

159

MARCH
APRIL
2011

LETHAL KILL ROMP HOME

■ Killimor (Galway) 3-18
Inniscarra (Cork) 1-4

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL

KILLIMOR delivered one of the most outstanding Croke Park displays of recent times as they stormed home to claim an All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie title.

Before a crowd of 4,724, the Galway side stunned their Cork counterparts in the first final at GAA headquarters since 1973.

Half-forward Martina Conroy was one of the stars of the show

Deadly display at Croke

netting a top-score of 1-6 in a game which saw eight players get on the score sheet for Killimor.

Showing huge work-rate throughout, they led by 1-4 to 0-0 by the first quarter, with Helen Quinn bagging a 15th minute goal.

Rampant

Claire Conroy, Martina Conroy and Susan Keane all contributed early points as Tommy Callaghy's charges began brightly.

Inniscarra's first score came from a Niamh Dilworth free in the

21st minute to cut the gap to six points, but this was close as they got as Killimor ran rampant.

Lorraine Donnelly offered an immediate response with a goal from the puckout to push her side 2-4 to 0-1 ahead at the interval.

Indeed Killimor could have claimed a hat-trick before the break, but for a superb block by Inniscarra keeper Sinead Ni Riain on the in-rushing Brenda Hanney.

Killimor showed no let up on the restart with Susan Keane and Martina Conroy on target.

Inniscarra failed to give up with Emma Kingston and Joanne Casey taking points, but Killimor were resolute in defence with Julie Brien particularly impressive at left corner.

Their third goal came from Martina Conroy in the 42nd minute after she cut through the Inniscarra defence to smash home leaving no way back for Inniscarra, despite a consolation goal late on from Dilworth.

KILLIMOR: H Campbell, N Hanney, N Lawless, J Brien, K Brien, AM Hayes, M Duane, E Heaverty (2-2), AM Stan, S Keane (0-6), B Hanney (0-4, 15), M Conroy (1-6, 45), H Quinn (1-0), C Conroy (0-1), L Donnelly (1-0).
SUBS: AM Lagana for Quinn 50mins, S Brien (0-1) for Donnelly 50mins, N Donnelly for C Conroy 57mins, N Connolly for Keane 59mins, C Brien for M Conroy 61mins.
INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain, K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley, R O'Mahony, R Buckley, E Kingston (0-1), MN O'Sullivan, O Healy, F O'Connell, N Dilworth (1-1, 33), A Sheehy, J Casey (0-1), K O'Mahony, M Cosgrove.
SUBS: L Burke for Kingston 20mins, E Kingston for Cosgrove 25mins, E McCarthy for O'Connell 45mins, L Buckley for M Buckley 46mins.
REFEREE: Owen Elliott (Antrim)



YELL OF A WIN: Delighted Killimor stars Susan Keane (left) and Claire Conroy celebrate their outstanding final victory at Croke Park

McMULLAN THE STAR



HAPPY: Adelle Archibald (left) and Maria Mooney

GRACE McMULLAN hit a hat-trick for Eoghan Rua, Coleraine as they claimed a first-ever All-Ireland Intermediate club camogie title at Croke Park yesterday.

McMullan's first-half goal brace gave her side a 2-5 to 1-2 interval lead, after The Harps had led by three points after 20 minutes.

The Derry outfit bagged 2-3 without reply, with Grainne McGoldrick clinical from placed balls.

McMullan completed her superb hat-trick in the 61st minute to seal this comfortable win.

■ Eoghan Rua (Derry) 3-6
The Harps (Laois) 2-3

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE
CLUB CAMOGIE FINAL

EOGHAN RUA: A Moore, A Carey, K Maybin, P Heneghan, E McNamee, M McGoldrick, M Mooney, C M Kerr, J Carey, M Dillon, G McGoldrick (0-7, 65), S Boyle, H Eastwood, G McMullen (3-1), R McAlister.
SUBS: K Mallon for Eastwood (39), A Archibald for McNamee (53).
THE HARPS: T Bennett, E Cuddy, D Quigley, P Dunphy, C Walsh, C Phelan, M Fitzpatrick, L Mahony (0-1), J Prior, A Mahony (0-1), A Hanlon, E Mahony, J Dollard (1-0), A Phelan (1-0), L Saunders, Subs: R Phelan for Phelan (39), H Keane for Prior (50), B Dunne for L Mahony (57).
REFEREE: Mike O'Kelly (Cork)

CAMOGIE
All-Ireland Club Championship finals: Senior, Inniscarra 1-14 Killimor 3-18; Intermediate, Eoghan Rua 3-6 The Harps 2-3. All-Ireland U16A Championship Grp 1: Tipperary 1-8 Kilkenny 1-5. U16B Grp 1: Limerick 4-17 Offaly 4-2. Grp 2: Wexford 9-11 Laois 0-4. U16 C Grp 2: Kildare 6-10 Wicklow 0-0.

MAR. 2011



A dejected Elaine O'Shea of UCC is consoled after the defeat to Waterford IT in the Ashbourne Cup Final in Salthill, Galway. Picture: Sportfile



LINDA
MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Inniscarra 1-4
Killimor 3-18

WHAT do you do when everything goes wrong and where do you even begin trying to put things right?

That's the dilemma which Inniscarra faced yesterday afternoon in Croke Park when an excellent Killimor side blew them away in the All-Ireland senior club camogie final. There are no 'what ifs' or 'maybes' because Killimor had this final won well before the final whistle and Inniscarra were the first to acknowledge this.

Absolutely nothing went right. Sean Twohig, Irene O'Keeffe and Fergal O'Leary were as gracious in defeat as they have been in victory yet were at a loss to explain how it all went so wrong when they were so well prepared.

But yesterday they came up against a highly disciplined, tenacious, skilful and fit Killimor side and in truth very few teams would have stood toe-to-toe with them on the day.

Inniscarra were nervous, jittery on the ball and put themselves under pressure from an early stage. They fell 1-4 behind within 14 minutes when a fortunate ground strike by Helen Quinn defied goalkeeper Sinéad Ni Riain.

Physically, Killimor were the stronger side. Brenda Hanney was causing huge problems at centre-forward, Ann Marie Starr and Emer Haverly dominated midfield with Starr in particular playing a storming role throughout.

But it was the Killimor defence which really stood tall. Rarely has there been such a complete performance from a defence in Croke Park.

They worked for each other, covered back, knew when to go, when to stay, hooked, blocked, harried and chased.

They also had hurling ability and Niamh Hanney, Nicola Lawless and Julie Brien in the full-back line can take much of the credit for an exemplary performance.

When Lorraine Donnelly got the final touch after Sinéad Ni Riain had saved well from a Susan Keane strike the signs were ominous.

Inniscarra had a few opportunities to narrow the gap from placed balls but dropping the ball short in an attempt to snatch a goal before the

Inniscarra are humbled by classy Killimor



Inniscarra's Laura Burke is tackled by Julie Brien of Killimor during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO

break were denied time and again by an outstanding back six. They trailed 2-4 to 0-1.

The first five minutes of the second-half was going to either revive this game for Inniscarra or close it out for Killimor.

Three points inside the opening four minutes signalled that this game was gone for the Cork champions.

Killimor went on a rampage and as they split Inniscarra wide open they hit point after point in a wonderful display of teamwork.

Such was the high standard of Killimor's play it was easy to forget that you were watching a club side. This looked more like an inter-county per-

formance.

Martina Conroy's excellent goal on 42 minutes after great work by Brenda Hanney only enhanced Inniscarra's agony.

Killimor pushed on, Niamh Dilworth grabbed a goal with nine minutes remaining but it had little impact on the deficit and a further four points in the remaining minutes while emptying their bench made it such a perfect day for the Galway champions.

It's not easy to take defeat. It's even harder when you don't do yourself justice. The Inniscarra mentors and squad have to carry that over the coming weeks but they need to do so remembering that they have

had a tremendous year. They did their club, parish and county proud.

Scorers for Inniscarra: N Dilworth 1-1 (0-1 f), E Kingston, J Casey, R Buckley (f) 0-1 each.
Killimor: M Conroy 1-6 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), B Hanney 0-4 (0-1 f), S Keane 0-4, H Quinn 1-0, L Donnelly 1-0, E Haverly 0-2, S Brien, C Conroy 0-1 each.

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain, A Sheehan, L Hayes, M Buckley, E Kingston, R O'Mahony, K Jones, R Buckley, O Healy, J Casey, M N O'Sullivan, K O'Mahony, M Cosgrove, F O'Connell, N Dilworth.

Subs: L Burke for E Kingston (18), E Kingston for M Cosgrove (27), T McCarthy for F O'Connell (43), L Buckley for O Healy (48).

KILLIMOR: H Campbell, N Hanney, N Lawless, J Brien, K Brien, A M Hayes, M Duane, E Haverly, A M Starr, S Keane, B Hanney, M Conroy, H Quinn, C Conroy, L Donnelly.

Subs: A M Lagana for L Donnelly (47), S Brien for H Quinn (47), N Donnelly for C Conroy (58), N Connolly for S Keane (59), C Brien for M Conroy (60).

Referee: Owen Elliot (Antrim).

Win would have been perfect end for Cork champs

REACTION

SPORT can be so cruel and nowhere was it more evident than in the hushed silence of the Inniscarra dressingroom yesterday as they struggled to come to terms with how their dreams of All-Ireland club championship glory had been shattered. **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

Captain Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan was gracious in defeat and acknowledged that on the day Killimor were the better team.

"Hugely disappointing for us today to lose here. It has been a tremendous year for us and this would have been

the icing on the cake but we simply weren't at the races at all and we are absolutely devastated."

The good start Killimor got was significant in setting the foundations for victory she reckoned.

"In the opening 10 minutes they had six scores on the board and that didn't help us and I suppose that knocked our confidence. I just cannot explain what happened us today the score board is very hard to take."

Margaret Noelle said the team had a good chat at half-time and they went out with a renewed sense of vigour for the second half.

"We were determined to give it a good shot and we knew we had not performed in the opening half but it just didn't happen for us at all."

"I just want to thank everybody who gave us tremendous support all year and again here today, we have had a wonderful year and hopefully we will have even better ahead days and we will be able to repay them for the superb backing they gave us."

Trainer Fergal O'Leary was surrounded by his backroom team of Irene O'Leary, Sean Twohig and Paula Goggin as he gave his reaction.

"We are bitterly disappointed to have

lost out, we gave it everything we had and so did the girls, we came here today confident we could do it but they came at us from the throw-in and really we had no answer to them."

"Sometimes you get a day when everything goes right but when everything goes wrong what do you do?"

"I want to thank the panel of players for the tremendous effort they have put in, it has been a wonderful year for us taking our first county and Munster titles and today would have rounded off a tremendous season, but it wasn't to be," added the trainer.

The Harps



Front row (l-r): Grace Lennon, Deirdre Holland, Caitriona Phelan, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Elaine Cuddy (Captain), Denise Quigley, Martina Hyland, Claire Walsh, Rosemarie Phelan, Patricia Dunphy Clancy. Back row (l-r): Louise Mahony, Helen Keane, Maria Dunne, Bronagh Dunne, Aine Mahony, Elaine Mahony, Aisling Phelan, Joan Dollard, Angela Hanlon, Joanne Prior, Laura Saunders, Teresa Bennett

THE HARPS Pen Pictures

THERESA BENNETT

Age: 23
Position: Goalkeeper / Forward
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Plays Ladies football, volleyball and basketball

ELAINE CUDDY (Captain)

Age: 29
Position: Defender
Honours: 4 Laois senior C'ships; 3 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Leinster Colleges C'ship; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland with Laois. Plays Ladies football. Her father, Fintan, played hurling with Shamrocks, her brothers Ray and Declan and sister Jackie played with Harps hurling and camogie teams respectively.

JOAN DOLLARD

Age: 24
Position: Forward
Honours: 1 Laois U1; 1 Minor; 3 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 2 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 1 Junior All Ireland C'ships. Represented Laois at all grades. Plays soccer, squash, Ladies football.

BRONAGH DUNNE

Age: 16
Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 1 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate C'ships; Leinster Colleges C'ship. Represented Laois in all underage grades. She is a cross country athlete and plays soccer.

MARIA DUNNE

Age: 17
Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 1 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate C'ships. Has represented Laois at all grades in underage. Plays Ladies football. Her brother John, Brian, Conor, Barry, Gavin play hurling with The Harps - Brian and Conor also play with Laois senior side.

PATRICIA DUNPHY-CLANCY

Age: 27
Position: Defender
Honours: 4 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Represented Laois at underage level. Plays hockey and basketball.

MICHELLE FITZPATRICK

Age: 23
Position: Defender
Honours: 1 U16; 1 U18; 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Represented Laois in all grades; won Minor C All Ireland with Laois. Her brother Kieran plays hurling with The Harps and also with Laois seniors.

ANGELA HANLON

Age: 29
Position: Forward
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Played with Laois juniors in 2008

DEIRDRE HOLLAND

Position: Defender
Honours: 3 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 2 Leinster Club; 1 Intermediate; 1 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Leinster Colleges Minor C'ship.

MARTINA HYLAND

Age: 30
Position: Defender
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships. Plays tennis. Her grandfather Paddy Ryan was the Laois goalkeeper when the county won the hurling All Ireland in 1915

HELEN KEANE

Age: 26
Position: Goalkeeper
Honours: 2 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 2 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Leinster Intermediate C'ships. Leinster Colleges junior; senior C'ships.

GRACE LENNON

Age: 18
Position: Defender
Honours: 1 Laois senior Co. C'ship; 1 County, 1 Leinster Intermediate, Inter County U14. Her father, Tom, played county minor hurling with Kilkenny and senior county hurling with Laois

ÁINE MAHONY

Age: 23
Position: Forward
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Colleges All Ireland junior B; senior B; Ashbourne Cup with UCD; Selected Leinster Express Camogie Player of the Year 2006. Represented Laois in all grades. Her sisters Elaine and Louise are on the team. Their mother Ann won a senior All Ireland with Kilkenny in 1974. She is current chairperson of the club and a team selector. Their father, Jimmy, won a County Championship with Cullinane in 1954 and played with Laois.

ELAINE MAHONY

Age: 25
Position: Forward
Honours: 3 Laois U16; 3 U18; 5 senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Leinster Colleges C'ship; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland with Laois. Received Roscrea Camogie Award 2007. Plays basketball

LOUISE MAHONY

Age: 26
Position: Midfield
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Leinster Vocational Colleges C'ship; played Ashbourne Cup with UCD; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland C'ship with Laois; Laois Camogie Player of the Year 2007; Soaring Star 2009. Plays golf, basketball and soccer.

AIŚLING PHELAN

Age: 24
Position: Forward
Honours: 1 Laois U18; 3 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 2 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 2 Junior All Ireland C'ships; 1 Leinster Colleges Junior C'ship. Plays ladies football, basketball and handball.

CAITRIONA PHELAN

Age: 25
Position: Defender
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; 1 Leinster Colleges C'ships; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland with Laois; Laois Camogie Player of the Year 2009. Plays tennis. Her brother, Declan, plays senior hurling with Abbeyfeix; her father, John, played hurling with Ballypickas.

ROSEMARIE PHELAN

Age: 16
Position: Defender
Honours: 1 Laois senior Co. C'ship; 1 Leinster Club Intermediate; 2 Leinster Colleges C'ships; Represented Laois in all underage grades. Plays ladies football and squash. Her 2 brothers play hurling with Harps.

JOANNE PRIOR

Age:
Position: Midfield
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland with Laois; Laois Camogie Player of the Year 2010. She also plays soccer. Her brother John, plays senior hurling with The Harps and Laois, Father, Donal, played hurling with Cullinane

DENISE QUIGLEY

Age: 28
Position: Defender
Honours: 5 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 4 Leinster Club junior; 1 Intermediate; 3 All Ireland Junior C'ships; 1 Leinster Colleges C'ships; Nancy Murray Cup All Ireland with Laois; Laois Camogie Player of the Year 2006. Plays Ladies football with Laois. Her mother Mary played camogie with Clonsilla; her sister Olivia is a former player, her brother John played hurling with Laois.

LAURA SAUNDERS

Age: 20
Position: Forward
Honours: 1 Laois U18; 3 senior Co. C'ships; 3 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 2 All Ireland Junior C'ships; Leinster Colleges junior; senior C'ships. Represented Laois at all underage grades. Plays ladies football, basketball and soccer.

CLAIRE WALSH

Age: 18
Position: Defender
Honours: 4 Laois senior Co. C'ships; 3 Leinster Club Junior; 1 Intermediate; 2 All Ireland Junior C'ships; 1 Munster Colleges senior C and senior A C'ships; 1 senior C Colleges All Ireland with Presentation Convent, Thurles; minor C All Ireland with Laois. Plays hockey.

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Eoghan Rua



Back row (l-r): Maeve Dillon, Clare Dillon, Méabh McGoldrick (captain), Sinéad Boyle, Maeve McWilliams, Cara McPeake, Jane Carey, Claire Hill, Fiona Shannon, Maureen Heneghan, Gráinne McGoldrick, Aileen Moore, Amy Holmes, Ciara McWilliams, Orlagh Mullan. Front row (l-r): Grace McMullan, Rosanna McAleese, Maria Mooney, Niamh Archibald, Kelly Maybin, Adele Archibald, Aisling Carey, Hannah Eastwood, Éilis McNamee, Rachael Gaile, Clare Tracey, Manon Eymere, Katie Mullan, Megan Kerr.

EOGHAN RUA Pen Pictures

AILEEN MOORE

Age: 43
Position: Goalkeeper
Honours: 1 Antrim Co. C' ship; 1 Derry Intermediate, 1 Derry Premier League, Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship. She Represented Antrim at minor, junior and senior level 1983-1997 won Antrim Minor C' ship, Ulster Minor C' ship; Ashbourne Shield UUC; member of Combined University team.

ADELLE ARCHIBALD

Age: 26
Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Intermediate, 2 Premier League, 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Senior B C' ship; North American C' ships, camogie and football; 1 Ulster Colleges B C' ship, 1 Purcell Cup, 4 Purcell Shield

KELLY MAYBIN

Age:
Position: Defender
Honours: 1 Derry Premier League; 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship. An Antrim native she was county Senior Captain 2009; National League Division 3; Antrim Senior Player of the Year 2009; Ulster Colleges All Star.

MAUREEN HENEGHAN

Age: 20
Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Intermediate, 2 Premier Derry League, 2 Intermediate C' ships, 1 Premier Co. C' ship 1 Ulster Premier League, 1 Ulster Senior B C' ship, Gulf Gaelic Games club winner 2009, Purcell Shield, Ashbourne Shield Won All Ireland U16B.

ÉILIS MCNAMEE

Age: 15
Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Ulster Premier League; All Ireland U16 B C' ship

MÉABH MCGOLDRICK (Captain)

Age: 21
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 1 senior League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2; Gulf Gaelic Games club 2009; 2 Ulster Colleges All Star, Ulster Sevens U18; U18 Ulster C' ship; 3 Ulster senior C' ships, Junior All Ireland 2007; Derry Player of the Championship 2010.

MARIA MOONEY

Age: 17
Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; 1 Ulster Premier League Shield, 1 Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Ulster Colleges All Star; Ulster and All Ireland U16 C and U16 B, captained Derry All Ireland U16 B team; Ulster and All Ireland Minor B C' ship.

MEGAN KERR

Age: 16
Position: Midfield
Honours: 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Ulster and All Ireland U16 B C' ships

JANE CAREY

Age: 26
Position: Midfield
Honours: 2 Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship; Seven Ulster senior C' ships; Junior All Ireland; 2 Purcell Cups; 1 junior, 1 senior Gael Linn inter-provincial; Derry Captain 2010

MAEVE DILLON

Age: 24
Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; 1 Ulster Premier League Shield, 1 Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship

GRÁINNE MCGOLDRICK

Age: 26
Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate League, 2 Premier League; 2 Intermediate and 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship.

SINÉAD BOYLE

Age: 25
Position: Forward/Midfield
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 2 intermediate, 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship.

HANNAH EASTWOOD

Age: 19
Position: Defender/Forward
Honours: 1 Derry Intermediate, 1 Premier Co. C' ship; 1 Intermediate League; 2 Premier League; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010; Ulster U16, All Ireland U16

GRACE McMULLAN

Age: 38
Honours: 2 Antrim U16, 2 Junior, 5 senior C' ships, 2 Ulster C' ships; 1 Intermediate and 1 Junior All Ireland. Moved to play with Derry and won: Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Derry Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship; Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship; 3 Ashbourne Cup; 4 League; 8 Combined University teams.

ROSANNA McALEESE

Age: 15
Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; 2 Ulster Premier League Cup 2; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010; All Ireland Under 16 B.

NIAMH ARCHIBALD

Age: 23
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 2 Intermediate, 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

AISLING CAREY

Age: 23
Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League, 2 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship.

CLARE DILLON

Age: 21. Position: Forward
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; Premier Co. Championship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

MANON EYMERÉ

Age: 15. Position: Defender
Honours: 1 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

RACHEL GAILE

Age: 18
Honours: 1 Derry Premier; 1 Premier Co. C' ship 2010; Ulster Senior B C' ship

CLARE HILL

Age: 17. Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

AMY HOLMES

Age: 21. Position: Defender/Forward
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship; 2010, Gulf Gaelic Games C' ship

KATIE MULLAN

Age: 16. Position: Forward
Honours: 1 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; All Ireland U16 B.

ORLAGH MULLAN

Age: 27. Position: Defender
Honours: 2 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 2 Intermediate, 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

CARA McPEAKE

Age: 24
Honours: 1 Derry Premier League; 1 Premier C' ship; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

CIARA McWILLIAMS

Student
Age: 20. Position: Forward
Honours: 1 Derry Intermediate, 2 Premier League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Shield; Ulster Premier League Cup Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

MAEVE McWILLIAMS

Student
Age: 18. Position: Defender
Honours: 1 Derry senior League; 1 Premier Co. C' ship; Ulster Premier League Cup; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

FIONA SHANNON

Student
Age: 18. Position: Forward
1 Derry Premier League; 1 Derry Premier C' ship 2010; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010.

CLARE TRACEY

Student
Age: 16. Position: Forward
2 Derry senior League; 1 Derry Premier C' ship 2010; Ulster Senior B C' ship 2010. Ulster U-16 Championship.

Eoghan Rua

Marún agus Glas

(1) AILEEN MOORE E. Ní Mhóra			
(2) ADELE ARCHIBALD A. Ní Giolla Easpaig	(3) KELLY MAYBIN C. Mháibín	(4) MAUREEN HENEGHAN M. Ní Éanodáin	
(5) ÉILIS McNAMEE E. Ní Con Midhe	(6) MÉABH McGOLDRICK (Capt.) M. Ní Gualraic	(7) MARIA MOONEY M. Ní Mhaonaigh	
(8) MEGAN KERR M. Ní Giolla Cheara		(9) JANE CAREY S. Ní Chiara	
(10) MAEVE DILLON M. Diolún	(11) GRÁINNE McGOLDRICK G. Ní Gualraic	(12) SINÉAD BOYLE S. Ní Bhoill	
(13) HANNAH EASTWOOD A. Ní Coille	(14) GRACE McMULLAN G. Ní Mhaoláin	(15) ROSANNA McALEESE R. Ní Giolla Íosa	
(16) Niamh Archibald N. Ní Giolla Easpaig	(20) Rachel Gaille R. Ní an Ghaill	(24) Orlagh Mullan O. Ní Mhaoláin	(28) Fiona Shannon F. Ní Sheanáin
(17) Aisling Carey A. Ní Chiara	(21) Clare Hill C. Ní Chnoic	(25) Cara McPeake C. Ní Phéice	(29) Clare Tracey C. Ní Threasaigh
(18) Clare Dillon C. Diolún	(22) Amy Holmes A. Ní Thámais	(26) Clara McWilliams C. Ní Liam	
(19) Manon Eymere Manon Eymere	(23) Katie Mullan C. Ní Mhaoláin	(27) Maeve McWilliams M. Ní Liam	

Management Team: M. Connolly, B. McLernon, J. Passmore.
Backroom Team: S. McGoldrick, L. Reynolds. Medical Team: P. Morrison, C. Loughrey.

The Harps

Deary agus Bui

(1) TERESA BENNETT T. Ní Bheineid		
(2) ELAINE CUDDY (Capt.) E. Ní Cuidithe	(3) DENISE QUIGLEY D. Ní Choigligh	(4) PATRICIA DUNPHY P. Ní Dhonnchaidh
(5) CLAIRE WALSH C. Bhreatnach	(6) CAITRIONA PHELAN C. Ní Fhooláin (A)	(7) MICHELLE FITZPATRICK M. Ní Giolla Phádraig
(8) LOUISE MAHONY L. Ní Mhathúna		(9) JOANNE PRIOR S. Ní an Phríora
(10) ÁINE MAHONY Á. Ní Mhathúna	(11) ANGELA HANLON A. Ní hAnluain	(12) ELAINE MAHONY E. Ní Mhathúna
(13) JOAN DOLLARD S. Dollard	(14) ASHLING PHELAN A. Ní Fhooláin	(15) LAURA SAUNDERS L. Ní Shandair
(16) Helen Keane L. Ní Chatháin	(19) Branagh Dunne B. Ní Dhainn	(22) Grace Lennon G. Ní Leannáin
(17) Rosemarie Phelan R. Ní Fhooláin	(20) Maria Dunne M. Ní Dhainn	
(18) Deirdre Holland D. Ní hAoláin	(21) Martina Hyland M. Ní hAoláin	

Manager: M. Bolger.
Selectors: A. Mahony, T. Dunne.

McMullan hat-trick makes it Eoghan Rua's day

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Eoghan Rua 3-8
The Harps 2-3

A hat-trick of goals from full-forward Grace McMullan was the key contribution as Eoghan Rua made the journey from Coleraine count to win the All-Ireland club intermediate camogie title in fine fashion.

Gráinne McGoldrick weighed in with seven points, while her sister and team captain Méabh was a commanding presence at centre-back but it was McMullan's goals that turned the tide in Eoghan Rua's favour, when it looked like The Harps would add this championship to the three-in-a-row annexed at junior level.

The Laois champions began alertly with a brace of points from an Áine O'Mahony free and Angela Hanlon.

It took Eoghan Rua nine minutes to respond but two converted frees by Gráinne McGoldrick had the sides level.

Laura Saunders found the net in the 20th minute after a goalmouth scramble to give The Harps the advantage again and they could have had at least one more goal in the resultant period of dominance, while they also finished with six wides in the first half.

They were punished for this profligacy when McMullan broke in behind their defence in the first minute of injury time and showed searing pace before coolly picking her spot and finding it with a crisp strike.

She almost struck again from the next attack but made no mistake four minutes later when Méabh McGoldrick's strong run and clearance came her way in the last act of the opening stanza to give her side a 2-5 to 1-2 interval advantage.

The Harps took some time to recover from that setback and two Gráinne McGoldrick frees early in the second half gave their opponents even more breathing space.

Aisling Phelan's 45th minute goal put the game back into the melting pot and reinvigorated the Leinster representative but a pointed free from Áine Mahony was all they had to show for plenty of possession.

Eoghan Rua were more clinical though and McMullan's third strike right on the hour, after Teresa Bennett had saved a Rosanna McAleese shot, cemented the verdict.

Eoghan Rua: A Moore; A Carey, K Maybin, M Heneghan; E McNamee, M McGoldrick, M Mooney; M Kerr, J Carey; M Dillon, G McGoldrick 0-7(6fs), S Boyle; H Eastwood, G McMullan 3-1, R McAleese. Subs: K Mullan for Eastwood (39); A Archibald for McNamee (53)
The Harps: T Bennett; E Cuddy, D Quigley, P Dunphy; C Walsh, C Phelan, M Fitzpatrick; L Mahony, J Prior; A Mahony 0-2(fs), A Hanlon 0-1, E Mahony; J Dollard, A Phelan 1-0, L Saunders 1-0. Subs: R Phelan for Saunders (40); H Keane for Prior inj (50); B Dunne for L Mahony (57)

Referee: M O'Kelly (Cork)

Camogie legends commemorate memory of late Phillips

THE INAUGURAL Camogie Legends Tournament took place at St Jude's, GAA Club, Dublin on Saturday, March 5th.

The Camogie Legends Cup is named in honour of the late Biddy Phillips, a national camogie referee and administrator, who passed away on July 6th 2010.

Galway, Kilkenny, Cork and Wexford fielded in the seven-a-side competition with camogie greats such as Cork's Linda Mellerick and Mags Finn; Galway's Sharon Glynn and Kilkenny's Ann Downey, amongst others, renewing sporting rivalries.

Biddy Phillips managed Tipperary to

their first Senior Camogie All Ireland title in 1999. She was a long serving member of the Camogie Association serving on the National Referees Committee.

She took charge of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final in 2007 and was also referee for the Intermediate, Junior and Senior Club All Ireland Finals between 1993 and 1999. She also acted as treasurer of Tipperary Camogie Board from 1988 to 2000.

The Camogie Legends tournament will take place at a date to be confirmed in 2012. For further details check out www.camogie.ie.

MAR. 2011



AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA

Legends 2011

St. Judes GAA Club, Dublin
Saturday, March 5th, 2011

Clár Oifigiúil

Sinead Ní Chonchúir

Sinead Ní Chonchúir
Ard Stiúrthóir



Kilkenny

1. GILLIAN DILLON
2. MIRIAM HOLLAND
3. PAULINE COMERFORD
4. ANN DOWNEY
5. MARINA DOWNEY
6. CAITRIONA CAREY
7. BRIDGET BARNAVILLE
8. BRIGID MULLALLY
9. SINÉAD MILLEA
10. TRACEY MILLEA



Cork

1. KATHLEEN COSTINE
2. BREEDA KENNY
3. COLETTE O'MAHONY
4. DENISE CRONIN
5. MIRIAM DEASY
6. GER MCCARTHY
7. FIONA O'DRISCOLL
8. MAGS FINN
9. LINDA MELLERICK



Wexford

1. MARION COUSINS
2. TERRI BUTLER
3. TINA FARRELL
4. EMMA CARROLL
5. MICHELLE MURPHY
6. LOUISE FANNING
7. EILISH McDONALD
8. MELONIE DUNNE
9. MAIRE O'CONNOR
10. MIRIAM LAMBERT



Galway

1. LOUISE CURRY
2. TRACEY LAHEEN
3. RITA COEN
4. MARTINA HARKIN
5. PAMELA NEVIN
6. CARMEL HANNON
7. SHARON GLYNN
8. DENISE GILLIGAN
9. EMER HARDIMAN
10. IMELDA HOBBS

Grogan points Tipp to victory

Irish Daily Star National Senior Camogie League
Division 1 Round



Tipperary 0-14 Cork 1-10
Report and photographs by
Rose Mannion at The Ragg



available to play after their strong win in the club senior County final just a few months back, but Dubarra's loss is Moneygall's gain with Julie Kirwan carrying the honor of captaincy for the forthcoming season as chosen by the management.

The Tipperary seniors opened their National League campaign on Sunday afternoon with a one-point win over old rivals Cork as Claire Grogan came off the bench to score the winning point.

This game will indeed give the Tipp side great heart to have beaten the Leesiders at such an early stage in the year but also the fact that John Lillis and his back room team

are introducing new young blood to the team which is looking very promising for the future.

It's also heartening for the home side when taking into account that it is usually Cork who take the spoils as they did last year when Tipp came away defeated despite a positive performance. It is however somewhat surprising to note that there are no players from the Burgess/Duharra club

Playing with the aid of a very strong breeze in the first half, this was a game that Cork will be wondering how they left behind as they managed to dominate the opening thirty minutes with Gemma O'Connor's long free seven minutes into the second quarter, going all the way to the back of the net, helping to give them a five-point lead at the interval.

It is usually Cork who



Brid Quinn (Tipperary) prevents Pamela Mackey (Cork) from scoring during the National Senior League clash in the Ragg on Sunday last.



Tipp captain Julie Kirwan goes low to get first to the ball ahead of Denise Cronan (Cork) when the sides met in the Senior Camogie League on Sunday last.

turn on the style in the second half, but on this occasion, whatever John Lillis said in the dressing rooms to his charges, it was Tipp who turned up the heat from the very first minute of resumption and Cork had no answer as the accuracy of corner forward Nicole Walsh from placed balls, helped to claw into Corks lead.

The late introduction of Claire Grogan who is nursing an injury, seemed to give the home side more encouragement to win and as she fired over almost immediately with only minutes remaining to put Tipperary two ahead.

However, Cork were lucky to win a free which gave Sheila Burns the chance to reduce Tipps lead to one, but it was too

late for the visitors as Grogan's point proved to be the winner as Tipp recorded their first two points of the competition as their first game against Dublin was rained off two weeks previous.

Delighted with the result, manager John Lillis said that he was pleased with the way the girls worked. "Starting into a game against Cork and four players making their debut, it was always going to be tough. It was a bit of a disappointment not getting to play Dublin to blood the four girls, but they got their chance today against a good Cork team which is better than against a bad Dublin team."

The Drom & Inch man added: "We have no fears going down to play

Kilkenny in two weeks time which will be a different story altogether but

we are taking game by game and we'll give it a good lash this year."

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Michelle Shortt (Tipperary)

Scorers: Tipperary: Nicole Walsh 0-6 frees; Sarah Fryday, Mary Ryan 0-2; Julie McGrath, Claire Grogan, Jill Horan, Joanne Ryan 0-1 each.
Cork: Gemma O'Connor 1-2 frees; Sheila Burns 0-6, 5 frees; Katrina Mackey 0-2, 1 free.

Tipperary: Rosie Kenneally (Drom & Inch); Sheila Ryan (Toomevara), Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers), Maria Tymon (Toomevara); Julie McGrath (Cashel), Julie Kirwan (Moneygall, Capt), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Michelle Shortt (Drom & Inch), Brid Quinn (Silvermines), Dee Dunne (Drom & Inch), Jill Horan (Cashel), Sarah Fryday (Clonoulty), Alison Loneragan (Cashel), Joanne Ryan (Drom & Inch), Nicole Walsh (Toomevara).

SUBS: Noreen Flanagan (Holycross) for Dunne; Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers) for Loneragan; Clodagh Quirke (Clonoulty) for S Ryan; Claire Grogan (Cashel) for Quinn.

Cork: Eimear White, Jenny Duffy, Amanda O'Regan, Pamela Mackey, Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary, Caroline Motherway, Briege Corkery, Linda Dorgan, Denise Cronin, Gemma O'Connor, Eimear O'Sullivan, Sheila Burns, Michele Browne, Katrina Mackey.

SUBS: Marie Walsh for O'Connor (if); Denise Twomey for Browne.

Referee: Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

Camogie Association Media Awards presented at Croke Park

RTÉ and Camogie Association Media Award winners presented

The Camogie Association Media Awards in conjunction with RTÉ were presented at Croke Park on Saturday night (March 5th).

The Irish Examiner led the way picking up the RTÉ Mick Dunne Memorial award for National Coverage of Camogie while Wexford Journalist Dean Goodison received the award for Published Work for his book 'I Gotta Feeling' which recounted the county's 2010 All Ireland winning camogie season. Barbara Ryan, Wexford PRO was awarded PRO of the Year while Sports photographer Caroline Quinn picked up the Photograph of the Year award.

President of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn, Ryle Nugent, Group Head of RTÉ Sport and Lily Dunne, wife of the late Mick Dunne presented the awards to eight recipients who were acknowledged for their outstanding work promoting and publicising camogie.

This is the fifth year of the Camogie Association RTÉ Mick Dunne Memorial Awards. The Camogie Association Media Awards were presented to Clare FM (Local Radio); the Offaly Express (Provincial Newspaper); Dublin Camogie Board (Website) and Armagh County Camogie Board (Programme).

Speaking about the Camogie Association Media Awards President Joan O'Flynn: "The Camogie Association and RTÉ Mick Dunne Memorial Awards are an important event on the camogie calendar each year. The awards are hugely important in recognising the enormous contribution that regional and national press and Association members make to the promotion of our game.

Tonight, we honour the outstanding work of those who are here to receive awards and acknowledge the fantastic work they do to further boost the profile of camogie. On this night, the eve of our All Ireland Club Finals, the Camogie Association is delighted to celebrate the achievements of those, who work so tirelessly off the pitch publicising, all of the action on it."

RTÉ Group Head of Sport Ryle Nugent said:

"As the national public service broadcaster RTÉ is charged with bringing the best of Irish sport to the public and we have a proud heritage of broadcasting our national games. It is very fitting for RTÉ to support these awards as we too look to provide the best possible coverage with genuine enthusiasm and a shared love of sport across all our platforms. Mick Dunne was a leading sports broadcaster and RTÉ is delighted to be associated with of these awards which honour some of the best sport media in the field."

• Photographs from the Camogie Association and RTÉ Mick Dunne Memorial Awards are available from Declan Masterson, mastersonphotography@gmail.com , 086 1036245

• This is the fifth year of the Camogie Association Media Awards incorporating the Mick Dunne Memorial Awards sponsored by RTÉ. Mick Dunne made an enormous contribution to the coverage of Gaelic Games, particularly camogie. He gave the game extensive coverage in print, radio and television.

• The 2010 RTÉ Mick Dunne Memorial Awards winners are: National Coverage of Camogie, The Irish Examiner; PRO of the Year, Barbara Ryan (Wexford), Photograph of the Year, Caroline Quinn, Published Work, Dean Goodison.

• The 2010 Camogie Association Media Award winners are: Programme, Armagh County Final; Local Radio Station, Clare FM; Provincial Newspaper, the Offaly Express; Website, Dublin Camogie Board.

• The following received commendations: Michelle Dunne and Margaret McCabe, Cavan Camogie PROs; Michael Harpur, Photo of the Year; Wicklow Camogie Board,

MAR. 2011

Brave Inniscarra find Killimor too strong

Killimor
Inniscarra
3-18
1-4

A POWERFUL display from Galway and Connacht champions Killimor saw them comfortably overcome the challenge of Cork and Munster standard bearers Inniscarra to be crowned All Ireland club senior camogie champions for the first time. It was a superb team display that was spearheaded by the experienced Martina Conroy Breda Hanney, Ann Marie Hayes and Susan Kane.

Killimor set the pace of the game from the throw-in and quickly built up a four point lead, Claire Conroy, Martina Conroy (2) and Susan Kane finding the range as the Inniscarra defence struggled to settle. Inniscarra battled hard to get something but they met a super Killimor defence where Julie Brien and Ann Marie Hayes and Nicola Lawless were hugely impressive. They were dealt a huge blow 17 minutes into the game when Helen Quinn grabbed the games opening goal and from here on in it was a battle for Inniscarra.

Niamh Dilworth got Inniscarra on the scoreboard with a pointed free in the 23rd minute into the game, but Lorraine Donnelly grabbed a second Killimor goal from the puck out to give her side a 2-4 to 0-1 lead at the break.

In a storming opening 10 minutes from Killimor the ball scarcely crossed the middle of the field as they came at the Inniscarra defence



in waves. Susan Kane, Martina Conroy and Brenda Hanney added points as the gap widened, Emma Kingston and Joanne Casey added

point for Inniscarra, but they continued to find the going tough against the strong Killimor defence. They were dealt a huge blow

when Martina Conroy sent a blistering shot to the Inniscarra net from the edge of the square after a super run from Brenda Hanney.

Inniscarra's Laura Burke and Julie Brien of Killimor tussle for the sliotar during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship Final in Croke Park on Sunday. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Killimor: H Campbell, N Hanney, N Lawless, J Brien, K Brien, AM Hayes, M Duane, E Haverly AM Starr, C Conroy, B Hanney, M Conroy, H Quinn, S Keane, L Donnelly. Subs: AM Lagana for Quinn (52); S Brien for L Donnelly; N Donnelly for C Conroy (57); N Connelly for S Keane (59); C Brien for M Conroy (60).

Scorers: M Conroy 1-6(0-3), 0-1 (45"), B Hanney 0-4(0-1), S Keane 0-4, H Quinn, L Donnelly 1-0 each, E Haverly 0-2, C Conroy, S Brien 0-1 each.

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain, A Sheehan, L Hayes, M Buckley, K Jones, R O'Mahony, E Kingston, R Buckley, O Healy, J Casey, MN O'Sullivan (c), K O'Mahony, M Cosgrove, F O'Connell, N Dilworth. Subs: L Burke for E Kingston (in 21), E Kingston for M Cosgrove (28); T McCarthy for F O'Connell (47); L Buckley for O Healy (50).

Scorers: N Dilworth 1-1 (0-1), J Casey, E Kingston, R Buckley (45") 0-1 each.

Referee: Owen Elliott (Antrim)

Continuing to pile on the pressure they added five points without reply. Rena Buckley, who covered every blade of grass in Croke Park, pointed a 45 before Niamh Dilworth grabbed an Inniscarra goal, taking Joanne Casey's delivery and to sending a superb shot to the roof of the net, but it came too late to effect the outcome as points from Serena Brien, Martina Conroy and Brenda Hanney sealed victory for a superb Killimor side.



Brenda Hanney, Killimor, in action against Mary Buckley, left, and Aileen Sheehan, Inniscarra during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club final in Croke Park on Sunday. See.

At the Camogie Association Media Awards held in Croke Park and sponsored by RTE and the Camogie Association, Therese O'Callaghan, right, representing The Irish Examiner, receives the Mick Dunne Memorial award for the best national coverage of camogie. Also present were RTE's Ryle Nugent, Joan O'Flynn and Moira Dunne.

Picture: Declan Masterson



Heartbreaking defeat for Tipperary U16s

All Ireland Under 16 'A' Camogie Championship Round 1

Tipperary 1-6 Killimory 1-4
Report and photographs by Niamh Mangan at The Rags

The Tipperary Under 16s suffered a heartbreaking defeat when just one minute from victory for the Killimory girls on their first outing in the championship last Saturday afternoon. This point of play built just one more corner

from last year's point that sent Galway to the All-Ireland final, as manager Tim Maher had the task of finding new players with the necessary skill to fill the vacant positions and despite the defeat, the season was good.

Saturday's clash went down to the wire with little

or nothing separating the sides throughout and at half time both were level at Tipperary 1-2 Killimory 0-4 with Tip's goal coming early in the first half from Ciara Ryan but Killimory kept chipping away with their points having failed on a number of occasions to get past keeper Sarah Cosman. While the home side dominated on the reception and worked very hard to go into a three-point lead, Killimory made some vital positional changes and the young ladies showed tremendous bravery in Tyte back and a hit full Anne Mahoney goal put the Tipp back under were pressure, a pressure that they were finding hard to withstand but it wasn't for want of trying on their part as they gave every ounce of energy to hold out or at least to negotiate.

Mahoney kept her performance and pushing hard for a second goal in the final few minutes, she got the break and took her chance and in doing so she fired over a further two points as time ran out for a heart-breaking Tipp side.

This was a great game of camogie where neither side stood back from the action and with some fine displays of skill from both sides served up. With a little more practice over the coming weeks before their date with Derry, this team will be the team to watch over the coming months.



Anne Evidon (Tipperary) and Anne Gannon (Killimory) shoulder to shoulder in the first round of the Under 16 'A' Camogie championship on Saturday last at the Rags.

Breheny leads Galway's demolition of Derry girls

Galway 8-13
Derry 0-2

EOGHAN CORMICAN AT DUGGAN PARK

THE Galway U16 camogie side began their quest for three-in-a-row in impressive fashion at Duggan Park on Saturday last, sweeping aside the Derry challenge to win out by a margin of 35 points.

The northerners, who won the All Ireland U16 B championship last year, made the long trek south to take on a Galway outfit which boasted five players from last summer's All Ireland winning team.

Indeed, three of the Galway girls - Marie Breheny, Orlaith McGrath and Sinead Cormican - are chasing an unique third All Ireland medal having been a part of the 2009 and '10 winning panels and, on the basis of Saturday's rout, this current crop will take some stopping.

In any event, the game as a contest was all but over at the break as the home side enjoyed an unassailable 6-8 to 0-0 lead. Full forward Marie Breheny showed a terrific eye for goal rattling the net on no less than four occasions in the first half, turning provider for Lisa Hynes and Breda Hanlon who also raised green flags.

Orlaith McGrath and corner forward Sinead Gaffney also impressed in that opening period shooting five points between them. The second half was very much a carbon copy of the first with Galway dominating in every line of the pitch. Marie Breheny registered her fifth goal of the afternoon in the 34th minute with Craughwell's Lisa Hynes grabbing Galway's eighth and final goal of the tie thereafter.

Galway: L Glynn, R Callanan, S Cormican, A Dervan, M Dunlop, S Gardiner, C Burke, N Hanlon (0-1'45), L Porter, O McGrath (1-5), S Skehill (0-1), L Hynes (2-2), B Hanlon (1-1), M Brothony (4-0), S Gaffney (0-2). Subs: L Callanan (0-1) for Hynes (40 mins)

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Julie Ann Mahoney (Killimory)
Comments: Tipperary: Ciara Ryan 1-2, 0-4 from; Tara Kennedy 0-1
Killimory: Julie Ann Mahoney 1-4, Lyda Fitzpatrick, Sarah Kennedy 0-2 each (Mangan Match 0-1)

Player of the Match: Julie Ann Mahoney (Killimory). **Comments:** Tipperary: Ciara Ryan 1-2, 0-4 from; Tara Kennedy 0-1. **Killimory:** Julie Ann Mahoney 1-4, Lyda Fitzpatrick, Sarah Kennedy 0-2 each (Mangan Match 0-1).

Player of the Match: Julie Ann Mahoney (Killimory). **Comments:** Tipperary: Ciara Ryan 1-2, 0-4 from; Tara Kennedy 0-1. **Killimory:** Julie Ann Mahoney 1-4, Lyda Fitzpatrick, Sarah Kennedy 0-2 each (Mangan Match 0-1).

Player of the Match: Julie Ann Mahoney (Killimory).

Camogie champions celebrate



The Killimor squad and mentors celebrate after their historic All-Ireland Club final triumph in Croke Park on Sunday. Back row, left to right: Annemarie Hayes, Bertie Sherlock, Annemarie Starr, Annemarie Lagana, Niamh Connolly, Lorraine Donnelly, Martina Conroy, Nicola Lawless, Emer Haverty, Helen Duane, Claire Conroy Canavan, Tommy Callagy, team manager. Middle Row: Pauline Mitchell, Serena Brien, Lorraine Keary, Helen Quinn, Melissa Callagy, Clara Brien, Niamh Hanney, Sinead O'Hara, Aisling Brehony, Julie Brien, Karen Brien, Annette Porter. Front row: Anthony Callagy, Amanda Casey, Denise Starr, Brenda Hanney, Mairead McEvoy, Mairead Mooney, Nicola Donnelly, Ruth Groves, Amanda Broderick, Susan Keane.

Killimor are out on their own

Magnificent Galway champions make camogie history in demolishing outclassed Cork opponents

Killimor 3-18
Inniscarra 1-4

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT CROKE PARK

FOUR days on from their heroic endeavours at Croke Park and the Killimor senior camogie team are probably still coming to terms with their newly acclaimed status as the 'best in the land'. They might as well get used of it because if Sunday was anything to go by, they could well be wearing that tag for some time to come.

All in all, Killimor were a class removed on Sunday. In front of a crowd numbering 4,724 Tommy Callagy's charges, at the first time of time of asking, annexed the Bill Carroll Cup and in doing so joined an elite group that includes Athenry, Mullagh, Oranmore and Pearses.

Indeed Killimor, who only captured a first county title less than six months ago, delivered the ultimate all round team performance to comprehensively dismiss the Inniscarra challenge with player of the match Susan Keane shooting four memorable points from play.

Incredibly, by the 36th minute, Killimor's entire forward division had scored from play. Even at that stage, the contents of the bonfires were already being assembled down Tiernascragh and Raheen way as Killimor enjoyed a 2-4 to 0-1 interval advantage.

It became apparent from very early on that this would be a case of not would Killimor do it rather by how much would they do it. In the end, they were every bit deserving of their 20-point winning margin against a disconsolate Inniscarra outfit.

Remarkably, all six Inniscarra forwards were held scoreless in the first period and it was not until the 34th minute when wing back Emma Kingston, redeployed at corner forward, registered their first point from play. In contrast, Killimor could do no wrong in front of goal and there were magnificent showings from Martina Conroy (1-6), Brenda Hanney (0-4) and



Inniscarra goalkeeper Sinead Ni Riain comes under pressure from Killimor forwards Lorraine Donnelly Susan Keane and Helen Quinn during the All-Ireland Club senior camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday. PHOTOS: CAROLINE QUINN.

Emer Haverty (0-2).

Few envisaged the East Galway side reproducing anything remotely akin to their semi-final heroics, but not alone did they match the dizzy heights reached in edging out Oulart the Ballagh in last month's epic tussle, they went further into the skies to produce arguably the greatest performance by a Galway club side in the history of the small ball game.

Few mistakes, if any, were made on Sunday. It was truly exhibitional stuff from the women donning the black and amber. They played camogie in its purest form and it was breathtaking to behold. For that, the management team

headed by Tommy Callagy and trainer Bertie Sherlock deserve tremendous plaudits.

A team who came agonisingly close on so many occasions to capturing the County Cup needed only one opportunity to confirm their supremacy on the All Ireland stage. Pearses - perhaps, the greatest club camogie team of all time - claimed five All Ireland club titles in seven years and while it may be premature to forecast such success for Killimor, there is certainly more in the tank of a team whose average age is just twenty-two.

In any event, with the mantle of favourites resting heavily upon their shoulders, Killimor showed no early nerves

in a blistering opening spell where they illuminated Croke Park displaying no little pace, power and precision. Consequently, by the 7th minute, they led 0-4 to 0-0, with Claire Conroy, Susan Keane and Martina Conroy (free and '45) all finding the target.

On the quarter hour, Killimor forged further ahead as Helen Quinn struck the game's first goal. Susan Keane's initial effort came back of the post with Quinn reacting quickest to spark scenes of jubilation amongst their following in the Hogan Stand.

Although Niamh Dilworth (free) got Inniscarra off the mark following a foul on Katie

O'Mahony by Ann Marie Hayes, Killimor tightened their grip on the Bill Carroll Cup in the ensuing passage of play as Lorraine Donnelly scrambled the sliotar over the line for her side's second goal.

Susan Keane instigated the score, rounding full back Liz Hayes and driving at goal, but her effort was superbly kept out as was the follow up from Helen Quinn. Donnelly, however, made sure at the third attempt to extend their advantage to nine points.

In truth, Inniscarra pumped a significant amount of ball into its full forward sector in that first half, but the Killimor full back line of Julie Brien, Niamh Hanney and Nicola

Lawless completely snuffed out the threat of Dilworth and co, while further out, the impact of Joanne Casey and Rene Buckley was none existent such was the relentless pressure being applied by the Killimor players.

Scarcely one minute had elapsed in the second half when Susan Keane, gathering a pass from Emer Haverty, split the posts. Martina Conroy and Keane added further efforts with Emma Kingston's point all Inniscarra could offer in response.

Almost immediately, Martina Conroy set up Brenda Hanney for her first of the tie, with Susan Keane and Joanne Casey trading white flags sub-

sequently. As it was, it would take Inniscarra another ten minutes to register their next score by which time they were simply playing for pride.

After yet another darting solo run, Hanney provided the perfect pass for Martina Conroy to blast the sliotar to the top left corner of the net, making it 3-9 to 0-3. From thereon, Inniscarra offered no reaction to the pace of Killimor's camogie and were outplayed in pretty much every sector.

Subsequently, the final quarter turned into a precession as Killimor picked off scores at their ease. As gaps appeared throughout Inniscarra's defence, Killimor took full advantage with Emer Haverty

and Ann Marie Starr advancing from midfield and in many cases laying off the final pass to engineer the score.

Further points from Martina Conroy (0-2), Emer Haverty (0-2) and Brenda Hanney put Killimor a massive 19 points clear of the Munster champions. That said, Inniscarra supporters were given reason to cheer in the game's dying embers as Niamh Dilworth finished to the net after excellently fielding Joanne Casey's delivery.

Fittingly though, the final say was to the champions elect and they finished with a flourish as the points flowed over courtesy of substitute Serena Brien, Martina Conroy and Hanney (0-2).

In as polished a performance you are likely to witness at GAA headquarters this year, Killimor's defence answered all questions asked of them in tremendous fashion while the attack amassed a staggering 3-18. And you'd have to go deep into the annals of history to find the last camogie team to amount such a tally in Croke Park.

On a day where there was not one weak link in the Killimor chain, Julie Brien, Emer Haverty, Martina Conroy, Brenda Hanney and Susan Keane just marginally rose above the rest.

Sunday's victory may have signalled the end of a glorious chapter for Killimor camogie, but for this observer, it marked only the beginning of an unheralded period of dominance for the club. They opened their wings on Sunday; one can only imagine their beauty in full flight.

Killimor: H Campbell; N Hanney, N Lawless, J Brien, K Brien, AM Hayes, M Duane; E Haverty (0-2), AM Starr; C Conroy (0-1), B Hanney (0-4, 0-1 free), M Conroy (1-6, 0-3 frees, 0-1 '45); H Quinn (1-0), S Keane (0-4), L Donnelly (1-0). Subs: AM Lagana for Donnelly (50 mins), S Brien (0-1) in for Quinn (51 mins), N Donnelly for C Conroy (58 mins), N Conolly for Keane (59 mins), C Brien for M Conroy (60 mins).

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; A Sheehan, L Hayes, M Buckley; K Jones, R O'Mahony; E Kingston (0-1); R Buckley (0-1 free), O Healy; J Casey (0-1), MN O'Sullivan, K O'Mahony; N Dilworth (1-1, 0-1 free), F O'Connell, M Cosgrove. Subs: L Burke for Kingston (15 mins), E Kingston for Cosgrove (27 mins), T McCarthy for O'Connell (44 mins), L Buckley for M Buckley (47 mins).

MAR. 2011

Tipperary just fall short to Cork

Irish Daily Star National Camogie League Division 2
Round 2



Tipperary 0-6
Cork 0-11



Report and photograph by Rose Mannion at The Ragg

Tipperary's Intermediate Camogie players went down to Cork by a five point margin in their second game of the league played as part a double header at The Ragg on Sunday afternoon.

Despite the defeat, this was an encouraging per-

formance overall for the home side who looked just as up for the game as the Leesiders with the sides level at four points apiece at the interval as Tipp looked to have built on the good draw earned against Limerick.

However, Cork's surge



Grace Ormonde (Tipperary) breaks away from Clare O'Mahony (Cork) in the Intermediate League game on Sunday last.

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Marie O'Neill (Cork)
Scorers: Tipperary: Aoife Ryan 0-3, 2 frees; Sandra O'Dwyer 0-2; Eirena Fryday 0-1.
Cork: Marie O'Neill 0-7, 4 frees; Emer Watson, Mariah Reidy, Marion Jagoe, Leah Weste 0-1 each

Tipperary: Orla McEniry (New Inn); Siobhan O'Neill (Annacarty), Helena Costigan (Templemore, Capt), Lisa Cahill (Kilruane MacDonaghs); Alice Fogarty (Thurles), Siobhan Ryan (Hollycross), Teresa Ryan (Toomevara); Sandra O'Dwyer (Hollycross), Joanne Nolan (Silvermines); Eirena Fryday (Knockavilla), Grace Ormonde (Templemore), Tricia Greed (Templemore); Aoife Ryan (Toomevara), Aine Brislane (Toomevara), Elaine Hough (Lorsha).
SUBS: Chrissie Kenny (Toomevara) for Fogarty; Clara McGrath (Nenagh Éire Óg) for Hough.

Cork: Gillian Harrington; Emma Jordan, Róisín de Faoite, Edel Kelly; Clare O'Mahony, Lydia Cunningham, Christine Murphy; Mariah Reidy, Sarah Buckley; Marion Jagoe, Marie O'Neill, Maria Watson; Charlotte Kearney, Emer Watson, Liz Bugler.
SUBS: Christine O'Neill for Kelly (Inj); Leah Weste for O'Mahony; Clara Hayes for Bugler.

Referee: Andrew Monahan (Clare).

early in the second half proved too much for Brian Boyles' chargers who spared nothing in their efforts. Cork, playing with the aid of the strong breeze in the second half, came close to goal in the opening stages, but the swift defending of Lisa Cahill and Helena Costigan were crucial actions in seeing off a strong Cork attack.

Tipp should have had this game wrapped up in the opening half as three goal chances, presented

themselves but the Tipp forwards found the Cork back line and their net minder Gillian Harrington in good form as they were unable to get past for that all important goal. Trying to take their points also proved difficult with the delivery dropping into the hand of the Cork keeper as she cleared time and again.

However, Cork must be wondering how they managed to clock up a total of fourteen wides over the hour and had it not been

for their centre forward Marie O'Neill who caused major problems for the Tipp backs, Cork might have left the game to Tipp.

Tipp manager Brian Boyle is building a young team of players here with some of last years under 16 panel making an appearance at this tougher level. Tipp play Kilkenny in two weeks time in their next outing.

MAR. 2011



Abbey camogie girls win the All Ireland

ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE junior camogie team have qualified for the All Ireland junior camogie final after soundly beating Aquinas Grammar School, Belfast, three goals and nine points to one goal and one point.

From the moment the ball was thrown in, the Abbey girls fought hard to win the ball. Abbey Community College had started brightly with two points from Dannielle Kavanagh and a Deirdre Walsh pointed free. Then in ten minutes, full forward Dannielle Kavanagh found the back of the net with a well taken goal following good work by Iona Heffernan. Another point from Dannielle Kavanagh and a further goal from Claire McEvoy put Abbey Community College firmly in control at half-time. With Abbey leading the girls from Aquinas by 2-7.

The Aquinas girls mounted a determined fight back in the second half with the help of a slight breeze. However this didn't stop Abbey's Kate Frisby scoring a great individual goal. Further points from Claire Purcell and Kate Croke gave the chance for five substitutes to be brought in. In the final few minutes Aquinas were rewarded with a consolation goal and point but they were trailing by too large a margin to be of any threat. Despite their win the girls

are not taking their eyes off of the prize. Next up is the All Ireland Final against either Heywood Community School, Mercy Trim or Stillorgan, Dublin. Along the way ACC have beaten Colaiste Phlarsaigh, Ardscoil Dungarvan and St. Declans Kilmacshomas to reach this stage.

Scorers
ACC Dannielle Kavanagh (1.4), Claire McEvoy (1.0), Kate Frisby (1.0), Deirdre Walsh (0.2), Claire Purcell (0.1), Leanne Purcell (0.1), Kate Croke (0.1)

Team and panel:
Shannon Delahunty (Gaultier), Anne Hayden (Slieverue), Laura Dowling (Slieverue), Claire Buggy (Slieverue), Lisa Phelan (Slieverue), Deirdre Walsh (Moincoin), Dannielle Dempsey (Kilmacow), Iona Heffernan (Ferrybank), Katie Foran (Glenmore), Claire McEvoy (Kilmacow), Kate Croke (Slieverue), Leanne Purcell (Kilmacow), Claire Purcell (Kilmacow), Dannielle Kavanagh (Slieverue), Kate Frisby (Slieverue), Sinead Russell (Ferrybank), Lydia Grant (Ferrybank), Clara Morrissey (Slieverue), Niamh Kelly (Kilmacow), Aislinn O'Keeffe (Ferrybank), Eimear Buggy (Slieverue), Hannah Irish (Slieverue), Tara Lacy (Kilmacow), Maggie Delahunty (Moincoin), Niamh Ahearne (Ferrybank), Laura Flynn (Gaultier)

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Majestic Malone grabs a vital victory

MICHAEL O'LEARY

Kilkenny.....1-9
Tipperary.....1-8

A THRILLING final flourish from Julie-Anne Malone helped Kilkenny snatch a vital victory and get their All-Ireland under-16 camogie championship off to a winning start.

The Cats left it late, but Malone's flurry of 1-2 in the dying stages helped them wrestle victory from Tipperary at The Ragg on Saturday.

Drawn in a tough group that includes Galway - the Westerners are chasing a third successive All-Ireland - both sides knew a victory was needed to ease the pressure of making the semi-finals.

That advantage looked to be heading in Tipp's direction. They appeared on course for victory as they led by 1-7

to 0-7 with little over three minutes of normal time remaining.

However, Kilkenny kept plugging away. Following some patient build up, a move involving Deirdre Walsh and Miriam Walsh found Julie-Anne Malone in space down by the left-hand corner.

Malone went for the spectacular and it paid off. Striking from an acute angle, the Mullinavat player unleashed an unstoppable shot that flew past the Tipperary goalkeeper.

The teams were all square - but not for long. Twenty seconds later Malone edged Kilkenny ahead when she pointed superbly from 50 yards from play, changing the completely. When she added another superb point from a similar distance a minute later Kilkenny were motoring.

Kilkenny were the better side during the opening half and should have been

ahead.

Although Julie-Anne Malone and Niamh Donnelly provided a brace of points each, it took Miriam Walsh to point the levelling score (1-2 to 0-5) to conclude the first-half. Tipp's big score came in the seventh minute, when Edel O'Dwyer's shot deceived the Kilkenny goalkeeper Noelle Murphy and ended up in the top left hand corner.

That goal seemed to revive Tipp, who kept their noses in front for most of the second half. Until Malone's rescuing act, Tipp frustrated Kilkenny in attack, even though the Cats enjoyed their fair share of possession.

Lydia Fitzpatrick's pointed frees was their only reward on the scoreboard, as the attacking unit struggled to display any fluency, with Tipperary sharpshooter Cliona Ryan (0-7) keeping the Premier ladies in control.

However, Malone's late haul changed

all that. Despite conceding 1-2 Tipp weren't finished. Cliona Ryan pointed a free to narrow the deficit with a minute of injury-time played, and almost two minutes later, Tipperary were awarded a free from the halfway line.

However, Kilkenny backs stood firm to the challenge and held on for victory.

Mary O'Connell was a giant figure at centre-back all through as she gave a commanding display, while Deirdre Walsh when switched to midfield during the final quarter was influential to Kilkenny's revival.

SCORERS: Kilkenny - Julie-Anne Malone (1-4); Niamh Donnelly, Lydia Fitzpatrick (0-2 each); Miriam Walsh (0-1). Tipperary - Cliona Ryan (0-7, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45); Edel O'Dwyer (1-0); Tara Kennedy (0-1).

Kilkenny - Noelle Murphy (Lisdowney), Deirdre Walsh

(Mooncoin), Catherine Foley (Windgap), Katie Doheny (St Lachtain's), Megan Farrell (Thomastown), Mary O'Connell (Clara), Rachel Lynch (Dicksboro, capt), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Niamh Leahy (Emeralds), Aine Gannon (Rower-Inistioge), Michaela Kenneally (Windgap), Julie-Anne Malone (Mullinavat), Lydia Fitzpatrick (St Lachtain's), Niamh Dermody (Piltown), Niamh Donnelly (Thomastown). Sub: Clara Farrell (Thomastown) for Leahy, half-time.

Tipperary - Sarah Coogan, Claire Ryan, Jenny Logue, Alana Morris, Laura Loughnane, Caoimhe Maher, Julie-Anne Burke, Leah McKeogh, Anne Eviston, Elaine Murphy, Rosemary Hanafin, Tara Kennedy, Megan Ryan, Edel O'Dwyer, Cliona Ryan. Subs: Jenny Grace, Mairead Teehan.

Referee - Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

Three schools to battle for the All-Ireland titles

MICHAEL O'LEARY

THREE Kilkenny schools will be hoping for a top class Saturday as they chase three All-Ireland colleges camogie titles in Meath.

Trim will be the destination as teams from the Loreto, Thomastown's Grennan College and Castlecomer Community School take on Ulster opposition in the Roinn A, B and C finals respectively.

The action begins at 12.30pm when Grennan College go in search of All-Ireland honours against St Louis, Ballymena. The Loreto Kilkenny will defend their All-Ireland A title against St Patrick's Magherafelt at 2pm, with Castlecomer CS going for glory against St Pius Magherafelt.

Grennan College will be attempting to land All-Ireland honours for the

very first time having contested the junior and senior finals over the last two years.

In 2009, they lost the All-Ireland C colleges decider, going under by a single point (1-9 to 0-11) to St Colm's, Draperstown. Last year, they contested the All-Ireland Colleges Junior C decider against a very skilful Presentation Thurles outfit. Led by Kelly Hamilton they snatched a draw in the first game, but were comprehensively beaten in the replay.

Talented

A lot of Grennan hopes will rely on Hamilton, who is a supremely talented player, while Megan Farrell and the Donnelly sisters, Niamh and Eimear, are other important players for Thomastown.

Grennan's path to the final saw them

draw their All-Ireland semi-final with Hazelwood College, Drumcollogher 1-4 to 0-7. They turned the tables in the replay, scoring an emphatic 2-11 to 1-4 victory. St Louis had a hard-earned 1-9 to 1-8 victory over St Mary's Mallow in their semi-final.

The Loreto will defend their All-Ireland title against St Pat's. A repeat of last year's All-Ireland semi-final, the city side scraped through by a solitary point in Northern Ireland last year. They can expect a stiff challenge provided to them once again.

Loreto have enjoyed unprecedented success over the last four years. Since winning their first All-Ireland colleges junior title in the Ragg in 2007 they added further junior crowns in 2009 and 2010 - they beat St Pat's in the 2009 decider. Several of the team started last year's All-Ireland final, so the side is

highly experienced.

The Loreto cruised into the decider. They beat St Brigid's, Callan by 1-16 to 0-6 in the Leinster final, before goals from Claire Phelan and Niamh Byrne laid the foundations for their semi-final win over St Brigid's, Loughrea.

Strong team

This is a strong Loreto team and features a defensive unit which has been very solid in their two games to date.

The midfield pairing of team captain Niamh Byrne and Aisling Curtis provides plenty of graft. Claire Phelan at centre-forward is a very talented player, while Sarah-Anne Quinlan, Emma Comerford, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Orla Hanrick and Aoife Nolan have the potential to be matchwinners.

Their opponents St Pat's overcame

Presentation Thurles in their semi-final, edging the tie by 1-11 to 3-4. They have had tough encounters with Loreto over the last two years at junior and senior level, and this is another game which should go right to the wire.

