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CAMOGIE *world*

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Offaly's Karen Brady

CAMOGIE SOARING STAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

All Ireland Camogie champions Offaly have secured six awards in the inaugural year of the Soaring Star Camogie Awards, an awards scheme introduced to recognise players from the All Ireland junior camogie championship grades.

The awards will be presented at the All Star award ceremony in association with O'Neills in the CityWest Hotel on November 7th.

In the New Ireland Cup, Faithful County top scorer Elaine Darmody from Drumcullen leads the way with club mate Fiona Stephens being selected at corner back. Joining them is goalkeeper Audrey Kennedy and Karen Brady both of whom were part of a very solid Offaly defensive unit, which also includes Michaela Morkan at centre back. The sixth Offaly award goes to ace attacker Arlene Watkins.

Beaten finalists Waterford have forward duo Karen Kelly and Aine Lyng among the winners. Kelly was also prominent at the weekend leading St Anne's to the Munster junior camogie club championship final.

Laois and Down also have two representatives, while Meath have one.

Niamh Coyle helped Roscommon achieve a historic victory in the Nancy Murray Cup coming from five points down to defeat Armagh in the final by three. She is Roscommon's representative at number nine. Kildare's Susie O'Carroll has been rewarded in the half forward line following a prolific season with the Lilywhites.

Speaking at the announcement today, President Joan O'Flynn said, "The inaugural Soaring Stars Camogie Awards recognises the various strands of the All Ireland

championship. It rewards individual player excellence in the second tier national Camogie All Ireland championships.

"I am particularly delighted that the achievements of Offaly and Roscommon, both of whom won their first All Irelands in 2009 are recognised along with Waterford who reached their first All Ireland final this year. Congratulations to all 15 players who are wonderful exponents of our game and demonstrated leadership, skill and commitment this season".

The 2009 Soaring Star Camogie Awards:

GOALKEEPER:

Audrey Kennedy (Offaly)

BACKS:

Fiona Stephens (Offaly)
Eimear Moynan (Laois)
Karen Brady (Offaly)
Karen Tinelly (Down)
Michaela Morkan (Offaly)
Louise Donoghue (Meath)

MIDFIELD:

Louise Mahony (Laois)
Niamh Coyle (Roscommon)

FORWARDS:

Arlene Watkins (Offaly)
Catherine McGourty (Down)
Aine Lyng (Waterford)
Susie O'Carroll (Kildare)
Karen Kelly (Waterford)
Elaine Darmody (Offaly)

RUTHLESS

LAVEY LADIES

BLOCK FOUR

ROADS

All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club semi-final

Four Roads (Roscommon) 0-2
Lavey (Derry) 3-12

Seamus Duke

Four Roads' dreams of an appearance in the All-Ireland Club Junior Camogie Final were well and truly dashed by a very impressive Lavey side at Ballyforan on Sunday last. Four Roads battled away from the very first whistle but they were simply outclassed on the day.

The day was cold but dry and there was a big crowd to see this semi-final and a huge crowd present from Derry to follow their side. It all helped create a great atmosphere.

However from early in the game it became obvious that there was only going to be one winner as Lavey swept forward mercilessly at every opportunity.

Attracta McPeake, Paul McCloy and Mary O'Kane in particular terrorised the Four Roads defence and that trio led the Lavey charge on the day. The signs were bad for Four Roads as early as the 4th minute when Paula McCloy stole in behind the home defence to poach a goal. There was a touch of good fortune about the goal as Donna Kelly appeared to have been fouled on the 65-metre line in the run-up to that score – but no free was given.

Lavey were strong in defence and deadly up front and they added to their score steadily as the half progressed. Mary O'Kane, Paula McCloy and Attracta McPeake (free) all scored points before the second Lavey goal arrived in the 16th minute. Attracta McPeake's pass was fielded by Mary O'Kane who made no mistake from close-range – and the same player added a point from 25 metres within 30 seconds.

Four Roads were plugging away and they grabbed their first score in the 20th minute

when Cait Kenny converted a '45, but Lavey were relentless, McPeake adding two further pointed frees. Cait Kenny converted a 30-metre free for Four Roads to leave the half-time score at Four Roads 0-2 Lavey 2-6.

The second half didn't bring any cheer for the home side as Lavey continued to dominate. Paula McCloy added two early points from play before Attracta McPeake continued on her scoring spree with frees from 45, 30 and 50 metres respectively to put the game well and truly beyond Four Roads.

With seven minutes left on the clock, Mary O'Kane drilled home Lavey's third goal. Then in the 24th minute the scoring was completed by Denise McShane, who was on target from 35 metres out.

It was a day that will not live long in the memory for the Four Roads team but they tried so hard but just met a side that were superior in most areas of the field.

Four Roads were best served on the day by the tireless Niamh Coyle, Donna Kelly and Cait Kenny, while for the winners, Ciara Mullen, Ceara Cushman, Attracta McPeake, Paula McCloy and Mary O'Kane were best.

Note: Congratulations to the St Aidans club for having the Ballyforan pitch in such excellent condition for the game.

Four Roads: Sharon Finneran; Catherine Glennon, Marie Glennon/Kelly, Brenda Hughes; Catherine Rogerson, Siobhan Coyle, Orla Hughes; Grainne Egan, Donna Kelly; Patricia Lennon, Cait Kenny (0-2), Niamh Coyle; Gertie Dowd, Elizabeth Glennon/Tully, Sinead O'Brien. Subs: Anna McCormack for Dowd, Nicola Crean for O'Brien, Aisling Fallon for Glennon, Andrea Crean for Lennon.

Lavey: Ciara Boyle; Aedin McVeigh, Kathleen Taggart, Ciara Mullen; Alana McMullan, Ceara Cushman, Siobhan Convery; Attracta McPeake (0-6), Edel Henry; Teresa McIlroy, Clare McCoy, Denise McShane (0-1); Paula McCloy (1-3), Mary O'Kane (2-2), Helen O'Neill. Subs: Donna Magill for McIlroy, Faolthiama Ward for McVeigh, Eimear Murphy for O'Kane, Joanne McCloy for Paula



Aldeen Coen, captain of Presentation College, Athenry, accepts the Mairéad Meehan Memorial First Year Camogie Cup from Luke Glynn, Vice Principal, Presentation College Athenry.

Maher leads way as Athenry march on

CAMOGIE CLUB ROUND-UP

ATHENRY have set up an All-Ireland senior club final to savour with Cashel in two weeks.

The Galway girls overcame Loughgiel in Ballinasloe (1-15 to 0-3) as captain Therese Maher grabbed 1-3.

Cashel had to come from behind before pulling off a memorable 1-14 to 2-7 win over first-time semi-finalists Oulart.

Elsewhere, St Anne's Dunhill, Waterford caused a shock when beating The Harps 3-10 to 0-16 at O'Moore Park, Portlaoise to reach the All-Ireland junior final.

Their opponents will be Lavey from Derry, who outclassed Four Roads of Roscommon, 3-12 to 0-2.

Douglas win Evening Echo C title by single point

Douglas 2-7
Enniskeane 1-9

SINEAD HENNESSEY gave Enniskeane the lead inside three minutes of the start of this Evening Echo minor C final. It was level, 0-3 each, after 18 minutes, Louise Duggan and Orla Cronin scoring for Enniskeane, and Douglas keeping in touch thanks to points from Claire Shine and Clodagh Duggan.

Douglas took the lead as Rebecca Casey hit a goal two minutes before the half-time whistle, after a great save from Kate McCarthy rebounded. Enniskeane replied with a Louise Duggan point, to leave Douglas 1-4 to 0-4 ahead at the interval.

Enniskeane made a great start to the second-half, and were back in the game thanks to Caroline O'Donovan and Orla Curtin, and now, putting on the pressure, Enniskeane took the lead, with Caroline O'Donovan pointing from play, before Orla Cronin pointed a long-range free to put them further ahead. Douglas applied huge pressure, but the Enniskeane defence absorbed it, as Douglas battled for a score, with nine minutes to the full-time whistle. Douglas had a goal from captain, Laura Nason. Enniskeane battled on, with Caroline O'Donovan, Louise Duggan, and Orla Curtin as key players, as they strove to hold on, but Douglas, with points from Lauryn Jackson and Ciara Hickey, ensured the title was secured by the narrowest of margins.

Douglas: S O'Mahony; A Peate, D Connolly, L McCarthy; R Casey, E O'Sullivan, C Murphy; D Cotter, C Shine; R Baxter, L Nason (captain), L Jackson; E Olden, S Dempsey, C Duggan. Subs: S Kavanagh for R Casey, C Hickey for E Olden, N O'Donoghue for D Cotter. Scorers: C Shine 0-3, R Casey, L Nason 1-0, C Duggan 0-1, L Jackson, C Hickey 0-1.

Enniskeane: K McCarthy, A Duggan, K O'Shea, A O'Callaghan; S Curtin, M O'Leary (captain), C O'Mahony; N O'Regan, L Duggan; O Cronin, C O'Donovan, S Hennessey; A O'Leary, D Curtin, A Duggan. Scorers: O Cronin 0-4, C O'Donovan 1-1, L Duggan, S Hennessey, 0-2 each.

Brave Ballygarvan take first junior shield title with eight points to spare

Ballygarvan 2-5
Inniscarra 0-3

BALLYGARVAN had eight points to spare as they took the Evening Echo Junior Shield title with a victory over Inniscarra played in Cloughduv recently.

Rosanne Byrne and Sara Quilligan had points on the score board as Ballygarvan set the foundations for victory early in the first half.

Emily O'Donovan pointed for Inniscarra as Michelle Dunne stretched the Ballygarvan lead adding their third point, Ballygarvan kept the pressure on the Inniscarra defence all through the half as they worked hard to maintain their lead. Keeping their foot on the pedal, Ballygarvan stretched their advance-

tage with an Aisling Byrne points after good work from Kate O'Sullivan and now in control they added a goal before the break as Michelle Dunne doubled on a ball sent in by Sara Quilligan and it was 1-4 to 0-1 in favour of Ballygarvan at the interval.

Ballygarvan maintained their momentum from the restart and they went seven points clear as Sara Quilligan pointed.

Inniscarra responded as Liz Buckley pointed twice from a free and a 45' after a good save from Ballygarvan keeper Katie O'Donovan. Inniscarra applied a lot of pressure but the Ballygarvan defence held firm with Captain Laura O'Callaghan, Barbara Browne and Ann Keohane prominent. With 10 minutes re-

maining, Michelle Dunne struck for her second goal to consolidate Ballygarvan's lead. Inniscarra gave it every thing they had but they could find no way back as Ballygarvan ran out winners to take the junior shield title for the first time.

Ballygarvan: K O'Donovan; D O'Mahony, B Brown, R O'Shea; A Keohane, L O'Callaghan (c), D Crowley; M Moynihan, K O'Sullivan; S Quilligan, A Byrne, M Keohane; R Byrne, B Keohane, M Dunne. Subs: A Walsh for M Keohane (47), M Keohane for S Quilligan (52), R O'Halloran for M Dunne (55). Scorers: M Dunne 2-1, S Quilligan 0-2, A Byrne 0-1, R Byrne 0-1.

Inniscarra: Amanda Twohig; R McCarthy, M Collins, T Nelligan; S Buckley, A O'Keefe, A Ni Riain; M Desmond, Allanah Twohig; C Sheehan, L Buckley, G O'Mahony; D O'Callaghan, E O'Donovan, M Corkery. Subs: C Looney for D O'Callaghan (h/t), C Byrne for E O'Donovan (50), S Walsh for M Collins (55). Scorers: L Buckley 0-2 (0-15 0-1 45'), E O'Donovan 0-1.



Doris Murphy, Rosemarie Hyde and Niamh Whooley, Minors and Intermediates, enjoying Sarsfield's Camogie Club dinner dance, which was held at the Vienna Woods Hotel.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

Mackey scores help Douglas retain title

Douglas 1-10
Ballincollig 0-8

DOUGLAS retained their Evening Echo minor A championship title, as Katrina Mackey paved the way, striking all but one of her side's scores. A goal in the first five minutes, from Mackey, helped Douglas take control. Clara Kavanagh struck a point, as Douglas, thanks to Mackey's eight first-half points, led 1-9 to 0-3 at the interval. Through the opening half, Ballincollig worked hard, with Sarah Buckley, Samantha Coomey, and Patricia Buttimer keeping them in touch.

Ballincollig applied all the pressure in the second-half. Buckley, Coomey, and Buttimer pointing to get them back into the game. Douglas were under pressure, as Ballincollig closed down every attack. Katrina Mackey struck the only Douglas score of the second-half, with a point in the 59th minute. Ballincollig battled hard to get the goal they needed, but the Douglas defence stood firm under enormous pressure to retain their title, with five points to spare at the full-time whistle.

Douglas: J Kavanagh; M O'Donovan, N Leo; E Jordan; P Mackey, C O'Driscoll, T McCarthy, C Murphy, M O'Mahony, K Mackey, J Kelleher, A O'Donovan, C Clarke, C Kavanagh, S Long. Subs: S Duggan for C O'Driscoll (40), S Mackey for K Mackey 1-9 (0-3 45s, 0-02 ft), C Kavanagh 0-1.

Ballincollig: A Sheehan; B O'Callaghan, A Coughlan, E O'Sullivan; C Irish, K O'Donoghue, R O'Callaghan; S Coomey, S Buckley, A Walsh, J Ryle, O Ni Cathasaigh; O Jennings, P Buttimer, S O'Sullivan. Subs: E Nolan for R O'Callaghan (22), J Hennigan for O Jennings (53). Scorers: S Buckley 0-6 (0-4 ft), S Coomey, P Buttimer 0-1 each.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Seven-point win over Mallow puts Éire Óg into minor B final

Éire Óg 2-5
Mallow 1-1

ÉIRE ÓG booked their place in the Evening Echo minor B championship final with seven points to spare over Mallow.

Bronagh Ganley hit a Mallow goal, and a point from a Katie

Buckley free gave them the lead at the break. Elaine Scally hit a first-half Éire Óg goal.

Éire Óg made the entire second-half running, and, holding the Mallow attack scoreless, they hit 1-5 without reply. Ashling Gleeson struck a goal and three points, while Claire Meaney, Alanna Murphy, and

Roisin Murray had a point each, as Éire Óg put their stamp on the second half.

In defence, Éire Óg were magnificent — confidently dealing with anything the Mallow attack threw at them, as they advance to the final, where they will meet Ballygarvan.

Éire Óg: M Gleeson; A Hennessey, S Murray, M Corkery; K McCarthy, E Crowley, A Murphy, M E Desmond, C O'Keefe, A Gleeson, E Scally, O Meaney, C Meaney O Boyle, R Murray. Subs: G Hutchinson for A Murphy, N Toole for M E Desmond. Scorers: A Gleeson 1-3, E Scally 1-0, C Meaney, A Murphy, R Murray 0-1.

Mallow: L Hayes; J Long, J O'Donnell, K O'Sullivan; S Coakley, E Forde, M O'Connell; E Coakley, A O'Connor; M Curtin, J Fitzpatrick, S Fitzgerald; R O'Callaghan, K Buckley, B Ganley. Scorers: B Ganley 1-0, Buckley 0-1 ft.

Castlelyons win Junior Plate after hard battle

Castlelyons 3-4
Glen Rovers 2-5

CASTLELYONS took the Junior Plate title in a close, hard-fought contest with Glen Rovers, in Castlelyons. Marie Therse Murphy hit an early Castlelyons point, and they had two goals on the board inside 15 minutes. Trish Carroll and Emily Sexton were on target to give them a seven-point lead, before Amy Murphy hit a Glen point. A goal from Trish Kenneally had the Glen back in the game, but Trish Carroll replied to restore Castlelyons' six-point advantage. Before the break, Shauna Busted hit a Glen

point, but with Isabel Fenton and Trish Carroll pointing, Castlelyons led 3-3 to 1-2 at the break.

The Glen grabbed a goal from Stephanie Callanan inside seven minutes of the restart, and with their defence now much tighter, Castlelyons could find no way through, while, at the other end, Lauren Callanan and Shauna Busted caused problems for the Castlelyons defence. A Lauren Callanan point put just three between the sides, but Emily Sexton hit a Castlelyons point to stretch the lead to four. The Glen responded, and two points on the trot from Lauren and Stephanie Callanan had just two

points in it with five minutes remaining. Both sides were at their best as they piled on the pressure, but Castlelyons hung on for victory.

Castlelyons: Michelle Barry; Mairead Barry, M Howard, S O'Connell; A O'Brien, N Barry, A O'Sullivan; M O'Sullivan, M McAteer; I Fenton, MT Murphy, C McAuliffe; K Murphy, T Carroll, E Sexton. Scorers: T Carroll 1-2, E Sexton 1-1 (0-1 ft) M T Murphy 0-1, I Fenton 0-1.

Glen Rovers: K Lee; L Cotter, C Walsh, C O'Keefe, A Noonan, S Callanan, T Cunningham (captain), L Crowley, A Dowling; A Murphy, S Busted, L Harris; T Kenneally, E O'Connell, L O'Sullivan. Subs: L Callanan for L O'Sullivan, N O'Sullivan for A Noonan, A Rea for L Harris. Scorers: S Callanan 1-1, T Kenneally 1-0, L Callanan 0-2, A Murphy, S Busted 0-1 each.



Yvonne O'Callaghan, Tara Kerrigan, Seonaid Keena and Isabelle Kearney, Minors and Intermediates, at Sarsfield's Camogie Club dinner dance in the Vienna Woods Hotel recently.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

Cashel crush Oulart's dream

By CASHEL (TIPPERARY) OULART-THE BALLAGH DEAN GOODISON 1-14 2-07
Wednesday November 18 2009

OULART-THE BALLAGH failed to become the first Wexford side to reach the All-Ireland Club camogie final since St. Ibar's Sheinmalier in 2002 as they went down by four points to an extremely sharp Cashel side in Oulart on Sunday last.

The Tipperary team, who won the Munster final by a whopping 20 points, were in no way flattered by the scoreline. It could, and should, have been more as Oulart-The Ballagh were over-run by the dynamic duo of Cora Hennessy and Claire Grogan.

The wing-forwards had far too much for their markers and at times it seemed Mary Leacy was trying to keep tabs on the whole of the half-forward line, as well as Emily Hayden, whose switching with Mairéad Morrissey helped to create ample space for their teammates.

Leacy ended the game with the ball in her hand; fitting, as she was the only semblance of composure, the only defender who consistently got ball to hand and the glue that prevented a massacre. And to think, before the farce that was the omission of all Wexford players from the All Star side, Leacy was laughably left off the extensive 45-strong list of nominees.

It was her sister, Una, who almost gave the Wexford side the perfect start when she latched onto fellow county stalwart Ursula Jacob's pass, only to be denied by an alert Helen Breen. Jacob put over the resulting '45, but the lead lasted seconds as Alison Loneragan and Cliona Dwyer combined to present Grogan with her first over.

Jacob notched a second placed ball before Una Leacy again failed to get the better of Breen following a precise ball from Shelley Kehoe. With Leacy in at fullforward, Tipperary and Cashel defender Una O'Dwyer was having problems keeping her in tow.

However, the continued switching of Leacy and Jacob looked to do O'Dwyer more good than the Oulart-The Ballagh duo as she grew in confidence and began gaining the ascendancy.

Morrissey broke clear down the right to tie the game in the eighth minute before Hennessy grabbed two points in 60 seconds, edging Cashel into the lead for the first time. Jacob replied with her third, first from play, but three points, two from Morrissey and the other by Grogan, gave Cashel a four-point lead after 20 minutes (0-7 to 0-3).

Shelley Kehoe moved back into the sweeper position and Oulart-The Ballagh gradually started to gain some possession after ten minutes on the rack. Mary Leacy's long-range free was doubled on by Una, just outside the square, and found its way into the visitors' net via the right post to give the home side a jolt of confidence.

Grogan momentarily doubled her side's lead, but when Una Leacy dropped Emma Moran's pass, Diane Ryan was on hand to pull and beat Breen for the second goal in two minutes. A fourth Grogan point tied the game in the 26th minute, but a brace of Jacob points gave Oulart-The Ballagh a half time lead of 2-5 to 0-9.

Having narrowly dodged a bullet in injury time when Emily Hayden's effort clipped the outside of the post, Oulart-The Ballagh started the second-half, with Kehoe surprisingly back in the forwards, on the back foot. Una Leacy grabbed the opening point of the half after a number of uncharacteristic Cashel misses, but their inaccuracy didn't last long as Grogan scored to pull within two.

Disaster struck for Oulart-The Ballagh ten minutes into the half when Jill Horan's long ball was controlled poorly by an otherwise steady Helena Jacob, and Morrissey was on hand to force the ball over the line, giving the Tipp. champions their first lead of the half.

Cashel gained complete control with superior pace and power as Grogan notched twice to open a three-point lead (1-12 to 2-6) at the midpoint of the second-half.

Linda Grogan added her only point to edge her side four ahead before Oulart-The Ballagh substitute Shauna Sinnott saw her effort cleared from under the crossbar by Breen, after tidy work by Stacey Kehoe.

Cora Hennessy completed a 1-5, 15minute, run without an Oulart-The Ballagh score before Una Leacy blazed a 30metre free over the crossbar to narrow the gap once again.

Both sides missed goal chances late on, with Jacob saving from Grogan while Leacy pulled an effort wide, but Cashel hung on to a deserved victory and will now be favourites when they take on Athenry in a repeat of the 2007 final.

- CASHEL (TIPPERARY) OULART-THE BALLAGH DEAN GOODISON 1-14 2-07

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MORE PHOTOS

Nov. 2009

Athenry and Cashel through to All Ireland senior club final

Athenry and Cashel through to All Ireland senior club final

ATHENRY set up an All Ireland senior club camogie final to savour with Cashel in two weeks time following their respective semi-final victories today (Sunday). It is over 30 years since the Galway club side claimed the Bill Carroll trophy, and this is a decider the westerners will very much look forward to, when they meet a Tipperary outfit who picked up their only All Ireland title in 2007.

The Galway girls had little difficulty overcoming Loughgiel in Duggan Park, Ballinasloe (1-15 to 0-3) as captain Therese Maher grabbed 1-3. There was never any question of victory going elsewhere with Brenda Kerins, Laura Linnane and Noreen Coen adding to the tally.

It was always going to be a tough ask for a young Loughgiel team, who made the Antrim championship their main aim. They failed to emulate their conquerors in that decider, O'Donovan Rossa, who are the reigning All Ireland club titleholders.

Meanwhile, following an incredible battle in Oulart-the-Ballagh, Cashel had to come from behind before pulling off a memorable 1-14 to 2-7 win over first time semi-finalists Oulart. The Slancysiders got off to a great start with goals from Una Leacy and Diane Ryan to give them an interval lead of 2-5 to 0-9.

But, a Cashel goal inside 10 minutes of the restart from Mairéad Morrissey let them back in. They hit a purple patch after that confining the Wexford side to just two second half points. The prolific Claire Grogan, Cora Hennessy and Morrissey fired some excellent points for the Munster girls to run out victors by four points.

Elsewhere, in another thrilling encounter St Anne's Dunhill, Waterford caused the shock of the day when they qualified for their first All Ireland junior final after ousting The Harps 3-10 to 0-16 at O'Moore Park Portlaoise. The Laois girls were seeking their fourth title in succession. First half goals from Zoe O'Donoghue and Karen Kelly yielded a 2-5 to 0-9 advantage at the break, with a second major from O'Donoghue proving decisive.

Their opponents will be Lavey from Derry who firmly put the disappointment of last year's defeat behind them when they outclassed Four Roads of Roscommon, 3-12 to 0-2. Green flags from the in-form Mary McKane (2-4) and Paula McCloy was the main difference in this tie.

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS:

ATHENRY, Galway, 1-15, T Maher 1-3, B Kerins 0-4, L Linnane 0-3 (0-2'45), N Coen 0-2, K O'Dwyer, K Nally, N Jordan 0-1 each.
LOUGHGIEL, Antrim 0-3, N Connolly, E Mc Mullan 0-1 each, R Mc Carry 0-1f.

CASHEL, Tipperary 1-14, M Morrissey 1-3, C Grogan 0-7, (0-1f), C Hennessy 0-3, L Grogan 0-1.
OULART-THE - BALLAGH, Wexford 2-7, U Leacy 1-2 (0-1f), D Ryan 1-0, U Jacob 0-5 (0-3f)

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS:

ST-ANNE'S, Dunhill, Waterford 3-10, Z O'Donoghue 2-0, K Kelly 1-6 (0-3f), J Simpson 0-2, N Rockett, M Murphy 0-1 each.
HARPS, Laois 0-16, L Mahony 0-12, (0-5f, 0-1'45), A Mahony 0-4 (0-2f)

LAHEY, Derry 3-12, M O'Kane 2-2, P Mc Cloy 1-3, A Mc Peake 0-6 (0-5f, 0-1'45), D Mc Shane 0-1
FOUR ROADS, Roscommon 0-2, C Kenny 0-2 (0-1f, 0-1'45)

President's Oct/Nov Blog

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October/November Blog 2009

Well, the glamorous side of Camogie is definitely to the fore after Saturday night's very successful All Stars. In association with O'Neil's Irish International Sports, almost 750 people participated in the gala event at the City West Hotel, Dublin.

With guests Mary Hanafin, Minister for Social and Family Affairs and Paul Brady, three times World Handball title holder, we saluted:

- the All Star nominees and winners
- the inaugural Soaring Star winners
- the Young Players of the Year and
- Ireland's successful Camogie/Shinty team.

Congratulations to all and thanks for the enjoyment you provided this season with your skill and artistry on the playing field.

The week before the All Stars, it was a pleasure to be part of a wonderful trip to Inverness as part of the Camogie/Hurling/Shinty International v Scotland. Ireland was led by the management team of Eddie Brady (Cavan), Ger Moran (Roscommon), Mary Connors (Louth) and team captain Caroline Connaughton (Roscommon). One of the features of the game was the prohibition on catching the ball. On the face of it this could have been quite a challenge for us Camogie people. It required the Camogie side to play more ground striking that is common nowadays and to lift and strike the ball more frequently than usual. Congratulations to player of the match Gaillette McSorley (Armagh) who gave a great exhibition of ball control and striking ability.

Off the field, at central level, we are currently working on the 2010 Futures Programme. Our Competitions Management Committee is working to put in place the schedule so that Provincial Councils and County Boards have the details well in advance of their own planning. At national level we have already held a consultative workshop with counties. We are meeting our colleagues in Ladies Football and will take account of the GAA schedule. Hopefully this will help ensure that all games programmes are accommodating of each other as far as possible.

We have also just published our new magazine On the Ball. Watch out for the PDF version on our website over the next week or so.

Two more All Ireland titles remain at stake still - the All Ireland Junior and Senior Club Championships. The prize is the greatest so good luck to all the semi-finalists.

Joan O'Flynn
Uachtarán
8th November 2009

Croker tribute for legend Nell

By Niall Scully

REMEMBERING Nell - there is a special Mass this Saturday to honour the legendary trainer of the Dublin camogie team, Nell McCarthy. It takes place in Croke Park (6.0pm).

Nell trained the Dubs in the golden era when the county collected a harvest of All-Ireland titles. She was from Carricktohill in Cork. She worked in Dublin in the civil service.

She played for Celtic. A tidy centre half-back. She had a sweet lift and strike. Her second home was the Phoenix Park. She found her true vocation as a trainer/coach. Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony knew her better than most.

Eileen was the great Dublin goalkeeper who won eight All-Ireland medals - 1949, '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55 and in 1957 when she was captain. Eileen was voted camogie's Top Cat, claiming the number one spot on the Team of the Century.

"I knew Nell for over 65 years," explains Eileen. "She was the best coach that I ever came across. She was ahead of her time. Some of the skills that she drummed into us all those years ago, the Kilkenny hurling team are doing them now."

"Nell was a great believer in making use of the open space. Delivering the ball into it and

making sure that players were always prepared to run into it.

"And she always focused on hitting the ball on the ground. Developing the ability to strike the sliotar left and right on the ground was uppermost in her teaching. When the time was right, you could lift the sliotar and go for it, but the time had to be right.

"She absolutely loved camogie. She just had that X factor."

Eileen and Nell served on the Dublin Board together. Every Monday evening, Nell would have tea in Eileen's house before they'd set off for the meeting. Camogie was the chat that dominated at the table. When Eileen got married and moved out of the family home, Nell still arrived for tea on those Monday evenings.

"I wasn't there then, but she'd still come and have her tea with my parents. Nell was a very friendly person. She was talented. She cherished life and she enjoyed travel. She had a wonderful sense of humour.

"She was so very kind. And she had an interest in all sports - football, hurling, rugby and soccer. She'd also go to the rugby and soccer matches."

It was Nell who ensured that Dublin never lacked fitness when they were winning all those All-Ireland titles. "We trained up in the

Phoenix Park and we trained hard - rain, hail or snow.

"Nell had a great eye to spot talent. I recall Una O'Connor when she was about 12. She had blonde hair, skinny little legs and a tiny hurl. But oh what a body swerve.

"Nell said she'd be a star someday and how right she was. Nell was known all over the country. She'd give coaching sessions in the boarding schools throughout Ireland on some weekends and I'd go with her. It was a fabulous education.

"Life was so different then. As a team, we were so fit. Nobody had a car. We walked, cycled and hiked everywhere. Life itself was a training session.

"Nell was such a lady. And the mass on Saturday will be a marvellous tribute to her memory, especially from us Dubliners to whom she gave so much.

"Everybody is welcome. We'd love to see as many as possible come along. And I think everybody would agree that it's so appropriate that the mass is taking place in the 'holy ground'."

► **Special Mass for Nell McCarthy. This Saturday, Croke Park (6.0pm). Enter by St Joseph's Avenue off Cloniffe Road to the back of the Cusack Stand.**

Castlelyons battle to secure under-16 D league title

Castlelyons 1-5
Newcestown 1-1

CASTLELYONS had four points to spare as they held off the challenge of Newcestown to take the under-16 D league title, at the Castle Road camogie grounds.

Newcestown settled quickly, with a point from Jennifer O'Donovan inside eight minutes of starting, and scores were at a premium as both sides battled hard to gain the upper hand. Castlelyons opened their account after 20 minutes with a Melissa O'Sullivan point, and the same player pointed two frees and hit a goal three minutes from the interval, to leave Castlelyons 1-3 to 0-1 ahead at the short whistle.

On the restart, Melissa O'Sullivan again showed her ability as she was on target with two pointed frees, but Jessica Farrell had Newcestown back in the game with a goal. Both sides had to be at their best as the battle for scores continued, and both defences held firm before Melissa O'Sullivan pointed a Castlelyons free to ensure victory and the title was secured for her side.

Castlelyons: N Barry; S O'Sullivan, S Beirne, D Walsh; C Maye, D O'Flynn, L Dineen; A Dineen, C Murphy; M McNulty, M O'Sullivan, K Daly; E O'Leary, A Murphy, M Walsh. Scorers: M O'Sullivan 1-5.

Newcestown: C Kingston, A Collins, C Lordan, L Cadogan; S Murray, K Murphy, F Kelly; S Lane, E Kenneally; A O'Leary, G O'Mahony, J O'Donovan; M Kelleher, A Buckley, J Farrell. Subs: P Buckley for S Murray, E Murphy for A O'Leary. Scorers: J Farrell 1-0, J O'Donovan 0-1.

Newtown' too strong for battling Killeagh

Newtownshandrum 2-6
Killeagh 0-5

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM and Killeagh had to contend with appalling weather as they battled to secure the under-16, B league title at Glen Rovers. The under-foot conditions were good, and it made life that little bit easier on the teams, who must be commended for turning in a good final in such miserable conditions. Kate Murphy and Roisin Twohill had the sides level, before Killeagh took the lead with a point from Shauna Keniry. Becky Ryan struck for a Newtown goal, and a pointed 45-metre free from

Sarah Moloney gave Newtown a slender half-time advantage.

A goal from Kara Clifford extended Newtown's advantage early in the second-half, as Newtown began to gain control. Killeagh battled hard to get back into contention, but they met resistance from a strong Newtownshandrum defence. A point from Katie Coughlan stretched the Newtown lead, as Killeagh's Shauna Landers hit their only score of the second-half, pointing a free. Newtown kept the pressure on as the game drew to its conclusion, and three unanswered points ensured victory was secure.

Newtownshandrum's

Aoife

Twohill was presented with the player-of-the-match award by juvenile county board chairperson, Tracy Sheehan, after Twohill turned in an excellent performance as her side recorded their victory.

Newtownshandrum: A. Ryan; C. Griffin, C. Herlihy, S. Cagney; C. Watson, F. Twomey, L. Hooper; A. Twohill (0-1) S. Curtin; R. Twohill (0-1), S. Moloney (0-3), D. Cagney; C. Coppe, B. Ryan (1-0) K. Clifford (1-0). Subs: S. Slattery, K. Coughlan (0-1) M. Doyle, L. Morrissey, E. O'Connor, C. Ryan. Scorers: S. Moloney (45°) T. Twohill, K. Coughlan 0-1 each, B. Ryan, K. Clifford 1-0 each.

Killeagh: J. Swaine; S. Harnedy, L. O'Neill, E. Benim; S. Tracy, L. Tracy, S. Landers; A.R. Sisk, J. O'Shea; S. Keniry, B. Fitzgerald, R. Culligan, A. Walsh; K. Murphy (c), N. Daly. Subs: C. Daly for N. Daly. Scorers: K. Murphy 0-3, S. Keniry, S. Landers, 0-1 each.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Éire Óg retain their under-16 C county title in style

Éire Óg 2-6
Sarsfield's 2-2

ÉIRE ÓG retained their under-16 C county title with a victory over Sarsfield's, in Castle Road, with goals in the first-half from Alanna Murphy and Ruth Murphy. Elaine Scally hit two points, while Emma Crowley and Alanna Murphy hit one each, as Éire Óg made all the first-half running. Éire Óg led 2-4 to 0-1 at the break.

Sarsfield's showed fierce determination on the restart and scored two goals, Orlaith Keane striking the first, Lucy Allen the second. Continuing to apply pressure on the Éire Óg defence, Sarah Fahy scored a point as Sars narrowed the gap; but, from here on in, Éire Óg regained their composure with points from Alanna Murphy and Elaine Scally to ensure victory was secured for the second year in a row.

Alanna Murphy, Éire Óg, was named player of the match and presented with her trophy by juvenile board chairperson, Tracy Sheehan.

Éire Óg: Eimear Scally; A. Gleeson, A. Hennessy (captain), S. Murray; A. Barry, M. Corkery, O. Meaney; E. Crowley, M. E. Desmond; Elaine Scally, A. Murphy, O. Hallissey; R. Murphy, J. Boyle, G. Hutchinson. Subs: N. O'Toole for A. Barry (inj 40), S. OM for O. Hallissey (50). Scorers: A. Murphy 1-2, R. Murphy 1-0, Elaine Scally 0-3, E. Crowley 0-1.

Sarsfield's: S. Fahy; R. Hickey, S. Gaffey, O. O'Sullivan; E. Murphy, I. Kearney (c), N. O'Callaghan; O. Keane, R. Crowley; K. Walsh, R. Long, L. Barry; L. Fitzgerald, C. Cashman, S. English. Subs: L. Allen for L. Fitzgerald, A. O'Kelly-Lynch for S. English. Scorers: O. Keane 1-1 (0-1 45°), L. Allen 1-0, S. Fahy 0-1.

Inniscarra take U16 B title

Inniscarra 3-8
Brian Dillon's 1-3

INNISCARRA took the U16 B championship title as they proved to strong for Brian Dillon's Laura Burke and Liz Buckley had hit Inniscarra points before Caoimhe Rodgers got Brian Dillon's on the score sheet 23 minutes into the contest with a goal. Inniscarra held a slight advantage but Brian Dillon's worked hard to stay with them and before the break Laura Burke and Michelle Ring swapped points as Inniscarra led at the break 0-5 to 1-1. Inside five minutes of the

restart, Inniscarra extended their advantage with Mary Desmond taking on the Brian Dillon's defence to get through three minutes later Olivia Worth hit Inniscarra second goal and it gave Brian Dillon's a mountain to climb. To their credit they battled on Rebecca O'Mahony and Donna Carroll hit points but Inniscarra ability to grab goal was to prove crucial as the two they grabbed gave them a cushion as Brian Dillon's applied the pressure but they could find no way past a solid Inniscarra defence where Emily O'Donovan was in superb form denying Brian Dillon's on a few oc-

casions while Susan Buckley and Alannah Twohill were solid in defence. Inniscarra's Niamh Byrne pointed twice and Laura Burke hit one before Shauna Kavanagh hit a late goal to give the title to Inniscarra.

Inniscarra: E. O'Donovan; O. Coleman, S. Walsh; Looney; E. Looney, A. Twohill, S. Buckley; M. Desmond, T. Nelligan; C. Byrne, L. Buckley, M. Corkery, N. Byrne, L. Burke, O. Worth. Subs: T. Horgan for O. Worth (42), M. O'Shea for O. Coleman (50), S. Kavanagh for C. Byrne (55). Scorers: L. Burke 0-5 (0-1 ft), M. Desmond 0-2, S. Kavanagh 1-0 each N. Byrne 0-2, L. Buckley 0-1.

Brian Dillon's: S. Rodgers, S. Cotter, R. Myers, E. Porter; K. O'Brien, S. Attridge, K. Henry; S. Brosnan, O. Ni Shuilleabhain (c); R. O'Mahony, D. Carroll, R. Brosnan; C. Rodgers, M. Ring, S. Ring. Scorers: C. Rodgers 1-0, M. Ring, R. O'Mahony, D. Carroll 0-1 each.



