felt like hammer blows to the east Galway side chasing a first crown since 1991 as the fight was knocked out of them by the impressive Wexford outfit.

Indeed, the Galway champions' biggest fear was realised within 30 seconds as Kehoe was one of two unmarked and her groundstroke gave Catriona Daly no chance and the Leinster side were a goal up.

It was going to be a difficult afternoon afterwards though a Rachel Monaghan free following a free won by Karen Kennedy allowed Mullagh an early score. Between entering the field, doing their warm-up and meeting the dignitaries, Pakie Dervan's team didn't show any evident nerves and had a focused look about them.

The first goal allowed Oulart-the-Ballagh grow in confidence and they made that count. Ursula Jacob and Shelly Kehoe added two points before the fourth minute.

Jacob started at corner-forward in an attempt to unsettle the Mullagh defence. But it was the performance of Stacey Kehoe which had a greater impact and she finished the day with 1-2.

At the other end, Mullagh attempts to feed Kennedy and Cathy Bowes in the corner were quickly countered by Mary Leacy and her reliable lieutenants Ciara Storey and Stacey Redmond. Frustration grew as they were forced to send direct ball down the centre resulting in the sliothar returning quickly.

Daly produced an important save from Una Leacy and Monaghan added two more frees to make it 1-2 to 0-3. Monaghan and Aoife Donohue were coming out to win ball, but the attacking pair were finding themselves further from goal as the game progressed.

It made scoring chances difficult for the green and gold but they did have four misses before the break. At the other

end, Jacob converted a hat-trick of frees and Leacy opened her account for a 1-6 to 0-3 interval lead.

Monaghan found herself positioned at full-forward before half-time but back out on the 40 upon the restart. Mullagh needed goals and this was a sur-

This would have been a much tighter affair had the Galway champions performed to their usual level

prising move. The semi-final against Loughgiel Shamrocks showed a vulnerability to high balls for the Oulart-the-Ballagh keeper and full backs. And while supply was scarce, Monaghan's strength would have



BRIDGE TOO



Mullagh's defender Ciara Donohue breaking away from Aileen Brennan of Oulart-The-Ballagh during Sunday's AIB All Ireland Senior Club Camogie Final at Croke Park. PHOTO: RAY McMANUS / SPORTSFILE



Mullagh's Aoife Donohue getting the better of Oulart-The-Ballagh's Mary Leacy during the AIB All Ireland Senior Club Camogie Final at Croke Park on Sunday.



Mullagh players Rachel Monaghan, left, and Cathy Bowes show their dejection after losing to Oulart-The-Ballagh.

FAR

perfectly placed to receive and her low bullet left Daly no chance. 3-7 to 0-5! Game, set and match!

Donohue did point from distance in the 49th minute but it proved Mullagh's only score from play. Monaghan added another free but Oulart-the-Ballagh were in celebratory mood now. The Kehoe twins both troubled the umpires, Diane Ryan split the posts and Ursula Jacob added a brace to ensure another Wexford win over Galway in headquarters.

Experience was the key and no doubt, this will stand to Mullagh when they begin their championship defence on June 23.

Oulart-the-Ballagh showed their ruthlessness and their class. But this would have been a much tighter affair had the Galway champions performed to their usual level.

Mullagh returned to the national stage again for the first time in a generation and their breakthrough season will be remembered fondly by their loyal supporters. Glennon was a hard-working leader again and never stopped trying to drive on her team-mates.

Daly couldn't be faulted for the goals and produced an important save. Monaghan and Donohue contributed to winning breaking balls while Jennifer Coone, Ciara

Donohue and Niamh O'Brien also fought for the cause.

Mullagh: C. Daly, J. Coone, S. Dervan, C. Donohue, D. Kelly, S. Cahalan, N. O'Brien, L. Monaghan, T. Manton, R. Monaghan (0-6, all frees), C. Glennon, P. Manning, C. Bowes, A. Donohue (0-1), K. Kennedy. Subs: A. Clarke for Kennedy (HT), C. Hardiman for Manning (57).

Oulart-the-Ballagh: H. Jacob; C. Storey, K. Atkinson, C. Atkinson, S. Redmond, M. Leacy, A. O'Connor, Shelly Kehoe (0-2), S. Sinnott, D. Ryan (0-1), Stacey Kehoe (1-2), Louise Sinnott (1-0), A. Brennan, U. Leacy (1-1), U. Jacob (0-7, six frees). Subs: Laura Sinnott for Louise Sinnott (47 mins), B. Redmond for O'Connor (59 mins), A. Moran for Brennan (59 mins), Sharon Kehoe for Ryan (59 mins).

Referee: C. Egan (Cork).



Mullagh team manager Pakie Dervan follows the action.

been the best option to cause problems. The Mullagh scorer-in-chief opened the second half scoring but Kehoe responded in the 38th minute. Mullagh

needed a second half revival like they produced against Milford but a sweeping move down the central channel 60 seconds later gave Oulart-the-Ballagh their second major.

Started by Mary Leacy, the ball broke kindly for her sister Una who got inside Sarah Dervan to kick past Daly and the 2012 champions were in sight of the finish line.

Monaghan responded again with a free but Mullagh weren't troubling Helena Jacob who didn't make a save of note over the 60 minutes. Colette Glennon was working hard to inspire a comeback but her team-mates were only able manage similar in patches.

On 46 minutes, an Oulart-the-Ballagh delivery to the right corner led to Aileen Brennan fighting for possession. At the third attempt, she sent the ball towards goal. Leacy provided the distraction and Louise Sinnott was

CAMOGIE WRAP UP

Seamount and Holy Rosary girls seeking All-Ireland schools glory

SEAMOUNT College, Kinvara qualified for this Saturday's (Gort, 2pm) All-Ireland Senior A Schools Camogie Final against St. Flannan's, Ennis with victory in their semi-final replay last Friday.

The Galway champions defeated St. Mary's, Magherfelt 3-7 to 2-6 after coming from behind. Rachel Helebert and Clodhna Walsh had given them an early 2-0 to 0-1 lead but they found themselves three points behind at half-time. But when Ciara Murphy struck the third goal in the 43rd minute to regain control, they never relinquished and now seek a first crown at this grade.

Holy Rosary, Mountbellew are also in search of All-Ireland

honours when they meet Gorey Community School today (Thursday) at 12.30pm in Ballykelly. Goals from Ciara Mannion (2) and Catherine Finnerty helped them to a 3-12 to 2-5 win over Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch in the semi-final and they will be hoping to be the first Galway school to take All-Ireland honours.

Meanwhile, Galway's minors began their championship campaign last Saturday when they defeated Waterford 3-8 to 1-5 in difficult wind and rain in Ballinderreen. Johnny Kane's charges found themselves behind early when Beth Carton struck a second minute goal for the Deise.

But they responded with

three goals in 10 minutes. Clodhna Walsh received assists from Sarah Keaveney and Emma Helebert for the first two green flags. And Helebert was the provider again for the third with Leanne Freaney getting the crucial touch. Galway's next outing is against Offaly on March 21.

Finally, following their opening day 1-8 to 1-7 win over Antrim, Galway's intermediates have their second outing in Division Two of the National Camogie League when they host Westmeath on Sunday. Tara Rutledge's goal sealed the victory the last day and another two points will have Brian Griffin's team within touching distance of the semi-finals.

SACRED Heart Secondary School Clonakilty take on Dublin's St Dominic's College in the All-Ireland second level Schools Senior Camogie final in Nenagh this afternoon.

Bainisteoir Brian Daly has overseen a remarkable renaissance in the west Cork secondary school's camogie fortunes by capturing the 2015 Munster league and championship titles en-route to a possible first All-Ireland success since 1999.

A hard-earned semi-final victory over Abbey Community College on St Valentine's Day has given Sacred Heart an opportunity to put the seal on an unforgettable year but Daly is taking nothing for granted and expecting the toughest of battles from the Leinster senior champions.

"To be honest, I don't believe we are favourites going into today's All-Ireland decider as Sacred Heart have been underdogs in every game we have played so far this year," Daly commented to the *Evening Echo*.

"We will need an increased effort from every one of the fifteen players out on the pitch plus any substitutes that come on to have a chance of overcoming a very impressive St Dominic's College side.

"Don't forget, Dominic's have just won the Dublin A senior county title so we are up against it whichever way you look at it. It is clear from the reports we have received that they are a strong, physical team with some terrific individual players and possess plenty of scoring forwards."

So how has the build-up to today's All-Ireland Camogie final gone considering so most of the squad is drawn from different clubs throughout the west Cork region?

"The build-up has gone really well with every member of the squad in enthusiastic form and looking forward to the occasion," noted Daly.

"The entire school and surrounding areas are really excited about reaching an All-Ireland final. We have done everything within our power to prepare properly and now it is just a case of travelling up to Nenagh and getting out on the field.

"Luckily, our school has been incredibly busy since defeating Abbey Community



Sacred Heart Camogie senior squad that are taking on St. Dominic's College Dublin in the All-Ireland senior secondary level camogie final in Nenagh. Picture: Ger McCarthy

Clon won't lack Heart in camogie final

College in the semi-final. Many of the girls are either in third or sixth year and focussed on their pre's over the past couple of weeks. "We also headed up north on a three-day school tour during the week so the players hadn't much of a chance to get overawed by the occasion which is great."

The Clonakilty secondary school's unexpected success has attracted a huge amount

of local media attention as well as large crowds attending their games. Naturally, that has led to increased focus on the players and how well the Sacred Heart team copes with any All-Ireland final nerves will be crucial to dictating today's outcome.

"As coach, all I can say to the players is that it is actually a good sign to see some nerves," commented Daly.

"If they weren't nervous it

would be like they didn't care or were not concerned about winning. All you can do is try to get the players to zone in on their warm-up and hope that helps. We ask the girls to put everything into the pre-match drills once they get out on the pitch to settle down and then it is straight into the game after the whistle goes.

"This particular squad are a grounded bunch so I don't think there is any real con-

cern with the occasion getting to them.

"Reaching an All-Ireland final is a massive bonus for the school and everyone involved. We'll do our best and the result will look after itself."

TODAY

O'Neill's All-Ireland second level Schools Senior Camogie final: St Dominic's College v Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty, Nenagh, 3pm.



St Flannan's players take a celebration selfie after their All-Ireland Colleges Senior A Championship Semi-Final Replay win over Presentation Kilkenny in Clarecastle on Thursday. For report and reaction see pages 74 & 75. Natasha Barton

First All-Ireland senior final for Flannan's

St Flannan's 2-4
Presentation, Kilkenny 1-5

Sports Editor
Seamus Hayes

THERE were a number of outstanding individual displays in an all-round impressive team performance, as St Flannan's qualified for their first All-Ireland senior camogie final appearance, when overcoming Presentation from Kilkenny at Clarecastle on Thursday last.

In the final, they will play Seamount, Kinvara who beat Magherafelt from Derry, also in a replay. The final takes place on Saturday at Gort at 2pm.

In Thursday's replay, the Ennis school laid the foundations for their victory with a superb defensive display. Aoife Keane was outstanding at centre-back, while the full-back trio of Aleisha Malone, Emma O'Connell and Carol Browne also excelled.

The decision of the St Flannan's management of Laura Linnane and Claire Ryan to deploy corner-forward Laoise Ryan in a sweeper role was also a key factor for the Ennis team.

Elsewhere, Sinead Quinn and Aoibheann Malone excelled and caused huge problems for the visitors.

In very cold conditions, a swirling wind made matters more difficult for the players and it was clear from an early stage that scores would be difficult to come by.

Flannan's adapted to these conditions better in the opening half and midfielder, Sinead Quinn gave them a lead they would hold throughout the game when she converted a 35m free after eight minutes.

Zoe McInerney had the game's first score from play at

the midpoint of the half and these were the only scores on the board as the half-time whistle approached.

With a minute to go to half-time, St Flannan's followers got good reason to cheer when midfielder, Louise Browne broke through and her shot from 25m dipped past the visitors' goalie. Aoife Walsh and into the top corner of the net to give the Ennis school a 1-2 to 0-0 lead.

From the resumption of play, the visitors made it clear that they were not going to go down without a fight and Jenny O'Neill had their opening score when she converted a free in the first minute.

Sinead Quinn responded with a like effort for the home side and points were exchanged again before the 10th minute.

As the midpoint of the half approached, Flannan's struck a major blow, when substitute Amy Wiley goal after a Sinead Quinn shot had been saved.

The score put the winners eight points clear, but from here to the finish, they had to put in some heroic defending, as Presentation threw everything at them.

Points from Jenny O'Neill, Eadaoin Murphy and Eimear Donnelly cut the winners' lead to five points with eight minutes to play.

Presentation were awarded a penalty two minutes later and after Eadaoin Murphy's effort rebounded off the crossbar, Doireann Murphy in the Flannan's goal made a great save, which was followed by another from full-back, Emma O'Connell.

Presentation finally got in for a goal, three minutes from time, when Ciara Phelan scored to cut the deficit to two.

However, to their credit, Flannan's dominated the remaining exchanges and were



on the attack when the final whistle sounded in the third minute of injury time.

Sub: Amy Wiley (Clarecastle, 1-0) for Taaffe.

St Flannan's: Doireann Murphy (Clarecastle); Aleisha Malone (Corofin), Emma O'Connell (Ballyea), Carol Browne (Ballyea); Chloe Devitt (Ballyea), Aoife Keane (Inagh-Kilnamona), Laura Brown (Eire Og); Sinead Quinn (Inagh-Kilnamona, 0-2), Louise Brown (Corofin, 1-0); Aoife Lauren McGuane (Kilmaley), Zoe McInerney (Wolfe Tones, 0-2), Aoibheann Malone (Corofin); Laoise Ryan (Inagh-Kilnamona), Claire Taaffe (Killanena), Amy O'Brien (Corofin).

Presentation, Kilkenny: Aoife Walsh; Aoife B Farrell, Lucy Power, Hannah Scott; Eimear Corr, Ciara Murphy, Aobha O'Gorman; Ciara Phelan (1-0), Eadaoin Murphy (0-1); Sarah Walsh (0-1), Jenny O'Neill (0-2), Eimear Donnelly (0-1); Aoife Farrell, Orlaith Conlon, Blathnaid Galway.

Sub: Margaret O'Connell for Aoife Farrell.

Referee: John O'Leary, Cork.

MAR. 2015



■ St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, who qualified for the All-Ireland Junior B final.

St Joseph's through to Junior B final

St Joseph's, Tulla 3-19
FCJ Bunclody 2-2

ST Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla qualified for the All-Ireland Junior B Colleges final with a comprehensive win over FCJ Bunclody at Feakle on Sunday afternoon.

The opening half saw the sides raise two green flags each. However, it was the St Joseph's side who were the more accurate with scoring opportunities, going in at the break with a 10-point advantage, 2-12 to 2-2.

St Joseph's upped the ante from the restart and added a further 1-7 to their tally. The St Joseph's backs put in a storming performance, as they held the Bunclody

outfit scoreless through the second half, running out comprehensive winners and with an All-Ireland final place in the bag.

St Joseph's: Niamh O'Brien; Catherine Donnellon, Aoife Tuohy, Eileen Daly; Aoife Vaughan, Alannah Ryan, Siobhán O'Connell; Regan Conway, Niamh Mulqueen (capt); Sinead Conlon, Evelyn Duggan, Laura McGrath; Brídín Dinan, Niamh O'Gorman, Robyn Conway.

FCJ Bunclody: Liza Bates; Casey Doyle, Emma Leacy, Lauren Finn; Anne Byrne, Aine Murphy, Róisín Nolan; Abbie O'Connor, Rachel Kelly; Amy Conroy, Sinead Nolan, Sophie Lenehan; Maura O'Rourke, Róisín Kelly (capt), Orla Sinnott.

Referee: Gor Browne, Tipperary.

Coaching certs presented

THE first Level 2 camogie coaching course Solo to Success, took place last November with the practical assessments taking place in January.

Twenty-two coaches completed the course, 10 of whom are tutors with the camogie association. The presentation of the certificates took place in Croke Park last Sunday, by association president, Aileen Lawlor.

Eileen Gleeson, Truagh-Clonlara Camogie Club, was one of those to receive her certificate.

PAUDIE BUTLER ON...

CAMOGIE

"It should be called hurling. I hope that's not taken as a slight on women. They could take offence and rightly so because of our traditional neglect and over-dominance. They've had to protect themselves and their identity."

"But sometimes in protecting yourself you can actually prevent yourself from being equal. The term 'camogie' can be restrictive in the wrong head. 'We won't take that seriously.' And I think girls should hurl with boys up to 11 or 12. Already it happens in some rural primary schools. It's the natural way."

"I taught sixth class for most of my adult life and the girl at that age is a good bit ahead of the boy physically. She's taller, stronger and she's more socially alert, so she'd bring a lot more subtle skills to it. Everyone would benefit. The girls would improve their technique and speed. The boys would have to be more skilful and less crude. In some parishes, crudeness is still acceptable. Slow and tough is still the model being presented, which is hopeless. It's a game of skill and speed now."



At the presentation to Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty senior camogie team, February winners of the Rebel Óg monthly award sponsored by Cummins Sports, with RedFM and the Irish Examiner as media partners, at Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork, were team members (from left) Michelle Dullea, captain Claire Sexton and Rosemarie Dullea.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Sacred Heart focused on final challenge

by Denis Hurley

At the function to honour the February Rebel Óg monthly award winners, the senior camogie team from Sacred Heart Secondary School in Clonakilty, one of the judges, Miriam Murphy, told the members of the team present not to read this article today.

In her defence, she did tell them to buy plenty of copies but to wait until tomorrow evening to look at it. The reason? Clon play St Dominic's of Cabra in the All-Ireland Senior C final in Nenagh today and as a former Cork player and selector, Murphy was advising against being drawn into any hype.

As manager Brian Daly relates, though, there certainly wasn't any hype at the start of the successful

Munster campaign.

"We weren't even contenders to win a match, to be honest," he said.

"It sounds like a cliché at this time of year but, genuinely, if we could have won one or two games and moved on to next year it would have been brilliant.

"I think we've nine third years on the team so it was a case of giving them a bit of enjoyment for the year and going from there but it just really took off.

"In our first league game, we were absolutely destroyed but then things seemed to click for the championship and we haven't looked back since then really."

Sacred Heart won this competition in 1999, with former Cork star Jenny O'Leary a key member of the team. Another Barryroe player, team



captain Claire Sexton, is now the heartbeat of the side.

Daly is keen to impress on the players the importance of making the most of this opportunity.

"We've won competitions at the tail-end of the year, secondary championships or leagues when other schools mightn't have strong teams in," he said.

"We've had serious teams and serious players in the school and they might have only left with a medal or two so you're trying to make the girls aware of that.

"Some of the third years might think that there'll be loads of other opportunities but you might only get one shot at these things. We have to grab Saturday with both hands, really."

As a result of the Munster championship win, Sacred Heart will play at B level next year. Daly accepts that it will be a challenge but there is potential there.

"We're losing a lot of important players like Claire, she's frighteningly good," Daly said.

"A lot of the juniors, you don't know if they'll kick on from being good players now to great players in the future but you have to be hopeful.

"To be honest, I haven't thought about it too much. We'll try to win on Saturday and then go from there."



Holy Rosary College Mountbellew hoping to make history when they compete in the All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Final against Gorey Community School today (Thursday) at 1pm in Ballykelly, Co Laois (back - from left) Sarah Keaveney, Claire Kemple, Claire Dunleavy, Julie Lyons, Sinead Mannion, Aileen Warde, Chloe McHugh, Molly Mannion; (middle) Fiona O'Brien, Muirne Kilcommins, Aine Ryan (captain), Caoimhe Flahive, Karen Walsh, Kate Screene, with (front) Catherine Finnerty, Nadine Connolly, Ciara Mannion, Aine Murray, Jessica Cunningham, Aoife Thompson. HRC has never won a prior All-Ireland Camogie final.

MAR. 2015

Kilkenny will give a good indicator of what shape Rebels are in

SUNDAY
National Camogie League
Division 1: Cork v Kilkenny, Mardyke, 3pm.

KILKENNY travel to Cork this Sunday in their opening game of this season's national league.

It's Cork's second outing having defeated Clare a fortnight ago.

Of course the talk will be about revenge from Kilkenny after last September's All-Ireland loss to Cork but I don't think either side will be focused or bothered with anything like that so early in the season.

For Cork it'll once again be about blending in the younger players and that is hugely important for progression with a number of retirements from 2014 and another couple possibly departing the scene after the 2015 campaign.

In addition to that Paudie Murray needs greater options than what he has historically relied on and he has tried to address this during his tenure, giving many lesser known players plenty of opportunity.

It's up to the players to take it.

Once again I'm not so sure of Kilkenny's credentials for 2015. All the doubts I had about their mental toughness, aggression and desire to win rose to the surface in the second half of last September's final.

I've said it repeatedly over the past number of years that they just don't do it for me. That spark is always missing.

There was so much hype about them leading into last year's final that I thought maybe the All-Ireland defeat of 2013 had given them the bite.

Not seeing them week-in and week-out I ended up doubting my own beliefs, assuming that some managerial magic was being created behind closed doors.

It didn't happen. Kilkenny are a very skilful

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

team with a strong bench on paper but it needs a lot more than that.

They have a new manager in situ this year. Fintan Deegan from Cullohill in Laois married a local Urlingford woman and now resides in the county.

He is at the helm and seems to want to shake things up in the camp having recently dropped star defender Elaine Aylward from the panel.

This weekend the Cats could take Cork as Paudie brings a very young team to the field.

There is every chance that Amy Lee of Na Piarsaigh could get her senior debut in the number one jersey. Minor two years ago Amy comes with a lot of potential which will flourish under Cork's senior management.

Lauren Callanan, Leanne O'Sullivan, Maeve Cahalane, Finola Neville and Hannah Looney will undoubtedly figure and with Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery rested this weekend it affords the likes of Katelyn Hickey and Julie Mulcahy an opportunity whether they start or play a part.

Winning the league isn't a priority for Cork however, but advancing to the play-off stages would be welcomed in terms of championship preparation.

It's difficult to get decent challenge games in senior camogie so these league games are worth their weight in gold.

Kilkenny may be in experimental mode too so it's difficult to predict an outcome. Should they field close to full strength they should take the points.

This will be a step up from the Clare game for the Cork players. It took them a while to settle first time out as expected. They will need to settle faster this time around.

Tipperary overcome Clare minors

Tipperary 1-15
Clare 2-7

CLARE lost out to Tipperary in Round 2 of the Minor All-Ireland Championship on Saturday afternoon in Meelick, in spite of a spirited second-half performance.

The visitors, playing with the wind in the first half, had the better of the exchanges in the opening minutes and had two points registered before the three-minute mark. Clare registered their opening score in the eighth minute, when Regan Conway converted a free.

The Tipp outfit added another three points, one from a placed ball, before Conway added another free for the Banner girls. Tipperary closed out the first half the stronger with another two points, leaving Conway with the last

score of the half, a free in injury time, to leave Clare going in at the break trailing by four points, 0-3 to 0-7.

Of the two sides, Tipperary will be the more disappointed with their opening-half performance, as they should have been further ahead having had a considerable wind advantage. The Premier side got the ideal start to the second half when Niamh Treacy pulled on a loose ball and sent it past Rebecca Keating in the Clare goals.

Clare rallied well from this and introduced substitutes, AnnMarie Hayes and Chloe Devitt, while Conway moved to midfield. Keelin Lyons had Clare's only point from play for the home side's opening score of the second half, with Conway converting a free in the 40th minute.

Clare's first goal came when the unmarked Amy Keating

gathered 30 yards out and ran through, side-stepping the oncoming Tipperary goalie, before she fired to the net, levelling the game. Tipperary responded with two quick points and then had a third between two Conway frees to leave Clare behind by the minimum with 10 minutes remaining.

The winners added a brace in the 54th and 57th minutes from Niamh Treacy, before Clare grabbed their second goal. Conway's long delivery into the square saw substitute, Aoibheann Duggan pull on the ball as it descended and sent it to the back of the net. With three points separating the sides, as the game reached the final minute, Tipperary added two more points in injury time to run out winners on a five-point margin.

Clare: Rebecca Keating; Aoife Tuohy, Anna Clancy,

Orlaith Cotter, Siobhán Lane, Clare Hehir, Teresa O'Keefe; Corina McMahon, Ríia Flanagan; Andrea O'Keefe, Saoirse Glynn, Regan Conway; Amy Keating (1-0), Keelin Lyons (0-1), Regan Conway (0-6f).

Subs: Laura Brown for Cotter, AnnMarie Hayes for Mulqueen, Chloe Devitt for McMahon and Aoibheann Duggan (1-0) for A O'Keefe.

Tipperary: Caoimhe Bourke; Karen Fox, Carol Casey, Maureen Ryan; Catriona Skehan, Courtney Ryan, Karen Kennedy; Róisín Cahill, Ciara Maher; Lorna O'Dwyer, Róisín Howard (0-5), Niamh Treacy (1-4); Orla O'Dwyer, Grace O'Brien (0-4f), Keely Lenihan.

Subs: Sinead Meagher (0-2) for Casey, Eimear Loughman for O'Dwyer, Miriam Campion for C Ryan and Caroline Mullaney for Cahill.

Referee: John McDonagh, Galway.

Girls of St Flannan's chasing historic All-Ireland victory

By Eoghan Cormican

Camogie

The blue and white of St Flannan's is an all-too-familiar sight on days of All-Ireland post-primary finals. Few hurling nurseries enjoy such a rich history of success.

And now another chapter is to be written this afternoon.

The Ennis school opened its doors to female students in

2002 and quickly established a camogie arm under the stewardship of teachers like Tim Kelly, Annette Collins, Elaine Dunne, Alan Dunne, Grainne O'Brien, James Delaney and Claire Ryan.

Progress was slow but sure — eight years later they won the 2010 All-Ireland Junior B category.

Their development in the interim has been exceptional, which brings us to this after-

noon's bid for Senior A honours against Connacht champions Seamount Kinvara in Gort (2pm).

"The girls have done remarkably well over the past number of years and it has all culminated in reaching Saturday's senior decider, the atmosphere in the school this week has been something else," noted joint-manager Laura Linnane. "There was a great buzz after the semi-final win and

this game is all anyone is talking about in the staff room."

A first Munster senior colleges crown was won last spring, but Linnane maintains the breakthrough came a fortnight ago when defeating the All-Ireland champions Presentation, Kilkenny.

"Our graph has been rising ever since the junior win of 2010. This has coincided with the growth of our feeder clubs

such as Corofin, Ballyea, Inagh/Kilnamona and Clarecastle. Since 2010 we have won four Munster Junior A sevens titles and one All-Ireland. We won the Munster Junior A proper in 2013 and followed it up a year later with senior success. St Mary's, Magherafelt had the better of us in the semi-final and it speaks volumes of the quality of Seamount Kinvara that they were able to go up to St

Mary's and return with victory two weeks ago."

She continued: "The defining game for this group of girls was definitely the semi-final against the champions from Kilkenny. We were unlucky not to take them the first day, but you could see in the replay at Clarecastle how totally focused we were. Nothing was going to stop us that day. Hopefully it will be the same again for the final."

Seamount now set sights on double

Seamount College, Kinvara..... 1-5
St Flannan's College, Ennis 0-6
All-Ireland Post Primary Senior A Camogie final
By Eoin Brennan

Seamount College completed the first of a potential All-Ireland double in Gort on Saturday when holding off St Flannan's to claim a first Post Primary Senior A title.

With the Junior B equivalent to follow this weekend also against Clare opposition, the Galway college used their twin momentum that includes a crossover of 20 players between their squads, to edge a low-scoring, tense derby.

A crossfield gale dominated proceedings with all but one score coming from placed balls and it was St Flannan's who settled quicker with four Sinead Quinn frees ensuring a 0-4 to 0-1 advantage by the 23rd minute. The game would turn dramatically just before the break though when Seamount's Katie McMahon was brought down for a penalty that Carrie Dolan converted to leave the sides level at the break (0-4 to 1-1).

It would prove an inspirational score for Seamount who hit the ground running on the restart to add four unanswered points, three from Dolan placed balls, to hold a



Seamount College team celebrate their win over St Flannan's College, Ennis in the All-Ireland Post Primary Senior A Camogie final in Gort. Picture: Lorraine O'Sullivan

commanding 1-5 to 1-1 advantage entering the final quarter.

St Flannan's simply had to go for broke and were rewarded when Amy O'Brien was hauled down for a penalty. However, Emma O'Connell's powerful effort was saved by Amy Helebert.

Sinead Quinn pointed two late frees for the back-to-back Munster champions but Seamount held on for a first All-Ireland crown, with the Junior B version to come against St Joseph's Tulla on Saturday.

In the B final, Gorey Community School beat Holy Rosary, Mountbellew by 2-6 to 1-3. Hayley Murphy, and a granite strong defence, were the major differences between two evenly-matched teams who played out an entertaining, breathless battle.

The C decider was won by St Dominic's College as they just got the better of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty by 2-6 to 1-6 in Nenagh. Two second-half goals from

Claire Glynn secured the honours for the Cabra team, with the second coming in the closing minutes to deny the West Cork side, who had hit the front thanks to Claire Sexton's 50th minute goal.

Coláiste na Phiarsaigh, Glanmire annexed the D title, winning 1-9 to 1-7 against Loreto High School in Nenagh.

Scorers for Seamount College: C Dolan 1-4 (1-0 Pen, 0-4f), C Walsh 0-1

Scorer for St Flannan's College: S Quinn 0-6f

SEAMOUNT COLLEGE, KINVARA: A Helebert; N Murphy, E Stafford, S Connolly; L Helebert, E Helebert, T Birmingham; N Keane, C Murphy; J O'Dea, C Dolan, D Walsh; K McMahon, C Walsh, R Helebert

Sub: C Keane for R Helebert (56)

ST FLANNAN'S COLLEGE, ENNIS: D Murphy; A Malone, E O'Connell, C Browne; L Brown, A Keane, C Devitt; S Quinn, L Browne; Z McInerney, C Taaffe, A Malone; L Ryan, L McGuane, A O'Brien

Subs: A Wiley for Taaffe (HT), C McMahon for McGuane (50)

Referee: G Browne (Tipperary)

MAR. 2015

CAMOGIE	
NCL Div 1 Grp 1:	Wexford 2-5 Offaly 0-6, Limerick 1-14 Tipperary 1-7, Grp 2: Clare 1-11 Dublin 1-13, Div 2 Grp 1: Laois 5-6 Antrim 3-6, Galway 4-7 Westmeath 0-3, Grp 2: Cork 1-8 Waterford 1-9, Leinster U16ACC: Dublin 3-8 Kilkenny 0-12; U16BCC: Dublin 4-7 Meath 2-3; All-Ireland Second-Level Schools SBC final: Gorey Community School (Wexford) 2-6 Holy Rosary College (Galway) 1-3, SCC final: St Dominic's College (Dublin) 2-6 Sacred Heart Secondary School (Cork) 1-6
HANDBALL	

COTTER GIVES REBELS EDGE AGAINST CATS

CORK showed the advantage of having already played a game in the Irish Daily Star Camogie League as they came on strong in the second half to carve out a 0-9 to 0-5 win over Kilkenny in The Mardyke.

The defending champions were having their first outing of the season and it showed.

Fintan Deegan's new charges did begin well, however, with an Aoife Neary point.

Orla Cotter slotted three frees around Denise Gaule's successful placed ball for the visitors and when Megan Farrell and Neary found the target, it was 0-4 to 0-3.

Thanks to Cotter's 28th minute penalty being saved, that's how it stayed at half time.

Gaule converted a free from a very tight angle soon after the resumption, but Kilkenny didn't score again as Cork upped the tempo.

Gap

Katrina Mackey pointed, before Cotter brought her tally to seven points and open a gap.

Also in Group Two, Dublin continued the Shane O'Brien era with a magnificent win over last year's League finalists Clare in Clonlara by 1-13 to 1-11.

The Dubs opened their campaign with a home win over Derry, but this was a

CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

significant step up thanks to the excellence of Ali Twomey, Louise O'Hara, Alison Maguire and goalkeeper, Sile Nic Coitir.

The teams went in at the break on 0-6 apiece and the defining moment came right at the start of the second half.

Dublin won a free at the throw in and O'Hara doubled on Twomey's delivery spectacularly to send the sliotar to the corner.

Rue

In Group One, goals from Aine Leacy and Jackie Quigley gave Wexford a hard-earned 2-4 to 1-8 win over Offaly.

Offaly will rue a missed early penalty, when Siobhan Flannery's shot was saved by Laura Brennan.

Flannery did finish with seven points, but it was the goals from Leacy, in the first half, and most essential, from Quigley six minutes from time that snatched it for the youthful Model County women.

Limerick continued their good start with a 1-14 to 1-7 win over Tipperary.

The Mulcahy sisters, Niamh and Judith shone for the Shannonsiders with the former hitting 10 points in blustery conditions.

Megan Ryan's goal came too late to make any impact on the result.

Cotter inspires Rebels past Cats

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie

National Camogie League champions Kilkenny lost the opening game of their title defence with a four-point reversal against Cork at the Mardyke yesterday (0-9 to 0-5).

Aoife Neary, Denise Gaule and Megan Farrell gave the visitors the early initiative while the hosts were reliant on Orla Cotter for scores.

Cotter's missed penalty in the 28th minute left Cork trailing by a point at the break 0-4 to 0-3 and Kilkenny extended that lead to two with a Gaule free moments after the restart.

But that score stung Cork into action with Katrina Mackey and Cotter to the fore. Cotter finished with seven points to secure a crucial result for the All-Ireland champions.

Dublin claimed a magnificent win over last year's League finalists Clare in Clonlara (1-13 to 1-11).

Dublin opened their cam-

paign with a home win over Derry but this was a significant step up on that and they were not found wanting thanks to the excellence of Ali Twomey, Louise O'Hara, Alison Maguire and Sile Nic Coitir.

The teams were level at the break (0-6 apiece) with the only score from play coming from Clare's Fiona Lafferty. Chloe Morey completed the home team's tally from frees, while Twomey registered all Dublin's scores from placed balls. The defining moment came at the start of the second half —

Dublin won a free at the throw in and O'Hara doubled on Twomey's delivery to send the sliotar to the corner of the Clare net.

Dublin defended resolutely thereafter and were five points ahead when Morey goaled from a 25m free in the 59th minute.

Meanwhile, goals from Aine Leacy and Jackie Quigley gave Wexford a hard-earned 2-4 to 1-8 win over Offaly.

Limerick continued their good start with a 1-14 to 1-7 win over Tipperary.



At a reception at AIB, St Patrick St., Cork, to honour the winners of the AIB-sponsored Cork County Club GAA and Camogie Championships were John O'Doherty, regional director, Cork Central, AIB, (fifth from left) and (from left) Jimmy Smiddy, Castlemartyr; Rebecca Finn, Milford; Eoghan Delaney Valley Rovers; Michael Vaughan, Millstreet; Daniel Kearney, Sarsfields; Claire Holland, Sarsfields; Aisling Whitnell, Sliabh Rua; Maurice O'Sullivan, Ballyhea, and Cian Dorgan, Ballincollig. Picture: Denis Minihane

BATTLE: Meighan Farrell of Kilkenny is put under pressure by Cork's Leanne O'Sullivan yesterday



Rebels narrowly fail to get just rewards

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Waterford 1-9
Cork 1-8

DESPITE turning in an excellent display Cork narrowly failed to grab a share of the spoils in a highly competitive and entertaining Division 2 Irish Daily Star National League game at the Mardyke yesterday. Waterford led 1-8 to 1-5 at the break, a Julia Mulcahy goal midway through the half put Cork ahead but this was cancelled out by an excellent Beth Carton goal eight minutes from the break. Through the opening half the Cork defence were under a lot of pressure and with Beth Carton and Niamh Rockett prominent. On the turn over, Waterford continued to play an extra player in defence and it was hard for Cork to make any head way as the sweeper picked up a lot of ball.

Showing huge courage and fighting spirit, Cork worked hard. Waterford edged four points clear 11 minutes into the half but it was to be their only score of the half as Cork rose to the challenge with great heart. With their defence superbly led by Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley and Sarah Harrington and with Jennifer Hosford winning a lot of possession at midfield. Twice Waterford conceded frees as they pulled down Linda Collins and Rachel O'Shea as Cork battled for a goal, twice Cork converted to cut the deficit and when Rachel O'Shea struck a superb effort with two minutes of normal time remaining just a point separated the sides. Cork kept the pressure on and won possession from a Waterford clearance and it looked as if they would snatch a draw but amazingly full time was signalled with a Cork player in clean possession on the 40 metre line just about to strike the ball.

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton 1-4 (0-2F), N Rockett 0-2, D Power, L Bray, Jackman 0-1 each.

Cork: O Cronin 0-3 (1F), J Mulcahy 1-0, L Collins 0-2, J Crowley, C Sugrue, R O'Shea 0-1 each.

WATERFORD: D Brennan, V Falconer, C Whyte, E Hannon, C Murphy, J Simpson, J McCarthy, J Hosford, C Sugrue, O Cronin, K Hickey, R O'Shea, L Collins, J Mulcahy.

Subs: S O'Sullivan for A Leahy (1), S Fahy for K Hickey (1), S Curtin for J Mulcahy (50), N O'Callaghan for H O'Regan (52).

Referee: Aidan O'Brien (Wexford)

Cork 3-13 Limerick 2-6

The Cork U16A team got their provincial campaign off to a winning start with a victory over Limerick side in Castle Road yesterday. Leading 2-6 to 1-4 at the interval, after goals from Cliona Healy kept them in front in reply to Molly Hammersley's Limerick goal, Cork pushed on in the second half. Molly Hammersley put two points between the sides with an excellent second Limerick goal but with Eimear McAndrew, Cliona Healy, Olivia Murphy and Ciara Ryan all finding the range Cork rallied and continued to hold the upper hand. A goal from Ciara Ryan just before the full time consolidated it for Cork.

Cork side handle conditions best to claim win

Cork 0-9
Kilkenny 0-5

IT MAY have been a lacklustre, scrappy affair, with little fast-splitting play but that won't worry Cork.

They came away with the points from the Mardyke yesterday after fielding a relatively inexperienced side against a Kilkenny team which held nine of last year's All-Ireland final panel.

While the weather made for a pleasant afternoon for spectators the pitch was pretty choppy and in addition to a plethora of unnecessary frees the game failed to excite. Both sides predominantly played the running / short passing game, often leading to turnovers and breakdowns.

That style was what was working best for Cork as any long ball that did reach their inside forwards was cleared too easily. That improved in the second with Amy O'Connor creating a couple of goal chances in the last quarter.

With the lack of open play room wasn't a premium hence the few scoring opportunities which fell for either side. Cork failed to score from play until the 37th minute after Orla Cotter had split Kilkenny with a great run down the middle and off-



LINDA MELLERICK

loaded to Katrina Mackey. While Aoife Neary (2) and Meighean Farrell grabbed three from open play in the opening half Kilkenny failed to score from the thirty first minute, a couple of poor wides from play and placed balls not helping their cause.

It certainly wasn't a baptism of fire for young Amy Lee between the posts. While not besieged she looked lively and confident with what came her way.

Kilkenny started the sharper with Cork guilty of playing from behind in some areas of defence. Pam Mackey was having a fine game at centre back, clearly leading. Cork drifted in and out of the game at midfield and were struggling to make any headway up front where they are experimenting and Kilkenny held such powerhouse names as Edwina Keane, Jacqui Frisby, Collette Dormer and Kate McDonald. Joanne Casey started the game at full forward for the rebels, intermittently switching with Amy O'Connor. Orla Cotter was playing



Kilkenny's Meighean Farrell finds her way blocked by Cork's Leanne O'Sullivan during their National Camogie League Division 1 game at The Mardyke yesterday.

Picture: Caroline Quinn / www.cquinnphotography.com

deep and was once again very influential.

The visitors led by four points to three at the half way mark. Cork were awarded a penalty on twenty eight minutes after Kilkenny unnecessarily wrapped themselves around Amy O'Connor but Cotter's strike was blocked with a resultant free awarded out.

Cork introduced Julia White at half time. Her introduction did help open matters up and she pointed midway through. Denise Gaule pointed her second free moments after the restart and that was it for the Cats as five points saw Cork run out four point winners.

Orla Cotter was excellent in general play, both defending and attacking, her free taking also impeccable. Aishling Thompson came more into the game and Cork were starting to find some space. It was only in the last quarter however that any clear goal opportunity came.

Once again O'Connor had possession she was tormentor in chief. She bypassed three defenders before striking. Emma Kavanagh was beaten but the ball hit the post.

O'Connor went on another merry dance shortly afterwards, again giving indications of the player she is going to be.

With minutes remaining Ann Dalton was shown a second yellow for a hurley throw and saw the line.

Two wins from two from Cork as they continue their experimental strategy.

So far all is going to plan and it's difficult to see any of that changing next Sunday when they travel to Dublin to take on the home side.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-7 (1F), K Mackey, J White 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: D Gaule 0-2 (1F), A Neary 0-2, M Farrell 0-1.

CORK: A Lee, L Callanan, L Tracey, L O'Sullivan, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, M Cahalane, A Thompson, K Hickey, O Cotter, F Neville, H Looney, A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: J White for K Hickey (1/1), O Cronin for H Looney (46).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, C Foley, E Keane, J Frisby, K McDonald, C Dormer, D Tobin, A Dalton, M Farrell, A Farrell, E Maher, A Dunphy, A Neary, D Gaule, M Quilty.

Subs: S Farrell for M Quilty (42).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Murray happy with his team's progression

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

HAVING taken two points from an experienced Kilkenny side yesterday Paudie Murray had every reason to be somewhat content with his side's performance.

"Overall I'd be very happy. When you look at it I suppose you'd have about 10 players under 21 out there today so you'd have to be very positive that a lot of these girls will drive on from here.

"Before the match I was going

through Kilkenny's team and I think they had about 10 of the side that played in the All-Ireland final and two that played it the Intermediate final. "I wasn't going to be overly concerned about the result today, it was the display, and I think we're going along nicely. We know the way we want to

play and I think players trying to do that.

It was clear that Cork were trying to get their young players thinking and blend them into their style of play? "Oh yeah, especially in the second-half I thought our back line played very well. If I was to be critical we had enough ball in the first half to register a couple of scores and didn't make them stick but look I'm very happy with the attitude

that they're showing and as I said to them before the match, every week we'll go a step further and I think this was a step forward from the Clare match."

There weren't many goal chances created? "No it was a funny old game, the surface wasn't great and I don't think that helped. You'd like to be a little more threatening in front of goal, I think Amy was unlucky enough to hit the post

but I think we had more goal chances than Kilkenny over the hour."

What did Paudie make of Amy Lee's debut? "I think her attitude is good, she needs to be developed; that's our intention this year and Sarah O'Sullivan from our division two team as well. We're crying out for keepers so it's important we develop them along but I think she (Amy) should be happy enough."

The Seamount College players celebrate after capturing the Senior College A Camogie title. Photos: Lorraine O'Sullivan.



CHAMPIONS

Brilliant Seamount are crowned All-Ireland Senior A Schools camogie champions

SEAMOUNT COLLEGE KINVARA	1-5
ST FLANNAN'S COLLEGE ENNIS	0-6

DARREN KELLY
IN GORT

HISTORY was made last Saturday as Seamount College Kinvara were crowned All-Ireland senior A camogie champions thanks to a first half penalty coupled with four unanswered third quarter points.

Not since St Raphael's College, Loughrea completed their seven-in-a-row back in 1992 had the crown jewel of schools' camogie come to Galway.

Carrie Dolan's penalty put Fionan Cuddy's team back in contention before three Dolan frees and one from play for Clodhna Walsh secured a match-winning victory - in a fitting link to the county's previous success, Dolan's mother Imelda Maher was St Raphael's winning captain in 1990.

The designated neutral venue of Gort provided a sunny environment for the strong support there to represent both sides but from the beginning, both teams chased the early advantage that saw the defences come out on top.

St Flannan's had the slight edge with the first-half crosswind and opened the scoring in the second minute from a Sinead Quinn free. The Munster champions had eliminated previous winners Presentation Kilkenny and Quinn's frees allowed Claire Ryan's side a 0-4 to 0-1 lead by the 23rd minute.

Quinn, Aoife Keane and Emma O'Connell were applying pressure to their opponents but Seamount responded in similar fashion as Eleanor Stafford and Emma Helebert symbolised a defiant defence.

Dolan had opened Seamount's account in the fifth

minute after Walsh won a free but it was evident at an early stage that Katie McMahon was in lively form and the 19-years-old from Ardahan played her part in the game's most decisive score.

Now they are the top camogie school in the country

After a switch that allowed McMahon move towards the square, another long delivery saw the full-forward split the Flannan's defence to win a penalty. Dolan's fierce strike rattled the net and after failing to sparkle, Seamount went in level at 1-1 to 0-4 at half-time.

While the strong breeze seemed intent on keeping play away from the packed stand, the angled direction towards the town goal favoured the Connacht champions in the second half.

Dolan converted in the 36th minute to push the Kinvara school ahead for the first time and it was a lead they never relinquished. Four minutes later, Helebert's targeted free was well read by Walsh who struck her first score. Amazingly, it was the contest's only point from play.

St Flannan's Aoibheann Malone scored a hat-trick in the Munster final but she struggled to threaten throughout the hour. Leanne Helebert had taken the early role of marking the Clare wing-forward, and Malone had no better luck swapping wings to face Tara Bermingham.

The third quarter saw another two points from Dolan, who finished as top scorer with

1-4. But even though a four point cushion looked secure, St Flannan's weren't willing to throw in the towel and attacked over the final 10 minutes.

They were awarded their own penalty in the 51st minute after Amy O'Brien, but Amy Helebert saved O'Connell's effort. It didn't deflate St Flannan's who kept trying to create something. Malone had an effort go across the goal, O'Brien threatened on a couple of occasions, and two Quinn placed-balls ensured only one score separated the sides.

As a unit, the Seamount defensive sextet kept their opponents at bay with Niamh Murphy also averting danger and Niamh Keane having an excellent second half. St Flannan's attacked but couldn't produce. Seamount College Kinvara were Junior C All-Ireland champions three years ago. Now they are the top camogie school in the country.

The rapid growth of camogie

in south Galway was given the perfect tonic heading towards the future - Kinvara, Ballinderreen, Clarinbridge, Ardahan and Oranmore/Maree all united in this historic triumph.

Amy Helebert, Stafford, Emma Helebert, Keane, Dolan and McMahon were the top performers but all involved played their part in a gritty display of courage and resilience that clinched the ultimate prize.

Seamount College: A Helebert; N Murphy; E Stafford; S Connolly; T Bermingham; E Helebert; L Helebert; N Keane; C Murphy; J O'Dea; C Dolan (1-4, 1-0 pen, four frees); D Walsh; R Helebert; C Walsh (0-1); K McMahon. Subs: C Keane for R Helebert (55 mins).

St Flannan's College: D Murphy; Aleisha Malone; E O'Connell; C Browne; C Devitt; A Keane; Laura Brown; S Quinn (0-6, all frees); Louise Brown; Aoibheann Malone; Z McInerney; L McGuane; L Ryan; C Toaff; A O'Brien. Subs: A Wiley for Toaff (1-1); C McMahon for McGuane (50 mins). Referee: G Brown (Tipperary).

Galway must improve for clash with Tipperary

DARREN KELLY

AFTER an opening day draw against Limerick, Galway's senior camogie team returns to action this Sunday following a three week break when they face Tipperary at The Ragg (2.30pm).

A windy Ballinasloe witnessed a 0-6 apiece outcome against last year's intermediate champions but Galway will be looking to improve following a scoreless second-half.

"It's great to be getting back into action," said manager Tony Ward this week. "There was no

body in our camp happy with the way we played against Limerick, and nobody happy with the outcome. We've a lot of work done since."

Four points for Niamh McGrath and scores from Molly Dunne and Laura Mitchell had given the Tribeswomen the initiative before a blank second period. Injuries have been a major factor in Galway's preparations with Rebecca Hennelly, Orlaith McGrath and Maria Cooney still out of action while Aoife Callanan and Siobhan Gardiner are also added to the absent list.

Mullagh's players are due to

return this weekend but unlikely to see action this Sunday and players like Catriona Murphy, Sarah Keehan and Niamh Hanniffy could come into the reckoning. Hanniffy was effective upon being introduced the last day while Tara Kenny, Siobhan Coen, Finola Keeley and Laura Mitchell will be hoping to gain more experience in the top tier.

"We are taking the league more serious this year than possibly we did last year or even 2013," added Ward. "We need the games. It was great to get a game against Kilkenny last weekend. It was a great work-

out for us. And we saw how some of these new girls, what they're capable of doing against the likes of Kilkenny."

Galway drew with the Noreiders and had a bye last weekend as Limerick and Wexford picked up victories in Galway's groups. The Shannonsiders were 1-14 to 1-7 winners over Tipperary to go top of Group 1 but while acknowledging his side are favourites, Ward is only too aware of the threat from the Premier County.

"They're a peculiar county at the minute," said the two-time All-Ireland winning manager. "If you only go back to

two years ago when we played them in the league in the intermediate. We beat them by 17 or 18 points. And they came to Ballinasloe and we were lucky to come away with a one point victory a couple of months later."

"I've been at a lot of college games this year, and there are some serious players in colleges around the country from Tipperary. They were the backbone of UL (University of Limerick) and Galway (NUIG) had a few of them. They have to be a force."

Tipperary's success at underage has been well noted with All-Ireland under 16 final

wins over Galway in 2013 and 2014 and they have also been prominent at minor level. However, they have gone through a barren period at senior since winning five All-Ireland titles between 1999 and 2004. Their last outing against the maroon and white was their 2013 quarter-final defeat when two Alish O'Reilly goals led Galway to a 2-19 to 0-9 win.

Three games in four weekends (including meetings with Offaly and Wexford) will decide Galway's fate regarding semi-final qualification, but Tony Ward's charges should still be in the hunt come Sunday evening.

MAR. 2015



The Seamount panel, back row, from left: Simone Hansbury, Louise Finnerty, Eva Dolan, Eve Maloney, Sarah Kearney, Sinead Keane, Dearbhaila Walsh, Siobhan Connolly, Amy Helebert, Emma Helebert, Jenny O'Dea, Clíodhna Walsh, Leanne Helebert, Eleanor Stafford, Carrie Dolan, Saoirse Burke, Maria Tarpey and Niamh Murphy. Front: Amy McGorothy, Ciara Doney, Ciara Helebert, Ciara Keane, Aine Kilkelly, Hazel Lane, Keelen O'Grady, Rachael Helebert, Katie McMahon, Tara Bermingham, Ciara Murphy, Georgina McDonagh, Niamh Keane and Fiona Ryan.



Donal Burke presents the All-Ireland cup to Siobhan Connolly.



Carrie Dolan of Seamount College challenges Aoibheann Malone of St Flannan's.



Dearbhaila Walshe of Seamount College and Aleisha Moone of St Flannan's.



Tara Bermingham, Rachel Helebert and Jenny O'Dea in jubilant mood.



Clíodhna Walsh and Eleanor Stafford celebrate.

Seamount aiming for All-Ireland double

DARREN KELLY

AFTER Seamount Kinvara's historic success, their juniors will be looking to complete an All-Ireland double this Saturday when they take on St Joseph's OF Tulla in the B decider in Kenny Park (1pm).

Rachel Helebert and Dearbhaila Walsh scored goals in their 3-10 to 1-5 win over St Pius X from Magherfelt and were involved in the seniors win. Saoirse Bourke contributed the third goal.

Managers Fionan Cuddy and Roisin Callanan will be hoping to take a second scalp over Clare opposition, who lost last year's D decider but were C champions in 2013.

The big game of the weekend will be the All-Ireland Junior A Schools Camogie Final when Presentation College Athenry take on Loreto, Kilkenny on Saturday (1.30pm Ballykelly). A repeat of the 2007 decider where Loreto won 0-7 to 0-5, the Kilkenny school added a five-in-a-row between 2009 and 2013 and will start as favourites.

However, despite a second quarter lapse against the wind, Fiona Page's Athenry outfit always looked strong in their 5-7 to 2-8 win over St Mary's, Magherfelt in the semi-final. Mary Dunphy and Leanne Freaney got early green flags for the Connacht champions in Derry before overturning a half-time deficit with Dunphy, Freaney and Nicola Lawless getting a hat-trick of majors and will fancy their chances.

Unfortunately, for Holy Rosary College Mountbellew, their All-Ireland dreams came up short last Thursday when they went down 2-6 to 1-3 to Gorey Community School in the Senior B final.

At intercounty level, Galway's intermediates maintained their 100% start to Division Two of the National League with a 4-7 to 0-8 victory over Westmeath last Sunday in Ballinasloe. Brian Griffin's side trailed 0-3 to 0-1 in the early stages before two goals in a minute from Tara Rutledge and Lauren Glynn gave them a five point interval advantage.

Sinead Gaffney was also on the scoreboard, and Amy Caulfield added two second half points along with assisting in three goals. Her delivery for the third major allowed Edel Murray score on 39 minutes before Brenda Killilea set up Rutledge for the fourth two minutes from time.

Galway top Group 1 with Laois on four points but can expect a sterner test this Sunday when they travel to meet a Kildare side who eliminated them from last year's championship.

MAR. 2015



So close: The Sacred Heart camogie team that lost the All-Ireland schools' senior C final against St Dominic's of Cabra in Nenagh on Saturday.

Sacred Hearts are broken

Capital pain for Clonakilty school as All-Ireland colleges' camogie title heads to Dublin



Kieran McCarthy
reports from
Nenagh

SACRED HEART	1-6
ST DOMINIC'S	2-6

HUDDLED in a circle in the centre of the wind-swept pitch, there were tears, dashed dreams and broken hearts – this wasn't the way it was meant to end.

While St Dominic's College from Cabra celebrated their All-Ireland schools' senior C camogie championship final success, Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty were coming to terms with the unexpected emotions of defeat in these players' biggest-ever game.

It wasn't a field of dreams for the West Cork girls in Nenagh on Saturday evening. Quite the opposite, in fact, on a day where luck and fortune – not to mention a gale-force wind – didn't favour Brian Daly's charges.

A feature of this Sacred Heart senior camogie team on their run to the final was their lightning-fast starts. St Mary's of Middleton in the Munster final and Abbey Community College, Waterford, in the All-Ireland semi-final can both testify to how quickly Sacred Heart race from the starting blocks. In both games, Sacred Heart banged in two quick goals to daze their opponents. No touching gloves, these were knock-out blows.

But there was no Hollywood start on Saturday against the Dublin girls, even though the chances were there for Sacred Heart.

Claire Sexton, the leader of this

team, raced through in the opening stages and a goal looked a certainty, but her rasping effort flashed wide. The same player, after being fouled running through on goal after ten minutes, stayed on her feet to goal, only for the referee to call play back for the foul.

It was one of those days.

Too many of Sacred Heart's leading lights didn't shine their brightest, chances weren't taken and the performance just wasn't what it could have been.

The writing looked on the wall at half time as the Clonakilty school only led 0-5 to 0-2 despite having had the wind behind them in the opening period.

To put the wind into context, in the opening game in Nenagh, the All-Ireland schools' senior D final, Colaiste an Phiarsaigh from Glanmire came from six points down at half time to beat Loreto High School of Dublin. That's how strong the wind was. It was worth six points, at least. Sacred Heart only led by three. The maths didn't add up.

'It was a disappointing first half,' manager Brian Daly agreed afterwards.

'We had the chances. We had two clear goal chances and a disallowed goal. If one of those had gone in it would have settled us down much earlier. To go in only three points up we knew that we were going to be completely up against it in the second half.'

The Clonakilty man added: 'We looked a bit nervous and in the first half we just didn't follow our game plan. It's understandable that girls are nervous on a stage like this.'

It was St Dominic's who were first to score when Ann McSweeney slotted over after eight minutes before Barryroe's Claire Sexton, who had seen her early goal chance whizz wide, steadied her side with Sacred Heart's opening

score two minutes later.

Then, after Sexton was fouled and her goal disallowed, Rebecca McCarthy slotted over the first of her four first-half frees.

The reliable corner back was on target with a 45 soon after, as the West Cork girls led 0-3 to 0-1 after the first quarter, but despite edging possession they weren't creating the scoring opportunities.

Every time Claire Sexton got the ball and ran, her speed tore the St Dominic's defence apart, but despite the heroics of Ciara Ryan (immense throughout with an outstanding workrate) and Rosemarie Dullea in midfield, Sacred Heart weren't getting the possession to their most dangerous player, Sexton.

Too often, passes were over hit (the wind and nerves the factors here) while St Dominic's dropped Ciara McDonnell back behind the Cabra side's full-back line and she was like the immovable object and a magnet all rolled into one.

After the impressive Ciara Glynn pulled a score back for St Dominic's, Rebecca McCarthy converted two more placed balls, but the half-time lead of three points (0-5 to 0-2) didn't inspire confidence, considering the gale that Sacred Heart would now play into.

'What we said at half time is that we had to shut up shop and try to score on the break. When we a point up I thought we might hold out but it wasn't to be,' manager Daly said.

'In the second half, the girls put in a frightening amount of work. A small bit more luck in front of goal would have made a huge difference.'

It was backs-to-the-wall stuff for Sacred Heart in the second half as St Dominic's attacked in waves, but just like in the first half the Clonakilty school's defence was heroic, clearing

the danger time and time again, but the pressure was building.

When the Dublin girls' goal came it was fortuitous. A long, testing ball in from Martha McNally didn't fall kindly for Sacred Heart's goalkeeper Meabhhdh Sexton, and it wriggled and bounced its way to the net. The game was tied, 0-5 to 1-2.

Ciara McDonnell and Ciara Glynn added points and by the three-quarter stage St Dominic's led 1-4 to 0-5, and Sacred Heart's attacks were sporadic and lacking in numbers.

Purple patch

Then came a purple patch for these West Cork heroines as after the hard-working Orla Lowney saw her low shot easily dealt with, a free from Rosemarie Dullea caused havoc and after some confusion in the Dominic's square, Claire Sexton took control, and squeezed home an excellent goal.

Sacred Heart, against the odds and the wind, were back in front, 1-5 to 1-4, with ten minutes to go.

It was frantic stuff now, a battle of wills, and the intensity of this final was taking its toll on Sacred Heart's players (going down with cramp), before disaster struck.

They didn't deal with a Dominic's attack and clear their lines when they had the chance, and the ball fell to Ciara McGlynn who arrowed home a match-winning goal. It was heart-breaking, just minutes left on the clock. Both Dominic's goals could have been prevented.

Two more quick points followed for St Dominic's who were finishing strongly, the wind ushering them over the line, and while Rebecca McCarthy pulled back a late free, the All-Ireland title was heading to Dublin.

'They took their chances. We didn't. We know we are better than what we showed, but that's sport,' mused Daly.

The dream finish didn't materialise on Saturday in Tipperary but that shouldn't take away from a fantastic season for Sacred Heart, who did win both Munster senior championship and league cup trophies, and all bar three of the starting 15 are eligible again next season. Only Claire Sexton, Michelle Dullea and Rosemarie Dullea of the first 15 won't be around, so the foundation is there, as is the experience of this adventure.

'The girls have been brilliant all season long. In a week or two's time, when they look back they will see just how much they achieved. They should all be very proud of this season. We will be up in a higher grade next season and this will stand to these girls,' Daly said.

Meanwhile, the day after the heart-break before, on Sunday, both Clara Crowley and Ciara Ryan lined out for the Cork U16 A team in their Munster camogie semi-final win (3-13 to 2-6) against Limerick in Castle Road. Cork now meet Clare in the Munster final in two weeks' time.

Scorers

Sacred Heart: Rebecca McCarthy 0-5 (4f, 145), Claire Sexton 1-1.

St Dominic's College: Clara Glynn 1-3, Martha McNally 1-0, Ann McSweeney, Ella Carr, Ciara McDonnell (f) 0-1 each.

Sacred Heart: Meabhhdh Sexton; Rebecca McCarthy, Katie Sexton, Caitlin Walsh; Orla Fahey, Kelle Scannell, Lorraine Dineen; Clara Ryan, Rosemarie Dullea; Hannah Whelton, Orla Lowney, Michelle Dullea; Clara Crowley, Claire Sexton, Rochelle Scannell.

Sub used: Karina Larvery.

St Dominic's College: Dominika Osak; Hannah Brady, Claran McDonnell, Eimear Garvey; Clara Gibbons, Martha McNally, Niamh McCearney, Laura Clegg, Clara Carolan; Ciara Glynn, Orla Murphy, Ella Carr; Amy Hall, Ann McSweeney, Zoe Couch.

Sub used: Cliona Murphy.

Positives, even in defeat

By T.J. Mills
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CORK	0-9
KILKENNY	0-5

Deadly finisher, Orla Cotter grabbed seven points as all action Cork defeated the reigning Camogie League champions, Kilkenny in the UCC sportsground in Cork on Sunday.

In a tense, low scoring first half it was Kilkenny who started the brighter. They got off the scoring mark in the second minute when Aoife Neary tapped over from 21 meters.

Orla Cotter responded for the hosts with two good frees, the first in the seventh minute. She followed this up with another score from free in the 15th minute from 45 meters to make it 0-2 to 0-1.

The lively Denise Gaulle equalized for the Cats with a free from 30 meters in the 16th minute before Orla Cotter tapped over a massive free from 40 meters in the 19th minute.

Kilkenny responded with two points on the trot. Meighean Farrell equalized with a fine point from 35 meters.

Aoife Neary put Kilkenny ahead when she shot her second point of the contest, tapping over from 35 meters to make it 0-4 points to 0-3 after 23 minutes.

CORK PENALTY

Cork were awarded a penalty shortly afterwards when

Amy O'Connor was taken down as she drove towards goal. Emma Kavanagh was booked following this incident.

Orla Cotter stood up to take the resulting penalty, but although she made a good connection on the sliotar, her effort was brilliantly saved. Kilkenny cleared their lines to ensure they went in 0-4 points to 0-3 ahead at half time.

The losers would have been happy with their opening half performance, even allowing for the fact they had three new starters in the side and were missing some key players due to injury.

Cork, on the other hand, would have been disappointed with their opening half escapades as their scores came from three frees and they had no opportunities from play.

Kilkenny began the new half well. They opened the scoring from a Denise Gaulle free from 21 meters, which turned out to be their last score of the contest.

Cork were slowly getting more and more into the game. They opened their second half account with a Katriona Mackey point from play in the 37th minute.

Orla Cotter then tapped over a free from 40 meters to equalize the game. Julia White put the Rebelettes into the lead with a point from 21 meters in the 48th minute to make it 0-6 to 0-5.

WIN MORE POSSESSION

Cork were beginning to win more and more possession and it became evident that the extra weeks training and extra game they had un-



Aisling Dunphy (Kilkenny) in action against Maeve Cahalane, left, Eimear O'Sullivan and Leanne O'Sullivan, right front (Cork). Inset - Davina Tobin (Kilkenny) in action against Orla Cotter (Cork). Photos: Caroline Quinn

der their belt was making a difference.

Cork went two clear via another Orla Cotter free in the 53rd minute, her fifth of the contest, from 21 meters. Kilkenny had a goal chance minutes later when Aoife Neary latched on to a breaking ball,

14 meters from the target.

However, her ground shot went narrowly wide.

Orla Cotter pushed Cork three clear when she converted another free in the 57th minute from 50 meters, which was an excellent score.

Kilkenny's day got worse in the 62nd minute when a player was dismissed on a second yellow card. She can feel aggrieved because both cards seemed harsh and may not have been given on another day.

Cork closed out the game with a further Orla Cotter free to see them home. Despite the result, there were a lot of positives for Kilkenny, especially the performances of debutants Davina Tobin, Edel Maher, Catherine Foley and Anna Farrell, who also showed up well.

Also, with little stick work under their belt, it seemed that Kilkenny just ran out of steam nearing the finish. Kilkenny will now focus their attention on Derry, who they play Sunday at a Kilkenny



venue.

OTHER NEWS

In other camogie news, the Kilkenny intermediate team enjoyed a comprehensive 3-16 to 0-3 victory over Tipperary in The Ragg to make it two from two in the League.

They will entertain Down at a Kilkenny venue on Sunday.

The under-16 teams had contrasting fortunes in the Leinster championships. The A side were unlucky to be edged out by Dublin, 3-8 to 0-12.

The under-16 B team ran out comprehensive victors over Wicklow on Saturday. **SCORERS:** Kilkenny - Aoife Neary (0-2); Denise Gaulle (0-2, frees); Meighean Farrell (0-1). Cork - Orla Cotter (0-7, frees); Katriona Mackey, Julia White (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Emma Kavanagh, Catherine Foley, Edwina Keane, Jacqui Frisby, Davina Tobin, Colette Dormer, Kate McDonald (capt), Meighean Farrell, Ann Dalton, Denise Gaulle, Edel Maher, Aisling Dunphy, Anna Farrell, Aoife Neary, Michelle Quilty.
Sub - Siobhan Murphy, Mairead Power, Claire Phelan, Shelly Farrell, Aine Connery, Miriam Walsh, Stacey Quirke, Catherine Doherty, Niamh Leahy, Katie Power.
Cork - Jessica Kavanagh, Lauren Callanan, Laura Tracey, Leanne O'Sullivan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Pamela Mackey, Maeve Cahalane, Rena Buckley, Aisling Thompson, Orla Cotter, Brieger Corkery, Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor, Finola Neville, Katriona Mackey.
Subs - Amy Lee, Niamh O'Keefe, Sarah Buckley, Jennifer Hosford, Orla Cronin, Joanne Casey, Katelynn Hickey, Caroline Sugrue, Julie Mulcahy, Julia White.
Referee - Ray Kelly



Aoife Neary (Kilkenny) races Pamela Mackey (Cork) for the loose sliotar during their Irish Daily Star National Camogie League Division One clash in Cork on Sunday. Photo: Caroline Quinn/www.cquinnphotography.com

It's all about finding a work-life balance

Former Cork camogie star and chief executive of GxP Systems, LINDA MELLERICK, on how she relaxes



Tell us a bit about yourself.

My parents are from Mallow, a town I love. I have great memories of growing up there. We moved around a lot as a family really as my father was a manager in Liptons before he opened up his own businesses.

I was born in Tipperary when he was store manager in the town. Karen, my younger sister was born there too. Then we moved to England.

We moved around a bit in Cork too before we settled primarily in Ballyvolane. I went to St Patrick's School in Gardiner's Hill and took up camogie in first year. It's fair to say that decision made my life. What camogie has given to me on both a personal and sporting front is immeasurable.

I am CEO of GxP Systems, a project management company in the life science industry. We recently sold the company to SRCL, a division of Stericycle, - a \$3bn (£2.85bn) Nasdaq

quoted company. Stericycle is a diversified environmental and healthcare services company with a worldwide presence. I will continue to head up operations as we drive our expansion strategy.

I also cover senior inter-county and club camogie games for the *Evening Echo* as well as writing a seasonal weekly column.

I'm involved in coaching Brian Dillons which can be pretty demanding so my weekends vary hugely depending on the time of year. Things are getting busy now. I love meeting up with family, and with five brothers and sisters and 13 nieces and nephews there is usually something going on.

What is your ideal way to spend a Friday night?

A Friday night is a meal at home with a glass of wine and a DVD. That Friday night feeling is great.

How often does work creep

into your weekend?

My day job doesn't typically kick in during the weekend. I would spend an hour or so most Sundays previewing the week ahead. It's important to switch off and I'm pretty good at that most of the time.

Up with the lark or lie-ins?

Typically I'm up early. I try to get to the gym on a Saturday morning or go for a run and we train on a Sunday morning so I'm up and about.

Do you prefer to entertain or be entertained after the week's work is done?

A bit of both I suppose. It's nothing formal. I'm certainly not the person you'd be asking to cook up a lovely meal for half a dozen friends.

Where do you like to eat out in Cork for lunch/dinner or just a coffee?