The Roinn C final rounds off the afternoon as Castlecomer Community School go in search of their very first All-Ireland.

They will go up against St Pius, who will be attempting to make it an All-Ireland double for Magherafelt schools.

The 'Comer school came through their semi-final with slender 1-4 to 0-6 victory over St Dominics Cabra of Dublin and they can expect another tough challenge in the final. St Pius beat Limerick's Laurel Hill by three points (2-9 to 2-6) in their semi-final clash and will provide stern opposition.

Can Cats make it two from two?

THE Kilkenny senior team will be hoping to make it two wins from two when they play host to Tipperary in the National Camogie League on Sunday (time and venue to be confirmed).

Following the postponement of their away trip to Cork on February 13, Kilkenny finally began their league campaign in novel circumstances. Playing under the Croke Park floodlights, Ann Downey's side recorded a landslide 32-point victory against Dublin, banging in seven goals in the process.

They will anything but get that freedom next Sunday as Tipperary have made a great start to the league campaign.

The girls from the Premier County

overturned a five-point half-time deficit to see off Cork. Playing into the wind for the second-half, they turned the game around completely.

Claire Grogan came off the bench, and she scored the winning point in injury-time as they edged the Rebels out by 0-14 to 1-10 winners.

That victory meant this Sunday's game is even more important.

A Tipperary win at the weekend would mean that Kilkenny have to beat Cork on March 20 to keep their play-off prospects alive. However, if Kilkenny can emerge successful this weekend they will, at the very least, have secured a play-off berth.

SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK

Emer Haverty:

Killimor ace shines in fine team display



KILLIMOR crowned a magnificent campaign when running away with the All-Ireland Club senior camogie title at Croke Park on Sunday. The Galway champions were a class apart from Inniscarra of Cork after producing a magnificent team performance on the biggest day in the club's history.

They had several excellent performers, including team captain Brenda Hanney, Martina Conroy and Susan

Keane, but pride of place goes to midfielder Emer Haverty who covered acres of ground in a power-packed effort which earns her the Tribune Sports Star of the Week award. Also in contention were Galway hurler Adrian Cullinane and Connacht's Ian Keatley.

Post Primary All Ireland Finals - Fixture Details

Post Primary All Ireland Finals

Senior A Final:

St. Patrick's, Maghera v Loreto, Kilkenny @ Trim 2pm. Ref: Dermot Connolly Senior B Final:

St. Louis, Ballymena v Grennan College, Thomastown @ Trim 12.30. Ref: Paul Beecher Senior

C Final:

St. Pius Magherafelt v Castlecomer @ Trim 3.30. Ref: Donal Ryan Junior B Final:

Coachford College, Cork v Pres, Thurles @ Fermoy 2pm. Ref: Mike Sheehan Junior C Final:

Col Dun Jascaigh Cahir v Maryfield College, Drumcondra @ Ellistown, Kildare 1.30pm. Ref: Alan Lagrue

JOE O'BRIEN has been pretty busy since taking over as coach to the Cork senior camogie team. Just a week in he was overseeing a team he had met just twice for their opening league match against Tipperary, they lost by a point.

And just another two weeks on he will be patrolling the sideline against Dublin this Sunday afternoon.

This will be followed up by a third game against Kilkenny, which if they lose would probably signal the end of their league campaign, as only one team will emerge from each group in the secondary competition.

That would leave Joe, and Cork, with only a Munster championship, where the standard is traditionally barely above that of a challenge match, as preparation for the All-Ireland round-robin series in June, which is where the action gets real.

It's been hectic and shows no sign of slowing down. Cork is, after all, camogie country and the legacy is strong.

Last year was the first time since 2001 Cork didn't contest the All-Ireland final (beaten by Galway in the semi-final) and in those years they won five of the eight they contested.

But even the most ardent supporter would admit that Cork's standards have been dipping in recent years and adding salt to the wound that is last year's semi-final loss, Cork have been hit by the retirement of All-Stars Mary O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan and Caitriona Foley, while goalkeeper Aoife Murray is also understood to be mulling over her future.

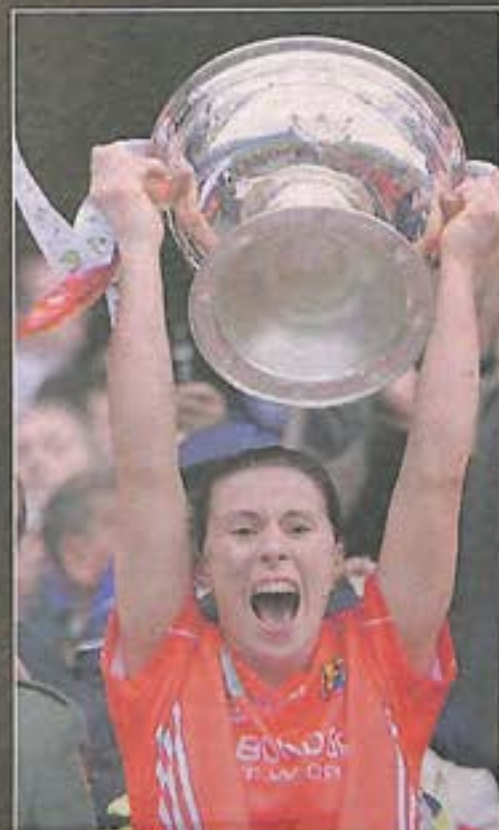
Murray is scheduled to sit university exams in April, after which Joe is hopeful she will return to the panel, but the initial trio have flown the coop, and it is far from certain Murray will return. Gone also are the successful days of old when Cork could be almost guaranteed a place in the All-Ireland final on an annual basis.

Last year's semi-final loss signalled an end of the old regime. Cork are no longer the standard bearers in camogie.

They haven't been passed out yet but are in danger of being eclipsed by their rivals — the strides made in recent years by Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway have

New boss Joe is ready to put Cork camogie back on top

Conor George talks to new camogie coach Joe O'Brien about getting the Rebels back on track



Cathriona Foley has called it a day in the Cork camogie jersey.

shattered the status quo — and unless the slide Cork have been flirting with is arrested, they could be set for a number of seasons in the wilderness.

Despite Cork's success rate, which has been phenomenal, they are now at a crossroads.

Continue to slide and be overtaken by the aforementioned or reinvent themselves, which is the biggest task facing O'Brien as he embarks on this new adventure.

"I'd be a huge admirer of the Kerry football psyche and way of doing things," explains Joe of his vision for the future. "Over the years whenever someone has beaten Kerry or reached their level they have gone away, reassessed how they play the game and come back with something new and even more effective."

"Dublin pioneered the hand-passing game and took Kerry by surprise. So Kerry went away, became ultra fit and did it better than Dublin. That's what Cork camogie has to do now, reassess, redraw and come back better and stronger."

The job facing O'Brien on taking over from the interim coaching team of Linda Mellerick and Fiona O'Driscoll three weeks ago is multi-faceted. Winning over the players to him as a coach is one aspect, having them buy into his plans is another while familiarising himself with the panel, the quality of player available and the opposition Cork are likely to face are other strands that he must weave together.

No mean feat, especially for a coach who admits his knowledge of Cork camogie prior to accepting the job was limited to

Cork camogie in 2000s

2000: Lost to Tipperary in All-Ireland final (2-11 to 1-9)	land Final (1-17 to 1-13)
2002: Beat Tipperary in All-Ireland Final (4-9 to 1-9)	2006: Beat Tipperary in All-Ireland Final (0-12 to 0-4)
2003: Lost to Tipperary in All-Ireland Final (2-11 to 1-11)	2007: Lost to Wexford in All-Ireland Final (2-7 to 1-8)
2004: Lost to Tipperary in All-Ireland Final (2-11 to 0-9)	2008: Beat Galway in All-Ireland Final (2-10 to 1-8)
2005: Beat Tipperary in All-Ireland Final (0-15 to 0-7)	2009: Beat Kilkenny in All-Ireland Final (0-15 to 0-7)

their annual television appearances in the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

"I was apprehensive going in first day because of having no association with camogie and the first job was to have them buy into me and what I am bringing to the table."

"I think that has happened. I have laid out where I want to go with this team and have explained fully how I believe we can get from A to Z, and will continue to do so along every step of the way."

"You have to be open with players. These are elite athletes, are professional in their approach and they want and need to see professionalism behind the person charged with guiding them to their goal."

"If you don't have that professionalism they're just not going to respond."

Joe's original plans on assuming the role have since been tailored out of necessity because Cork have had to do their pre-season in tandem with the opening of the league campaign. On top of that the UCC players and Inniscarra players have only now begun to rejoin the fold

after their Ashbourne Cup and All-Ireland club campaigns.

Problems with fitness and match-readiness are not surprising as a consequence.

"What the Tipperary game really showed is that we are off the fitness levels required for the game I plan us to play," said Joe.

"That was explained to the players in detail and what has been really positive is that they have responded 100% positively to everything I have asked of them."

"It's that openness and transparency that players re-





New Cork camogie coach Joe O'Brien. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

JOE O'BRIEN FACFILE

Clubs: Glanworth (football) Glen Rovers (hurling)
School: St Colman's (played Harty Cup)
Lives: Mitchelstown
Occupation: National Merchandise Manager with Gleeson/Gibney Group. Part-owner of O'Brien Sliotars.
Family: Married to Rita, two daughters Aoife and Sorcha
Honours as a player: Intermediate Football Championship, Senior Hurling Championship (1989)
Clubs Coached: Avonduh senior hurlers, Lismore senior hurlers (Waterford), St Brendan's (Killarney), Cork minor hurling selector 2008 & 2009



Camogie roll of honour

DUBLIN 26 titles; Last win: 1984; Runner-up: 10; Last losing final: 1988	5 titles; Last win: 2004; Runner-up: 8; Last losing final: 2006
CORK 24 titles; Last win: 2009; Runner-up: 18; Last losing final: 2007	WEXFORD 5 titles; Last win: 2010; Runner-up: 5; Last losing final: 1994
KILKENNY 12 titles; Last win: 1994; Runner-up: 6; Last losing final: 2009	GALWAY 1 title; Last win: 1996; Runner-up: 13; Last losing final: 2010
ANTRIM 6 titles; Last win: 1979; Runner-up: 10; Last losing final: 1973	Louth (lost two finals), Limerick (lost one final), Mayo (lost one final), Derry (lost one final), Waterford (lost one final), Down (lost one final)
TIPPERARY	



Mary O'Connor, right, in action against Galway's Aislinn Connolly. The multi-All-Ireland winner has retired from inter-county camogie.

respond to, it's hectic at the moment but in between the Dublin and Kilkenny games we'll begin to work more on speed work and hurling skills." The Kilkenny game on March 20 is going to be a watershed moment for O'Brien and the team. It is only after playing them that a true picture of Cork's battle-readiness will emerge. "Sometimes you have to stop, analyse what has gone on, see what progress you have made and the Kilkenny game

is certainly going to be one of those moments. That game, performance and result will show where we are in our preparations." Also, the changing of the old order in camogie means that where Cork were able to rely on their physicality — and in particular that of Gemma O'Connor and Orla Cotter — to pull them through tight scrapes, that advantage is no longer there as other teams have now reached Cork's level. O'Brien alludes to that with his assertion that Cork "need to raise their levels again" but it promises to be a very tough and challenging road ahead for Cork. "Cork have always been the constant. Even when other teams have challenged Cork have had enough to reestablish their superiority but now you have a host of teams coming down the tracks who have reached that level, at least. "Cork haven't dropped their standards, more other teams have caught and emulated them. Now the challenge is to drive ahead again." And Joe is enthused by the challenge of

bringing his ambitions and methods to his new audience and into a new arena. He's still getting to know his players as he immerses himself into a job that he says he is enjoying thoroughly. It's new, different from anything he has done in his coaching life thus far but the challenges that are inherent in plotting Cork's future path are what are so appealing, especially when taking the lead for a group of players who have been outrageously successful in the past. "For me, the first thing to establish is the mental attitude of players as individuals and as a collective and establish what their appetite is like after achieving so much success already in their careers. And what we have with this group of players is a single-minded determination to regain the O'Duffy Cup. "That is what drives them and they are doing everything they can to get to the place where achieving that is possible." And in this regard Joe is taking the 'every cloud has a silver lining' view of Cork's All-Ireland semi-final loss last year. "Sometimes it's actually good to lose because it refocuses the mind. When you're at the top for so long a little bit of complacency can set in. "I'm not saying that has happened here at all, but when you lose, it forces you to miss that which you have been used to and can drive you on even more. We have a tough task ahead of us but these players are hurting after losing last year and they are so determined that they will leave nothing to chance in pursuit of their goal."

The relationship and the journey Joe O'Brien and the Cork camogie team are on is in the very early stage, with both sides still figuring the other out. But the early indications are positive. So far, so good.



Joanne O'Callaghan has hung up her boots as a Cork player.

MAR. 2011

Cork need to go for goal in preparation for the Cats



LINDA MELLERICK

NHL

SUNDAY
National Camogie
League Round 3: Cork v
Dublin, CIT, 1.45pm.

CORK won't learn much from their outing against Dublin on Sunday.

Kilkenny crushed the Dubs 7-16 to 0-5 in Croke Park a fortnight ago.

The hosts were three goals behind at the break and were unable to score after the resumption.

Last June Cork inflicted a 1-23 to 1-6 defeat on Dublin in Portlarnock in the round robin championship series and the fact that Cork scored just a goal against such weak opposition was a concern at the time.

Indeed, Cork's lack of goal scoring prowess became an issue throughout the season.

There are many axioms; 'Goals win games' or 'Take your points and the goals will come'.

The thing is they don't necessarily come; when an opportunity presents itself, you must have the capability of spotting it and going for it. Kilkenny got seven past Dublin, how many will Cork notch up?

There is no doubt that Cork will win the game despite manager Joe O'Brien still in his infancy with the team. Cork will welcome back the Iniscarra contingent and getting back into action is possibly the best remedy for them at this point.

Rena Buckley may well start at centre-back if Cork decide to continue with Amanda O'Regan at full; she acquitted herself well there against Tipperary. Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary and Pamela Mackey are others expected to get the nod again.

Gemma O'Connor who went off injured against Tipperary is back training and expected to be named as is Linda Dorgan, who has a lot to offer this Cork side while Breige Corkery will play with the footballers.

Jennifer O'Leary makes a return having missed the Tipperary game and her inclusion is a huge boost. She is sure to start on the 40. Katrina Mackey lined out at left-corner forward for Cork two weeks ago and I felt she was wasted in there. Very little ball was coming through and Katrina might have been best served out in the half-forward line. To leave her in the corner you need to ensure open space and a plentiful supply to capitalise on her ability.

Cork scored just three points from play against Tipp which is a frighten-

ing statistic against such opposition but in their defence events had been topsy turvy leading up to the game. With matters more settled and regular training underway the only way is surely up.

No doubt Joe O'Brien will utilise his bench fully in a bid to view as many players as possible.

He may not learn a huge amount but with Cork scheduled to play Kilkenny Sunday week he'll need to see who's on form.

Training has gone well in the two weeks since the Tipp defeat.

Cork will take the points on Sunday. However, if they lose to the Cats they will most likely fail to qualify for the semi-final.

It would be worth its weight in gold if Cork did qualify as outside of any silverware, games are what the side needs.

Because of the round robin championship format where all eight teams play each other, it is practically impossible to get challenge games.

Cork will have the Munster championship to contest but in truth Munster would be considered the weaker teams in the championship.

Victory over Kilkenny would be a great achievement, but for now it's Dublin and with positions wide open you would expect once again for players to give it their all.

Division Two side in great position

SUNDAY

Senior Division Two
National Camogie
League: Cork v Waterford, CIT, 3.30pm.

CORK got their Division Two campaign off to a good start with a five-point victory over Tipperary, but they face a big task on Sunday when they take on Waterford in a game that will decide who goes top of the group as we reach the half-way stage. **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

Cork and Waterford are on two points each following first round victories. Tipperary and Limerick drew recently and this result is one which may favour the other teams in group who are all chasing the illusive final spot with just one team going through to the final.

A strong second-half performance ensured Cork came away with the points on offer against Tipperary. Up front Marie O'Neill was on target contributing seven of Cork's 11 points, four from frees and three from play while Emer Watson, Marie Watson, Mariah Reidy and Marion Jagoe were on all on the score sheet as Cork picked off their points and managed to keep their noses in front.

Tipperary won a lot of possession around the centre of the field and this is an area that Cork need to work on.

The Cork defence was under a lot of pressure but there was no way past goalkeeper Gillian Harrington who was solid and reliable over the hour.

She had excellent support in defence from Roisin De Facite, Christine Murphy, Emma Jordan and Lydia Cunningham. Roisin, at full-back, was superb and she linked up well with Lydia Cunningham, who played a sweeping role in defence tidying up and clearing to safety as Cork absorbed huge second-half Tipperary pressure.

Waterford will provide huge opposition, as it is the counties first-choice 15 and they will be strong.

They had a goal to spare over Limerick and with players of the calibre of Jennie Simpson, Charlotte Maher, Trish Jackman, Karen Kelly and captain Nicola Morrissey they will provide Cork with a stern test.

Cork showed plenty of determination to defeat Tipp and no doubt we will see more of the same Sunday. A victory would set them up for their next outing against Limerick.



Jennifer O'Leary makes a return having missed the Tipperary game and her inclusion is a huge boost.

Abbey Camogie Girls Victory to the All-Ireland Final

Abbey Community College 3.9

Aquinas Grammar School, Belfast 1.1

A great win for Abbey Community College Junior camogie team who beat Aquinas Grammar School Belfast, in the All Ireland Junior D Camogie Semi-Final on Saturday 19th of February.

From the moment the ball was thrown in, the Abbey girls were fighting hard to win. ACC started brightly with points from Danielle Kavanagh and a Deirdre Walsh pointed free. Within ten minutes,

full forward Danielle Kavanagh found the back of the net with a well taken goal following good work by Iona Heffernan. Another point from Danielle and a further goal from Claire McEvoy who had a brilliant game and fought hard to gain possession of the ball, put ACC firmly in control. The ACC goal was rarely tested in the first half due to excellent defending from Laura Dowling, Clare Buggy and Danielle Dempsey.

The second half wasn't as one sided as the Belfast school had the help

of a slight breeze. However this didn't stop Abbeys Kate Frisby scoring a great individual goal where her determination was rewarded. Further points from Claire Purcell and Kate Croke gave the chance for five substitutes to be used and all played their part. Finally in the last few minutes Aquinas scored a goal and a point which was due reward for the effort they put in.

From the moment the whistle blew from start to finish, the Abbey girls played brilliantly. Danielle Kavanagh played superb

throughout the game and scored some fantastic scores. Kate Croke gained great possession of the ball throughout the game. Claire McEvoy, Claire Purcell, Kate Frisby, Iona Heffernan and Leanne Purcell played brilliantly throughout the game.

Next up- ALL IRELAND FINAL against either Heywood Community School, Mercy Trim or Stillorgan, Dublin. Along the way ACC have beaten Colaiste Phiarsaigh, Ardscoil Dúngharvan and St. Declans Kilmacthomas to reach this stage.



HAIL, HAIL...The new All-Ireland intermediate club camogie champions, Eoghan Rua Coleraine rejoice after defeating The Harps of Laois in the final at Croke Park

All pictures: Caroline Quinn

Eoghan Roes reign

The latest milestone for the Bannsideers sees Coleraine's camogs claim the All-Ireland intermediate title

BY CIARAN WOODS
c.woods@gaeliclife.com

WHEN the Eoghan Rua camogs team bus turned the corner onto the main Coleraine road last Sunday night, the scene which greeted them at their club rooms was one which they are never likely to forget. Hundreds of club supporters, decked out in their maroon and green, waved flags and cheered as their all-conquering All-Ireland champions climbed off the team bus.

It was the perfect end to what had been a perfect day, one which saw them lay claim to the All-Ireland Intermediate club title at Croke Park, the GAA's theatre of dreams, courtesy of a 3-8 to 2-3 win over The Harps of Laois. The dust may have settled on that win, but it will take some time yet to fully appreciate their achievement as the enormity of the success properly sinks in.

The Coleraine supporters had travelled in their numbers, four Chambers buses filled with eager followers arriving prior to throw-in. Many

GOALDEN GIRLS...
Hanna Eastwood congratulates Grace McMullan after one of her goals

more made the trip to Dublin on Saturday night in anticipation for the game. The likes of Barry and Sean Leo McGoldrick, as well as Ciaran Mullan, headed for Dublin straight after helping Derry clinch the McKenna Cup title at the Athletic Grounds to cheer on their club colleagues.

Eoghan Rua manager Joe Passmore was a proud man as he saw his niece Meabh McGoldrick raise the cup aloft on the steps of the Hogan Stand, and he says that the whole experience was one which had

to be seen to be believed.

"The support was phenomenal. To look up and to see so many familiar faces in the crowd was fantastic. I would have no hesitation in saying that the Eoghan Rua support by far outweighed any of the other three teams on the day. The players certainly appreciated it, and when the times arrived in the game which were tough and Eoghan Rua were up against it, the noise and the support generated by the fans helped carry them through.

"The nature of Croke Park is that you really don't get to see your friends and family, so the club rooms was the first chance that many of the girls got to see their loved ones. Given that a few of our girls are only 15 years old, seeing their parents was a great moment and very emotional."

It was, in many ways, a textbook performance from Eoghan Rua, one which

I travelled down to watch Harps in the Leinster final, and we'd studied videos of them from two years ago and came to the conclusion they were lacking a bit of pace in the full-back line. So what we tried to do was to isolate Grace McMullan one-on-one in our full-forward line

couldn't have gone better for the Ulster side if they'd written the script themselves. The manager also reveals that the three goal salvo by full-forward Grace McMullan was no accident, but another example of the careful planning Eoghan Rua had put into their game plan.

"I travelled down to watch Harps in the Leinster final, and we'd studied videos of them from two years ago and came to the conclusion they were lacking a bit of pace in the full-back line. So what we tried to do was to isolate Grace McMullan one-on-one in our full-forward line. Watching her goals again on TV brought home just how good they were. The first two were expertly executed, the sort of

strikes that any hurler would have been proud of. She's a real assassin in front of goals.

"We limited the opposition to just three scores from play from their total of 2-3, and their two goals were sloppy goals for us to concede, failing to clear the ball when we should have. Apart from that I was delighted with our defence, and to hit them with two goals before half-time was the stuff of dreams for us."

The manager will now have a few free evenings to himself during the week, and admits that he'll miss the camaraderie of the dressing room and those training sessions. The Eoghan Rua group had developed into a very closely-knit bunch of friends, something which Passmore says stretches well beyond their sport.

"Last spring when we were starting out, I said to the girls that if we could get out of Derry then anything was possible, and so it proved to be the case. Those girls really worked, went about it in the right way, and they have now got their reward. We're finished training now, but we'll get together for a night and have the craic."

"Meabh McGoldrick put it best last weekend when she said that they're a great bunch of mates who play camogie together, and that's exactly what they are."



TOTAL CONTROL...Maevie Dillon evades the Harps' Michelle Fitzpatrick



WE DID IT...Eoghan Rua manager Martin Connolly celebrates with Rosanne McAleese after the match



CHASING SHADOWS...Grainne McGoldrick in action against Harps' Louisa Mahoney



LINDA MELLERICK

It was just one of those days

I'VE no doubt it's been a tough week for Inniscarra. I remember only too well the devastation of losing an All-Ireland club final.

In our case in 1994 we were nine points up midway through the second half and were so on top throughout the field the fact that we were clocking up wides didn't upset us too much.

That is until Angela Downey struck four goals in 12 minutes. Panic struck in after she hit her second and it became a circus. It was all a bit surreal and we made dramatic changes throughout the pitch that only contributed to our downfall. We were going for three-in-a-row that day and it's a defeat that even now is hard to broach.

Which is worse? To lose a game you completely dominated or not show up at all? Does it really matter? A loss is a loss and very hard to take.

In Dublin last Sunday morning I remarked to someone how I would hate to be in Inniscarra's shoes. They looked at me enquiringly; I absolutely hated the morning of an All-Ireland final. The older I got the harder it became.

Of course once you get out on the field the nerves disappear, but I often said to myself 'When this game is over, I'm never playing again'. But of course you do and when you win there is no other feeling like it.

My mind has flicked to Inniscarra many times this week, to Sean, Fergal, Paula, Irene and to their players. They were very hurt last Sunday evening and embarrassed by the margin of defeat. Their performances all year didn't warrant such a defeat and to be honest none of us saw it coming. I don't think Killimor themselves saw it coming.

When I spoke with former Galway star Sharon Glynn after the game and asked her how many of the side were actually on the Galway senior panel, she replied 'Not enough'.

She's right. Brenda Hanney and Ann Marie Hayes are the only two I can match to last year's starting



Inniscarra's Mary Buckley in tears after the All-Ireland defeat to Killimor.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

All-Ireland line up when Wexford defeated Galway. Ann Marie Starr and Nicola Lawless were among the substitutes. I saw some performances in Croke Park last Sunday that I couldn't help but applaud despite my allegiance to Inniscarra on the day.

Inniscarra should take heed of the fact that it was one of the best defensive displays seen in a long time in any code.

Left corner-back Julie Brien was phenomenal and yet to single her out is possibly unfair as the entire defence was exceptional.

Inniscarra lost at midfield where Ann Marie Starr played the proverbial blinder and up front Hanney, Susan Keane and Martina Conroy were enjoying every moment.

When one considers that Inniscarra lost the 2009 quarter-final of the county championship to Mil-

ford, 2010 has been an incredible season for them.

It's true that at this moment in time they possibly don't feel that way, but when the pain of last Sunday subsides they will once again be able to acknowledge this.

They are the only Cork club since 1994 to win the Munster club championship not to mind reach the All-Ireland final.

Sean, Fergal, Irene and Paula were a pleasure to deal with all season. We travelled their journey with them and enjoyed every moment.

They need to take a number of weeks off now and come back re-charged. With the club championship proper possibly not kicking off until July they can afford to do so.

● The 'legends 7-a-side' tournament was launched last weekend,

in honour of Tipperary's Biddy Phillips, who passed away last July.

It will become an annual event in conjunction with the All-Ireland club final weekend. Cork, Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway participated with Kilkenny defeating Galway in the final by a point.

It was tremendous and there's no denying that you can't take the competitive edge out of someone.

I can see the event becoming increasingly competitive and popular.

The final was excellent. Sharon Glynn was undoubtedly the player of the tournament. There were a lot of sore and bruised bodies on Sunday morning. The camaraderie and craic Saturday night for us retirees was what sport is all about and you appreciate that all the more when you're playing days end.

the battle for Rebels

year's opening round clash. Cork have six survivors from last season's U16A panel Orla Cronin, Kaylynn Lee, Rachel O'Callaghan, Grainne Sheehy, Claire Shine and Orla Healy are still eligible this year and they will be wary that Clare will be seeking a measure of revenge as they battle to reverse the result of their last meeting. The injury to Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy has denied Cork of the services of one of the county's up-and-coming stars who

was earmarked to mark a huge contribution to the U16s quest for All-Ireland success this season. Niamh recently suffered a cruciate ligament injury and will be out of the game for the season ahead.

Tomorrow game will give us an indication of the strengths and weaknesses of both counties as they embark on their championship campaigns and a win for either would set them up nicely for their next clash with Dublin.

PANEL: Kaylynn Lee, Glen Rvs, Roberta Harrington, Buttevant, Siobhan Hutchinson, Eire Og, Susan O'Leary, Valley Rvs, Emma Kavanagh, Douglas, Claire Shine, do, Rachel Sheehan, Carrigrohilly, Leona Murphy, Valley Rvs, Rachel O'Callaghan, St Catherine's, Jennifer Hosford Glen Rvs, Orla Healy Inniscarra, Orla Cronin, Enniskeane, Niamh Byrne, Inniscarra, Linda Collins, Courcy's Rvs, Amy O'Connor, Na Piarasigh, Jessica Swayne, Killaugh, Jess Mennigan, Ballincollig, Grainne Sheehy, Newtown, Kaitlin Hickey, Blackrock, Maedbh Cahalane St Finbarr's Orlaith O'Driscoll, Cloughduv, Amy Murphy Bishopstown, Claire Sexton, Barryroe, Katie O'Donovan, Ballygarvan, Anna O'Keefe, Carrigaline, Joanne McGuinness Tracton, Kara Clifford, Newtown.



The Carrigaline team pictured at the recent Walsh Traders U11 camogie blitz in Riverstick.

Picture: Howard Crowley

Ulster trio face camogie triple bill



OOH-AHH, MAGHERA!... Grainne McNicholl will be in action for her school this Saturday

This Saturday could be one to remember for Ulster schools camogie, with a potential three All-Ireland titles coming north if all goes to plan.

The All-Ireland Senior Camogie Schools finals take place at Trim, and Ulster will be represented in each game of the triple header of action. St Patrick's Maghera lead the way in the Senior A decider against holders Loreto Kilkenny (2.00pm), while St Louis' Ballymena tackle Grennan College, Thomastown in the Senior B final (12.30pm). The Ulster trio is completed by St Pius X Magherafelt, who go head to head with Castlecomer in the Senior C final (3.30pm).

Having seen off Ballycastle in the Ulster final, Maghera faced Presentation Thurles in the All-Ireland semi, and battled back to win through to the final with two points to spare, keeping their dream of a first All-Ireland title alive, and earned them the chance to avange Kilkenny's single-point win over them in last year's semi-final.

It could be a remarkable fortnight for the Maghera school, who in two weeks time will see their senior hurling side line out in their own All-Ireland decider as they line out in the O'Keefe Cup final.

MAR. 2011

Curtin strikes as Galway reel-in brave Faithful

Camogie

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

OFFALY may have lost but they showed they will cause trouble for any team when only giving way to a late Veronica Curtin goal as Galway won by 1-10 to 0-11 in the National Camogie League.

Joachim Kelly's charges flew out of the traps and led by 0-8 to 0-2 at the interval. However, the home side dominated the second half and the Connacht women knocked over eight unanswered points to edge two in front, with Aisling Connolly and Rebecca Hennelly leading the way until Curtin's decisive score.

Wexford produced a strong second-half performance as they

put Clare to the sword by 2-16 to 0-4 at Piercestown on Saturday.

Tipperary produced a storming second half comeback but it wasn't enough to deny Kilkenny, who prevailed by 2-11 to 2-8. Aoife Neary and Michelle Quilty were the goalscorers for the Black and Amber but Ann Downey's team slipped up as Sarah Fryday and Deirdre Dunne found the net for the Premier girls. Claire Grogan

finished with six points for Tipperary but with Neary adding four points to her goal and Denise Gaule also slotting three points, the Noreiders held on.

Cork had a facile 4-20 to 0-4 victory over Dublin with Katriona Mackey, Sile Burns, Michelle Browne (two) goal and Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor finishing with seven points between them.

Underage camogie rules are changed

MAJOR changes to underage camogie have come into place with the implementation of the Go Games, as youngsters up to U12s must now participate in the new structure.

GAA Go Games are small-sided games with modified camogie rules. They form a central element of GAA and camogie policy on games for children up to and including the U12 age grade.

The Go Games are defined by the following criteria: That there is full participation for all players and the games are organised in a non-competitive way with no results recorded.

All the games are small-sided and the playing rules are modified to suit the developmental stages of the children. Playing area and equipment is modified and playing rules are at the discretion of each county.

The spirit behind the Go Games is one of full participation where each player gets to play the entire game and with no subs. Every player gets to play in a number of different positions.

The games are played in a fun atmosphere with the emphasis on improving skills — a huge benefit is that children especially the very younger players are not subject to the win-at-all-costs approach.

A survey on the Go Games showed that players worked harder during the non-competitive games and it helped improve fitness levels, players had more contact which helped to develop skills.

With smaller playing numbers the suggested formats in the different age groups are as follows: U8: A maximum of seven versus seven; U10: A maximum of 10 against 10; U12: A maximum of 11 versus 11.

These guidelines are the maximum number of children recommended per team. The thinking is that the smaller sided the games the bet-



Courtesy Rovers, pictured at the U11 camogie blitz in Riverstick.

By MARY NEWMAN

ter for the participants.

Zones are suggested at U8 and U10 to avoid the crowding, however if games are small sided it may not be necessary.

The recommended playing time for U8: is four quarters of seven minutes, U10: four quarters of 10 minutes, U12: four quarters of 12 minutes.

For U8s there is no solo running and it is all ground hurling and zones.

U10s may catch and strike but again no solo running and zones are in use, for U12s the rules are modified to meet developmental needs.

The suggested field size is: U8: 45m x 40m; U10: 65m x 40m and U12: 100m x 40m.

At U8play starts with a throw-in from half-way. Outfield players must play the sliotar on the ground at all times. The goalkeeper is permitted to catch or lift the sliotar into the hand, take four steps and strike it from the hand but is not permitted to solo run with the sliotar on the hurley.

A player who is fouled takes her own free, like a sideline cut. Frees should never be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line.

When a team plays the sliotar over the sideline, the nearest player on the opposing team within the zone takes the sideline cut.

Players are not permitted to kick the sliotar but if the ball strikes the foot or leg of a player this does not constitute a foul.

U9s and U10s start with a throw-in, and there is no soloing.

The player who is fouled must take her own free. When team play the sliotar over the sideline, the nearest player on the opposing team takes the sideline cut.

When a team plays the sliotar over its own end line, the other team is awarded a free puck from the half-way line opposite where the sliotar crossed the end line.

Free pucks should never be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line players are not permitted to kick the sliotar but if the ball strikes the foot or leg of a player this does not constitute a foul.

Slalom poles to be used for goalposts and cones for marking zones while bibs are to be worn by the midfielders who can roam throughout the pitch.

There are two zones and players remain within the zone to which they are assigned. Midfielders can enter both zones but must return to the centre of the field for puck-outs.

Guidelines for U11 and 12 Go-Games are similar.

Regulation goalposts are to be used in mini leagues for cluster blitzes. Slalom poles may be used, at this age level there are no zones.

For mini leagues rotation need not apply and where possible no substitutes either. Teams divide as equally as possible but where there are substitutes all players must get at least one half.

Clubs should divide numbers so that all players play where possible. The recommended playing season is April, May and June when five cluster blitzes are to be held, which are non-competitive.

So changing times at underage level — it will take a lot of adjusting but only time will tell if the venture is a success.

CAMOGIE
COLLEGES ALL-IRELAND FINALS
SENIOR 'A': Loreto (Kilkenny) 4-10, St Patrick's Maghera (Derry) 1-5.
SENIOR 'B': Greenan College (Kilkenny) 4-9, St Louis Ballymena (Antrim) 3-3.
SENIOR 'C': Castlecomer (Kilkenny) 4-2, St Plus, Magherafelt (Derry) 2-5.
JUNIOR 'A': Presentation Thurles (Tipperary) 3-6, Coachford (Cork) 2-5.
JUNIOR 'C': Maryfield College (Dublin) 2-7, Coliste Dun Lascaigh (Tipperary) 1-7.

IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1: Wexford 2-16, Clare 0-4; Galway 1-10, Offaly 0-11; Cork 4-20, Dublin 0-4; Kilkenny 2-11, Tipperary 2-8.

DIVISION 2: Galway 1-12, Derry 1-5; Antrim 1-11, Down 0-4; Kilkenny 0-10, Tipperary 0-8; Waterford 2-13, Cork 2-11.

DIVISION 3: Kildare 1-13, Dublin 0-4; Meath 3-12, Roscommon 1-4.

ALL-IRELAND U16 CHAMPIONSHIP
'A': Cork 5-9, Clare 3-3.
'C': Westmeath 3-5, Kerry 2-5; Wicklow 9-5, Mayo 0-3; Carlow 3-10, Kildare 1-2; Meath 22-14, Donegal 0-0.

CAMOGIE
NATIONAL LEAGUE

Div 1: Wexford 2-16 (E Quigley, K Parrock 1-1 each, L Holohan 0-4, (0-1f), U Jacob, K Kelly 0-3 each, U Leacy 0-2 (0-1f, 0-145), J Dwyer, B Gordon 0-1 each) Clare 0-4 (C Mc Mahon 0-1, C Morey 0-1f).

COLLEGES ALL-IRELAND FINALS:
Senior 'A': Loreto, Kilkenny 4-10 (C Phelan 2-2, SA Quirkon, O Harrick 1-1 each, N Byrne, A Curtis 0-2 each, A Murphy, A Nolan 0-1 each) St Patrick's Maghera, Derry 1-5 (K Kelt 0-5 (4f, 145), S Kearney 1-0, G Mc Nicholl 0-1).
Senior 'B': Greenan Col Kilkenny 4-9 St Louis Ballymena 3-3 Senior 'C': Castlecomer, Kilkenny 4-2 St Plus, Magherafelt 2-5 Junior 'A': Presentation, Thurles 3-6 Coachford, Cork 2-5 Junior 'C': Maryfield Col, Dublin 2-8 Col Dun Lascaigh, Tipperary 1-7.

O'BRIEN (Coolcotts, Wexford, April 1st 2011, Eileen. Deeply regretted by her loving sisters Bunty and Lilly, brother-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Requiem Mass in St. Alphonsus Church, Bantown, on Monday.



Ballinhassig B pictured at the recent Walsh Traders U11 camogie blitz in Riverstick.

Good start will be half

TOMORROW

All-Ireland U16 A Championship; Cork v Clare, Newmarket-on-Fergus, 1pm

IT'S the opening game in the U16A championship for Cork and Clare in Newmarket on Fergus tomorrow.

With just three teams in the group and two to qualify for the semi-finals a win would put the victors in a strong position with just one game to go against Dublin, who are the third team in the group.

No doubt they will be watching tomorrow's clash with interest to see who will emerge as winners.

This season, Cork's fortunes are guided by two of last year's selectors John Moloney, Newtownshandrum and Bryan O'Leary, Sarsfields and they are joined by the representative from county U16A champions Aidan Crowley of Valley Rovers who is hugely experienced at this level having previously guided the fortunes of the Cork Senior B team.

It's the first outing for both sides and with changes to the team line outs from last season's panels it is hard to predict a winner.

Clare have five survivors from last season in Ali Quinlan, Kate O'Gorman, Clodagh Lawlor, Shauna Fleming and captain Niki Kaiser all lined out with the Clare side as they failed to overcome a strong Cork side in last

U16s blow Clare away in thrilling goalfest

CAMOGIE

By BRÍD McNAMARA

Clare	3-3
Cork	5-9

CORK showed their determination with a comprehensive victory over Clare in the opening round of the All-Ireland U16 A championship in Newmarket-on-Fergus yesterday.

Cork set the tone of the game with a first point inside the first minute before Linda Collins raised their first green flag after five minutes when she pulled on the rebound following a save by Clare's net-minder Pauline McNamara. Clare were slow to settle and Cork took advantage of this as they lead 2-3 to 0-1 by the 20th minute. Clodagh O'Halloran goalied for Clare as they battled to get into the game but Cork added 2-1 to their tally to lead 4-4 to 1-1 at the interval.

Clare settled in the second-half but were denied by the quick reflexes of Kaylynn Lee in the Cork goalmouth as she stopped Lauren Guilfoyle giving Clare the perfect start to the half. Cork hit four unanswered points before Guilfoyle and Ali Quinlan pointed two Clare frees. Cork responded with a Claire Shine goal before Aisling Corbett and Clodagh O'Halloran hit Clare goals. Niamh Byrne added a point for Cork late on.

Scorers for Clare: C O'Halloran 2-0, A Corbett 1-0; L Guilfoyle, N Kaiser, A Quinlan 0-1 each.

Cork: C Shine 1-6, L Collins 2-0, N Byrne 1-1, A O'Connor 1-0, O Healy, J Hosford 0-1 each.

CLARE: P McNamara; M K Moloney, C Lawlor, S Fleming; E Casey, J Flanagan, E Roche; A Corbett, O Devitt; L Guilfoyle, N Kaiser, A Keogh; A Quinlan 0-1, C O'Halloran 2-0, K O'Gorman.

Subs: R Devine for S Fleming (25), S Kelly for A Keogh (43), G Nolan for K O'Gorman (52).

CORK: K Lee; R Harrington, S Hutchinson, S O'Leary (c); E Kavanagh, R Sheehan, L Murphy; R O'Callaghan, J Hosford, O Healy, C Shine, J Hennigan, N Byrne, L Collins, A O'Connor.

Subs: G Sheehy for R Sheehan (40), M Cahalane for O Healy (48), C Sexton for C Shine (51), K Clifford for R Harrington (55), M McGuinness for J Hosford (59).

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).

Burns finds spark as Cork run riot

Cork	4-20
Dublin	0-3

THE scoreline adequately reflects the game as Cork were in complete control of this National League round three encounter with Dublin in CIT yesterday.

Yet Dublin didn't hold back and Cork will wake up this morning very much aware they were in a game. Dublin were clean, yet physical and the 14 frees awarded to Cork were earned.

The physical aspect will stand to Cork as they face old rivals Kilkenny this coming Sunday.

Cork looked hungry with Sile Burns in particular getting her old spark back and it was unfortunate for her that she had to withdraw at half-time with a calf injury. Gemma O'Connor was in complete control at midfield, at times giving good quality ball inside while Katrina Mackey in the left corner had the legs on Elaine O'Meara and ran her ragged.

Cork opened the game against the wind. Emer White was busy in the opening stages yet appeared confident under the dropping ball as Dublin played some nice crisp hurling.

When Sile Burns' strike hit the roof of the net 16 minutes in, Cork led 1-4 to 0-1 and with Katrina Mackey hitting 1-2 in the next two it was a case of damage limitation for Dublin. Further points by Mackey and a long range classic by Gemma O'Connor saw Cork enter the dressingroom 2-8 to 0-2 in front.

With the wind to their backs, Cork just piled on the pressure. Dublin opted to bring their full-forward out and play an extra defender between their full and half-back lines. It paid little dividend and one wondered what they hoped to achieve considering the margin at the break. A respectable scoreline perhaps.

Amanda O'Regan remained a lone figure in at full-back and drove any Dublin attack back up the field.

Despite the extra defender, Cork were still on top up front and the scores kept coming.

With five of Cork's starting six forwards and two of their substitutes



Cork right corner-back Elaine O'Riordan (Milford) bursts out of defence against Dublin in their Senior National League Division 1 camogie game at CIT Stadium yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

getting on the scoreboard, Cork's confidence was high.

Despite Cork emptying their bench their dominance didn't diminish.

Michelle Browne got Cork's third and fourth goals in the 45th and 51st minutes as further points from Denise Cronin (2), Browne (2) and Maria Walsh finished Cork's spree.

While Joe O'Brien may not learn an awful lot from this encounter you must play what's in front of you and it was a good win for Cork.

Scorers for Cork: M Browne 2-2 (0-2 f), K Mackey 1-4, S Burns 1-1 (0-1 f), J O'Leary 0-4, G O'Connor 0-3, D Cronin 0-2, M Walsh 0-2, E O'Riordan, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Dublin: L O'Hara, C Lucey, E Galley 0-1 each.

CORK: E White; E O'Riordan, A O'Regan, P Mackey; C Motherway, R Buckley, A Geary; G

O'Connor, L Dorgan; E O'Sullivan, D Cronin, J O'Leary; D Twomey, S Burns, K Mackey.

Subs: M Browne for D Twomey (25), N O'Keefe for S Burns (inj, h/t), M Walsh for G O'Connor (44), C O'Neill for A O'Regan (44), L Cunningham for R Buckley (58).

DUBLIN: H Cosgrave; E O'Meara, S Ryan, E Ryan; G Quinn, A Maguire, C Power; C Burgess, D Smith; A Kelly, C Lucey, L O'Hara; A Fleming, F Hayes, P McGrath.

Subs: A Cushen for D Smith (inj, 10), H McInerney for G Quinn (45), E Galley for P McGrath (45), G Ryan for E Ryan (47).

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary).

Profligacy and indiscipline cost Rebels against Déise

Waterford	2-13
Cork	2-11

CORK will wonder how they lost this Irish Daily Star Division 2 Senior National League game at CIT yesterday.

At the break they held a seven-point interval advantage over Waterford but failure to take their chances in the second half and the conceding of needless frees cost them dearly.

Aided by the wind in the opening half, Cork found themselves trailing inside 10 minutes of the throw-in after a goal

from lively corner-forward Zoe O'Donoghue gave the visitors an early lead. Cork settled and put a lot of pressure on the Waterford defence.

Eimear Watson pointed before finishing to the net to give Cork the upperhand and they maintained their advantage thanks to a second Watson goal and points from Marie O'Neill and Mariah Reidy. Waterford were forced to live on scraps, three-pointed frees from Trish Jackman keeping them in the game as they found the going tough as Cork continued to hold the upperhand and lead of 2-8 to 1-4 at the break.

Waterford played with fierce

determination from the restart and they were back in the game as Trisha Jackman converted two frees before Zoe O'Donoghue fired home her second goal as Cork began to struggle.

Waterford were now in control and they gained the upperhand firing over four points in-a-row to take the lead Marie O'Neill pointed a Cork free to cut the lead to a point but Ruth Geoghegan replied as Waterford dug deep.

Twice Cork had chances to level but

their attempts fell short, Marie O'Neill and Niamh Rockett traded points and now with time running out Cork needed a goal, they battled hard but despite coming close they failed to find the range as the Waterford defence stood firm.

From a Cork perspective the additional time played of just one minute and 32 seconds was farcical, given that there were five second-half substitutions and three stoppages for injuries over the 30 minutes, but in the finish the conceding of frees proved their biggest downfall and helped Waterford in no small way to take the points on offer.

Scorers for Waterford: T Jackman 0-7 (0-7 f), Z O'Donoghue 2-0, K Kelly 0-3, N Morrissey N Rockett, R Geoghegan 0-1 each.

Cork: E Watson 2-1, M O'Neill 0-6 (0-2 f), M Reidy 0-3, M Watson 0-1.

WATERFORD: T Kiely; E Hannon, J Simpson, P Cunningham; S Kiernan, C Raher, J Gavin-Johnson, J McCarthy, D Fahy; N Rockett, T Jackman, N Morrissey (c); R Geoghegan, K Kelly, Z O'Donoghue.

Subs: A Hannon for N Morrissey (52), M Russell for R Geoghegan (58), M Heffernan for Z O'Donoghue (59).

CORK: G Harrington; E Jordan, R De Faoite, C O'Neill; C Murphy, L Cunningham, A Sheehan; S Buckley, J Lynch; M Watson, M O'Neill, M Reidy; C Keamey; E Watson, M Jago.

Subs: P Bultimer for E Watson (48), C Hayes for E Jordan (48).

Referee: Donal Leahy (Tipperary).

All Ireland 2nd Level Finals Previews

Three Kilkenny schools battle for All-Ireland honours in Royal County

By Michael O'Leary Kilkenny Camogie PRO

Next Saturday is a huge day for Colleges Camogie in Trim Co. Meath.

The All-Ireland Colleges roinn A, B and C finals take place in the Royal county, and in all three finals, Kilkenny schools are represented against Ulster opposition.

The day's activities begin at 12.30pm when Grennan College(Thomastown) go in search of All-Ireland honours against St. Louis (Ballymena).

At 2pm, Loreto Kilkenny will defend their All-Ireland title against St. Patricks Maghera in a repeat of last years All-Ireland semi-final clash.

The Loreto girls scraped through by a solitary point and another tough battle is expected this time around, and the "C" final due to commence will round off the days activities.

Castlecomer Community School will go for glory against St. Pius Magherafelt.

The Derry town will be attempting an All-Ireland double on the day with St. Pats involved in the A decider.

It should be a fantastic afternoon's Camogie.

Grennan College will be attempting to land All-Ireland honours for the very first time having contested the Junior and Senior finals over the last two years.

In 2009, they agonisingly lost the All-Ireland "C" colleges decider by a single point to St. Colms Draperstown in Rathoath. 1-9 to 0-11.

Last year, they contested the All-Ireland Colleges Junior "C" decider against a very skilful Presentation Thurles outfit.

Grennan produced a wonderful comeback in the drawn encounter.

They overturned a 10-point deficit, and inspired almost single-handedly by Inter-County Senior panellist Kelly Hamilton, they managed to snatch a draw despite trailing by points with three minutes remaining.

However, the replay was a different kettle of fish, as the Thurles school ran out comprehensive 23 point winners.

A number of the girls will have had the experience of playing in these finals over the last two years, and that will stand to them ahead of Saturday's final.

A lot of Grennan hopes will rely on Hamilton who is a supremely skilful talented player, while Megan Farrell, and the Donnelly sisters Niamh and Eimear are other important players for the Grennan school.

Incidentally, Farrell is a survivor from Grennan's All-Ireland final defeat two years ago, as at the same time, her sisters Shelley and Anna were winning All-Irelands for St. Brigids Callan as they retained their All-Ireland crown.

Grennan played Presentation Kilkenny in the Leinster decider on Saturday 5th February in conditions more suitable to Water Polo on a horrible wet day.

Grennan drew their All-Ireland semi-final clash with Hazelwood College, Drumcollogher 1-4 to 0-7 in as low scoring encounter, before they turned the tables in emphatic style winning the replay 2-11 to 1-4.

On this evidence, they'll take the world of stopping in the All-Ireland decider.

The Ballymena School recorded a hard earned 1-9 to 1-8 victory over St. Marys Mallow in their semi-final, and they must be respected.

They were very impressive in the Ulster final scoring 6-9.

Anna Kelly scored 3-1, while Klara Duffin accounted for 2-2.

Centre-forward and team captain Aimee McAtamney, and Chloe Bartley also made a major impression.

Loreto will attempt to defend their All-Ireland title against St. Pats Maghera in a repeat of last years All-Ireland semi-final clash.

The City school only scraped through by a solitary point in Northern Ireland last year and they can expect a stiff challenge provided to them once again.

Loreto have enjoyed unprecedented success over the last 4 years since winning their first All-Ireland college's junior title in the Ragg in 2007.

They added further junior All-Ireland titles in 2009 and 2010, and in the 2009 decider, they defeated the Maghera school 2-6 to 0-9 captained by Grace Walsh.

This Loreto team knows how to win having achieved All-Ireland Junior colleges success plus 7-a-side All-Irelands.

Six of the likely starting this Saturday started last years All-Ireland final victory, so they have the experience of been involved.

They have cruised through into the decider, inspired by the immaculate Grace Walsh at centre-back.

They easily defeated St. Brigids Callan 1-16 to 0-6 in the Leinster final, before coming through safely against St. Brigids Loughrea in the All-Ireland semi-final where goals from frees by Claire Phelan and Niamh Byrne laid the foundations for victory.

A late goal from the Loughrea only served to put a better reflection on the scoreboard.

This Loreto team is equally as strong if not stronger than last year.

Their defensive unit has been very solid in their two games to date.

The midfield pairing of team captain Niamh Byrne and her clubmate Aisling Curtis provides plenty of graft, while the attacking division poses a potent threat despite not having all clicked together so far.

Claire Phelan at centre-forward is a very talented player who recently made her inter-county senior debut, while Sarah-Anne Quinlan, Emma Comerford, Lydia Fitzpatrick, Orla Hanrick at the opportunism of Aoife Murphy have the potential to be matchwinners.

However, the player that epitomises the spirit of Loreto is Aoife Nolan.

Not the most naturally gifted of players, Nolan is a workaholic who will rove all over the field. She was goalscorer in last years final.

St. Pats overcame Presentation Thurles in their semi-final. 1-11 to 3-4.

They have had tough encounters with Loreto over the last two years at Junior and Senior level.

Most of the players will be familiar with one another. This contest promises to go right down to the wire.

The "C" final rounds off the afternoon as Castlecomer Community School go in search of their very first All-Ireland.

The Comer school came through their semi-final with slender 1-4 to 0-6 victory over St. Dominics Cabra of Dublin and they can expect another tough challenge in the final.

St. Pius defeated Laurel Hill (Limerick) in their semi-final clash, 2-9 to 2-6, so they'll provide stern opposition.

It should be a fascinating afternoon's action of camogie.

It's only €5 for adults to attend three All-Ireland finals. That is fantastic value in this current climate, and just €2 for students/oaps.

There is plenty of car parking spaces available in Trim.

The possibility of a Kilkenny All-Ireland hat-trick waits.

Throw off the padlocks

Ciaran Woods believes that the Croke Park officials should stomach a few more losses and thrown open the gates to all

LAST weekend, I was in Dublin on Camogie duties. First up on Saturday was a PRO training day at Croke Park, at which I was hosting a workshop on the written media.

A quick survey of where the attendees were from and I knew it was going to be a long two hours, with Ulster PRO's at club and county level sharpening the knives and ready to take their revenge for those ignored press releases and notes which flood my e-mail inbox on a weekly basis. But that's a whole different story.

The workshops took place in the lavish surroundings of four corporate boxes in the Cusack Stand. I must admit that I did get on the iPhone and check the ins and outs of squatters rights in the South, as I reckoned if I set up camp in box 627 then I'd be a happy man all summer.

Croke Park is a fantastic place to be when it's packed to the rafters and the place is bouncing, but it's every bit as much of a jewel when there's only you and a handful of others around. The pitch looked immaculate, as close to perfect as you're ever going to get for the club players who will run out onto it next Thursday for their respective finals.

Looking across into the lower Hogan and it was clear to see where the five central sections of the stand had been cordoned off for the supporters attending the Camogie club finals the following afternoon. The stadium might hold 82,000, but this meagre area would be

enough for the day that was in it.

Turned out though that it wasn't.

The Camogie Association had anticipated a crowd somewhere in the region of 3,000, but close to 4,500 paid through the turnstiles and those orange barriers had to be pushed out a bit to accommodate the extra hoards, particularly from Eoghan Rua Coleraine, who inflated the attendance.

The sign of five distinctive Chambers supporters coaches parked up in Parnell Square on Sunday morning hammered home once again just what a bit of success in any code can do to the profile of a club.

What Sunday did was to reinforce the fact that as many players as possible, at as many different levels, should get to show off their skills at Headquarters.

Instead of moving games out of the Jones' Road venue to try to reduce costs, the GAA, as well as Camogie and Ladies football, should be doing all they can to throw open the doors and allow their games to be played on the hallowed turf.

We're told that only 39 games made a profit for the GAA last year and 331 didn't. Well if that's truly the case then what difference will another few loss-makers really make in the big scheme of things?

Peter McKenna... throw those padlocks in the bin and let whoever wants to come in and have a kickabout or a puckabout.

In fact, put the floodlights on a meter so that they can come and play during the night if they want to as well!

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Colleges Senior A final: Loreto (Kilkenny) 4-10, St Patrick's Maghera (Derry) 1-9.
Senior B final: Grennan College (Kilkenny) 4-9, St Louis (Artrim) 3-3. **Senior C final:** Castlecomer CS (Kilkenny) 4-2, St Pius (Derry) 2-5. **Junior A final:** Presentation, Thurles 3-6, Coachford (Cork) 2-5. **Junior C final:** Maryfield College (Dublin) 2-7, Coláiste Dun Iascaigh (Tipperary) 1-7. **National League Div 1:** Wexford 2-16 Clare 0-4, Galway 1-10 Offaly 0-11, Cork 4-20 Dublin 0-4, Kilkenny 2-11 Tipperary 2-6. **Div 2:** Galway 1-12 Derry 1-5, Antrim 1-11 Down 0-4, Kilkenny 0-10 Tipperary 0-8, Waterford 2-13 Cork 2-11. **Div 3:** Kildare 1-13 Dublin 0-4, Meath 3-12 Roscommon 1-4. **All-Ireland U16A Championships:** Cork 5-9 Clare 3-3. **C:** Westmeath 3-5 Kerry 2-5; Wicklow 9-5 Mayo 0-3, Carlow 3-10 Kildare 1-2, Meath 22-14 Donegal 0-0.

MAR. 2011

Curtin strikes late to ward off Faithful challenge

CHASE IS ON:
Cork's Gemma O'Connor and Dublin's Arlena Cushen in action



GALWAY LET OFF THE HOOK

A DOGGED Offaly pushed Galway all the way in the Irish Daily Star Camogie League, Veronica Curtin pulling the game out of the fire for the Tribeswomen with a late goal.

That allowed Galway to shade it 1-11 to 1-10, but they were given some fright by Offaly.

Joachim Kelly's charges flew out of the traps and with the aid of a strong breeze led by 0-8 to 0-2 at the interval.

Elaine Dermody proved razor-sharp from the frees, shooting five in that opening period with the excellent Michaela Morkan, Linda Sullivan and Jean Brady also on target.

The second half though saw the home side dominate and the women in

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR the maroon and white knocked over eight unanswered points between the 32nd and 52nd minutes to edge two in front.

Aislinn Connolly and Rebecca Hennelly sniped two frees apiece with Noreen Coen and Finola Kelly also finding their range.

Though Offaly equalised through Siobhán Flannery and Dermody (45), Veronica Curtin's goal on the stroke of full-time proved the decisive score.

Sword

Wexford produced a strong second-half performance as they put Clare to the sword in Group 1 by 2-16 to 0-4 at Piercestown on Saturday.

Last year's double champions led by 1-6 to 0-1 at the break, with Katrina Parrock striking for a brilliant individual goal in the 20th minute and Chloe Morey grabbing Clare's only point from a free.

The Banner failed to score from play and Claire McMahon notched up their three points in the second half from frees.

Goalkeeper Susan Vaughan was in outstanding form but Wexford were able to

make plenty of changes.

Lenny Holohan brought her tally to four points, Evelyn Quigley grabbed a 50th minute goal and Kate Kelly, Ursula Jacob, Una Leacy, Brid Gordon and Josie Dwyer were also on the scoresheet.

Tipperary produced a storming second-half comeback but it wasn't enough to deny Kilkenny, who won 2-11 to 2-8.

Aoife Neary and Michelle Quilty were the goalscorers for the Cats but Ann Downey's crew left almost left a commanding advantage slip as Sarah Fryday and Deirdre Dunne found the net for the Premier girls.

Claire Grogan finished with six points for Tipperary but with Neary adding four points to her goal and Denise Gaule also slotting over three points, the Noreiders just held on.

Cork had a facile 4-20 to 0-4 victory over Dublin. The Leesiders led by 2-8 to 0-2 at the break, with Katrina Mackey hitting 1-3

and Síle Burns also finding the net.

Riot

Catriona Power and Ciara Lucey got Dublin's first-half points but Cork ran riot after the resumption, with Michelle Browne scoring two goals and Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor finishing with seven points between them.

In Division 2, Aotfe Lynskey scored 1-4 as Galway overcame Derry by 1-12 to 1-5, while Zoe O'Donoghue's brace of goals gave Waterford a 2-13 to 2-11 win over Waterford.

In Division 3, Róisín O'Connell was amongst the goals again, while Siobhán Hurley and Susie O'Carroll scored 11 points between them as Kildare maintained their good form with a 1-13 to 0-4 victory over Dublin.

Cork had a facile 4-20 to 0-4 victory over Dublin. The Leesiders led by 2-8 to 0-2 at the break, with Katrina Mackey hitting 1-3

LETHAL:
Connolly

Full round up of this weekend's results

COLLEGES ALL-IRL FINALS:

SENIOR 'A'

Loreto, Kilkenny, 4-10, (C Phelan 2-2, SA Quinlan, O Hanrick 1-1 each, N Byrne, A Curtis 0-2 each, A Murphy, A Nolan 0-1 each)
St. Patrick's Maghera, Derry, 1-5, (K Kieft 0-5 (0-4f, 0-1'45), S Kearney 1-0, G Mc Nicholl 0-1)

SENIOR 'B'

Greennan Coll. Kilkenny, 4-9
St. Louis Ballymena, Antrim, 3-3

SENIOR 'C'

Castlecomer, Kilkenny 4-2
St. Plus, Magherafelt, Derry, 2-5

JUNIOR 'A'

Presentation, Thurles, 3-6 (E Ryan 2-0, J A Mc Kevitt 1-0, A Moore, A Devane, C Ryan 0-2 each)
Coachford, Cork, 2-5, (C O'Leary 1-4, J Crowley 1-0, N O'Leary 0-1)

JUNIOR 'C'

Maryfield College, Dublin 2-7 (L Walshe, A Maher 1-0 each, C Berkely 0-6, S Harte 0-1)
Coláiste Dun Iascaigh, Tipperary 1-7 (R Howard 1-2, A Moloney 0-5)

IRISH Daily Star National League

Div 1:

Wexford 2-16, (E Quigley, K Parrock 1-1 each, L Holohan 0-4, (0-1f), U Jacob, K Kelly 0-3 each, U Leacy 0-2 (0-1f, 0-1'45), J Dwyer, B Gordon 0-1 each.)
Clare 0-4, (C Mc Mahon 0-3f, C Morey 0-1f)

Galway 1-10, (V Curtin 1-0, A Connolly 0-4 (0-3f), R Hennelly 0-3, F Keely 0-2, N Coen 0-1)
Offaly 0-11, (E Dermody 0-6 (0-5f, 0-1'45), S Flannery 0-2 (0-1f), M Morkan, J Brady, I Sullivan 0-1 each)

Cork 4-20, (M Browne 2-2 (0-2f), K Mackey 1-4, S Burns 1-1, J O'Leary 0-4, G O'Connor 0-3, D Cronin, M Walsh 0-2 each, E O'Riordan, E O'Sullivan 0-1 each)
Dublin 0-4, E Gallery, 0-2, C Lucey, C Power 0-1 each)

Kilkenny 2-11, (A Neary 1-4 (0-2f, 0-1'45), M Quilty 1-0, D Gaule 0-3, S Farrell 0-2, A Dalton 0-1f, L Lyng 0-1)
Tipperary 2-8, (S Fryday 1-1, D Dunne 1-0, C Grogan 0-6 (0-3f, 0-1'45), A Lonergan 0-1)

Div 2:

Galway 1-12 (A Lynskey 1-4, N Coen, C Lee, C Mc Grath 0-2 each, L O'Neill 0-1, R Monaghan 0-1f)
Derry 1-5, (S Cassidy 1-5 (0-4f))

Antrim 1-11

Down 0-4

Kilkenny 0-10

Tipperary 0-8

Waterford 2-13, (Z O'Donoghue 2-0, P Jackman 0-7f, K Kelly 0-3, N Morrissey, R Geoghegan, N Rocket 0-1 each)

Cork 2-11, (E Watson 2-1, M O'Neill 0-6 (0-2f), M Reidy, 0-3, M Watson 0-1)

Div 3:

Kildare 1-13, (R O'Connell 1-1, S Hurley 0-6 (0-1f), S O'Carroll 0-5 (0-1f), C Mc Sweeney 0-1)

Dublin 0-4, (E Mc Carthy 0-2f, E Whyte, S O'Toole 0-1 each)

Meath 3-12, (J Dolan 2-7, E Mc Nally 1-0, S Hackett, F O'Neill 0-2 each, L Oakes 0-1)
Roscommon 1-4, (D Regan 1-0, K Hopkins 0-3, A Mc Geaney 0-1)

ALL-IRL U16 CHAMPIONSHIP:

'A'

Cork 5-9, (C Sheen 1-6, L Collins 2-0, N Byrne 1-1, A O'Connor 1-0, J Hosford, O Healy 0-1 each)

Clare 3-3, (C O'Halloran 2-0, A Corbett 1-0, L Guilfoyle, A Quinlan, N Kaiser 0-1 each)

'C'

Westmeath 3-5, (A M Kennedy 2-1, A Boyle 1-1, A Corcoran 0-3)
Kerry 2-5, (P Diggan 1-4f, S Tracey 1-0, J Fitzell 0-1)

Wicklow 9-5, (L Cullen 6-2, E Greene, A Shannon, A Mc Cabe 1-0 each, C Byrne 0-2, A O'Keeffe 0-1)

Mayo 0-3, (A Tarpey 0-2, L Mc Guinness 0-1)

Carlow 3-10, (E Treacy 1-8, N Canavan 2-0, K Nolan 0-2)
Kildare 1-2, (C Heneghan 1-0, E Reilly 0-1f, S Greally 0-1)

Meath 22-14
Dongal 0-0

IRISH DAILY
STAR
NATIONAL
CAMOGIE
LEAGUES

Kilkenny capture a trio of titles

A hat-trick of titles for Kilkenny in Post Primary Colleges Finals

Reports by Seamus McAleenan

All-Ireland Senior A Final : Loreto Kilkenny 4-10 St Patrick's Maghera 1-6.

Loreto Letterkenny retained their All-Ireland Colleges' Senior camogie title in Trim on Saturday, equalling the feat of another Kilkenny side St Brigid's Callan in 08-9. Five of the six forwards and both midfielders hit the target while overall they closed out the threat posed by Maghera's key players and controlled the game.

This was particularly so during the first half, when they played with wind advantage and led by 1-8 to 0-3 at the break, with all three Maghera scores coming from frees. Loreto were in control through Grainne Walsh and Noelle Maher in half-back and a sharp midfield while goal-scorer Claire Phelan and Aoife Murphy caused problems up front.

Maghera played a forward as sweeper at half-back to close down the play, but it left them with few scoring opportunities up front.

That improved on the re-start with Shannon Kearney's point effort dipping under the cross-bar after just two minutes of play.

Significantly Loreto replied with a point from Aoife Nolan, a pattern they repeated during this third quarter when Maghera were in the ascendancy.

Teresa McElroy's point closed the gap to 1-10 to 1-5, but Clare Phelan placed Sarah Ann Quinlan for a fine goal in the 47th minute and it proved a mortal blow to Maghera's hopes.

Five minutes later, Orla Hanwick flicked home when the sliotar went loose in the area and 3 minutes from time Aoife Murphy fed Claire Phelan for another fine goal.

Maghera missed three relatively easy frees in succession during the last 10 minutes, but overall can have little complaint with the result, despite excellent games from Maeve Quinn, Aine McElwee and, particularly during the second half, Karen Kielt.

St Patrick's : J Bradley, M Quinn, A McElwee, R Ferguson, G Ní Chatháin, A Ní Chaiside, D O'Neill, T McElroy 0-1, K Kielt 0-2 frees, G McNicholl capt 0-3 frees, C Moran, S Quinn, N McKenna, S Kearney 1-0, M Kelly.