Recipients of third-level camogie bursaries were, from left, Shauna Murphy, UUJ and Banagher, Derry; Lorraine Ryan, NUIG and Killimordaly, Galway; Karen Tinnelly, UUJ and Ballyholland, Down; Karen Kelly, WIT and St Anne's Dunhill, Waterford; Sharon Glynn, UCD and Ballyboden/St Endas, Dublin; Sinead Sheridan, DCU, and Lough Lene Gaels, Westmeath; Katie O'Dwyer, UCD and Athenry and Marie Grennan, Dundalk and Clontibret, Monaghan. Picture: Brian Lawlor



Bronagh Furlong (Enniscorthy, Wexford)

who graduated with a BSc in Sport Science and Health

Nov 2009

GLORY FOR ROSCOMMON

Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final replay
Roscommon 1-7 Armagh 0-7
Seamus Duke

At last! After the heart-break of last year's agonising one-point loss to Meath in the final at the same venue, Roscommon staged a storming second half display to wrestle the Nancy Murray Cup from the clutches of Armagh in this thrilling final replay played in Drumlane, County Cavan last Sunday.

The strong wind and squally showers militated against good camogie but both sides battled fiercely throughout and the big crowd were treated to a match that was on a knife-edge until the final whistle.

Roscommon played against the elements in the first half and Kelly Hopkins played at full-forward because of injury. The Roscommon management decided to bring back Annette McGeeney to patrol the area in front of the full-back line. It meant that Roscommon were a little short up front in that first half but the tactic worked because the Armagh danger-woman Collette McSorley was restricted to long-range shots at goal and placed balls in the first half.

Then in the second period when McGeeney returned to the attack Roscommon were much more potent and were able to get the scores to take the title - although in the final analysis the goal that Roscommon got in first half injury-time from Claire Curley, which reduced the margin to one point, was crucial.

Gertie Dowd started in place of Sinead O'Brien on the Roscommon team and Armagh dominated possession in the opening twenty minutes with the aid of the elements. Bernie Murray and Niamh McGowan were in control at midfield and they provided plenty of ball for the Armagh attack.

However Roscommon were determined to restrict the Armagh attack and they did that, Marie Glennon, Niamh Connolly, Catriona Morris,

Donna Kelly and Annette McGeeney repelled attack after attack from the Orchard County girls.

In the 7th minute Armagh danger-woman Collette McSorley opened the scoring with a 25-metre free after she herself was fouled and four minutes later the same player was on target with a '45. Roscommon were making little impact up front but they were keeping Armagh at bay. McSorley was on target again from another '45 after 16 minutes and two minutes later it was 0-4 to 0-0 when McSorley scored a 20-metre free.

In the 19th minute the margin was five with another placed ball conversion from McSorley but gradually Roscommon were getting into the game and in the last ten minutes of the first half Roscommon secured a foothold, especially at midfield, where Niamh Coyle began to exert her influence.

In the 23rd minute Gertie Dowd had a great chance of a Roscommon goal but her first-time pull was deflected out for a '45 and Kelly Hopkins opened Roscommon's scoring with a superb strike. However the score that made all the difference came in first-half injury-time just when it looked as though Roscommon were going to go in four points adrift.

Roscommon staged one late attack before the half-time whistle. Kelly Hopkins, Catriona Regan and Cait Kenny were involved before the ball was put out for a '45. Kelly Hopkins' shot dropped short but Claire Curley was quickest to react and she fired home a superb shot from close range to leave the half-time score: Armagh 0-5 Roscommon 1-1.

Roscommon fans roared their team off the field for the break and with the elements at their backs in the second half it was looking good for Roscommon. However Armagh fought like tigers in that second period and it was only in the final two minutes that Roscommon pulled away to win the title.

McSorley extended Armagh's lead with a super 45-metre strike after two minutes but Roscommon were now playing well. Niamh Coyle, Donna Kelly, Catriona Regan and Annette McGeeney were superb as Roscommon fought for that elusive title. In the 5th minute Cait Kenny struck a

super point from 40 metres to narrow the gap and three minutes later Niamh Coyle burst through to level the scores with a lovely point from all of 50 metres out.

It was frantic stuff now as every ball was contested as if it was the final ball of the game. Kelly Hopkins edged Roscommon ahead with a free in the 13th minute but Armagh were not going to lie down. The exchanges were fiercely contested and it was ten minutes before there was another score.

In the 23rd minute, Orchard midfielder Bernie Murray levelled the scores again with a fantastic point from 40 metres and with less than six minutes to go it was level-pegging: Roscommon 1-4 Armagh 0-7.

Then in the 25th minute Catriona Regan scored a majestic point from 25 metres to nudge Roscommon ahead. But Roscommon could not get the insurance point and there was always the possibility that Armagh could break away and get a winning goal. The tension was unbearable as the game entered injury-time.

However Roscommon sealed their win in added time with two wonderful points from Annette McGeeney. She first struck in the 31st minute from 25 metres after a searing run and then a minute later McGeeney was on target again with a similar score to extend Roscommon's lead to three.

Two minutes later the final whistle sounded and the hundreds of Roscommon supporters who had made the long journey swarmed on to the field to acclaim their heroes. It was a hard-earned but well-merited title win and all 26 players on the Roscommon panel played their part in this victory. However on the day Niamh Connolly, Donna Kelly, Niamh Coyle, Annette McGeeney, Catriona Regan, Claire Curley and Kelly Hopkins were most prominent.

I was there last year to witness the devastation amongst the Roscommon players as the final was lost by only one point to Meath at the same venue. It was great to be there to see the tears of joy as the Nancy Murray Cup was presented to team captain Donna Kelly. Well done to all concerned.

Roscommon: Caroline Connaughton; Marie Glennon,

Niamh Connolly, Catriona Morris; Catherine Rogerson, Donna Kelly (capt.), Grainne Egan; Patricia Lennon, Niamh Coyle (0-1); Gertie Dowd, Annette McGeeney (0-2), Catriona Regan (0-1); Cait Kenny (0-1), Kelly Hopkins (0-2), Claire Curley (1-0). Subs: Sinead O'Brien for Dowd, Carmel Killeen for Rogerson.

Armagh: Colleen Comiskey; Bronagh Keenan, Ann McGuigan, Patrice Murphy; Emma Farrell, Laura Gribben, Caoimhe McKenna; Bernie Murray (0-1), Niamh McKeon; Ciara Donnelly, Grainne Kelly, Joanne Mallon (capt); Cathy Smith, Collette McSorley (0-5), Paula McMahon. Subs: Micheala King for Mallon. Referee: Karl O'Brien (Dublin).

Player of the Match

Annette McGeeney (Roscommon)

There were many heroic performances on the day. For Armagh, Laura Gribben, Bernie Murray and the supremely talented Collette McSorley were all excellent. For Roscommon, Marie Glennon, Donna Kelly, Catriona Regan, Claire Curley and Kelly Hopkins were all excellent in a great team effort. Niamh Coyle was outstanding at midfield - but just pipping her is Annette McGeeney, who was a powerhouse throughout. She played in defence in the first half and broke up one Armagh attack after another. Then in the second half she led the Roscommon attack and scored two crucial points before the end of the game. A fantastic performance.

Saints set up a rematch in final

St Catherine's
Douglas

1-11
1-8

COUNTY champions St Catherine's set up a rematch with their county final opponents Milford when they had three points to spare over Douglas in a closely-fought senior league semi-final in Ballynoe.

Wintry conditions made it hard for both teams however, the excellent underfoot conditions helped and both sides gave it everything as they battled for the place in the final.

Finola Neville, Orla Cotter and Denise Twomey were on target for St Catherine's as Aisling Barrett, Katriona Mackey, Amanda O'Regan were prominent for Douglas. Douglas, having played with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half, worked hard but it was St Catherine's who led at the break.

From the start of the second half, and aided by the strong wind, St Catherine's applied pressure but the Douglas defence stood firm and now as the sides traded scores it was close. Finola Neville was superb for St Catherine's striking 1-4 of her sides total while Orla Cotter again showed her accuracy from both play and frees as she notched up four points.

Katriona Mackey struck five Douglas points while Aisling Barrett was on hand with a goal however at the full time whistle it was the county champion's St Catherine's who advanced to the league final with three points to spare after a good contest.

Scorers for St Catherine's: F. Neville 1-4, O. Cotter 0-4 (0-3f), D. Twomey 0-1, E. Roynane 0-1, F. Cotter 0-1.

Douglas: A. Barrett 1-0, K. Mackey 0-5 (0-3 f), A. O'Regan (f), A. O'Donovan, E. Jordan 0-1 each.

ST CATHERINE'S: D. Leahy; F. Noonan, O. Neville, Y. O'Neill; A. Hayes, L. Power, C. Motherway; M. O'Keefe, O. Cotter; R. O'Callaghan, F. Neville, F. Cotter; D. Twomey, E. Roynane, J. Hurley. Subs: A. O'Keefe for R. O'Callaghan, C. McGovern for J. Hurley, D. Mulcahy for Y. O'Neill.

DOUGLAS: J. Kavanagh; L. O'Shea, L. O'Regan, F. McSweeney; C. Lynch, A. O'Regan, E. Jordan; P. Mackey, H. O'Mahony; C. Clarke, M. Harkin, K. Mackey; A. Barrett, M. O'Donovan, A. O'Donovan.



Cashel camogie players - Allison Lonergan, Clodhna Dwyer, Sheila O'Donnell.

Ulster Colleges' Camogie results

Ulster Colleges' Camogie results

Ulster Colleges' Camogie results:

Corn Uan Uladh semi-finals:

Cross & Passion Ballycastle 2-14 St MacNissi's Garraun Tower 1-2
St Patrick's Maghera 3-12 St Mary's Magherafelt 0-4

Fr Davies Cup semi-finals:

St Patrick's Ready 1-7 St Louis Ballymena 1-4
St Colm's Draperstown 3-9 Loreto Coleraine 0-2

Medallion Senior Shield semi-final:

St Louis Kilkeel 2-9 St Pius X Magherafelt 2-5

Senior D semi-final:

St Paul's Killea 1-7 St Patrick's Ballymena 1-4

Corn Eimhear semi-final:

St Patrick's Maghera 3-9 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 2-1

Liatroim Fontenoy's Cup semi-final replay:

Loreto Coleraine 4-1 St MacNissi's Garraun Tower 2-4

Medallion Shield junior semi-final:

St Colm's Draperstown 3-11 St Mark's Warrenpoint 1-2
St Columba's Portaferry 3-6 St Catherine's Armagh 3-2

In-form Athenry ready to deliver against Cashel

Fit-again Keogh increases options as Galway girls seek revenge on Tipp rivals in fascinating clash

EOGHAN CORMICAN

OLD foes will meet at a familiar stage when Galway title holders Athenry and 2007 All Ireland Club champions Cashel lock horns in what promises to be an explosive senior camogie showdown on Sunday at St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge (2pm).

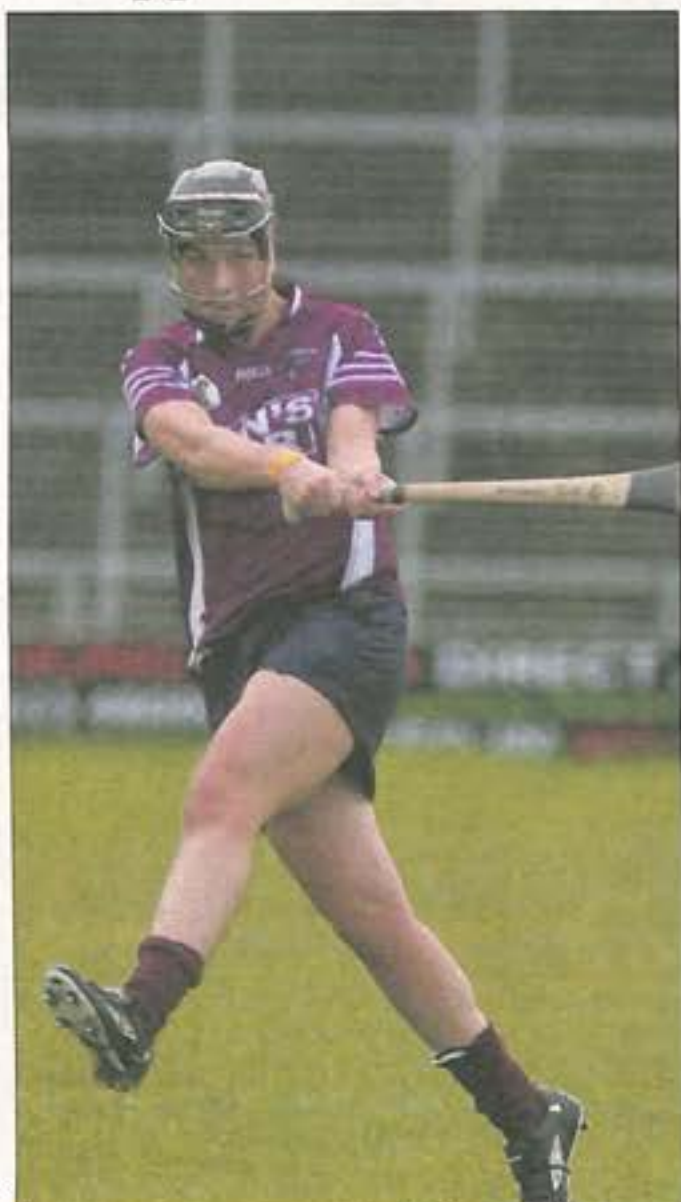
The two strongest club teams in the land haven't clashed since that November day in 2007 when the underdogs from Cashel quiet simply played the favourites from Athenry of the pitch in an unforgiving display of pace, power and precision. The result was nothing beyond a shock and Sunday's encounter provides the Athenry women with a shot at revenge, but more importantly a chance to right the wrongs of the 2007 decider.

Midge Glynn and her back-room team of PJ Molloy, Eugene Cloonan, Dermot Monaghan and Frank O'Shea will again have to plan without the services of former All Star winner Jessica Gill - out with cruciate ligament problems - while successful Galway Intermediate goalkeeper Deirdre Ward is ruled out with a cruciate injury also.

On the better news front, corner forward Mary Keogh has returned to the fold following a bout of tonsillitis which kept her out of the semi-final win over Loughgiel. Athenry, who are chasing their first All Ireland Club title since 1977 having reached the final on six other occasions, are in the decider on merit.

Despite a group stage defeat to Mullagh, they advanced to the county semi-final where they staggered past Pearse's by a narrow two point margin (0-14 to 2-5). This set up a county final meeting with Killimor and while many fancied the young pretenders from East Galway to put end to Athenry's reign, the county champions displayed a steely resolve to take their fourth consecutive title and 16th in total.

Certainly, the Galway club championship has fostered a ruthless mentality which was very much evident in their semi-final triumph. They were fully deserving of their 15 point winning margin, clocking up 1-12 in the first-half as all six for-



The injured Jessica Gill who will be a big loss to Athenry on Sunday.

wards scored from play.

Given the nature of Athenry's sublime display against Loughgiel Shamrocks in the All Ireland club semi-final, the management team will be reluctant to change the dynamic of a winning team heading into Sunday's final.

Consequently, Stephanie Gannon will continue to man the posts, while the tigerish Darelle Coen, the improving Alice Poniard and the ever dependable Katherine Glynn will stand sentry in the full back line.

In the wing back berths, Ciara Cuniffe and Krystle Ruddy will again be deployed. Ruddy was so impressive in the County final, but faces the ultimate test on Sunday as she will be responsible for curtail-ing the threat of the imperious Claire Grogan. The tenacious Regina Glynn will anchor the defence from centre-half back.

Laura Linnane, whose flawless free taking will prove so vital on Sunday, and Sarah Donoghue will start at mid-field while the half forward line should comprise of Katie O'Dwyer, Noreen Coen and Therese Maher.

Maher has regularly started on the edge of the square before being pulled out to the forty. This Sunday may prove different though as the ace forward might be required to play the full hour at full forward in an effort to stamp out the authority of Cashel captain and full back Una Dwyer.

Mary Keogh and Brenda Keirns will start in the corner forward positions. Keogh was a delight to watch in the County final shooting (2-2), while Keirns ran riot in the semi-final grabbing four wonderful points. If the supply lines are kept open to the dynamic duo

then Athenry, without a doubt, will run up a match winning score. Nicola Nally will more than likely occupy the sixth attacking position.

Athenry will be somewhat buoyed by the fact that when these two sides met in 2007, Athenry entered the contest as favourites. The tag proved too much for the Galway girls as they wilted under the intense pressure applied by the Tipperary outfit. This time around, however, the tables have turned and it is Cashel who assume the role of favourites.

Unquestionably, the Munster champions represent Athenry's biggest challenge this year. John Grogan's side possess that near perfect mix of youth, experience, and a deep rooted confidence to achieve victory when not at their best. Backboned by former All Ireland winning Tipperary Captain Una Dwyer, they advanced to their third final this decade with a two point win over Leinster champions Oulart the Ballagh in a rip roaring encounter.

One downside to their semi-final win was the hand injury picked up by influential center forward Mairead Morrissey which rules her out of this weekend's fixture. The only other injury concern of note is to Sinead Millea who sustained an ankle injury when Cashel defeated Athenry in this year's seven's final.

While Tipperary full forward and former All Star Claire Grogan would be the best known figure in attack, they do have other notable contributions in the likes of center back Philly Fogarty, Jill Horan, Cora Hennessy and 2001 All Ireland winning captain Emily Hayden who will lurk dangerously on the edge of the square.

Athenry are going to have a right cut at this one and if they can remain with Cashel through the pivotal third quarter, it would be no surprise to see the Bill Carroll Cup head west.

The last two All Ireland finals Athenry reached - the 2007 club final and this year's sevens decider - it was Cashel who denied them silverware them on both occasions. The Galway women will be determined to avoid an unwanted hat-trick on Sunday.

Nov. 2009

CAMOGIE

Tomorrow: All-Ireland Club camogie final day
teams: ATHENRY: S Gannon, K Glynn, A Poniard, D Coen, C Cuniffe, R Glynn, K Ruddy, S Donoghue, L Linnane, N Jordan, T Maher (Capt), N Coen; B Kerins, K O'Dwyer, M Keogh.
CASHEL: H Breen, C Ryan, U O'Dwyer (Capt), N Dwyer, P Bullin, P Fogarty, J McGrath, J Horan, L Grogan, C Hennessy, M Morrissey, C Grogan, A Lonergan, E Hayden, C Dwyer.
LAHEY: C Boyle, A McVeigh, K Tappan, C Mullane, A McMullan, C Cusnahan, S Convery (Capt), A McPeake, E Henry, T McLroy, C McCloy, D McShane, P McCloy, M O'Kane, H O'Neill.
ST ANNE'S: C Ahern, E Fitzgerald, L Mooney, L Behan, C Whyte, A Maher, S Kavanagh, C M Maher, A Dunphy, M Murphy (Capt), J Simpson, K Rockett, Z O'Donoghue, K Kelly, N Rockett.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland senior final, Athenry (Galway) v Cashel (Tipperary), St Conleth's Park, Newbridge, 2pm
A REPEAT of the 2007 All Ireland final when Cashel claimed their only title. So, revenge is on the mind of Athenry who are attempting to win the Cup for the first time in 32 years. Both captains will play a major role in deciding the outcome. Una O'Dwyer leads Cashel, and the full back will pull the strings from the edge of the square where up front Claire Grogan is the big threat for the Premier girl. Athenry captain Therese Maher however is director of operations for the Galway girls and Cashel will need to negate the threat she poses.
Verdict: Cashel

All-Ireland junior final, Lavey (Derry) v St Anne's Dunhill, (Waterford), Donaghmore Ashbourne, 2.30pm
ST ANNE'S dethroned fancied The Harps in the semi-final and are favourites tomorrow. Karen Kelly is top scorer at full forward and central to their chances of a first title. Her opposite number Mary O'Kane is a big name for Lavey and was instrumental in their comfortable victory over Four Roads at the penultimate stage. There will be very little between these two teams who are making their first final appearance.
Verdict: St Anne's

Ballygarvan put in a strong shift after break

Ballygarvan 2-8 against the strong Ballygarvan defence for scores but there was no way through.

Glen Rovers 1-4

BALLYGARVAN booked their place in the Evening Echo Minor B championship final with victory over Glen Rovers in Castle Road.

Glen hit the front with a point from Denise Luby and a Sinead O' Halloran goal had them four points ahead before Lorraine Browne and Rebecca Murphy narrowed the gap with points.

Ballygarvan tore into the game from the restart and nine minutes in Rachel Keogh flicked the ball to the net for the lead. Glen battled

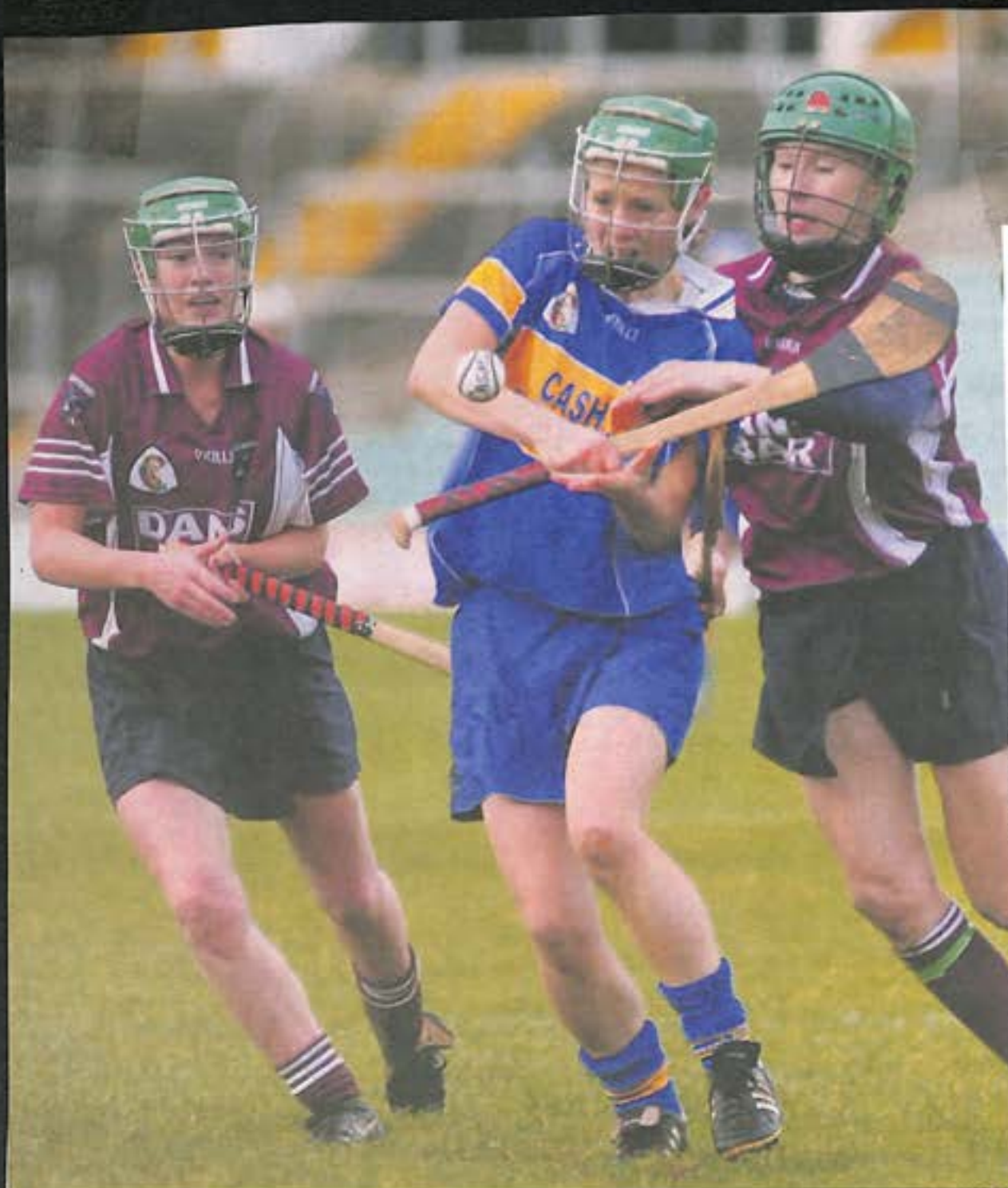
Scorers for Ballygarvan: R Keoghane 2-0, L Browne 0-5 (0-2 45", 0-30), R Murphy 0-3.

Glen Rovers: S O' Halloran 1-1, D Luby 1-0, S Sullivan 0-1, Brien 0-1 each.

BALLYGARVAN: M E O'Donovan, A Walsh, L O Callaghan, K O'Donovan, L Kenefick, L Browne, A Keoghane, M Moynihan, C Murphy, S Gulligan, K O'Sullivan, A Byrne, R Murphy, R Keoghane, C O'Sullivan. **Subs:** K Keoghane for C O'Sullivan, R O' Halloran for A Walsh, A Murphy for R Murphy.

GLEN ROVERS: K Lee, Z Buckley, S Busted, C O' Keefe, S Callanan, N O'Brien, L Crowley, A Keating, A O' Keefe, S Fahy, K O'Connell, D Luby, L O'Sullivan, E O'Connell, S O' Halloran. **Subs:** A Noonan for L Crowley, L Callanan for S Busted, A Dowling for E O'Connell.

Referee: Colette O' Mahony (St Finbarr's).



Athenry's Therese Maher and Mary Keogh put Cashel's Paula Bulfin under pressure when the teams met in the 2007 All-Ireland Club camogie final.



Athenry's Darelle Coen gets to grips with Cashel's Allison Lonergan in the 2007 All-Ireland Club camogie final.

President's Blog – December 2009

President's Blog – December 2009

It's the festive season and certainly clubs and counties are getting in the mood. Many are hoping medal presentations and dinners to honour the achievements of 2009. I've had the great pleasure of being part of several of these in recent weeks. These have included visits to:

- Castletara GAA and Camogie Awards (Cavan)
- Fr. O'Heils GAA and Camogie Awards (Cork)
- Wexford Camogie Awards
- Galway Camogie Awards
- Kildare GAA Awards
- Cork 96 FM Sports Awards.

Into the New Year, the celebrations continue including the:

- Offaly Camogie Awards
- Derry Camogie Awards
- Johnstownbridge (Kildare) GAA, Camogie and Ladies Football Awards and
- The Harps Camogie Awards (Laois).

I've had many other invitations which are greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to attend as many as I would like to. The social side of these occasions is invaluable. So too is the opportunity to affirm the excellent work that's going on continuously at grassroots level. It is also a great opportunity to meet informally with players and volunteers and to listen and respond to people's issues and ideas.

Congratulations to Cashel, Athenry, Lavey and St. Anne's who competed in the recent All-Ireland Club Finals. The weather meant that conditions were anything but Camogie-friendly. This didn't inhibit the desire for All-Ireland glory or the wonderful skill of the players!

We are indebted to two GAA clubs for their marvellous facilities. Clonsilla GAA hosted their first ever All-Ireland Final when Cashel and Athenry crossed hurleys last week. Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA got two consecutive All-Irelands as they also host the replay for the All-Ireland Junior title. The playing surface in both venues was outstanding and a credit to all concerned.

Here's a few things to watch out for in 2010:

- The introduction of a new All-Ireland and Provincial Intermediate Camogie Club championship – following on from the undoubted success of the Senior and Junior competitions. Further details later.
- The Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship reverting to a one group round robin championship – semi-finals will be based on an open draw of the top four finishers.
- The Division 5 League and Máire Ní Chionáide Cup competitions will no longer be one day blitzes. Instead teams will compete in two groups for the All-Ireland Championship title. Group games are on a one round league basis. For the semis, winners of Group 1 play runners up of Group 2; winners of Group 2 play runners up of Group 1.
- Our new Strategic Development Plan – to put in place the future direction of the Camogie Association will be launched.
- An updated and revised version An Treoir Oifigiúil (Official Guide) will be published. Love it or hate it, the 'Rule Book' is a vital tool in the governance and administration of Camogie and the Camogie Association. During the year, a serious amount of work has been undertaken to ensure that our rules and procedures reflect best practice in the way we do our business. First the revised draft will issue for consultation and feedback; following that further revisions may be required at which point, ratification will then be sought from a Special Congress (date to be agreed). The revisions focus on the administration and governance rather than the playing rules. The playing rules may be revised every three years only and were considered at the 2009 Congress.
- More Camogie promotion at local, national and international levels.

As well as many functions and County Conventions running currently, one of the more athletic events was Camogie's participation in the GAA Handball Showdown, held to mark the GAA 125th anniversary. Tony Hannan, Handball President, Christy Cooney, GAA President, Geraldine Giles Past President Ladies Football and I played an 'exhibition' game in Croke Park. It was great fun and it brought home to me how skilful handball is and how complementary it is to the hand and eye co-ordination skills of Camogie. Several Camogie stars including Mags Darcy, Cathriona Foley, Katie McAuley, Aoibhinn Connolly and Mairead Morrissey demonstrated this much better than me! Thoroughly recommend some off-season training in the handball court to all!

In various other ways, the Camogie Association at local and national has marked or contributed to the very successful GAA 125th Anniversary. Likewise the GAA continues to acknowledge and include Camogie in its celebrations.

Two important and recent publications to mark this special year are such examples:

- The GAA: A People's History by Mike Cronin, Mark Durcan and Paul Rouse (published by Collins Press) and
- The Evolution of the GAA Uaidh, Éire agus Éile by Donall McAnallen, David Heenan and Roddy Hegarty (published by the Ulster Historical Foundation)

Include historical accounts and many previously unpublished photographs of Camogie since its foundation in 1904. Both books are excellently produced and recommended for the Xmas gift list! Finally, may I wish everybody in Camogie and in Gaelic Games a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We can look back on a year of great success with more players, more clubs, more teams, more competitions than ever before. That didn't happen by accident but by the vision, work and commitment of Camogie people, both voluntary and paid, up and down the country and overseas. I thank you for that effort and loyalty and for your personal support and kindness to me in the inaugural year of my Presidency.

I very much look forward to building on the progress we've made. Let's continue to work to ensure that as many as possible get the opportunity to enjoy the passion, sport and rich skill of our game.

Na nGaeil

Joan O'Flynn
Sogháil Ní Fhíoláin
Uachtarán
Mí na Nollag 2009

Éire Óg take command to win title

Éire Óg 2-6
Ballygarvan 1-7

ÉIRE Óg set the foundations for victory in the opening half as they lifted the Evening Echo Minor B county championship title in Castle Road. At the half-time whistle they led by six points, but they turned to play against the gale force wind in the second half and it wasn't going to be easy, however with their defence impassable they held out to record a two-point victory.

Ballygarvan hit the front with two points, Rachel Keohane and Lorraine Browne on target, before Éire Óg's Elaine Scally flicked the ball to the net from Claire Meaney's long range free to give Éire Óg the lead. Claire Meaney pointed to extend their advantage before Elaine Scally's shot for goal struck the upright and came back into play. From here on it was Éire Óg who enjoyed the majority of possession aided by the wind and with Claire doing trojan work they pushed forward. Three points from Claire Meaney and one from Elaine Scally saw Éire Óg extend their lead as Ballygarvan battled hard to close them down but they found the task a hard one.

Éire Óg again set the early pace with Siobhan Gleeson, who had moved to the corner forward spot from defence, hand passing the ball to the net inside three minutes of the restart to extend their lead to nine points. With the wind behind them Ballygarvan came more into the game but they were denied by Marie Gleeson in the Éire Óg goal as she brought off a superb save from Aisling Byrne. Ballygarvan, still applying pressure, hit three points without reply, Maebh Moynihan and Lorraine Browne on target.



The Éire Óg team celebrate capturing the Evening Echo Minor B Championship title.

With their backs to the wall the Éire Óg defence had to be at their best as Ballygarvan threw everything at them with captain Ciara O'Keeffe, Katie McCarthy and Orla Boyle doing huge work as they battled to

hold off the Ballygarvan challenge.

With nine minutes remaining Ballygarvan had the lead down to a goal, Rebecca Murphy evading the defence to finish to the net, and it was very much game on. To their

credit Éire Óg responded, sweeping down field. Aoife McCarthy pointed but again Ballygarvan hit back, two points from Rebecca Murphy putting just two between them with four minutes on the stop watch.

Éire Óg: M Gleeson; M Corkery, A Hennessy, S Hutchinson; C O'Keeffe (c), K Mc Carthy, O Meaney; O Boyle, R Murray; M E Desmond, C Meaney, A Murphy; E Crowley, A Mc Carthy, E Scally. Scorers: E Scally 1-2, (0-1), C Meaney 0-4 (0-1), S Hutchinson 1-0.

Ballygarvan: M E O' Donovan, Aine Walsh, L O' Callaghan, K O' Donovan, A Keohane, L Browne, L Kennelick; C Murphy, K O' Sullivan; M Moynihan, R Murphy, A Byrne; S Quilligan, R Keohane, Amy Walsh. Scorers: R Murphy 1-2, L Browne 0-3 (0-3), R Keohane, A Byrne 0-1 each.

Referee: John O' Leary (Mallow).



Sheila Golden, secretary Cork Camogie board, presents Éire Óg captain Ciara O'Keeffe with the Minor B County championship trophy.

From here to the finish it was non-stop defending. Marie Gleeson had to clear quickly to safety as Ballygarvan looked for a goal but their was no way through as Éire Óg held solid to record victory.

Milford deny St Catherines double

Milford 1-8
St Catherines 0-5

MILFORD turned in a superb display to deny St Catherines a league and championship double as they annexed the county senior league title in Whitechurch recently.

Earlier in the season the sides met in the senior county final where St Catherines emerged as champions but this time out it was Milford who took the honours on merit with a determined performance.

Appalling weather conditions made it difficult for both sides but they battled hard to make light of the weather and in the process they served up a good contest. Aided by the gale in the opening half Milford came at

the county champions and enjoying the lion's share of possession they set the foundations for victory as they hit all but two of the tally in the opening half.

Anna Geary gave Milford the lead with an early point and with Emer Watson pointing a free they stretched their lead. With the wind in their favour they put the St Catherines defence under huge pressure. Anna Geary hit her second point before Emer Watson converted two frees.

Working hard to get something from the opening half, St Catherines could find no way through a solid Milford defence that had captain Elaine O'Riordan, Orlaith O'Mahony and Niamh O'Brien solid and reliable. Before the half-time whistle

Sinead O'Flynn struck a point to give Milford a 0-7 to no score interval lead but turning to play against the elements it was going to be tough.

St Catherines came in search of scores and two Orla Cotter pointed frees cut the deficit but Milford dug deep and they got a boost with Marie Watson grabbing a goal to help maintain their lead. Orla Cotter kept St Catherines in touch, pointing two frees to which Emer Watson replied again. St Catherines threw everything they had at Milford but they were not going to be denied.

Milford: R Finn; C Galvin, N O' Brien, L Healy; O O'Mahony, E O' Riordan (c), S Sexton; D O'Reilly, A Watson; M Watson, A Geary, M Geary; L O' Flynn, E Watson, S O' Flynn. Scorers: E Watson 0-4 (0-2), M Watson 1-0, A Geary 0-2, M Geary, S O' Flynn 0-1 each.

St Catherine's: D Leahy; F Noonan (c), O Neville, Y O' Neill; A M Hayes, L Power, C Motherway; M O' Keffe, O Cotter; R O' Callaghan, F Neville, F Cotter; D Twomey, E Roynane, L Higgins. Scorers: O Cotter 0-5 (f's)

Referee: Anthony Cummins (Slabh Rual).

Glen topple the county champions

Glen Rovers 2-5
Ballincollig 1-7

GLEN ROVERS were crowned county Senior B League champions with a victory over the county champions in a superb game played under lights in Ballincollig.

Both had to contend with torrential rain for three quarters of the game but they made light of the conditions as they battled for the title on an excellent pitch.

The Glen, having lost out to the same opposition at county semi-final stage, were fired up from the throw-in and they took an early lead thanks to a Denise Luby point. Leeann O'Sullivan had them four points clear when she sent a ground stroke to the net inside the opening quarter as Ballincollig battled to find their feet. With both defences coming under a lot of pressure scores

were hard to come by. Denise Cronin had three Ballincollig points before Patricia Buttmer had them on level and the same player edged them ahead on the half time whistle where they led 0-5 to 1-1.

On the resumption the Glen girls were back on level as Sinead O'Halloran struck a long-range point and now the game was played at a furious pace. Ballincollig hit the front with a Holly Coomey goal and as they continued to apply pressure they stretched their lead to four points. Denise Cronin pointed a free but the Glen showed fierce determination, with Captain Eileen O'Riordan driving them on from mid-field, ably assisted by Alice Keating.

Denise Luby led the Glen fight-back with a point before Sinead O'Halloran's long-range effort to the net levelled matters and again it

was a battle for supremacy as the sides dug deep. Denise Luby pointed twice to put the Glen two clear as Sarah Buckley pointed a Ballincollig free in reply.

Ballincollig searched for an equaliser but the Glen girls were not going to be denied as they stood firm to take the senior B league title for the first time.

Glen Rovers: K Newman; Z Buckley, A Gilton, B Walsh; S Callanan, L Cunningham, M Hegarty; E O' Riordan (c), A Keating; S Fahy, S O' Halloran, L O' Sullivan, K O' Connell, D Luby, L Kelly, Subs A O' Keffe for B Walsh, E O' Connell for L Kelly. Scorers: D Luby 0-4 (0-1), 0-145, S O' Halloran 1-1, L O' Sullivan 1-0.