Maybe Soho, the Market Lane or El Vino for lunch or dinner.

When you need time out where do you go to recharge the batteries?

I don't know do I recharge enough. My goal this year is to get away to some Cork/Irish beauty spots more regularly.

me is a real feelgood factor.

How do you unwind on a Sunday night?

Sunday night is normally getting ready for the week ahead and boring stuff like ironing, although as the evenings stretch into the summer that ironing pile will probably grow.

My Weekend

Fri Sat Sun

Linda Mellerick, Chief Executive of GxP Systems, has fond memories of growing up in Mallow.

Tribune Sports Star of the Week: Emma Helebert

Centre-back stars in All Ireland final



IT has been more than two decades since a Galway school was crowned the top camogie side in the country, but that all changed on Saturday as Seamount of Kinvara clinched the national A title with a thrilling 1-5 to 0-6 win over St Flannan's of Ennis.

The Kinvara school had stars all over the pitch, but the outstanding performer on the day was centre-back Emma Helebert, who proved to be the rock on which so many of the Ennis

school's attacks floundered.

Her display earns her the Tribune Sports Star of the week award ahead of Galway footballer Fionnán Ó Curraoin, hurler Pádraig Mannion, David O'Leary of Galway United, Connacht Rugby's Rodney Ay You, Calasanz College's Ross Malone and Erian Burke of Presentation Athenry.

MAR. 2015



Presentation College, Athenry, Junior A Connacht Colleges Camogie Champions having defeated St. Brigid's Vocational School Loughrea on a scoreline of 3 goals 6 points (15) to 6 points. They then progressed to play St. Mary's, Magherafelt in the All-Ireland semi-final where they were also victorious on a scoreline of 5 goals 7 points (22) to 2 goals 8 points (14). Back, from left: Sarah Dillon, Aoife Rafferty, Rachael Tuffy, Róisín Joyce, Claire Forde, Fiona Walsh, Amy Hynes, Róisín Leen, Caoimhe Leen, Lisa Coleman, Niamh Keane, Megan McDonagh, Kate Gilligan, Caoilfhinn Hennessy, Lauren Gilligan, Katie Stephens, Mary Dunphy, Kim O'Hehir, Leanne Freaney, Claire Monahan, Fiona Page (manager). Front Row: Fiona Commings, Róisín Delaney, Shannen Lee, Leona Rabbitte, Aoife McSweeney, Aishling Keane, Sinéad Walsh, Sarah Kearney, Nicola Lawless (captain), Eimear Keane, Niamh Donnellan, Aoife O'Farrell, Leah Burke, Emma Gaffney, Brid Óg Gallagher, Aine O'Farrell. Missing from photo: Sandra Greaney.

Ashbourne celebrates 100 years

CAMOGIE

THE Ashbourne Cup is the pinnacle of college camogie. The most accomplished camogie players of the third-level institutions challenge for this most sought-after trophy each year. Donated by Lord Ashbourne, the cup is a unique and impressive trophy. The Ashbourne weekend holds a special place in the camogie calendar. The competition celebrates its centenary in 2015. From small beginnings in 1915, it has grown into a festival of camogie with 30 colleges from all corners of the island taking part. The Ashbourne embraces the keenest of competition, a very high standard of play and a lively social side. It is the highlight of the sporting year for all college camogie players and a much looked-forward to occasion. Mary Moran, author of *A Game of Our Own*, has written a book titled *100 Years of Ashbourne Cup*. It traces the growth and development of the competition, year by year, over the entire period. All winning teams are listed. UCC holds a special place in Ashbourne history as the first university to form a camogie club and the only university to compete in all 100 competitions. While UCC (31) lie second to UCD (37) in titles won, the record for the most Ashbourne medals remains with May Murphy-O'Neill (7). Copies are €10 may be bought direct from Mary (email: marymoran@iol.ie) or the county board.

All-Ireland success for Glanmire girls



Management and players from Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire who won the All-Ireland Senior D Championship.

Coláiste an Phiarsaigh 1-9
Loreto High School 1-7

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

THERE were huge celebrations in Coláiste an Phiarsaigh Glanmire after they won the All-Ireland Senior D Camogie Championship last week, defeating Loreto High School Beaufort on a scoreline 1-9 to 1-7 following a thrilling second-half battle at the GAA grounds in Nenagh.

Playing with the strong wind in their favour, Loreto were dominant in the first half.

An opening point from Eimear O'Leary got the scoreboard ticking over and Sarah Nagle dominated

midfield for the Dublin side.

Looking confident and skilful, they scored 1-6 while Coláiste an Phiarsaigh struggled to stay in touch with a hard won 0-3.

Coláiste's first point drew a cheer of relief from the Cork support when Meabh Nic Charthaigh caught a superb pass from Siofra Ní Fhinnigan and with a powerful strike, she got her team on the scoreboard.

Twins Julie (captain) and Lucy Ní Ailín combined to score the next, with the third a well-taken free from Lucy.

Many chances went astray for the Cork side however, and six points

down at half-time, Coláiste knew they had a lot to do.

Loreto scored against the wind early in the second half, but Coláiste dug deep, upped their work rate and began to show the skill displayed during earlier games in the competition.

The points began to go over for Coláiste, with the scoreboard reading Dublin 1-7 Cork 0-6.

With 10 minutes to go Lucy Ní Cheallaigh took off on a run and scored a cracker of a goal that gave Coláiste great confidence that they had the beating of Loreto.

Coláiste drew level with a point from play and took the lead three minutes from the end of normal time when Lucy Ní Ailín confidently put a close range free over the bar.

Loreto fought gallantly, but the

Coláiste defence held strong.

The midfield Meabh Ní Mhaoláin, Meadh Ní Charthaigh and sub Shauna Ní Chroinín blocked a lot of balls, while Edel Ní Lonnergán and keeper Edel Ní Cheilleachair, among others, made a lot of clearance under severe pressure from the Loreto forwards.

Numerous Dublin attacks were thwarted and the ball was sent into the Coláiste forwards, resulting in the final point from Lucy Allen with only two minutes remaining in normal time.

There were four minutes played in extra-time with Coláiste's nerves frayed, but jubilation followed at the full-time whistle.

Following the game the cup was presented to Coláiste an Phiarsaigh's captain Julie Ní Ailín.

Camogie club notes

NEMO RANGERS

NEMO RANGERS camogie club reformed last year. The U14 team are sponsored this year by Ardallen Pharmacy, Douglas Road.

BRIDE ROVERS

U6 and U8 training: Bride Rovers Club invites all U6 and U8 girls to Loreto Sports Hall, Fermoy every Thursday night, 6pm to 7pm, for fun and games.

Club members and non-members are welcome. Cost is €2 per child to cover some of the cost of the hall.

All-Ireland success: Congratulations to U16 player Claire Hickey who won an All-Ireland schools camogie medal last Saturday with Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire. Well done Claire!

Registration: A reminder to all players and members that registration for 2015 is now overdue. Application forms are available from any of the teams' secretaries. New players for any age group are always welcome.

The next First Friday collection for old clothes, bags and shoes will be taken at the Community Centre on Friday on April 3 from 7.30-8pm. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @prover-sgaa, and on Facebook.

SEANDÚN

U14 and sixth class preparations for the Cork divisional schools of excellence blitz is well underway. Two great training sessions were held in St Finbarr's on Saturday, March 7 and despite the poor weather, the girls showed great spirit.

Many thanks to all of the coaches and mentors involved.

The U13 and U15 league fixtures will be announced this weekend and full details will be sent to all clubs in the next few days.

BLACKROCK

AFTER weeks of going from school to school in our local area, it was great to see so many

new members sign up at our annual registration morning last Saturday. A great effort has taken place lately in order to register members and hopefully this will transmit to fielding more competitive teams during the year. It was great to see Katelyn Hickey start on the Cork senior side that beat Kilkenny on Sunday and to have Roisin De Faoite play so impressively with the county intermediate team when they played Waterford at the Mardyke complex.

Also last Sunday the county U16A team had a great win over Limerick and have qualified for the Munster final.

Club coach Anthony Nagle is manager of this team.

It's all kicking off this week at club level as our U16 team travel to St Colum's for the first round of the league and our minors take on Traction at Castle Road tomorrow, also in the league (10.45 throw-in).

Best of luck to both teams. Our U12s and U14s have league games next week.

BISHOPSTOWN

League fixtures have been drawn up and we return tomorrow with our U16s at home to Ballincollig. Supports always welcome! Best of luck to those involved.

Minor and junior leagues will commence in the coming fortnight.

Those that have not returned registration forms, please do so as soon as possible.

Training: U14-junior, Monday, 8pm and Saturday, 11.30am; U10 and U12, Wednesday, 4.45pm and Saturday, 10.30am; U8, Saturday, 9.30am

SARSFIELD'S

IT has been a busy few weeks in Sars. It was a fantastic start to the year for the U9s as

they lined out against Inniscarra in a Go Games match during half time of the Cork v Clare camogie league match in Castle Road. Congratulations to Maria Dinan, who received the Cork Camogie Volunteer of the Year Award. Maria travelled to Croke Park to receive her award from camogie president Aileen Lawlor.

Maria has worked tirelessly with Sarsfield's Camogie Club for many years and this award was richly deserved.

Congratulations to our players who have been selected for various Cork teams, but especially to Chloe Casey who captains the minor team alongside her sister, Emma, Hollie Herlihy and Lucy Kelly.

Also, to Edel Lonnergán and Ruth McCarthy who represent us on the Cork U16A panel. Edel gets the added honour of captaining the team.

Niamh Power and Clare Mullins are part of the U16B panel. Molly Lynch and Nikki Barry are part of the Cork U14 development squad and Ava O'Regan, Ella Woods, Rebecca Morgan and Rachel O'Gorman are on the primary games squad.

It is great to see so many girls impressing at inter-county level. Best of luck girls! Our senior B team have been involved in the Ballincollig tournament under lights over the past few weekends.

This tournament was highly competitive and provided valuable match experience so early in the season. Our U14 team got their season underway with a challenge match against St Finbarr's last Saturday. Thanks to the Barrs for hosting a great game.

Our U10s travelled to Carrigrohilly recently to take on the home side in a Go Games chal-

lenge on their all-weather pitch. Both sets of mentors were delighted with the outing.

Well done to Coláiste an Phiarsaigh who were crowned All-Ireland champions after beating Loreto Beaufort, Dublin in the Colleges Senior D Final in Nenagh.

This team was captained by our very own Julie Allen and a great number of Sars girls were part of the panel. Well done to all involved.

The cup now gets to stay another year in the Parish as GCC took the honours in 2014.

COURCEY ROVERS

OUR 'come and try it day' took place in Ballinadee National School Hall last Saturday. Senior Cork players Linda Collins and Sara Walsh attended on the day to help the club run a very successful day for all the girls who came to play camogie.

Many thanks to all who assisted on the day. Club membership is now being accepted. New members are always welcome. Please contact Catherine Hebbrow at secretary.courceyrovers.cork.camogie@gaa.ie for more information.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers!

NA PIARSAIGH

CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Lee on making the Cork senior and intermediate panel last weekend. Well done to Amy, the management and players on a great win against Kilkenny.

Registrations for 2015 are now due. Monies to be paid by March 21 and will be collected at all training sessions.

Fixtures: Today, U16 league away v Rockban 11am; Also Saturday (today) is the Ca Martin Tournament.

Fixtures: Pitch one, 11am Na Piarasigh v Watergrasshill; noon Na Piarasigh v Youghal; 1pm Na Piarasigh v Bishopstown.

Pitch two, 11am Bishopstown v Youghal; noon Watergrasshill v Bishopstown; 1pm Youghal v Watergrasshill.

Final at 2pm.

Minor League, tomorrow, home to Clonakilty /St Colums, 11am.

We will also be taking part in this year's St Patrick's Day Parade Meeting in Na Piarasigh at 11am.

CHARLEVILLE

Executive committee: Chairperson, Noreen Sheehan; secretary, Helen Reynolds; treasurer, Jo Howe; PRO, Elaine Dore (087-9403877); child welfare officer, Helen Dore.

Child protection course: On Friday, March 6 we held a child protection course which was attended by coaches, parents and committee members. It was well presented by Michael Byrnes.

We will hold another night before March 31 to facilitate the those who were unable to attend.

U12A Go Game Blitz will be held in Charleville on Saturday, March 21 with Douglas, Enniskeane, Glen Rovers, Inniscarra, St Finbarr's, Sarsfield's and Charleville.

This was held at the GAA Field in Baker's Road (turn right at the graveyard coming in to Charleville and the first left down on the right loads of parking).

The bar will be open for tea and coffees.

Training: U12s, Wednesday night coach Helen Dore 087-6879374; U14s, Thursday night, coach Shane Liddy 086-2466810; U16s, Monday and Saturday, coach Thomas Nelson 087-2369793; juniors, Saturday, coach Dwayne Collins 087-7667454.

U6, U8, and U10s will be back in a few weeks.

Impressive Limerick overpower Wexford to maintain top spot

By Cormac O'Malley
Camogie

Limerick remain top of the Division One Group One table with a comprehensive 12-point victory over Wexford in Bruff yesterday.

Niamh Mulcahy was the star of the show with 15 points, seven of which came from play. The hosts led by nine points at the interval and despite Aine Leacy's second-half goal, there was no stopping a rampant Limerick.

Caoimhe Costello, Aoife Wilson and Rebecca Delee all joined the

devastating Mulcahy on the scoreboard as they romped to a 0-19 to 1-4 victory.

Galway picked up their first win of the season with a five-point victory away to Tipperary. The sides were level four times in the opening half and were all square (0-6 apiece) at the break. It remained close in the opening minutes of the second half until Laura Mitchell pounced for the all-important goal 12 minutes from time.

That put Galway four points clear and although Cait Devane struck back for Tipperary with a

point, Galway were able to hang on. Niamh Kilkenny and Mitchell hit the final scores of the game to leave the Connacht side enjoying a 1-11 to 0-9 win.

In Parnell Park, Dublin suffered their first defeat of the season when they went down to the All-Ireland champions Cork (1-13 to 1-8).

The Metropolitans led 0-6 to 0-4 lead at half-time but were rocked two minutes into the second half when Katrina Mackey finished an Orla Cotter free to the net.

Dublin hit back almost immediately though with a goal from

Siobhan Kehoe who nipped in to raise a green flag from an Ali Twomey free.

The game was nip and tuck thereafter and with 15 minutes left, the sides were locked together, 1-8 apiece. Cork's experience began to tell though in the final quarter and points from Brieghe Corkery, Mackey, Cotter, Julia White and Cotter yet again ensured that the Rebels remain on course for a place in the semi-finals.

Kilkenny proved far too strong for Derry as the Cats picked up their first win of the campaign by

4-17 to 0-9 in Castlecomer. Karen Kieft, who finished with all of Derry's scores on the day, opened the scoring for the Oak Leaf county with a point from play but once Denise Gaule found the back of the net for Kilkenny's first green flag, the home side took control and by the interval they held a 1-8 to 0-3 advantage.

Edel Maher hit the second goal in the 40th minute while Aoife Neary struck for a third goal seven minutes later. Gaule added a fourth with a cracking long-range strike to put the result beyond doubt.

Cork will look to build on positives

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW
Munster Minor
Championship semi-final:
Cork v Clare,
Castle Road 2.30pm

CORK, with a preliminary round victory over Waterford to their credit, take on Clare in the provincial semi-final, writes MARY NEWMAN.

With the All-Ireland championship clash against Tipperary just a week away, the Cork management will be looking for an improved performance from a side that failed to fire on all cylinders against Wexford recently.

The Cork management know there is a lot more in their side and they will be looking for this tomorrow against a Clare side that have two games played in the All-Ireland series, losing comprehensively to Kilkenny before recording a victory over a good Tipperary side.

Clare always provide tough opposition and it will provide a good run for Cork.

Amongst the players that Cork will look to for big performances are captain Chloe Casey, Hannah Looney, Kelly Falvey and Ellen Twomey.

Clare camogie has continued to make massive strides and they have good performers in Amy Keating and Keeling Lyons, so will travel in determined form to take on the home side.

SUNDAY

Irish Daily Star Div 2
National League:
Cork v Tipperary,
Castle Road, 2.30pm.

Cork go into round three of the Irish Daily Star National league with a victory and a defeat to their credit, whilst Tipperary travel on the back of two heavy defeats at the hands of Kilkenny and Waterford.

Again this weekend it will be divided loyalties and it will be hard on the Division 2 side as the Division 1 team are travelling to Dublin for a crucial round three game in Parnell Park, therefore a lot of players will not be in a position to lineout with both squads.

Despite losing out last Sunday, Cork were superb against a strong Waterford side and were defiantly unlucky not to get a draw.

Players such as Leah Weste, Jennifer Hosford, Sarah Buckley and Sarah Harrington were excellent whilst Orla Cronin, Rachel O'Shea and Caroline Sugrue showed they will trouble any defence if they can get the supply of ball.

Tipperary will need a win to stay in contention but with their senior team also in action on Sunday they will be in a similar situation to Cork.

Manager Joe Cahill is fielding a young side and is rotating his panel in bid to get it right for the championship and with experienced former minor stars Laura Loughane and Kelly Hackett in his lineout they will make a bold bid for their first points of the campaign.

MULCAHY STARS FOR BRILLIANT TREATY

CAMOGIE round-up

LIMERICK maintained their grip on the top of the Group One table of Division One with a comprehensive 12-point victory over Wexford yesterday.

Niamh Mulcahy was the star of the show with a hugely-impressive personal tally of 15 points, seven of which came from play.

The Treaty women led by nine points at the interval and despite Aine Leacy finding the back of the net ten minutes into the second half for Wexford, there was no stopping a rampant Limerick.

Caoimhe Costello, Aoife Wilson and Rebecca Delee all got in on the scoring action alongside the devastating Mulcahy as they sent out a statement of intent to the rest of the teams in the top flight with

a 0-19 to 1-4 victory.

Elsewhere in Group One Galway picked up their first win of the season as they came away from Tipperary with a hard fought five point victory.

Pounced

The sides were level on four occasions in the opening half and went into the interval all square 0-6.

It remained close in the opening minutes of the second half until Laura Mitchell pounced for the all important goal 12 minutes from time.

That put Galway four points clear and although Cait Devane struck back for Tipperary with a point, Galway were able to hang on as Niamh Kilkenny and Mitchell hit the final scores of the game.

In Parnell Park Dublin suffered their first defeat of the season when they went down to the All-Ireland champions Cork who themselves kept up their 100 per cent record with their third win of the league.

While Kilkenny proved far too strong for their Northern rivals Derry as the Cats picked up their first win of the campaign by 4-17 to 0-9 in Castlecomer.



John O'Doherty, AIB regional director (Cork Central); Claire Holland, Sarsfields; Rebecca Finn, Milford; Aisling Whitnell, Sliabh Rua; Marian McCarthy, chairman, Camogie Board, and Colm O'Neill AIB GAA ambassador at AIB, St Patrick St Cork, to honour the winners of the AIB-sponsored Cork County Club GAA and Camogie Championships. Picture: Denis Minihane

All is changed in Dublin camogie

SUNDAY
National League Division 1
Camogie: Cork v Dublin,
Parnell Park, 2.30pm.

IT'S fair to say that Dublin have been the most disappointing of counties when it comes to senior camogie over the past three decades.

Whatever is going on within the county there has been zilch desire to wear the county colours. There is talent within but it hasn't been capitalised upon.

The hammerings Dublin has endured over the past decade hasn't helped their cause.

Who wants to spend an entire day travelling to a game and be on the receiving end of a 35-point battering such as Dublin endured at the hands of Cork

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

last season?

Dublin have failed at times over the past number of years to register even a single point in their round robin league or championship series.

But something has changed from within this year, a lot in fact.

Is it Michael O'Grady? The former Dublin hurling manager has joined the county's senior management team. He is involved in an advisory role with new manager Shane O'Brien of Cuala. O'Grady has previously coached the Tipperary, Wexford and Limerick senior hurling sides.

Former Dublin hurlers John Treacy and Shane Dalton have also come on board as selectors, while Derek Ryan,

a former world number seven squash player, is to oversee the team's strength and conditioning. Current Dublin hurler Danny Sutcliffe is to serve as team ambassador.

Wow, to go from nothing one could argue to, everything, is a quantum leap and without doubt the huge Dublin AIG sponsorship is playing a major part here.

Dublin are the most successful county in camogie history with a record 26 All-Ireland titles but 1986 was the last time they won the O'Duffy Cup.

The statement which the appointment of such a strong management team made has been validated by two wins from two in their opening league campaign.

I can't recall the last time Dublin achieved this. They currently lead the table on scoring difference.

The significance of their victory over Clare last weekend can't be

underestimated. The panel must be surely buoyed by that and will be expected to take on Cork this Sunday with a spring in their step. Dublin are always a physically tough side at home.

Expect them to be even tougher this weekend.

Cork's youthful side will find it difficult from that point of view, it'll be a different sort of test again. Rena Buckley should be back in the fold along with Brieghe Corkery and it remains to be seen if Paudie Murray will start both.

Julia White, who made a significant impact last weekend when introduced will possibly start in place of Hannah Looney, who lines out with the Cork minors on Saturday in their Munster championship clash with Clare.

Despite being all pumped up, Cork should still have too much flair for the spirited Dublin challenge.

Lynch is on fire as minors beat Clare

CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

Cork 0-16
Clare 1-9

HOLDERS Cork advanced to the Munster Minor Championship final after their win over Clare in Castle Road on Saturday.

Showing a lot of determination, Cork had to dig deep in the second half as Clare rallied to make a game of it and found their feet despite trailing by eight points five minutes before the interval.

With Lisa Lynch superb, contributing 10 points to Cork's tally they showed a lot of determination and played with a lot of spirit.

Cork's defence was superb as they closed down any threat Clare produced, while up front the Rebels pressed a strong Clare defence and forced errors which resulted in frees which Lynch duly converted.

Totally dominating the opening 25 minutes, Cork could do little wrong and with Lynch, Hayley Ryan, Hannah Looney and Keava McCarthy all on the scoresheet, it looked like they would run away with the game, but Clare settled and with Aoife Keane Keelin Lyons and Ria Flanagan all to the fore, they cut the deficit to trail by four, 0-10 to 0-6 at the break.

Looney pointed with the first attack of the second half, Clare struck two bad wides before Emma O'Connell sent a close-in free to the net and the tempo rose.

Three Lynch points two from frees and one from play settled the Cork nerves, but Clare kept the pressure on and with their defence clearing a lot of ball, their confidence grew.

Lynch and O'Connell swapped points and two in a row from Amy Keating and O'Connell had the gap down to a goal as the game entered injury-time.

Despite pressing hard in the five minutes of added time, Clare failed to breach the gap and the final say was with Cork as Lynch pointed to put four between the sides to set up a Munster final meeting with Tipperary whom Cork will also meet in round two of the All-Ireland series next weekend while it will be Clare again in round three of the All-Ireland series.

A busy few weeks lies ahead.

Scorers for Cork: L Lynch 0-10 (0-6fs 0-1 45), H Looney 0-3, H Ryan 0-2, K McCarthy 0-1.

Clare: E O'Connell 1-4 (fs), K Lyons 0-2, A Keane, R Flanagan, A Keating 0-1 each.

CORK: C Casey, K Falvey, C Sigerson, A Crowley, E Twomey, R Walsh, R Sheehan, E Casey, L Kelly, K McCarthy, L Lynch, H Herlihy, S Mills, H Looney, H Ryan.

Subs: A M Ryan for K McCarthy (49), M Buckley for S Mills (54).

CLARE: L Solan, S Lane, A Clancy, O Cotter, T O'Keefe, C Hehir, L Brown, R Flanagan (c), A O'Keefe, K Lyons, S Glynn, E O'Connell, M Powell, A Keane, A Keating.

Subs: A Duggan for M Powell (51), A M Hayes for A O'Keefe (52), C Devitt for A Duggan (57).

Ref: Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).

Cork's late points blitz see off Dubs

CAMOGIE

By Daire Walsh

Cork 1-13
Dublin 1-8

A FINAL-QUARTER scoring blitz paid dividends for Cork at Parnell Park yesterday, when they overcame a strong challenge from Dublin in a keenly-contested National Camogie League Division One Group Two encounter.

The game was firmly in the balance when Dublin's Emma Flanagan brought the sides level on 44 minutes, but courtesy of unanswered scores by Briege Corkery, Katriona Mackey, Orla Cotter (two) and Julia White, it was Cork who ultimately triumphed.

Paudie Murray's charges were searching for a third consecutive victory following earlier successes over Clare and league champions Kilkenny, but the improving metropolitans had grown in confidence as a result of wins over Derry and the Banner County.

Indeed, the hosts made a bright start to the proceedings courtesy of a second-minute pointed free from influential midfielder Ali Twomey.

Cork quickly levelled matters thanks to a similar effort by St Catherine's half-forward Cotter, but after a sharp turn, Louise O'Hara found her range to restore Dublin's slender lead.

The visitors did look lively in possession during the early exchanges, but they found themselves under intense pressure when they searched for scores.

The ever-reliable Cotter did add her second point of the day 13 minutes in, however, and moving past the first-quarter mark, clear-cut opportunities were proving to be few and far between for both sides.

Back-to-back placed ball contributions from Twomey helped Dublin to build some momentum, but the persistent Leesiders responded with points of their own from Mackey and White.

Yet, the All-Ireland champions breathed a huge sigh of relief when Aine Fanning's close-range strike drifted agonisingly wide of the posts five minutes before the interval, and because of subsequent points by Twomey (free) and corner-forward Aisling Maher, it was Dublin who brought a 0-6 to 0-4 advantage into the second period of play.

In stark contrast to their facile win over the same opposition in last year's All-Ireland Championship, this tie was proving to be a much sterner test of Cork's resolve.

Their prospects were boosted just three minutes after the resumption, though, when Dublin netminder Sile Nic Coitir failed to hold on to a long-range Cotter free, which eventually trickled over the line.

Youghal table quiz

YOUGHAL camogie club are hosting a table quiz in aid of the Mercy Hospital Cancer Unit this Friday.

Entry for a team of four is €30, and it starts at 9pm in the club aras.



Cork's Julia White holds off the challenge of Dublin's Miriam Twomey during their National League Division One game at Parnell Park.

Picture: Martina McGiloway-illvephotos

This ensured that they had moved into the ascendancy for the first time, but it proved to be short-lived, as Dublin found the back of Amy Lee's net just a minute later.

Twomey had attempted to restore parity from a 45, only for full-forward Siobhán Kehoe to fire home when the ball broke close to goal.

The gauntlet was now being

thrown to Cork, who needed quick-fire points from the excellent White and midfielder Aisling Thompson to help them settle again.

The tempo of the game had certainly increased as a result of this hectic opening to the half, and although the outstanding Mackey was twice on target from open play, Dublin produced white flag scores of

their own through Twomey and Flanagan.

However, the latter turned out to be Dublin's final score of the action, and with Mackey and White continuing to pose a twin threat, Cork finally entered into a purple patch.

Dual star Corkery and Mackey gave them a bit of leeway, and even though full-forward Amy O'Connor was denied an insurance goal three minutes from time, a final brace from Cotter, in addition to White's third of the game, secured two vital points for Cork.

Scorers for Cork: Orla Cotter 1-4 (1-4f), Katriona Mackey 0-4, Julie White 0-3, Briege Corkery, Aisling Thompson 0-1 each.

Scorers for Dublin: Ali Twomey 0-5 (5f), Siobhán Kehoe 1-0, Louise O'Hara, Emma Flanagan, Aisling Maher 0-1 each.

CORK: Amy Lee, Lauren Callanan, Laura Tracey, Leanne O'Sullivan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Pam Mackey, Meave Cahalane, Briege Corkery, Aisling Thompson, Orla Cotter, Finola Neville, Julia White, Orla Cronin, Amy O'Connor, Katriona Mackey.

Subs: Hannah Looney for Cronin (50), Katelynn Hickey for White (50).

DUBLIN: Sile Nic Coitir, Catriona Power, Rose Collins, Deirdre Johnstone, Miriam Twomey, Alison Maguire, Aisling Carolan, Ali Twomey, Martha O'Donoghue, Sarah O'Donovan, Aine Fanning, Louise O'Hara, Emma Flanagan, Siobhán Kehoe, Aisling Maher.

Subs: Laura Twomey for Carolan (24), Laoise Quinn for Fanning (51), Orlaith Durkan for Kehoe (48), Aoife Bugler for A Twomey, Claire Rigney for O'Donoghue (57), Muireann O'Gorman for O'Hara (60).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).



Aisling Carolan Dublin in action against Lauren Callanan (L) and Orla Cotter (R) Cork during their National League game. Picture: Martina McGiloway-illvephotos

CAMOGIE

NL Div 1 Grp 1: Limerick 0-19 Wexford 1-4, Tipperary 0-9 Galway 1-11; **Grp 2:** Kilkenny 4-17 Derry 0-9, Dublin 1-8 Cork 1-13; **Div 2 Grp 1:** Kildare 3-14 Galway 0-5, Westmeath 1-10 Antrim 1-11, Wexford 1-9 Laois 0-9; **Grp 2:** Kilkenny 3-10 Down 0-10, Cork w/o Tipperary scr., Meath 1-13 Waterford 2-14; **Div 3:** Roscommon w/o Armagh scr., Limerick 1-5 Carlow 0-14.

Camogie sides hectic weekend

WITH four teams in inter-county action this weekend, supporters are spoiled for choice, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The minor team get the weekend off to a start when they host Tipperary in Castle Road on Saturday, the intermediate team are off to Meath for a league meeting whilst supporters face a long day in Charleville for the Munster U16 A and B finals.

SATURDAY
All-Ireland Minor Championship: Cork v Tipperary, Castle Road;

Cork over came Wexford in a lack lustre opening round game but last weekend they were much improved for their clash with Clare in the provincial championship.

Again last weekend, it was the Cork defence who stood firm under huge pressure when Clare came at them in the second half.

Up front Lisa Lynch was impressive from both places balls and play but we need to be seeing more input from those around her.

Starting Hannah Looney at full forward worked well last weekend but her work rate when moved further out field was a huge help in get the ball to the inside line where Cork had plenty of options.

At U16 level last year Keeva Mc Carthy was hugely effective at full forward and maybe this is an option for Cork in the full forward role with Looney operating further out field.

Last weekend Kate O'Keeffe was absent due to injury and it is hoped that she will have recovered to take her place in the Cork attack.

Goalkeeper Chloe Casey took a hard knock in the last play of the game on Saturday and it is also hoped she will be recovered to take her place as she is hugely influential and confident in what is an important position on the field.

Tipperary travel to Cork on the back of two impressive displays having defeated Wexford and Clare and a victory over Cork would almost certainly guarantee them a place in the semi finals.

Having taken back-to-back All-Ireland U16A titles in 2013 and 2014 they are now bidding to take the next step but Cork will provide tough opposition.

Grace O'Brien, Roisin Howard, Niamh Treacy, Keely Lenihan and Captain Lorna O'Dwyer have been prominent in their games to date and having already qualified for the Munster final their sights are now firmly on a place in the last four of the All-Ireland championship.

Cork need to win this one to go joint top with Tipperary. Kilkenny take on Wexford in their second game with one victory already to their credit and even now at this stage it is looking very much like a three way battle between

CAMOGIE

Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny for the semi-final places.

SUNDAY
Munster U16 B final: Cork v Limerick; Charleville; 2.45pm

The Cork B side get proceedings under way in Charleville when they take on Limerick in what will be their first competitive game of the season.

With only two counties entering the B competition Cork and Limerick are both fielding their second under 16 sides and it augurs well for the game in both counties and it should be a close and evenly matched contest.

Cork have worked hard preparing their side and selectors Pauline O'Regan Ger Horgan and Mike Boland have put in huge preparation and a provincial title would set them up nicely for the hard task ahead in the All-Ireland series.

SUNDAY
Munster U16A final: Cork v Clare; Charleville; 4.15pm

Cork come into this clash with Clare on the back of a fine victory over Limerick where they hit an impressive 3-13 to book their place in the decider.

Clare recorded a victory over Tipp to book their place in the final. For both counties it will be the last competitive game until the All-Ireland championship gets under way in July and co incidentally both are pitted against each other in round one.

Cork will look to players such as Cliona Healy who was hugely impressive against Limerick Eimear Mc Andrew, Olivia Murphy, Nora O'Riordan and Megan Daly to lead the way.

National League Division 2: Cork v Meath; Ratoath GAA; 2.30pm.

Cork boosted by the fact that the Division 1 side are not in action this weekend will travel to Meath with a strong squad for what is a crucial game.

Having defeated Down in their opening game Cork lost out narrowly to Waterford and from now on every game is vital.

With table toppers Kilkenny and Waterford also in action on Sunday a victory for Cork could propel them to second on the table with one game to go against Kilkenny on April 5th and with the Division 1 side already through it would be a huge boost for the second team to do likewise.

Cork travel with several players who have impressed in the Division 1 sides games available Leanne O'Sullivan, Finola Neville, Leah Weste, Orla Cronin Rachel O'Shea and Jennifer Hosford should all feature strongly in a Cork side that showed plenty of heart and determination against Waterford.

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Late show earns Antrim the spoils

DERRY'S difficult start to their National League Division Two campaign continued at the weekend as they went down to a hefty defeat on the road in Kilkenny. The second string Cats proved themselves to be just too powerful for their Oak Leaf opponents, running out commanding 20 point winners on a 4-17 to 0-09 scoreline. Karen Kieft was the only Derry player to make her way onto the scoresheet with a nine point personal haul, five of which came from play.

Antrim, meanwhile, returned from their road trip to Westmeath with two league points in Division Two Group One, the Saffrons grinding out a last gasp one-point win over their hosts on a 1-11 to 1-10 scoreline.

Emma McMullan was responsible for four Antrim points, while it was Charlene Hamill's early goal which set them on

their way to victory, the Loughgiel attacker also adding two points to her tally over the hour. However, it was Rossa star Aisling McCall who came to Antrim's rescue late on as she pounced on a loose ball, beat two defenders before sailing her shot over the bar to secure victory for the visitors.

The other Ulster side in action

last weekend was Down, the Mourne girls going down to defeat after being hit for three goals by Kilkenny, the Leinster outfit emerging as winners by 3-10 to 0-10, Sara Louise Carr and Niamh Mallon contributing four points each while Catherine McGourty registered Down's remaining two points.

RESULTS

Division 1 Group 1

Limerick 1-14 Wexford 1-4
Tipperary 0-9 Galway 1-11

Division 1 Group 2

Dublin 1-8 Cork 1-13
Kilkenny 4-17 Derry 0-09

Division 2 Group 1

Kildare 3-14 Galway 0-5
Westmeath 1-10 Antrim 1-11
Wexford 1-9 Laois 0-9

Division 2 Group 2

Cork W/O Tipperary DNF
Kilkenny 3-10 Down 0-10
Meath 1-13 Waterford 2-14

Division Three

Roscommon W/O Armagh DNF



SHARPSHOOTER... Derry's Karen Kieft, pictured against Dublin earlier in the campaign, helped herself to an impressive haul of nine points against Kilkenny last weekend

Disappointing outing for Cork minor team

Mary Newman

The minor inter-county team had a disappointing outing as they failed to Tipperary by the narrowest of margins, a point separating the sides in tight contest in Castle Road.

Goals win games and Tipperary struck for three points with Orla O'Dwyer, Miriam Campion and Niamh Treacy

Camogie

all to the fore.

Tipp led at the break 2-2 to 0-6, but Cork battled back to get on level with a goal from Moira Ellen O'Connor with ten minutes remaining despite Tipp adding an early second-half goal to their tally. In a close finish Tipp just about

shaded it with points from Grace O'Brien and Keely Lenihan.

Cork take on Clare away on Saturday next, followed by a trip to Kilkenny on the Easter weekend, completing their schedule of games in the round robin series.

And it's all still all to play for with two semifinal spots up for grabs.

■ In the National League Division 2, Meath got the upper hand on Cork in a tight Div 2 game in Meath. Cork led 2-2 to 0-5 at the interval after two goals from Orla Cronin and gave them a three-point advantage.

On the resumption it was nip-and-tuck but a late Amy Gaffney point ensured the home side took the points after a Megan Thynne goal had brought them back into the contest where they hung onto a 1-9

to 2-5 advantage to the final whistle.

The weekend ahead will see the minor side travel to Clare for the third round of the championship where a win is vital to stay in contention.

■ The Under 16 B team got the double header in Charleville off to a great start as they overcame the challenge of Limerick in a one-sided contest. Cork led at the break 4-9 to 0-1 after goals from Katie Walsh (2), Orla Lowney and Clare Mullins gave them a comfortable cushion.

All through the second half, Cork were in control Katie Walsh grabbed her third goal Niamh Power and Siobhan O'Sullivan also grabbed goals in what was a superb Cork team performance.

Limerick battled hard but they found Cork too strong. Cathy O'Toole had her sides only score of the half on a day that belonged to the Cork girls. Cork's Katie Walsh was

named as Player of the Match after a superb display as she notched up 3-2 of her sides tally.

The day belonged to Clare as they annexed the Under-16A title, Laura Foley gave a player of the match display as her side controlled matters. Leading 0-4 to 0-1 at the break they piled on the pressure to race into a 1-9 to 0-3 lead before Cork rallied and applying huge pressure made them battle to the finish to hold on.

Leading by three points at the break Clare drove on in the second half to secure the title, opening half points from Evelyn Duggan, Laura Foley and Aoife Power gave them the upper hand as Lauren Homan free kept Cork in

touch with a pointed free.

Cork started the second half with a Cliona Healy point to narrowed the gap but inside five minutes Sarah Loughnane had a Clare goal to extended their advantage. Laura Foley pointed twice and Clare were 1-5 to 0-1 ahead.

Lauren Homan pointed a free but Clare hit free in a row in response Aoife Power with one and Sinead Power with two in a row as they continued to dictate matters.

Battling hard, Cork grabbed a life line with substitute Ciara Hughes finding the net Lauren Homan added a point but with a five point cushion Clare were not going to be denied as they confidently hung on to take the title.

Croke Park camogie race abuse inquiry

by Jimmy Woulfe
Mid-West Correspondent

Croke Park officials are investigating an alleged racial abuse incident involving teenage girls during a camogie match.

The chairman of the Limerick camogie board, Sean Condon, confirmed a complaint had been made following a junior game.

Mr Condon said that the matter had been handed over to the "appropriate committee" in Croke Park.

According to well-placed sources, team officials were shocked when one of their players was shouted at by an opposition player using what it is alleged was a racist term.

Both players involved in the incident are teenagers.

Following the game the Limerick camogie authorities commenced an investigation after the matter was brought to their attention.

They referred it to the player welfare committee in Croke Park which initiated an investigation.

Mr Condon said: "It is being dealt with by the appropriate independent committee in Croke Park."

"It relates to an alleged abusive comment and it came to us by way of complaint and we passed it on to the appropriate authority in Croke Park. They are still looking at it."

"There is a lot of stuff being said about it, but it is still under investigation as Croke Park are not finished with it."

"I am not going to say anything about it while Croke Park are dealing with it. We want this dealt with appropriately."

CAMOGIE
NL Div 1 Grp 2: Kilkenny 1-12 Dublin 1-5; **Div 2 Grp 1:** Galway 0-7 Laois 2-10; **All-Ireland MAC Grp 1:** Waterford 4-8 Limerick 1-21; **MCC:** Down 1-6 Derry 4-10, Laois 4-8 Antrim 0-5; **MCC:** Armagh 4-14 Kerry 2-3, Carlow 3-5 Roscommon 2-8; **MCC Shield:** Wicklow 2-4 Cavan 4-6; **Leinster U16AC:** Kilkenny 4-14 Wexford 2-5, Dublin 1-9 Offaly 0-2; **U16BC:** Westmeath 3-8 Laois 0-5, Dublin 7-6 Wicklow 1-5, Kilkenny 5-9 Meath 4-7.

MAR. 2015

Tipp are winners despite Cork's onslaught

Tipperary 3-8
Cork 1-13

MINOR CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

IN a nail-biting All-Ireland Minor Championship clash at Castle Road on Saturday Tipperary just about hung on to take the points on offer as the hunt for the semi-final places gathers momentum.

With two victories already to their credit, Tipperary travelled in determined mood to Cork and they impressed from the word go with their teamwork and striking.

Cork were unlucky not to have grabbed at least a draw. Tipp keeper Bourke denied Keeva McCarthy with a superb save 10 minutes into the second half while Cork's decision to try for a goal from a free with four minutes remaining as they trailed by just two points proved costly in the finish.

Tipperary showed flashes of brilliance, particularly in the opening half, as the impressive Niamh Treacy, Orla O'Dwyer and Ciardha

Maher posed constant treats as they linked up well.

Miriam Campion had the opening goal of the game when in a superb move she linked up with O'Dwyer and Ciardha Maher before firing an unstoppable shot to the net.

Cork responded with three unanswered points and with Holly Herlihy sending over a superb effort as Cork hit the front.

Niamh Treacy levelled matters before Orla O'Dwyer put Tipp ahead when she confidently took on the Cork defence and finished well to the net, but with Keeva McCarthy pointing in reply, Cork trailed by just two points at the break.

Cork reshuffled their lineout for the second half. Hannah Looney switched to half-forward, with Keeva McCarthy moving to forward and Lisa Lynch narrowed the gap to a point before Tipperary again showed superb team play with

O'Dwyer setting up Treacy for a third Tipperary goal.

Again the sides swapped points and with Cork upping the pace significantly, the game exploded.

Keeva McCarthy forced Caoimhe Burke into making a superb save at the expense of a 45, Lisa Lynch converted and with excellent substitute Moira Ellen O'Connor firing over two points in a row, just one separated the sides.

Tipp responded well to the Cork challenge with three points in row to stretch their lead, but Cork kept the pressure on and hung in there with Hayley Ryan working hard in the half-forward line and sub Kate O'Keefe, also impressing, adding a point.

With 10 minutes remaining Moira Ellen O'Connor levelled the game for the second time, finishing to the net after superbly winning Hayley Ryan's long delivery into the Tipp square and now the game was there to be won.

Digging deep, Tipp edged ahead with Grace O'Brien pointing before impressive substitute Keely Lenihan

put two points between the sides.

Two minutes into injury time Cork pressed and pressed but the Tipperary defence held firm.

Lisa Lynch pointed a free but, despite huge pressure for an equaliser, it wasn't to be as Tipp hung on for a valuable victory despite shooting 15 wides over the hour.

Cork take on Clare next weekend and Kilkenny the following weekend and two victories are vital as the hunt continues for a semi-final spot continues.

Scorers for Tipperary: O O'Dwyer, N Treacy 1-2 each, G O'Brien 0-3 (0-15), M Campion 1-0, K Lenihan 0-1.

Cork: L Lynch 0-7 (0-5fs, 0-1 45), M E O'Connor 1-2, K McCarthy, K O'Keefe, H Herlihy, H Looney 0-1 each.

TIPPERARY: C Bourke, K Fox, C Casey, E Murphy, M Ryan, K Kennedy, C Mullane, L O'Dwyer, C Ryan, R Cahill, O O'Dwyer, C Maher, G O'Brien, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: E Loughman for M Ryan (41), K Lenihan for M Campion (49).

CORK: C Casey, K Falvey, C Sigerson, A Crowley, E Twomey, R Walsh, R Sheehan, E Casey, L Kelly, K McCarthy, L Lynch, H Herlihy, S Mills, H Looney, H Ryan.

Subs: K O'Keefe for R Walsh (28), M E O'Connor for S Mills (38), N O'Farrell for Casey (50), N O'Leary for C Sigerson (55).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Hayley Ryan, Cork, catches the sliothar from Carol Casey and Karen Fox, Tipperary during the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship at Castle Road, Mahon. Picture: Jim Coughlan

O'Flynn: Pitches a camogie headache

Camogie

by Eoghan Cormican

Camogie chiefs were forced to contact 31 different clubs and counties in attempting to secure a venue for last year's All-Ireland Club Intermediate semi-final, Ard Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn revealed.

The fixture involving Waterford's Lismore and Liatroim Fontenoy's of Down had to be postponed by a week as the national fixtures committee were unsuccessful in securing a pitch.

In her annual report ahead of this weekend's Congress, O'Flynn says pitch availability is one of the leading problems facing the Camogie Association as they continue to survive off the generosity of their GAA counterparts.

"From time to time, pitch availability is harder to secure until very shortly before a fixture. This severely impedes the capacity to promote the fixture and can impact negatively on pre-match preparation also."

"On one occasion last year, a pitch for an All-Ireland semi-final was only secured following 31 different requests to clubs and counties. Ultimately, the game was excellently hosted by Crettyard GAA in Laois, but this followed the postponement of the fixture by a week as a venue was not available for the original fixture."

"More recently, a venue for an All-Ireland semi-final was only secured following requests to 17 different clubs/counties by the national office for a ground."

Increasing attendance figures at inter-county games, says O'Flynn, is another outstanding challenge facing the Camogie Association.

Attendances at the All-Ireland camogie final triple-header have fallen annually since the decision in 2009 to end the practice of playing alongside the U21 hurling final each September.

17,280 filed through the turnstiles for the 2010 camogie finals, with just 12,476 attending the 2014 deciders.

This compares poorly to the 27,374 crowd at last September's All-Ireland ladies football decider.

"Increasing the number of people who regularly attend camogie games remains an outstanding challenge," O'Flynn states in her report ahead of Congress this weekend.

"We need to have a better understanding of what actual and prospective fans think of the game and what motivates them or stops them from attending camogie games."

Market research commissioned by camogie top-brass last summer highlighted that little over a quarter of hurling supporters had previously attended an inter-county camogie championship game.

The findings also revealed that two-thirds of club camogie supporters attend a maximum of two inter-county fixtures each year.

Continued O'Flynn: "Convenience of fixtures, access to matches and lack of 'hype' were reported as the strongest barriers to attendance at games for camogie club supporters, while convenience and lack of hype were predominant amongst hurling inter-county supporters."

"Club fixtures clashing with county games, distance to travel to county games and lack of notice of fixtures were also cited."

Camogie chiefs' Congress motion seeks Hawk-Eye on big match days

Eoghan Cormican

Camogie chiefs are in favour of introducing Hawk-Eye on match-day and have put forward a motion ahead of Congress this weekend to legislate for the use of the score detection system.

The use of Hawk-Eye would apply to the All-Ireland senior, intermediate and junior camogie finals played at Croke Park on September's second Sunday, along with the All-Ireland senior and intermediate club deciders staged at GAA HQ in early March. With Hawk-Eye expected to be up and running at Thurles this summer, a number of league and championship fixtures would also be affected.

"This motion, put forward by Ard Comhairle, is in acknowledgment of how fast the game has gone and is at-

tempting to assist referees," said Camogie Association President Aileen Lawlor.

Ard Comhairle will also table a motion to introduce the five-second advantage rule already in place in Gaelic football.

Lawlor continued: "I know from my refereeing days that this is the hardest call to make. We have seen the advantages of this rule in football and we believe it would further assist our referees."

Wexford County Board have proposed condensing the club season into the calendar year. The Camogie Association took the decision in 2010 to end the practice of playing their club finals in December and schedule the club semis and finals in spring, in line with their GAA counterparts.

Cork fail to lower the Banner in final

Clare 1-9
Cork 1-4

CLARE took the Munster U16 A title with five points to spare over Cork in Charleville, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Leading by three points at the break Clare drove on in the second half to secure the title.

Opening half points from Evelyn Duggan, Laura Foley and Aoife Power gave them the upper hand as Lauren Homan free kept Cork in touch with a pointed free. Cork started the second half with in determined fashion and Cliona Healy narrowed the gap, but inside five minutes Sarah Loughnane had the ball in the net as Clare extended their advantage.

Laura Foley, who had a superb game, pointed twice and at 1-5 to 0-1 Cork had it all to do.

Lauren Homan pointed a free but Clare hit free in a row in response Aoife Power with one and Sinead Power with two in a row as they continued to dictate matters.

Battling hard Cork grabbed a life line with substitute Clara Hughes finding the net. Lauren Homan added a point but with a five-point cushion Clare were not going to be denied as they confidently hung on to take the title.

Clare's Laura Foley who had an excellent game was named as Player of the Match.

Scorers for Clare: L Foley 0-4 (0-2 45), S Loughnane 1-0, A Power, S Power 0-2 each, E Duggan 0-1.

Cork: L Homan 0-3 (0-2 f), C Hughes 1-0, C Healy 0-1.

CORK: M Daly; A Buckley, K McCarthy, Loneragan (c); M Ryan, K Daly, M Lynch; E McAndrew, L O'Gorman; I O'Regan, C Collins, L Homan; N O'Riordan, C Healy, O Murphy.

Subs: G Cahillane for A Buckley (40), C

CAMOGIE
Hughes for G Collins (48), K Wall for N O'Riordan (50), C Crowley for O Murphy (51).

CLARE: A O'Loughlin; M O'Connor A Ryan, C Doyle; S Loughnane, E Kennedy, C Grogan; L Foley, A Barrett, R Begley, N O'Connor, S Conlon; L McGrath, E Duggan, A Power.

Referee: Dave O'Brien (Limerick).

Cork 7-21

Limerick 0-1

CORK had got off to a great start as the U16B team captured the Munster title.

Cork led 4-9 to 0-1 at the interval after goals from Katie Walsh (2), Orla Lowney and Clare Mullins gave them a comfortable cushion. Throughout the second half, despite running all their substitutes, Cork continued to hold the upper hand. Katie Walsh it a hat-trick while Niamh Power and Slobhan O'Sullivan also found the net for goals in what was a superb Cork display.

Limerick battled hard but they found Cork too hard to handle. Cork's Katie Walsh was named as Player of the Match after a superb display.

Scorers for Cork: K Walsh 3-2, N Power 1-4, C Mullins 1-3, O Lowney 1-1, S O'Sullivan 1-0, J O'Mahony 0-2 f, C O'Keefe, S Baleman, L Kelly 0-2 each, S Mangan, A Hurley, C Crowley 0-1 each.

Limerick: C O'Toole 0-1.

Meath 1-9

Cork 2-5

MEATH got the upper hand on Cork in a tight Division 2 game in Meath.

Cork led 2-2 to 0-5 at the interval after two goals from Orla Cronin gave them a three-point advantage.

On the resumption it was nip and tuck but a late Amy Gaffney point ensured the home side took the points, after a Megan Thynne goal had brought them back into the contest.



Cork's Keeva McCarthy is challenged by Caroline Mullaney (Tipperary) during the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship match at Cork Camogie Ground, Castle Road, Mahon, Cork. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork take control in second half to seal win

MINOR CAMOGIE

Clare 3-4
Cork 1-16

A DOMINANT performance in the second half saw Cork take the points in Round 4 of the All-Ireland Minor Championship on Sunday afternoon in Clarecastle, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Both sides struggled at times with the strong cross field wind, with Cork dominating in the second half.

These two sides met just two weeks ago in the Munster Minor Championship and the opening 10 minutes of Sunday's clash reflected the sides' knowledge of each other.

Cork had the better of the scoring opportunities in the opening 10 minutes but saw four more shots go wide as they struggled with both the elements and the Clare back line. Cork's Hayley Ryan broke the deadlock in the 12th minute when she pointed from play with the Banners' Clare Hehir levelling matters.

Cork then hit four unanswered points, two of those from 45s as a result of good work by Clare goalie Luran Solon who deflected goal-bound shots to deny Cork's Ryan and Kate O'Keefe.

Doireann Murphy added a '45 for the home side in the 23rd minute. From the puckout Clare won possession and Andrea O'Keefe shot to the net for the game's first goal in the 25th minute to see the sides level.

Cork added a brace of points from Lisa Lynch and O'Keefe to go ahead. Clare again had the upperhand in the middle when Ria Flanagan won the puckout and sent her shot down the wing to Murphy. Cork converged on Murphy who sent a pin-point pass to Emma O'Connell who struck for Clare's second goal to see the home side go in with leading by a point.

Cork introduced Sinead Mills at half time, and she had the sides level inside the opening minute with her shot splitting the posts. Keeva McCarthy edged the visitors in front when she pointed after a pass from Hannah Looney. The sides were level again on 38th minutes when Murphy converted a free for the home side.

However, six unanswered points from the visitors saw the young Leesiders push ahead. Clare pulled back a point with a converted free, however Cork moved play to the other end and when McCarthy's shot on goal was well blocked, it was Hayley Ryan who was on hand to strike the rebound to the back of the Clare net.

Clare grabbed their third goal on the 60-minute mark, when O'Connell fired through the Cork defence to narrow the deficit to four points. However, with the game in injury time it was Cork who converted two more scoring opportunities to run out winners 1-16 to 3-4.

CLARE: Luran Solon, Teresa O'Keefe, Aoife Keane, Orlaith Cotter, Corina McMahon, Clare Hehir (0-1), Laura Brown, Andrea O'Keefe (1-0), Ria Flanagan, Amy Keating, Jane Fitzgerald, Emma O'Connell (2-0), AnnaMarie Hayes, Keelin Lyons, Doireann Murphy (0-3 - 2F).

Subs: Anna Clancy St Colmans for A O'Keefe, Chloe Devitt Ballyea for McMahon, Aoibheann Duggan Clooney Quin for Fitzgerald.

CORK: Chloe Casey, Sarsfields, Kelly Falvey, Glen Rovers, Chloe Sigerson, Killeagh, Aine Crowley, Kilbrittain, Ellen Twomey, Carrigaline, Rebecca Walsh, Fr O'Neills, Rebecca Sheehan, Douglas, Emma Casey, Sarsfields, Lucy Kelly, Sarsfields, Keeva McCarthy, St Finbarrs 0-1, Lisa Lynch, Valley Rovers 0-8 2'45 3F, Haise Harshy, Sarsfields, Kate O'Keefe, Millsstreet 0-1, Hannah O'Looney, Killeagh 0-1, Hayley Ryan, Blackrock 1-3.

Sub: Sinead Mills, Brian Dilons 0-2 for O'Keefe. Referee: Richard McNicholas.

Hawkeye introduction on the agenda at Croke Park Congress

Camogie

by Michael Moynihan

The Camogie Association is to consider the introduction of Hawkeye, the advantage rule and other radical changes to its playing rules at annual Congress in Croke Park today.

The amendments to the playing rules will be discussed and voted upon this evening, while tomorrow's business at Congress will focus on reports, other motions to Congress, and speeches by the outgoing president, Aileen Lawlor and her successor, Catherine Neary, who will be installed tomorrow afternoon.

President Aileen Lawlor, elaborated on the proposal to allow the use of score detection systems such as Hawkeye during camogie matches where the technology is available.

"The benefit of using a score detection system such as Hawkeye, is the verification of a score and assurance on the accuracy of the final

result of a game.

"Another proposed amendment is the introduction of a clear rule around granting advantage including a five second rule, after which a free must be given if no advantage has accrued."

Lawlor continued: "The advantage motion — if passed — will result in increasing the flow and momentum of games while providing clear direction to referees, players and supporters of the process required to indicate advantage. The use of synthetic pitches is another proposed amendment which would make it possible for competitive games to be played on synthetic pitches, provided both teams are agreeable. This would help to facilitate the playing of games particularly during bad weather or when the option of a grass pitch is not available."

A full and in-depth listing of all of the motions to Congress can be viewed in the Director General's report, which can be downloaded from <http://www.camogie.ie/news.asp?id=4533>



Camogie president Aileen Lawlor

ON ^{THE} BALL



SPRING / SUMMER 2015



- Presidential Change

- Minor Marvel - Kilkenny & Piltown's Kellyann Doyle

- AIB Club Finals

- Irish Daily Star National Leagues

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF



THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Incoming President eager to get going

President-Elect of the Camogie Association, Catherine Neary, spoke to Daragh Ó Conchúir ahead of this year's Convention

It is just the sort of enthusiasm you would like to see in an incoming President and the energy is flowing out of Catherine Neary.

A high achiever as a player and in her working life, where she is a general manager in the HSE, the Kilkenny woman is now at the summit of life as an administrator in the camogie world.

"If you're a player, the pinnacle is to win an All-Ireland and play in Croke Park" says Neary. "Once those days pass and the chances of that happening are well gone in my case given my age, the pinnacle then is from an administrative point of view, is to become President of the Camogie Association.

"The big thing is the fact that it's your peers that actually vote for you – it's not something you inherit or take up because no-one else wants it. People put their trust in you. I am very conscious of that."

An aunt of current Kilkenny star Aoife, Catherine is steeped in Gaelic games. Her brother Paddy was a member of the Black and Amber panel that achieved an All-Ireland and League double in 1982 and 1983.

The Nearys were and are a dyed-in-the-wool James Stephen's family but they had no camogie team when Catherine was playing so she rowed in with St Paul's. That proved a wise decision and she was part of the legendary team that completed an All-Ireland senior club championship three-in-a-row (1987-89) alongside heroic figures such as the incomparable Angela Downey, her sister Ann and Breda Holmes.

After retiring, she took the natural step towards coaching; helping out with Clara first before returning to James Stephen's now that they had established a camogie section. Then there was a vacancy for chairperson and with no-one willing to take up the cudgel, Neary stepped into the breach.

Remarkably, she is President of the Camogie Association 10 years later, with runs as chair of the Kilkenny Board and Leinster Council in between.

When the possibility of going for the Presidency came up, she had to give it a lot of thought, given how busy she was already. She came to the conclusion that she could do herself and the position justice and is eager to get going.

"I don't ever do something half-way. I had to decide if I had something to offer and then I had to think of practicalities of how I was going to manage it. I have the advantage of having been on Ard Chomhairle when I was chair of Leinster so I have an idea of what's involved to a certain extent. I'm not going into it blind."

I don't ever do something half-way. I had to decide if I had something to offer and then I had to think of practicalities of how I was going to manage it.

As a member of fixtures' committees at national and provincial level, Neary is acutely aware of this issue in its broadest context.

"Fixtures are always a challenge, at county, provincial or national level. You're conscious of different competitions, different groupings of players, some of which overlap. Sometimes if you make a change at national level, it can impact on when you play other competitions, especially if you change the format of a competition.

"Having more games at inter-county level is fantastic, but that means you end up narrowing it down (for the rest). So fixtures is an area I've particular interest in.

"I think we have to have a think about the club fixtures and where we're fitting them in. It's the same as the GAA. The vast majority of our players are club players. Do we really want to be cramping everything into a short area of time?

"That's not a way to develop our game, to develop our players. It's not a good thing for player retention. We have to have meaningful games for all our players at all levels. We have to find a level where everyone can compete too, irrespective of the age group."

It is opportune that she mentions the GAA. The One Association idea remains on the agenda, with the Camogie Association, LGFA and GAA all officially recognising as a desired eventuality. The shared sponsorships with Liberty Insurance and AIB have increased the working relationship between the Camogie Association and GAA and as Neary's own experiences detail, they are a natural fit.

"We have come a good way on the issue but there's a lot still to do. I'm in favour of working closer together and integrating. My background is a family that was steeped in the GAA. I didn't see a difference growing up between hurling and camogie. It being Kilkenny, there was no big ball but I always enjoyed watching football. My club was James Stephen's though they didn't have a camogie team. When the club was mentioned, we knew who everyone was talking about. So it's natural.

"I think it's important that we keep our own identity as well but it's a matter of thinking about it, sitting down and working together, looking at where we have commonality. We have commonalities in terms of many of our administrative functions but we also have commonalities around the challenges to players surrounding fixtures and players playing more than one sport.

"There has been an issue of dual players for many years in GAA even though those numbers have become smaller over the years but in camogie there would be a lot of dual players with football, soccer and other sports. So it's how we see the best way we can work together."

"I'm really looking forward to it. I'm very excited at the thought of the whole thing."

Further progress in this area is one of her key targets, with the One Club model that is becoming more prevalent around the country the obvious template. There are a number of other areas she hopes to see further development on by the time her term comes to a conclusion.

"I'd hope that our games structure would be better than it is, that we've had a good, long look at our fixture list and made them better for all players, not just at inter-county level but club too.

"There are some changes coming on board with the legislation around child protection and that will take its natural course but I think as an Association, along with the GAA, we just make sure we have the proper support structures in place for people so there's no fear around that.

"One of the big issues is player retention. It's an issue for a lot of sports but we are losing a lot of players between the ages of 15 and 18. Some of that may be around our fixture structures, some of it may be that players don't find it fun anymore. We have some research on it but I think we have to do a lot more and really target our development."

A new National Development Plan will come into place next year so there will be a lot of work surrounding that in the next 12 months. Having individual membership now means that it is easier to build a profile and plan accordingly.

Neary emphasises the importance of avoiding 'one-size-fits-all' solutions though. A different strategy is required for her native county, where the game has primacy and there is very little football, than for some of the Ulster counties, where there are greater challenges from other codes.

I think we have to have a think about the club fixtures and where we're fitting them in. The vast majority of our players are club players. Do we really want to be cramping everything into a short area of time?

"Ultimately, and it probably won't happen in my three years, but we would want every girl to have the chance to try out camogie. And then they can decide themselves. I think that would be the goal, to give every girl that chance to play a unique game.

"One thing I would hope is that we would give even more support to our volunteers. Club is the foundation of everything. We need

to support existing clubs and promote new ones, to make sure they're sustainable; to build on the success that is there and give everyone an opportunity."

Sounds good.

Catherine Neary and Aileen Lawlor together prior to handing over the Presidential reins





Ard Stiúrthóir's 2014 Report published

Each year's Congress considers a review of the previous year, captured in the Ard Stiúrthóir's report. The 2014 Report describes a fantastic year of progress in relation to the games themselves, the PR profile, the uptake on coaching and increased participation and in governance and organizational development. It also identifies five key challenges for the future as follows:

- Getting a better balance across fixtures
- Attendances at inter county camogie
- Recruiting and supporting volunteers
- Expanding camogie and particularly amongst teenagers
- Examining camogie in the wider context of women in sport

Looking at marketing and PR in relation to attending games specifically, the Ard Stiúrthóir says:

"In 2014 the Camogie Association commissioned market research on what actual and prospective fans think of camogie and what motivates them or stops them from attending games. The entertainment, skill level, enjoyment and social aspects of camogie were recurring themes in the research findings with the overwhelming majority admiring the skill of the games."

Some of the key findings included:

- 94% of those surveyed had a high awareness of the All-Ireland Championship across camogie and hurling supporters;
- Less than half of those who were aware of the All-Ireland series had previously attended an inter-county camogie championship game;
- Personal relationships with individuals involved in a team is a primary driver of attendance at games for just over two thirds of respondents, while support for their county was the second strongest reason.

She continued by saying that convenience of fixtures, access to matches and lack of 'hype' were reported as the biggest barriers to attendance at inter-county games for camogie club and inter-county hurling supporters. The point about convenience of fixtures is very telling as O'Flynn noted:

"From time to time, availability of playing grounds is harder to secure until shortly before a fixture. This severely impedes the capacity to promote the fixture concerned and can impact negatively on prematch preparation also. Indeed, sometimes it is a challenge to secure grounds of county standard for high profile games including national finals and semi-finals."

Despite these difficulties, the market research shows that the pool of prospective camogie supporters is significant:

- 81% of those surveyed showed a willingness to attend inter-county camogie championship games in the future including 71% of current inter-county hurling supporters;
- Over a third of inter-county supporters come from our club base so there is a clear opportunity to grow this further.

Another challenge highlighted in the Ard Stiúrthóir's Report is that of expanding into certain urban areas and amongst teenagers.

"The majority of the national population is urban based and there are several urban areas throughout the country that warrant a more

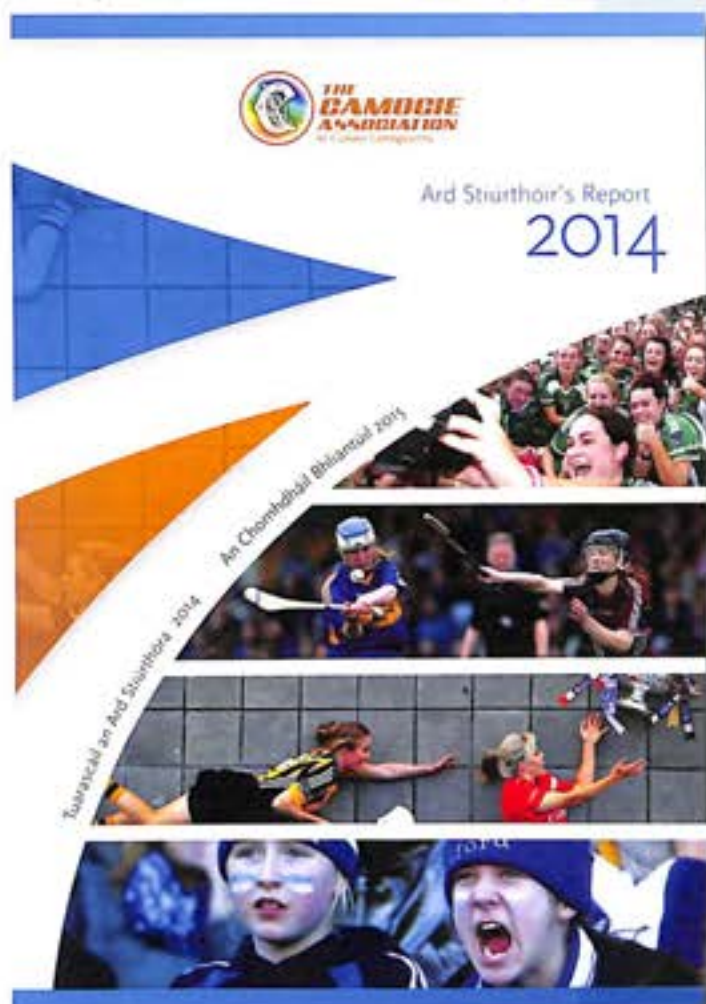
intensive camogie development focus. For example, there is a clear trend where Dublin and the Leinster counties adjacent to the M50 have experienced significant population growth and have the greatest population density.

"Based on data analysis of Fingal, Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow, it emerges that camogie is 'underreaching' to teenagers in these areas. Only 5% of young girls aged 13-17 in these catchments are registered camogie members. Looking to Ulster, of the 26 GAA clubs in Belfast, just four have camogie. There is only one camogie club in the entire Derry city catchment."

Joan O'Flynn envisages the Camogie Association adopting a more intensive and targeted initiative in these urban areas with a focus on recruitment of players and retention of teenage players involving:

- Predevelopment work;
- Identifying local champions;
- Targeted support from full-time staff and volunteer development officers;
- Outreach in schools and GAA clubs;
- Parental involvement and upskilling of adults new to camogie;
- Innovative coaching and development methods.

The full report can be downloaded on www.camogie.ie





President reflects

As she prepared to step down from the Presidency, Aileen Lawlor met with Daragh Ó Conchúir to review her three-year term of office and to look forward to the future

The three years have flown by in a blur of games, meetings, hand-shaking, award presentations and generally travelling the four corners of the country for Aileen Lawlor, as the 29th President of the Camogie Association.

Reflecting on it now, the St Munna's clubwoman has so many fond memories since she succeeded Joan O'Flynn in 2012, having been elected in Belfast the previous year.

"I couldn't have imagined what the three years as President would have been like; the amount of people I have met, schools I have visited, awards ceremonies I have attended has been incredible. You may think it is an old cliché that being involved in Gaelic games is like being part of a big family. Well it's not a cliché, it's so true," Lawlor reflects.

She describes the hectic nature of her schedule, which included trying to fit in the day-job as a nurse around the presidential duties, as "a nice kind of busy".

The honour of heading the organisation she first joined as an eight-year-old was huge and every club she walked into, no matter its size or grade, earned her full attention.

"At eight years of age I wasn't aware that there was a camogie President. Nowadays, children even younger than that are aware of the role. That's because there is so much more PR around the game but also camogie is played in more primary and secondary schools now than there was then and our presence is more visible in schools."

The link between schools and clubs has been strengthened and Lawlor hopes that every school player will be encouraged to link up with her nearest club.