Subs : C McCloskey for G Ní Chatháin, D Quinn for D O'Neill, G Ní Chatháin for C McCloskey.

Loreto : K Maher, M Walsh, T Brennan, S Buggy, K Holland, G Walsh, N Maher, N Byrne 0-1 free, A Curtis capt 0-2, S-A Quinlan 1-1, C Phelan 2-3, 0-1 free, A Nolan 0-1, O Hanrick 1-1, E Comerford, A Murphy 1-1.

Sub : L Fitzpatrick for A Nolan.

Referee : Dermot Connolly (Galway).

All-Ireland Colleges' Senior B Camogie Final :

Grennan College Thomastown 4-10 St Louis Ballymena 3-3.

The star of this Colleges' All-Ireland B final in Trim was Kilkenny Senior panellist Kelly Hamilton, with good support from Jane Cullen and her defence and midfield. Kelly opened the scoring and, in general was very accurate from placed balls, totalling 6 points, but it was her 21st minute goal that clinched this game for Grennan College.

The game had an explosive start with five early goals.

Chloe Bartley put Ballymena into a 1-0 to 0-1 lead with a sharp pull in the 8th minute. But goals in quick succession from Niamh Donnelly and Aine Lannon gave Grennan a 2-2 to 1-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

1-1 from Anna Kelly put St Louis back in the hunt, but from the puck-out following the goal, there may have been a hint of over-carrying around the 40 metre line, but Hamilton picked up a loose ball inside and fired to the net to take the sting out of the Ballymena comeback.

Aimee McAtamney handpassed to the net soon after, but the goal was curiously ruled out and Grennan were 3-2 to 2-1 clear at the break.

They stepped up a gear during the third quarter, when Hamilton fired over 4 frees and Niamh Donnelly lobbed home her second goal without a reply from Ballymena. A late goal from substitute Ríoghnach McNaughton gave a note of respectability to the scoreline – but on the day Grennan were the better side and deserved to take their first title at this level.

Grennan College : N Bolger, S Whelan, M Hayes, C Gantley, N Quigley, J Cullen, J Carroll, R O'Carroll, M Farrell, S Carroll capt., K Hamilton 1-6, 0-6 frees, L Walsh, E Donnelly 0-2, A Lannon 1-0, N Donnelly 2-0.

Sub : K Walsh for L Walsh, H Gantley for E Donnelly.

St Louis : N McCloskey, N McQuillan, L Elliott, K Bradley, M Lynn, S Woulahan, E McGarry, N Doherty, S Devlin, K Duffin, A McAtamney capt 0-2 frees, C Drain, C McIntyre, A Kelly 1-1, C Bartley 1-0.

Subs : R McNaughton 1-0 for C McIntyre, A Kearney for M Lynn.

Referee : Paul Beecher (Dublin)

All-Ireland Colleges' Senior C Final :

Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny 4-2 St Pius X College Magherafelt 2-5

Sport can often be cruel. That was the case for St Pius X Magherafelt on Saturday.

After coming back from a 10 points' deficit to level with a Sinead Conlon point in the 56th minute, they looked to be on course to snatch a victory that their play deserved.

St Pius X had the balance of play for most of the game, and Castlecomer had not mounted a single attack during the final 20 minutes.

However they burst forward during the second minute of added time and Edel Coonan pulled a beautiful ground shot into the Magherafelt net. There was no time for recovery and Castlecomer celebrated a first title.

Magherafelt used a sweeper during the opening half into the breeze and were going well until a deflection off a defender's stick ended in the back of their net in the 23rd minute. Within 5 minutes goals from Mairead Daly and Edel Coonan had opened up a gap of 3-1 to 0-0.

Dania Donnelly popped over a free just before the break and the Ulster champions were right back in contention when Aimee Devlin finished to the net following a goal-mouth scramble within 2 minutes of the re-start.

A long-range shot from Rebekah Forbes hit the net in the 35th minute and with 3 points from frees over the next 15 minutes from Dania Donnelly, punctuated only by a good point from Maeve Mansfield, the gap was down to the minimum.

It took another 6 minutes before Sinead Conlon levelled the game, as Castlecomer fought to stay in the game. That fight succeeded with the late goal, a score that really shattered Magherafelt.

Castlecomer : N Murphy, K Nolan, A Brennan, R Comerford, N Walsh, O Walsh capt., M Nolan, A Cass, K Comerford, E Coonan 2-0, M Mansfield 0-2, 0-1 free, M Daly 1-0, L Finn, M O'Neill, T Agar (1-0 own goal).

Sub K Dowling for L Finn.

St Pius X : Niamh McGuckin, Laura Gribbin, Laura Wilson, Shaunagh Devlin, Sarah Cassidy, Caoimhe Glass, Kellie McNabb, Maggie Hagan, Dania Donnelly capt. 0-4, Ciara McNabb, Rebekah Forbes 1-0, Ciara Donnelly, Dervla McGuckin, Aimee Devlin 1-0, Sinead Conlon 0-1.

Subs : Nicola Crilly for C McNabb, Leona Browne for L Gribbin.

Referee : Donal Ryan (Dublin).

Kilkenny double rounds off memorable weekend for camogie

A MEMORABLE weekend for Kilkenny camogie was rounded off in Tom Ryall Park, Kilmanagh on Sunday when the county senior and intermediate teams won their matches in the National League.

Following the All-Ireland hat-trick of Kilkenny schools on Saturday, Kilkenny maintained the golden run by holding off a late comeback from Tipperary to hang on for victory and at least guarantee themselves a play-off spot.

Kilkenny took control from an early stage and they were in a commanding position at the interval when leading by 2-9 to 1-2, courtesy of goals from Aoife Neary and Michelle Quilty and points coming from Neary, Den-

ise Gaule, Shelley Farrell and Lizzie Lyng.

Playing into a strong breeze during the second half, the Noreiders remained in control and entering the closing five minutes they still led by 2-11 to 1-7.

Tipperary, who had already defeated Cork in the opening-round, battled resolutely to the final whistle and a Deirdre Dunne goal gave them hope. Kilkenny held out for a win to take two vital points in the League.

Want top spot

On Sunday, the Cats play Cork in the re-arranged National League clash down on Leaside.

Victory from Kilkenny will guar-

antee them top spot and a semi-final place against Galway on the opening weekend of April.

Cork are short a number of established players at present, including six of their starting 15 from the 2009 All-Ireland final victory over Kilkenny, including 12 times dual All-Ireland senior medal winner Mary O'Connor, who recently announced her retirement from the game.

Goalkeeper Aoife Murray has yet to commit for 2011, but full-back Caitriona Foley is working up in Meath and she has decided that travelling up and down from Meath to Cork and back is too much. Orla Cotter is still recovering from injury.

However, Briege Corkery is back

from her travels and Rena Buckley is available for selection once again as she was club tied with Inniscarra's path to the All-Ireland final.

The winning of the group is in Kilkenny's hands, and they have every intention of coming away from Leaside on Sunday with the two points and a place in the last four assured.

The other section of Division 1 has been completed. Wexford, who defeated Galway in the opening-round of fixtures, easily accounted for Offaly and Clare to consolidate top spot.

Meanwhile, the Kilkenny intermediate team finally got their League campaign up and running with a hard fought 0-10 to 0-8 win over Tipperary in the curtain-raiser on Sunday.

Busy fortnight

Under the guidance of Mattie Butler, along with selectors, under-16 manager Paddy Kelly and O'Loughlin Gaels hurler Sheamie Cummins, it was a good start of Kilkenny. They have a busy fortnight ahead of them.

They have a home tie against Limerick on Sunday, and on Sunday week they travel to Waterford.

Meanwhile, the Under-16 team, following a dramatic late victory over Tipperary, will seal a semi-final spot if they defeat Galway in round two of the group stages All-Ireland championship on Saturday. Time and venue yet to be confirmed.

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All Ireland Club Finals weekend

The All Ireland club finals in Croke Park on 6th March were just brilliant. Some might have doubted holding the finals there. No need to worry.

- It was wonderful to meet former players from Geraldines, Portlengone (Antrim) and Austin Stacks (Dublin). They played in the last All Ireland Camogie club final in Croke Park in 1973. They speculated that there was probably no more than 100 people at that game.

- This time around, thirty eight years later, 5,000 people came to the games. Superb atmosphere, colour and noise rang around Croke Park!

Congratulations to all four teams and their supporters for such a memorable occasion. Well done of course to Killimor (Galway) and Eoghan Rua (Derry) who joined Four Roads (Roscommon) as the senior, intermediate and junior club champions of Ireland.

Well done also to the ten schools who participated in the first post-primary school Camán and Run solo and handpass relay and especially to Celbridge and Dunshaughlin who got over the line first!

- The Legends tournament was, well, legendary! As well as being great fun, there was loads of skill and competitiveness too. The Phillips family, Jimmy, Leonard and Sinead were on hand to present the inaugural Biddy Phillips Memorial Cup to winning Kilkenny captain Tracey Millea.

It was a busy weekend and the Media Awards and the PR workshop all happened too. The Media Awards are an important recognition of excellence in promoting Camogie at local and national level, driven by the solid and consistent work of our PROs and our national office team. You can check out the winners on the www.camogie.ie or the Camogie facebook page.

Meeting clubs and players

Louth

Recently, I spent a very enjoyable evening with St. Anne's in Louth when, with Naomh Fionnbarra CLG, they held a joint celebration dinner. St. Anne's were marking a Senior Camogie League title and a Minor title while the gents were marking a county football title.

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The community support and solidarity across the codes was very strong. On the Camogie side it was great to see so many of the senior players also acting as administrators and underage coaches and referees within the club.

Antrim

Likewise meeting young Antrim players from St. John's, O'Donovan Rossa, Gort na Móna and St. Enda's in Belfast City Hall was another highlight. We gathered with the Lord Mayor of Belfast, officials of Antrim and Ulster Camogie and Club Aontroim, Ard Stiúrthóir Sinead O'Connor and Brid Boylan to announce Belfast as the venue for this year's Annual Camogie Congress on 25th/26th March.

Mayo

This year, Mayo are fielding their first under 16 team in inter county competition. It'll be fun to chat and meet with Camogie players in the Davitt Secondary School in Castlebar next week. They have worked hard to improve their skills and knowledge of the game and I'll be delighted to mark their achievements when I meet them shortly.

Donegal

Planning to make it to Donegal in April to support the wonderful effort that is giving rise to four new club start ups in the north west. There is a promising future there for Camogie.

Connacht

And the Connacht Camogie Club Forum on 1st April in Claregalway will be another useful opportunity to check in on the issues affecting clubs on the ground and to hear about developments. Should be a good buzz at this with two All Ireland club titles in the Province!

Congress month

The last weekend in March is a regular fixture on the Camogie calendar for the national congress. There is always extra interest in this event when there are elections! There are two elections this year.

Under our new Official Guide, for the first time Congress will directly elect two members to the Central Council (Ardchomhairle). One of these is positions is designed to bring coaching and games development knowledge and skills to the Council. The second is designed to bring public relations and communications knowledge and skills to Ardchomhairle.

Sheila O'Donoghue from Comhairle Camógaíochta Ard Oideachais is nominated, unopposed, for the coaching and games development position on Ardchomhairle.

Three people are nominated to contest the public relations and communications position - Cólín Duffy (Ulster Council), Miriam O'Callaghan (Offaly) and Gerry O'Sullivan (Dublin).

Of course the big one is the President-elect challenge. Aileen Lawlor (Westmeath) and

Catherine O'Hara (Antrim) are contesting this one.

Camogie Go games bring lots of changes with beginners up to Under 12s

MAJOR changes to under age camogie have come into place with the implementation of the Go Games, with players from beginners up to and including Under 12 now participating at all levels in the new structure.

Given the huge success of Under 12 competitions in Cork over a number of years the decision taken at last year's congress has been seen by many as a huge blow to the progress of players in the Under 11 and 12 age bracket here in the county.

In Cork the standard of all our under 12 leagues has been very high and the train of thought was that for beginners up to age 10 the Go Games would be of huge benefit, but such was the maturity of a lot of our Under 12s they were well able to play competitively. With the decision receiving huge support from all other counties Cork have no option but to implement the Go Game ethos and give it a go for a season, thus the Under 12 league as we knew them are no longer in existence.

The juvenile county board will be organising cluster blitzes which will take place from April to June and clubs must enter these in order to participate in Go Games Under 12 mini leagues which will be organised in September. This mini-league system is a competitive games programme built on the Go Games in

that it is small-sided and provision must be made for all players to get meaningful playing time.

GAA Go Games are small sided games with modified Camogie rules. They form a central element of GAA and camogie policy on games for children up to and including the Under 12 age grade and are defined by the following criteria that there is full participation for all players and the games are organised in a non-competitive way with no results recorded. Playing area and equipment is modified and the modifications and playing rules are at the discretion of each county.

The spirit behind the Go Games is one of full participation where each player gets to play the entire game and with no subs. Every player gets to lay in a number of different playing positions during each game thus giving everybody a chance to play in goal, midfield, defence or attack.

The games are played in a fun atmosphere with the emphasis on improving skills. A survey on the Go Games showed that players worked harder during the non-competitive games and it helped improve fitness levels. Players had more contact which helped to develop skills.

With smaller playing numbers the suggested formats in the different age groups are as follows: Under 8: A maximum of seven versus seven, Under 10 a maximum of ten against

ten, Under 12 a maximum of eleven versus eleven. These guidelines are the maximum number of children recommended per team. The thinking is that the smaller sided games the better for the participants.

Zones are suggested at Under 8 and Under 10 to avoid the crowding, however, if games are small sided it may not be necessary for zones. The recommended playing time for Under 8 is four quarters of seven minutes, Under 10 four quarters of ten minutes, Under 12 Four quarters of 12 minutes. Four quarters are suggested to allow changing of positions, however, sometimes it may not be possible to do this and thus there will be two halves. Positional changes may take place within a half. For under 8s there is no solo running and it is all ground hurling and zones. Under 10s may catch and strike, but again no solo running and zones are in use. For Under 12s the rules are modified to meet developmental needs. The suggested field size is for Under 8: 45m x 40m, Under 10s, 65m x 40m and Under 12s, 100m x 40m.

Guidelines for Under 8s are as follows: play commences with a throw in from halfway. Outfield players must play the sliotar on the ground at all times. The goalkeeper is permitted to catch or lift the sliotar into the hand, take four steps and strike it from the hand, but is not permitted

to solo run with the sliotar on the hurley. A player who is fouled takes her own free; like a sideline cut frees should never be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line. When a team plays the sliotar over the sideline the nearest player on the opposing team within the zone takes the sideline cut. Players are not permitted to kick the sliotar, but if the ball strikes the foot or leg of a player this does not constitute a foul, first touch large sliotar to be used in all games.

Guidelines for Under 9s and Under 10s are as follows: play commences with a throw-in from halfway, normal camogie rules apply, no soloing allowed, quick touch sliotar to be used. The player who is fouled must take her own free, when team plays the sliotar over the sideline the nearest player on the opposing team takes the sideline cut. When a team plays the sliotar over its own end line the other team is awarded a free puck from the half way line opposite where the sliotar crossed the end line. Free pucks should never be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line. Players are not permitted to kick the sliotar, but if the ball strikes the foot or leg of a player this does not constitute a foul. Slalom poles to be used for goalposts and cones for marking zones. Quick touch sliotar are to be used for games. Bibs are to be worn by the midfielders who can

roam throughout the pitch. Two zones with players to remain within the zone to which they are assigned. Midfielders can enter both zones but must return to the centre of the field for puck outs.

Guidelines for Under 11 and 12 Go-Games are similar to the above but at this level when a team plays the sliotar over its own end line the other team is awarded a free puck from the half way line opposite where the sliotar crossed the end line, free pucks should never be taken closer than 13m from the opposing end line. Players are not permitted to kick the sliotar, but if the ball strikes a players foot or leg this does not constitute a foul. Regulation goalposts are to be used in mini leagues, for cluster blitzes slalom poles may be used. At this age level there are no zones. For mini leagues rotation need not apply and for mini leagues where possible no substitutes. Teams divide as equally as possible but where there are substitutes all players must get at least one half game. Clubs should divide numbers so that all players play where possible. The recommended playing season is April, May and June when five cluster blitzes are to be held. Cluster blitzes are non-competitive and results are not to be recorded.

It will be interesting to get the feedback, especially from the players who are the full 12 years of age this year.



Captain of the Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny, Aisling Curtis receives the All-Ireland colleges Roinn A winners trophy from Camogie Association President Joan O'Flynn after her team's win over St Patrick's College, Maghera. Photo: John McIlwaine



Castlecomer Community School celebrate after winning the Roinn C All-Ireland camogie final. Orlaith Walsh gives Edel Coonan a shoulder lift following their win over St Pius X, Magherafelt. Picture: Caroline Quinn



Kilkenny schools made history in Trim, Co. Meath at the weekend when they won the three All-Ireland colleges senior camogie titles. The feat was never achieved before by any county. Pictured above is Grennan College, Thomastown captain Shauna Carroll with the Roinn B trophy. They beat St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena. Photo: John McIlwaine

Camogie ► NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 3

Clare ladies no match for All-Ireland champions

Clare 0-04 - Wexford 2-14

at Piercestown, Wexford

Brid MacNamara

CLARE SUFFERED a sizeable defeat at the hands of the All-Ireland champions Wexford on Saturday in Piercestown, Wexford. Taking on the current champions in both league and championship was always going to be a daunting task for Clare, whose problems were added to by the absence of key players Sinead Donovan, Siobhan Lafferty and Laura Linnane through injury. Wexford had the added impetus of this being their first opportunity of playing in front of a home crowd since their All-Ireland win last September,

their two other games in the group having been away games. And they did not let their supporters down, treating them to a display befitting that of champions. Wexford won the toss and played with aid of a strong breeze through the first half, and by mid-way through the 30 minutes, had five points on the board, before Katrina Parrock goalied in the 22nd minute. Chloe Morey got Clare on the scoreboard with a pointed free in the 26th minute, before Parrock pointed again, leaving the half time score Wexford 1-6, Clare 0-1.

Clare were more determined and focused at the restart but with Wex-

ford in scintillating form, it was always going to be a difficult task to contain them. Claire McMahon and Morey added a point each to Clare's tally from frees but there was no stopping Wexford. Referee Karl O'Brien's decision to not penalise Parrock for three catches, allowed her to raise her second green flag of the day, leaving the result in little doubt. McMahon pointed again from a free for Clare's last score of the match in the 53rd minute. Wexford tacked on another four points before ref O'Brien called time on a game that was now shooting practise for Wexford, leaving the final score

Wexford 2-14, Clare 0-4. Clare can take some consolation from the fact that this was their most cohesive performance to date in the league, but will realise that they need to improve before their Munster semi-final in four weeks time.

► Match Details

Wexford Mags Darcy, Claire O'Connor, Catherine O'Loughlin, Ciara Storey, Lisa Bolger, Mary Leacy, Karen Atkinson, Michelle O'Leary, Deirdre Codd, Josie O'Dwyer (0-2), Una Leacy (0-2, 1'45), Brid Gordon (0-1), Lenny Holohan (0-1), Evelyn Quigley (0-1) Katrina Parrock (2-2)
Subs: Ursula Jacob (0-2) for Una Leacy (in), Kate Kelly (0-3) for Holohan

Clare Susan Vaughan (Ogonnelloe), Helen McMahon (Kilmaley), Kate Lynch (Kilishen), Marion O'Brien (Ogonnelloe), Chloe Morey (Somlebridge) (0-2), Rosin McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Sinead O'Loughlin (Inagh), Ruth Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Lisa Loughnane (Kilishen), Deirdre Murphy (Clooney/Quin), Sharon McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley) (0-2), Norah Murphy (Kilishen), Fiona Lafferty (Kilmaley), Mairead Scanlon (Scariff)
Subs: Aimee McInerney (Newmarket-on-Fergus) for O'Loughlin (11), AnneMarie Fitzgerald (Bodyke) for Mairead Scanlon (47 mins), Sinead O'Loughlin for Deirdre Murphy (56 mins, in).

Player of the Game
Katrina Parrock (Wexford)

Referee Karl O'Brien, Dublin



Abbey Community College Camogie Team who beat who beat Aquinas Grammar School Belfast, to go through to the All Ireland Junior D Camogie Semi-Final

We are the champions - Loreto singing again

MICHAEL O'LEARY

Loreto Kilkenny.....4-10
St Patrick's College.....1-6

THE DASHING, hugely skilful Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny retained the All-Ireland Roinn A senior camogie colleges title when they scored an emphatically win over St Patrick's College (Maghera) in the final on Saturday. The winners dominated from the start and strolled to victory.

Taking control from the throw-in the Loreto played the first half backed by the strong breeze. They led by 1-8 to 0-3 at the interval, when they had one hand on the cup.

Sarah-Anne Quinlan and Aoife Murphy pointed early as the Loreto were in razor sharp form. Their first-touch and the movement of the forward division were a joy to watch.

The first goal arrived in the 13th minute when Claire Phelan sent a low thundering shot to the top right-hand corner of the net after moments earlier she had set up her Lisdowney clubmate, Aoife Murphy for a goal chance, only to be denied (1-2 to 0-0).

Goal chance

Phelan pointed from play in the 14th minute after Emma Comerford had a goal chance blocked earlier in the movement before Karen Kieft pointed a free to finally open the losers tally. The Loreto were totally dominant during the opening half, during which Miriam Walsh performed brilliantly at corner-back.

The Loreto added five consecutive points during the second quarter to double their lead approaching half-time.

A brace each from busy midfielder and team captain Aisling Curtis along with Claire Phelan (one free) and a superb effort from play by Orla Hanrick stretched the advantage even further before Grainne McNicholl pointed a brace of frees to conclude their first half scoring.

However, the Derry school would have wind advantage for the re-start.



Loreto Team. All Ireland Senior A Camogie Secondary Schools Final, Loreto, Kilkenny, v St Patrick's college, Derry. Trim GAA club, Co. Meath. Picture: Caroline Quinn

A grandstand half appeared to be in store when within only two minutes of the restart Shannon Kearney's shot looped over the unfortunate goalie. The score was 1-8 to 1-3.

The Loreto continued to maintain that five point lead over the next 15 minutes as they added points from Aoife Nolan and Niamh Byrne (45).

Their defensive unit was still on top with Miriam and Grace Walsh leading the way.

Quinlan goal seals it

Victory was virtually sealed in the 47th minute by a Sarah-Anne Quinlan goal.

Aisling Curtis sent a long and high ball goalwards into the path of Claire Phelan, who teed up Quinlan, whose powerful shot gave the goalkeeper no chance, 2-10 to 1-5.

That goal was the icing on the cake. The candles were blown out with further goals during the closing 10 minutes from Orla Hanrick and Claire Phelan in the 52nd and 54th minutes respectively. Hanrick's goal was superbly worked.

A long delivery downfield by

Kate Holland found Aoife Murphy unmarked in front of goal. Murphy's shot was blocked but Sarah Anne Quinlan passed to Hanrick, who controlled the sliotar on the base of the stick. Then without catching the ball she volleyed an unstoppable shot home for a peach of a goal.

Aoife Murphy, who scored a single point but was a real threat all afternoon, set-up Claire Phelan for goal No. 4 as she rifled home from an acute angle.

This was a superb team display from the Loreto. These gifted players formed the backbone of three All-Ireland colleges junior title winning teams, while seven of them were involved in last year's maiden All-Ireland senior victory.

The defensive unit, as they were in the Leinster final and All-Ireland semi-final, were superb led by Miriam Walsh who was the game's most consistent performer over the hour.

Aisling Curtis was industrious in midfield, while senior panellist Claire Phelan (2-3) led the way in attack. Aoife Murphy was always lurking and was a menace while Orla Hanrick and

Sarah-Anne Quinlan made valuable contributions also.

Scorers: Loreto Secondary School - Claire Phelan (2-3, 0-1 free); Orla Hanrick, Sarah Anne Quinlan (1-1 each); Aisling Curtis (0-2); Aoife Murphy, Niamh Byrne (45) and Aoife Nolan (0-1 each). St Patrick's College, Maghera - Shannon Kearney (1-0); Grainne McNicholl (0-3, two frees, one 45); Karen Kieft (0-2, frees); Teresa McElroy (0-1).

Loreto Secondary School - Kirsty Maher (Dicksboro), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Tracy Brennan (Lisdowney), Sonya Buggy (Dicksboro), Kate Holland (Lisdowney), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan), Noelle Maher (Tullaroan), Niamh Byrne (Clara), Aisling Curtis, capt (Clara), Sarah-Anne Quinlan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Aoife Nolan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Orla Hanrick (Dicksboro), Emma Comerford (Young Irelands, Gowran), Aoife Murphy (Lisdowney), Sub - Lydia Fitzpatrick (St Lachtain's).

Referee - Dermot Connolly.



Emma Comerford, right, Loreto, in action against Maeve Quinn, St Patrick's college. All Ireland Senior A Camogie Secondary Schools Final, Loreto, Kilkenny, v St Patrick's college, Derry. Trim GAA club, Co. Meath. Picture: Caroline Quinn



Sonia Buggy, left, Loreto, in action against Karen Kieft, St Patrick's college. All Ireland Senior A Camogie Secondary Schools Final, Loreto, Kilkenny, v St Patrick's college, Derry. Trim GAA club, Co. Meath. Picture: Caroline Quinn



Orlaith Walsh, right, Castlecomber, in action against Rebekah Forbes, St Plus. All Ireland Schools Camogie Senior C Final, St Plus X Magherafelt, Derry v Castlecomber CS, Kilkenny, Trim GAA club, Co. Meath. Picture: Caroline Quinn



Shauna Carroll, left, Grennan College, in action against Eimear McGarry, St Louis. All Ireland Senior B Camogie Secondary Schools Final, Grennan College, Thomastown, Kilkenny, v St Louis, Ballymena, Co Antrim. Trim GAA club, Co. Meath. Picture: Caroline Quinn

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The Castlecomer Community School team who won the All-Ireland Roinn C senior camogie final, beating St Pius X, Magherafelt.

Picture: Caroline Quinn

Coonan shoots injury-time winner to give Castlecomer their first title

MICHAEL O'LEARY

Castlecomer CS.....4-2
St Pius, Magherafelt.....2-5

WHAT a dramatic finish! Having led by 3-1 to 0-1 at half-time, and with the first score of the game not coming until the 13th minute, Castlecomer Community School appeared to be happy to settle for a replay as this All-Ireland senior camogie Roinn C final was all square with three minutes of injury-time played.

The Magherafelt school had dominated possession during the second half when backed by the strong wind advantage. They had grabbed two goals in quick succession and they appeared to be on course for victory as the momentum was with them.

However, the Castlecomer school's victory was based on a never say die spirit. They refused to wilt and inspired by a towering display by centre-back and team captain Orlaith Walsh, they managed to

conjure up one last moment of magic.

The 'Comer school won a sideline cut 50 yards from goal. Good work down the right wing by Maeve Mansfield saw the ball eventually wriggle its way towards Edel Coonan about 40 metres from goal.

Raced forward

Coonan raced forward with the ball, hitting it along the ground three times before showing great composure to send a low ground strike beyond the goalkeeper and into the net. An All-Ireland winner!

It was the clinching score and for their battling persistence when tested to the limit, it was a deserved victory for the 'Comer school, whose team boss, Ted Browne guided the school to national honours after nearly 30 years of trying.

Mind you no one could have predicted the dramatic finish unfolding, especially as it didn't appear that way early on. In fact, the complete opposite looked likely.

Not a single score was registered until the 13th minute when Maeve Mansfield

pointed a free from 50 metres. No score came between the 13th and 23rd minutes either. Then the half ended dramatically.

'Comer, with wind advantage, got a lucky break courtesy of an own goal before Mairead Daly raced through for a hand-passed goal in the 27th minute. Edel Coonan bagged another Castlecomer goal moments later.

All of a sudden the game changed completely, and dramatically. Dania Donnelly pointed a free to conclude the scoring as the 'Comer school led by 3-1 to 0-1 at the interval.

The second half started in similar vein to the way the opening half had concluded.

Back in the hunt

Aimee Devlin and Rebekah Forbes grabbed a goal each for St Pius and all of a sudden with only five minutes of the new half played, only two points separated the sides, 3-1 to 2-2.

The accurate and reliable Dania Donnelly pointed a 45 to narrow the gap to

the minimum. But despite having to withstand persistent pressure the 'Comer school stood up to the task admirably, with the girls constantly putting their bodies on the line to defend their goal.

Maeve Mansfield pointed from play in the 48th minute as they doubled their advantage. However, they were pegged back level courtesy of points from Donnelly (free) and the leveller from Sinead Conlon.

Significantly though, St Pius couldn't find the lead score. Instead, against all the odds it was Coonan who came up trumps for the Noreiders as she emerged as the match winning heroine to round off a wonderful day for Kilkenny schools.

The defensive unit under pressure laid the foundations for the Castlecomer school's victory.

Goalkeeper Noreen Murphy performed confidently often under considerable pressure, while Katie Nolan, Ailsing Brennan and team skipper Orlaith Walsh defended trojanly.

In attack apart from Coonan's heroics, Maeve Mansfield, Tamara Agar and when introduced Kelly Dowling all worked hard.

Wild celebrations transpired afterwards with team manager Ted Brown carried shoulder his by his fellow players and students.

Scorers: Castlecomer Community School - Edel Coonan (2-0); Maeve Mansfield (0-2, 0-1 free); Mairead Daly (1-0). St Pius Magherafelt - Dania Donnelly (0-4, two frees, two 45s); Aimee Devlin, Rebekah Forbes (1-0 each); Sinead Conlon (0-1).

Castlecomer Community School (all St Martin's unless stated) - Noreen Murphy (Lisdowney), Katie Nolan, Ailsing Brennan, Rebecca Comerford, Nicole Walsh, Orlaith Walsh (capt), Margaret Nolan, Aileen Cass, Kelly Comerford, Edel Coonan, Maeve Mansfield, Mairead Daly, Laura Finn, Margaret O'Neill, Tamara Agar. Sub - Kelly Dowling. Referee - Donal Ryan (Dublin).

Grennan got the All-Ireland hat-trick on the road

MICHAEL O'LEARY

Grennan College.....4-9
St Louis, Ballymena.....3-3

IT WAS a memorable day for Kilkenny schools at a cold and windswept Trim, Co. Meath on Saturday when Grennan College, Thomastown, the Loreto Kilkenny and Castlecomer Community School won All-Ireland senior camogie glory. This was the first time any county or province won all three titles in the same season.

Grennan strolled to a good first win in the All-Ireland camogie Roinn B final.

Opening against the fresh breeze Grennan built up a 3-2 to 2-1 lead by the interval. All five goals had an element of fortune about them. Inter-county senior panellist Kelly Hamilton opened the scoring with a pointed 45 in the 7th minute. Ballymena school responded within 60 seconds.

Anna Kelly's attempted shot hit the post off the stick of Niamh Bolger before Chloe Bartley slid in to get the vital touch (1-0 to 0-1). Hamilton added a pointed 45 in the 13th minute before playing a major part in Grennan's opening goal.

She raced towards goal, cutting loose on her left. Her point attempt was smothered



Grennan College, Thomastown celebrate their win over St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena in the Roinn B All-Ireland colleges senior camogie final in Trim Co. Meath. Photo: John McIlwaine

by St Louis goalkeeper, Noleen McCloskey, before the highly impressive Niamh Donnelly picked up the sliotar before rifling an unstoppable shot to the net.

Deceived goalkeeper

A second goal for Grennan arrived in the 16th minute when Aine Lannon's point attempt ended up deceiving the opposing goalkeeper following good work from Jane Cullen and Shauna Carroll (2-2 to 1-0). Anna Kelly added a point and then a goal in the 19th minute after

Aimee McAtamney's attempt from a free was batted clear by Niamh Bolger.

Grennan responded within seconds. Kelly Hamilton, after being denied a goal chance when stopped in her tracks a few seconds earlier, saw her goalbound shot trickle over the goalline, 3-2 to 2-1. There was no scoring during the closing 10 minutes of the half.

Grennan used the wind well in the second-half as they out-scored their opponents by 1-7 to 1-1. Hamilton added five points to her tally (3 frees and two 45s) as

Eimear Donnelly bagged a brace of points. The fourth goal in the 39th minute effectively guaranteed victory.

Kelly Hamilton once again provider as she sent a low ball goalwards into the path of Niamh Donnelly. The latter saw her shot looped over the goalkeeper. It was onwards and upwards for Grennan.

The Noreiders conceded a disputed goal later on but there was no doubting their overall superiority in what was an impressive display. The defensive unit was superb, inspired by a colossal display by

Jane Cullen at centre-back. The full-back line of Sinead Whelan, Megan Hayes and Chloe Gantley were dominant.

Relentless

The swashbuckling Megan Farrell produced a relentless second half display and surged forward constantly, while the attacking unit was always a threat. Team captain Shauna Carroll worked hard along with Hamilton, who was very impressive with her place ball striking, while the strong running Aine Lannon and the Donnelly sisters, Eimear and Niamh made a vital contribution to victory.

Scorers: Grennan College - Kelly Hamilton (1-7, 0-4 45s, 0-3 frees); Niamh Donnelly (2-0); Aine Lannon (1-0); Eimear Donnelly (0-2). St Louis - Anne Kelly (1-1); Chloe Bartley, Ríoghán McNoughton (1-0 each); Aimee McAtamney (0-2, frees).

Grennan College (all Thomastown unless stated) Niamh Bolger, Sinead Whelan, Meghan Hayes, Chloe Gantley, Niamh Quigley, Jane Cullen (Rower-Inistioge), Jessie Carroll, Rachel O'Carroll, Megan Farrell, Shauna Carroll (capt), Aine Lannon, Kelly Hamilton (Rower-Inistioge), Eimear Donnelly, Niamh Donnelly, Leanne Walsh. Sub - Katie Walsh. Referee - Paul Beecher (Cork).

O'Connor pleased with team progress

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

GEMMA O'CONNOR is now, more than ever, a leading member of the Cork senior camogie team.

It is a mantle she has assumed over the years de facto by her marvellous performances. Now with so many players retired since the 2010 season the 25-year-old is a huge cog in the Cork camogie wheel and the St Finbarr's player is glad that things have settled down in the camp.

"It was a slow start. I suppose we didn't really start the year ideally, we were very late coming back into training.

"We played Tipperary, lost by a point. I suppose things weren't too great there. We hadn't played with each other in a long time and there's a lot of new faces, so definitely the Dublin game gave us a stepping stone to get to know each other, play together more fluently.

"It's a good win. Next week will be the big challenge against Kilkenny."

Obviously it takes time to adjust to a new management set-up but both manager and players are quickly becoming acquainted.

"When Joe O'Brien came along he didn't know us, we didn't know him. Some people may say that's a bad thing but it can work to your advantage as well.

"Everyone has to start off from scratch again. No matter whom you are or how long you've been playing or whether you've only just come onto the panel this year, Joe is giving everyone a fair chance and that's great.

"That means there's going to be competition for places. Training is going well at the moment."

With the Ashbourne and the All-Ireland club championships over, Cork should now have their full squad at training with little distraction for a number of weeks.

"We started off with a very small panel. It's great to see the likes of Rena Buckley back, especially as captain. Hopefully in the next few weeks when Orla Cotter is fit (having broken her jaw bone) that'll be an extra plus."

Frank Flannery, Cork's former trainer, has joined the Kilkenny backroom team and Gemma admits that he will bring something to the table when Cork face them next Sunday. It's an important game as should Cork lose they will be out. A win would toss them into a play-off situation and every game is welcome.

Cats will provide much sterner test than Dubs

SUNDAY
National Camogie League
Division 1: Cork v
Kilkenny, CIT, 2pm.

THE re-fixture of the first round National League game between Cork and Kilkenny, which was postponed due to Inniscarra's involvement in the All-Ireland Club Championship, takes place on Sunday in CIT.

This is the game which will give Joe O'Brien a clear indication of how far off or near the mark his squad is to regaining the O'Duffy Cup they surrendered last season.

Former physical coach to

the Cork team, Frank Flannery, is now involved with Kilkenny and without doubt he will bring something to the table. An excellent coach and motivator he may be the final piece in the jigsaw as Kilkenny bid to win a championship title they last held in 1994.

Kilkenny have had phenomenal success at underage during the past decade though it has failed, as yet, to materialise on the senior stage.

Twelve months ago Kilkenny recorded a 3-4 to 1-6 league victory over Cork after a string of wides saw

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

Cork fail to score for the final quarter despite having good possession. The sides were level 15 minutes into the second half.

Come championship time Cork were expected to reverse the result but they failed to show up on the day in Páirc Uí Rinn and Kilkenny took the game 0-13 to 2-6.

Kilkenny's half-back line of Edwina Keane, Leanne Fennelly and in particular

Elaine Alyward lorded it.

Cork are still in experimental mode. Breige Corkery will return having lined out with the footballers last Sunday and every game is important for Breige in sharpening her skills after a 15-month absence.

Cork's starting line up wasn't named, yet it will hardly differ much from the team that inflicted a 4-20 to 0-3 defeat on Dublin last weekend.

Sile Burns went off at half time injured but will be expected to start. She certainly looked to have her spark back but considering the op-

position it is, the Kilkenny game will tell a lot more.

Katrina Mackey will no doubt start at left corner-forward. Once the supply is coming and she has space, she will create problems for most defenders. Joanne Casey is also available and could start.

Kilkenny have a number of good forwards. Aoife Neary, Katie Power and Marie Dargan being their main threats.

A win would be nice but with Cork a number of weeks' training behind their opponents, it will be a big ask.



Finbarr McCarthy presents the Cork 96FM C103 GAA Sports Star of the Month award to Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan, Inniscarra Camogie Club also in picture L to R: Jerry O'Sullivan, chairman Cork County Board, Marian Mc Carthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, Shay Livingstone, general manager, Rochestown Park Hotel, Kieran McGeary, CEO Cork 96FM and Gerard Lane, PRO Cork County Board.

Picture: Tony O'Connell



John Barry, Managing Director, Bord Gáis Networks with Rena Buckley, (Inniscarra) and Sheila Burns (Rockban) of Cork's Senior Camogie Team at the launch of Bord Gáis Networks 2011 Programme for the Senior Camogie Team.

Michael Mac Swiney, Chairman

Beating Dublin will guarantee Cork a place in the semi-final

TOMORROW
All-Ireland U16 A championship: Cork v Dublin, Sarsfields, 2pm.

CORK take on Dublin in the last game in their group in the All-Ireland U16A championship. With a win already under their belts a victory tomorrow would guarantee Cork a semi-final spot — but were they to lose and Clare were to defeat Dublin in the last game, it would go to a play-off situation.

It's Dublin's first game in the championship, but they have prepared well and manager Pay Clinton is travelling in confident mood: "We have worked

CAMOGIE
By MARY NEWMAN

hard and have a very settled squad. I think we will be there or thereabouts come the final shake-up."

There is huge work being put into underage camogie in Dublin and with clubs such as St Vincent's doing well in Féile competitions. In total nine clubs are represented on the squad which is being boned by 10 of the St Vincent's players. There are several players from the panel that will be travelling to Kilkenny to

ster title.

The Cork backroom were pleased with their side's performance against Clare. However, with two major injury worries in the camp there is huge concern about Orla Healy and Claire Shine. Both are young players with bright futures.

To add to it a long-term injury to Niamh McCarthy robs them of another player with huge potential.

CAMOGIE

Fixtures: Saturday, League Div 1: Dublin v Tipperary, Carrigrohane, 3pm.
All-Ireland U16A Championship: Derry v Tipperary, St Fintin's, 12.30pm; Kilkenny v Galway, Kilmacshane, 1pm; Cork v Dublin, Sarsfields GAA, 2pm.
All-Ireland U16B Championship: Armagh v Limerick, TBC; Antrim v Offaly, Anmoy, 1.30pm; Waterford v Wexford, Fechar Field, 2.30pm.
All-Ireland U16C Championship: Donegal v Cavan, Carradonagh, 1.30pm; Meath v Down, Donaghmore Ashbourne, 2pm; Mayo v Carlow, Mayo, TBC; Westmeath v Kildare, Clonkilt, noon; Kerry v Wicklow, Abbeydorney, 1pm.
Sunday: League Div 1: Cork v Kilkenny, CIT, 2pm.
Div 2: Derry v Wexford, TBC; Antrim v Galway, Antrim, TBC; Kilkenny v Limerick, Tullogher, 2.30pm; Tipperary v Waterford, The Ragg, 3pm.
Div 3: Armagh v Meath, Athletic Grounds, 12.15pm; Dublin v Roscommon, Craobh Chiarain, 2pm.
Div 4: Cavan v Westmeath, 3G Breffni Park, 3.30pm.

CAMOGIE

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Division 1
Tipperary 4-10 (A Kennedy 2-1, J Horan 1-1, D Dunne 1-0, C Grogan 0-4f, S O'Dwyer 0-2, J Ryan, C Mc Grath 0-1 each)
Dublin 0-8 (A Maguire 0-3 (2f), E Gallery 0-2, A Fanning, F Hayes 0-1 each, L O'Hara 0-1 each)
ALL-IRELAND U16 CHAMPIONSHIP
Cork 3-3 (L Collins 3-0, O Cronin 0-3 (2f, 0-1'45) Dublin 1-5 (A O'Neill 1-1, M Mc Grath, S Murray, L Walsh, A Maher 0-1 each)
Tipperary 8-17 (C Ryan 3-3, M Ryan 2-4, T Kennedy 1-6 (0-1f), J Grace, S Curtin 1-0 each, E O'Dwyer 0-2, M Teehan, C Maher 0-1 each)
Derry 0-3 (O Mullin 0-2 (1'45), A Murray 0-1f)
Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 0-10.
B' Championship: Offaly 4-6 Antrim 2-7; Wexford 3-3 Waterford 1-3.

CORCAIGH

Sponsor: Bord Gais Networks

1. Kaylynn Lee
Glen Rovers

2. Roberta Harrington Buttevant
3. Grainne Sheehy Newtownshandrum
4. Susan O' Leary (C) Valley Rovers
5. Emma Kavanagh Douglas
6. Siobhan Hutchinson Eire OG
7. Leona Murphy Valley Rovers

8. Rachel O Callaghan St Catherine's
9. Jennifer Hosford Glen Rovers

10. Jessica Hennigan Ballincollig
11. Orla Cronin Enniskene
12. Orla Healy Inniscarra

13. Niamh Byrne Inniscarra
14. Linda Collins Courcey Rovers
15. Claire Shine Douglas

Substitutes:

16. Jessica Swayne (Killeagh) 17. Kaitlin Hickey (Blackrock)
18. Katie O'Donovan (Ballygarvan) 19. Amy Murphy (Bishopstown)
20. Joanne O'Keefe (St Catherine's) 21. Mary Mc Guinness (Tracton)
22. Anna O'Keefe (Carrigaline) 23. Kara Clifford (Newtownshandrum)
24. Maedbh Cahalane (St Finbarr's) 25. Claire Sexton (Barryroe)
26. Rachel Sheehan (Carrigtwohill) 27. Orlaith O'Driscoll (Cloughduv)
28. Amy O'Connor (St Vincent's School)
Management: Bryan O'Leary, John Moloney, Aidan Crowley.



Cork Camogie updates on: www.corkcamogie.ie

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Sponsor: OZO - 24 Collect and Recycle

1. Kate White
Lucan Sarsfields

2. Laura Smith St Vincent's
3. Rachel Kenny Lucan Sarsfields
4. Elaine O'Leary St Vincents

5. Cliona Mc Culla Na Fianna
6. Eva Marie Elliott St Vincents
7. Clare Rigney Lucan Sarsfields

8. Sarah Murray St Vincent's
9. Maria McGrath Ballyboden / St Enda's

10. Doireann Mullanney Ballyboden / St Enda's
11. Ciara Sheehan Lucan Sarsfields
12. Mary Cronin St Vincent's

13. Orla Began Lucan Sarsfields
14. Ailish O'Neill St Vincents
15. Aishling Maher St Vincents (c)

Substitutes:

16. Ciara Berkley (St Vincent's), 17. Ciara Mc Guigan (Thomas Davis), 18. Ailish Dowling (Lucan Sarsfields) 19. Jane Tully (Ballinteer St John's), 20. Roisin Baker (Na Fianna) 21. Laura Morrissey (Lucan Sarsfields) 22. Louise Walsh (St Vincents) 23. Niamh Witter (St Vincent's) 24. Leah Mullins (Castleknock) 25. Clare Murray (Na Fianna) 26. Kelsey Larkin (St. Finbarr's) 27. Niamh Byrne (Lucan Sarsfields)
Management: Pat Clinton, Dave Dunning, Joe Whyte.



MAR. 2011

U16 Championship and National League

IRISH DAILY STAR CAMOGIE LEAGUE

Div 1:
Tipperary 4-10, (A Kennedy 2-1, J Horan 1-1, D Dunne 1-0, C Grogan 0-4f, S O'Dwyer 0-2, J Ryan, C Mc Grath 0-1 each)
Dublin 0-8, (A Maguire 0-3 (0-2f), E Gallery 0-2, A Fanning, F Hayes 0-1 each, L O'Hara 0-1f)

ALL-IRL U16 CHAMPIONSHIP

'A'
Cork 3-3, (L Collins 3-0, O Cronin 0-3 (0-2f, 0-1'45)
Dublin 1-5, (A O'Neill 1-1, M Mc Grath, S Murray, L Walsh, A Maher 0-1 each)

Tipperary 8-17, (C Ryan 3-3, M Ryan 2-4, T Kennedy 1-6 (0-1f), J Grace, S Curtin 1-0 each, E O'Dwyer 0-2, M Teehan, C Maher 0-1 each)
Derry 0-3, (O Mullin 0-2 (0-1'45), A Murray 0-1f)

Kilkenny 2-10
Galway 0-10

'B'
Offaly 4-6, (M Jennings 2-2 (0-1f), C Cleary, C Fitzgerald 1-0 each, E Mooney 0-2, A Gowling, R Brennan 0-1 each)
Antrim 2-7, (U Mc Cotter 1-5 (0-2f), N Adams 1-0, F Rocks, M Lavery 0-1 each)

Wexford 3-3, (C Scanlon 2-0, R Higgins 1-0, M Cummins 0-2, E Nolan 0-1)
Waterford 1-3, (E Mc Grath 1-0, V O'Brien, O Hickey, E Fennell 0-1 each)

'C'
Kerry 5-8, (J Fitzell 2-0, P Diggan 1-3 (1-1f), A Maunsell 1-1, M Weir 1-0, A Leen 0-3, S Donegan 0-1)
Wicklow 1-1, (R Byrne 1-1)

Westmeath 2-5
Kildare 1-1
Cavan 6-4, Donegal 0-1
Carlow 9-10, Mayo 0-1

Cats draw on reserves against Cork to reach last four

KILKENNY MARCH ON



ENJOYING THE ACTION: Cork supporters Regina Curtin, Caoimhe Creedon, and Eva Dunne

Cork 0-10 Kilkenny 0-10
IRISH DAILY STAR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

KILKENNY confirmed their place in the last four of the Irish Daily Star Camogie League Division 1 with a gutsy draw against Cork in CIT yesterday.

A hard-fought and hugely entertaining game finished on 0-10 apiece.

While Cork will rue their failure to turn their last quarter superiority into scores, new manager Joe O'Brien is sure to have been pleased with the efforts of his transitional outfit.

Ann Downey will be proud of her charges' performance too as they dug deep to get the point they needed to reach the semi-finals.

Had Cork won, Group 2 would have had a three-way tie at the top of the table but the draw puts Kilkenny through along with Tipperary, who had a comfortable 4-10 to 0-8 win over Dublin in Rathcoole. Wexford and Galway progress from Group 1.

Tight

Kilkenny led by 0-7 to 0-6 at the interval with the excellent Marie O'Connor leading the way with three points from play.

Ann Dalton and Aoife Neary added scores from frees, while Cork's response was led by two Gemma O'Connor frees and scores by Sile Burns and Brieghe Corkery.

The second half was very tight and with defences on top, scores were hard to come by.

Katie Power, Dalton and Noelle Maher managed to escape the shackles to get on the scoresheet for the visitors but O'Connor doubled her tally with another couple of frees.

Denise Cronin and Eimear O'Sullivan were also on the mark.

Cork had a number of scoring chances late on, with the normally reliable O'Connor failing to convert from placed balls. And so it was Kilkenny who advanced.



FOCUSED: Kelly Hamilton for Kilkenny putting Cork's Rena Buckley under pressure and (inset) Grace Walsh for Kilkenny protecting the sliotar from Cork's Jennifer O'Leary

IRISH DAILY STAR NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUES

DUBLIN put up an improved performance against Tipperary but the Premier outfit's superior goalscoring power gave them a 14-point success.

Amy Kennedy struck for two of the visitors' goals, while Jill Horan and Deirdre Dunne also found the net. With Claire Grogan slotting four frees, Tipperary were always in control.

The Dubs kept battling on though and Alison Maguire, Elaine Gallery, Fiona Hayes, Louise O'Hara and Aine Fanning rewarded their efforts with some good scores.

RESULTS

DIVISION 1: Cork 0-10, (G O'Connor 0-4, D Cronin, E O'Sullivan 0-2 each, S

ROUND-UP

Burns, B Corkery 0-1 each). **Kilkenny 0-10.** (M O'Connor 0-3, A Dalton 0-3 (0-1f), A Neary 0-1f, S A Quinlan, K Power, N Maher 0-1 each).

Tipperary 4-10. (A Kennedy 2-1, J Horan 1-1, D Dunne 1-0, C Grogan 0-4f, S O'Dwyer 0-2, J Ryan, C Mc Grath 0-1 each). **Dublin 0-8.** (A Maguire 0-3 (0-2f), E Gallery 0-2, A Fanning, F Hayes 0-1 each, L O'Hara 0-1f).

DIVISION 2: Antrim 4-11, (R Mc Carthy 1-5, J Adams 1-3, N Graham, B Mc Atamney 1-0 each, N Mc Guinness 0-2, M Connolly 0-1). **Galway 0-12.** (R Monaghan 0-6, A Lyskay 0-3, L Farrell 0-2, C Mc Grath 0-1).

Wexford 4-6. (L Bolger 2-0, L O'Connor, B Curran 1-0 each, C O'Connor 0-4, S Redmond, E Kelly 0-1 each). **Derry 3-7.** (S Cassidy 2-1, K Kieft 1-3, A Diamond, J Mc Cullagh, C Cassidy 0-1 each).

Kilkenny 1-12. (A Murphy 1-0, N Dowling 0-4 (0-2f), E Carroll 0-3, A Fahy 0-3 (0-1f), L Millea, S Holland 0-1 each). **Limerick 1-7.** (L Scanlon 1-7 (0-4f)).

Tipperary 0-13. (S Ryan 0-8 (0-6f), A Bristane 0-3, A Ryan, E Hough 0-1 each). **Waterford 1-10.** (P Jackman 1-5 (0-4f), K Kelly 0-1, N Morrissey, R Geoghegan, A Hannon, Z O'Donoghue 0-1 each).

DIVISION 3: Roscommon 3-12. (K Hopkins 1-6, A Mc Geaney 2-2, S O'Brien 0-2, C Regan, C Daly 0-1 each). **Dublin 2-10.** (J Hoary 1-4, H Mc Inerney 1-0, A Kelly 0-3, A Twomey, A Cushion, E Mc Carthy 0-1 each).

Meath 2-11. (C Hackett, E Mc Nally 1-1 each, J Dolan 0-8, F O'Neill 0-1). **Armagh 1-11.** (C M Sorley 1-5 (0-5f), B Murray 0-3, C Donnelly, L Conway, K O'Brien 0-1 each).

DIVISION 4: **Westmeath 2-6** **Cavan 1-7**

Collins treble puts Cork into last four of All-Ireland

ALL-IRELAND U16A CAMOGIE

Cork	3-3
Dublin	1-5

CORK showed fierce determination as they carved out a four-point victory over Dublin to secure a semi-final spot in the All-Ireland U16A championship at Sarsfields on Saturday, writes **MARY NEWMAN.**

It was the visitors who were quick out of the blocks hitting Cork with a goal after just five minutes, Ailín O'Neill reacting fast to kick the ball over the line for the game's opening score.

Dublin continued to pile on the pressure, Aisling Maher and Ailish O'Neill adding points to put them five ahead as Cork struggled to find their feet.

With their defence continuing to absorb a lot of Dublin pressure, Cork began to come into the game and it was effective full-forward Linda Collins who got them on the score-sheet after 19 minutes when she took on the Dublin defence before firing the ball to the net.

The score settled Cork and now beginning to win ball around the middle of the field, they began to break even. Maria McGrath and Orla Cronin swapped points before the break as Dublin led 1-3 to 1-1.

From the restart Cork attacked and showing steady improvement in all areas they were now matching Dublin, inside two minutes they signalled their intentions as they took the lead.

Substitute Claire Sexton did huge work on the wing evading several Dublin defenders before picking out Linda Collins with a pass and the full-forward showed great strength and confidence as she shrugged off several challenges to fire home her side's second goal. As play swung from end to end both defences were on top and as Cork mopped up a lot of pressure they held firm with Roberta Hartington Susan O'Leary and Siobhan Hutchinson impressive.

Up front, Orla Cronin converted a 45 to which Sarah Murray replied and holding their composure, Cork dug deep and they got the break they needed when Orla Cronin's dropping free was touched to the net by Linda Collins.

Dublin swept downfield with Louise Walsh striking a long range point but Orla Cronin converted a free to give Cork breathing space as the clock ticked into added time.

Still Dublin kept the pressure on the Cork defence forcing keeper Kaylynn Lee to bring off a good save to deny Ailish O'Neill, a further two minutes of added time failed to produce a score as Cork finished top of the group to secure their semi-final spot.

Scorers for Cork: L Collins 3-0, O Cronin 0-3 (0-2f, 0-1 45).

Dublin: A O'Neill 1-1, A Maher, M McGrath, S Murray, L Walsh 0-1 each.

CORK: K Lee; R Harrington, G Sheehy, S O'Leary (c), E Kavanagh, S Hutchinson, L Murphy; R O'Callaghan, J Hosford, J Hennigan, O Cronin, A Murphy; N Byrne, L Collins, K Hickey.

Subs: C Sexton for A Murphy (h-t), K O'Donovan for N Byrne (50).

DUBLIN: K White; L Smith, R Kenny, E O'Leary; C McCulla; E M Elliott, C Rigney, S Murray, M McGrath; D Mullane, C Sheehan, M Cronin; O Began, A O'Neill, A Maher.

Subs: J Tully for M Cronin (41), C McGuigan for C Sheehan (43), L Walsh for O'Brien (45), A Dowling for C McCulla (53).

MAR. 2011

Determined Cork hold off Dublin to claim place in U16A semis

Cork
Dublin

3-3
1-5

CORK secured a place in the last four of the All Ireland under 16A championship with a four point victory over Dublin in wet and difficult conditions in Sarsfields on Saturday.

Ailin O'Neill gave Dublin an early lead with a goal as she reacted fast to kick the ball to the net for the game's opening score and they stretched their lead with points from

Aisling Maher and Ailish O'Neill.

Dublin led by five point before Cork had their opening score and the Cork defence was under a lot of pressure from the Dublin attack, but when full forward Linda Collins got Cork on the score sheet 19 minute into the game it settled her side. Maria McGrath and Orla Cronin swapped points before the break as Dublin led 1-3 to 1-1.

With the cross wind making it difficult both sides had to work

hard. Cork attacked from the start of the second half and inside two minutes they were in the lead, substitute Claire Sexton linking up with Linda Collins rifled the net with a superb effort. Both defences came under huge pressure but they held their lines and as Cork closed down attack after attack they grew in confidence.

Orla Cronin pointed a 45 as Sarah Murray responded and again Cork showed tremendous fighting spirit.

They won a free, Orla Cronin dropped it into the square where Linda Collins looked to get the vital touch to the net. Dublin hit back with a Louise Walsh a long range point but Orla Cronin converted a free to help Cork keep control.

Cork defended frantically and goalkeeper Kaylynn Lee denied Ailish O'Neill from close range, there followed two minutes of added time but Dublin failed to breach the spirited Cork defence.

Cork K Lee; R Harrington, G Sheehy, S O'Leary (c); E Kavanagh, S Hutchinson, L Murphy; R O'Callaghan, J Heston; J Hennigan, O Cronin, A Murphy; N Byrne, L Collins, K Hickey. Subs: C Sexton for A Murphy (40), K O'Donovan for N Byrne (50). Scorers: L Collins 3-0, O Cronin 0-3 (0-21 0-1 45)

Dublin K White; L Smith, R Kenny, E O'Leary; C Mc Culla, E M Elliott, C Rigney; S Murray, M McGrath; D Mullane; C Sheehan, M Cronin; O Began, A O'Neill, A Maher. Subs: J Tully for M Cronin (41), C Mc Guigan for C Sheehan (43), L Walsh for O Began (45), A Dowling for C Mc Culla (53). Scorers: A O'Neill 1-1, A Maher, M McGrath S Murray, L Walsh 0-1 each

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

Bord Gáis renews sponsorship

BORD Gáis Networks has renewed its sponsorship of the Cork senior team. The company is also backing Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion — a programme to promote the sport — in partnership with Cork County Board. The new programme incorporates an online competition to nurture and promote interest camogie for 8 to 15 year olds and also delivers skills camps for registered camogie club members in this age category.

There will be two camps, the first of which is planned to take place in Castle Road Camogie Grounds on April 9.

Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion will also see the launch of a Cork Camogie's Hall of Fame Award where legends associated with the game will be honored and acknowl-



Eimear O'Sullivan (Ballinhassig), Rena Buckley, Captain (Inniscarra), Denise Cronin (Ballincollig) and Sheila Burns (Rockban) of at the launch of Bord Gáis Networks 2011 Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion.

Picture: Michael MacSweeney / Provision

edged for their commitment and dedication to the game.

You will find details of a competition to win a place for you and a team-mate at the Bord Gáis camogie camp on April 9 at www.ilovecamogie.com or at www.corkcamogie.ie.

Camogie coaching course in April for youngsters

AS the Easter break fast approaches Fiona O'Driscoll has announced details of her annual four day Camogie Coaching Academy which she is organising in Ballincollig Community School from Tuesday, April 26 to Friday, April 29. (10am to 3pm each day.)

The academy has proved to be a huge hit with young camogie players aged from 10 to 16.

Application forms are available from camogie club secretaries or can be downloaded from www.letsgo.ie or for further information contact: 1890letsgo (1890 538746).

Book early to avoid disappointment.



Mary McCarthy Newman, Cork Camogie Board, Sheila Golden, secretary Cork Camogie Board, Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan, Inniscarra Camogie Club Award recipient, Marian Mc Carthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie Board, Kay Dunne, president Cork Camogie Board and Linda Mellerick, Cork Camogie Board.

Picture: Tony O'Connell



Cork corner-back Briege Corkery breaks out from defence during the Camogie NSL Division 1 drawn game with Kilkenny at CIT. Picture: Larry Cummins

Kilkenny grab place in league last four

CAMOGIE: Kilkenny confirmed their place in the last four of the Division 1 league with a gutsy draw against Cork in CIT yesterday.

A hard-fought game finished 0-10 apiece and though Cork will rue their failure to turn their superiority into scores, new manager Joe O'Brien is sure to have been pleased.

Ann Downey will be delighted with her charges' performance too as they dug deep to get the point they needed to reach the semi-finals.

Had Cork won, Group 2 would have had a three-way tie at the top but the draw puts Kilkenny through along with Tipperary, who had a comfortable 4-10 to 0-8 win over Dublin in Rathcoole.

Wexford and Galway progress from Group 1.

Dublin put up an improved performance against Tipperary but the Premier outfit's superior goal-scoring power gave them a 14-point success. Amy Kennedy struck for two of the visitors' goals, while Jill Horan and Deirdre Dunne also found the net. With Claire Grogan slotting four frees, Tipperary were always in control.

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camán Aileen!

by Lisa O'Arcy

DUBLINER Aileen Lawlor found herself living in Mullingar back in 1991, knowing few people, except staff at the hospital, where she was employed.

It was a daunting move for a young Dublin woman, but eventually, she found her avenue into Mullingar life: camogie.

"When I first came to Mullingar I didn't immediately turn to a local camogie club to find my feet.

"I did keep saying I would go down and join a local club but never got around to doing it," says Aileen, who, twenty years on, is now on the verge of becoming president of An Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Her arrival in Mullingar in 1991 with husband, Donal, and their children, meant an end to the commute that she had been undertaking on a daily basis to Mullingar Hospital from the city - a reversal of the normal commute with which Mullingar is usually associated in the mind.

Not long after arriving, however, Aileen opted to take a career break - which lasted for ten years - to raise daughter, Róisín now 26, and sons Ciarán now 23, Éamonn now 18 and Colm now 15, only returning to her work as a paediatric nurse in the Midland Regional hospital in 2001.

Aileen recalls still those early days, in a new town, and credits her husband with giving her the push she needed to get involved locally.

"He got contacts from people at his work who were involved with St Munna's Camogie Club and I went out there. Donal helped to break the ice with his efforts and I joined St Munna's and have stayed with them ever since.

"Cullin would have been closer but that was the first contact made and I just stayed with them," explains Aileen.



O'Driscoll will teach the skills of camogie

AS the Easter break approaches Fiona O'Driscoll has announced details of her annual four days Camogie Coaching Academy which she is organising in Ballincollig Community School from Tuesday from Tuesday April 26-29 (10am to 3pm each day). **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

The academy has proved to be a huge hit with young camogie players aged from 10 to 16 and each year many players return during their Easter break from the classrooms and studies in the hope of enhancing their camogie skills.

For many it's a chance to renew friendships they would have made on the playing fields with their club or schools.

Each year many young players come along for the first time and indeed the academy is suitable for players with a minimum of two years' camogie experience once they have the basic skills of the game.

For those trying to advance their game to the highest level possible, it's a wonderful opportunity as participants will be coached by top-class current and former intercounty players and by Fiona O'Driscoll, who will have many tips to pass on.

As always, a strong emphasis is placed on individual feedback by the organisers and each year reports from the eager participants is positive.

Now in its seventh year, the academy has gone from strength to strength and has evolved from Fiona's years of experience both on and off the playing fields.

The holder of six All-Ireland senior championship medals, Fiona's exploits on the playing fields with both Cork and her beloved Fr O'Neill's — with whom she won a Cork Senior County Championship medal — have been well documented.

Fiona went on to become Cork senior camogie coach, leading the county to All-Ireland glory in 2006.

She is chairperson of the National Coaching and Development Committee and is a tutor with Cumann Camógachta Na nGael. Fiona is also very much involved with the Cork senior board in the organising of the county's developments squads.

Each day activities begin at 10am and finish at 3pm and the academy programme includes the following: Fundamental and Specialist Skills; Skills Circuit; Principles of Attack and Defence; Match Practice; Individual and Group Hurling Wall Activities; Discussion on Nutrition and Hydration.

The Academy fee is €80 per person or if groups of 10 come together they will get a reduction on the price to €70 per person.

Application forms are available from camogie club secretaries or they can be downloaded from the website: www.lets-go.ie or for further information contact: 1890lets-go (1890 538746).

As places are limited young camogie players interested in getting involved are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Place in Seandún final up for grabs

CLUB NOTES

BRIAN DILLON'S

Our U15 team travel to Bishopstown on Sunday at 4.30pm for last years Seandún semi-final with Glen Rovers awaiting the winners. Fixtures are now out and we are preparing to play our U6 games, we are in the U16B league and there are four sections. In our section are St Finbarr's, St Catherine's, Ballyhea and Enniskeane.

At junior level this year we will be fielding two junior teams and league matches will be commencing shortly. In the last few weeks our U8 and U10's have been participating in the four club blitz with Na Piarasigh, Glen Rovers, St Finbarr's and ourselves.

The young players are having a great time and enjoying the new Go Games format, we are hosting the next blitz which takes place on March 26 at Tank Field.

Last Friday we hosted the U16 Seandún medal presentation. Congratulations to Shauna Ring, Caoimhe Rodgers and Ruth Brosnan who represented our club on the Seandún team.

Reminder to U8s, U10s and U12s that training is Saturday's 11am; U14 and U16, Wednesday's at 6.30pm and Saturday at noon; junior teams, Monday at 7pm and Sunday's. This year we celebrate the 30th year of our camogie club and a lot of activities will be held during the year.

BISHOPSTOWN

The U16C county league semi-final for 2010 was played on Saturday last against Ballyhea where both teams served up an excellent game. Ballyhea opened the scoring with a fine point, but we responded with a goal from an Amy Murphy free.

Amy added a point as the game ebbed back and forth with both defences under tremendous pressure.

Ballyhea struck for a goal, but we regained our composure as we fought back with goal from Niamh Stevens.

Amy Murphy added a point from a free, but Ballyhea came back with a goal to leave it 2-2 at half-time.

Ballyhea held the upper hand early in the second-half as they added two fine points to put them one point ahead.

We worked hard as we battled to wipe out the deficit, but Ballyhea were solid in defence despite continuous pressure but we levelled matters and as we looked to be heading for extra time, Amy Murphy netted with a fine goal from the puck. Eimear Ni Dheashtunnaigh added a point to see us run out winners on a 3-4 to 2-3 scoreline in a game that could have gone either way.

We now meet either Blarney or Clonsilla in the final.

Our U15s play the semi-final of the Seandún U15 competition tomorrow at 4.30pm in Bishopstown. We wish them good luck against Brian Dillon's in this game, and Glen Rovers await the winners with the final fixed for Saturday, March 26.

This year's U16 league fixtures are out. Games start on March 25.

The provisional dates for the games are March 25: Carrigrohilly away; April 1: Fr O'Neill's at home; April 8: Mallow Away; April 15: Na Piarasigh away; April 23: Sliabh Rua at home. Our U14 fixtures are not yet available.



Helen Crowley with her sister Aine, captain of the Ballyheada NS team after they won the camogie final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí in Na Piarasigh GAA.