Ballincollig: A Sheehan; E O'Sullivan, A Kiely, A Coughlan; B O'Callaghan, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter; S Buckley, S Coomey; O Ni Cathasaigh Weste, D Cronin; P Buttmer, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey; Subs: J Ryle for S Buckley (inj), C Ryan for B O' Callaghan. Scorers: D Cronin 0-4 (0-2), H Coomey 1-0, P Buttmer 0-2, S Buckley 0-1(f).

Cashel Chase All-Ireland Glory against Athenry

By Kieran Slattery, County Camogie P.R.O.

The ultimate prize of being crowned the best club in the country is up for decision next Sunday when Cashel and Athenry of Galway battle it out in what promises to be a thrilling final. At the time of writing, the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick is the venue, but full confirmation of venue and time will appear on the Camogie and GAA websites during the week.

Athenry have yet to claim the Bill Carroll cup, but have been finalists in '07, '85, '82, '79, '76 & '75. As a club their involvement in Galway camogie has been well documented, and they bring with them to this game a hunger and drive to win which will be a huge advantage to them.

Among their ranks are names like Therese Maher, Regina Glynn and Brenda Hanney, players well used to the big stage. One of their more influential players, Jessica Gill has been sidelined with a knee injury, and is reported as been unavailable for selection.

In any Galway Camogie team, you will find a large representation of Athenry players. This year, Galway won the U16 All Ireland Championship; their senior team reached the All Ireland Final in '08, and probably were unlucky to lose to Kilkenny in this year's semi final. Their Intermediate team also won the All Ireland Championship beating Cork in a replay during the year, evidence surely of the strength of Camogie in the West.

Athenry would probably have wished for a tougher semi final challenge from Loughleil, but the



Claire Grogan, John Grogan (manager), Linda Grogan.

young team from Antrim was no match for the Galway girls, and Athenry cruised to their deserved victory.

This is Cashel's 3rd all Ireland final appearance, losing to Pearse's of Galway in 2001. Cashel again made the final when they beat Athenry in 2007 to claim their first and only title. This has also been the only title won by any Tipperary club.

Their path to the final has seen them play out a thriller in the County Final against Burgess/Duharra. Their Munster campaign was somewhat less challenging with wins over Kileedy (Limerick) and St. Catherine's (Cork). However, a much needed challenge was provided by Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) in the semi final, when, despite having the best of exchanges in the first half, Cashel were down 2 points at half time. However, the manner which they turned this deficit around to win by 4 points will place Cashel as

favourites for Sunday's game.

Speaking during the week, Cashel Manager John Grogan has said that "the title of favourite does not, or will not, affect their preparation". In relation to their displays up to this, John has been impressed on how his team "dug out victories from games they some times looked to be losing. The character and sheer grit that the whole panel puts into every performance has been commendable, and they will need to call on all of their depth of experience and self belief if they are to overcome the challenge of Athenry.

One downside to their semi final win was the hand injury picked up by influential player Mairead Morrissey. Despite battling through the pain of a broken finger for most of the game Mairead still managed to register 1.03 for Cashel. It looks as if she will not be able to feature in Sunday's game as a result of this injury.

Apart from meeting each other in the '07 final, these two sides met earlier in the year in the All Ireland sevens in Kilmacud. In what was a thrilling final, Cashel had a 1 point win over Athenry, helped by a display from Claire Grogan which earned her the award of player of the tournament.

However, John Grogan isn't placing too much attention on this result, and though it was great to win, it will have no bearing on how Sunday's game will pan out. In that tournament, Cashel's Sinead Millea sustained an ankle injury which has kept her out of action. She now has returned to do some light training, but whether Sunday's final has come too soon for her remains to be seen.

As already mentioned, Cashel will be making their 3rd appearance in the final. Other Tipperary clubs have also reached the finals. Drom - Inch were finalists in 2008 when they found the challenge from O'Donovan Rossa (Antrim) too much. Toomevara were runners up in 1995 when Rathnure of Wexford stole the show. We have to go back to 1971 when Thurles & Austin Stacks of Dublin were the finalists, and unfortunately it was the Dublin girls who claimed the title.

However, all associated with Tipperary Camogie & GAA will be looking forward to Sunday's game, and lets hope for a large vocal support as the Tipp County champions seek out another All Ireland title.

Finally, last word to Manager John Grogan and the task facing Cashel - "the girls will once again have to put in a 100% display similar to all the games played, and if they can reproduce the tenacity and determination already shown, then it will be Cashel's day".

Nov. 2009



Aoife Gorey in action v DCU at St. Claire's.

Camogie year a huge success



LINDA MELLERICK

ies, getting caught just once by in-form Galway.

The game was billed to be a close encounter.

A scintillating second half saw Cork advance after a poor first half display saw the Rebels trail by three points and turning to face into a strong breeze.

The very mention of Cork v Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final brings certain anticipation.

It failed to live up to expectations however. Kilkenny were disappoint-

ing on the day.

Cork never looked like losing despite the fact that their full-back line and goalkeeper were the far busier of the two defences over the hour.

Cork's defence were superb throughout, particularly Catriona Foley, Rena Buckley and Sarah Hayes.

As a unit the entire defence hunted in packs and the goalkeeping ability of Aoife Murray ensured Kilkenny scored only two points from play throughout the game.

Three points ahead at the break, Rachel Moloney (free), Emer O'Sullivan and Gemma O'Connor had three points on the board by the 36th minute as Cork stretched their lead to six. One felt a Cork goal would help them to push on but it never

came. It was Kilkenny who pushed and pushed for goal but once again found the magnificent Cork defence and goalkeeper Murray in impeccable form.

Cork led 0-12 to 0-6 with 13 minutes left to play. Substitute Katrina Mackey stretched Cork's lead to seven. With this Cork had the luxury of bringing players off the bench to enjoy the moment as they claimed their second title in two years.

We look forward to 2010.

Last Wednesday evening, Finbarr McCarthy launched his third book entitled *Bainisteoir*.

It was a tremendous night in Glen Rovers club. Tomás Mulcahy was excellent as MC, having the large crowd in fits of laughter and it was great to be at such an event.

SARS CAMOGIE LADIES MARK 20 YEARS SINCE WINNING FIRST SENIOR TITLE



Members of the Sars County Camogie Champions, including captain Anne Brady, coach Vincy Barry and Gillian O'Callaghan, club chairperson, at the 40th anniversary reunion in the Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel.

Sars players of the past enjoy 40th reunion

THERE was a lot of reminiscing going on in Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel recently when Sars Camogie club celebrated their 40th Anniversary reunion and 20th anniversary of the club winning their first Senior County Title.

The Canavan sisters Mary and Pat, along with Martina Murphy and sister in law Catherine Kenneally, members of the first team to bring silverware back to the club were present as well as Lillian Twomey, a player of that historic 1989 senior final and teammates Noelle Aherne, Lillian Zinkant and Anne Brady.

Gillian O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the celebrations and had a special welcome to the club's Minor County champions captained by Sandra Dooley, special guests Tadhg Murphy, Chairman Sars hurling club, Denis Hurley President Sars hurling club, Vincy Barry coach /manager 89 county champions, Marion Mc Carthy Chairperson County Camogie Board Tracy Sheehan Chairperson Juvenile county board, Fr Ted C Sheehan and Cllr Gerry Kelly.

Gillian said she had to thank a lot of people on her own behalf and on behalf of the club, including Trish Dwyer, Lily Zinckant, Orla Butler, Emer O'Farrell, Orla Quinn, Mairead O'Farrell, Martina Murphy and Ann Daly who helped her organise the reunion and Breda Kenny for doing all the work with the DVD and photos, which were shown on the night.

She also praised all the people



Mairéad O'Farrell, Niamh Whooley, Doris Murphy and Rosemarie Hyde at the Sars Camogie 40th anniversary reunion in the Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel

who have trained the various teams down through the years and who have helped the club out in any way. Special thanks also went to John O'Regan who used to own Vienna Woods Hotel, for all the support he gave to the club over the years.

Sars camogie club had been in existence in the earlier part of the 20th century but had fallen by the wayside. Back in 1969 Nell McCarthy who was President of the Camogie Association of Ireland and was in Riverstown for a funeral. Nell saw lots of girls walking around and appealed to Phil Crowley (current club president) and Breda McCarthy to

get a club up and running in the area which they did in 1973. The club won their first piece of silverware by winning junior A championship.

Aisling Kenneally, Jennifer Murphy and Edel Murphy daughter of members of first championship win for the club were at the reunion and are as involved with the club as their mothers were back in 1973. Aisling is a member of this year's minor D champions. Other members of that historic '73 team present on the night included Pat Murphy, Catherine Murphy and Marie Dinan.

In 1989 the club achieved the ulti-

mate prize when they won the senior county on a scorching July against all the odds Gillian said.

"Glen Rovers had the red hot favourite tag and all the stars but Sars had Vincy Barry as trainer and Marie Kearney selector and a team with hunger, commitment and nothing to lose," she said.

Present on the night from that team were captain Ann Brady and Lil Twomey who won the player of the match award, Mary Brady, Noelle Aherne, Liz Dunphy, Eileen Noonan, Lillian Zinckant, Ger Barry, Susan Barry, Sheila Barry, Marcel Fitzpatrick and Breda O'Sullivan.

~ Clár an Lae ~

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29th

All-Ireland Senior Club Championship Final

St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge: **ATHENRY** (Galway)
v. **CASHEL** (Tipperary)

2.00 p.m.

Referee: FINTAN McNAMARA (Clare)
Line Umpires: Eamonn Mansfield (Kilkenny)
Karl O'Brien (Dublin)

All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final

Donaghmore/Ashbourne: **ST. ANNE'S**, DUNHILL (Waterford)
v. **LAVEY** (Derry)

2.30 p.m.

Referee: MIKE O'KELLY (Cork)
Line Umpires: Julie O'Neill (Armagh)
Donal Ryan (Dublin)

In the event of either of today's games ending in a draw,
the replay will take place on December 6th.



Fáilte

FÁILTE ROIMH go léir inniú go dtí Cluichí Cheannais na hÉireann idir chlub. Fáilte speisialta donaghmore/Ashbourne agus na réiteoirí agus daoibhse an lucht féachainte. Today's All-Ireland Senior and Junior Club Finals are the final playing action of the 2009 season. In Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA, Ulster and Derry champions Lavey face Munster and Waterford champions St. Anne's from Dunhill. In St. Conleth's Park in Newbridge, Cashel and Athenry contest the Senior Final. These teams already know each other having played a thrilling final earlier in the year in the All-Ireland Kilmacud 7s in September.

The All-Ireland Junior Club is still a relatively young competition. This is its sixth year, so whether it's Lavey or St. Anne's, there will be a new name on the Phil McBride Cup. The Bill Carroll Cup is the prize for the senior club champions. Athenry (1977) and Cashel (2007) have one title apiece during the 35 year history of competition.

The club championships are great competitions that create wonderful playing opportunities and generate very positive public interest. In 2010, to support greater participation of more clubs in All-Ireland competition, we will introduce an All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship. Further details will be announced in the New Year.

Two great games are in prospect today. All teams have players with intercounty experience. Some have a number of All-Ireland medals already at intercounty level. A special mention to Athenry's Deirdre Ward, who was goalkeeper on the Galway All-Ireland Intermediate winning team this year and to a number of the St. Anne's players who contested the All-Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park in September.

There were many outstanding individual performances in 2009. The All-Star Awards and inaugural Soaring Star Awards recognise this excellence. Today, Athenry's Regina Glynn and Therese Maher and St. Anne's Karen Kelly will be hoping to collect more silverware. However, I have no doubt that Cashel and Lavey are focussed on achieving the same. Weather and conditions permitting, the talent, skills and abilities of all players will ensure that the games will be both competitive and compelling.

It is often a challenge at this time of the year to get grounds equal to playing Camogie – so a very generous thank you to the grounds people and GAA administrators in both venues today for facilitating us.

Good luck to all teams, mentors and match officials agus tá súil again go mbainfidh sibh go léir taitheamh as na gcluichí.

Sidhan Ní Ahtáin

JOAN O'FLYNN

Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS ROLL OF HONOUR

All-Ireland Club SENIOR Championship – Bill Carroll Cup

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP
1964	Celtic, Dublin	Deirdre, Belfast
1965	St. Patrick's, Glengoose	Deirdre, Belfast
1966	St. Patrick's, Glengoose	St. Paul's, Kilkenny
1967	Eoghan Ruadh, Dublin	Oranmore, Galway
1968	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Ahane, Limerick
1969	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Ahane, Limerick
1970	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Bellaghy, Derry
1971	Austin Stacks, Dublin	Thurles, Tipperary
1972	Austin Stacks, Dublin	Portlennane, Antrim
1973	Oranmore, Galway	St. Paul's, Kilkenny
1974	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Oranmore, Galway
1975	Croagh-Kilfinny, Limerick	Athenry, Galway
1976	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Athenry, Galway
1977	Athenry, Galway	Portlennane, Antrim
1978	Ballyagran, Limerick	Buffer's Alley, Wexford
1979	Buffer's Alley, Wexford	Athenry, Galway
1980	Killeagh, Cork	Buffer's Alley, Wexford
1981	Buffer's Alley, Wexford	Killeagh, Cork
1982	Buffer's Alley, Wexford	Athenry, Galway
1983	Buffer's Alley, Wexford	Glenamaddy, Galway
1984	Buffer's Alley, Wexford	Killeagh, Cork
1985	Crumlin, Dublin	Athenry, Galway
1986	Glen Rovers, Cork	St. Paul's, Kilkenny
1987	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Glen Rovers, Cork
1988	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Glenamaddy, Galway
1989	St. Paul's, Kilkenny	Mullagh, Galway
1990	Glen Rovers, Cork	St. Paul's, Kilkenny
1991	Mullagh, Galway	Eglis, Tyrone
1992	Glen Rovers, Cork	Rathnure, Wexford
1993	Glen Rovers, Cork	Mullagh, Galway
1994	Lisdowney, Kilkenny	Glen Rovers, Cork
1995	Rathnure, Wexford	Toomevara, Tipperary
1996	Pearsees, Galway	Granagh-Ballingarry, Limerick
1997	Pearsees, Galway	Lisdowney, Kilkenny
1998	Granagh-Ballingarry, Limerick	St. Vincent's, Dublin
1999	Granagh-Ballingarry, Limerick	Devitt's, Galway
2000	Pearsees, Galway	Swatragh, Derry
2001	Pearsees, Galway	Cashel, Tipperary
2002	Pearsees, Galway	St. Ibar's, Wexford
2003	Granagh-Ballingarry, Limerick	Devitt's, Galway
2004	St. Lachtain's, Kilkenny	Granagh-Ballingarry, Limerick
2005	St. Lachtain's, Kilkenny	Devitt's, Galway
2006	St. Lachtain's, Kilkenny	O'Donovan Rossa, Belfast
2007	Cashel	Athenry, Galway
2008	O'Donovan Rossa, Belfast	Drum & Inch, Tipperary

All-Ireland Club JUNIOR Championship – Phil McBride Cup

2003 was the Inaugural Year of the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP
2003	Crossmaglen, Armagh	Drumcullen, Offaly
2004	Leitrim Fontenays, Down	Four Roads, Roscommon
2005	Leitrim Fontenays, Down	Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare
2006	Harps, Laois	St. Patrick's, Keady, Armagh
2007	Harps, Laois	St. Patrick's, Keady, Armagh
2008	Harps, Laois	Kilmaley, Clare

DEC. 2009

Cashel crowned All Ireland senior club champions while Lavey and St Anne's will have to do it all over again

Cashel crowned All Ireland senior club champions while Lavey and St Anne's will have to do it all over again

Cashel 0-11

Athenry 0-9

Cashel had to pull on all their experience to stave off a dogged challenge from Athenry to claim their second All Ireland senior club championship title in horrendous weather at Clarecastle yesterday.

Although the foot conditions were top class at the impressive Clare venue, the driving wind and rain proved to be a constant challenge for the top two teams.

It was Cashel's ability to keep the scoreboard ticking over during a first half when Athenry captain Therese Maher had opted to play with the gale that was the main difference. Claire Grogan's seven points overall (four from play) were contributory too, but when it came down to it, the Tipperary side had too much talent for the westerners who were far too reliant on skipper Maher to keep them in the hunt.

As well, Cashel captain and full back Una O'Dwyer proved unbeatable, as did their entire half back trio of Paula Bulfin, Philly Fogarty and Julie McGrath. And when they turned over just one point in arrears, 0-5 to 0-6, it was going to take an enormous effort from the Maroon girls to remain in the game, but credit to them, they fought to the bitter end.

Athenry led 0-3 to 0-2 after 15 minutes, and had they capitalised on two goal opportunities it would have been a different story for the underdogs. A pair of points coming up to the break from free-taker Laura Linnane and Noreen Coen left them double scores ahead, but a strong finish from Cashel yielded flags from Grogan and Alison Loeorgan.

The second half was a dogfight with the weather deteriorating. Approaching the last quarter Cashel had edged 0-9 to 0-7 in front, but the introduction of the injured Jessica Gill for Athenry egged them on. She came close with a goal shot, and despite their grit, Cashel held out with two Grogan points closing out the score. Scorers Cashel: C Grogan 0-7 (0-3 frees), M Morrissey 0-2, A Loeorgan and E Hayden 0-1 each.

Scorers for Athenry: L Linnane 0-4 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45m), T Maher, N Coen, K O'Dwyer, B Kerins and J Gill (free) 0-1 each.

St Anne's 1-11

Lavey 1-11 (AET)

St Anne's Dunhill and Lavey will have to do it all over again to determine the destination of the All Ireland junior club title. After extra-time in a pulsating final in Donaghmore Ashbourne the scoreboard was still deadlocked 1-11 apiece. An announcement will be made tomorrow (Monday) regarding the replay.

St Anne's did all the running with the wind in the first half and courtesy of a kicked goal from Jenny Simpson led 1-6 to 0-2 at the changeover. It was Lavey's turn in the second 30 minutes with captain Mary O'Kane netting for the Derry champions. It was nip and tuck with St Anne's Karen Kelly shooting the equaliser on full time.

After the first period of extra time, wind assisted St Anne's moved 1-11 to 1-8 ahead, but three points from Lavey coming down the home straight ensured the teams will have to meet again.

Scorers for St Anne's: K Kelly 0-6 (0-3 frees), J Simpson 1-2, N Rockett 0-3.

Scorers for Lavey: M O'Kane 1-3, A McPeake 0-5 (0-3 frees), D McShane, C Cushnahan and P McCloy 0-1 each.

Cashel

Gorm agus Ór



(1)
HELEN BREEN
L. Ni Bhraoin

(2)
CLAIRE RYAN
C. Ni Riain

(3)
ÚNA DWYER
Ú. Ni Dhubhuir (Capt.)

(4)
NOLETTE DWYER
N. Ni Dhubhuir

(5)
PAULA BULFIN
P. Bulfin

(6)
PHILLY FOGARTY
P. Ni Fógartaigh

(7)
JULIE McGRATH
S. Nic Craith

(8)
JILL HORAN
S. Ni hÓráin

(9)
LINDA GROGAN
L. Nic Gruagáin

(10)
CORA HENNESSY
C. Ni hAonasa

(11)
MAIRÉAD MORRISSEY
M. Ni Mhuireasa

(12)
CLAIRE GROGAN
C. Nic Gruagáin

(13)
ALISON LONERGAN
A. Ni Longargáin

(14)
EMILY HAYDEN
E. Ni hÉideáin

(15)
CLIONA DWYER
C. Ni Dhubhuir

(17) **Deirdre Ryan**
D. Ni Riain

(20) **Sheila O'Donnell**
S. Ni Dónaill

(23) **Sinead Millea**
S. Millea

(18) **Sharon Hayes**
S. Ni hAodha

(21) **Ciara O'Sullivan**
C. Ni Suilleabháin

(24) **Danielle O'Connell**
S. Ni Chonaill

(19) **Joanne Peters**
S. Nic Pheadair

(22) **Shauna Butler**
S. de Builéir

Bainisteoir: John Grogan. Roghainnir: Vinney Kelly, Martin Dwyer, Jean Hayden.



Back row (l.-r.): Sinead Millea, Ciara O'Sullivan, Sile O'Donnell, Deirdre Ryan, Philly Fogarty, Helen Breen, Sharon Hayes, Linda Grogan, Jill Horan, Claire Ryan, Nolette O'Dwyer, Alison Loneran. Front row (l.-r.): Mairéad Morrissey, Joanne Peters, Cliona O'Dwyer, Danielle O'Connell, Claire Grogan, Emily Hayden, Cora Hennessey, Julie McGrath, Paula Bulfin, Una O'Dwyer. Mascot: Eva O'Dwyer.

THIS IS Cashel's 3rd All-Ireland Final appearance. They lost to Pearces of Galway in 2001, they again made the final when they beat Athenry in 2007 to claim their first and only title. This has also been the only All-Ireland title won by any Tipperary club. Their path to the final has seen them play out a thriller in the County Final against Burgess/ Duharra. Their Munster campaign was somewhat less challenging with wins over Killeedy (Limerick) and St. Catherine's (Cork). However, a much needed challenge was provided by Oulart/The Ballagh (Wexford) in the semi-final, when despite having the best of exchanges in the first half, Cashel were down two points at half-time.

Speaking during the week, Cashel Manager John Grogan has said that "the

title of favourite does not or will not affect their preparation." In relation to their displays up to this, John has been impressed on how his team "dug out victories from games they sometimes looked to be losing. The character and sheer grit that the whole panel puts into every performance has been commendable and they will need to call on all of their depth of experience and self-belief if they are to overcome the challenge of Athenry."

One downside to their semi-final win was the hand injury picked up by influential player Mairéad Morrissey. Despite battling through the pain of a broken finger for most of the game, Mairéad still managed to register 1-3 for Cashel. It looks as if she will not be able to feature in Sunday's game as a result of this injury.

Athenry

Marún agus Bán



(1)
STEPHANIE GANNON
S. Nic Fhionnáin

(2)
KATHERINE GLYNN
C. Nic Fhloinn

(3)
ALICE PONIARD
A. Ponard

(4)
DARELLE COEN
D. Ni Chadhain

(5)
CIARA CUNNIFFE
C. Nic Connuibh

(6)
REGINA GLYNN
R. Nic Fhloinn

(7)
KRYSTLE RUDDY
C. Ni Rodaigh

(8)
SARAH DONOHUE
S. Ni Dhanncú

(9)
LAURA LINNANE
L. Ni Linneáin

(10)
NATALIE JORDAN
N. Nic Shiúrtáin

(11)
THERESE MAHER
T. Ni Mheachair (Capt.)

(12)
NOREEN COEN
N. Ni Chadhain

(13)
BRENDA KERINS
B. Ni Chéirín

(14)
KATIE O'DWYER
C. Ni Dhuibhir

(15)
MARY KEOGH
M. Nic Eochaidh

(16) **Nicola Nally**
N. Nic an Fhaili

(20) **Jennifer Ponard**
S. Ponard

(23) **Maeve Carr**
M. Nic an Giolla Cheara

(26) **Claire Forde**
C. Nic Giollanath

(17) **Emma Costello**
E. Nic Coisteala

(21) **Fiona Gannon**
A. Nic Fhionnáin

(24) **Bridie Scully**
B. Ni Scolai

(27) **Amanda Cannon**
A. Ni Canáin

(18) **Shauna Coll**
S. Nic Colla

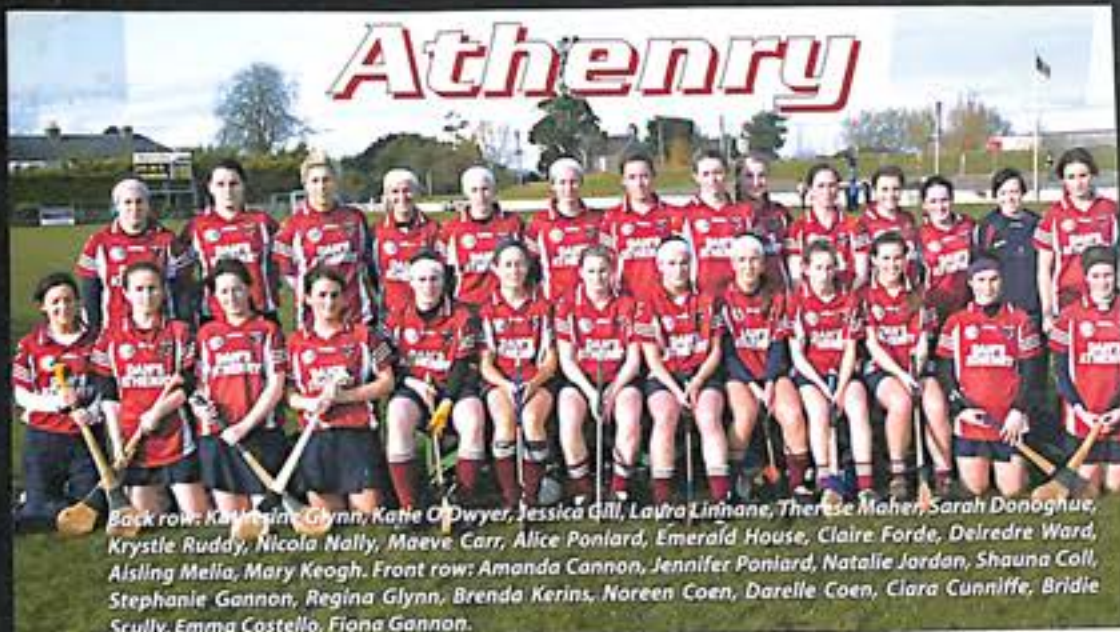
(22) **Deirdre Ward**
D. Nic an Bhaire

(25) **Emerald House**
E. House

(28) **Ashling Melia**
A. Ni Máille

(19) **Jessica Gill**
S. Nic Gialla

Management Team: Midge Glynn, P.J. Molloy, Eugene Cloonan, Dermot Monaghan, Frank O'Shea.



Back row: Katherine Glynn, Katie O'Dwyer, Jessica Gill, Laura Linnane, Therese Maher, Sarah Donoghue, Krystle Ruddy, Nicola Nally, Maeve Carr, Alice Ponard, Emerald House, Claire Forde, Deirdre Ward, Ashling Melia, Mary Keogh. Front row: Amanda Cannon, Jennifer Ponard, Natalie Jordan, Shauna Coll, Stephanie Gannon, Regina Glynn, Brenda Kerins, Noreen Coen, Darelle Coen, Ciara Cuniffe, Bridie Scully, Emma Costello, Fiona Gannon.

ATHENRY parish, like many others, is steeped in the history and traditions of Camogie and Hurling since the early 1900's and these games have strengthened and grown with the passage of the years. Athenry Camogie Club was founded in 1973, building on the success of teams from Presentation College, Athenry, who had enjoyed unprecedented victories on the schools Camogie scene, not least of which was winning both the Junior and Senior All-Ireland Schools Finals on the same day in Croke Park on April 6th, 1974 with four girls playing in both games.

Many jubilant days were to follow within a short space of time and in 1975 they won their first Senior County Final and went on to contest the All-Ireland Final which they lost by a mere point. Three successive County titles were to follow and the ultimate accolade, a Senior Club All-Ireland title, was achieved in 1977 - no mean feat for a club in its relative infancy. History had been made in the Club in more ways than one that year as the team had flown to Belfast for their All-Ireland semi-final encounter against Creggan in the previous

weeks. Further County titles were won in 1985 and 1986.

With no underage structure in place, the Club recognised the need for a 'breeding ground' for the future and thus in 1992 Athenry fielded their first under age teams with immediate success from U10 upwards. 1997 saw the Club win the Féile title with many of the girls in the Athenry colours today having played on that winning team. The fact that so many of these are still so active in the game is testament to their passion and commitment to this great and skilful game and to the support and dedication of Club, Community and Parish.

The links with the past remain very strong and the present manager of Athenry, Midge Glynn, who played in the glory days of the late '70's today sees her daughter Gina and nieces Alice and Jenny Ponard and Katie O'Dwyer all part of the current team.

This Athenry team which lines out for today's All-Ireland Final have won four consecutive County finals and reached the All-Ireland final in 2007 which they lost to their opponents of today, Cashel.

St. Anne's, Dunhill

Glas agus Dearg



(1) CAROLYN AHEARN C. Ni hEathrin		
(2) EMMA FITZGERALD E. Nic Gearailt	(3) LORENA MOONEY L. Ni Mhaonaigh	(4) LORNA BEHAN L. Ni Bheacháin
(5) CLAIRE WHYTE C. Ni Bhanáin	(6) ANNETTE RAHER A. Ni Rechair	(7) SIOBHÁN KAVANAGH S. Coomhánach
(8) CHARLOTTE-MARIE RAHER C. M. Ni Rechair		(9) AILISH DUNPHY A. Ni Dhonnchaidh
(10) MAIRÉAD MURPHY M. Ni Mhurchú (Capt.)	(11) JENNIE SIMPSON S. Nic Shim	(12) KATE ROCKETT C. Rockett
(13) ZOE O'DONOGHUE Z. Ni Dhonnchú	(14) KAREN KELLY C. Ni Cheallaigh	(15) NIAMH ROCKETT N. Rockett
(16) Mary Claire Dunphy M. C. Ni Dhonnchaidh	(19) Shauna Casey S. Ni Chasthaisigh	(22) Niamh Behan N. Ni Bheacháin
(17) Tracey Gallagher T. Ni Ghallcháir	(20) Sinead Cummins S. Cummins	(23) Dawn Phelan D. Ni Fhólaín
(18) Rachel Ahern R. Ni hEathrin	(21) Rebecca Kavanagh R. Coomhánach	(24) Sarah Fitzgerald S. Nic Gearailt

Management Team: Anthony Rahe, Michael Kearney, Pauline Cunningham, Helena Jacob, Michael Kavanagh, Bryan Murphy.



Back row: Dawn Phelan, Ailish Dunphy, Rachel Ahern, Sinead Cummins, Zoe O'Donoghue, Charlotte Rahe, Mairéad Murphy, Carolyn Ahern, Emma Fitzgerald, Lorna Behan, Jennie Simpson, Sarah Fitzgerald, Shauna Casey, Karen Kelly. Front row: Niamh Behan, Tracey Gallagher, Claire Whyte, Annette Rahe, Niamh Rockett, Kate Rockett, Siobhán Kavanagh, Mary Claire Dunphy, Lorena Mooney, Rebecca Kavanagh.

ST. ANNE'S, Dunhill club has figured in every Senior Camogie county final since 2002, losing only two, 2006 and 2008. They have won every Junior/Senior League in Waterford from 2001 to 2008 inclusive.

Members of the team have enjoyed success in camogie at second and third level education. On the team today there are members of the All-Ireland winning Mercy Secondary School team from 2002. This success signalled the beginning of a resurgence of camogie within the county. Also in action today for St. Anne's are girls who have won Ashbourne Cup medals with various 3rd level colleges.

In 1996 St. Anne's won their first adult title, the Junior Championship. It took four years of knocking on the door before they finally beat Butlerstown in the Senior final of 2000 after being

beaten by them in the previous four Senior Finals.

Today's management team, Anthony Rahe (Chairman), Helena Jacob, Pauline Cunningham, Michael Kavanagh and Bryan Murphy, have contributed a huge amount of time, effort and commitment to St. Anne's success. Pauline has represented her club at every level in both codes, football and Camogie. Unfortunately she is sidelined through injury for today's game.

The absence of Michael Kearney (team manager) from the sideline today is a huge loss to the team. His unquestionable dedication to the campaign over the past two years has these players where they are today. The very best of luck to Michael and Ballygunner in today's Munster Club Hurling final.



Lavey

Flannbhul agus Dubh

(1) CIARA BOYLE C. Ni Baoill		
(2) AEDIN McVEIGH A. Nic an Bheatha	(3) KATHLEEN TAGGART C. Nic an tSaigairt	(4) CIARA MULLAN C. Ni Maoláin
(5) ALANA McMULLAN A. Nic Maoláin	(6) CEARA CUSHNAHAN C. Ni Caisealáin	(7) SIOBHÁN CONVERY S. Nic Ainmhire (Capt.)
(8) ATTRACTA McPEAKE A. Nic Péice		(9) EDELLE HENRY E. Ni hInnéiri
(10) TERESA McILROY T. Nic Giolla Rua	(11) CLARE McCOY C. Nic Luaidh	(12) DENISE McSHANE D. Nic Seáin
(13) PAULA McCLOY P. Nic Luaidh	(14) MARY O'KANE M. Ni Catháin	(15) HELEN O'NEILL L. Ni Néill
(16) Faolttiarna Ward F. Nic an Bhraoid	(19) Eimhear Murphy E. Ni Mhurchú	(22) Rachel McMullan R. Nic Maoláin
(17) Donna Magill D. Nic an Giolla	(20) Joanne McCloy S. Nic Luaidh	
(18) Seanine McCann S. Nic Cana	(21) Irene Cushnahan I. Ni Caisealáin	

Team Management: Damian O'Boyle, Orla McCarthy, Michael McShane.



Back row (l.-r.): Faolttiarna Ward, Joanne McCloy, Rachel McMullan, Seanine McCann, Helen O'Neill, Ciara Boyle, Clare McCloy, Donna Magill, Aedin McVeigh, Attracta McPeake, Mary O'Kane, Edelle Henry. Front row (l.-r.): Teresa McIlroy, Paula McCloy, Siobhán Convery (Capt.), Ceara Cushnahan, Denise McCann, Kathleen Taggart, Eimhear Murphy, Alana McMullan, Irene Cushnahan, Ciara Mullan.

THIS IS a very historic day for Lavey camogie as they line-out for the first time in an All-Ireland club final. Lavey failed to reach the final stages last year, only just losing out to three times All-Ireland winners The Harps from Laois. They will be hoping to emulate the achievements of the club's Senior Footballers who won the All-Ireland club title in 1991. As memories of that glorious victory come flooding back to the faithful Lavey supporters, Lavey are on the brink of something quite unique.

Today's manager, Damian O'Boyle, played midfield on that team with Orla McCarthy's brothers, Henry and Seamus Downey, also on the side. It's a great family effort in Lavey with three Ward sisters, three McCloy's and two Cushnahan's on the side along with two nieces of the famous McGurk family. Kathleen Taggart is a cousin too of Derry hurling star Paddy Henry. Hurling supremo Tom Magill has his niece Donna on the team also.

Lavey GAC was founded in 1926 and has a deep-rooted tradition in all Gaelic

games, having contested Ulster club finals in Gaelic football, Camogie and Hurling in the last 15 years.

Lavey made their breakthrough into Senior Camogie in 1995 winning their first Derry Senior Championship and only narrowly losing out as Provincial winners that year. They collected their seventh Derry senior title this year with Siobhán Convery, today's captain, the proud recipient of all seven medals. Lavey lost out in four Provincial finals before winning their first last year against Keady and collected their second Ulster club title this year at the hands of Keady again.

The Lavey team are no strangers to All-Ireland success with Siobhán Convery, Mary O'Kane, Paula McCloy, Ceara Cushnahan, Ciara Boyle, Teresa McIlroy, Attracta McPeake and Edelle Henry all having picked up All-Ireland championship medals and national league medals with Derry. Lavey's Martina O'Connor also was vice-captain on the successful 2000 All-Ireland Junior winning team.

Grogan on fire as Cashel clinch crown

All-Ireland Senior Club camogie final

Cashel (Tipperary) 0-11
Athenry (Galway) 0-9

by Gerry Quinn

CASHEL were crowned All-Ireland Senior club camogie champions at Clarecastle yesterday for the second time in three years.

The victors were inspired by county star Claire Grogan who hit seven points and was a constant threat to the Athenry defence.

Despite exceptionally good underfoot conditions, both sides had to negotiate biting cold, squally showers and an unpredictable wind.

Leading by 0-6 to 0-5 after playing against the breeze in the opening half, the Galway girls appeared to have the upper hand at the break.

Cashel trailed 0-4 to 0-2 at the end of the first quarter, with Athenry's midfielder Laura Linnane in fine form.

Cashel goalkeeper Helen Breen came to her side's rescue in the 14th minute when she denied Athenry captain Therese Fahy with a great save.

After that miss, Cashel appeared to cope better with the elements and took the lead by the 36th minute with scores by full-forward Emily Hayden and centre-forward Mairead Morrissey. A Linnane free, levelled matters once more three minutes later but a trio of points by the in-form Grogan swung

the initiative in favour of the Premier champions.

Athenry's Katie O'Dwyer and Grogan exchanged points to leave three between them and in an exciting finish a resolute Cashel full-back line came to the fore and restricted their opponents to just one last score, a pointed free by substitute Jessica Gill.

Winning manager John Grogan expressed delight at the victory.

He said: "It was a real dogfight in the end.

"The wind and rain were desperate and it made it very hard for girls to play."

Agreeing that his team's second half performance swung it in their favour, he stated, "out in the middle of the field they did very well."

"Claire Grogan in particular picked up an awful lot of ball and our full-back line was also very solid throughout."

Scorers for Cashel: C Grogan (0-7, 3f), M Morrissey (0-2) A Lonergan, E Hayden (0-1) each.

Scorers for Athenry: L Linnane (0-4, 1f, 1 45), T Maher, B Kerins, K O'Dwyer, J Gill (f) (0-1) each.

CASHEL: H Breen; C Ryan, U O'Dwyer (capt), N Dwyer, P Bulfin, P Fogarty, J McGrath; J Horan, L Grogan; C Hennessey, M Morrissey, C Grogan; A Lonergan, E Hayden, C Dwyer.