"A few months before Féile na nGael every year I got the opportunity to spend a whole week visiting the schools in the county or province that is hosting Féile that year.

"The children are so honest and can ask you absolutely anything from 'What does a President have for breakfast?' to 'Who inspired you to play camogie?' You always feel your trip is worthwhile."

She was conscious of her role in encouraging the next generation, helping to educate them about the life skills they can learn from being involved in sport and praising them for what they have achieved.

Being exposed to the work of the volunteer was humbling. "Meeting the members, volunteers and players, is vital. Seeing first-hand the amount of work these incredible group of people do on behalf of the Camogie Association is

palpable. They give unselfishly of their time to enhance the association and the Camogie Association recognises that. We can never thank them enough.

Apart from going out of her way to meet the people on the ground, Lawlor's term has coincided with some important developments. The affiliation motion passed in Westport two years ago was a landmark.

"It showed a sense of value of the membership and what it means to be part of this wonderful organisation. It was a known fact that as a national Association, we only generated 10% of our income on affiliations. We relied heavily on outside grants to develop and grow our Association and to run off our fixtures. This was not satisfactory and not sustainable.

So it was with great pride that that motion was passed with such high recognition by the members that they saw the need to change our membership system and put a value on their membership.

The issue of integration with the GAA and LGFA has advanced slowly but a commitment has been given by all Associations at their various Congresses to pursue it. Some have suggested that self-interest will scupper the unity but Lawlor insists that real progress has been made.

"I do believe it will happen soon. There are obviously a lot of areas to be ironed out first. The baton has been passed to all three incoming Presidents to carry forward. I know it is at a different stage now than it ever was previously and huge credit must go to Liam O'Neill in spearheading this during his term (as GAA President). I look forward with very keen interest going forward to this unified process for the greater good of all three Associations."

The benefits of working jointly were never more evident than securing the first ever joint sponsorship of two different sporting organisations when Liberty Insurance took hurling and camogie under its wing. This could not have been done without the co-operation of the GAA. It was the same, subsequently, with AIB when they added the camogie club championships to their hugely successful football and hurling programme. This was the first time the Camogie club championships had a sponsor.

One of the key targets Lawlor set herself as a former inter-county referee herself was to increase the number of female referees in camogie. A referees' academy was established in 2013 to identify male and female referees and give them a clear pathway to the top echelons. With the national referees'

Kellyann Doyle

BY DARACH Ó CONCHÚIR

"...In Camogie, there's so much team involvement. And in the community, everyone is behind you. They're all there to support you."



If ever a team portrays how camogie is an outstanding conduit for elite female athletes to express themselves, it is Piltown.

The newly-crowned AIB All-Ireland intermediate club champions boast international competitors in rugby (Chloe Blackmore), soccer (Karen Duggan) and athletics (Kellyann Doyle) amongst its ranks.

Doyle was deservedly named player of the match in a thrilling performance at Croke Park as the Kilkenny representatives edged out the victors of 12 months previously, Lismore by a point.

The 17-year-old was playing at left half-back, shadowing Waterford star Nicola Morrissey initially. Morrissey won the first ball and looking to lay down a marker, went to take her young opponent on the outside. She didn't know the slightly-framed Piltown girl was a multiple national sprinting champion. Unsurprisingly, she was closed down. Quickly.

That was the story of the game. Blessed with the speed that has her in the record books as the fastest 400m hurdler at U18 Ireland has ever produced, she made countless interceptions. Being in the happy position of being able to see what's happening before making a move is a wonderful thing.

But it wasn't just about neutralising her direct opponents. Doyle took it to another level, taking the advice of her father, Gay, and adding to Lismore's distress by attacking at every opportunity. Revelling in the open spaces of Croke Park, she put the sliotar on the stick and ran on countless occasions, before off-loading to better-placed colleagues. It was a tremendous effort by the fifth year student in Carrick-On-Suir's Scoil Mhuire Greenhill secondary school.

"I started running the day after my communion at the Community Games down at Piltown. I was after winning my race and Emby Walsh from the running club in Carrick was there. She came over looking for me to join so that was it" is the matter-of-fact recollection of her initial foray into athletics.

"I wasn't too good at the sprints the whole way through. I liked the hurdles and thought it would be a bit different so I started them around four years ago."

There is incredible modesty here. Doyle says she wasn't too good at sprints but she won the Community Games All-Ireland in the 200m at U10 level and became accustomed to the ultimate glory right through the age grades. The Croke Park success was just the latest in a long list.

Walsh has been the guiding hand from the very start, with Paul O'Gorman also helping out. And though there have been numerous national successes, she is never blasé about it.

"A lot of training goes in behind the scenes, you never take it for granted. I have huge respect for Emby who has been there the whole way up with me and got me into athletics in the first place."

Derval O'Rourke is a good role model, although she competed at shorter distances. What she achieved in terms of major championship medals is an inspiration. She doesn't remember Susan Smith though, the Waterford native who became the first Irish athlete to ever reach a sprint final at a major championships when reaching the 400m hurdles final at the 1997 Worlds. Smith is still the

senior record-holder at the distance.

Brona Furlong is one she might want to check up on. Furlong starred when Wexford won the All-Ireland senior camogie title in 2007, using her prowess in the 400m hurdles to gallop up and down Croke Park from midfield. She would later compete in World Championships.

Doyle was nine when she began playing camogie, lining out for Owing National School. The speed was an advantage from the outset but there was more to it than that.

"I just loved it, knowing everybody. It was nice having the running on the side as well. I loved the team aspect of the camogie, where not everything relies on you but then the individual sport as well.

"In the individual, when you succeed, you know it was all you and down to all your hard work. With the team, such as the club, it's all the people you grew up with and everything. So it's brilliant."

She is told that the pace comes from her father, who was a

Daragh Ó Conchúir chats to rising Kilkenny minor star Kellyann Doyle about her life as a national hurdling champion, winning an All-Ireland intermediate club title with Piltown and using her sprinting ability to best advantage on the camogie field...

nightmare for corner-backs who played against Windgap. Her demands can make for a demanding schedule and she expects that a choice will have to be made at some stage.

"A lot of the time they do clash. Some weekends would be very hectic going from one to the other but it's grand 'cos Dad is over the minor camogie team in Piltown so he understands and works around it as well."

"I'd say the time is coming quickly when I'll have to make the call. Everybody is telling me I'm going to have to pick one, I can't fit them all in. I don't know what I'll pick. It would be hard to give up one of them."

Next year, Doyle will have the Leaving Cert on her plate too but she remarks cheerfully that she will just have to get up early in the morning to get her study done. This is not one to moan about workloads or pressure. She is definitely not the type to while away hours in front of a TV or computer screen.

"I like having things to do. I wouldn't like being sitting around every day not doing anything. I like being occupied."

She lights up at the mention of Piltown's famous victory.

"It was amazing. It was really a dream come true. My touch was good that morning when we were warming up. I knew by the way the touch was I was going to have a good game."

It got a bit nervy as Lismore clawed their way back into it in the last 10 minutes.

"But I wouldn't put anything past the girls. The determination is unbelievable and the drive they have... they're fantastic. At one stage I thought it might slip through our fingers but Grace Power is great for motivating everyone and she kept us going. She has great experience and all the girls look up to her."

The homecoming was memorable too, again, completely different to athletics.

"In Camogie, there's so much team involvement. And in the community, everyone is behind you. They're all there to support you."

The aforementioned Power is clearly another role model, an All-Star who has been one of the best forwards in camogie for a couple of years. Like her clubmate, Doyle is a Kilkenny player too and is a member of the minor team currently competing in the early rounds of the All-Ireland championships.

There are also All-Ireland relays coming up, as well as national indoor championships.

"I'm not too focussed on them as I'm not too fast for 60m. I'm only getting going at the end of the race."

"The 400m is tough. The last 100m is a killer, with all the lactic acid building up in your upper arms and upper legs. You just feel like you cannot move but you just have to keep running."

That teak tough determination is evident on the field. So is the fitness that means the last 10 minutes of games are never a problem.

Athletics and camogie. High-level achievement in each and both complementing each other.

She'll keep at it as long as she can.

The Final Whistle blows!

Kellyann Doyle, Laura Norris and Katie Power celebrate their All-Ireland win in Croke Park and Kellyann receives her Player of the Match award from Maol Muire Tynan, AIB, Head of Public Affairs





ASHBOURNE CUP enters its second century

Last month 18 teams headed to Dublin City University to contest the finals of the 2015 inter-varsity championships. On well laid-out and manicured pitches, the various competitions were eagerly contested and a high standard of camogie displayed. The founders of the competition would have been delighted with the progress made to date.

One hundred years ago, on the invitation of Cáit O'Donoghue, National Organiser of the Camogie Association, Dr. Agnes O'Farrelly (UCD), Eamonn O'Donoghue (UCC) and Dr. Tomás Breathnach (UCG), all members of the Gaelic League where camogie had its roots, set about establishing the game in their respective colleges. Lord Ashbourne, President of the Gaelic League, donated an impressive and unique cup to encourage an Irish game and to advance social life among the ladies of the national university.

In the only match of the inaugural Ashbourne competition, UCD defeated UCC by 0-7 to 0-3 which was played at the UCD sports grounds at Terenure on April 18th, 1915. Sport in those days commanded little media attention and women's sport rarely received a mention. Luckily, it was decided to engrave the names of the winning teams on the base of the cup, otherwise there would be no record of the Ashbourne medal-holders of the early days of the competition.

The competition grew slowly. UCG entered in 1916 and Queens University came on board in 1934. For almost forty years, the

competition was confined to four universities. The setting up of the C.C.I.A. (now C.C.A.O.) in 1972 provided a long overdue opportunity for the newer universities, non-university colleges and players in the established universities who did not make the Ashbourne panel to play the game.

For three-quarters of the century, the Ashbourne Cup was dominated by the traditional universities, UCD (37 victories), UCC (31) and UCG (15). In recent times, the newer colleges, WIT and UL, who provide courses that appeal to sports-minded students, have taken over. For eighty-six years, May Murphy-O'Neill (UCC) has held the record of the highest number of Ashbourne medals won. She was part of UCC's six in-a-row team (1922-1927) and added her seventh in 1929. Joan O'Sullivan-Hurley (UCC) and Maura Gannon (UCD) each hold six medals.

The concession of two goals by UL in the opening minutes of the 2015 Ashbourne final left the side playing catch-up for the remainder of the game. To their credit, they matched opponents, WIT, score for score from then on but were unable to haul back the brace of goals. For thrills, excitement and whole-hearted endeavour, the Purcell Cup final earned the tag of Match of the Day. Mary Immaculate and DIT could not be separated, even after two periods of extra time. Mary Immaculate went on to win the Purcell Cup.

Waterford I.T. Ashbourne Cup winners 2015





CAMOGIE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



Oulart-The Ballagh dominate while Piltown hold on for a narrow victory

AIB All Ireland Senior Club Final

Oulart-The Ballagh 3-13 Mullagh 0-07

Oulart-The Ballagh were unfazed by the cold conditions and returned to the top of the club camogie tree with a convincing 3-13 to 0-07 victory in the AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Championships Final at Croke Park.

Oulart-The Ballagh capitalised on some lax defending as they found the net inside the first minute through Stacey Kehoe and with two more in the second half, established a strong lead that Mullagh were always unlikely to reel in, given the lack of any real goal chances of their own.

Mullagh seemed to settle a bit after conceding the early goal and there were indications that they possessed the speed on the flanks to trouble the Oulart defence.

Rachel Monaghan converted a couple of frees but missed two more chances and with Ursula Jacob unerring at the other end, Oulart began to open up a bit of a gap ahead of half-time.

Mullagh showed real intent at the start of the second half but Monaghan's pointed free was all they had to show for it.

Instead, Una Leacy pounced on some hesitancy in the Mullagh full-back line to stab home from close range in the 40th minute. Despite Mullagh's persistence, Louise Sinnott had the simple task of grabbing Oulart's third goal in the 47th minute, having been left completely unattended.

Oulart-The Ballagh added further white flags to leave them 15 points to the good when the final whistle was sounded to hand them their second All-Ireland crown.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).

Aideen Brennan in action for Senior winners Oulart-The Ballagh

AIB All Ireland Intermediate Club Final

Piltown 1-10 Lismore 1-09

Piltown held off a late rally from champions Lismore to claim their first AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship title in bitterly cold conditions at Croke Park on a 1-10 to 1-09 scoreline.

Lismore started well with an early score, with their half-back line particularly dominant but Piltown hit back with three points in two minutes from Edel Long, an Alice Talbot free and Niamh Culleton's shot from the right flank.

Piltown were motoring and it got even better for them when Chloe Blackmore grabbed a 12th minute goal when she drove low to the right corner of the Lismore net.

Lismore were however given a massive lifeline when Aoife Hannon rocketed a 20m free past 6 goal-line players into the Piltown net to leave them trailing by a half-time scoreline of 1-06 to 1-04.

Quick scores from Chloe Holden and Aoife Talbot after the restart were matched by a couple of excellent frees from Hannon.

However, Katie Power made it three before Piltown captain, Laura Norris landed a brilliant point to widen the gap to four with seven minutes remaining.

Lismore threw everything at them, with Gráinne Kenneally an inspirational figure. Nicola Morrissey had a goal correctly ruled out in the 57th minute as she was in the square when providing the finishing touch.

Hannon converted frees either side of a score from Kenneally to reduce the margin to the minimum but time ran out and it was Piltown's day.

Referee: Peter Dowd (Meath).

Intermediate Champions, Piltown, pose before throw-in at a snowy Croke Park



Winners of the Camogie Association Media and Volunteer Awards for 2014 were honoured at a function in Croke Park Stadium on Saturday afternoon, February 21st, 2015.

CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2014

Antrim
Armagh
Carlow
Clare
Cork
Derry
Donegal
Down
Dublin
Galway
Kildare
Kilkenny
Laois
Limerick
London
Louth
Mayo
Meath
Offaly
Roscommon
Tipperary
Tyrone
Westmeath
Wexford
Wicklow

Una Simpson
Kathleen Woods
Leo McGough
Audrey McMahon
Maria Dinan
Katrina O'Kane
Laurence Doherty
Shauneen O'Neill
Mona O'Sullivan
Catherine Kilkelly
Niamh Concannon
Bernie Coonan
Fint Duff
Breda Corbett
Rita O'Mahoney
Eileen Moynagh
Ruth Crowley
Jim Carroll
Paul Troy
Catriona Morris
Sharon Ralph
Déirdre Fitzgerald
Sheila Devine
Bridget Moran
Billy Burke

Volunteer Award recipients

Top: Catriona Morris, from Oran, Roscommon.

Middle: Jim Carroll, from Kildalkey, Meath.

Bottom: Sheila Carroll, from Lough Lene Gaels, Westmeath.



Volunteer Award
winners from
Connacht

Media and Volunteer Award winners from Munster



Volunteer Award winners from Leinster

Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta Aileen Lawlor and Ard Chomhairle members with Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtarán to mark International Women's Day on 8th March.



International Women's Day at Áras an Uachtarán

Pictured at the launch:
Eimear Brady (Cavan), Amanda O'Regan (Cork), Carol O'Leary (Clare), Kate McDonald (Kilkenny), Aileen Lawlor (Uachtarán an Cumann Camógaíochta), Shane Stapleton (Irish Daily Star GAA Correspondent), Shauna Healy (Galway), Michelle Kelly (Dublin) & Dinah Loughlin (Westmeath)



2015

*Tipperary -
 Winners of the 2015
 Legends Tournament*



New Inter-Schools Tournament

Victoria College in Belfast is believed to be the first state school in the north to organise a camogie tournament having hosted the *Aileen Lawlor Shield* involving Slemish College, Ballymena, Aquinas Grammar, Belfast and the home school on Wednesday, 11th February. The shield competition was sponsored by *Think People* and it is hoped the competition can become an annual event.

Victoria College pupils Katie Pallin, Shannon Frazer, Keeva McAllister and Zahra Lowry are pictured with Aileen Lawlor at the south Belfast school.



Down to the wire for Cork minors

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW

All-Ireland minor championship: Cork v Kilkenny, Thomastown, Kilkenny, 2.30pm.

IT'S down to the wire as the last round of the All-Ireland minor championship takes place tomorrow.

Cork travel to Kilkenny to take on the home side, who are on six points with three wins under their belts over Clare, Wexford and Tipperary.

It's a must-win game for Cork as they battle for the semi-final spot. A victory would see them level with Tipperary, who are also on six and would force a three-way play-off.

This is a strong Kilkenny side who have impressed in all games to date. Tipperary put them to the pin of their collars but they battled hard, with late points giving them a vital victory. Among the players to have impressed are Ciara Phelan, Kelly Ann Doyle.

Chloe Blackmore and Jenny Clifford and the Cork defence will need to stamp their authority on proceedings from the start.

Cork were unlucky not to win against Tipperary, losing out by just a point, but it's a result that has them under pressure as they face the toughest side in the group.

Cork have a huge battle on their hands, but with players of the calibre of captain Chloe Casey, Lisa Lynch, Keeva McCarthy and Kelly Falvey they won't entertain the word defeat and will give it everything to stay in the championship race.

SUNDAY

Division 2 National League: Cork v Kilkenny, Mooncoin, 2.30pm.

Cork travel to Kilkenny for this Irish Daily Star Division 2 game, having lost out by a point to Waterford and Meath, while Kilkenny will hope to bounce back from their loss to Waterford in their last game.

Kilkenny made the perfect start to the league campaign with wins over Meath, Tipperary, and Down, but came up short against Waterford. A victory over Cork on Sunday will ensure they qualify for the semi-finals.

Cork recorded an opening round win over Down and received a walkover from Tipperary. A win on Sunday would put them level on points with Kilkenny and Meath, and were this to happen one team would be given a bye via a draw, while the other two sides' fate would be decided on their head-to-head encounter.

Cork and Kilkenny's senior sides are also in action on Sunday. The Rebels have to make the long haul to Derry, but are already qualified, thus this should release players for the Division 2 team.

It's a hard game to call, but if at full-strength Cork have the power to get a result, it's then in the lap of the gods for a semi-final slot.

Camogie team rush back from hols

CAMOGIE

By Linda Mellerick

the punishments which could be placed upon them, should they concede the points to Derry.

Derry refused to move the game out a week, where there was a gap, or 24 hours to Bank Holiday Monday.

It was put to Rebel manager Paudie Murray that the league's fixtures were circulated last November and therefore Cork should not have booked this trip.

However with five teachers on their panel this was the only window of opportunity that they had.

"I would be very disappointed in Croke Park and Derry," said Paudie. "We would have provided it if the roles were reversed." The game has now been fixed for 6pm on Sunday evening.

Cork's intermediate side are out on the same day to Kilkenny in Mooncoin, where a win would put them back in the mix for qualification. That will take priority for those senior players still eligible to play the intermediate grade.

Coláiste an Phiarsaigh revived by able Leader

Eoghan Cormican

Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Gleann Maghair didn't enter last year's Munster senior camogie championship, focusing solely on the Cork colleges competition. The school was in the throes of a high turnover in staff and a camogie manager was proving hard to come by.

Last September, Trish Leader decided to take on the camogie brief, recruiting Sarsfields pair Paddy Connery and Gillian Grimes for assistance — the first occasion outside help had been enlisted. By the end of last month, the Cork colleges U16½ A title, Munster and All-Ireland senior D crowns resided in the Glanmire nursery.

"There was a lot of changeover in staff last year and a lot of work goes into looking after a team. The girl who was



Award sponsor Áine Cummins presents the March winner of the Rebel Óg Monthly Award to Julie Ni hAilín, captain of the Coláiste An Phiarsaigh camogie team. Also included are Eoghan Cormican, Irish Examiner; Norina O'Callaghan, Sales and Marketing Manager Silversprings Hotel sponsors; John Purcell Chairman, Rebel Óg and Aidan Horgan Cummins Sports.

Picture:Des Barry

looking after the ladies football had the camogie as well. You can't be at matches all the time and not be in your classroom. We took a step back and had only one camogie competition on the go," explained Leader.

"I had been involved in the basketball last year and had trained up people to get involved for this year so I could try and help the camogie. I brought in Paddy (Connery) and Gillian (Grimes). As with all sports, if you shake things up, change the structure and bring in new faces - even if the same players have been there for two or three years - it can really revitalise things. That is what happened here."

Management were confident the potential was there for a sustained run in Munster such had been the success enjoyed by Sarsfields last summer — the main feeder club into Coláiste an Phiarsaigh. The graph of other contributing clubs — St Catherine's, Brian Dillons, Blackrock and Banteer — had also been on the rise.

Millstreet (7-9 to 2-5), Loreto Fermoy (6-9 to 2-2), St Joseph's, Borrisoleigh (6-14 to 3-7) and Coláiste an Croí Naofa, Carrignabhear (2-11 to 3-2) were comprehensively overcome en route to provincial glory.

Victories over Coláiste Bhríde, Car-

new (4-14 to 3-5) and Loreto High School, Beaufort, Rathfarnham (1-9 to 1-7) completed their ascent to the summit.

"It was just a brilliant run," continued Leader. "We would have been well behind at half-time in the Munster semi-final against Borrisoleigh but the girls came back to win it by double scores. It was then I really thought they could go places."

Loreto Beaufort were excellent in the All-Ireland final. There was a huge wind on the day which had a big bearing. Looking back, it was to our advantage we played against the wind in the first half.

"We were behind at half-time, but not by a huge amount (1-6 to 0-3). We came back and won by two-points, although we only got ahead in the last six or seven minutes of the game."

"Lucy Ni Cheallaigh scored a cracking goal with 10 minutes to go. That was the turning point and really lifted the team. Julie Ni hAilín put over a couple of frees to see us over the line. You can only imagine Beaufort's devastation at the end."

"Even though we are losing four girls this year, there are a lot of young players coming through. Camogie is alive and well in the school and hopefully will be into the future."

CONGRATULATIONS

Former James Stephens Camogie chairperson Catherine Neary was formally invested as President of the Camogie Association on Saturday 28 March at the Annual Congress in Croke Park. Catherine will serve a three year term in the position. She leads the Association at a time when there are huge challenges, most notably the closer bonding with the GAA and a major review of fixtures at every level.

Catherine comes from one of the great GAA families in Kilkenny and her sister Rita is currently Secretary of James Stephens Camogie Club. Her nieces Orla and Aoife are hugely involved as players and her brother Paddy is Vice Chairman of the GAA club. Catherine honed her very effective administrative skills first with James Stephens Camogie club, then as Kilkenny County Chairperson, Leinster Chairperson before reaching the top of the tree!

Everybody in the Village wishes Catherine the very best for her tenure.

Mary O'Sullivan honoured



Mayfield Community Volunteer Awards 2015 – Mary O'Sullivan, Brian Dillon's Camogie Club and Mayfield Community Games, pictured with Megan Hennessy, Ria Whyte and Áine O'Hara.

APR. 2015

Rebel visitors too strong for Clare

Cork 1-16 Clare 3-04

At Clarecastle

Brid MacNamara

A DOMINANT performance in the second half saw Cork take the points in this penultimate round of the All-Ireland Minor Championship on Sunday afternoon in Clarecastle. Both sides struggled at times with the strong crossfield wind, but Cork finally got to grips with it when dominating in the second period.

While the Banner were out of contention for an All-Ireland Semi-Final spot, Cork required a victory to remain in the hunt for two knock-out places with Kilkenny and Tipperary heading into the final round, a winners-takes-all clash with group leaders Kilkenny. That urgency drove the Rebels on at vital stages and was arguably crucial in the result.

Clare and Cork had met just two weeks previously in the Munster Minor Championship and the opening ten minutes of Sunday's clash certainly reflected that shared knowledge of each other.

Cork had the opening attack but under pressure from the Clare back line, their first foray onto the Clare danger area resulted in the sliotar

drifting wide. Cork had the better of the scoring opportunities in that ten minute period but did fire four more wides as they struggled with both the elements and a determined Clare defence.

Cork's Hayley Ryan broke the deadlock in the 12th minute when she pointed from play with the Banner's Clare Hehir levelling matters in the following minute. Cork then hit four unanswered points, two from '45s as a result of good work by Clare goalkeeper Luran Solon who denied both Ryan and Kate O'Keefe.

Doireann Murphy added a '45 for the home side in the 23rd minute and from the puck-out Clare won possession in the middle of the field and moving play forward Andrea

O'Keefe struck to the back of the net for the game's first goal in the 25th minute to gain parity.

Cork added a brace of points from Lisa Lynch and O'Keefe to re-establish their advantage but with the bit between their teeth, Clare bounced back once more. With the upperhand in the middle, Ria Flanagan won the puck-out and sent her shot down the wing to Murphy. Cork converged on the Clarecastle forward who sent a pinpoint pass to Emma O'Connell to fire Clare's second goal to see the home side go in with a point advantage by the break.

Cork introduced Sinead Mills at half-time, and the impact sub had the sides level inside the opening minute with her shot splitting the posts be-

fore Keeva McCarthy edged the visitors in front when she pointed following a pass from Hannah Looney.

The sides were locked again in the 38th minute when Murphy converted a free for the home side. However, that was as good as it got for the Banner as six unanswered points from the visitors saw the young Leesiders push firmly ahead. Clare pulled back a point with a converted free, however Cork quickly moved play to the other end and when McCarthy's initial shot on goal was well blocked, it was Hayley Ryan who was on hand to strike the rebound to the back of the Clare net.

Clare did grab a third goal on the hour mark when Amy Keating delivered a free to O'Connell who fired through the Cork defence to narrow the deficit to four points. However with the game in injury time, it would prove merely a consolation as Cork converted two more scoring opportunities to maintain their semi-final hopes.

Clare themselves will be determined to finish the campaign with a win as they face fellow winless side Wexford next Saturday on away soil,

with just as much pride at stake as the top-of-the-table clash between Cork and Kilkenny.

Cork

Chloe Casey (Sarsfields); Kelly Falvey (Glen Rovers); Chloe Sigeron (Killeshin); Aine Crowley (Kilbrittain); Ellen Twomey (Carrigaline); Rebecca Walsh (Fr O'Neills); Rebecca Sheehan (Douglas); Emma Casey (Sarsfields); Lucy Kelly (Sarsfields); Keeva McCarthy (St Finbarrs) (0-1); Lisa Lynch (Valley Rovers) (0-8, 3f, 2'45'); Hollie Herlihy (Sarsfields); Kate O'Keefe (Millstreet) (0-1); Hannah O'Looney (Killeshin) (0-1); Hayley Ryan (Blackrock) (1-3) Sub: Sinead Mills (Brian Dillon) (0-2) for O'Keefe

Clare

Luran Solon (Whitegate); Teresa O'Keefe (Inagh-Kilnamona); Aoife Keane (Inagh-Kilnamona); Orlath Cotter (Inagh-Kilnamona); Corina McMahon (Corofin); Clare Hehir (Inagh-Kilnamona) (0-1); Laura Brown (Fire Og); Andrea O'Keefe (Inagh-Kilnamona) (1-0); Ria Flanagan (Ballyea); Amy Keating (Inagh-Kilnamona); Jane Fitzgerald (Inagh-Kilnamona); Emma O'Connell (Ballyea) (2-0); AnneMarie Hayes (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Keelin Lyons (Sommerville); Doireann Murphy (Clarecastle) (0-3 2f) Subs: Anna Clancy (St Colman's) for A. O'Keefe; Chloe Devitt (Ballyea) for McMahon; Aoibheann Duggan (Clonony-Quin) for Fitzgerald

Referee: Richard McNicholas (Galway)

Below: Action from the meeting of Clare and Cork in Clarecastle.

All-Ireland Minor A Championship Group 2 Table
(Top two teams to semi-finals)

	P	W	D	L	SD	Pts
Kilkenny	3	3	0	0	+22	6
Tipperary	4	3	0	1	+10	6
Cork	3	2	0	1	+7	4
Wexford	3	0	0	3	-14	0
Clare	3	0	0	3	-25	0



New Camogie President calls for 'balance'

BY CIARAN WOODS

IN RHETORIC similar to that of her GAA counterpart Aoghan O Farrell in his first speech, the new President of the Camogie Association, Catherine Neary, has said that her key priority is to review the balance between inter-county and club games during her three-year term of office.

The Kilkenny native was last weekend installed as Camogie Association President at the Association's Annual Congress in Croke Park.

She said that as a member of fixtures' committees at national and provincial level, she is acutely aware of the issues involved in finding the right balance between inter-county and club fixtures.

"Fixtures are always a challenge, at county, provincial or national level. You are conscious of different competitions, different groupings of players, some of which overlap.

"Sometimes if you make a change at national level, it can impact on when you play other competitions, especially if you change the format of a competition.

"Having more games at inter-county

level is fantastic, but that means you end up narrowing down the fixtures calendar for other competitions at provincial and club level."

In this context, highlighted some key statistics:

- Between 2009 and 2014, the number of national inter-county games increased from 188 to 240 – a 28% increase;

- In 2014, the combined national and provincial inter-county games schedule amounted to 335 fixtures;

- The growth in the number of games is even more pronounced at minor level than at adult level;

- The number of national under-16 inter-county games has risen by 25% since 2009.

Ms Neary said that the Camogie Association has to give consideration about club fixtures and where they fit in with the expanded number of inter-county games.

"The vast majority of our players are club players. Do we really want to be cramming everything into a short area of time?

"That's not the way to develop our game, to develop our players. It's not a good thing for player retention nor

is it helpful from a player's enjoyment point of view. We have to have meaningful games for all our players at all levels.

"We have to find a balance where everyone can compete to the maximum of their ability irrespective of the level or age group. This is why I believe that a review to find the right 'mix' of fixtures would be extremely useful and timely."

"One of the big issues is player retention. It's an issue for a lot of sports but we are losing players between the ages of 15 and 18. Some of that may be around our fixture structures, some of it may be that players don't find it fun anymore. We have some research on it but I think we have to do a lot more and really target our development so that it assists with retention of players at all levels."

Catherine Neary explained that there will be a new National Development Plan for the Camogie Association in 2016, so there will be a lot of work surrounding that over the next 12 months.

"In this context, the fact that the Association has individual membership now means that it should be eas-

ier to build a profile of our membership and plan accordingly in a more targeted manner."

The President emphasised the importance of avoiding 'one-size-fits-all' solutions though.

"A different strategy is required for my native county, Kilkenny, where Camogie has primacy and there is very little football, than for some of the Ulster counties, where there are greater challenges from other codes.

"Ultimately, and it probably won't happen in my three years, but we would want every girl to have the chance to try out Camogie.

"And then they can decide themselves. I think that would be the goal, to give every girl that chance to play a unique, athletic and fast sport.

"One thing I would hope is that we would give even more support to our volunteers.

"The club is the foundation of everything. We need to support existing clubs and promote new ones, to make sure they are sustainable; to build on the success that is there and give everyone an opportunity," she concluded.



BALANCE... New Camogie President Catherine Neary aims to improve the fixtures calendar

Cork girls are

CORK CAMOGIE BOARD
MARIAN MCCARTHY current chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board receiving the Southside and District Contribution to Sport award from Carmel Loefergan, operations manager Cork International Hotel and Aaron Mansworth general manager Cork International Hotel.

Congratulations: The Cork County Board would like to congratulate Marie Kearney, on recently receiving the Sighle Nic an Ullaigh Award at the Camogie Association Annual Congress.

Marie Kearney of Sarsfield's Camogie Club, has an outstanding record of 'working with zeal to ensure that camogie thrives'.

Marie has been a player, referee and a long serving administrator at club, county, provincial and national levels.

In 1969 Marie helped reform Sarsfield's Camogie Club and is currently its vice-president. She is the proud holder of two Ashbourne Cup Medals from the 1970s.

Off the field Marie refereed all grades of camogie in her native Cork and was also a selector to many county camogie teams in the 1980s and 90s and vice-chair of the board 1988-90.

Marie is currently registrar of the Munster Council and is Munster's delegate to Ard Chomhairle. She is current secretary of Ard Chomhairle and she also served as national vice-president and Munster chairperson on two different occasions from 1996-1998 and 2000-2004.

Marie is highly regarded for her tireless work and she is appreciated for her ability to raise spirits of those around her, her tact, judgement and decision making and her lifelong commitment to our game.

Marie is a deserving recipient of the Sighle Nic an Ullaigh award.

BALLINASCARTHY
 Ballinascorthy club held a Fun, Friends and Fresh Air Morning for our younger players, which was very well attended (for a country club). All of the girls had a great time and it attracted a few newcomers, who are so very welcome. Parents enjoyed a cuppa and some delicious home baking.

ST COLUM'S
 The U16s were back in action in the County League away to Glen Rovers. Playing against a strong wind for the first half, it was very tough, however all players played their hardest.

The team played extremely well with great hand passing and skill, but the Glen won the first half.

Coming back out and playing with the wind, the Colum's girls quickly got on the scoreboard. Colum's backs began to get on top of the Glen Rovers forwards and supplied good ball into their own forwards.

However Glen's rearguard defended extremely well under pressure from the Colum's forwards. The Colum's girls should be very proud of their efforts even if they just came up short. Full time score Glen Rovers 3-4 St Colum's 1-5.

ST COLUM'S TEAM: Aisling Murnane, Yvonne Doyle, Grace O'Donoghue, Kate Scully, Paula O'Mahony, Louise Burke (captain), Maggie Coppinger, Clara Manning, Jessica Ryan, Emma Burke, Nell Coppinger, Katie Dineen, Jane Hourihane.

Next up for the U16's is Tracton away, date and time to be confirmed.

Clonakilty/St Colum's played Castlelyons in the Minor County league in Clonakilty. Clon/St Colum's gave a great team display. It was a match where the ball moved from end to end. However Clonakilty/St Colum's came out on top. Final score Clonakilty/St Colum's 5-6 Castlelyons 2-3.

Colum's girls involved were Louise Burke, Ali O'Connell, Maggie Coppinger, Lorraine Murphy and Jessica Ellis.

Clonakilty/Colum's are now two from two in the League. Well done girls keep up the good work. Next up is Barryroe away.

The U14s are due to play Kilbree away in the 14 County League on Tuesday April 7.

Last year St Colum's applied for the Sports Capital Programme for funding for vital equipment.

St Colum's Camogie Club were successful in the application and have received a grant worth €1,800. Equipment including rebounders, bibs, cones, skipping ropes, tags and many other things were bought. This equipment will help further develop our players. Thanks to Tony Coppinger and Fergal Conlon for all their hard work in getting this grant.

If your child is interested in playing camogie with St Colum's Camogie Club, contact Tony Coppinger 086 8337724 or Ellis Nyhan 086 8719199.

DUNGOURNEY
 U16 B County League: Our U16s played their first County League game of the year away to Fr O Neills on Sunday March 15. This turned out to be a great match and was played at a very high standard by both teams, with our girls winning the game 3-8 to 0-3.

This was a lot closer than the score line suggests so well done to both teams.
 U12 blitz: On Saturday March 21 our girls travelled to Ballygarvan for the blitz. This was a great day for camogie with the team playing six games against Millford, Ballygarvan, Newcestown, Blarney, Blackrock and Ballinora.

All the girls displayed great skill, and they really enjoyed the day. Our thanks to Ballygarvan for hosting the blitz.

U14 B County League: The U14s kick-started the County League campaign with a fantastic win away to St Catherine's.

What a fantastic game played in a wonderful spirit on a very cold night. From 1 to 18 this was a fantastic team effort with the match being played with great commitment by both teams. The final score on the night was



Outgoing President of camogie association Aileen Lawlor presents Cork's Marie Kearney with the Sighle Nic an Ullaigh Distinguished Service Award.

Dungourney 6-4 to 2-2.
 U16 B County League: On a damp evening in Killeagh on Wednesday March 25, our U16 team were back in action in another pulsating game played under lights.

From the start to the final whistle the action was non-stop. We started well and were first on the scoreboard with a great goal and in spite of dominating most of the first half, to our total amazement we found we were only ahead by 2-2 to 0-1 at half-time.

Killeagh, now playing with the wind, were made to fight hard for every ball with our girls showing great skill, teamwork and a real determination to play our own game.

We had just as many chances of scores in the second half and also had another goal disallowed, our girls were deserving winners on a score of Dungourney 4-3 to Killeagh 3-3. Well done to all our girls. Dún Gualme Abú.

BRIDE ROVERS

U6/8: Training for the U6s and U8s will continue at the new Bride Rovers' astro pitch on Monday evenings at 6.30pm.

This replaces the old venue of the Loreto Hall and there is no charge. New players are welcome to join at any time.

Minor: We travelled to Ballynec to play St Catherine's. This is a 13-a-side competition and on the day both teams played 14-a-side. Conditions were not ideal for camogie as there was a very strong breeze to contend with and from the word go our backs were under pressure.

St Catherine's were playing with the aid of the breeze in the first half and we only managed to score a point to their three goals and four points. We hoped that the wind would aid us in the second half, but we were up against very strong opposition. In fairness to the girls they kept going until the final whistle and held St Catherine's to one goal in the

second half to our one goal and one point.
Team: Sarah O'Flynn, Maria O'Sullivan, Madison Parle, Aisling Finnegan, Aine Cashman, Laura Quirke, Emma Hazelwood, Emma Barry, Emma Roche, Grace Culloty, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Aislinn O'Connor, Maeve Leamy, Meg Kelleher, Laura Pratt.

U16 League: Rockban 3-7 Bride Rovers 3-8: Our U16s won a tight encounter away to Rockban by the narrowest margin.

This was the proverbial game of two halves as a galeforce western wind really influenced events.

We made good use of it in the first half and led 3-7 to 0-1 at half-time. The second half was a different story though, as we struggled to make headway. We were grateful for our single score of the second-half, a point five minutes from the end which proved decisive in securing victory.

Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

YOU can't blame the Cork senior panel for feeling a bit hard done by this weekend.

They're being pushed into making the 12-hour round trip to Derry a short number of hours after stepping off a plane from a week's holiday in Lanzarote, for a league game that is meaningless from a qualification point of view.

Walkovers at inter-county level should be avoided at all costs, but there didn't need to be a submission of points here.

Cork just asked for the game to be pushed out to the following weekend, where there is a gap, or even 24 hours to the Bank Holiday Monday.

All requests fell on deaf ears in Derry's corner and when they asked Croke Park if they could assist, they wouldn't, except to threaten that if Cork pulled out of the game, one of the punishments that could be handed down would be expulsion from the league.

I don't think that would have happened. But it could have; and Paudie Murray didn't want to gamble.

You could say that Cork had the league fixtures since last November and therefore shouldn't have booked the holiday, but with five teachers from their All-Ireland winning panel travelling, this was the only window open to them and they possibly expected Derry to display a bit of sportsmanship when the time came.

But they didn't.

What grates the most is that there is little consistency if conceding a game, for whatever reason, represents possible expulsion.

On March 15, Tipperary conceded the game to Cork in a division two league fixture and a week later conceded to Down, yet they are still in the group and scheduled to play Meath this weekend.

On both occasions Tipperary couldn't field due to the fact that their division one team were also playing the same day miles away and they just didn't have the player numbers.

While their division two side were expected to travel to Cork and Down

with all the latest news on Twitter, @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

ST CATHERINE'S

Club sponsors: Neville's PO & Agri Services. This year the U12s are taking part in a County Board League which will see them playing a blitz and seven league matches under Go Games rules between now and the end of June.

An enthusiastic group of 18 girls and parents headed to Ovens for the first fixtures of the season on Saturday March 21 for a great day of camogie in beautiful spring sunshine. First up were Kilbrittain / Timoleague, followed by Newtownshandrum for two short blitz matches during which the girls performed very well and gave their all.

This was followed by a league match against hosts Eire Og and though these were strong opponents who were eventual winners, the training which St Catherine's girls have been

treated badly



Amy French and Marie Scanlan, Scoil Bhride, Eglantine at Train with Your Sporting Heroes in CIT's Sports Stadium on CIT's Bishopstown Campus as part of the Life Long Learning Festival.

they were also to host Galway and travel to Wexford respectively for their division one ties. Therein lies the problem.

This is causing nightmares for inter-county teams. Due to a lack of managerial availability, in addition to player numbers and eligibility for both grades, most counties now have both panels training together under the one manager.

Yet for the past couple of years the national fixtures committee make little if any attempt to play the games (a) on alternative days over the same weekend or (b) on the same date and venue for counties where there is a double-up.

For example, Cork's first team played Kilkenny on March 8, the division two side travel to Mooncoin to play Kilkenny tomorrow (while

the division one team are in Derry).

Those Kilkenny games could have been played on the same day, at the same venue, two hours apart. You could operate a home and away agreement on alternate years.

We go to great lengths to promote our game yet at others make it frustrating and difficult for those involved.

Everyone won't always be happy with fixtures/decisions made at Croke Park and there is no denying that their job at times can be thankless, but there are some easy wins from a promotional perspective that they should utilise.

Another area which needs some attention is the lackadaisical approach of some referees to starting games on time.

Out of the last seven inter-county

games that I've attended, four have started late, one considerably so as the referee went to the wrong pitch.

Teams are out on the pitch now a good 25 minutes before throw-in. The referee often strolls out five or 10 minutes beforehand (very few warm up), they then have a chat with whomever they meet and at the time of scheduled throw-in, they decide to blow the whistle that calls the teams to order.

It's another five or six minutes by the time the teams have their final huddle and line out. Preaching professionalism is all very well but it's the small, easy-to-fix things that we should ensure we get right.

The Cork and Derry clash goes ahead tomorrow at 6pm with the division two Kilkenny game at 2.30pm. Cork need a win against the Cats to

stay in contention therefore that team will take priority and include senior panellists Lauren Callanan, Finola Neville and Orla Cronin.

The Cork minors play Kilkenny today in a crucial group decider in Thomastown. Kilkenny top the group, but if Cork can take them they'll end up level on six points with the Cats and Tipperary.

If that occurs the three names will go into a hat; first out will be placed second in the group leaving a head-to-head decider between the remaining two; ie the winner of the previous group meeting between the two counties will advance.

If Cork or Tipp get pulled out first, Cork will go through so they've a two thirds chance of qualifying. Nail-biting stuff, but they've got to win first.

putting in under coaches Noel O'Brien, Shane Kearney and Batt Sheehan, showed through as the girls played their hearts out and used all of their skills.

We were delighted to see such commitment from all girls and look forward to the next league fixture which will be this month! New girls are always welcome to come along to the U10 and U12 training which takes place on Wednesday evenings 6-7pm and on Saturdays from 10 to 11am.

The U12 panel which travelled to Éire Óg was: Dawn Clancy, Tara Leahy, Karina Hartnett, Sara Clancy, Lucy Barry, Eryn Dillon, Chloe Draper, Tessa Condon, Jessica O'Brien, Chloe Kearney, Niamh Spillane, Eve England, Jane England, Hazel Sheehan, Doireann Hayes, Ellen Duncan, Aine Twomey, Cliona Dunning.

Outside of the club, many of the girls on this panel have recently started Solagh na Scoil

matches with their schools, so we wish them well in their upcoming matches.

Our U16 team got their league off to a flying start with a game at home against Youghal. Youghal had only nine players available on the night so we came down in numbers to meet them and were the stronger of the two teams on the night with a score of 8-3 to no score.

Our scorers were Emily Walsh, Caoimhe Galvin, Linda O'Donnell, Laura Hayes, Billy Shanahan, Sara Norman and Aoife Hurley. The next league game was at home to Cobh. Training continues on Thursday at 6.30pm.

Well done to Aoife Hurley, who played with Cork U16 B team on Sunday 15th last and scored three points which helped the team beat Limerick and lift the first cup of the season.

Our U6 and U8 teams commenced training at the pitch in Ballynoe. It was a beautiful morn-

ing, sun shining and all the girls out for the first training session of the year.

Any girls interested in playing are most welcome. Training continues on Saturday mornings, 11am.

The U14s played their first league game on a very cold evening on Tuesday March 24 in Ballynoe against Dungourney.

The girls got off to a great start and applied excellent pressure throughout the first half. St. Catherine's were a goal up at half-time. The girls worked as hard in the second half, but Dungourney were strong in all sectors. The scoreline was not a true reflection of the overall game. Dungourney managed to pull away in the last 10 minutes where they scored three goals. Final score: Dungourney 7-4 St Catherine's 3-2.

There are some very young players on the U14 panel and they all displayed some great skill and touches and indeed a great level of

enthusiasm which was great to see. The panel was made up of Sara Barry, Sinead O'Callaghan, Linda O'Donnell, Ellen O'Driscoll, Jenny Galvin, Karley O'Brien, Clodagh Bolger, Niamh O'Regan, Niamh Mulcahy, Laura Mellerick, Sarah Norman, Eve England, Chloe Kearney, Rusheen Walsh, Hazel Sheehan, Niamh Spillane, Jane England, Tessa Condon, Jessica O'Brien, and Cliona Dunning.

Scorers for St Catherine's: Linda O'Donnell (1-2) Niamh O'Regan and Niamh Mulcahy (1-0) each.

Training continues Tuesday evenings 6.30-7.30pm.

On Sunday March 20, St Catherine's U18 team played Bride Rovers in blustery conditions in Ballynoe. The wind had a huge influence on the game as St Catherine's led 3-4 to 0-1 at half-time.

Facing into the wind in the second half, all of

the girls dug deep and gave it their best to contain the Bride Rovers attack while also pushing forward whenever possible. Final score St. Catherine's 4-4 Bride Rovers 1-2.

Scorers: Aoife Hurley 2-1 Aisling Dineen 1-0 Emer O'Brien 1-0 Laura Hayes 0-2 Maeve Walsh 0-1

Team: Caroline Roche, Caroline Condon, Aine Mulcahy (c), Caoimhe Hayes, Emer O'Brien, Evelyn O'Keefe, Alice O'Keefe, Mairead Rohan, Bláithín O'Keefe, Maeve Walsh, Aoife Hurley, Aisling Dineen, Laura Hayes, Emily Walsh.

We would like to thank Bank of Ireland/New Ireland Assurance most sincerely, through its Give Together Initiative, for sponsoring our Table Quiz night in The Big Tree recently.

BISHOPSTOWN

Our minor team got their league campaign off to a good start with a win away to Blackrock. Scores on the day came from Laura O'Neill (1-7) and Gráinne Houlihan (0-1). The U16s also played away to Inniscarra, but unfortunately gave way to a stronger home side.

Our Bishopstown club-mates and Cork senior hurlers Patrick Cronin and Shane O'Neill visited our U8s recently for a penalty shoot out as part of the club's Red Rebel Day.

We wish them all the best in their future club and inter-county games.

COURCEY ROVERS

Results: U14 Camogie League in Ballinspittle, Courneys 8-4 Tracton 0-1; Senior Camogie League in Ballinspittle, Courneys 3-12 Ballincollig 4-7; Minor Camogie League, Courneys 4-0 Ballygarvan 1-7; U16 Camogie League, Courneys 1-2 Ballinora 6-8.

Well done to all who participated in the Go Games blitz held over two days in Riverstick last weekend. Our U8s and U10 teams, who enjoyed their games and our U9s and U11s who played on Sunday. A great weekend had by all and thanks to the organisers who worked very hard.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page and Twitter for fixture lists and results:

NA PIARSAIGH

U12: Our U12s opened their league campaign last weekend. They came across a very strong Youghal team and were defeated on the day but it was a very good workout for the girls.

U16: The U16 team hosted Brian Dillon's in the second round of the league. Playing with a strong wind we opened the scoring early, dominating the first half, but missed a lot of easy scores.

As expected Dillon's, aided with the wind in the second half, came back into the game, scoring a goal with four minutes to go to win the game by two points.

Junior: The Junior A team opens their league Easter Monday away to Douglas.

Feile draw: Na Piarasigh, Courney Rovers, Aghabullogue and Kilbrittan/Timoleague. Feile date Sunday April 27 with times and venue to be confirmed.

Junior A Championship draw: Group 2: Na Piarasigh, Youghal, Newtownshandrum and Douglas. Dates to be set at next board meeting.

League results: Senior B, Kilbrittan/Timoleague 1-9 Sarsfields 1-7; Junior B, Ballincollig 3-5 Glen Rovers 0-8; minor A, Kilbrittan/Timoleague 5-4 Sarsfields 1-10; minor B, Douglas 2-0 Fr O'Neill's 0-3; Ballincollig 6-21 Valley Rovers 0-1; St Finbarr's 3-10 Carrigaline 0-5; Minor C, St Catherine's 4-4 Bride Rovers 1-2; Ballinora 5-6 Newtownshandrum 2-10; Youghal 7-10 Inniscarra 0-5; Slíabh Rua 3-11 Inniscarra 0-6; Bishopstown 1-8 Blackrock 2-1; Barryroe 5-8 Clon/St. Colum's 0-2; St Vincent's 5-7 Castletyons 3-4.

CLONKILTY, Fr. O'Neill's, Valley Rovers, Éire Óg, Mallow

Section B: Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Sarsfields, Carrigaline, Aghabullogue, Barryroe

INTERMEDIATE

Tracton, Enniskeane, Brian Dillons, Slíabh Rua, Blackrock

JUNIOR A

Section A: St Vincent's, Watergrasshill, Newtownshandrum, Bride Rovers, Bishopstown

Section B: Youghal, Newtownshandrum, Douglas (2), Na Piarasigh

JUNIOR B

Section A: Cobh, Glen Rovers (2), Charleville, Éire Óg (2), St Catherine's (2) & Cloughduv (2)

Section B: Ballinascarthy, Banteer, Ballincollig (2), St Finbarr's (2), Inniscarra (2).

JUNIOR C

Section A: Ballinora, Miltstreet, Castletyons, Ballyhea and Courney Rovers (2).

Section B: Kildorrery, Valley Rovers (2), Blarney, Killeagh (2) & St. Fanahans

Section C: Buttevant, Kilbrittan/Timoleague (2), Aghada & Sarsfields (2).

U14 FEILE DRAWS

Division 1 section A: St Finbarr's, Glen Rovers, Sarsfields, Inniscarra, Carrigaline

Section B: Charleville, Aghada, Douglas, Ballincollig

Division 2 section A: Na Piarasigh, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Aghabullogue, Courney Rovers

Section B: Bishopstown, Blackrock, Blarney, Clonakilty

Section C: Enniskeane, Fr. O'Neill's, Newtownshandrum, Bride Rovers

Section D: St Catherine's, Ballinhassig, Barryroe, Castlemartyr

Section E: Ballygarvan, Rockban, Dungourney, Valley Rovers

Section F: Killeagh, Ballinora, Éire Óg, Slíabh Rua

Division 3 section A: Castletyons, Ballinascarthy, Brian Dillons, Inniscarra (2), St Fanahans

Section B: Newtownshandrum, Nemo Rangers, Cloughduv, Grenagh



IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIVISION 2 GROUP 1
KILDARE V ANTRIM
Sunday, Athy, 2.30pm

CAMOGIE



"At this time of the year, pitches are very heavy. The Camogie is not pretty. It's all about winning the dirty ball."



EMING HIGH...Antrim's Eimhear Costello

FIXTURES

IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL CAMOGIE
LEAGUE DIV 1 GROUP 2
Derry v Cork
Sunday, Owenbeg, 6pm

IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL CAMOGIE
LEAGUE DIV 2 GROUP 2
Down v Waterford
Sunday, Ballyholland, 2pm

IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL CAMOGIE
LEAGUE DIV 4
Meath v Cavan
Sunday, Drumree, Meath, 2.30pm

It's time to shine

Antrim can't make any impact on the league this weekend, but manager Paul Boyle explains why he expects a big performance from his team

SUNDAY'S final game of the National Camogie League is Antrim's last opportunity to get competitive action before championship throws in.

As a result, manager Paul Boyle is going to use the game to gauge the strength and depth of his squad.

Unfortunately he won't have a full team to choose from because it is Easter weekend and a few players are away, but the rest of the team are going to get a real test of their abilities.

"We have a weakened squad going down there to play a Kildare team who are top of the section. But it is an opportunity to see where we are at," Boyle said.

"As far as we are concerned we are out of the running in the league. But it is a chance for us to go down and look at our panel.

"We are still building a team, and that will take a while."

Antrim have won just one match in their division two group one campaign, a one point victory over Westmeath, who have also only won one match this season.

Kildare are top of the group having won all three of their matches so far. The Lilywhites have had a notable record in the division.

Their place at the top has been won because of their potent attack.

They are averaging 23 points per game this season. Their only defeat was to Laois in the opening round by nine points. Interestingly, Antrim have the third best attack, behind Kildare and Laois.

"I am encouraged by how we are going this season," Boyle said.

"We have been getting good numbers at training. Everyone is upbeat. The feedback is positive. The set up is professional. That approach is all down to the players."

The Antrim Camogs' performance this year has been under a good deal of scrutiny this year after the issues of last year.

The Antrim Camogs competed in the 2014 Na-

Ronan Scott



tional League, but the county withdrew from the All-Ireland series and Loughgiel club fielded as a representative side.

Paul Boyle took over as manager at the start off the

"They have put in a great commitment in the last few matches. We have been pleased with the performances, and particularly the character they have shown in the second half."

Indeed the results of the last two matches have been very good. Antrim beat Westmeath by 1-11 to 1-10 away from home, and they were edged out by Wexford last day out, 1-8 to 2-7.

"We have been unlucky at times, and have only lost by one or two points. We had a chance to beat Wexford but didn't take it."

"At this time of the year, pitches are very heavy."

"The Camogie is not pretty. It's all about winning the dirty ball."

Yet Boyle emphasised that results are secondary at the moment, and that the Antrim team have a bigger focus.

"We are preparing the team for Championship. We are trying out new players."

"There are a lot of young players on the team who are only 17-18 but they have reacted well. It is their first year playing county camogie and it is notable how they have reacted."

This Sunday will be another massive test for them.

"Kildare will be a tough match. But any of the matches won't be easy," Boyle said.



Cats and Galway seal places in semi-finals

Daragh O Conchuir

Cork, Kilkenny, Galway and Limerick are through to the Division 1 semi-finals of the Camogie League, which will be played on Sunday, April 22.

Cork and Limerick were already through to the last four but Kilkenny and Galway had to beat Clare and Wexford to make sure, something they managed with plenty in hand.

A young Galway team were majestic in accounting for Wexford 2-23 to 0-9. The teams shared six points early on but it was notable that Galway full-forward Molly Dunne was causing problems, having already scored two points.

Orlaith McGrath added another brace as Tony Ward's side doubled their tally and when Dunne fired to the roof of the Wexford net after good work from Niamh Kilkenny and Ailish O'Reilly, the writing was on the wall for the Yellowbellies. Linda Bolger did convert three frees but Galway had the scoreboard ticking over regularly and led by 1-14 to 0-6 at half-time.

O'Reilly pounced for a goal three minutes into the second half. Substitutes Laura Mitchell and Jessica Gill joining the McGrath sisters (Niamh finished with 0-8, Orlaith 0-5), Dunne (1-3) and Niamh Kilkenny (0-4) on the scoresheet. Bolger had seven points for Wexford, five from frees.

Champions Kilkenny produced a scintillating performance in Clonlara inflicting a 17-point beating on Clare to make it safely to the last four on a 4-15 to 0-10 scoreline.

Clare were competitive for the opening 20 minutes in the repeat of last year's final, but two goals from Michelle Quilty shattered their resistance. Both scores showcased Quilty's poaching talents. That made it 2-8 to 0-6 at half-time and when Ann Dalton buried a third goal just 22 seconds after the break, it was curtains for the Bannerwomen.

Colm Horan's charges were too reliant on Chloe Morey for scores, as she contributed seven points, five from frees.

By contrast, Kilkenny produced a complete display. Megan Farrell found the Clare net once more after 50 minutes, with the one bright spot for the home team the return of Ailish Considine after a cruciate knee ligament injury.

Limerick maintained their unbeaten record with a hard-fought 0-13 to 1-8 win over Offaly. They led by 0-7 to 0-4 at half-time thanks to a couple of points from Aoife Sheehan and three converted frees by Niamh Mulcahy, who finished with eight points. A Niamh Larkin goal early in the second half brought the teams level but Rebecca Delee and Mulcahy pulled Limerick three clear and though Siobhan Flannery (0-5) kept Offaly in touch, they couldn't break down the Shannonsiders' defence one more time.

Meanwhile, Cork chiselled out a hard-earned win over Derry, 1-13 to 1-6.

Young Cats too strong for Cork girls

Camogie

By TJ Mills

Kilkenny	5-11
Cork	2-8

JENNY CLIFFORD and Sarah Walsh shared two goals apiece as the Kilkenny minor team cruised through to the All-Ireland minor semi-final, defeating Cork in Thomastown on Saturday.

The Cats move on to face Limerick, last year's champions, while Cork are out.

Kilkenny started the game brightly and opened the scoring before Hannah Looney equalised, but Kilkenny then hit Cork for two goals in as many minutes from Sarah Walsh.

Both were quality strikes, which rocked the Rebels, though Lisa Lynch responded with a pointed free to make it 2-1 to 0-2.

Kilkenny then scored 2-2 in a devastating five-minute spell. Jenny Clifford started the burst with a point when her hand pass effort for a goal was brilliant tapped over the bar by Cork netminder Chloe Casey.

Marguerite Hoynes then pointed after latching on to a Jenny O'Neill pass. Clifford then got two goals in as many minutes to end the game as a contest, pushing Kilkenny 4-3 to 0-2 ahead after 22 minutes.

Cork stopped the rot with two scores on the trot, a Sinéad Mills point from play and Lynch then tapped over a massive free from 50 metres a minute later to make it 4-4 to 0-4.

Kelly Ann Doyle then hit over two points to settle the home side, before Cork responded with two points from play from Keeva McCarthy and Lynch in added time to make it 4-5 to 0-6 at the break.

Kilkenny began the second half well and were awarded a penalty when Marguerite Hoynes was fouled. Kelly Ann Doyle stood up to take it and opted for a point.

Cork responded with two points from a Lynch 45 in the 34th minute and a Looney point.

Kilkenny responded scoring 1-5 on the trot, with Edel Coonan hitting the fifth goal when she latched on to a breaking ball to blast home.

Cork responded with two injury-time goals. Keeva McCarthy kicked home from close range after a scramble in the Kilkenny square, before Sinéad Mills then hand-passed to the net.

Scorers for Kilkenny: J Clifford 2-3, S Walsh 2-1, E Coonan 1-1, K A Doyle 0-4, M Hoynes, C Phelan 0-1 each.

Cork: L Lynch 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), S Mills, K McCarthy 1-1 each, H Looney 0-2.

KILKENNY: K Maher (c); R Phelan, K Nolan, M Bambrick; S Kent, K Nolan, K A Doyle; L Murphy; J O'Neill; S Walsh, C Phelan, C Blackmore; M Hoynes; J Clifford; E Coonan.

CORK: C Casey (c); K Fahy, C Sigerson, A Crowley; E Twomey, R Walsh, R Sheehan; E Casey, L Kelly; K McCarthy, L Lynch, H Herlihy; S Mills, H Looney, H Ryan.

Referee: Aidan O'Brien

Holiday doesn't halt Cork in Derry

CAMOGIE

THE gruelling trip to Derry on Sunday paid dividends as Cork finished their division one group series on maximum points with a 1-13 to 1-6 victory over the home side.

Having stepped off a plane only hours before from their seven day holiday in Lanzarote and with their division two side involved in a crucial decider in Mooncoin, Cork were always going to travel with the minimum of players and a few new names.

Having already qualified for the league semi-final, just 15 players made the journey. Ellen Murphy of Sars, Glen Rovers' Jennifer Hosford and Douglas' Sarah Fahy received their senior debuts and acquitted themselves well.

Defensively Cork had a good day; the majority of Derry's six points coming from placed balls.

Amy Lee could do little about the goal, a one on one handpass to the net; her confidence improving all the time.

Laura Treacy was her usual dependable self while to her left Leanne O'Sullivan continues to develop and grow in stature.

Milford's Maria Walsh was back in the side at right half back.

It was a poor first-half performance from Cork's perspective.

Understandably it took them a while to settle into their stride; Derry leading by a point at half time 1-3 to 0-5.

But as the legs loosened and a few positional switches were made; Cork's flair took over.

The switch of Emer O'Sullivan and Aishling Thompson to midfield and centre back respectively paid dividends for both players. Joanne Casey's move to centre forward and Orla Cotter's switch to full also worked.

Debutant Sarah Fahy impressed at midfield.

Ten minutes into the second half a long Emer O'Sullivan delivery was doubled on by Hannah Looney, defying the keeper and putting Cork in the driving seat.

Referee Eoin Enright allowed the game to flow, playing the advantage rule, hence the game was fast and engaging.

Without doubt the circumstances were difficult for the Cork players, their estimated time of arrival back South 3am Monday morning but to their credit they went, they played and they conquered.

While the bus journey home may have been quiet there was satisfaction in the knowledge that they did their duty, topped their group and head into the semi-final on April 19 unbeaten.

Cork Team: A Lee; E Murphy, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, M Walsh, E O'Sullivan, M Cahalane; A Thompson, S Fahy; J Hosford, O Cotter, J White; J Casey, A O'Connor, H Looney.

Marie a worthy winner of award

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A HUGE honour was bestowed on one of Cork camogie's well known figures at national camogie congress recently when Marie Kearney was honoured at National Level and received the Sighle Nic an Ulaigh Distinguished Service Award.

Marie, a member of the Sarsfield's Club, has an outstanding record of working for the game at all levels.

Since her school days in St Mary's Of The Isle, Marie has been promoting and working for camogie. She helped set up a team in the school in the early 1970s while still a pupil and she showed great leadership qualities even at this early stage.

Marie has been a player, referee and a long-serving administrator at club, county, provincial and national levels.

In 1969 Marie helped reform Sarsfield's Camogie Club and is currently the club's vice-president having given wonderful service to her beloved Sars.

Having lined out with UCC, she is the proud holder of two Ashbourne Cup medals won in the late 1970s.

Also a former well known referee, Marie officiate at all grades in the county and also served as a selector on county camogie teams in the 1980s and 90s. She also held the position of vice-chairman of Cork Camogie Board from 1988 to 1990.

Marie is currently registrar of the Munster Council and is Munster's delegate to Ard Chomhairle.

She is current secretary of Ard Chomhairle and she also served as national vice president and Munster chairperson on two occasions from 1996-1998 and 2000-2004.

Marie is highly regarded for her tireless work and appreciated for her ability to raise the spirits of those around her.

Employed as a trade union official, she is widely respected in her work circles where her tact, judgement and decision making is at all times superb, a trait she also brings to her camogie administration role.

Outside of her work and camogie roles Marie Kearney is a wonderful character and it is always great to meet Marie and chat.

The camogie association has made a wonderful choice in selecting Marie for such a prestigious award, given her her lifelong commitment to camogie. Marie is a deserving recipient of the Sighle Nic an Ulaigh Award.

Camogie championship draws take centre stage



Amy French and Marie Scanlan, Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine at the Train with Your Sporting Heroes event in CIT's sports stadium in Bishopstown as part of the LifeLong Learning Festival. Picture: Darragh Kane

Camogie

Mary Newman

Championship draws for the 2015 season were made recently and threw up some interesting pairings. County champions Milford will take on St Finbarr's while another mouth-watering clash is the one between Douglas and Ballincollig. Four divisional sides will participate also this year and there is a back door in operation for the losers of the first rounds

Senior Championship

Cloughduv v Carrighoun
St Catherine's v Ballinhassig
Douglas v Ballincollig
Inniscarra v Courcey Rovers
Glen Rovers v Imokilly
Seandun v Ballygarvan
Killeshin v Carbery
Milford v St Finbarr's

Senior B

The Senior B championship is played in a round robin series with two groups and two emerging for the semi finals from each group. The groups are as follows
Group One: Clonakilty, Fr O'Neill's, Valley Rovers, Eire Og, Mallow.
Group Two: Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Sarsfield's, Carrigaline, Aghabullogue, Barryroe.

Intermediate

The Intermediate has only five teams and is played in a round robin series with just one group as follows.
Tracton, Enniskeane, Brian Dillon's, Slabh Rua, Blackrock.

Junior A, B And C

The junior championships are all played in a round robin series with two groups and two emerging for the

semi finals from each group. The groups are as follows

Junior A

Section One: St Vincent's, Watergrasshill, Newtownshandrum, Bride Rovers, and Bishopstown.

Section Two: Youghal, Newcestown, Douglas (2), Na Piarasigh.

Junior B

Section One: Cobh, Glen Rovers (2), Charleville, Eire Og (2), St Catherine's (2), and Cloughduv (2).

Section Two: Ballinascarty, Banteer, Ballincollig (2), St Finbarr's (2), Inniscarra (2).

Junior C

Section One: Ballinora, Millstreet, Castlyons, Ballyhea, Courcey Rovers (2).

Section Two: Kildorrey, Valley Rovers (2), Blarney, Kilsagh (2), St Fanahan's.
Section Three: Buttevant, Kilbrittan / Timoleague (2), Aghada, Sarsfield's (2).

Cork Féile na nGael

The draws for the Cork Féile Na nGael were made as follows;

Division 1

Section 1: St Finbarr's, Glen Rovers, Sarsfield's, Inniscarra, Carrigaline
Section 2: Charleville, Aghada, Douglas, Ballincollig

Division 2

Section 1: Na Piarasigh, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Aghabullogue, Courcey Rovers.
Section 2: Bishopstown, Blackrock, Blarney, Clonakilty.
Section 3: Enniskeane, Fr O'Neill's, Newcestown, Bride Rovers.
Section 4: St Catherine's, Ballinhassig, Barryroe, Castlemartyr.
Section 5: Ballygarvan, Rockban, Dougounney, Valley Rovers.
Section 6: Kilsagh, Ballinora, Eire Og, Slabh Rua.

Division 3

Section One: Castlyons, Ballinascarty, Brian Dillon's, Inniscarra (2), and St Fanahan's.
Section Two: Newtownshandrum, Nemo Rangers, Cloughduv, Grenagh.

Injury-time goal sinks Cork women

Kilkenny
Cork

1-12
0-13

DIVISION 2 CAMOGIE

By Sile Norris

THIS was a close battle in Mooncoin as the last round of the Division 2 camogie league went down to the wire.

A goal four minutes into injury time from Therese Muldowney gave the home side a narrow victory, ending Cork's qualification hopes.

Cork led at the interval 0-8 to 0-6 after battling back from a 0-5 to 0-2 deficit with four points in a row with Orla Cronin, Kaitlin Hickey, Rachel O'Shea and Linda Collins all prominent as they went one ahead. Sarah Ann Quinlan levelled matters but two points without reply gave the visitors the interval advantage.

Laura Hegarty narrowed the gap with an early second half point but again

Cork hit back. Amanda O'Regan, Jacinta Crowley, Cronin and O'Shea were keeping the pressure on as they hit three further points to opened up a five-point lead.

Quinlan led the Kilkenny fight back with two points free and gaining the upper hand Kilkenny steadily narrowed the gap.

Ruth Jones, Laura Hegarty and Aisling Butler had the Cork lead down to a point on 60 minutes.

It was back to the wall as Cork tried to hold their lead with the home side pushing for the score that would give them something.

With four minutes of injury time played, Therese Muldowney broke the hearts of the Cork girls finding the net for the game's only goal.

It ensured her side progress despite finishing joint-second in the group with Meath by virtue of their victory in the earlier round over Meath.

Scorers for Kilkenny: A. Quinlan 0-5 (0-3 f), T. Muldowney 1-0, A. Butler 0-3, L. Hegarty 0-2, R. Jones, R. Cleere 0-1 each.

Cork: O. Cronin 0-4 f, R. O'Shea 0-3, L. Collins 0-2, A. O'Regan 0-2.

KILKENNY: A. Lennon; R. Jones, M. Kennelly, B. Grennan; E. Frisby, R. Cleere, S. Crowley; T. Muldowney, N. Leamy; A. Butler, S. Quinlan, C. Connolly; C. Alward, L. Hegarty, M. Simpson.