Picture: Richard Mills

U12s we are in the process of trying to enter a second team in this year's Go-Games blitzes, currently the games are fixed for April 9/10; May 7/8; May 21/22; June 11/12; and June 25/26. We are organising a series of U8 and U10 blitzes with Ballygarvan, Ballinhassig and Ballinora, details to follow.

Senior league fixtures are now available and our first game will be against Glen Rovers.

Training: U8 to U14, Saturday 10.30am to noon; U15 to U18, Saturday 12-1.30pm; Senior/U18s/U16s, Friday 7-8pm (this will change to Thursday's, 6.30-8pm from March 31).

GLEN ROVERS

Our senior teams concluded their games in the Ballincollig tournament when we met the home side in a good game where, despite fielding a young side, we performed well.

The opening half was closely contested and only a point separated the sides at the break, however, experiences showed in the second half as Ballincollig picked of the scores but nevertheless the game was a good outing and great for pre-season preparations.

Well done to another young player, Shauna Busted, who made her senior debut and played a fine game as did all of the players who enjoyed the three games in the tournament. We extend thanks to Ballincollig for three very enjoyable games and for the invite to participate.

Senior league games begin shortly and our first game will be against Mallow.

In a thrilling Seandún U13 final for 2010 we lost out by the narrowest of margins to St Vincent's in a cracking final in CIT on Saturday last. From the throw-in both teams were committed and it was certainly a great display of camogie from two excellent sides. Play swung from end to end with both sides missing chances.

At the break we led by the narrowest of margins and on the restart the lead changed hands several times and at the full-time whistle it was all square.

Again in extra-time it was close, but in the end St Vincent's converted a last minute free to give them a one-point victory on 1-5 to 1-4 scoreline after a thrilling contest.

Well done to coaches Mary Sheehan, Pat O'Sullivan, Trevor O'Sullivan and Sonya Walsh who had the girls in top form.

We now look forward to our games in the U14 league when we travel to Millstreet for the first game on Wednesday, April 6.

Panel: Laura Dineen, Shauna Goggin, Hazel Duggan, Sarah O'Connell, Katie Chisholm (cl), Kelly Falvey, Eimear Foley, Michaela Hyde, Donna O'Neill, Lorna Hickey, Olivia Harrington, Shauna O'Riordan, Emma O'Donovan, Jodie Ford, Nora Murphy, Chantelle Hurley, Toni Maher, Sophie Duggan, Erica Cronin.

Kayleigh Bridgeman, Niamh Coughlan, Shauna Meehan, Nicole Cummins. Our U16 team will contest the U16 A county league semi-final of 2010 when we meet Valley Rovers tomorrow in CIT at noon, we hope to see big support at the game.

Our U15 team will play the final of the Seandún 2010 championship against either Brian Dillon's or Bishopstown on Saturday, March 26, at 5pm, at a venue to be confirmed.

Best of luck to Lydia Cunningham, Kaylynn Lee and Jennifer Hosford who are again involved with Cork teams this weekend.

Because of the involvement of our U16 team in the county league semi-final, coaching tomorrow is cancelled.

Training times are as follows: Beginners up to and including U12s, Sunday morning at noon and Tuesday at 6pm; U13, U14 U15 and U16s, on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm; Senior/Junior/Minors, Monday at 6.30pm and Tuesday 8.30pm.

New girls who may wish to join are welcome to come along to any of the above sessions and join up.

DOUGLAS

Our U12A team played in the Seandún U13 B final on Saturday last in CIT against Blackrock, it was a tremendously exciting game, very tough, but evenly fought with great play from both sides.

We were up against a fancied Blackrock side, but each and every one of our girls showed great heart and skill and never gave up until the final whistle.

Megan Daly was outstanding in goal and made some great saves, Sarah Sheehan and Aine Buckley were very solid in defence.

Niamh Lynch, Vika Fleming and Ruth O'Halloran played their hearts out in the middle while Megan Walsh, Eimear Cummins and Amy Hartnett worked tirelessly in the forward line.

We were very unlucky to have a goal disallowed as the game finished in favour of Blackrock, our girls gave a fantastic display and their mentors Kieran, Mary and Marie were extremely proud of them, well done to all.

Panel: Megan Daly, Aine Buckley, Sarah Sheehan, Eimear Walsh (cl), Vika Fleming, Niamh Lynch, Eimear Cummins, Ruth O'Halloran, Megan Walsh, Amy Hartnett, Seosai Mulrooney, Laura Cashman, Jill Donaghy, Eimear Casserly, Niamh Daly, Kylie O'Callaghan, Rebecca O'Brien, Rachel Hurley, Grace O'Sullivan, Sofia O'Leary, Chloe Oldham.

NA PIARASIGH

Our U13 team played Glen Rovers in the Seandún semi-final and we started strong with Erin Mc Elhinney dominating at centre field.

After seven minutes of play we were two points ahead. Just before the break Glen Rovers netted to put them a point ahead.

Early in the second half the Glen scored their second goal, but we never gave up.

Strong play saw Chloe Murphy find the net with seven minutes remaining and we were in full flight, but just couldn't get the breakthrough we deserved and were unlucky not to get a draw.

Emma Buckley was outstanding at wing back, constantly clearing her lines while up-front Louise Dorgan worked hard.

It finished Glen Rovers 2-1 Na Piarasigh 1-2.

Training times are: 6-8 years, Saturday, 11am-12pm; 9-10 years, 12-1pm; and 11 and 12 years: 1-2pm. New members welcome.

compiled by MARY NEWMAN



Glenville twins, Susan and Joanne Cotter and Maeve and Ciara Sheehan played on the school's indoor camogie team at the Sciath na Scol finals on Wednesday.

Picture: Mike English

U16 league action to

LEAGUE competitions at all levels are due to begin shortly and the juvenile board recently set the dates for their U16 league competitions, **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

There are four grades from A to D. The D grade will be confined to new clubs who are starting up this season and will be organised later in the season.

Starting date is Friday, March 25.

The grading and fixtures are as follows:

In U16 A there are two sections with 11 teams the top two teams from each to qualify for semi-finals.

Two U16 A county league semi-finals

from 2010 down for decision this weekend, as county champions Valley Rovers take on Glen Rovers in CIT at noon tomorrow.

This is a curtain-raiser to the Cork-Kilkenny league game, while at the same time in Ballyanley, Inniscarra meet Courcy Rovers.

Section One: Cloughduv, Eire Og, Newtownshandrum, Valley Rovers, Douglas.

Section Two: Carrigrohilly, Buttevant, Ballinhassig, Killeagh, Inniscarra, Courcy Rovers.

March 25

Cloughduv v Eire Og; Newtownshandrum v Valley Rovers; Douglas 1— Bye Carrigrohilly; Buttevant; Ballinhassig v Killeagh; Inniscarra v Courcy Rovers.

April 1

Valley Rovers v Cloughduv; Newtown-

Camogie Club notes

LINDA MELLERICK

IT'S 10 years since Cork last won an All-Ireland minor title, although they possibly left one or two behind them in the intervening years.

Compare that to Kilkenny, who have in the last seven years won three minor titles, four U16 titles and just last weekend won a hat-trick of titles in the post primary colleges' finals.

In a clean sweep Loreto Letterkenny retained their All-Ireland colleges' senior title in Trim on Saturday, equalling the feat of another Kilkenny side, St Brigid's Callan, in 2008-09.

Grennan College Thomastown took the senior B final from St Louis, Ballymena.

The star of the show was Kilkenny senior panellist Kelly Hamilton, with good support from Jane Cullen.

Kelly opened the scoring and, in general was very accurate from placed balls, totalling six points, but it was her 21st minute goal that clinched this game for Grennan.

Castle comers CS defeated St Plus X college, Magherafelt, 4-2 to 2-5, in the senior C final.

After coming back from a 10-point deficit to level with a Sinead Conlon point in the 56th minute.

St Plus looked to be on course to snatch a victory that their play deserved.

Castlecomer fought to stay in the game and their fight succeeded with a late goal — a score that shattered Magherafelt.

Kilkenny have yet to make the breakthrough at senior level, despite all this success, but surely it is only a matter of time.

Maybe not. Underage success doesn't guarantee success in the top flight, but it's a huge platform.

Kilkenny haven't made the breakthrough because the blend of experience and youth wasn't there throughout the field.

Kilkenny's defence are strong and physical and it's not surprising that the older members of the squad all fill these positions.

From there up, in last year's semi-final, the average age was 20 and these players played at a slower pace than the rest and thought they could skip around opponents like they did at underage.

Colleges game must be strong



Eimear O'Sullivan (Ballinhassig), Rena Buckley, captain (Inniscarra), Denise Cronin (Ballincollig) and Sheila Burns (Rockbawn) of the Cork senior team at the launch of Bord Gáis Networks 2011 Programme for 'Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion'.

Picture: Michael MacSweeney/Provision

One year on, the players are older, wiser and more experienced. Should this current team make the breakthrough they'll be hard to knock off the ladder.

Contrast that to Cork. When our colleges camogie was strong Cork were winning minor titles.

College's camogie has taken a massive step backwards.

Back as far as the early 90s when Cork was winning All-Ireland senior titles our colleges camogie had been strong in the preceding years.

Charleville then became a huge force, producing such players as Anna Geary, the Watsons and Elaine O'Riordan.

People talk all the time about how the club gives its players to the county — how the club is the birthplace of players.

Yet solely it isn't. It contributes. In the past many players started or at least developed with their school, often training three and

four times a week. We don't pay enough attention to the important role schools have played to the talent Cork has produced over the years.

Their demise has seen the demise of minor titles in both hurling and camogie.

Not enough schools play camogie now and if they do, they just tip away and do it token justice.

Very few are playing in the A category.

Look at the hurlers the Mon produced in the past and it's gone. No other college has stepped up and taken its place.

Camogie players are starting younger than ever, some in primary school, but where are they?

No school is throwing out the players St Patrick's or St Mary's did. Coláiste Choilm is showing promise, but they too need to be striving to contest senior A col-

leges finals.

No club is dominating the scene either and providing three or four top class players to Cork. Cork are fortunate that with such a large catchment area they've managed to pull in a player here and a player there but the pool is emptying and in all honesty we are struggling to find the calibre that we had in the past.

Despite our success Cork hasn't had a strong senior panel for a while.

Over the past number of years when things have been going wrong or games hung in the balance you'd look to the bench to see who could be thrown in to swing the game; more often than not there was no one.

It's a concern and Cork needs to put some focus on development squads in the schools once again. If not we will find ourselves in the wilderness.

Bord Gáis are hoping to fuel Cork's passion for camogie

By RORY NOONAN

CORK County Camogie Board, in association with Bord Gáis Networks, is delighted to announce it will deliver an engaging programme in *Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion*.

The new programme incorporates an online competition to nurture and promote interest in the game for eight-15-year-olds and also delivers skills camps as part of the competition process for registered camogie club members in this age category.

These camps, the first of which is planned to take place on April 9, and published camogie skills advice will be facilitated by camogie stars including: Joanne O'Callaghan, Rena Buckley, Anna Geary, Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor.

Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion will also see the launch of Cork Camogie's Hall of Fame, where legends associated with the game in Cork will be rightly honoured and acknowledged for their commitment and dedication to the game.

This will be an annual inauguration process managed by Cork County Camogie Board.

In addition to this exciting programme of work, Bord Gáis Networks will continue to support the Cork senior camogie team, driving their profile to the forefront of Irish sporting life.

Speaking at the launch of the 2011 sponsorship programme with Cork senior camogie team, John Barry, managing director, Bord Gáis Networks said: "It is a privilege for Bord Gáis Networks to support the Cork senior team as they participate in the 2011 League Competition and prepare to embark on the All-Ireland Championship journey."

"In supporting the communities in which we operate, Bord Gáis Networks looks forward to another exciting year of camogie and we wish the team the very best."

"Bord Gáis Networks believes that our programme of *Fuelling Cork's Camogie Passion* will encourage upcoming players to aspire to become camogie greats and to see the value and reward, both personally and in the sporting arena, of investing themselves in such a great sport."

Looking forward to this year's league and championship battles, Cork County Camogie Board chairperson, Marian McCarthy said: "We are delighted to continue working with Bord Gáis Networks as sponsor of the Cork senior team."

get underway from next Friday with five top clashes

shandrum v Douglas 1; Éire Óg — Bye; Courcy Rovers v Buttevant; Killeagh v Carrigaline; Ballinhassig v Inniscarra.

April 8

Douglas 1 v Valley Rovers; Éire Óg v Newtownshandrum; Cloughduv — Bye; Carrigaline v Courcy Rovers; Inniscarra v Killeagh; Buttevant v Ballinhassig.

April 15

Valley Rovers v Éire Óg; Douglas 1 v Cloughduv; Newtownshandrum — Bye; Ballinhassig v Courcy Rovers; Inniscarra v Killeagh; Buttevant v Carrigaline.

April 29

Éire Óg v Douglas; Cloughduv v Newtownshandrum; Valley Rovers — Bye; Courcy Rovers v Killeagh; Buttevant v Inniscarra; Carrigaline v Ballinhassig.

U16 B LEAGUE

Here we have 22 teams divided into four sections the top two teams from each section qualify for the quarter-finals.

Section 1: St Finbarr's, St Catherine's, Brian

Dillon's, Ballyhea, Enniskeane
Section 2: Millstreet, Glen Rovers, Barryroe, Sarsfields 1, St. Vincent's
Section 3: Mallow, Fr O'Neill's, Na Piarasigh, Sliabh Rua, Carrigrohilly, Bishopstown
Section 4: Blackrock, Tracton, Clonsilla, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Ballincollig, Aghabullogue.

March 25

St Finbarr's v St Catherine's; Brian Dillon's v Ballyhea; Enniskeane — Bye; Millstreet v Glen Rovers; Barryroe v Sarsfields 1; St Vincent's — Bye; Mallow v Fr O'Neill's; Na Piarasigh v Sliabh Rua; Carrigrohilly v Bishopstown; Blackrock v Tracton; Clonsilla v Kilbrittan/Timoleague; Ballincollig v Aghabullogue.

April 1

Ballyhea v St Finbarr's; Brian Dillon's v Enniskeane; St Catherine's — Bye; Sarsfields 1 v Millstreet; Barryroe v St Vincent's; Glen Rovers — Bye; Bishopstown v Fr O'Neill's; Sliabh Rua v Mallow; Na Piarasigh v Carrigrohilly; Aghabullogue v Tracton; Kilbrittan/Timoleague v Blackrock; Clonsilla v Ballincollig.

April 8

Enniskeane v Ballyhea; St Catherine's v Brian Dillon's; St Finbarr's — Bye; St Vincent's v Sarsfields 1; Glen Rovers v Barryroe; Millstreet — Bye; Mallow v Bishopstown; Carrigrohilly v Sliabh Rua; Fr O'Neill's v Na Piarasigh; Blackrock v Aghabullogue; Ballincollig v Kilbrittan/Timoleague; Tracton v Clonsilla.

April 15

Ballyhea v St Catherine's; Enniskeane v St Finbarr's; Brian Dillon's — Bye; Sarsfields 1 v Glen Rovers; St Vincent's v Millstreet; Barryroe — Bye; Na Piarasigh v Bishopstown; Sliabh Rua v Fr O'Neill's; Carrigrohilly v Mallow; Clonsilla v Aghabullogue; Kilbrittan/Timoleague v Tracton; Ballincollig v Blackrock.

April 29

St Catherine's v Enniskeane; St Finbarr's v Brian Dillon's; Ballyhea — Bye; Glen Rovers v St Vincent's; Millstreet v Barryroe; Sarsfields 1 — Bye; Bishopstown v Sliabh Rua; Fr O'Neill's v Carrigrohilly; Mallow v Na Piarasigh; Aghabullogue v Kilbrittan/Timoleague; Tracton v Ballincollig; Blackrock v Clonsilla.

U16 C LEAGUE

Nineteen teams divided into three sections, top two from each section to qualify.

Section 1: Cobh, Castletyons, Ballygarvan, Douglas 2, Watergrasshill, Ballinora

Section 2: Kildorrey, St Fanahan's, Sarsfields 2, Banteer, Milford, Charleville

Section 3: Blarney, Ballinascarty, Grenagh, Dungourney, Bride Rovers, Youghal, Newcestown.

March 25

Cobh v Castletyons; Ballygarvan v Douglas 2; Watergrasshill v Ballinora; Kildorrey v St Fanahan's; Sarsfields 2 v Banteer; Milford v Charleville; Blarney v Ballinascarty; Grenagh v Dungourney; Bride Rovers v Youghal.

April 1

Ballinora v Castletyons; Douglas 2 v Cobh; Ballygarvan v Watergrasshill; Charleville v St Fanahan's; Banteer v Kildorrey; Sarsfields 2 v Milford; Dungourney v Blarney; Ballinascarty v Grenagh; Youghal v Newcestown.

April 8

Cobh v Ballinora; Watergrasshill v Douglas 2; Castletyons v Ballygarvan; Kildorrey v Charleville; Milford v Banteer; St Fanahan's v Sarsfields 2; Bride Rovers v Ballinascarty; Blarney v Youghal; Newcestown v Dungourney.

April 15

Ballygarvan v Ballinora; Douglas 2 v Castletyons; Watergrasshill v Cobh; Sarsfields 2 v Charleville; Banteer v St Fanahan's; Milford v Kildorrey; Ballinascarty v Newcestown; Youghal v Grenagh; Dungourney v Bride Rvs.

April 29

Ballinora v Douglas 2; Castletyons v Watergrasshill; Cobh v Ballygarvan; Charleville v Banteer; St Fanahan's v Milford; Kildorrey v Sarsfields 2; Bride Rovers v Newcestown; Ballinascarty v Dungourney; Blarney v Grenagh.

July 8

Grenagh v Bride Rovers; Newcestown v Blarney; Dungourney v Youghal.

July 15

Youghal v Ballinascarty; Bride Rovers v Blarney; Grenagh v Newcestown.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Cork 0-10
Kilkenny 0-10

DESPITE Cork's best efforts, a draw wasn't enough to force a national league playoff when they played host to Kilkenny in CIT yesterday.

Cork needed to win and they just fell short.

Considering that Cork are a number of weeks behind Kilkenny in terms of training the result was somewhat pleasing for them.

Kilkenny were without two of their regular forwards, with Michelle Farrell a particular loss, but Cork too had Orla Cotter sitting in the wings through injury.

Cork started well with Emer O'Sullivan and a Silé Burns free settling the side early on.

Kilkenny hit a purple patch, opened Cork up well around mid-field and the half-back line and four points on the trot saw them take a two-point lead after nine minutes.

Poor refereeing failed to allow the game flow with 20 frees awarded in the opening half.

Cork's best passage of play came midway through as their work rate paid dividends. They hunted Kilkenny and the possession stats tipped in their favour.

Two Gemma O'Connor frees and a great burst forward by Briege Corkery had Cork in front again with 18 gone on the clock.

The game was now at a lively pace with very little separating the sides.

Cork looked to be that bit more dangerous when attacking. Joanne Casey had a goal opportunity on 26 minutes but excellent defending by Ann Dalton denied her.

Kilkenny finished the half the stronger, two points by Aoife Neary and Dalton giving them a marginal lead at the break; 0-7 to 0-6.

As Cork turned to play with the slight wind to their backs, Kilkenny's defence were outstanding in the second period.

Their half-back line of Elaine Aylward, Ann Dalton and Grace Walsh made life extremely difficult for Cork's half-forwards and they

Cork's league hopes vanish but they'll be pleased with display



Cork left corner-forward Katriona Mackey comes under pressure from Kilkenny's Walsh and Collette Dormer in their National Camogie League Division 1 game at CIT.

Picture: Larry Cummins

dominated the third quarter of the game.

Denise Gaule, at times, dropped back as an extra defender and behind them Collette Dormer was equally consistent as Cork struggled to make headway.

Kilkenny were finding each other well, displayed some good passages of play and three points from substitute Noelle Maher, Katie Power and a Dalton free gave the visitors a three-point lead entering the final quarter after Denise Cronin had found the mark for Cork.

Cork upped their performance. Pamela Mackey and Anna Geary were excellent on the left wing and

drove Kilkenny back, Linda Dorgan did Trojan work around the middle of the field and with Emer O'Sullivan beginning to make headway at right half-forward, Cork began to regain a little control.

Holding Kilkenny scoreless for the remainder of the game, Emer O'Sullivan and two O'Connor frees had Cork level three minutes into injury time.

Both sides pushed for a winner and both had chances.

Cork won a free in their half of the pitch.

As it dropped short, Kilkenny won the scramble and with it came the final whistle and Cork's elimin-

ation from this year's National League.

Scorers for Cork: G O'Connor 0-4 (f), E O'Sullivan, D Cronin 0-2 each, S Burns (f), B Corkery 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: A Dalton 0-3 (f), M O'Connor, A Neary, K Power 0-2 each, N Maher 0-1.

CORK: W White; E O'Riordan, A O'Regan, P Mackey; B Corkery, R Buckley, A Geary; G O'Connor, L Dorgan; E O'Sullivan, D Cronin, J O'Leary; J Casey, S Burns, K Mackey.

Subs: M Browne for J Casey (47), C Motherway for S Burns (56).

KILKENNY: S Murphy; C Doherty, C Dormer, J Frisby; G Walsh, A Dalton, E Aylward; L Lyng, E Maher; D Gaule, S A Quinlan, K Power; C Phelan, A Neary, M O'Connor.

Subs: N Maher for C Phelan (47), K Hamilton for A Neary (38), K Duggan for S A Quinlan (47), A Dunphy for E Maher (49), E Keane for L Lyng (64).

Referee: Eamonn MacSuihbne (Dublin).

Cork boss is happy with girls' attitude

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

CORK manager Joe O'Brien had mixed emotions after he saw his side hold favourites Kilkenny to a draw (0-10 each) on Sunday, yet fail to force a play-off in this year's senior camogie national league.

"I'm desperately disappointed, because we could have done with the extra few games, because we're so far behind," O'Brien said.

"So from that point of view yes, disappointed because we didn't get the games and disappointed that we didn't just win the match anyway but I was happy enough with the performance.

"As you know we're really only getting going and Kilkenny are a good few months ahead of us. I think we were up to the pace and I think we can improve an awful lot more on that performance.

"There were a lot of little things, simple things we didn't do right and that only comes with more practice, practice, practice, more training sessions, doing it on the training pitch and that'll all come right then on the day."

Kilkenny's defence, in particular, really stepped it up in the second half but Joe felt Cork were up to that challenge.

"They brought back a forward into their half-back line because they were trying to consolidate the small lead that they had, but I wasn't worried about that. We had a little bit of a wind and where we had the loose man we picked up a lot of ball there and drove it on and were just unlucky at the end.

"I think the two Mackeys played well and the two of them are only going to get better. Anna Geary was outstanding at wing-back, Linda O'Connell did trojan work, Silé Burns is just coming off an injury and once she gets that right she'll be fine."

Cork still has a lot of work to do but Joe believes the improvement is achievable.

"We need to run at teams more. I like to keep it wide but once you get it you cut in straight to where the danger zone is, and we're still drifting out and making the angle difficult for ourselves.

"Overall the attitude, with what I've seen from the players, I'd be happy that there's something there that I can work with. They have a good attitude.

"That was a tough game and a lot of them took knocks and none of them wanted to come off the pitch. They've a great attitude and when you've that kind of an attitude you can do something with it."

Tough battle faces Galway camogie team

EOGHAN CORMICAN

GALWAY senior camogie players can expect a ferocious battle to secure a place in the National League final when they take on Kilkenny in the penultimate round at Nowlan Park on Sunday (2pm).

Ann Downey's charges have proven formidable opposition so far accounting for Tipperary and Dublin, while drawing their tie with Cork and, in the process, ending the Rebelette's involvement in the League.

With nine goals scored in their three outings, they boast a plethora of elite score getters, most notably Ann Dalton, Aoife

Neary and Michelle Quilty.

Galway, by way of contrast, have been anything but impressive in staggering into the semi-final this weekend. Wexford, once again, proved a class apart when they visited Duggan Park first day out and although Clare were easily dispatched, the Offaly fixture almost ended in disaster but for an injury time Veronica Curtin goal.

Regardless, Galway manager Noel Finn believes his troops are in prime condition heading into the tie. "The work is done and we're ready. I wouldn't read into the Offaly match. We had a nice bit of training done that week."

"We're a lot sharper this year than this time last year. We've more done and their better prepared this year. They work we did last year is reaping rewards. The first touch came quicker this year. The girls know the drills, the game plan, how quick the pace must be."

Finn and his management team attempted, over the course of the group phase, to blood new players onto the team with Athenry's Noreen Coen, arguably, the most impressive of the new recruits. Nevertheless, preparations ahead of Sunday's encounter have been bolstered by the return of seven of Killimor's All

Ireland winning team.

Along with Brenda Hanney, Ann Marie Hayes and Ann Marie Starr, four more from the successful Killimor team, Emer Haverty, Julie Brien, Karen Brien and Martina Conroy, have been drafted onto the panel.

Bidding to appear in a first league final since 2008, Galway will need to look no further than this fixture 12 months ago, when despite outplaying the Cats for large periods of the match, they were hit for 2-5 in the closing eight minutes as Kilkenny reversed an eight point deficit into a three point victory.

Antrim boss blasts fixture makers

McCullough feels that Ulster teams are being disadvantaged by abuse of 200-mile rule



BUILDING TOWARDS SOMETHING... Antrim's triumphant side last year (above) and (below) some of their dedicated fans, who are being denied the chance of seeing their heroes in their own clubs and pitches because of flagrant abuse of the rule concerning teams 200 miles away

BY CIARAN WOODS
c.woods@gaeliclife.com

THIS weekend, Antrim head to Derry knowing that a share of the spoils will be enough to guarantee the Saffrons a place in the Division Two National League decider.

It's been a remarkable start to the season for Mickey McCullough's side with four wins from four games and sitting joint top of the division. Galway are alongside them on eight points, but the Tribeswomen have played one game more and this weekend's clash with the Oak Leafers gives Antrim the opportunity to pull clear and book their place in a league decider against Waterford or Kilkenny.

If the Saffrons do make it through, it will be just reward for a solid campaign which saw them blow away the challenge of Galway when the sides met a few weeks back, 4-11 to 0-12 the final score in favour of Antrim to build on the wins already secured over Wexford and Down. By contrast, the only two points gathered by this weekend's opponents Derry have been thanks to their game being conceded by Laois.

Although it looks like a straightforward assignment for Antrim this Saturday at Banagher, Antrim boss Mickey McCullough is taking nothing for granted.

"It's a derby game. That immediately makes everything totally different. Derry haven't been firing in the league so far, but I wouldn't be reading too much into that as I believe they're still out in front in Ulster because they've been playing at Intermediate level for the past few years. We know what we have to do, we're masters of our own destiny, and it's up to us to go out there this weekend and get the result."

Ominously for their opponents, despite seeing his side rack up four wins on the bounce and hitting the target with ease, McCullough insists that the Saffrons have still not found their groove.

"Once you get girls playing well with each other, that's when you know you're going places. We won an All-Ireland Junior title last year playing as 15 or 18 very talented individuals. Now we're gradually getting into the mindset that the girls know what



each other are going to do and they act accordingly. It's making us much more formidable as a result. It allows confidence to grow, a collective strength and a faith in each other, and the girls are just going out there to express themselves and show what they can do."

Despite their positive start, McCullough still finds time to fire a few shots in the direction of the camogie hierarchy, insisting that their policies are actually holding back the development of the game in Antrim by not letting the Saffrons play their games where they want to play them.

"We were due to play Galway at Armoyle, with great facilities and a brand new sand carpet pitch. Next thing we get word from Croke Park that Galway have objected, and anything over 200 miles has to be a half-way venue. It seems to me though that those half-way venues only come into play when it's to the detriment of Ulster teams.

They're camogie mad in the likes of Dunloy, so to get a crowd and to let the young players up there see their heroes, that's where we want to bring our games. Unfortunately we haven't been given the chance...

"Rossa played a Cork team in the All-Ireland semi-final, in Kilkenny. Where was the 200 mile rule there? We were due to play Wexford at home in the opening round, and our home game ended up being in Dublin. When we were initially contacted by Croke Park that week, they had actually wanted us to play the game in Birr. Where's the 200 mile rule in either of those? The same day, Down

travelled to Galway to play Galway. From Portaferry to Galway was 232 mile, yet from Wexford to Belfast was 196. Derry the following week had to play Galway in Galway."

"Camogie is strong in the likes of St John's and Rossa. They're camogie mad in the likes of Dunloy, so to get a crowd and to let the young players up there see their heroes, that's where we want to bring our games. Unfortunately we haven't been given the chance to do that. If you enter the National League, you expect to go home and away. That's one serious gripe I have with it all."

Elsewhere this weekend, Down face Wexford also in Division Two Group One, while the other Division Two finalists will be sorted out, as in Group Two it's a winner-takes-all clash between Waterford and Kilkenny. Otherwise, it's a clear calendar due to annual Camogie Congress being staged in Belfast.

Derry set sights on upsetting Saffrons

By Patricia Mulgrew

TOMORROW will provide Derry and Antrim with a chance to claim early bragging rights as the neighbours go head-to-head in Banagher in National Camogie League Division Two, Group Two (4pm).

The Saffrons will be looking to secure another three points, while Derry will be looking for a strong performance as they continue to build for the Championship.

Derry joint manager John Anthony Mullan has called on his players not to get hung up on the fact that it is a derby game.

He said: "At this stage of the season I wouldn't see it as a derby match, it's just another League game for us."

"I suppose the game will have more importance to Antrim as they look to secure more points, but I will want us to give them a good hard game on Sunday. They have been going well in the League and it will be a good test for us as we build towards the Championship."

Mullan has been impressed by the way his side is progressing in each game, and believes they are well on course for peaking during the Championship.

"We set ourselves a target of where we want to be come the Championship and we're well on our way towards reaching it," he said.

"I'm delighted with the way the team is progressing. We have a few of the Coleraine girls back for Sunday and hopefully we'll get the rest filtered into the side, so we will be better equipped for the Championship."

"But in terms of Sunday I'll be looking for the girls to put in another strong performance and hard work. If we do that and give Antrim a game, then I'll be happy."

The Saffrons enjoyed a comfortable win over Galway last weekend, and they will want to continue their fine run of form as another two points should ensure their passage to the latter stages of the competition.

Antrim star Jane Adams expects a tough physical game.

She said: "It's going to be tough and it's going to be dogged with everyone fighting for every ball but that's what Antrim and Derry games are."

The forward line of Jane Adams, Raquel McCarry and Natalie McGuinness linked up well last week but it is the Antrim defence that has been particularly impressive so far this season, and the Saffrons will hope for another strong performance from them as they face a Derry forward line that includes the in-form Sinead Cassidy.

Down take on Wexford in Group One of Division Two, and the Mourne side will be looking for another strong performance as they continue to build for the Championship.

TWO IN RACE FOR CAMOGIE CHIEF'S POST

■ JOHN HARRINGTON reports

THE Camogie Association will appoint either Antrim's Catherine O'Hara or Westmeath's Aileen Lawlor as their new president-elect at Annual Congress in Belfast tomorrow.

O'Hara is the outgoing vice-president of the Camogie Association and outgoing Ulster chairperson, while Aileen Lawlor is the current vice-chairperson of the Westmeath County Board.

"They've both been involved in the game for a long time at all levels from playing to coaching to refereeing to administrating, so they're both excellent candidates," says reigning president Joan O'Flynn.

"They've both put forward persuasive cases why they should be elected, and now Congress will have its say."

For the first time in Camogie's history, Congress will also directly elect two members to the Central Council today.

Sheila O'Donoghue is nominated, unopposed, for the coaching and games' development position, while three people are nominated to contest the public relations and communications position — Cólín Duffy, Miriam O'Callaghan, and Gerry O'Sullivan.

Expertise

"It's a step forward in how we will make key decisions and we have recognised the importance of appointing people with expertise in coaching and communications," said O'Flynn of the two pending appointments.

"Our membership is increasing and so is our budget, so it's vital that we recognise the importance of good governance."

It'll be a busy day all-round today because the Camogie Association will also launch two initiatives designed to further accelerate the growing popularity of the sport.

"2011 is the European Union year of volunteerism and we've produced a handbook that outlines how we should best recruit and retain new people to the sport," added O'Flynn.

"We want to encourage people of all backgrounds and communities to become involved. That means everyone from former players to people who have had no involvement with



PLEASED: Joan O'Flynn

the sport in the past.

"We're also launching a new Camogie Development Initiative this weekend. It will include a range of programmes such as 'mum and me', which encourages mothers and their children to become involved in the sport together."

"Sport agus Spraoi" is a programme that will hopefully connect secondary schools with their local third-level institution. Secondary school students will travel to these universities for coaching and camogie blitzes and hopefully strong bridges will be built as a result."

There are now over 20,000 women playing Camogie in Ireland, but according to O'Flynn there's still plenty of scope for further expansion.

"There are 800,000 women under the age of 20 in this country and they're our target audience."

"We want to get them involved and open up a door to a new lifestyle for them and a new way to interact with their community."

"The mission is to make the game more accessible to more and more people. By 2015, we want to have increased our playing numbers by 40 per cent. It's an ambitious target, but I think it's a realistic one, too."

"The key will be to target urban areas and increase the numbers playing camogie in the towns and cities."



BIG DAY OUT: Young camogie fans enjoy the Croke Park experience

LAWLOR SET FOR CAMOGIE CHIEF ROLE

AILEEN Lawlor has promised to continue raising camogie's profile after her election as president-elect of the Camogie Association in Belfast on Saturday.

Lawlor saw off the challenge of Catherine O'Hara, who also lost out three years ago to the current president, Joan O'Flynn.

Aileen is a Dubliner who has been resident in Westmeath for the past 20 years. The St Munna's clubwoman began her involvement in camogie with Crumlin, with whom she won an All-Ireland senior club title in 1985.

She also won national league and Leinster championships with Dublin, before moving to Mullingar and winning a provincial title with Westmeath. She was a key cog in the St Munna's machine that won 18 county titles in 19 seasons.

Lawlor graduated to refereeing and took charge of All-Ireland, national league and interprovincial finals.

She has been heavily involved in administration at club and county level but remains connected to the playing side of things having only retired last year. As Leinster League co-ordinator, she oversaw the competition's growth from 19 participating teams in its inaugural season in 2007, to 36 by 2010.

Lawlor's election manifesto included a commitment to seeing through the implementation of the national development plan within the stated time frame and establishing

county boards where none exist.

"I am delighted to take up the position as president-elect of the Camogie Association" said Lawlor after her election.

"It is a fantastic honour and a great privilege. During my tenure, I will work with others to continue to raise the profile of the Camogie Association and I would also like to focus attention on efforts to increase the number of female referees in the Association."

"It is also my intention to work to continue to ensure that our overseas communities are catered for and that the Camogie Association will work in conjunction with the GAA on this matter."

Review

Meanwhile, a committee has been established to review the code's playing rules and to provide a list of proposals at next

year's Annual Congress in Cork.

Galway star Veronica Curtin, Wexford manager JJ Doyle and Kilkenny boss Ann Downey are amongst those who will carry out the review.

Joan O'Flynn was delighted with how this year's Congress went and is looking forward to her final year in office.

"It was a great weekend with fantastic energy and enthusiasm displayed by all who attended, including delegates from North America, London and Europe."

"I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Aileen Lawlor," she said.



Aileen Lawlor

New president Lawlor aims to boost profile

CAMOGIE: Aileen Lawlor has promised to continue raising the sport's profile after her election as president-elect of the Camogie Association in Belfast on Saturday.

Lawlor saw off the challenge of Catherine O'Hara, who also lost out three years ago to the current president, Joan O'Flynn.

Lawlor is a Dubliner who has been resident in Westmeath for the past 20 years. The St Munna's clubwoman began her involvement in camogie with Crumlin, with whom she won an All-Ireland senior club title in 1985.

Lawlor's election manifesto included a commitment to seeing through the implementation of the national development plan within the stated timeframe and establishing county boards where none exist. She also hopes to oversee the establishment of new camogie clubs in hurling strongholds, while providing training to club and county officers in their administrative roles.

Lawlor also confirmed her intention to work to continue to ensure that overseas communities are catered for.

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork win is elementary for Watson

CAMOGIE

Cork	3-15
Limerick	3-8

CORK kept their hopes of qualification alive as they overcame Limerick.

In a close opening half the sides were evenly matched and at the break it was 1-6 each a goal from Marie Watson settled Cork early in the contest while Marion Jagoe, Linda Dorgan and Marie O'Neill were on target with points.

On the resumption Cork hit the front with two points from substitute Emer Watson but Limerick replied with a Mary O'Callaghan goal to take the lead. Emer Watson set up her sister Marie for a vital Cork goal that in effect gave them the break that was to prove vital.

Scorers for Cork: M Watson 2-1, M O'Neill 0-7 (0-4f 0-2 45), E Watson 1-2, M Jagoe, 0-3, M Reidy, L Dorgan 0-1 each.

Limerick: N Mulcahy 1-4, L Scanlon 0-3, A O'Reilly, M O'Callaghan 1-0 each, D Fitzpatrick 0-1.

CORK: G Harrington; A Coughlan, R De Facille, C O'Neill; K O'Donoghue, L Cunningham, C Murphy; L Dorgan, J Lynch; P Buttimer, M O'Neill, M Reidy; M Jagoe, C Kearney, M Watson. **Subs:** E Watson for C Kearney (47), S Buckley for K O'Donoghue (47).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan; M Browne, R Collins, J Garvey; C De Bhal, M Casey, N Collins; M Kelly D Fitzpatrick; N Mulcahy, J Mulcahy; M Ryan; L Scanlon, A O'Reilly, M O'Callaghan. **Subs:** C Carroll for A O'Reilly, S McAuliffe for N Mulcahy (40), K Campbell for M Ryan, C Kelleher for J Garvey, E Collins for M Browne.

Referee: John Dolan (Clare)

CAMOGIE RESULTS
IRISH DAILY STAR CAMOGIE LEAGUE

DIVISION 2	
Down 3-10, Wexford 2-12	
Cork 3-13, Limerick 3-8	
Kilkenny 1-9, Waterford 1-9	
Antrim 3-14, Derry 0-13	
ALL-IRELAND UNDER 16 CCI CHAMPIONSHIP	
Carlow 1-7, Kerry 0-2	
Kildare 1-12, Mayo 1-2	
Down 6-9, Galway 1-0	
LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP	
Meath 4-20, Wicklow 0-2	

MAR. 2011

MAR 2011

Blackrock win under-13 B final, St Vincent's win A title

Blackrock 2-0
Douglas 2 0-0

THE Seandún camogie board held their under-13 A and B finals at CIT, where four clubs battled it out for the titles. In the B final, Blackrock and Douglas 2 got proceedings under way. Their contest was level at the break. In the second-half, Blackrock's Aideen Nagle scored the first goal. Their second was scored by their captain, Siorcha Casey. They held off the challenge of the Douglas attack. The Blackrock defence held firm, to be crowned champions after an exciting contest.

Blackrock's Aideen Nagle was named as player of the match, following a superb performance.

St Vincent's 1-5
Glen Rovers 1-4 (aot)

If the opening game was exciting, the second game on the fixture sheet proved a cracker, when, in an all Northside final, St Vincent's grabbed the title at the death with a pointed free in extra time to be crowned champions.

Both teams played with tremendous determination in their quest for victory and the standard of play was superb as they battled for a winner. Glen Rovers took an early lead with Kelly Falvey on target, but St

Vincent's battled back, and with both sides evenly matched, both defences were kept busy. Both sides had chances to grab a winner, but they failed to do so and it ended level at the full-time whistle. Added time was again close and just when it looked as if a replay was on the cards, Lauren Homan pointed a late free to give St Vincent's victory, but not before the Glen girls had one attack, which the St Vincent's defence managed to scoop to safety.

Two committed teams must be complimented for the superb contest served up, plus 20 minutes of gruelling extra-time played in a sporting fashion.

Kelly Falvey, Glen Rovers, was presented with the player of the match award after an excellent display.

St Vincent's panel: Karen Daly, Niamh Field, Amy O'Regan, Lydia Conway, Siorcha Twomey, Olivia Dupuy, Lauren Kiely, Teighan Russell, Lorna Coffey, Emma McAuliffe, Dyon Manning, Lauren Homan, Niamh Couch, Chloe O'Shea, Rhianna White, Aoife Lynch, Sophie O'Sullivan, Lydia Cullen-Anderson, Niamh Cotter, Shelly O'Hanlon, Katie Morey, Renne Collins-Kelly.

Glen Rovers panel: Laura Dineen, Shauna Goggin, Niamh Duggan, Sarah O'Connell, Katie Chisholm (captain), Kelly Falvey, Eimear Foley, Michaela Hyde, Donna O'Neill, Lorna Hickey, Olivia Harrington, Shauna O'Riordan, Emma O'Donovan, Jodie Forde, Nora Murphy, Chantelle Hurley, Toni Maher, Sophie Duggan, Erica Cronin, Kayleigh Bridgeman, Niamh Coughlan, Shauna Meehan, Nicole Cummins.



St Vincent's under 13 A team celebrating their victory.

Chance to win place at camogie camp

BORD Gáis Networks and Cork Camogie Board have organised an exciting competition for young camogie players to win a place at a Camogie Camp on April 9 at Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Cork.

Bord Gáis Networks and Cork Camogie are inviting young club members aged between eight to 15 years to participate in the competition to be in with a chance to win a place at the Camogie Camp where a one-day training session with Cork's Camogie heroes including Joanne O'Callaghan, Rena Buckley, Anna Geary, Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor.

Youngsters from across Cork are encouraged to enter the competition by logging on to www.ilovecamogie.com.

Twenty lucky winners will be selected to attend the training camp on April 9 and they can bring along a team mate and they will also be provided with goody bags on the day supplied by Bord Gáis Networks.

It is proposed to hold a second camp in June where the players will give a coaching session to another lucky 20 winners and a team mate will be chosen to come along. On the day of the second camp Cork camogie players such as Brieger Corkery, Amanda O'Regan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Sile Burns, Mary O'Connor and Aoife Murray will be on hand to guide the young aspiring star through their paces.

Young players from club in the county can get more details and enter the competition by logging on to the Cork Camogie Web site at www.corkcamogie.com or www.ilovecamogie.com.

Training course for camogie club PROs

A training course for camogie club PROs has been organised by the county PRO for Monday, April 4 at a venue to be decided pending attendance numbers.

The evening has been organised so club PROs can familiarise themselves with their function in their club and compile reports and club notes. A photographic demonstration will show participants how to organise and take team and match-day photographs.

Topics discussed will include teaching participants how to present a better image for their club and how to promote the game within their communities.

All clubs are encouraged to get their PRO to attend the course, which costs €25. Reserve places not later than tomorrow, Wednesday, March 30. To do so, contact the county PRO at results@camogie.com, or contact any county board officer.

Courcey and Valley Rovers book final slot

COURCEY Rovers and Valley Rovers will contest the Under 16 A county league final for 2010 after they both recorded semi-final victories. Courcey overcame Inniscarra but it took a replay to separate Glen Rovers and Valleys after a first encounter finished all square.

Courcey Rovers 4-14
Inniscarra 3-6

Courcey Rovers advance to the final defeating Inniscarra with Linda Collins to the fore contributing 4-8 of her sides tally. They led 3-9 to 1-2 as Collins with three first-half goals proves a hand full for an Inniscarra defence that battled hard to try and close down the Courcey attack where Edel Moloney, Leah O'Sullivan, Jane Louise Condon were prominent.

On the turn over Inniscarra came more into the game Niamh Byrne added two points to their tally but a fourth Linda Collins goal stretched the Courcey lead despite two Erin Looney goals for Inniscarra and a Caitlin Looney point Courcey added to their tally to book their place in the final.

Scorers for Courcey Rovers: L Collins 4-8 (0-4f, 0-1 45), E. Moloney, L O'Sullivan 0-2 each, J.L. Condon, R. Crowley, A. O'Sullivan A Moloney 0-1 each

Scorers for Inniscarra: E Coleman 1-0 C Looney 0-2, E Looney 2-2 N Byrne 0-2.

Glen Rovers 2-12
Valley Rovers 4-4

THE second semi-final ended all squares as Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers could not be separated in

thrilling contest which was the curtain raiser to the senior National league game in CIT on Sunday last. Glen Rovers raced into an early lead with Aisling Wallace and Kelly Fitzgerald grabbing points to put them five ahead. Tessa Crowley got Valley on the scoresheet with a point but the Glen girls stretched their lead with a goal from Edel O'Connell. Eimear Cummins pointed for Valley and they began to settle into the game.

On the restart, the Glen increased their lead to three points with Lauren Callanan on the score sheet but Valley added a point to keep in touch Orlagh Ryan grabbed a Valley goal but with play swinging from end to end the lead again changed hands with Nicole O'Brien adding to the Glen tally. As both sides battled to gain control Valley took the lead Eimear Cummins finishing to the net but the Glen girls swept up field Nicole O'Brien pointed a free to tie matters up.

Valley Rovers: N Glavin, L McCarthy, C Hawkes, M O'Sullivan, L Murphy, S O'Leary, M O'Sullivan, J M O'Leary, A Cummins, E Cummins, T Crowley, O Ryan, M E Sweetnam, J Callanan, A O'Callaghan Subs: C Richardson for L McCarthy, E Palmer for A O'Callaghan, A Harte for M O'Sullivan

Glen Rovers: K Lee, S Hourigan, S Busted, C Noonan, L O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, K Falvey, A O'Keefe, L Callanan, J Hosford, M Sheehan, K Fitzgerald, A Wallace, E O'Connell, S Bridgeman. Subs: N Gowen for M Sheehan, B O'Mahony for S Bridgeman.

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

REPLAY

Valley Rovers 2-6
Glen Rovers 0-7

VALLEY got the better start in the

replay with early point so from Eimear Cummins and Tessa Crowley put them three ahead before Kelly Fitzgerald had one back for Glen Rovers. Valleys got the vital goals in the opening half that made the difference Orlagh Ryan hit the first as Aisling Wallace kept the Glen girls in touch with a point but a second Valleys goal from Tessa Crowley Leary gave the Glen a mountain to climb as it gave Valleys a 2-3 to 0-2 interval lead.

On the turn over the Glen applied huge pressure and points from Lauren Callanan and Maria Sheehan saw them cut the deficit to five points and now winning a lot of possession they keep the pressure on but the Valley defence stood firm clearing their lines under huge pressure. Susan O'Leary pointed for Valley and they added two pointed frees from Tessa Crowley but still the Glen battled hard Nicole O'Brien pointed twice and one from Lauren Callanan saw them stay in the hunt but Valley always had the cushion of their two first half goal and it proved vital as they held on under a lot of pressure to book their place in the final.

Valley Rovers: N Glavin, C Richardson, C Hawkes, M O'Sullivan, L Murphy, S O'Leary, M O'Sullivan, J M O'Leary, A Cummins, T Crowley, O Ryan, E Cummins, V Crowley, J Callanan, A O'Callaghan Subs: L McCarthy for M O'Sullivan, E Palmer for V Crowley, Callanan for A O'Callaghan, M Sweetnam for O Ryan.

Glen Rovers: K Lee, S Hourigan, S Busted, C Noonan, L O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, K Falvey, A O'Keefe, L Callanan, J Hosford, M Sheehan, K Fitzgerald, A Wallace, E O'Connell, S Bridgeman. Subs: N Gowen for S Bridgeman.

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

Opportunity for young camogie players to train with Cork stars

BORD Gáis Networks and Cork Camogie will be hoping to fuel Cork's passion for the sport with an exciting competition for young players to win a spot at a unique Camogie Camp at Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Cork, on April 9, writes RORY NOONAN.

Bord Gáis Networks and Cork Camogie invite club members, aged between 8-15 years, to participate in

the competition to be in with a chance to win a place at a Camogie Camp, a one day training session with Cork's Camogie heroes, including Joanne O'Callaghan, Rena Buckley, Anna Geary, Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor.

Camogie players from across Cork are encouraged to enter the competition by logging on to www.ilovecamogie.com.

CAMOGIE

Twenty lucky winners will be selected to attend the training camp on April 9 with a team-mate and will also receive some special camogie gear from Bord Gáis Networks.

For those who don't get a place on this camp, another date later in the season will be announced in due course.

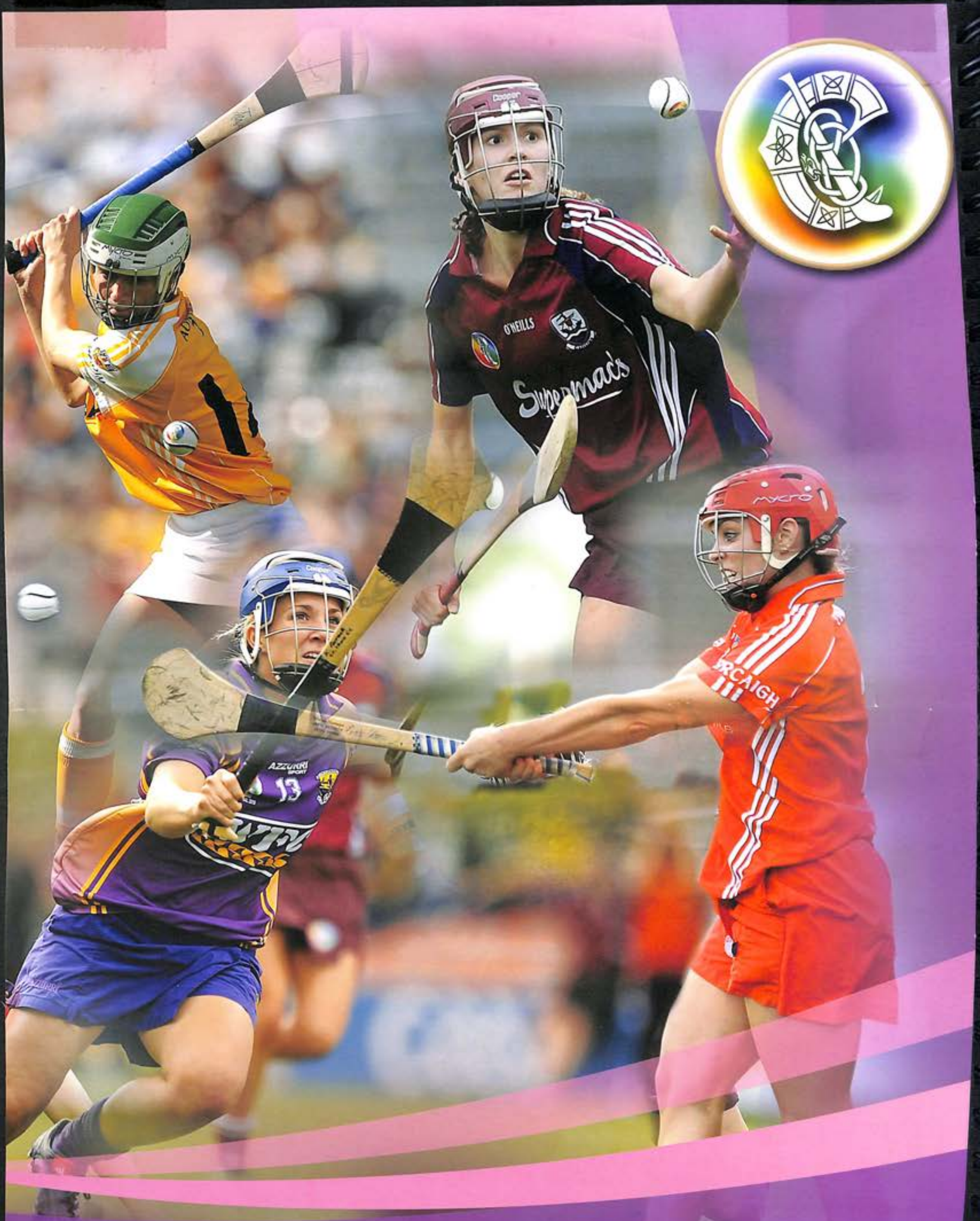
Cork senior camogie team captain, Rena Buckley, gave some details about the competition and Camogie Camp saying: "This is a great opportunity for some young players, (registered members of a camogie club), to gain insight on how to improve their game."

"Each winner and their appointed fellow club member can benefit from specific advice on the skills of camo-

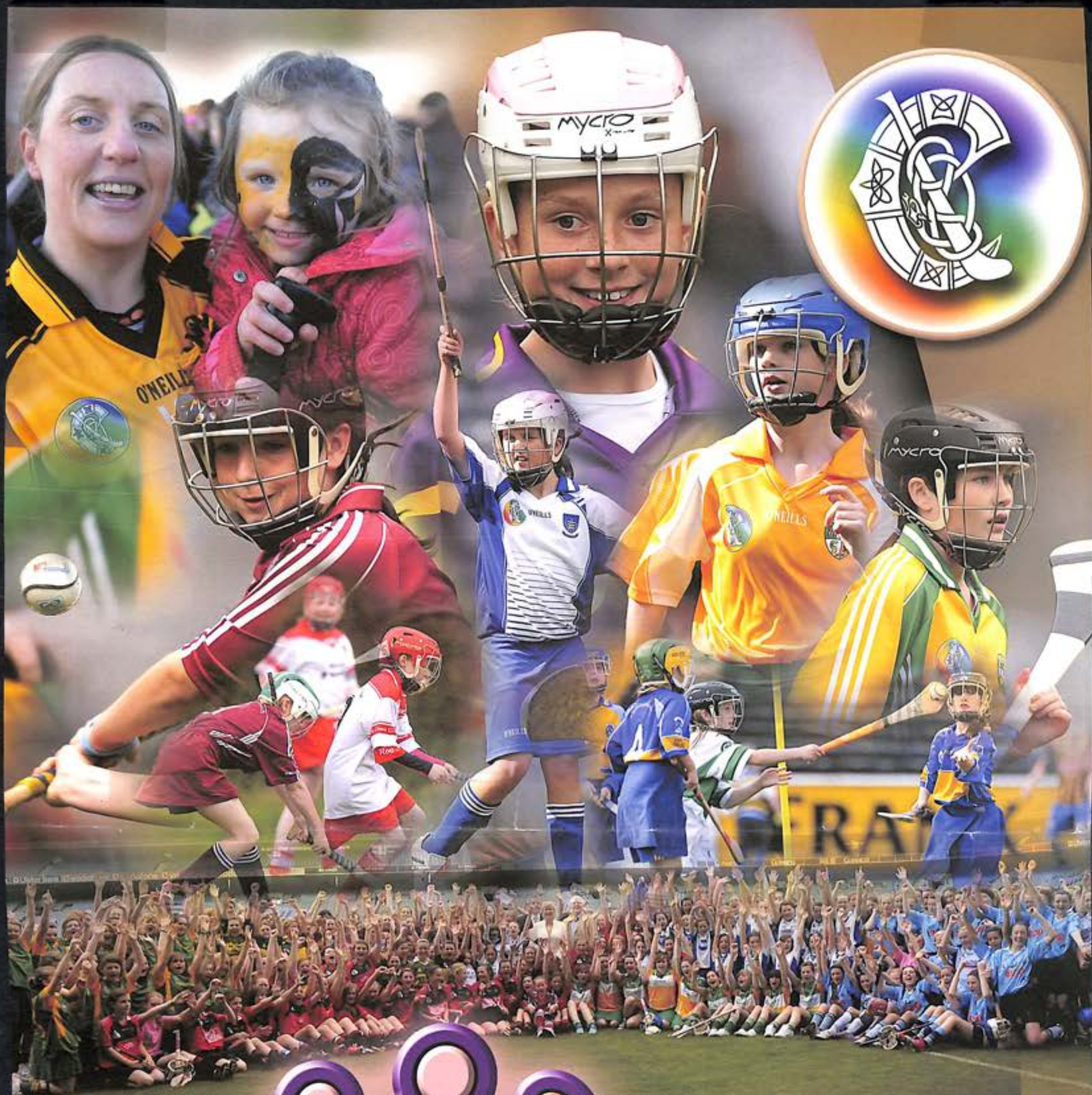
gie, including free taking, goal keeping and lots more.

"It will be lots of fun but will also be valuable in developing new camogie skills and benefiting the game of the young participants." For more details or to enter the competition, see www.ilovecamogie.com

Also see Saturday and Monday's Evening Echo for another chance to win.



www.camogie.ie



Mum & Me
CAMOGIE

MAR. 2011

Crowley helps as Valley hit their peak

U16A LEAGUE
By MARY NEWMAN

Valley Rovers 2-6
Glen Rovers 0-7

IT TOOK a replay to separate Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers after the sides had served up a thrilling draw a week previously in this 2010 U16A league semi-final.

Valley's hit the front early with points from Eimear Cummins and Tessa Crowley as they went three ahead.

Kelly Fitzgerald pulled one back for Glen Rovers, but Valleys were on target with two first-half goals.

The first came from Orla Ryan. The Glen replied with a point by Aisling Wallace. A second Valley Rovers goal came from Tessa Crowley. O'Leary gave her side a 2-3 to 0-2 interval lead.

The Glen applied huge pressure at the start of the second half and points from Lauren Callanan and Maria Sheehan saw them cut the deficit to five points.

Susan O'Leary pointed for Valleys and they added two pointed frees from Crowley to lead by eight, but the Glen kept plugging away.

Nicole O'Brien pointed twice and one from Lauren Callanan kept them in contention.

But Valleys held on to secure their place in the final, where they will meet Courcy Rovers on Wednesday next.

Scorers for Valley Rovers: T Crowley 1-3, O Ryan 1-0, E Cummins 0-2, S O'Leary 0-1.

Glen Rovers: K Fitzgerald, A Wallace, M Sheehan 0-1 each, N O'Brien, Callanan 0-2 each.

VALLEY ROVERS: N Glavin; C Richardson, C Hawkes, M O'Sullivan; L Murphy, S O'Leary, M O'Sullivan; J M O'Leary, A Cummins; T Crowley, O Ryan, E Cummins; Crowley, J Callanan, A O'Callaghan.

Subs: L McCarthy for M O'Sullivan, E Palmer for V Crowley; Callanan for A O'Callaghan, M Sweetnam for O Ryan.

GLEN ROVERS: K Lee; S Hourigan, S Busteed, C Noonan, L O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, K Falvey, A O'Keefe, L Callanan; J Hosford, M Sheehan, K Fitzgerald; A Wallace, E O'Connell, S Bridgeman. Sub: N Gowen for S Bridgeman. Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

CAMOGIE RESULTS SECTION

WITH competitions up and running each week I hope to feature a results section where you can follow the fortunes of your clubs teams again it is up to you the clubs to get your results to us at results@camogie.com.

Senior League: St Finbarr's 3-12 Barryroe 3-5

Intermediate League: Fr O'Neill's 3-7 to Newtownshandrum 1-4.

U16B League: Slabh Rua 3-8 Na Piarasigh 1-6; Glen Rovers 5-7 Millstreet 0-3; Malin 4-5 Fr O'Neill's 4-4.

U14 A League: Courcy Rovers 2-5, Sarfields 3-3.

U16C League: Cobh 8-6 Castlelyons 1-1; Banteer 0-2 Sarfields 0-1.

Congress addresses



Joan O'Flynn, president of the Camogie Association, speaking to national delegates at the Camogie Association Annual Congress 2011 at the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.



LINDA MELLERICK

AILEEN LAWLOR was voted in as the president-elect of the camogie association at the annual camogie congress in Belfast last Saturday.

Aileen will take up the role as president in March 2012, succeeding Joan O'Flynn.

Lawlor, a former inter-county referee and vice-chair of Westmeath county camogie board defeated Catherine O'Hara of Antrim, the outgoing chair of Ulster camogie council.

Speaking about this year's congress, current president Joan O'Flynn was delighted with the weekend's work.

"It was a great weekend with fantastic energy and enthusiasm displayed by all who attended, including delegates from North America, London and Europe.

"There was excellent feedback from all involved and among the main items on the agenda was a 12-month review of the playing rules with recommendations to come before Congress in 2012.

"Galway camogie player Veronica Curtin, Kilkenny manager Ann Downey and Wexford manager JJ Doyle are some of those on the playing rules review committee.

"Chief among the highlights this weekend was the launch of our 'Volunteering for Camogie' handbook and our 'Camogie Development Initiatives' booklet, both extremely important for attracting and retaining volunteers in the association and also ensuring the promotion and development of the game."

President elect Aileen Lawlor was honoured and spoke of her plans.

"I am delighted to take up the position as president-elect of the camogie association. It is a fantastic honour and a great privilege.

"During my tenure, I will work with others to continue to raise the profile of the association and I

BRIAN DILLON'S

On Saturday last we hosted round three of the Go Games at the Tank field with Na Piarasigh, Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's and once again it was a great success and enjoyed by players, coaches, parents and friends.

Seven pitches were operating at the same time and first into action were the U8s and there were great games with each team playing three matches.

The skill level has improved since the last blitz and all the girls played very well. Our U8s players were: Sadbh Roche, Olivia Gibson, Aoife O'Callaghan, Olivia Brennan, Kiah O'Leary, Amelia Doyle, Sinead Daly, Hannah Daly, Sinead O'Brien, Nadine Brickley, Sophie Porter, Zoe Cotter, Lucia Lukic, Natalia Juda, Amy Long, Faye O'Riordan, Aine Garvin and Cameron Rutherford.

The U10s followed on with the same clubs in action and we had some great camogie played by all participants. Thanks to our older girls for helping out and thanks to Niall and Mick for preparing the pitches. Our U10 players were: Molly O'Riordan, Emma Bradfield, Anna Myers, Eve O'Connor, Alice O'Connor, Hannah Roach, Mary O'Sullivan, Aoife Daly and Fia Carey-Murley.

Last week our game U16 game against Ballyhea was cancelled. On Sunday next we host Enniskeane in the U16 league at 2pm at the Tank Field and on Thursday our Junior As travel to Buttevant for the first league game of

the year. Our Junior C's will be starting shortly.

Congratulations to Sinead Mills who played with Cork U14 College team at the weekend, and to Sinead Ring who is on the Cork U16B panel. Training times as previously reported and remember all new and old members welcome.

NA PIARASIGH

Last weekend our U10 and U8 teams took part in the third round of their fun Go Game blitz held in Brian Dillon's. Once again, it was a great success and well done to everyone involved. Today our U12 team are playing a Go Game match against Grenagh at 11am in Na Piarasigh.

This is a practice game for the U12 Go Game Blitz's that are commencing next weekend April 9. Between April and June a total of five cluster blitzes will be held across all divisions with the emphasis on the fun and skill of camogie.

All leagues are starting this weekend best of luck to all our teams in the 2011 competitions. Last Wednesday night our U18 team were away to Slabh Rua in their opening league game.

Amy Lee was outstanding bringing off fantastic saves in the second half to keep us in the game. However, Slabh ran out winners in the end of a scoreline of 3-8 to 1-5.

The opening game in the junior league campaign is away to Castlemagner. We met in

the semi-final of the championship last year with Castlemagner coming out on top by a point. We met again in the semi-final of the league where we were victors so a great game is expected. Thanks to Douglas and Brian Dillon's who have played our junior team in challenge games recently.

ST VINCENT'S

Registration: Junior players mentors and coaches are reminded that registration and insurance is now due for payment, registration forms are now available so please ensure you return same in order to be covered by insurance.

Congratulations to our players on the Cork colleges 14team Lorna Coffey, Olivia Dupuy and on the Cork primary Schools team Teighan Russell and Lydia Conway from Scoil Padra Plo Karen Daly from St Mary's On The Hill and Lauren Homan from Cloghroe.

Fixture: Best of luck to our U14 team who will play their first league game this week.

Training Times: Training for all underage teams from U8s to U14s Wednesday night at 6pm and for junior and U16s Tuesday 7.15pm

and Saturday 10am. New Players Always Welcome.

BLACKROCK

We opened our U16 league campaign on Friday last against an excellent Tracton side. This game was a great advertisement for camogie with no shortage of skill on show from both sides.

Tracton held the upperhand for the first quarter but we responded with Carol Ryan and Michelle Murphy combined well and with excellent defensive work from Sarah Hennessey, Clodagh O'Keefe, Aileen Nagle and goalkeeper Megan Delaney, we ensured there was only the minimum between the sides at the break.

Tracton were on the scoreboard again early in the second half, but our response was swift with Aine Kearney thundering into the game at midfield and with Michelle Murphy prominent.

A three-point deficit became a one point lead after scores from Michelle Murphy, Carol Ryan and a superb solo effort from Aine Kearney.

Camogie club news,

Rebels girls will have their work cut out

TOMORROW

National League division two:

Cork v Kilkenny, CIT, 6.30pm.

LAST game and it's still all to play for as Cork and Kilkenny meet for what is a crucial clash for both sides, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

Waterford look on anxiously in the wings at the end of what has been a close league campaign that has had many twists and turns.

Waterford, with their games completed, sit on top of the group with six points, Kilkenny are on their heels on five with Cork in third

SENIOR CAMOGIE

place on four, a win for Kilkenny will ensure they qualify for the final but were Cork to win it would earn them a play-off with Waterford while a draw would eliminate Cork and let Kilkenny and Waterford to battle it out in a play-off situation.

Cork should not be in this position this evening as without doubt they left the game against Waterford behind them, having led by seven points they failed to build on their lead where they wasted a num-

ber of chances.

However, a good display against Limerick last weekend has thrown them a lifeline and they are more than capable of grabbing it.

Marie and Emer Watson were in excellent form last weekend and they have the ability to grabbing vital goals, while Marie O'Neill was again impressive from both frees and play but Cork need to be getting a bigger contribution from their forwards as a unit.

Kilkenny had two points to spare over Tipperary and they defeated

Limerick by five before finishing level with Waterford last weekend.

The Cork defence has been playing well with players such as Lydia Cunningham, Gillian Harrington and Rosin De Faite very much to the fore and if they can contain and close down the Kilkenny attack Cork will be in with a good chance of earning themselves a play-off with Waterford.

Have no doubt but that the task facing them is a hard one and Kilkenny will battle with all their might to deny them.

rule change issue



The Blackrock side that won the Seandún U13 B title.

would also like to focus attention on efforts to increase the number of female referees.

"It is also my intention to work to continue to ensure that our overseas communities are catered for and that the camogie association will work in conjunction with the GAA on this matter."