Subs: S Hayes for Lonergan (60), D O'Connell for C Dwyer (60).

ATHENRY: S Gannon; K Glynn, A Ponard, D Coen; C Cuniffe, R Glynn, K Ruddy; S Donohue, L Linnane; N Jordan, T Maher (capt), N Coen; B Kerins, K O'Dwyer, M Keogh.

Subs: J Gill for Jordan (46).

Referee: F McNamara (Clare).



RAIN DANCE: Cashel's Paula Bulfin and Athenry's Noreen Coen battling for the ball in appalling weather conditions during the All-Ireland senior camogie club final in Clarecastle, Co. Clare.

Picture: Sport

Thriller ends in stalemate

WATERFORD champions St Anne's Dunhill and Lavey of Derry must meet again to determine the destination of the All-Ireland junior club title.

After extra-time in a pulsating final in Donaghmore Ashbourne, the scoreboard remained deadlocked 1-11 apiece. An announcement will be made today regarding the replay date and venue.

St Anne's had the wind in the first half and courtesy of a kicked goal from Jenny Simpson led 1-6 to

0-2 at the interval.

Lavey then took control on the restart with captain Mary O'Kane netting for the Derry champions before St Anne's top scorer Karen Kelly landed the equaliser seconds from the full time whistle.

After the first period of extra time, wind assisted St Anne's moved 1-11 to 1-8 ahead, but three points from Lavey in the final minutes ensured the teams must meet again.

Ulster Colleges Finals Reports

Ulster Colleges' Fr Davies Cup final

St Patrick's Keady 1-3 St Colm's Drapenstown 1-3

There have been fewer games played in Casement Park in any code this year that were tougher and more evenly balanced than yesterday's Fr Davies' Cup final.

The paucity of scores in the 1-3 each draw is testament to the blocking, hassling and harrying that took place all over the pitch but particularly from both defensive units.

Amy Lavery, Hannah McGeown, Petrina Cosgrove and Laura McGeown were outstanding at the back for Keady as were Charlene Scullion, Gemma Conway, Paula McElwee and Bronagh McGillan for Drapenstown.

Bronagh's driving forward was also a key feature in putting pressure on the Keady defence, but an early injury to Mary Jo McCullagh curtailed her threat, while Amy McElwee and Orla Murray were also prominent for Keady.

Both teams created opening before Mary Jo crashed home a 10th minute goal for Drapenstown and then midway through the half Michelle Morgan and Caitriona McBride swapped points.

Keady shaded the first half proceedings in all but the scoring although just before the break they hit a good patch with points from Eadaoin Murphy and Orla Curry followed by a Murphy goal.

While Keady had patches of good play during the second half, the Derry girls held the balance of play, narrowing the deficit with a point from an Aimee Kelly free early in the half.

However they missed several other frees before Bronagh McGillan delivered from 45 metres with 2 minutes to go.

It is hoped to replay the game midweek, with an announcement being made tomorrow Monday.

St Patrick's: Aisling Murphy, Brenda Rafferty, Amy Lavery capt., Laura McGeown, Hannah McGeown, Petrina Cosgrove, Megan Grimley, Amy McElwee, Orla Curry 0-1, Orla Murray, Eadaoin Murphy 1-1, Kirsty Sheridan, Michelle Morgan 0-1, Claire Gormley, Nicola Woods.

Subs: Caoimhe Smyth for K. Sheridan, Aoife Murphy for M. Grimley, Catherine McCooley for B. Rafferty, Catherine Connolly for P. Cosgrove, Ailene Haughey for N. Woods.

St Colm's: Kathryn McAmees, Gemma Conway, Charlene Scullion, LeeAnne Grant, Paula McElwee, Bronagh McGillan 0-1, Teresa Bradley, Grace Kelly, Mary T McCullagh, Kelly Marie Hegarty, Aimee Kelly 0-1, Patrina McBride, Caitriona McBride 0-1, Mary Jo McCullagh capt. 1-0, Louise Murphy.

Sub: Mary Hegarty for L. Murphy.

Referee: Colin Cunningham.

Medallion Centre Senior Shield

St Louis Killeel 1-6 St Patrick's Dungiven 0-1

It was only in the last five minutes of play that St Louis Killeel made sure of their first ever Ulster Colleges' Senior Medallion Shield title yesterday in Casement Park.

They had dominated proceedings particularly during the second half, but could not pass the McCoskey sisters in Dungiven's full-back line, and their interval lead of 0-4 to 0-1 was all that separated the sides.

Dungiven had been threatening on the break and a goal could easily have lifted the north Derry challenge.

However Sophie Colgan blasted over a point and almost immediately from the puck-out the first in a shot that Megan McDermott could only parry and substitute Nicole Grant poked home. A free from an acute angled by Colgan completed the scoring.

Overall this was a highly entertaining final with defences really in the ascendancy. Apart from the McCoskeys, Eimear Mullan, Caoimhe Moore and Aileen McCormick all hurled with conviction for Dungiven.

But the overall balance of the St Louis side saw them through. Erin McDowell and Nuala Fitzpatrick were outstanding at the back, Colleen Fearon got through a lot of work at midfield and Danielle Harrison and Carrie Kilen provided good support for the target player Sophie Colgan at full-forward.

Dungiven opened the scoring with an Orlath Mullan point, but Danielle Harrison responded with two points and another two before the break from Colleen Kilen and Sophie Colgan opened a gap.

Dungiven enjoyed a good bit of possession during the first half, but for the duration of the second half, their forward line was living off scraps and it was only a matter of time before Killeel put them away.

St Louis: Cara Morgan, Orlath McParland, Erin McDowell, Nicole Hughes, Caoimhe Poland, Nuala Fitzpatrick, Colleen Magee, Colleen Fearon, Laura Sloan, Carrie Kilen 0-1, Danielle Harrison capt. 0-2, Noelle Fearon, Christina Trainor, Sophie Colgan 0-3, Rachel Colgan.

Subs: Denise Trimble for C. Kilen (nt), C. Kilen for C. Trainor (45), Nicole Grant 1-0 for R. Colgan (46), Rosalie Caldwell for C. Magee (58).

St Patrick's: Megan McDermott, Louise McCoskey, Geraldine McCoskey capt., Ailish Carlin, Aileen McCormick, Eimear Mullan, Clare McAteer, Rochael Archibald, Caoimhe Moore, Aine Crossan, Caoimhe Lynch, Leanne Hasson, Elinor Hogan, Orlath Mullan 0-1, Niamh Mullan.

Subs: Bronagh McCollan for B. Hogan (53).

Referee: Julie O'Neill.



Athenry camogie manager Midge Glynn follows the action in Clarecastle.

DEC. 2009

Cashel crowned All-Ireland camogie club champions

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship Final

Cashel 0-11 Athenry 0-9

Report and photographs
by Rose Mannion in Clarecastle

Cashel were crowned senior camogie All-Ireland champions for the second time in four years on Sunday when they edged out Athenry in a low-scoring but keenly-contested final.

Although underfoot conditions were good, the elements threw up everything over the hour and the driving wind coupled with rain and hail made playing conditions poor for both.

Opting to play with the strong cold breeze, Athenry should have capitalised more in the first half by pointing instead of chasing goals with Cashel keeper Helen Breen making a number of fine saves.

Although sluggish at the start, Cashel always looked the better side with their captain Una O'Dwyer serving up a superb performance from full back and coupled with Paula Bulfin, Philly Fogarty and Julie McGrath in the half back line, gave Athenry headaches.

Jill Horan and Linda

Grogan held their own in midfield but up front it was Claire Grogan who impressed.

Although it was Cashel's centre forward Mairead Morrissey who opened the scoring, Athenry's response was swift through midfielder Laura Linnane who went on to cause a lot of problems for Cashel.

Keeping the ball in the Athenry forward end of the pitch yielded a further two points but in reality, the girls in Maroon should have at least doubled their lead but wasteful play cost them as they failed to get the better of Helen Breen as they tested her alertness again five minutes later as she conceded a 45 which Laura Linnane converted.

Claire Grogan kept the Cashel flag flying when Emily Hayden pointed but the Cashel squad were beginning to come to grips with Athenry who were depending on too few on the day.

Cashel too missed valuable chances and when a



When the stars clash... Claire Grogan (Cashel) and Regina Glynn (Athenry) in a clash for possession during the All-Ireland club final on Sunday last.

opportunity at goal presented itself, Emily Hayden's effort went inches wide but within a minute Cora Hennessy found Alison Loneragan who left one between them at the break.

As the weather deteriorated and the strong wind changed in direction somewhat, Emily Hayden

equalised four minutes into the second half while Cora Hennessy set up Mairead Morrissey to put Cashel ahead two minutes later.

Both sides were now dipping into the reserve tanks but Laura Linnane sent over a free from 30 metres to bring the sides level again.

At this stage, it looked a possibility that this game could go to extra time but then Claire Grogan's trade mark, her accuracy from placed balls, put Cashel back in front. Athenry were beginning to show signs of tiredness and Claire Grogan took off on one of her familiar solo runs before pointing to put two points between the sides.

Introducing the injured Jessica Gill to try and curtail O'Dwyer, brought a great response from the Athenry supporters and it also seemed to lift the teams spirits and as she settled into play, Claire Grogan put Cashel three ahead when she split the uprights following a pass from Cora Hennessy.

Gill was looking for the equaliser but her shot at goal wasn't good enough while Katie O'Dwyer's point gave Athenry a small hope.

However, they needed a goal but Gill could only manage a pointed free and Cashel were crowned camogie queens for the second time in the history of the club.

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Claire Grogan (Cashel).

Scorers: Cashel: Claire Grogan 0-7, 3 frees; Mairead Morrissey 0-2; Emily Hayden, Alison Loneragan 0-1 each. Athenry: Laura Linnane 0-4, 2 frees, 1 45; Noreen Coen, Brenda Kerins, Therese Maher, Katie O'Dwyer 0-1 each; Jessica Gill 0-1 free.

Cashel: Helen Breen; Claire Ryan, Una O'Dwyer (Capt), Nolette O'Dwyer; Paula Bulfin, Philly Fogarty, Julie McGrath; Jill Horan, Linda Grogan; Cora Hennessy, Mairead Morrissey, Claire Grogan; Alison Loneragan, Emily Hayden, Cliona Dwyer. SUBS: Sinead Millea for A Loneragan; Sharon Hayes for C Dwyer.

Athenry: Stephanie Gannon; Katherine Glynn, Alice Poniard, Dorelle Coen; Clara Cunniffe, Regina Glynn, Krystle Ruddy; Sarah Donoghue, Laura Linnane; Natalie Jordan, Therese Maher, Noreen Coen; Brenda Kerins, Katie O'Dwyer, Mary Keogh. SUB: Jessica Gill for N. Jordan.

Referee: Fintan McNamara (Clare)



She played a captain's part... Una O'Dwyer, Cashel, is presented with the All-Ireland club cup by National President Joan O'Flynn after Cashel beat Athenry in the final.

Camogie Convention Briefs

Chairman says camogie is on the right track

In his first address as Chairman, Mickey Browne said the lack of silverware from our county teams in 2009 wasn't for the want of trying.

He pointed to the near misses of the intermediate, under 18 and under 16 teams in 2009 as a sign that Tipperary are not too far away while the Under 14's won five inter-county blitzes in 2009.

He added that the club scene in Tipperary had never been stronger with twelve different clubs winning county titles during the course of the year with the county senior final between Cashel and Burgess/Duharra being of a very high standard.

Treasurer reports tough year

In his first report to convention, Treasurer Jim Symons said that 2009 had been tough financially but was happy to report that the board had a balance of €9,770 at the end of the year. However, there was a deficit for the year of €3,694 and expenditure exceeded income.

Costs increased dramatically he said, particularly because of the development work at the county grounds at The Ragg.

Income streams had diminished substantially with the two main fundraisers for the year, the race night at Thurles Greyhound Stadium and the Bucket Collection at the Co. Senior Hurling Final failing to raise the same amount as the successful Fashion Show the previous year.

However, income from gate receipts was up 8% with 30% of the county boards income coming from club games during the past year.

Both Symons and county chairman Mickey Browne told delegates that a major fundraiser was a priority next year.

Mannion loses out

Long-standing official Rose Mannion lost her seat on the county board at last week's county camogie convention.

After pipping then outgoing registrar Bernie O'Dowd (Thurles) at last year's convention by just two votes, O'Dowd won the same role back from the Shannon Rovers official on a 28-17 vote.

In one of two votes on the evening for positions on the board, Lar Cleary of Knockavilla edged out David Kelly of Toomevara, 23-21 to be elected Assistant P.R.O.

2010 County Camogie Board: Chairman: Mickey Browne (Cashel), Vice-Chairman: Martin Griffin (Silvermines), Secretary: Liza Carroll (St. Cronan's), Treasurer: Jim Symons (Thurles), Registrar: Bernie O'Dowd (Thurles), PRO: Kieran Slattery (Knockavilla), Assistant PRO: Lar Cleary (Knockavilla), Munster Delegate: Margaret Skehan (Thurles).

Fixtures Committee: Mickey Browne (Cashel), Sally Duggan (Moycarkey), Patsy Carroll (St. Cronan's), Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara), John Harkin (Drom-Inch), Johnny Kirwan (Moneygall), Deirdre Keogh (Silvermines), Ailish Maher (Burgess), Clodagh Loughane (Thurles), Liza Carroll (St. Cronan's), Claire Loneragan (Moyle Rovers), Naoibh Larkin (Shannon Rovers), Kieran Slattery (Knockavilla), Linda Grogan (Cashel), Michael Slattery (Clonoulty).

Development Committee: Bernie O'Dowd (Thurles), Rose Mannion, Liam Mannion (both Shannon Rovers), John Harkin, John O'Connor, Lar O'Brien (all Drom-Inch), Margaret Skehan, Martin Fitzpatrick, Jim Symons (both Thurles), Patsy Carroll, Liza Carroll (both St. Cronan's), John Moloney, Mickey Browne (both Cashel), John Harkin (Borrisoleigh).



Ann Kearney presents Sarsfields Niamh McGrath with the U16 Player of the Year award.

Final heartbreak for Athenry again

Galway champs just fall short against bogey team Cashel in All-Ireland Club final

Cashel 0-11
Athenry 0-9

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT CLARECASTLE

ATHENRY'S fervent hopes of a second ever All Ireland Senior club camogie title lay in tatters on the Clarecastle turf after an enthralling final played in atrocious weather conditions on Sunday.

This far and no further shall you go was the stark message from the powerful Cashel side who celebrated a second All Ireland club title in three years – both victories coming at the expense of Athenry.

The four-in-a-row Galway champions must surely be scratching their heads as to what they must do to land the Bill Carroll Cup, a title that has continued to elude them since the club's one and only All Ireland triumph in 1977. In truth, the only emotion to describe the feeling of the Athenry players, supporters and management following the final whistle was sheer and utter heartbreak.

Unlike 2007, the Athenry women gave every ounce of energy to the cause but, despairingly, just fell short of the winning post, pipped only by a side that must rank up there with the great club teams of Pearces and Granagh-Ballinagarry.

Having survived an epic semi-final against Oulart the Ballagh, the Tipperary champions were in no mood to let the

ultimate prize slip from their grasp. A goal to the good inside the final ten minutes, the winners failed to add to their tally, but held on against a late surge spearheaded by Jessica Gill.

Indeed Gill deserves tremendous plaudits for her contribution. Sidelined since early September with cruciate ligament damage, the former All Star single-handedly wiped out the impact of Cashel full back and captain Una Dwyer, who had controlled proceedings inside the forty for well over three quarters of the tie.

It poses the question what if Gill had been fit? But injuries played key roles on both sides and it must be mentioned that Cashel were without Sinead Millea, as capable a forward as any that stared on Sunday.

The passion and intensity of the exchanges never flagged throughout and though no quarter was neither asked nor given, exemplary sportsmanship prevailed from the first whistle to the last. It was as hard and as competitive a game of camogie played all season. And while the opening half proved tight and tense, it was to be second fiddle to what came at the turnover.

At the end of the first quarter, Athenry found themselves one point to the good, Mairead Morrissey and Laura Linnane traded points before Brenda Kerins and Therese Maher found the target for Athenry. Cashel's response coming from the stick of Claire Grogan.

Crucially, Athenry gambled



Athenry's Therese Maher tries to break through the challenges of Cashel's Philly Fogarty, left, and Julie McGrath during Sunday's All-Ireland senior club camogie final at Clarecastle.

in redeploying Regina Glynn from centre to wing back in a bid to curtail the exploits of the towering Claire Grogan. But it became quickly apparent that the All Star corner back was in for a busy afternoon.

In the ensuing passages of play, Therese Maher broke onto a clearance out of defence, galloped through the centre and struck for the top corner, but was denied by a superb save from 'keeper

Helen Breen.

This was just one of a limited number of goal chances presented to both sides, with Laura Linnane and Emily Hayden spurning opportunities. Brenda Kerins and Claire Grogan registered scores before Laura Linnane (45') and an inspirational effort from Noreen Coen sent Midge Glynn's charges three points clear.

Critically, though, Athenry

failed to build on their advantage, shooting six wides in that first half. Meanwhile, Cashel were making the most of every chance that fell their way. Claire Grogan and Alison Lonergan snipped a pair of points to reduce the deficit to a solitary point at the break.

Little things were going against Athenry – Maher's missed goal chance and Linnane's inability to spot Natalie Jordan on the edge of

the square when a goal looked imminent.

Cashel, backed by the breeze, came out all guns blazing and by the end of third quarter led by 0-9 to 0-7. Emily Hayden, Mairead Morrissey and Claire Grogan (two) struck points. Clearly rattled, the best Athenry could conjure up was a free from Laura Linnane. Yet, hope sprang eternal and the introduction of Jessica Gill (heavily strapped) brought the

largest cheer of the day on 46 minutes.

Gill proved to be the perfect target women, rising high to field superbly within two minutes of her introduction, only to see her ensuing effort dropped by Helen Breen and eventually cleared.

Claire Grogan re-established her sides three point lead, thought Katie O'Dwyer did narrow the gap back to two momentarily before Grogan looked to have sealed the win, converting a free on 52 minutes.

Athenry staring down the barrel of a third straight defeat to Cashel pulled momentum from the grey skies that loomed above to launch a grandstand finish. Brenda Kerins, Sarah Donoghue and Katie O'Dwyer were all causing problems for Cashel and suddenly a defence that had looked so secure for so long began to buckle.

Gaps appeared all over the place and panic bells sounded every time the ball crossed halfway. Athenry had one last chance to rescue the situation, but Gill's 21' yard free just rose above the crossbar for a point. It was to be their final chance and, in truth they were extremely fortunate not to concede an injury time goal as Stephanie Gannon pulled off a fine save from Emily Hayden.

Certainly, one couldn't fault the dedication of all the Athenry players. Stephanie Gannon delivered a master class in goal-keeping making some crucial saves in the final quarter. The full back line of Ciara Cuniffe,

Alice Poniard and Dorelle coped admirably with the threat of the Cashel inside line, while Katherine Glynn (first half) and Krystle Ruddy (second half) hurled with gusto in the half back line. Overall, the defence acquitted themselves quite well against a star studded Cashel attack.

In midfield, Laura Linnane proved a constant thorn in the Cashel side all afternoon mopping up between the forties, but no doubt will be disappointed with some of the wides she struck in the first period.

Fellow midfielder Sarah Donoghue competed industriously, but it wasn't until the last ten minutes until we saw her real ability and flair. In attack, the work rate was there, but the clinical efficiency required in front of the posts was missing at vital stages.

Therese Maher once again posed the greatest threat running at the defence at every opportunity. Noreen Coen delivered her finest performance in the Athenry jersey all year, while Katie O'Dwyer and Brenda Kerins caused mayhem in those final minutes.

Cashel: H Breen, C Ryan, U Dwyer, N Dwyer, P Bluffin, P Fogarty, J McGrath, J Horan, L Grogan, C Hennessy, M Morrissey (0-2), C Grogan (0-7, 0-3 frees), A Lonergan (0-1), E Hayden (0-1), C Dwyer. Subs: S Hayes for Lonergan 60 mins, S Millea for C Dwyer 60 mins. Athenry: S Gannon, C Cuniffe, A Poniard, D Coen, R Glynn, K Glynn, K Ruddy, S Donoghue, L Linnane (0-4, 0-2 free's, 0-145'), N Jordan, T Maher (0-1), N Coen (0-1), B Kerins (0-1), K O'Dwyer (0-1), M Keogh. Subs: J Gill (0-1, 0-1 free) for Jordan 46 mins.

Referee: F McNamara (Clare)

Dec. 2009



The Athenry camogie squad which was defeated by Cashel of Tipperary in Sunday's All-Ireland Club final. Back row, left to right: Jessica Gill, Katherine Glynn, Katie O'Dwyer, Stephenie Gannon, Laura Linnane, Sarah Donohue, Alice Ponlard, Therese Maher, Krystel Ruddy, Ciara Cunniffe, Claire Forde, Bridie Scully, Emerald House, Shauna Coll. Front row: Fiona Gannon, Jennifer Ponlard, Ashling Mella, Nicola Nally, Regina Glynn, Mary Keogh, Natalie Jordan, Brenda Kerins, Noreen Coen, Darrelle Coen, Emma Costello, Maeve Carr, Amanda Cannon.



Sinead O'Connor and Peadar de Barra, who were married recently in Moycullen Church, with the reception in the Westwood Hotel.



Galway intermediate All-Ireland medal winner Aolfe Lynskey with former Galway football goalkeeper Alan Keane.



AOIFE MURRAY

Cloughdun and Cork



AOIFE MURRAY

CORK'S Aoife Murray has enjoyed one of her best seasons to date having helped Cork to retain the O'Duffy Cup when they made it back to back titles taking their sixth in eight years.

The Cloughdun keeper was subsequently named as RTE "Player of the Match" following on a tremendous display in the Cork goal as Kilkenny were defeated. Winning her fifth senior All Ireland medal with that victory Aoife is also the holder of Junior, Intermediate Minor All Ireland honours as well as Munster championship honours and Gael Linn Inter provincial medals with Munster.

Also amongst her vast collection are three Cork county senior championship medals with Cloughdun whom she captained in 2005 to their third county title. Aoife is also the proud holder of three Camogie All Star awards coming from a family well known in GAA circles she is sister of former Cork inter county senior hurler Kevin Murray who won an All Ireland medal with Cork in 1999 while brother Paudie has won junior football and intermediate hurling All-Irelands with the Cork and sisters Clare and Emer also played underage football for the county.

She is one of a family of eleven with five sisters and brothers and the interest in gaelic games in the family has always been immense. Aoife has huge family support at all her games, brother Paudie trained the cloughdun camogie team to win three county senior camogie title while Kevin trained the club at Under 18 level. Having spent some time commuting from Dublin where she was based a return to Cork this year saw Aoife take up a post as an Auctioneer in Cork City and based in Cork she became involved as joint coach to the UCC camogie teams a role she continues this season as her charges look forward to the Ashbourne cup which will be hosted in 2010 by CIT.

This week further honours were bestowed on Aoife when she was named as Munster Camogie player of the year a fitting tribute to someone who is surely without doubt one of the finest goalkeepers the county has produced.

'Hen parties' causing havoc with camogie fixtures in Galway

Finn elected new county senior team manager as Donoghue opts against extending his term

BY EOGHAN CORMICAN

"GETTING the house in order" was just one of the recommendations made in relation to the fixtures debate which brought stirring arguments from many of the delegates who attended the County Camogie Board AGM at the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa on Monday evening.

Chairperson Geraldine McGrath argued "that many clubs had stooped to the lowest levels" to get matches called off during the summer. Clearly, infuriated, the Chairperson went on to say that "hen parties and 21st birthdays" were the excuses used week on week to have games postponed.

"Until we get our fixtures going, we are going nowhere", added the Chairperson. She said it was a credit to the fixtures committee that all competitions, with the exclusion of the minor championship were concluded by early November, but said next year the possibility of playing clubs matches while the All Ireland senior championship was in progress would have to be looked at.

The Camogie Board stressed it is their prime aim to finish the minor competitions by the end of the calendar year. The U18 'B' final between St. Thomas and Salthill will go ahead this weekend, despite a proposal from St. Thomas' delegate Marlene Connolly that the final be re-fixed for next February.

The minor 'A' semi finals featuring Sarsfields against Mullagh, and Killimor against Athenry will also go ahead this weekend, with the final to be played the following week.

Assistant Secretary Pauline Mitchell thanked everyone for their courtesy and co-operation with regard to fixtures, but stated that "getting the mindset right" was crucial for future years.

In relation to finance, the County Board experienced a deficit of expenditure over income of €18,165 this year. That gap is expected to be nar-



Liam Donoghue who has stepped down as Galway senior camogie manager.

rowed considerably as much of the money from the car draw had still to come in from clubs. However, many delegates pointed out that due to the current economic climate, they were finding it extremely difficult to finance their own clubs, let alone provide for the County.

Chairperson Geraldine McGrath pleaded with clubs to "come up with a solution for a fundraising idea" as clubs cannot continue to be "exhausted" in this regard.

Accountant Mary Thornton alluded to the extreme costs of the senior team, which was also picked up by Athenry delegate Julie Carr. However, it was revealed that the cost of the senior team decreased dramatically in comparison with 2008 with the total sum for 2009 coming to €30,383. Camogie Board Secretary Ann Kearney said that County teams only received the "bare minimum" this year.

Cappataggle clubman Noel Finn was unopposed in his elevation from intermediate to senior team manager. Nine clubs, Oranmore/Maree Kiltormer, Mullagh, Portumna, Kiltullagh/Killimordaly, Cappataggle, Ardahan, Turlough-

more and Ballinasloe, supported Finn for the position.

Salthill delegate Joe Maguire proposed Finn for the senior job at the meeting and it was seconded by Kiltullagh/Killimordaly delegate Frank Duane. The decision is subject to ratification by the Executive Committee, but that will be a formality after outgoing manager Liam Donoghue informed the board prior to the meeting that he was not interested in seeking a second year.

Finn, who has guided Galway to two All Ireland Intermediate titles this decade plus the junior crown in 2003, pointed out that there will be a change in his background team for the upcoming season.

Chairperson Geraldine McGrath stressed the need for a "good relationship between the senior and intermediate players" but warned that only players that were needed be used by the senior management in 2010.

"This idea of bringing on girls for two or three minutes in a senior match just to give them a taste of it and, in the process, ruining their chance to play for the intermediate side must stop," she added.

With so many players in con-

tention for a place on the Galway senior panel next year following the success of the Intermediates, it was proposed that trial matches be held early in the New Year to select a panel.

But Galway U16 manager Johnny Kane quickly put the idea to bed stating it a "waste of time" holding trial matches as players simply won't show up. The Turloughmore man revealed that the first trial match held this year for the intermediate side brought only three players to Killimor, while only seven showed up at the second.

No management team was put in place for the Intermediate side, although it was proposed that the manager of the U18 side take the Intermediate job as well, seeing as the majority of next year's U18 panel will also feature for the intermediates.

In any event, the successful U16 management team of Johnny Kane, Tom Page, Emer Kearney and Noel Kelly were given the reigns of both the U16 and U18 sides for 2010 with one delegate admitting: "why break something that's going so well".

The decision was not without its difficulty as many of the delegates argued that the Board were side stepping the Bye-law 4.15 which states that one person cannot manage two county teams.

Geraldine McGrath expressed her anger at people putting road blocks in the way of a management team that had brought All Ireland glory to Galway: "I can't believe people are making this so difficult." She also made reference to the fact that double managers was in place in Kilkenny and that they have won nine underage All Ireland titles in the past five years as a result.

Killimor delegate Sean Geraghty proposed that the Bye-law be rescinded and that proposal was seconded by Kiltormer delegate Patsy Cormican.

Brislane is new senior camogie manager

By Shane Brophy

Eoin Brislane will manage the Tipperary senior camogie team in 2010 following a vote at last week's county convention at The Ragg.

The Toomevara clubman defeated incumbent Fr. Peter Brennan by 34 votes to 12 and in a novel move, will manage both the senior and intermediate teams for the forthcoming year.

His term will be for an initial one-year and will be joined in his management team by Trevor Galvin (Toomevara), Carmel Harkin (Borrisoleigh) and Jerry Cahill (Knockavilla).

Explaining his reasoning for combining the two posts to delegates, Brislane said it would ensure that everyone gets a fair chance to play for Tipperary and that the senior team in particular would be picked from the strongest possible hand.

Brislane managed the Tipperary Intermediate team in 2009 and admitted that some of the younger players on that panel could and should have been in the senior set-up but preferred to stay at the lower level to be guaranteed games.

"What happened last year is that the senior panel had 22-23 players and that isn't good

enough for training purposes while the intermediate panel had 30+ players," he said.

His intention to have a 40-strong panel for both the senior and intermediate teams in 2010 twenty players involved on each team on each match day which should allow the majority of players regular game time while there would be guaranteed numbers at training also.

In thanking delegates for placing their faith in him and his management team, Brislane said: "We know what we are at. We have a plan in place and we know the players that we will want in our panel."

John Lillis from Drom & Inch will manage the Tipperary U18's next year after Donal Kelly (Toomevara) did not seek a second term while Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara) and Patsy Carroll (St. Cronan's) withdrew prior to the vote.

Noelle Kennedy, who guided Tipperary to an All Ireland final appearance in 2009 will remain in charge of the Under 16's after she beat Tim Maher (Burgess-Duharra) 25-21 in a vote. Maher stepped down as U14 manager and will be replaced by Liza Carroll who was a selector with Maher of the U14 in 2009.



Eoin Brislane - 2010 senior & Intermediate camogie manager.



The Glen Rovers senior team which defeated Ballycollig to take the Senior B League title.

Luby helps Glen capture the title

Glen Rovers
Ballycollig

2-5
1-7

By MARY NEWMAN
Senior B camogie

GLEN ROVERS were crowned county Senior B League champions with a victory over county champions Ballycollig in a superb game played under lights in Ballycollig.

Both teams had to contend with torrential rain that fell for three quarters of the game but they made light of the conditions as they battled for the title on an excellent pitch, which lent to allowing some excellent hurling from both sides.

The Glen, having lost out comprehensively to the same opposition at county semi-final stage, were fired up from the throw-in and they took an early lead thanks to a Denise Luby point.

As the sides battled to gain a

hold on the game, both shot wides from easy angles before Leanne O'Sullivan had the Glen girls four points clear when she sent a ground stroke to the net inside the opening quarter.

Ballycollig battled to find their feet but found the going hard again as a strong Glen defence, where Michelle Hegarty was dominant, ably assisted by Aileen Guiton, Stephanie Callanan and Lydia Cunningham.

Both defences had to absorb a lot of pressure but as the game entered the last quarter, Ballycollig began to eat into the Glen lead, Denise Cronin pointed two frees and one from play before Patricia Buttimer had the sides level.

Buttimer edged Ballycollig ahead on the half-time whistle to give them a 0-5 to 1-1 interval lead.

On the resumption, as the rain continued to pour down, the Glen girls were back on level terms inside three minutes as Sinead O'Halloran struck a long-range point and now, the game was played at a furious pace.

Ballycollig putting the Glen defence under early pressure hit the front as Holly Coomey broke away to find the net and they stretched their lead to four points with Denise Cronin pointing a free.

The Glen girls never panicked and showed fierce determination, with captain Eileen O'Riordan driving them on from midfield, ably assisted by Alice Keating.

Luby pointed before Sinead O'Halloran hit a superb long-range effort to the net to levelled matters and again it was all to play for as the battle to gain the upper hand continued.

Both sides dug deep, Luby pointed twice to put Glen Rovers two points clear but Ballycollig

battled hard Sarah Buckley pointed a free in reply as the game entered injury time.

With the clock ticking, Ballycollig searched for an equaliser but the Glen defence stood solid, clearing their lines and with the title in their sights, they were not going to be denied as they stood firm to take the senior B league title for the first time in the club's history.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: D Luby 0-4 (0-1f, 0-145*), S O'Halloran 1-1, L O'Sullivan 1-0.

Ballycollig: D Cronin 0-4 (0-2f), H Coomey 1-0, P Buttimer 0-2, S Buckley 0-1(f).

GLEN ROVERS: K Newman; Z Buckley, A Guiton, B Walsh; S Callanan, L Cunningham, M Hegarty; E O'Riordan (c), A Keating; S Fahy, S O'Halloran, L O'Sullivan, K O'Connell, D Luby, L Kelly. **Subs:** A O'Keefe for B Walsh, E O'Connell for L Kelly.

BALLYCOLLIG: A Sheehan; E O'Sullivan, A Kiely, A Coughlan; B O'Callaghan, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter; S Buckley, S Coomey; O Ni Cathasaigh Weste, D Cronin, P Buttimer, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey. **Subs:** J Ryle for S Buckley (inj), C Ryan for B O'Callaghan.

Referee: Collette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

EIRE OG

OUR Minor B team took county honours on Sunday last by defeating Ballygarvan on a score of 2-6 to 1-7 at wind-swept Camogie Grounds in Castle Road.

We had the aid of the elements in the first half but it was Ballygarvan who scored first with two points from Rachel Keohane and Lorraine Browne. Eire Og settled into the game and, with Maive Ellen Desmond, Alanna Murphy and Elaine Scally working very hard in the seventh minute Elaine Scally found the net after a free from Roisin Murray dropped into the goalmouth. Claire Meaney, Murray, Orla Boyle and Emma Crowley won a lot of possession and Meaney, one of the best players on view, hit four points from play to leave the half-time score 1-6 to 0-2 in favour of Eire Og.

Ballygarvan, now playing with the wind, were rocked in the 33rd minute when Siobhan Hutchinson goaled. This proved to be a vital score for Eire Og.

However, after this Ballygarvan improved, creating some good attacks and were rewarded with scores from Maive Moynihan, Lorraine Browne and Rebecca Murphy while Aoife McCarthy replied for Eire Og with a point. In the closing minutes Eire Og regrouped well and defended desperately with their back line of Aoife Hennessey, Maive Corkery, Katie McCarthy, Orlaith Meaney and captain Ciara O'Keefe doing great work and goalkeeper Marie Gleeson bringing off several fine saves. Try as they might Ballygarvan were unable to add any further scores to their tally and Eire Og ran out worthy winners.

Eire Og panel: Marie Gleeson, Maive Corkery, Aoife Hennessey, Siobhan Hutchinson, Ciara O'Keefe, Katie McCarthy, Orlaith Meaney, Claire Meaney, Orla Boyle, Emma Crowley, Roisin Murray, M. Ellen Desmond, Alanna Murphy, Aoife McCarthy, Elaine Scally, Aisling Gleeson, Grainne Hutchinson, Sarah Murray, Orla Hallssey, Aine Barry, Elaine Scally.

ST CATHERINE'S

Senior League final 2009: On Sunday morning last we faced our county final opponents Milford in the league final.

In a game played in bitterly cold conditions Milford were the dominant side on the day and were full value for their victory.

Milford 1-8 St. Catherine's 0-5

Team: D. Leahy, F. Noonan, O. Neville, Y.O. Neill, A. Hayes, L.

Camogie club news

Power, C. Motherway, Cotter, M. O'Keefe, R. O'Callaghan, F. Neville, F. Cotter, D. Twomey, E. Roynane, L. Higgins, Subs: S. Noonan, J. Hurley, A.O. Keefe, C. McGovern.

Scorers: D. Cotter 0-5(f)

Victory social: Our victory social in conjunction with St Catherine's GAA club took place on Friday last, Nov 27, in Garryvoe Hotel. The night was a huge success with our players being presented with their county final medals by Denise Cronin, the Cork senior camogie team manager, who was a welcome guest on the night, together with Sheila Golden who represented the county board. A number of presentations were made on the night to

the team management of Marie Clancy, Pat Clancy and Ann Galvin. Presentations were also made to John O'Meara, team physio, and to Rena O'Leary, club President. Orla Cotter received a presentation from both St Catherine's GAA and camogie clubs in recognition of her All-Ireland success with Cork, while Carolyn Motherway received the prestigious players' player of the year award.

The highlight of the night for most people was the live link up to Australia where we joined Noreen Mulcahy, Annette Fitzgerald and Esther Power. A word of thanks to Kevin Galvin who worked hard all Friday to ensure this link-up took place.

Rovers to contest last final of season

JUST one game to be decided before thoughts turn to Christmas and a well-earned break.

And it's the juvenile county board who bring on the field activities for 2009 to a conclusion when they hold the County U16 A league final on Sunday in Castle Road. The final brings together Courcsey Rovers and Glen Rovers.

Courcseys had a good semi victory over Ballinhassig, while Glen defeated Milford and Douglas on their way to the final.

The sides met earlier in the league, with victory going to the Courcsey girls with four points to spare in high-scoring contest. They have excellent performers in Julia Mulcahy, Jacinta Crowley, Caron O'Reilly and Aisling Moloney, all who performed well in the club's senior championship campaign earlier in the season. Coached by Cork intercounty senior player Rachel Moloney, they will be determined to take the title.

Glen Rovers showed plenty of determination as they overcame holders Douglas to qualify for the semi, where they faced a strong Milford side.

They know the strong challenge Courcsey Rovers pose to their title aspirations and they need a big game from Sinead O'Halloran, Sinead Fahy, Nicole O'Brien, Aisling O'Keefe and Edel O'Connell. Last year the clubs played out a thrilling Féile semi, where Courcsey edged it to make it to the final. This time out it promises to be another thriller as we bring the curtain down on what has been a tremendous year of club camogie action.

The juvenile board have just one league final to be decided at U16C level. The only competition outstanding at senior board level is the intermediate league, which is down to semi-final stage.