CORK: S. O'Sullivan; L. Callenan, L. Weste, R. De Faite; H. O'Regan, S. Buckley, S. Harrington; O. Cronin, K. Hickey; J. Crowley, F. Neville, A. O'Regan; R. O'Shea, L. Collins, J. Mulcahy.

Subs: L. Coppinger for K. Hickey (inj), C. Sexton for J. Mulcahy.

Referee: Richard McNicholas (Galway).



FACE TIME: Wexford's Siona Nolan comes under pressure from Galway's Molly Dunne, as team-mates Marie Claire Morrissey, left, Aine Leacy and Stacey Redmond, right, also get stuck in during the National Camogie League Division 1 tie in Loughrea. Picture: Caroline Quinn

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland MCC: Meath 3-8 Derry 4-6, Antrim 2-11 Down 4-5; All-Ireland MCC: Kerry 4-11 Carlow 2-5, Armagh 5-10, Westmeath 2-4.

Planet Celebrity

IS THERE ANYTHING THEY WON'T DO FOR FAME?

APR 2015



Personal trainer Karl Henry and camogie All-star Anna Geary prove the saying that there's a grand stretch in the evenings

Using fringe players in league must have questionable results

THE Division One league semi-finals take place tomorrow week with Cork facing Limerick and Galway paired with Kilkenny.

The league is typically a poor indicator of where counties will be come championship as many play under-strength and are often slow to get their season up and running.

In now seems that to commence training in February or early March is nearly time enough if the championship is all that you target in a given year.

The league is more often than not used to bed in new players and the games are viewed as ideal for that.

But if most counties are doing it, are the fringe players competing primarily against fringe players and when the real intensity comes and the best 15 take to the field how will they fare? Time will tell.

Laura Treacy was certainly a success via this blending in process but having watched Laura at minor, she was always going to make it.

Without a relegation threat that exists in the hurling league there is no risk to counties. You win the league or you don't and for many it isn't important.

The All-Ireland club series running to March is also having an effect on the quality players taking to the field for the league. Wexford have played without their Oulart the Ballagh players, All-Ireland club champions, and Cork doesn't yet have the full compliment of their Milford contingent, defeated last February, as players take a break.

The reason I refer to this is because Limerick have been the outstanding team of the league to date and I'm wondering just how outstanding they will be in July and August when it matters.

They are certainly making strides with some promising players coming through from their All Ireland winning minor team of 2014 and of course these league games will stand to them.

But like Clare have in the past, they could get a rude awakening and they need to be prepared for that.



Carmel Loneragan, operations manager Cork International Hotel main sponsors, presents the Contribution to Sport award to Marianne McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board, at the recent Annual Southside Sports Awards held in the Cork International Hotel.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Clare were there or thereabouts three years ago.

They were giving teams a tough hour and lost their quarter final play off with Cork by just three points. Aoife Murray starred that day for Cork which shows how strong Clare were.

Last season they received a hammering in the league final and a tougher championship group saw them lose the play off against Galway by two points. Now they have fallen

further down the pecking order with just one league victory against Derry.

It's very hard to keep it going at the top unless you have that exciting talent coming through, one or two players a year keeps it ticking over but that's easier said than done for many counties.

Understrength Wexford have been poor and it just goes to show how much they rely on the Leacy's and Ursula Jacob.

Their loss to Limerick raised a few eyebrows but it was their 2-23 to 0-9 defeat to Galway which really shook.

Regardless of the loss of a few key players, for a county that also won

the intermediate All Ireland title in 2011 at the time having up to 60 players training, they should still be doing better than that.

Wexford had no response to Cork's game plan in their championship semi-final last August.

They snatched a draw but had little homework done as Cork comfortably took them in the replay with the same style.

It was poor management from that perspective. But Wexford have had a recent managerial transitional period.

Certainly the retirement of JJ Doyle had a profound effect and Wexford have now had four managers in

the past three seasons. A few elite performers have also retired but that in itself shouldn't be having the effect that it is. They need a settled management.

From Cork's perspective, they're happy that Paudie has continued to blend new players throughout the league and are through to the semi-final.

Regardless of Limerick's impressive run I would expect that Cork will advance.

Cork were unfortunate to lose out on a semi-final Division 2 spot with a Kilkenny goal four minutes into injury time denying them last weekend.

Treacy enjoying the Rebel way

Dara Ó Conchúir



Laura Treacy may be inexperienced when it comes to top-flight camogie but the 20-year-old has a wise head on those young shoulders.

It explains why Cork manager, Paudie Murray has entrusted the vital No 3 jersey to the young Inch woman this year, following an eye-catching season at corner-back that ended with an All-Ireland medal and an All-Star nomination.

Treacy is less than a fortnight away from second year general nursing exams at Waterford IT but insists on maintaining her level of training and playing, recognising the benefits to her academic life.

It was the same two years ago as she sat her Leaving Cert and it was the message she delivered to the local schools when she toured the Duffy Cup after last year's Croke Park heroics.

"I would have to play camogie to keep me sane," says Treacy. "I preach to any Leaving Cert students to keep training. It makes you get your work done before you go training. It clears the mind and when you come back you're refreshed. I'd often do another hour (of study) after training because you have a fresh head and the information goes in then."

"Anyone that does any sort of sport, swimming or whatever, keep at it, even if you want to cut it down to one or two nights a week. I played minor with Cork and trained with the seniors while I was doing the Leaving Cert and I'd say I wouldn't have got on as well if I didn't."

The Killeagh clubwoman has enjoyed a wonderful few months, following up her Croke Park whirlwind by helping WIT win the centenary Ashbourne Cup at DCU last February.

In the meantime, she has been the fulcrum of a defence that is the meanest in Division 1 of the league, conceding an aggregate of just 31 points (less than eight points a game) as Cork sauntered through Group 2 with a 100% record.

The facilities and standard of coaching at WIT means Murray hasn't demanded Treacy's presence during the week. She catches up with the Rebels on Fridays and Sundays for training and games.

Her rise has been remarkable. Having only managed to make the U16B team in 2011, she blossomed with the minors the following year and earned a call-up to the senior panel as Cork lost what is considered one of the best All-Ireland finals of the modern era to a Wexford team completing a three-in-row.

"I was way down the panel but the experience I gained that year... even just going to Croke Park, knowing the whole set-up of how an All-Ireland runs... helped me so much last September. I would have been a bag of nerves only for it because I



Cork's Laura Treacy faces Ursula Jacob in last year's All-Ireland semi-final. Treacy says it is an honour to play with her county team-mates. Picture: Inpho/Cathal Noonan

wouldn't have known what to expect. "So in fairness to Paudie Murray and Brian Barry and the lads, they called me up. I was the youngest and I got the experience of the All-Ireland. And losing as well, which is very important."

"Words can't even describe winning it last year. It's nearly a blur. It

bypasses you very quickly. I was 19 and to be playing in Croke Park was a dream come true, not to mind to win with the likes of Gemma O'Connor, who was my idol, and Orla Cotter... all those girls who I looked up to when I was small down in Killeagh field and they came down to Cúl camps training us."

"To go up and win an All-Ireland with those girls was incredible."

Included was clubmate and dual-code legend, Angela Walsh.

"Croke Park is nearly a second home for her at this point with all the All-Irelands she has in her pocket! Every girl supports each other in the weeks leading up to it and I think we really bonded as a team as well."

"We didn't have a great start to the year so we sat down, regrouped and got things together for the Championship and every game we improved."

"But Angela was great. I travelled with Angela to matches and she'd be making sure you're alright. Keeping you going. A great help and good to answer any questions. She'd be one that you'd go to."

The hunger to succeed has not been sated by that victory. Back-to-back All-Irelands is the ultimate aim for the year but it is evident that the Leesiders are intent on building an aura of invincibility by winning every game and every title. That includes the league.

Tomorrow's semi-final in Charleville (2pm) will be difficult though as Limerick continue to make giant strides. "In the likes of Caoimhe Costelloe they have outstanding young players coming through. Limerick won the minor All-Ireland last year so they're flying. They're on a high, those girls. They feel they have nothing to lose and go out with an open mind. And after winning the intermediate, they have those positive experiences behind them. It will be our toughest challenge yet this season."

Rena is at the top of her game

Name: Rena Buckley
Age: 28 years young!
Lives: Berrings, Co. Cork.
Job title: Physiotherapist at The Physiotherapy Centre Macroom and Ballincollig. I'm in a business partnership with another physiotherapist, Brian O'Connell.
Salary bracket: €20-€30,000 approx.
Education background:
Primary School: Berrings N.S.
Secondary School: St Als Secondary School.
University: UCD, graduated with a BSc Physiotherapy in 2009.
As a physiotherapist we must constantly complete CPD (continued professional development). I attend various physiotherapy weekend and evening courses throughout the year.

Hobbies: I play camogie with Inniscarra and with Cork. I play football with Donoughmore and with Cork. I have been very lucky to have had success with my clubs – I have won two All-Irelands with Donoughmore and a County championship with Inniscarra. I am honoured as well to have tasted success with Cork over the last number of years winning nine All Ireland football medals and five All-Ireland camogie medals.

Describe your job in five words: Listen, analyse, decision-making, educate, physical

Describe yourself in five words: Positive, energetic, happy, chatty, hard-worker

Personality needed for this kind of work?
Good people and social skills is very important in this job. You must be an active listener and take in information from a person's story, while noting the way they move and their mood. You must be a good problem solver as you need to analyse this information quickly.

How long are you doing this job?
Since I graduated in 2009.

How did you get this job?
I graduated from UCD in 2009 with a BSc Physiotherapy. As we are all aware 2009 was not a good year to graduate due to the recession. HSE jobs were few and far between. Many of my classmates emigrated to New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the UK. However I wanted to live and work in Ireland.

Fortunately, I got my first job, which was covering maternity leave in August of that year with Paudie Whelan in Listowel Physiotherapy Clinic.

When that job finished up, Fiona O'Leary in Bantry gave me my second job, again a maternity post. Once I had that experience behind me, it was easier to find work. I worked in quite a few other practices but not all of them were full-time. From 2009 when I graduated to 2012 I also worked as a physiotherapist from home and qualified as a Pilates instructor in 2010.

After working in a number of different practices I wanted to work in an atmosphere and in a style which suited me. However I didn't want to go it alone and felt some support at



Cork dual player Rena Buckley, who works as a physiotherapist in Ballincollig and Macroom, received the Supreme North City and District Sports Star of the Year 2015.

Picture John Tarrant

work would be reassuring. Working in a partnership with someone of a similar mindset and goals was a situation I was very comfortable with.

Brian and I entered into a business partnership in April 2013 when we opened The Physiotherapy Centre Macroom. I work in the Macroom clinic three days per week. I also work at The Physiotherapy Centre Ballincollig two days per week.

Brian opened the Ballincollig clinic in April 2007 under the name Muskerry Physiotherapy. Muskerry Physiotherapy Clinic was renamed The Physiotherapy Centre Ballincollig at the beginning of 2015. We have recently expanded our partnership to include the Ballincollig clinic.

Do you need particular qualifications or experience?

I have a degree in Physiotherapy and I'm a member of the ISCP (Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists).

Describe a day at work.

I generally start at 8.30pm and finish somewhere between 6-7pm. I see an average of eight patients per day, as well as teach a physio Pilates class. Appointments are generally 40 min-

utes long but may vary. During a treatment, I aim to get as much relevant information as possible from the patient, while also analysing how the patient moves. I then perform some physical tests. From this information, I figure out the problem and treat appropriately. Treatment usually involves giving the patient an understanding of what the problem is, as well as explaining the best way to deal with the problem.

Education and exercise are the two key components to the patient gaining control of their problem.

The exercises patients get at their appointment are very important.

At our Macroom clinic we have a gym with rehabilitation equipment so we can go through with our patients the most appropriate exercises.

The patients we see are usually general musculoskeletal-muscle, joint, ligament, tendon, nerve or bone problem, with nearly half of our patients complaining of sports-related injuries.

Back and neck pain are the main complaints we deal with. We see people post-operatively, maybe after a hip or knee replacement or an ACL reconstruction and patients after a

fracture. Another group of people we see are those with chronic pain. This group of patients may not have a problem with their tissues (bones, muscles, joints, tendons or nerves) but instead have a signalling or processing problem.

This causes the patient to feel pain even though physically there is very little wrong.

Sometimes patients complaining of a respiratory problems.

I would have some paperwork to do everyday in terms of writing notes on patients seen. Many patients are sent their exercises by email. There are usually some letters to be written to GPs or consultants regarding patients.

How many hours do you work a week?

On average, I work a 45 hour week

What do you wear to work?

We wear a T-shirt with our logo, track suit bottoms and runners.

Is your industry male or female dominated?

Sports physiotherapy is generally male dominated, particularly at the higher levels of sport.

In private practice physiotherapy generally, there are probably more women than men.

Does this affect you in any particular way?

This is not something I would dwell on at all.

Is your job stressful?

Generally there is some element of stress to work. I don't think it would be worth doing if there wasn't. The atmosphere we have at work is generally quite positive so this dampens down a lot of the bad stress.

Do you work with others or on your own?

When I'm working I'm usually on my own in terms of colleagues being in the same building. When I'm in Macroom Brian is in Ballincollig and vice versa.

When do you plan to retire or give up working?

I've put no thought into retiring yet.

Best bits:

The best bit is when a patient leaves the clinic feeling in control of what they came in complaining of.

Worst bits:

The worst bit is when a patient fails to gain control of his or her pain or an understanding of how to reduce his/her problem. Thankfully this is a rare occurrence. The paperwork is also not enjoyable.

Advice to those who want your job?

The work is definitely hard but can be very rewarding. I really enjoy working for myself, mainly in terms of creating an atmosphere which I like to work in and one which I think gives patients the best results.

Any other comments?

Check out our website, www.thephysiotherapycentre.net



Mr Michael Wagner, general manager Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel, (sponsors) presents the trophy to team captain, Julie Ni hAilín of Coláiste an Phiarsaigh All-Ireland camogie winners. Also: Micheál Ó Tuama, Priomhoide Coláiste an Phiarsaigh; Ms Roisin Healy, Sales & Marketing manager, Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel and Trish Leader, camogie manager, at the Glanmire & District Sports, Business and Community Awards at Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel. Picture: Ger Bonus

THE dream became a reality for Glanmire based Coláiste an Phiarsaigh to sample All-Ireland glory on the camogie fields.

History beckoned to land accolades on a splendid victory by a narrow two point margin from a gallant Dublin based Loretto Beaufort Rathfarnham. Importantly, the laurels belonged to a side that offered the greater team work, determination and scoring power enroute to savour outright glory.

And for good measure, Coláiste an Phiarsaigh added County and Munster Championship titles, the run of success fittingly acknowledged on receiving the monthly Glanmire Community and Sports Star Award at a function in the Fitzgeralds Vienna Woods Hotel.

Camogie at Coláiste an Phiarsaigh was initiated by Máire Ní Shuilleabhán two decades ago. A staunch supporter of the current team, Máire travelled to many of the games and was in Nenagh to cheer on the team in the All Ireland final.

Sarsfields personnel backbone the team along with an input too of players drawn from Brian Dillon's, Cobh, Blackrock, St Catherines, Bishopstown and Banteer. Team captain Julie Ní hAilín acknowledged the guidance of coaches of Paddy Connery, Gillian Grimes and Trish Leader in the school's three victories.

"The management put in a trojan effort, the wins just brilliant for all concerned, the work and training over the winter months paying off on a terrific run culminating on a thrilling win against the Dublin side", she said.

The path to the All-Ireland final began within the county on record-

Glanmire school win All-Ireland

CAMOGIE

■ John Tarrant

ing compelling wins over Millstreet and Loretto Fermoy before rallying strongly to better St Joseph's Borrisoleigh from Tipperary. An all Cork pairing for the provincial decider emerged, a goal from the team captain pushed Coláiste an Phiarsaigh over the line to victory over a battling Coláiste an Chroí Naofa from Carraig na bhFear.

Victory secured the Glanmire

ladies a place in the All-Ireland semi-final, away to Carnew in Wicklow. Despite a steady start for the Carnew combination, they couldn't keep up with the Munster champions, Glanmire displaying crisp hurling skills and sharper teamwork to claim victory.

The win pitted Coláiste an Phiarsaigh against Loretto Beaufort Rathfarnham in the decider, again Glanmire offering character and steel to produce a second half revival to bounce into the limelight and collect All Ireland accolades much to the delight of all involved.

"The campaign was pretty tough with some close contests, these chances of appearing in All Ireland

finals don't come too often and we're just thrilled to sample outright honours. When required in the final, we dug deep, upping the work rate and showing the skill of earlier games in the competition", said team captain Julie from the Sarsfields club.

"At Sars, we've become much stronger at underage level, many of the girls part of the Coláiste an Phiarsaigh success story".

Máire Ní Shuilleabhán, Iar Bhainisteoir, Coláiste an Phiarsaigh and Michael Wagner from the sponsors Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel added congratulations and commended the tireless work of the team on achieving their goal of All Ireland honours.



Valerie Mulcahy, guest of honour with award winner Katrina Mackey, Camogie, and her mum Mary and Ruairi O'Connor, General Manager at the River Lee Hotel. Picture: Dan Linehan

UCC AWARDS

■ Barbara O'Connell

SOME of the country's top young sports stars were honoured by their college UCC at the Sports Star Awards 2014/2015 last night at the River Lee Hotel.

Katrina Mackey, All-Ireland camogie medal winner with Cork, received her first award.

Katrina, along with her sister Pamela, has been instrumental in the organisation and running of the UCC club for the past number of years.

Katrina received her award for her performances with UCC in the colleges league and Ashbourne Cup, where UCC reached the semi-final.

She was part of the Cork team who won the national league and All-Ireland title in September and was honoured with her first All star Award for her performances with Cork as well.

She is a current UCC sports scholarship recipient.

APR. 2015

THE BIG INTERVIEW WITH KIERAN SHANNON

In her role as WPGA chair, Aoife Lane is now on a mission to change attitudes in the GAA towards women in Gaelic games

'I love the GAA and there's a bit of a feminist in me'

YOU might remember her from the winter. When the camogie and ladies footballers launched their players union, Aoife Lane was to the front: founder, leader, chairperson. She had a word on the Last

Word with Matt, made the papers and news bulletins as everyone who went along to the hip Smock Alley Theatre that day left there feeling better about not just women's sport but themselves. Sisters were doing it for themselves but they were going to get a little help from more friends. They deserved such support, more coverage, greater recognition.

Then what happened? We all went back to our own thing while she and her colleagues went about making sure it wasn't mere tokenism and winter talk.

It's been a challenge because that's what all our January goodwill now seems like.

It's something of a secret but tomorrow is also the semi-final stage of the camogie as well as hurling national league. At the same time the Cork hurlers take on Dublin in Nowlan Park, their female counterparts face Limerick, in Charleville: you'd have to be a special person to take in both games.

In Waterford, it grates with their camogie team that their Division Two semi-final has been fixed for Nenagh at the same time the ball's thrown in for their men's team's clash with Tipperary.

At least though they've known well in advance where they're playing.

For the past three months the Women's Gaelic Players Association project manager Gemma Begley tries to compile a fixtures list for the upcoming weekend. And by the Friday morning, she's often found that still three or four national league games still haven't got a pitch. Even the day before the All Ireland club semi-finals, administrators were still scrambling for a venue, players in the dark.

That was one of the reasons why the WPGA was founded. Most clubs may now accommodate their own camogie and ladies football teams but county teams and national fixtures have huge difficulty finding a place to play, let alone call home.

"I think we can resolve a lot of these things by better organisation and better leadership," says Lane. "I still can't get my head around that people had to make 30 phonecalls to get a pitch for an All-Ireland club semi-final. Why are there still 29 nos? Is it just a bit too easy to say no and are people a bit too quick to say no? I'd like to get the bottom of that."

Well, she must have a theory as to why. "I suppose it's not a priority. The men's games are priority because the pitches essentially belong to the men's clubs. And I get that. But I'd like to think we can sit down with others and start to have a conversation towards a solution to this.

Maybe there needs to be a mandate from national level to say there needs to be a greater distribution and availability of pitches."

She's always been steeped in the GAA. Her father Noel hurled in eight senior All-Ireland finals for Galway, winning three. She wasn't around for 1980, though she revels in the folklore of it all, especially the yarn about an excitable Bernie Forde swinging his hurley running onto the pitch and catching her father's forehead, leaving him requiring eight stitches: didn't faze him, he'd still start and would finish with three points, the difference between Galway and Limerick on the day.

For '87 and '88 she watched the finals in her grandmother's, seeing her father come on to score the winning goal each day. The next night she was in Eyre Square, up with him on the stage.

By 1990 she was big enough to be in the upper Hogan Stand where she'd bawl her eyes out after John Fitzgibbon and Cork went even more goal-mad than her dad.

By 2001, when he was team manager, she was in the dugout, a conduit for him and his eye in the sky, a Michaela Harte before Michaela Harte. That year they shocked Kilkenny before Nicky English in the final would have revenge for '88. Indelible memories, heightened experiences, yet the most enduring and enjoyable were those in the front driveway and back garden.

"Once Dad pulled up in his car, he was out playing with us right away. I can't remember watching TV as a kid. We just played hurling non-stop. I was obsessed with it."

She was good enough to make the panel of a couple of All-Ireland-winning minor teams and would play with the club, Ball-

inderreen, up until three years ago. Her real talent though was in volunteering, administering, advising. For the last 12 years she has been a senior lecturer and course leader in exercise and health studies in Waterford IT and she's chaired the camogie association's national player welfare committee.

By her own admission it "did a few nice things" but its remit was too broad, ranging from underage to adult and club to county. When Donal Og Cusack asked at the 2013 camogie All Stars why weren't female players in the GPA, it caused her to ponder. If the county players got certain standards in place it could permeate to all levels. She approached him later that evening, took his card and a month later she was up in the GPA offices meeting its head administrator, Siobhan Earley. A month later she had 14 players along with her.

"Within half an hour of that meeting it was very obvious there was a need for this. It was just the sharing of stories. Like being asked to leave dressing rooms because the lads needed them. Having to pay to train on a county board's grounds. Not having hot showers. The fact we had seven or eight different counties around the table, they were all kind of going 'Oh, it's like that for you too?' We realised then that this was a national problem."

It was also unique to them. They'd entered that room thinking they'd look to be absorbed into the GPA. They left realising they needed their own group. They also needed a leader. Lane was up for it.

"In a way, it was my perfect task. I love the GAA and there's a bit of a feminist in me. Whether it's something in the work place or in sport, I don't like inequity. In fairness the girls leaving the GPA offices that day said we could all have been driving home and be bitching for an hour and think why didn't we do something about it. And I'm the kind of person who likes to do something about it."

Over the summer they met up with more players and conducted a survey in which over 600 county players participated. The issues remain now but they're being addressed.

Some will be challenging because they're largely financial, such as physios. You might get them for games but it costs a lot, often too much, to have them at training. This isn't the men's inter-county game that generates millions at the turnstiles.

But some issues are simply a matter of respect. Only a third of players have regular access to hot showers after county games and training. In 2015.

"Is it that the person in charge of the pitch isn't going down on time to switch on the showers because they're not that bothered? Or is that people are being over-worked that they're forgetting the little things? Either way it's not good enough."

Even at the local club that gladly facili-

tate Lane and her club colleagues on the local pitch, showers of any kind were never an option. For the fellas, it was never an issue.

So try and get this right. You have a son who plays hurling and a daughter who plays camogie on the same club field. The son can expect to have showers and the daughter will accept not having any. Have we got that correct? Yes, Lane nods. Is it right? No. The third-level colleges don't accept it; there, female players are treated equally. But almost everywhere else in the GAA, women are treated as — and tolerate being — second-class citizens. That has to change.

"If the showers can be hot on Tuesday night for the boys, surely they can be hot on the Wednesday night for the girls?"

"But we're now looking to push the responsibility onto the players. To ask for more. To say 'Sorry, this isn't good enough.' To set up a liaison process with the county board and management which establishes some basic requirements. Showers cost hardly any money. It's just a lack of leadership, organisation and respect."

"It's a big problem with women. They tend to just get on with it and say nothing. 'Whatever, it's grand.' We can't accept that anymore. It's about women treating themselves with more respect."

It's not that county boards are disrespecting them. They too are volunteers. In a way, they're also victims of conditioned thinking.

"It's just not being in the mindset. To realise this is not taken seriously enough. Showers should just be a given. It's a given for the men. So part of our role will be changing that mindset among the players and the powers that be."

She knows how influential and inspiring the GAA can be. She serves on the association's health and well-being committee. At the moment there are 18 clubs participating in a healthy club pilot project that she's evaluating through her expertise in Waterford IT.

In Castleblaney, the local club's Operation Transformation had hundreds running a 5k event at the end of a six-week programme. In Cork, St Finbarr's and Midleton championed a stress control and mental health programme that resonated throughout both communities. In Nenagh, the Eire Og club have gone to care homes and brought older people back to the club pitch for matches. In Thomas Davis's in Dublin, widowers with no connection to the club have learned to cook for themselves. Lane with all she has going on still has time to serve on a European project on sport clubs promoting health in the community and is struck by how her continental colleagues are struck by the example of the GAA.

"They're always mad to hear about what the GAA can do. They're fascinated that a sporting governing body can be such a

At the launch of the Women's Gaelic Players' Association were, from left, chairperson Aoife Lane with Caroline O'Hanlon, Armagh and Karen McMullan, Down. Picture: Brendan Moran



APR. 2015

A unified approach for women in sport

Kieran Shannon

It's not just Gaelic women's sport that has to come together. In Aoife Lane's eyes, all of Irish women's sport should. Already she's met the equality minister Aodhán Ó Riordáin in Leinster House about it.

"I briefed him on what we had done with the WGPA but we also had a broader discussion about what action I feel is needed on a national level on women's sport. At the moment, it's all very separate and ad hoc."

In September there might be some fanfare for the latest achievement of the Cork ladies footballers or whoever wins the camogie. It might even extend into December on the awards circuit, especially the Sportswomen of the Year scheme. In January, a basketball Cup final may capture the imagination. In March the women's national rugby team might win a Six Nations.

But who can name an Irish international woman's soccer player beyond Stephanie Roche? For a week every year, Katie Taylor emerges out of the dark and do her stuff at a major championship. Then it's like even she is hibernated from public view.

That doesn't sit well with Lane. Niamh Briggs was one of her students in Waterford IT and remains a good friend. The Dwyer sisters of Glanmire basketball were invited to the launch of the WGPA.

For her such elite sportswomen deserve the support of the WGPA. And the Government's.

"Yes, we get these peaks of interest but is there really that big a jump in coverage and sponsorship? It's all small gains. It's too slow. There has to be some energy to tackle this on a national level across all sports."

"Other countries have a national women in sports network. I'm not saying we just have a group that sits around talks. There needs to be political action on this. The Irish Government signed up to the Brighton Declaration on women in sport but it's just stagnated. There's no action, no plan, no strategy to increase participation and sponsorship and coverage."

"The WGPA can help with that. It's unique in a way in that we come from two separate organisations - camogie and ladies football. But that collective power is a bargaining tool. We're trying to think about things differently. Because you could say that the way things have been done previously haven't worked. People say we're making great breakthroughs. What breakthroughs? There's the odd peak but we've a long way to go."

"One of the first speakers in to us was Paddy Cosgrave, the Web Summit CEO and founder. I found it inspiring, his story of persistence and learning. He kept sitting in front of a computer sending messages to the head of Skype until he relented to come to Dublin. Now an event that first had 400 attendees now has 22,000. He said you should always be able to look back in a year's time and say you've improved."

"I really like that idea. My heart is in the right place but right now do I have the skills to lead this kind of organisation? Probably not. But I'd like to think in a year's time, I'll be able to say I'm a bit better at it than I am now."

With that outlook and humility, women's sport should be better as well.



focal point and have that kind of social impact in the community."

She sees the camogie and ladies football associations as partners. Both attended the WGPA launch. In the next couple of months she plans to meet them so they can plan together.

"We want to be pragmatic. There's no point in women in sport groups operating separately. I'm not going to presuppose whether or not they've already been talking to the GAA about more double-headers. But I'd like to think we can sit with them and say is there a way we can do better on this?"

"Monaghan are filling their stand most days because they do a huge amount of publicity. We'd maybe like to work with

counties and roll out that model elsewhere to increase the visibility of the players and games."

"We all need to up our game a bit. Camogie is brilliant and has 110 years of history and tradition but if there's one thing I've learned already in this role, it's that you shouldn't be bound by history. All that tradition isn't going to keep camogie safe, ladies football either. Rugby is coming in and talent spotting and bringing some of our top players into the sevens game on contracts."

"You can't just sit there and let that happen. You've to react, be proactive."

That's where the WGPA come in. So far they've found sponsorship hard to come by but 10 days ago in Carton House, they

WGPA chairperson Aoife Lane at Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin. 'Camogie has 110 years of history and tradition but if there's one thing I've learned, it's that you shouldn't be bound by history. Picture: Brendan Moran

were able to announce scholarships for 12 players from 10 different counties attending 10 different colleges, such as Limerick's Sarah Carey, daughter of Claran. It only covers the rest of the academic year but it'll allow some of them forsake part-time work and rest and study more for upcoming exams; get a bite before training, cover some of the cost to get to training. As an academic herself, Lane wants to help players develop off and on the field.

Another seven players as well as Lane herself have also participated in the John Madden Leadership programme in conjunction with the GPA. Lane finds it's good for the men - "having women there has freshened it up, lightened the mood" - and it's been especially insightful for her.

Talented Galway and Kilkenny semi is a tough one to call

THE national league semi-finals take place tomorrow in Tullamore and Charleville with Galway and Kilkenny in O'Connor Park and Cork and Limerick meeting midway.

I previewed Cork and Limerick last night but it's always interesting to know what's going on elsewhere. Galway topped their group on scoring difference after they drew with Limerick, both teams finishing on seven points. Galway opened their 2015 League campaign with a 0-6 draw against Limerick. They were fairly reserved in their dominance of a tightly contested group, beating Tipperary and Offaly by only five and three points respectively.

It wasn't until their final group game that the Tribeswomen revealed their firepower with a 2-23 to 0-9 victory against a Wexford side who were still in contention and had it all to play for. This was, mentally, a huge win for Galway and no doubt they'll have a skip in their step looking ahead to tomorrow.

Kilkenny finished runners-up in their group yet they won't feel too demoralised, having lost only to a dominant and thus far unbeaten Cork. Kilkenny started their campaign slowly with that four point loss to the rebels.

However, having only managed to score five points in that game they ended up being the highest scoring team in Division 1 with 76 points over four games. The Cats bounced back with a vengeance, putting up 4-17 against Derry, winning convincingly against defeated Dublin and tallying another 4-15 against Clare. No doubt the 2014 League winners will be full of confidence heading into the semi-final and eager to get a shot at retain-



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny in action against Wexford's Bridget Curran and Marie Morrissey in their recent Camogie League Division 1 game at Brendan's GAA Ground.

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

ing their title.

Kilkenny and Galway is a hard one to call tomorrow, I'll tip Kilkenny. Despite Limerick's great league run and Cork fielding a mix of experience with plenty of youth the latter should still have enough to see them through. If Cork fail to reach the final I don't think it will disappoint too much.

In Division two holders Cork relin-

quished their title when a goal four minutes into injury time denied them a semi-final spot. Kilkenny and Laois preceded the division one game in O'Connor Park. Waterford and Kildare play the other semi-final in Nenagh.

Laois finished top of their group having tied with Kildare on eight points but finished top by virtue of their win over Kildare in the league opener. This Laois side won four of their five games in an incredibly competitive group in which all six teams finished with at least one win.

Laois lost only to Wexford in an upset down in St. Patrick's Park

where they managed to tally just nine points. Aside from that loss, Laois side have been a well-oiled machine scoring eleven goals in their other four games. They'll look to continue that goal scoring habit in the semi-final tomorrow.

Much like Laois, Kilkenny managed four wins from five in the group stage, losing only to a very dominant Waterford side. To start the league campaign, the Cats looked solid defensively, conceding only seven points in their first two games combined. However, they loosened the reins after a tough loss to Waterford in which they conceded 2-13. Their

forward fire power carried them the rest of the way and like Laois, they were no stranger to goals either, finding the net nine times over their five games.

Waterford were dominant in their group with five wins from five. The Déise side set the tone for their league campaign with a big win over Tipperary in their opener and never looked back. They scraped two tough away wins against Cork and Meath before winning comfortably at home against Kilkenny. They have been the best team defensively in Division 2 conceding only forty points, albeit in four games. However, they have also been the best attacking team in their group with seventy eight points. No doubt this unbeaten Waterford will be full of confidence heading into the semi-final.

Kildare finished as runners-up in Group 1 behind Laois having lost to them in the league opener. The Lilywhites have bounced back tremendously well, winning their last four games. Their prolific forwards have managed to find the net ten times and they are the highest scoring team in Division 2 with eighty five points from five games. A tough test awaits against an unbeaten Waterford.

Our own minor team having exited the All-Ireland series still have a Munster title to play for on May 2nd against Tipp. Galway and Tipp and Kilkenny and Limerick are the four counties involved at the semi-final stage of the All Ireland this weekend with extra time in the event of a draw. The final is down for April 25th. I only saw Tipp and Kilkenny this year; two fine teams. It'll take a good side to stop both of them advancing but Galway and Limerick are renowned for their strong underage so two good games should be in store.

Defence should hold off Limerick

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY

National League Division 1 camogie semi-final: Cork v Limerick, Charleville 2pm. THE Division 1 national league semi-finals take place on Sunday.

Galway and Kilkenny throw in at O'Connor Park Tullamore while Cork and Limerick meet in Charleville.

Despite fielding many debutants and fringe players in the league Cork were dominant throughout the group stages, managing four wins from four, all relatively comfortably. While not clocking up huge scores they have ruled the group stages with a very solid defence.

This is exemplified by their early clash against Kilkenny in which they only managed 0-9 themselves but confined and limited the high-flying Kilkenny attack to only 0-5. The Rebels conceded only 11 points in their first two games before allowing 1-8 in their win over an energetic Dublin before ending their campaign in their clash with Derry last weekend, conceding 1-6.

These low scoring affairs have left Cork as the only team in Division 1 to win every game. Their stellar defence is clarified by their 'points against' total of only 31. That means conceding less than eight points per game on average and is the best record in Division 1.

Limerick finished as runners-up in their group behind Galway by virtue of a draw. Since drawing with Galway in their League opener, the Shannonsiders have never looked like losing with convincing wins over Tipperary, Wexford and Offaly.

Looking ahead to a reputable Cork side in the semi-final, Limerick will be quietly confident as they have the second best defensive record in Division 1 with just 34 points conceded. Similarly to Cork, Limerick will take solace in the fact that they too are undefeated thus far in the league, with only the draw against Galway preventing them from the eight points from eight that only Cork can boast.

One would expect that Paudie Murray and his management team will stick with much the same lineup that has seen them top their group regardless of how more competitive things get at semi-final stage. It is on stages such as this that the likes of Amy Lee, Lauren Callanan, Leanne O'Sullivan and Maeve Cahalane will gain valuable experience.

Rena Buckley and Breige Corkery will figure as will the ever dependable Orla Cotter and captain Aisling Thompson.

The mix of experience and youth should see Cork advance to the final but Limerick will be buoyed for this one. They'll relish this challenge and it has the ingredients of a good lively hour.

O'Neills All-Ireland 2nd level schools junior camogie finals

16 March 2015

Loreto College are the O'Neills All-Ireland second level schools junior A champions for the seventh time in nine seasons after they beat Presentation Athenry in an entertaining final by 3-11 to 2-6 at Ballykelly's Stephen O'Rourke Park in Monasterevin.

Ironically, the Kilkenny crew's run began when they claimed their first ever title against the same opposition in 2007 and they have dominated the competition since. They had to work very hard for this one and it wasn't until the final quarter that they stamped their authority on proceedings.

It was a game that ebbed and flowed throughout, with Loreto getting off to the better start thanks to points from Eimear Keoghán, Hannah Kelly and the lethal Sophie O'Dwyer, who finished with a goal and seven points.

The Noresiders led by 0-4 to 0-0 before Athenry thundered into the fray, as Emer Keane followed up a wonderful solo goal with a point after Emma Gaffney had gotten them off the mark and suddenly they were in front. Goalkeeper, Megan McDonagh kept them ahead with a tremendous save but when O'Dwyer hand-passed to the net after her penalty had been saved, it was Loreto that led at half time by 1-6 to 1-3.

Presentation resumed with real determination and a couple of points from Leanne Freaney helped reduce the gap before Freaney goaled after 16 minutes to give them a one-point lead.

They weren't to score again however, as Loreto hit back immediately with a goal from Hannah Kelly. That seemed to knock the stuffing out of the Athenry girls. Loreto centre-back, Michelle Teehan put in a player-of-the-match performance as her side went five points clear before Eimear Keoghán goaled to put the seal on a famous day.

In the B final at Athenry's Kenny Park, player of the match Regan Conway scored a fantastic three goals and six points in St Joseph's 6-11 to 1-3 win over Seamount College, who had enjoyed senior success the previous week. Seamount had seven players involved who were part of last week's victory, including Carrie Dolan, who was outstanding that day.

They couldn't contend with their Tulla opposition though, and in particular Conway. Niamh O'Gorman had a goal after three minutes before Conway notched up her first in the 10th minute to open an early eight-point score.

Dearbhla Walsh got the Galwegians off the mark but Evelyn Duggan scored another goal and Niamh Mulqueen a sensational point, and though Dolan found the net at the other end from a 45, Conway's second goal made it 4-4 to 1-1 at the interval.

Robyn Conway - cousin of Regan - scored St Joseph's fifth goal. Regan scored four points on the trot before slotting her third goal to round off a wonderful day.

The C decider produced a cracker in Ballykelly and will need a replay at the same venue later this week after Coláiste na Tríonóide launched a late comeback to grab a 2-9 to 3-6 draw with Coláiste Iosagáin. Points from Sinéad Wylde, the excellent Eleanor Ni Eachtghéin, Grace O'Shea and Louise O'Shea gave Coláiste Iosagáin a good start and they led by 0-8 to 1-2 at half time.

Despite the excellence of Amy O'Brien, Rosanna O'Donnell and Gráinne O'Regan, it was looking bad for the Doon girls when a Grace O'Shea goal meant that they were still four points down with four minutes to go, but they pounced late with a goal and a point to snatch a second bite of the cherry.

New-look Cork get well tested



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

■ Mary Newman

Cork	1-12
Limerick	0-10

THIS was a tough physical battle where both sides played with huge determination, but in the finish Cork advanced to the final of the National League final with five points to spare over a determined Limerick side at Charleville yesterday.

Limerick, having enjoyed a superb league campaign, came into the game determined to lay down a marker for the championship season ahead and this they certainly did.

Having won the Intermediate championship last season they are working hard to establish themselves at senior level.

Cork came into the contest with a different outlook and continued to show faith in the younger brigade who helped them reach the semi-final stages and they had Brieghe Corkery and Gemma O'Connor on the bench as the sides lined up for the throw in.

The introduction of Brieghe Corkery at half time was a huge factor in their victory as the experience and craft of the All Star was crucial as Limerick threw everything at Cork in quest of victory.

Having played with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half, Cork led by a point, 1-5 to 0-7, at the interval but in the second half, despite going a point in arrears, they finished strong to ensure their place in the final was secured.

Amy O'Connor gave Cork the lead with a superb goal six minutes into the game after Niamh Mulcahy had edged Limerick ahead with two points frees in response to Amy O'Connor's early Cork point.

O'Connor showed class as she out-paced her marker to score the only goal of the game. But from here on in



Cork forward Finola Neville races away from Limerick midfielder Caoimhe Costelloe.

Photograph Liam Burke/Press 22

the Limerick defence tightened up and never allowed her as much freedom.

Julia White and Orla Cotter helped Cork open up a 1-3 to 0-3 lead but showing huge belief in them last season's All-Ireland Intermediate champions worked hard and with Niamh Mulcahy and Rebecca Delee to the fore they struck four unanswered points in the closing five minutes of the half.

Cork struck four wides in as many minutes as the sides settled into the second half and with Caoimhe Costelloe and Niamh Mulcahy on target Limerick hit the front. Orla Cotter and Niamh Mulcahy swapped points but it was to be Limerick's last score of the game as Cork upped the pace and stepped up a gear.

With Julia White doing huge work

up front and Brieghe Corkery causing Limerick a lot of bother Cork were back level. White pointed before a superb move, started by Eimear O'Sullivan, saw White pick out Katriona Mackey who slotted over to give Cork the lead. Twice Orla Cotter converted frees before Amy Lee denied Limerick an equaliser with a superb save from Mary O'Callaghan. Again Limerick pressed, but the Cork defence stood firm and in the closing minutes points from Katriona Mackey and Orla Cronin put the game beyond Limerick.

A strong Limerick challenge but another good result for Cork's young new look side it remains to be seen will we see a few familiar names back for the final. But certainly all the youngsters acquitted themselves well yesterday

and will relish another opportunity to stake a claim on a place come championship.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (0-5fs, 0-1 45), A O'Connor 1-1, J White, K Mackey 0-2 each, O Cronin 0-1.

Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-7 (0-4fs), K Delee 0-2 C Costelloe 0-1.

CORK: A Lee; L Callanan; L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; E O'Sullivan, A Thompson(c), M Cahalane; R Buckley, S Fahy; J White, F Neville, O Cotter; A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: B Corkery for S Fahy(h/t), H Looney for F Neville (43) O Cronin for J Casey (48), M Walsh for L Callanan(inj 60).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan; M Mc Carthy, L Mc Carthy, J Mulcahy; R Delee, S Carey, F Hickey; N Mulcahy, C Costello; A Sheehan, D Murphy, K O'Leary; M O'Callaghan, N Barry, D Mulcahy.

Subs: C Lyons for N Barry (26), A Scanlon for D Mulcahy (43) C O'Brien for D Murphy (50), S McNamara for A Sheehan (51).

Ref: Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

Murray pays tribute to younger players

BOTH managers were pleased with their charges yesterday but Paudie Murray was the one who was smiling after his side stood up to a stern test from Limerick.

"All season we have introduced younger players and to have reached the league final is a tribute to each and every member of our panel. It's always good to bring in fresh faces because they keep those that are already there on their toes.

Today's victory it is great for the players but particularly the ones who would not have experienced playing in a National League final before they will look forward to this and I am delighted especially for those girls. Our experienced

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

players have been there many times before but the new players on the panel will relish this opportunity. Today again they all worked hard and of course our more experienced players were also superb. Limerick were good and they played really well, they have done a huge amount of work and it showed and come championship they will be formidable opposition for any team. We're just glad to have got the win today."

The Limerick manager, former inter county hurler Joe Quaid, had huge praise

for his charges

"Today we lost to the All Ireland champions, the Cork goalie denied us with two superb saves and maybe we were a bit wayward in our shooting at the end. But I could not have asked for more from these girls. Last year we won the Intermediate championship and to have reached the senior league semi final is huge progress for us.

We are a young side and we will now put our heads down and work towards championship and we will be there or there about's, we congratulate cork today and wish them the best of luck as they go on and try to bring the league title back to Munster"



Katriona Mackey chased by Limerick's Caoimhe Costelloe.

Youthful Cork seal deal

Cork 1-12
Limerick 0-10

Therese O'Callaghan

Cork, aided by key substitutions, regrouped sufficiently in the closing stages to qualify for the National Camogie Division 1 league final against Galway, after seeing off a persistent Limerick at Charleville yesterday. It was a case of the All-Ireland senior champions against the All-Ireland intermediate champions and while Limerick held a one-point lead on 47 minutes, Cork closed out with six unanswered points.

Paudie Murray went with a youthful Cork side, sprinkled with a few seasoned campaigners. The Rebel boss says he is anxious to keep faith with these young players.

"We have gone down the road of introducing a bit of youth. I thought they fronted up quite well and it is great for them to be going into a league final. The older crew are used to it but I think this experience will do them the world of good. We expected Limerick would come full-blooded for this game and certainly their fitness level was a lot better than ours. When we introduced the subs I think the

fresh legs made a huge difference."

A cross-field wind made for a tricky encounter. Cork, lined out with seven of last September's winning side while Limerick introduced a handful of their 2014 successful minor team. Amy O'Connor was a threat early on and her individual skill six minutes in yielded Cork's goal. From there, they went on to lead 1-5 to 0-3. Orla Cotter landed three frees while star player Niamh Mulcahy was inspirational for Limerick.

Points from Mulcahy and Rebecca Delee - impressive along with Sarah Carey and Fiona Hickey in the Limerick half-back line - cut the gap to one at the break, 1-5 to 0-7. Cork brought in Brieghe Corkery at half-time to midfield where her presence was telling. Yet, it was the Green and White who got on top through Caoimhe Costelloe and Mulcahy points, 0-10 to 1-6.

However, with Amy Lee producing the second of two



Limerick's Rebecca Delee shoots for a point as Cork's Aisling Thompson tries to intercept during the NHL semi-final.
Photo: Liam Burke/Press22

point-blank saves, and Julia White, Cotter, Katrina Mackey and Orla Cronin picking off some fine points, the

Leesiders sealed their place in the final on May 3.

Despite losing, Joe Quaid was in positive mood. "We

wanted to see what level we were at and I think we are able to dine at the top table. There wasn't a whole pile in it in general play. We introduced four girls that played minor yesterday and that is part of the bleeding process. We brought on two U17s. We had six of last year's All Ireland minor champions. We looked for a performance and I think we got it. We got a savage work-rate. We need to speed up the hurling a small bit. Fitness wise we coped well."

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter (0-6, five frees, one 45m), A O'Connor (1-1), J White and K Mackey (0-2 each), O Cronin (0-1).

Scorers for Limerick: N Mulcahy (0-7, four frees), R Delee (0-2), C Costelloe (0-1).

CORK: A Lee; L Callanan, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan; E O'Sullivan, R Buckley, M Cahalane; S Fahy, A Thompson (Capt); J White, F Neville, O Cotter; A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: B Corkery for S Fahy (half-time); H Looney for F Neville (44); O Cronin for J Casey (48); M Walsh for L Callanan (61).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan; M McCarthy, L McCarthy, J Mulcahy; R Delee, S Carey (Capt); F Hickey, N Mulcahy, C Costelloe; A Sheehan, D Murphy, K O'Leary; N Barry, M O'Callaghan, D Mulcahy.

Subs: C Lyons for N Barry (27); A Scanlon for D Mulcahy (44); C O'Brien for D Murphy (51); S McNamara for A Sheehan (52).

Referee: Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

Galway reach Division 1 final

It was easier for Galway than many expected as they beat champions Kilkenny by 5-7 to 2-9 at O'Connor Park to progress to a Division 1 final of the Camogie League.

The tie hinged on a period of play in the second half, when Denise Gaule had a penalty saved with four points between the sides. Miriam Walsh did reduce the margin to three but Galway struck for two goals from the next two attacks to put the game to bed.

Tony Ward's outfit tore into a 1-4 to 0-0 lead in the opening quarter, getting a dream start as Niamh McGrath blasted a penalty to the net in the first minute, after a foul on the dangerous Ailish O'Reilly. McGrath was to finish with 2-4 and she added three pointed frees to a score from Molly Dunne to give the Tribeswomen a healthy advantage. Kilkenny got themselves back into it via points from Gaule and Katie Power but a brilliant 25th minute goal from O'Reilly made it 2-6 to 0-4 at half time.

Gaule gave Kilkenny the goal they needed straight after the resumption, doing the business after taking a pass from Walsh.

Then came the significant period that decided the game, Ann Marie Starr and McGrath getting the key Galway goals.

Ann Dalton had another penalty saved late on and though Gaule grabbed a second goal two minutes from time, there was still time for O'Reilly to do likewise. Meanwhile, Laois will play Waterford in the Division 2 final after wins over Kilkenny and Waterford.

Daragh O'Conchuir

GALWAY AND CORK COME THROUGH TIES

GALWAY and Cork will play in the Division 1 final of the Irish Daily Star Camogie League after battling to overcome Kilkenny and Limerick in their respective semi-finals at the weekend.

It was easier for Galway than many would have expected as they beat champions Kilkenny by 5-7 to 2-9 at O'Connor Park.

The tie hinged on a period of play in the second half, when Denise Gaule had a penalty saved with four points between the sides.

Miriam Walsh did reduce the margin to three but Galway struck for two goals from the next two attacks to put the game to bed.

Tony Ward's outfit tore into a 1-4 to 0-0 lead in the opening quarter, getting a dream start as Niamh McGrath blasted a penalty to the net in the first minute, after a foul on the ever-dangerous Ailish O'Reilly.

Score

McGrath was to finish with 2-4 and she added three pointed frees to a score from Molly Dunne to give the Tribeswomen a healthy advantage.

Kilkenny got themselves back into it via points from Gaule and Katie Power but a brilliant 25th minute goal from O'Reilly made it 2-6 to 0-4 at half time.

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Then came the significant period that decided the game, Ann Marie Starr and McGrath getting the key Galway goals.

Ann Dalton had another penalty saved late on and though Gaule grabbed her second goal two minutes from time, there was still time for O'Reilly to do likewise.

Cork were made work very hard by a Limerick side con-



CAMOGIE LEAGUES

tinuing to make giant strides and it was only in the last 10 minutes that the All-Ireland champions' experience showed as they pulled away for a 1-12 to 0-10 victory.

Cork went ahead early on with a goal from Amy O'Connor and she added a quick point before the Limerick defence, in which Sarah Carey excelled, managed to put the shackles on her.

It was to prove an essential opening though as Limerick fought back well with the magnificent Niamh Mulcahy scoring points from frees and play.

Noreen Barry forced Cork goalkeeper, Amy Lee into a fabulous save but with the wind at their backs in the second half, the Shannonsiders would have been pleased to be trailing by just one point at the change of ends, 1-5 to 0-7.

Exchanging

It was nip and tuck in the second period, with Orla Cotter (who finished with six points) and Mulcahy (0-7) exchanging scores.

Lee made another good stop to keep her goal intact but Cork finished strongly.

Aisling Thompson and Cotter showed well when it really counted — while Brieghe Corkery had a massive impact off the bench in that closing period.

Meanwhile, Laois will play Waterford in the Division 2 final after wins over Kilkenny and Waterford.



Kilkenny's Michella Kenneally comes under pressure from Laois's Elizabeth Ryan in the League Division 2 semi-final at O'Connor Park, Tullamore.
Picture: Donall Farmer

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship final: Kilkenny 3-9 Tipperary 1-12, Birl
All-Ireland Minor B Camogie Championship final: Meath 4-6 Derry 2-10, Iniskeen
All-Ireland Minor C Camogie Championship final: Laois 0-13 Antrim 0-7, Iniskeen
All-Ireland Minor D Camogie Championship final: Cavan 2-6 Monaghan 0-4

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland MBC final: Derry 2-10 Meath 4-6; All-Ireland MCC Shield final: Cavan 2-6 Monaghan 0-4

APR. 2015

O'LEARY (Bandon and Cloyne): On April 23, 2015, peacefully, surrounded by her family, at the Mercy University Hospital, KATHLEEN (née Costine), beloved wife of Christy and adored mother of Rebecca, Tullyland, daughter of the late Joanne. Sadly missed by her loving husband, daughter, father Michael, sister of Marie, Bonnie, James, Michael, D.D., Liam, Noel, Jerry, Bernadette, Rita, Geraldine, Jonathan and Ashlinn, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews (especially Derek), nieces (especially Joanne), godchildren, grandnephews, grandnieces, relatives and a large circle of friends. May she rest in peace. Reposing at O'Reilly's Funeral Home, Bandon on today (Saturday) from 4pm to 7pm, followed by Reception into St. Patrick's Church, Bandon at 8.15pm. Funeral on tomorrow (Sunday), after 12 noon Mass, to adjoining cemetery. The family would like to thank nurse Mary O'Mahony and staff of St. Patrick's Hospital, Bandon.

Sad passing of former Cork camogie keeper Kathleen

KATHLEEN O'LEARY (née COSTINE) RIP
IT is with sadness that Cork camogie followers note the untimely death of Kathleen O'Leary (née Costine). From a great gaelic games family, Kathleen wore the colours of Cloyne, Killeagh, Imokilly, Cork and Munster with distinction.
At the age of 14, Kathleen lined out for Cork in the first All-Ireland minor (U16) final in 1974.
She won her first All-Ireland medal in that grade in the following year and in 1976 Kathleen captained the Cork minors to All-Ireland victory. She progressed to the Cork junior team with whom she won All-Ireland honours in 1984.
Kathleen made the number one position on the

OBITUARY

Cork senior team her own in 1992 and held it for five years. In that time, she collected three National Senior League and three All-Ireland Senior Championship medals.
A regular choice for Munster, she added four Gael-Linn medals to her impressive collection.
At club level, Kathleen won a Cork Intermediate Championship medal with her native Cloyne in 1975.
In the closing minutes of that game, there were six Costine sisters on the field, Marie, Bernie, Bonnie, Rita, Geraldine and Kathleen.
When the Cloyne club were unable to field a team,

Kathleen threw in her lot with Killeagh winning Cork Senior Championship medals in 1982 and 1984. She had previously won a county senior medal with Imokilly.
A talented and courageous goalkeeper, Kathleen is an aunt to former Cork keeper, Donal Og Cusack.
Despite her illness, Kathleen turned out in recent years with the Cork Legends. She was a very popular character in camogie circles and always had a word and a smile for everybody.
The camogie community extends sincere sympathy to her husband, Christy, daughter, Rebecca, her sisters and her extended family.
Ar Dheis De go raibh anam dils.

The Camogie and GAA family have been united in grief in the past week with the untimely death of former inter-county player Kathleen Costine-O'Leary.

Kathleen was one of Camogie's great goalkeepers and she played with huge heart and determination. These were also attributes she showed in the last two years as she battled bravely to overcome an illness but sadly she passed away at the young age of 55 at the Mercy Hospital.

Kathleen was a member of a renowned family steeped in

Kathleen Costine-O'Leary, RIP

GAA and Camogie tradition as she lined out with her five sisters Marie, Bernie, Rita, Bunny and Geraldine in the famed red and black of Cloyne as they won the Intermediate county championship in 1975.

She won two senior county championship medals in 1982 and 1984 with Killeagh, adding a Munster club championship

medal to her collection in 1984. Donal Og Cusack is her nephew and she was hugely proud of his achievements.

On the senior inter-county scene, Kathleen took over between the posts in 1992 and went on to win three All-Ireland medals in 1992, 1993 and 1995.

Kathleen enjoyed a successful senior debut as Cork re-

tained the National League title defeating Wexford.

The holder of back-to-back All Ireland minor (then under-16) medals in 1975 and 1976, Kathleen starred on the Cork Junior team that defied the odds to win a superb All-Ireland title in 1984.

On moving to live in Bandon when she married Christy O'Leary Kathleen retained a

huge interest in the game and she assisted with a number of clubs giving coaching sessions to young aspiring stars.

She showed huge spirit as she battled her illness with the same determination she showed on the playing fields and indeed she lined out with the Cork Legends in March 2014 despite being in the throes of her battle. She en-

joyed every second of a weekend where her former inter-county team mates and herself enjoyed a great victory.

Sadly Kathleen passes away peacefully on Wednesday last and she is a huge loss to her family especially to Christy and her beloved daughter Rebecca, her father Michael who followed her career with huge enthusiasm her brothers, sisters and extended family.

I'm sure she will continue to be a huge part of their lives. May her soul rest in peace

Mary Newman

Let's get to Thurles early and help make it a Cork double

Camogie

Mary Newman

All systems go and all roads lead to Thurles on Sunday as Cork's senior camogie and hurling teams hit Semple Stadium on the double.

Cork face Galway in the camogie League Division One final which takes place on Sunday in the stadium before the Hurling League Division 1 final between Cork and Waterford.

First on to the pitch will be the camogie team who take on Galway in the national league final. It's a meeting of the All-Ireland champions of 2013 and 2014 and while a lot of eyebrows have been raised at the pairing, both of these sides have arrived here on merit.

Galway recorded a great victory over defeated All-Ireland finalist and league holders Kilkenny who were fancied by many to make it to the final: they failed to deliver on the day but all credit to Galway who played superbly. It was easier than many would have expected as they beat the champions 5-7 to 2-9. Galway set a blistering pace and led by four points when they denied Denise Gaule with a penalty save. Kilkenny did reduce the margin to three but Galway struck for two goals to secure their place in the final.

They have a strong line-out with Niamh McGrath who finished with a 2-4 tally.

Ailish O'Reilly, Ann Marie Starr, Molly Dunne and Orlaith McGrath are all experienced campaigners.

Pauline Murray has given youth its fling throughout this league campaign and players such as Lauren Callanan,



Cork - pictured here standing for the anthem ahead of their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final showdown with Kilkenny last year - face stiff competition from Galway on Sunday. The league final in Thurles is effectively a battle for supremacy between the All-Ireland winners of 2013 and 2014. Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Maebh Cahalane, Leanne O'Sullivan and Amy Lee and have responded magnificently and they have stood up and been counted on every thing that has come their way.

Cork were made work very hard before securing their final spot by a Limerick side who this season have made great strides and it was only in the last quarter that Cork cemented victory - their experience a vital component as they pulled away for a 1-12 to 0-10 victory.

Up front, Amy O'Connor has continued to impress with extra game time this season. Laura Treacy is settling in well at full-back and continuing to mature and grow in confidence while the experienced campaigners Orla Cotter, Eimear O'Sullivan, Rena Buckley, captain Aisling Thompson, Julia White and Katrina Mackey continue to provide the backbone of Paudie Murray's side.

Briege Corkery had a massive impact when introduced at

half-time in that match, and she will be expected to start on Sunday. Gemma O'Connor was also in the squad for the semi-final but did not see game time - she may not start on Sunday but I would expect to see her at some stage of the contest.

Several of the All-Ireland winning side have not as yet returned to the panel while Pamela Mackey is currently injured and unlikely to feature. Many of the new players are impressing and staking a

claim for a place come the championship, and certainly their inclusion has been a breath of fresh air. With the enthusiasm they are displaying it will no doubt cause a headache for Paudie and his selectors but one which they will be glad to have.

Galway are going all-out to take the title, Cork made no secret of the fact that they were using the league to try out new players but now they are in the final they want to finish it off with a win which

would be a huge boost to the young Cork outfit.

Galway are strong and will bring huge intensity to the battle, Cork need huge support and the call is going out to the travelling hurling supporters to get in early and get behind the girls.

Get there in time for the 1.30pm throw-in and get the Rebel day out off to a great start. And best of luck to Jimmy Barry Murphy and the boys - let's make it a Cork double.



Cork captain Anna Geary and teammates celebrate in Croke Park with the O'Duffy cup after the All-Ireland victory last year and, right, supporters throng the South Mall in Cork to welcome home the team the following night. Supporters of the senior hurlers are being urged to get to Thurles by 1.30pm on Sunday to give the women the support they deserve in the camogie league final. Pictures: Paul Mohan / Sportsfile / Darragh Kane

MAY 2015

Phelan the ace as Cats edge out Premier

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

A 52nd minute goal from Clara Phelan secured Kilkenny's sixth title in 10 seasons of the All-Ireland minor camogie championship, with victory over Tipperary at St Brendan's Park Birr by 3-9 to 1-12. Tipperary produced a wonderful second-half comeback that saw them draw level as the game entered its conclusion, having been eight points adrift in the first half.

And even when Phelan goaled, Tipp still came back but second-half sub, Grace O'Brien's shot was deflected out for a 45 at the death.

Kilkenny settled the quickest with three points in the first seven minutes. Sarah Kent converted a 45 and a free, book-ending a Sarah Walsh point.

Niamh Treacy, who finished with seven points, responded with a pair for Tipperary but they were rocked by two goals in two minutes at the end of the opening quarter.

The first came from Jenny Clifford, who took a pass from Walsh and shook the rigging. She then returned the favour to Walsh, who also goaled.

A brilliant point from influential midfielder, Kellyann Doyle, followed by scores from Phelan and Clifford opened up an eight-point lead but critically, Tipperary shot three of the last four points in that first half, including another Treacy brace, to keep themselves in touch, trailing 2-7 to 0-7 at half time.

The Munster girls charged out on the restart and a scoring spree that yielded 1-3 without reply brought them level. The goal came from the excellent Orla O'Dwyer and with Ciardha Maher and Róisín Howard adding points, it was 2-9 to 1-12 entering the final quarter. Then Phelan held her cool make it another famous day for the Noreiders.

Meath won the B final, overcoming Derry 4-6 to 2-10 in Inniskeen. Derry looked bound for glory when Eimear McGuigan's high ball ended in the net in the first half and when the magnificent Aoife Shaw added three points they were seven clear. That lead was still three entering the closing stages but Niamh Gallogly pounced for her second goal to achieve parity for the Royals. Captain and player of the match, Aoife Minogue gave them the lead and Amy Gaffney followed up to ensure victory.

Aisling Burke was the hero for the Laois seniors last week with an extra-time goal to qualify the midlanders for the Division 2 League final and she did the business once more as the minors defeated Antrim by 0-13 to 0-7 in the B shield decider. The skipper scored six points, while Niamh Enright was the primary contributor for Antrim with four. Cavan claiming the honours over Monaghan in the C shield final, 2-6 to 0-4.

Phelan hits decisive strike for Kilkenny

By Camogie Press
Posted 25/04/2015



A 52nd minute goal from Clara Phelan secured Kilkenny's sixth title in 10 seasons of the All-Ireland minor camogie championship, continuing their dominance of the A grade by accounting for Tipperary at St Brendan's Park Birr by 3-9 to 1-12.

This was a pulsating encounter, with Tipperary producing a wonderful second-half comeback that saw them draw level as the game entered its conclusion, having been eight points behind just before the interval.

And even when Phelan struck with a devastating blow, they still came fighting back but second-half sub, Grace O'Brien's shot was deflected out for a 45 at the death. That gave Tipp one last opportunity but as the sliotar landed in the Kilkenny square, their defenders held firm to clear their lines and the danger was averted.

Kilkenny settled the quickest with three points in the first seven minutes. Sarah Kent converted a 45 and a free, book-ending a Sarah Walsh point that might well have been a goal as her rising shot just cleared the crossbar.

Niamh Treacy, who finished with seven points, responded with a pair for Tipperary but they were rocked back on their heels by two goals in the space of two minutes at the end of the opening quarter. The first came from Jenny Clifford, who took a pass from Walsh and shook the rigging. She then returned the favour to Walsh, who made no mistake either.

A brilliant point from influential midfielder, Kellyann Doyle, followed by scores from Phelan and Clifford opened up an eight-point lead but critically, Tipperary shot three of the last four points, including another Treacy brace, to keep themselves in touch, trailing by 2-7 to 0-7 at half time.

The Munster girls were a very different proposition after the resumption though and a scoring spree that yielded 1-3 without reply brought them level. The goal came from the excellent Orla O'Dwyer and with Ciardha Maher and Róisín Howard adding points, it was 2-9 to 1-12 entering the final quarter.

The exchanges were frantic in that decisive period and it was Phelan who held her nerve, having been placed by the fabulous Clifford, to make it another famous day for the Noreiders.

Meath won the B final, overcoming the Derry challenge by 4-6 to 2-10 in Inniskeen. Derry looked bound for glory when Eimear McGuigan's high ball found its way to the Meath net in the first half and when the magnificent Aoife Shaw added three points they were seven clear.

That was a good response in itself from the Oak Leafers as it was Meath who came out firing, with an early goal from Niamh McLoughlin putting them four points ahead. A Shaw goal and some excellent saves by Erin Burns earned Derry a foothold before they drew ahead.

Meath captain and player of the match, Aoife Minogue found the net at the other end though to give her side hope and the margin was down to three when Niamh Gallogly pounced for her second goal to achieve parity for the Royals. Minogue gave them the lead and Amy Gaffney followed up to give Meath the edge.

Aisling Burke was the hero for the seniors last week with an extra-time goal to qualify the midlanders for the Irish Daily Star Division 2 League final and she did the business once more as Laois minors defeated Antrim by 0-13 to 0-7 in the B shield decider. The skipper scored six points, while Niamh Enright was the primary contributor for Antrim with four.

Cavan claimed the honours over Monaghan in the C shield final, by virtue of a 2-6 to 0-4 scoreline.

All Ireland Minor B Championship

Meath 4-6 Derry 2-10

This was a pulsating encounter that had everything and which could have gone either way right to the finish. Ultimately it was a Niamh McLoughlin goal in the 56th minute that swung the tie Meath's way. The Royal girls produced a brilliant second-half comeback, trailing by four points at the break Meath went further in arrears as Derry tagged on two early second-half points to lead by six.

Meath started the first-half brightly with Labhacise Martyn scoring a point after 30 seconds. Drumree's Niamh Gallogly justified her selection at corner forward with two goals, both ground strikes after following in after shots from Megan Thymne and Aoife Minogue respectively. Meath led 2-1 to 0-1 after 11 minutes.

Derry responded by upping their game with Aoife Shaw and Eimear McGuigan causing all sorts of problems for the Meath defence adding three points without reply. They were awarded a 20 metre free on 15 minutes and as Aoife Shaw stood over the sliotar shaped as if she was going to settle for a point, but cheekily drove a rasper of a shot to the net, reminiscent of Waterford's Paul Flynn in his prime.

Amy Coyne settled the Leinster girls, with a beautiful point after some excellent interplay with her midfield partner Aoife Minogue. Meath were rocked as the Oak Leafers scored a 29th minute goal when a speculative long range shot from Eimear McGuigan was failed to be adequately dealt with and ended up in the back of the net. This left the half-time score 2-6 to 2-2 in favour of Derry.

After conceding 2 early second-half points influential Captain and Player of the Match Aoife Minogue started to exert her influence around the middle third. Playing with the wind she played intelligent ball in front of the Meath forwards. Labhacise Martyn capitalised on one such ball doubling on a hopping ball to score an excellent point. Minogue now on fire then added a goal and a point and when Nadine Doyle was upended in the square for a penalty you felt it was going to be Meath's day.

The penalty was saved and this seemed to spur the Derry girls on as they relentlessly drove at the Meath defence who were under extreme pressure. Siobhan Whitty in the Meath goal pulled off a stunning save in the 56th minute when she bravely blocked a certain Derry goal.

Sport doesn't usually do fairytales but in this case it did, as less than a minute later Ratoath's Niamh McLoughlin struck the ball to the back of the net to set the Meath supporters wild in the stand. The final score was Meath 4-6 Derry 2-10.

There were emotional scenes after the final whistle as the enormity of the achievement began to sink in. This was a historic day for Meath camogie and all club mentors, coaches and officers can rightly feel they had some part in this superb victory. Eleven clubs were represented in the squad and credit must be given to Meath Camogie Board past and current who enthusiastically embraced the introduction of County Development squads at all ages from under 13 upwards. A huge amount of work has gone into these squads over the past number of years. The benefit of these efforts were on display in this historic victory.

The Camogie Association have also to be commended for bringing the Finals to a venue befitting of such an occasion. The facilities and pitch of Inniskeen Grattans GAA Club, set in the rolling Drumlin country of Co. Monaghan were absolutely spectacular.

Meath: S Whitty, B Keyes, M Clinch, A Doyle, F O'Brien, E Coffey, L Reilly, A Coyne (0-1), A Minogue Capt. (1-02), A Gaffney (0-1), L Martyn (0-2), N Doyle, N McLoughlin (1-0), M Thymne, N Gallogly (2-0)

Subs: C Jones for A Doyle, M Burke, J Wall, R McIntyre, N Costello, R Fagan, A Stenson, C Murphy, C Mahon, S McInerney, R Hoey, D O. Sullivan

Derry: E Burns, S McGuckian, C Henry, S McWilliams, L McKenna, R Cassidy, A McNabb, S Mellon, A Shaw, E Stinson, C Rafferty, F Burke, S O' Kane, E McGuigan, A Gorman

Subs: U McCoy, S McNabb, N Tosh, S Doherty, D McKenna, B McNicholl, R McLoughlin, K Colgan, E Corrigan, S Murray

Referee: Philip McDonald (Cavan)



BATTLE: Galway's Niamh McGrath and Kilkenny's Leanne Fennell fight for control of the sliotar during their tie at O'Connor Park.