Miriam O'Callaghan, former president, will take up a new post as PR and Communications member on camogie's national governing body. She defeated Gerry O'Sullivan of Dublin in a vote for the position.

That is an excellent recruitment in my view.

Sheila O'Donohue of the association's higher education committee will take up her role at central level with responsibility for coaching and development.

The 2012 congress will take place

in Cork, the native county of current president Joan O'Flynn.

I'm particularly happy with the 12 month review of the playing rules and the fact that three strong names are on the committee.

It's either the rules or the referees which are holding our game back.

It's possibly a bit of both but in defence of the referees if you were to implement the current rule book to its limit, a ball would never be struck. Some may not agree with me and feel that the game has become too physical. I'm of the opposite view. It's senior inter-county hurling and physicality is part and parcel of that standard. It should be, it's what puts the bite into games. I'm not condoning foul or dangerous play, that's a different matter, but a strong, competitive approach for a 50/50 ball needs to be allowed run.

Joan O'Flynn provided a comprehensive address to the large congregation.

She covered almost every topic imaginable.

A new grants scheme called the 'Capital Funding Small Grants Scheme' will financially support camogie units and GAA clubs with camogie units to develop playing and related facilities.

The association recognises that it benefits greatly from the use of GAA facilities.

GAA clubs that are operating as a single administrative unit for at least three years are eligible to apply for funds from this scheme.

Such clubs must be able to demonstrate that camogie is fully incorporated in decision making structures throughout the club, including at executive committee.

There is a limited fund of €100,000 available. Funding will be provided towards capital costs such as: dressing rooms, club rooms and club gyms.

Aspects of pitch development such as fencing, drainage etc and Purchase of scoreboards, goalposts, goal nets, dugouts etc will also be funded by the scheme will not wholly fund any project. Each camogie unit/GAA club must make a contribution to the total cost of the project and be able to demonstrate this.

At national level, there is continuous co-operation and collaboration across the associations. Just a month ago, the GAA announced an increase in its annual core funding to the camogie association from €50k per annum to €200k per annum.

We've come a long way.

fixtures and events

We now looked to be in control but despite some good pressure on the Tracton defence, we failed to add to our tally as Tracton hit two quick points on the trot followed by two goals to put a false reflection on what was a very close and sporting contest. Full Time score Tracton 3-7 Blackrock 0-8.

Best of luck to our intermediate team who open their campaign following promotion from the junior ranks with a game against Ballyhea tomorrow Sunday at 6pm in Church Road.

GLEN ROVERS

Last weekend was a busy one with our younger girls participating in round three of the Go Games blitz when they made the trip to the Tank field where Brian Dillon's were our hosts.

The morning started with the U8s continuing to impress, showing off the skills they have been learning in the last few weeks. This was followed by the U10s and here again all clubs enjoyed a great day's camogie where the emphasis continued to be about participation by all and enjoyment. Thanks to our hosts

who ensure the day went smoothly and to all our U16s players and parents who helped on the day. We are looking forward to our next outing which will be to St Finbarr's on April 16.

Our U12s will be starting their Go Games cluster blitzes with a trip to Douglas next Sunday April 8. Players will be informed of arrangements at training on Tuesday night next.

Our U14 team are pencilled in to begin their league campaign on Wednesday next against Millstreet we are awaiting clarification of time of game as Millstreet may not have a pitch available, players will be informed of arrangements at training on Monday.

Our U16 team got their league campaign off to a good start with a victory over Millstreet on Wednesday night last. The long journey did not have any effect as we got into the game from the throw-in with Sarah Bridgeman, Lauren Callanan, Aisling Wallace and Katie Chisholm on form up front notching up the vital scores that helped us lead at the break. On the resumption, aided by the elements, we

continued to hold the upper hand and with our defence solid we maintained our lead to the finish. Well done to everybody for making a huge effort to make what was a very long journey so early in the season on mid-week night and we thank all the parents for their understanding with this.

Kathryn Lee, Emily Mc Carthy, Sarah Hourihane, Cioe Cotter, Cioe Noonan, Jennifer Hosford, Kelly Falvey, Lauren Callanan, Kelly Fitzgerald, Niamh Gowen, Michaela Hyde, Aisling Wallace, Aisling O'Brien, Sarah Bridgeman, Katie Chisholm.

Subs: L. Hickey for C. Noonan, O. Harrington for A. O'Brien, S. Goggin for K. Chisholm, S. Riordan for L. Callanan, L. Dineen for K. Lee.

Next week we play Barryroe on Friday night at the Glen Field with throw in provisionally fixed for 6-30pm.

Senior and junior players, mentors and coaches are reminded that registration and insurance is now due for payment, registration forms are now available so please ensure you return same in order to be covered by insurance.

Our senior and juniors will hold a cake sale next weekend at St Oliver's Church at all masses and we thank Fr John for allowing this to go ahead and also to Ann O'Sullivan who helped organise the date. Anybody who can help out by making cakes please contact any of the committee or contact Beth Walsh or Denise Luby or any of the players and they

will arrange collection of same.

ENNISKEANE

Our U14 teams are in with a chance to win a training session with the Munster rugby team in Thomond Park as part of the 'Best Built Kids in the World' competition sponsored by Toyota.

In second place at time of writing the girls need all the votes they can get, we appeal to everybody to help this dream become a reality by just taking a minute to vote online at www.toyotamunster8020dev.com/vote/48. You can vote once every day so please take the time, it would be really appreciated by the girls and their mentors.

This team also kicked off their season with a win over Kilbrittain on Sunday morning last in a challenge fixture in Enniskeane. Although Kilbrittain are of a higher grading, the Enniskeane girls rose to the challenge. With scores from Katie Hennessy, Sarah Crowley, Siobhan O'Driscoll and Rochelle Scannell, our girls were comprehensive winners on a score line of 3-4 to 1-2.

Team: Corral Fitzgerald, Fiona Everard, Clara Whyte, Danielle Carroll, Aisling O'Driscoll, Muireann O'Driscoll, Sinead Duggan, Kirsty Scannell, Siobhan O'Driscoll, Rochelle Scannell, Laura Mannix, Katie Scannell, Aoife O'Driscoll, Sarah Crowley, Katie Hennessy.

Plenty of exciting ties in U14 league

U14 LEAGUE

By **MARY NEWMAN**

THIS week saw the start of the U14 league competitions in all grades.

Tonight we take a look at the grading for the season ahead. A reminder to get all your club results and club notes for publication to Mary Newman at results.camogie@gmail.com

U14A LEAGUE:

One section of nine teams, the top four teams will qualify for semi-finals.

Killeagh, Éire Óg, Valley Rovers, St Vincent's, Courcey Rovers, Sarsfields 1, Douglas 1, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Ballinhassig.

U14B LEAGUE

Twenty Five Teams, four sections, top two teams in each section to qualify.

Section 1: Carrigaline, Inniscarra, Silahy Rus, Enniskeane, Ballincollig, Douglas 2.

Section 2: Dungourney, St Finbarr's, Aghabullogue, Blackrock, Brian Dillon's, Ballyhea.

Section 3: Buttevant, Newtownshandrum, Cloughduv, Mallow, Millstreet, Glen Rovers.

Section 4: Carrigrohilly, Tracton, Clonakilly, Barryroe, Fr. O'Neill's, Na Piarasigh, Bishopstown.

U14C LEAGUES:

Twenty Four teams, four sections of six, with the top two teams from each section to qualify.

Section 1: Ballygarvan, Milford, Watergrasshill, Cobh, Charleville, St Fanahan's.

Section 2: Sarsfields 2, Bride Rovers, Valley Rovers, Passage, Newcestown, and Sarsfields 3.

Section 3: St Catherine's, Banteer, Castlelyons, Grenagh, Youghal, Kildorrey.

Section 4: Carrigaline 2, Ballinora, Rockban, Ballinhassig, Killybegs, Blarney.

PRO TRAINING COURSE

A REMINDER to club PROs that there is a training course organised for club PROs for Monday next April 4. It is being held in Páirc Uí Chaoimh starting at 7pm to 10pm, the evening has been organised to help club PROs become familiar with their role within the club and will help them compile reports and club notes.

There will also be a photo presentation which will help and show participants how to organise and take team and match photographs. Presentations on the night will include teaching participants how to present a better image for your club. All club PROs are encouraged to attend. The course which costs €25 and they are reminded to reserve places.

Places can be reserved by contacting the county PRO at results.camogie@gmail.com or at fmcc@oceanfree.net.

A great ambassador for ladies Gaelic games in Galway

FOR almost 40 years, Oranmore native Ann Kearney (nee Finn) has been to the forefront of ladies Gaelic games in Galway. Be it as a camogie player, a ladies footballer or an official, her passion for the games is second to none.

On a sunny afternoon, Kearney sits over her lunch at the House Hotel, on Lower Merchant's Road, where she works as a duty manager. It's been a busy morning, flitting between the hotel and the bank, organising ahead for the business' hectic weekend trade.

Still, when it comes to talking camogie or ladies football, she will always find time. "I started off playing hurling in my neighbour's pitch, with 16 lads. I was put in goals and that's where it started. I then played with the school (Presentation Convent Oranmore) and I won an All-Ireland medal in 1972. At what age? We won't go there," laughs Kearney heartily.

Indeed, this is one of the traits those involved in the sport have come to recognise the former County Camogie Chairperson and Secretary by. Quite often, you will hear Anne Kearney before you see her. While a similar sentiment echoed at any other person may be seen as derogatory, in Kearney's case, that hale and hearty laugh can't help but put a smile on your face.

"I got the first goal of the day in that All-Ireland in Croke Park, but I didn't get credit for it," she recalls of the '72 decider against Kilkenny of Down. "Sheila Cosgrove, I think, got it. Anyway, to this very day, whenever I go to Croke Park I get this feeling in my stomach that it is '72 all over again. I suppose, that is where I get my passion from – a passion that won't go away – to this day."

Just for the record, Oranmore,

TALKING SPORT



STEPHEN GLENNON

Kearney recalls day her passion led to onfield tangle with her husband Frank

managed by Sr. Marie Goretti and trained by Dave Fitzgerald, won that All-Ireland 6-1 to 4-4, with Josie Kelly netting 3-1 of her side's tally. In many respects, though, it was the Convent's victory over St. Anne's of Cork – a powerhouse in college's camogie at the time – in the semi-final that laid the platform for the All-Ireland win.

"So, I was on the first Galway camogie team ever to bring an All-Ireland cup across the Shannon," she beams. "The following year Oranmore went on to win the All-Ireland [senior] club, but they were only giving out medals to the first 15 and I wasn't on it. I wasn't good enough, but I was tagged."

Indeed, this was the golden era for Oranmore camogie. Between 1966 and '81, they won no less than 11 county senior camogie titles and claimed their one and only All-Ireland club title in '73. The Oranmore native, who is married to well-known Turloughmore man Frank Kearney, remembers those days vividly, in particular her battles with St. Paul's of Kilkenny and the Downey sisters.

While her commitment to camogie has always remained constant, in the mid '70s she also turned her hand to ladies football. In fact, Kearney was one of its pioneers in the county, playing on the first ever Galway side to field. That was against Offaly in a tournament game at Corofin Carnival on Bank Holiday Monday in August, 1974.

"That was how ladies football in Galway was formed and where my involvement in ladies football began. Patsy Conway was trying to form a county team, so he brought in the camogie players to start off with. We played Offaly and, after that, the following year, we began to take part in the All-Ireland championship proper."

Kearney jests that this was the first time women actually wore shorts, instead of the camogie skirts, adding: "I remember going back to play Offaly in their tournament and we were like Ms. Irelands walking up the street with our boots and our shorts on. I have even photographs of that."

"It was a bit of a job for the women to try and get the two of us to make up"

In all, she played ladies football for almost a decade, with the All-Ireland final of '75 against Tipperary, another first ever for the county, both a highlight and low point of her playing career – the joy of winning a provincial championship and defeating Cavan at the penultimate stage being subsequently diminished by a 1-4 to no score loss to the Premier County in the final.

Galway would not appear in a

national senior decider again until 2004 – when they finally secured the Brendan Martin Cup – but Kearney still recalls other great days in the maroon and white. As always, there's a story. "Frank and I were married in '77, but after that we had a [National League] match down in Kerry. At that time, Frank was County Chairperson, a selector and a referee and he just so happened to be refereeing on this day because the travelling team always brought the referee."

"Anyway, I was – allegedly – supposed to have been playing rough, and he went to warn me. And he actually put out his finger! So, I caught his finger and turned it down and said 'who do you think you are talking to?' Then the manager from Kerry (Mick Fitzgerald) intervened and said 'referee, you need to put manners on those players!'"

"However, Liam Forde, who was manager at the time, turned around and said: 'He can't put manners on her – that's his wife!' Anyway, he didn't send me off," laughs the mother of two. "Ah, those were the good days, although coming back on the ferry [from Kerry to Clare], it was a bit of a job for the women to try and get the two of us to make up."

In any event, over the years, the Connacht Camogie PRO has drifted away from ladies football – although she continues to monitor the county's fortunes from a distance. Instead, she has immersed herself in club and county camogie, enjoying many of the same ups and downs with her adopted Turloughmore and Galway as she did with the teams she was previously involved with.

At club level, she has held every top table position – as she has at county level – in Turloughmore and she has been to the fore, along with the likes of Gerry Linnane, Jim Keane



Oranmore native Ann Kearney who is still as passionate as ever about camogie and ladies football.

and Katie Forde, in guiding the club to Galway Féile and other titles.

She was also Chairperson of Galway Camogie when the Tribeswomen reached the All-Ireland senior final of '93 and was instrumental in enticing former All-Ireland winning hurling manager Cyril Farrell to get involved. She says Farrell brought a great deal of professionalism to the set-up and, in many ways, he laid the foundation for Sarsfields' Tony Ward and Galway to finally make the breakthrough in '96, when the Westerners claimed the O'Duffy Cup for the first time. "That was big," states Kearney, who, by this stage, had gone from County Chairperson to President of the Board.

She talks of other days with Galway camogie – again, the highs and the lows. She mentions the late Michael Kennedy, whose advice and company she dearly misses;

cites the continued financial backing of sponsor Supermacs as pivotal in progressing the sport in the county; and recounts a number of other stories, from those days long ago when she had to pull girls from the bed for a camogie match to, more recent times, when she organised a memorable night out for the current Galway seniors at the House Hotel.

It would be remiss, however, not to allude to another enjoyable tale from her past. In 1994, Galway were beginning to enjoy a great deal of success at both underage and adult levels and the financial demands were becoming a heavier and heavier burden on Kearney's Board. So, when the Galway juniors qualified for a game against London in the All-Ireland series, and she heard she had to organise funding to take the squad of players and the team management to London... well, Ann Kearney went into orbit.

"I said 'Oh Christ, we can't afford it; we will have to pull out the juniors!'" she laughs. "Supermac (Pat McDonagh) though came on board and he provided the money. Anyway, Galway won that match and we went on to win the All-Ireland," continues Kearney sheepishly. "Oh God, I could write a book!"

While Ann Kearney may no longer sit on the Galway Camogie Board today, she says she is enjoying her time back at Turloughmore – she is looking forward to celebrating the club's silver jubilee in the coming months – and spending more time with her family, in particular her new granddaughter Michaela.

Indeed, she is looking forward to the day when she might see Michaela in a Turloughmore, or even a Galway jersey. No doubt, if Michaela has as much passion as her grandmother, that is a distinct possibility.

Curtin breaks Kilkenny hearts with late Galway winner

Camogie round-up

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

GALWAY talisman Veronica Curtin struck for a winning point right on the hour to break Kilkenny's hearts and snatch a place in the camogie league final on Sunday week for the westerners in a dramatic conclusion to the first semi-final at Nowlan Park yesterday.

Champions Wexford, who beat Galway in last year's All-Ireland final to secure the league and championship

double, complete the final pairing after their goal-scoring power proved too much for a young but gritty Tipperary.

It was Curtin and Galway that were the story of the day though, given that the Castlegar woman was the only player on the pitch with an All-Ireland senior medal, won 15 years ago, and her third point put her side in front for the first but most crucial time.

Kilkenny led from the second minute when Aoife Neary pointed a free. The same player's shot from a placed ball went all the way to the net

11 minutes later and Galway were largely reliant on Aislinn Connolly to remain in touch shooting four of their first half points as they trailed 1-6 to 0-5 at the interval.

By that stage, Edwina Keane, Katie Power and Marie O'Connor had all added points to Neary's 1-3 from frees but it was a different story after the resumption, with Galway introducing captain Brenda Hanney and her fellow club All-Ireland winner from Killimor, Ann Marie Hayes.

An increased flow of ball towards Curtin and full-forward Noreen Coen

yielded massive dividends as they shared six points. Galway had pegged the Cats back but were stunned when Kilkenny sub Shelly Farrell goaled and Neary quickly tagged on a point from a free after a stunning save by Susan Earner from Marie Dargan. That stop kept Galway in the game and they scored five points without reply.

Wexford continue to look strong though and goals from Una Leacy, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock helped them establish a 3-4 to 0-7 half-time lead over Tipperary. Jill Horan was excellent at midfield while last year's U16

star Sarah Fryday looked dangerous when given the opportunity. But Wexford were able to find space behind the Tipp defence too easily and they made them pay in the style of champions.

To give Tipp credit, they didn't look as open in the second-half, although Leacy did pounce for her second goal. Kelly was still accurate from placed balls, finishing with 1-6, and Ursula Jacob came on to score three points to ensure Wexford remained in control despite the good work of Fryday, Horan and Amy Kennedy who finished with seven points between them.



Dublin goalkeeper Clodagh Power is unable to prevent a goal for Tipperary.

Picture: iLivephotos

Galway's talisman breaks Kilkenny hearts to secure last grasp final place

THE FINAL CURTIN!

IN THE STICK OF IT: Galway's Veronica Curtin gets the better of Kilkenny cat Jacqui Frisby in Kilkenny



AS THE only player in this tie to have an All-Ireland senior medal to her name, it was no surprise that Veronica Curtin's touch of class proved the difference to secure Galway a place in the *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Final.

It's now 15 years since Curtin played a big part in Galway's only All-Ireland success but she retains a massive hunger and ability.

The Kinvara woman was central to Galway's second half comeback but it must have been heart-breaking for Kilkenny to lose, as Curtin's 60th minute winner marked the only time Galway led in the entire game.

Dynamic

The winners were poor in the first half although one should not detract from the efforts of Kilkenny, who were by far the more dynamic unit in the opening period.

Ann Downey's crew led from the second minute when Aoife Neary pointed a free.

She saw another shot from a placed ball go into the net 11 minutes later and Galway were largely reliant on Aislinn Connolly to remain in touch.

The Castlegar forward shot four of their first half points as they trailed 1-6 to 0-5 at the interval.

By that stage, Edwina Keane, Katie Power and Marie O'Connor had all added points

Galway 0-14 Kilkenny 2-7
DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR reports

to Neary's 1-3 from frees. And though goalkeeper Siobhan Murphy was forced into a smart stop from Noreen Coen, that was the only time the Coen-Curtin axis threatened in the first half.

It was a completely different story after the resumption, with Noel Finn introducing

They were stunned though when a slip by Sarah Dervan gave Kilkenny's Shelly Farrell a goal chance and she hand-passed to the net in the 45th.

Neary quickly tagged on a point from a free after a great save by Susan Earner from Marie Dargan and Kilkenny were four points up with just over 10 minutes remaining.

That stop kept Galway in the game and Kilkenny failed to score again, while the Connacht girls showed great heart to notch up five points.

Heart

The first three arrived from Niamh McGrath, Curtin and Coen to give Galway hope.

That hope turned to belief when Connolly converted another free in the 57th.

By now, momentum was entirely with Galway.

Tara Rutledge sent the ball over Curtin's head into the right corner but the veteran turned sharply and showed pace to gather possession.

From there, it was all about guile, class and coolness as she turned in on her left side to make space before slotting from 35 metres to grab a spot in the final.

GALWAY: S Earner; R Glynn, S Dervan, S Cahalan; N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, S Keane; O Kilkenny, L Ryan; R Hennessy 0-1, A Connolly 0-6 (4fs, 1 45), N McGrath 0-1; V Curtin 0-3, N Coen 0-3; E Kilkelly. Subs: B Hanney for Kilkelly (45); E Haverly for Ryan (47); T Rutledge for Hennessy (48).

KILKENNY: S Murphy; C Dormer, C Doherty, J Frisby; O Walsh, E Aylward, D Delaney; L Lyng, K Hamilton; A Neary 1-4 (fs), E Keane 0-1, D Gaulie; M Dargan, K Power 0-1, M O'Connor 0-1. Subs: S Farrell 1-0 for Power (47); A Dunphy for Delaney (39); N Maher for Dargan (47). Ref: M O'Kelly (Cork)



THROUGH BALL: Galway's Aislinn Connolly tries to close Catherine Doherty's path in Nowlan Park

MODEL PERFORMANCE

WEXFORD set up a repeat pairing of last year's All-Ireland final when proving just too strong for an up-and-coming Tipperary in the goal-scoring department in the second *Irish Daily Star* camogie league semi-final at Nowlan Park.

In the process, the Model County contingent gave themselves a chance of defending the first half of their 2010 double and on this evidence, they may take stopping.

Tipperary actually had the better of the opening quarter but shot six wides in that period. Though Claire Grogan converted two frees, Una Leacy struck for the first of her two goals from a fifth minute ground shot and so gave her side a one-point advantage.

There were signs of defensive frailty in Tipp though and having escaped a warning from the previous attack, they were punished in the 17th minute when Kelly ghosted into oceans of space to shoot to the roof of the net. Two minutes later, Katrina Parrock hand-passed a third goal and the gap was 10 points.

Wexford 4-12 Tipperary 0-13
DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR reports

The Premier continued to play well though. Last year's U16 star Sarah Fryday showed a good touch to start a run of four consecutive points that was concluded with the score of the day by Jill Horan. The Cashel midfield showed scorching speed to leave a couple of Wexford girls in her wake before swinging over on the run from 45m.

Instinct

Just six points separated the sides at the change of ends, with Wexford winning by 3-4 to 0-7 but JJ Doyle's charges showed all their experience, and the killer instinct that comes with it to settle this tie in the next 11 minutes.

Lenny Holohan fired over a nice point before Kelly converted two frees and when Leacy pounced on a breaking ball before gathering and lashing home her second goal, the margin was 12.

Tipp deserve plenty of credit though for plugging away and they

were nowhere near as loose-marking in the second half as they were in the first. And they always looked dangerous at the other end of the pitch, registering six of the game's remaining 11 points.

Fryday and Amy Kennedy caused Wexford's defence quite a few difficulties, with the latter's direct running after her interval introduction notable. Meanwhile Horan's mobility brought her a second half brace.

For Wexford, team captain Ursula Jacob was introduced in the 38th minute and she was clearly keen to make an impression, hitting three points and allowing her team to cruise to a comfortable success.

WEXFORD: M O'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, N Lambert; L Bolger, M Leacy, A O'Connor; D Codd, K Kelly; B Gordon, E Quigley; M O'Leary; L Holohan, U Leacy, K Parrock. Subs: K Atkinson for A O'Connor (47); J Dwyer for Gordon (47); U Jacob 0-1 for Holohan (38); C Storey for Bolger (38); F Kavanagh for O'Leary (38).

TIPPERARY: R Bourke; S Ryan, S Larkin, M Tynan; J McGrath, J Kirwan, M Ryan; J Horan, M Short; J Ryan, C Grogan, A Loneragan; D Dunne, N Walsh, S Fryday. Subs: A Kennedy (0-2) for Dunne (47); M Graham for J Ryan (41); C Quirke for S Ryan (46); B Quinn for Loneragan (48).

REFEREE: F McNamara (Clare)



FINAL COUNTDOWN: Wexford's Ciara Storey battles with Tipp's Alice Loneragan

Under 14 competitions

EVENING games got under way last weekend but many clubs will be contesting their first game this coming week. It was the turn of the under 14 players to get their competitions up and running last Friday and fixtures have been made for grades from A to C for the season ahead—in each case the home of the first-named team is the venue for the match.

UNDER 14 'A' LEAGUE

In the Under 14 A section with nine teams the top four teams will qualify for the semi-final stages. The teams are Killeagh, Eire Og, Valley Rovers, St Vincents, Courcye Rovers, Sarsfields 1, Douglas 1, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Ballinhassig.

April 6
Eire Og v Sarsfields 1
Killeagh v Valley Rovers 1
Kilbrittain/Timoleague v Ballinhassig
St. Vincents v Douglas 1

April 13
Valley Rovers 1 v Eire Og
Douglas 1 v Killeagh
Courcye Rovers v
Kilbrittain/Timoleague
Ballinhassig v St. Vincents

April 20
Valley Rovers 1 v Douglas 1
Killeagh v Ballinhassig
Kilbrittain/Timoleague v Sarsfields 1
St. Vincents v Courcye Rovers

April 27
Douglas 1 v Eire Og
Ballinhassig v Valley Rovers 1
Courcye Rovers v Killeagh
Sarsfields 1 v St. Vincents

May 4
Eire Og v Kilbrittain/Timoleague
Valley Rovers 1 v Courcye Rovers
Killeagh v Sarsfields 1
Douglas 1 v Ballinhassig

May 11
Ballinhassig v Eire Og
Sarsfields 1 v Valley Rovers
Kilbrittain/Timoleague v St. Vincents
Courcye Rovers v Douglas 1

May 18
Eire Og v St. Vincents
Killeagh v Kilbrittain/Timoleague
Sarsfields 1 v Douglas 1
Ballinhassig v Courcye Rovers

May 25
Courcye Rovers v Eire Og
Kilbrittain/Timoleague v Valley Rovers 1
St. Vincents v Killeagh
Sarsfields 1 v Ballinhassig



Co Cork delegates pictured with Joan O'Flynn, president of the Camogie Association. Back row, (L-R) Yvonne Lane, Noreen Daly, Mary Bugler and Mary McSweeney. Front row: Marian McCarthy, Joan O'Flynn and Sheila Golden. Camogie Association annual congress 2011. Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.

Picture: Caroline Quinn

UNDER 14 'B' LEAGUE

Twenty five teams, four sections, top two teams in each section to qualify. Section 1 Carrigaline, Inniscarra, Sliabh Rua, Enniskeane, Ballincollig, Douglas 2.

Section 2 Dungourney, St Finbarr's, Aghabullogue, Blackrock, Brian Dillons, Ballyhea.

Section 3 Buttevant, Newtownshandrum, Cloughduv, Mallow, Millstreet, Glen Rovers.

Section 4 Carrigtwohill, Tracton, Clonakilty, Barryroe, Fr. O'Neill's, Na Piarasigh, Bishopstown.

Section 1
April 6
Carrigaline v Inniscarra
Sliabh Rua v Enniskeane
Ballincollig v Douglas 2

April 13
Douglas 2 v Inniscarra
Enniskeane v Carrigaline
Sliabh Rua v Ballincollig
April 20
Carrigaline v Douglas 2
Ballincollig v Enniskeane
Inniscarra v Sliabh Rua

April 27
Sliabh Rua v Douglas 2
Enniskeane v Inniscarra
Ballincollig v Carrigaline
May 4
Douglas 2 v Enniskeane
Inniscarra v Ballincollig
Carrigaline v Sliabh Rua

Section 2
April 6
Dungourney v St. Finbarr's
Aghabullogue v Blackrock
Brian Dillons v Ballyhea

April 13
Ballyhea v St. Finbarr's
Blackrock v Dungourney
Aghabullogue v Brian Dillons

April 20
Dungourney v Ballyhea
Brian Dillons v Blackrock
St. Finbarr's v Aghabullogue
April 27

Aghabullogue v Ballyhea
Blackrock v St. Finbarr's
Brian Dillons v Dungourney

May 4
Ballyhea v Blackrock
St. Finbarr's v Brian Dillons
Dungourney v Aghabullogue
Section 3 Six teams

April 6
Buttevant v Newtownshandrum
Cloughduv v Mallow
Millstreet v Glen Rovers

April 13
Glen Rovers v Newtownshandrum
Mallow v Buttevant
Cloughduv v Millstreet

April 20
Buttevant v Glen Rovers
Millstreet v Mallow
Newtownshandrum v Cloughduv

April 27
Cloughduv v Glen Rovers
Mallow v Newtownshandrum
Millstreet v Buttevant

May 4
Glen Rovers v Mallow
Newtownshandrum v Millstreet
Buttevant v Cloughduv

Section 4 — Seven Teams
April 6
Carrigtwohill v Tracton
Clonakilty v Barryroe
Fr. O'Neill's v Na Piarasigh

April 13
Barryroe v Carrigtwohill
Tracton v Clonakilty
Na Piarasigh v Bishopstown

April 20
Fr. O'Neill's v Tracton
Carrigtwohill v Na Piarasigh
Bishopstown v Barryroe

April 27
Tracton v Bishopstown
Na Piarasigh v Clonakilty
Barryroe v Fr. O'Neill's

May 4
Fr. O'Neill's v Bishopstown
Tracton v Barryroe
Carrigtwohill v Clonakilty

May 11
Clonakilty v Fr. O'Neill's
Bishopstown v Carrigtwohill
Barryroe v Na Piarasigh

May 18
Na Piarasigh v Tracton
Fr. O'Neill's v Carrigtwohill
Clonakilty v Bishopstown

UNDER 14 'C' LEAGUES

Twenty four teams, four sections of six with the top two teams from each section to qualify.

Section 1 Ballygarvan, Milford, Watergrasshill, Cobh, Charleville, St. Fanahan's.

Section 2 Sarsfields 2, Bride Rovers, Valley Rovers, Passage, Newcestown, and Sarsfields 3.

Section 3 St. Catherine's, Banteer, Castlelyons, Grenagh, Youghal, Kildorrey.

Section 4 Carrigaline 2, Ballinora, Rockban, Ballinascarty, Kilbree, Blarney.

April 6
Ballygarvan v Milford
Watergrasshill v Cobh
Charleville v St. Fanahan's

April 13
St. Fanahan's v Milford
Cobh v Ballygarvan
Watergrasshill v Charleville

April 20
Ballygarvan v St. Fanahan's
Charleville v Cobh
Milford v Watergrasshill

April 27
Watergrasshill v St. Fanahan's
Cobh v Milford
Charleville v Ballygarvan

May 4
St. Fanahan's v Cobh
Milford v Charleville
Ballygarvan v Watergrasshill

Section 2 Six Teams
April 6
Sarsfields 2 v Bride Rovers
Valley Rovers 2 v Passage
Newcestown v Sarsfields 3

April 13
Sarsfields 3 v Bride Rovers
Passage v Sarsfields 2
Valley Rovers 2 v Newcestown

April 20
Sarsfields 2 v Sarsfields 3
Newcestown v Passage
Bride Rovers v Valley Rovers 2

April 27
Valley Rovers 2 v Sarsfields 3

Passage v Bride Rovers
Newcestown v Sarsfields 2

May 4
Sarsfields 3 v Passage
Bride Rovers v Newcestown
Sarsfields 2 v Valley Rovers 2

Section 3 Six teams
April 6
St. Catherine's v Banteer
Castlelyons v Grenagh
Youghal v Kildorrey

April 13
Kildorrey v Banteer
Grenagh v St. Catherine's
Castlelyons v Youghal

April 20
St. Catherine's v Kildorrey
Youghal v Grenagh
Banteer v Barryroe

April 27
Castlelyons v Kildorrey
Grenagh v Banteer
Youghal v St. Catherine's

May 4
Kildorrey v Grenagh
Banteer v Youghal
St. Catherine's v Castlelyons

Section 4 — Six Teams
April 6
Carrigaline 2 v Ballinora
Rockban v Ballinascarty
Kilbree v Blarney

April 13
Blarney v Ballinora
Ballinascarty v Carrigaline 2
Rockban v Kilbree

April 20
Carrigaline 2 v Blarney
Kilbree v Ballinascarty
Ballinora v Rockban

April 27
Rockban v Blarney
Ballinascarty v Ballinora
Kilbree v Carrigaline 2

May 4
Blarney v Ballinascarty
Ballinora v Kilbree
Carrigaline 2 v Rockban

Cork beat Kilkenny to win play-off place

Cork
Kilkenny

1-19
1-4

CORK comfortably beat a Kilkenny side in search of a place in the final of the Irish Daily Star senior division two league at CIT on Saturday last. Cork ensured themselves a play-off with Waterford for a final spot.

Cork were in control early on and they picked off their points as they took the lead from the throw-in. With Cork closing down the Kilkenny attack, Cork were dominant, but five minutes before the break Kilkenny captain Slobhan Mulholland finished the ball to the net to cut the lead to two points.

Cork responded with points from Marie O'Neill, Mariah Reidy and Michelle Browne.

The lead was stretched further before the break as Michelle Browne grabbed a goal two minutes into injury time, giving her side a 1-11 to 1-3 interval advantage.

Cork totally dominated the second half as their defence remained in control, dealing with anything Kilkenny threw at them, with Roisin De Faoite, Christine O'Neill and Lydia Cunningham in excellent form as they contained Kilkenny to just a point.

Cork were on top at midfield and up front, and they added to their tally with points from Marie O'Neill, Mariah Reidy and Marion Jagoe.

The result was vital for Cork as it sees them finish the group level on six points with Waterford and assures them of a play-off for a final spot.

Cork: G Harrington; R de Faoite, C O'Neill, A Coughlan; C Murphy, L Cunningham, S Buckley; T Buttmer, L Dorgan; M Jagoe, M O'Neill (c), M Reidy; M Watson, M Browne, E Watson. Subs: M Walsh for A Coughlan (48), D Luby for M Browne (52), L Bugler for M Jagoe (52), C Kearney for E Watson (55).
Scorers for Cork: M O'Neill 0-7 (0-3f), M Browne 1-3, M Jagoe, M Reidy 0-3 each, M Watson 0-2, E Watson 0-1.
Kilkenny: S Mulholland 1-0, N Maher 0-2, N D Dowling 0-1(f), A Fahy 0-1.
Cork: G Harrington; R de Faoite, C O'Neill, A Coughlan; C Murphy, L Cunningham, S Buckley; T Buttmer, L Dorgan; M Jagoe, M O'Neill (c), M Reidy; M Watson, M Browne, E Watson.
Subs: M Walsh for A Coughlan (48), D Luby for M Browne (52), L Bugler for M Jagoe (52), C Kearney for E Watson (55).
KILKENNY: A M Lennon; E Friaby, R Byrne, R Jones; E Mulhall, K Fennelly, N Phelan; N Dowling, S Mulholland (c); N Maher, S A Quinlan, L Kavanagh; A Murphy, A Fahy, L Millea. Subs: A Curtis for L Kavanagh (37), R Hogan for A Murphy (55).
Scorers: S Mulholland 1-0, N Maher 0-2, N D Dowling 0-1(f), A Fahy 0-1.
Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Cork on top from the off against Kilkenny

Cork
Kilkenny

1-19
1-4

CAMOGIE
By MARY NEWMAN

THE result was never really in any doubt as Cork confidently overcame the challenge posed by Kilkenny in this Irish Daily Star Senior Division Two clash in CIT on Saturday.

From the throw-in, Cork put the Kilkenny defence under pressure, and began hitting points from all angles they raced into a comfortable lead and with their defence well in control they dominated the game from start to finish.

It was evident from the early stages that the Kilkenny defence

was unable to contain the lively Cork attack and with five minutes to the break it was 0-8 to 0-2 in Cork's favour.

With five minutes to the break against the run of play Kilkenny were granted a lifeline when captain Slobhan Mulholland finished to the net to put two points between the sides.

The rally was brief as the Cork response was instant, Marie O'Neill, Mariah Reidy and Michelle Browne fired over points before a Michelle Browne

goal two minutes into injury-time gave Cork a 1-11 to 1-3 interval advantage.

The pattern of the second-half was similar to the first as the Cork defence remained in total control dealing with anything Kilkenny managed to throw at them.

In midfield and in attack Cork were on top and such was their dominance that Kilkenny could only manage a single point while Cork added to their tally with ease, Marie O'Neill, Mariah Reidy and Marion Jagoe all on target.

The victory was a vital one for Cork as it sees them finish the group level on points with Water-

ford and assures them of a play-off for a final spot.

Scorers for Cork: M O'Neill 0-7 (0-3f), M Browne 1-3, M Jagoe, M Reidy 0-3 each, M Watson 0-2, E Watson 0-1.

Kilkenny: S Mulholland 1-0, N Maher 0-2, N D Dowling 0-1(f), A Fahy 0-1.

Cork: G Harrington; R de Faoite, C O'Neill, A Coughlan; C Murphy, L Cunningham, S Buckley; T Buttmer, L Dorgan; M Jagoe, M O'Neill (c), M Reidy; M Watson, M Browne, E Watson.

Subs: M Walsh for A Coughlan (48), D Luby for M Browne (52), L Bugler for M Jagoe (52), C Kearney for E Watson (55).

KILKENNY: A M Lennon; E Friaby, R Byrne, R Jones; E Mulhall, K Fennelly, N Phelan; N Dowling, S Mulholland (c); N Maher, S A Quinlan, L Kavanagh; A Murphy, A Fahy, L Millea.

Subs: A Curtis for L Kavanagh (37), R Hogan for A Murphy (55).
Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

ARP. 2011

GOALS TOPPLE TIPPERARY

DEAN GOODISON

In Nowlan Park

WEXFORD

4-12

TIPPERARY

0-13

BACK IN the sixties legendary American baseball player and coach Yogi Berra coined the phrase 'it's like déjà vu all over again'. Had he honed his managerial skills in the world of camogie, he may have saved his snippet for this Irish Daily Star National League Division 1 semi-final.

In reality this felt like an extension of the round-robin phase - a fourth league game Wexford needed to win to get them straight to the final. And they did it in Nowlan Park on Sunday last with the minimum of fuss.

Like before, the team was a crude concoction of bits that didn't necessarily always fit into what was previously a well-oiled machine - the quintessential experiment for J.J. Doyle and his backroom team, yet again. Indeed, while the result on the field may well have been expected, the results of the ongoing experiment remain inconclusive.

The defence, once a solid and cohesive unit, was again, in this league campaign, porous. Had Tipperary put up 20 points there could have been few arguments that it was undeserved as only woeful shooting from the Premier women early on prevented this turning into a real dogfight.

The midfield was again adequate without imposing itself for long spells. Apart from Michelle O'Leary and Josie Dwyer, the half-forward line didn't win enough possession, while the inside forwards proved the major difference between the sides as they picked off scores whenever they got good ball.

Occasionally they even provided it for each other, Katrina Parrock being the first to do so when she dropped a long ball into the large rectangle for Una Leacy to pull into the net in the fifth minute. That was a perfect riposte to a sloppy start that saw Claire Grogan put her side ahead and several more chances come and go.

Grogan added a free to close the gap to one in the eighth minute but, as Tipperary fired seven wides before they registered again, a glut of Wexford scores put the game to bed before the interval.

Katrina Parrock neatly turned her marker for her first score after a good spot by Kate Kelly, and the midfielder soon notched her opener from a '45. Deirdre Codd's sideline sent Kelly away for the second Wexford goal in the 16th minute (2-2 to 0-2) before she brought her tally to two with a free.

A good bit of work by Brid Gordon gave Parrock the opportunity for the third, which she took with a clinical handpass to the net with twelve minutes of the half remaining, but her side would only manage one further score before the break as Grogan brought her total to four to help them within six at the break (3-4 to 0-7).

A fantastic score by Lenny Holohan and a placed ball double from Kelly increased the lead to nine shortly after the interval and it quickly got worse as Mary Leacy's long ball found sister Una close to goal which allowed the full-forward to lash home her second major of the afternoon (4-7 to 0-7).

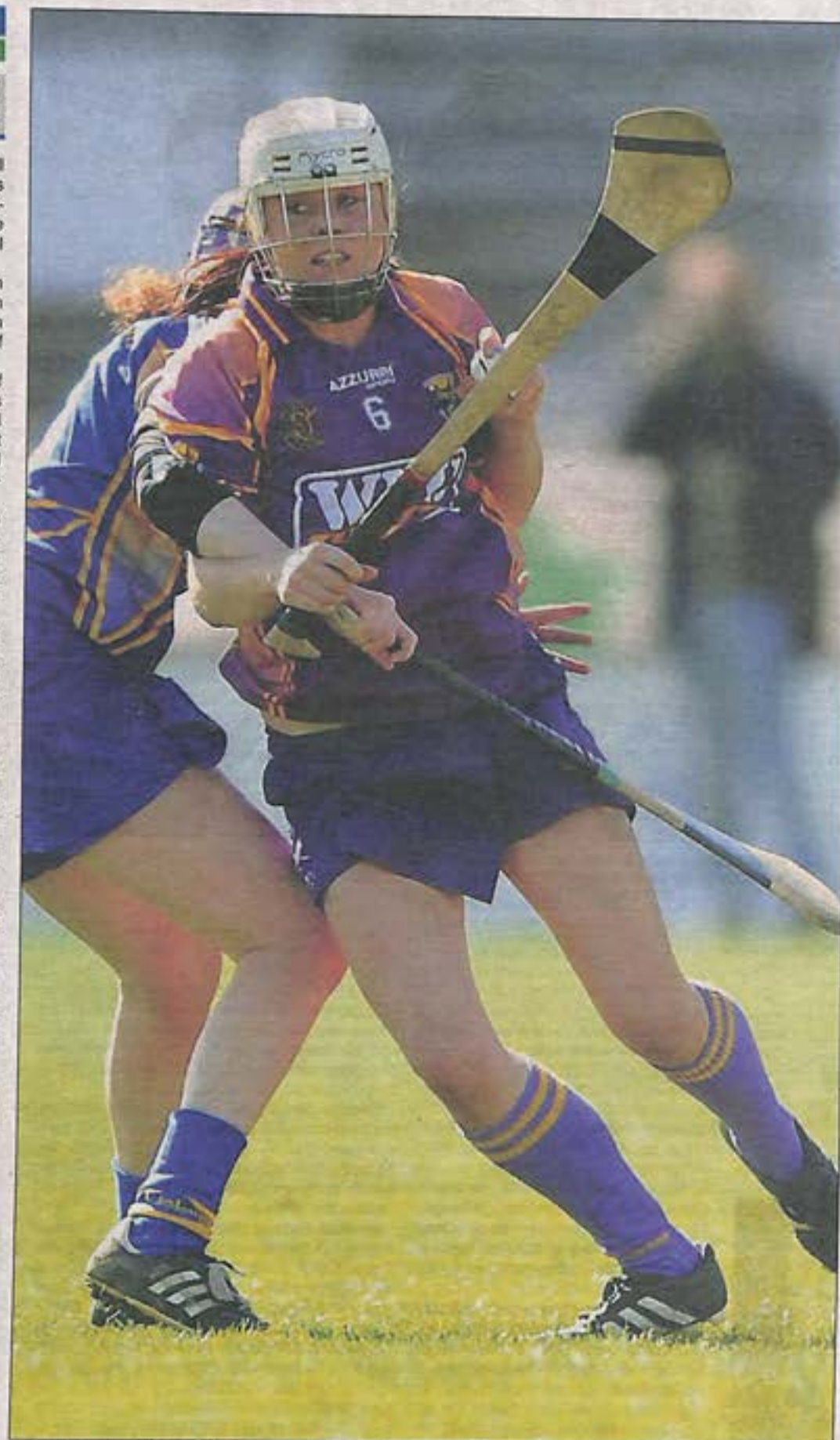
Amy Kennedy helped her side pull within nine entering the final ten minutes, with Jill Horan also picking off a brace late on, but a triple from Ursula Jacob and well-taken points from Kelly and Una Leacy helped Wexford ease over the finish line for the fourth time in this young year.

So like Galway, like Offaly and like Clare, it was very much a 'professional' performance, steadfast in their efficiency but leaving plenty to work on ahead of the league final against Galway in just over a week's time; the tribeswomen and All-Ireland finalists edging out Kilkenny by a single point in the other semi-final.

MANAGER'S REACTION

Wexford camogie boss J.J. Doyle conceded that there were both positives and negatives, not only to his side's performance, but also to their early triple goal strike against Tipperary on Sunday last.

'They did lose a bit of confidence from conceding but maybe it stopped ours hurling as well,' he said. 'We got into the lead and when you get into a comfortable lead you tend to switch off and it's very hard



■ Mary Leacy breaks away from Tipperary's Claire Grogan in Sunday's semi-final in Kilkenny.

to keep that intensity, that drive, and keep going.

'In fairness they were lovely goals, they were well worked. I suppose when we did get ahead it was always going to be hard for them to come back, having a six-point lead at half-time and they had to play against the breeze; they were always going to struggle.'

The All-Ireland winning boss was also keen to put the spotty performance, particularly in the first-half, down to a lack of testing matches so far this year.

'We were always going to be rusty enough starting. Even throughout the whole game we were rusty enough because the girls just haven't hurled that much.

'We have had three league games and it wasn't that competitive, okay the first Galway game was, the next two games probably weren't, so a lot of the girls probably haven't a huge amount of hurling.'

Looking ahead to the final, Doyle is certain his girls will get the step up in opposition that they need to kick on.

'Galway is going to be a tough battle. They beat Kilkenny here today on their home patch and they didn't have a few of their main forwards starting. We are looking forward to a good game and that's what we wanted for the league, we wanted competitive games and we got that today to an extent and for definite we'll get it the next day,' he insisted.

WEXFORD

SCORERS: Kate Kelly (1-6, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '45), Una Leacy (2-1), Katrina Parrock (1-1), Ursula Jacob (0-3), Lenny Holohan (0-1).

1. Mags D'Arcy
2. Claire O'Connor
3. Catherine O'Loughlin
4. Noeleen Lambert
5. Lisa Bolger
6. Mary Leacy
7. Aoife O'Connor
8. Deirdre Codd
9. Kate Kelly
10. Brid Gordon
11. Evelyn Quigley
12. Michelle O'Leary
13. Lenny Holohan
14. Una Leacy
15. Katrina Parrock

SUBS: Josie Dwyer for Gordon (31), Karen Atkinson for A. O'Connor (31), Ursula Jacob for Holohan (38), Fiona Kavanagh for O'Leary (38), Clara Storey for Bolger (38).

TIPPERARY

SCORERS: Claire Grogan (0-5, 3 frees, 1 pen.), Jill Horan (0-3), Amy Kennedy, Sarah Fryday (0-2 each), Deirdre Dunne (0-1).

1. Rita Burke
2. Sheila Ryan
3. Sabrina Larkin
4. Maria Tynan
5. Julie McGrath
6. Julie Kirwan
7. Mary Ryan
8. Jill Horan
9. Michelle Shortt
10. Joanne Ryan
11. Claire Grogan
12. Alice Loneragan
13. Deirdre Dunne
14. Nicole Walsh
15. Sarah Fryday

SUBS: Amy Kennedy for Dunne (38), Ciodagh Quirke for S. Ryan (45), Brid Quinn for Loneragan (48).

REFEREE: Fintan McNamara (Clare).

VENUE: Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.



■ Ciara Storey challenges Alice Loneragan.

Late rally by Galway ends Kilkenny hopes in League

MICHAEL O'LEARY

Galway 0-14
Kilkenny 2-7

THERE was dreadful disappointment for the Kilkenny senior camogie team they were caught by a late Galway flurry in Nowlan Park on Sunday when their hopes were ended in the National Camogie League semi-final.

Kilkenny led by four points at the interval, 1-6 to 0-5. They were still driving hard in 45th minute when a goal from Shelley Farrell followed by a close range pointed free by Aoife Neary restored the same gap. However, they failed to score during the closing 12 minutes as the Westerners produced a strong late rally during which they scored five times.

Kilkenny were forced to lineout without a number of players due to injury. Goalkeeper Catriona Ryan, Anne Dalton - who was on crutches - Michelle Quilty and Edel Maher were all ruled out.

After a first half that took a while to get going, Kilkenny led by 1-6 to 0-5 at the interval. The goal, of the lucky variety, came in the 14th minute from an Aoife Neary free from 50 yards when the ball went all the way to the net. Neary also converted three pointed frees. Katie Power, Marie O'Connor and Edwina Keane were also on target.

Shelley Farrell was introduced as a half time substitution for Power as several positional switches were made. Lizzie Lyng was switched from midfield to corner-back, with Collette Dormer going to wing-back and Deirdre Delaney to midfield.

Kelly Hamilton switched to centre-forward even though she operated as a third midfielder, while Edwina Keane when moved to wing-forward also moved back to help around the middle area.

Defensive plan caught up

Kilkenny's defensive approach caught up with them as Galway dominated the majority of possession during the second half as they out-scored Kilkenny by 0-9 to 1-1. Galway drew level in the 40th minute as the Kilkenny defence came under pressure.

The Tribesladies scored

four consecutive points per Aislinn Connolly (45), Rebecca Hennelly, Noreen Coen and Veronica Curtin (1-6 to 0-9). Kilkenny, despite having to withstand a lot of pressure, were still firm with Catherine Doherty and Elaine Aylward doing well.

The losers regained the lead in the 45th minute when a well worked move saw Shelley Farrell clear through on goal in open space. She kicked a low shot to the net. Neary pointed a close range free to extend the advantage, but the locals continued to be careless with possession.

Quickfire points from Niamh McGrath and Veronica Curtin halved the gap and set-up a tense closing 10 minutes. Kilkenny were hanging on.

Noreen Coen, who was always dangerous during the second half, pointed to leave the minimum between the sides. Aislinn Connolly pointed the levelling free in the 57th minute after the ball was brought forward for dissent.

Galway were definitely the more probing, with Noreen Coen and Veronica Curtin a constant danger. Curtin was the match winning heroine as she struck a superb winning point in the 60th minute to snatch a deserved victory.

Kilkenny tried in vain to find a leveller, but they didn't do so. Galway held out for an overdue victory over Kilkenny. The Cats held the edge in the last five clashes between the sides.

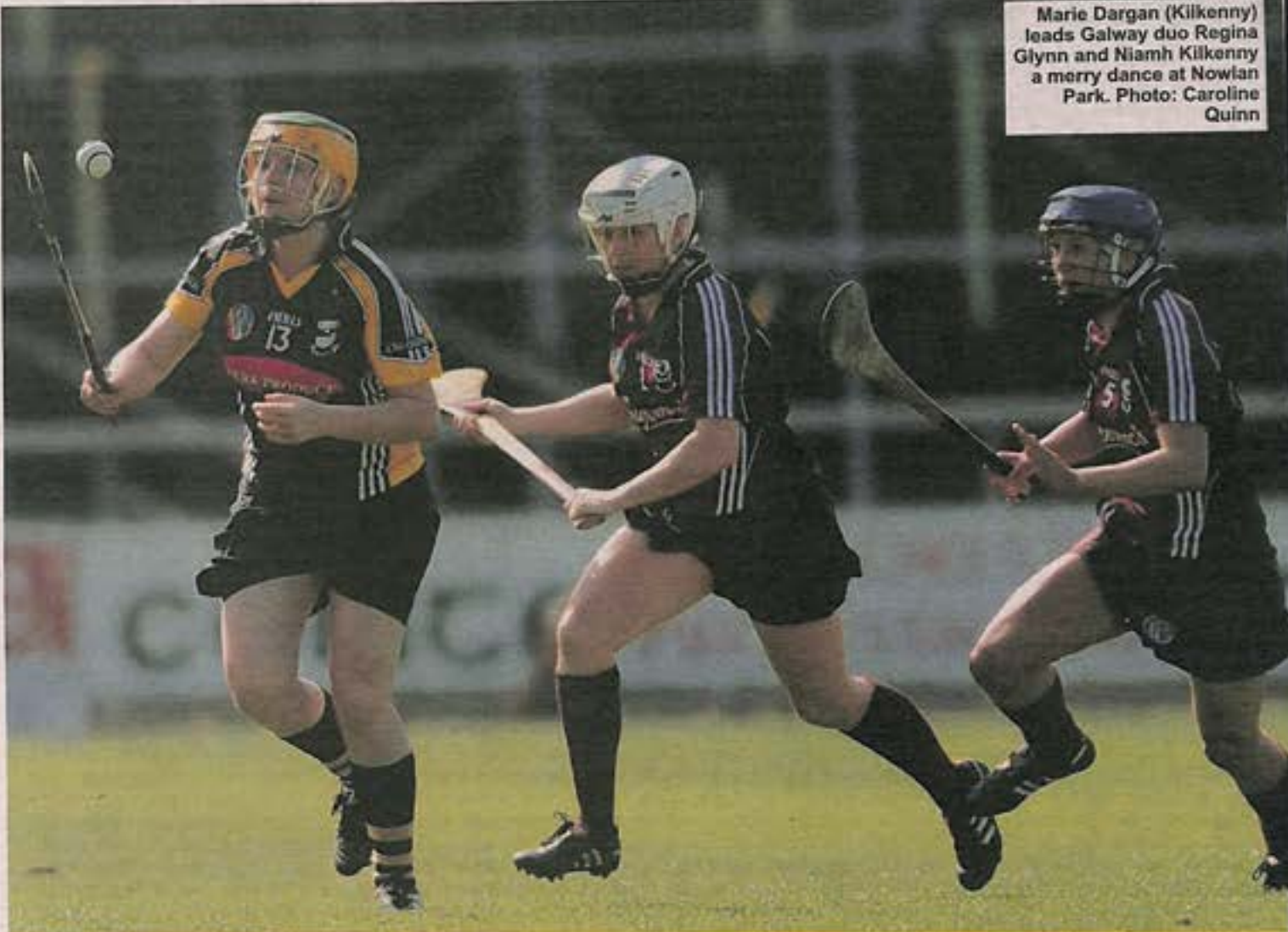
Best for Kilkenny were goalkeeper Siobhan Murphy, who was solid, safe and assured. Catherine Doherty, Elaine Aylward, Kelly Hamilton, who played with ferocious determination, the hard-working Aoife Neary, Katie Power until replaced and Shelley Farrell gave their all.

Attention now switched to the O'Duffy Cup which begins on June 11 with an away match against Offaly.

Wexford easily defeated Tipperary by 4-12 to 0-13 to set up a repeat of last year's All-Ireland on the April 17 in the League showdown.

Disappointment

There was huge disappointment for the Kilkenny intermediate team who were well beaten by Cork on Saturday in their Division 2 clash, 1-19 to 1-4. Team captain Siobhan



Marie Dargan (Kilkenny) leads Galway duo Regina Glynn and Niamh Kilkenny a merry dance at Nowlan Park. Photo: Caroline Quinn

Holland scored the Kilkenny goal.

The under-16 team confirmed top spot in their group. They won all three matches. They destroyed by Derry 5-23 to 1-2 having led by 3-18 to 0-0 at the interval. Their semi-final opponents will be Clare, who defeated Dublin by 3-7 to 2-9.

Meanwhile, the Loreto Secondary School will attempt to record consecutive All-Ireland junior and senior colleges All-Ireland wins when they play St Patrick's (Maghera) in Trim, Co. Meath on Saturday (2pm), the setting for their senior final success. Victory for the city school will complete three-in-a-row of junior All-Irelands, and would give them a fourth title in five years.

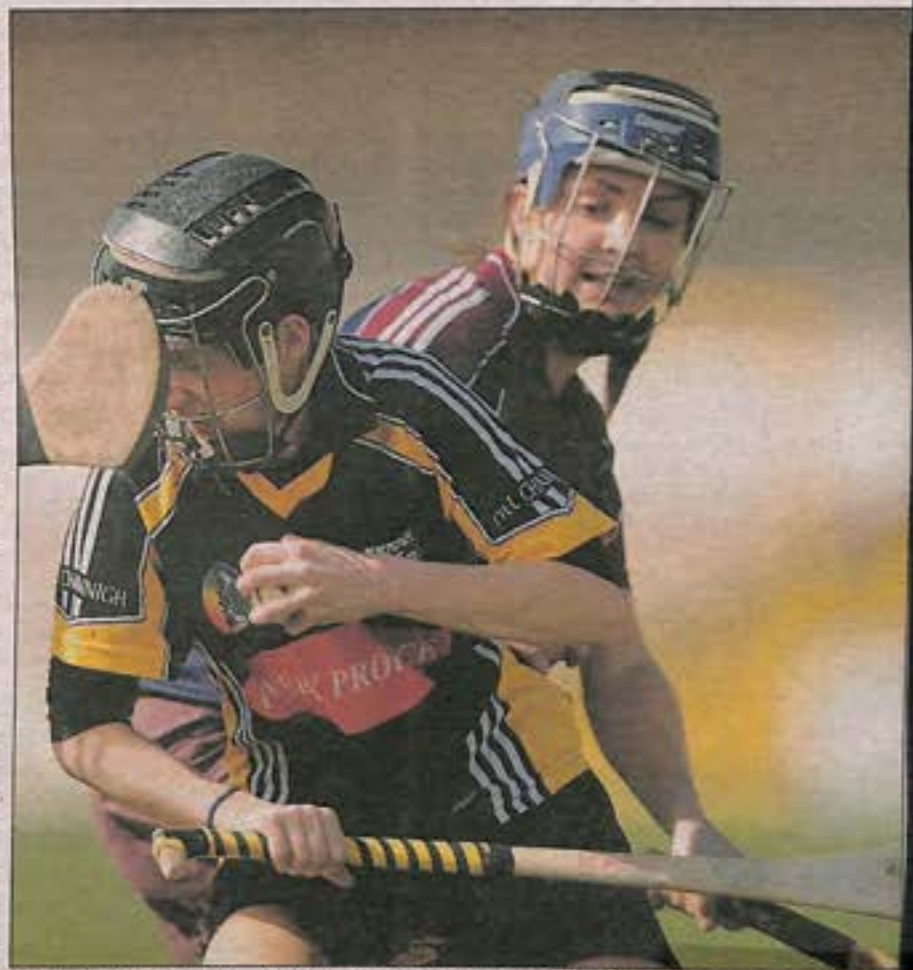
Scorers: Galway - Aislinn Connolly (0-6, four frees, one 45); Veronica Curtin (0-3); Rebecca Hennelly, Noreen Coen (0-2 each); Niamh McGrath (0-1). Kilkenny - Aoife Neary (1-4, frees); Katie Power, Marie O'Connor, Edwina Keane (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Siobhan Murphy (Tullagher-Rosbercon), Collette Dormer

(Paulstown), Catherine Doherty (St Anne's), Jacqui Frisby (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan), Elaine Aylward, capt (Mullinavat), Deirdre Delaney (St Lachtain's), Lizzie Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), Kelly Hamilton (Rower-Inistioge), Aoife Neary (James Stephens), Edwina Keane (St Martin's), Denise Gaule (Windgap), Marie Dargan (St Martin's), Katie Power (Piltown), Marie O'Connor (St Lachtain's). Subs - Shelley Farrell (Thomastown) for Power ht; Aisling Dunphy (St Brigid's) for Delaney 37th min; Noelle Maher (Tullaroan) for Dargan 48th min.

Galway - Susan Earner, Regina Glynn, Sarah Dervan, Sinead Cahalane, Niamh Kilkenny, Anne-Marie Hayes, Sinead Keane, Orla Kilkenny, Lorraine Ryan, Rebecca Hennelly, Aislinn Connolly, Niamh McGrath, Veronica Curtin, Noreen Coen, Emma Kilkelly. Subs - Emer Haverty for Ryan, Brenda Hanney (capt) for Kilkelly both ht; Tara Routledge for Hennelly 52nd min.

Referee - Mike O'Kelly (Cork).



Heading for a crash?.....Kilkenny's Catherine Doherty gets a close-up view of a Galway hurley as she gets away from Noreen Coen during the National League semi-final. Photo: Caroline Quinn

Thrilling finish as late Curtin point books Galway's place in camogie league decider

Galway 0-14
Kilkenny 2-7

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT NOWLAN PARK

A ROUSING second half display littered with superb scores booked Galway a place in the final of the Irish Daily Star camogie league at Nowlan Park, on Sunday.

Prior to Sunday's encounter Kilkenny had come out on top in their last two head to head meetings, which were also semi-final affairs. Keen to avoid an unwanted hat-trick of defeats, the Tribeswomen produced a terrific second half performance to outscore the Cats by 0-9 to 1-1, and in the process set up a repeat of last September's All Ireland final pairing.

The first half was certainly one to forget from a Galway viewpoint as defensive errors coupled with attacking inertia ensured they trailed at the break by 1-6 to 0-5.

A foul on Denise Gaule committed by Sarah Dervan allowed sharpshooter Aoife Neary open Kilkenny's account, but Aislinn Connolly replied subsequently following a foul on Sarsfields Niamh McGrath.

Centre forward Edwina Keane pointed to put Kilkenny back in front following good work by Katie Power to engineer the score and they were four clear at the end of the first quarter as Aoife Neary's free, fifty yards from goal, went all the way to the net.

Aided by a strong breeze Galway responded shooting three of the next four points.



Galway's Lorraine Ryan looks to hold off the challenge of Kilkenny's Kelly Hamilton in the National League semi-final in Nowlan Park on Sunday. PHOTO: CAROLINE QUINN.

Connolly and Marie O'Connor traded efforts with the Castlegar stickwoman converting two successive free's thereafter following illegal challenges on Niamh McGrath and Emma Kilkelly.

Kilkenny hit three unanswered points approaching the break as Galway were in real trouble at the back. Not surprisingly, the Galway management embarked on corrective surgery during the break with

Emer Haverty introduced at midfield and Brenda Hanney deployed in the half forward line.

That said, Galway spurned a number of early second half opportunities before Aislinn Connolly stroked over a '45 in the 34th minute. In the ensuing seven minutes of action they cancelled out Kilkenny's scoreboard advantage with a flurry of fantastic scores from Rebecca Hennelly, Noreen

Coen and Veronica Curtin. Galway's attack was now rampant. Veronica Curtin had the beating of Jacqui Frisby, while the supply of low ball into Noreen Coen paid rich dividends as full back Catherine Doherty found herself two and three yards behind the Athenry girl at every turn.

The increase in ball filtering into the inside line was mainly due to Galway gaining the upper hand around the middle

where substitute Emer Haverty was certainly making an impact.

That passage of dominance however, was wiped out in the 43rd minute as substitute Shelly Farrell capitalised on a mistake by Sarah Dervan to bag Kilkenny's second goal, but Galway responded to score five of the last six points of the game.

Niamh McGrath kick-started the response with a point, followed by further white flags from Curtin and Coen. All of a sudden there was just the minimum separating the sides and when Collette Dormer was adjudged to have fouled Brenda Hanney, the opportunity arose to level proceedings. Crucially through, Dormer protested the decision causing referee Mike O'Kelly to bring forward the sliotar. Connolly converted and with five minutes remaining all signs pointed towards a Galway victory.

As the clock ticked into additional time Tara Rutledge whipped the sliotar cross field. Collecting possession Curtin stepped inside Frisby to land the winning score.

Although Kilkenny pushed for the equaliser Galway held out to set up a final clash with the Slanewaysiders.

Galway: S Eamer, R Glynn, S Dervan, S Cahalan, N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, S Keane, O Kilkenny, L Ryan, R Hennelly (0-2), A Connolly (0-6, 0-4 free's, 0-1'45), N McGrath (0-1), V Curtin (0-3), N Coen (0-2), E Kilkelly, Subs: B Hanney for Kilkelly (HT), E Haverty for Ryan (HT), T Rutledge for Hennelly (46 mins).

Kilkenny: S Murphy, C Dormer, J Doherty, J Frisby, G Walsh, D Delaney, E Aylward, L Lyng, K Hamilton, A Neary (1-4, all free's), E Keane (0-1), K Power (0-1), M Dargan, D Gaule, M O'Connor (0-1), Subs: S Farrell (1-0) for Power (HT), N Maher for Dargan (46 mins).

Referee: M O'Kelly.

CAMOGIE

IRISH DAILY STAR

CAMOGIE LEAGUE

DIVISION 2 PLAY-OFF

Waterford 1-12, Cork 1-9
COLLEGES JUNIOR & ALL-IRELAND
FINAL Loreto (Kilkenny) 3-11, St
Patrick's Maghera (Derry) 0-7
LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNIOR Westmeath 3-7, Laois 2-5
UNDER 16 ALL-IRELAND FINAL
Kilkenny 4-15, Dublin 3-8
UNDER 15 ALL-IRELAND-QUARTER-FINAL
Offaly 0-12, Carlow 0-4
1ST ROUND Laois 1-7, Westmeath 1-5

CAMOGIE

Cork Colleges

Today: Intermediate B final: Mount
Mercy v St Aidan's, Bishopstown, 1pm.
Sunday Senior A final: Coláiste Choilm
v Hazelwood, Dromcollogher, Mallow,
1pm.
Wednesday: U16/A final: St Mary's,
Macroom v St Patrick's, Cork, Macroom,
2pm.
Junior B final: Coachford College 4-6
Mercy Clonakilty 0-2.
Senior A semi-final: Christ King 0-6
Dromcollogher 1-4.
Senior B semi-finals: St Mary's Mallow
1-7, Kinsale CS 3-5; Clonakilty 2-4 Car-
rigaline 2-6.
Intermediate B semi-final: St Aidan's
5-2 Blarney 1-2.
Junior A semi-final: St Mary's
Charleville 3-6 Dromcollogher 0-7.
U16/A semi-final: Macroom 2-10
Mount Mercy 2-2.
U16/B semi-final: Coláiste Daibheid
6-4 Passage 2-0.
First Year League: Bandon 0-2 Drom-
collogher 4-2; Charleville 4-7 Bandon 2-0;
Dromcollogher 3-6 Col Choilm 1-0; Col
Choilm 2-0 Charleville 0-2; Charleville 2-0
Christ King 0-3; Clonakilty 5-3 Coachford
2-0.