TOMORROW

U16 A County league final: Glen Rovers v Courcsey Rovers, Castle Road, Blackrock, 2pm.

MONDAY DECEMBER 7

Cork County convention, Pairc Uí Rinn 7.30pm

Milford see off the champions

Milford
St Catherine's

1-8
0-5

FROM the throw-in Milford made all the running in this county senior league final played in Whitechurch.

St Catherine's, having taken their first senior county championship title earlier in the year, were chasing a historic league/championship double but they had to give way to a very determined and focused Milford side.

It was difficult for both sides as they battled to contend with the weather but they worked hard to make light of it and in the process they served up a good contest.

Milford, playing with the aid of the galeforce wind, put the county champions under pressure from the throw-in and enjoying the lion's share of possession they set the foundations for victory in the opening 30 minutes, hitting all but two of their tally of scores.

Anna Geary worked hard as Milford put the champions under early pressure and she gave her side the lead with a point. Emer Watson followed, pointing a free as they stretched their lead.

With the wind in their favour, they put the St Catherine's defence under huge pressure. Anna Geary hit her second point before Emer Watson converted two frees.

Working hard to get something from the opening half, St Catherine's enjoyed possession but they could find no way through a solid Milford defence that had captain Elaine O'Riordan, Orlaith O'Mahony and Niamh O'Brien in excellent form.

Continuing to dictate matters, Milford's Sinead O'Flynn struck a point to give her side a 0-7 to no score interval lead, but turning to play against the elements they needed every score.

St Catherine's showed plenty of determination as they came in search of early second-half scores and two Orla Cotter pointed frees cut the deficit. But Milford dug deep and they got a huge boost with Marie Watson finishing to the net for the game's only goal, which helped maintain their lead as they battled against the wind.

Orla Cotter kept St Catherine's in touch, pointing two frees to which



Mary Bugler, vice-chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presents Milford's Elaine O'Riordan with the senior league trophy.

By MARY NEWMAN
Senior League

Emer Watson replied with one. Orla Cotter pointed but still Milford remained in front as St Catherine's threw everything they had at them. Milford however, maintained their level of performance and never gave St Catherine's an inch and sensing victory they were not going to be denied this time out as they dealt with everything St Catherine's threw at them as they held

firm to full-time to be crowned champions.

Scorers for Milford: E Watson 0-4 (0-2f), M Watson 1-0, A Geary 0-2 M Geary, S O'Flynn 0-1 each.

St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-5 (fs)

MILFORD: R Finn, C Galvin, N O'Brien, L Healy, O O'Mahony, E O'Riordan (c), S Sexton, D O'Reilly, A Watson, M Watson, A Geary, M Geary, L O'Flynn, E Watson, S O'Flynn.

ST CATHERINE'S: D Leahy, F Noonan (c), O Neville, Y O'Neill, A M Hayes, L Power, C Motherway, M O'Keefe, O Cotter, R O'Callaghan, F Neville, F Cotter, D Twomey, E Roynane, L Higgins.

Ref: Anthony Cummins (Slabh Rua).

by Mary Newman

GLEN ROVERS

What a way to bring their season to a close for our senior team who captured the Senior B league title with a victory over Ballincollig in a thrilling final on Friday night last.

Torrential rain failed to dampen the determination of two committed teams and all through the contest every ball was contested.

Earlier in the season we lost out to the same opposition in the semi-final of the championship by a big margin and this time out the girls were determined to give a good account of themselves. From the throw-in we took the lead, Denise Luby firing over a point before Leeann O'Sullivan struck for a su-

perb goal. Ballincollig came into the game and by the half-time whistle they led 0-5 to 1-1.

On the changeover, Sinead O'Halloran had us on level terms but again Ballincollig came back into the game as they went four points clear, but digging deep we responded, Luby on target with a point before Sinead O'Halloran grabbed a superb goal. With the game up for grabs it was a big test but credit to our girls, they answered the call and from goalkeeper to the forwards and beyond, they gave it everything. We went two points clear only for Ballincollig to point a 45 in injury time.

It was a tense wait to the full-time

whistle but we dug deep and defended superbly to the final whistle to be crowned champions.

The victory heralded huge celebrations and for the club to take a senior trophy is a huge achievement. All credit to the panel of players who, despite being disappointed after their championship semi-final defeat, hung in and trained hard for the closing stages of a league competition, which they went through without losing a game.

Huge praise to the selectors, trainers and all those who helped with umpiring, first aid and hurleys during what has been a great year. The girls can now enjoy a well deserved rest from training and matches before the new season kicks in.

Team: Kelly Newman; Zoe Buckley, Aileen Guilan, Beth Walsh; Stephanie Callanan, Lydia Cunningham,

Michelle Hegarty; Eileen O'Riordan (c), Alice Keating; Sinead Fahy, Sinead O'Halloran, Leeann O'Sullivan, Karen O'Connell, Denise Luby, Lorraine Kelly. **Subs:** A O'Keefe for B Walsh, E O'Connell for L Kelly.

U16 County League final: Still another final to contest and all the attention now turns to our U16 teams who meet Courcsey Rovers in the league final tomorrow. The game goes ahead in Castle Road Camogie Grounds in Blackrock at 2pm and we are calling on all our players at senior, junior, minor and underage to come along and give the girls your support. Players are to meet at the club at 12.45.

Christmas draw: The Christmas draw tickets are being distributed and we ask that everybody try their best to make an effort to support

and sell these.

Bag pack: Just a reminder to those on the rota that we are bag packing today Saturday in Dunne's Ballyvolane.

Sympathy: We extend a sincere vote of sympathy to our U13/14 coach Pat O'Sullivan and the O'Sullivan family on the death of his father. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

BISHOPSTOWN

The U13 Seandún final against Glen Rovers has been postponed until February, 2010, as has the U15 final against Na Piersaigh. So for now, indoor training continues in the Bishopstown Community School hall every Friday night.

U11 and younger train from 6pm to 7pm and the older girls from 7pm to 8pm.

New players are always welcome.



Glen Rovers team and mentors celebrate after winning the U16A Cork County Camogie final at Mahon yesterday.

O'Halloran inspires Glen to a thrilling U16 league win

Glen Rovers
Courcey Rovers

4-6 By MARY NEWMAN
4-5 U16 A county league final

GLEN ROVERS captured the U16 A county league title as they battled it out to the finish with Courcey Rovers in an exciting contest in Castle Road yesterday.

The superb surface of the county board pitch lent itself to a great contest and both teams must be compliments for the quality of fare served up.

In a game that ebbed and flowed and produced a total of eight goals there were many stars but Glen Rovers had the ace in the pack in Sinead O'Halloran who struck 3-5 of her side's total, as they annexed their first A league title at this level.

Courceys got the perfect start as Jennifer Ryan fired the ball to the net inside four minutes, Jacinta Crowley pointed a close in free and

Courceys were four to the good inside five minutes.

The Glen settled with Sinead O'Halloran showing her accuracy pointing two frees and a 45 and they were back in the contest, Julie Mulcahy put two points between the sides but the Glen responded with corner-forward Lauren Callanan finding the net to edge her side in front.

Putting the Glen defence under pressure Jennifer Ryan resorted to Courcey's advantage finishing the ball over the line but from the puck out the lead changed hand again as Sinead O'Halloran, who continued to cause the Courcey defence huge problems, struck for her side's second goal.

Now winning a lot of possession around the centre of the field the Glen hit four points without reply. Sinead O'Halloran on target with

three and Lauren Callanan striking one, as they opened up a four-point lead with four minutes to the break.

Courceys dug deep and struck back, Aisling Moloney now operating at full-forward striking two goals in a three-minute spell to give her side a 4-2 to 2-6 interval advantage.

Aided by the wind in the second half the Glen battled for the opening score but the Courcey's defence stood firm with excellent defending.

It was 13 minutes into the half before the first score, Julia Mulcahy pointing to stretch Courcey's advantage to three points.

The Glen girls worked away and never allowed their heads drop and as they continued to put the Courcey defence under pressure, Sinead O'Halloran struck a vital goal to level matters.

With the game up for grabs both defences had to be at their best.

Play swung from end to end and again Sinead O'Halloran showed her class as she hit a goal to give the Glen a three-point advantage, but

from the puck-out their defence were again under pressure as Courceys battled to get back into the game.

With the game into injury time Jacinta Crowley pointed two Courcey Rovers frees, but try as they might they failed to breach a Glen defence that held out under severe pressure to take the title, with Leeann O'Sullivan named as player of the match by Tracy Sheehan, chairwoman juvenile county board.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: S O'Halloran 3-5 (0-3f, 0-2 45), L Callanan 1-1.

Courcey Rovers: J Ryan, A Moloney 2-0 each, J Crowley 0-3 f, J Mulcahy 0-2.

GLEN ROVERS: K Lee; N O'Sullivan, S Busted, C O'Sullivan; L O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, J Hosford; A O'Keefe, S Fahy; A Dowling (c), E O'Connell, S O'Halloran; M Sheehan, L Callanan, B O'Mahony.

Sub: A Wallace for B O'Mahony (27).

COURCEY ROVERS: J L Condon; A O'Sullivan, L O'Donovan, A Allen; P Collins, A Keating, E Moloney; A Moloney, J Crowley; A O'Sullivan, J Mulcahy, N McCarthy; J Ryan, C O'Reilly, L Collins.

Subs: A O'Reilly for A O'Sullivan (44), E Wright for J Ryan (51).

Referee: Jimmy O'Mahony (Douglas).

Stylish Mannion comes up trumps for Mountbellew in colleges camogie final

Holy Rosary College 1-10
Ard Scoil Mhuire 2-4

EOGHAN CORMICAN
IN MULLAGH

HOLY Rosary College, Mountbellew had to call upon every ounce of their battling qualities to pull victory out of the fire in this hard fought Connacht Colleges Senior B camogie decider played in wet and windy conditions in Mullagh on Saturday.

Having previously met in the earlier rounds of the championship, the Mountbellew girls were strong favourites to repeat that victory, but they found themselves trailing by the minimum with only five minutes remaining.

The winners had laid siege on the Ard Scoil Mhuire posts for much of the second-half and this pressure finally paid off with a late avalanche of

Mountbellew points to secure them the title.

Fiercely determined, the Mountbellew girls were in the zone from the off, grabbing the lead in the first minute when Aine Mannion converted a 'run of the mill' free. Indeed, Mannion went on to contribute 1-8 for Mountbellew on the day and, in truth, proved the ultimate difference between the two sides.

Ard Scoil Mhuire, playing with a stiff breeze, sniped three unanswered points subsequently from the Carey sisters, Siobhan and Sinead, as the Ballinasloe School gained a stranglehold on proceedings.

However, Mountbellew replied swiftly through the stick of Aine Mannion, before the same player goaled on 17 minutes following a superb pass from Michelle Burke. Critically, though, Ard Scoil Mhuire were able to harness

the elements to fruitful effects in the second quarter with Siobhan Carey tagging on a further point and Lisa O'Neill finding the net to leave them one point to the good at the break.

In reality, the margin should have been far greater as it was not for some resolute defending from Mountbellew full back Kathy McDonagh and 'keeper Clodagh McGee who pulled off two vital first half stops.

Ahascragh's Aine Mannion tied proceedings early in the second half. Indeed Mannion was desperately unlucky not to find the net for a second time, only to be denied by a terrific save from Ard Scoil Mhuire 'keeper Paula McGrath.

It looked as if Mountbellew would push on from here, but Ard Scoil Mhuire gained the ascendancy yet again when Sinead Cormican struck a quality goal.

From there to the finish though, it was all Mountbellew, more specific, it was all Aine Mannion, the stylish centre forward struck five successive points to transform a three point deficit into a two point lead.

Those final ten minutes were nothing if frenetic. The Ard Scoil Mhuire defence led by the excellent Chantal Muldoon and Linda Finnerty hurled their proverbial socks of to resist the waves of Mountbellew attack, but, he inevitable came to pass and Mountbellew just did enough to clinch the spoils.

Crucially, Ard Scoil Mhuire had one final chance to equalise but Siobhan Carey's 45 just fell short of the crossbar and when the sloop was moved downfield, Michelle Burke sealed the win with an injury time point.

Without a doubt, the standard of camogie was impressive, especially considering

the horrendous weather which plagued the entire second half. Kathy McDonagh and Karen Sommers led the lines well for the winners, while Oonagh Bergin (second half) and Michelle Burke toiled diligently at midfield. In attack, it was the contribution of Galway U16 panellist Aine Mannion that provided the greatest threat.

For Ard Scoil Mhuire, Linda Finnerty, Chantal Muldoon, Sinead Cormican, Ciara Donoghue and Lisa O'Neill fought to the bitter end.

Holy Rosary College: P McGee; C Dooley, K McDonagh, S Barrett; N Curran, K Sommers, L Donnellan; O Bergin, M Burke (0-1); C Fox, A Mannion (1-8, 0-4 frees), C McLoughlin; A Carthy (0-1), A Divilly, B Hanlon.

Ard Scoil Mhuire: P McGrath; C Heaslip, S Kearns, A Curley; L Finnerty, C Muldoon, S Reddan; S Cormican (1-0), C Donoghue; A Cormican, Siobhan Carey (0-2, 0-1 free, 0-1 45), L O'Neill (0-0); J Lynch, Sinead Carey (0-2), C McHugh. Subs: S Kelly for Lynch 43 mins; C Curley for L Finnerty 57 mins.

DEC. 2009



The Galway Camogie Board Committee at Friday night's social in the Lough Rea Hotel. Back row, left to right; Frank Duane, Jackie Brien, Jacinta Flannery, Sean Geraghty, Ann Kearney. Front row; Liz Howard, former Camogie President, Angela Moran, Geraldine McGrath, Board Chairperson, Joan O'Flynn, Camogie President, Catherine Kilkelly, Pauline Mitchell.



Galway's All-Ireland winning intermediate management team received momentos at the County Camogie Social last weekend. Back row, left to right; Sean Geraghty, Camogie Board, Bertie Sherlock, mentor, Noel Finn, manager, Kevin Kelly, mentor, Basil Larkin, mentor, Jacinta Flannery, mentor. Front row: Ann Kearney, Camogie Board, Angela Moran, Camogie Board, Geraldine McGrath, Camogie Board Chairperson, Joan O'Flynn, Camogie President, Helena Huban, mentor, Pauline Mitchell, Camogie Board.



Galway's All-Ireland winning U-16 camogie management team were presented with momentos at the County Camogie Social last weekend. Back row, left to right; Sean Geraghty, Camogie Board, Frank Duane, Camogie Board, Johnny Keane, mentor, Emer Kearney, mentor, Tom Page, mentor, Noel Kelly, mentor, Tommy Kenny, mentor. Front row: Ann Kearney, Camogie Board, Liz Howard, former Camogie President, Geraldine McGrath, Camogie Board, Joan O'Flynn, Camogie President, Angela Moran, Camogie Board, and Pauline Mitchell, Camogie Board.

All Ireland titles for 15 counties in 2009

All Ireland titles for 15 counties in 2009
ALL IRELAND WINNERS 2009

Senior O'Duffy Cup: Cork
Intermediate McGrath Cup: Galway
Junior New Ireland Cup: Offaly
Junior Nancy Murray Cup: Roscommon
Junior Máire Ní Chinnéide: Cavan

National League Division One: Wexford
National League Division Two: Wexford
National League Division Three: Down
National League Division Four: Kildare
National League Division Five: Wicklow

Gael Linn Interprovincial senior: Munster
Gael Linn Interprovincial junior: Connacht

Minor Championship: Kilkenny
Minor B Championship: Limerick
Minor C Championship: Laois

U16A championship: Galway
U16B championship: Wexford
U16C championship: Westmeath

Club championship senior: Cashel (Tipperary)
Club championship junior: Lavey (Derry)

Former minor star Doyle takes Slaneyside hot seat

CAMOGIE: Former Wexford minor hurler JJ Doyle is to succeed Stellan Sinnott as manager of the county senior camogie side.

Doyle, a native of Marshalstown, was a substitute on the Wexford team which lost by a point to Kilkenny in the Leinster MHC final of 1992. He also played with NUI Maynooth in the Fitzgibbon Cup.

Doyle will be announcing his selectors in the coming weeks.

CAMOGIE
All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club
Championship Final Replay
Lavey (Derry) 1-13 (A. McPeck 0-6 (5f, 1 6f),
H. O'Neill 1-0, P. McCloy 0-3, M. O'Kane, D.
McShane 0-2 each) St. Anne's (Waterford)
0-7 (K. Kelly 0-5 (all free), M. Murphy, J.
Simpson 0-1 each).



DEC. 2009

Gerry Larkin (County Board Chairman), Noreen Shiel, Phil Briscoe, Maura Donnellan, Joan Flynn (Camogie President), and Frank Kearney at Friday night's Camogie Social in the Lough Rea Hotel.



Angela Moran and Sean Geraghty being presented with the Galway Camogie Persons of the Year award by Geraldine McGrath, left, and Ann Kearney, right, at the County Board's annual social.



Orlaith McGrath (Sarsfields), Rachel Byrne (Cappataggle), Clodagh McGrath (Sarsfields), Marie Breheny (Davitts), and Niamh McGrath (Sarsfields).

Ulster colleges' news

Ulster Colleges' Corn Uan Uladh Final

St Patrick's Maghera 5-3 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 1-7

The Ulster Colleges' Senior camogie title is back in Maghera after a five year absence but they had to really fight all the way to see off the challenge of Cross & Passion Ballycastle at Creggan yesterday afternoon.

The teams were evenly matched with perhaps the heroics of Jolene Bradley in the Maghera goals the difference. She pulled off a number of fantastic stops including point-blank efforts from Samanatha McKillen and Aisling McFadden.

Goals from Karen Kiehl and then Shannon Kearney gave Maghera an early boost, but Aisling McFadden's goal in the 22nd minute narrowed the advantage to 2-2 to 1-4 at the break.

It took all of 10 minutes for the first score of the second half – another Maghera goal this time from a handpass from Mary Kelly.

Ballycastle edged closer but a goal 10 minutes from time from Grainne McNicholl gave her side the confidence to sprint for the line, a second goal from Shannon Kearney confirming Maghera's 12th crown.

St Patrick's : M Kelly 1-0, G McNicholl 1-1, K Kiehl 1-2, S Kearney 2-0.

Cross & Passion : R Walsh 0-2, N Dobbin 0-1, S McKillen 0-1, A McFadden 1-2, E McMullan 0-1.



Ulster Senior D camogie final

Coláiste Feirste / St Dominic's 4-8 St Paul's Kilrea 0-5

The combination team of Coláiste Feirste and St Dominic's was good enough to collect the silverware in their first Ulster Colleges' Senior final in Maghera yesterday.

The experimental team proved superior to St Paul's Kilrea, with Orlaith Ni Dhubthaigh and Meadhbh Lavery dominant forces at centre-back and centre-forward respectively.

For St Paul's, Siobhan Mullan and Caoimhe Quigg battled strongly in defence and Christina Darragh probably edged the midfield clash.

Goals from Meadhbh Lavery and Meabh McCurdy put the city side 2-5 to 0-2 ahead at the break and really the game was over at that stage.

Christina Darragh hit two points on the re-start but further goals from Aislin Ni Chionn and Duibheasa O'Reilly wrapped up the title for the combination outfit.

Coláiste Feirste / St Dominic's : Eimear Costelloe, Aoife Rooney, Aoife Maskey, Orla McKernan, Orlaith Ni Dhubthaigh, Niamh Sempie, Aimee Cunningham, Meabh McCurdy capt. 1-1, Bróna Ni Raghallaigh 0-2, Meadhbh Lavery 1-5, Aislin Ni Neill, Ciara Ni Raghallaigh, Sarah-Jane Armstrong, Aislin Ni Chionn 1-0, Duibheasa O'Reilly 1-0.

Subs : Saorla Nic Uidhir C Ni Raghallaigh, Neteesha De Brun for A Ni Chionn.

St Paul's : Una Bradley, Cassie McNicholl, Megan McMahon, Bronagh McKeefry, Emma Lagan, Siobhan Mullan, Caoimhe Quigg capt., Gemma Weir, Christina Darragh 0-3, Amy Quigg, Aisling McAleese, Roisin O'Kane, Aoife Quinn, Danielle McAllister 0-1, Shannon Deighan.

Sub : Katie Bradley for D McAllister 0-1.

Corn Eimhear final:

St Patrick's Maghera 4-13 St Mary's Magherafelt 1-5

St Patrick's Maghera completed the Senior / Junior double in the space of 4 days with this impressive showing in the Corn Eimhear final in Casement Park on Saturday.

In doing so they took their title count at this level to double-figures and must surely have hopes of going one step further than the defeat they suffered in the All-Ireland final back in March.

While it was a superb team performance from Maghera, the contributions of three players stood out.

In defence Aoife Ni Chaiside ruled supreme, often bursting through midfield to lin-up with her attack. Team captain Noleen McKenna drove forward with that same intensity of purpose and managed to pick off a few scores along the way, while Shannon Kearney's sharpness up front provided a focal point for the attack.

Although Catherine McColgan opened the scoring for Magherafelt with a superb solo point, Shannon Kearney established control for her team with a sixth minute goal.

Maghera were dominant from then on, although they did not post it on the score-board until a spell after Noleen McKenna sent over their fourth point from distance after 17 minutes.

Within the next 5 minutes, Maghera doubled their total with Emma Agnew's angled effort for the goal the pick of the scores.

Shauna Quinn drove forward just before half-time and Claire Burns finished to the net for a 3-8 to 0-4 interval advantage.

Magherafelt enjoyed their best spell during the third quarter. Boosted by a goal from Sarah Reid, but Shannon Kearney kick-started a last quarter flurry of scores for the

Tipperary notes

Tipperary Camogie notes

www.camogie.tipperary.gaa.ie

Kieran Slattery, County PRO

It was back to the boardroom this month when the County Board AGM was held. Chairman Mickey Browne welcomed all the delegates & Munster Council Development Officer Deirdre Murphy to the meeting. Speaking about activities on the field, he said that so many county teams came so close to bringing home some silverware & he felt it was only a matter of time before Tipperary would be climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand very soon. He congratulated the junior panel on their great win in the Munster Final, disposing of Cork & Limerick on their way to the title. Also, he was delighted to see how well the U14 A & B panels did this year, & the achievements of the U16 panel on reaching the All Ireland final, & these two great team performances bodes well for the future of Tipperary Camogie.

Acknowledging the great work of all the inter county managers & selectors, he assured all the in coming management of the full support of the County Board as they go in search of glory. The club scene in the county has never been as strong, & one of the best ever senior country finals was played in the Ragg. Again, the chairman congratulated all clubs & their volunteers for all their work promoting camogie in their areas. Special mention to Cashel seniors on their fantastic display in the All Ireland club final, & the chairman expressed a view that the senior club scene in the county is probably the most competitive & strongest of all in the country.

The following officers were elected for 2010:

Chairman; Mickey Browne, (Cashel)

Vice chairman; Martin Griffin (Silvermines)

Secretary; Liza Carroll, (St. Cronans)

Treasurer; Jim Symons, (Thurles)

P.R.O.; Kieran Slattery, (Knockavilla)

Asst P.R.O.; Lar Cleary, (Annacarty)

Registrar; Bernie O Dowd, (Thurles)

Munster Delegate; Margaret Skeehan, (Thurles).

Next up was the appointment of all team managers for the coming year. Taking up the mantle of both senior & intermediate for 2010 is Eoin Bristane. Eoin was manager of the intermediate panel for 2009. Following his appointment, Eoin addressed the meeting, & thanked the delegates & clubs for their support as he takes on the biggest job in Tipperary Camogie. Eoin said that even though the task of managing both panels will be a huge undertaking, he feels that it will be beneficial to both panels to train together, as everyone will get a fair crack at wearing the Blue & Gold for the coming year. He, along with his management team are looking forward to working with the cream of Tipperary Camogie as they endeavour to win double All Ireland titles. Eoin's selectors are Gerry Cahill (Knockavilla), Trevor Galvin (Toomevara) & Carmel Harkin (Borrisoleigh).

The manager for the U18s will be John Lillis of Drom, while Nodde Kennedy (Toomevara) will continue her work with the U16s. The U14s will be managed by Liza Carroll.

Among one of the main issues with delegates was the fixture situation in the county. Many felt that a better approach was needed for the coming year. With this in mind the newly appointed fixtures committee were charged with getting together before the adjourned convention with recommendations which may improve the overall structure of the fixtures for 2010. This committee met up last week, & some frank views were exchanged, & a productive meeting has resulted in some very strong & radical recommendations which will be posted to all clubs shortly. All these items will be discussed at the adjourned meeting & decisions will be taken & acted upon. It is extremely important for ALL clubs to attend the January meeting, as this will be the only opportunity for clubs to express their views, because some very important decisions will be made on the night. The date of the adjourned A.G.M is January 5th.

Finally, on behalf of all in Tipperary camogie, the Board would like to extend a happy & peaceful Christmas & new year to all our supporters across the County, & especially to the players & parents who continue to develop the wonderful game that is camogie.



winners with her second goal in the 45th minute.

St Patrick's : Eimear Friel, Bronagh Lavery, Maeve Quinn, Holly Scullion, Noleen McKenna 0-4, 0-3 frees, Aoife Ni Chaiside, Nuala Convery, Shauna Quinn 0-2, Catherine McCloskey 0-1, Mairead McNicholl 0-1, Emma Agnew 1-0, Saoirse McPeake, Catherine McKeefrey, Shannon Kearney 2-4, 0-1 free, Clare Burns 1-1.

St. Mary's : Aimee McGuckin, Alice McCormick, Maria McLammon, Grainne McClenaghan, Gabriela McNicholl, Fiona Maguire, Sinead Donnelly, Rachel Mulholland, Aine McAllister 0-3 frees, Emma Devlin, Aine Mulholland, Brid Corrigan, Catherine McColgan 0-1, Sarah Reid 1-1, Claire Graham.

Referee : Frank McDonald (Armagh)

Liatroim Fontenoys' Cup final:

St Louis Ballymena 4-5 Loreto Coleraine 0-1

An impressive hat-trick from Ellen Gribben underlined a comfortable victory for St Louis Ballymena in this Fontenoy Cup final in Casement Park on Saturday.

Loreto Coleraine put up stout defence throughout the tie with Eilis McNamee and Rosanna McAleese prominent, but their back-line was under constant pressure to keep the scoreline to manageable proportions.

St Louis had competent performers in all areas of the field, with Lauren Elliot and Shannon Woulahan mopping up any trouble at the back.

Lucia McNaughton and Niamh Doherty dominated midfield, but their attack was wasteful, although a lot of the credit here goes to the tenacity of the Loreto full-back line and goalie Bronagh McKinney.

Loreto got their only score at the very start, a superb effort from Nicole O'Neill. The first of Ellen Gribben's goals arrived in the 9th minute and established control for St Louis.

Three points from Emma McAleese just before the break left it a 1-4 to 0-1 margin for the second half.

The Loreto defence held firm until the 42nd minute when the second Gribben goal opened a gap and St Louis added 3 more in the last 10 minutes from Emma McAleese, Ellen Gribben and a delightful dipping shot from Shannon Woulahan.

St Louis : Shari Carey, Gemma Mooney, Shannon Woulahan 1-0, Kathryn Bradley, Maria Lynn, Lauren Elliott, Eimear McGarry, Lucia McNaughton, Niamh Doherty, Sarah Connolly, Helen McGhee 0-1, Anna Kearney, Ellen Gribben 3-1, Corey Weir, Emma McAleese 1-3.

Subs : Cara McIntyre for S Weir, Rioghnach McNaughton for S Kearney, Jane McAleese for E McAleese, Danielle O'Mullan for G Mooney, Nicole McQuillan, Sinead Dougan, Niamh Kennedy, Courtney White.

Loreto : Brónagh McKinney, Nadine Kearns, Danielle Ferris, Clodagh Connolly, Jessical Dickinson, Tres Rafferty, capt., Eilis McNamee, Claire Tracey, Christen O'Kane, Rosanna McAleese, Laura McKeague, Megan Kerr, Katie Burns, Nicole O'Neill, Maeve Lofthouse.

Subs: Caoimhe McGowan for C Connolly, Nicola Cassidy for L McKeague, Laura McIntyre for D Ferris.

Declan Magee (Down)

Medallion Centre Junior Shield final:

St Colm's Draperstown 4-10 St Columba's Portaferry 3-5

Saturday's Ulster Colleges' Junior Shield final in Corrigan Park Belfast certainly provided great entertainment for the sizeable attendance, but it was the more experienced St Colm's Draperstown that finished strongly to claim a first title.

Portaferry, with telling performances from Claire Keith, Amy Coulter, Sarah Louise Coleman and Niamh Mallon led by two points entering the last quarter.

A goal from Ciara Scullion pushed Draperstown ahead once more, but it wasn't until a Paula McElwee goal 7 minutes from time that a gap opened between the teams.

Portaferry got the better start, the excellent Niamh Mallon completing a long solo run with a goal. Karen McGovern's 21st minute goal pulled Draperstown back into contention and the teams were locked on 1-4 each at the break.

The Ards' side hit the front on the re-start with a goal from Rebecca Martin, only for Mary Hegarty to hit back with a similar score.

Niamh Mallon set-up substitute Sian Crawford for a Portaferry goal in the 39th minute and that put her team 3-4 to 2-5 ahead.

However Paula McElwee, Bronagh McGillian and Aimee Kelly took the game by the scruff of the neck during the final quarter to land the title and a crack at the All-Ireland in the spring-time.

St Colm's : Aine Gallagher, Karen McWilliams, LeeAnne Grant, Cathy McKenna, Caroline Rafferty, Paula McElwee 1-1, Noleen McBride, Brónagh McGillian 0-2, 0-1 free, Cailtriona McBride, Roisin Bradley, Aimee Kelly 0-1, Ellen Kelly 0-1, Ciara Scullion 1-0, Mary Hegarty 1-4, Karen McGovern 1-1.

Subs : Ciarra Groogan for R Bradley, Laoise McNulty, Grainne McGillian, Noleen McCullagh, Niamh McGovern, Lauren McKenna, Bronagh Regan, Enya Conway, Mary McIvor.

St Columba's : Olivia Fav. Shauna O'Neill. Sarah Louise Coleman, Kelly Anne Teggart, Margaret Savage, Amy Coulter capt., Claire Keith, Megan Clarke, Catherine Mullan, Niamh Mallon 1-2, Ursula Toner 0-2 frees, Colleen Clarke 0-1, Leanne Coulter, Jenny Martin, Rebecca Martin 1-0.

Subs : Sian Crawford 1-0 for J Martin, Beth Toner for R Martin.

Lavey crowned All Ireland junior club champions

Lavey (Derry)....1-13

St Anne's (Waterford)....0-7

Lavey took the Phil McBride Cup for the first time following an exciting All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Championship final replay in Ashbourne yesterday.

Having already played eighty minutes last Sunday, both teams once again showed their fitness to produce an action-packed contest.

In excellent conditions and in front of a large crowd, camogie was the ultimate winner.

The Ulster champs made a blistering start. Corner-forward, Paula McCloy, sent over two early points.

Player-of-the-Match, Attracta McPeake, excelled for the Derry side at midfield. She never stopped working for the hour.

Lavey led at the break, 0-6 to 0-4, but it took St Anne's just 45 seconds to register the first score of the second half.

It came from a free by the very impressive Karen Kelly, who gave the Lavey defence plenty of concern.

Yet the golden goal came from a Derry stick, seven minutes into the restart, as Helen O'Neill darted through and drilled in a beauty.

That gave Lavey a 1-7 to 0-5 advantage. Lavey then grew in confidence, and they enhanced their work with six valuable points.

Anne's kept battling, yet openings were rare against an extremely formidable rearguard.

Defeat was no fault of Charlotte-Marie Raher who toiled with conviction and craft in the engine room.

The Saints had other aces in Carolyn Ahearn, who made a tremendous save midway through the second half.

Yet, overall, Lavey's craft and punch in attack, plus that solid defence, proved the match winning ticket.

Especially outstanding were centre half-back, Ceara Cushnahan, captain and left half-back, Siobhan Convery, and the free-taking and general contribution from the gifted McPeake.

All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Championship Final Replay:
Lavey (Derry) 1-13 (A McPeake 0-6 (5f, 1 65), H O'Neill 1-0, P McCloy 0-3, M O'Kane, D McShane 0-2 each);
St Anne's (Waterford) 0-7 (K Kelly 0-5 (all frees), M Murphy, J Simpson 0-1 each).



10 Our Games

Ár gCluichí Féin



CAMOGIE

GROWING ON ALL FRONTS

The Camogie Association has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years enjoying increased membership, an 11% increase in the number of clubs, growth overseas and a higher profile than ever before.

The first camogie match in public was a practice game in the Phoenix Park, Dublin on July 10th, 1904 played between Dublin selections. That game was followed a week later by a match between Keatings and Cuchulains, both from Dublin, at An Uaimh and was played in conjunction with an Aerideacht in the county Meath town. The celebrations of the founding of the Association in 2004 marked a turning point for the Association, re-energising those involved and bringing people back to the game who had not been involved in recent years. It also saw the launch of the Camogie Association's Strategic Plan 2004 – 2008 which has been the roadmap for the development of Camogie at all levels.

All-Ireland Senior Championship

On the playing fields Tipperary and Cork have dominated the opening years of the new century in terms of the All Ireland senior title. The Premier County won the O'Duffy Cup for the first time, surprisingly enough, in 1999. They met Cork in an All Ireland senior final for the first time in 2000 and the goal scoring expertise of full forward Deirdre Hughes, who finished with 2-2, was a key factor in enabling Tipperary

to regain the title.

Tipperary went on to win five All Ireland titles between 1999 and 2004, beaten only by Cork in 2002.

2005 and 2006 saw the return of the Rebels for the All Ireland senior honours but they were stopped short of the three-in-a-row by an inspired Wexford side that captured the 2007 Gala All Ireland senior final, their first since 1975 and only the county's fourth All Ireland title. Wexford brought great excitement and colour to the All Ireland final with a record breaking 34,000 people attending the finals in Croke Park. Sisters Mary (captain) and Una Leacy were instrumental in their side's win and went on to be the first sisters to win All Stars in the same year. Kate Kelly was a powerhouse throughout the championship for Wexford and ended the year as the Gala All Ireland Championships top scorer.

2008 saw Cork win their 23rd Senior Championship in 2008 beating Galway in the final. Mary O'Connor added her sixth All Ireland medal to her collection ensuring her



Cork captain Amanda O'Regan lifts the cup after defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final



place in history with players such as Noelle O'Driscoll and Sandie Fitzgibbon. Cork draw ever closer to Dublin with a record 26 All Ireland titles.

Junior titles for Dublin, Derry and Clare

In the junior ranks Dublin added a second Junior All Ireland title in 2006 beating Derry before returning to the senior ranks. Derry avenged their 2006 defeat by taking the title in 2007 beating Clare with a last minute goal after six minutes of injury time. Clare took the honours in the 2008 Gala All Ireland Junior Final beating Offaly in a thrilling game. This was Clare's first title since 1986 and captain Deirdre Murphy proudly lifted the New Ireland Cup making up for the disappointments of 2005 and 2007 when she also captained the side.

Kilkenny captured the 2008 Gala All Ireland Intermediate Championship with a win over Cork after needing two attempts to overcome Galway in the semi finals. Meath took its first All Ireland title in 2008 when it won the Gala All Ireland Junior Championship (Nancy Murray Cup) and the Division 4 League title, beating Roscommon in both.

Kilkenny dominate underage scene

Kilkenny have dominated the underage scene for the last four years. 2008 saw them win their fourth All Ireland U16 title in a row and their third All Ireland Minor title in a row. Offaly's Minor B brought All Ireland honours to the Faithful County when they defeated Waterford

Michelle Quilty, Kilkenny, in action against Rena Buckley, Cork, in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final.



CAMOGIE ALL-STARS 2009



Back row from left: Anne Dalton, Kilkenny, Aoife Murray, Cork, Regina Glynn, Galway, Cathriona Foley, Cork, Jacqui Frisby, Kilkenny, Anne Marie Hayes, Galway, Mary O'Connor, Cork, Elaine Aylward, Kilkenny, Briega Corkery, Cork, Rachel Moloney, Cork, and Grainne McGoldrick, Derry.
Front row from left: Katie Power, Kilkenny, Geraldine O'Connor, who collected the award on behalf of her daughter Genna O'Connor, Cork, Sinead O'Connor, Ard Stiurthoir of the Camogie Association, Mary Hannifin T.D., Minister for Social Welfare, Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association, Tony Towell, MD of O'Neills, Paul Brady, World Handball Champion, Therese Maher, Galway, Aoife Neary, Kilkenny

in the 2008 final. Derry also succeeded in retaining their U16B All Ireland title defeating Offaly in the final.

The year came to a glittering end with the 2008 Camogie All Stars in association with O'Neills in November. Gemma O'Connor of Cork received

her fifth consecutive All Star award while Michaela Morkan (Offaly) and Jane Adams (Antrim) brought the first ever All Stars to their respective counties.



All Ireland Club Championship

St. Lachtain's of Kilkenny dominated the club scene from 2004 to 2006 winning three titles in a row. Cashel of Tipperary won their first title in 2007 defeating Athenry. Jane Adams went on to add an All Ireland Club medal to her collection when she captained her club

O'Donovan Rossa to an All Ireland Senior Club title beating Drom and Inch in the final, again in Donaghmore/Ashbourne. Meanwhile Harps of Laois made it three-in-a-row when they beat Kilmaley of Clare for the All Ireland Junior Club title in Nenagh.