Rachel Leahy, Scartleigh, keeps her eyes on the sliotar during the game against Glenville in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí County DC3 final at CIT Sports Ground. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Minor's All Ireland Champions Again After Edging Tipperary in Birr Thriller

by PRO on the 29th of April 2015



Kilkenny Minor Camogie Team All Ireland Champions 2015

Kilkenny 3-09 Tipperary 1-12

A 52nd minute goal from Ciara Phelan prove the difference as Kilkenny secured the All Ireland minor title for the first time since 2013 when they edged Tipperary in a thriller in Birr on Saturday.

Kilkenny started the game well with a strong breeze and raced into a three point to no score lead in the opening seven minutes. Sarah Kent opened the scoring for the victors with a forty five in the first minute. Sarah Walsh doubled Kilkenny's advantage with a point from fourteen meters, after a latching on to a Marguerite Hoyne's pass; it could so easily of being a goal. Sarah Kent then tapped over a massive free from fifty meters in the seventh minute to end a good opening period for the Cats. Tipperary responded with two points on the trot from Niamh Treacy from fourteen meters after she latched onto a Miriam Campion pass. Treacy then tapped over a free from forty meters to cut the gap to a single point 0-03 points to 0-02 after eleven minutes. Kilkenny responded with their first goal of the game when Jenny Clifford latched onto a Sarah Walsh pass to blast home from close range in the twelfth minute. Orla O'Dwyer responded for the premier county with a point from forty five meters in the fifteenth minute. Sarah Walsh then got in for Kilkenny's second goal when Jenny Clifford returned the favour and set up Walsh to goal from fourteen meters, this put Kilkenny 2-03 to 0-03 ahead.

Niamh Tracey responded for Tipperary with a free from forty five meters in the seventeenth minute. Kellyann Doyle responded with a brilliant score from thirty five meters after brilliant link up play with Jenny O'Neill and showed exceptional skills to tap over. Ciara Phelan then tapped over an excellent point from out near the sideline from twenty one meters and Kilkenny were on a roll. Jenny Clifford then pointed from thirty meters in the twenty third minute to make it 2-06 to 0-04 points. Orla O'Dwyer responded for Tipperary with a point from thirty five meters in the twenty fourth minute before Sarah Kent tapped over a forty five in the twenty sixth minute. Tipperary closed out the half with two Niamh Tracey frees. The first in the twenty seventh minute from fifty meters and the second in the first minute of injury time from twenty five meters after she was fouled to see them trailed by 2-07 to 0-07 at the break. Kilkenny would of being happy with their performance in the first half but would of being expecting a backlash from the premier county in the second half.



The Kilkenny Defense Keeping the Tipperary Forwards at Bay

Tipperary set out there stall early in the second half and opened the scoring in the thirty first minute from a Niamh Tracey free from twenty one meters. Kellyann Doyle responded with a free in the thirty fourth from thirty five meters. Tipperary then scored 1-03 on the trot. Niamh Tracey started the burst with a forty five in the thirty sixth minute. Orla O'Dwyer then got in for a Tipperary goal after latching on to a breaking ball from fourteen meters to blast home in the thirty eight minute and it was game on. Catha Maher continued Tipperary's good run with a point from thirty meters in the forty first minute to cut the gap to a point. Roisin Howard then equalised the contest at 2-08 to 1-11 with a point from fourteen meters and Tipperary were on a roll. Sarah Kent responded with a massive free in the forty sixth minute. Tipperary responded instantly with a point from Orla O'Dwyer from thirty meters in the forty seventh minute which prove to be Tipperary's last score. Ciara Phelan then got in for Kilkenny's third goal in the fifty second minute after latching onto a Jenny Clifford pass rounded her marker to blast home from fourteen meters to the roar of the Kilkenny support. Kilkenny had to endure a nervy final seven minutes as Tipperary threw everything at Kilkenny and their efforts were nearly awarded in the twenty ninth minute when second half sub Grace O'Brien latched onto a breaking ball fourteen meters from goal, but she couldn't connect right and Kilkenny cleared the ball out for a forty five. Niamh Tracey dropped the resulting forty five into the square but Kilkenny brilliantly cleared there lines. Referee Ray Kelly then blew the full time whistle to the massive roar of the Kilkenny support. This victory rounded off a terrific year for the Kilkenny side having suffered the pain of some narrow losses last season to run through this year undefeated really showed the talent that this side contained and bodes well for the Leinster championship that begins in July. Kilkenny will begin their Leinster Championship campaign away to Wexford on the 15th July.



Kilkenny Minor Management Team at Final Whistle

Scorers - Kilkenny: Sarah Kent 0-04 (2f, 2-45), Sarah Walsh 1-01, Jenny Clifford 1-01, Ciara Phelan 1-01, Kellyann Doyle 0-02 (1f). Tipperary: Niamh Tracey 0-07 (5f, 1-45), Orla O'Dwyer 1-03, Catha Maher 0-01, Roisin Howard 0-01.

Kilkenny: Kirsty Maher (Joint capt), Roisin Phelan, Katie Nolan, Miriam Bambrick Sarah Kent, Eilish Regan, Michelle Teehan, Laura Murphy, Kellyann Doyle, Marguerite Hoyne, Jenny O'Neill, Edel Coonan, Ciara Phelan (Joint Capt), Sarah Walsh, Jenny Clifford.

Sub: Aoife Norris, Ciara Murphy, Chloe Blackmore, Eimear Corr, Roisin Breen, Aoife O'Carroll, Mia Griffin, Deirdre Purcell, Mogan Walsh, Aoife Farrell, Laura Greene, Eimear Donnelly, Sophie O'Dwyer, Nicole Garvey, Laura Tennyson, Heather Doyle, Shannon Doyle, Tara Lacey, Caoimhe O'Shea

Tipperary: Caoimhe Bourke, Karen Fox, Caitriona Skehan, Eimear Murphy, Maureen Ryan, Karen Kennedy, Lorna O'Dwyer, Roisin Cahill, Courtney Ryan, Orla O'Dwyer, Roisin Howard, Catha Maher, Miriam Campion, Niamh Tracey, Keely Lenihan.

Sub: Sarah Guigley, Carol Casey, Claire Stakeum, Sarah Stakeum, Sinead Meagher, Emma Cleary, Caroline Mullaney, Eimear Loughman, Caoimhe Condon, Nicola Loughnane, Rachel Quinlan, Rachel Maher, Grace O'Brien, Leanne O'Kelly, Sarah Kinnane.

Great Féile win for U14A team

CAMOGIE

INNISCARRA U14A camogie team recently won the Cork A Féile County competition.

They now go on to represent Cork in the National Féile A competition on the 20th June in Thurles.

Inniscarra qualified by topping a very competitive group which included Inniscarra, Sarsfields, Carrigaline, Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's.

They then defeated Ballincollig in the semi final by a single point, before overcoming Charleville also by a single point in very wet and windy conditions in the recent final which was played at Castle Road Camogie Grounds.

Having won the toss, Inniscarra played with the wind advantage in the first half and within the first minute Anna Glazier scored a goal for Inniscarra.

Charleville replied with a point from play and after exchanging wides Charleville goalied in the 10th minute.

Ellen Murphy pointed from a free in the 12th minute to leave the sides level and within three minutes was the provider for Aine Regan, who found the net with Inniscarra's second goal on the 15 minute mark.

A superb individual point from a solo run from within deep in her own half by Inniscarra's Clara Ring left the score 2-2 to 1-1 at the break in favour of Inniscarra.

The second half saw Charleville, now playing with the the elements, score a point after 30 seconds of the restart and were piling on the pressure which saw them score a second point on the 10 minute mark after hitting a couple of wides, forcing some excellent saves from Caoimhe Buckley in the Inniscarra goal.

The very impressive Laura Doyle for Charleville was on the mark again with another point on the 17th minute mark leaving just the minimum between the sides.

As the rain continued to get heavier and with just under eight minutes to play and with light fading, Inniscarra defended that one point lead with some brilliant and determined defending by their backs, who were now out on their feet.

After surviving some very near misses by Charleville, elation greeted the final whistle and Inniscarra were crowned County Féile A champions.

Inniscarra have now been drawn in Group 1 in the National Féile competition against Clare champions Scariff, Kilkenny's Thomastown and Galway's Carnmore on June 20th in Moycarkey, Borris, Tipperary.

The Group One winners will play the Group Two winners on the 20th.

Well done and best of luck to all the Inniscarra players, coaches and mentors on the 20th.



Cork's Meabh Cahalane gets to the ball ahead of Limerick's Rebecca Delee during their recent Division 1 semi-final at Charleville GAA Grounds. Picture: INPHO

Meabh adds to clan's reptation

THE Cahalane name is famous in Cork going back to the 80s when Niall shone as the toughest of defenders you could hope or hope not to meet in Gaelic football.

His son Damien ensured the candle didn't burn out, becoming a prominent senior hurler and footballer in the red and white in recent years; this season concentrating on hurling alone at intercounty level.

Now another Cahalane is making their mark in the form of daughter and younger sister Meabh. In what will be a proud day in the Cahalane household both Meabh and Damien will line out in Semple Stadium in their respective camogie and hurling league finals on Sunday.

We've had siblings in both codes before such as the O'Connors with Paula, Ben and Jerry, but it's a first for both to play a national final on the same day in the same stadium. Thank God times have changed in relation to women in sport which has allowed this special day to occur for the Cahalanes.

At just 19, Meabh has become a regular this season at left wing back under Paudie Murray's watch. She was a senior panelist in early 2014 but focused on the Intermediate side as the season progressed and wasn't in the squad when Cork took the All-Ireland title in Croke Park last September.

But Meabh was happy with that decision. Her leaving cert was her priority and she didn't feel ready for the senior squad at the time, didn't feel as comfortable as she does now. A first year student studying Commerce with French in UCC has undoubtedly seen her mature both on and off the field. Her performances for the college in the Ashbourne Cup at wing back brought her up another level and with word filtering through about her strong performances she started Cork's first national league game this year against Clare and hasn't looked back.

She was surprised but delighted when selected. "I was shocked enough to be starting at wing back against Clare not only to start but to start defensively as I was playing up front for the intermediates in 2014. But the college games possibly changed that and I prefer playing defensively. I'm really enjoying it and every game I play I'm gaining more confidence."

She credits captain Aisling Thompson with helping her blend in. "With Aisling as captain this year she's great with the younger girls and very approachable. She leads by example on and off the field so she's really helping us. Gemma from my own club is also very encour-



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

aging. She's driving me on and putting her arm around my shoulder so there are a few there that are great in that regard."

It's not easy to break into a strong half back line, that of Emer O'Sullivan, Pam Mackey and Gemma O'Connor but with Gemma rested throughout the league, Meabh got her break. She's taken it and will work hard to keep it.

Dual status is a tough ask of any player. Meabh is one. It's even tougher when you're underage and pulled in many directions. Playing football with Éire Og. Meabh got a call up this season to the Cork senior ladies football squad. So it's all happening for her. There is also an U21 championship in football (absent in Camogie) so Meabh is in significant demand. "Yeah it can be pretty demanding, you could be out every night of the week," she admits, "but both sets of management in the camogie and football work closely together and ensure we rest when we need to. There's a sensible approach."

Having started playing street leagues with St Finbarr's it was quickly recognised that Meabh had talent. She is a key member of a club that is growing in numbers, doing very well at underage and has a good future ahead. Meabh played on the Cork Minor team that lost the All-Ireland final replay to Kilkenny in 2013. So she has yet to taste intercounty success and Sunday would be the perfect start to her senior camogie career if this young Cork side can take Galway.

The whole Cahalane crew are travelling to Thurles. Cork minor hurler Conor amongst them so there's another star coming fast up the track.

Will the title itself and the pressure of playing in such a stadium in front of a Cork crowd terrify the young Meabh?

"No not really. I'm excited about it really. It's a big day for both of us. I've never played in Semple Stadium so I'm looking forward to that. I typically don't get worked up about games or nervous until the day itself and I'm in the middle of exams at the minute so that's a great distraction. I'll probably get nervous as I approach the stadium but once we're pucking around I'll be fine."

With those genes I'm sure she will be.

Cork bids



Cork's Finola Neville gets to the ball ahead of Kilkenny's Denise Gaule during this year's National Camogie League Division 1 clash at the Mardyke. Picture: cquinnphotography.com

Three things Cork need to do to win

1. Get ball into their Full Forward line - This may seem like its stating the obvious but for Cork to win this league title they have to get a plentiful supply inside to their lethally fast full forward line of Julia White, Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey. These players cannot be starved of possession. Cork need to play a wide expansive game up front and the ball needs to come in fast and low from out the field.

2. Protect their full back line - Cork's full back line is young and inexperienced.

Laura Treacy heading for twenty years of age is their most experienced campaigner. Cork's half back line need to protect them. Their style of not allowing themselves to get sucked out beyond their own 45 should achieve this.

3 Midfield - The experienced Rena Buckley and Aisling Thompson would be expected to win out at midfield. Orla Cotter also tends to play deep and is a huge play maker for Cork from wing forward This is where Cork need to capitalise.

for another title



Pictured at the launch of the Irish Daily Star Camogie League finals at Croke Park this week were Division 1 finalists Ashling Thompson of Cork and Niamh Kilkenny of Galway.

Picture: INPHO

SUNDAY
Irish Daily Star National League
Division One final:
Cork v Galway,
Semple Stadium, 1.30pm

CORK will be bidding for another national league title when they take on Galway in the Irish Daily Star Division One final on Sunday. The game is part of a double-header with the hurling final between Cork and Waterford.

For the second consecutive year, the game will be broadcast live on GAA Beo, TG4.

Two of the upcoming four camogie league finals are scheduled as double-headers with GAA hurling games, as the meeting of Carlow and Dublin in the division three final in Cusack Park, Mullingar is followed by the Leinster hurling championship game between Carlow and Westmeath.

Both Cork and Galway have been experimenting throughout this league campaign but still managed to remain unbeaten.

In that sense, Paudie Murray and Tony Ward are very happy with the way things have gone and are one step away from a national title.

Cork would seem to have the more inexperienced side with many on the panel for the first time this year figur-



Cork v Galway

Linda Mellerick

ing. Galway's selection for their league semi-final were all members of last year's squad, albeit a few were down the picking order.

Galway are on a scoring demolition of opposition lately.

They were majestic in their 2-23 destruction of Wexford in their final group game and struck for 5-7 against Kilkenny in the semi-final. The pace and scoring threat provided by youngster Ailish O'Reilly, Orlaith McGrath and full forward Molly Dunne has made them very dangerous up front. Lorraine Callanan and Leanne O'Sullivan will have their toughest test to date and Cork's half back line will need to protect them.

Niamh Kilkenny and Niamh McGrath are also very strong forwards with Lorraine Ryan, Heather Cooney, Susan Earner and Sarah Dervan providing defensive solidity. Niamh McGrath will punish Cork from placed balls so the rebels will need to be disciplined. The fact that Jessica Gill is only being sprung from the bench shows the quality of this Galway side.

Galway struggled at the beginning of the campaign, possibly not having very much work done, a six point draw with Limerick not giving off any great signal of intent.

It was also a low scoring affair against Tipperary for the travelling Westerners; 1-11 to 0-9. A two point victory over Offaly in late March, 3-5 to 1-13, again wasn't overly impressive. But suddenly they found their scoring touch against Wexford and Kilkenny, viewed as the toughest opposition, and from that Galway's confidence must be high.

There have been occasions when they have allowed teams back into games having held the upper hand but they cannot afford any reduction of concentration and intensity against Cork.

Cork haven't overly impressed on the scoring front yet have a 100% winning record heading into the final, due mainly to a very strong defence.

The grandeur of this can't be underestimated when one considers that young Amy Lee, Leanne O'Sullivan, Lauren Callanan and Meabh Cahalane hold down four of the back seven positions. Laura Treacy who is now viewed at such a tender age as an experienced leader and Emer O'Sullivan are other regulars, with the seventh position fluctuating.

Cork's biggest margin of victory from five outings is seven points, built up against Clare in the first round and

Derry in the last.

In between, they accounted for Kilkenny in a rare low scoring encounter 0-9 to 0-5 and Dublin 1-8 to 1-13. Five points was the semi-final winning margin over Limerick 1-12 to 0-10.

Goalkeeper Amy Lee made a couple of brilliant saves in the semi-final as her confidence continues to grow. Add in Aisling Thompson, Rena Buckley, Breige Corkery, Orla Cotter and Katrina Mackey and it's a nice Cork team on paper.

With five of Cork's back seven averaging an age of 19.4 years Sunday is a very big test for them.

Pam Mackey is back fit and fighting after suffering a back injury and is sure to regain her slot in the half back line.

Finola Neville should also hold her spot at centre forward with Cork's full forward line consisting of Julia White, Amy O'Connor and also Katrina Mackey.

Cork have dominated the league since its inception in 1976 and are pursuing a 17th title. If Galway prevail, it will be their fourth ever and first since 2005. Paudie Murray never set out to win this league, he wanted to blend in new players.

He has done just that and these young guns have repaid his faith by reaching the final. He is already happy with his lot but when you reach a final you want to win it and Cork will go all out to do so.

Pressure will be on to win now they've made final

THE pressure must be on Paudie Murray now that he's in a league final to start the majority of the seasoned players that won the All-Ireland title last September.

While stating that winning the league wasn't a goal of theirs at the start of the league and having used it to mix in many new panellists, the fact that they are now there was he tempted to change things around?

"No I wasn't. The future of Cork camogie is more important at this point in time than a league title. Yes absolutely I'd love to win it on Sunday and we can

COACHES' CORNER

■ Linda Mellerick

win it. What sort of message would I be giving to these young players that got us here if I all of a sudden dropped them? I would more or less be telling them that they're ok for the group games but when push comes to shove and on the big days they aren't up to it. That isn't the case at all. They don't deserve to lose their place. I have every faith in them. At some point someone needs to put their

trust into these players and that's what I'm doing.

"I think what these girls, namely Lauren (Callanan), Leanne (O'Sullivan), Amy (Lee), Meabh (Cahalane), Finola (Neville) in addition to a few more will get from Sunday will be huge. A national league final in Semple Stadium in front of a large crowd? It'll bring them on tenfold.

"I'm very happy with what we got from the league already. If we put in a fair showing on Sunday, a good performance, I'll be happy enough but if we could win well that would be great; I'd be thrilled."



Galway players celebrate their National Camogie League, Division 1 title after victory over Cork at Semple Stadium.

Picture: Cody Glenn

Galway claim title despite Rebels' rally

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Galway 2-15

Cork 2-12

Galway defeated All-Ireland champions Cork to claim their first National Camogie League Division 1 title in 10 years at Semple Stadium.

Cork had conceded just 41 points in five games en route to the decider but their packed defensive system was ripped the shreds in the first half, as Galway hit 2-10 - with only one point of that coming from a placed ball.

The Tribeswomen have had a tendency to fade in the second half of games this season, probably a product of their youth, and they repeated that in the second half, allowing an 11-point interval advantage to be whittled down to three by the final whistle.

Galway boss Tony Ward was both delighted and relieved at the final whistle.

He explained: "We ran at Cork in the first half. They played our game in the second half. Thanks be to God we'd enough scored to keep in front of them. They're not All-Ireland champions for nothing

and they proved it there in the second half they're a serious side.

"The average age of this (Galway) team is 22. When we won the All-Ireland in 2013, we're missing 13 of that panel through retirements and injuries. So it's great for a young team like that, to win a final like this today and hold on under pressure like that."

However he admitted their second-half collapse is a huge worry heading into the championship. "It was a poor show from Galway in the second half. It's something for seven weeks' time when we play Cork again (in the championship) we won't get away with."

Apart from a cagey opening, which saw the sides level at 0-2 each, Galway were dominant in every sector. By and large, the Leeside forwards were starved of a quality supply, where by contrast, Galway managed to feed wonderful low ball to their forwards and get them in space, despite being faced with up to 10 defending players at times.

Captain Niamh Kilkenny drove them forward, while Niamh McGrath, her sister Orlaith and Ailish O'Reilly

were to the fore. Niamh McGrath hand-passed to the net for Galway's first goal in the 10th minute but the score was all about Kilkenny, who won possession 50 yards out and beat three defenders before feeding the centre-forward who showed good control and strength to finish.

O'Reilly effected two blocks to set up scores for herself and Orlaith McGrath and though the latter was forced off with injury, Galway were under-terred as O'Reilly and Niamh McGrath extended the margin to seven.

Cork were heavily reliant on Orla Cotter for scores from frees but they were rocked again when O'Reilly set up Molly Dunne for a goal six minutes from half time and with Kilkenny adding a couple of wonderful points, Galway led by 2-10 to 0-5 at the change of ends.

Cork needed a goal and they had one after 43 seconds when skipper Ashling Thompson drove through the middle and fed Julia White, who in turn transferred to Katrina Mackey. The All-Star attacker blasted a ferocious shot to the net. Amy O'Connor showed

her predatory instincts when racing onto a long clearance from Thompson and flicking the sliotar past the advancing Susan Earner before slotting to an empty net. Cotter converted a point and suddenly it was a five-point game. McGrath settled Galway with a brace of frees and the margin was six until the last five minutes when subs Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin hit the target for Cork and Cotter landed her last free. However time ran out for the rallying Munster girls and Galway held on for a deserved victory.

Scorers for Galway: N McGrath 1-7 (0-3fs, 0-1pen); N Kilkenny 0-4; M Dunne 1-0; O McGrath, A O'Reilly 0-2 each

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-8 (fs); K Mackey 1-1; A O'Connor 1-0, B Corkery, H Looney, O Cronin 0-1 each

CORK: A Lee, L Callanan, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, M Cahalane, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, F Neville, J White, A O'Connor, B Corkery, K Mackey.

Subs: G O'Connor for Neville (ht), H Looney for Callanan (46), O Cronin for White (51)

GALWAY: S Earner, T Kenny, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, E Kilkenny, A Donohue, N McGrath, AM Starr, O McGrath, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: F Keeley for O McGrath in (17), J Gill for Starr (54)

Referee: O Elliott (Antrim)SOF

Extra effort pays off for Cork girls in minor final

Cork 2-20
Tipperary 2-16
(after extra-time)

IT was Tipperary who opened the scoring with a point after three minutes from Miriam Campion in this Munster Minor final played in Fermoy on Saturday writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Cork responded with a free from Player of the Match Lisa Lynch, who was unerring from placed ball all day.

After 20 mins it was all Tipperary, with their full forward line all getting on the scoresheet and it looked like Cork wouldnt cope with the pace of the Premier girls. However it was the aforementioned Lisa Lynch who kept them in with two further frees and points from the speedy Haley Ryan, and Leah McEvoy kept them in contention. A goal from Tipp's

CAMOGIE

Niamh Tracey kept their noses in front, and at half time it was Tipperary 1-7 Cork 0-6.

The second half saw Cork via Lisa Lynch start to claw into Tipperary's lead with three unanswered points, but it was short lived when Keely Lenihan rattled the net putting 7 between the teams.

Tipperary's Orla O'Dwyer had a chance to put this game to bed, but her goal bound shot hopped off the post, and a penalty for Tipp was put over the bar by Grace O'Brien.

Suddenly Cork began to rally, Hannah Looney's move closer to goal resulted in her getting a penalty which Lynch duly converted.

Two further points from Looney had Tipperary on the back foot, and with injury time looming, and Tipp under serious pressure, the inspirational Lynch converted a free to take the game to extra

time. Full time was Cork 1-15, Tipperary 2-12

When the action resumed, it was Lynch again from placed ball and play who popped over two points, when Grace O'Dwyer and Orla O'Dwyer kept it all square approaching half time in ET, when Hannah Looney who was really starting to cause trouble, slotted over from play to leave it at half time in extra time Cork 1-18 Tipperary 2-14.

Cork, through Moira Ellen O'Connor, poached A GOAL from a rebound to give them some daylight. Tipp through Nicola Loughnane and Orla O'Dwyer kept the board ticking over with points, but the last hurrah went to Lisa Lynch and Hannah Looney who scored a further two points to seal the deal and the Championship for the Rebels.

Cork Scorers: L Lynch 1 - 14 (1-0 pen, 0-9), M E O'Connor 1-0, H Looney 0-4, H Ryan, L McEvoy 0-1 each.

Tipperary: O O'Dwyer 0-5, K Lenihan 1-1, G O'Brien 0-3 (0-1), N Tracey 1-0, R Howard, M Campion 0-2 each, C Ryan, C Loughnane, C Stakelum 0-1 each.

Carton brace sends Waterford on their way

By Camogie Press
Posted 03/05/2015



Beth Carton maintained her high-scoring form with two vital second-half goals to propel Waterford to a second Irish Daily Star Camogie League Division 2 title, as they beat Laois by 3-10 to 2-5 at Nerwath Cullen Park, Carlow.

The teams produced a wonderful hour of entertainment despite the incessant rain with Carton the difference between the sides. The De La Salle attacker added a point to her brace of majors and also provided assists for another goal and three points.

It wasn't looking too promising for Waterford at the interval though. They had a strong wind in their favour in the first half but given the conditions, it was still an eye-catching display of long-distance striking from Irish Jackman that saw them move into an early two-point lead.

Laois rocked the Déise crew right back on their heels with a goal from Noreen Kirwan after five minutes however and they needed a point from Carton to lead by 0-5 to 1-1 at half time.

That didn't look sufficient given the strength of the elements but Carton gave Waterford the perfect start to the second half with a goal after just two minutes. However, when the inspirational Sarah Ann Fitzgerald found the net at the other end just three minutes later, the sense was that momentum and the wind would help Laois win their first ever Division 2 title.

Crucially though, Carton pounced again in the 48th minute and when Niamh Rockett scored a third Waterford goal at the beginning of the final quarter, that put some daylight between the teams. Laois poured forward in a bid to cut back the deficit but Waterford's defence held firm.

In the Division 3 final, Carlow edged out Dublin by 0-12 to 1-7 at Cusack Park, Mullingar. Eleanor Treacy's accuracy from frees put some early daylight between the sides as Carlow led by four points after 10 minutes. Carlianne Canning hit Dublin's first score and with a couple of more from Elaine Gallery, they were right in the game at half time, trailing by just two points, 0-6 to 0-4.

Gallery gave Dublin the perfect start to the second half with a goal from a free but Carlow retained their composure. Treacy converted a brace of frees, while Clara Quirke and Michelle Nolan found the target from play to put three between the sides.

Back came Dublin, with Gallery on target once more as the margin was reduced to the minimum but Carlow held on, a late Treacy free finishing the scoring.

The Division 4 decider was played in Birr and it proved historic, as Kerry claimed their first national senior title at adult level with a 1-12 to 1-4 victory over Meath. Cliona Murphy scored a late goal for the Royals but it was too little too late as the Kingdom had established a healthy advantage by that juncture, with Sara Murphy's first-half major setting them on their way.

Meanwhile, Roscommon were too strong for Armagh in the All-Ireland minor C final at Clane's Connell Park, laying the groundwork in the opening quarter, at the end of which they led by 2-3 to 0-0.

To give the Orchard County girls utmost credit, they matched their opponents for the remainder of the game but did not possess the firepower to reel them in, losing in the end by 2-6 to 0-4.

Pictured: Beth Carton in action v Laois, IOS Div 2 Final



Cloyne's Costine sisters (seated) Marie, Bonnie and (at rear, l to r) Bernie, Kathleen, Aisling and Ger pictured in 2004. Intercounty goalie Kathleen sadly passed away recently.



Orla O'Brien, Vice Captain, and Aoife Murphy, Captain, Bhailenora, celebrate after their win against Whitechurch in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, County C4 Final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Ashling Thompson, Cork, in action against Ann-Marie Starr, Galway.

Picture: Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE

Plenty to remain upbeat about

IT wasn't to be Cork's day yesterday in the National Camogie senior final as they were beaten by a better Galway outfit on the day, particularly in the first-half.

Whilst he will be disappointed with the loss Cork manager, Paudie Murray, will look back on the league campaign with some satisfaction.

Six players that didn't start the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny last September were in the line-up and with a lot of these in defence it was always going to be tough against a strong Galway outfit.

Defensively Aoife Murray (keeper), Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary and Gemma O'Connor didn't start for a variety of reasons, some retired and others injured, and this foursome would be missed by any side.

And it showed early on as the Rebels looked very nervous at the back, no surprise as overall it is a young back line, with some playing in the biggest game of their camogie careers to date. Add in the big Cork crowd, who came in to watch ahead of the men's final, and it all added up to the occasion getting to some.

In the first-half, when Cork were playing with the strong wind, they were outclassed by the hunger, aggression and skill of the Tribeswomen. Niamh McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly were tormenting the Cork defence and add in the outstanding Niamh Kilkenny at midfield and by half-time the writing was on the cards for the Rebels.

With the wind one would have to wonder why Cork didn't play more direct ball into their full-forward line, who showed they are more than capable of getting scores if they get enough supply.

Whilst it is easy to criticise them, it must be remembered that this is a young Cork side, particularly at the back, where Lauren Callan, Laura Treacy and Leanne O'Sullivan, are all either 19 or 20. They will have learnt a lot from this big occasion and have no doubt, come championship, they will be a better for it.

At half-time you would have been worried for Cork, but once again just like they did in the All-Ireland final against Kilkenny, they showed just how good they are overall and come championship it's going to take a very good side to beat the Rebels.

In the second-half Cork performed to the levels you expect from them, with the backline much stronger.

She did show some signs of lack of games, having been missing for most of the league campaign, and gave away a number of frees she won't come championship. But with her back in her rightful place in defence Cork looked a lot better. She added a bit of physicality they lacked early on and there won't be too many centre-forwards get the better of Gemma going forward.



Match verdict

Rory Noonan

Her presence seemed to instill a confidence in all those around her, with Ashling Thompson now moving forward more from midfield, having adopted a more holding role in the first-half.

Just like many others, Thompson was far better in the second-half and was instrumental in turning their nine point half-time deficit into what was a three point loss in the end.

By the end you could actually consider that Cork were a little unlucky to lose and were it not for some last-ditch defending by Galway they were could have got at least a draw out of this encounter.

So when Paudie, and his fellow selectors, sit down to look at their championship starting side he can do so with confidence, despite the loss.

He knows he has unearthed a number of potential stars to blend in with the established players. Corner-forward, Amy O'Connor, who joined the panel late last year, showed she will take a bit of stopping if you get the ball into her, with Katriona Mackey also a threat in that line.

Meabh Cahalane showed she has all the qualities to join O'Connor and Eimear O'Sullivan in the half-back line, one that not too many will get the better of.

This frees the experienced Pamela Mackey to possibly drop back a line and help the younger players around her.

In midfield Thompson and Rena Buckley are certain to start and ahead of them Amy O'Connor will have the likes of Orla Cotter, Briege Corkery and Julia White for company.

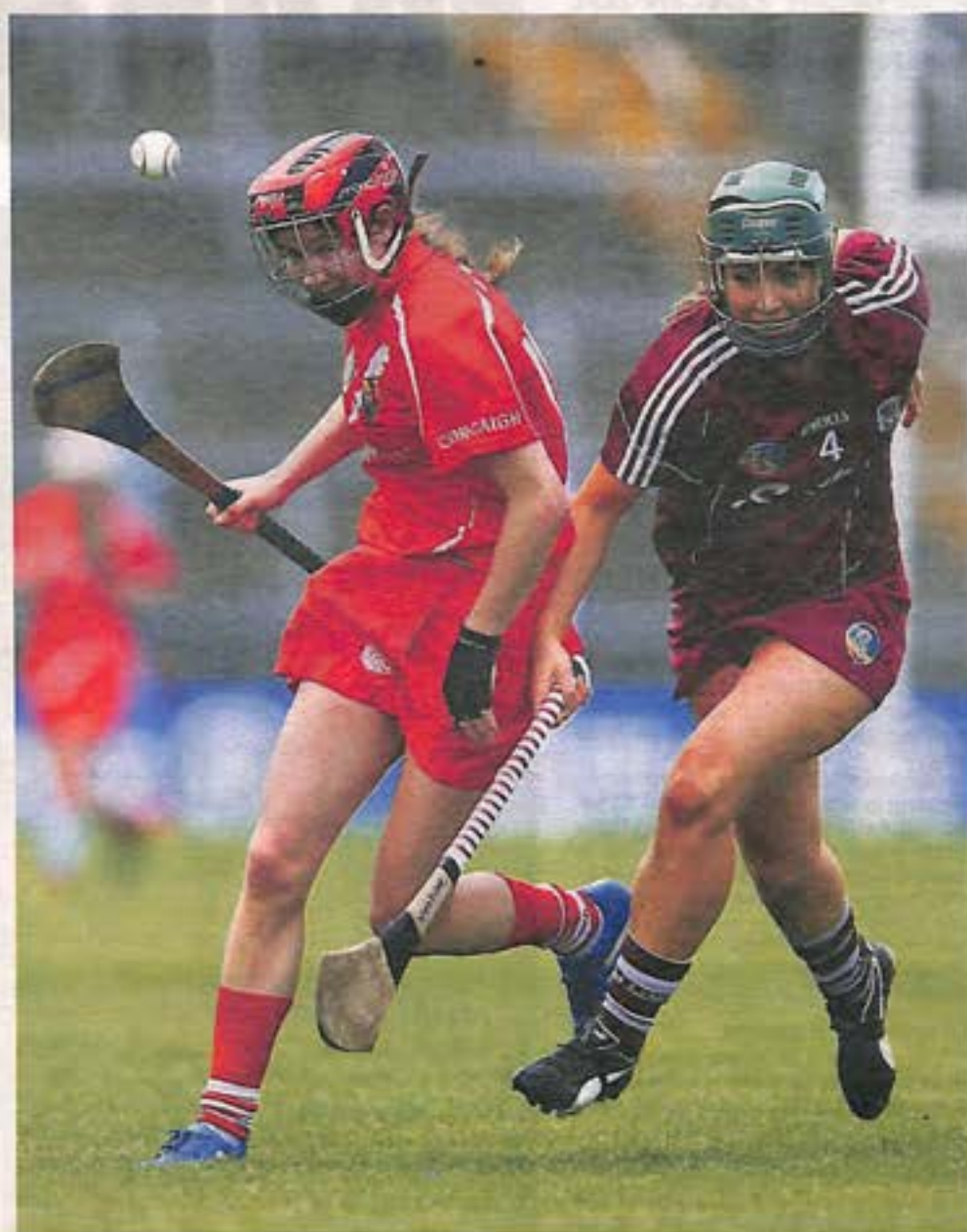
Cotter showed her importance to the side, from both play and frees yesterday, scoring eight points from placed balls.

Corkery, as she does in every game, showed there is no let up in her desire to win despite having a string of All-Ireland and league medals in her trophy cabinet.

So when naming his starting 15 you can be sure that Gemma O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan, Cahalane, Treacy and Pamela Mackey will be there, Thompson and Buckley should form the midfield pairing, with Corkery, Cotter, Amy O'Connor, Katriona Mackey among the six forwards.

They may have lost yesterday, but the defending All-Ireland champions showed in the second half they are a quality side and it won't be any great surprise to see the cup coming South again.

Style of



Cork's Katriona Mackey comes under pressure from Heather Cooney of Galway.

Picture: Cathal Noonan



Cork's Amy O'Connor celebrates scoring her side's second goal.

Picture: James Crombie



Cork's Briege Corkery chases Niamh Kilkenny of Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Story of the game

■ **Player of the Match:** The Player of the Match goes to Galway's Niamh Kilkenny. Her work rate, her distribution, availability at all times to help a teammate out in addition to four points from play makes her an unrivalled choice.

■ **Turning Point:** While the turning point didn't result in a win for Cork, their two goals after half time and the way they took the game to Galway by outscoring them 2-7 to 0-5 in the second half led to a great climax to the game.

■ **Ref Watch:** Eoin Elliot did ok. A couple of soft frees awarded at times in the second period but he didn't influence the overall flow or outcome of the game.

■ **Entertainment Value:** It was disappointing at half time that Cork were under performing in front of a large Cork following.

But full credit to them for a spirited second half display which got the crowd excited and behind them. For second half value 7/10.

May 2015

play cost Rebels



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny comes under pressure from Pamela Mackey, Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor of Cork in the league final yesterday.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Cork	2-12
Galway	2-15

CORK learned a valuable lesson in the opening 30 minutes in Thurles yesterday.

Playing with the aid of a very strong wind their short passing and running game saw them turned over time and again while their opponent's style was one of long deliveries into a speedy full-forward line which Cork's young back three were struggling to hold. Cork needed to get the ball into their full forward but it didn't happen often enough or fast enough.

Cork left themselves with an eleven point mountain to climb at the break but two goals inside eight minutes of the restart had the gap to six after Orla Cotter had also pointed a free and Niamh McGrath and the excellent Niamh Kilkenny struck two over for Galway.

Both of Cork's second half goals came from long Aisling Thompson deliveries. She was on the ball again in between but opted again to run with it and was overturned. At speed Galway would have been opened up again.

The first within a minute of the restart was a rasper from Katrina Mackey



Linda Mellerick

after Julia White had offloaded. The second was coolly taken by Amy O'Connor as she raced head to head with goalkeeper Susan Earner, flicking to her right before calmly pulling home.

It was a big day for six playing in their first league final, particularly Lauren Callanan and Leanne O'Sullivan in the full-back line and nerves were obvious in the opening half.

But Cork's more experienced players weren't firing on all cylinders either. Cork were struggling at midfield and in the half forward line hence immense pressure was piling on the defence.

Lauren was finding the going tough with Ailish O'Reilly. But Cork manager Paudie Murray wanted the girls to gain this experience and so to his credit he didn't whip them off, rather gave them time to settle and deal with it.

The outstanding Niamh Kilkenny

ran too far through the middle unchallenged before distributing to Niamh McGrath for Galway's first goal ten minutes in. Cork's delivery was slow, their wind up catching them as two blocks resulted in two points for Galway.

Time and again Cork lost the ball as they attempted to run at Galway from midfield. Indeed very few Cork players when in possession let it go first time. Too many wanted to take a few steps, tap it or overrun it, noticeably slowing play down.

It was notable that frees were keeping Cork in the game, just one point from play from Breige Corkery in the opening period. Galway on the other hand hit 2-10, 2-9 from play. Some of Galway's points were impressive, displaying a confidence and enthusiasm. Cork on the other hand lacked bite and urgency.

It was a much better second half performance from Cork however and that will please their management team.

Gemma O'Connor, who hadn't figured throughout the league, came in for Finola Neville. She commenced to deliver a long ball. Unfortunately as Cork got closer to Galway, three conceded frees, one a penalty, kept Galway ticking over. They were frees that needn't have been conceded as Cork outnumbered the Galway player in

possession; they had nowhere to go.

Orla Cotter had a very good day from frees. When she figured more prominently from play in the final quarter it was noteworthy that she caused problems. Cork won the second half 2-7 to five points and held Galway to just two points from play which was pleasing.

In addition Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin each contributed after coming on late in the game. It would seem that Paudie Murray achieved what he set out to do with his younger brigade.

As importantly, while the All Ireland is the target, Cork's style of play was a significant contributor to them losing a league title yesterday and it's a lesson they no doubt learned.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-8 (ft), K Mackey 1-1, A O'Connor 1-0, B Corkery, H Looney, O Cronin 0-1 each.

Galway: N McGrath 1-7 (0-3 ft, 0-1 p), N Kilkenny 0-4, M Dunne 1-0, O McGrath 0-2, A O'Reilly 0-2.

CORK: A Lee, L Callanan, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, M Cahalane, R Buckley, A Thompson, B Corkery, F Neville, O Cotter, J White, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

Subs: G O'Connor for F Neville (ft), H Looney for L Callanan (46), O Cronin for J White (50).

GALWAY: S Earner, T Kenny, S Devan, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, E Kilkenny, A Donoghue, N McGrath, A M Starr, A O'Reilly, M Dunne, O McGrath.

Subs: F Keeley for O McGrath (inj. 17), J Gill for A M Starr (53).

Referee: Owen Elliot (Antrim).



Cork manager Paudie Murray.

Murray: We lost final in first half

Reaction

■ Mary Newman

DISAPPOINTED that they came so close but Cork manager Paudie Murray was happy that his young charges stood up and were counted in the second half of the Irish Daily Star National League Final.

It's disappointing to lose out in a national league final but we are happy enough with our second half display, we came out fighting in the second half and made Galway earn their victory.

"This year we have a lot of new younger players into our team and this was a big test for them to play in a senior national league final and before the second biggest hurling game of the year but I have no doubt but that today will stand to them and do them no harm at all.

"A lot of people will wonder will we see these youngsters come championship and the answer is yes."

Paudie admitted his side's failure to perform in the opening 30 minutes was a huge factor in the result.

"Yes we just didn't play at all in the opening half. I suppose there was a lot of nerves there, we didn't put a lot of emphasis on winning the league this year. We used it to find fresh faces and it worked well for us; we reached the league final and yes we came here today to win and came close in the end after an awful first-half display but we have to put the heads down now and get it right for championship."

Looking ahead to championship the Cork manager said that his side know the work they must do.

"We are six weeks off our first championship game and from now until then we have an awful lot of hard work to do we know what is needed and we will put the work in."

Thompson: Young players will be brought on by experience

CORK captain Aisling Thompson was gracious in defeat but was gutted at her side's failure to capture the title.

"I suppose really it was a big ask for us today, Galway came into the game with huge work done and they were determined to have a good league campaign, we approached the league differently having won the All-Ireland last year. The league wasn't a huge priority but in saying that were are disappointed."

Just like her manager the captain acknowledged her side's failure to perform in the opening half was costly.

Reaction

■ Mary Newman

"We gave ourselves a huge mountain to climb and I suppose really trailing at half time by eleven points the game looked to be over but all credit to everyone we dug deep and were there at the final whistle battling for a goal to grab a draw.

Aisling had huge praise for the younger players who joined the panel this year and worked so hard to get Cork to the league final;

"It is a big step for the younger girls and they have been excellent. It is no fault of theirs that we lost out today, all through the league they have worked hard, they are learning and are willing to learn and the experience of today will help them. We had young players such as Maebh Cahalane, Leanne O'Sullivan, Amy Lee, Hannah Looney, Finola Neville, and Lauren Callanan playing in their first senior final and here in Semple Stadium that was a huge occasion for them and hopefully they will enjoy better days at this level."

She also acknowledged the return of players

such as Gemma O'Connor and Aoife Murray to the Cork panel is a welcome boost.

"It's good to strengthen the panel and Gemma's experience was vital when introduced at half-time. She played well and her experience is great, especially with the younger members of the panel. Come championship we will hopefully be going at full strength and determined to retain our crown. Today is a disappointment but we will put it behind us and look to the positives: the excellent displays from our new young players who I am sure will play major roles come championship."



REBEL ROSE: Anna Geary leads the celebrations after Cork beat Kilkenny at Croke Park to win the O'Duffy Cup last September. The Milford native last night called time on her inter-county career at the age of just 27. 'It was such a tough decision but I think it's the right one,' she said. Picture: Paul Mohan /Sportsfile

Geary reveals career change prompted Rebel exit

Colm O'Connor

Cork camogie star Anna Geary last night admitted a career change forced her retirement from the game at inter-county level.

Geary, who captained Cork to an All-Ireland title last September, made the shock announcement on RTE News admitting it was a "tough decision" but the "right one".

In an illustrious 12-year county career, the Milford native also won All-Irelands in 2005, 2006 and 2009, along with four All Stars in 2005, 2006, 2010 and 2011.

"It is never a good time to leave something you love, especially as it has been a focal part of my life for over a decade," the defender said last night.

"But I am changing careers so I need to focus on that at the moment. It is a

timing issue more than anything.

"I place high expectations on myself each season and right now I cannot give the same commitment that is needed to compete at the highest level.

"It was such a tough decision but I think it's the right one."

The 27-year-old was one of the most recognised camogie players in the country, and her profile was raised further when she represented Cork in the Rose of Tralee Festival in Kerry last August — just weeks before she collected the O'Duffy Cup at Croke Park following a 2-12 to 1-9 win over Kilkenny.

Former Cork camogie star and *Irish Examiner* columnist Therese O'Callaghan last night hailed Geary as "a great leader both on and off the field".

"Every time she pulled the jersey on, be it for St Mary's Secondary School in

Charleville, her club Milford or the county, she was an inspiration to the players around her.

"I read once where she described herself as 'determined, passionate and encouraging'. I think these words sum up Anna perfectly. She is all three.

"But this is a big blow for Cork camogie, following on from the retirements of other experienced players Joanne O'Callaghan and Jennifer O'Leary. Angela Walsh is also unavailable to manager Paudie Murray as the All-Ireland senior championship gets underway next month, which means he is without four of the 2014 All-Ireland winning team."

Geary however isn't hanging up her boots and has vowed to continue playing for her club, Milford.

"Camogie has given me so much; I just hope I gave something back to the

game — both on and off the field — while playing with Cork. I am privileged to have worn the Cork jersey for as long as I have but also honoured to have lined out alongside past, present and future heroes of the game.

"I am lucky to have shared my inter-county journey with true friends. I'm grateful for the support from my family, management and Cork fans throughout my career. I have played with Cork during an exciting time for camogie. The profile of the game is increasing and there have been many positive developments. I will continue to play my club, Milford, as I am not prepared to walk away from camogie entirely."

Geary is relishing the prospect of "new career opportunities to explore" and will also return to her studies to attain a Business and Life Coaching Diploma.



Cork captain Anna Geary with the O'Duffy Cup at the welcome home for the victorious Cork camogie team last September, after defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Geary calls it a day for Cork

CAMOGIE

■ John Horgan

LAST year's All-Ireland winning captain Anna Geary has played her last game of camogie for Cork.

In an announcement that caught a lot of people by surprise last night, Geary revealed that a career change had forced her to make the decision, a decision that will leave Cork bereft of one of their star players when they begin the defence of their title later in the season.

2014 victorious captain points to work pressure for ending inter-county career

The Milford native has enjoyed a glittering career in the red jersey, winning All Ireland medals in 2005, 2006 and 2009 as well as last year.

She was also rewarded with four All star selections and has been a dominant presence in the Cork team for some time now despite the fact that she is bowing out at the age of just 27.

"I am changing careers so I

need to focus on that at the moment. It is a timing issue more than anything else. There's never a good time to leave the stage at this level, all the more so as it has been a focal part of my life for over a decade.

"But I am lucky to have shared my intercounty journey with true friends and I am grateful for the support from my family, the Cork manage-

ment and the Cork fans

"I will continue to play with Milford as I am not prepared to walk away from the game completely."

The announcement is a blow to the Cork and her departure follows Joanne O'Callaghan and Jennifer O'Leary leaving, while Angela Walsh is also unavailable to team boss Paudie Murray.

■ See more camogie on P50.

ANNA RETIRES AT 27



Cork senior All-Ireland winning captain, Anna Geary, aged 27, who has announced her retirement from inter-county camogie. See

MAY 2015

Cork will learn from this defeat

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

JUST over a week ago we were thrilled to be in four national league finals; hurling, football, camogie and ladies football.

We've lost three of them and it remains with the ladies footballers to see if they can claim this national silverware against Galway next weekend.

There is no shame in defeat on the other three codes. We're a little disappointed maybe but how many other counties would have given their right arm to have been in Cork's position.

Now, a few days on from Cork's camogie defeat there isn't too much anguish within the camp I would think. There's bound to be some as inter-county players have an inherent competitive streak and to lose any competitive game hurts.

But lessons were learned and with championship just seven weeks away you would have to consider Sunday worth its weight in gold for that.

The problem with the camogie league as I've mentioned before is that counties don't typically put out their strongest fifteen on any given day.

It genuinely, in most cases anyway, is used for experimenting. Cork's defence appeared very strong all year; conceding just 2-35 from five games (2-15 from play).

Yet in the space of 30 minutes on Sunday they conceded 2-10 as Galway brought their A game to the table. While defensively Cork were shown up a bit they had other problems out the field.

It was a day when Cork were flat all over. Their more experienced players should have applied more influence on the game, done more to assist their youngsters, yet lacked fire and bite albeit matters did improve in that regard in the second half.

Cork struggled at midfield and in their half forward line and you're onto a hiding if that happens, particularly when you have an inexperienced defence. Galway had the space, speed and physique up front in Ailish O'Reilly, Niamh McGrath and Molly Dunne to enjoy their opening half hour and



Cork's Katriona Mackey under pressure from Heather Cooney of Galway during their Irish Daily Star Camogie, Division 1, League final at Semple Stadium, Co Tipperary.
Picture: INPHO

with Niamh Kilkenny consistently racing through the middle from mid-field Cork's back six were under immense pressure.

A real negative was Galway looked the hungrier side and that was disappointing.

Cork conceded some silly frees in very scoreable positions, three close together in the second half just as they were pulling Galway back. They were at times too easily brushed off the ball one on one and their insistence on running into a melee of Galway players in-

stead of opening them up caught them.

The positives are there. Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin coming on late in the game and pointing was certainly one.

Defensively Cork settled down, conceding just five points in the second half. The six playing in their first league final have gained the experience of a big day.

When Cork split Galway they had the finishing goal touch. They learned more from the defeat than if they had won the game. Had Cork snatched a

draw or a win from a display that wasn't up to scratch the players may not have taken the lessons from the game that are so abundantly clear.

Cork are still very strong contenders for the All-Ireland. They are a different team come championship.

Training is going well; they aren't even close to peaking. Paudie Murray achieved what he wanted to achieve from the league.

Sunday was another step in that process and everyone learned something from it; both management and players.

MAY 2015

■ Kerry beat Cork 3-9 to 3-5 in the Munster Junior Camogie final yesterday, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Kerry led by four points at the interval after playing with the aid of a Gael force wind in this Munster Junior championship final in Galbally GAA grounds Knocklong yesterday.

Conditions were horrific as the sides had to contend with torrential rain and Cork had their backs to the wall as they defended for the opening half. It was Kerry who hit the front with the

first attack Sara Murphy finishing to the net inside 18 seconds.

Michaela Hyde replied with a Cork point but with Murphy and Patrice Diggins were on target Kerry extended their advantage. Cork dug deep as Hyde linked superbly with Leah McEvoy for a goal.

However, Murphy struck three points in row as Kerry kept the pressure on. Denise Luby showed her experience hand passing to the net, before Patrice Diggins pointed two frees to and it was 1-8 to 2-2 at the interval.

Kerry dropped an extra player back for the second half and remarkably Cork were content to let it happen and

never pushed a player forward; as a result they struggled to make headway aided by the wind.

Hayley Ryan struck a Cork point on the restart but effectively Kerry finished the game as a contest with two goals inside as many minutes. Sub Jackie Horgan grabbed the first with Jessie Fitzell squeezing in the second in the 40th minute.

Cork found the going hard up front against the sweeper, though Catriona Collins grabbed a goal and Luby pointed to cut the gap to four. However Kerry had done enough at this stage to hold out to take the title.

Scorers for Kerry: S Murphy 1-5 (0-4 f), P Diggins 0-3 (0-2 f), J Horgan, J Fitzell 1-0 each, O Dineen 0-1.

Cork: D Luby 1-2 (0-2 f), L McEvoy, C Collins 1-0 each, Ryan 0-2, M Hyde 0-1.

KERRY: M O'Carroll, T Moran, A Fitzgerald, M Costello (c), L Collins, N Leen, J O'Keefe, O Young, P Diggins, AM Leen, O Dineen, E Ryall, J Fitzell, S Murphy, A Maunsell.

Subs: J Horgan for S Murphy (22 in), G McNamara for E Ryall (55).

CORK: C Casey, A Sheehan, C Sigerson, MA Hayes, J O'Sullivan (c), E Kingston, M Buckley, W Brennan, E O'Reilly, H Ryan, C Collins, M Hyde, T McCarthy, D Luby, L McEvoy.

Subs: E O'Regan for AM Hayes (22), A Cott for E O'Reilly (26), R Twohig for M Buckley (35), ME O'Connor for T McCarthy (52).

Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).

Cork well on top as they take the title

INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 6-13
Tipperary 0-9

GOALS win games as Cork's ability to grab six saw them retain their Munster Intermediate championship title with ease in Galbally yesterday.

Conditions were difficult underfoot but with the rain easing off it made life that bit easier on a day not suitable for hurling of any decent level, but both teams did their best.

With this competition separate from the All-Ireland championship Paudie Murray and his back-room team took the opportunity to introduce a lot of this year's minor side to adult competition and all acquitted themselves well.

Aided by the strong win in the opening half Cork did all the damage.

Points from Sarah Fahy and Finola Neville settled them and between the fifth and eight minute Rachel Harty found the net twice, with Claire Sexton hitting a third goal.

Niamh Treacy, Tipperary's most effective player pointed twice, but Tipp struggled to get anything from a strong Cork defence where Jennifer Hosford and Rebecca Walsh were superb.

As Cork dominated the scores continued to come. Linda Collins, who was a constant threat, added a point and with Sexton, Orla Cronin and Neville finding their range.

Collins added a goal before the interval where the scoreboard read 4-9 to 0-4 in Cork's favour.

To their credit Tipperary came out fighting, but Hosford, now operating up front, found the net for a fifth goal. Beginning to get a grip Tipp hit four points in a row, but still the huge gap.

As the game drew to its conclusion Cork again upped the pace. Lisa Lynch added three points and Cronin one before Hosford again found the net as Cork finished in style.

Linda Collins, who was excellent, was named Player of the Match.

Scorers for Cork: R Harty, J Hosford 2-0 each, L Lynch 0-4 (0-2 f), L Collins, C Sexton 1-1 each, F Neville 0-3, O Cronin 0-2, S Fahy (f), L Coppinger 0-1 each.
Tipperary: N Treacy 0-4 (0-1 f), C Maher, S Curtin, A Butler, C Stakelum, M Campbell 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, K Falvey, E Murphy, R Walsh, J Hosford, S Fahy, L Coppinger, N O'Callaghan, O Cronin, S Curtin, F Neville, L Lynch, R Harty, L Collins, C Sexton.

Subs: R Sheehan for C Sexton (inj 27), L O'Regan for S Curtin (57), L McEvoy for R Walsh (59), C Sigerson for K Falvey (59), S O'Sullivan for A Lee (59).

TIPPERARY: C Bourke, M Ryan, C Mulaney, K Fox, C Stakelum, S Ryan, K Kennedy, B Ryan, C Maher, M Flynn, N Treacy, L McKeogh, S Curtin, A Butler, M Campbell.

Subs: C Ryan for S Curtin (40), A Moloney for K Kennedy (42).

Referee: Donie Browne (Limerick).

Rebels get past Banner blockade



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 1-15
Clare 0-6

A CORK side showing four changes in personnel from last weekend's National League final defeat took on Clare in the Munster semi-final in Sixmile-bridge yesterday.

Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Hannah Looney and Joanne Casey came in for Amy Lee, Lauren Callanan, Julia White and Finola Neville — all four exam tied or lining out for the intermediate side in their Munster final.

Positional switches saw Pamela Mackey moved from centre-back to left corner, as Leanne O'Sullivan switched over to the right. Murray and Gemma O'Connor slotted back into their familiar number one and six positions. The strong Looney started at centre-forward while Joanne Casey lined out at full with Amy O'Connor going to the right corner.

The commitment of Breige Corkery and Rena Buckley has to be admired, making themselves consistently available despite heavy schedules. Both lined out in Cork's football league final draw with Galway on Saturday.

The pending dilemma for both players, in addition to Meabh Cahalane, a sub for the footballers, is that the league final replay now clashes with the Munster final against Tipperary next Saturday.

Heavy rain fell before the game making conditions very difficult throughout. With both the ball and underfoot conditions very greasy, a good first touch was difficult.

Defensively Cork were on top throughout, Murray hardly touching the ball in the opening half and while more active in the second, it was in dealing with high dropping balls into her territory. Clare opted to fill mid-field and drop back, often leaving just three attackers as Cork capitalised.

Maybe Clare were attempting to mirror the Waterford hurlers' style



Cork's Aisling Thompson under pressure from Laura McMahon of Clare.

but with just one point from play in 60 minutes it certainly wasn't a tactic that suited them.

It was refreshing to have Gemma O'Connor back. Cork's movement was very good at times. Their style of working the ball out of defence works, albeit a couple of points were given away from overdoing it.

Once the ball is out of defence however it needs to be let in fast and Cork improved on that from last weekend. With midfield packed in addition to Clare dropping back as far as their own 45, when Cork's long delivery went over those lines, their full-forwards caused problems.

Orla Cotter played deep throughout and was highly influential. It was obvious from early on that Katrina Mackey had the legs on Aoife

Griffin and it was surprising that Clare didn't make a switch there, Mackey finishing with 1-5.

A low scoring first half was evidence of the conditions in addition to Clare's approach, 0-5 to 0-2.

Despite Cork's numerical disadvantage out the field they still managed to open play up and had Clare at times in disarray with some good vision and passing. Clare in fact looked very inexperienced, Cork at a different level.

The home side did get close to Cork entering the final quarter, thanks to placed balls, but from there on Cork outscored them by 1-8 to nil.

Meabh Cahalane continues to grow in stature, giving good ball down the left flank while Joanne Casey certainly staked a claim for a starting position after four well taken points.

Amy O'Connor was substituted after twenty eight minutes with an arm injury but reports suggest she'll be fine. A good day for Cork after the events of the past seven days.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-5, J Casey 0-4, O Cotter 0-3 f, B Corkery 0-2, H Looney 0-1.
Clare: C Morey 0-5 f, K O'Gorman 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, P Mackey, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, A Thompson, R Buckley, B Corkery, H Looney, O Cotter, A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: C Sugrue for A O'Connor (28, inj), K Hickey for Sugrue (57), L Weste for L O'Sullivan (57), N O'Keefe for E O'Sullivan (58), S Buckley for R Buckley (59).

CLARE: D Lynch, C O'Leary, L McMahon, A Griffin, E Kelly, R McMahon, O Duggan, K Lynch, C Hehir, M Caulfield, C Morey, E Horgan, A Considine, K O'Gorman, V Loughnane.

Subs: T O'Keefe for E Kelly (14), A O'Keefe for E Horgan (19), A Keating for T O'Keefe (24, inj).

Referee: Ger Browne (Tipperary).

Murray hails his young side's work-rate

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

MANAGER Paudie Murray was satisfied with Cork's progression to the Munster final after their victory over Clare yesterday.

"The conditions were terrible. I think 1-15 in those conditions you'd have to be happy with it. I thought our defence stood up very well," said Murray.

"Our work-rate was very good and we tried to do the right thing most of the time which was pleasing."

Murray also agreed that Cork's style of play was faster than it had been the previous weekend. "Yeah, it's something that we're working on. The turnover for the

game would have been high today with the conditions. It's something we're trying to do; it's not going to come off in every game but overall I'm happy."

The game saw a number of Cork's younger players gain further experience.

"I think Meabh (Cahalane) is coming on in every game, likewise Leanne (O'Sullivan)," said Murray. "It's a case of them building in every game. Joanne Casey got a run and I know she was disappointed

last week. There's no doubting Joanne's ability, it's just a case of getting her to match fitness over the next six weeks."

The win saw Murray's young charges bounce back well after last week's National League final defeat to Galway.

"I think a lot of people got carried away with last week, I think the occasion got to a lot of us. We panicked," Murray said.

"We did speak about it in advance, that we wouldn't panic when the pressure came on, that we'd weather the storm, but it blew up on us. But we learned from it."

"We've another game next week now so that can only be of benefit," he added.



Cork manager Paudie Murray.



THE BIG INTERVIEW WITH KIERAN SHANNON

Fourteen All Irelands. Seven All Stars. And today, the prospect of a 13th league medal. Isn't it about time the country met and knew the remarkable Rena Buckley?

'If it's just my parents coming to watch it or 40,000 coming to watch it I still want to play as well as I can'

You may recognise the name but not the face while the scale of her achievements has probably been lost on you as well. Although the whole country last winter — through the RTE Team of the Year award — finally realised the sustained excellence of Eamonn Ryan's ladies footballers; while it can now tell the headband, scoring feats and even sexuality of their exceptional strike forward Valerie Mulcahy; even though Anna Geary's retirement last week made the Six-One News, you'd need serious prompting to know that the pleasant but unassuming bespectacled physio that walks into the lobby of the Oriel House Hotel in Ballincollig is the most decorated player in women's GAA history.

Her All-Ireland senior medal count is now 14: nine in football, five in camogie, just like her fellow dual player and friend, Briege Corkery. Only the late great Kathleen Mills who won 15 All-Irelands with Dublin camogie in the 1950s and 60s has more senior Celtic Crosses.

Then throw in the couple of All-Irelands she's won with Donoughmore. And all her national league medals.

Today, when Cork face Galway in Parnell Park, it will be their eighth consecutive league final appearance, their 11th in 12 years. While Corkery went travelling in 2010, Buckley has been around for all of them, winning eight.

Last weekend she played in her sixth camogie league final. She lost that day but had previously won four.

Do the math. Today is her 34th national senior final with Cork. A win and it'll be her 27th national title. Even though she's just turned 28.

It doesn't really bother her that she has such a low profile to go with such a high medal count.

You'll get no sense of victimhood from her.

"People often ask me, does it annoy you that women don't get the same coverage (as men)? Bla, de bla, de bla. I think when I was younger, it might have. But as you get older, you can't let stuff like whether it's going to be in the paper or on television bother you. If it's just my parents coming to watch it or 40,000 coming to watch it, I still want to play as well as I can. All that other stuff is external. It's up to administrators or whoever to promote it. My job as a player is to do my best for the group."

If there's anyone she feels is hard done by, it's the club player. Such as her own teammates in Inniscarra who last year had to play a camogie county semi-final, replay and county final all in the space of seven days ("Look, we'd have been beaten anyway. Milford were much the better team but that [schedule] was crazy stuff").

Or all the male club players around the county that frequently visit the physiotherapy centres that she works out of in Ballincollig and Macroom.

The past fortnight has been probably the busiest time of year in her work, with over half her clients being young men getting themselves right for the first round of the local championships.

But when will they be out again? That's the question, that's the problem.

"I think there needs to be a separate inter-county season and club season. Club players now are really committed but I don't think they're being adequately respected. The GAA have massively glamourised the inter-county game and

ON THE CHARGE: Rena Buckley takes on Kerry's Louise Ni Mhuirchearthaigh in the TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Senior Championship final at Croke Park back in October, 2012.

Picture: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

they've done a great job with that but I'd be worried long term about the grassroots.

"They've got to set it up that you know for sure when you're playing matches. I personally would have it that you have your All-Ireland final at the end of July. Up to then you're playing league games without your county players. Then you have your club championship season through August, September and October, with the format a bit like what you have with the Champions League."

For Buckley herself, there's never been a doubt when she's out next: the following week invariably, it's just a case of which code and which team.

From her studies and work in physiotherapy, she's understood the importance of rest and recovery. But by her nature, she's never shirked hard graft either.

For more than a decade, Juliet Murphy set the standard for ladies football, Cork football and Donoughmore football but early on she recognised she had a disciple in Buckley.

"When Rena first started training with Donoughmore, our trainer Mossie Barrett would have put a huge emphasis on fitness. Yet I remember before training you'd see her doing 16 laps of the field, then she'd do the physical with the team and then she'd cycle home to Inniscarra."

"Things are maybe more scientific now but she always had a high level of fitness and was always extremely dedicated. She might have just come down from her studies in UCD but you'd never hear a word of complaint from her. You might not know even that she was training earlier on the day. She just gets on with it."

"I've never heard Rena give out to somebody or blame anyone. The rest of us have all lashed out at some stage or other in frustration. But not Rena. She channels that drive and will to win in other ways. When the going gets tough and the team is in trouble, she'll do something unseen or unheralded to turn the game."

A standout memory for Murphy is an All-Ireland club semi-final against Cora Staunton's Carnacon. Often when Cork played Mayo, the versatile Buckley would be assigned to man mark the most famous player in the history of the women's game. This day she was midfield with the club.

"Normally her tendency would be to be the more defensive midfielder tracking or sitting back," says Murphy. "That day she basically grabbed the team and the game by the neck and pulled us through. We won that game and it was almost entirely down to her. She was an inspiration."

That versatility and temperament has been vital to Cork through the years; since Murphy's retirement, Buckley has been playing mostly midfield, meaning she's now played every spot from two to nine for both the county camogie and football teams.

It has also been tested. Last September when Cork fell 10 points down to Dublin

with just 15 minutes to go, Eamonn Ryan put in the order that she and Angela Walsh were to switch positions. At that point, even Buckley had her doubts. About her new role. About Cork's prospects.

"When the second goal went," says Buckley, "my mindset was 'Oh for God's sake if we're beaten, don't let it be a hammering. Let's put some respectability on this at least.' I didn't want to be embarrassed. At that point if we had gone home without being hammered, it would have been a good day as well."

"When the switch was made, a part of me was petrified. I hadn't played in the full-back line all season. I didn't want to make a mistake because any slip would seal it for Dublin and disrupt any momentum we'd get. It's a calmer mentality, playing in the full-back line. If you break even there and you and their forward both do nothing, you're happy."

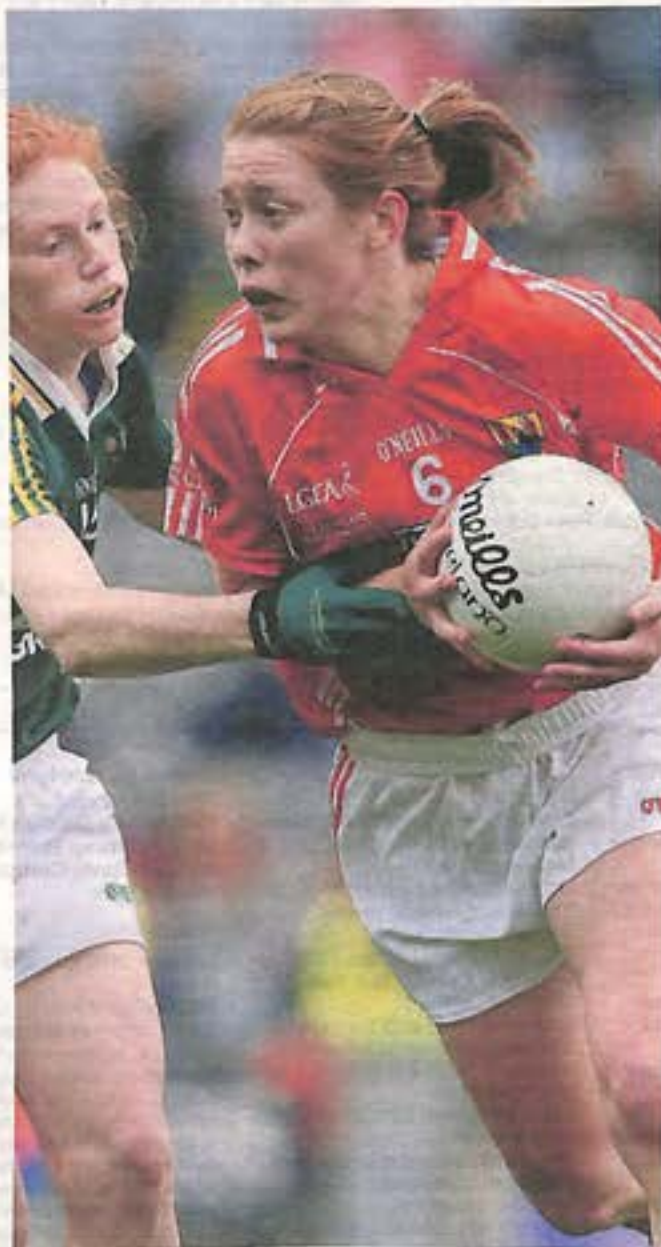
By the game's end, she'd never been happier. On the edge of the square, she'd survived and thrived. The first ball played in, a part of her feared Sinead Aherne would skin her for pace, but Buckley's guile would shepherd her out of harm's way. The next play she came storming out with the ball, breaking a tackle of Dublin's talisman player Lindsay Peat, winning a free, taking it quickly, maintaining the momentum. It would sweep Dublin away and Cork to immortality.