CAMOGIE

Cork Colleges

Today: Intermediate B final: Mount Mercy v St
Aidan's, Bishopstown, 1pm.
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Junior B final: Coachford College 4-6 Mercy
Clonakilty 0-2.
Senior A semi-final: Christ King 0-6
Dromcollogher 1-4.
Senior B semi-finals: St Mary's Mallow 1-7
Kinsale CS 3-5; Clonakilty 2-4 Carrigaline 2-6.
Intermediate B semi-final: St Aidan's 5-2
Blarney 1-2.
Junior A semi-final: St Mary's Charleville 3-6
Dromcollogher 0-7.
U16/A semi-final: Macroom 2-10 Mount
Mercy 2-2.
U16/B semi-final: Coláiste Daibheid 6-4
Passage 2-0.
First Year League: Bandon 0-2 Dromcollogher
4-2; Charleville 4-7 Bandon 2-0; Dromcollogher
3-6 Col Choilm 1-0; Col Choilm 2-0 Charleville 0-2;
Charleville 2-0 Christ King 0-3; Clonakilty 5-3
Coachford 2-0.

CAMOGIE...

ULSTER will have two representatives in the Camogie National League Finals, with Antrim and Cavan having booked their passage to their respective deciders. The Saffrons will contest the Division Two final, with a place in the top flight next year up for grabs, while the Breffni girls will be in action in the Division Four decider with promotion at stake.

The finals will take place next weekend, and both Ulster sides face a huge challenge to lay claim to silverware.

Antrim will take on the winners of this weekend's playoff between Cork and Waterford, after the Rebellettes and the Deise finished tied top of their group. Whatever the outcome, it

will provide a huge obstacle for the Saffrons in their bid to play in Division One next year.

The Ulster girls though have impressed throughout the course of the National League programme, with a two point win over Wexford followed by victories over Down, Galway, and a 3-14 to 0-13 victory over Derry, inspired by a 2-6 salvo from Raquel McCarry, in their final game.

Derry bounced back from that defeat in quite some style last weekend to make sure they finished their campaign on a high with a thumping 7-14 to 0-9 victory over Ulster rivals Down.

The game was all but over at the break when, having played the opening 30 minutes with the assistance of



DIFFERING TARGETS... Natalie McGuinness' (left) Antrim have made the league final, and Karen Kieft's Derry signed off their league campaign with an impressive win over Down

the breeze, they led by 6-6 to 0-3. Grainne McNicholl hit 3-4 for the Oak Leaf side, while Karen Kieft finished with 2-5, while Grace McCullagh also contributed two goals.

Armagh also finished on a high in Division Three with a 0-12 to 1-5 victory over

Roscommon.

Five different Orchard players got themselves on the score sheet. Collette McSorley getting her birthday celebrations off to a flying start with three points, with Niamh McGeown and Clara Donnelly contributing two points each.

It was not enough for the Orchard girls to make the final though, which will be contested by Meath and Kildare.

Cavan will be joining Armagh in the third division next year if they can get the better of Westmeath in the Division Four decider, the

Lakelanders hoping to make up for the disappointment of last year when they missed out in the final.

The Breffni county secured second place in the table courtesy of their 4-10 to 2-6 win over Tyrone, and a 4-3 to 3-3 victory against Carlow.

Galway's dreams of third consecutive U-16 camogie title ended by Tipperary

Tipperary 3-6
Galway 1-9

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT THE RAGG

ASPIRATIONS of three All-Ireland U-16 camogie titles in-a-row grounded to a halt at the Ragg on Saturday, as a stronger and more skilful Tipperary side ended Galway's involvement in the 2011 championship.

Although disappointment was etched across the faces of the Galway players at the final whistle, they played their part in a thrilling affair which could have gone either way and had a draw occurred few would have argued against it such was the closeness of proceedings.

Tipperary's Clíodhna Ryan and Jenny Grace fired over successive efforts inside the opening three minutes of action and despite levelling score's from Orlaith McGrath, Tipperary continued to dominate the early exchanges shooting six wides in the first quarter as well as spurning a goal opportunity.

Marie Brehany, somewhat against the run of play, edged Galway in front on 17 minutes and the score appeared to settle Johnny Kane's charges. Cianna Ní Churraoin pointed subsequently with Galway enjoying a 0-6 to 0-3 interval lead thanks to further efforts from Ní Churraoin.

Akin to the first half, Tipperary assumed control in the opening minutes of the second period, but this time, critically, they made it count on the

scoreboard with Tara Kennedy and Clíodhna Ryan raising green flags.

Trailing 2-3 to 0-7 Galway had the perfect opportunity to hit the front when Marie Brehany found Orlaith McGrath in space, but the effort from the Sarsfields corner forward was excellently stopped by Coonan. More frustration was to follow as Lisa Hynes failed to connect with the rebound. The faintest of touches was all that was required. It was to prove a crucial miss in the end.

Still, Galway kept plugging away and Niamh Hannify (free) reduced the deficit to the minimum entering the final quarter.

That said, the ensuing passages of play would prove pivotal to the outcome as Tipperary hit 1-1 to fashion a lead that Galway were unable to peg back.

Certainly, the goal was of a fortuitous nature as a tame strike from Leah McKeogh from outside the '21 somehow evaded custodian Laura Glynn.

Facing elimination from the championship and an end to their three in-a-row bid Galway conjured up their most purposeful period of camogie all year to come within inches of claiming a draw.

Marie Brehany commenced the fight back with a goal in the 57th minute, but not after a dramatic few moments in the Tipperary goalmouth where 'keeper Sarah Coonan pulled off two terrific saves.

Aine Dervan and Michelle Dunleavy combined to set up Marie Brehany who was

fouled just as she was about to pull the trigger. The resulting 20 metre free was excellently saved by Coonan, but a foul subsequently on Breda Hanlon awarded Galway a second bite of the cherry.

The penalty, struck by Michelle Dunleavy, was repelled once more by Coonan, but Brehany was on hand to rattle home the rebound. Clíodhna Ryan eased the nerves of the home support with a point thereafter, but Galway refused to throw in the towel and a Niamh Hannify free left only the puck of a ball separating the sides.

Galway continued to press in the five minutes of additional time allotted by referee Cathal Egan, but despite working possession into dangerous positions the required score was not to come.

On a bitterly disappointing afternoon Sinéad Cormican and Aine Dervan were the pick of the Galway backs. Niamh Hannify and Michelle Dunleavy foraged exceptionally hard around the middle, while in attack Breda Hanlon, Lisa Hynes and Marie Cooney had their moments.

Galway: L. Glynn, R. Cahalan, S. Cormican, C. Hannify, A. Dervan, S. Gardiner, L. Porter, M. Dunleavy, N. Hannify (0-3, 0-2 free's, 0-1'45), B. Hanlon, L. Hynes, C. Ní Churraoin (0-3, 0-2 free's), O. McGrath (0-2), M. Brehany (1-1), S. Gaffney; Subs: M. Cooney for Gaffney (33 mins), C. Burke for Ní Churraoin (50 mins).

Tipperary: S. Coonan, J. Burke, J. Logue, A. Morris, C. Walsh, A. Eviston, L. Loughane, C. Maher, R. Hanafin (1-0), M. Ryan, M. Teahan, T. Kennedy (1-0), C. Ryan (0-3, 0-1 free), J. Grace (0-2), E. Dwyer; Subs: L. McKeogh (1-1) for Dwyer (HT), G. McKenna for McKeogh (58 mins).

Referee: Cathal Egan.

Down end league on a positive note



KEY WOMAN...Ballyholland's Karen Tinnelly has been strong for Down

IT MAY have been too little, too late, but Down ensured they finished their National League campaign on a high by seeing off the challenge of Wexford last weekend. The appearance of a male stalker in the second half provided the sizeable crowd with a few giggles, but the quality of play on show in the 3-10 to 2-12 win for the Mourne girls quite rightly stole the headlines.

Down had turned in a poor showing against Galway before a much-improved display against Antrim in their previous two games, and back to full strength last week they were not to be denied. A superb second-half showing saw them turn around a four-point deficit at the break and it was a win which was very much built on defensive solidity.

Paula Gribben turned in a star

turn at midfield alongside the impressive Karen Tinnelly, while Fionnuala Carr was as impressive as ever at the back. Catherine McGourty helped herself to 1-6, while Sarah-Louise Carr finished with a personal tally of 1-1.

Antrim meanwhile made sure of their place in the division two league final with victory over Derry last weekend.

Two second-half goals from Raquel McCarry, who finished the game with 2-6, helped the Saffrons to the win which guarantees their place in the league decider against either Waterford or Kilkenny. The sides had been level at the break (1-7 to 0-10) but in the end Mickey McCullough's side had ten points to spare as they ran out winners by 3-14 to 0-13.

Now the Loreto juniors chase All-Ireland title

ORLA HANRICK

Loreto Secondary School 2-10
St Brigid's 1-5

TAKING the lead from their successful senior team, the Loreto Secondary School junior camogie side blasted their way into the All-Ireland final when they scored a good win over determined St Brigid's, Loughrea.

Loreto goalkeeper, Kirsty Maher was tested early on by Maria Cooney, but she cleared her lines well. The first score came after five minutes when Roisín Breen pointed a free. Cooney posted a reply but the Loreto defence wasn't getting things easy. A great solo run by Erica Coen ended in a foul and Brigid's were awarded a penalty. Cooney drove the ball wide. Great play between Roisín Breen and Lydia Fitzpatrick led to a point in the 12th minute.

Both sides were battling for every ball. Loreto midfielders, Niamh Leahy and Lydia Fitzpatrick were working hard to gain the upper-hand. The powerful Miriam Walsh cleared a vital ball following another save by Kirsty Maher. The slotar broke through to the full-forward line

and Niamh Browne shot a point for the Loreto.

In the 20th minute a pass from Niamh Leahy led to a cracking shot by Jenny Clifford and the ball ended up in the Loughrea net. Minutes later Lydia Fitzpatrick punished a miss hit free by scoring from long range. Good defending by the Loreto's Rachel Lynch led to a free 60 yards out. Fitzpatrick pointed.

Just before half-time St Brigid's went on the attack. Maria Cooney was unlucky not to score a goal with her shot crashed against the crossbar. The ball was cleared by Katie Doheny. The Loreto were battling hard, and superb defending by the half back line of Miriam Walsh, Rachel Lynch and Fionnuala Quinlann made life difficult on the opposition.

Half-time score: 1-6 to 0-2.

Both sides made tactical changes for the new half. Clodagh Power came on for the Loreto and Loughrea moved Maria Cooney to midfield. The Loreto half back line continued to shine and Rachel Lynch got in some brilliant block. Fitzpatrick was still in shooting form. She shot her third point from shortly afterwards.

A Brigid's goal chance was denied by great defending of

Katie Doheny. A miss-hit free from Kirsty Maher was lucky not to end up in the net. Cooney pointed a 45 before Loughrea centre-forward, Laura Lee blasted it into the net (1-7 to 1-3).

The losers were closing the gap but the Loreto battled on. A point from Eva Maher settled nerves. With both free takers punishing every foul, there was little room for error. The Loreto sneaked another point. Niamh Leahy was working hard and making great runs through midfield.

The Loreto won a free in midfield in the 51st minute. Captain Lydia Fitzpatrick lobbed it in to the forwards. Eva Maher won the ball, gave a great hand pass to Nicole Lawlor, who buried the slotar in the net. That was a fantastic team goal.

Overall it was an exciting match, but the Loreto were too strong with Miriam Walsh and Lydia Fitzpatrick the stars of the show.

Scorers: Loreto Secondary School - Lydia Fitzpatrick (0-6, two free's); Nicole Lawlor (1-1); Jenny Clifford (1-0); Roisín Breen, Niamh Browne, Jenny Clifford, Eva Maher (0-1 each), St Brigid's - Maria Cooney (0-5, four free's); Laura Lee (1-0).

Déise book final place Camogie

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

WATERFORD edged out Cork in a titanic battle to book a place against Antrim in the National Camogie League Division 2 final (1-12 to 1-9) in.

Ruth Geoghegan's goal was the difference between the sides in the end, although Waterford had a number of other scoring contributors.

Ultra-reliable Poc Fada champion Trish Jackman slotted four points from frees and another from a free, while Karen Kelly notched up three fine scores. Zoe O'Donoghue raised two white flags and Nicola Morrissey also shot a point.

Cork kept plugging away with UCC star Patricia Buttimer firing over four points, two of which came from 45s. Marie O'Neill also shot four points, adding a score from play to three from placed balls.

Marie Walsh was also on the score-sheet while Marie Watson hit the net with a good finish but despite their best efforts, Cork couldn't bag the second goal they needed to bring the game to extra-time.

Scorers for Waterford: 1-12, (R. Geoghegan 1-1, P. Jackman 0-5 (0-45), K. Kelly 0-3, Z. O'Donoghue 0-2, N. Morrissey 0-1).

Scorers for Cork: 1-9, (M. Watson 1-0, P. Buttimer 0-4 (0-2'45), M. O'Neill 0-4 (0-30), M. Walsh 0-1).



WEXFORD go in search of a hat-trick of league triumphs when they face Galway — who they beat in last year's All-Ireland senior final — in the *Irish Daily Star* Division One league final on Sunday. Model County star Mags D'Arcy was at Croke Park to launch the *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League finals with (l-r) *Irish Daily Star* Sports Editor Eoin Brannigan, Aislinn Connolly of Galway and

President of the Camogie Association, Joan O'Flynn. O'Flynn said: "Winning a national Camogie title is an important achievement. This year, competition in all divisions was extremely high and I expect each of the four finals to serve up great sporting entertainment." Antrim face Waterford in the Division Two final the same day in Donaghmore Ashbourne.

Kildare and Meath clash in the Division Three decider while in Division Four Cavan face Westmeath, with both ties scheduled for Sunday week, April 24, also in Donaghmore Ashbourne. Eoin Brannigan added: "We at the *Irish Daily Star* have been delighted to be involved with the Camogie Leagues and to provide the best coverage of this national competition."



Noel Finn (Galway Senior Camogie Manager), Sandra O'Donovan (Camogie Board Secretary), Geraldine McGrath (Camogie Board Chairperson), Tony Ward (Sarsfields) and Frank Duane (Camogie Board Vice Chairman).



Sean Whelan, Killimor Camogie Club, Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, Marie Porter, Annette Porter, Deirdre Watson, John Costello, all Killimor Camogie Club (All Ireland Senior Champions).

Ballincollig turn it on in second half

CORK COLLEGES CAMOGIE

Coláiste Choilm (Ballincollig) 1-11
Hazelwood College (Dromcollogher) 1-6

COLÁISTE CHOILM of Ballincollig collected the Cork Colleges Senior A camogie title yesterday after a hard-fought five point victory over Dromcollogher's Hazelwood College at the Mallow GAA complex, writes **DIARMUID SHEEHAN**.

It was a heroic second-half display from the girls in blue and white that ultimately proved to be the difference as the Ballincollig outfit outscored their opponents by 1-8 to 1-2 after the break.

Terrific individual performances by full-forward Sinead O'Sullivan, wing-forward Eimear Scally and full-back Eimear O'Sullivan were the stars in this win.

The Muskerry side also had a competent goalkeeping display from Sarah O'Sullivan and some brilliant fielding in the centre of the park from Erin Looney.

There was little to separate the sides in the opening 30 minutes.

A hat-trick of points from Coomey accounted for all of Coláiste Choilm's first half scores while a brace of frees from O'Flynn and a point a piece for Hodgen and O'Callaghan meant Hazelwood led by 0-4 to 0-3 at the change.

However, the Ballincollig girls upped their game substantially on the resumption and bagged six points on the bounce.

Sheehy responded for Drom as she reacted quickest to a loose ball and buried in Choilm's net to cut the gap to two.

Another point from O'Flynn brought the gap to the minimum as Hazelwood began to smell victory.

It wasn't to be however as a three minute blitz by Ballincollig's Scally put this game to bed.

Firstly the flying winger beat her marker and slotted over a tasty point close in.

She repeated the trick less than 60 seconds later before she raised the green flag on 53 minutes by rifling home a bouncing sliotar.

Scorers for Coláiste Choilm: E. Scally 1-2, S. Coomey 0-5, Sinead O'Sullivan 0-3 (0-1f), E. Crowley 0-1.

Hazelwood College: A. O'Flynn 0-4 (0-4f), G. Sheehy 1-0, C. O'Callaghan, K. Hodgen 0-1 each.

COLÁISTE CHOILM: Sarah O'Sullivan; E. McIlhenny, E. O'Sullivan, M. McManaman; C. Looney, J. Hennigan, S. O'Brien; E. Crowley, E. Looney; N. Byrne, E. Scally, H. Morgan; O. Murphy, Sinead O'Sullivan, S. Coomey.

Sub: A. Murphy for O. Murphy (36).

HAZELWOOD COLLEGE: A. Ryan; N. Kiehy, K. Cafford, C. Watson; C. O'Callaghan; N. O'Brien, K. O'Sullivan; A. O'Flynn; M. Flanagan; K. Hodgen, G. Sheehy, S. Maloney; B. Ryan; A. O'Brien; K. Coughlan.

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

APP. 2011

Waterford 1-12
Cork 1-9

WATERFORD finished stronger in this top-of-the-table play-off as they overcame Cork to qualify for the Irish Daily Star Senior Division Two National League final in a tough encounter at Ballynoe yesterday.

Through the contest the result was delicately poised but a goal from effective corner-forward Ruth Geoghegan with 10 minutes remaining was the score that finally swung the result in Waterford's favour.

Cork trailed at the interval by a point after playing with the aid of the stiff wind, sloppy shooting and wastefulness in front of goal cost them dearly as chances went begging.

Cork hit the front with a Patricia Buttimer point and two from Marie O'Neill before Zoe O'Donoghue hit Waterford's opening score.

Patricia Jackman pointed a free to which Patricia Buttimer replied and as Cork wasted chances to extend their lead Waterford took advantage striking four points in-a-row availing of whatever came their way to lead 0-6 to 0-5 at the break.

Patricia Jackman showed her accuracy from frees pointing twice on the resumption to stretch their lead to three, one in particular a huge effort from the middle of the field but Cork stayed in the hunt with Marie Watson finishing the ball over the line to tie the score up.

Twice the lead changed hands in as many minutes, Zoe O'Donoghue pointed to edge Waterford ahead and in response Marie O'Neill pointed two frees to swing the game Cork's way.

Waterford hit two points in-a-row from Patricia Jackman and Karen Kelly and when

Jackman strikes a blow to Cork with impressive showing

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

corner-forward Ruth Geoghegan found the net Waterford were four ahead with 10 minutes remaining and looking good.

Cork applied huge pressure and two pointed Patricia Buttimer frees had them within two but Ruth Geoghegan stretched Waterford's advantage to three and as Cork continued to press for the goal that failed to materialise Waterford hung on to book their place in the final.

Scorers for Waterford: P Jackman 0-5 (0-4f), R Geoghegan 1-1, K Kelly 0-3, Z O'Donoghue 0-2, N Morrissey 0-1.

Cork: M O'Neill 0-4 (0-3f), P Buttimer 0-4 (0-1f 0-1 45), M Watson 1-0, M Walsh 0-1.

WATERFORD: A O'Brien, E Hannon, J Simpson, P Cunningham, S Kiernan (capt), C Maher, M Russell, J McCarthy, D Fahy, N Rockett, T Jackman, N Morrissey, Geoghegan, K Kelly, Z O'Donoghue.

Subs: M Murphy for D Fahy (42), J Galvin-Johnson for N Morrissey (50), M Heffernan for Z O'Donoghue (59).

CORK: Aisleen Sheehan, Aileen Sheehan, A Coughlan, C Murphy, J Lynch, L Cunningham, S Buckley, P Buttimer, L Dorgan, M Watson, M O'Neill, M Reidy, M Jagoe, M Browne, M Walsh.

Subs: S Cunningham for M Browne (inj htd), K O'Donoghue for J Lynch (45).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).



Marie O'Neill was in fine scoring form for Cork in their game against Waterford as she notched up four points for the Rebels.

OUR FUNDRAISER ST JOHN'S CAMOGIE CLUB, MIDDLETOWN

Strictly between ourselves

As 2010 drew to a close, St John's were contemplating pulling down the shutters. Then they pulled on their dancing shoes

BY JOHN HUGHES

FRANKLY, 2010 was a bad year for St John's. At its 2009 AGM the small Armagh camogie club found itself with £100 in the bank and £1,000 owing to the GAA, not to mention a number of other pressing bills.

2010 was spent trying pull back the debt, but as the AGM came due in November things were grimmer than ever. Chairwoman, Geraldine McCann, called, a do-or-die crisis meeting with the younger players. The upshot was a plan to organise a Strictly Come Dancing fundraiser to try and save the club, with those younger players the driving force behind the decision.

The event was a major logistical undertaking. Venue, stage hire, lighting, choreographer, programmes, tickets and 101 other things had to be pulled together.

The first thing to be organised was couples. The committee wanted to make the event a community affair rather than a camogie affair. The club deliberately sought out local characters such as Noel Hughes, a Middletown GAA stalwart, but a man with no direct link with the camogie arm.

Being a camogie club, ladies were easily rounded up, but the men proved a greater challenge. Some unscrupulous arm-twisting required, but the process was helped by intelligent pairing of partners to make the men feel more comfortable.

Eight couples in place, a choreographer was booked at a cost of £1,000 and she came once a week, every week from the start of December to



BEST FOOT FORWARD...The St John's Strictly dancers. Back row: Orla Curry, Paula Mallon, Eimear O'Hanlon, Shauna McCann, Geraldine McClatchey, Donna Donnelly, Millie McKernan, Veronica Sheridan. Front row: Terence McKernan, Paddy McBride, Michael Woods, Paul Feeney, Noel Hughes, George Carvill, Pascal Hughes, Jack Woods

Picture: John Merry

February with a two week break for Christmas.

The next priority was to book a venue. There were discussions about using the local hall, as there were still reservations about how much of a crowd the event would draw. Ultimately it was decided that if the club were going to do this, they should do it once, do it right and do it big. And so the event was booked into Armagh City Hotel with a 900 plus capacity.

A programme was put together for the event with couple and dance

sponsorships and adverts being sold. The modus operandi was to ask everyone and anyone for money on the assumption that the worst they could do was say no. Furthermore they deliberately set the bar high, asking for substantial sums. They asked for an ambitious £300 to sponsor the couples. And got it.

200 programmes were printed, but post event interest means a second print run is being considered.

Initially people bought tickets in order to support the club, but then

things got critical mass and people bought tickets because everyone else was going.

Timing was good, with people eager to get out after the bad winter and Facebook promotion helped too. 700 tickets were pre-sold, with another 170 paying at the door on the night.

After all the hard work the night was a huge success. There was a local judging panel, including Fermanagh goal keeper, Ronan Gallagher and couples canvassed for votes by going around the venue with buckets. Each

AT A GLANCE

What was the event?
Strictly Middletown

How long did it take to come together?
19 November 2010 to 12 February 2011

How did you make money?
Couple sponsors: £300; Tickets: £20 each; Programmes: £5 each; DVDs £8 each; Miscellaneous sponsors; Programme advertising; Voting; Raffle.

Income: Circa £32,000 + €3,000
Costs: Circa £12,000
Profit: Circa £19,000 + €2,000

Top tips

- Go to other Strictly events and learn.
- Crucial to get all the technical aspects right, the stage, sound and music.
- Stamp patrons on the arm as they enter, prevents people 'slipping' in.
- Don't blow the budget on a big name host, a local name will just as well.
- Ask for too much.

pound collected equalled one vote, this was multiplied by judges' mark.

It was huge craic and the carousing a feel good vibe continued for days after. Subsequently 50 DVDs ordered, but these have sold out and a new order is in the works.

The club now has a surplus of £19,000 and the aim is to keep that topped up. From a bleak outlook five months ago, the future of camogie in Middletown looks very secure indeed.

j.hughes@gaeliclife.com



Coachford College, who defeated Mercy, Clonakilty to win the Cork Colleges junior B title.

Coachford College take title in style

Coachford College 4-6
Mercy Clonakilty 0-2

COACHFORD College overcame Mercy Clonakilty to be crowned Cork Colleges Junior B champions. At half time the winners lead 2-5 to 0-1 and through the second half they maintained their momentum running out winners. Aisling O'Donovan and Ciara O'Leary were on the score sheet with two goals each while Edel Tarrant hit a point and Ciara O'Leary struck five. Ailbhe Dowling and Clare Sexton scored for Clonakilty.

Coachford K Ward; E Clifford, E O'Sullivan, C Dineen; M Corkery (c), O O'Driscoll, A Buckley; E Flanagan, D Ahern; J Crowley, A O'Donovan, E Tarrant, J Delaney, C O'Leary, K O'Sullivan.
Subs: A Murphy for C Dineen, A Healy for M Corkery, E Thompson for C O'Sullivan, H Padwick for C O'Leary, J Kiely for E Clifford, L Leane for A Buckley, M Buckley for M Crowley, N O'Leary for J Delaney, R Kelleher for E Tarrant, S O'Riordan for E Flanagan, U Browne for E O'Sullivan.
Scorers: C O'Leary 2-5, A O'Donovan 2-0, E Tarrant 0-1.

Clonakilty J Madden; D O'Sullivan, R McAree, L Hegarty; E Deasy, N Desmond; Collins, J Quinn; N O'Donovan, H Whelton; S O'Donovan (c), L Collins, C Tyndall; A Dowling, C Sexton, G Harle.
Scorers: A Dowling 0-1, C Sexton 0-1(f).

Referee Danny O'Neill

First u-12 camogie Go Games held

IT was a great weekend of under-12 camogie as the first Go Games cluster blitzes were held at 14 venues in the city and county.

Sixty clubs participated and one hundred teams played in what was a huge undertaking to get organised. The county was divided into divisional groups and sections with games played Saturday or Sunday.

The host clubs for the weekends games were Millstreet, Mallow, Kilbrittan, Ennis, Sliabh Rua, Ballinacorney, Ballincollig, Inishowen, Killybegh, Sarsfields, Lough, Ballyporeen, St

Vincent's and Fr O'Neill's and the blitzes were played on either Saturday or Sunday.

Most of the referees were young, under-age players who had completed a Go Games refereeing course and it is hoped that many of these will referee in the county competitions. Getting the new structure up and running has been a huge undertaking and the divisional coordinators made sure that the weekend was a successful one.

Round two of the blitzes will take place on the weekend of May 8/9 at venues through the city and county to be announced.

Rovers make it a double in U16a

Valley Rovers 1-10
Courcey Rovers 1-8

VALLEY ROVERS made it a double as they added the under 16 A league title for 2010 to their championship crown with a victory over Courcey Rovers, with two points to spare, in an exciting contest.

At the half-time whistle it was Courcey's who led by a point 1-6 to 1-5, Linda Collins, Julia Mulcahy and Aoife O'Sullivan on the score sheet with points while Teresa Collins struck for a goal.

Valley Rovers stayed in contention with Eimear Cummins, Aoife Cummins, Tessa Crowley and Orlagh Ryan pointing and a goal from Julie Callanan ensured their was little between the sides at the break.

In the second-half the Valley defence came under huge pressure but they contained the Courcey's attack to two points, thanks in no small way to superb goal-keeping from Niamh Galvin who kept the Courcey's forwards at bay with some excellent saves which earned her the Player of the Match award.

Valley Rovers upped the pace adding five points to their tally as Tessa Crowley showed her accuracy from frees with four and Aoibhinn O'Callaghan added one as they added the league title to their championship crown.

Valley Rovers N Galvin; L McCarthy, C Hawkes, C Richardson; M O'Sullivan, S O'Leary, L Murphy; A Cummins, J M O'Leary; O Ryan, T Crowley, E Cummins; V Crowley, J Callanan, A O'Callaghan. Scorers: T Crowley 0-6 (0-2 45" 0-2 f), J Callanan 1-0, E Cummins, A Cummins, O Ryan, A O'Callaghan 0-1 each.

Courcey Rovers E Hannon; Alice O'Sullivan, L O'Donovan, J Ryan; A O'Reilly, A Moloney, S Keating; E Moloney, A Keating; L O'Sullivan, J Mulcahy, Aoife O'Sullivan; T Collins, L Collins, J L Condon. Subs: E O'Reilly for L O'Sullivan, R Crowley for J L Condon. Scorers: T Collins 1-0, L Collins 0-3 (0-1f), J Mulcahy 0-4 (0-3f), A O'Sullivan 0-1.

Referee John O'Leary (Mallow)



Amy Murphy in action at the Bord Gais Networks Cork Camogie underage coaching camp in Ringmahon. Pictures: Richard Mills



Olivia Murphy and Orla Sheerin taking part in the Bord Gais Networks Cork Camogie underage coaching camp in Ringmahon.



Ella Cronin and Anna Hegarty enjoying the Bord Gais Networks Cork Camogie underage coaching camp in Ringmahon.

The seniors with coach Joanne O'Callaghan at the Bord Gais Networks Cork Camogie coaching camp in Ringmahon.



Camogie Forum

ARP. 2011



Ann Kearney, PRO, Connacht Camogie Council, Fiona Kearney, Turloughmore, Noeleen Heenan, Kinvara, Breda Finn, Turloughmore, and Maeve Healy, Development Officer, Connacht Camogie Council which hosted their first Connacht Camogie Forum recently. Twenty five clubs from Galway, Mayo, Roscommon and Leitrim attended the Forum in the Claregalway Hotel.

PHOTO: JOE TRAVERS

CLUB COMRADES REUNITE TO REMINISCE ABOUT FOUR DECADES OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP



GET-TOGETHER: Members of the Glen Rovers Ladies Club, which is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, enjoying a reunion at the club.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Glen girls get together to mark 40 years

By SANDRA QUINN



Noelle Cronin (nee Deane) from The Lough with a team photo of a Glen Rovers camogie team from the 1950s which she brought to the anniversary celebration.

Picture: Larry Cummins

FOUR decades ago, 40 women got together and set up the Glen Rovers Ladies' Club as wives of the northside club's hurling players — now they count the members among their very best friends.

And 24 of the ladies who have shared 40 years of motherhood, marriage, great friendship and laughs were reunited at the club last Friday for a special celebratory event.

The club should have marked its 40th anniversary in September but had to cancel due to the severe weather.

The memories of five club members — Eva Duggan, Sheila O'Donovan, Maura Owens, Breda Mackey and Noelle Cronin — paint a picture of the last 40 years as the best of their lives.

As well as being a social club, the ladies did a lot of fund-raising over the years, knitting patchwork quilts, collecting old clothes and organising fund-raisers.

"We kind of helped everybody that came to us," said Breda Mackey.

They would also save up every year to go on a trip together, the first was to Rome in 1975. Breda said: "We saved every week for two years for that trip."

They went to Lourdes in 1978, Lanzarote in 1989 and more recently they travelled to Palma Nova in Majorca.

Breda added: "Now that we're getting older, we're going on holidays every year in case we miss something."

Down through the years, most of their children and grandchildren have been involved with the

Glen Rovers Hurling Club at some point.

Breda fondly recalled: "Before a county final, we would have been up all night making hats and flags for the children to support their dads at the match."

Eva Duggan said: "I wouldn't be here today without the Glen ladies."

She added: "If we heard that one of was in trouble, we were all in trouble."

Noelle Cronin added: "We're very united and that is the important thing."

Over the years, almost half of the members have passed away and so now there are just 24 left.

Breda said: "We've lost a lot of friends over the years, but they are always there with us when we look back over the photos."

The five women fondly told of the "golden girls" — five members who used to attend every event and meeting religiously. They were the famous Chrissy Wilson, Eileen O'Donovan, Kitty Buckley, Essie Moynihan and Siobhán O'Brien.

Sheila O'Donovan said that they went absolutely everywhere with them.

Their best memories over the last 40 years range from Jack Lynch being made Taoiseach, to winning their first county final in 1950 and that first club trip to Rome.

The stories of the Glen Rovers Ladies' Club weave a tale of strength and friendship held together with laughter and fond memories.

Maura Owens said: "I hope we'll be here for the next 40 years — but that might be pushing it!"



Glen Rovers Ladies Club secretary Sheila O'Donovan, with chairwoman Eva Duggan, vice-chair Breda Mackey and treasurer Maura Owens. Picture: Larry Cummins

Kilkenny boss backs Wexford to make it three League titles in-a-row

Brenda: We 'Han win title

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR reports

WHEN Brenda Hanney led Killimor to success in the All-Ireland senior club camogie final last month, it was an occasion that was celebrated not just in the east Galway town, but throughout the county.

Speaking afterwards, Hanney reckoned that the victory would have a hugely positive effect on the Galway team and it's a view she still retains.

"It would definitely be a boost to the morale of camogie in Galway," says Hanney (below).

"For any team from Galway to win was great and the whole county was behind us. It also takes away the mystery of Croke Park because we hadn't done well there."

If a club like Killimor can do it, why not the Galway team itself. Croke Park is just another pitch."

The Irish Daily Star Camogie

League Division 1 final takes place in Semple Stadium tomorrow but it pits the Tribeswomen against their most recent bogey side.

Wexford accounted for them in the All-Ireland final last September and while it's not a priority to get one over on them, it would be an added bonus.

"There's a bit of history between Galway and Wexford in the last year or so alright but it's not something we're focusing on as a team."

"It's nice to be there and it would be nice to get the Wexford scalp while we're at it. Now we're in the final we should aim to win it."

Veteran

Hanney took three weeks off after the club success but is now ensconced in a routine that includes making the journey from Clonmel to Galway and back every Wednesday night.

Turning 25 next month has her approaching veteran status in this code and the experience will certainly help with the captaincy, but with the likes of Therese Maher and Veronica Curtin around, there is no shortage of leaders in this squad.

"It feels fresh, a new team, a new set-up. I'm very new to the captaincy and going up for the toss will be my first job. I'll try and win that anyway."

"We're very lucky in Galway in that it's not a one-person job. Everyone pitches in. We have a mature bunch."

HAT-TRICK HEROES



ONE HAND ON THE TROPHY: Galway's Aislinn Connolly (left) and Mags D'Arcy of Wexford, who will meet in the eagerly-awaited Irish Daily Star Division One Camogie final at Thurles tomorrow



Hanney



PREDICTION: Kilkenny boss Ann Downey is backing Wexford to see off Galway

KILKENNY manager Ann Downey is backing Wexford to make it a hat-trick of Irish Daily Star Camogie League titles at Semple Stadium tomorrow.

A win at Thurles would set JJ Doyle's side up nicely for a crack at a third All-Ireland title in five years later this summer.

And Downey feels Wexford are well positioned to claim the first silverware of the season in tomorrow's decider.

Cats legend Downey said: "It's going to be a good team that will beat Wexford. Galway have it all to do to beat them."

"They have very good forwards and there isn't a weak link in the team."

Strength

"Their strength — they have an older and more experienced team than any of the other teams around."

"Kilkenny are very young, very light, and while Galway might be able to match them (Wexford) for height, they are still a young enough team."

"A lot of the Wexford girls have a lot of experience. Kate Kelly is playing a while, Catherine O'Loughlin at full-back, and the Leacys (Una and Mary) have vast experience with club and county."

"And the competition in Wexford is fairly ferocious."

"They have a wealth of talent that has been there for



IRISH DAILY STAR DIVISION ONE CAMOGIE FINAL
Wexford v Galway
Thurles, Tomorrow, 12.45

KARL O'KANE reports

quite a long time."

Downey believes Wexford are a team in their prime.

"It goes in cycles like that," she said. "Kilkenny were there for a while, and then Cork took over."

"In between them we had Tipperary winning a few (All-Irelands) and Wexford are on a roll at the moment."

Downey's side lost out to Galway in the League semi-final, going down by 0-14 to 2-7, with Galway coming from four behind to claim the win.

Downey said: "We were short one or two and they were the better team on the day, especially in the second half they were much better."

"I suppose the experience of the All-Ireland last year told."

"Brenda Hanney and Ann Marie Hayes getting all the way to Croke Park and winning a club All-Ireland is a great confidence boost, and I think those two girls are really playing well."

"They are still missing Therese Maher, but they are improving with every outing and still have some great players."

Galway will look to Veronica Curtin and Aislinn Connolly for the score to upset the favourites, but Wexford should have too much quality across their side.

They won their semi-final comfortably, beating Tipp 4-12 to 0-11. Wexford boss JJ Doyle can see the difference that winning last year's All-Ireland has made to his side.

Doyle said: "They know they can do it now. They did it last year."

"This year the thing seems to be that they want to do it all again, they want to back up last year and not let what happened in '08 and '09 happen."

Belief

"They have a bit more belief in themselves. They are more confident this year than they were at the same stage last year."

Downey also believes that Wexford are still motivated by the failure to back up their 2007 All-Ireland win until last summer.

She said: "In 2008 they missed out — they felt that they should have been in the All-Ireland."

"They were well up at half-time, leading by five points to Cork and just let it slip."

"I suppose this team has been building for a while, since they made the breakthrough and Stella (Sinnott) had them back in 2007."

"I suppose after they won their first one in a long time they celebrated a bit. They will be a force to be reckoned with."

ANTRIM BOSS KEEN TO FINISH JOB

IRISH DAILY STAR DIVISION TWO CAMOGIE FINAL
Antrim v Waterford
Ashbourne, Tomorrow, 2.30

Rossa to an All-Ireland senior title before taking the Antrim job, said: "The thing about it having been an impressive league is that we've nothing to show for it."

Impressive

"Arsenal have had an impressive run in the Premiership this season as well, but they haven't any-

thing to show for it either."

Antrim have lost young midfielder Maeve Connolly (17) with a knee problem, but defender Rhona Torney is back from England to boost their options, and should get a place on the bench.

It took a replay to separate the sides in last year's junior All-Ireland final, with the Saffrons coming from six points behind to win by four points.

Armagh are playing with tremendous belief since that success and emerged from Group 1 of the league with four wins out of four, and Jane Adams and Raquel

McCarthy piling up the scores.

Waterford started with two wins in Group 2 but were held to consecutive draws by Tipperary and Kilkenny.

Decider

That opened the door for Cork to come back into contention but Trish Jackman, Karen Kelly and Ruth Geoghegan helped Waterford edge past the Leesiders in a play-off to make the decider.

Waterford will be keen to avenge last year's final defeat, but Antrim are on top of their game and playing with great belief.



TUSSLE: Waterford's Patricia Jackman and Mairéad Murphy with Natalie McGuinness

ANTRIM and Waterford are no strangers to each other as they again go head-to-head at Ashbourne tomorrow.

Last year it was the All-Ireland junior final replay at

Ashbourne, with Antrim coming out on top, but tomorrow it's for a prized place in camogie's top flight.

During the week, Antrim boss Michael McCullough was at pains to stress their impressive winning streak would count for very little if they don't win again.

McCullough, who managed

ARP. 2011

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL ON SUNDAY IN THURLES



Noreen Lambert gets the better of Joanne Ryan and Sarah Fryday from Tipperary in the semi-final as Aoife O'Connor looks on.

Wexford seek treble in September repeat

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

WEXFORD, as a county, could never be confused with a rampant winner of national titles throughout the 126 years or so of the G.A.A. All-Ireland and National League titles here and there, yes; the building of a dynasty, no.

The fifties promised much, in both big and small ball, but the heroic efforts of the county footballers at the time of the first World War remains the only occasion when a trio of national titles were won consecutively at Senior level.

All that can change on Sunday as the girls of Wexford go in search of a treble of Irish Daily Star National Camogie League Division 1 crowns in Semple Stadium, Thurles, at 12.45 p.m.

Victory against Tipperary under Stellan Sinnott's stewardship in 2009 was backed up by J.J. Doyle's charges who edged out Kilkenny last year, and it's now down to beaten All-Ireland finalists Galway to try to deny history.

The westerners came back from four points

down in the final quarter of their semi-final against Kilkenny to reach the decider (0-14 to 2-7) and showed impressive resolve in doing it.

Wexford followed Galway into the final with a comfortable win over Tipperary (4-12 to 0-13), and that lack of a real test so far this year seems to be the only weakness shunting out of the All-Ireland champions' armour these days.

Indeed, what a difference a year makes. Coming into last year's league decider in Thurles, huge question marks remained over the confidence of the squad as a whole. It would have been folly to put belief down as an advantage. Yet manager J.J. Doyle can clearly see their development.

'The drive is there, the commitment is there and the belief is there,' said the Wexford boss. 'They have a bit more belief in themselves. They are more confident this year than they were at the same stage last year and that's a big thing.'

'They know they can do it now. They did it last year. This year the thing seems to be that they want to do it all again, they want to back up last year and not let happen what happened in '08

and '09. They really want to win this game,' Doyle continued.

'They obviously now believe they are the best team in the country. They were the best team in the country last year and proved it by winning the All-Ireland and the league. They didn't fluke anything, but while they believe they are the best team, they know they have to go out and prove it all again.'

The main focal point for the year will no doubt be an assault on a third All-Ireland championship in five years but for now the league final remains the initial goal.

Barring any late injury concerns, everyone is available for the final and, having mixed and matched all the way to the semi-final, it's likely that Doyle will revert back to his best 15.

Even should he decide to take a chance with selection, form and class suggests, having already eased past Galway in their opening league game (3-9 to 2-6), they will have enough to rack up the first piece of silverware of the season.

Confident Lenny has turned corner

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

SOME DAYS she would start, some days she would be on the bench, and it was always impossible to argue with whichever role corner-forward Lenny Holohan took on any give week for the Wexford Senior camogie side. Pace to burn but lacking a little control was the scouting report.

The crucial word above is 'was'. Those old scout's notes have been set alight, destroyed - probably by the diminutive Rathnure woman as she sped over them.

With a new regime has come new confidence and fresh belief. If that constitutes the reasons behind the mini revolution of this team, then Holohan is the epitome of it.

'The new management have instilled confidence in me and if there is confidence in you it shows on the field,' said Holohan. 'They deal with players differently and it's a different management style.'

'I've had good years and I've had okay years but over the few I know I've been playing well for my club. I've been given a chance the last year with the new management and I'm just glad they have put a bit of faith in me.'

Despite the upturn in fortunes at inter-county level, Holohan knows that she has a few more gears to move through this year to reach her full potential. She points to team trainer Gerry McQuaid as the man to get not only her into peak condition but also the rest of the team.

'I know myself I've plenty more to go. Gerry is tailoring training towards the championship and at the moment we are progressing on a timeline that prepares us for it. I know there is more in me fitness wise and, because of what Gerry is doing, I know I will get faster and sharper but at the moment he doesn't want us to peak.'

Early season games have been less testing than in years past as this Wexford side continues to march on relentlessly, and it leaves the player in agreement with her manager when it comes to yearning for tougher opposition.

'It would have been great to get the tougher games. No offence to the other two teams but Galway was our toughest game,' stated a diplomatic Holohan.

'We are going well. The first-half against Offaly was a bit iffy but it's hard to perform against teams that are a little bit less experienced than us. It was hard to get into the game against Tipperary too, they were very physical as well but overall we are in the league final so it just shows that we did what we needed to come out on top.'

It will be a massive surprise if the experienced attacker doesn't line up in the corner-forward position on Sunday and, while she isn't taking any team selections for granted, Holohan does know what to expect from the Tribeswomen.

'I'm looking forward to it. You can't really call it with J.J. (Doyle) and with the strength of the panel you don't know whether you are going to be starting or on the bench.'

'They were in the All-Ireland final and they could have been where we are now. It's going to be a challenge. Tough matches are what we need to prepare for championship so it's all the better we are playing someone as strong as Galway.'

U-16s outclassed

KILKENNY
WEXFORD

4-15
0-3

THE WEXFORD Under-16 camogie team was outclassed on Monday night last when they suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Kilkenny in the Leinster championship played in Bellefield.

Although through to an All-Ireland 'B' semi-final after wins over Laois and Waterford, this was a true test at the premier level to see where we are at and unfortunately we still have some way to go to catch up. Kilkenny put on a tremendous show of skill and speed and were just first to the ball every time.

But for the goalkeeping skills of Geraldine Curtis the result could have been much worse, while Aileen Brennan and Jackie Quigley were solid in defence. Kilkenny made the most of their scoring chances and were accurate both from play and from placed balls, notching up an impressive 2-11 to nil lead by half-time.

The second-half saw Wexford trying hard to get into the game but Kilkenny steadily picked off a further 2-4 with relative ease. Wexford did manage to notch up 0-3 with two coming from Jackie Quigley from a '45 and a free and Marie Morrissey pointing from play.

Overall this was a disappointing performance for this side that has potential but it will take a lot of work before we can bridge the gap.



The Wexford squad before the semi-final. Back row (from left): Mary Leacy, Kate Kelly, Catherine O'Loughlin, Fiona Kavanagh, Noreen Lambert, Evelyn Quigley, Louise Codd, Deirdre Codd, Siona Nolan, Bernie Holohan, Karen Atkinson, Ursula Jacob, Clara Storey, Jean Hayden, Josie Dwyer, Louise O'Leary, Mags D'Arcy. Front (from left): Clara O'Connor, Lenny Holohan, Katrina Parrock, Aoife O'Connor, Una Leacy, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Lisa Bolger, Brid Gordon.

Galway square up to league champs in camogie decider

Hanney set to return as Tribeswomen aiming to turn the tables on Wexford in Thurles showdown

EOGHAN CORMICAN

THE two dominant forces in camogie come to face to face once again in the final of the National League where Galway will be anxious to atone for last September's All-Ireland final defeat when they meet reigning champions Wexford at Semple Stadium, Thurles on Sunday (12:45pm).

Despite a few knocks and niggles picked up during the weekend's club action, team manager Noel Finn and his mentors, Helena Huban, Peter Kelly, Noel Power and Bertie Sherlock have a full panel to choose from when they sit down to decide on the starting 15 later in the week.

Although the semi-final victory over Kilkenny marked a huge psychological boost, the management may be tempted to rejig the midfield and half-forward line, but apart from that it will be a case of as you were for Sunday's showdown.

While the possible return of Brenda Hanney to the starting line-up will be a major boost for the attack, Galway's main concern this week will be to iron out the defensive problems which were most evident during the first half of the Kilkenny tie.

Nevertheless, if Galway can secure a decent supply of possession, then the forward zip is certainly there with Veronica Curtin and Noreen Coen thriving on the plentiful delivery of crisp low ball in Nowlan Park a fortnight ago.

Added to this, Aislinn Connolly looked extremely comfortable in her centre forward role, while outside of the



In-form Galway attacker Veronica Curtin.

Castlegar stickwomen, minors Niamh McGrath and Rebecca Hennelly showed, in patches, their ability to cause trouble.

The wide open spaces of Semple Stadium will suit Galway's attack, but likewise Wexford's Katrina Parrock and Kate Kelly are also blessed with lightning speed. Parrock, in particular, will require close observation.

Speaking ahead of the final, Manager Noel Finn expressed delight at the character shown in the semi-final, adding that the injection of young blood into the panel has really increased competition for a starting berth.

"The girls showed great character to come back twice. We went three down after their (Kilkenny) second goal and then hit five without reply to come out on top.

"We're very happy with the younger players on the panel. It's a big step up from minor to

Senior. Senior players are bringing them along as it's daunting for them to be playing alongside the more experienced girls, but there are five of six of them and they are doing well. We have a good panel this year, probably stronger than last year.

After coming through a thrilling encounter against Kilkenny in the semi-final, with Galway scraping through on a scoreline of 0-14 to 2-7, the Westerners now face their biggest challenge in a bid to reclaim a title they last won in 2005.

"Wexford have a strong panel. It is much the same team as last year with some new players such as (Evelyn) Quigley and (Lisa) Bolger. They are a good physical side and we will need to move the ball quick," said Finn.

Seeking a third straight National League crown, defeating Tipperary and Kilkenny in

2009 and 2010 respectively, JJ Doyle's charges are a formidable outfit backboned by Mags Darcy, Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire O'Connor and the colossal Mary Lacey.

They cantered into Sunday's final courtesy of a 4-12 to 0-13 win over Tipperary and in truth, have yet to be tested this year, easily brushing aside the challenge of Galway when the sides met in the first round of the league back in February.

Their attacking unit led by Una Lacey is fleeced with pace, skill and a plethora of astute score-getters. Consequently, Galway's rearguard will have their hands full attempting to constrain the likes of Katrina Parrock, Ursula Jacob, Lenny Holohan and the aforementioned Lacey.

That said, the Galway manager is quietly confident that his troops can scupper Wexford's three-in-a-row bid. "If we're there at half time, it will take a good side to beat us. If we go seven or eight down, we have no chance. We need to start well and get a couple of points on the board.

"A bounce of a ball is all that will be in it. Finals are there to be won and it would be a great confidence boost heading into the championship. Finals are hard to call. You need that bit of luck on the day, but training has gone really well. The first touch has come a lot easier. We are going down with a great chance."

Determined to atone for the pain and hurt of last year's All-Ireland final defeat, Galway might well shade the latest instalment of camogie battles between the two counties.

Extra weeks training to stand to Cork

CAMOGIE

SATURDAY

Munster Senior Championship semi-final
Cork v Tipperary
The Ragg, 6.30pm

CORK have made two changes to the side which lined out against Kilkenny in their last competitive league outing for tomorrow evening's Munster semi-final clash with Tipperary, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Both Katrina and Pamela Mackey sit this one out due to other commitments. Jenny Duffy returns to the side at right corner-back while Carolyn Motherway comes back in at right half.

Cork manager Joe O'Brien now has a number of weeks behind him in training his squad, something he eagerly awaited. The side are in the rhythm of training under their new boss and slowly, but surely we should see the side start to gel and play the style of hurling Joe desires.

Aoife Murray returns to the training panel which is a tremendous boost. Giving credit, her deputy over the past number of years, Emer White, has done little wrong throughout the league campaign.

Further good news from the Cork camp is that Orla Cotter has resumed light training after suffering a broken jaw in February. It will be a while yet before she dons the red and white jersey in a competitive outing as the screws holding her jaw in place only come out next week, but she is partaking in hurling and fitness drills and has given a huge lift to the team.

When one considers that Julia White also returns from abroad mid-May Cork suddenly have a few options, something they didn't have throughout the league campaign.

Inniscarra's Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey took a well-deserved and necessary few weeks break after Cork's league run ended, and hopefully will be fresh and eager tomorrow. Rena captain's the side and is very worthy of the accolade.

Cork took on Tipp in their first league outing in March and lost by a point, having led throughout. Joe had only taken over the side five days previously and with Gemma O'Connor having to be replaced with a leg injury it was all a bit chaotic.

Expect Cork to be far more focused, disciplined and fitter tomorrow and despite Tipperary reaching the league semi-final Cork should give their Munster opponents a good run.

The Mackey's will be a loss but with a few weeks training behind Breige Corkery after an absence of 15 months and a strong looking full-forward line of Joanne Casey, Siile Burns and Jennifer O'Leary Cork can win this one.

And a win at this stage is vitally important.

CORK: E White; J Duffy, A O'Regan, E O'Riordan, C Motherway, R Buckley, A Geary, L Dorgan, G O'Connor, B Corkery, D Cronin, E O'Sullivan; J Casey, S Burns, J O'Leary.

CAMOGIE LEAGUE FINAL PREVIEW

McCullough wants 'competitive greatness'

BY CIARAN WOODS

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION TWO FINAL
ANTRIM V WATERFORD

Sunday, Donaghmore Ashbourne, 2.30pm

ANTRIM head to the familiar surroundings of Ashbourne this weekend, an opportunity to renew rivalries with the Waterford team they have encountered so often in recent times, and a chance to gain promotion to the top flight for next season.

It's been an impressive league run so far for the Saffrons, but manager Mickey McCullough is brutally honest in his assessment and insists that Sunday is all that matters.

"The thing about it having been an impressive league, is that we've absolutely nothing to show for it. Arsenal have had an impressive run in the Premiership this season as well, but they haven't anything to show for it either.

"We've played some great stuff,

got some lovely scores and worked hard. But the simple fact of it is that if we don't come out with at least a one-point win on Sunday, all that will have been for nothing. Absolutely nothing. We want to win this weekend. We want a league title this weekend."

Antrim have been dealt a blow ahead of the game with the absence of midfielder Maeve Connolly. The 17 year-old was hugely impressive around the middle third, but a knee injury has ruled her out of the reckoning for their showdown with the Deise.

Rhona Torney, rock solid at the back in previous campaigns, has returned from England to boost Antrim's options, and although unlikely to start this weekend, it would be no surprise to see her introduced to shore up the defence at some stage.

Antrim's recent successes have made them very much a target for opponents wanting to take a scalp. It's a big compliment for the Saffrons, but it brings its own diffi-

culties, and problems which McCullough insists his troops must guard against this Sunday as they attempt to add the league title to their trophy haul.

"It's the teams who win one year and then come back and win again the following year who show real mettle. You win something, then spend the whole following year looking for pats on the back and congratulations from everyone. You forget that everyone else is gunning for you because you've been successful.

"We have to be ready for that, to get the head down and grind out results the way we need to. That will be tested to the limit by Waterford. They'll hit us... they'll not be asking us what it was like to play at Croke Park.

"Mickey Harte calls it 'competitive greatness.' In other words, when it matters, can you win it? For us, it matters this Sunday."



c.woods@gaeliclife.com

BACK FROM ENGLAND... Rhona Torney

Picture: Stephen McCarthy / Sportsfile

Gaillimh

Marín agus Bán



Galway Senior Panel 2011



(1) **SUSAN EARNER**
S. Ni Shaoiligh
Eyecourt

(2) **REGINA GLYNN**
R. Ni Ghloinn
Athlery

(3) **SARAH DERVAN**
S. Ni Dhoirbheoin
Mullagh

(4) **SINEAD CAHALAN**
S. Ni Chathlain
Mullagh

(5) **NIAMH KILKENNY**
N. Nic Giolla Choinnigh
Pearses

(6) **ANN MARIE HAYES**
A. M. Nic Aodha
Kilmar

(7) **SINEAD KEANE**
S. Ni Chathlain
Kilmar

(8) **EMER HAVERY**
E. Ni hAbhtaigh
Kilmar

(9) **ORLA KILKENNY**
O. Nic Giolla Choinnigh
Pearses

(10) **AISLINN CONNOLLY**
A. Ni Chonghaile
Castlegar

(11) **NIAMH McGRATH**
N. Nic Craith
Sarsfields

(12) **BRENDA HANNEY**
B. Ni hAnnaigh (Capt.)
Kilmar

(13) **VERONICA CURTIN**
V. Ni Chaitin
Kilmar

(14) **NOREEN COEN**
N. Ni Chathlain
Athlery

(15) **TARA RUTLEDGE**
T. Ni hUachtair
Portanna

(16) **Therese Mantos**
T. Ni Mhantain
Mullagh

(17) **Emma Kilkenny**
E. Nic Giolla Choinnigh
Kilmar

(18) **Martina Conroy**
M. Ni Chonraí
Kilmar

(19) **Lorraine Ryan**
L. Ni Riain
Kilmar

(20) **Sandra Tannan**
S. Ni Thannan
St. Thomas

(21) **Ann Marie Starr**
A. M. Starr
Kilmar

(22) **Collette Gill**
C. Nic an Ghail
Kilmar

(23) **Jessica Gill**
S. Nic an Ghail
Athlery

(24) **Fionola Keely**
F. Ni Chathlain
St. Thomas

(25) **Julia Brien**
S. Ni Bhríon
Kilmar

(26) **Louise Mitchell**
L. Misteil
Kilmar

(27) **Therese Maher**
T. Ni hEochair
Athlery

(28) **Shauna Healy**
S. Ni hÉilí
Ardrhan

(29) **Rebecca Hennessy**
R. Ni hEannalla
Ardrhan

(30) **Heather Conroy**
H. Ni Chonraí
St. Thomas

Manager: Noel Finn. Selectors: Noel Power, Helena Hubon, Peter Kelly. Trainer: Bertie Sherlock. Physio: Ian Egan.

Loch Garman

Concra agus Cr



Wexford Senior Panel 2011



(1) **MAGS D'ARCY**
M. Ni Dhorchai
St. Martin's

(2) **CLAIRE O'CONNOR**
C. Ni Chonchúir
Rathmore

(3) **CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN**
C. Ni Lochlainn
Manager: Boleavogue

(4) **KAREN ATKINSON**
C. Nic Aidicín
Oulart-The Ballagh

(5) **NOELEN LAMBERT**
N. Laimbeart
St. Martin's

(6) **MARY LEACY**
M. Ni Laitheasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

(7) **AOIFE O'CONNOR**
A. Ni Chonchúir
Rathmore

(8) **DEIRDRE CODD**
D. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

(9) **KATE KELLY**
C. Ni Chathlain
St. Ibar's-Shelmallee

(10) **JOSIE DWYER**
S. Ni Dhúbhúir
Fermis St. Aidan's

(11) **URSULA JACOB**
U. Jacob (Capt.)
Oulart-The Ballagh

(12) **MICHELLE O'LEARY**
M. Ni Laoire
Rathmore

(13) **LENNY HOLOHAN**
L. Ni hUachtair
Rathmore

(14) **UNA LEACY**
U. Ni Laitheasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

(15) **KATRINA PARROCK**
C. Ni Pharóg
St. Ibar's-Shelmallee

(16) **Fiona Kavanagh**
F. Coimhínach
Bundoddy

(17) **Brid Gordon**
B. Ni Mhuirneacháin
Blackwater

(18) **Evelyn Quigley**
E. Ni Chaoigh
Rathmore

(19) **Lisa Bolger**
L. Ni Bholgair
St. Martin's

(20) **Gara O'Connor**
G. Ni Chonchúir
Rathmore

(21) **Bernie Holohan**
B. Ni hUachtair
Rathmore

(22) **Jean Hayden**
S. Ni hEidín
Rathmore

(23) **Louise O'Leary**
L. Ni Laoire
Rathmore

(24) **Louise Codd**
L. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

Manager: J.J. Doyle. Selectors: Joe Brennan, Tommy Roche, Ger O'Reilly, Geraldine Murphy. Trainer: Gerry McQuaid.

Fáilte ón Uachtarán



WELCOME to today's Irish Daily Star Division One League Final.

Today's final is a repeat of the 2010 All Ireland senior final. This is a measure of the consistency of Galway and Wexford, with the latter aiming for three consecutive league titles.

Capturing a national title is always the ultimate challenge for a county team. At this stage of the season, a league title will also be a pre-championship fillip for the victors.

The 2011 National League in all four Divisions has been boosted by our new two-year partnership with the Irish Daily Star. This has provided excellent photographic, feature and news coverage of the games and is greatly enhancing the national profile for the game.

This is important as there are more young girls and women playing Camogie than ever before.

It's worth remembering that many of these parents that dream of their sons winning All Ireland medals also have daughters. So it is equally important that daughters have the same opportunity to be All Ireland champions! That's why a better profile for the sport, more people watching Camogie and respect for the players' commitment and skill is so important.

Today's double header with the Tipperary v Wexford Allianz National Hurling League is a welcome opportunity for hurling enthusiasts to enjoy some Camogie sporting entertainment.

The VHI Cúl Camps are a great way to involve children aged 7 to 13 in Gaelic Games. These were launched at national level during the week so contact your local club or check out www.vhiculcamps.gaa.ie

I am impressed by the number of volunteers involved in getting the players to this national stage. Parents, teachers, club and county mentors will all have played a role in the players' sporting development from childhood. To recognise the importance of volunteers and to recognise 2011 as the EU Year of Volunteering, we launched a new resource Volunteering in Camogie - check it out on our website www.camogie.ie

Congratulations too to Katie Forde, a Turloughmore woman who recently received the GAA President's Award for her work in developing Camogie in Croydon and London.

Good luck to all sides today and to the match officials. Sincere thanks to everybody associated in preparing Semple Stadium for today's games.

Joan O'Flynn
JOAN O'FLYNN
Uachtarán, An Cumann Camógiaíochta



Welcome from 'Irish Daily Star'



IT SEEMS like no time since Una Leacy and Aislinn Connolly launched the Irish Daily Star Camogie Leagues in the bitter cold along the Grand Canal in Dublin.

But we've now reached the final stage and just like that February day we've got Wexford and Galway represented yet again, in a repeat of last year's All Ireland final.

And it's also a case of déjà vu in the Division Two final with Waterford and Antrim going head-to-head in Ashbourne this afternoon at 2.30pm.

This is our first year as title sponsor of the Irish Daily Star Camogie Leagues and it's an honour to be involved with the association.

The Association deserve great credit for its efforts to spread the gospel around the country and its partnership with us shows a willingness to innovate which will hopefully be rewarded. We're delighted to do our bit to help increase the profile of camogie and bring coverage of the national leagues to our 400,000 readers.

From our point of view it's been a great success and we've been thrilled with the feedback our coverage on Saturdays and Mondays has generated since the Leagues started.

I'm looking forward to the action today, and whether Wexford retain the Division One trophy or Galway manage to wrest it from them, I hope it's a game worthy of the occasion.

Our partnership with the Camogie Association is a natural alliance for us given our commitment to the broadest range of sports in Ireland.

We've enjoyed strong links for many years, with the star player in the senior All-Ireland camogie final honoured at our annual GAA awards night each year.

Additionally, the Gala Performance awards scheme was last year initiated whereby we rewarded players throughout the Championship.

We look forward to extending that this year so we can reward the stars of the Irish Daily Star Leagues.

Finally, good luck to all the players and officials involved in today's final.

And whatever the results, make sure to read all about the action in our extensive coverage in tomorrow's Irish Daily Star and also in the special four page Camogie pullout on Wednesday, April 20th.

And remember, is Fearr an Star!

PAUL COOKE
Managing Director The Irish Daily Star

Wexford favourites to make it three-in-a-row

By Daraugh Ó Conchúir

THE Irish Daily Star Camogie League has thrown up some riveting action in the past couple of months and there can be little argument but that the two best teams have reached the Division 1 final.

Galway may have only hit the front for the first time in the final minute of their semi-final against Kilkenny but a scoreline of 0-14 to 2-7 would indicate that they were deserving winners despite a distinctly ropey opening half.

Aislinn Connolly's accuracy from placed balls kept her team in touch and then aided their gradual fight-back from a four-point interval deficit. New team captain, Brenda Hanney, only made an appearance at half-time after her Killimor heroics and had a significant impact, while Noreen Coen and the incomparable Veronica Curtin were on fire as a result of the increased flow of ball in their direction.

Much of that was due to the dominance of Ann-Marie Hayes at centre-back and it was no surprise to anyone where the last, decisive point came from.

Curtin was the only player on the pitch with an All-Ireland senior camogie medal, having starred when Galway won their sole title 15 years ago. Her pace and skills remain at the highest level and the coolness with which she fashioned the opportunity and then executed the shot for her third point of the second half was an exhibition of that class.

It goes without saying that the All-Ireland remains Galway's Holy Grail but Wexford's presence as opponents makes this encounter very important indeed.

The Model County is the undisputed market leader at this level right now, having won the league and championship double last year.



Aislinn Connolly (Galway) and Mags D'Arcy (Wexford) with Sports Editor of the Irish Daily Star Eoin Brannigan at the photocall for the Irish Daily Star Camogie League Division 1 Final.

Galway were their victims in the All-Ireland final and although the margin at the final whistle was only two points, there was no doubting the victors' superiority on the day. They led by seven points at the change of ends and a sloppily-conceded goal at the death from a Connolly free left them living needlessly on their nerves in the final minute.

They repeated that success in the opening round of the league, having six points to spare at the end. They have progressed to the decider without a blip, while resting some of their many stars and giving opportunities to some of the intermediate team that also reached the All-Ireland.

The Leacy sisters, Mary and Una, Kate Kelly, Katrina Parrock and goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy are just some of Wexford's premier performers, while J.J. Doyle was able to produce a player of the calibre of Ursula Jacob in the second half of their semi-final win over Tipp. She made her point, quite literally, by raising three white flags.

Galway will be desperate to lay down a marker against Wexford but the Yellowbellies look just that bit too powerful and are worthy favourites to make it three-in-a-row.

CAMOGIE GAME OFFICIALS

Referee: Mike O'Kelly (Cork) Line Umpires: Aidan Ryan (Clare), Ger O'Dowd (Limerick)
4th Official: Donal Leahy (Tipperary)

In the event of a draw the replay will take place on 30th April

Three-goal Leacy the Wexford heroine

Camogie League Division One final

Wexford 3-10
Galway 0-10

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

WEXFORD survived a strong Galway test to claim a third successive Division One title at Semple Stadium yesterday.

The Model County started in blistering fashion; Kate Kelly pointing a free after 45 seconds before Una Leacy drove a stunning shot to the roof of the Galway net four minutes later.

Brenda Hanney opened the scoring for the Connacht side but Mary Leacy responded with a point and two further efforts from Michelle O'Leary and Ursula Jacob stretched the advantage to six.

Galway began to get a foothold around the centre though as Orla Kilkenny, Emer Haverly, Veronica Curtin and Aisling Connolly began to haul

their side back into the tie.

Connolly's accuracy kept Galway in touch while Susan Earner reacted smartly to deny Lenny Holohan as Wexford led 1-5 to 0-6 at the break.

Galway continued their assault on the favourites in the third quarter, the Kilkenny sisters, Orla and outstanding half-back Niamh bringing the sides level by the 36th minute.

Mary Leacy lofted over a mammoth free for Wexford but Connolly responded and Galway kept driving forward. The magnificent Catherine O'Loughlin and Mags D'Arcy denied Noreen Coen and Tara Rutledge goals, while Coen hit the upright before Connolly failed to convert a difficult free.

Then Wexford were awarded a dubious 49th minute penalty by referee Mike O'Kelly. Leacy made no mistake with a powerful drive to edge Wexford back in front. The champions went for the jugular, adding 1-4 in the final 14 minutes as Galway only managed a point. Leacy's third



CHAMPIONS: The victorious Wexford team celebrate their victory in the Camogie League, Division 1 final over Galway at Semple Stadium yesterday.

Picture: Brian Lawless/Sportstyle

goal, in the fourth minute of injury time, secured another title for the All-Ireland champions.

WEXFORD: M O'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy 0-1(f), A O'Connor; D Codd, K Kelly

0-3(f); J Dwyer, U Jacob 0-2, M O'Leary 0-1; L Holohan, U Leacy 3-1 (1-0 pen), K Parrock 0-1.

Subs: B Gordon for O'Leary (39), E Quigley 0-1 for Dwyer (39), F Kavanagh for A O'Connor (inj) (52).

GALWAY: S Earner; R Glynn, S Dervan, S Cahalane; N Kilkenny 0-1, AM Hayes, S

Keane; E Haverly, N Kilkenny 0-2; A Connolly 0-5(4fs, 1 45), N McGrath, B Hanney 0-1; V Curtin 0-1, N Coen, T Rutledge.