● The Gael Linn Interprovincial competition was held in the superb Donaghmore/Ashbourne grounds in May of this year.

Connacht, which was made up of players from Galway alone, took the honours in the Senior competition while Munster took the Junior grade.

● The Coillte U14 Development Squad Day was held in Croke Park in July giving young players from eight counties the

opportunity to showcase their talents and skills in front of coaches and family in a fun filled day of games.

Change at the top

● Off the field saw Liz Howard finish her three year term as President of the Camogie Association and replaced by Uachtarán Tofa Joan O'Flynn.

Sile de Bhailis



● Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael has come a long way since it's centenary year celebrations in 2004. In 2007, dual Cork star Mary O'Connor was appointed Director of Camogie. Along with Mary there are now five full time Regional Development Co-ordinators for the regions of Connacht, North Leinster/South Ulster, Dublin/Kildare, Munster and South Leinster. A 2nd Level Development Co-ordinator was also appointed to oversee 2nd level development

throughout the country. Sinead O'Connor was appointed Ard Stiurthoir in October, 2009 replacing Sile de Bhailis who retired after 22 years with the Association.

Sinead O'Connor



Portobello honour Liz Howard (second right), former president - Aine Power, Jacqui Hurley and Eavan Ni Chuilinn



Portobello GAA and Camogie Club presentation to Liz Howard with Dublin Board officials - Mona O'Sullivan, Marie O'Brien, Gerry O'Sullivan, Tom Hayes, Seamus Massey



At Camogie Congress 2009 in Nenagh - Seamus Massey, Mona O'Sullivan, Joan O'Flynn (President Camogie Association), Marie O'Brien, Gerry O'Sullivan

Cork eye treble after taming Cats

Cork 0-15
Kilkenny 0-7

It's not often that hurley-wielding Cats lose one final, let alone two in the same afternoon at Croke Park, but their women could have certainly have no quibbles here.

Their young side came up considerably short against the defending All-Ireland senior camogie champions who proved their mettle yet again by racking up a phenomenal fifth title for eight consecutive finals. And as the final whistle sounded the question was inevitably posed: can the Rebelettes now go on to clinch the three-in-a-row which has always eluded them, most recently in 2007?

To her credit, manager Denise Cronin didn't dodge the question or pretend that it won't be next on their agenda. "If we'd lost one today you might have seen a lot of players retire but I

think the push will be on for the three-in-a-row and they know what it takes to win it," she said.

"Whether I'm there or not, that team should win one," she stressed proudly. "They're an amazing bunch of girls and, if you keep slotting [new] people in, I think they'll do it."

Cronin's confidence is well placed, because her side won here without playing all that well. Dual superstar Briege Corkery - who will be a huge loss to the county next year as she's taking time out to travel - was below her usual stratospheric standard.

Apart from Gemma O'Connor, their forwards really never cut loose in a match in which both sides' full back lines starred and it was actually the Kittens who had all of the game's goal chances. Yet despite those chances, and a brave, nerveless start which actually saw them lead in the 16th minute, Kilkenny's team of rookie finalists intimately couldn't match Cork's superior stamina, strength and guile.

Not for the first time, the bedrock of Cork's latest victory was their defence, where All-Star goalkeeper Aoife Neary, Cathriona Foley, Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor and Sara Hayes (who's just back from her honeymoon!) were outstanding during several periods of heavy aerial bombardment, mostly engineered by excellent Kilkenny captain Ann Dalton.

At times in the second half it was like 'women against girls' which, in many cases, was true as Ann Downey's young side were contesting their first final in eight years and giving away plenty of pound in experience and nous.

Within 16 minutes, she had

Duffy (17) to a forward line that already included four teenagers but, yesterday, burgeoning stars like Katie Power, Edwina Keane and Denise Gaule (all 18) couldn't filch even a point between them.

Kilkenny's only two points from play came before half-time and they only scored twice in the second half.

In contrast, five of Cork's starting forwards scored and 17-year-old Katriona Mackey (whose twin is also on the panel) scored off the bench which also yielded the highly decorated Emer Dillon.

After being held level for the first quarter, Cork noticeably then surged four points clear and went in three points up (0-8 to 0-5) at half-time. Yet, as ever, they had All-Star keeper Murray to thank for never veering into the danger-zone.

The Cloughduv star was alert, after just 16 minutes, to a long-range shot from Aoife Neary and subsequently made three crucial second-half stops. Her second save, blocking the dangerous overhead ball on the line after 42 minutes, was her most important because a goal at that stage could have given Kilkenny new oxygen.

Neary also had goal on her mind when she stepped up to take a 20m free in the fourth quarter which Corkery parried, and from there Cork essentially suffocated them with their ruthless defensive efficiency and superior teamwork.

It may not have been a showstopper like the 2007 and the '08 finals, but Cork showed they can win any way. They ground out this victory with unfussy graft and selfless teamwork, exemplified by the

leadership up front when all around her were being held.

"The way Kilkenny play, they hold their positions while we tend to drift out, and sometimes it could be six against our three and we tried to work on that with low ball to our half-forwards

there's an opportunity just take your scores, points could win this game," she added, which certainly proved prophetic.

Kilkenny's full-back line of Leanne Fennelly, Catherine Doherty and Jacqui Frisby deserved huge credit for holding the Cork full-forwards to just two points from play, and Amy

Butler had a cracking tussle with Gemma O'Connor. But as beaten manager Downey said: "you can't buy experience."

"I'd be happy with our backs, they worked really hard and we just didn't get the rub of the green," she said. "Cork upped it a notch in the second half," she added, "and we weren't able to

match them for pace, and when we did get the few chances we weren't able to take them."

"I'm delighted that the girls didn't let themselves down, but disappointed that we didn't win because we had high hopes. But on the day I think it was the experience that helped them. They closed us down every

chance that we got in the second half and were hunting in packs.

"But that's experience and we've got to go back and build on today. We're a very young team and they've got that experience now and we'll be back next year," she vowed.

Cliona Foley

Report courtesy of the Irish Independent



Sile Burns, Cork, in action against Jacqui Frisby, Kilkenny

Cork: A Murray 9, J O'Callaghan 7, C Foley 9, R Buckley 8, J Duffy 7, M O'Connor 8, S Hayes 8, B Corkery 7, O Cotter 7, E O'Sullivan 8, G O'Connor 8, U O'Donoghue 7, S Burns 6, E O'Farrell 6, R Moloney 7, Subs K Mackey 8 for O'Farrell (37), E Dillon 8 for O'Donoghue (47), A O'Regan (capt) for Burns (58), L O'Connell for O'Callaghan (69).

Kilkenny: G Ryan 8, L Fennelly 8, C Doherty 8, J Frisby 8, L Lym 8, A Butler 7, E Aikard 6, G Downey 6, A Dalton (capt) 9, T Muldowney 8, K Power 8, E Keane 7, M Duffy 7, D Gilpin 6, A Neary, Subst A Dunphy 7 for Muldowney (16), D Deane 7 for Lym (20), M O'Connor 7 for Duffy (50), K Fennelly for Downey (57).

Silver Jubilee Team



Dublin Camogie team which won the 1984 All Ireland Senior Final which was honoured in Croke Park during the All-Ireland Finals.
Back L to R: Edel Murphy, Marie O'Connell, Noeen Fleming, Toni O'Bryne, Mairead Conlin (representing Anne Thorpe), Joan Gormley, Carmel O'Bryne and Una Crowley
Front L to R: Yvonne Redmond, Niece of Marion Conroy, Bernie Torer, Germaine Noonan, Ann Colgan (Capt), Catherine Ledwidge, Mary Mernagh and Barbara Redmond



Paula Bruen, Naomh Bríd, Senior B captain



Sonya Byrne captain St Vincent's senior B league winners with Gerry O'Sullivan



Senior B championship final - Paula Bruen, Naomh Bríd, Senior B captain and Nicola Meligan captain Skerries Harps with referee Karl O'Brien

DEC. 2009



Camogie Review

By GERRY O'SULLIVAN and SEAMUS MASSEY



Dublin Under 14 team, Leinster finalists

WE LIVE in strange times. Apparently one of our major banks has had serious difficulties in 2009 recruiting a Chief Executive for the apparently less than adequate salary of €500,000 per annum – 30 times what a single unemployed person has to survive on.

Imagine the impact €500,000 would have on Dublin Camogie. But then could you put a price on the voluntary efforts of so many in the Dublin Board, referees and in all the clubs that in 2009 saw a record of over 2200 games played not including the activities of the county teams and squads. Registered members now touch 5,000 and all of this activity is managed and delivered by people in their own spare time. Further proof of the popularity of the game is evidenced by the 15,000 per month (180,000 pa) who log on to www.dublincamogie.ie. Can you imagine if the voluntary sector faced a collapse similar to the banks – would the Government rush to its aid with a multi-billion bail-out?

In a book published in 2009 "Mná na hÉireann – Women who shaped Irish History", chapters featuring 50 women from many walks of life were covered – was there a representative from camogie? No need to answer – you get the drift.

In 2009, Dublin camogie continued to provide a superb sporting outlet for thousands of girls. All over the county – players competed fiercely for honours. The winners are known in all but a few competitions (see Table) but already moves are underfoot to renew the challenge in 2010.

For Naomh Mearnóg it will be a never to be forgotten year winning the first senior championship title in the Portmarnock club's history – a first in any code. The Iveagh Grounds



Dublin v O'Leary Under 14

provided the setting and on a superb day, three thrilling championship finals were played with Good Counsel overcoming neighbours Crumlin in the Intermediate final and St Oliver Plunketts-Eoghan Ruadh narrowly seeing off the challenge of Clanna Gael Fontenoy. Appreciation to St James' Gaels for their wonderful support.

Thanks are also due to Craobh Chiaráin for hosting so many games including the Senior B final where once again Naomh Brid were left broken hearted as Skerries Harps triumphed.

Many thanks also to Naomh Mearnóg, Trinity Gaels, Naomh Peregrine and Ballyboden St Endas for the use of their facilities during the year.

The Social Inclusion project continues under the aegis of Eve Talbot and new work was initiated in Tyrrelstown GAA. Other projects included camogie-aerobics and the puc around town concept.

On the intercounty front – teams put in huge hours of effort with the Minor, Under 16 and Under 14 squads all reaching Leinster Finals. The Senior and Junior teams battled bravely and will benefit from the experience. Sincere thanks to all especially Mary McKeon and Ken Keogh and later on Peter Lucey, Anne McCluskey and Doirín Golden.

The magnificent achievement of St Vincents in reaching the All-Ireland Final of Féile na nGael final (second



Dublin Senior Team 2009 – Back Row (l-r) Elaine Hickey, Elaine O'Meara, Rachel Ruddy, Tara Corrigan, Caitríona Power, Rachel Costello, Sarah Ryan, Eimear Brannigan, Louise O'Hara, Alyson Maguire, Stephanie Carthy, Emer Lucey, Elaine Ryan. Front Row (l-r) Arlene Cushen, Miriam Twomey, Jean Murphy, Laura Twomey, Joellenne Hoary, Niamh Taylor, Amy Murphy, Ciara Lucey, Andrea Fitzpatrick, Anne Griffin.



Rachel Costello in action against Tipperary and Wexford



Good Counsel winners of the Intermediate Championship and League 2009



Leinster Junior representatives – Stephanie Carthy, Maini Moynihan, Tara Corrigan, Eve Talbot



Leinster Senior representatives – Joellenne Hoary, Ciara Lucey, Louise O'Hara

Paula Bruen - the lady with the money!

Maire Uí Scoláir

"Camogie is such an amazing game and has been around for over 100 years"

IN MAY 2009 Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael brought on board a dashing twenty nine year old cailín from the Naomh Brid Club in Blanchardstown, Dublin - Paula Bruen. Since then the young Camogie player and Ladies football player has wore the hat of Financial Officer of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, a position previously held by Sinead O'Connor who took up the position of Ardstiurthóir following the retirement of Sheila Wallace.

A native Dub, her Camogie career like so many others began at an early age. Her 'Field of Dreams' was the side of the house where all the family pucked around and learnt the natural skills of the game. She was only seven years of age when she began with Naomh Brid where she stills plays on the Senior B side. This year she had the honour of captaining the side to the Championship Final but glory alas eluded her on the day. Over the years the game has been good to Paula. The Financial Officer holds championship medals at both junior and intermediate level while she also has four runners up senior B championship medals. She has also been a part of the teams that enjoyed playing at senior 'A' level, a level the club hope to achieve again before not too long.

By the time our readers read this article in December Paula and her family will be hoping that the trophy shelf will be adorned with an All-Ireland medal. The dual player was fortunate to win the Dublin Intermediate Gaelic Football title this year and the team faced Brian Boru of Tipperary in the All-Ireland Intermediate championship final.

Field of Dreams...

Like most young players, Paula had a dream growing up to play for Dublin. "There is nothing like playing for Dublin, it's what you dream of as a kid practising. It's such an honour to be picked even as part of the panel, but when it comes to match days, there is nothing like putting on the jersey, I suppose it'll be something to tell the grandkids too!" Like a lot of other players the West Dublin player is hoping



that glory days will return to the Capital and that All-Ireland Sunday would see the dashing Dub on the field of dreams instead of working in the Stadium that day!!

Should Paula achieve that goal some day she would not be the first Naomh Brid player to achieve fame as former Uachtarán Phyllis Breslin hailed from the same club. The club has given sterling service to the Dublin Camogie Board. Many other players have worn the Dublin jersey with pride having learnt the early skills in Blanchardstown. The 'Blanch' club caters for all ages, in all games, hurling, football, Camogie, ladies Gaelic, and handball. The Club has fine facilities having hosted many intercounty Camogie games over the years.

Sean Ó Siócháin

Ever since the days of the late GAA Ardstiurthóir Sean Ó Siócháin the Camogie Office has always been based in Páirc an Chrócaigh. Up on level six the Camogie officers have a wide view of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains as well as the Grand Canal, but the young financier may not get much time to seek out the various mountains as she involves herself in the day to day financial running of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael working closely with Ardstiurthóir Sinead O'Connor.

With an ever increasing number clubs now the vibrant organisation is

in a very healthy state and this is the result of a lot of hard work over the years by a lot of people, voluntary and paid. Over the years sponsorship has grown and now Paula is a frequent caller to companies like Gala who sponsor the championships, Coillte, Irish Sports Council, the GAA, O'Neills and RTE.

A determined young lady, Paula is of the opinion that "it is vital to invest time and effort into continuing on the success of the last 100 years and develop the game that all young girls get the opportunity to play". With sport becoming such an important aspect of people's lives now, Paula along side the other officers will face many challenges over the coming years. However, working in the head Camogie office has at least one advantage!

Very often players especially intercounty players have difficulties getting time off for games, but Paula has found this a little easier in her new position! "It's easier to explain to the boss now if you need to leave on time on a particular day if you have an important match!! All the staff in the office play camogie, while some also play Gaelic Football so at least Paula is not the only one in the position of having to ask the Boss for favours!!!! Let's not forget the Boss also plays Camogie!!

The young girl from the 'Blanch' has come a long way, but the feeling is that she has a lot more to offer and that the finances of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael are in safe hands.

Camogie Players of the Year 2009

(All presentations made by Brendan Cooper, Board Chair)



Clara Reilly on behalf of Hannah Mc Inerney Minor County Player of the Year



Eve O'Brien (Na Fianna) Inter 1 Club Player of the Year



Eve Talbot Junior County Player of the Year



Louise O'Hara Senior County Player of the Year

Dec. 2009

Grading changes will be delayed until the new year

By MARY NEWMAN
Senior county convention

CORK CAMOGIE board reviewed a successful season at their convention recently in Páirc Uí Rinn.

The large gathering of delegates heard chairwoman Marion McCarthy congratulate the Cork senior team on retaining the O'Duffy Cup in tremendous fashion last September.

Secretary Sile Golden, in a detailed report to convention, made reference to the wonderful help Castle Road pitch has been to the promotion of camogie in the county. Both Sheila and Marion pointed out the fact that only one competition remains to be decided with the intermediate league falling foul to bad weather recently.

All outgoing officers were unopposed for their positions while outgoing senior manager Denise Cronin was re-elected to the position of selector as was Lillian Zinkant — they will be joined by a representative from county champions St Catherine's.

The intermediate selection committee saw the outgoing Golden and Esther O'Leary re-elected but last year coach Bobby Thornhill from Blackrock informed the meeting he was not going forward, therefore a third selector will have to be elected at the first meeting of the new year.

Bobby held the role of coach for the last three years also acting as selector last season but having taken on hurling commitments in Antrim he has decided not to seek re-election.

The outgoing junior selectors Sile O'Brien, Brendan Coleman and Dave Collins were returned to the roles.

Earlier in the season a special meeting gave the county board power to elect a manager and selectors for the U16 and minor teams and a five-person committee is currently working on setting up backroom teams which they hope to announce before the end of year.

Former senior intercounty player Fiona

Hopes are that rewritten rule will free up players on panel to play at lower grade in the same season

O'Driscoll addressed the meeting and gave a detailed report on the proposed setting up of development squads within the county. The proposals were warmly received and it should be all systems go as the county sets up their development squads in 2010.

There were three motions on the agenda for discussion.

The main talking point on the night was a Ballincollig motion seeking changes to the rule grading players. Currently a player who plays in championship is tied to that grade until the team plays the following year's championship.

Ballincollig were seeking to bring in a motion similar to the men's game, where 15 players are named at the start of the league and tied to a team until the championship.

This would free up players who are on a club's senior league panel, but miss out on championship, to play at a lower grade later in the year.

After a lot of discussion mostly in favour of the motion it was decided that the motion be re-worded and changed and put to the floor for discussion at the first meeting of the new year.

Two motions that were passed unanimously were submitted by the Coiste Chontae, the first that a disciplinary committee be set up to deal with all matters in relation to disciplinary matters, while the second called for clubs to pay an annual levy of €200 for the upkeep and maintenance of the county board pitch at Castle Road.

Before the meeting concluded medals were presented the winners of the board's championship and league competitions for 2009:

SENIOR
Championship: St Catherine's
League: Milford



Milford's Aisling Thompson under pressure from St Catherine's Fiona Cotter during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie final back in October. St Catherine's won the final with Milford claiming the consolation of bagging the senior league.



The Ballincollig team celebrates following their victory in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship final against Éire Óg last month.

SENIOR B
Championship: Ballincollig
League: Glen Rovers

INTERMEDIATE
Championship: Clonakilty

JUNIOR A
Championship: Ballyhea
League: Douglas

JUNIOR B
Championship and League: Buttevant
Plate: Castletyons

JUNIOR C
Championship and League: Kildorrey
Plate: Grenagh

JUNIOR SHIELD
Ballygarvan

MINOR
A Championship: Douglas
B Championship: Éire Óg
C Championship: Douglas
D Championship: Sarsfields

BOARD OFFICERS
President: Kay Dunne (Ballincollig)
Chairwoman: Marion McCarthy (St Finbarr's)
Vice-chairwoman: Mary Bugler (Valley Rovers)
Secretary: Sile Golden (Inniscarra)
Treasurer: Mary McSweeney (Bandon)
PRO: Mary Newman (Glen Rovers)
Registrar: Yvonne Lane (Ballygarvan)
Child Welfare Officer: Noreen Daly (Ballygarvan)

INTERCOUNTY
Senior Selectors: Denise Cronin (Glen Rovers), Lillian Zinkant (Sarsfields) and a representative from county champions St Catherine's.
Intermediate Selectors: Sile Golden (Inniscarra), Esther O'Leary (Mallow)
Junior Selectors: Sile O'Brien (Éire Óg), Brendan Coleman (Valley Rovers), Dave Collins (Ballincollig)

Chairwoman Marion McCarthy wished all present seasons greetings and said Cork camogie can look ahead with confidence as the game continues to grow.

Mary gets her reward for many years of work for club and county

ONE of camogie's most prominent members was honoured this week for the tireless work she has done and continues to do both for her club Glen Rovers and Cork.

Mary Newman received formal recognition this by winning the North City and District Sports Award for the month of December.

The competition is sponsored by the Ambassador Hotel in association with Gerald McCarthy Sports, and judged by Denis Coughlan, Tony O'Sullivan, Billy Barry, Ann Kerins and Declan Daly.

Uachtarán Cumann Camogaiachta Na nGael Joan O'Flynn was unable to attend the event but sent her best wishes via fax. Her message captures the work Mary carries out; "Mary Newman is an outstanding example of the volunteer ethos that is core to camogie and to gaelic games. Mary's enthusiasm, energy and commitment are second to none. She combines this with an undimmed allegiance to the red and white of Cork and, of course, to her beloved Glen Rovers."

"I know the Glen's success this year meant a lot to Mary, not least the most recent success of the senior B team and U16s in winning the county league titles. And there was no more excited person in Croke Park in September when the Cork team captured the O'Duffy Cup."

"Mary's role as Cork camogie Board PRO means that she has played and continues to play an extremely important part in publicising and documenting the story of Cork camogie."

"Being a good friend of Mary, I see first hand how hard she works. Many a night she is at her computer into the early hours compiling reports, match programmes, emailing club PROs."

"Her phone never stops ringing and she will do her utmost to help anyone in any situation. I personally am in awe of the work Mary does and the amount of time she dedicates to the game. She never looks for thanks or praise and was deeply embarrassed by the attention she received this week."

It is widely acknowledged that there wouldn't be camogie in Glen Rovers but for Mary. While she refuses to accept that and pushes the praise in the direction of those coaching the teams, it is Mary who pulls it all together.

Mary's family are lifelong members of Glen Rovers.

Her mother Nora has given over 60 years of service. Her uncle Dave is president of the Glen Hurling Club and his daughter is a huge worker for underage camogie in the club.

Mary herself won an underage City Minor C Championship and a junior county medal. St Finbarr's were the opposition in the final and Mary actually marked current board chairwoman Marion McCarthy.

Mary is PRO of the board for over 15 years and secretary of Glen Rovers camogie club.

And what are Mary's proudest moments memories to date?



Mary Newman and her husband, Finbarr McCarthy, at the North City and District Sports award.



LINDA MELLERICK

"My proudest moments are hard to pinpoint. I suppose Cork winning the All-Ireland in 1992 and Sandie Fitzgibbon becoming the first Glen player to captain Cork to senior success," says Mary.

"It's also only natural I suppose that to see my niece Kelly wear the Cork jersey and win an All-Ireland U16 medal was a proud moment. The opening of our pitch in Castle Road was a very proud moment especially for the likes of Nora, Silé Golden, Kay Dunne and others who always had the dream."

"Regarding the Glen, what can I say! To win the county in 1983 after so many years in the wilderness was a day never to be forgotten and to see what it meant to people like Deirdre Sutton."

"Winning our first All-Ireland title in 1986, the day we won our 21st title in Páirc Uí Rinn in '95, named after such a great man. I suppose 1994 the year we beat Seandún against all the odds was one of the best and the night we did seven in-a-row in 1996 and equalled the club record."

Mary's memories are plentiful after so many years involvement. Last Tuesday was only a small way of saying thanks. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were present along with county mayor Derry Carty. The bishop, members of the camogie board, Dave O'Brien, president of Glen Rovers, Mick Hackett, chairman of Glen Rovers, Jerry Howe, chairman of St Nick's, Denis Hurley, president of Sars, Gerald McCarthy, club members, friends and family made the day special.

Mary warmly thanked everyone in attendance and paid a special tribute to her late father John who passed away in January and who was an ardent follower of both Glen Rovers and Cork.



Janette McCarthy, Nora Newman, Janette Newman, Joan Farrell, Eileen O'Riordan, Aideen Guillon and Geraldine O'Regan join Mary Newman in celebrating her winning of the award.

Picture: Mike English



Brandy Ahern, sales and marketing manager Ambassador Hotel presents the November North City and District Sports Award to Mary Newman, Glen Rovers camogie and Cork camogie board PRO. Included are Denis Coughlan, chairman judging panel, Nora Newman, chairwoman Glen camogie, Finbarr McCarthy and Gerald McCarthy (trophy sponsor).

Picture: Mike English



Nora Newman, Kay Dunne, Mary Newman (winner), Ann Kerins, Marion McCarthy and Brandy Ahern, Sales and Marketing Manager Ambassador Hotel.

Picture: Mike English

No fairytale ending to great year

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL (REPLAY)

ST. ANNE'S (WATERFORD) 0-7
LAVEY (DERRY) 1-13

BY NIAMH ARCHIBALD

LAVEY sealed their first All-Ireland title in emphatic style on Sunday, with a nine point win over St Anne's.

An early free from Attracta McPeake broke the deadlock and Mary O'Kane quickly fired over two fine points to give Lavey a three point lead. St Anne's responded well pushing forward but stern defending from Lavey Captain Siobhan Convery, Ciara Mullan and Adein McVeigh kept them at bay. A great piece of individual

skill from St Anne's Captain Mairead Murphy saw St Anne's get on the scoreboard and another accurate free from the sharp-shooting Karen Kelly had the within one point.

Lavey were keen to extend their lead and Attracta McPeake who finished the game as top scorer with a personal tally of seven made no mistake from the placed ball to put two between the sides. Jennie Simpson responded for St Anne's with a fine point from distance before Mary O'Kane fired over again to give Lavey a nar-

row two point lead at the interval, 0-06 to 0-04.

Lavey started the brighter of the two sides in the second-half, McPeake once again getting them off the mark, but it was Helen O'Neill's goal in the seventh minute that put the distance between the sides. O'Neill was found in space on the 21 yard line by great pass from Denise McShane, and she made no mistake rounding St Anne's full-back Lorena Mooney before firing past keeper Carolyn Ahearn to give Lavey a six point lead.

Karen Kelly reduced the deficit to four points with two well taken frees, but Player of the Match Attracta McPeake stepped up once again to extended Lavey's lead back to six, as



DEJECTION: St. Anne's, Dunhill players show their disappointment after their defeat in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Final replay against Lavey of Derry which was played in Donaghmore, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. Photo: Brian Lawless / Sportsfile.



Siobhan Kavanagh of St. Anne's, in action against Lavey's Paula McCloy in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Final replay. Photo: Brian Lawless / Sportsfile.

she made no mistake from the placed ball.

Lavey spurred on by their supporters began to close out the game with two points from Denise McShane the pick of the bunch, a late free from Karen Kelly couldn't inspire St Anne's, as the game finished 1-13 to 0-07.

After the game the President of Chumann Camogaiachta na nGael, Joan O'Flynn commended both sides for an outstanding game of camogie saying: "The commitment of both teams and their managers has to be commended. This All-Ireland Final thrilled everyone last

weekend when it ended a draw after extra-time and the conditions were better this week, so we got to see a great game of camogie, with both sides displaying some excellent skills."

In her acceptance speech Lavey Captain Siobhan Convery thanked the management team and players for their hard-work and determination which she believed helped them seal a famous victory.

"The management team left no stone unturned and did everything possible to ensure that we conquered what we set out to do at the start of the season, claim the All-Ireland title, each

one professional and clinical to the finish. This is not just the reward of the past ten months but of all the hard work put in over the years by every player and coach. The girls gave everything over the past ten months and we got what we deserved out there. Obviously we sympathize with St Anne's we've been there but take heart because if you get up and go again and put in hard-work you should bounce back."

Convery ended her speech by thanking the supporters for travelling to the game and to the young players in the parish say-

ing: "You travel all over Ireland with us and honestly I don't believe there's better support out there. I remember hearing a match report in 1991 when our footballers won the Club All-Ireland in Croke Park, the commentator said that while Lavey footballers may have won the game, the fans won the day and today you have won the day. I would like all the young fans to remember this day and to aim high because if you put in the hard-work you can achieve it, we all dreamed of it and now we've proved you can get it."

Successful year for Cork Camogie Board

CORK Camogie Board reviewed a successful season at their Annual Convention in Páirc Uí Rinn where a larger gathering of delegates heard Chairperson Marion McCarthy congratulate the Cork senior team on retaining the O'Duffy Cup in tremendous fashion last September.

Secretary Sile Golden, in a detailed report, made reference to the wonderful help Castle Road pitch has been to the promotion of camogie in the county. Both Sheila and Marion pointed out the fact that only one competition remains to be decided with the Intermediate league semi-final and final falling foul to bad weather recently.

All outgoing officers were unopposed for their positions while outgoing senior manager Denise Cronin was re-elected as selector as was Lillian Zinant. They will be joined by a representative from county champions St Catherine's.

The Intermediate selection committee saw the outgoing Sile Golden and Esther O'Leary re-elected, but last year's coach Bobby Thornhill from Blackrock said he was not going forward, therefore a third selector will have to be elected at the first meeting of the new year. Bobby held the role of coach for the last three years, also acting as selector last season, but having taken on hurling commitments in Antrim he has decided not to seek re-election.

The outgoing junior selectors, Sile O'Brien, Brendan Coleman and Dave Collins were returned to the roles.

Earlier in the season a specially

convened meeting gave the county board power to elect a manager and selectors for the under 16 and minor teams and a special five person committee is working on setting up back room teams which they hope to announce before the end of season.

Former Senior inter county player Fiona O'Driscoll addressed the meeting and gave a detailed report on the proposed setting up of development squads within the county. The proposals were warmly received and it should be all systems go as the county sets up their development squads in 2010.

There were three motions on the agenda for discussion while the main talking point on the night was a Ballincollig motion seeking changes to the rule grading players. Currently a player who plays in championship is tied to that grade until the team played the following year's championship Ballincollig were seeking to bring in a motion similar to the GAA where 15 players are named at the start of the league and tied to a team until such time as they play championship. After a lot of discussion, mostly in favour of the motion, it was decided that the motion be re-worded and changed and put to the floor for discussion at the first meeting of the New Year.

Two motions that were passed unanimously were submitted by the Coiste Chontae, the first that a disciplinary committee be set up to deal with all matters in relation to disciplinary matters, while the second called for clubs to pay an annual levy of €200 for the upkeep and

maintenance of the county board pitch at Castle Road.

Before the meeting concluded medals were presented to the winners of the board's championship and league competitions for 2009 as follows.

Senior County Champions
St Catherine's
Senior League Millford
Senior B County Champions Ballincollig
Senior B League Glen Rovers
Intermediate County Champions
Clonakilty
Junior A County Champions Ballyhea
Junior A League Douglas
Junior B County Champions and League
Buttevant
Junior C County Championship and League
Kildorrey
Junior Shield Ballygarvan
Junior B Plate Castle Lyons
Junior C Plate Grenagh
Minor A Championship Douglas
Minor B Championship Eire Og
Minor C Championship Douglas
Minor D Championship Sarsfields

Chairperson Marion McCarthy wished all present seasons greetings and said Cork camogie can look ahead with confidence as the game continues to grow.

Senior Selectors: Denise Cronin Glen Rovers, Lillian Zinant Sarsfields plus a representative from County champions St Catherine's.
Intermediate Selectors: Sile Golden Inniscarra, Esther O'Leary Mallow
Junior Selectors: Sile O'Brien Eire Og, Brendan Coleman Valley Rovers, Dave Collins Ballincollig.
President: Kay Dunne Ballincollig.
Chairperson: Marion McCarthy St Finbarr's
Vice Chairperson: Mary Bugler Valley Rovers
Secretary: Sile Golden Inniscarra
Treasurer: Mary Mc Sweeney Bandon
PRO: Mary Newman Glen Rovers
Registrar: Yvonne Lane Ballygarvan
Child Welfare Officer: Noreen Daly Ballygarvan

A busy season for Juvenile County Board

THE juvenile county board under the chairmanship of Tracy Sheehan reviewed a busy season at under age level when they held their convention in the Silver Springs Moran Hotel. Secretary Tina Sheehan reported that the board ran 18 competitions for under age teams aged from age 12 to 16 and these came in the form of both league and championship. In total 569 games were played with 59 clubs entering competitions.

The meeting heard that the board also introduced special competitions this year at under 14 level for clubs who did not reach the semi-final or finals of their competitions and these were a huge success with 16 clubs in total taking part, competitions were divided into two divisions and ran over two days. It is hoped to extend the exercise next season to include under 12.

Chairperson Tracy Sheehan, in welcoming delegates, spoke about the huge volume of work undertaken by the board. She thanked the senior board for working hand in hand with the juvenile board, thus ensuring all club fixtures were played in conjunction with each other. She also spoke about the Castle Road pitch and said that it helped the juvenile board enor-

mously to have it available for their games, and she thanked Marion McCarthy and her fellow officers whose help is always readily available.

Before concluding the meeting Tracy expressed her thanks to the hotel for the use of their facilities for the convention and she wished everybody well for the season ahead.

Outgoing officers Tom O'Regan Blarney and Esther O'Leary Mallow did not seek re election and Tracy Sheehan spoke in glowing terms about their contribution to the juvenile board and thanked them for their work in promoting camogie.

Officers for 2010:

Chairperson: Tracy Sheehan Sarsfields
Vice Chairperson: Mary O'Sullivan Brian Dillon's
Secretary: Tina Sheehan Douglas
Treasurer: Siobhan O'Callaghan Ballincollig
Registrar: Ger Sheehan Douglas

CORK CAMOGIE JERSEY

Apparently Santa Claus has been getting quite a few requests for the Cork Camogie jerseys. If you want to ensure that your request goes in on time, you're advised to go along to Páirc Uí Rinn Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm. All sizes from age 5 to small adults are available.



Cumann Camógachta Na nGael

Kilkenny Camogie

Official Camogie Website



Senior Leinster Camogie Final 2009



Kilkenny Captain Ann Dalton receives the cup from Leinster Chairman Ray Quigley after Kilkenny defeated Wexford in the Leinster Final in Buncloody on Sunday 6th Dec. See full report in Intercounty News Section.

2009 Camogie All Stars

Kilkenny Players Win Five CAMOGIE ALL STARS

The Camogie All Star Awards in association with O'Neills were held on Saturday night in Citywest and Kilkenny came away with five Awards second only to All Ireland Champions Cork who won six. Kilkenny's five awards reflected the improvement shown by the team in 2009 and all in all it was a good night for the black and amber. Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power won their first All-Star while Aoife Neary collected her second award in two years. Kilkenny had further reason to celebrate when the O'Neills Young Player of the Year award went to Denise Gaul.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association said, "The All Stars awards recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season. The Awards are a treasured keepsake as they signify the achievement of playing camogie to the highest standards."

We congratulate all the winners and the nominees on their achievements during 2009 and wish them well in 2010.



Kilkenny Girls Jacqui Frisby, Ann Dalton, Katie Power, Aoife Neary and Elaine Aylward with Camogie President Joan O'Flynn after receiving their All Star Awards



Denise Gaul receives her O'Neills young player of the year award from Paul Brady, also in the pic Mary Hannifin T.D and Joan O'Flynn President of the Camogie

Kilkenny Senior Panel & Management for Gala All Ireland Final



Back Row L to R
Laura Kavanagh, Aine Fahy, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Emma Staunton, Julie Ann Woodcock, Ann Marie Phelan, Elaine Aylward, Denise Gaul, Catriona Ryan, Marie O'Connor, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Edwina Keane, Aisling Ryan

Middle Row L to R
Paul Murphy, John Loneragan, Siobhan Murphy, Leanne Fennelly, Claire Aylward, Amy Butler, Aoife Neary, Edel Maher, Colette Dorner, Deirdre Delaney, Aisling Dunphy, Ann Dalton (Captain), Therese Muldowney, James Meagher, Ann Downey (Manager), Noel Ryan

Front Row L to R
Marina Downey, Keava Fennelly, Lizzie Lyng, Eimear Lyng, Katie Power, Jacqui Frisby, Michelle Guilty, Catherine Doherty, Kelly Ann Colterall, Kate McDonald

County Camogie Jerseys

Hennessey sports are now stocking the New Kilkenny Camogie jersey's. A limited supply is only available so hurry and get your's first. You can purchase the senior All Black jersey, or the underage Black & Amber stripes. Get your jerseys out for All Ireland Sunday and support our girls when they hopefully bring back the O'Duffy cup after a 15 year wait.

Senior Camogie Leinster Final, Buncloody GAA Grounds, Sunday 6 December 2009

Kilkenny 2-12 vs. Wexford 1-14

After an epic battle that went to extra time, it was Kilkenny who came out on top by the narrowest of margins defeating Wexford on a cold and windy afternoon in Buncloody. Despite being short eight of the team which contested the All Ireland Final in September Kilkenny showed great determination and spirit throughout the match and retained their Leinster crown against a gallant Wexford team who were also without a number of players due to injury and illness. Both goalkeepers were busy from the start and an early attack from Kilkenny was ably dealt with by Wexford keeper Mags Darcy, while a Catriona Ryan in the Kilkenny goal was equally alert at the other end saving a Mary Leacy free. It was Una Leacy who opened Wexford's account when she pointed with two minutes on the clock. This was quickly followed with a second point when Katrina Parrock found Ciara Storey in the 4th and she put the ball over the bar to increase Wexford's lead 0-2 to 0-0. Kilkenny were under pressure in the opening minutes but Catriona Ryan in the Kilkenny goal ably dealt with a shot from Una Leacy which was dropping just under the crossbar. Kilkenny's first score of the day came from Denise Gaul when she finished off a good move involving Katie Power in the seventh minute. Katrina Parrock pointed on fifteen minutes and Kate Kelly added a free two minutes later to leave Wexford ahead by 0-4 to Kilkenny's 0-1. Edwina Keane added to Kilkenny's tally in the nineteenth minute and gradually Kilkenny were starting to get a foothold in the game and when Captain Ann Dalton pointed a long range free this left just a single point between the sides. Shortly after Wexford were awarded a free which was taken by Kate Kelly but Kilkenny's Keava Fennelly was on hand to intercept the ball and her clearance found Edwina Keane who added another point to leave the sides' level sides with twenty-four minutes gone in the opening half. Wexford had a chance to go back into the lead but an effort from Lenny Holohan went narrowly wide. From the subsequent puck out Aoife Neary picked up the ball and laid off a pass to Michelle Quilty who had managed to get in behind Wexford goalkeeper Mags Darcy when she came off her line to narrow the angle for a Neary shot and Quilty dispatched the shot to the back of the net. Aoife Neary added a point from play before Wexford's Lenny Holohan handpassed a ball over the bar for a point to leave just three points between the sides. Wexford were awarded a free in injury time and Kate Kelly made no mistake and pointed to leave the score at half time Kilkenny 1-5, Wexford 0-6.