After that win, it finally seemed to register in the national consciousness just how special a group Eamonn Ryan coaches. Just how remarkable his mid-field pairing from that day was though is still not fully appreciated.

Briege Corkery has now won 13 All Stars between football and camogie. Buckley has seven. At a time when in the men's game the dual player seems to be beyond even a freak talent like Aidan Walsh, Buckley and Corkery drive on. How? "I suppose we've known nothing else. I'd imagine if you didn't start out playing the two at senior level and then tried to mix them, it would be much more difficult. It also helps that we've less media and public scrutiny. If we have a bad game, there's not a word about it or our dual status. The men don't have that leeway."

She admits she has little time for anything outside of the games and work — her work partner, Brian O'Connell, is the physio to the team so wherever she looks, there's no escaping work or GAA. When Eamonn Ryan tells them about the importance of "minding themselves", Buckley takes that to mean signing up "to live like nuns" for most the year. But she'd have it no other way. As they put it, they don't make sacrifices, they make winning choices. Hanging out and winning together is the best social life she could imagine.

She does get the odd break. If there's four collective training sessions per week between the two teams, she'd regularly





BRANCHING OUT: Today Rena Buckley will play her 34th senior national final with Cork and is aiming for her 27th national title.
Picture: David Keane

“I don’t have 10 years of a career ahead of me. It’s coming to an end sooner rather than later so you want to get as much out of it as you can.”

Ireland. I was never brought to see a ladies football All-Ireland because Cork weren’t in them. Breaking onto the Cork camogie team was a lot harder because at the time it was a lot better.”

That would change. For all the camogie team’s success, it’s been more sporadic and less consistent than the footballers. Last year’s camogie win she attributes to “a consistency of effort throughout the whole season”. Has it always been there? No. Is it suitably there this year? Not yet, though she thinks last week’s loss to Galway will provide the required wakeup call. “Now it’s probably more difficult for a younger player coming into the football panel. They’re challenging people that they know for spots. When I came in I had to learn people’s names. I didn’t know who they were even though they were there for years.”

The newcomers have blended in well, she feels. But a recent 13-point loss to Dublin signalled to them that the transition is going to be a challenge. Dublin want their All-Ireland crown, so too this highly promising Galway team they square off against today.

For a while there it seemed like the class of 2005 would play and stay forever. Now the turnover is more constant and rapid. Even Ryan won’t manage forever. Even Buckley won’t play forever.

“We’re blessed to have Eamonn again this year. I don’t have 10 years of a career ahead of me. It’s coming to an end sooner rather than later so you want to get as much out of it as you can. I’d be very conscious of that the past couple of years. Last week, we [the camogie] played in Thurles. I might never play in Thurles ever again. It was class! It’s why I’m really excited about this [football] game. I might not play another league final ever again.”

So she’ll appreciate it while she can. While we might appreciate her while we can.

take one off, possibly by being a physio at a game for one of the local GAA clubs or Dolphin rugby. Management understand. They know she “minds herself”. And that when she’s there, she is there in both body and mind. When Kobe Bryant once said “It’s not about how much you practise; it’s about how much your mind is present when you practise,” it resonated with her. That’s why she’s out to savour everything. When she started out with the Cork ladies footballers, she could never have envisaged this kind of success. “I would have grown up always looking to the hurling. When you’d aspirations to play for Cork, it was with the camogie team.”

“As a kid, I’d have got autographs from Linda Mellerick, Sandy Fitzgibbon, Denise Cronin, Fiona O’Driscoll.”

“Every year in Inniscarra there’d have been a bus organised to go up for their All-

Merger needs to happen, says Murray

Eoghan Cormican

All-Ireland-winning Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray says “the sooner the Camogie Association and LGFA merge with the GAA, the better”.

Murray is disgusted that three Cork dual players were expected to play two games within the space of three hours this evening and believes a one-family association will bring an end to such “unfair” and “ridiculous” scheduling.

The Cork camogie team face Tipperary in the Munster final at Cashes (4.30pm) and will be without experienced duo Brieghe Corkery and Rena Buckley, management agreeing to allow the pair line out for Eamonn Ryan’s ladies football outfit in the Division 1 league final replay against Galway at O’Moore Park, Portlaoise (7.30pm).

Dual panellist Meabh Cahalane will be present in Cashes with the camogie team.

The Rebel manager insists blame does not lie with Munster Camogie and accused Ladies Football chiefs of deliberately fixing the league final replay for 7.30pm to make it possible for the three



Cork camogie boss Paudie Murray: Disgusted that three Cork dual players were expected to play two games within the space of three hours this evening.

will end situations like this where players are put in unfair situations.”

Murray added: “Nothing surprises me with some of the decisions that

come down from Dublin. We’ve been critical of Munster Camogie in the past. In fairness to them, they moved our semi-final last weekend from the Saturday to the Sunday to allow the girls play in the ladies football. Why should they have to move two weeks in-a-row?”

“There was no common sense coming from Dublin so we had to make sure common sense prevailed in that the girls didn’t play in both. Knowing Rena and Brieghe, they would have if they were let.”

players to line out at both venues.

“When the ladies football sat down to fix the replay, they knew full well the time and venue of the Munster camogie final. I believe they deliberately fixed the game for later in the evening to make it possible for the three to play both. They expected them to play both,” remarked Murray.

“The last GAA president was in favour of a merger involving the GAA, Camogie and Ladies Football and the sooner it happens the better. It

MAY 2015

Fortuitous goal sends Cork on their way

Cork 1-15

Clare 0-6

Gerry Quinn

Cork will face Tipperary in the Munster Senior Camogie Championship final following their victory over Clare in Sixmlebridge yesterday.

The Rebels relied on a fortuitous Katriona Mackey goal in the 45th minute to ignite their challenge and record a merited victory. They lead 0-5 to 0-2 at the interval after an opening half that was spoiled by heavy rain.

Clare came back on the restart and had narrowed the gap to a point (0-7 to 0-6) before Mackey's speculative shot deceived Denise Lynch at the near post. That strike proved to be the catalyst for a storming Cork finish as they reeled off eight unanswered points to advance to the decider.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey (1-5), J Casey (0-4), B Corkery (0-3), O Cotter (0-3) frees

Scorers for Clare: C Morey (0-5) 4fs, K O'Gorman (0-1)

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, P Mackey, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, R Buckley, A Thompson (Capt.), O Cotter, B Corkery, H Lounney, A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: C Sugrue for O'Connor inj. (27), K Hickey for Sugrue (57), N O'Keefe for E O'Sullivan (58), S Buckley for R Buckley (59).

CLARE: D Lynch, C O'Leary, L McMahon, A Griffin, E Kelly, R McMahon, O Duggan, K Lynch (Capt.), C Hehir, M Caulfield, C Morey, E Horgan, A Considine, K O'Gorman, V Loughnane.

Subs: T O'Keefe for Kelly (14), A O'Keefe for Horgan (20), A Keating for T O'Keefe inj. (24), E O'Driscoll for Keating (44).

Referee: G Browne (Tipperary)

Dominant second half display from Tipperary

Tipperary 0-14

Limerick 0-7

Cathal Ryan

A dominant second half display from a hungry Tipperary side saw them overcome Limerick on Saturday afternoon in the Rag to reach next weekend's Munster Senior Camogie Championship final.

Limerick began this contest brightly with a Fiona Hickey point and two Deborah Murphy frees. Tipperary then began to settle and the free taking of Cait Devane and a Megan Ryan point had them 0-6 to 0-5 ahead at the break. The complexion of the match changed dramatically moments after the restart when Tipperary abandoned their tactic of dropping a seventh player into defence. With six forwards restored to the attack they became far more potent with Ryan and substitute Roisin Howard to the fore.

Scorers for Tipperary: C. Devane (0-8, 7f), M. Ryan (0-4), R. Howard (0-1), S. Fryday (0-1).

Scorers for Limerick: D. Murphy (0-5, 5f), F. Hickey (0-2).

TIPPERARY: O. McEniry, L. McLoughlin, A. Evison, C. Walsh, A. McGrath, T. Ryan, B. Quinn, C. Maher, E. Fryday, G. Grace, S. Fryday, M. Teehan, C. Devane, M. Ryan, S. Quirke.

Subs: R. Howard for S. Quirke (37), L. Power for L. McLoughlin (50), C. Fox for M. Teehan (55), A. Fogarty for S. Fryday (50).

LIMERICK: A. Scanlon, A. Sheehan, A. Wilson, C. Costelloe, C. Lyons, C. O'Brien, C. Lane, D. Murphy, D. Mulcahy, G. Regan, F. Hickey, E. Mulcahy, J. Mulcahy, L. O'Neill, K. O'Leary.

Subs: L. McCarthy for G. Regan (44), M. Quaid for D. Mulcahy (50), N. Barry for E. Mulcahy (55).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare)

Losing can give ladies a boost

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

HAVING won both the Intermediate and junior Munster titles last year Cork have to field new teams in both codes this weekend for the semi-finals which are taking place in Effin, Limerick tomorrow.

Lauren Callanan will be available to play as she didn't partake in 2014 and eligibility has come around for players such as Glen Rovers' Lydia Cunningham and Denise Luby. Sarsfields' Chloe Casey is selected for the junior side as is Juanita Brennan of Clonakilty.

It's a busy day for Cork teams and I've no doubt there's a scramble for players in an effort to field all levels on the same day with the senior side playing in Sixmlebridge and the other two in Limerick. It's a selection headache for those involved.

Unless there is an electronic library with all former Cork players and their date of re-eligibility recorded it must be a nightmare to round up a squad, particularly for the junior side.

This isn't a competition that Cork train for or to be honest hold much interest in.

But we field all the same so the phones are hopping all week I would think to find a squad.

It's good for the Cork senior players to get out on the field again after last Sunday's defeat. They were disappointed with their performance.

Cork could have snuck a victory last Sunday but I feel it could have done them more harm than good had they done so. I think that if the players had snatched a draw or a victory having not performed even close to how they can, they may not have taken the lessons from

the game.

And there are lessons to be learned. There are lessons in every game, win or lose and yet often we don't focus on them after a victory.

I know that Niall Collins does. He's Cork's stats man, and himself and Paudie spend hours analysing them.

Without a doubt that behind the scenes work, that tedious, painstaking number crunching for want of a better word is what won Cork their All-Ireland title last year.

I would suspect that Niall burned the midnight oil again last Sunday night. He doesn't hang around.

The retirement of Anna Geary this week is a significant loss to Cork as they already attempt to replace Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh and Joanne O'Callaghan. Sarah Hayes, while not a starter in last year's final stages, is still a loss on the training ground and in the dressing room. There's vast experience in those five players.

When one considers that Cork were without these five last weekend in addition to Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor and they came within three points of Galway, there is a lot to be positive about. I said last week after the game that I still believe Cork are favourites to win the All-Ireland.

There's a lot to be done and that's actually the exciting part. I do believe a faster delivery is needed to our inside forwards and a low one

at that. Galway's passing, while playing a short style of game, was far faster.

I don't recall them running into a melee of Cork players and getting dispossessed. They ran but distributed at the right time and created the openings.

Cork has operated a short enough style of play in the last year or so and it's worked for them. There's nothing wrong with that and it is impressive when the distribution is fast and accurate; the offload in certain quarters was just too slow this time around.

The game against Clare on Sunday will provide Paudie with another opportunity to experiment. I've no doubt but that Gemma and Aoife will figure. They need to start getting game time now.

While Clare will once again put up a sterling battle on Sunday they won't pose the threat in the All-Ireland series that they did two years ago. They've lost a couple of key players which is unfortunate as they needed them to help blend in their youth.

Deirdre Murphy is one such retiree. She wore her heart on her sleeve for Clare. I spoke with her recently and she was genuinely saddened by the fact that she never won an All-Ireland with Clare.

She said she always believed she would. My response to Deirdre was that you had to believe it; what's the point without belief.

FIXTURES

TOMORROW

Munster senior championship semi-final: Cork v Clare, Sixmlebridge, 1pm.

Munster intermediate final: Cork v Tipperary, Effin, Limerick, 6.45pm.

Munster Junior final: Cork v Kerry, Effin, Limerick, 5pm.

Murray blasts 'ridiculous' scheduling

Jackie Cahill

Cork senior camogie team manager Paudie Murray has described as "ridiculous" a situation where the county's dual stars will have to choose between both codes next Saturday.

Cork are fixed to play Tipperary in the Munster camogie final in Cashel at 4.30 and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association announced yesterday that the Tesco Division 1 final replay between Cork and Galway will be played in Portlaoise at 7.30pm on the same evening.

That leaves dual panellists Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery and Meabh Cahalane with a huge decision to make,

although Cahalane is expected to choose camogie. Murray indicated last night that he will contact ladies football boss Eamonn Ryan later today to discuss the impasse.

Buckley and Corkery both played against Galway in last Saturday's drawn football decider, with Cahalane on the subs bench, and Corkery celebrated her engagement later that evening before lining out against Clare in Sunday's Munster camogie semi-final.

And the fact that Irish TV are screening Saturday's provincial camogie decider live is an added factor to consider for Buckley and Corkery as they decide which game to play in, with a fourth successive Munster camogie title on

offer before the footballers aim for a third League crown in a row.

A situation could yet arise where the pair decide to play in both fixtures but Murray fumed: "It's a ridiculous situation and very unfair on the girls involved. You'd think that common sense would prevail in a situation like this but obviously not."

One member of the Cork ladies senior football panel tweeted her displeasure last night.

Eimear Scally wrote: "A bit of common sense and courtesy wouldn't go astray for some players this weekend. Two major games fixed for one day and yet we're trying to control player burn-out."

MAY 2015



Cork's Briege Corkery solos past Galway's Shauna Healy in the National League final recently.

Picture INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Not playing ball with dual players

ONCE again little consideration is given to dual players in women's GAA when Cork's Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley and Meabh Cahalane are faced with a Munster Camogie final and a Ladies National League football final tomorrow.

The camogie is set for Cashes at 4.30pm with the football final down for 7.30pm in Portlaoise.

Do both organisations really feel that they're being accommodating with that?

Is that what they consider dealing with the issue, putting the games three hours and 80km apart?

It's a problem when both organisations are run by separate bodies and in truth neither really cares about the other.

But it's not the organisation that's affected, it's the players and this is an area where the WGPA could gain significant kudos if they managed to sort this out.

A difficult task. But there are dozens of dual players across the country.

Maybe it affects Cork more than most as they are very successful, but these dual players should stick together and refuse to put up with situations like this. They never know when the issue will arrive on their doorstep.

Another problem we never thought we'd have is the inflexibility that comes with live television

Not for the first time little regard has been given towards the dual star in camogie and ladies football as both Cork teams prepare for games on the same day says Linda Mellerick



coverage. The Munster final is being televised live for the first time on Irish TV (SKY 191) while TG4, as sponsors, will no doubt televise the football replay. That may have made it more difficult for common sense to prevail and with women in sport pushing themselves like never before this is something they won't want to turn down.

Welfare

However nothing should come before the welfare of the players. This has happened numerous times over the past 10 years but it's getting more attention now with the extra media coverage the ladies footballers in particular have generated.

In this case the Munster camogie final date has been set in stone for months and that should have won out.

The football replay could have and should have been moved to Sunday. When one considers what the Cork contingent have done for ladies football on a national scale, far greater regard for Briege and Rena should have been given without a second thought.

You have two of the best role models you could ask for in these players and this is how they're rewarded!

At the time of writing, having spoken with Paudie Murray, he and Eamonn Ryan were due to talk.

Unsurprisingly the girls want to play both games but that isn't the solution.

My feeling is that Paudie will release Rena and Briege to play the football replay and use the Munster final to give others on his panel another chance to develop.

Julia White however has an exam tomorrow and will also be an absentee.

The intermediate side gave a very impressive performance last Sunday to take the intermediate crown at the expense of Tipp and there is every reason to feel that the senior squad might draft a few of them in for tomorrow.

In truth Cork should beat Tipperary without their dual players. They have the strength-in-depth against a side which beat Limerick in the semi-final.

Tipperary didn't win a single league game this season; failing to

gain a single point from four group qualifying games; against Galway, Limerick, Wexford and Offaly.

It could be said that it was a tough group but with Wexford fielding without their Oulart de Ballagh players, on tradition Tipp should have taken them in addition to Offaly and Limerick.

Tipperary always put up a good showing against Cork and expect no less in Cashes tomorrow but when the time comes they are way off the pace as All-Ireland contenders.

Their u16 and minor teams have been very impressive this past three years but the leap to senior is too much.

Yet this is what Tipp are attempting to do with many of these youngsters.

Their best bet would be to downgrade for a year or so to division two and try to build up from there. Let the players grow.

As far as tomorrow is concerned the Munster championship doesn't hold any importance whatsoever anymore.

It may mean something to a team building for the future and it will mean something to Tipp if they take Cork's scalp but from a Cork perspective, it's another run out as they build for championship.

For that reason I suspect Rena and Briege will travel with the footballers, but as I write nothing has been decided.

■ Munster Senior Championship final Cork v Tipperary Cashes Saturday 4.30pm

Douglas target Milford's crown



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE fixtures for the Cork Camogie adult championships have been set over the past week. The opening Senior A, B and intermediate draws are known.

Milford, heading for their fourth consecutive title, remain favourites with Douglas at this point seeming to be their main challenger.

But that could all change. Ballincollig and Inniscarra would fancy their chances with St Catherine's always giving a good account of themselves and Ballygarvan also on the up. How many times in the past have we seen recently promoted sides winning the title?

Frank Flannery stepped down as manager of Milford a fortnight after they were defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final in February by Mullagh. That defeat was a massive disappointment to the north Cork club side who were fancied to reach their third All-Ireland final.

Mullagh were comprehensively beaten by Oulart de Ballagh in the final. John Brudair, the Limerick senior football manager is the new manager at Milford so the professionalism won't wane in any shape or form.

He coached the Charleville junior hurlers to the All-Ireland club final in 2012 and has all the credentials to keep Milford at the top. There is a concern however that Deirdre O'Reilly will not figure this season. Her loss is immense to the team should that be the case.

Maura Flanagan, Eimear Friel, Aileen O'Flynn and Christine O'Gorman have retired.

Douglas ran Milford so close in last year's quarter-final. Indeed it was Milford that got out of jail but full credit to them for doing so. As champions you are going to get those kind of challenges and you're champions because you handle them and come out the right side.

Douglas will be better again this year. Matthew Twomey, coach to the Cork camogie side last year, is back at the helm after guiding Douglas to the county title in 2011. He is assisted by Teddy Donovan, Pat Cotter, a selector when Douglas won the intermediate championship in 2009, Alan O'Brien and Joe Long and the approach will be as professional as you'll get. The players 'buy' into



Milford's Deirdre O'Reilly and Douglas' Katriona Mackey battling it out in last year's Evening Echo Senior County Camogie Championship. There is a concern that Milford will be without the influential player this year, which would be a major loss to them.

Matthew and once they're committed they're in with a great chance.

The senior league is entering its final stage. Douglas are already through to the final having beaten Ballygarvan on Wednesday last, 2-13 to 1-12. Inniscarra play Courcy Rovers tomorrow in a play-off and the winners play Glen Rovers next Thursday in the other semi-final. The final is set for Wednesday week.

It's hard to judge clubs based on league performances. Clubs are typically without their Cork and Leaving Cert players for many games.

Douglas for example played without the Mackey's and Julia White

for much of their campaign. Indeed the variance in results typifies how topsy turvy leagues can be at this time of the year.

But it's a great opportunity if you have the strength in depth to give your fringe players plenty of playing time.

Glen Rovers have done particularly well with some very impressive scores and winning margins clocked up. The league is sure to have brought them on for championship.

The senior B and Intermediate championships are hard to call with little or nothing between Brian Dillon's, Enniskeane, Blackrock and Tracton in the intermediate grade

and Sarsfields, Carrigaline, Eire Og, Clonakilty, Kilbrittain Timoleague and Valley Rovers all hoping for honours at Senior B.

SENIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

First Round: Cloughduv v Camgduh, St Catherine's v Ballinhassig, Douglas v Ballincollig, Inniscarra v Courcy Rovers, Glen Rovers v Imokilly, Seandún v Ballygarvan, Kilsheg v Carbery, Milford v St Finbarr's.

SENIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

(Two teams to qualify from each section)
Section A: Clonakilty, Fr O'Neill's, Valley Rovers, Eire Og, Mallow
Section B: Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Sarsfields, Carrigaline, Aghabullogue, Barryroe

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Four teams to qualify for semi-finals)
Tracton, Enniskeane, Brian Dillon's, Slisabh Rua, Blackrock.

Cotter inspires Cork to three on the trot



Munster Senior Camogie final

CORK.....0-12
TIPPERARY.....0-11

Therese O'Callaghan
Cashel

CORK won their third consecutive Munster senior camogie championship title after a hard-fought victory over a battling Tipperary side at Cashel on Saturday. Orla Cotter scored a magnificent 10 points but the Rebels only took the lead for the first time in the 54th minute, that point from corner forward Katrina Mackey proving decisive. With the All-Ireland

championship due to get underway next month, defending champions Cork lined out with just eight of their 2014 winning team. Manager Paulie Murray says the newcomers will have learned a great deal.

"We have seven girls now who have experienced a Munster final and they will take an awful lot from that, and any day you do three-in-a-row you'd have to be happy. But I think we have work to do to get to the required level. We will have the two girls back (Rena Buckley and Briege Corkery) but it will be a massive test for us to go to Galway."

For Tipperary, the dream of a first provincial title in five years was on as they deservedly held a wind-assisted interval lead of 0-10 to 0-3. Captain Cáit Devane was inspira-

tional with six different scorers registering. Their defence was tight, excellently marshalled by Ann Eviston and Niamh McGrath. However, Cork - minus Buckley, Corkery and Julia White (exams) - used all of their know-how to grind out the result.

In the hectic closing stages, Amy O'Connor, Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin drew vital fouls that Cotter brilliantly converted, while Aoife Murray, Laura Treacy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Ashling Thompson and Gemma O'Connor stood up to the challenge.

Tipperary boss Brian Boyle says attention will switch now to Derry and the championship.

"At the start of the year we would have taken getting to a



Cork captain Aisling Thompson signing autographs for the fans after Cork defeated Tipperary in the Munster final. Picture: Dominick Walsh

Munster final but when you get there you want to win it. The girls absolutely left everything on the field and it showed them what it is like to be involved in top-level camo-

gie again.

The important thing now is this has to be a building block and not the height of our ambitions for the year.

he oldest player we had

starting today was 22 and we have three or four players due back into the squad."

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter (0-10, 0-9), J Casey and K Mackey (0-1 each).

Scorers for Tipperary: C Devane (0-6, 0-4), S Quirk, M Ryan, S Fryday, G Grace and E Fryday (0-1 each).

CORK: A Murray; L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, P Mackey; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, M Cahalane; F Neville, A Thompson (Capt); O Cotter, H Looney, O Cronin; A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: K Hickey for F Neville (38).

TIPPERARY: O McEniry; L McGloathin, A Eviston, C Walsh; A McGrath, T Ryan, S Quinn; C Maher, E Fryday; G Grace, C Devane (Capt), M Teehan; S Quirk, M Ryan, S Fryday.

Subs: R Howard for S Quirk (35), R Cahill for M Teehan (42), A Fogarty for G Grace (51).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Classy Cotter seals it for Cork



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 0-12
Tipperary 0-11

LINING out without the services of their dual players, Cork still took Munster honours in Cashel on Saturday thanks to a free-taking exhibition by Orla Cotter.

It was nice to win but again Cork's style of play raised questions. Just three points from play, two from their inside full forward line and one from Cotter leaves it clear that Cork need to change tactics.

The style Cork have adopted since their defeat to Wexford in their second round group championship tie last July is one where their six backs remain intact.

They don't get drawn out, numbers five to seven remaining disciplined within the close proximity of their own 45 metre line.

That side of things has worked and very few teams are breaking their system. That's chiefly because most camogie players don't have the striking power to pick off scores from further out.

But Tipperary broke the mould on Saturday with some wonderful long distance scores, albeit aided by a very strong wind.

But what isn't working from Cork's view is their short style hurling and handpassing game.

If midfield and your own half-forward line are crowded with an additional three or four players why then when you win possession in your half-back line, would you attempt to carry the ball into that melee of players and play handball instead of driving the ball over those lines and deliver fast into your full forward line?

Gemma O'Connor, one of the best deliverers of long ball in the game, at one point carried the ball into the middle of the field, her pass was intercepted and Tipperary pointed.

At midfield and in their half forward line Cork are continuing this style and all it's doing is giving the opposition time to track back.



Cork's Orla Cotter gets her shot away to thwart Tipperary's Mairead Teehan during the Munster senior camogie final in Cashel.

Picture: Dornick Walsh / Eye Focus

Cork's style, in the first half in particular, was frustrating to watch and one felt almost thankful that Tipperary had brought hurling to the game.

Initially it seemed Tipperary were another side going to fail to break past Cork's defensive wall but they must get credit for some well taken scores.

By the end of the first half five of Tipp's forwards had scored from play. It's a long time since that has happened to Cork.

Cait Devane floated out around the 60 meter mark and did a lot of first half damage while Sarah Fryday was also on fire. Tipperary's striking was courageous and impressive.

However, Cork aren't imposing

themselves on the game at midfield and it's an area which needs attention.

In the opening two minutes, Amy O'Connor left two Tipp players for dead and finished well. But she was denied for over-carrying.

It was a clear indication that she had the speed on Tipperary's full back line but was denied a fast delivery after that.

The second half was riddled with frees, and referee John Dolan blowing needlessly at times.

Nineteen second half frees, 30 in total is just too much in a game of no malice.

Cork won some handy frees and with Cotter almost flawless, finished the game with ten points. It was a Munster final and nice to win

it.

However, Cork wouldn't have lost any sleep if the result had gone the other way and undoubtedly learned further lessons as Finola Neville, Hannah Looney, Orla Cronin and Katelyn Hickey all played a part.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-10 (0-9 f), J Casey, K Mackey 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Devane 0-6 (0-4 f), S Quirke, E Fryday, E Fryday, M Teehan, M Ryan 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, P Mackey, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, F Neville, A Thompson, O Cotter, H Looney, O Cronin, A O'Connor, J Casey, K Mackey.

Subs: K Hickey for F Neville (38).

TIPPERARY: O McEniry, L McGloathlin, A Evison, C Walsh, A McGrath, T Ryan, B Quinn, C Maher, E Fryday, M Teehan, C Devane, G Grace, S Quirke, M Ryan, S Fryday.

Subs: R Howard for S Quirke (41), R Cahill for M Teehan (51), A Fogarty for G Grace (55).

Ref: John Dolan (Clare)

Murray happy with win but not getting carried away yet

CORK manager Paudie Murray, while delighted that his side had made it three in row of provincial titles, wasn't getting carried away with the win.

"We knew today coming up here that Tipperary would put it up to us, they are a strong side and they always make life difficult. We still have a lot of learning and a lot of work to do to be honest."

"I thought we lost our shape a bit, particularly around the half forward line during the game. Also our final ball wasn't great. I think we're still struggling a bit with that so we have four weeks to our first championship game against Galway and we have to put in the effort from here on."

Paudie, while acknowledging the contribution

MATCH REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

of his young charges, was quick to point out that these players are now a vital part of his set up.

"Today was huge experience for them but with Galway looming they need to step up a notch, we can longer be calling them young. We released Brieghe and Rena to go with the ladies footballers. Probably the reason we left them go was it gave us the opportunity to give these players another chance to experience another big occasion."

"The atmosphere was superb, there was a huge crowd and the whole occasion was well orga-

nised. With the game being televised live it can only be good for camogie."

Acknowledging that the wind played a big part in proceedings, Murray thought his side did well against it despite trailing at the break by seven. "The wind was a huge factor in the game but I thought we played okay against it as far as their forty five but our use of the ball from there was poor. We probably could have got two goals in the first half if we were a bit more ruthless."

"We possibly over-elaborated a bit handpassing the ball in the first half and crowded it a bit. The second half was always going to be tough as they brought back a sweeper but we came at them, forced frees and Orla converted."

CAMOGIE

Leinster SCC semi-final: Offaly 2-11 Dublin 0-7.
Leinster ICC semi-finals: Laois 0-7 Meath 0-7, Kilkenny 1-6 Wexford 0-9.

CAMOGIE

Munster Senior Camogie Championship final: Cork 0-12 Tipperary 0-11, Cashel.
Leinster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final: Offaly 2-11 Dublin 0-7 DCT.



Cork senior camogie star Eimear O'Sullivan taking part in the Irish Examiner Marathon.

May 2015



CHAMPIONS: Ulster celebrate with the cup after winning the Camogie Junior Interprovincial by defeating Munster in the final at Rathleague, Co. Laois. Picture: Caroline Quinn

MAY 2015

Ulster win Junior Interprovincial Title

By Camogie Press
Posted 17/05/2015



© CQuinnPhotography.com
Niamh Mallon and Catherine McGourty shone as Ulster won the Junior Interprovincial title in Rathleague, Co. Laois.

The Down duo proved unstoppable in the final, with the former providing an all-round performance in both semi-final and final to be named player of the tournament.

The northern outfit beat Leinster in a cracking semi-final at the Laois venue, coming out on top by 3-15 to 3-12. They actually trailed by a point entering the closing stages but scored the last five to book their spot in the final.

Munster provided the opposition after they had edged out Connacht by the minimum in their qualifier by 2-13 to 3-9. They got off to the perfect start in the decider, and led by 1-3 to 0-1 after 15 minutes, with Waterford teenager, Beth Carton in outstanding form.

Crucially though, McGourty scored the first of her two goals and Ulster trailed by just 1-6 to 1-3 having played into a very strong wind.

The exceptional Mallon in particular used the elements to her advantage as she slotted point after point from play and when McGourty found the Munster net once more, Ulster moved inexorably clear. Another major sealed the result and Ulster prevailed by 3-15 to 1-10.

A touch of camogie class and club action



Cork's Gemma O'Connor and Tipperary's Mairead Teehan in the Munster camogie final, which was live on TV and played in Cashel.

Picture: Domnick Walsh/Eye

Lethal Lucey helps Ballintemple claim glory

Ballintemple 4-3
GS Pheig Sayers 0-0

CAMOGIE

■ Barbara O'Connell

BALLINTEMPLE, inspired by Anna Lucey who scored 2-1, claimed the Allianz Urban Double camogie title yesterday at Musgrave Park.

On a great day for a game where two teams battled hard. However, Ballintemple proved too strong with Anna Lucey and Alison Grimley dominating.

Grimley opened the scoring as she pointed over in the opening minute.

This was followed by a goal and a point from the outstanding Lucey.

Grimley then had a great chance on goal but was denied by an excellent save from Nicole Ni Ghiolla Dhuibh.

Grimley added another point to give her side a 1-3 to 0-0 lead at the break.

The second half saw both sides continue

to battle hard. Amharae Ni Dheasunaigh, Nicole Ni Shuilleabhain and Shauna Ni Chonaill excelled for the Gaelscoil while scores from Lucey, Grimley and Hazel O'Connell ensured Ballintemple a deserved victory.

Scorers for Ballintemple: A Lucey 2-1, A Grimley 1-1, H O'Connell 1-0, B O'Neill 0-1.

BALLINTEMPLE: H O'Connell, F Madden, G O'Sullivan, O Grimley, L Guerin, A Lucey, H Cronin, A Grimley, B O'Neill, B O'Shaughnessy, H O'Connell, J Byrne, M Creedon, A Casey, L O'Herlihy, L Fitzgerald, A Hegarty, B Ruane.

GS PHEIG SAYERS: A Ni Ghul, N Ni Ghiolla, A Ni Dheasunaigh, S Nic Ambrois, E Ni Cholmin, N Ni Shuilleabhain, S Ni Chonaill, E Ni Ghamhna, E Ni Riain, K Cripps, H Ni Fhloinn, C Ni Cheallachain, L Ni Chorcocan, M Ni Dhorchaí-NicPhiarais, A Cripps, C Ramkissoon.

Referee: Mary Byrne.



Ballintemple's Alison Grimley tackles Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers Holly Ni Fhloinn in their Allianz Sciath na Scol urban double final at Musgrave Park. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Geary ready for next step

CAMOGIE

■ PETER McNAMARA

ORIGINALLY, this piece was detailed to pay homage to the sterling inter-county camogie career of Anna Geary.

Countless individual honours and medals, all already well-documented, have been won by the 27-year-old including four senior All-Ireland titles.

However, as we shoot the breeze and discuss sport and, in this case more pertinently, life after sport, it becomes far more obvious that the populous will truly understand Geary, the character, if her plans and ambitions are illustrated.

Geary retired from the inter-county camogie scene earlier this month citing the desire for a career change as the reasoning behind her decision.

Of course, it was never going to be easy to step away from that particular aspect of her life.

Yet, it was a call she had to make as the allure of exploring new avenues outside of the sport became all-consuming even though it was "extremely difficult to detach from the game at that level".

Nevertheless, this substantial u-turn in her life is due to take her totally out of her comfort zone.

You see, Geary, by her own admission, is "the ultimate planner, I am meticulously organised".

Additionally, she admits to feeling a little "scared" by the prospect of breaking away from her 'routine' and because, work-wise, Geary has nothing at all set in stone for the future.

She does, however, have "irons in the fire" but nothing concrete as yet.

Still, you get the vibe the nervous energy generated from such uncertainty is an element she is feeding off as she seeks new opportunities and horizons.

Geary did her post-graduate in PR and Communications.

Throughout 2014 and this year thus far, her head was turned by the intriguing nature of the media landscape.

Pretty soon, too, she will hand over the baton that is the Cork Rose to the next incumbent and may do so with a tinge of sadness. Geary is regularly seen nowadays on our TV screens and openly has ambitions to take her interest in media in-

volvement to the next level.

Geary now has a profile the envy of many women around the country and it is clear she intends to build upon it in the months and years ahead. Essentially, she is one of the most ambitious characters in Ireland, male or female.

In saying that, you wouldn't bet against the possibility in years to come, either.

"Know your worth, I was told by a shrewd individual some time back, it is vital that you know your own worth as a person," Geary says.

Geary does but such confidence is never scuppered by the underlying arrogance that betrays others.

She is a wonderful communicator stemming from the fact she is basically a down-to-earth sort, a rare commodity in the circles she frequents these days.

"I am an extremely fortunate person and there is never a chance that I will forget that," she says. "People talk of what

they give their sport but camogie has given me even more back.

"Everything has come together for me in these last 18 months or so in particular and I feel mentally ready now for this change of direction.

"There are a couple of options open to me at this point but jumping into anything is a non-runner as I want to really love the next work-related move I make."

Geary has featured via a range of RTE mediums, work she describes as "an absolute privilege" to carry out and is likely to maintain her association with the national broadcaster if the head honchos in Montrose have any sense.

However, for an executive member of the Women's GPA, the world is Geary's oyster.

She may go on to represent one of the most illuminating female figureheads this country has seen and be a role model for many youngsters along the way.



Former Cork camogie captain Anna Geary working with IRISHTV at the Tipperary v Cork Munster camogie final which was broadcast live on IRISHTV from Cashel this weekend.

Picture: Domnick Walsh / Eye Focus LTD



Anna Geary: 'Ireland's Fittest Family' role for camogie star.

Geary new coach on family fitness show

Anna Geary has been announced as a new coach on RTE's *Ireland's Fittest Family* and is set to be the show's toughest coach yet.

The Cork camogie champion, who has four all-star titles and four All-Ireland medals to her name, says she will be pushing her families far beyond their limits.

"I don't care about being popular. I'm there to win, and I'll be making sure they are too," said Anna, adding that she'll do whatever it takes to get results — examining diet, mental fitness, trust issues, and leadership roles within the family unit.

Lehane hits brace

Ovens	5-6
Upper Glanmire	2-2

Olan Allen

An excellent display by the girls of Ovens saw them win the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC2 final at Musgrave Park against a game Upper Glanmire side.

Ovens midfielders Aoibhe O'Brien and Maeva Kelly controlled matters and they built up a 1-5 to 0-0 half-time lead.

Two goals from Saoirse Lehane and O'Brien in the opening minutes of the second half ended the game as a contest.

Credit to the Glanmire side, they rallied in the final stages and were rewarded with goals from Gaby Cashman and Olivia McAllen.

Scorers Ovens: S. Lehane 2-0, M. Kelly 1-3 (0-25), A. O'Brien 1-2, G. O'Shea 1-1.

Upper Glanmire: G. Cashman 1-1, O. McAllen 1-1 (0-15).

Ovens: C. Gleeson, R. Murphy, E. Coffey, N. Herlihy, S. McGoldrick, N. Allison, D. Walsh, A. O'Brien, M. Kelly, A. Desmond, G. O'Shea, E. O'Donovan, A. Goulding, S. Lehane, S. Double, A. Coughlan, P. Holmes, E. Murphy, N. O'Shea, S. Herlihy, A. O'Donoghue.

Upper Glanmire: O. McCarthy, P. Cronin, L. Twomey, E. Kelleher, A. Cashman, A. McAllen, J. Kelleher, G. Cashman, L. O'Riordan, A. O'Connell, O. McAllen, L. Barry, O. Kelly, C. Lane, M. Lynam, A. O'Sullivan, E. Collins, L. Kelleher, C. McCormack, O. McNally, R. Ahern, E. Murphy, Y. Magabill, A. Coughlan, C. Millard.

Referee: M. Harrington (Carrigaline).

Castlelyons triumph through a goal blitz

Castlelyons	6-0
Dungourney	0-0

CASTLELYONS won the Allianz Sciath Na Scol C5 Camogie title as they defeated Dungourney in yesterday's one-sided encounter at Trabeg.

This was a game that Castlelyons dominated territorially as they were playing with the elements in the opening half and wayward puck outs were also to prove costly for Dungourney.

Roisin Mack opened the scoring with a goal following a free inside the Dungourney half in the fourth minute.

Dungourney's best scoring chance came from a free by Sinead O'Sullivan inside the Castlelyons half went narrowly wide.

Nodhlaig McCarthy won possession for Castlelyons from a Dungourney puck out to set up Leah Hallihan for their second

C5 FINAL

■ John Leonard

goal to leave it a 2-0 to 0-0 interval lead.

Castlelyons doubled their lead with goals in the space of a minute from Jessie O'Leary and Hallihan midway through the second half. Hallihan and Olivia Beausang each added further goals with time almost up.

Scorers for Castlelyons: L. Hallihan 3-0; J. O'Leary, R. Mack & O. Beausang 1-0 each.

CASTLELYONS: J. O'Leary, A. Rosner, D. Coleman, E. Mullen, A. Hallihan, A. Dooley, L. Hallihan, R. Mack, S. Morrison, A. Quirke, O. Beausang, A. Bryan, N. Coleman, O. Sheehan, L. McNulty, A. Casey, A. O'Riordan, N. McCarthy.
DUNGOURNEY: A. Montgomery, K. Montgomery, L. Hogan, L. Costigan, A. O'Callaghan, K. Hana, S. O'Sullivan, C. Curtin, N. Egan, J. O'Donovan, E. Hickey, A. Smiddy, G. Egan, K. Voronins, A. Moriarty, S. Hennessy, T. Doocery, V. Buinauskaitis, M. O'Brien, A. McGrath, C. McGrath, C. Barry, C. McCarthy, J. Crowley.

Referee: J. O'Connell (Scoil Christ Rii).



Castlelyons player Abigail Bryan takes the ball out of defence against Dungourney in their Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at Nemo Rangers. Picture: Des Barry

MAY 2015



Supporters of St Mary's Cobh, at the Sciath na Scol finals in Musgrave Park. Picture: Denis Scannell

Sheehan on fire as St Mary's see off Togher girls

■ Barbara O'Connell

St Mary's, Cobh 4-1
Togher 2-0

A HUGE win for St Mary's, Cobh as they captured the Allianz C3 final with a win over Togher at Musgrave Park.

Cobh were inspired by Rebecca Sheehan who scored 1-1 and who was the difference between the sides. It was a very close first half, however it was the winners who got off to a great start.

Two early goals from Sheehan and Lily O'Rourke gave them the lead. However only for solid performances in the back by Alex Moynihan, Lily Duff and Megan Olden the margin could have been a lot greater.

These early goals were a wake-up call for the Togher side and once Katie Lee got into the game, the southside team deservedly got on the scoresheet with a well taken goal by Eimear Hallahan.

Cobh reacted well and the dangerous Sheehan pointed over from a '65. Togher continued to battle hard and were duly rewarded a goal when Kelsey O'Connor tapped in a goal having got on the end of a well worked goal which involved Hallahan and Sarah Murphy which resulted in a point between the teams at the break. 2-1 to 2-0 in favour of Cobh.

The second half continued

SCIATH NA SCOL

with both teams battling hard. Sheehan was denied a goal by an excellent save from Zuzanna Wisniewska.

However it wasn't long before Cobh widened the gap when O'Rourke got her second as she reacted quickest from a rebound shot. This was followed by a goal from Jayne Devlin which finished the scoring much to the delight of the great Cobh support.

It was noticed that the injured Orlaith Cahalane was a huge loss to Togher however great credit to both teams who fought hard and produced some great passages of play.

Lauren Crotty, Abby Gill, Ava Meaney, Rebecca Sheehan and Nellie-Ann O'Donoghue impressed for Cobh while Alex Moynihan, Lily Duff, Katie Lee and Eimear Hallahan excelled for Togher. Scorers for Togher: E Hallahan and K O'Connor 1-0 each.

St Mary's, Cobh: L O'Rourke 2-0, R Sheehan 1-1, L O'Rourke 1-0. **TOGHER:** Z Wisniewska, A Moynihan, S Murphy, K Ahern, K Lee, A Mulcahy, R O'Leary, C Walsh, S Marley, A O'Leary, R Hennessy, O Cahalane, C Fitzgerald, L Cotter, E Hallahan, S Bussanna, H Harrington, L Burns, K O'Connor, M Olden, L Duff.

ST MARY'S, COBH: L Crotty, J Devlin, A Gill, A Murphy, A Meaney, R Sheehan, R McDowall-Cummins, H Owens, K Devrey, K Jones, A Savage, A Owens, T McKeown, N Ann O'Donoghue, S Crotty, L O'Rourke, E O'Reilly, S Kelly-Collins, A Cotter, K O'Shea.

Referee: Sean O'Callaghan (Blarney).

Lynch inspires Riverstown



Sciath na Scol

Barbara O'Connell

Riverstown 6-1
Scoil Mhuire Ballincollig 2-0

IT was double celebrations for Riverstown as both the boys and girls teams triumphed yesterday at Musgrave Park.

In this C2 camogie final Riverstown, inspired by Saoirse Desmond and Cliona Lynch, proved too strong for a gallant Scoil Mhuire side.

Cliona Lynch opened the scoring after five minutes converting directly from a '65. This was followed soon after with a strike to the back of the net from Tara Elliot after she got on the end of a long ball sent in by Lynch.

The next score came from the impressive Desmond who showed great skill striking off her left to the back of the net to give her side a 3-0 to 0-0 lead.

Scoil Mhuire battled hard with Anna Ni Chreimin de Butleir solid in defence while Amy Ni Mhurchu and Miriam Ni Ealaithie worked well in midfield. After 11 minutes of play they deservedly got on the scoresheet with a well taken goal from Siobhan Nic Aodh Bhuidhe. Just before the break Megan Murphy scored her side's fourth goal to give Riverstown a 4-0 to 1-0 lead.

Riverstown began the second half as they finished the first and it was Elliot who fired home her second of the game. This was followed by Lynch's second goal from a '65. She wasn't finished scoring just yet though, and she superbly finished to the back of the net once again making it 6-1 to 1-0.

Kornelia Stadnicka did manage to get a goal back for Scoil Mhuire however it was a little too late and Riverstown players were thrilled to hear the final whistle to join in with the celebration mood of the



Amy McNamara of Riverstown Girls receives her winners medal at Sciath na Scol finals in Musgrave Park. Picture: Denis Scannell

boys.

Best for Riverstown were Saoirse Desmond, Evie Twomey, Cliona Lynch, Katye Crowley and Orlaith Roche while Anna Ni Chreimin de Butleir, Amy Ni Mhurchu, Miriam Ni Ealaithie, Abbey Ni Cheallachair and Ciara Ni Dhonnabhain impressed for Scoil Mhuire.

Scorers for Riverstown: C Lynch 2-1, T Elliot 2-0, S Desmond and M Murphy 1-0 each.

Scoil Mhuire Ballincollig: S Nic Aodh Bhuidhe and K Stadnicka 1-0 each.

RIVERSTOWN: C Byrne, S Farrelly, S Long, E Mahon, E O'Brien, A McNamara, L Fitzgerald, S Desmond, E Twomey, C Lynch, K Crowley, M Murphy, L Murphy, T Elliot, O Roche, C Galvin, A Watson, A Barry, Z Callanan, C O'Mahony.

SCOIL MHUIRE BALLINCOLLIG: C Bernardi, M Ni Dhionasaigh, A Ni Chreimin de Butleir, C Ni Mhurchu, K Ni Shuilleabhain, S Eze, A Ni Dhailigh, A Ni Mhurchu, M Ni Ealaithie, A Ni Cheallachair, C Ni Dhonnabhain, E Ni Chonbhail, S Nic Aodh Bhuidhe, K Stadnicka, V Verberg, A Aronson, C Ni Eanraic, E Ni Eigheartaigh, A Ni Ogan, C Ni Neil, L Ni Cheannaigh, R Ni Theachair.

Referee: Sean O'Callaghan (Blarney).



Riverstown's Saoirse Desmond breaking through the Scoil Mhuire defence at the Sciath na Scol finals in Musgrave Park. Picture: Denis Scannell



Togher Girls celebrate a score for their team at the Sciath na Scol finals in Musgrave Park. Picture: Denis Scannell

Not all clubs have a supply of volunteers



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE MAJORITY of volunteers involved in camogie administration have reported a high degree of satisfaction in their roles with most planning to continue in an administrative capacity for the association into the future.

The findings, contained in research carried out by the association — The Gift of Time, A Profile of Camogie Administrators — published to coincide with National Volunteering Week aimed to build an up to date profile of the administrator at all levels.

In contrast to findings in the 2013 Irish Sports Monitor which reported volunteering as higher amongst males, than females, the Camogie Association found that over 75% of respondents were female. Almost 20% of respondents are involved in both playing camogie and an administrative role and are aged between 20 and 29 years.

This is encouraging. Too many players don't stay involved in camogie once they retire and having them involved in an administrative capacity, no matter how small, when they are still active on the field is sure to lead to greater numbers remaining involved post retirement.

Over half of respondents cited the involvement of a daughter in camogie as their primary reason for in-



The Brian Dillon's which won the 2015 Intermediate league.

volvement while it also found that up to 35% are involved in camogie administrative work on a daily basis. Up to 70% of those surveyed were combining their volunteering role with full-time employment.

Speaking about the findings, President of the Camogie Association, Catherine Neary said:

"This research, examining the reasons behind why people volunteer in an administrative capacity. It looks at the level of training and support they receive and the time spent carrying out duties, and provides the association with an excellent overview of the profile of our current administrators."

"It has made important recommendations in terms of establishing training modules for sports administrators and the means by which the association can encourage new volunteers and support and equip them with the necessary skills."

"Volunteers are the bedrock of the association and it is heartening to see a high percentage of new volunteers into the association and also the years of service of various administrators, reflecting satisfaction and a passion for their roles. It is our responsibility to ensure that we continue to attract new volunteers and retain them in a supportive and appreciative environment."

Further findings from the research found that the vast majority of volunteers had no training prior to taking up their role (83.4%) and almost 80% expressed satisfaction with the amount and quality of training subsequently received.

Respondents also highlighted that help was available to those who were new to administrative posts, within various units.

Key recommendations from the report include:

1. Allocating additional resources in the new organisational development plan due to come into effect in 2016.
2. Focusing on developing camogie

administration initiatives for a younger audience, primarily transition year students.

3. A structured training and appreciation programme, across all levels of the Association, in order to deepen a culture of volunteer well-being and role satisfaction was also recommended.

The Gift of Time, A Profile of Camogie Administrators, was carried out amongst 335 respondents to an online questionnaire.

On the ground many would feel this survey doesn't reflect the true picture as most clubs struggle for volunteers and certainly at county level it is very difficult to secure administrators.

For years camogie has relied on typically the same people driving their county and province. Their unselfish commitment is to be applauded.

Based on the survey there are people still willing to give of their time and it's up to those experienced in their roles to continue to nurture these relatively new volunteers so that they take on higher administrative roles as the year's progress.

I'm sure there are additional people out there who would get involved but don't know how to and won't make the approach as they don't have any history with the game.

Congratulations to Douglas who won the senior A league and the very best of luck to all players doing Leaving Cert and junior exams over the coming weeks.

Once they are behind us the season really kicks into swing with all clubs having their full compliment of players available to them and the championships only around the corner.

St Catherine's 4-2 Carrigaline GNS 1-1

St Catherine's produced a wonderful performance to beat Carrigaline in the Allianz Sciath na Scol C1 Camogie final at CIT yesterday.

St. Catherine's Eabha O'Mahony gave a five star performance as she demolished Carrigaline with a superb display of skills that will surely see her in the red jersey of Cork in the years to come as she contributed 3-2 of her side's tally.

Catherine's led 3-2 to 0-0 at half time and a goal from Aine O'Callaghan and a point by Summer Tang for Carrigaline could have made it a closer game in the absence of O'Mahony.

Scorers St Catherine's: E O'Mahony 3-2, C Henchy 1-0.

Carrigaline: A O'Callaghan 1-0, S Tang 0-1. Carrigaline: S McCarthy, C O'Sullivan, C Netto, T White, E Dwane, Z O'Herlihy, E Herlihy, A O'Regan, A Gaffney, C McCarthy, S Gaffney, F Kenny, S Tang, T O'Callaghan, M O'Sullivan, S Kelly, E Gleeson, C Ryan, A O'Callaghan, T Murray, A Loughlin.

St Catherine's: T O'Mahony, S Healy, N Murphy, S Forde, M Lordan, A Murphy, A Mackey, L O'Shea, G O'Mahony, E O'Mahony, R O'Donovan, M McCarthy, E Wigginton-Barrett, M Garvin, L McGarry, C Henchy, O Boland, B Kearney, C Maloney, A Nangle, S Neville, R Punch, L Walsh.

Referee: P Brophy (Glenhane)

Scartleigh 4-5 Glenville 1-1

Scartleigh were crowned Allianz Sciath na Scol DC3 Camogie champions at CIT yesterday.

The winners did all the damage in the opening half with the advantage of the wind to lead 2-4 to 0-0 at the interval with Kaitlin Smith and Mary Leahy scoring goals. Ellie Cooke had the ball in the net for Glenville after a minute but Scartleigh hit back with goals from Rachel Barry and Rachel Leahy to end any hopes of a Glenville revival.

Scorers Scartleigh: R Leahy 1-2, M Leahy 1-2, R Barry 1-0, K Smith 1-0, K Elliott 0-1.

Glenville: E Cooke 1-0, C Dorgan 0-1.

Scartleigh: A Busteed, A Shanahan, N Codd, A Gilroy, A Butler, R Mills, C O'Carroll, I Kelly, S Geary, R Leahy, M Leahy, A Barry, K Elliott, R Barry, K Smith, L Cummins, C McCarthy, N Leeson-McCarthy, S O'Driscoll, R O'Callaghan, C Fitzgibbon, E O'Driscoll, A Geary, R Warr.

Glenville: A Murphy, L Hegarty, O O'Flynn, S Healy,



Aisling Thompson, captain Cork Senior Camogie team, presenting the Allianz Sciath na Scol C1 trophies to St. Catherine's Bishopstown vice captain and captain, Ella Wigginton-Barrett and Eabha O'Mahony following their win at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Finals at CIT. More local Sciath na Scol success inside. Picture: Mike English



Bishopstown U14 camogie team pictured after the team won their last league match against Rockbar 4-2 to 2-4 recently. The girls are looking forward to upcoming U13 and U15 Seandún matches.



St. Catherine's NS, Bishopstown winners of Roinn C1 at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Finals. Included is Cork Senior Camogie captain, Aisling Thompson, who presented the trophies and medals. Picture: Mike English



Action from the St. Catherine's, Bishopstown v St. John's, Carrigaline Roinn C1 game at the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at CIT. Picture: Mike English

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Berrings captain Caoimhe O'Shea and vice captain Aimee Desmond raise the trophies after defeating Kilcredan in the DC 1 Allianz Sciath na Scol final at Musgrave Park.



Ovens NS captain Grainne O'Shea and vice captain Niamh Allsion after their win over Upper Glanmire in the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC 2 final at Musgrave Park.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara



LAP OF HONOUR: Captain Ella McHugh celebrates with the Ballyheada team after they defeated Coachford in the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at Nemo Rangers.

Pictures Dan Linehan



Tamara Geasley, Scoil na Croise Noafa, powers past Greenmount's Lyndsey Murphy and Elle Flood in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, County Urban Camogie Final at CIT Sports Ground.



Scoil na Croise Noafa, celebrate after the win against Greenmount in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, County Urban Camogie Final at CIT Sports Ground.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



St. Catherine's captain, Eabha O'Mahony, and vice captain, Ella Wigginton-Barrett celebrating their Rosin CI camogie win at the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at CIT. Picture: Mike English



St. Catherine's star performer, Eabha O'Mahony, scoring a goal against St. John's Carrigaline in their Rosin CI camogie game at the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at CIT. Pictures: Mike English

League is perfect lead into the championship



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CLUB focus has switched from the league to championship over the past couple of weeks.

While the league may not be the priority for many clubs, winning it is at the same time significant for many for a number of reasons and I'm not aware of any club that would turn away a piece of silverware. So well done to Douglas, Eire Og, Brian Dillons, Newcestown, Cobh and Sarsfields.

Douglas, like many clubs, played a number of group games without their full compliment due to inter-county and exam commitments. They had their Cork stars back however for a hugely entertaining league final against Inniscarra which went to extra time before the city side emerged with a 2-14 to 1-13 victory.

Inniscarra had defeated Douglas in an earlier round by three points so very little separates these rivals where the history of competitiveness goes back as far as under fourteen. Katrina Mackey topped the scoring for Douglas in the final with 1-6, Amanda O'Regan hit 0-4, Julia White 0-3, Joy Leo 1-0 and Aine O'Donovan 0-1.

Joanne Casey was in great form for Inniscarra striking 1-11 (1-2 from play) with Margaret Cosgrave and Erin Looney closing off their tally. Jessica Kavanagh had a good 80 minutes minding the Douglas net so if these two sides meet again come championship it's going to be another rip roaring affair.

It's great to see Eire Og back competing strongly at senior level, winning the senior B title. Defeating Mallow, Aghabullogue and Valley Rovers in their round robin clashes and defeating Kilbrittain Timoleague in the semi-final by 4-9 to 2-6, Eire Og had seven points to spare in the final over Carrigaline 0-14 to 0-7.

Coached this year by Barry Corkery, son of Paddy, Eire Og are putting in a rejuvenated effort which is paying dividends. Strong final performances from Margaret O'Herlihy, Emma Crowley and Aoife O'Callaghan saw them take the honours despite the efforts of Joanne O'Keeffe, Hayley Fitzgerald and Ellen Twomey.



The Inniscarra team that won the Cork Féile recently.

Losing out in both the intermediate league and championship finals in 2014 Brian Dillon's took the league title with a 1-9 to 1-5 victory over Tracton. Group victories over Sliabh Rua, Blackrock, Tracton and a draw with Enniskeane saw Dillon's again paired with Enniskeane for the semi-final where they won with a low scoring 1-6 to 0-4 finish after striking a number of wides.

Defending well in the final scores were still slow in coming but a well-taken goal by Caoimhe Rodgers and a couple of nice second-half points saw them through.

Newcestown, having dropped back to junior A from intermediate this season, won the league title at the expense of Watergrasshill 1-8 to 1-5. St Vincent's, Youghal, Watergrasshill and Douglas in the semi-final were accounted for with Collette Deasy and captain Suzanne Deasy very prominent in the final.

There was great celebrations when Cobh took the junior B title for the very first time by overcoming Banteer 3-6 to 0-8. Katelyn Quinlan struck 2-2, Chloe Smith 1-2 and a point each from Kate Ronan and Mari Moynihan secured an historic win for the club Finally Sarsfields

had a comfortable win over Ballinora; 3-10 to 0-5 to take the junior C league.

This is Sars' second team but with a huge panel of players and a lot of their successful underage players now eligible to play adult competition this year this has further strengthened their squads.

Good performances from Michelle Barry, Orla Keane and Jenny Murphy secured victory after earlier group wins over Blarney, St Vincent's, Aghada and Buttevant. Sarsfields drew with Ballyhea and defeated a fancied Millstreet side in the semi-final before going all the way.

DUNGOURNEY CAMOGIE CLUB

U12 B County League

Our U12 team played Blarney last Wednesday evening 27th May in what turned out to be a very fast and exciting match.

Blarney having just been crowned County Féile B champions were a very tough team to meet, but from the throw in all our girls showed great skill and were first to score with a great goal from Celine Curtin.

This was followed up by a lovely point by Aine O'Callaghan before Blarney struck for a point of their own. A great puck out from Aislinn Casey to midfield was won by Aine who burst through the Blarney defence to score a cracking goal. Blarney responded straight away with a goal just before half time to leave the score at 2-1 to 1-1 in our favour.

The second half resumed at a frantic pace with Sinéad O'Sullivan, Kate Hanna and Joanne Crowley dominating the back line. Grace and Niamh Egan with Lara Horgan, Clara McCarthy and Meabh O'Brien getting to grips out field. Lily Hayes Nally having pulled off two fantastic saves, struck the sliotar down the wing which was won by Elin Hickey and she gave a lovely pass to Jodie O'Donovan for our third goal.

Dungourney now took control of the game and scored three more goals before Blarney replied with another goal. Great work from Aoife Smiddy, and Kira Voronins saw that Celine scored two more goals before the final whistle. Final score Dungourney 8-4 Blarney 2-1. This was a fantastic performance and a brilliant

team effort by all, well done to all our girls.

Team: Kellie Montgomery, Ava Montgomery, Clara Barry, Meabh O'Brien, Celine Curtin, Abby Moriarty, Kate Hanna, Jodie O'Donovan, Aislinn Casey, Sinéad O'Sullivan, Lara Horgan, Grace Egan, Aine O'Callaghan, Lily Hayes Nally, Kira Voronins, Aoife Smiddy, Niamh Egan, Tara Doocoy, Aine McGrath, Clara McCarthy and Joanne Crowley.

Results:

U12 County League Dungourney 8-4 Blarney 2-1
Fixtures U14 County League V Fr O'Neills Thursday 4th June @ 7.30 U10 County League V Clonakilly 9 June TBC U12 County League V Blackrock 20 June TBC U16 County League V St Vincents 24 June TBC U14 County League V Killeagh 20th June.

COBH CAMOGIE CLUB

Junior B County League Camogie Champions 2015 The Cobh Junior Camogie team are the newly crowned league champions after a fantastic win over favourites Banteer in Castle Road on May 24th. Cobh who had beaten Ballincollig in the play off and Carrigaline in the semi final showed great skill, teamwork and determination to run out deserved winners on a scoreline of 3-6 to 0-8.

Congratulations to the girls and thank you to all the supporters who travelled on the night. Team: Nicola O'Sullivan, Meabh Damery, Mari Moynihan, Aoife Richardson, Ellen Spriggs, Eadaoin Talion (Capt.), Aoife Hart, Aggy Douglas, Lauren Van Wyneen, Katelyn Quinlan, Siorcha McKeown, Ellen O'Regan, Kate Ronan, Chloe Smith, Megan

CLUB NOTES

Foley. Scorers: Katelyn Quinlan 2-2 (1-2 frees), Chloe Smith 1-2, Kate Ronan 0-1, Mari Moynihan 0-1 (free).

BRIDE ROVERS CAMOGIE CLUB

U14 Camogie. Our U14 girls travelled to Killeagh on Tuesday the 26th to play the home side in camogie. Killeagh were stronger in the first half scoring 3-2 to our 1-1. Both of these scores came from an outstanding Sarah Murphy.

All over the field we fought for every ball and this paid off in the second half as Sarah Murphy continued her scoring run with an additional 2-1 and Ella got on the ball to score a goal also. The game ended on a score line of Killeagh 5-4 Bride Rovers 4-2.

A great performance by all on the team a special thanks to our newest member Naoise McCarthy. Help Sinéad Shine. Every club, group and organisation in the parish has come together to spearhead a fundraising drive to 'Help Sinéad Shine'. Sinéad Kearney is a local girl who is suffering an extremely debilitating illness as a result of having contracted Lyme's disease four years ago. A Bride Rovers player, she was an extremely talented and promising competitor until forced to give up Gaelic games and other sports as a result of her illness.

Over the coming two months, and in conjunction with other groups in the parish, Bride Rovers

Ladies GAA Club will be helping to raise money for specialist treatment in America for Sinéad, which we hope will get her life back to normal and aid her return to sport.

We would welcome all and any support for this most worthy cause. Donations can be made to The Sinéad Kearney Lyme Treatment Fund B.O.I. Fermoy. IBAN IE 148061 9028649383594. Don't forget you can stay in touch day to day with all the latest news on Twitter, @roversgaa, and on Facebook.

GLEN ROVERS CAMOGIE CLUB

It's all Go with our younger players busy with Go Games as our older players are busy with exams. Inniscarra were visitors on Tuesday when our Under 10 hosted them for enjoyable Go Games. Again both teams gave it their all and a most enjoyable evening's camogie was enjoyed by all. Tara McCarthy represented us at the launch of the Mayfield Garda's tournament proceedings get under way today Saturday in Brian Dillons and we look forward to a great days camogie where first games are at 10am. Our under 9s will host Crosshaven today at 10-30am for Go Games and on Friday next our under 11s host Millstreet for a game at 7-15pm the following day our under 9s are off to Carrigaline for a blitz day.

The camogie association have a ticket for sale for entry to all Senior, Intermediate and Junior All Ireland championship games including the All Ireland semi finals and finals, the ticket is great value at €40 and when one considers it is €15 into each game the ticket is amazing value. It is available to buy on line, at centra and super valu stores or

from the Cork camogie board.

Cork camogie are having a clothes recycling day, bags can be dropped to Castle Road on today June 6th. Reminder camogie for beginners up to including age 12 is on Tuesday nights at 6pm and Sundays 12 noon, new members welcome. Reminder to everybody to return your tickets for our summer draw which takes place on June 17th when our boys section hold a bowling night at The Planet. Very best of luck to all our girls doing junior and leaving cert exams, well done to all our members who did superbly in the cork city marathon. We extend sincere sympathy to the Horgan/Cuthbert family, the Coughlan and Cummins families on their bereavements in the last week.

BISHOPSTOWN CAMOGIE CLUB

Street leagues Well done to all who took part in the 3rd annual Garda blitz in the Tank Field today with our first game at 10.30am. We would like to thank the Mayfield Gardai and particularly Garda John O'Driscoll for their work in organising this fantastic event.

U13 The very best of luck to our U13 team, taking part in the 3rd annual Garda blitz in the Tank Field today with our first game at 10.30am. We would like to thank the Mayfield Gardai and particularly Garda John O'Driscoll for their work in organising this fantastic event. Junior we have entered this year's summer cup competition which will begin after the leaving cert. For the championship we will play away V Newtownshandrum on Friday 17th July. Training continues Monday nights 8pm and Saturday mornings 11.30.

JUNE 2015

Help Cork Camogie Board make history

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

OVER the past few years the Cork Camogie Board have developed a magnificent pitch in Castle Road, Mahon, for the benefit of all players, clubs and inter-county teams.

It was a dream for many years and the achievement of gaining the grounds and developing the field into the fine pitch it is today is something to be very proud of and significantly eases the burden from a fixture perspective. While still requiring the support of clubs, to have our own grounds by which to play many local and intercounty fixtures is priceless.

At present there are temporary portable buildings providing basic facilities. However it is hoped that very soon the temporary dressing rooms will be replaced by new dressing rooms, a meeting hall, referees room, first aid room, office and kitchen.

These plans are at an advanced stage and building is due to commence shortly. This will give all our players the facilities they deserve and it is a very exciting time.

One of the board's core philosophies is that this project must be sustainable so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come. This undertaking is by no means a minor one. Help is needed to raise funds that will go directly towards the cost of this fine development.

On Thursday night last the Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Mary Shields launched a 'Sponsor a Block' initiative on behalf of the Cork Board. Blocks can be sponsored for €50 each and the sponsor's name will be on permanent display in the new club house and will also be entered into a special register.

Blocks may also be sponsored in memory of a deceased past player, administrator, family member and friend.

Surely all present and former players or relatives of same will purchase a block. When one considers the countless hours of enjoyment our sport has given us in Cork over the past 110 years; the highs, the lows, the dramas, the excitement, the arguments, the post mortems, the tears and laughter; surely each and every one of us can say our own thank you in this small way.

For all those wishing to contribute please



Cork Camogie players, Leanne O'Sullivan, Orla Cotter and Laura Treacy, brought the O'Duffy Cup to City Hall as Lord Mayor, Cllr Mary Shields, launched the Camogie Board's 'Buy a Block' fund-raiser in aid of their development at Castle Road.

Picture: Mike English

contact Marian McCarthy or Sheila Golden of the camogie board, they are easily sourced.

Speaking at the launch, chairperson Marian McCarthy, said: "This is the most ambitious project the Cork Camogie Board has ever undertaken and is a huge challenge, but we are confident that we will get the support from the players, clubs, local communities and businesses.

"Cork Camogie needs a facility of this nature to meet the demands of the growth of camogie in Cork. We now have 64 Clubs and in excess of

10,000 members and there is ongoing interest from other GAA Clubs with a view to setting up camogie within their club. We are calling on all our current and past players, administrators, club members, the wider GAA family and friends of camogie to support this ambitious project that will ensure Cork camogie will have a facility that we can be proud of and enjoyed by all for many years to come.

"This year Cork Camogie celebrates 110 years in existence therefore it would be memorable if this milestone could be celebrated with

the opening of our new club house," Marian declared.

Speaking of Castle Road and our current players, there is a 'Meet and Greet' with the Cork senior team next Monday night in Castle Road at 7pm. It will be an open training session where the girls will meet and sign autographs for the supporters afterwards.

All clubs are notified and it would be great if they could make it to the pitch with their young players. Young players need role models and you won't get many better than those girls.

CORK CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES: The Cork Senior Camogie team will have an open training session on Monday night next at the Camogie Grounds Castle Road at 7pm. All are welcome. This is a great opportunity for the younger players to meet and get to know our county stars. Players will be available after training to meet and sign autographs.

Camogie Tickets which admits you to all adult inter county championship games including All Ireland Semi Finals and Finals will be available to purchase on Monday night at a cost of 40. This is fantastic value as admission to games will be 15.

BRIAN DILLONS: Our U10s played Ballinora at the Tank under Go Games rules. Played in much improved weather, the girls had a great time. Karen and John are very impressed with this group and there are some very promising players coming through.

Our U12s travelled to play Carrigrohilly in the league. It was a fantastic match which ended in a draw. Final score 3-1 to 3-1.

Brian Dillon's hosted yet another very successful Garda Camogie U13 Blitz at the Tank Field.

There were 12 teams competing to win the cup. Dillon's were in a group with Ballincollig, Bishopstown and Blackrock. Ballincollig and Blackrock proved too strong for us but we got a great draw against Bishopstown coming from behind to earn a deserved point.

The highlight of this game was the goal scored by

Olivia Gibson. It was a rocket of a shot from 30 metres out, definitely the goal of the tournament. The teams that progressed to the semis were Sars v Ballincollig and Ballinora v Blackrock.