Subs: M Conroy for Rutledge (47), E Kilkenny for McGrath (47), S Tancian for Cahalane (52), L Ryan for N Kilkenny (60).

Referee: M O'Kelly (Cork).

Second-half scoring spree seals Déise win

Camogie League Division Two final

Waterford 0-16
Antrim 2-9

by Tom Nolan

WATERFORD produced a storming second half to claim the Division Two league title in Ashbourne yesterday.

The Déise girls led for the first time after a 58th minute point from Karen Kelly but their timing was impeccable as they held on to make the transition to the top flight as champions.

Antrim, who defeated Waterford in last year's All-Ireland junior final replay, settled quickly and held a four point lead by the fifth minute, after Natalie McGuinness scrambled the sliothán to the net.

The accuracy of Poc Fada champion Trish Jackman from frees was crucial in keeping Waterford in touch. The centre-forward punished a number of fouls

to leave just two points between them at the interval, (1-7 to 0-8).

The Munster side drew level with points from Niamh Rockett and Jackman but they were rocked when Jane Adams netted a fine goal in the 40th minute.

Waterford maintained their composure and Zoe O'Donoghue had the sides level within eight minutes. In a tense final quarter, points from Kelly and Morrissey pushed Waterford two, clear and though McCarry had a free on the 20m line at the death, her shot flew inches over the bar and Waterford held on.

WATERFORD: A O'Brien; KM Hearne, J Simpson, P Cunningham; S Kieran, C Rafter, M Russell; J McCarthy, D Fahy; N Rockett 0-2, P Jackman 0-8(f), N Morrissey 0-3; R Geoghegan, K Kelly 0-2, Z O'Donoghue 0-1.

Subs: M Murphy for Fahy; A Hannon for O'Donoghue

ANTRIM: M Graham; S Maguire, A Jackson, C Doherty; C Carey, E Connolly, B Orchin; S Graham 0-1, K O'Neill; M Convery 0-1, N McGuinness 1-2, C Hamill; R McCarry 0-4(3fs), J Adams 1-1, R Wright.

Subs: N Graham for Wright; M Rainey for Convery; R Boyle for Carey

Referee: A O'Brien (Wexford)

LORD MAYOR CIVIC AWARDS

In addition to the community and voluntary awards, Cllr Michael O'Connell presented six individuals with Lord Mayor Civic Awards, in recognition of their tireless work in the community. Here we profile the recipients.

● **KAY DUNNE** has a long association with camogie in Cork. Kay has served the county board at various levels, including treasurer from 1987 to 1990, and registrar of the board from 1996 to 2007. Kay was elected to the position of honorary president in 2008 and is now in the fourth year of her five-year term. She was presented with her award in recognition of her outstanding service and commitment to sport through the Cork Camogie Board.



Rampant Rebel ladies turn the tables on Tipp

Cork 2-20
Tipperary 2-8

CAMOGIE By LINDA MELLERICK

WHAT a difference a month makes.

Its' four weeks since Cork made their exit from this season's national league and it was the first run new manager Joe O'Brien got to work with this charges on the training ground.

The benefits were obvious in the Ragg last Saturday evening.

Cork turned around a one-point defeat in the national league to Tipperary just seven weeks ago into a blistering 12-point winning margin in this Munster championship semi-final, a separate

competition to the All-Ireland.

Cork's first touch was better, the side looked cohesive, confident on the ball and fitter.

Tipperary lined out without the services of star player Clare Grogan but equally Cork missed Orla Cotter and the Mackey sisters.

Cork led 2-2 to no score after just 10 minutes. Emer O'Sullivan and Sile Burns found the net after both attacks should have been dealt with by Tipp keeper Rita Bourke.

Cork became complacent for the next five minutes and losing all 50/50 breaking balls Tipperary narrowed the gap to just a point.

Waking from their slumber and with Elaine O'Riordan and Gemma O'Connor dominant, Cork struck six points without reply.

Leading at the break 2-10 to 2-3, Cork continued to perform upon the resumption, with Michelle Browne hitting two lovely points.

While Tipp never surrendered the fight they were no match for Cork as all six forwards found the target.

The outcome was evident long before the final whistle and while Cork still have

areas to work on, their progression was tangible for all to see in a well-deserved victory.

Scorers for Cork: E O'Sullivan 1-3, J O'Leary 0-6 (0-1 f), G O'Connor 0-6 (0-2 f), S Burns 1-0, M Browne 0-3, D Cronin, B Corkery 0-1 each.

Tipperary: N Walsh 0-4 (f), D Dunne 1-0, S Fryday 1-0, G Graham 0-2, J Horan, J Ryan 0-1 each.

CORK: E White; J Duffy, A O'Regan, E O'Riordan; C Motherway, R Buckley, A Geary; L Dorgan, G O'Connor; B Corkery, D Cronin, E O'Sullivan; S Burns, M Browne, J O'Leary.

Sub: M Walsh for D Cronin (58).

TIPPERARY: R Bourke; J Kirwan, S Larkin, S Ryan; M Tynan, M Ryan, C Quirke; B Quinn, M Shortt; N Walsh, J Horan, A Lomenjo; D Dunne, S Fryday, N Flanagan.

Sub: J McGrath for S Ryan, J Ryan for A Lomenjo, M Graham for B Quinn (h), G Stapleton for C Quirke (51).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

President's April 2011 Blog

What have Ballybofey, Cappagh and Castlebar in common? You might be surprised that Camogie could be the common denominator but don't be. There's very promising developments going on in Donegal, Kildare and Mayo.

It was a privilege to attend each venue for tremendously successful Camogie promotion events and two of them were in glorious sunshine.

It's wonderful to see young girls aged 5-15 getting used to a hurley in their hand. Most of the players are new to the game and the well organized events meant they had a ball learning the sport. The enthusiasm of the team mentors was brilliant especially all the 'Mum and Me Programme' graduates in Donegal!

Huge congrats and thanks to MacCumhaill's club in Ballybofey, Cappagh and Castlebar Community School who hosted 14 teams between them.

The Ulster Colleges Council are hosting their annual under 14 Development Blitz in St. Patrick's in Maghera in May. Known as the Pink Jersey Day, there was over 500 students last year. They are hoping to beat that this year. I am very much looking forward to joining the proceedings!

Mandatory penalties, including match bans, to be introduced

Off the field, the last few weeks could be described as 'Congress season'.

The Camogie Congress in Belfast was very productive. Antrim Camogie Board hosted the occasion to the highest standards. I look forward to working with new President-Elect Aileen Lawlor during the next 12 months.

I also took the opportunity to attend the Ladies Football Congress in Limerick early in April and then, with Ard Stiúrthóir Sínead O'Connor, attended the GAA Congress in Mullingar.

One of the key decisions taken at Camogie Congress is the introduction of mandatory penalties for:

- persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a referee's decision
- abusive language towards a referee, match official or other players
- punching, hitting without a hurley, or kicking a player
- kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan
- striking a player with a hurley.

The penalties range from two match bans to six depending on the offence or a maximum of 48 weeks suspensions. Some bans are competition specific and all carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

Congress also adopted that all Officers of the Camogie Association must comply with a new Code of Practice for All Officers of the Association.

The revised rule book, following Congress' decisions, will be available on the website by the end of the month when the new rules become effective.

Camogie, dancing and water filtration!

A number of clubs had gala events recently. Congrats to Lismore and The Harps, who received their Munster and Leinster club medals.

Pride of place goes to the Eoghan Rua team who celebrated their inaugural All Ireland Intermediate championship at a wonderful event in the Royal Hotel, Portrush.

All the team (and the mentors too) can dance as well as they play camogie!

One player, Hannah Eastwood, had a double celebration. As well as picking up an All Ireland medal, Hannah was also recently named UK Young Scientist of the Year, for a project on water filtration. Hannah proves once again that young sports stars are also academic achievers.

The event was a wonderful occasion for a club that is just eleven years young. Their outstanding achievement in such a short history is an inspiration to all the new Camogie clubs starting out all over the country and to the more established clubs too.

Championship on the horizon

Congratulations to all the Irish Daily Star League Finalists. This year's League received a great boost through the support of the newspaper. Each Saturday and Monday previews and reports were the norm along with some great picture coverage. A special four page feature on the Division 1 & 2 finals and another one on the Division 3 & 4 Finals plus coverage on RTE's TV show, League Sunday, have greatly added to the growing national coverage of this important competition.



Water win as



KELL OF A VICTORY: Waterford girls Karen Kelly and Colleen Rockett celebrate success

Waterford 0-16 Antrim 2-9 DIVISION 2 CAMOGIE FINAL

HAVING endured so much heartbreak in recent years at U16, U18 and, most recently senior level, there was joy at last for Waterford camogie fans in Ashbourne yesterday. They saw their side produce a staggering second half rally to claim the Irish Daily Star Division 2 league title.

Complaint

Leaving it late, it wasn't until the 58th minute that Waterford hit the front for the first time and left Antrim in their wake. A point from Karen Kelly put the Deise girls ahead, with the Saffrons only managing three scores in the second half. Such a poor showing meant that Antrim could really have



THREE 'N'



WELL DESERVED: Wexford's Una Leacy receives her Player-of-the-Match award from the Irish Daily Star's Eoin Brannigan

WEXFORD'S mission to place a definitive stranglehold on camogie continued at Semple Stadium yesterday.

They annexed the Irish Daily Star camogie league Division 1 title for the third consecutive season. Although the final margin might not suggest it though, they were under pressure for much of this encounter and Galway showed more than enough to suggest that JJ Doyle's side will not have it all their own way as they attempt to retain their All-Ireland honours later this year.

Hero

Una Leacy was the scoring hero for the winners, finishing with 3-1 to her credit, but the contributions of full-back Catherine O'Loughlin and corner-back Karen Atkinson in quelling the considerable dangers presented by Noreen Coen and Veronica Curtin were as important, while Mary Leacy was a dominant force at centre-back against young Niamh

APR. 2011

Deise girls taste success

little complaint.

Indeed, in the end, they were out-scored by 16 to 11. They will also be annoyed by the number of frees they conceded — a dangerous tactic considering that the Deise girls could call on the likes of Trish Jackman.

The Poc Fada champion finished with eight points from placed balls.

Antrim had inflicted the last dent to Waterford's ambitions in a replay in last year's All-Ireland junior final.

And yesterday they settled the quicker, establishing a four-point lead by the fifth minute, after Natalie McGuinness scrambled the shot to the net from Rachel McCarry's delivery. Jackman's free-taking

skill was crucial in helping the winners claw back into proceedings.

The centre-forward punished a number of Antrim fouls, while the lively Nicola Morrissey also contributed as Waterford trailed by just 1-7 to 0-8 at half-time.

Rocked

The Munster side began the second half well, drawing level for the first time with points from Niamh Rockett and Jackman.

However, they were rocked back on their heels when Jane Adams ran at the Waterford defence before drilling a fine goal in the 40th minute.

Waterford maintained their composure though

and Zoe O'Donoghue had the sides level within eight minutes after Jackman had converted two frees.

It was nip and tuck in the final quarter but points from Kelly and Morrissey pushed Waterford clear.

Antrim had one last chance in injury time when McCarry had a free on the 20m line but her shot flew inches over the bar.

WATERFORD: A O'Brien, KM Heane, J Simpson, P Cunningham, S Kieran, C Maher, M Russell, J McCarthy, D Fahy, N Rockett 0-2, P Jackman 0-8pts, N Morrissey 0-3, R Geoghegan, K Kelly 0-2, Z O'Donoghue 0-1. **Subs:** M Murphy for Fahy, A Hannon for O'Donoghue. **ANTRIM:** M Graham, S Maguire, A Jackson, C Doherty, C Carey, E Connolly, B O'Brien, S Graham 0-1, K O'Neill, M Convery 0-1, N McGuinness 1-2, C Hamill, R McCarry 0-4pts, J Adams 1-1, R Wright. **Subs:** N Graham for Wright, M Rainey for Convery, R Boyle for Carey. **REFEREE:** A O'Brien (Wexford)



WHITE ON: Waterford girls Pauline Cunningham, Margo Heffernan, Jenny McCarthy, Charlotte Maher and Deirdre Fahy



CHAMPIONS: Wexford celebrate their Irish Daily Star Camogie Division 1 title and (right) Wexford's Mary Leacy, left, and Deirdre Codd embrace at the final whistle



EASY FOR MODELS

Wexford put Galway to the sword to take title

Wexford 3-10 Galway 0-10
DIVISION 1 CAMOGIE FINAL

McGrath until Brenda Hanney provided her with more of a challenge in the second half.

The Kilkenny sisters, Niamh and Orla, were driving forces as Galway recovered from a very poor start, with the former outstanding at right half-back.

Aislinn Connolly's accuracy from placed balls was significant too but crucially, the Connacht contingent never managed to hit the front despite having a number of opportunities to do so.

They will point to a very generous-looking penalty award to Wexford by Mike O'Kelly that Una Leacy drove low to the net in the 49th minute as being critical.

It was certainly unclear what it

what it was given for and the goal turned the momentum of the game completely, with the winners adding 1-4 in the final 14 minutes of play including extra time, while Galway only managed a point.

Blistering

Wexford threatened to put this to bed early on with a blistering start. Kate Kelly pointed a free after just 45 seconds before Una Leacy drove a stinging shot to the roof of the Galway net four minutes later.

Brenda Hanney opened the scoring for Noel Finn's crew but Leacy responded with a brilliant point and two further white flags from Michelle O'Leary and Ursula Jacob stretched the advantage to six.

Galway began to get a foothold around the centre though and Orla Kilkenny supported Emer Haverty

well to notch up a point.

Curtin twisted and turned brilliantly to add another after Connolly had converted a free and the Tribeswomen were back in the game.

Connolly added a couple of more scores and Susan Earner showed that her delayed arrival hadn't affected her by reacting smartly to deny Holohan, meaning that Galway were going in at the break just 1-5 to 0-6 in arrears.

They continued their assault on the favourites in the third quarter, Orla and Niamh Kilkenny bringing the sides level.

Mary Leacy lofted over a mammoth free for Wexford but Connolly responded and Galway kept driving forward.

The magnificent O'Loughlin and Mags D'Arcy denied Coen and Tara Rutledge, while Coen hit the bar.

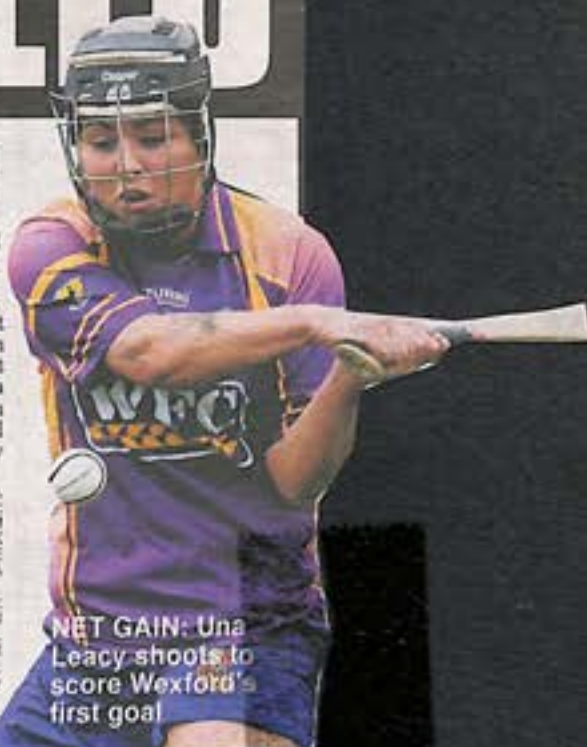
Galway would rue not managing to hit the front when Wexford were awarded that penalty and Una Leacy's shot billowed the net.

Ursula Jacob's 57th minute point was Wexford's first from play in the second half but it mattered not how the scores came and Una Leacy's third goal, in the fourth minute of injury time, set the seal on the garnering of another trophy for the Model County.

WEXFORD: M Darcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson, N Lambert, M Leacy 0-10, A O'Connor, D Codd, K Kelly 0-3pts, J Dwyer, U Jacob 0-2, M O'Leary 0-1, L Holohan, U Leacy 3-1 (1-0 pen), K Parrott 0-1. **Subs:** B Gordon for O'Leary (39), E Quigley 0-1 for Dwyer (39), F Kavanagh for A O'Connor (42).

GALWAY: S Earner, R Glynn, S Dervan, S Cahalane, N Kilkenny 0-1, AM Hayes, S Keane, E Haverty, N Kilkenny 0-2, A Connolly 0-5pts, 1-45, N McGrath, B Hanney 0-1, V Curtin 0-1, N Coen, T Rutledge, M Conroy for Rutledge (47), E Kilkenny for McGrath (47), S Tannian for Cahalane (52), L Ryan for N Kilkenny (52).

REFEREE: M O'Kelly (Cork)
PLAYER OF THE MATCH: Una Leacy (Wexford)



NET GAIN: Una Leacy shoots to score Wexford's first goal



Anna Geary presents Emma O'Connor with her championship medal at the Newtownshandrum victory celebration, with Juvenile Camogie Board chairperson Tracy Sheehan.

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM recently celebrated a superb 2010 season at the Park Hotel, Charleville where they honoured their victorious Minor C and Under 16 B championship-winning sides.

Cork camogie player and All Star Anna Geary was on hand to make the presentations, accompanied by Juvenile Board chairperson Tracy Sheehan, as the Minor C and Under 16 B county champions received their medals.

The celebrations also marked the hard work and commitment which paid off for the club.

Among the people who put in a great deal of work behind the scenes to make the night a success was Joan O'Connor, whom the club thanked for her efforts.

A great evening of celebration was enjoyed by Newtown's players, parents and friends.

Minors in full control

Cork 1-10
Limerick 1-3

CORK overcame Limerick to qualify for the Munster Minor championship final after a tough encounter in Newcastlewest.

A close opening half saw just two points between the sides at the break where Cork led 0-5 to 0-3 as scores were hard to come by. Laura Burke and Katie Buckley hit two points apiece and Emma Coakley added one as Cork held a two point interval advantage.

Limerick's Lisa Scannell pointed two frees and Niamh Ryan added a point as the sides exchanged scores.

Katie Buckley hit a vital Cork goal inside five minutes of the second half and she added two points in row before Finola Neville hit one as Cork stretched their lead.

Limerick substitute Amy Sheehan finished over the line in a goal

mouth scramble but they failed to add to this.

Finola Neville and Laura Burke pointed to ensure Cork ran out winners after a lacklustre contest.

Cork meet Clare on Monday next in the final after Clare overcame Tipperary 1-17 to 2-9.

Scorers for Cork: K Buckley 1-4, L Burke 0-3, F Neville 0-2 (0-1f), E Coakley 0-1. Limerick: A Sheehan 1-0, L Scanlon 0-2 (0-1f 0-1 45"), N Ryan 0-1.

Cork: G O'Callaghan; A Barry, A Hennessy, A Twohill; C Sugrue, Crowley, A Moloney; E Crowley, E Coakley; A O'Donovan, F Neville, K Buckley; L Burke (c), M Tobin, A Kiely.

Sub's: A Barry for E Coakley (h/t), R Murphy for M Tobin (39), L O'Sullivan for A Twohill (43), E Scally for E Crowley (50), H Morgan for C Sugrue (56).

Limerick: C O'Riordan; G Lee, A Enright, F Holmes; M Browne, L Scanlon, E Quaid; E Kennedy, L Barrett; T Fitzgerald, P Liston, J Dowling; N Ryan, A Kennedy, M O'Neill.

Sub's: N Foley for T Fitzgerald (18), E Coughlan for F Holmes (h/t), A Sheehan for N Foley (inj 35), K Carmody for G Lee (inj 37), A O'Connell for L Scanlon (inj 50), M Quinn for A Kennedy (59), B O'Riordan for J Dowling (60).

Ref: Andrew Monaghan (Clare).

Cork have too much class

Cork 2-8
Tipperary 2-8

CORK booked their place in the Munster senior champions final with a 12 point victory over Tipperary at the Ragg on Saturday last.

Cork made all the early running and led 2-2 to no score thanks to early goals from Eimear O'Sullivan and Sile Burns, but Cork allowed Tipp settle and they narrowed the gap to just a point. Cork's response was superb as they hit six points without reply to lead at half-time 2-10 to 2-3.

Cork continued to hold the advantage as they added to their tally.

Scorers for Cork: E O'Sullivan 1-3, J O'Leary 0-6 (0-1 f), G O'Connor 0-6 (0-2 f), S Burns 1-0, M Browne 0-3, D Cronin, B Corkery 0-1 each.

Tipperary: N Walsh 0-4 (f), D Dunne 1-0, S Fryday 1-0, G Graham 0-2, J Horan, J Ryan 0-1 each.

CORK: E White; J Duffy, A O'Regan, E O'Riordan; C Motherway, R Buckley (c), A Geary; L Dorgan, G O'Connor; B Corkery, D Cronin, E O'Sullivan; S Burns, M Browne, J O'Leary.

Subs: M Walsh for D Cronin (58). TIPPERARY: R Bourke; J Kirwin, S Larkin, S Ryan; M Tynan, M Ryan, C Quirke; B Quinn, M Shortt; N Walsh, J Horan, A Lonergan; D Dunne, S Fryday, N Flanagan.

Subs: J McGrath for S Ryan, J Ryan for A Lonergan, M Graham for B Quinn (h/t), G Stapleton for C Quirke (51).

Ref: John Dolan (Clare).



Judge Con Murphy and Miriam Murphy at the official opening of Christchurch.

Buckley leads the Cork charge in semi-final

Cork 1-10
Limerick 1-3

MINOR CAMOGIE

CORK had to battle hard to overcome a tough Limerick side in this Munster Minor Championship semi-final clash in Newcastlewest last night, writes MARY NEWMAN.

There was little between the sides in a close opening half as both defences were on top and just two points separated them at the interval as Cork led 0-5 to 0-3. Despite holding Limerick to just one second-half score, Cork were grateful for an early second-half goal from Katie Buckley as they held

their lines through the half to book their place in the final where they will meet Clare. Scores were hard to come by in the opening half. Laura Burke and Katie Buckley showed great pace in the Cork attack as they fired over two points apiece while Emma Coakley added one. Limerick had Lisa Scannell on target twice with frees and Niamh Ryan added a point as the sides were evenly matched in all sectors. Katie Buckley gave Cork a vital edge when she outpaced the Limerick defence before striking a superb goal inside five minutes of the resumption,

and now Cork began to take control, with Katie Buckley hitting two points in row and Finola Neville adding one as they stretched their advantage. Limerick battled hard and grabbed a goal when substitute Amy Sheehan finished over the line after Grace O'Callaghan had denied Maebh O'Neill with a good save and piled on the pressure but they failed to add to their tally as Cork stood firm. Finola Neville and Laura Burke pointed to ensure Cork ran out winners after a lacklustre contest. Cork know that if they harbour hopes of retaining their provincial crown a much improved performance will be needed against Clare.

Scorers for Cork: K Buckley 1-4, L Burke 0-3, F Neville 0-2 (0-1f), E Coakley 0-1.

Limerick: A Sheehan 1-0, L Scanlon 0-2 (0-1f 0-1 45"), N Ryan 0-1.

CORK: G O'Callaghan; A Barry, A Hennessy, A Twohill; C Sugrue, Crowley, A Moloney; E Crowley, E Coakley; A O'Donovan, F Neville, K Buckley; L Burke (c), M Tobin, A Kiely.

Subs: A Barry for E Coakley (h/t), R Murphy for M Tobin (39), L O'Sullivan for A Twohill (43), E Scally for E Crowley (50), H Morgan for C Sugrue (56).

LIMERICK: C O'Riordan; G Lee, A Enright, F Holmes; M Browne, L Scanlon, E Quaid; E Kennedy, L Barrett; T Fitzgerald, P Liston, J Dowling; N Ryan, A Kennedy, M O'Neill.

Subs: N Foley for T Fitzgerald (18), E Coughlan for F Holmes (h/t), A Sheehan for N Foley (inj 35), K Carmody for G Lee (inj 37), A O'Connell for L Scanlon (inj 50), M Quinn for A Kennedy (59), B O'Riordan for J Dowling (60).

Referee: Andrew Monaghan (Clare).

Revenge mission

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION FOUR FINAL
CAVAN V WESTMEATH
Sunday, Donaghmore Ashbourne @ 1.00pm

Cavan make the trip to Donaghmore-Ashbourne on Sunday afternoon with the aim of becoming National League winners as they take on Westmeath in the Division Four decider.

The Breffni girls picked up the Ulster 'B' championship title defeating Monaghan in the decider, but their All-Ireland ambitions came unstuck against the same opponents further down the line when Monaghan sent them toppling out of the race at the final hurdle.

This weekend's opponents Westmeath already have one over Cavan, the Leinster side having secured a one-goal win over their hosts at Breffni Park in the league opener. Cavan had previously shown their capabilities though with a commanding ten point win over Tyrone, 4-10 to 2-6 the final score, and they will be hoping they can recapture that form with silverware on the line.



Westmeath have certainly been here before, and having lost the past two deciders are keen to make amends.

They were just edged out by three points by Kildare in 2009 despite going in at half-time three goals in arrears and missing a second half penalty. Last year, Tyrone beat them by nine points but they turned that disappointment around earlier this month in Collinstown when having a goal to spare over the Red Hands at the end of a thrilling encounter that finished 5-5 to 3-8 in their favour.

It's certainly a big ask for Cavan, Westmeath's superior advantage putting them one step ahead of the Ulster side. However, if Colm McAvoy and Margaret Farrell's side can get their noses in front, forge out an advantage, then those doubts will start flooding back into the minds of the Westmeath players and Cavan can take advantage to take the title and their promotion which will come with it.

comment@gaeliclife.com



SOMETHING TO CROWE ABOUT... Rosie Crowe (above) and Brid Boylan (top) will be in action for Cavan

Adams sees short-term pain and long-term gain with Deise defeat

"If that was our game to lose out in this season, then I'm happy enough"

They may have suffered the disappointment of a single point loss in last weekend's Division Two league final, but Antrim camogie captain Jane Adams will take that hurt if it means success later in the season.

"Obviously, no defeat is nice and when we were in the final we wanted to win it. It was a poor performance on our part, one which we were extremely disappointed with. Losing, and missing out on Division One camogie next year, means it's bitterly disappointing.

"We have to take the positives, and we can now put right those mistakes. We'll go back to working hard and hopefully go into the championship as a more polished outfit."

Adams is honest in her assessment of the game, her side punished by Waterford for some sloppy defending while at the other end of the field Antrim were guilty of spurning too



JANE ADAMS...Antrim haven't gone away you know...

many scoring opportunities, and with that combination there was only going to be one outcome.

"Patricia Jackman was outstanding

for them from frees, and everything they got inside the '65 she was going to put over basically. We knew that was going to happen, but we didn't do enough to counter it by tackling with the sort of discipline we have been doing. We can't blame the defenders; Up front we had enough chances to win the match and we didn't take them either."

Antrim will now take a fortnight break before stepping up their training again for the five-week lead in to the championship campaign, one which Adams is confident can yield a much more successful outcome than last weekend.

"You can't always win everything, and if that was our game to lose out in this season, then I'm happy enough to take it."

comment@gaeliclife.com

The very latest Camogiezine is hot off the press

HAVE we got news for you - that could well be the message coming from Camogie HQ.

Their Camogiezine publications are packed to the attic with all that's happening in the sport. And that's quite a lot.

There's the big story on how a Dub, Aileen Lawlor, will be the next president, and there's word of how Dublin are part of the new Regional School of Excellence Blitz.

Remarkably, 700 girls took part in last month's blitz, and there's uplifting tales of the progress being made in counties like Donegal and Kerry. For the first time in 30 years, Kerry are fielding at inter-county level.

And the reports are good about their U16s and minors.

COACHING

There are also details about how you can acquire coaching qualifications to coach in countries like Australia, America and Canada.

There are plans to run coaching courses for people who might be thinking of moving to those countries. More information from moconnor@camogie.ie.

There's details on the latest booklets like 'Mum and Me' and a reminder that the 50th Poc Fada is fast approaching.

The work of Camogie's official charity partner for 2011, Hope, is highlighted, and there's even a big exclusive as the engagement of Tipp star, Clare Grogan, to Galway hurler, Damien Hayes, is revealed.

Nothing is left out. The Camogiezine accesses all areas.

BOARD NOTES

OZO LEAGUES

■ Week 3 of the adult leagues sees a host of interesting fixtures. In Senior A, Na Fianna have made an excellent start to the season and sit in joint top position with defending champions Ballyboden St Endas. Na Fianna face a tough assignment when they welcome Erins Isle while Raheny travel to Páirc Uí Mhurchú.

■ In Senior B - four teams are together on four points although Portobello and Lucan Sarsfields have a game in hand on Skerries Harps and Naomh Pádraig/Na Cloighití who have merged forces for this season.

■ Turning to Intermediate 1 - the Lucan Sarsfields top the table with full points followed by Na Fianna B and Erins Isle. In Intermediate 2 - the lead is shared by Trinity Gaels and Clanna Gael Fortenoy both of whom are on full points.

■ At Junior A level - unbeaten Naomh Brid lead the way but Naomh Maur are also unbeaten but have played one game fewer while at Junior B - Setanta have made an impressive start to the season with three wins out of three. But on one game less St Finians of Swords are also unbeaten.

INTERCULTURAL EVENT

The Camogie Association is offering your club the chance to receive a grant of €650 and the opportunity to win a trip to both the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-finals and All-Ireland Camogie Finals this year.

To be in with your chance of winning these great prizes see information attached and application form. Clubs will be chosen based on the reasons they wish to host the event. See www.dublincamogie.ie for application form. Contact: Eve Talbot, Regional Development Co-Ordinator Dublin/Kildare, 005-1128669.

MATCH REPORTS

Clubs are encouraged to send match reports to the website using the "Submit Match Reports" function under Club Results and Fixtures.

DUBLIN HURLING

Best wishes to the Dublin hurlers on Sunday in the Allianz League Final.



http://www.galwaynews.ie/files/2011/04/galwaynews.ie/files/images/14_042011.jpg

Another final loss as Galway fall to champs Wexford

April 21, 2011 - 7:00am

Gap between Tribeswomen and camogie's top over is widening

Wexford 3-10
Galway 0-10

Eoghan Cormican
At Semple Stadium

THERE is a gap beginning to develop in the camogie pecking order. Wexford, very much the queens of the small ball game are out front, comfortably ahead of the chasing pack, headed by Galway. On Sunday, at Semple Stadium that gap grew yet again.

This should have been a day when Galway sent out a clear message of intent as to their All-Ireland aspirations, but once more they were outmuscled and outclassed by a Wexford side slowly tightening their stranglehold on the game.

Again championship looms and serious question marks hang over the desire and resolve of this Galway outfit. It's certainly no time to be writing obituaries, but it seems at this point in time that Galway do not possess the capability to make a serious bid for All-Ireland glory.

When it came to the crunch on Sunday the Galway forwards simply didn't deliver the goods. Tied at 1-6 to 0-9 entering the final quarter, Aislinn Connolly missed a free to put Galway ahead, while Niamh McGrath, Noreen Coen and Tara Rutledge all squandered chances subsequently.

There were to be no such mishaps at the other end as Wexford registered 2-4 in the final 12 minutes of action to comprehensively annex a third consecutive league title.

All in all, JJ Doyle's charges were physically more powerful than Galway in the key head to battles and displaying a ruthless streak in front of goal, there's little to suggest they will be stopped in their quest for back to back All-Ireland success.

By comparison with Wexford, Galway's central spine just isn't strong enough. The Galway panel is without players of the calibre of Catherine O'Loughlin, Mary and Una Lacey, and until such quality within the county is unearthed, the wait for the O'Duffy Cup will continue.

In both league and championship, this was Galway's fourth final appearance since 2008. They failed to emerge victorious in all four encounters and therein lies the problem. For this group of players it has been defeat after defeat on the big day. The seed of doubt planted in 2008 where Galway lost both the league and championship deciders, grows bigger with experiences like Sunday.

The conclusion of Galway's league campaign was a carbon copy of its start and although the Tribeswomen showed promise in their semi-final win over Kilkenny, a lot of boxes remain to be ticked before the championship opener against Wexford on June 12th.

In truth, defensive frailties cost Galway dearly. The second and third goal in particular were avoidable and if Galway are to be in hunt for honours later this summer then the management must embark on corrective surgery, especially in the full back line, where Galway were torn asunder by the pace and skill of Wexford's full forward line.

Further forward, Galway's attacking inertia is encapsulated by the fact that the Kilkenny sisters, playing at half back and midfield, scored more from play than the six starting forwards combined.

In any event, there were just four minutes on the clock when Una Lacey blasted the sliotar to the roof of the net following excellent play by Lenny Holohan to draw in Sarah Dervan before releasing possession inside.

Brenda Hanney opened the scoring for Galway, but Wexford threatened to put this to bed early on with further points from Una Lacey, Michelle O'Leary and Ursula Jacob to stretch their advantage to six.

For more, read this week's Connacht Tribune.

APR. 2011



Michelle Shortt (Tipperary) surges past Sile Burns (Cork) during the Munster championship Saturday.

Rude awakening following loss to Cork

The Tipperary senior camogie team were given a rude awakening ahead of the start of the All Ireland series when they were comfortably brushed aside by rivals Cork in the Munster semi-final on Saturday evening.

Cork traveled to The Ragg with two of their stronger players restored to the team since their last outing with Tipperary in an early March which Tipperary won. However, revenge was on their minds and Saturday's outing was far less cheerful for the home side that were down four players and were on the losing end by a twelve point margin. While Tipp were under no illusions going into this semi-final, the game overall was most disappointing for both manager John Lillis and his players.

Cork charged onto the pitch and tore straight down to action where Eimear Sullivan gave them the best possible start when she blasted to the back of the net within the opening minute. With Jennifer O'Leary adding a point shortly after, Tipperary looked all at sea but then the real sting in the tail came when Sile Burns's shot went all the way to the back of the Tipp net.

Ahead by seven points, Gemma O'Connor added a 45 in the tenth minute. This would usually be enough to send any team packing, but not the girls from the premier county as they awoke from their slumber with Deirdre Dunne forcing home Tipp's first goal which came after a great forward play. Nicole Walsh added a point from a placed ball before Tipp's workhorse Jill Horan sent the ball to the forwards where Sarah Fryday defied the Cork keeper Eimear White and raised Tipp's second green flag.

For a brief period, Cork's one point advantage gave the Tipperary side hope until the Rebels began to pull ahead striking five points without reply. The visitors hunger was obvious and going for their third goal, Tipp keeper Rita Bourke fell to the ground in her effort to block and before she was back on her feet she made a great save to deny Jennifer O'Leary but the Cork attacker still managed to score a point in the follow-up. Jill Horan kept Tipp in touch from a Walsh free but Cork hit back with a further two to leave the half time score; Cork 2-10 Tipperary 2-3. Cork continued to widen the gap on the resumption while Tipp brought on fresh legs in Amy Kennedy and Michaela Graham into the forwards and almost immediately Kennedy was making her presence felt as she took off on long solo runs and created more chances. Both of Graham's two points came as a result of Kennedy's good play but for every score Tipp managed, Cork replied with two. The Tipperary backs were under constant siege as Cork laid down the law and gave a crystal clear signal for the forthcoming championship.

Yet despite this heavy defeat, Tipperary manager John Lillis looked to the future saying: "While it might not look like it at the minute, we are bleeding girls as young as 16 and 17 who wouldn't have any experience at this level which is a positive thing for Tipperary camogie and there's nothing going to be done in a year, but two or maybe even three, so we are looking to the future and not the immediate."



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for the latest updates

CAVAN



Charity 'Fight Night'

BY DECLAN BOGUE

THE McCloskey/Khan fight might have been an enormous let-down, but if you want to see a bit of skin and hair flying, there could be no better place than the Hotel Kilmore this Saturday, when local GAA figures jump through the ropes for a 'White Collar' boxing night in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

The event is being organised by county coaching officer Nicholas Walsh, and they are staging a bumper card of eighteen bouts, featuring club players from around the county, and from different codes.

The original idea to host the event came to me after the sudden and tragic loss of good friend and Gael of Cavan, Ruairi Dunne", said Walsh. "A few of us from the Club (Cavan Gaels) wanted to do something to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis and had toyed with ideas such as mini marathons, triathlon's and others.

"At the moment we have a list of forty people training. Thirty six of those will fight on the night, which means 18 bouts of 'White Collar' boxing. All our fighters have a reason behind fighting for such a good cause. The high number of sufferers of Cystic Fibrosis is reflected in the interest of people in the event."

The aim of Cystic Fibrosis Cavan is to build a unit in Cavan General which will consist of two private beds for PED's, two private adult beds, a system for purifying air, gym, medical and play room equipment to cater for the needs of CF patients in the Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim, Long-

ford area. This unit will cost in the region of €500,000 - €800,000 and proceeds of the fight will contribute a percentage to this.

Tickets are on sale at a cost of 20 from the fighters or contact Nicholas Walsh on 087-7439535. You can pop in to the Hotel Kilmore, Imperial Bar, Lorraines Main St. Barbers, Meadow View Cavan or the Chest of Drawers, Main St. to buy them directly.

d.bogue@gaeliclife.com

Blue Corner

Ja 'Steel Jaw' Moran
Kenny 'Big Bang' Brady
Clara 'The Magician' Molloy
James 'The Hammer' Murray
Susie 'Cruzin for a Bruzin' Mulligan
'Rocking' Rosie Crowe
'Lightening' Larry Reilly
Declan 'The Decker' Smith
Sinead 'The Thunder' O'Keeffe
Gerard 'Concussion' Clerklin
Eamon 'Chesty' Reilly
Fergal 'Foxy' Maguire
Joanne 'The Mauler' Moore
Brian 'The Killer' Keoghane
Ed 'Soft-Jaw' O'Hanlon
'Stone Cold' Steve Ivers
Kevin 'Mad Ass' McCusker

V

Red Corner

Kieran 'Mad Dog' McMahon
Eugene 'Hammer Man' Hill
Laura King 'Of the Ring'
Gavin 'The Hammer' Fitzsimmons
Maria 'Double M' Murphy
Lisa 'The Gilt Thrill' Gillick
Salesi 'The Tongan Torpedo' Tuliputolu
'Sugar' Ray Gelligan
Niamh 'The Bruskey Brawler' Brady
Damian 'The Demon' Donohoe
Alan 'The Destroyer' Dunne
Kevin 'The Hurricane' O'Donnell
Cathriona 'Lights Out' Leddy
Gerry 'The Rock' Nevin
Mickey 'Peddler' Smith
Sean 'The Brawler' O'Neill
Allen 'The Dorkster' Durkin



READY TO RUMBLE...Sinead O'Keeffe and Niamh Brady from Lacken Camogie along with Larry Reilly and Kenny Brady, getting ready for the fight night

CAMOGIE RETURN OF THE LEAGUE

Eoghan Rua mark return to action

ALL-IRELAND Intermediate Camogie champions Eoghan Rua made their first outing since claiming the All-Ireland title last weekend when they took to the field for their Derry league opener against Banagher.

Joe Passmore's girls couldn't have hoped for a better return to action as they showed the sort of skill which brought them Croke Park glory as they stormed to a 6-9 to 2-5 win. Having only started back training the previous week following a month off, the Coleraine boss was happy to see his girls back in action.

"We started back the previous Wednesday, and having been away from it for a while, all the girls were keen to get back into the swing of things. We've got a reserve team for the first time this year, a lot of older girls have come back to play for that side, and there's a real buzz about the place.

"The fitness levels would still be pretty good, and the games are coming at us now thick and fast between the Derry league and the Ulster League programme, so we're looking forward to it. The Championship draw has paired us with Slaughtneil, but that's not until the end of July so we have plenty of

time to build towards that, get a few injured players back and to see where we're at."

Elsewhere, Castledawson saw off Bellaghy by 3-9 to 1-4, Slaughtneil were comfortable 3-15 to 0-7 winners over Ballinderry, while Swatragh did enough to beat Balli-

nascreen by 2-12 to 3-5. The other big winners last Friday night were Lavey, who thumped Kilrea by 6-9 to 2-5. The club camogs enjoy a free weekend over the Easter break, with round two of the league scheduled for next Friday night.



NONE SHALL PASS...Joe Passmore with Grace McMullan

Cork to lock horns with Tipp in All-Ireland semi-final

TOMORROW

All Ireland U16A championship semi-final.

Cork v Tipperary, Kilmallock, 3pm

IT'S AN all-Munster line-up as Cork and Tipperary battle it out for a place in the All-Ireland U16 A championship final tomorrow in Kilmallock, the game forms part of a double-header with Kilkenny and Clare in action in the curtain-raiser writes MARY NEWMAN.

CAMOGIE

Tipperary lost out in last year's final to Galway and they will be determined to go one better this year, they will go in as favourites tomorrow having defeated champions Galway in the last game in their group where the result put paid to the holder's chances of qualification to defend their crown. On the day the scoreline of 3-6 to 1-9 did

not reflect the superiority of a Tipperary side who, despite holding the upper-hand, found themselves trailing 0-3 to 0-6 at the break. However, two goals five minutes into the second-half from Rosemary Hanifin and Tara Kennedy had Tipp in the driving seat and they added to their tally to run out winners. They had excellent performers in Jenny Grace, Sarah Coonan, Claire Ryan and sharpshooter Tara Kennedy all experienced campaigners at this level.

Cork had to be at their best to overcome Clare and Dublin and despite topping their group they will go in tomorrow as underdogs, its been eight years since Cork took a title at this grade and there has been a huge amount of work put in as they strive to win one. The Cork side had a nice balance to it against Dublin and they showed tremendous fighting spirit in appalling weather to secure victory.

While the team has as yet to be an-

nounced, players of the calibre of Roberta Harrington, Kaylynn Lee, Siobhan Hutchinson, Orla Cronin and Jennifer Hosford will be expected to feature in the starting 15. Injury has ruled out Niamh McCarthy and Orla Healy for the season but Claire Shino who missed the game against Dublin is fit and available for selection and this is a boost to the Cork management as they strive to make it to the final and realise their dream.



THE WEST AWAKE



Killimor Co, Galway could be described as a sleepy village with little going on, but that indeed would be a gross misinterpretation of what is really happening in this rural community set in East Galway. For this is home to the newly crowned All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions and they were wide awake when they represented the West, against the Leaside ladies Inniscarra from the Rebel County 6th March.

"In the semi final we weren't given much of a chance in the media, some even wrote off our chances completely," said Brenda. "I suppose on paper the Wexford girls did appear to be bringing more experience to the contest, but it's what happens on the day that counts. We knew after the semi that we were good enough to win. I am so proud of all the girls, they really put everything on the line out there they never stopped working even when we took a commanding lead, there was no complacency we maintained our focus until we heard the final whistle."

"Our strength as a team has grown over the last few months, we have gone from strength to strength and have a firm belief in our own ability and each others and we are united by a massive desire to win."

"Inniscarra are a very good side, and I am sure they will be hot contenders for next year. Things went right for us on the day; we knew we would have to bring our best game to the Croke Park if we were to succeed and that is what we did."

"This has been such a fantastic experience for everyone in Killimor and we have such great support from Killimor and the surrounding towns and villages, we expected to see lots of Black and Amber in the stands on March 6th and were not disappointed."

"We could not have been better prepared both physically and mentally, and to that end I must on behalf of all the girls on the panel express our gratitude to the management team of Tommy Callagy, his selectors Vincent Brien, Annette Porter and Pauline Mitchell and not forgetting our coach Bertie Sherlock. They always believed in us and made sure we were given every opportunity too avail of the best

facilities and training methods available. Many teams can only ever imagine what it would be like to win an All Ireland Final; I think it will take some time for it to fully sink in that we have."

Team manager Tommy Callagy is particularly proud of his young ladies and was not impressed with the casual manner in which they had been written off either.

"That was a big mistake alright," he says with a smile. "I think it gave our girls the ammunition they needed, they performed brilliantly on the day. They have shown that they were not just a one hit wonder. We could not have asked or expected any more from the team they worked hard for each other and never stopped."

"We are blessed with the group of girls we have on the panel, they work and train hard and are always prepared to make the extra sacrifices needed to be successful. We faced Inniscarra and gave a performance we can be truly proud of, each of the girls worked continuously for the sixty minutes, never stopped hunting and hounding for the ball. We knew we were going up against a serious side that have a superb reputation and wonderful players, thankfully our girls have shown that they are not easily intimidated."

"I was at the their (Inniscarra) semi-final when they beat Antrim's O'Donovan Rossa. You have to give Inniscarra credit they are a very good side, it was all the more important for us to prepare with a mix of respect for our opponents and a unwavering belief in ourselves."

"We have prepared as best we can and the excellent coaching from Bertie Sherlock made an incredible difference to the team and how they prepare, we

have made the best use of all the facilities available to us and found the Thornton Sports built Synthetic pitch in Portumna a great asset. We used the full size Synthetic Pitch in the Athlone Institute of Technology which was also built by Thornton's as part of our final preparations, it gave the team an indication of the speed and response they could expect from the surface in Croke Park."

"I would like to personally thank my selectors who have all put in such tremendous work to get us where we are today. I am truly grateful to our supporters who have become our 16 man (or woman) of the team, and cannot thank them enough for their support, and words of encouragement all through this campaign, we can all enjoy the celebrations."

"I have always supported and admired local hurling teams like Kiltormer and Portumna who have won All Ireland titles over the years and am just glad that our team of ladies were able to emulate their success in Croke Park on March 6th."

Whilst in Killimor, this writer decided to take a stroll through the village which was adorned with flags, bunting posters and placards from well wishers, all encouraging their team to do their best in the final. A stop was made for some liquid refreshment in Duffy's Shop and Pub where a pint of the creamiest black elixir was delivered in a fashion fit for a king although there was a bit of a scrum to get to the bar. Celebrations were in full flight, after one or two mouthfuls Fir an Ti Eugene Duffy gave his impression on how the ladies performed in Croke Park.

"They did the job, that's what they did," said a delighted Eugene, who said he took great joy in travelling to see the team play.

"I would have had very few for company here if I didn't go, sure whole place was in Croke Park. We were all really looking forward to it, the girls have given us all a welcome distraction to all the old rubbish with the Banks and recession and so on."

"I think it was never more apt to say 'last one out, turn off the light,' and I am just glad it was all here when we got back!"

The calm self belief is without doubt the trade and stock of this incredible bunch of women. They have always shown immense respect for each other and the management team who have done such a fantastic job in preparing them. Looking back on Killimor's journey to Croke Park you would have to wonder do they actually realise exactly how good a unit they are. They seemed completely at home at HQ and maintained their confidence and control throughout both halves.

Inniscarra must still be reeling from the encounter, in truth the Cork ladies never really settled into the game, the Killimor girls were in control in every position and ended the first half with a commanding lead of 2-4 to 0-1 courtesy of goals from Helen Quinn and Lorraine Donnelly with points from Conroy sisters Claire and Martina and Susan Keane.

The Galway women were definitely on a mission and were relentless in their drive to fulfil their goal, they should no mercy as they took back to the field after the break and gave an equally impressive performance in the second half. Inniscarra had no reply and although team captain Niamh Dilworth found the Killimor net at the close of the encounter, it was a case of too little too late, the score board high lighting the extent of the victory 4-18 to 1-4.

So once again the Bill Carroll Cup will reside in the West, and you couldn't think of a more hospitable home. We will no doubt see a lot more from this team; they are a strong, talented group of women who have an exceptional bond between them, with a



Celebrating in Duffy's Pub, Killimor

number of strong young prospects looking to make their mark on the first fifteen team sheet, the future looks good for camogie in Killimor. Whatever the future holds, the people of Killimor will never forget when they won their first All Ireland Senior camogie final and the fantastic journey they experienced along the way.

The Management and staff of Thornton Sports Ireland would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the management and players of Killimor Camogie Club on their success in the All-Ireland Senior camogie final and are delighted to see them following on from other Galway camogie clubs such as Pearse's, Oranmore, Athenry and Mullagh in bringing the Bill Carroll Cup West.

The Killimor side which lined-out at Croke Park, which will forever be remembered in the history of the club, was as follows: H Campbell; N Hanney, N Lawless, J Brien; K Brien, AM Hayes, M Duane; E Haverly (0-2), AM Starr; C Conroy (0-1), B Hanney (0-4, 1 free), M Conroy (1-6, 0-4 frees); H Quinn (1-0), S Keane (0-4), L Donnelly (1-0). Subs: AM Lagana for Quinn (52 mins); S Brien (0-1) for Donnelly (52); N Donnelly for C Conroy (57); N Connolly for Keane (59); C Brien for M Conroy (60)

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The best of not only the West but of All-Ireland

They love GAA in this part of the wood as team captain Brenda Hanney explained. "I have always loved Gaelic Games; you really would need to be careful coming into our house as you could trip over a hurley fairly handy," quipped Brenda. "My sister Niamh is also on the team she plays in the full back line. It's great sharing this whole experience with her, our younger brothers Kevin and David have been giving us lots of support and advice. Kevin was on the under 14's and under 12's hurling team that won county medals with Killimor this year, so there has been great celebration in our house."

Brenda is not the only one who could draw strength from her sister as the team has two more sets of sisters, Martina and Claire Conroy and Karen and Serena Brien, who are daughters of team selector Vinnie Brien.

ALL-IRELAND JOY FOR KILLIMOR CAMOGGS



Killimor - All-Ireland club champions 2011

What an incredible few months it has been for Killimor who, after capturing their first county senior camogie title last October, became only the fifth Galway club to lift the All-Ireland senior club camogie crown on March 6 last at Croke Park.

From humble beginnings 18 years ago Killimor now sit proudly at the top of club camogie's pecking order. Following in the footsteps of Oranmore and Athenry in the 1970s, and Mullagh and Pearces in the 1990s, they became Galway's latest All-Ireland champions with an emphatic 3-18 to 1-4 victory over Cork and Munster champions Inniscarra.

"We had never come out of the county before, let alone win an All-Ireland final," Killimor's new chairperson Deirdre Watson says excitedly.

"We could have rested on our laurels after finally winning our first county title, but the girls knew one more win would take them into an All-Ireland final which came with the added bonus of being played in Croke Park this year. We managed to get home by a point against a much-fancied Oulart-the-Ballagh in the All-Ireland semi-final before

producing a marvellous performance in the All-Ireland final.

"To win by such a big margin was almost surreal. We were expecting a close battle, but it didn't turn out that way and we were able to enjoy the occasion more."

For someone like Deirdre, who has been involved with Killimor through thick and thin, the All-Ireland success was a dream come true.

"I remember the bad old days when we were a junior 'B' club and none of the senior teams in Galway would even give us a challenge match," she says.

"We've only been up senior seven years, but we've made great strides in that time and were unlucky not to make the breakthrough sooner. We had some great battles with Athenry, but they always seemed to get the better of us, including in the 2009 county final. But we finally got that monkey off our back in last year's county semi-final and never looked back after that."

Under the management of Tommy Callagy and his selectors Annette Porter, Vinny Brien and Pauline Mitchell, Killimor showed their intent by comfortably emerging from

Killimor took Croke Park by storm recently when they claimed their first All-Ireland senior club camogie title at the expense of Cork side Inniscarra. Here, Killimor's new chairperson and outgoing PRO Deirdre Watson shares her recollections on the Galway club's historic Bill Carroll Cup success.



a group consisting of Killimordaly, Kinvara, Ahascragh and Pearces to qualify for a semi-final joust with old rivals Athenry. Bidding for their fifth county championship on the trot, Athenry looked set to inflict more pain on their East Galway opponents before Lorraine Donnelly struck a late goal to give Killimor a dramatic 3-5 to 2-5 victory.

In the county final at Loughrea, Killimor were once again forced to come from behind to claim an historic 3-7 to 2-7 victory at Mullagh's expense. Mullagh, who were last crowned senior champions in 1995, took an early lead through Rachel Monaghan before three Martina Conroy frees gave Killimor a two-point advantage by the 10th minute.

However, Mullagh hit back with a goal from Cathy Bowes which helped them to a 1-4 to 0-5 lead at the interval.

Within 10 seconds of the restart, Donnelly had Killimor in front again when she swept home their first goal. Monaghan levelled matters a minute later, but two goals in quick succession from Susan Keane and Martina Conroy inside the last 10 minutes put Killimor firmly in the driving seat. When Allison Clarke pulled back a goal for Mullagh

to reduce the deficit to two points, Killimor suddenly found themselves under pressure again, but they were not to be denied with a late point from Keane sealing their maiden Catherine Donnellan Cup success.

"We were much more nervous against Mullagh than we were against Athenry. After finally beating Athenry, all the pressure was on us. It was a case of 'now or never'. Thankfully, we got the goals at the right time and won our first county title," Deirdre fondly recalls.

With no Connacht championship, Killimor had a long layoff before they faced Oulart-the-Ballagh in the All-Ireland semi-final at Duggan Park in Ballinasloe early in the New Year. They continued to train hard over the winter months under Toomevara native and Galway senior team trainer Bertie Sherlock, whose services they had secured for the All-Ireland campaign. And the hard work paid off when they edged out the star-studded Wexford and Leinster champions on a 0-9 to 0-8 scoreline.

Given the heavy underfoot conditions, scores were always going to be difficult to come by. Killimor led by 0-5 to 0-4 at half-time with Martina Conroy accounting for 0-3 of

COLERAINE CAMOGS REACH PROMISED LAND



Eoghan Rua, Coleraine recently wrote themselves into the history books by becoming the inaugural All-Ireland club camogie intermediate champions at Croke Park – a success that delighted their manager Joe Passmore.

When Eoghan Rua shocked traditional giants Ballinderry to capture the Derry SFC for the first time last October, their supporters thought things couldn't get any better. But how wrong they were!

On March 6 last at Croke Park, the club's all-conquering camogie team defeated The Harps of Laois by 3-8 to 2-3 to become the first ever winners of the All-Ireland club intermediate championship. It was a joyous occasion for

the Coleraine camogs who have only been in existence since 2000, but have come on in leaps and bounds since winning a county intermediate championship in 2006.

"This is huge for our club," Eoghan Rua's inspirational manager Joe Passmore proudly states.

"After winning our first senior football championship last year, this was the icing on the cake. A big incentive for us going down to Croke Park was to make amends for our



Eoghan Rua celebrate their All-Ireland success at Croke Park

footballers' loss to Ardfer of Kerry in the 2007 All-Ireland club intermediate final. We were determined to come home with the cup and thankfully that's how it turned out.

"It was an unbelievable experience. There were 4,000 people at the final and I'd say the majority of them were from Coleraine. It was great to see so many familiar faces joining the celebrations on the pitch afterwards."

Passmore, who has overseen Eoghan Rua's steady progression since 2006 and was assisted in the management duties by club chairman Brendan McLernon and Mary Connolly – who won an All-Ireland senior medal with Antrim in 1979 – has nothing but praise for his players.

"The great thing about these girls is that they are 100 per

cent committed," he says.

"They will do whatever it takes to be successful. Even when we gave them six weeks off after we found out last October that the All-Ireland series had been deferred until after Christmas to accommodate the final being played in Croke Park, they still trained away on their own."

"With the weather being so bad over the Christmas period, we were forced to train on the beach in Portstewart. We were down there on St. Stephen's Day when everyone else was digesting the turkey! No matter how cold it was, they always turned up."

"We had four players on the starting team under the age of 17, and another couple among the substitutes. Their

free in the ninth minute. Another McGoldrick free levelled proceedings after 15 minutes before the Derry girls were rocked by the concession of an Aisling Phelan goal. Their response was impressive, however, as points from McMullan and McGoldrick were followed by a brace of goals from McMullan in injury-time which left Coleraine perched on a 2-5 to 1-2 lead at the interval.

Eoghan Rua extended their advantage on the resumption through Grainne McGoldrick. Midway through the second half, The Harps were handed a lifeline when Joan Dollard netted after Eoghan Rua had failed to clear their lines, and Elaine Mahony sent over a 20-metre free to reduce the deficit to just four points.

As the pressure continued to grow on the Coleraine defence, McGoldrick lifted the siege with a long-range point as the game ticked into added time. Then, rather fittingly, Grace McMullan – who is a sister of selector Mary Connolly – completed her hat-trick to ensure that the inaugural Agnes O'Farrelly Cup would be returning to Paire Eoghain Rua.

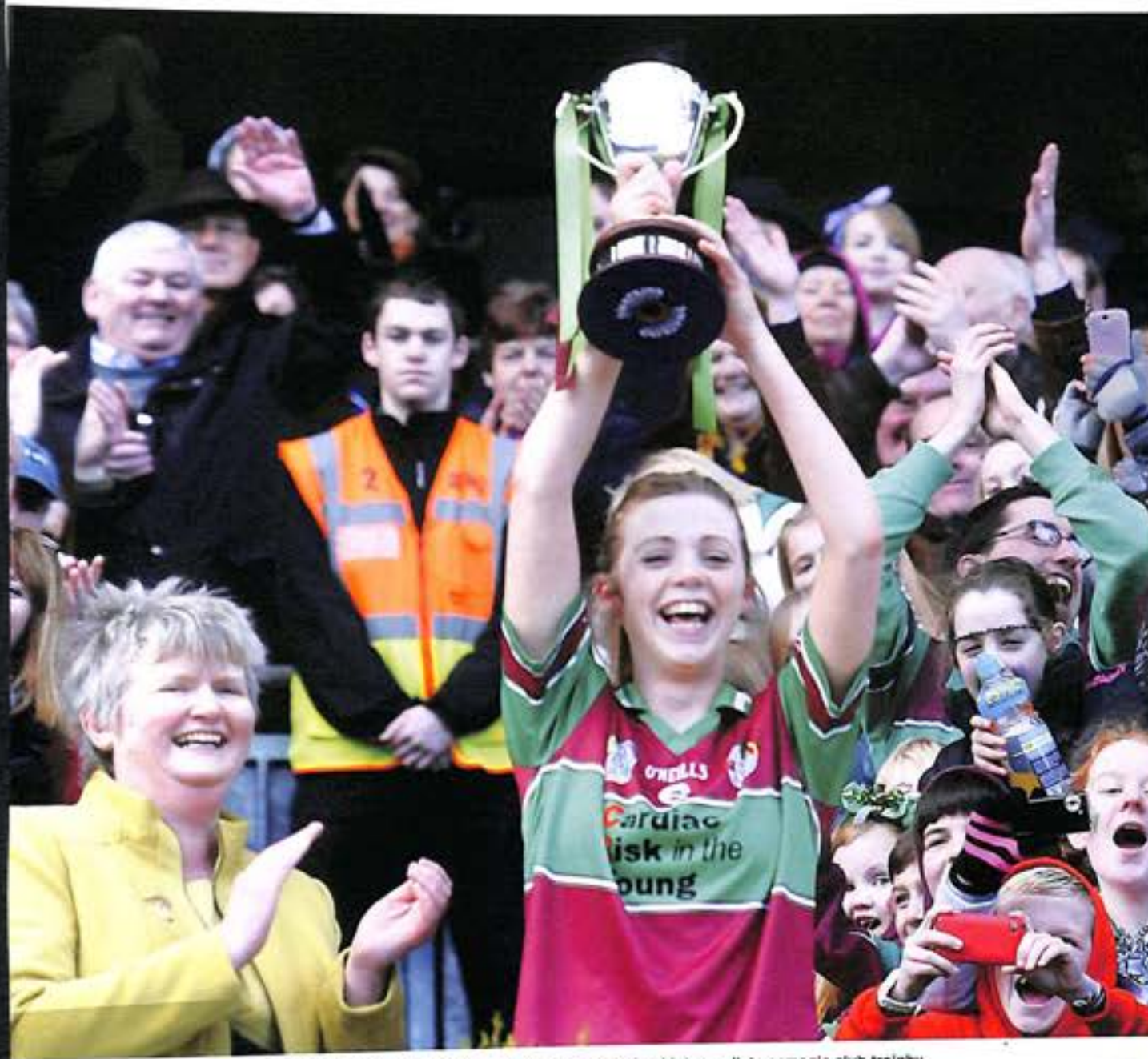
"Grace is lethal in front of goal and she showed it in the All-Ireland final," Joe Passmore enthuses.

"I was in Croke Park to see Tipperary's Lar Corbett score his hat-trick in last year's All-Ireland hurling final and he would have been proud of Grace's performance. She has been a tremendous asset to us since joining us from Loughgiel Shamrocks a few years back."

As All-Ireland champions, the Eoghan Rua manager admits his charges will be the team everyone else in Derry will want to be beat this year, but is confident they can cope with their new-found fame and status.

"We're there to be knocked now. The same clubs who cheered us on in Croke Park will be out to beat us. But these girls have shown their quality and won't be beaten easily. We'll take each game as it comes and see where it takes us," he concludes.

Eoghan Rua's All-Ireland club camogie intermediate championship winning team was: Aileen Moore; Aishling Carey, Kelly Maybin, Maureen Heneghan; Éilis McNamee, Méabh McGoldrick, (captain), Maria Mooney; Megan Kerr, Jane Carey; Maeve Dillon, Grainne McGoldrick, Sinead Boyle; Hannah Eastwood, Grace McMullan, Rosanna McAleese. Subs used: Katie Mullan and Adelle Archibald.



Eoghan Rua's Éilis McNamee raises the All-Ireland intermediate camogie club trophy

ARP. 2011



It's Croke Park and it's Killimor's day as Brenda Hanney raises the All-Ireland senior camogie club trophy



their tally. It remained close after the restart, but points from Conroy, Brenda Hanney, Emer Herbert and Susan Keane were enough to give the home side victory by the narrowest of margins.

In contrast to the Mullagh and Oulart-the-Ballagh games, the All-Ireland final against Inniscarra was a one-sided affair, which Killimor dominated from start to finish. Inniscarra had been involved in three draws en route to the final, but they looked anything but battle-hardened as Tommy Callaghy's charges ran them ragged.

Before a larger than expected attendance of 4,724, Killimor flew out of the traps with Claire Conroy, Martina Conroy (two) and Susan Keane posting early points. Helen Quinn's 17th minute goal had made it 1-4 to 0-0 before Niamh Dilworth finally got Inniscarra off the mark with a 23rd minute pointed free. But Lorraine Donnelly goaled at opposite end directly from the puck-out to give the Galway girls a commanding 2-4 to 0-1 lead at the break.

On the resumption, Killimor tagged on five points through Keane, Martina Conroy and Brendan Hanney to just two in



The journey of Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. presents a set of gear bags to members of the Corofin camogie club

THE CAMOGIE GIRLS AND QUARRY MEN

The Corofin camogie club lifted Clare and Munster titles in 2010. Hogan Stand spoke to team captain Aislinn Kelleher and club sponsor Martin Tierney of Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd.

While much of the country was entering the grip of the Big Freeze in late November, a dip in temperatures which saw the sporting landscape go into a period of extended hibernation, not all fixtures fell by the wayside.

The girls of Roscommon's Four Roads club and Corofin of Clare met in Ballinasloe – the game had been scheduled for Athenry but was switched due to the effects of the sub-zero conditions – in the All-Ireland junior camogie final.

It was the culmination of a long year's play for both clubs and unfortunately for Corofin, things didn't go their way on the day, with Four Roads coming out on top by six points.

The game marked an end to a long 2010, which saw Corofin claim Clare intermediate and Munster junior titles in impressive fashion. They came up against Truagh/Clonlara in the county decider and the result never looked on doubt as they assembled an early lead through goals from Claire Commene and Aoife Davoren and tagged on a series of points after the break for a 2-8 to 0-4 victory.

Aislinn Kelleher captained the side during the year, and she admits that they were gunning for county championship

glory given the events of previous years. "We had been in the previous two county finals and lost them both narrowly, so our aim for the whole year was to win the county final," she says. "But even that was a struggle – we had a couple of very close games before we got to the final, but when we got there we were so determined that we weren't going to be beaten and that was that."

Cappoquin of Waterford provided the opposition in the provincial final and again Corofin proved far too strong with a fine second half display. Claire Commene was again the source of plenty of scores, with eight points to her credit, while Caitriona McMahon and Aislinn hit the net in their side's 2-12 to 1-4 victory.

"We didn't mind what happened after winning the county final," says Aislinn, "but the way it turned out we went straight into a Munster final. We were fairly lackadaisical in the first half but we were only down a point at half-time and we said to ourselves, 'Listen, we've a great chance of winning this'. We upped our game then, played well in the second half and managed to win."

Tir na nOg of Antrim were next up in the All-Ireland semi-



The huddle ... the Corofin girls engage in the final preparation for their Clare intermediate camogie final against Truagh/Clonlara



Mulreann Kelleher of Corofin under pressure against Cappoquin



The girls on the weigh-bridge at Ryan's quarry at Toonagh as part of a sponsorship fundraising drive for the team



final in mid-November, and goals again proved the key for Corofin as they made the most of home advantage to win by 2-10 to 1-8, with the dazzling Commans contributing 2-9 of the winners' total. The run eventually came to an end against Four Roads, but nevertheless, everyone in Corofin can be proud of their achievements over the past 12 months.

"The semi-final was great because it was played in our own club and we had great support there on the day. The All-Ireland final, when it was played, probably shouldn't have gone ahead on the day. Every other day was cancelled with snow and frost. It was moved from Athenry to Ballinasloe and there was a patch on the field under the stand which was practically frozen - it was very dangerous, but the game still went ahead. But fair play to Four Roads, they had been in an All-Ireland before and had lost it, and that experience stood to them. We didn't play to our potential, maybe players were nervous, but to get that far was a fantastic achievement."

The club's sponsor is Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd., the long-standing quarry company based around eight kilometres from the town of Ennis and five kilometres outside Corofin on the Corofin-Lisdoonvarna road.

"I was approached by a couple of the ladies in the club, including Ramona Gleeson, about getting involved and I was happy to do so," says Martin Tierney, Director and General Manager of Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. "The Corofin camogie club are local here, and I know a number of people involved, so it was good to be able to give them a bit of sponsorship."

Martin may not be a partisan follower of Gaelic games and the Banner, but he attends some of the big local matches and the company's links with the Corofin club have been timed perfectly.