Kilkenny were the first to register a score when on two minutes Michelle Quilty pointed from play and Aoife Neary added a further point in the fourth minute with a point effort from a free. Wexford responded with a Kate Kelly free in the seventh minute. With the score reading Kilkenny 1-7 to Wexford 0-7 Kate Kelly edged Wexford ever closer with two pointed frees. Ann Dalton added a free to give Kilkenny much needed breathing space but Wexford edged their way back into the game with a free by Kate Kelly following a foul on Una Leacy as she bore down on the Kilkenny goal. Wexford brought on Fiona Kavanagh and she won a 45m free which Kate Kelly pointed to leave the sides level Kilkenny 1-8 - Wexford 0-11. Kilkenny once again edged ahead when Dalton pointed from play but Wexford responded with a Kate Kelly free on the stroke of fulltime levelling the score and taking the game into extra time on a score of Kilkenny 1-9 to Wexford 0-12. Two halves of ten minutes duration commenced with Wexford starting as they finished in regulation time with Kate Kelly pointing an early free. This score was cancelled out by an Aoife Neary free leaving the sides deadlocked once again. Katie Power put Kilkenny back in front but Fiona Kavanagh looked to have ensured a Wexford win when she struck a shot which ended up in the Kilkenny net right at the end of the first period of extra time and giving Wexford a two point lead. The score read Kilkenny 1-11 - Wexford 1-13. But Kilkenny have proved resilient in 2009 and Ann Dalton drew Kilkenny closer with a pointed free. With the light fading rapidly both sides were fighting hard and neither side would give in or give up. Kate Kelly restored Wexford's two pointed margin with a pointed free with only three minutes left on the clock. However, there was another twist when Katie Power blasted the ball to the Wexford net following a pass from Aoife Neary to put Kilkenny ahead by a single point. Both sides fought right to the end but when the final whistle sounded it was Kilkenny who had come out on top on, with the final score reading Kilkenny 2-12 - Wexford 1-14

The Chairman of Leinster Ray Quigley was on hand to present Kilkenny Captain Ann Dalton with the Leinster Senior Championship Cup. The 2009 Leinster Final was a thrilling and tense affair which could have gone either way. Congratulations to all the Kilkenny players and management on successfully retaining the Senior Leinster Title. Finally best wishes to Wexford Manager Stella Sinnott who will not be continuing on as manager in 2010.

Kilkenny Team: Catriona Ryan, Deirdre Delaney, Amy Butler, Keava Fennelly, Kate McDonald, Jackie Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Ann Dalton (0-4, 3f), Denise Gaul (0-1), Laura Kavanagh, Katie Power (1-1), Edwina Keane (0-2), Michelle Quilty (1-1), Aoife Neary (0-3, 2f), Siobhan Murphy, Subs: Emma Staunton, Aine Fahy (for Siobhan Murphy), Kelly Ann Cotter (for Laura Kavanagh)

Wexford Team: Mags Darcy, Karen Atkinson, Catherine O'Loughlin, Coleen Atkinson, Noeleen Lambert, Mary Leacy, Bernice Holohan, Deirdre Codd, Katrina Parrock, Kate Kelly (0-11, 2,45s, 7f) Una Leacy (0-1), Stacey Redmond, Michelle Hearn, Ciara Storey (0-1), Lenny Holohan (0-1), Fiona Kavanagh (1-0) (for Stacey Redmond), Frances Doran, Stacey Kehoe, Shelly Kehoe

ALL IRELAND SENIOR AND JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Monday, 07 Dec 2009



CASHEL had to call upon all their experience to see off the challenge of Athenry, and claim their second All Ireland senior club championship title in horrendous weather at Clarecastle yesterday (0-11 to 0-9). Although the foot conditions were top class at the impressive Clare venue, the driving wind and rain proved to be a constant challenge. It was Cashel's ability to keep the scoreboard ticking over during a first half when Athenry captain Therese Maher had opted to play with the gale that was the main difference. Claire Grogan's seven points overall (four from play) were contributory too, but when it came down to it, the Tipperary side had too much talent for the westerners who were far too reliant on skipper Maher to keep them in the hunt.

As well, Cashel captain and full back Una O'Dwyer proved unbeatable, as did their entire half back trio of Paula Bulfin, Philly Fogarty and Julie McGrath. And when they turned over just one point behind, 0-5 to 0-6, it was going to take an enormous effort from the Maroon girls to remain in the game, but credit to them they fought to the bitter end. Athenry were in front 0-3 to 0-2 after 15 minutes, and had they capitalised on two goal opportunities it would have been a different story for the underdogs. A pair of points coming up to the break from free-taker Laura Linnane and Noreen Coen left them double scores ahead, but a strong finish from Cashel yielded flags from Grogan and Alison Loneragan. The second half was a dogfight with the weather deteriorating further. Approaching the last quarter Cashel edged 0-9 to 0-7 to the good, but the introduction of the injured Jessica Gill for Athenry egged them on. She came close with a goal shot, and despite Athenry's grit, Cashel held out with two Grogan points closing out the score. Meanwhile, St Anne's Dunhill and Lavey must meet again to determine the destination of the All Ireland junior club title. After extra-time in a pulsating final in Donaghmore Ashbourne the scoreboard remained deadlocked 1-11 apiece. An announcement will be made today regarding the replay. St Anne's did all the running with the wind in the first half and courtesy of a kicked goal from Jenny Simpson led 1-6 to 0-2 at the changeover. It was Lavey's turn in the second 30 minutes with captain Mary O'Kane netting for the Derry champions. It was nip and tuck with St Anne's top scorer Karen Kelly shooting the equaliser on full time. After the first period of extra time, wind assisted St Anne's moved 1-11 to 1-8 ahead, but three points from Lavey coming down the home straight ensured the teams will have to do it all over again.

DEC. 2009

Cork dominate camogie All Stars

All-Ireland Champions Cork dominated the Camogie All-Stars with Gemma O'Connor getting honoured for an unprecedented sixth successive time, while five players received All Star awards for the first time.

Six members of the 2009 All-Ireland winning Cork team were again named in the Camogie All Star team.

It was a special evening for Gemma O'Connor, currently on army duty in Chad, who was rewarded with an unprecedented sixth consecutive All Star. O'Connor's versatility is highlighted by the fact she has won awards in three different areas of the pitch. The St Finbarr's player was represented by her mother Geraldine.

Gemma is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back Cathriona Foley, centre back Mary O'Connor, midfielder Brieghe Corkery as well as top scorer in the championship Rachel Moloney who are all taking home their third awards.

Championship runners-up, Kilkenny, received five awards with Jacqui Frisby, Elaine Aylward, Anne Dalton and Katie Power earning their first All-Star in recognition of the Black and Amber reaching the All Ireland decider after a wait of eight years. Aoife Neary collected her second award in two years.

Beaten semi-finalists Galway received three awards. Therese Maher picks up her third while Regina Glynn and Anne Marie Hayes are winners for the second time.

Grainne McGoldrick is a first time winner for Derry.

The O'Neill's Young Player of the Year award went to Kilkenny's Denise Gaule. This has been an incredible year for the Kilkenny forward who featured prominently in the Cats fourth consecutive All Ireland minor win. The Windgap player amassed an amazing 5-11 between the All Ireland minor semi-final and final. She also had a prolific season in front of the posts with the senior team.

Denise Cronin was named the O'Neill's Manager of the Year following back-to-back victories with Cork. The former Glen Rovers and County star led the Rebels to their eighth successive final appearance in 10 years, and

to their 24th title overall - just two behind titleholders Dublin. After a very successful playing career, Denise took over the management of the Cork team in 2008.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association said: 'The All Stars awards recognise the individual excellence and leadership of the leading camogie players this season. The Awards are a treasured keepsake as they signify the achievement of playing camogie to the highest standards.'

This recognition is now also extended to players from the Junior All Ireland series through the inaugural Soaring Star Awards. In a season when 13 different counties won National League and All Ireland Championship titles, the 2009 All Star and Soaring Star Award winners claim their rightful place as wonderful exponents of all that's best in Camogie.

Goalkeeper - Aoife Murray (Cork); Backs - Regina Glynn (Galway); Cathriona Foley (Cork); Jacqui

Frisby (Kilkenny); Anne Marie Hayes (Galway); Mary O'Connor (Cork); Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny); Midfield - Brieghe Corkery (Cork); Anne Dalton (Kilkenny); Forwards - Katie Power (Kilkenny); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Therese Maher (Galway); Aoife Neary (Kilkenny); Grainne McGoldrick (Derry); Rachel Moloney (Cork).

O'Neill's manager of the year - Denise Cronin (Cork).

O'Neill's young player of the year - Denise Gaule (Kilkenny).

Camogie soaring stars 2009

Goalkeeper - Audrey Kennedy (Offaly); Backs - Fiona Stephens (Offaly); Eimear Moylan (Laois); Karen Brady (Offaly); Karen Timoney (Down); Michaela Morkan (Offaly); Louise Dunningham (Meath); Midfield - Louise Mahony (Laois); Niamh Coyle (Roscommon); Forwards - Arlene Watkins (Offaly); Catherine McGourty (Down); Aine Lynn (Waterford); Susie O'Carroll (Kildare); Karen Kelly (Waterford); Elaine Dermody (Offaly).



Cork's Gemma O'Connor



Amanda O'Regan holds the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie crown after Cork (top) defeated Kilkenny (bottom) in the final



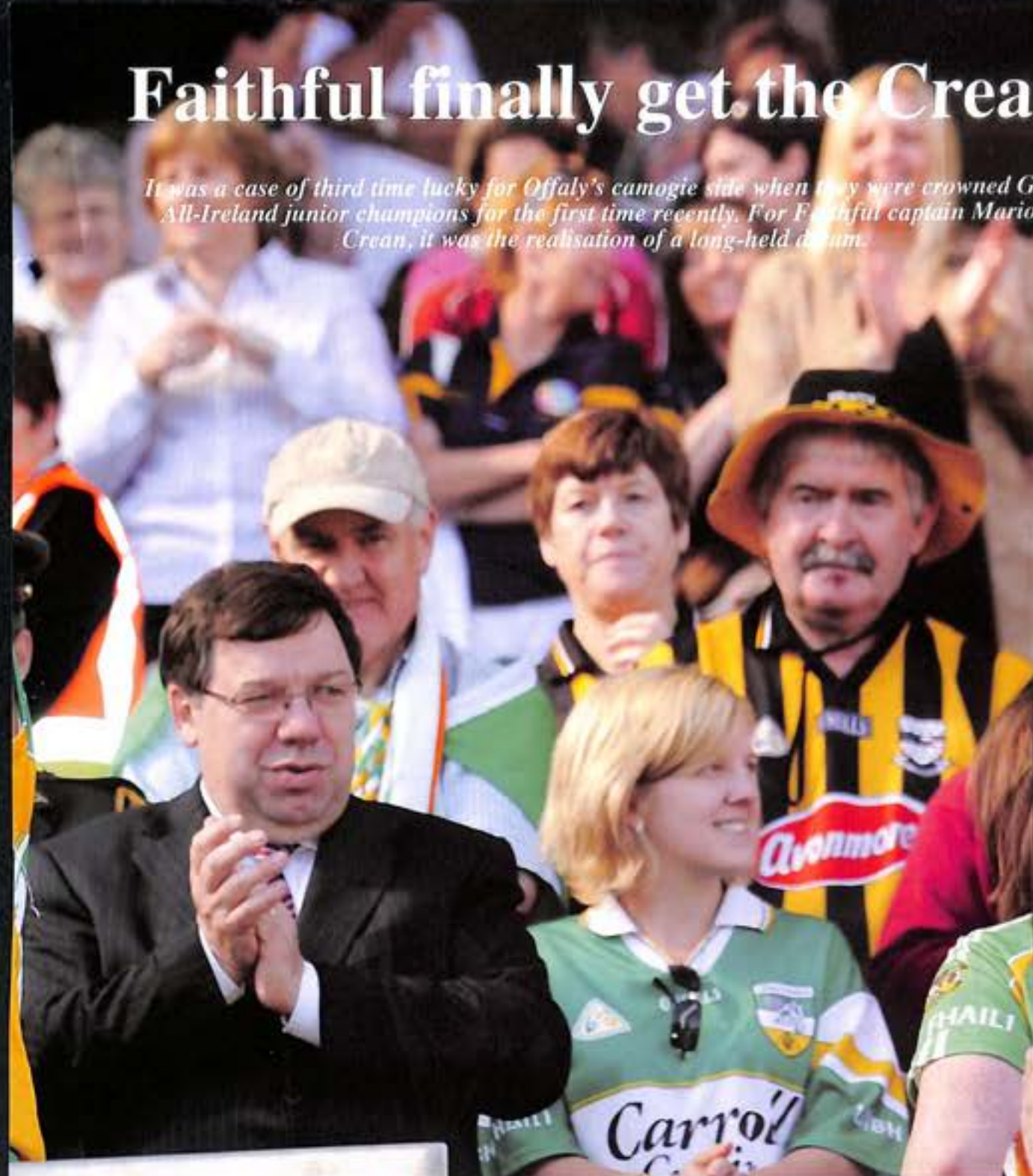
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Top: Offaly captain Marion Crea lifts Cup. Bottom: The Offaly squad which captured the All-Ireland junior camogie championship title in 2009



Faithful finally get the Crea

It was a case of third time lucky for Offaly's camogie side when they were crowned Gaelic All-Ireland junior champions for the first time recently. For Faithful captain Marion Crea, it was the realisation of a long-held dream.



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A fairytale year

by Linda Mellerick

Once again Cork camogie had new senior county champions for 2009. Remarkably Cork had a seventh county championship winner in nine years. Cloughduv took three titles in '01, '02 and '05. They are the only club side to retain honours as year after year a new club rises to claim the title and Cork camogie is thriving because of it.

This year was the turn of Ballynoe side St Catherine's. No betting person would have put their money on St Catherine's at the beginning of the season. Douglas, St Finbarr's and possibly Milford were the three most likely to be there or there about come final day.

It didn't turn out that way and that's the joy of sport. That's the joy of Cork camogie.

Once again the divisional sides held their own preliminary championship ahead of the championship proper, commencing on June 17. Seandún easily accounted for Avondhu 6-20 to 4-2. 2007 champions Muskerry had three points to spare over Carrigdhoun while Carbery afforded Imokilly a walkover.

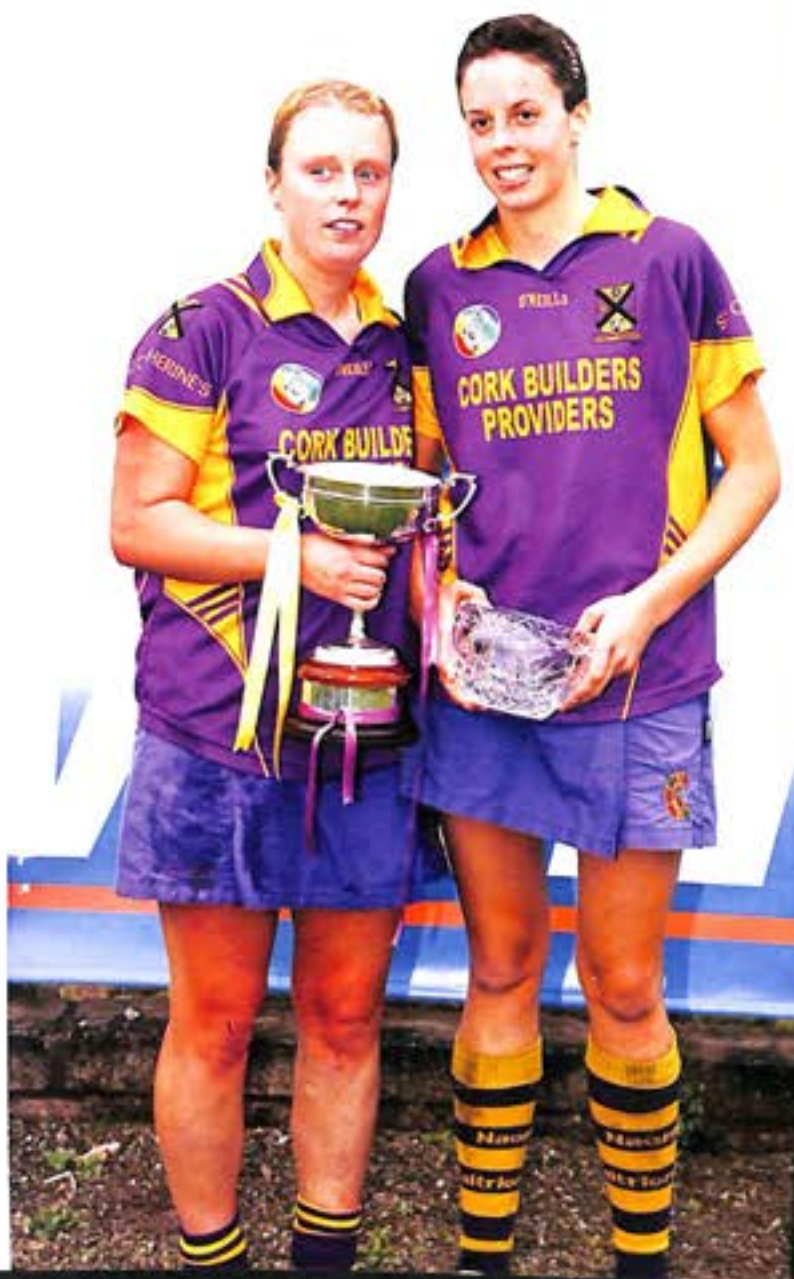
In round two Muskerry moved more into their stride recording a facile 5-18 to 0-8 victory over Seandún. They advanced to round three and leap frogged into round two of the championship proper after they defeated Imokilly with 12 points to spare.

Still in June, Barryroe were left to ponder how they lost their opening game to Rockbawn after dominating for long periods. Ten wides in the opening half and two shots off the crossbar cost them dearly as Rockbawn took their chances and two goals; one in each half saw Rockbawn advance to the quarter-finals.

An impressive display from Milford saw them easily dispose of Ballygarvan, a double act from the Watson sisters bagging four goals between them finishing the game 4-9 to 0-10.

For the second year in a row a single point separated St Catherine's and Cloughduv. A last minute goal from Katherine Corkery wasn't enough to gain Cloughduv at least a replay as time ran out.

Three penalties, seven goals and 18 points provided the thriller in Brinney for the Courcy Rovers v Inniscarra clash.



Rovers advanced with a one point victory, 3-11 to 4-7, after the sides were level on six occasions.

2008 county finalists Douglas and St. Finbarr's met again in round one and once again the last quarter was where Douglas did their most damage, striking 3-3 in the last 20 minutes to which St Finbarr's had no answer.

The back-door saw Inniscarra account for Barryroe, St Finbarr's have two points to spare over Ballygarvan and Cloughduv advance to the quarter-final at the expense of Muskerry. Two second half goals in the space of three minutes put paid to any hope Cloughduv may have had of dethroning Douglas who controlled most of the second half despite Cloughduv's strong opening. St Finbarr's easily accounted for Rockbawn, 4-10 to 1-6 while Milford received a stern test from a very impressive Inniscarra outfit to emerge victorious by a solitary goal. St Catherine's ended Courcy Rovers' title hopes with a five-point victory in a game which failed to ignite. Marching on to the semi-final and we had two mouth watering games in prospect.

Milford faced a mighty challenge in Champions Douglas but how they performed on the night in Mounseabbey on August 5. A powerful display by the North Cork side blew Douglas away and the question marks over the City club's defence were answered as Milford hit for three goals in a game that was effectively over at half time.

St Catherine's also faced a tough assignment taking on seasoned campaigners St Finbarr's. The sides couldn't be separated first time round when a Lisa Higgins injury time equalising point gave St Catherine's a second chance after they had led at half time by 1-4 to 0-2.

The replay however wasn't as close an affair as a top class display by St Catherine's epitomised by the outstanding play of Orla Cotter hit St Finbarr's for six, St Catherine's deserving of their eight-point winning margin.

Milford and St. Catherine's became the final everyone was talking about. The unexpected final, previewed to be a thriller. And a thriller it was. A magnificent second half provided all the ingredients. Milford pulled back a four-point deficit midway through the second half to draw level. With seven minutes of normal time left Orla Cotter won possession in the middle of the field. She supplied Deirdre Twomey who fed Evelyn Ronayne inside who made no mistake to goal from close range to the delight of a large and very enthusiastic St Catherine's following.

Milford piled the pressure on in search of the equaliser as the crowd sat on the edge of their seats. Denise Twomey coolly slotted over an immensely important insurance point and now Milford needed two scores, one a goal, just to level it.

Louise O'Flynn pointed three minutes into injury time to leave a goal between the sides. When referee Collette O'Mahony blew the full-time whistle on the puck-out it was a joyous occasion amidst joyous scenes for a club well deserving of this their greatest hour. ■



CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Divisional Section

(A) Avondhu 4-2 Seandún 6-20

(B) Carrigdhoun 1-4 Muskerry 1-7

(C) Imokilly v Carbery (Carbery provided a walkover)

Round 2

(D) Seandún 0-8 Winners B Muskerry 5-18

Round 3

(C) Imokilly 1-3 Winners D Muskerry 2-12

Winners of divisional section moved on to round two to meet losing teams from round 1 of the club section.

Round 1

(A) Rockbawn 2-6 Barryroe 0-6

(B) Milford 4-9 Ballygarvan 0-10

(C) Cloughduv 1-5 St Catherine's 0-9

(D) Inniscarra 4-7 Courcy Rovers 3-11

(E) Douglas 3-15 St Finbarr's 3-6

Round 2

Inniscarra 1-10 Barryroe 0-9

St Finbarr's 2-7 Ballygarvan 0-11

Cloughduv 3-7 Muskerry 2-6

Quarter-final

Douglas 4-10 Cloughduv 0-11

St Finbarr's 4-10 Rockbawn 1-6

Milford 3-8 Inniscarra 2-8

St Catherine's 0-15 Courcy Rovers 0-10

Semi Final

Milford 3-11 Douglas 0-9

St Catherine's 1-9 St Finbarr's 1-9

St Catherine's 1-20 St Finbarr's 2-9

Final

St. Catherine's 1-12 Milford 0-12

Club Team of the Year

J Kavanagh (Douglas)

F Noonan (St Catherine's), N Mulcahy (do), L O'Connell (St Finbarr's)

J Duffy (do), E O'Riordan (Milford), J O'Callaghan (Cloughduv)

O Cotter (St Catherine's), B Corkery (Cloughduv)

F Neville (St Catherine's), V Harris (St. Finbarr's), R Moloney (Courcy Rovers)

Denise Twomey (St Catherine's), E Watson (Milford), O O'Sullivan (St Finbarr's)

Highlight of the Year

The highlight of the year has to be St Catherine's emergence as champions in the Cork senior championship after gaining promotion only three seasons ago. The stand-out performance of Orla Cotter in the semi-final replay against St Finbarr's in Carrigtwohill was the highlight of the year for me.

Player of the Year Orla Cotter (St Catherine's)

A truly inspirational season for the towering and talented player. She is the main reason why St Catherine's are county champions for 2009.



Ladies Football Champions: St Catherine's





Aways going to win

by Linda Mellerick

Cork retained the O'Duffy cup and bid for three in a row in 2010 after a championship where, despite not reaching great heights, the Rebels still had too much in reserve for any opponent who crossed their path.

They progressed through their group without dropping a point to advance to a semi-final and final they were never in danger of losing.

It was Wexford who claimed National League honours in April after Cork suffered defeats to Galway and Wexford and failed to advance from their group. That typically doesn't seem to upset the Rebels too much with championship very much the focus of their attentions.

Just six weeks later Cork were in championship mode as they recorded a facile 3-21 to 0-7 victory over Dublin in Páirc Uí Rinn. New physical coach Frank Flannery laid down a marker as Cork's supreme fitness was clearly evident. All over the pitch Cork held the upper hand and used the opportunity to make use of their five substitute allocation during the course. Away to Kilkenny on July 18 proved a difficult task for Cork. In dreadful weather conditions it was only when second half substitute Emer O'Farrell grabbed two goals that breathing space separated the sides. Kilkenny packed their defence and in the poor conditions Cork couldn't spread them wide. Leading at half time 0-3 to 0-2 Cork dug deep to come out on top 2-5 to 0-7 and while it may not have been the prettiest of victories it was a victory hard won and filled with character.

Cork at this stage topped group 1 and a victory against Tipperary on August 1 would see them finish top where they would be paired against the runners-up in group 2 in the semi-final on August 16. Tipperary on the other hand were tied in second place with Kilkenny and with Kilkenny expected to account for Dublin the pressure was all on Tipp to take points from their Munster rivals.

A rather subdued Cork knew they were fortunate to walk away with two points to spare after Tipperary, who were

the better team over the hour, left the game and their 2009 campaign behind them in Páirc Uí Rinn. In fact poor refereeing decisions and poor tactical decisions by Tipperary in the last 10 minutes possibly denied the Premier County the chance to force a play-off. But Cork held their composure and deservedly advanced to a semi-final meeting with Wexford. A double header in Nowlan Park saw Galway and Kilkenny take first to the field where a Marie O'Connor goal three minutes into injury time saw the Cats reach their first final in eight years with a two-point victory. Cork and Wexford were up next.

Wexford having won the league had an impressive championship, amassing some high scoring victories, getting caught just once by in-form Galway.

The game was billed to be a close encounter.

A scintillating second half saw Cork advance after a poor first-half display saw the Rebels trail by three points and turning to face into a strong breeze.

Wexford led 1-3 to 0-4 after 19 minutes. Not a worrying gap on the board but all of Wexford's scores had come from play compared to two for Cork, both of them coming from the mid-field pairing. Cork were struggling in many positions. It was Breige Corkery and Orla Cotter that were keeping their heads above water. Half time it stood at 1-5 to 0-6.

Two minutes of play, 37 minutes in, flattened Wexford and you could see no way back for them. Julia White had entered the fray before the break. She gathered and passed to Gemma O'Connor who flicked to Corkery in full flight. There was no stopping Corkery as she tore around the outside of defence and rocked the net. The crowd barely had time to catch its breath before goal poacher supreme Emer O'Farrell pulled first on a breaking ball to goal, after good work by Moloney and White again, to leave the score 2-9 to 1-8 and Wexford shell shocked.

The life seemed to be sapped out of Wexford, the intensity of their challenge evaporated. From that moment on Cork were going to advance.

The very mention of Cork versus Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final brings certain anticipation. It failed to live up to expectations however. Kilkenny were disappointing on the day. Cork never looked like losing despite the fact that their full-back line and goalkeeper were the far busier of the two defences over the hour.

Cork's defence were superb throughout particularly Catriona Foley, Rena Buckley and Sarah Hayes. As a unit the entire defence hunted in packs and it is to their credit and the goalkeeping ability of Aoife Murray that Kilkenny scored only two points from play throughout the game.

Three points ahead at the break Rachel Moloney (free), Emer O'Sullivan and Gemma O'Connor had three points on the board by the 36th minute as Cork stretched their lead to six. You felt a Cork goal would help them to push on but it never came. It was Kilkenny who pushed and drove for goal but once again found the magnificent Cork defence and goalkeeper Aoife Murray in impeccable form.

Forty seven minutes in Cork led 0-12 to 0-6.

Substitute Katrina Mackey stretched Cork's lead to seven. With this Cork had the luxury of bringing players off the bench to enjoy the moment.

The final say fell deservedly to the excellent O'Connor who hit a beauty from 70 yards to nail Cork their 24th All-Ireland title, their second in a row and fifth of the decade. □

CORK SENIOR LADIES CAMOGIE RESULTS

June 20 - Gala Senior Championship round 1

Group 1: Cork 3-21 Dublin 1-7
Group 2: Limerick 0-6 Wexford 5-20

June 27 - Round 2

Group 1: Tipperary 1-11 Kilkenny 1-14
Group 2: Galway 3-17 Clare 1-4

July 11 - Round 3

Group 1: Kilkenny 0-7 Cork 2-5
Group 2: Wexford 2-6 Galway 3-7

July 18 - Round 4

Group 1: Dublin 1-10 Tipperary 2-12
Group 2: Clare 2-8 Limerick 1-10

Aug 1 - Round 5

Group 1: Cork 1-13 Tipperary 0-14
Group 1: Dublin 0-3 Kilkenny 2-14
Group 2: Galway 1-16 Limerick 0-8
Group 2: Clare 0-3 Wexford 2-10

All-Ireland semi-final

Galway 1-11 Kilkenny 1-13
Cork 2-13 Wexford 1-10

All-Ireland senior final

Cork 0-15 Kilkenny 0-7



Player of the Year
Gemma O'Connor
(St Finbarr's)

Few players wear their heart on their sleeve like Gemma. Her consistent high performances throughout the championship make her my Player of the Year for 2009.

Linda Mellerick's All-Star 15

A Murray (Cork)
J Frisby (Kilkenny), C Foley (Cork), R Buckley (Cork)
A M Hayes (Galway), E Aylward (Kilkenny), S Hayes (Cork)
B Corkery (Cork), O Cotter (Cork)
G O'Connor (Cork), T Maher (Galway), K Parrock (Wexford)
A Connolly (Galway), E O'Farrell (Cork), A Neary (Kilkenny)

Offaly banished the ghosts of last year's heartbreaking defeat to Clare when they powered to their first Gala All-Ireland junior camogie title win at Waterford's expense in Croke Park on September 13 last.

The Faithful County's 3-14 to 2-8 victory also atoned for their heavy defeat to Tipperary in their first All-Ireland final appearance eight years ago. Joachim Kelly's charges were the better side throughout with a brace of goals in the 49th minute from corner forwards Siobhan Flannery and Arlene Watkins confirming their historic success.

"It was a long time coming, but we got there in the end," Offaly captain Marion Crea explains.

"This makes up for all the disappointments we've had over the years. We were heartbroken after losing last year's final to Clare by a last-minute goal but, if anything, it made us more determined and stronger.

"Even though we went into the final as underdogs, I was convinced we were going to win. Last year, the occasion probably got to us, but that certainly wasn't the case this year. We never lost our focus from the first whistle until the last."

With Elaine Dermody scoring 1-5 in the first half, Offaly had build up a 1-11 to 0-4 half-time lead against a Waterford team that was appearing in their first junior final. And while Waterford resumed by outscoring their opponents by 1-2 to 0-1 in a 10-minute spell, the midlanders refused to panic and were home and hosed when Flannery and Watkins struck for quick-fire goals.



Offaly camogie manager and former county star Joachim Kelly

"We got off to the best possible start, and never eased up after that," the Shinrone star recalls.

"Waterford beat us by 13 points in the first game of the round-robin series in Kinnitty in June, but we had put in a huge amount of work on the training field in the meantime and we were determined not to let them get away from us. And the best way to do that was to take the game to them."

Under the management of Offaly hurling legend Joachim Kelly and his selectors Mark Corrigan, Ger Fogarty and Catherine Byrne, the Faithful County struggled to find their form in the early part of the season, with Marion claiming that the team was still "haunted" by last year's All-Ireland final loss.

"The ghosts of last September haunted us the whole way through and all we wanted to do was get back on the playing field in January, avenge that defeat and get back on the road to winning. But if I am honest, the whole way during the league we were haunted by what happened in Croke Park," the primary schoolteacher says.

"It was summed up in a letter that

was sent to me by a nun I don't even know from Cork. She sent a letter after the All-Ireland, complimenting us about the camogie we played but one line that kept ringing around in my head was that sport is cruel. You can train all you want and give it your all but on the day, one twist of luck can change everything and that is what happened us.

"We had a bad league campaign. Not that we thought it was easy and we could turn up and start winning games in the league. We went into the league thinking we will get through the league and get to the final. It was not that easy. The 20th of June was the date that was in our heads. We knew we were playing Waterford that day. It was a turning point."

Offaly's 0-7 to 3-11 reversal at the hands of the Deise was the reality check they needed. They needed to win their next two games in the round-robin series to stay in the All-Ireland race, and this they achieved courtesy of impressive performances away from home against Dublin and Down.

"We beat Dublin by 11 points in Portmarnock without playing particularly well, and then beat Down by 5-20 to 0-6 in Newry. We played brilliant stuff that day and it was probably the first time all year that we clicked as a unit. It also highlighted the huge improvement in the team as Down had beaten us only a few months earlier in the league."

Offaly subsequently defeated Meath by four points in a physical encounter at Nowlan Park to secure their place in the All-Ireland final for the second year in succession. In the five weeks leading up to the decider, they warmed up with challenge matches against Cork and Galway,

who recently contested the All-Ireland intermediate final.

Despite their earlier defeat to Waterford, the omens were good for Offaly. They defeated Waterford at the semi-final last year and also got the better of the Deise girls in the 2008 All-Ireland minor 'B' final.

Although they played against a stiff breeze in the first half, Offaly began brightly by racing into a 0-4 to 0-1 lead inside the opening 12 minutes. Indeed, they were unlucky not to have had a goal in the fifth minute when Elaine Dermody's penalty was saved.

The Leinster side eventually made the breakthrough in the 20th minute when Dermody hand-passed the ball to the back of the net to ensure a 1-5 to 0-2 lead. The long-serving Dermody bagged four more points before half-time, with scores also from Siobhan Flannery and Tina Hannon, to leave the Faithful County perched on a 1-11 to 0-4 interval lead.

Andy Moloney's Waterford charges began the second half in business-like fashion with All-Ireland Poc Fada champion Patricia Jackman's 35th minute goal bringing them back into the game. However, Offaly staged a strong final quarter with goals in the space of a minute from

Flannery and Watkins paving the way for a comfortable victory.

Aine Lyng scored a late goal for Waterford, but this was mere consolation as Offaly held out for their first All-Ireland success.

"Being underdogs suited us down to the ground. It was a real team performance," says Marion, who was presented with the New Ireland Cup by Camogie Association chairperson Joan O'Flynn.

As one of five survivors from the 2001 team - Elaine Dermody, Audrey Kennedy, Michelle Davis and Sheila Sullivan also played in that year's final against Tipp - Marion is fully appreciative of this success.

"It took us eight years to win the All-Ireland, and we're delighted. The preparation and training has changed so much since then. It's much more professional now. Back then, we went up to Croke Park and weren't prepared for what Tipp threw at us. They hammered us out the gate, but we've come a long way since then," she says.

Offaly will compete in the All-Ireland intermediate championship next year and Marion is already looking forward to pitting herself against the higher quality of opposition.

"We could have opted to go straight

up to senior, but you have to be realistic, especially when you saw how that backfired on Clare this year. There is a huge gap between junior and senior, and as much as we have improved, we are not ready for senior camogie just yet.

"You have to take things one step at a time. Joachim is staying with us and he has a two-year plan to get us out of intermediate. We feel we are well capable of competing with the Limericks, Clares and Dublins of this world. Next year will be all about building confidence and developing players.

"Our team is very young, with an average of just 22. You see someone like Michaela Morkham, who is already an All-Star at just 19. There is huge talent coming through and hopefully this will only be start of things to come," she concludes.

The Offaly team that captured the Gala All-Ireland junior camogie title was: A Kennedy; K Brady, L Keena, F Stephens; L Sullivan, M Crea, S Sullivan; K Nugent, M Morkan; A Kelly (0-1), T Hannon (0-2), M Davis (0-3); S Flannery (1-1), E Dermody (1-6, 4f), A Watkins (1-1). Subs: J Brady for Flannery (55); A Corrigan for A Kelly (59); E Dunne for Davis (62).

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Sciath na Scol



Lucan Sarsfields



CAMOGIE MAKE NEW APPOINTMENT

The Camogie Association has announced the appointment of Mayo native Claire Egan to the role of Communications and Marketing Director.

The new position within the association will see Claire's role as developing and implementing a marketing and communications strategy for Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael in line with the Association's Strategic Plan.

Previously employed as a publicist with Gill and Macmillan Publishing Company, Dublin and as a news journalist with The Mayo News she has played intercounty ladies football with Mayo with whom she won All-Ireland honours; she takes up the position with immediate effect and will be based in the association's head office in Croke Park.



The St Finbarr's U10 Camogie team with their mentors, Ger Gibbons, Chloe O'Sullivan, Ray O'Mahony, Colette Hurley, Ann O'Donoghue, Bob McCarthy and Emma Kerins, at their recent awards day held at the St Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club.

Picture: David Keane



Cork All-Star Michael Shields, Colette Hurley, chairperson of the Barrs Camogie Street League section and Cork senior camogie captain, Amanda O'Regan, with underage captains, Aisling Shannon and Aoife O'Regan.

Picture: David Keane

Cork stars Shields and O'Regan are on hand to present Barrs' girls with medals

ST FINBARR'S Camogie Underage section held their medals presentation day at their clubhouse in Toger.

Over 100 girls attended the function and they were delighted to see Cork All-Star footballer Michael Shields present the U10 Seandún medals to captain Aoife O'Mahony and her team-mates.