Sars and Ballinora won their respective semis and without a doubt the two best teams reached the final.

The final was a thriller from start to finish. Sars were fancied, but Ballinora had showed in their group that they were determined to win it. They had only 14 players all day and had no subs. Ballinora were two points up in the last minute when Sars were awarded a penalty. Remarkably it hit the post and was scrambled clear.

Sars had numerous chances to win it but Ballinora's defence was superb and held on to win 0-7 to 0-5.

Superintendent Mick Comyns, when presenting the cup to the winning captain, said it all when he said: "The winner today was camogie". Linda Mellerick had the difficult task of picking the Player of the Tournament. In the end the award went to Ballinora's Rose Murphy whose skill, attitude and determination was exceptional.

This was the third Garda Blitz and it is going from strength to strength with more clubs expressing a keen interest in taking part. Thanks to our four referees who worked hard all day, Ger, Billy, Dominic and Ian. A special thanks also to Tracey from the Camogie Board for all her support. Garda John O'Driscoll and all the Community

Club notes

Gardai in Mayfield deserved a lot of credit for all the work they put in and not forgetting Eve and Anna who were sworn in as deputies for the day. Sergeant John O'Connor was his unique self as MC and gave us some laughs. However, the biggest thanks must go to the Brian Dillon's Camogie Committee under Chairperson Mary O'Sullivan. Can I on my own behalf and on behalf of An Garda Síochána thank everyone for all the help and support we received in making this Garda Blitz what it is a really great tournament.

BRIDE ROVERS CAMOGIE CLUB: U11 Camogie: Our U11 camogie team played their first game together on Thursday evening when they travelled to Mitchelstown to play St. Fanahan's. It was a difficult game for our girls who had only 11 players on the night due to several absences. Despite this, they put on an extremely brave and spirited performance and marked tightly, fighting for every ball. St. Fanahan's were much more experienced and scored some very good goals but Bride Rovers pined on the pressure at every turn and made it extremely difficult for them to score. Our only goal came from Naolise McCarthy late in the second half but Kate Larkin was also unlucky not to score as the ball was cleared off the line. All the girls played very well and they certainly have

a very good base to work from for future games. On Monday evening, the U11s played their second game of the league at home to Cobh. They faced tough opposition but withstood the pressure as best they good. Similar to their previous game, they battled hard for every ball and displayed great courage in tackling, blocking and marking tight.

The U12s played at home to Cobh on Saturday at noon. Cobh were by far the stronger team on the day and our girls were on the back foot from the start. Although the visitors won by a substantial margin, fair play to Bride Rovers as they never gave up.

Right to the final whistle, they hassled and blocked and made every effort possible to make an impact on the game but Cobh were the decisive winners by a substantial margin.

GLEN ROVERS CAMOGIE CLUB: Our U13 team enjoyed a wonderful day at the Garda Tournament on Saturday last where they played three games. It was a wonderful occasion especially away for all our U12 girls who experienced the tournament for the first time.

Crosshaven were visitors to us for U9 Go Games as were Eire Og for U10 Go Games and again everybody enjoyed their games. We have a busy weekend with our U9 heading to Carrigaline today for a blitz day, tomorrow Sunday we will host an under 8 blitz day starting at 11am when we welcome Eire Og, Castlelyons, Tracton and Ballincollig.

On Thursday next Cloughduv will visit us for an U10 Go Games and the following week we hope to play Ballincollig. Our first round of senior championship has been confirmed for Sunday, June 28 in Castle Road at 7.30pm so it all systems go now as preparations gather momentum. Our U16 teams will return to action following exams on Wednesday, June 24 when we play Ballygarvan in Ballygarvan and our second team are down to meet Blackrock the same week date to be confirmed.

Reminder: Camogie for beginners up to including age 12 is on Tuesday nights at 6pm and Sundays 12pm, new members welcome.

BLACKROCK CAMOGIE CLUB: Our U13 team to part in the annual Garda blitz last Saturday, which this year was hosted by Brian Dillon's at The Tank field. On a beautiful day for camogie we were drawn against Douglas, Ballincollig and Brian Dillon's in our group stage of matches. We reached the semi-final of the tournament against an excellent Ballinora team who eventually went on to win the final. We never got to the pace of the game against Ballinora even though we did improve dramatically in the second period of the game. Ballinora 2-4 to no score. All told we were well pleased with the performance considering we were missing four of our regular starters. So well done Heather, Tamara, Alison, Anne, Eadoin, Fiona, Eimear, Anna, Aoife, Ashling, Sabdoh, Emma, Orla, Donagh, Jacinta, Alex, Ciera.

Tipp's youth policy is paying off



Cork's Ashling Thompson and Galway's Sarah Dervan at the launch of the 2015 Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship

lost to All-Ireland champions Cork by a point.

However, Tipperary haven't won an All Ireland since 2004 and it's time for them to produce their next generation.

"An impression can be made by a young side," said Devane, who has high hopes for her comrades. "The game is getting faster and faster all the time and early twenties is when girls hit their prime".

Devane a veteran at 22 but says

CAMOGIE

James Donoghue

TIPPERARY'S Cait Devane feels the three main ingredients for a successful team are "young, fast and skilful".

And all three are something which her current Tipp side have in abundance.

Devane found herself in a strange situation in the

Munster final loss to Cork being the most experienced Tipp player on the pitch.

"We are definitely a young side I think I was the oldest to start the Munster final at 22," she said.

Leadership is something that Devane has become accustomed to, captaining UL to Ashbourne Cup success in 2014. New Tipperary manager Ken McDonald didn't have the best of starts in the league

of but Devane feels it wasn't all bad for the Premier side.

"We were trying things out and that kind of thing," said Devane, who is delighted with the eight minors that joined the panel.

"We've got a lot of girls that cut their teeth and deserve their place," she added.

Since the league the "hard work" is paying off as Tipp's performances have improved. They beat Limerick and only

Summer series starts with cracker

Brendan O'Brien

The football championship tends to be a slow burner while the hurling equivalent enjoys a low-key start with the preliminary rounds in Leinster, but camogie's summer series will burst out of the traps today when Cork and Galway renew acquaintances in Tullamore.

Opening the bill for the Leinster hurling semi-final between Galway and Laois, the camogie clash will bring together the last two All-Ireland champions who last met in a league final just a short few months ago in which the Connacht side just about edged.

"It's a fantastic way to kick off the championship," says Galway captain Sarah Dervan. "There will be no learning curves. It's great to have it down in Tullamore before the hurlers and hopefully we can take the confidence from the league and kick on into the championship."

Inviting though it is, this is not a game that will dictate a summer.

Cork began their All-Ireland campaign 12 months ago with a bruising defeat to Wexford and still ended the campaign with a first title in five years after a three-point decider defeat of Kilkenny thanks to a group structure designed to keep teams interested for longer.

Group A this year contains Wexford as well as Cork, Offaly and newly-promoted Limerick and, with three counties progressing to the knock-out stages, there will be considerable water under the bridge before the script begins to emerge with any certainty.

A number of characters are already conspicuous by their absence.

Anna Geary, Cork captain last year but since retired, set



CROSSING CAMANS: Cork's Ashling Thompson and Galway's Sarah Dervan at the launch of the Liberty Insurance Camogie championship in Croke Park. Picture: Cathal Noonan/Inpho

the scene on The Sunday Game recently when she listed a spate of players from the main counties who would not be gracing the fields this time for one reason or another.

Galway are no different, but it may be that they find the absences easier to deal with this time than was the case a year ago when one of the county's longest-serving and most inspirational GAA players called time on a career crowned with a first All-Ireland.

"The retirement of Therese Maher was a huge blow," Dervan confirms. "We expected it, but you can't replace anything of her calibre so quickly. Things just didn't go our way last year, that's the only way I can put it. We tried our way and it didn't happen. It's harder to retain it."

Cork are about to discover how true that is.

The Rebelettes approach the defence of their title minus nine of the panel that earned

the O'Duffy Cup last year. Among those missing are Joanne O'Callaghan and Jennifer O'Leary as well as Geary, although current captain Ashling Thompson detects buds of promise amid those losses.

"It's a huge disappointment in a way, but then again spirits have been really high in the camp because the new leaders now would be young so we all really click. We all get on really well together and we still have the likes of Brieger Corkery, Rena Buckley and Orla Cotter.

"Aoife Murray as well. It's a big change, so it's a good change in a way too in that girls can get that sense of leadership into themselves as well. It doesn't quite add as much pressure as being All-Ireland champions either because they haven't really experienced that just yet."

Well though these teams know each other, there is an element of the unknown about it given seven weeks have

passed since that league final. Cork have passed the time beating Clare and Tipperary to claim a Munster title. Galway have had to make do with club games and challenges.

Tony Ward's Galway side led that league decider by eleven points at the interval only for the Munster side to reel them back in to within three points thanks to the introduction of a handful of regulars who began the afternoon stationed on the sidelines.

"I suppose you could take a lot of negativity and positivity from the league final," says Thompson. "We had a shocking first-half, but then picked it up in the second half and I reckon if we had five more minutes on the clock we could have gone for the draw."

"We've trained ferociously hard since the league final, but I think there's a lot more in us. It's going to be a massive test going into the Galway game, but it's a good one to start the competition off with."

Limerick to make the step-up

WEEKEND CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Group 1

Limerick v Offaly Newcastle West, Limerick, 2.30pm (C Egan): Last year's Intermediate All-Ireland winners Limerick begin championship life at senior level against Offaly, who will be looking to build on last year's run which saw them fall at the quarter-final

stage to the eventual champions Cork. Limerick were impressive in reaching a National League semi-final, going unbeaten in the group stage before losing to a strong Cork side. Offaly, meanwhile, will seek to avenge a narrow two-point defeat by Limerick during the national league campaign.

Verdict: Limerick
Galway v Cork, O'Connor Park, Tullamore, 3pm (R Kelly): This is a much-anticipated re-run of last month's national league final which eventually saw Galway run out winners to claim their first league crown since 2005. Cork, the winners of the last two All-Irelands, will both be looking to set down a marker, as they look to

retain their title, whilst Galway aim to regain the title they won in 2013.

Both sides topped their respective National League groups in impressive fashion without dropping any points along the way and it looks anyone's game, given how closely matches the sides were in that league decider. The match will be the curtain raiser to the Leinster hurling semi-final clash between Galway and Laois at O'Connor Park.

Verdict: Draw

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Group 2

Dublin v Kilkenny Parnell Park, 2.30pm (A Laguer): Dublin,

under their new manager Shane O'Brien, caused several upsets in the league campaign and will aim to take this promising form into their championship campaign. Kilkenny are looking to make up for the heartbreak of last year's narrow All-Ireland final loss to Cork and to go one further in 2015.

An impressive Kilkenny performance saw them run out winners when these two sides met in the national league back in March and Dublin will hope this is a much tighter affair in Parnell Park on Saturday.

Verdict: Kilkenny



Rebels gunning for Galway as they bid to avenge league final defeat

All-Ireland champions Cork have to manage without nine of last year's squad

Galway welcome back experienced duo Sinéad Cahalan and Therese Manton

RUAIDHRÍ CROKE

Revenge will be the spur for Cork when they meet Galway in the opening match of the 2015 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship this Saturday. They will be eager to reap revenge for the westerners' victory in the Division One final last month.

The game in Tullamore will precede the Leinster senior hurling semi-final between Gal-

way and Laois – another new 'double header' initiative introduced by the Camogie Association this year.

The match is the first of a 10-team tournament which is broken into two groups with both first-placed teams being seeded into the semi-finals while second and third-placed teams from both groups will battle out quarter-final ties.

Since last year's All-Ireland victory Cork have been ravaged

with absences as a total of nine players have either retired or are unavailable for selection.

Galway, meanwhile, will have the experienced duo of Sinéad Cahalan and Therese Manton available for selection after both missed the league run.

Competitive match

Since then Galway haven't played a competitive match, due to there being no Connacht championship. In stark contrast, Cork have had the benefit of contesting and winning the Munster Championship.

Galway captain Sarah Dervan is well aware of how those games could stand to Cork on Saturday but says that there has never been any talk of Galway moving, like their hurlers, into the Leinster championship.

"We go back to our clubs for a while and we have our club league and then just challenge matches really – 15 versus 15 between ourselves to try and learn. It's never even been mentioned entering Leinster. It'd be great to be able to get more games because games bring

“It still has huge value for them to compete in and win a provincial final

you on and that's what you need to win.”

For Cork there's the debate about whether the provincial championship is undervalued as it doesn't carry a seeding for the All-Ireland. Cork captain

Ashling Thompson still feels it proves beneficial.

With it being separate people regard it as being a little thing, but it is still a championship. League is league and All-Ireland is All-Ireland. It's a Munster Championship whether it is a part of the All-Ireland or not. Winning it after losing the league final was good for us,” said the 24-year-old.

Camogie Association president Catherine Neary feels that the placing of the provincial championship has helped it maintain importance.

“There was a fear among people that it would be devalued and teams wouldn't bother. What I think has happened is that the provinces have worked very hard and they have placed it at a time of the year where it will be important and where

■ At the launch of the Camogie Championship season were Galway's Sarah Dervan, Wexford's Shelley Kehoe, Clare's Carol O'Leary, Kilkenny's Kate McDonald, Derry's Gráinne O'Kane, Limerick's Sarah Carey, Offaly's Sheila Sullivan, Cork's Ashling Thompson, Dublin's Elaine O'Meara and Cait Devane of Tipperary.

there will be competitive games, rather than put it in at the tail-end of the year where it might become unimportant.

“So it's about emphasising its place in the calendar and its value. When you talk to the players, it still has huge value for them to compete in and win a provincial final, but its place is the key.”

Jubilant scenes at 2015 Sciath na Scol finals



Aisling Gilroy and Mary Leahy, Scartleigh, celebrating their win over Glenville in the DC3 Final. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Eabha O'Mahony and Ella Wigginton Barrett, St. Catherine's, celebrating their victory in the C1 Final. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Ovens NS captain Gráinne O'Shea and vice captain Niamh Allsion celebrating victory over Upper Glanmire. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Enjoyment the driving force in Corkery's hectic schedule

CAMOGIE

Daragh Ó Conchúir

THE dressing-room is a fun place when Brieghe Corkery is around. People smile as she cracks jokes and laughs without a scintilla of self-consciousness.

All-Ireland final day can drain you, but Corkery doesn't get wound up. She is the same Brieghe before, during and after.

We have become accustomed to the perpetual motion in red, either with a big ball or a hurley and sliotar. Driving forward and chasing backwards, the number on her back a means of identifying her rather than tying her down to any part of the field.

As holder of 14 senior All-Ireland medals across both codes, the 28-year-old has had many celebrations and she doesn't hold back there either. Seize the day and then enjoy it.

Hard to imagine a time when she won't be there. It will come, though. It might have come this year.

The former stonemason had been working in a veterinary practice after returning from a year of travelling with boyfriend Diarmuid Scannell in 2010.

MILKING

The couple got engaged (they will wed in January) and with both of them raised on farms decided to join forces with another farmer milking 500 cows a day. Even for someone used to juggling so many balls, it was a test.

"Going back to the start of the year, I knew the new job would be very time-consuming and I didn't know if I'd be able to fit everything in," explains Corkery.

"But the boss here Michael said, 'Don't give up now because you're coming working here. Stay playing as long as you enjoy it and as long as you want to play'.

"That was great to hear because I didn't want to give up. It was great to go back this year, to be back with the squad and with the young ones coming through, to be there for them as well so that we all just work away.

"The way I always look at it is, if I'm enjoying it, I'll stay at it. It's hard when your friends are moving on and finishing up. In the camogie this year, Joanne (O'Callaghan) and Anna (Geary) are gone, Angela Walsh and Jennifer (O'Leary).

"It's the end of an era. They're there a



Brieghe Corkery has no intention of retiring any time soon

long time, a couple of years before me.

"You go back as long as you enjoy going back. There is a big change but we're there to enjoy this year. There's not many years left at inter-county so we must drive on."

Despite the remarkable success of accumulating five Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie medals and nine for football, there is no dilution of the Cloughduv force of nature's hunger or competitiveness.

"I've never looked back at a camogie or football All-Ireland final. I don't look at a newspaper. I just take every game as it comes. Maybe when I'm finished, that's when I'll enjoy looking back on things. There'll be plenty of time then," she says.

Corkery's camogie summer campaign kicks off tomorrow with a curtain-raiser to the Leinster SHC semi-final between Galway and Laois. It is a repeat of the

league final, when Galway proved too strong for the All-Ireland champions.

The Corribiders led by 11 points at half-time but it was noteworthy that Cork had reduced that margin to three by the end. It was an invaluable experience for the newcomers.

"Galway really upped the ante against us in the first half. We were a bit flat on our feet," Corkery recalls.

"It is very hard for the likes of Méabh Cahalane, Leanne O'Sullivan and Lauren Callanan. It's their first year and it was in front of a big crowd (at Semple Stadium) as well.

"At half-time, from one to 15, we said we had to up the ante and we did. So we'll have to be aware of that and can't be caught like that again.

"Galway will be very tough but we just have to look at ourselves, make sure we're ready to go. It's 100 per cent. There's no

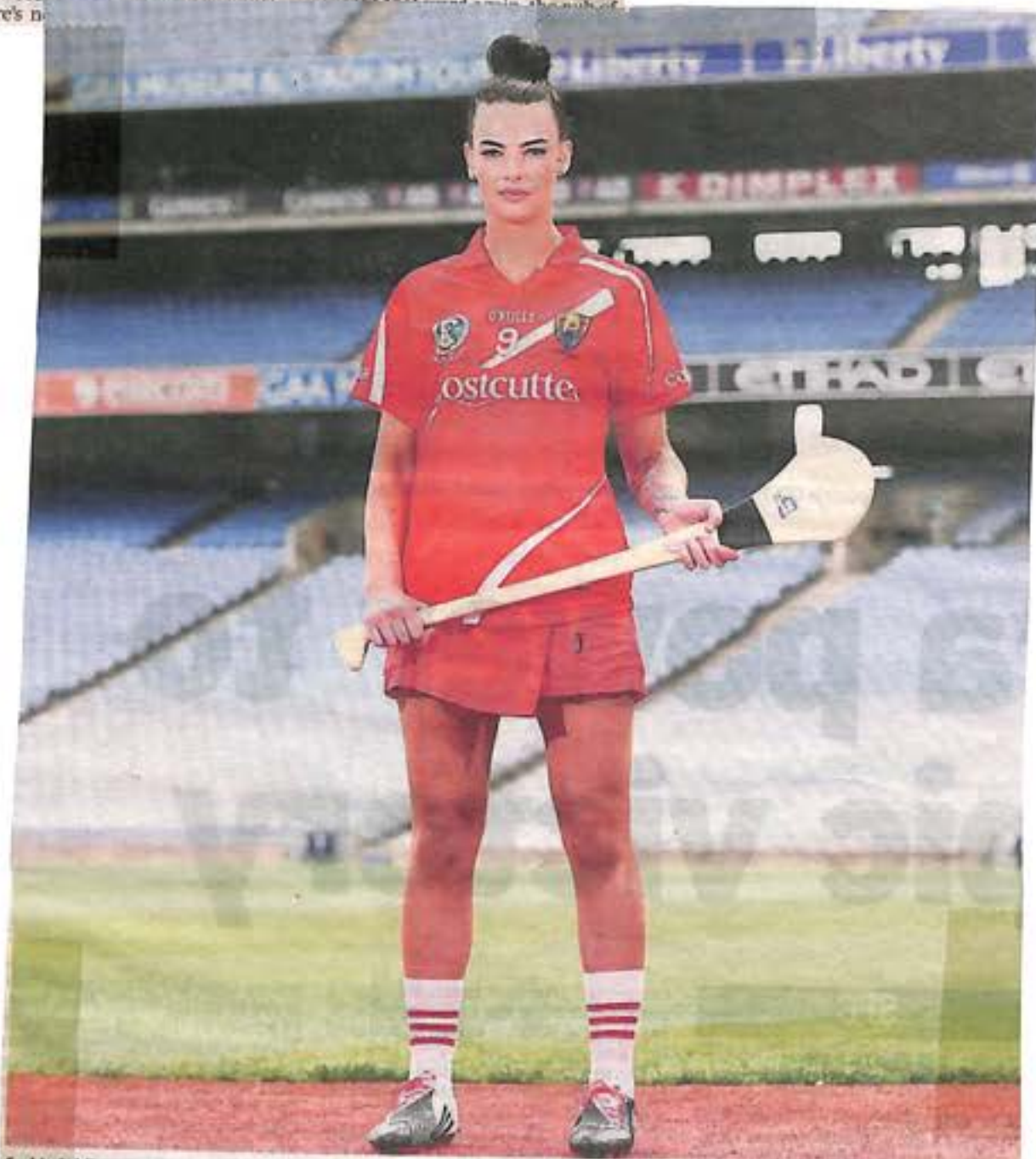
off the pitch knowing you could have given it more.

"That's how it was for the league final. We were annoyed that we didn't give the first half more of a rattle. You have to learn from those kind of things."

There will be football later in the year too but Corkery just doesn't seem to get tired. And, in fairness, she doesn't seem to tire of being asked about the dual role either.

"I suppose I don't know any better. Going training and going working. It was going to school when I was younger. I was working when I left school," she explains.

"I think Rena (Buckley) is the same. It's our lifestyle. When you grow up with something, you don't realise. When we retire maybe. It's just what we do and we enjoy it."



Cork's Ashling Thompson at the launch of the 2015 Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship Season, Croke Park. This year's championship starts today with title holders Cork beginning the defence of their crown against Galway. See P40. Picture: Inpho

JUNE 2015



Camogie

Linda
Mellerick

LAURA TREACY, at just 20 years of age, is not only a certainty on the Cork senior team sheet but is now considered an experienced player in Cork's full-back line.

This year Cork has lost 10 players from last season's panel, four of those were defenders; Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sara Hayes and Catriona Foley. It propels Laura into a leadership role and it's one she's ready to take on.

"It's another challenge to step up and feel that you are a leader on the field. You learn from the best.

"We've lost 10 players off the panel from last year, a lot of leaders. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

"With last year behind me I feel I gained so much experience, I feel I'd be able to voice my opinion in the dressing room, you have to be able to do that. The likes of Lauren (Callanan) and Leanne (O'Sullivan) I'm sure they'll be miles more confident this time next year than they are now; they're flying at the moment."

Recalling her evolution Laura reflects: "This year is my fourth year involved but last year was my first year training fully with them.

"I was minor when I first got the call halfway through 2012 and it was more for, in fairness to Paudie, it was all about experience for me and others such as Orla Cronin.

"So for me the whole learning experience of what Cork camogie is all about, the training, the sacrifices you've to make and oh my God that experience of the All-Ireland weekend, the Croke Park experience, that year stood to me completely last year. Knowing the routine of the All-Ireland weekend, the dressing room experience."

In 2013, while sitting her Leaving Cert Laura was still playing minor, losing the All-Ireland final replay to Kilkenny. I was at both finals and Laura stood out as a star of the future.

Outside of her hurling ability her passion stood out and that for me is a prerequisite of an inter-county player at the top level.

Laura recalls: "I trained with the seniors Fridays and Sundays and during the week I trained with the minors. But the experience you gain from training with players like Gemma O'Connor, Orla Cotter, and Breige Corkery that would stand to you massively when going back to line out with the minors.

"That year I was put full-back with the minors, it was my first time being so far back and that was new to me. But I enjoyed it because you were marking really good players like Caoimhe Costelloe of Limerick and there was a right battle going on there but then again I did feel a bit too confined.

Laura is already a real leader



Cork's Laura Tracey claims possession ahead of Wexford's Ursula Jacob during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship semi-final at Semple Stadium, Thurles last year.

"This year I'm loving full-back; I'm really enjoying it. I don't know was it the experience of last year of playing in the corner and watching Anna Geary and how she did back there, just playing with those players.

"You know you've brilliant players around you such as Pamela Mackey, Gemma, Emer Sull and Aoife Murray behind you. It's been a rollercoaster really." Laura slotted in quickly when receiving her break in 2014. From the outset she looked comfortable.

"Yeah well I just took every game as it game. I just focused on the next game, what I had to do, how we played together and I enjoyed it more than anything.

"I didn't go out to any game feeling nervous, I knew all the girls had my

back and I wouldn't have been picked if I wasn't good enough as you're fighting for your position all the time, even now showing that you are the right person for that position."

Her nomination for an All-Star last year was a testament to the season she had at corner-back.

"Yeah, well training with the best girls and the best management; Brian (Barry) and last year Matthew (Two-mey) and Paudie is a great manager, he's doing a fantastic job and the new lads that came in this year, they're bringing new drills, a new voice, keeping it fresh and impressing those lads now too is important as they'll have a say too."

Another season starts tomorrow for the nursing college student, daughter

of Mattie and former Killeagh and Cork camogie star Tricia Fitzgibbon. The game against Galway is one she eagerly awaits.

"Galway, it's going to be a massive task to be honest. You saw how fast, determined and skilful they were in the league final, they're hard to handle. It'll be a big task but we've put in the hard work and we're just hoping to come out of the group stages and reach a quarter-final."

Another All-Ireland medal would be amazing.

"Last September was something I'll remember forever. You wouldn't feel it with anything else.

"Just to play and win in Croke Park with the girls on that panel was just a complete honour to be honest."



Ailish O'Reilly, Galway, in action against Pamela Mackey, Cork in the Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship game played in O'Connor Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Photo: Paul Mohan

Galway hold off Rebel charge

Galway 1-11
Cork 0-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Niamh McGrath is convinced that Galway haven't seen the back of Cork despite beating the All-Ireland champions in their first round Group 1 game at O'Connor Park on Saturday.

The Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship got underway with a bang and a sizeable Galway contingent building up for the Leinster SHC semi-final, was on hand to urge their team on as they attempted to repeat the league final defeat of the Leesiders.

That might have been significant in the end as the west-erners finally got their radar right to hit the last four points and snatch the honours.

Niamh McGrath had struggled with the wind but still finished with eight points, including three of that defining flurry. Meanwhile, Niamh Kilkenny put Galway in front on the hour with a superlative over-the-shoulder effort.

"It was heart-in-your-mouth stuff near the end and it was great to get out with the win, just to get off to a good start in the championship. Beating Cork twice in the one year is great but I don't know, we're probably going to meet them again in the championship and we'll really have to find another level.

"In the second half again we switched off and didn't get enough scores from play. That seems to be a problem against them every day. Hopefully the next day we play them, we'll get a bit more movement in the forwards.

"They play so defensively and we don't know how to combat that. We're gonna have to do something the next day when I'm sure we'll meet them again.

"I thought I was going to get a talking to, hitting all those wides. The wind was tough but I should have realised that after the second or third one!

"Niamh came up as usual, the leader. She always comes up when you need her to." Cork were on top for most of the second half although Galway's wasteful shooting was a



ON THE MOVE: Galway's Aoife Donohue bursts past the challenge of Cork's Ashling Thompson in their Group 1 game clash at O'Connor Park on Saturday. Picture: Inpho/Cathal Noonan

contributory factor. But the Rebels' defensive formation was working well while Ashling Thompson and Rena Buckley ruled supreme around the middle. In the end, though, Cork just didn't do enough.

Molly Dunne scored a ninth minute goal for Galway and by that stage, Aoife Murray had made a brilliant save from Jessie Gill.

Gradually though, Cork settled and found it easier to score from play. Orla Cronin,

Thompson, Brieghe Corkery and Katriona Mackey raised white flags from open play and with Orla Cotter as reliable as ever from placed balls, Paudie Murray's charges were level at the break, 0-8 to 1-5.

Cork would have been

ahead but for few blinding saves by Susan Earner — one to deny Amy O'Connor what would have been a goal-of-the-season contender — but it looked as if they would prevail as O'Connor, Cotter, Cronin and Thompson edged them

ahead. They didn't score for the last 13 minutes though. McGrath slotted two frees Niamh Kilkenny brought the teams level with her spectacular score.

McGrath converted another free in injury time and time ran out on Cork as they chased a match-winning goal.

Scorers for Galway: N McGrath (0-8, 7 frees, 1 45); M Dunne (1-0); J Gill (0-2); N Kilkenny (0-1)

Cork: O Cotter (0-4, 4 frees); O Cronin (0-3); A Thompson (0-2); K Mackey, A O'Connor, B Corkery (0-1 each).

GALWAY: S Earner, T Kenny, S Devlin, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, E Kilikelly, A Donohue, N McGrath, AM Starr, J Gill, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: S Cahalan for Kenny (40), C McGrath for Kilikelly (55), C Finnelly for Dunne (56), T Manton for Ryan (60+2)

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, J Hosford, G O'Connor, M Cahalan, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

Referee: R Kelly (Kildare)

Limerick mark championship return with a victory

Limerick marked their return to the senior camogie championship with a 1-12 to 1-8 win over Offaly in Newcastle West.

The visitors had the better of the opening half, however, and a one-point lead was scant reflection of their superiority. Joe Quaid introduced Caoimhe Costelloe and she had a big impact, while Aoife Sheehan also proved prominent.

Niamh Mulcahy was deadly accurate from placed balls, scoring all but one point of Limerick's total. When her free from 80m dropped into the Offaly net, Limerick went five clear.

A Costelloe point made it six but Arlene Watkins responded with a spectacular goal to leave them with an edgy conclusion before Limerick saw it out.

Kilkenny got their Group 2

campaign off to a good start with a 3-13 to 1-10 win over Dublin at Parnell Park. Denise Gaule, Katie Farrell, and Michelle Quilty helped the No-residers push ahead before Ali Maguire opened the scoring for Dublin. Gaule, who scored 1-7 from frees, got her goal when an 80m free went all the way to the Dublin net. It was 1-6 to 0-4 at the half.

Quilty latched onto a breaking ball to goal after a Gaule free was saved soon after the resumption. Although Siobhan Kehoe blasted to the net after gaining possession 50m out and cutting through the Kilkenny defence, Miriam Walsh hand-passed to the Dublin net in the 40th minute and held the upper hand from there to the end.



Cork's Amy O'Connor with Galway's Heather Cooney (L) and Tara Kenny in action in the Senior Camogie Championship at O'Connor Park, Tullamore. Also see page 13 for this week's County Camogie coverage. Picture: James Flynn/AP

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Cork's Katriona Mackey and Galway's Tara Kenny in action in the Senior Camogie Championship at O'Connor Park, Tullamore.

Picture: James Flynn/APX

Murray unhappy not to have won

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

LAST week, Paudie Murray said that if Cork played well against Galway, he'd be happy. But when the chance was there to win the game, he was disappointed that they didn't.

"Well, I suppose, when you look at what we're down (players), to go within four minutes of beating them," Murray said. "Overall, I'm a bit of both, really. I'm disappointed that, with their effort, we could have hung on."

"We did 95% of stuff right, so I'm disappointed with that, but, overall, you would take a lot of positives from it, really." Cork were without Emer O'Sullivan, who picked up an ankle injury in training during the week, and Julia White, and their loss was felt.

"Ah, yeah, if we had them it would have helped. Even if they weren't starting, they'd be coming on and bring that bit of life into it, you know." But Murray must have been happy with the performance of his younger players? "I think that, overall, we'd have to be happy with the way the younger girls played, we have to be happy with the older girls, too. "The main thing, now, is that we win next weekend (against Limerick), then, overall, we'd have to be happy with our first two matches." The inclusion of Gemma O'Connor was instrumental and it also enabled the selectors to move Pamela Mackey back to the corner, on Ailish O'Reilly.

"As the game went on, Pam got better. There was only one player running that battle."

"She was a big influence in there and she's missed a couple of weeks training, so it's only sharper she's going to get," he said.

"Hannah Looney has done very little training, because she was doing her Leaving Cert, so she can only get better, too. I think, overall, we can get better." Orla Cronin's selection at centre forward was a good call.

"She's been showing good form. I'm delighted for her, really. The one thing she can do is drive the ball, she's a great striker, got three very good points."

Despite all the positives, Cork could have won the game and that is why Murray was disappointed.

"Yeah and that's why I'm disappointed. Would we have taken that result last night? We would, of course, but we were in a position to win it."

"We played very controlled up to about ten minutes to go. Now, they had a few subs, as well, which helped them to freshen things up on their side."

"If, at the end of July, we're after qualifying for a quarter final and upping our performance in every game, we'll be happy. Look, if we can win next week, we'll be happy, and if we play like that we should be beating them."

Cork positive despite defeat

Cork	0-12
Galway	1-11

IT'S NOT too often that you come away from losing a championship game fairly upbeat but there were a lot of positives to take from Saturday's first round All-Ireland group championship defeat to Galway on Saturday.

Yes it was disappointing to lose a game that you seemed to have control of early in the final quarter but the seven weeks training since May 3 saw a more cohesive Cork team take to the field than that in Thurles.

Having struck three successive points and holding Galway scoreless for 14 minutes, a bit of inexperience and a soft free conceded gifted the Westerners a chance to draw level on 57 minutes. Smelling blood, the large Galway support, aided by the crowd attending the Galway/Laois hurling quarter-final, roared their side on. A magnificent point by Niamh Kilkenny answered their call and an injury-time gave Galway their narrow victory.

It's only natural to compare the league final to Saturday's performance. And from that day out in May the return of Gemma O'Connor had a huge calming influence. It also afforded Cork the opportunity of placing Pamela Mackey back into the full back line where she had a fine game curtailling Ailish O'Reilly at left corner forward. Cork won midfield with Aisling



Linda Mellerick

Thompson very prominent, scoring two points and Rena Buckley highly industrious.

Orla Cronin's start at centre forward paid dividends where she picked off three points in addition to playing her part in Katriona Mackey's 30th minute strike. Cork's defence looked more comfortable even though the experienced Emer O'Sullivan, out through injury, was a big loss.

Story of the game

■ Linda Mellerick

Player of the Match: This was a competent team performance from a relatively new Cork side, albeit with more work to do. Orla Cronin, Aisling Thompson and Aoife Murray had solid games, however the return of Gemma O'Connor and her commanding presence had a significant positive effect not only on the game but for her team-mates around her.

Score of the Match: The score of the

Molly Dunne's goal on seven minutes after a flash of brilliance was in the end a bit fortunate as it trickled inside the net. Cork answered with three points inside six minutes.

The sides were level 1-3 to 0-6 on twenty three minutes. Galway went two ahead. Breige Corkery fell back to play a sweeper role and Gemma edged out a little, meaning Cork had seven outfield players behind the ball. Cork finished the half strongly to go in at the break level with eight points to 1-5.

Cork took control of the third quarter and went into a two point lead, working hard to get into positions and support one another, leaving Galway reacting. Both sides became defensive. Jessica Gill struck Galway's second point, their first from play in the second half, on 46 minutes and while Ais-

ling Thompson replied with a great score, the next five minutes belonged to Galway with three unanswered points to give them a one point lead on full time before they converted another in additional time.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-4 (5), O Cronin 0-3, A Thompson 0-2, K Mackey 0-1, B Corkery 0-1, A O'Connor 0-1 each.

Galway: N McGrath 0-8 (0-7 f), M Dunne 1-0, J Gill 0-2, N Kilkenny 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, J Hostford, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, B Corkery, A O'Connor, K Mackey.

Galway: S Eamer, T Kenny, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Coen, S Healy, L Ryan, N Kilkenny, E Kilkelly, A Donohue, N McGrath, A M Starr, J Gill, M Dunne, A O'Reilly.

Subs: S Cahalane for T Kenny (40), C McGrath for E Kilkelly (56), C Finnerty for M Dunne (57), T Marlon for L Ryan (61).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Elsewhere, Limerick marked their return to the senior championship with a 1-12 to 1-8 win over Offaly in Newcastle West. The visitors had the better of the opening half however, and a one-point lead was scant reflection of their superiority.

Joe Quaid introduced Caoimhe Costelloe and she had a big impact, while Aoife Sheehan was also prominent.

Kilkenny got their Group 2 campaign off to a good start with a 3-13 to 1-10 win over Dublin at Parnell Park. Denise Gaulle got her goal when an 80m free went all the way to the Dublin net. It was 1-6 to 0-4 at the change of ends.

Quilty got her goal soon after the resumption and Miriam Walsh's hand-pass to the Dublin net in the 40th minute ensured Kilkenny held the upper hand from there to the end.

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Cork on the road for Limerick test

The Cork camogie team has suffered a disappointing opening round loss to Galway, the reigning league champions.

It was the same pairing from the League final and for large parts of this game, it seemed that this Cork team would gain their revenge for that loss at the beginning of May.

The game was played as the curtain-raiser to the senior hurling Leinster semi-final match between Laois and Galway and by all accounts, it was the camogie clash the entertained most on the day, with the latter game seeing

Galway defeat Laois by 20 points.

Like their hurling counterparts, this was to be Galway camogie's day — unfortunately for Cork — despite the best efforts of a number of Cork players.

Aoife Murray returned to the Cork goal while experienced players such as Gemma O'Connor, captain Ashling Thompson, Catriona Mackey and dual players Rena Buckley and Brieghe Corkery were all in fine form for this game.

Murray marked her return with an excellent save from Galway's Jessica Gill and it took Galway 24 min-

utes to register their first point from play, although a ninth minute goal ensured they were staying in touch with the opposition.

Cork were finding it much easier to get their scores; Orla Cronin, Coreoran, Mackey and Thompson, who was in particularly excellent form, all got their name on the scoresheet.

It was 1-5 to 0-8 at half time and in the second-half, Galway had their goalkeeper Susan Eamer to thank after she made a number of excellent saves to deny Cork a goal.

It was the final quar-

ter of the match where it all went wrong for Cork, however.

They failed to score for the final 13 minutes, during which time Galway scored four points to edge one ahead and Cork failed to produce the necessary goal to win the game. It finished 1-11 to 0-12.

Cork now play Limerick this weekend, a win needed in that game to get their season back on track, while confidence will be high in Limerick after beating Offaly at the weekend. Throw-in is at 2.30pm in Kilmallock on Saturday 27 June.



Cork's Orla Cronin and Galway's Niamh Kilkenny in action in the Senior Camogie Championship at O'Connell Park, Tullamore. See page 13 for preview of the Senior County Championship. Picture: James Flynn/A



HALL OF FAME: At the Costcutter Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Awards at the Kingsley Hotel were Nora Newman, Finbarr McCarthy, Cork 96FM; Deirdre Sutton Coleman, Glen Rovers, Recipient and Mary Newman. Photo: Tony O'Connell Photography

Courcey's Hayes is disappointed but proud of effort

BRIAN HAYES, coach of the Courcey Rovers senior side that lost 1-10 to 1-6 to Inniscarra last Sunday in the first round of the championship, was disappointed.

The game had been level with 15 minutes to go. "At half-time, we were in the game and we didn't push on at the start of the second-half."

"They took their few scores. But we didn't panic. I can't fault the girls, our hooking and blocking today was unreal throughout the match."

"The girls were up for it. I asked them to go out and show what they can do, and back

each other up, and I thought we did that brilliantly in the first-half. We just didn't push on."

"Midway through the second-half, we tired a bit, but even at the very end we had chances to draw the game."

"Look, I can't fault the girls. Well done to Inniscarra, but we'll come again. As I said to the girls, we'll take it on the chin today."

"We'll have to take the bad feeling tonight, but tomorrow morning we'll have to turn it around and pick ourselves up again."

Courcey's still have a back-

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

door opportunity. They're a fine side.

"Yeah, we've had a tough couple of years. I came on board midway through last year with them, as a selector, and we had a good performance today and it's something to build on."

"We'll come again." Inniscarra had more scoring forwards.

"Yes, we came today with a

game plan and it didn't fully happen for us, but, as I said to the girls, we were in the game with a couple of minutes to go. We didn't panic."

"We conceded a few scores, but we came back and I've said this: 'we go up three goals, we go down three goals and we keep driving on.'"

"We came out on the wrong side of the result today, but we'll come again."

Frank O'Mahony, selector with Inniscarra, said: "It was a tough game."

"I suppose we only really got going midway through the second-half, for whatever rea-

son. Courcey's were playing an extra player in defence and it took a long time to maybe break them down. Eventually, we did and we got the win that we wanted."

Referring to Rovers' work rate, he said: "They hunted in packs and they're a strong physical team, too and fair play to them you have to admire them for that but eventually we overcame it."

The 1-1 by Joanne Casey was the turning point? "That's right."

"Well the goal was vital I think. Whoever got the goal and we just got it."



St Catherine's celebrating their win in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí County C1 Final at CIT.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Camogie

Barbara
O'Connell

SHE is Barrs to the core.

So too are her family and when camogie coach Michael Ryan appointed her captain for the forthcoming Cork senior championship it was one of the best days in the young career of 20-year-old Jessica Keating.

Jessica has been playing with the Barrs since she was seven and loves the club.

It is a huge part of her life and that of her family. Her Dad Ken played with the Barrs, so too do her cousins and uncles and aunt and she is thrilled to have the honour of leading the club into battle next week.

But the draw has not been too kind to the Togher club.

They drew Milford, the defending champions for the past two years and the favourites to retain their title again this year. Not alone are they the best team in Cork, but over the past two seasons, they have also been one of the best in the country.

Nobody outside of the club gives them a chance of beating the champions and the Barrs know if things go wrong for them on the night, they could face a heavy beating.

But Keating is excited about the challenge and believes this young Barrs side can do themselves proud on the night and put it up to Milford.

"It was a bit of a shock to the system when we heard that we had Milford in the first round of championship alright but it has definitely motivated us to work harder and up the intensity at training," Keating said.

"We know that we have a tough game ahead of us which has made us train harder. We officially started back training in February to ease us back into the swing of things after a long winter.

"We currently train three nights a week, and try to get a match once every two weeks when possible. There's 25 on the panel and it's great to have good numbers which makes great training sessions.

"Everybody gives 100% and I can't ask for anything more than that from the girls. Facing a strong team like Milford will always be daunting, but it hasn't dampened the mood in the squad at all, it has actually motivated us a lot the past few weeks and we are definitely going to rise to the challenge against Milford.

"We are only concentrating on the Milford game at the moment. We expect Milford to be as strong as ever. They are a top class team and we have a lot of respect for them but we will not be afraid of them.

"We are looking to put it up to them and we will not go down without a fight and at the end of the hour, they will know they were in a battle."

The Barrs are a particularly young side apart from veterans Lynda O'Connell and Rachel Myers, but, Keating believes the mixture of both youth and experience is vital in their squad as both parties help each other out, and while the experienced girls bring so much to the squad it is also great to have young legs who have also come up through the ranks at the club.

"As a senior team, we are a very young side with 16 of the squad under 20 years of age.

"A handful of the girls have come up from minor and are playing brilliantly with us the past few months.

"Fresh, young legs do the world of good for any team.

"We are a young team but we still have the 'oldies' who have buckets of experience and are great leaders.

"We have many great talents on the team which include exciting young talent in the likes of Ashling Shannon who is only 16. She has been a solid defender all year and has trained ex-

Keating glad to be up against best



Jessica Keating, captain of St Finbarr's minor team winning the minor league in 2013 after beating Brian Dillon's in the final.

tremely hard to earn her spot on the senior panel. Keeva McCarthy is another excellent player.

"At only 17, she will always be a threat at full forward. And to the more experienced player, once Rachel Myers Murray gets the sliothar there is no stopping her.

"She has great experience and wears her heart on her sleeve when she plays."

The UCC Commerce student shares

the praise with that of management as she is well aware of the hard work and commitment they put in on a weekly basis all year round.

"Michael Ryan started managing some of us when we were only 15/16 if not younger. He has been with us for so long that he knows everybody's strengths and weaknesses. He knows exactly how everyone plays. He has given a lot of his time to us and myself in particular, as a young player, I

would not be the player I am today only for him.

"Colette McCarthy is another who gives so much of her time freely. She basically runs the show. She spends an enormous amount of time organising games, training, pitches etc and deserves an awful lot of credit for the work she does for the team.

"Ellen Clifford has been a new fresh voice this year from the management perspective and has a lot of wise words and experience that she shares with us. Toinette Santry, Humphrey Kerins and Wayne Carroll will always be at training, hall, rain, sleet or snow and we really appreciate all the effort they put in for us."

Keating believes that apart from Milford, there could be other surprises in the championship with the likes of St Catherine's and Douglas capable of causing an upset, but for now their main focus is on their opening game against Milford, and they are ready for the challenge that lies ahead.

Jessica Keating: Factfile

■ **Name:** Jessica Keating

■ **Age:** 20

■ **Lives:** Togher

■ **Family:** Dad (Ken) Mom (Jeanette) two younger sisters Clara, 17, Sinead, 11 and our pug Bailey.

■ **Club:** The Barrs

■ **Position:** Corner back

■ **Favourite food:** Iced Buns from Aldi

are heavenly

■ **Favourite music:** Massive fan girl of One Direction

■ **A website you check daily:** Twitter/Facebook/Instagram

■ **Most memorable sporting event:** Winning the Minor League final in 2013 felt like winning the All-Ireland final, it was brilliant.

JUNE 2015



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CORK'S first round championship defeat to Galway last Saturday was encouraging in many ways.

As I referred to in my report last Monday it was a very different team which took to the field than that of the league final.

Emer O'Sullivan and Julia White were noticeable absentees but into the starting 15 came Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor with Jennifer Hosford replacing the injured Emer O'Sullivan. It was a big step up for Jennifer, notified that she would be taking to the field the morning of the game and playing in her first competitive senior match. It will stand to her just as the league final stood to others.

Orla Cronin and Hannah Looney came in for the absent Julia White and Finola Neville, Orla having a fine hour at centre-forward. One might question the fact that Cork brought on no subs last Saturday when it was obvious that tiredness was kicking in during the last 10 minutes.

Galway brought on four and won that period, hitting four points. But my feeling on that is that the likes of Finola Neville were possibly being held for the intermediate side. She will gain three or four full-time games over the coming weeks here and that will stand to her. Getting a 10-minute run last Saturday would have ruled her out.

It's clear that teams have tuned into Cork's style of play based on Niamh McGrath's post-match interview. She stated that Cork play a defensive system which Galway don't know how to break down and it's something they'll have to think about before they meet them again; as they seem to think they will.

Funny that, because despite knowing this Galway still pulled players in numbers out the field. At one point during a break in play I glanced up and there was one forward inside their 45-metre line. It's only when they pushed forward that they created the opportunities. Cork don't play a defensive system; it's every other team in the present game that consistently pull out their forwards in an effort to create more space inside and Cork just stay put.

Cork's approach may concede little; 1-11 is low scoring at this level and while that's encouraging, they are suffering at the other end. Their system doesn't suit a full-forward line that is often outnumbered and in one sense you could say they are being sacrificed. Susan Earner made a couple of good saves last weekend but Cork should be creating far more opportunities.

We don't have the stature for a high ball and even if we did the high ball almost always favours the defender. I repeat the speed we have inside in Katrina and Amy but unless the ball is plentiful, wide and low and they have support then their talent isn't being capitalised upon. Two years ago the one factor I liked about Katrina was her eye for goal. When she turned her marker it was all she had on her mind, she was cool and clinical.

We haven't seen that in a while. She now has another twin in Amy O'Connor in that regard. Again her run was enthralling last Saturday, Susan Earner saving well, but give Amy three or four of those and she should net at least two a game. The flip side of that argument is that if

Encouraging signs in defeat



The Bride Rovers Camogie Club U11 team.

the system works it works and it's all about winning.

Limerick marked their return to the senior championship with a 1-12 to 1-8 win over Offaly in Newcastle West.

The visitors had the better of the opening half and a one-point lead was scant reflection of their superiority.

Joe Quaid introduced Caoimhe Costelloe and she had a big impact while Aoife Sheehan was also prominent. Niamh Mulcahy was deadly accurate from placed balls, scoring all but one point of Limerick's total (which must be a concern for them) and when her free from

80m dropped into the Offaly net, Limerick went five clear.

A Costelloe point made it six but Arlene Watkins responded with a spectacular goal to leave them with an edgy conclusion before Limerick saw it out.

Kilkenny got their Group 2 campaign off to a good start with a 3-13 to 1-10 win over Dublin at Parnell Park. Denise Gaule, Katie Farrell and Michelle Quilty helped the Noreiders push ahead before Ali Maguire opened the scoring for Dublin. Gaule, who scored 1-7 from frees, got her goal when an 80m free went all the way to the Dublin net and as Colette Dormer denied

Louise O'Hara at the other end, it was 1-6 to 0-4 at the change of ends.

Quilty latched onto a breaking ball to goal after a Gaule free was saved soon after the resumption and though Siobhan Kehoe blasted to the net after gaining possession 50m out and cutting through the Kilkenny defence, Miriam Walsh hand-passed to the Dublin net in the 40th minute and Kilkenny held the upper hand from there to the end.

Offaly take on Wexford in Birr, Clare travel to Kilkenny and Tipperary have home advantage against Derry in this weekend's other fixtures.

Treaty force Rebels to dig deep

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Cork had a closer-than-expected call against Limerick in their Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship clash in Kilmallock. The All-Ireland champions bounced back from their opening round defeat by Galway to inflict a first loss on last year's intermediate winners by 1-14 to 1-10.

The Leesiders' physical strength was notable early on

and it was one-way traffic as they went 0-9 to 0-2 clear, with Orla Cotter (who finished with six points) punishing any transgressions from frees.

Captain Ashling Thompson, Brieghe Corkery, and Orla Cronin all shone as Cork dominated every sector.

Limerick improved in the second half, with Niamh Mulcahy and Aoife Sheehan showing well. They cut the gap to five but their good work was undone when Katrina Mackey goaled for the Rebels.

Limerick kept battling and

Rebecca Delee's goal had them within three points. Cork showed their experience to see the game out and a late 45 from Cotter proved the insurance score.

Meanwhile Kilkenny secured their second consecutive win when showing no sympathy for understrength Clare in recording a 2-22 to 0-6 victory at the St Lachtain's pitch in Freshford.

The winners scored 2-20 from play and set the tone for the day by racing into a 0-8 to nothing lead after just nine

minutes. Michelle Caulfield and Chloe Morey shot Clare's only first-half points but that still left them 13 adrift at the interval.

Ann Dalton, Denise Gaule, Michelle Quilty, and Katie Power kept the Kilkenny scoreboard ticking over before Gaule pounced for two goals in the space of a minute late on to complete the rout.

Wexford recovered from a tentative start to record a 4-11 to 0-13 win over Offaly at St Brendan's Park, Birr.

Colm McGee had to plan

without a number of big-name stars with Una Leacy joining Ursula Jacob, Karen Atkinson, and Mags D'Arcy on the sidelines after suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury.

Offaly capitalised on the early uncertainty in the visiting ranks. Siobhán Flannery impressed from frees as the hosts took an early four-point lead. Kate Kelly's goal from a free swung the game Wexford's way. Kelly grabbed a second goal (finishing the day with 2-5) but with Flannery landing six points, it was still

all to play for at the change of ends, at 2-6 to 0-8.

Minor goalkeeper Laura Brennan made a tremendous save from Arlene Watkins early in the second half to keep Offaly at bay and that was to prove a crucial contribution. Stacey Kehoe grabbed a brace at the other end and with Mary Leacy making another player-of-the-match contribution, Wexford could relax.

At The Ragg, Tipperary edged out Derry in a cracker by 3-12 to 4-8.

JUNE 2015

Solid Cork hold off a late rally



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork	1-14
Limerick	1-10

DESPITE a nervous final 10 minutes Cork never looked in danger of losing their second round championship tie with Limerick in Kilmallock on Saturday and secured their first two group points.

This was an important game for Cork's senior side and preceding it tension hung in the air. They were expected to win but against an emerging Limerick side anything could happen.

We need not have worried as from the outset Cork took control. Their seven-point half-time margin flattered Limerick as Cork were dominant in most sectors, the home side not really threatening at all once they struck their first point four minutes in to tie the game at a point apiece.

Cork's work-rate was again impressive, creating many turnovers particularly up front. They looked hungry for the ball and support play was good.

Cork's big name players were all on song: Gemma O'Connor, Orla Cotter, Aishling Thompson and Breige Corkery with Katrina Mackey finishing the game with 1-3. Five players got on the scoreboard as they took a comfortable 0-9 to 0-2 lead into the dressing room.

Limerick were always going to hit a purple patch and three points inside six minutes saw the lead cut to five after Hannah Looney had struck over seconds after the restart.

Just as the Limerick support started to warm up, feeling a fight-back may be on the cards, they were quietened by a Mackey goal with an impressive one/two involving Amy O'Connor after her run drew the defenders. Aishling Thompson hit a well taken point and the gap was extended to nine points; 1-11 to 0-5.

Rebecca Delee and Niamh Mulcahy, Limerick's most impressive player on the day, struck two in a row, an excellent free by the unerring Orla Cotter responding. Aoife Sheahan and Mackey swapped again as Cork were coasting.

Entering the final quarter, all Cork needed to do was keep the scoreboard ticking over. However, it all became a bit chaotic towards the end.

Referee John Dolan had up to that point given some very soft and questionable frees to both sides and left more obvious offences go unpunished.

He became too prominent, a total of 19 frees awarded in the second half alone. After red carding Limerick manager Joe Quaid and sending him outside the gate for dissent he



Laura Treacy (Cork) with ball in hand coming under pressure from Caoimhe Lyons, Limerick in their camogie clash at Kilmallock. Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22.

Story of the Game

Player of the Match: A number of good performances from Cork, particularly in the opening half.

The award goes to Orla Cotter for her impressive work rate and once again tremendous free taking.

Turning Point: The most important score of the game was Katrina Mackey's goal eight minutes into the second half. Limerick were in their purple patch and had struck

three points in a row. The goal rocked them back.

Score of the Match: Has to also be Katrina's goal.

Ref Watch: Referee John Dolan from Clare had an inconsistent game, causing much frustration for both side lines. Many of the 34 frees awarded, 19 to Limerick, were unnecessary and once again the referee became the unwanted focal point in the game of camogie.

then proceeded to award Limerick a number of frees.

However, he wasn't to blame for Cork's lack of concentration.

Niamh Mulcahy and Caoimhe Costelloe converted two of those frees. An Aoife Murray clearance went out over the side-line, the de-

livery into the square was collected by Rebecca Delee and despite being surrounded she managed to release a strike into the near corner of the net. Just three points now separated the sides and Limerick were in ascendancy with fire in their bellies. Make no mistake but it was an

anxious few minutes, Cork needing a win. With three minutes remaining Limerick pushed for the equalising goal however, the champions held firm and Orla Cotter's converted free on 62 minutes calmed beating hearts.

The win was no more than Cork deserved, a home game to Offaly in two weeks' time their next day out.

Scorers for Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (f), K Mackey 1-3, B Corkery, A O'Connor, O Cotter, H Looney, A Thompson 0-1 each.

Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-7 (0-5f), R Delee 1-1, C Costelloe, A Sheahan 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, P Mackey, L Treacy, L O'Sullivan, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, M Cahalane, R Buckley, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, B Corkery, Amy O'Connor, K Mackey.

Sub: J Hosford for E O'Sullivan (60).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan, M McCarthy, L McCarthy, J Mulcahy, R Delee, S Carey, F Hickley, A Sheahan, C Costelloe, M O'Mara, N Mulcahy, S McNamara, N Barry, C Lyons, R Noonan.

Subs: D Murphy for M O'Mara (11), S Madden for J Mulcahy (41), K O'Leary for N Barry (52), A Scanlon for R Noonan (52).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Murray relieved to gain vital victory

REACTION

THIS was a big game for Cork on Saturday.

Manager Paudie Murray was understandably anxious and cautious last week.

He was respectful of Limerick but was aware that player-for-player, Cork were better and that they needed to bring their game to Kilmallock.

Two points were needed with two games left to play against Offaly and Wexford.

Cork never really looked like losing the game, yet the last few minutes were a bit anxious as Limerick chased an equaliser.

However, an Orla Cotter free put breathing space between them again in injury time.

Paudie was forthright in his reflection of the magnitude of this game, saying:

"It was a winner take all really. I was disappointed with the last 10 minutes really but overall we played some very good hurling and our attitude was very good."

"We kind of had it wrapped up, the goal shouldn't have happened from the side-line cut."

"We switched off there for a bit," he said.

"But look we're happy, we're very happy now because it means if we win our next one we're in with a very good shout of being in the quarter-final," he added.

Cork played very well in the first half, they were hungry and intense, creating a lot of turnovers.

The margin could and possibly should have been greater at half time?

Paudie agreed:

"I suppose if we look at the first half, I was very happy going in at the break, I thought our attitude was very good."

"I'm disappointed, as I said, with part of the second half but there was a lot of funny decisions towards the end."

Cork did lose their momentum at stages in the second half?

"There were occasions in the first 15 minutes where we could have popped the ball over the bar and made it easier for ourselves rather than running down cul de sacs."

"But a win is a win at this stage and we will have to up it again now against Offaly."

Referring to the performances of Cork's more established players Paudie was loud in his praise.

"They were very good and I thought Orla Cronin was also."

"She was on a fine player there in Sarah Carey but I thought Orla won that battle hands down. She has the potential to make that position her own."

As the weeks move on, things seem to be further settling after Cork's retirements?

"Yeah it is and if we can win against Offaly we then have Wexford, it could be winner take all then."

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Group 1: Offaly 0-13 Wexford 4-11; Limerick 1-10 Cork 1-14.

Offaly scorers: S Flannery 0-9, T Hannon 0-2, R Egan, M Morkan 0-1 each.

Wexford scorers: K Kelly 2-5, S Keogh 2-0, K Parrock, L Bolger 0-2 each, A Lacey, S Kehoe 0-1 each.

Liberty Insurance Senior Camogie Championship Group 2:

Tipperary 3-12 Derry 4-8; Kilkenny 2-22 Clare 0-6.

Kilkenny scorers: D Gaulo 2-3 (0-2 f), A Dalton 0-5, K Power & M Walsh 0-3 each, A Dunphy, M Quilty 0-2 each, D Tobin, A Connery, A Farrell, E Maher 0-1 each.

Clare scorers: C Monev 0-4 f, M Caulfield, A Keane 0-1 each.



LUIMNEACH

- 1 Sile Moynihan
Ahane
 - 2 Marguerite McCarthy
Ahane
 - 3 Lorraine McCarthy
Bruff
 - 4 Judith Mulcahy
Ahane
 - 5 Rebecca Delee
Newcastle West
 - 6 Sarah Carey (capt.)
Granagh Ballingarry
 - 7 Fiona Hickey
Granagh Ballingarry
 - 8 Niamh Mulcahy
Ahane
 - 9 Caoimhe Costelloe
Adare
 - 10 Karen O'Leary
Newcastle West
 - 11 Deborah Murphy
Knockaderry
 - 12 Sinéad McNamara
Na Piarasigh
 - 13 Noreen Barry
Killeedy
 - 14 Caoimhe Lyons
Monaleen
 - 15 Aoife Sheehan
Granagh Ballingarry
- Substitutes**
- 16 Laura O'Neill
 - 17 Rebecca Noonan
 - 18 Megan O'Mara
 - 19 Sinéad Madden
 - 20 Marion Quaid
 - 21 Tara Fitzgibbon
 - 22 Aisling Scanlon
 - 23 Cliona Lane
 - 24 Aoife Barry
- Na Piarasigh*
Granagh Ballingarry
Monaleen
Mungret St Pauls
Bruff
Ballyagran
Killeedy
Adare
Murroe Boher

Management:

Joe Quaid (Manager), Patsy Hall, Adrian O'Sullivan (Coach/Selector), Willie Banks (Goalkeeping Coach), Maura Shine (Selector/Liasion Officer), Sara Fitzgerald (Team Physical Therapist/First Aid), Donie Browne (Kit Man)



CORCAIGH

- 1 Aoife Murray
Cloughduv
 - 2 Pamela Mackey
Douglas
 - 3 Laura Treacy
Killeagh
 - 4 Leanne O'Sullivan
Glen Rovers
 - 5 Eimear O'Sullivan
Ballinhassig
 - 6 Gemma O'Connor
St Finbarrs
 - 7 Meabh Cahalane
St Finbarrs
 - 8 Rena Buckley
Inniscarra
 - 9 Aisling Thompson (capt.)
Milford
 - 10 Orla Cotter
St Catherines
 - 11 Orla Cronin
Enniskeane
 - 12 Hannah Looney
Killeagh
 - 13 Briege Corkery
Cloughduv
 - 14 Amy O'Connor
St Vincents
 - 15 Katriona Mackey
Douglas
- Substitutes**
- 16 Amy Lee
 - 17 Lauren Callanan
 - 18 Leah Weste
 - 19 Niamh O'Keeffe
 - 20 Sarah Buckley
 - 21 Sarah Fahy
 - 22 Rebecca Walsh
 - 23 Finola Neville
 - 24 Katelyn Hickey
 - 25 Jennifer Hosford
- Na Piarasigh*
Glen Rovers
Ballincollig
Killeagh
Ballincollig
Douglas
Fr O'Neills
St Catherines
Blackrock
Glen Rovers

Management:

Paudie Murray (Manager) Brian Barry, Sean Cremin, George Fitzgibbon, Dr Wesley O'Brien, Kevin Mulcahy, Niall Collins, Damien Murray.

Team Physio Aoife McMahon

Quaid says Treaty not finished yet

Eoghan Cormican



Joe Quaid's Twitter profile picture tells you pretty much everything you need to know about his love affair with Limerick camogie.

Up until three years ago, the former Limerick goalkeeper had never attended a camogie match. Not one. And moreover, he openly admits that he fell into his current position of Treaty camogie manager after being overlooked for a fourth year as county minor hurling boss in late 2012.

That twitter profile picture shows Quaid hoisting aloft the All-Ireland Intermediate camogie trophy following last September's final win over Kilkenny.

Of the seven tweets he posted on Thursday afternoon, six were camogie related.

Today he lives and breathes a sport he was once so ignorant to. Tomorrow he'll attempt to mastermind "the biggest camogie upset in a very, very long time".

All-Ireland champions Cork are the visitors to Kilmallock for the second round of the All-Ireland senior championship (2.30pm); Limerick scoring their first senior championship win in 10-years when overcoming Offaly (1-12 to 1-8) last Saturday, Cork opening unsuccessfully against Galway (1-11 to 0-12).

"Absolutely I am enjoying this gig," says Quaid ahead of the Cork clash.

"The one thing I feel with camogie is that it doesn't get fair publicity. Our girls have trained as hard, if not harder than the Limerick senior hurlers and they are not getting expenses, are not being lavished with free gear. "They don't get much pub-



Aoife Sheehan was on the Limerick team beaten by Cork in 2008, the reigning champions running up a cricket score. Treaty coach Joe Quaid says they won't have it as easy this time.

Picture: Inpho

Weekend fixtures

Today

Senior Camogie Championship
Group 1: Limerick v Cork, Kilmallock, 2.30; Offaly v Wexford, Birr, 2.30

Senior Camogie Championship
Group 2: Kilkenny v Clare, St Lachtains, Freshford, 2.30; Tipperary v Derry, The Ragg, 2.30

"Cork beat us in the Munster final last year when we were still only intermediate. We were up by a point with 10-minutes to go in the league semi-final this spring, but they had the bench, they

had Briege [Corkery] and a couple more to bring on. Their experience counted and our inexperience worked against us (1-12 to 0-10 the final score).

"Aoife Sheehan, Niamh Mulcahy and Sile Moynihan were there in 2008, they know what it is like to meet the likes of Briege Corkery, Gemma O'Connor, Rena Buckley and Aoife Murray. These are the players they want to face, this is the level we want to be at.

"Our aim over the last three years was to get to last Saturday, our first senior championship victory in 10-years. This Saturday is another step in our progression.

"These girls have bought into the revival of Limerick camogie and we are not finished yet."

Douglas a huge threat to Collig

JUNE 2015



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

TONIGHT
Evening Echo Cork County Senior A championship first round:
St Catherine's v Ballinhassig, Castle Road, 7.30pm; Douglas v Ballincollig, Ballinlough, 7.30pm; Killeagh v Carbery, Blackrock, 7.30pm.

AFTER the disappointment of Seandún, Imokilly and Carrigdhoun withdrawing from the senior championship late last week the senior championship games continue this evening with St Catherine's, Ballinhassig, Douglas, Ballincollig, Killeagh and Carbery taking to the field.

Allowing divisional sides into the senior championship in the future will be something the board will have to consider very seriously after three sides withdrawing made a farce of the opening rounds for Ballygarvan, Glen Rovers and Cloughduv and the board were understandably very unhappy with the situation.

There's much talk about league champions Douglas being the ones to halt the Milford monopoly this year. It's possibly talk they'd prefer not to have circulating but it's there for many reasons.

Last season they came within minutes of dethroning Milford in the quarter final only for a ball taken down in the square to be tapped home by Maria Watson and heartbreak followed for the city side.

This season, they seem to be even more focussed, undoubtedly driven by the popular Matthew Twomey, Cork camogie coach last season and coach to Douglas when they won it back in 2011.

He is ably assisted by Teddy Donovan and Pat Cotter. Douglas remind me of the Glen team of the 1990s. While there was a fair number of inter-county players in the team, the club players were very strong also, many of whom would have been on most inter-county teams, thereby giving a very solid and balanced team throughout the field.



Douglas and Cork ace Pamela Mackey will be hoping to bring the form she showed against Niamh Mulcahy on Saturday into the club championship against Ballincollig tonight. Picture: Press 22

That favourites tag however can often be a shackle and Douglas will have a tough opening challenge from Ballincollig. While losing narrowly to Courcy Rovers and Inniscarra during the league they did suffer an eight-point defeat to Douglas but the league is not a true indicator of form.

County finalists in 2013 and possessing names such as former Cork senior Denise Cronin, Leah Weste, Linda Dorgan, Patricia Buttimer, Jess Hennigan and Sinead O'Callaghan, Ballincollig have a strong outfit and are also a side fancied to make it at least to the last four. With Julia White out of the country and if they can minimise the threat of Katriona Mackey, Ballincollig have every chance here.

In Castle Road another competitive

tie is expected between St Catherine's and Ballinhassig. Emer O'Sullivan of course is the backbone of Ballinhassig and while she lined out with Cork yesterday she came off late in the game as she continues to struggle with a knee injury. She may not figure this evening and if she does she won't be 100% and will be a big loss. On the other side Orla Cotter is a huge player for Catherine's and often dominates games.

Ballinhassig had a reasonable league; having a good win over Ballygarvan in a high scoring game; scoring a very impressive 3-19. They did suffer a heavy defeat to Glen Rovers. Catherine's showed up that bit better, losing by just a point to the Glen, having a very impressive victory over Finbarr's and then suffering a defeat at the

hands of Ballygarvan, which shows again how erratic the league is.

St Catherine's, always defy the odds, and put in huge performances when the underdog. They reached the semi-final of last year's championship and no one would bet on them not doing the same in 2015.

Again it's difficult to know who will line out with Carbery when they take on Killeagh in Blackrock. Killeagh will be expected to advance despite the absence of Angela Walsh but impressive underage work and results over the past couple of years are starting to bear fruition and with Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney, Mary O'Connor, Niamh O'Keefe and Leah McEvoy they should have too much for Carbery.

The Barrs can beat depleted Milford

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

TUESDAY,
Evening Echo Cork senior championship round 1:
Milford v St Finbarr's, Buttrvant, 7.30pm.

HOLDERS Milford begin the defence of their county and Munster titles this evening, against St Finbarr's in Buttrvant.

Milford are said to be seriously weakened this year, but believe that at your peril. The talent runs deep and if the desire matches then they remain favourites for their fourth title in a row.

Deirdre O'Reilly is a serious loss: her distribution and work rate were that of two players, and centre forward is a difficult position to fill. Maura Flanagan, Eimear Friel, Aileen O'Flynn and Christine O'Gorman have also retired.

Milford have a big problem ahead of tonight, as Aine, Maria and Emer Watson, alongside Rebecca Finn, are holidaying in Cape Town and Maria Walsh is also out of the country.

Milford will struggle without such an influential contingent. But the backdoor cushions the blow.