"It only came about over the last five or six months," he says, "and it's worked out well. The ladies have had a great time of it in that time, winning the Clare and Munster titles and representing the area so well at All-Ireland level. It's great to be associated with them."

With more than 50 years experience behind the company, Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. has forged a hard-won reputation of excellence in everything it does. Originally established more than half a century ago, Ryan

Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. was taken over by Roadstone Provinces in 1996.

While Roadstone Wood remains at the top of the hierarchy, Martin Tierney, who has been with Ryans since the early 1970s, is responsible for all its day-to-day operations.

As with any business which relied on the construction sector for a significant proportion of its business, Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. has felt the effects of the economic downturn in recent years.

But it's still keeping things ticking over and with the closure of a nearby competitor in late 2010, there is a possibility that Ryans could pick up some of the resulting slack in Clare.

With 16 direct employees and a number of haulage, maintenance and drilling sub-contractors, Ryan Bros. (Ennis) Ltd. is a significant local employer, specialising in stone products and concrete blocks at its Toonagh Quarry headquarters.

The Company offers a wide range of crushed and graded stone products for road-making, drainage and aggregates for concrete. They manufacture an extensive range of solid and hollow concrete building blocks, including standard, fine textured and high strength blocks. "With the recession and the downturn in business we are actively pursuing other lines of business," says Martin.

Clare County Council has been a major customer of Ryans down the years but with local authority budgets reduced all over the country, other avenues must be explored.

"The County Council is still purchasing a little bit but



Corofin's Brenda O'Donoghue in action against Cappoquin of Waterford in the Munster junior camogie final

Denis: Dublin on right path

APR, 2011

NEXT year Aileen Lawlor will become the president of the Camogie Association. She'll be presenting the O'Duffy Cup for three years. Wouldn't it be marvellous if the Dub could present the trophy to a Dub?

Denis Murphy is not thinking like that. He prefers the little steps. Dublin continue to be very much a work in progress.

And the county chief will continue to be pleased if they can keep on making milestones, or even half-milestones.

"We know we have a long way to go," he said. "If we can keep on improving as spring turns into summer, we'll be happy with that."

Before their All-Ireland journey begins, Dublin have Leinster Championship business to attend to. They play Offaly in the semi-final.

INSPIRATIONAL

Offaly are a role model. They have moved steadily up the rankings. Joachim Kelly has been an inspirational leader.

And the faithful favourite is not finished yet. Earlier this season, Offaly welcomed the All-Ireland champions, Wexford, to Birr. They gave a decent account of themselves. It was a measure of their advancement.

Denis also wants to see Dublin climb the stairs, slowly but surely. He has always insisted that the league would be used to sharpen the stride and the touch for championship.

The effort in their final league tie against Tipperary cheered him. "We were competitive against Tipp," he said. "There was a big improvement there. I'm not saying it was great,

but it was better. Now the thing is to build on that."

Denis stresses that performing the basics well under pressure is what it's all about.

You can only acquire that from playing the top teams.

Getting used to the electric pace and performing well in it is what makes teams successful.

"We need to be playing at the



SMALL STEPS Dublin senior camogie manager Denis Murphy - pictured here (c) with Dublin chairwoman Marie O'Brien and Paul Beecher from sponsors OZO - believes Dublin can make the grade at the very top of the sport, but patience will play a huge part in that process.

top level. Doing the basic skills under the intensity of a fast-paced game is what we need to be doing.

"Players have to be playing at a level that challenges them.

"And the more quality teams the players come up against the better.

"Anything that helps to raise the standards has to be encouraged.

"Be it at club, college or county

level. The more good sides that Dublin camogie teams can play the better."

Following the league campaign, the Dublin management have freshened up the squad by bringing in a cluster of talented minors.

"We'll stick at it. Offaly in the Leinster Championship is our next target now," states Denis.



Miriam Crowley factfile



AGE: 23.

LIVES: Bishopstown.

Family: Parents, Tim and Eileen, sisters, Julie and Orla and brother, Barry.

OCCUPATION: Currently studying dentistry at UCC.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN HOCKEY: Munster junior and senior cups and Kate Russell winner with Mount Mercy.

Examiner Cup and Munster Senior Cup and intervarsity title with UCC.

Division Two league title with Belvedere.

Capped at U16, Ireland A and senior level and is a member of the squad preparing to the Olympic qualifiers.

CAMOGIE ACHIEVEMENTS: U16 Munster and All-Ireland medals with Cork.

U18 Munster medal with Cork. Division One league title and inter-varsity winner with UCC.



senior. But then that will come as no great surprise to anyone who knows her well as her father is former Cork hurler, Tim Crowley, and like her sisters, Miriam has followed in his footsteps into the game.

A member of Bishopstown Camogie Club she has represented her county at U16, U18 and intermediate, now called Senior B, level. With Cork she won Munster and All-Ireland medals at U16 level in 2004 and also won a Munster U18 title. Miriam would have been on teams coming up through the ranks with the likes of current senior players Anna Geary, Rhena Buckley and Orla Cotter and earlier this year was asked to join the senior panel. "Unfortunately I couldn't join as I'm

caught up with hockey at the moment but I was honoured to be asked, especially with the players that are currently on the panel. I was gutted to have to say no, but maybe some time in the future I might get another chance."

Miriam has also played camogie with UCC and has won the Division One league title and inter-varsity title, as well as losing out in the Ashbourne Cup final to WIT. Despite her love of camogie, for now hockey is her priority and a small example of her dedication will arise in the next few weeks. Miriam has two exams in June and during them they will be taking part in the Championship Challenge Cup in Dublin. It will mean playing a game on the 19th, coming back to Cork that night and sitting an exam the following day, before returning to Dublin that evening for the rest of the tournament. With dedication like that Miriam's future in the game can only be bright and for now hockey's gain is camogie's loss.

ROSIE'S BOXING CLEVER FOR THE BREFFNI

Crowe up for the fight



FRIENDLY RIVALRY: Cavan's Rosie Crowe and Aisling Conaty of Westmeath who will meet in the Division 4 Final

■ **KARL O'KANE** reports

CAVAN camogie player Rosie Crowe will box for cystic fibrosis tonight, less than 24 hours before she will line out in the Irish Daily Star Division 4 Final against Westmeath.

Crowe is in peak physical conditions after training for eight weeks — two nights a week — for her boxing debut.

"It'll kind of help me on the day hopefully," said Crowe.

"It's not too bad there's another girl who plays on Sunday too. We're thinking of maybe boxing each other so we won't hurt each other with the final the next day."

"We've gum shields made, everything, and we're going home early."

The serious business begins at Ashbourne tomorrow and with the long serving Marie Brady driving them on Cavan have a big chance.

They've had some impressive results this year, beating Tyrone by 4-10 to 2-6 at Breffni Park back in February.

Effort

Crowe said: "We are looking forward to it a lot. We've worked so hard for it, won most of our games so far, just Westmeath beat us two weeks ago. Hopefully we will get them back in the final."

The hard work put in this year is starting to pay off. "Colm McEvoy, our manager, and Margaret Carroll are making a big effort for it, and the girls can see that," said Crowe.

"Cavan have worked very hard, girls coming up two nights a week from Dublin and you would never have seen that before. They are in the final, so they know it's there to be won."

Favourites, Westmeath, are looking to go one step better than the past two seasons.

Kildare edged them out by three points in 2009, while last year Tyrone beat them by nine points.

They turned that disappointment around earlier this month in Collinstown when having a goal to spare over Tyrone at the end of a thrilling encounter.

Prior to that, Westmeath got their campaign under way with a one-goal victory over Cavan at 3G Breffni Park and they are sure to draw on the mem-

ory of that successful journey in the build up to the decider.

Meanwhile in the Division 3 decider, Kildare are the team to watch having won the Leinster championship as well as the All-Ireland Junior A title last year.

Tom O'Mahoney's charges have kept that going this year, following up a battling opening round defeat of Armagh with comfortable successes against Roscommon and Dublin.

Meath beat the same side before coming out on top in a phony war against Kildare, with both sides having already qualified for the final.

However, the result did mark the end of a 13 match unbeaten run for Kildare.

Meath have numerous talented operators in their ranks, including the deadly Jane Dolan, Louise Donoghue, Edel Guy and Fiona O'Neill.

Regina Gorman was the Lilies' Soaring Star representative last season but in Susie O'Carroll and Róisín O'Connell they possess a very real scoring threat.

DIVISION 3 FINAL
Kildare v Meath
 Ashbourne, Sun, 3.0

CAMOGIE NATIONAL LEAGUE FINALS

DIVISION 4 FINAL
Cavan v Westmeath
 Ashbourne, Sun, 1.0



WHAT THEY'RE PLAYING FOR: Sports Editor Eoin Brannigan and Camogie Association President Joan O'Flynn with stars of the Irish Daily Star National Camogie League Finals at Croke Park

Tipp almost snatch it with three late goals

Cork 3-9
Tipperary 3-9

CAMOGIE

A LAPSE in concentration almost cost Cork but they just about hung on to earn a replay after they allowed a Tipperary side that looked dead and buried back into this All-Ireland U16A semi-final in Kilmallock on Saturday. **writes MARY NEWMAN.**

Eleven minutes into the second half Cork led by 10 points and they looked to have their place in the final secured, but showing great courage and determination, Tipperary fought back with three goals in as many minutes and in

the finish it was Cork who were glad to be still in contention.

Cork got a dream start with full-forward Linda Collins grabbing two goals inside the opening five minutes after Jenny Grace had opened the Tipp account with an early point.

Despite Tipp pressure, Cork held their advantage and as the sides traded points, it was 2-3 to 0-5 at the break in Cork's favour.

A focused Cork added to their tally with points from Claire Shine and Orla Cronin before Cronin's ground shot put Cork 3-7 to 0-6 ahead and there looked

to be no way back for Tipp.

Tipp showed tremendous character as they rallied in superb fashion, led by the excellent Tara Kennedy, who pointed a free before sending the ball to the net from a close-in free.

Sensing hesitance in the Cork defence, Tipp began to play a running game. Twice in as minute they grabbed goals, Tara Kennedy and Cliona Ryan were allowed the freedom to sail past several Cork defenders unchallenged before finishing to the net.

Cork didn't panic and Orla Cronin pointed two free to restore their lead.

Tipp again threatened but this time the Cork defence didn't allow Tipp run

at them as they conceded a free which Kennedy duly converted, three minutes into injury time. Leah McKeogh hit the equaliser to ensure another day out.

Scorers for Cork: O Cronin 1-6 (0-5f), L Collins 2-1, C Shine 0-2.

Tipperary: T Kennedy 2-4 (1-2f), C Ryan 1-3 (0-3f), J Grace 1, Mc Keogh 0-1 each.

CORK: K Lee; R Harrington, O' Driscoll, S O'Leary; G Sheehy, S Hutchinson, L Murphy; R O'Callaghan, J Hosford; C Murphy, O Cronin, J Hennigan; C Sexton, L Collins, C Shine.

Subs: E Kavanagh for G Sheehy (36), A O'Connor for C Murphy (36).

TIPPERARY: S Coonan; J A Burke, J Logue, A Morris; C Walsh, A Eviston, L Loughnane; C Maher, R Hanifin; M Ryan, M Teehan, T Kennedy; C Ryan, J Grace, E O'Dwyer, Subs: E Murphy for E O'Dwyer (30), L Mc Keogh for M Ryan (41), G McKenna for R Hanifin (46).

Referee: John Dolan (Clare).

Cork seek the Munster title against Clare

By MARY NEWMAN

MONDAY
Munster Minor final
Cork v Clare,
Ballincollig 6pm.

LITTLE has separated Cork and Clare at minor level over the last few seasons and we can expect another close contest when the sides meet in Ballincollig on Easter Monday evening to decide the destination of the Munster Minor championship crown for 2011.

Played on a separate basis to the open draw All-Ireland championship the playing of the provincial competition before the All Ireland series has for the last two years proved a big success as it enables counties organise their panels and get competitive games under the belts before the big games arrive. In the next few weeks preparations will be somewhat curtailed as exams take centre stage and then it's straight into championship action the last weekend in June.

Last weekend Cork defeated Limerick as they advanced to the final and it was a game where they were put to the pin of their collars for long periods by a physically strong Limerick side and while Cork were comfortable winners in the end they did not look overly impressive and a lot of gaps were exposed by a Limerick side that could have been nearer that the scoreline of 1-10 to 1-3 suggests. Clare had a 1-17 top 2-9 victory over a strong Tipperary side and they will fancy their chances against Cork.

Eileen Horgan, Suzie O'Shea, Niki Kaiser and Susan Fahy and Laura McMahon were among the players who impressed in that outing while Chloe Morey was again unerring from frees contributing seven points to Clare's impressive tally of 17.

Cork will have benefited from their outing against Limerick and the game will have helped the side settle, they had good performances from Katie Buckley and Laura Burke up front but with just two other players on target Finola Neville and Emma Coakley. Cork will be looking for a bigger contribution from their entire forward division against a stronger Clare defence.

Kay Dunne, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, receives her Civic Award from the Lord Mayor, Cllr Michael O'Connell, at City Hall recently.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Code of Ethics Workshop in Fermoy

CLUB mentors who are interested in attending a Code of Ethics/Basic Awareness workshop can book for the course to be held in Fermoy on May 18 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Places are available but are limited to 16 participants. Club members who are interested should complete an application form and return to €15 to secure your place.

A Children's Officer Course will take place in Ballincollig on June 21-22 and again this course is limited to 16 participants. The above course will run over two nights from 6.30pm to 9.30pm each night.

Club members who might be interested should complete application form and return with €20 to secure your place. All Participants should be at least 18-years-of-age and have completed the above named Code of Ethics/Basic Awareness at least four months previous. Registration

CAMOGIE RESULTS

LEAGUE games continued in all grades with the summer-like weather ensuring plenty of action on the playing fields.

Each week our results section features the results from Senior down to U14 and you can follow the fortunes of your club from week-to-week.

With the Senior and Intermediate leagues nearing their completion dates next week we will take a look at who is doing well and what clubs are likely semi-final contenders. Again it is up to you the clubs to get your results to us at results@camogie.com.

Senior League: Ballygarvan 3-8 Rockban 1-4; Ballygarvan 5-12, St Finbarr's 2-7; Ballincollig 4-7 Courcy Rovers 0-6; Killeagh 6-4 Courcy Rovers 3-10; Courcy Rovers 2-8 Douglas 1-8; Ballincollig 4-7

Courcy Rovers 0-6.
Senior B League: Glen Rovers 4-6 Éire g 2-2; Mallow 3-18 Bishopstown 2-4; Valley Rovers 3-11 Bishopstown 1-1.

Intermediate League: Fr O'Neill's 2-8 Ballyhea 0-10; Aghabullogue 2-6 Carrigaline 2-5; Tracton 5-8 Sarsfields 2-5.

Junior B League: Na Piarasigh 1-8 Ballincollig 1-4.

Junior C League: Cobh 5-4 Ballinora 1-2; Cobh 1-7 Charleville 1-3; Bride Rovers 3-12 Passage 1-1 St Vincent's 3-1; St Fanahan's 1-6.

U16 B League: Carrigrohilly 3-8 Mallow 1-10; Bride Rovers 1-3 Dungourney 1-2; Kilbrittan / Timoleague 6-9 Tracton 4-1.

U16 C League: Sarsfields 2-3 3-9 Milford 2-4

U14A League: St Vincent's 1-10 Valley Rovers 3-2; Kilbrittan/Timoleague 4-01

Douglas 4-0; Sarsfields 4-4 Éire Og 2-1; Kilbrittan/Timoleague 4-03 Ballinacorney 3-01

U14 B League: Ballincollig 8-3 Sliabh Rua 1-1; Na Piarasigh 2-7 Bishopstown 1-4; Cloughduv 5-4 Mallow 2-1; Glen Rovers 6-11 Buttevant 2-1.

U14 C League: Sarsfields 2-2 2-4 Passage 1-4; Bride Rovers 2-1 Sars' 1-0.

forms can be downloaded directly from the website at www.corksports.ie and they can be post them together with a

cheque/postal order to the sports partnership offices at Yeats House, Barrack Square, Ballincollig, Co Cork.



ELIMINATING any type of referee abuse is high on the agenda of any sporting organisation.

I rarely attend games where there isn't some degree of shouting at the referee and most of the time it's coming from the sidelines or the stand. It's not always abusive by any means but it's there all the same. In many cases the attack starts with the mentors on the line which antagonises the players and encourages them to also 'have a go' at the ref.

In a bid to discourage any dissent mandatory penalties were introduced at congress recently for the following:

- Persistent dissent by a player or team official towards a referee's decision.

- Abusive language towards a referee, match official or other players.

To be fair, in camogie there is rarely abusive language used. It's more persistent dissent which occurs. Normally a ref will just bring the ball forward and award the free from a more lucrative position but from here on players will need to be careful.

In addition further mandatory penalties were introduced for:

- Punching, hitting without a hurley, or kicking a player.

- Kicking, hitting or striking of a match official by a player or team mentor or known partisan.

- Striking a player with a hurley.

The penalties range from two match bans to six depending on the offence or a maximum of 48 weeks suspensions. Some bans are competition specific and all carry over from one season to the next until the ban is fully served.

Pretty severe penalties but once players and mentors are aware of them they can have no excuse. There

BRIAN DILLON'S

OUR Junior A Team travelled to Buttevant where the hosts won out on a scoreline of 1-6 to 0-1 we competed very well with an under strength team with Donna Carroll and Gillian O'Connell playing well for us.

Panel: Saoirse Rodgers, Pam Lynch, Anthea Dorgan, Kate O'Brien, Rebecca Myers, Amanda Dorgan, Sarah Cotter, Donna Carroll, Theresa Drummond, Emer Keane, Lucy Bradfield, Emma Lane, Emma Burns, Rebecca O'Mahoney, Gillian O'Connell, Tracey Walsh.

Our U12 team took part in the Go Games in Bishopstown where we were joined by St Vincent's, Passage, and Bishopstown who took part in a feast of camogie.

Team: Molly O'Riordan, Emma Bradfield, Anna Myers, Eve O'Connor, Alice O'Connor, Hannah Roach, Mary O'Sullivan, Aoife Daly, Fia Carey-Hurley.

Training at usual times, new and members welcome.

FR O'NEILL'S

We hosted a section of Féile on Sunday last where we had visiting teams from Inniscarra, Ballincollig, Newtownshandrum, Ballincollig and Carrigrohilly. We played Courcy Rovers in the Féile county semi-final on Wednesday in Ballinacorney however, it wasn't our night and a stronger Courcy Rovers ran out winners. Our intermediate team at Ballyhea won 2-8 to 1-0.

DOUGLAS

Pan Celtic: Good Luck to all our U16 girls and their coaches who are travelling to Dingle next weekend for the Pan Celtic camogie competition.

Féile na nGael: We got off to a good start in our first game and continued to play well as

we ran out winners on a scoreline of 6-3 to 0-2. In the second game Sarsfields provided the opposition. This game was neck and neck the whole way through, however, Sarsfields finished the stronger and tapped over two points to win 1-4 to 1-2.

Senior: Our second league game saw us take on Inniscarra. We started brightly and were 0-3 to 0-1 up after seven minutes. The sides were level at four points each after 15 minutes before Jenny O'Donovan scored a well taken goal from a Shannon Dempsey pass. At half time it stood at 1-9 to 0-6 in our favour.

On the resumption we added a second goal from Amanda O'Regan, Claire Shine began to exert some influence with some fine runs and also got on the scoresheet, Emma Kavanagh also added a point to win 1-16 to 0-10.

We met Courcy Rovers in our next game without a number of our established players due to Cork duties. Sinead Duggan finished to the net for an early goal and our defence was performing well with Theresa Maher and Leanne O'Shea in good form. At half time we trailed by two points and in the finish Courcy's grabbed a late goal to run out winners. Our next game is away to Ballincollig tomorrow at 11:30am this is for league points and the final of the Ballincollig tournament, our last league game is Friday 29 in the Community School at 7pm against Cloughduv.

NA PIARSAIGH

Last Saturday was the fourth and final round of the U10 and U8 Go Game Blitz a huge thanks to the mentors involved from all four clubs who ensured the success of these underage games. Our Easter camp took place this week with 85 girls taking part, well done to Catherine Allen, Natalie Kelly, Lorraine

Kelly, Patrice Kearney and Diane O'Regan for looking after all the girls and ensuring everyone enjoyed the camp.

Our U14 team took part in the Féile held in Brinny but unfortunately the day was not a success for us, this is a very young team with most girls still U14 for another two years however on Tuesday night in the league we beat Bishopstown 2-7 to 1-4.

Our junior team had a second win in the league when they held off Ballincollig by 1-8 to 1-4 and today we are in Waterford taking part in a 7-a-side junior memorial cup. Congratulations to both Erin McElhinney and Aisling Hannon for their county final win with their schools.

COURCY ROVERS

We hosted the Féile na nGael qualifier last weekend with only one team progressing to the semi-final. Kilbrittan and Courcy's came through their sections to battle it out in the final game. Our girls played their hearts out and by close marking and intense pressure on the Kilbrittan goal eventually the scores came and we came out the victors.

Team: Sarah Collins, Clodagh O'Donovan, Abbie Jeffery, Rachel Collins, Clara Mulcahy, Sinead Keating, Rosie Murphy, Elaine O'Reilly, Niamh Twomey, Alison Condon, Emer O'Reilly, Alex Jeffery, Finola Moloney, Hannah Quinn, Gráinne Hannon, Kerri Anne O'Reilly, Aidene O'Mahony, Deirdre O'Reilly, Jeanie Murphy, Cornelia O'Reilly, Clare Cummins.

ST COLUM'S

Last weekend marked a very special occasion as the Club was fortunate to host Paudie Butler, GAA National Hurling co-ordinator on his last weekend in that role. Paudie spent Friday

Camogie club news,

evening with our U12s and Saturday morning with our U10s while he also made himself available to the main club working with their similar age groups.

This was without a doubt a one man hurling roadshow the children were enthralled throughout ready with huris in hand soaking up his hurling wisdom. Particular thanks must go to Tony Coppinger our Coaching Officer who through our great friend, Eamonn Ryan himself a multiple All-Ireland winning coach also attended arranged this visit.

ST FINBARR'S

Our Féile team put in a tremendous effort and were very unlucky not to qualify from their section in division 2 where they had two great wins and were unlucky to be beaten by a single point in their third game. They did themselves, their mentors Michael Ryan, Toinette Santry, Colette McCarthy, Paul McCarthy and their Club proud on the day.

Panel: Toni Cotter, Neidin Carroll, Lorraine Sweeney, Katie Lynan, Karen Santry, Aoife Hallahan, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Erin Ryan, Aisling Shannon, Orla McCarthy (cl), Keeva McCarty, Clara Keating, Cilona O'Brien, Gráinne, Cahalane, Saoirse Noonan, Chloe Madden, Ria Mullane, Chloe Cotter, Roisin McArtain, Laura O'Donovan, Lauren McCarthy.

ST VINCENT'S

Our Junior C team played their first game recently when they met St Fanahan's where Tracey Homan scored the first goal to put us

on the score sheet, Trudy O'Hallion hit 1-1 with Kim Carroll adding a goal. The final score was St Vincent's 3-1 St Fanahan's 1-6.

Our U14 team travelled to Courcy Rovers for the Féile and our first game was against Kilbrittan which was one of the best game our girls played on the day however we failed to take a victory.

We defeated Brian Dillon's in our second game. Congratulations to St Vincent's school team on winning the school final recently well done to our girls on the panel, Nicole Cress, Dyon Manning, Olivia Dupuy, Abbie O'Mahony, Amanda O'Leary.

Training Times as normal for Easter Holidays.

KILLEAGH

Our U14 League campaign against Douglas saw us eventually come out victors by a goal. **Panel:** C. Motherway, Emma Treacy, Elana Mc Sweeney, Lauren O'Mahoney, Leah McEvoy, Elizabeth Burke, Katherine Mulcahy, Niamh O'Farrell, Amy Benaim, Hannah Looney, Rachel Geary, Katie O'Mahony, Jill Butler, Georgina Cassidy, Lana Merkusheva, S O'Flynn, A Burns, Clodagh Tyrrell and Gemma Hickey.

We were based in Coachford for Féile na nGael and in our first two games we defeated Glen Rovers and Cloughduv this qualified us for the play-off game against Ballinacorney. They were the first to score but in a very hard fought match were level at 2-2 a-piece at half time. After a very physical second half Ballin-

vital for Rebels



Liz O'Mahony, chairperson camogie club, and John O'Leary, chairman GAA club pictured at the recent Brian Dillon's GAA reception at City Hall to mark the end of their centenary celebrations. Picture: Mike English

is a significant difference in a two-match and six-match ban and I would assume the latter three mentioned is what warrants the extensive suspension.

Cork play Clare on May 15 in the Munster final and while Cork will be expected to win, Clare have made good strides in the past number of years and hopefully will give the rebels a good run. In addition Clare are Cork's first opponents when the All-Ireland championship series kicks off on June 11, so this is an opportunity for Cork to determine the threat of the Munster side.

A lot of good signs from Cork last weekend, but equally some areas to work on. Tipperary were weak but it would be unfair to Cork to say that this was the reason for their victory.

There has been significant improvement in the side over the past four weeks; this was more or less the same Tipp side which defeated Cork in the league seven weeks previously.

We picked up two handy goals but realistically they were soft goals which should have been denied by Rita Bourke, who may have been blinded by the sun under the dropping ball.

Cork's Achilles Heel over the past couple of years has been their inability to get goals. Galway put it up to Wexford last Sunday in the National league final but Wexford are the goal-getters and three of them put paid to Galway's challenge, a final score of 3-10 to 0-10 flattering the winners somewhat. What is most

worrying is that we're not creating too many chances.

We have some lovely hurlers up front capable of picking off some nice points but we need a goal poacher, someone who creates something out of nothing or spots half a chance and grabs it. A player like this has goal on their mind every time and a certain cockiness to go with it.

The goal of the year for me last year came at club level. The scorer — Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy.

In their Munster semi final clash she collected the ball about 45 metres out.

With only one thing on her mind, she outran four Burgess defenders at top speed and although forced wide she struck the far corner of the net from an acute angle; giving the keep-

Cork Féile na nGael update

By MARY NEWMAN

HOLDERS Courcy Rovers booked their place in the Cork Féile na nGael final when they recorded a victory over Fr O'Neill's in the semi-final at Ballinlough recently on a score line of 4-7 to 0-2.

The second semi-final saw Éire Og overcome Ballinhassig to advance to the final on Friday next April 29 where the winners will go forward to represent Cork at the national Féile finals.

In the Division 2 semi-final there was a victory for Blackrock over Barryroe and they will meet Cobh in the final as this is a local competition the winners will not be participating at national level as Cork as a senior county are only permitted to participate in Féile Division 1.

er no chance.

It's a long time since I've seen that conviction, that mindset for goal. I miss it to be honest. There's no better talking point after a game than a top-class goal.

Elaine O'Riordan had a great game last weekend in at right corner-back. She did a significant amount of covering and is as tough as nails. She would be equally as effective in any defensive position and I don't think Joe O'Brien has finished experimenting with his back six yet.

Wexford took their third consecutive national league title last Sunday at Galway's expense. In 2010 and 2009 it was Kilkenny and Tipperary respectively who suffered at their hands. Kilkenny defeated Galway in

Go Games format for U12s is a huge hit

By MARY NEWMAN

IT WAS a great weekend of U12 camogie with the new format Go Games getting underway recently at 14 venues throughout the city and county as the first U12 Go-Game Cluster Blitzes were held.

60 clubs participated and one hundred teams were action in what was a huge undertaking to get organised. The county was divided into divisional groups and subsequent into divisional sections with games going ahead either Saturday or Sunday.

The host clubs for the weekends games were Millstreet, Mallow, Kilbrittan, Enniskeane, Sliabh Rua, Ballinhassig, Ballincollig, Inniscarra, Killeagh, Sarsfields, Douglas, Bishopstown St Vincent's and Fr O'Neill's and the Blitzes were played on either Saturday or Sunday.

Most of the referees were young under age players who had completed a Go Games refereeing course and it is hoped that many of these will go on to referee in the county competitions. Getting the new structure up and running has been a huge undertaking and the divisional coordinators made sure that the weekend was a successful one.

Round two of the blitzes will take place on the weekend of May 7/8 at venues through the city and county to be announced.

the 2008 final. Cork hasn't contested a national league final in four years. That wasn't too much of a concern when the All-Ireland titles were coming.

Dungourney in the U16 B League 1-3 to 1-2. Intercounty: Jennifer Barry came on as a second half sub for the Cork's minor team who recorded a 1-10 to 1-3 win over Limerick recently well done on the victory.

VALLEY ROVERS

U14: Our U14 team took part in the Féile blitz over the weekend in Brinny, with six teams taking part Douglas, Sarsfields, Na Piarasigh, Éire Og, Carrigaline and Valley Rovers. In our section were Carrigaline and Éire Og. In the opening game we played Carrigaline and won on a score line of 2-1 to 1-0. In the second match we played Éire Og but unfortunately were beaten by the better team.

Panel: Elaine Hallahan, Kate O'Mahony, Casey O'Sullivan, Maeve O'Brien, Michelle Cottrell, Jennifer Murphy, Katie Lynch, Róisín O'Regan, Chloe O'Halloran, Lisa Lynch, Mairéad Murphy, Clara Murphy, Sarah Murphy, Rachel O'Sullivan, Aileen Cremin, Cathy O'Donovan, Eimear Wall.

Senior B: We travelled to Bishopstown to play our third Senior B League match and came away with the points, 3-11 to 1-1.

Team: Gillian Harrington, Annemarie Murphy, Sinead O'Shea, Adele Looney, Éna Coughlan, Elaine Burke, Claire Ryan, Aoife Cummins, Aine Coughlan, Liz Bugler, Majella McCarthy, Eileen Foley, Elaine Forde, Dolores Crowley, Oragh Ryan. Subs: Clodagh Deasy for Éna Coughlan, Éna Coughlan for Aine Coughlan.

Good luck: Best of luck to Susan O'Leary, Leona Murphy and Aidan Crowley with the Cork U16 team in the All-Ireland semi-final v Tipp today. Good Luck also to Tessa Crowley in the Cork Minor Team to play Clare on Monday.

fixtures and events

hassig emerged eventual winners. **Panel:** Clovea Motherway, Emma Treacy, Elana McSweeney, Katherine Mulcahy, Lauren O'Mahoney, Leah McEvoy, Clodagh Tyrrell, Elizabeth Burke, Niamh O'Farrell, Katie O'Mahony, Jill Butler, Georgina Cassidy, Lana Merkushova, Clara Motherway, S. O'Flynn, Gemma Hickey, Hannah Looney, Rachel Geary and A Burns.

BALLINCOLLIG

We hosted an U9 blitz last weekend where we fielded two teams and we were joined by Cloughduv, St Fanahan's, Sliabh Rua, Ballinhassig, Ballinora and Douglas who had one team each.

Our U10s had an excellent day on Saturday at our annual blitz which was organised by their annual blitz and as always the day ran well with a great day of camogie, fun and refreshments. Douglas, Ballinhassig, Grenagh, Ballinora and Blarney participated and thanks to Johnny Mc and his helpers for organising everything and lining out the pitches.

All the games were very close and the new All-Go-Games rules were adopted and his ensured that all the girls got plenty of touches of the ball. Many thanks to the parents and players who helped on the day and to Eleanor O'Leary who was our Catering Manager for the day ably assisted by Claire Donovan and the day ably assisted by Claire Donovan and the day ably assisted by Claire Donovan.

U14: Our U14 team played Sliabh Rua in their

third league match where we ran out winners 8-3 to 1-1.

U14 Féile 2011: Our first match was against our neighbours Inniscarra where it ended level 0-3 to 1-0, we faced Newtownshandrum in our second game where they had 1-2 on the score board in the first half, the second half saw us score a great goal but Newtownshandrum responded quickly and it finished 2-2 to 1-0 in their favour.

We played Fr O'Neill's in our third game where they led 2-1 at half time, we grabbed a second-half goal to Fr O'Neill's point to leave it 2-2 to 1-0.

We faced Carrigrohilly in the last game we scored three goals in the first half and another three goals and one point in the second half. We would sincerely like to thank Fr O'Neill's for the hospitality. Training will go ahead Sunday, watch out for the text.

U16: Training times for the two weeks of the Easter break will vary players will be notified by text with regards to times.

Junior B: We travelled to Na Piarasigh where the home side ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-8 to 1-4.

Ballincollig credit union tournament final: At last after a number of deferrals our tournament final will take place this weekend when we host Douglas at 11.30am Sunday.

GLEN ROVERS

Underage: Our young U8 and U10s participated in the last of the four club blitz days when

they travelled to St Finbarr's last weekend, an enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks also to our co-ordinator Carol who as always kept everything at our side running smoothly.

U14: Our U14 team had a very enjoyable day at Féile na nGael where they benefited enormously from their two games against Cloughduv and Killeagh where despite losing out they showed plenty of determination. We travelled to Butevant for our second game of the league and here we turned in great display to run out winners. We had great performances from every player with some great score displays from Mikaela Hyde, Donna O'Neill, Nora Murphy, Kelly Falvey, Katie Chisholm, Lorna Hickey and Olivia Harrington as we ran out winners.

Senior: Our senior team travelled to Ovens for their third game in the league and two evenly matched teams battled it out for victory. At half time we led 1-3 to 0-2 Aoife Walsh on target with a goal after good work from Lauren Callanan while Denise Luby was on target with three points. We exchanged an early goal with Éire Og as Denise converted a free before Aoife Walsh with a goal and points from Karen O'Connell and Denise extended our lead. Edel O'Connell had added a goal before Éire Og got one back however it finished 4-6 to 2-2 in our favour. Next Wednesday we travel to Brinny to meet Valley Rovers, throw in is at 7.15pm on Friday next its off to participate in the Pan Celtic Camogie tournament in Dingle on Friday and Saturday.

Juniors: Calling all junior players first game of the league takes place on Monday in Ballincollig at 3pm we need a big turn out of juniors particularly anybody who we have not seen as

yet training. Meet in Glen at 1.45pm for game or be in Ballincollig for 2.30pm

Thanks: Thanks to everybody who supported our Easter Baskit Raffle in the club and to the patrons at our club bingo.

Good luck: Best wishes to the Cork U16s team who contest the All-Ireland semi-final today in Kilmallock at 3pm and to Jennifer Hosford and Kaylenn Lee, our girls on the team, good luck also to Leann O'Sullivan and the Cork minor team who play Clare in the Munster final on Monday at 3pm in Coshford.

Fixtures: Monday Junior league v Ballincollig in Ballincollig players meet in Glen at 1.45pm; Tuesday U16 league v Barryroe in Glen Field players meet at 6.30pm; Wed Senior League in Brinny players to meet in Glen at 5.45pm or be in Brinny or 6.30pm.

Congratulations: Congratulations to senior player Aileen Guiton on her engagement.

Sympathy: We extend our sincere sympathy to former player Una (Horgan) Wall and her husband Tony and their family on the death of their daughter and little sister Sophie.

BRIDE ROVERS

We played our first league match against Passage West recently where we started very well with some fine scores and led 2-7 to 0-1 at half time. We carried on in the second half as we had in the first winning 3-12 to 1-1.

Panel: Irene Hogan, Carol Noonan, Lisa Finnegan, Eadaoin Cashman, Caroline Broderick, Sinead Walsh, Brianna Bartley, Eleanor Ahern, Laura Murphy, Mary Jennifer Cahill Jennifer Cahill, Chloe O'Flynn, Andrea O'Flynn, Imelda Dorgan, Avelina Crowley, Yris Bloemhoff, Caitriona Vaughan.

U16s: We had a one point victory over





GREEN GIANTS: Meath's camogie heroes celebrate after their superb Division 3 final victory

JANE AND DOLAN OUT THE SCORES!

Meath 3-9 Kildare 2-11
DIVISION 3 CAMOGIE FINAL

THEY may have left it late but the Royals rejoiced yesterday as a Jane Dolan injury time free edged an *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division 3 title for Meath in a pulsating clash at Donaghmore/Ashbourne.

The Blackhall Gaels star proved the difference as she contributed 2-5 of the winners' overall tally.

Although she had a fairly quiet second half, she had earlier threatened to run amok in the opening period as she bagged her two goals and added four pointed frees.

The first goal came after just two minutes with a shot from close range but Kildare then established a foothold in the game and were level seven minutes later.

Susie O'Carroll shot some prodigious scores from distance and got her side off the mark from a 65m free in the sixth minute.

Stunning

She converted another placed ball before Fiona Trant received a delightful ball pass from Clodhna McSweeney to equalise.

Dolan and McSweeney then exchanged scores before the former struck for her second goal with a stunning ground stroke in the 14th minute.

The Soaring Star recipient added another free but Kildare's hopes received a significant boost with a 25th minute Carol Nolan goal.

The St Laurence's midfielder launched a free from near her own 65m that McSweeney attempted to double.

Although it didn't look as if the Naas woman made contact, her

Royals claim famous win

action may just have unsighted Emily Mangan and with one hop, the shotar was in the net.

Kildare goalie Brid Byrnes made a superb save from Aoife Maguire immediately afterwards before Dolan pointed from a free.

She then drew the cover again to set up Lizzie Oaks, who showed pace before pointing.

Kildare finished well with two more pointed frees from O'Carroll to leave Meath only a point up at half-time at 2-4 to 1-6.

The third quarter was played at a hectic pace and Kildare got the dream start when ace goal-poacher Róisín O'Connell pounced to score two minutes after the restart.

Meath's response was swift and Maguire had two points in a minute — the first a magnificent score — to restore parity.

Undeterred, last year's All-Ireland junior A champions lifted the tempo once more.

O'Carroll benefited from clever work by Siobhán Hurley and O'Connell to shoot three points and separate these two gutsy outfits with 20 minutes remaining.

Sinead Hackett and Clodagh Flanagan swapped points again and the margin remained the same for a period as both sides missed chances.

Trojan

Then came the turning point, when Oaks' well-struck sideline flew all the way to the net in the 53rd minute to restore parity for Meath.

Dolan quickly added a point from a free but Hurley equalised for Kildare once more with a strong score.

Both defences shone in those final desperate minutes, with Kristina Troy, a Trojan for Meath, and Regina Gorman shining for Kildare.

It looked like the tie was destined for a replay until almost the final attack of the game, when Dolan was presented with a simple opportunity to secure a famous win.

The teams must do it all over again next week in the Leinster final, which will take place in Trim, but for now, it is Meath that will be basking in the glow of a dramatic victory.

MEATH: E Mangan; N Guy; A Thompson; L Maguire; A Keogh; K Troy; L Donoghue; E Guy; F O'Neill; J Dolan 2-5 (0-5); A Maguire 0-2; S Hackett 0-1; L Oaks 1-1 (1-0 sideline); K Hackett. Subs: K Mullen for McNally (43); S Horan for K Hackett (45).

KILDARE: B Byrnes; H Mulligan; R Gorman; N Conannon; G O'Hurley; A Lyons; A Trant; C Flanagan 0-1; C Nolan 1-0 (f); F Trant 0-1; S Hurley 0-1; L Walsh; R O'Connell 1-0; S O'Carroll 0-7 (5f); C McSweeney 0-1.

Subs: O Mullally for Conannon (12-14); M Murtagh for Walsh (45); C Farrell for McSweeney (57). Referee: M McTeal (Derry).

DOLAN OUT THE
SCORES: Meath's
superb Jane Dolan
scored an ace 2-5

WESTMEATH TAKE TITLE WITH STYLE

Westmeath 4-6 Cavan 2-8
DIVISION 4 CAMOGIE FINAL

A HAT-TRICK of goals from Joanne Walsh and a player of the match performance by Pamela Greville ended Westmeath's *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division Four final heartbreak — although they were pushed all the way by Cavan at Donaghmore/Ashbourne.

The Lakesiders had lost the last two deciders to Kildare and Tyrone and were favourites to finally get their hands on the trophy.

But the memory of those previous losses had to be overcome just as much as an energetic Cavan unit.

The sides had only been separated by a goal earlier in the year, so there was never likely to be a whole lot between them and it was the Ulster team that had the better of the early exchanges, aided by a strong breeze.

They spurned a number of opportunities though and will have been very disappointed to go in at the interval trailing by a point, 2-2 to 1-4.

Problems

Róisín O'Keeffe's pace and direct running created a lot of problems for Westmeath in that opening period and for sections of the second, and having wasted one early opportunity, she got Cavan off the mark from 30 metres in the third minute.

Walsh hit back immediately with a clinical finish to the Cavan net after good work by Janette McCormack and only a brilliant hook by Elaine P O'Reilly denied McCormack a major a minute later.

Cavan settled down but O'Keeffe's 15th minute penalty was well saved by Fiona Keating.

The Breffni team's most experienced player, Marie Brady, showed some good skill to goal two minutes later however and they led by two points with half time approaching, only for Greville to pounce just before the break to give Westmeath the half-time advantage.

Points from Dinah Loughlin (free) and Greville stretched that lead to a goal but then Brady struck for her second goal in the 38th minute, after a brilliant move involving Mairead McCable, Siobhán Reynolds, Elaine P O'Reilly and O'Keeffe. The latter's shot was held by Keating but Brady



WIN: Lorraine Leavy, 13, and Dinah Loughlin celebrate

was in quickly to block her attempted clearance and the sides were level again.

Walsh nabbed her second goal eight minutes later though after the hitherto outstanding Cavan 'keeper Jenny O'Rourke failed to gather possession.

Walsh completed her hat-trick five minutes from time — slotting home after Greville's ground shot hit the butt of the post to put two goals in it.

O'Rourke came forward to take a late free but her shot was too high and though Grainne Smith added another point, it was too little too late for Cavan.

WESTMEATH: F Keating; S King, S Greville, E Martin; L Shaw, A Conaty, E Murphy; D Loughlin 0-1 (f), E Faughnan; J Walsh 3-0, P Greville 1-4, D McGrath 0-1; L Leavy, J McCormack, C Murtagh. Subs: M Scally for Faughnan (nt); L Hannon for King (nt); L Newman for Shaw (60); S O'Neill for McCormack (60).

CAVAN: J O'Rourke 0-1 (f); S Brady, N Brady, EP Reilly, A Smith, M McCabe, R Crowe, A Lynch, S Reynolds; T O'Reilly 0-1, EM O'Reilly, B Boylan; B Lynch 0-1, R O'Keeffe 0-2, M Brady 2-2 (0-1 45, 0-1f).

Subs: G Smith 0-1 for O'Reilly (49); S McKenna for Brady (50); C Fitzpatrick for EM Reilly (58). Referee: D Ryan (Dublin).



SILVERWARE: The Westmeath team celebrate with their trophy

Ballyboden bid to build on treble

BALLYBODEN ST ENDA'S won everything except the Grand National last year.

The Dublin Senior 'A' Championship, the Senior 'A' League and the Summer Cup.

But that's old hat now. A different time, and a different place, according to Boden boss, Richie Sweetnam.

Richie managed the treble winners with Mick Glynn, Conor Sheehan, Nuala O'Sullivan and Bernard Curtis.

"There's no point in looking back. Nobody remembers last year this year," insists Richie. "We had a terrific season alright."

"We met excellent opposition along the way and we were lucky to come out on top in all the Dublin competitions. But we have to build on that now. We have to be focused on what we have to do this season."

Boden produced a scintillating show to defeat Erin's Isle in the Senior A

Championship final at St Peregrine's. The first to offer his congratulations was their former manager, PJ Donohue, who was in charge of Isles.

Joanne O'Sullivan was majestic at centre half-back on that afternoon, and it was Paula McGrath who scored the two goals.

DILIGENT

Fiona Ni Chorcairín excelled at centre half-forward and it was a proud All-Star, diligent midfielder, Ciara Lucey, who held aloft the Maura Brady trophy.

One of Boden's best days was their marvellous Leinster semi-final victory over Kilkenny's Mullinavat.

That was a result that brought cheer to the capital. And with a rub of the blue, Boden could also have overcome the crack Wexford side, Oulart-the-Ballagh.

It was a narrow defeat. But the lessons have been packed away in the Boden boot-room.

Now, the wheel is spinning again. And Richie acknowledges that every game will present its own particular challenge.

"We are there to be knocked. That's how it is when you are the county champions."

"It's the same in any county. Teams always want to put one over on the county champions. That's natural."

"We are aware of that. From our point of view, we'll be concentrating on the league first. We won't even look at the championship until it comes around. It's a long way away. We won't worry about it until then."

"It's early days yet and we know we have a lot of work to do. We are a bit rusty after the break, but that's only to be expected at this time of the year."

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND U16 A CHAMPIONSHIP
Semi-final replay: Tipperary 5-6 (J Mc Kenna 3-0, T Kinnedy, C Ryan 1-1 each, C Maher 0-2 (0-1f, 0-45), G Grace, M Ryan 0-1 each) Cork 1-6 (L Collins 1-0, C Shinn 0-5 (2-45, 1f), D Cronin 0-1).

LEINSTER U16 B CHAMPIONSHIP
Semi-finals: Offaly 4-10 (R Brennan 2-3, E Mooney 0-3 (0-2f), H Dolan 0-1, A M Guinan 0-1-45) Kildare 1-2 (C Conaty 1-1, E Reilly 0-1); Laois 2-5 Meath 0-4.

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DEDICATION

NO QUARTER GIVEN: Galway's Ann Marie Hayes and Katrina Parrock of Wexford in battle, (above, right) Wexford perform pre-match warm-up and (above) the match officials for the League Finals



SKILL

ACE: Siobhan Reynolds of Cavan goes up against Janette McCormack of Westmeath

NO HOLDING BACK: Clodhna McSweeney of Kildare in action against Niamh Guy of Meath





Game on an upward curve

■ From page 37

those figures and do better yet again.

"The All-Ireland club finals in Croke Park last March set the bar; 5,000 people in attendance definitely surpassed what anybody believed possible, and it was one of the best attended sporting events in the country that weekend.

"We are, of course, in the midst of a deep economic recession yet, interestingly, at both national and provincial levels our gates are up. "I am often asked why women don't follow women's sports yet so many follow men's sport. I know there are loads of textbooks that provide a sound sociological explanation for that!

"In my experience when young girls and boys grow up watching or supporting sport played by both sexes, they are more likely to continue watching

sport played by both.

"If they grow up just watching or reading about men's sport only, then they are more likely to continue watching or reading about men's sport only. As adults, as both parents and community leaders, we can break that cycle.

"Just as men's sport is not for men only, women's sport is not for women only.

Profile

"Sport is for all, and greater community interest in the game creates lots of other important spin-offs, including additional media profile for the game and greater player recognition, as well as a greater commercial value and increased revenue to invest in the development of the sport.

"On the media front we can see the gains already — the Irish Daily Star have come on board as our National League partners and three games have been broadcast on Setanta Ireland.

"I like the term sporting equality; that is what we have to strive for, where youngsters look up to sporting stars the same way, male or female.

"It is all about raising the profile of the sport — the media have a very important role to play in all this — it's all about us being more interactive, not just with the players and the fans, but also with the general public," said O'Flynn.



TOP HONOURS: Joan O'Flynn with Meath captain Edel Guy



DELIGHT: Wexford's Brid Gordon (left) and Noeleen Lambert celebrate their National League final victory over Galway as the girls from Waterford and Meath get in on the act



BATTLE: Ursula Jacob of Wexford in action against Sarah Dervan of Galway in the final

JOY

DETERMINATION

OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN: Some of the dejected Antrim and Galway players after their agonising National League camogie final defeats earlier this month



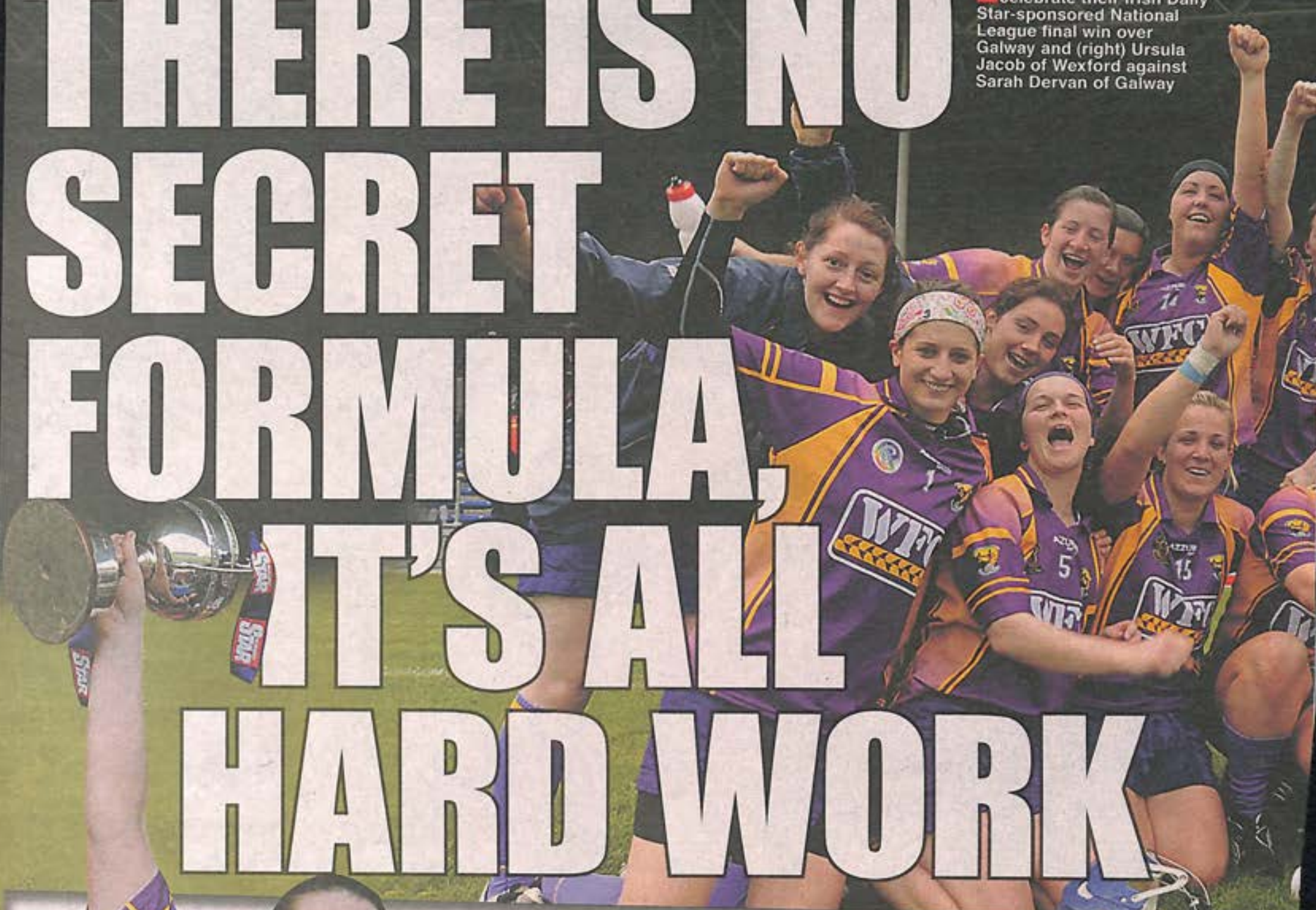
DESPAIR





THERE IS NO SECRET FORMULA, IT'S ALL HARD WORK

ALL SMILES: Wexford celebrate their Irish Daily Star-sponsored National League final win over Galway and (right) Ursula Jacob of Wexford against Sarah Dervan of Galway



DESERVED: Ursula Jacob of Wexford after beating Galway

Model boss hails team's hunger

by Gerry CALLAN

THREE league titles on the trot and last year's All-Ireland crown add up to one thing — Wexford's camogie players are riding on the crest of a wave at the moment.

Ten days ago they won the Irish Daily Star-sponsored National League for the third successive year with a 3-10 to 0-10 defeat of Galway at Semple Stadium.

And team manager JJ Doyle, asked what is the secret of the Model County's camogie success, admits to being somewhat mystified.

"I don't know if there's any secret — beyond hard work," he said.

"It's probably more about confidence than anything. At the moment we're pretty lucky in that, over the last year or so, we've never had any really serious injuries.

"We have a great bunch of girls who give everything to the game and, thankfully, they have all been available for all of our games.

"We're also lucky in that we have an excellent blend of experience and youth.

"We have a lot of girls who have been around for a few years but we also have some younger players coming through. It's a good mix-and-match situation.

"Yes, we're on a bit of a roll at the moment, but we're certainly not taking anything for granted."

"It's great to be winning things and the more you win, the more you want to win."

Nucleus

"We won the All-Ireland four years ago and a lot of the same girls would have been involved with us then, but before that our last win was in 1975, so that, obviously, was a pretty big gap.

"Okay, we've won the league now three times in-a-row, but before that our only other win was in 1977.

"Now, though, we have a group of girls who won an All-Ireland at Under-16 back in 1995, and most of them are still there, so that's the

nucleus of the team.

"And we've been fortunate to have some younger players come in over the last few years.

"Starting in 2000, Oulart-the-Balagh won five Feilles in a row — Una Leacy played on all five of them, the first one when she was nine years of age; the only girl in Feile history to win five — and that was probably where the seeds were sown. It's all coming together now.

"We've a good intermediate team right now — they got to the All-Ireland final last year but were beaten by Offaly by just two points — and they too augur well for the future.

"Hopefully, we have huge strength in depth. That is what you need nowadays.

"Dublin dominated camogie back in the 1950s and 1960s when Kathleen Mills, for instance, won 15 All-Irelands, but that will never happen again."

"The game is too competitive nowadays, too professional almost, and nobody or no team will ever dominate like that."



DIVISION 1 ONES TO WATCH

FINAL RESULT

Sarah Fryday and Amy Kennedy, up-and-coming corner-forwards on a young Tipperary team.

Wexford 3-10 Galway 0-10



"The training the girls put in these days is just about unbelievable."

"As for the county team, we train most of the time three nights a week but, unlike the lads, the girls also train with their clubs maybe another two nights."

Train

"With the lads, if they're in the county squad they train with the county team only, but the girls also train with their clubs."

"And then you have matches at the weekend, so you're talking about up to six days or nights a week."

"Social life? — camogie is their social life!" said Doyle.

Having claimed the All-Ireland with a hard-earned 1-12 to 1-10 victory over a rich rivals

Galway in Croke Park last September, Doyle knows only too well that his Wexford charges will be in all counties' firing line this summer.

"This year will be a new experience

under the radar last year, we will be no surprise to people this year.

"The majority of the girls have won two All-Irelands in the last four years and the danger for this year is that things may get a bit complacent."

"We have to avoid that. On the one hand last year's success gives us the belief that we can do it again, but on the other, well, we're there to be shot at."

"It is always harder to defend a title and win a back-to-back than it is to win your first

title. "It certainly gives you great respect for the opposition — Galway, for instance, are certainly going to be smarting after losing three finals to us and they are always a dangerous team."

Fluke

"There are seven senior teams and we all play each other on a round robin basis and then the top four go into the semi-finals."

"It's actually a good system because while some team might fluke a result against another, they can't sustain it over the seven weeks so you do end up with the best four teams in the semi-finals."

POWER: Wexford ace Una Leacy shoots to score her side's first goal in the final against Galway

CALLING ALL THE SHOTS: Wexford camogie boss JJ Doyle



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GLORY DÉISE ARE HERE AGAIN

DIVISION 2 ONES TO WATCH

Ruth Geoghegan, Waterford's strong-running corner-forward who caused problems for the Antrim defence throughout their final encounter.

FINAL RESULT

Waterford 0-16
Antrim 2-09

Our manager had prepared us mentally that it was going to come down to the wire



JOY: Waterford's Pauline Cunningham, Margo Heffernan, Jenny McCarthy, Charlotte Rahe and Deirdre Fahy and (below) captain Nicola Morrissey lifts the cup

THERE must have been a time when they wondered if they were ever going to win a national title again.

As close as Waterford's hurlers have gotten to the big one, at least they had garnered an All-Ireland Under-21 championship, a National League and several Munster titles throughout the grades.

Their female counterparts could not catch a break at all however, and endured a sickening famine from the time that the 1945 All-Ireland senior crown was annexed.

That game took place in Capquin and the post-match 'Grand Céilidhe Mór' was held in the Blackwater town's Boathouse Hall, with music provided by the Brideside Serenaders' Band.

Celebratory functions were in rare supply in the intervening years though.

Annus mirabilis arrived in 2009, although it was so close to being the zenith of their fortunes.

That year saw them reach junior, minor Band U-16B All-Ireland finals but they lost them all.

Of course the experience of playing on such stages was not insignificant, and it was an achievement to reach the last hurdle.

To fall again in the junior decider last year was very tough to take though, especially as it was at the end of a replay in which they had held a four-point interval lead.

Cooney admits past failures were major motivation

by Daragh Ó CONCHÚIR



Antrim provided the opposition that day, gaining a measure of revenge for their loss to the Déise in that 1945 All-Ireland.

They repeated the victory in the opening round of the Irish Daily Star-sponsored Camogie League Division 2 battle and were favourites to make it three-in-a-row last Sunday week in Donoughmore/Ashbourne.

Perfection

But Waterford showed noteworthy mental strength to produce a second-half rally that was timed to perfection as Karen Kelly's 58th minute point put them in front for the first time in the game.

"We knew it was going to come down to the wire," said captain Nicola Morrissey.

"Our manager (Mark Cooney) had prepared us mentally that it was going to come down to the wire."

"The match was going to be won in the last five minutes and we knew we had to just keep putting the pressure on Antrim and take our

points whenever we could."

Cooney admitted that beating Antrim was an added bonus but maintained that this was all about the Waterford hurlers getting the success their efforts deserved, regardless of the opposition.

"The last nine months we've been hurting and it was all about bottling up that pain and I suppose that loss of last year, especially after the game going to a replay," Cooney explained.

"We always knew that deep down we were good enough, that it was just on the day we were beaten."

"We brought it to the fore in the final. I know it's not championship but a league win over the reigning (All-Ireland) champions that beat us last year was very sweet."

The heartbreak of the past undoubtedly steeled the mentality of the players and that had been

evident throughout the league campaign, when they fell behind on numerous occasions but over-turned sometimes considerable half-time deficits to rescue a result.

They also came out on top in a play-off against Cork, having appeared to be on the brink of blowing a place in the final.

Evident

That composure and self-belief was very evident in the decider, when Morrissey, Kelly and Trish Jackman made match-winning contributions.

Lismore woman Morrissey said that it was "a fantastic thing" to captain her team to success and is looking forward to playing in Division 1 next season.

"In Division 2 we got some excellent matches against Kilkenny and Tipperary."

"It's going to be very tough in Division 1 but it's going to be a great thing for us."





REAPING RICH REWARDS:
Meath's Edel Guy lifts the cup

DIVISION 3 ONES TO WATCH

Kristina Troy, strong performance in League Division 3 Final from Meath's centre half-back while Fiona Trant, the Kildare wing-forward, has shown great promise in her first season.

FINAL RESULT

Meath 3-09 Kildare 2-11



NERVES OF STEEL: Aoife Thompson under pressure from Kildare's Louise Walsh; (inset) Jane Dolan gets Player Of The Match award from *The Star's* Ger Keville



ROYALS ON THE ROAD TO REVIVAL

Division Three triumph can kick-start Meath resurgence

MEATH didn't have too long to celebrate their gritty Division Three success last Sunday, with many of the players returning to their clubs for league competition over the next two nights.

After that, they have a rematch with Kildare at Trim next Sunday, with a Leinster title up for grabs on this occasion.

It fits the profile of a county that has travelled a long way in a short space of time. The current squad has been training since last November.

Selector and county chairperson Valerie Curtis is fairly confident that this was the key factor as the Royals came from three points behind with eight minutes of normal time remaining, to snatch victory via an injury-time point from the brilliant Jane Dolan.

Crucial

That grounding is crucial in the continuing development of camogie within the county, as Curtis explains.

"We have development squads at U17, U15 and U13 but this year, we set up the Shooting Stars programme, whereby clubs send five players aged 11 and 12 to be coached by county players once a month," said Curtis.

"And it's not the best five players we want to come in, but players of various abilities. It's all about improvement, and the county girls are willing to give

by **Daragh Ó CONCHÚIR**



a little back to help bring that about."

Curtis is an irresistible force herself and must take significant credit for the turnaround in Meath's fortunes in recent years, ensuring that there is a conveyor belt of talent on its way.

It was Curtis who approached John Davis to come on board back in 2006. As the Westmeath native admits, "you couldn't say no to Valerie". Her passion for camogie had him sold.

Davis's CV is choc-full of hurling championship successes at club level in both Westmeath and Meath.

The Brownstown man proved his credentials at a national level when bringing the Royals from Division 4 to Division 2 back in the '90s, and winning an All-Ireland SHC 'B' title.

The Royals beat Wexford in the 1996 league and Liam Griffin's charges went on to get their hands on Liam MacCarthy's memorial a few months later.

This was the calibre of individual Curtis wanted to revitalise camogie in Meath at the beginning of 2007.

A devastating 49-point championship loss to Dublin the previous year prompted a root-and-branch investigation, and Davis' willingness to come on board was critical, even if he downplays his own role.

"It's all about the players and the commitment they put in," insists Davis.

"It's about what the players do on the pitch. We can only help them, but we can do very little once the game starts."

"I remember the first year we got to three finals (Leinster, Division 4 and All-Ireland junior 'A') and lost them all, but we got there too quick."

"We lost 14 players from that panel for the next year but brought in 11 minors and started building again."

"We won the league and the Nancy Murray Cup (in 2008) and those wins have helped bring more players through."

Facilities

"The GAA county board have been a great help and we train twice-a-week now at the great facilities in Dunganny, and have a great sponsor too in Bovale."

"We've young players like Kristina Troy who is only a minor still, and more to come back."

"We play the likes of Galway, Antrim, Dublin and Cork intermediates in challenges, because we want them to learn."

"In fairness to the Galway girls, they even spoke to them afterwards about ways they can improve."

"If the girls believe in themselves and continue to give the commitment they're giving now, they will continue to improve and that's what we're striving for."

"We lost the last two All-Ireland semi-finals in junior to Offaly and Waterford."

"And Offaly won the intermediate after, and both those teams are Division 1. So we're going the right way."



GLORIOUS TRIUMPH:
Westmeath celebrate their
historic Division 4 victory

DIVISION 4 ONES TO WATCH

Jenny O'Rourke, Cavan goal-keeper and Leaving Cert student, pulled off some great saves in League Final.

FINAL RESULT

Westmeath 4-06 Cavan 2-07

WEST ARE AWAKE

WHEN THE final whistle blew to signal the conclusion of the *Irish Daily Star* Camogie League Division 4 final last Sunday, Aisling Conaty's reaction was instant and instinctive.

The Westmeath skipper threw her hurley high in the air and let out an exultant roar before putting her hands to her helmeted head in disbelief.

She then strolled forward another few steps to pick up her stick before the celebrations began in earnest.

This was massive for camogie in Westmeath. Absolutely massive.

The work has been going on at grassroots level for many years.

But the losses of the previous two Division 4 deciders to Kildare and Tyrone had left a mark.

People weren't sure if they could shed those memories, or if the wounds had healed.

But according to the team's on-field leader, they have always come back better and stronger. And this

by Daragh Ó CONCHÚIR

time, against Cavan, that was enough to get their hands on some hitherto elusive silverware.

"It was devastating, and the heads were down, but talk about regrouping" marvelled Conaty.

"This is a fantastic bunch of girls. Westmeath camogie team are definitely a force to be reckoned with. We've been through some really hard times and now we can really enjoy it."

Blondie

Conaty was a significant figure at centre-back, and the exhortations from Westmeath supporters of "go on Blondie" throughout the game indicated her importance and popularity.

Pamela Greville was the deserving player of the match, scoring 1-4 from play after her switch to full-forward, while hat-trick hero Joanne Walsh was a close second.

In truth, this was the ultimate team performance from a group that possessed unshakeable belief, not just in spite of, but maybe because of the previous setbacks.

"It was extremely emotional. We really knew we could do it. We came with a determination."

"It's been a long three years, a long road that had no turns and we finally made that turn."

Conaty's speech was accompanied with a beaming smile throughout, and the cup was lifted aloft with glee not just once, but countless times.

She spoke from the heart about what it meant to be victorious at last.

They deserve to party long and hard now, because while others might place league success as secondary to the championship, it is as good as any All-Ireland to Westmeath.

What's more, it might prove the launching pad to further glory.

"We were in a state of shock. The last two years we got to a final and just couldn't cross the line."

"But we did it, and there are many more lines to cross."



HELTER-SKELTER:
Clockwise from far left;
Rosie Crowe, Cavan, in
action against Denise
McGrath, Westmeath;
Mairead McCabe,
Cavan, takes on
Janette McCormack;
Lorraine Leavy, 13,
and Dinagh Loughlin
celebrate; and Pamela
Greville gets Player Of
The Match trophy from
The Star's Ger Keville



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CAMOGIE LEAGUE

EIGHT-PAGE SPECIAL PULLOUT



League of celebrations

WHAT A SEASON: Wexford's Brid Gordon and Noeleen Lambert hug it out (above) while (top middle) Waterford's Jenny McCarthy hoists Jenny Simpson and (top right) Meath's Aoife Maguire, Lizzie Oaks and Katie Mullen celebrate, as do Westmeath's Lorraine Leavy and Dinagh Loughlin (right)

CAMOGIE is on the rise, and its cause certainly hasn't been harmed by the Irish Daily Star's sponsorship of the National League.

The president of An Cumann Camógaíochta, Joan O'Flynn, is a more-than-happy camper right now given the state of the game.

Strategy

"There is no doubt that the profile of the sport does appear to be increasing," said O'Flynn.

"There are a number of reasons for this, but I sup-

by Gerry CALLAN

pose the most important reason is that it is as a result of a planned strategy.

"For one thing, the standard of the game is now much more competitive than it used to be, and we have a new development plan in place.

"Last season, for instance, more people than ever turned up to watch camogie matches — and this year the challenge is to continuously improve on

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