Milford may well push Anna Geary up the field, leaving the experienced Elaine O'Riordan, Katie Galvin, Lisa Healy and Sarah Sexton still in defence.

With championship dates not fixed until late, many players take a chance and book a break.

St. Finbarr's didn't build on their success in 2006. That first ever title for the club was joyously celebrated and it was predicted that they would drive on.

They were not favourites when they reached the final in 2007, to take Muskerry and claim back-to-back titles, but a shock defeat in a low-scoring game, 0-8 to 0-5, dealt the city club a major blow. The hunger so evident 12 months previously wasn't there.

They were back in the final in 2008, yet suffered a 3-16 to 3-6 defeat to Douglas. So, three finals in a row and, cruelly, just one title to show for it, when there should really have been two.

Since then, matters on the field have regressed significantly. Since 2010, St Finbarr's have reached the quarter-final stage just once, that in 2012, when they lost to Cloughduv.

There is great work being done underage in the club and they will be a force again, in due course. It remains to be seen if this year is too soon for them, despite having Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell, Rachel Myers, Meabh Cahalane and Keava McCarthy.

St Finbarr's have every chance to capitalise on Milford's current absences.

St Finbarr's can advance to the quarter-final, for the first time in three years, tonight.

Douglas snatch a dramatic late victory against Ballincollig



Sarah Fahy, Douglas, tackles Ballincollig's Trish Buttimer, during the Cork Senior Camogie championship game at Ballinlough. See page 48.

Picture: Denis Scannell

Cotter hits nine as St Catherine's ease past Ballinhassig

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

St Catherine's	1-19
Ballinhassig	1-2

SPEARHEADED by inter-county star, Orla Cotter, who contributed nine points, St Catherine's eased past a spirited Ballinhassig, who were forced to line out minus their Cork senior, Eimear O'Sullivan, in Castle Road last night, in the opening round of the senior county championship.

O'Sullivan's absence was a huge loss to Ballinhassig. Her recurring knee injury is a worry to Paudie Murray, who may have to face Offaly in round three without last season's player of the All-Ireland final.

Orla Cotter pointed an early free to give St Catherine's the lead. Ballinhassig then put the St Catherine's defence under huge pressure. The result was Deirdre Cooney's goal, after Vanessa O'Donnell had failed to hold her long-range strike. As the game entered the second quarter, Orla Cotter and Evelyn Ronayne had St Catherine's level, with Cotter very influential at midfield. They wore down the Ballinhassig defence and led at half-time by four points, one a superb effort from defender Eimear O'Brien.

Orla Cotter hit two in a row as St Catherine's stamped their authority on the second-half, and Finola Neville and Joanne O'Keefe added two more points. Ballinhassig contested every ball with determination, but the influence of O'Sullivan was missed. Their captain, Emma Jordan, worked hard, as did Deirdre Cooney and Niamh Sheehan, but St Catherine's had that little bit extra. Ballinhassig were rewarded with two Jordan points in the last quarter, but St Catherine's, driven on by Orla Cotter, Yvonne O'Neill and Rachel O'Callaghan, who had an excellent hour, closed the game out with an Evelyn Ronayne goal, before Rachel O'Callaghan, Orla Cotter, and Joanne O'Keefe added points.

Ballinhassig will regroup, with Eimear O'Sullivan and Catriona Collins to come into their lineup for the backdoor round, while St Catherine's look forward with confidence to the draw for round three.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter, 0-9 (0-5fs), E Ronayne 1-2, R O'Callaghan, J O'Keefe, 0-3 each, F Neville, E O'Brien, 0-1 each.

Ballinhassig: D Cooney 1-0, E Jordan 0-2 (0-1f).

ST CATHERINE'S: V O'Donnell, A M Rohan, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill (c); E O'Brien, C Motherway, M O'Keefe; O Cotter, O Neville; M Walsh, F Neville, R O'Callaghan; M Rohan, E Ronayne; J O'Keefe.

BALLINHASSIG: K Crowley, K Coleman, M Reardon, E Riordan; L Jordan, H Cullinane, K Bohane; D Cooney, E Jordan(c); R Moynihan, J O'Leary, N Sheehan; G Collins, E Donovan, A M Leahy.

Subs: A Coleman, E Reardon (28), K McCarthy for G Collins (40), C Butler for A M Leahy (34).

Ref: Diarmuid Kirwin (Eire Og).

Douglas pounce at the very end



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

■ Linda Mellerick

Douglas	3-10
Ballincollig	2-11

A RIVETING county senior championship first round tie ended in heartbreak for Ballincollig in Ballinlough last evening when an additional time sideline cut by Aine Donovan was deflected to the net giving Douglas a two-point victory.

This game had everything and referee Cathal McAllister played his part, awarding a total of just 16 frees, rare in camogie, in a tough, intense but incredible sporting hour.

Ballincollig were the underdogs coming in, yet with the statement they made yesterday they must now be one of the championship contenders.

One would have to credit both teams who received setbacks during the hour but refused to drop their heads and came back to turn the tables again to give us an absorbing hour.

Douglas took the lead for the first time on 50 minutes. They pushed two ahead only for three points from Denise Cronin (two frees) and Sarah Buckley swinging the lead back in Ballincollig's favour with 60 on the clock. Twice Douglas attacked with Ballincollig throwing their bodies on the line. Twice the ball was cleared over the sideline and with the second one came the winning goal.

Sam Coomey gave Ballincollig a perfect start, goaling inside a minute. Points were swapped on four occasions before a strike by Sinead O'Callaghan pushed Ballincollig's lead to four.

Leah Weste and Alison Coughlan were having tremendous games in their full-back line, Weste having the daunting task of marking Katrina Mackey. Douglas were getting their opportunities with Pam Mackey, Rebecca Sheehan and the excellent Sarah Fahy sending in good ball but Ballincollig were hunting in packs. Amanda



Sarah Fahy, Douglas, in command despite the efforts of Ballincollig's Trish Buttmer, during the Cork Senior Camogie Championship game at Ballinlough.

Picture: Denis Scannell

O'Regan was hugely dangerous when in possession, finishing the half with 1-2 from play, but at times play up front was too bunched as Ballincollig crowded them out.

Twenty-five minutes in a high delivery by Mackey looked to be heading left of the post but was blocked back into play. It fell to Amanda O'Regan and from distance her blistering shot billowed the net. Mackey pointed and the sides were level.

The surge should have driven Douglas on but Ballincollig didn't wilt. A goal from Sinead O'Callaghan after a great run by Linda Dorgan. Ballincollig had another goal chance seconds later but were denied by the dependable Jessica Kavanagh. An O'Regan free had the final say of the half; 2-5 to

1-6.

Both sides swapped three points apiece by the 44th minute, 2-8 to 1-9. The tempo and tension of the game increased even further. Patricia Buttmer and Sarah Buckley were hugely prominent with Linda Dorgan thundering into the game using her strength to great effect. Sarah Fahy was driving Douglas.

Ballincollig lost their opportunity to go three up after catching the ball three times. From the resultant free the ball was played to Fahy. Her high cross into the square went all the way to the net. Ballincollig possibly had justification for a square ball but the umpires had no hesitation in raising the green flag and to Ballincollig's credit they didn't contest it either.

They took it on the chin and got another three points without reply to give them that one point lead heading into additional time. But then came the killer blow.

Scorers for Douglas: A O'Regan 1-6 (0-3 f), S Fahy 1-1, A O'Donovan 1-0, K Mackey 0-2, R Sheehan 0-1.

Ballincollig: D Cronin 0-6 (0-5 f), S O'Callaghan 1-2, S Coomey 1-1, M O'Donoghue and S Buckley 0-1 each.

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh, D Connolly, A O'Brien, S Long, R Sheehan, P Mackey, L O'Regan; E Kavanagh, S Fahy, G Mohamara, A O'Regan, C Duggan; A Cremin, K Mackey, A O'Donovan.

BALLINCOLLIG: D O'Keefe; E Harrington, A Coughlan, L Murphy, L Weste, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter, S Buckley, T Buttmer, D Cronin, M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan; S O'Callaghan, S Coomey, E Casey.

Subs: A Kiely for M O'Donoghue (58).

Ref: Cathal McAllister (Aghada).

Physically strong Carbery beat Killeagh in shock win

Carbery	2-10
Killeagh	1-8

CAMOGIE

■ John Coughlan

THERE was a major shock in the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie championship, as divisional side, Carbery, toppled Killeagh in an entertaining first-round clash at Church Road last night.

Three other divisional teams withdrew from this championship, so it was fitting that the west Cork team played terrifically. The first-half was decisive as the physical power of Carbery dominated a surprised Killeagh.

Killeagh had a great opportunity to score a goal in the third minute when a Noelle O'Donovan shot was parried to safety by the Carbery goalkeeper, Eimear White. But Carbery began winning possession, with points from Marian Murphy and Claire Sexton.

Jessica O'Shea scored a point for Killeagh in the

13th minute, but a minute later Carbery's Cork Senior panellist, Orla Cronin, showed tremendous pace to bat the ball past the bewildered goalkeeper.

Another Cork player, Killeagh's Hannah Looney, was the only one who posed the Carbery defence problems. Carbery looked to be in command by the 20th minute, when a Murphy point edged them ahead, 1-6 to 0-2.

But Looney broke the Carbery shackles three minutes later. She got behind their defence and drilled a beautiful shot to the corner of the net. Carbery pushed forward and a late goal from Therese McCarthy gave them a 2-7 to 1-4 interval lead.

The second-half was all about Carbery's grit and determination and Killeagh had a chance to get back

in the game with seven minutes remaining, when they were awarded a penalty. But Chloe Sigerson's well-struck shot was saved by White.

In the closing minutes, Killeagh threw everything at their opponents, but Carbery weathered the storm and deservedly won, against the odds.

Scorers for Carbery: M Murphy 0-5 (f), O Cronin 1-1, T McCarthy 1-1, O Coughlan 0-2, C Sexton 0-1.

Killeagh: H Looney 1-4, J O'Shea 0-3, N O'Donovan 0-1.

CARBERRY: E White (Barryroe); F Deasy (Newcestown), S Deasy (Newcestown), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Enniskeane); C O'Mahony (Enniskeane), H O'Regan (Clonakilty), S Curtin (Enniskeane); M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoreague), L Coppinger (St Columa); S Burns (Barryroe), O Cronin (Enniskeane), O Coughlan (Enniskeane); K McCarthy (Enniskeane), T McCarthy (Newcestown), C Sexton (Barryroe).

KILLEAGH: C Motherway, N O'Farrell, N O'Keefe, E Benaim, G O'Gorman, L Treacy, L McEvoy; J O'Shea, K Sheehan; N O'Donovan, C Sigerson, C Daly, R Sheehan, H Looney, L O'Gorman.

Subs: C Horgan for L O'Gorman (11-0).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

Legends get

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

COSTCUTTERS and the Cork Camogie Board bestowed a huge honour on four former players at a lunch held in the Kingsley Hotel recently.

There, Deirdre Sutton, Mags Finn, Vivienne Harris and Hannah Dineen were the recipients of Costcutters Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards for 2015.

The four players chosen have given tremendous service to the game in Cork and their feats were exceptional.

The judging panel of Mary Moran, Nora Newman and Sheila Golden once again had a big task to choose four recipients to join their peers in the cork Camogie Hall Of Fame, which is now in its fifth year.

Paul Roche Marketing Manager of the Barry's Group speaking on behalf of Costcutters paid tribute to the four former players and he praised the winners for what they had achieved.

"As sponsors and supporters Costcutters are delighted to be here and to be involved in the fourth annual Cork Camogie Hall of Fame awards," Paul Roche said.

"These awards are a wonderful way of recognizing the achievements of so many great players who have done their county proud in the past.

"We at Costcutters are excited and proud of our involvement with the Cork Camogie team and we intend to continue to implement a number of initiatives to help strengthen the growth of this wonderful sport.

"Deirdre, Hannah, Mags and Vivienne are worthy winners their achievements on the playing field are to be admired, when you look back at the names of the winners in the last four years of this award you get a real sense of how lucky we have been as a county to have such inspirational ladies representing us on the Camogie field all of these years.

"These players are role models for our younger generations who they continue to inspire."

The very first inductees to the hall of fame were Marie Costine, Betty Sugrue, and Pat Maloney and Marion McCarty these players had a combined 24 All-Ireland's between them.

The second year Sandie Fitzgibbon, Colette O'Mahony, Cathy Landers and Mary O'Leary had 16 between them, whilst the next four recipients, Linda Mellerick, Lynn Dunlea, Fiona O'Driscoll and Irene O'Keeffe amassed 21 medals between them.

Last year's inductees Mel Cummins, Denise Cronin, Irene O'Keeffe and Mary O'Connor had a total of 19 medals, therefore picking four players every year from the vast array of greats who have graced the camogie playing fields for Cork is not easy.

But when you read the names of those who this week have been inducted into the Cork Camogie Hall Of Fame they are without doubt all worthy winners.

The whole idea of the Cork Camogie Hall Of Fame is that it is the only apt reward for the tireless and skilled services former players have given to the game for so many years and this year's recipients more than deserve their names to be included with their peers.

It is especially fitting that these latest four wonderful players that have been chosen to enter the Hall of Fame together served as inspirations to those that came after them.

"Cork Camogie County Board is proud to host this awards initiative with Costcutters we are privileged to have many great sporting days to look back on, all of which are etched in the history of camogie by such great players as those honor-



Aisling Thompson, Milford and Rachel Finn, St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie game at Buttevant last night Picture: Jim Coughlan.

Milford impress against Barrs as bid for All-Ireland glory begins in earnest

■ Pat Ryan

**Milford 1-9
St Finbarr's 1-3**

MILFORD got their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie championship off to a winning start when they overcame St Finbarr's at Buttevant last evening.

The reigning champions were short a number of key players. Marie O'Neill opened the scoring with a pointed free. In the fifth minute O'Neill pointed another free following a foul on Orlaith O'Mahony.

St Finbarr's found it hard to make progress up front against a very solid Milford defence where Elaine O'Riordan, Katie Galvin, Anna Geary and Deirdre Hayes were in great form. Good play by Aisling Thompson led to a well taken point by O'Neill.

The Barr's had to wait till the 14th minute when Keeva McCarthy pointed a free. Cork player Gemma O'Connor was very solid at centre back for the Seandun side but lacked general support.

A good movement started by Jessica Keating and Gemma O'Connor led to a foul on Ciara Keating that was converted by Keeva McCarthy in the 17th minute.

Milford moved Christine O'Connor to wing back with Deirdre Hayes going to midfield. The Barr's forced level in the 22nd minute when McCarthy worked well for Natasha Varian setting the latter up for a score however she pointed when a goal seemed to be the likely outcome.

Milford had a couple of wides as they used their short passing game to great effect. Eimear O'Friel pointed for Milford in the 28th minute. In the closing moments good play by O'Neill led to a very good save by Catherine McCarthy with the rebound going to the well placed Aoife Dillon who pointed - 0-5 to 0-3 at the break.

For the second half Milford had Aisling Thompson and Sarah Sexton at midfield. Good play early on by Nicole O'Connor led to a fine point by Aisling Thompson before O'Neill with another free

CAMOGIE

made it 0-7 to 0-3.

St Finbarr's had their goal in the 35th minute - It came when a good delivery by Ciara Sargent was finished to the net by Rachel Myers leaving just a point between the sides.

The experience of the Milford side proved decisive from here on. They defended very well holding St Finbarr's to that single goal in the second half. The Avondhu side with some great performances by Thompson, Geary and O'Neill battled very hard.

Good play by Christine O'Connor led to another fine O'Neill point in the 40th minute. St Finbarr's slipped a few frees wide of the posts however at this stage Milford also began to let chances go by.

St Finbarr's then forced a penalty, but Gemma O'Connor's effort was well saved by Elaine O'Riordan.

In the 50th minute O'Neill made it 0-9 to 1-3. In the 54th minute good play by O'Neill, Thompson and Sexton produced a very good save by St Finbarr's keeper however there was little McCarthy could do soon after as Milford sealed victory when Deirdre Hayes goalied with four minutes to go.

There was no way back for St Finbarr's as time ran out with both sides making a host of late substitutions. Milford progress to the County quarter final, while St Finbarr's will have to go through the losers section.

Scorers for Milford: M O'Neill 0-6 (0-4f) D Hayes 1-0, A Dillon 0-1, A Thompson 0-1, E O'Friel 0-1.

St Finbarr's: R Myers 1-0, K McCarthy 0-2f, N Varian 0-1.

MILFORD: R Duggan, G O'Connor, K Galvin, L Healy, E O'Riordan, A Geary, D Hayes, S Sexton (Capt) C O'Connor, A Dillon, A Thompson, O O'Mahony, E O'Friel, M O'Neill, N O'Connor.

Subs: A Galvin for A Dillon, E O'Callaghan for O O'Mahony.

ST FINBARR'S: C McCarthy, L O'Connor, C Sargent, J Keating (Capt) S Punch, G O'Connor, A Shannon, C Ryan, R Finn, E Ryan, C Keating, K McCarthy, R Myers, N Varian, K Crowley.

Subs: P Finn for K Crowley, Cliona Sargent for Ciara Sargent.

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).



At the Costcutter Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Awards at the Kingsley Hotel were L to R, Nora Newman, Finbarr Mc Carthy, Cork 96FM, Deirdre Sutton Coleman, Glen Rovers, Recipient and Mary Newman. Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography



Hannah Dineen, South Presentation Past Pupils, Deirdre Sutton Coleman, Glen Rovers, Niamh Barry, Costcutter / Barry Group, Margaret Finn O'Sullivan, O'Neills, Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown/ St Finbarr's. Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

recognition



At the Costcutter Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Awards at the Kingsley Hotel were, from left, Kay Dunne, Hannah Cotter, Eleanor Clinton and Marian McCarthy.

Honoured for contribution to the game

■ Mary Newman

Camogie

Deirdre Sutton-Coleman is the holder of eight senior county championship medals with Glen Rovers in a club career that spanned over two decades, from 1960 to 1983. The holder of three senior All-Ireland medals, she is still actively involved with her club as treasurer and senior selector. Deirdre was last year named Cork Volunteer of the Year and is a previous winner of the Cork sports personality and Jurys Hotel Hall of Fame award.

Mag's Finn-O'Sullivan

showed huge determination as her club Fr O'Neill's climbed the ladder from Junior grade to finally realise a lifetime ambition and win the senior county championship in 2003, but not before losing out in four finals. The holder of four senior All-Ireland medals she represented Cork in the Gradam Tailte Camogie super stars and lined out with the Cork senior team in New York in 1990. Still actively involved in the game Mag's is an integral part of the Cork Legends team.

Hanna Dineen-Cotter, the Timoleague native, took up camogie when attending UCC, where she won three Ashbourne cup medals and lined out with the combined universities. A member of the Cork four-in-a-row teams, from 1970 to 1973, she captained Cork to success in 1972 and also won three senior county championship medals with South Pres Past Pupils. Hannah and her husband Len moved to Carlow in 1973 where she took up a teaching. From her early school days in St Mary's on the Hill, Knocknaheeny, Vivienne

Harris was earmarked to be a star. She won the National Féile Na nGael skills and won four senior county championship medals with Bishosp-town, before adding one to her collection with St Finbarr's. She won five senior All-Ireland medals and was player of the match in the 1997 final. Vivienne was also a proficient kick boxer, in which she won numerous titles.

Her skill levels were huge and she was a player who could strike the ball from her left and right side with ease and grace.

ed here today," Marion McCarthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie County Board said.

"The Hall of Fame Awards honoring former players continue to be a regular feature now in the sports award calendar in Cork.

She thanked Costcutters for their support to Cork Camogie and for putting their faith in the game and the county team.

"This year we have already won the three adult and one U16 Munster title and hopefully we will add to this.

"We are thrilled to have the O'Duffy Cup here today, but on Saturday it continues when we travel to Limerick to play Limerick and we wish Paudie and the team the best of luck."

Among the large attendance were representatives of the Barry's Group, officers of the Cork Camogie Board and Juvenile Board, members of the board GPC, former presidents Sheila Golden, Nora Newman and Kay Dunne, former Hall of Fame award winners, Diarmuid O'Donovan, senior administrator Cork GAA and Ger Cunningham of Sports Line Communications.

Finbarr Mc Carthy 96/103FM and Onor O'Brien Red FM and many great players have helped Cork camogie become what it is today and the latest four former greats now join the last 12 recipients in a very special place in Cork Camogie history.



Marian McCarthy, Chairwoman of the Camogie Board, Niamh Barry, Costcutter/Barry Group with the O'Duffy Cup, Amy Barry and Joan O'Flynn, Camogie CEO. Picture: Tony O'Connell

Cotter is on song as St Catherine's turn over Ballinhassig

■ Mary Newman

CAMOGIE

DENIS WALSH, St Catherine's coach, had a big smile of satisfaction as he reflected on a job well done by his charges in Castle Road as they successfully overcame Ballinhassig in the opening round of the Senior Camogie championship on Monday night.

Ever the gentleman Walsh was firstly loud in his praise for Ballinhassig.

"To be honest they really put it up to us, especially in the opening half when they applied huge pressure, we were a bit slow to settle, but once we settled into the game we played well," said Walsh.

"Tonight we had a few girls coming into our team for their first championship and I was very pleased with them, we have a few girls abroad and with the championship earlier this year we had to adjust to that. The conditions were hard with the rain and it was tough out there especially in the opening half.

"Ballinhassig also came into the game with a few players making championship debuts, teams are only starting to get players who were doing exams back in recent weeks. I am pleased with the way we played and I'm delighted with the win, what more could I ask for."

Cork star Orla Cotter con-

tributed nine points for St Catherine's. "Orla is a superb player and she has worked so hard to become one of the finest camogie players and she is up there in the top half a dozen players in the county she has got herself to this level and she was excellent again for us tonight," said Walsh.

Ballinhassig's Conor Moynihan was disappointed that his Cork star Eimear O'Sullivan was unable to line out but he had nothing but praise for his team.

"I'm so proud of the girls, they never allowed their heads to drop and they tried and tried and never once gave up. They are bitterly disappointed but we could not have asked them for more, they battled to the final whistle," said Moynihan.

"St Catherine's are a fine side and we congratulate them on their victory, we will regroup and get ready now for the back door and give it our very best. It was hard to lose Eimear, she lined out on Saturday with Cork and was injured and had to come off, without doubt we missed her tonight. She is such a great player for our club and hopefully she will be alright for the next round for us, she is irreplaceable."

Carbery creates a shock with win over Killeagh

■ John Coughlan

CAMOGIE

IT PROVED a memorable evening for Cork Senior Camogie star Orla Cronin following Carbery's shock 2-10 to 1-8 win over Killeagh at Church Road on Wednesday.

Cronin scored a classy first half goal as she praised her teammates for the commitment shown to gain this unexpected win.

"I think many people were wondering with the three other divisional teams withdrawing what would Carbery turn up with and despite having little preparation I think this game showed there is no replacement for heart," Orla said.

Cronin knew the quality in the Killeagh side but was adamant before the game they were not unbeatable and the players rose to the challenge.

"Killeagh are a fine club that had quality players like Hannah Looney, Laura Treacy and Niamh O'Keeffe with intercounty experience so it was never going to be easy for us."

In the words of Cronin shutting down the threat of Looney paved the way for their win.

"Hannah is a fit 18-year-old who is quick and a great striker of the ball and our defenders did an excellent job restricting her influence on the game," added Orla.

Many of the Carbery team are based in the city including Cronin who is a second year Biochemistry student at UCC.

"Colette Desmond is based in Dublin and would add great experience if she was available but the present squad will get better as we have a few players that maybe added for the third round game."

Playing in her first season with the Cork Senior Camogie team Cronin believes there is still plenty of talent on Leeside.

"At the start of this season it was a case of forgetting about the tag of being reigning champions as basically our management team focused solely on the coming campaign," says Cronin. "There is a lot of quality players gone from last season who would have been key players but now players like myself are getting the opportunity to stamp a claim and the whole experience is brilliant."

Carbery coach John O'Donovan couldn't hide his delight at the final whistle.

"There was no magic wand out there tonight only that we needed to dictate the pace of the game and I am proud how my players responded to our plan," John said.

"Colette Desmond and Caroline Sugrue will be added to our squad and if we can get our act together organising training sessions I feel we can be serious contenders in this championship."

O'Donovan believes camogie is progressing nicely in the west Cork region.

Cork hope for good championship start

TOMORROW
All-Ireland Intermediate
Championship: Cork v Meath
Rotoath, 2.30pm.

CORK and Meath get their championship campaigns up and running on Saturday, in round one of the Liberty Insurance championship.

Meath lost narrowly to Kilkenny in the Leinster championship decider, and Cork were crowned Munster champions after a hard-fought victory over Tipperary.

Cork have since lost Jennifer Hosford and Orla Cronin, but Amy Lee, Amanda O'Regan, Lauren Callanan, Hazel O'Regan and Rachel Harty are available and likely to spearhead the Cork challenge.

Paudie Murray is manager of the senior and intermediate sides and both prepare together, ensuring the younger, intermediate players are integrated into the group and gain experience.

Selector, Jason Downey, says a good start to the campaign is vital for Cork: "Last year, we lost our first game and it was costly in the finish. We know that,

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

this year, we have to get our campaign off to a good start and we are prepared and ready."

Meath won by one point in that tight league meeting, and in the recent Leinster intermediate decider they pushed Kilkenny to the limits before losing by four points. Laura Maguire, Katie Hackett, captain, Emily Mangan, and Kristina Troy have been prominent for them in their league and provincial campaign.

All-Ireland U16 A championship: Cork v Clare; Sunday, July 5; Castle Road; 2pm.

Exams are over and it's time for the U16 A and B All Ireland championships to begin, and it's a double home fixture, as Cork host Clare in Castle Road on Sunday. The U16 A sides renew rivalry for the second time this season, having met in the Munster final, where Clare ran out 1-9 to 1-4 victors. The impressive Evelyn Duggan, Sarah Loughnane, Laura Foley and Aoife Power gave Clare the upperhand against a Cork side that lacked drive and determination.

The management team of Anthony Nagle, Ken Bulman and Eileen O'Brien have done huge work since then, and we can expect to see a determined and motivated Cork take to the field on Sunday. Nora O'Riordan won't play, as she recovers from a recent injury, and she will be a huge loss up front. But Cork will look to players such as Lauren Homan, Edel Lornegan, Eimear McAndrew and Cliona Healy to up the tempo and get their campaign off to the perfect start.

All-Ireland U16 B championship: Cork v Clare; Sunday, July 5; Castle Road; 3.45pm.

The Cork U16 B side enjoyed a tremendous provincial campaign, as they took the title at the expense of Limerick, but, since then, they have lost players to the A team: Katie Walsh, Catriona O'Keeffe, Ciara Crowley, Siobhan O'Sullivan and Sarah McGrath were all promoted following good performances.

The management team of Ger Horgan, Mike Boland and Pauline O'Regan have strengthened their panel, and they will be determined to continue their good form. With Kate Sexton, Orla Keating, Claire O'Keeffe and Aoife Hurley in their line-out, they will push the visitors to the limits.

Dillon's survive thanks to Rodgers

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Brian Dillon's 3-13
Sliabh Rua 3-5

BRIAN Dillon's had to withstand a strong rally from last season's junior A champions Sliabh Rua, which yielded three goals in a many minutes mid way through the second half, before they secured the points this Evening Echo Intermediate Championship round robin series game in Castle Road last night.

The strong wind favoured the city girls in the opening half and in the second quarter of the half they set the foundations for victory with Caoimhe Rodgers finding the net twice.

The second goal came on the stroke of half time set up superbly by Rachel Carroll to give them a comfortable 2-7 to 0-2 interval lead.

Susan Kate Brosnan, who had a superb hour for Brian Dillon's, fired over an early second-half point but thanks to scoring spree which yielded 2-1 without reply Sliabh Rua were back in the game.

Aoife McCarthy impressed, striking for two goals whilst Cathy O'Mahony pointed a free and it was back to the wall as Brian Dillon's began to feel the pressure from an ever-improving opposition.

Emma Sharpe settled Dillon's with a point but a Paula O'Mahony goal followed by a Cathy O'Mahony pointed free had the Dillon's lead down to two points.

Bringing Susan Kate Brosnan back to help out their defence proved important for Brian Dillon's as she worked hard to keep the opposition at bay.

Caoimhe Rodgers pointed a free before she caught the Sliabh Rua defence asleep when she drilling a free from 40 metres low along the ground to the net.

Again the sides swapped points and with five points between them and five minutes to go it was still anybody's game.

Driven on by Sinead Mills at midfield and with Susan Kate Brosnan continuing to lead the way Brian Dillon's nerves steadied and pushed for home.

They finished stronger with points from Ruth Brosnan and two from Sinead Mills they closed out the game to take the points on offer.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: C Rodgers 3-3 (1-3 f), R Brosnan 0-3, S Mills 0-2, L Barry, R Carroll, S K Brosnan, E Sharpe, T Drummond 0-1 each.

Sliabh Rua: A McCarthy 2-0, C O'Mahony 0-4 f, P O'Mahony 1-0, N Coleman 0-1.

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Walsh; E Burns, N O'Leary, D Keane; E Keane, A Dorgan, A Smyth; S Mills, E Sharpe; L Barry, R Brosnan, R Carroll; S Deane, S K Brosnan, C Rodgers.

Sub: T Drummond for E Burns (42).

SLIABH RUA: C Murphy; A Coleman, A Rice, A McCarthy; MC Daly; JO Leary, M O'Regan; C O'Mahony; A Whitnell; P O'Mahony, S O'Leary, A Cummins; K Campbell, N Coleman, A McCarthy.

Referee: Peter Downey (Iniscarra).

Galway get test from Offaly

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Camogie

Galway's experience saw them finish strongly and overcome a stern Offaly test (1-11 to 1-8) in Saturday's Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship tie.

Central to the late flourish was the introduction of star forward, Niamh McGrath, and she was replaced in the starting line-up by Sarsfields clubmate, Maria Cooney.

Like McGrath, Cooney is the daughter of a member of Galway's greatest hurling team ever (Michael 'Hopper' McGrath and Joe Cooney the famous fathers).

Siobhan Flannery was Offaly's chief scorer in that opening half but an injury-time goal by Mollie Dunne gave Galway a 1-5 to 0-4 lead.

Niamh Kilkenny stretched the margin to five points but Tina Hannon's goal, after her first effort had been saved by Susan Eamer, put the tie back in the melting pot. Flannery then slotted three frees to leave it 1-7 apiece at the three-quarter mark.

It was time for McGrath to enter the fray and she added three frees to a Jessica Gill point from play as the Tribeswomen finished strongly. There was late drama though as Flannery made it a three-point game from a free and was given a chance to snatch a draw, but her 20m free was saved.

In the absence of Úna Leacy and Úrsula Jacob, Kate Kelly showed her leadership qualities when inspiring Wexford to a 3-9 to 0-11 victory over Limerick at Innovate Wexford Park.

Kelly finished with 2-6, including two second half goals to deny Limerick.

Limerick led 0-5 to 0-4 at the interval but Wexford stormed out with the wind at their backs in the second half, with Kelly claiming 1-2 in a matter of minutes. Brid Gordon found the net later on and when Kelly was fouled with time almost up, the veteran calmly converted the resultant penalty.

Tipperary just held off a rampaging Dublin to bag their second win of the campaign (1-13 to 2-9) at O'Moore Park. Cait Devane scored nine first-half points as Tipperary led 0-11 to 0-4 at the break. Dublin used the wind to good effect in the second period with Siobhan Kehoe and Ali Maguire amongst the scorers. The key scores were the goals from Sarah O'Donovan and Louise O'Hara but crucially Gemma Grace grabbed a major for Tipperary that enabled them to keep their noses in front.

Meanwhile, Kilkenny showcased their massive scoring power as the came away from Swatragh with an 8-22 to 2-10 win against Derry.



At the Costcutter Cork Camogie Hall of Fame Awards were L to R: Marian McCarthy, chairman, Cork Camogie Board; Hannah Dineen, South Presentation Past Pup; Deirdre Sutton Coleman, Glen Rovers; Niamh Barry, Costcutter/Barry Group; Margaret Finn O'Sullivan, O'Neills; Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown/St Finbarrs and Jo O'Flynn, CEO Camogie Association.

Picture: Tony O'Connell Photograph

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance Senior Championship,
Group 1: Offaly 1-8 Galway 1-11, Wexford 3-9 Limerick 0-11; Group 2: Kilkenny 8-22 Derry 2-10, Tipperary 1-13 Dublin 2-9; Intermediate Championship: Down 1-17 Wexford 1-8, Cork 2-13 Meath 0-9, Kildare 3-7 Kilkenny 1-6, Waterford 6-9 Antrim 1-3; Junior Championship: Laois 3-18 Dublin 1-10; U16A Championship, Group 1: Cork 5-13 Clare 1-8; Group 2: Offaly 4-11 Wexford 1-6; U16B Championship, Group 1: Cork 3-18 Clare 2-4, Waterford 2-11 Antrim 3-7; Group 2: Laois 5-19 Limerick 1-3, Derry 6-9 Down 0-5; U16C Group 2: Carlow 1-9 Cavan 0-5.

JUNE 2015

Supersub McGrath makes presence felt to seal the deal for Galway

CAMOGIE

NOT for the first time, a doughty Offaly unit made life difficult for more vaunted opponents but in the end, Galway's experience saw them finish strongly to record a 1-11 to 1-8 victory in the Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship at St Brendan's Park, Birr.

Central to the late flourish was the introduction of star forward Niamh McGrath. Manager Tony Ward opted not to risk her from

the start due to injury and she was replaced by her Sarsfields clubmate Maria Cooney, who began brilliantly, scoring three points from play in the first half.

Siobhan Flannery was Offaly's key scoring contributor, with six frees. Aoife Kelly added a good point from play in that opening period, but an injury-time goal by Mollie Dunne gave Galway the upper hand with a 1-5 to 0-4 interval lead.

Niamh Kilkenny stretched the margin to five points but Tina Hannon's goal put the tie back in

the melting pot. Flannery slotted three frees and it was 1-7 apiece at the three-quarter mark.

It was time for McGrath to enter the fray and she added three frees to a Jessica Gill point from play as Galway finished strongly.

There was late drama, though, as Flannery made it a three-point game from a free, and was given a chance to snatch a draw, but her 20-metre free was saved.

In the absence of Úna Leacy and Úrsula Jacob, Kate Kelly showed her leadership with a brilliant performance as Wexford also

maintained their flawless record thanks to a 3-9 to 0-11 victory over Limerick at Wexford Park.

Kelly finished with 2-6 to deny Limerick, for whom Caoimhe Costelloe scored four points.

Tipperary just held off Dublin to bag their second win of the campaign, 1-13 to 2-9 at O'Moore Park. Cait Devane scored nine first-half points as Tipp went in at half time leading by 0-11 to 0-4.

Meanwhile, Kilkenny showcased their massive scoring power as the came away from Swatragh with an 8-22 to 2-10

win against Derry. From the time Denise Gaule got her first goal in the 14th minute, there was no way back for the Oak Leafers.

Katie Power and Gaule added goals in the space of two minutes, and there was still time for Michelle Quilty, Edel Maher and Miriam Walsh to find the Derry net before the interval. It was 6-11 to 0-5 at half-time, and Walsh and Power added goals in the second period. Derry improved, however, as Mary Kelly and Karen Kieft added excellent goals, Kieft bringing her tally to 1-8.

Storming first half settles Cork girls

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 3-18
Clare 2-4

THE second game in Castle Road saw Cork dominated proceedings from the throw in as they got their All-Ireland U16B championship campaign under way in impressive fashion.

Despite playing against the strong wind in the opening half Cork led 1-9 to 2-3 at the break and on the turn over completely overpowered a Clare side that could only manage one point in the second half.

Orla McInerney was the main threat to Cork up front grabbing two first-half goals but the Cork defence got to grips with the strong full-forward and at the other end they settled into the game picking off some excellent first half points with Saoirse O'Sullivan, Orla Lowney, Aoife Hurley, Claire Mullins and Claire O'Keeffe on target.

Saoirse McCarthy was on target as was Claire Mullins Saoirse O'Sullivan and Aoife Hurley whilst a scoring blitz in the closing ten minutes saw Orla Lowney and substitutes Niamh Power finishing the game as a contest as they found the net for Cork goals.

Cork will meet a strong Waterford side next weekend who yesterday recorded a 2-11 to 3-7 victory over Antrim.

Scorers for Cork: S Mc Carthy 0-6 (0-4fs 0-2 4fs), S O'Sullivan 0-4 (0-1f 0-14fs), O Lowney 1-2, A Hurley 0-3, S Mangan, N Power 1-0 each, C Mullins 0-2, C O'Keeffe 0-1.

Clare: O Mc Inerney 2-0, S Canny 0-3 (0-2fs 0-1 4fs), M Mc Mahon 0-1.

CORK: M Hennigan, Sarah O'Sullivan, K Sexton, C Cronin, H O'Connell, A O'Donovan, O Keating, C Donovan, S Mc Carthy, C O'Keeffe, C Mullins, Saoirse O'Sullivan, A Hurley, S Mangan, O Lowney.

Subs: M Barrett for S Mangan (38), M Jones for C Cronin (48), E Farrell for H O'Connell (52), N Power for C Donovan (53), S Bateman for Saoirse O'Sullivan (57).

CLARE: K Mc Mahon, A Quigley, S Fennelly, M Redmond, K Mc Grath, N Powell, A Vaughan, E Lynch, M Mc Mahon, R Powell, C Callanan, A Marsh, M Scanlon, O Mc Inerney, S Canny.

Subs: L Browne for R Powell (26), M Roughan for K Mc Grath (h/t), S Mc Namara for E Lynch (h/t).

Referee: Ger Browne (Tipperary).

Young Rebels take spoils

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 5-13
Clare 1-8

AN impressive and focused Cork side were worthy 17-point victors in this All-Ireland U16A championship clash with Clare in Castle Road yesterday.

Two months ago Clare recorded a five-point Munster final victory over Cork but yesterday that result was put to bed as a much improved Cork set the pace of the game from the throw in and never allowed Clare dictate matters as they did in the provincial decider.

All over the field Cork were tuned in. Their defence was superb as they closed down the Clare attack particularly in the second half playing against the strong wind.

In midfield they kept the ball moving fast and up front their forwards as a unit worked together as a team laying off ball to players in a better position as they clinically finished off their chances.

Cork played with the aid of the very strong wind that was blowing towards the Castle end of the grounds and they took every chance that presented itself as they build up an six-point half-time lead 0-8 to 0-2.

And if their opening half display was impressive, their performance against the wind was superb as they spread the Clare defence and opened up the play using every inch of space available to them.

With Cliona Healy, Isobel O'Regan and Katie Walsh on target, Cork opened up a five-point advantage before Aoife Power had Clare's opening score, she added a second point to their tally before the break but Cork never allowed them any room to get into the game.

Cliona Healy pointed two frees and with Katie Walsh, Cliona Healy and Isobel O'Regan taking the chances that presented themselves Cork were in control to the half-time whistle.

Clare would have been happy to play with the elements after the turnaround but the intensity of this Cork side was huge and they dug deep to hold the Clare attack at bay.

O'Regan pointed in the opening min-



Clare full-back Mary O'Connor tries to halt the progress of Cork corner forward Cliona Healy.

Picture: Larry Cummins

utes but a Clare rally yielded three points in a row and they had cut the deficit to there with an Evelyn Duggan goal.

Cork never panicked and from the puck out they applied pressure and when Clare keeper Aine O'Loughlin was disposed by the lively Katie Walsh the corner forward made no mistake billowing the net to restore Cork's authority on the game.

The goal rallied Cork and they kept the pressure on and playing some excellent hurling.

They blocked, hooked and chased every ball with determination. Aoife Power pointed a Clare 45 but the last quarter belonged to Cork as they finished very strongly.

Clara Ryan pointed before the impressive Cliona Healy finished well after Aoife O'Loughlin denied Katie Walsh with an excellent save.

Healy added a second goal before substitute Lauren Homan had two and, as the

Clare challenge fizzled out, Laura McGrath added two late points.

There was no denying Cork as they got this round-robin series of games off to a great start.

The win will be a real confidence-booster for the Rebels. A tough assignment awaits, however, next weekend Cork host a Galway side who recorded a 3-8 to 2-10 victory over Kilkenny in their opening game yesterday.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 2-7 (0-4fs 0-1 4fs 0-1pen), L Homan 2-0, K Walsh 1-2, I O'Regan 0-3, C Ryan 0-1.
CLARE: A Power 0-5 (0-3 4fs 0-2 fs) E Duggan 1-1, L Mc Grath 0-2, C O'Keeffe, G Cahalane, E Lonnegan (c), A Buckley, M Lynch, K Mc Carthy, K Daly, E Mc Andrew, R McCarthy, I O'Regan, C Hughes, C Crowley, C Healy, C Ryan, K Walsh.

Subs: L O'Gorman for C Crowley (40), L Homan for R McCarthy (45), M Ryan for G Cahalane (53), O Murphy for K Walsh (56), K Wall for C Healy (56).

CLARE: A O'Loughlin, M O'Connor, A Ryan, C Doyle, L Egan, E Kennedy, C Grogan (c), A Barrett, S Corlison, N O'Gorman, S Power, A Power, L Mc Grath, E Duggan, O Phelan.

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Meath bow to Cork's pressure

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 2-13
Meath 0-9

TWO first-half goals from Amanda O'Regan and Linda Collins gave Cork an interval advantage of five points in this Liberty Insurance intermediate camogie championship round robin section game in Ratoath on Saturday where they led 2-7 to 0-8 at half-time.

Amanda O'Regan showed unerring accuracy pointing four first-half frees while Finola Neville and Kaitlin Hickey were also on target.

Jane Dolan, Aoife Maguire and Megan Coyne kept Meath in touch as they battled to stay in contention against a focused Cork outfit.

From the restart Cork stretched their advantage with four unanswered points - Amanda O'Regan and Linda Collins on target as the margin was extended.

With Kaitlin Hickey and Lauren Callanan working hard the visitors enjoyed huge possession and piled on the pressure. With their defence well in control they held Meath to just a single point in the second half.

Meath's only score of the second half came with five minutes remaining, Sinead Hackett getting on the score sheet, but Cork by now had the points on offer for this opening game secured. They now look ahead with confidence to round two where they meet a Wexford side that lost out to Down on Saturday in their opening clash.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan 1-8 (0-8fs), L Collins 1-2, F Neville 0-2, K Hickey 0-1.

MEATH: A Maguire 0-4 (0-4fs), J Dolan 0-3 (0-2fs), S Hackett, M Coyne 0-1 each.
CORK: A Lee, E Murphy, L Weste, N O'Keeffe, S Fahy, S Buckley, H O'Regan, K Hickey, L Callanan, F Neville, L Lynch, J Crowley, R Harty, L Collins, A O'Regan.

Subs: N O'Callaghan for S Fahy, C Sexton for R Harty, L Coppinger for J Crowley, K O'Keeffe for L Collins.

MEATH: E Mangan, L Maguire, C Coffey, S Coleman, A Keogh, C Troy, C O'Brien, A Maguire, M Keogh, K Hackett, A Minogue, S Hackett, E Guy, J Dolan, A Gaffney.

Subs: M Coyne for M Keogh, L O'Keefe for J Dolan.

Ref: Grainne Coulter (Down).



The Galway U16 camogie team which defeated Kilkenny in Birr last Saturday in the opening round of the championship. They face Cork away this Sunday. Back row, left to right: Molly Mannion, Aine Murphy, Shannon Ridge, Sarah Healy, Carrie Dolan (Capt), Sarah Spellman, Niamh Jenkins, Mairead Dillon. Front row: Tiffany Ni Coisteabhla, Grace Finnerty, Siobhan McGrath, Ava Lynskey, Leanne Helebert, Rachel Murphy and Leah Burke.

CAMOGIE CORNER > WITH BRÍD MACNAMARA

All-Ireland Under 16A Championship Round 1 Cork 5-13 Clare 1-08

CORK avenged their Munster Final defeat with a comprehensive win over the same opposition in the opening round of the All-Ireland series on Sunday afternoon. Played as a double header with the corresponding B fixture, the home side had the advantage of a strong breeze in the opening half and raced into an early lead hitting five points in the opening 10 minutes.

Clare's first score came in the 12th minute when Aoife Power converted a free but Cork responded by moving play to the other end where Cliona Healy bore down on the goal area only for Clare's Ciara Grogan to intercept and clear from the danger area.

Healy did convert two frees for the home side over the next five minutes. However, Clare won the battle for possession from the puck-out with Emma Kennedy fielding and supplying her Sixmilebridge clubmate Olivia Phelan whose shot was stopped by the Cork goalie and deflected out for a '45 which Power converted. Cork added three more points before the break however to hold a commanding 0-10 to 0-02 interval advantage.

Cork's Isobel O'Regan had the opening point of the new half before wind-assisted Clare hit their purple patch, scoring 1-3 inside four minutes. Laura McGrath pointed and Power added a brace of frees as the Banner gathered momentum. And Clare would win their own puck-out through Sinead Power who delivered the ball through Phelan to Evelyn Duggan whose shot resulted in the game's first green flag and narrowed the deficit to just three points.

However, that was as good as it would get for the Banner who were left stunned as the next five minutes proved to be a goal fest at the other end, with Cork rattling the Clare net on four occasions to put the result beyond any doubt. McGrath pulled a point back for the Banner with five minutes remaining followed by a

Power free. However, Cork substitute Lauren Homan grabbed her second goal and Cork's fifth on the hour mark to flesh out the final margin.

Clare will hope to bounce back this weekend when hosting Kilkenny in Round 2.

Cork

Sarah Aherns (Ballygarvan); Grainne Cahalane (St Finbarr's); Edel Lonergan (Sarsfields); Aileen Buckley (Cloughduv); Maeve Lynch (Newcestown); Kate McCarthy (Aghabullogue); Kate Daly (Slabh Rua); Emer McAndrew (Ballygarvan); Ruth McCarthy (Sarsfields); Isobel O'Regan (Ballygarvan) (0-3); Ciara Hughes (Cloughduv); Clara Crowley (Ballinacorney); Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue) (2-8); Ciara Ryan (Clonakilty); Katie Walsh (Glen Rovers) (1-2) Subs Lucy O'Gorman (Dungourney) for Crowley; Lauren Homan (St Vincent's) (2-0) for McCarthy; Molly Ryan (Carrigaline) for Cahalane; Olivia Murphy (Blarney) for Walsh; Kate Wall (Gibbittin Timoleague) for Healy

Clare

Aine O'Loughlin (Truagh Clonlara); Mary O'Connor (Sixmilebridge); Alannah Ryan (Kilishen); Ciara Doyle (Bodyke); Louise Egan (Truagh Clonlara); Emma Kennedy (Sixmilebridge); Ciara Grogan (Clonkeen-Quinn); Amy Barrett (Scariff-Ogonnellloe); Sinead Conlon (Tulla); Niamh O'Gorman (Kilishen); Sinead Power (Inagh-Kilnamona); Aoife Power (Scariff-Ogonnellloe) (0-5); Aoife Power (Scariff-Ogonnellloe); Laura McGrath (Feakle) (0-2); Evelyn Duggan (Feakle) (1-1)

Referee Ray Kelly (Kildare)

All-Ireland Under 16B Championship Round 1 Cork 3-18 Clare 2-04

As the second part of a double header, Clare's second string also lost out to Cork in their opening championship outing on Sunday afternoon. Having won the toss, Clare played with the breeze in the first half, however it was Cork who grabbed the opening point. Clare moved play down field and a scramble on the 20 metre line saw Orla McInerney gather and fire home to the back of the Cork net for the perfect response.

They may have doubled soon afterwards, only for Cork goalkeeper Megan Hennigan to turn a shot around the post for a '45 that Shauna Canny duly converted. Satires O'Sullivan and Canny traded points before Clare were denied another goal, this

time from a Muireann Scanlon effort that was again deflected out for a '45 that Canny arrowed over.

Cork pounced for their first goal in the 18th minute, Stephanie Mangan with the shot to put Cork ahead by the minimum. Clare responded well and from the puck-out Ellen Lynch won vital possession sending the ball to Canny who was immediately surrounded by the Cork half back line. Canny got the pass to McInerney who raised Clare's second green flag putting the visitors back in front by two points. However six unanswered points from Cork saw the home side go in at the break with a four point advantage at 1-10 to 2-03.

Cork, with the wind at their backs for the second half, executed a similar scoring spree to their A counterparts. An early attack in the Clare danger area saw Sadeh Fennessy intercept the oncoming Cork forwards and deflect what looked like a certain goal out for a '45, which Saoirse McCarthy converted. McCarthy added a free for the home side to extend their lead to five points before Michelle McMahon pointed from play for Clare's only score of the second half. Cork drove on and with the wind at their backs and momentum on their side, the young Rebelettes added 2-7 to their tally, Orla Lowney and Niamh Power with the goals in the 39th and 56th minutes respectively to seal an opening round victory for Cork.

Clare will play Dublin in Round 2 this weekend with home advantage.

Cork

Megan Hennigan (Ballincollig); Sarah O'Sullivan (Gibbittin Timoleague); Kate Sexton (Gibbittin Timoleague); Clare Cronin (Iniscarra); Holly O'Connell (Na Piarasigh); Aisling O'Donovan (Newcestown); Orla Keating (Ballincollig); Clodagh Donovan (Ballincollig); Saoirse McCarthy (Courcey Rovers) (0-5); Claire O'Keefe (Millstreet) (0-3); Claire Mullins (Sarsfields) (0-1); Saoirse O'Sullivan (Bishopstown) (0-3); Aoife Hurley (St Catherine's) (0-3); Stephanie Mangan (Brian Dillon) (1-0); Orla Lowney (Clonakilty) (1-2) Subs Moira Barrett (Ballinacorney) for Mangan; Suzanne Bateman (Cloughduv) for O'Sullivan; Niamh Power (Sarsfields) (1-1)

Clare

Karen McMahon (St Joseph's); Ava Quigley

(Bodyke); Sadeh Fennessy (Truagh Clonlara); Maria Redmond (Eire Og); Keira McGrath (St Joseph's); Niamh Powell (Truagh Clonlara); Aoife Vaughan (Broadford); Ellen Lynch (Ballyea); Michelle McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus) (0-1); Roslin Powell (Truagh Clonlara); Caitriona Callinan (Kilmaley); Annaliese Marsh (Broadford); Shauna Canny (Kilnena) (0-3); Orla McInerney (Kilishen) (2-0); Muireann Scanlon (Cratloe) Subs Michela Roughton (Inagh-Kilnamona) for McGrath; Saoirse McNamara (Burren) for Lynch (HT); Chloe Crowe (Tulla) for Powell; Roslin Clancy (Inagh-Kilnamona) for Vaughan

Referee Ger Browne (Limerick)





Wexford captain Shelley Kehoe about to gather possession as Deirdre Codd and Bridget Curran look on.



Corner-back Clara Storey is pursued by Limerick's Deborah Murphy.

Goals give Wexford edge

Two tricky games await after winning run maintained

DEAN GOODISON
in *Innovate Wexford Park*
WEXFORD
LIMERICK

3-9
0-11

A BRACE of goals from Kate Kelly and another from Brid Gordon were enough to ease Wexford past Limerick to their second success in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior camogie championship in Innovate Wexford Park on Saturday.

The win moves Colm McGee's side to within a point of qualification for the knockout stages. Yet, with two victories under their belt and currently sitting pretty on top of Group 1, the bigger prize of an automatic spot in the semi-finals is not out of the question.

To achieve that goal the Slaneysiders will need at least three points from their final two games against Galway (Saturday) and at

Cork (July 17), which is no easy task, but that must be the aim heading into the weekend.

Limerick came east full of hope knowing that should they take the scalp of Wexford they would be in pole position for a last six spot. However, they failed to really rattle McGee's charges, like Offaly were able to do seven days earlier, meaning the hosts eased away late in the second-half.

A large crowd entered the venue early, probably the biggest the camogie side has played in front of since the 2012 All-Ireland final, with the expectation of witnessing a team as flamboyant as the one they were used to under J.J. Doyle.

What they got was another performance, following on from the victory in Birr, that was based around caution first. The tactics might not lead to the most attractive spectacle but it must be considered prudent following a couple of heavy defeats to Limerick and

Galway in the National League.

With the Oulart-The Ballagh trio of Karen Atkinson, Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob all out, McGee and his management team had fewer options, particularly in attack. In a strange way, the injuries to his two attacking threats have helped the Wexford manager to implement his game plan without the 'problem' of finding positions for two players that would add little to his defensive set-up.

As it is, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock are doing a fine job leading a spear attack that sees the St. Ibar's/Shelmallee duo as the only constants in the opponents' half of the field.

It was the former on the scoreboard with a trio of frees as Wexford matched a treble from Niamh Mulcahy to leave the sides level after 19 minutes (0-3 each).

Limerick, playing with the breeze in the opening half, looked to match tactics with Wexford,

even going so far as having only one player in the home side's half at one stage in the first period.

Shelley Kehoe gave Wexford the lead for the third time in the 21st minute but as the half wore on the Munster girls missed a few half chances to find the goal they badly needed.

The best opportunity came when Caoimhe Costello found Mulcahy bursting through but Wexford 'keeper Laura Brennan was equal to her powerful high shot.

Points from Mulcahy and Costello did give Limerick an intermission lead (0-5 to 0-4), but it lasted just four minutes of the second-half as Kelly levelled with her fourth point.

Wexford's opening goal arrived just seconds later as Katrina Parrock played the perfect ball in to Kelly and she drove at Sile Moynihan's goal and drilled home her side's opening goal.

Player of the game Kelly added two more minors before the Treaty's impressive Rebecca Delee ended a 14-minute spell without a score for her side with a well-taken point.

Shelley Kehoe put Wexford 1-8 to 0-6 ahead with her second point before Limerick started to fight back.

Caoimhe Lyons, Mulcahy and Costello (two) all pointed to close the gap to one with eleven minutes left, but Gordon raced away to goal from Parrock's pass moments later to kill off the visitors' momentum.

Shortly after Gordon pointed, Kelly was pole-axed in the process of shooting which allowed the experienced attacker to step up and drive home the resulting penalty to round out an important victory.

There was still time for Una Sinnott to come on for her Senior championship debut. The

17-year-old is probably the brightest prospect for her county since Katrina Parrock came onto the scene back in 2007 and will hope to get a little more game-time against Galway this weekend.

Wexford: Laura Brennan; Clara Storey; Siona Nolan, Deirdre Codd; Bridget Curran, Mary Leacy, Louise O'Leary; Shauna Sinnott, Brid Gordon (1-1); Shelley Kehoe (0-2), Aine Lacey, Stacey Kehoe; Linda Bolger, Kate Kelly (2-6, 0-4 frees, 1-0 pen.), Katrina Parrock. Subs. - Eimear O'Connor for Lacey (38), Una Sinnott for Stacey Kehoe (59).

Limerick: Sile Moynihan; Judith Mulcahy, Lorraine McCarthy, Marguerita McCarthy; Fiona Hickey, Sarah Carey, Rebecca Delee (0-1); Niamh Mulcahy (0-5, 3 frees), Aoife Sheehan; Deborah Murphy, Caoimhe Costello (0-4, 3 frees), Sinéad McNamara; Karen O'Leary, Rebecca Noonan, Caoimhe Lyons (0-1). Sub. - Megan O'Hara for Noonan (54).

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

Tough baptism for Under-16 side in loss to Offaly

OFFALY
WEXFORD

4-11
1-6

WEXFORD GOT their All-Ireland Under-16 camogie championship campaign off to a losing start against a lively Offaly side in St. Brendan's Park, Birr on Sunday.

The hosts were in impressive form with talented full-forward Sarah Harding in particular proving difficult for the Slaneysiders to contain.

There were positives for the visitors, with Orla Crowe im-

pressing when she was moved to midfield after the unfortunate Chloe Davis was injured.

St. Ibar's/Shelmallee clubwoman Jessie Harding played well in attack while Rebecca Doran was excellent between the sticks with several fine saves.

Offaly tested the Wexford stopper early but couldn't beat her as points from Rachel O'Brien and Sarah Harding opened up a lead.

Becky Walsh hit back for the visitors but the respite was short-lived as Harding grabbed her first goal in the 19th minute after Doran saved her initial shot.

Orla Maher and Harding eased the home side 1-4 to 0-1 ahead but Wexford responded as the half wore on and picked up scores from Jessie Harding and Becca Walsh.

The sides traded points, Mannion at one end, Harding at the other, to leave four between them at the interval (1-5 to 0-4).

Wexford got off to the worst possible start in the second-half as Dara Hanamy's free was finished to the net by Sarah Kehoe. Hannah Larkin and Harding raised white flags for Offaly while Kehoe put the game to bed with her

second goal in an eight-minute spell (3-7 to 0-4).

A great ball by Crowe, helped on by Walsh, gave Aoife Dunne the chance to get Wexford's first score of the second-half, which she took.

The point was followed by a Louise Savage point for Offaly but the Slaneysiders hit back with Becky Walsh finding the net.

From 3-8 to 1-5 with eleven minutes left, Offaly were able to keep the scoreboard ticking over with another 1-1 for Harding as well as a Kaitlin Kennedy point. Aoife Curran did score for Wexford

in that spell but it wasn't enough to put a dent in a strong Offaly performance.

Next up for Wexford is a home game against Dublin (Sunday in Ferns) and a win is a must to keep their hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals alive.

Games away to Limerick and home to Tipperary follow on consecutive weekends thereafter, so it won't be getting any easier.

Wexford: Becca Dolan; Kaitlin Whelan-Kinsella, Emma Lacey, Aine Murphy; Orla Sinnott, Emma Furlong, Siobhán Fanning; Chloe Davis, Aoife Curran (capt., 0-1); Jessie Harding (0-

2), Lettie Whelan, Lauren Finn; Becky Walsh (1-2), Orla Crowe, Clodagh Jackman. Subs. - Laura Kelly for Davis, Inj. (22), Aoife Dunne (0-1) for Whelan (38), Alannah Davis for Furlong (47), Siobhán Doyle for Jackman (53).

Offaly: Ellen Gilligan; Helen Healy, Aoibhe Whelan, Alana Roddy; Kate Bergin, Clara Brennan (capt.), Sarah Guinan; Louise Savage (0-1), Rachael O'Brien (0-2); Hannah Larkin (0-1), Dara Hanamy, Louise Mannion (0-1); Sarah Kehoe (2-0), Sarah Harding (2-4), Orla Maher (0-1). Sub. - Kaitlin Kennedy (0-1).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Camogie Champions



The Galway U13 A camogie team which defeated Roscommon in the Connacht Division 1 Final in Ballyhaunis on Saturday. Back row, left to right: Kate Hunt, Alana Kelt (Capt), Cora Kenny, Katie Manning, Aoife Brennan, Niamh McPeack and Niamh Niland. Middle row: Elaine Dolphin, Megan Wall, Therese Garvey, Zoe Gilligan, Srah McCartyn, Tara Lawless, Maeve Muldoon, Ria McPhilbin. Front row: Aisling Donnellan, Grace McCarty, Katelyn Lyons, Chloe Farragher, Aoife Nic Dhomnocha, Ciara Griffin, Katelyn Tuffy, Jennifer Hughes.



Ellen Kelly sizes up her options as Deirdre McCabe from Down closes in.



The Galway U13 B camogie team which overcame Donegal in the Connacht Division 2 Final in Ballyhaunis on Saturday. Back row, left to right: Sara Corcoran, Lisa O'Grady, Joanne Daly, Rachel Burke, Aoibheen Gardner, Sinead Lohan. Middle row: Lucy Gately (capt), Deirdre Larkin, Spohle Maher, Sabina Rabbitte, Ciara Murray, Anna Kilduff, Jasmine Scully, Orla Fenton, Sheena Warde. Front row: Aine Burke, Megan Higgins, Chloe Gill, Hannah Walsh, Jessica Donlon, Caoimhe Lynskey.



Members of Cork Camogie Board, Development Committee and players photographed at City Hall when Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mary Shields, launched their "Buy a Block" fundraising venture for their new club house development at Castle Rd., Mahon. Included are: Front row, Kay Dunne, Taryn Lynch, Noreen Daly, Marian McCarthy, Chairperson, Cllr. Mary Shields, Lord Mayor, Sheila Golden, Secretary. Back Row, Ollie Hallahan, Mary Moran, Christine O'Regan, Joe McCarthy, Chairman Development Committee, Laura Treacy, Mary O'Sullivan, Tina Sheehan, Leanne O'Sullivan, Orla Cotter and Joe Quinn. Picture: Mike English

Sponsor a Block and help Cork Camogie Board make history

OVER the past few years Cork Camogie Board have developed a magnificent pitch in Castle Rd for the benefit of all clubs. The temporary dressing rooms are soon to be replaced by new dressing rooms, meeting hall, Referees Room, First Aid Room, Office and Kitchen. These plans are at an advanced stage and building is due to commence shortly. This will give all our players the facilities they deserve.

One of our core philosophies is that this project must be sustainable so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come. Help is needed to raise funds that will go directly towards the cost of this Development.

On Thursday night the Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr Mary Shields launched a "Sponsor a Block" initiative on behalf of the Cork Camogie Board. Blocks can be sponsored for €50 each and sponsors name will be on permanent display in the new Club House and will also be entered in a special Register. Blocks may also be sponsored in memory of a deceased past player, administrator, family member and friend.

Speaking at the Launch Chairman of the Camogie Board Marian McCarthy said

"This is the most ambitious project the Cork Camogie Board has ever undertaken and is a huge challenge but we are confident that we will get the support from the Players, Clubs, Local Communities and Businesses. Cork Camogie needs a facility of this nature to meet the demands of the growth of Camogie in Cork. We now have 64 Clubs and in excess of 10,000 members and there is ongoing interest from other GAA Clubs with a view to setting up Camogie in their club. We are calling on all our current and past players, administrators, club members, the wider GAA family and friends of camogie to support this ambitious project that will ensure Cork Camogie will have a facility that we can be proud of and enjoyed by all for many years to come.

This year Cork Camogie celebrates "110 years in existence" therefore it would be memorable if this milestone could be celebrated with the opening of our new Club House. To sponsor a block please contact any of the under named Marian McCarthy chairperson.cork.camogie@gaa.ie
Sheila Golden secretary.cork.camogie@gaa.ie
Mary McSweeney marycamo-

July 2015

Out of sorts Tribeswomen survive scare from Offaly

Dunne's goal proves crucial as Galway seniors maintain unbeaten run

GALWAY	1-11
OFFALY	1-8

NIAL CANAVAN
IN BIRR

GALWAY recorded their second win of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship in Birr on Saturday when edging past a spirited Offaly side.

The league champions came into this game in confident mood following an opening round victory over Cork and were expected to comfortably account for an Offaly side that had already suffered losses to Limerick and Wexford.

Offaly were wind aided in the opening half but a Molly Dunne goal in first half injury time ensured Galway a 1-5 to 0-4 interval lead. They stretched their lead to five points on the restart following a Niamh Kilkenny score and one assumed that a convincing Galway victory was on the cards.

However, Galway failed to pull away from Offaly - they missed a number of scoring opportunities and when Tina Hannon goaled Offaly were back in the game. By the three quarter stage, the sides were level at 1-7 apiece with Galway finding it difficult to penetrate an Offaly defence ably lead by Michaela Morkan. The winners, though, finished strongly.

Niamh McGrath, who didn't start due to a slight injury, was introduced and she pointed three frees while Jessica Gill also pointed as Galway built up a 1-11 to 1-7 lead. A Siobhan Flannery pointed free reduced Offaly's deficit late in the game and in the nine minutes of additional time added on by referee Peter Dowd, they tried in vain for an equalising goal.

Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner was forced to keep out a Flannery effort from a 20 metre free while she also batted away a goal bound effort from the same player with the last play of the game.

The win was the most important aspect for Galway and while this was achieved, Tony Ward and his management team will have been disappointed that they didn't put away the challenge of Offaly. There is plenty to work on prior to the upcoming potential group decider against Wexford

and if Galway were to record victory over the Slaneysiders, a semi-final place would be almost assured.

Maria Cooney, who started in place of the aforementioned Niamh McGrath impressed in the opening half. She scored three first half points from her corner forward position.

Cooney pointed twice in the opening quarter while Jessica Gill, after being set up by Ailish O'Reilly, and Niamh Kilkenny, from a free after a foul on Ann Marie Starr, also registered early Galway scores as they led by 0-4 to 0-2 after 12 minutes.

Offaly's scores had come through a Siobhan Flannery pointed free and a score from play by Arlene Watkins. Offaly had the advantage of a significant wind advantage during this half and when Aoife Kelly landed a good long range point and Siobhan Flannery pointed another from the placed ball, the sides were level at 0-4 apiece after 22 minutes.

Maria Cooney's third point arrived in the 29th minute and then in first half injury time Molly Dunne struck Galway's goal. Susan Earner hit a quick puck out to Sarah Dervan with the full back's subsequent delivery finding Ann Marie Starr, who after a clever run through the Offaly defence, offloaded the sliotar to Molly Dunne and she shot past Eleanor Clendenan for her second goal of this year's championship.

For Galway, who have yet to lose a game this year, Susan Earner impressed in goals

These scores gave Galway a 1-5 to 0-4 lead at half time and when captain Niamh Kilkenny dissected the posts with the opening play of the second half, they had stretched five points in front.

However, Galway were to score only once more in the third quarter with Jessica Gill pointing a 35th minute free after Ailish O'Reilly was fouled.

Tina Hannon goaled for Offaly at the second attempt after initially being thwarted by



Galway's Siobhan Coen who performed well in defence in their hard earned win over Offaly in Birr last Saturday.

Susan Earner while Siobhan Flannery punished Galway indiscretions by landing three pointed frees thus levelling the sides at 1-7 apiece with 15 minutes remaining.

By now, Niamh McGrath had replaced the injured Ann-Marie Starr in the team's attack. Galway had missed a number of earlier frees but McGrath was unerring when scoring three times from the placed ball in a ten minute spell following fouls on Lorraine Ryan and Ailish O'Reilly, twice, as they opened up a three point lead.

In the 56th minute, Niamh Kilkenny passed to Jessica Gill and her second score from play saw Galway into a 1-11 to 1-7 lead. Siobhan Flannery reduced the Offaly deficit when she pointed for the sixth time and while they pressurised the Galway defence in injury time, Earner was on hand to repel Flannery's late effort from a close in free as Galway held on for a deserved victory.

For Galway, who have yet to

lose a game this year, Susan Earner impressed in goals while Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney and Siobhan Coen did well in defence. Niamh Kilkenny was on top in the middle of the field while Ann Marie Starr, until picking up a nasty injury, Ailish O'Reilly, Jessica Gill, Maria Cooney and substitute Niamh McGrath were best in attack for a Galway side that will travel to Wexford with confidence this coming Saturday.

Galway: S. Earner, T. Kenny, S. Dervan, H. Cooney, S. Coen, S. Healy, L. Ryan, N. Kilkenny (0-2, 0-1 free), E. Kilkenny, A. Donohue, A. O'Reilly, A.M. Starr, J. Gill (0-3, 0-1 free), M. Dunne (1-0), M. Cooney (0-3). Subs: N. McGrath (0-3 frees), for Starr (inj. 38 mins), C. McGrath for Kilkenny (43 mins), T. Manton for Kenny (50 mins), S. Cahalan for Dunne (61 mins), F. Keeley for Gill (67 mins).

Offaly: E. Clendenan, F. Stephens, J. Brady, L. Sullivan, A. Brennan, M. Morkan, M. Crean, A. Kelly (0-1), O. Kirwan, L. Keena, S. Flannery (0-6 frees), R. Egan, A. Watkins (0-1), R. Brennan, T. Hannon (1-0). Subs: N. Larkin for R. Brennan (58 mins), C. Fitzgerald for Egan (58 mins).

Referee: Peter Dowd