Cork's All-Ireland winning camogie captain Amanda O'Regan brought the O'Duffy Cup along and was on hand to give the Seandún medals to the U11 panel led by team captain Aisling Shannon.

Michael and Amanda gave some great words of wisdom and encouraged the girls to keep enjoying their camogie.

Chairperson Colette Hurley addressed the large attendance and had a special welcome for all

the invited guests.

She thanked all the girls from five to 11 years old for their tremendous dedication and for making it a record year for the club with three trophies on display (the Na Piarsaigh U10 trophy was also won).

Colette also had great praise for all her committee members and coaches who put in an unbelievable effort throughout the season.

It was also very pleasing to see so many of the parents present and the club looks forward to their continuing support next year.

The evening finished with a fun quiz expertly organised by Emma Kerins and Chloe O'Sullivan.



Nycole O'Sullivan-Hayes after receiving her medal from Cork football All-Star Michael Shields at the Camogie Club awards held recently at the St Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club.

Picture: David Keane



Fiona Kennedy receives her medal from Cork camogie captain Amanda O'Regan.

Picture: David Keane



Toni Cotter receives her medal from Cork senior camogie captain Amanda O'Regan.

Picture: David Keane

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The St Finbarr's U11 camogie team, winners of the Seandún Cup with their mentors, Niamh O'Regan, Malachy Kennedy (coach), Alice O'Donovan, Colette Hurley, Mary O'Regan and Orla Hurley, at the recent awards day held at the St Finbarr's Hurling and Football club.

Picture: David Keane



Catherine O'Brien, club president, Colette Hurley, chairperson Street League section, Joan Doolan, founder of the Street Leagues with underage camogie captains, Aisling Shannon, Aoife O'Regan and Saoirse Noonan, at the awards day recently held at the St Finbarr's Hurling & Football club.

Picture: David Keane



Joy O'Shaughnessy proudly displays the medal she received from Cork football All-Star Michael Shields during the St Finbarr's Camogie Club awards day recently held at the St Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club.

Picture: David Keane



Michael Magner, co-owner of the Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Hotel, presents the Glanmire and District Sports Award to Sars Camogie Club. Receiving the trophy is Gillian O'Callaghan, Chairperson, Glanmire Camogie Club. Included are Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy and Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy, Phil O'Shea, President, Sars Camogie club, and sisters Marie Dinan and Eithne Allen.

Sars celebrate 40 top years

IN CELEBRATION of Sars camogie Club's 40th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of winning the senior championship, the club was recently awarded the November Fitzgerald Vienna Woods Glanmire and District Sports Award.

Joint owner of the hotel Michael Magner said the Sars Camogie club has been an integral part of Glanmire over the past 40 years and paid tribute to everyone associated with the club over the past forty years.

As well as members of Sars Camo-

gie Club, other special guests at the event included Lord Mayor Cllr Dara Murphy, Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy, Deputy County Mayor Cllr Gerry Kelly, Mary Newman PRO

Cork County Camogie Board, Denis Hurley Chairman Sars Hurling Club, John O'Regan Sars Hurling club, Denis Kelleher Glanmire GAA Club, sports reporter Billy Barry,



Pat McAuliffe RTÉ, Michele McAuliffe manager Bank of Ireland Glanmire and Glynis Casey manager of AIB Glanmire.

In congratulating Sars on receiving the award the Lord Mayor paid tribute to all the volunteers that made Sars the successful club it is today and congratulated the minor team on winning the county title.

Gillian O'Callaghan, Chairperson Glanmire Camogie said the club members were delighted with the award and thanked the judging panel for selecting them as the November winners.

Gillian said she was delighted that

so many members could attend especially Phil O'Shea founder member of the club, current president Breda Mc Carthy and Vincy Barry coach of '89 team.

Martina Murphy and Marie Dinan, members of the first team to bring county championship silverware back to the club, and Eithne Allen captain of the Intermediate County Champions 1979 team were also present.

Gillian also thanked Tadhg Murphy, chairman Sars hurling club and Denis Kelleher Glanmire football club for putting their pitches and club facilities at their disposal.



Offaly's Aoife Kelly feels the challenge of Waterford defender Katie-Marie Hearne

All Star Award Winners 2009...



The All Stars 2009. 1 Aoife Murray (Cork), 2 Regina Glynn (Galway), 3 Cathriona Foley (Cork), 4 Jacqui Frisby (Kilkenny), 5 Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), 6 Mary O'Connor (Cork), 7 Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny), 8 Briega Corkery (Cork), 9 Ann Dalton (Kilkenny), 10 Katie Power (Kilkenny), 11 Gemma O'Connor (Cork), 12 Therese Maher (Galway), 13 Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), 14 Grainne McGoldrick (Derry), 15 Rachel Moloney (Cork), manager of the year Denise Cronin (Cork).

JAN 2010

CORK camogie manager and former Glen Rovers star, Denise Cronin, was named Northside and district overall sports star, in conjunction with sponsors, the Ambassador Hotel and Gerald McCarthy trophies, at a function in the Ambassador Hotel recently.

The award is in recognition of Denise for guiding the Cork senior team to back-to-back victories, and their eighth successive final appearance in ten years, and to their 24th title overall.

The awards, in their inaugural year, honoured a range of sports people and clubs on the north side. Hotel manager, Chris Crowley, said: "We are delighted to honour clubs and individuals here, on our own side of the city, and we see it as a way for giving something back to the community, who are supportive of us. All of the winners were wor-

Cork camogie manager Denise named Northside sports star for back-to-back titles

thy recipients and we congratulate each and every one of them."

Special guest, John Delaney, chief executive of the FAI, addressed the attendance and received a huge welcome as former Irish international soccer star and north sider, Miah Dennehy, received the hall of fame award.

Lord Mayor Dara Murphy paid tribute to the ten recipients: "I commend the hotel for honouring the sporting traditions of the north side and I congratulate every one. Tonight is a big night for each monthly winner and you are all deserving of the honour, which the

hotel has bestowed on you"

Denise Cronin, in accepting the overall award, thanked the judging panel, led by former Cork hurler, Denise Coughlan, for selecting her: "I am honoured to be in the company of such great north side sports people; players, mentors and clubs, all who have given so much to their sports. I want to thank each and every one of them."

Denise Cronin thanked the hotel and the organising committee, on behalf of all the monthly winners, and thanked everybody who helped her as a player and a mentor. She thanked her family and the mem-

bers of her club, Glen Rovers: "I am delighted to be picked as overall winner. I had great mentors and coaches, both at club and county level, and I thank them for all they did for me."

Denise praised her family and her partner, Conor: "I really could not have done the job over the last two years without the great help I received from my family."

"Conor helped out at training and matches, on the side line with the hurleys and all the other jobs that needed to be done, Vivienne Harris, my former inter-county teammate, was a huge help to me and my fel-

low selectors, Lillian Mick, and our trainer, Frank, to everybody I say a huge thanks."

A large gathering of family, friends, and representatives from club and county were in attendance as Denise was recognised for a year of work well done, but its back to the work shortly as the focus turns to the quest for three in a row.

The monthly winners were as follows.

March: Mark Scannell, Glanmire ladies' basketball.
April: James Coughlan, Dolphin and Munster Rugby.
May: Joe Jordan, Blarney GAA.
June: Brian Keane, triathlon.
July: Tom Cahill, pigeon racing.
August: Juliet Murphy, Donoughmore ladies' football.
September: Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers and Cork camogie.
October: Castlevue soccer club.
November: Neptune basketball club.
December: Mary Newman, Glen Rovers and Cork camogie.

College camogie's Ashbourne and Purcell Cups to be held on same weekend

A HECTIC schedule lies ahead for camogie organisers in the Cork Institute of Technology, as they prepare to host two of the country's top camogie competitions, when the Ashbourne and Purcell Cups come to Cork.

Last year, UCC hosted a splendid Ashbourne competition, while Mary I hosted the Purcell, in Limerick. This year, in a change of

format and a first, the Purcell takes place the same weekend as the Ashbourne, and it is hoped this will generate extra interest. On the same weekend, the Ashbourne Shield's quarter-finals will be held.

One of camogie's oldest, most prestigious competitions, the Ashbourne Cup is the highlight of college camogie. The be-

hind-the-scenes work got under way in earnest in the week gone by, as college resumed after the Christmas break.

The Purcell Cup is the third-level college's division two championships. The cup was kindly donated by Paddy and Agnes Purcell. Agnes gave a lifetime of devoted service to camogie. She promoted the game in UCD, Dublin, and

Leinster, and through her writing for the newspapers. She was president of the Camogie Association, 1976-78. Paddy was Gaelic games correspondent for the Irish Press.

Semi-final games will get under way on Saturday, February 20, starting at 10.45am, and continuing through the day. The qualifying teams will be in action on the Sunday, with the four finals down

for decision. The Purcell Shield will begin at 10.45am, with the last game, the big one, the Ashbourne Cup final, at 2.45pm.

In the coming weeks, colleges will be busy in their bids for a place in the concluding stages of what promised to be a superb weekend of camogie, draws for which will be made later in the month.



LINDA
MELLERICK

ONCE AGAIN Cork camogie had new senior county champions for 2009.

Remarkably Cork had a seventh county title winner in nine years.

Cloughduv took three titles in '01, '02 and '05. They are the only club side to retain honours as year after year a new club rises to claim the title and Cork camogie is thriving because of it.

This year was the turn of Ballynoe side St Catherine's. No betting person would have put their money on St Catherine's at the beginning of the season. Douglas, St Finbarr's and possibly Milford were the three most likely to be there or there come final day.

It didn't turn out that way and that's the joy of sport. That's the joy of Cork camogie.

Once again the divisional sides held their own preliminary championship ahead of the championship proper, commencing on June 17. Seandún easily accounted for Avondhu 6-20 to 4-2. 2007 champions Muskerry had three points to spare over Carrigdhoun, while Carbery gave Imokilly a walkover.

In round two Muskerry moved more into their stride recording a facile 5-18 to 0-8 victory over Seandún. They advanced to round three and leapfrogged into round two of the championship proper after they defeated Imokilly with 12 points to spare.

Still in June, Barryroe were left to ponder how they lost their opening game to Rockbáan after dominating for long periods. Ten wides in the opening half and two shots off the crossbar cost them dearly as Rockbáan took their chances and two goals; one in each half saw Rockbáan advance to the quarter-finals.

An impressive display from Milford saw them dispose of Ballygarvan, a double act from the Watson sisters bagging four goals between them finishing the game 4-9 to 0-10.

For the second year in a row a single point separated St Catherine's and Cloughduv. A last-minute goal from Katherine Corkery wasn't enough to gain Cloughduv at least a replay as time ran out.

Three penalties, seven goals and 18 points provided the thriller in Brinny for the Courcey Rovers v Inniscarra clash. Rovers advanced with a one-point victory, 3-11 to 4-7, after the sides were level on six occasions.

2008 county finalists Douglas and St Finbarr's met again in round one and once again the last quarter was where Douglas did their most damage, striking 3-3 in the last 20 minutes to which St Finbarr's had no answer.

The back door saw Inniscarra account for Barryroe, St Finbarr's have two points to spare over Ballygarvan and Cloughduv advance to the quarter-final at the expense of Muskerry.

Two second-half goals in the space of three minutes put paid to any hope Cloughduv may have had of dethroning Douglas who controlled most of the second half despite Cloughduv's strong opening.



St Catherine's Orla Cotter comes under pressure from St Finbarr's Orla O'Sullivan during their Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship semi-final.

Club camogie on Leaside is going strong



St Catherine's captain Faith Noonan and Orla Cotter with the winning trophy and the player of match trophy after the County Senior Camogie final.

St Finbarr's easily accounted for Rockbáan, 4-10 to 1-6, while Milford received a stern test from a very impressive Inniscarra outfit to emerge victorious by a solitary goal. St Catherine's ended Courcey Rovers' title hopes with a five-point victory in a game which failed to ignite.

Marching on to the semi-final and we had two mouth watering games in prospect.

Milford faced a mighty challenge from champions Douglas but how they performed on the night in Mourneabbey on August 5.

A powerful display by the North Cork side blew Douglas away and the question marks over the city club's defence were answered as Milford hit for three goals in a game that was over at half-time.

St Catherine's also faced a tough assignment taking on seasoned

campaigners St Finbarr's.

The sides couldn't be separated first time round when a Lisa Higgins injury-time equalising point gave St Catherine's a second chance after they had led at half-time by 1-4 to 0-2.

The replay however wasn't as close an affair as a top-class display by St Catherine's, epitomised by the outstanding play of Orla Cotter, hit St Finbarr's for six.

Milford and St Catherine's became the final everyone was talking about.

Milford pulled back a four-point deficit midway through the second half to draw level.

With seven minutes of normal time left Orla Cotter won possession in the middle of the field. She supplied Deirdre Twomey who fed Evelyn Ronayne inside who made no mistake to goal from close range to the delight of a large and enthusiastic St Catherine's following.

Milford piled the pressure on in search of the equaliser as the crowd sat on the edge of their seats.

Denise Twomey slotted over an immensely important insurance point and now Milford needed two scores, one a goal, just to level it.

Louise O'Flynn pointed three minutes into injury time to leave a goal between the sides.

When referee Collette O'Mahony blew the full-time whistle on the puck-out it was a joyous occasion and saw joyous scenes for a club well deserving of this their greatest hour.

Club team of the year

J Kavanagh (Douglas); F Noonan (St Catherine's); N Mulcahy (do); L O'Connell (St Finbarr's); J Duffy (do); E O'Riordan (Milford); J O'Callaghan (Cloughduv); O Cotter (St Catherine's); B Corkery (Cloughduv); F Neville (St Catherine's); V Harris (St Finbarr's); R Moloney (Courcey Rovers); Denise Twomey (St Catherine's); E Watson (Milford); O O'Sullivan (St Finbarr's).

Club Player of the Year: Orla Cotter - St Catherine's
A truly inspirational season for the towering and talented player. She is the main reason why St Catherine's are county champions for 2009.

Highlight of the Year

The highlight of the year has to be St Catherine's emergence as champions in the Cork senior championship after gaining promotion only three seasons ago. The stand-out performance of Orla Cotter in the semi-final replay against St Finbarr's in Carrigrohilly was the highlight of the year for me.

Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship

Divisional Section: (A) Avondhu 4-2 v Seandún 6-20; (B) Carrigdhoun 1-4 v Muskerry 1-7; (C) Imokilly v Carbery Carbery provided a walkover. **Round 2:** (D) Seandún 6-8 v Winners B Muskerry 5-18 **Round 3:** (C) Imokilly 1-3 v Winners D Muskerry 2-12

Winners of divisional section moved on to round two to meet losing teams from round 1 of the club section.

Round 1: Rockbáan 2-6 Barryroe 0-6; Milford 4-9 Ballygarvan 0-10; Cloughduv 1-5 St Catherine's 0-9; Inniscarra 4-7 Courcey Rovers 3-11; Douglas 3-15 St Finbarr's 3-6

Round 2: Inniscarra 1-10 Barryroe 0-9; St Finbarr's 2-7 Ballygarvan 0-11; Cloughduv 3-7 Muskerry 2-6

Quarter-final: Douglas 4-10 Cloughduv 0-11; St Finbarr's 4-10 Rockbáan 1-6; Milford 3-8 Inniscarra 2-8; St Catherine's 0-15 Courcey Rovers 0-10

Semi-final: Milford 3-11 Douglas 0-9; St Catherine's 1-9 St Finbarr's 1-9; St Catherine's 1-20 St Finbarr's 2-9

Final: St Catherine's 1-12 Milford 0-12

CIT gears up for busy cup final competitions

THE weeks ahead promise plenty of work both on and off the playing fields as the organising committee at Cork Institute of Technology begin preparations for the Ashbourne Cup and Purcell Cup competitions.

It promises to be a hectic work load as they become the first college to host both colleges' top camogie competitions on the same weekend.

Last year UCC successfully hosted a splendid Ashbourne competition while Mary I hosted the Purcell in Limerick.

This year, in what is a change of format, the Purcell takes place the same weekend as the Ashbourne and in doing this it is hoped to generate extra interest.

On the same weekend the Ashbourne Shield competition will also take place with the defeated quarter finalists battling it out for the shield.

One of camogie's oldest and most prestigious competitions the Ashbourne Cup is hugely competitive and it is without doubt the highlight of college camogie sporting life.

Huge preparations will have to be made by all concerned and the behind the scenes work got under way in earnest in the week gone by.

The Purcell Cup is the third level college's division two championships.

The cup was kindly donated by Paddy and Agnes Purcell. Agnes gave a lifetime of devoted service to camogie. She promoted the game in UCD, Dublin, and Leinster and through her writing for the newspapers.

She was president of the Camogie Association 1976-78 while Paddy was gaelic games correspondent for the Irish Press.

Semi-final games will get under way on Saturday, February 20 starting at 10.45 and continuing through the day. The qualifying teams will be in action on the Sunday with the four finals down for decision, the Purcell Shield getting proceedings under way at 10.45 with the last game the big one the Ashbourne Cup final at 2.45pm.

In the coming weeks colleges will be busy in their bids for a place in the concluding stages of a superb weekend of camogie, draws for which will be made later in the month.

Ballincollig put their name on cup

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie review

AS ALWAYS there was plenty of focus on the club action with championships from senior B to minor coming under the umbrella of the senior county board.

At underage level the juvenile board ran competitions from U12 to U16 and again in all codes, championships and leagues were hotly contested.

The senior board were again fortunate to have the adult championship competitions sponsored by the Evening Echo, and at senior B level Ballincollig annexed their first title and won promotion to senior level for the first time after they held off the challenge of neighbours Éire Óg in the final.

Ballincollig set the pace in the final from the throw-in and with Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley and Maire O'Donoghue to the fore, they had too much strength for their mid Cork neighbours. Ballincollig's Sam Coomey was named as player of the match.

For the first time in a number of years the intermediate grade was re-introduced with six teams promoted from Junior A.

In the final Clonakilty had to battle all the way before denying Sars and it was Juanita Brennan who received the Nano Nagle trophy, kindly donated by the Presentation sisters in honours of their founder.

At junior A level new names emerged to contest the championship semi-finals as Watergrasshill, Ballyhea, Brian Dillon's and Enniskeane booked their slots in the last four.

On final day Watergrasshill and Ballyhea were still standing and a superb display saw Ballyhea land the crown.

Douglas and Blackrock contested the league final which Douglas won.

The junior B championship was won by Buttevant, who held off the challenge of St Catherine's second string and they went on to make it a double over Na Piarasigh in the league final.

The junior C final was without one of the best games seen all season, with Kildorrery and Castletyons a joy to watch.



Ballincollig's Denise Cronin scores a point under pressure from Éire Óg's Claire Meeney in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship final at Castle Road.

Picture: Kieran Boyde

In a thrilling close contest Kildorrery had three points to spare at the full time, and also won the league.

At minor level the county board added a fourth competition with the D competition coming on stream.

Sars won the D grade, while Douglas won the A and C competitions.

The junior shield was won by Ballygarvan when their second team defeated the second side from Inniscarra. The junior competitions for clubs who didn't make it to the closing stages of championship proved a big hit, Grenagh took the C plate with a win over Ballinora while Castletyons stepped up to win the B plate with a win over Glen Rovers.

The premier competition in underage was the U16 A grade where Douglas made it back-to-back titles

defeating Ballinhassig.

At U16 B level Inniscarra and Brian Dillon's made it to the final with Inniscarra winning, while Newtownshandrum defeated Killeagh in the league.

The U16 C championship title was won for the second year in a row by Éire Óg. Blackrock took the U16 D championship crown while Castletyons defeated Newcestown in the league final.

Douglas won the U14 A league title and went on to win the Cork Feile na nGael crown and the All-Ireland series. The U14 B went to Buttevant, Kilbrittain took the C while Carrigtwohill won the D grade.

The U12 competitions were a huge success with Éire Óg winning the U12 A, the B went to Killeagh, the U12 C winners were Kilbrittain,

while Clonakilty annexed the D.

The juvenile county board organised a very successful U14 competition for teams who did not qualify for the semi-finals of the leagues run on a blitz basis.

Killeagh and Glen Rovers qualified for the division one final where Killeagh ran out winners, in the division two competition Clonakilty won defeating St Vincent's.

At the time of going to print a few competitions remain to be finished the senior league has Milford into the final awaiting the winner of the Douglas / St Catherine's semi-final. Glen Rovers beat Ballincollig in the senior B league final while the intermediate league is at semi-final stage.

Éire Óg are through to the minor B Championship final and they await the winner of the Glen/Ballygarvan.

Club notes

Dates to note

Our Sunday and Tuesday underage training resumes on Sunday, January 24 while the day before our U13 and U14s will be back in action.

A date for your diaries is our medal presentation night for our victorious senior and U16 teams which we have pencilled in for Saturday, February 6, we will have more details in the coming week and players and mentors on both panels will be contacted regarding the availability of tickets, etc.

ENNISKEANE

Enniskeane Camogie Club would like to take this opportunity to wish all our players, mentors, members and supporters a happy and prosperous 2010. It gives us great pleasure to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed in any way to making 2009 a great year for us, both on and off the field, and indeed for making our club what it is today.

After our phenomenal success in the previous decade, we look forward to what new joys this new decade will bring. Although, it doesn't seem long since retiring for the winter, and certainly for some of the girls it has been but a short few weeks, all teams will be returning to the playing field soon in preparation for what challenges this season may bring.

Before this can commence, however, it's necessary to appoint trainers and selectors. A meeting to address this will be held on Friday, January 15 in Enniskeane at 7.30 pm sharp and it is imperative anyone who has any interest in being involved with any of our teams attend.

Also, please reserve Friday, February 26th for our much-awaited dinner dance in The Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway. This night, especially important to the girls receiving their medals, has always been a fantastic success and a great night is assured.

BISHOPSTOWN

Underage indoor training will recommence in the Bishopstown Community School Hall this yesterday. Girls U11 and younger train from 6 to 7pm and older girls train from 7 to 8pm. New and old members always welcome.

The club AGM was held on Thursday, January 7 and there was a big turnout, especially considering the icy conditions. Selectors were named for the senior team, but we are still looking for a coach, so anyone interested should contact the club.

Chairperson for the coming year is Billy O'Sullivan, vice-chairperson is Donnacha Broderick, treasurer is Mary O'Hea and the secretary position is still vacant. Many thanks to Phil Duggan, who has spent the last 10 years filling this role and his experience and help will be missed. So here's looking forward to a successful and enjoyable 2010, both on and off the field.

CARRIGTWOHILL

The annual poc fada was held on January 2 on the Woodstock Road. It had been scheduled for earlier on in the previous week but unfortunately road conditions wouldn't allow it.

Despite the extremely cold start to the morning there was a great turnout from the Camogie club, who were in full spirits and full of fun, ready for the big event. It went off without a hitch, Shauna Dorgan, Ciara Rohan, Sarah Curbin and Ciara Dixey coming out as overall winners for the girls.

Well done to all involved it was great crack, as it is every year. Many thanks to the GAA who organised the event and also to Jim Cooney, who supplied all participants and supporters with hot soup on the day.

Training will resume indoors on Saturday, January 16. New members are always welcome. Training schedule is as follows until weather improves.

U6s 1-1.40pm; U8s and U10s, 1.40-2.20pm; U12s, 2.20-3pm; U14s and U16s, 3-4pm.

GLEN ROVERS

Players and mentors are enjoying our traditional January break from training and playing activities, however, off the field of play we had some good news with the announcement that Denise Cronin was the overall winner of the Northside and district sports awards recently.

Denise had been honoured in September for her work with the Cork senior team and their success in the All-Ireland Championship while the December award also came to our club when Mary Newman was honoured for her work with Glen Rovers and Cork camogie.

Éire Óg celebrates a great year of camogie silverware

EIRE ÓG camogie club recently celebrated a successful season on the playing fields when they held the presentation of medals to their victorious teams.

The function was held at the Éire Óg GAA club, where the guest of honour was All Ireland winning Cork senior captain Amanda O'Regan who brought along the O'Duffy cup on the night. While many of the club's underage stars availed of the opportunity to pose with the All Ireland cup the club itself had no shortage of silverware on display.

In total the club captured three county titles and the cups were on display also, with the Mid Cork titles won during the season. Without doubt pride of place went to the club's minor team, who captured the County Minor B championship title as they defeated Ballygarvan in an exciting final played in Castle Road at the end of 2009. Captain of the minor side Ciara O'Keeffe proudly displayed the trophy and she was joined by her team mates as they celebrated their win.

The club also won the Under 16C championship title and indeed made it two in a row as they retained the trophy won also in 2008. Aoife Hennessy captained the 16C team and she was also accompanied by her team mates on the night. Rachel Murray, Vice-Captain of the under 12A team that won the championship proudly held the trophy on behalf of her team. Ruth Murphy, Captain of the under 13 team that won the under 13 A Mid Cork Championship, brought the first of the Mid Cork titles to the function while the very young brigade that captured the Mid Cork under 11B title were not forgotten as captain Kayleigh Brennan proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with the club's winning captains.

Amanda O'Regan had huge words of praise for the club and the work they are doing promoting camogie. She complimented them on the huge array of trophies they had won and encouraged the players to keep involved and playing camogie.

The club also reached the senior B county championship final where they lost out to neighbours Ballincollig, but with the continued progress of the underage sector, hopes are high that a breakthrough in the not too distant future is on the cards.

A larger gathering of players and parents were on hand as the various teams were presented with their medals by Amanda, and club stalwarts such as Rose Malone, Con Malone, Jacinta O'Keeffe, Alanna McKenna were full of praise for the Cork captain and the role she played as leader of the county's premier team.

Eire Óg can look forward in the years ahead to seeing one of their own young stars return in triumph with inter county honours as their club continues to go from strength to strength.



Denise Cronin with Marion McCarthy, chairperson of the Camogie Board, Mary Newman Glen Rovers and Viv Harris. See story opposite.



Éire Óg Camogie winning captains with Cork Senior Captain Amanda O'Regan, Kayleigh Brennan, under 11B team, Aoife Hennessy, under 16C, Ciara O'Keeffe, Minor B, Rachel Murray, Vice-Captain 12A team, Ruth Murphy, under 13 team.

President's Blog - January 2010

First, happy new year to all in Camogie. Hope you've survived the elements. Did you take the opportunity to use those all-weather pitches and indoor training circuits to beat the climate?

One or two things to tell you about...

If you are interested in a good night's sporting history and debate and you're free on 28th January, come along to the GAA Museum in Croke Park. 2010 marks the 105th anniversary of the official establishment of the Camogie Association. It is therefore both timely and appropriate that we have an evening of history and debate on the past, present and future of Camogie, hosted at headquarters. To book tickets and further details check out <http://museum.gaa.ie/>

Did you see the findings from the Irish Sports Monitor, published in December? This is research by the Irish Sports Council and the ESRI. The 2008 report is the second in a new annual series that monitors participation in sport. The research reflected the outstanding development work being undertaken all over the country by our full time team and our volunteers. It suggested that Camogie has grown considerably amongst females aged 16 or over. Camogie and Ladies Football equally share the top spot as the most popular team sports for females in Ireland. Interestingly the growth in Camogie bucks the trend of females leaving individual sport, which the study also highlighted.

It is extremely encouraging to have independent evidence that proactive promotion of Camogie leads to a positive response. Our new five year development plan, which will be ready for Annual Congress in Kildare on 26th/27th March, has excellent foundations to build so well done everybody! And onwards and upwards!

Over the Xmas, I attended an innovative event in Kilmacud Crokes GAA when Dublin Camogie and Ladies Football County Boards jointly organised a double header. In both codes, Dublin played a Dublin All Stars selection. The Ladies Football President, Pat Quill, joined me and we were very impressed with the co-operation evident in the planning and execution of a novel afternoon's entertainment.

Two of our full time teams, Paula Bruen Finance Officer and Eve Talbot, Regional Development Officer tagged out. They showed they are a match for the best! Congratulations to all involved, especially the 80 odd players and the match officials who braved Arctic conditions. In true style, the show went on. Let's keep up the co-operation all round. Our players and clubs will be the beneficiaries and we all want that.

The inter county playing season is nearly upon us with a 7th February throw in. But Camogie action has not been still! Post-primary schools competitions and Ashbourne and Purcell Cup qualifying rounds are in full flow. Watch out for finals of the latter on 20th/21st Feb in Cork Institute of Technology (creating history as this will be first time Cups have been played together). And if you are interested in the up and coming stars, the All Ireland Post-Primary Finals are on March 20th.

In meantime, hope you've had time to check out and enjoy all the developments from the hard working Communications and Website Committee: the publication of our new magazine On the Ball, the first issue of our e-zine Camogiesine and Camogie on Facebook, Twitter and in many other social network media and work on the annual media awards.

Until the next time,
Siobhán Ní Fhloinn
Joan O'Flynn
Uachtarán

JAN 2010



Do you enjoy your sport?

Very much so, I love Gaelic Games, not just playing but the people involved in them.

What effect has the recession had on your sport?

I can't ever remember camogie or ladies football being flash with cash so it hasn't been too devastating.

The highlight of your year?

Winning the county championship with Donoughmore.

The highlight of the noughties?

Sonia O'Sullivan winning a medal in Sydney.

The lowlight of your year?

Losing to Millford with Inniscarra in the County quarter final.

The lowlight of the noughties?

Losing to Wexford in the 2007 camogie All-Ireland.

The biggest surprise in your sport this year?

In Camogie St. Catherine's winning the Cork county championship, they probably weren't favourites at the start of the year. In football I suppose Inch Rovers were the favourites for the Cork county championship and it was a surprise to see them beaten.

The event in another sport I'll be looking out for in 2010 is...

Juliet Murphy in the Cork county bowling championship.

The one thing I'm looking forward to doing in 2010 is...

Enjoying some sunshine hopefully!

Is there a change in the laws/running of your sport you'd like to see in 2010?

I'd like to see greater cooperation between camogie and ladies football county boards, lack of communication makes the club suffer.

If you could represent your club or country in another sport it would be?

Athletics.

If you had to pick another career what would it be?
Professional Athlete.

The media: angels or devils?
Devils, they'd hang ya!

Training or turkey on Christmas day?
I'll probably go for a run or a swim before the turkey.

If you could ask Santa Claus for anything what would it be?
Mobile phone reception at home

Sports person I would like to meet under the mistletoe?
Tiger Woods, everyone else seems to have!

What kind of car do you drive?
An agricultural green Volkswagen Vento.

Most famous mobile number in your phone?
Seán Bán Breathnach.

Can we have it?
He'd be delighted!

Complete the sentence Tiger Woods is ...
too soft to hurl.

Complete the sentence Thierry Henry is ...
being scouted by Micko.

What annoys you most?
When people use the word 'literally' in a non literal sense.

Your biggest vice?
My phone.

Television heaven?
Some classic Fr. Ted.

If you were a superhero what powers would you have?
I'd love to know what other people are thinking.

Who would play you in a film?
Julia Roberts if she put on some weight.

Jedward: superstar talents of the future or a waste of space?
I've never actually seen them perform!

Is NAMA the right way to tackle Ireland's financial problems?
Who knows?

On New Year's Eve I will be ...
Honestly haven't a clue, too far away to plan.

And what is your New Year's resolution?
I'm gonna fine myself for any cursing.

Loughnane's achievement crowned a glorious year

IAN O'RIORDAN

IN HIS introduction speech to the 2009 Sportswoman of the Year awards, John Treacy spoke of the "good match" between joint sponsors *The Irish Times* and The Irish Sports Council. It was a valid point - as the Sports Council does so much work for the development of women's sport, while *The Irish Times* endeavours to give it the media coverage it deserves.

Treacy, the CEO of the Sports Council, was among several distinguished sporting names at yesterday's lunch banquet in Dublin. *The Irish Times* was represented by newspaper editor Geraldine Kennedy, and also sports editor Malachy Logan - who spoke of the special place the awards now hold in the Irish sporting calendar.

"This is a celebration of women's sport," said Logan, "the gifted individuals who are every bit as talented and committed as their male counterparts. They are also increasingly recognised at home and abroad as wonderful role models and ambassadors for their sports. They have thrilled and delighted us beyond reasonable expectation in the past 12 months, and deserve every accolade they receive."

"Every year these awards grow in stature. This can only happen because our best and brightest sportswomen keep on raising the bar, and they are helped in no small way by the Irish Sports Council, who are our partners in sponsoring these awards."

That was no exaggeration, as 2009 was a truly extraordinary year for Irish women's sport, reflected in the fact that the usual 12 monthly awards was expanded to 15, given there were three joint-winners, such was the windfall of success.

This began in March when Nina Carberry triumphed at Cheltenham once again and Derval O'Rourke, the 2006 Sportswoman of the Year, won bronze at the European Indoor Championships.

In July it was double time again when two of the brightest prospects in Irish sport, runner Ciara Mageean and swimmer Gráinne Murphy, confirmed their potential with outstanding performances; and in September when Madeline Perry, the only woman to win a monthly award every year since the awards began in 2004, produced the finest performance of her professional squash career en route to the final of the British Open, her sport's most prestigious event, along with Mary O'Connor, the Cork woman who took her



tally of All-Ireland medals to 12 when she completed another Gaelic football and camogie double with her county in September, captaining the footballers to a five-in-a-row.

There was a genuinely hushed silence of expectation before the overall winner was announced, but in the end there was simply no arguing with the silver medal won by Olive Loughnane in the 20km walk at the World Championships in Berlin.

These kind of medals don't come around very often, and in fact it was only the fifth medal Ire-

land has ever won since Eamonn Coghlan first struck gold over 5,000 metres at the inaugural World Championships in Helsinki in 1983.

Coghlan was also present yesterday, with practically the entire range of sports represented in some way, including Brian Kerr and Noel King from soccer, Brian Mullins from Gaelic football, Lisa Clancy, communications director with the GAA, Liam Hennessy, the president of Athletics Ireland, and John Foley, CEO of Athletics Ireland, and Mary Davis of the Special Olympics.

There was one further special moment in the end when the Downey twin sisters from Kilkenny, Ann and Angela, were announced as the second winners of the lifetime achievement award, following the inaugural recipient last year, Olympic gold medallist Mary Peters.

All those present were moved to hear the success in camogie of the Downey twins, who between them have won an incredible 24 All-Ireland medals.

Ann was renowned for her mid-field and defence skills, and Angela for her forward play, but

their talents didn't end there.

Ann was equally deft with both the hockey stick and squash racket, and both sisters remain quite a force on the golf course.

Inevitably, yesterday some of the monthly winners were either away training or else travelling to or from competition.

Included in that category were the teenage Maguire golfing twins, Leona and Lisa, who won the April and May awards; Leona for becoming the youngest ever winner of the Scottish Open Amateur Championship at Troon, having already triumphed at the

French International under-21 Amateur Championship; and Lisa for succeeding her sister as Irish Close champion.

"On behalf of everyone here I would like to thank the sportswomen of the country for providing the nation with so many happy memories from 2009," added Logan.

"In a dismal year on so many fronts, the achievements of our sporting stars are a reminder of how much their performances can help lift the national mood and provide a much-needed fillip in difficult times."



Clockwise from left: Olive Loughnane, winner of The Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sportswoman of the Year Award (centre) with Ann and Angela Downey, winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the ceremony in the Shelbourne Hotel yesterday; Heather Whelan (Cricket Ireland), Cecilia Joyce (Cricket Ireland), Sinead Walsh (Railway Union) and Rachel Ormond (Badminton Ireland); John O'Connor (Irish Squash), Katie Roche and Angus Kirkland (Irish Hockey Association), Mary O'Connor Snr and Cork's Mary O'Connor, the monthly award winner for September (Camogie and Gaelic football). - (Photographs: Aidan Crawley).



2009 Monthly Winners

January Jessica Kurten (Equestrian)	July Ciara Mageean (Athletics) and Gráinne Murphy (Swimming)
February Mary Cullen (Athletics)	August Olive Loughnane (Athletics)
March Nina Carberry (Horse racing) and Derval O'Rourke (Athletics)	September Madeline Perry (Squash) and Mary O'Connor (Camogie and Gaelic football)
April Leona Maguire (Golf)	October Yvonne Tracy (Soccer)
May Lisa Maguire (Golf)	November Emma Smyth (Hockey)
June Katie Taylor (Boxing)	December Annalise Murphy (Sailing)

JAN 2010

A year to remember for Cork camogie

WHILE we are still a few weeks away from the first ball being thrown in at inter-county or club camogie levels it's time to cast a quick look back over the headline grabbers in 2009.

INTER-COUNTY

Cork teams participating in competitions from Senior down to under 16 levels and the senior teams under the guidance of manager Denise Cronin made it back-to-back titles as they took their sixth title in eight years, a truly tremendous achievement by a wonderful group of players.

Goalkeeper Aoife Murray was one of the stars of the show as she was named as RTE player of the match after denying Kilkenny with some superb saves in a final where Cork held the upper hand. Captained by Amanda O'Regan from county champions Douglas, Cork were crowned Munster champions when they defeated Tipperary in thrilling final where Rachel Moloney earned the player of the match award.

The league didn't go well but the Cork backroom team used it as a grooming exercise and they were ready when the championship dawned. Coming out of their group as winners they faced Wexford in the semi-final and a superb display saw them make it to the final.

Cork's second adult team participated in section 2 of the national league and got their campaign off to a good start with victory over Galway, however, with just one team coming out of the group for the semi-final their loss to Wexford was enough to put them out.

They emerged from their group to qualify for the semi-final and in a great battle against Derry, Cork grabbed a late winner to make it to the All Ireland final for the third year in a row. In a titanic struggle against a strong Galway sides it ended all square and it was back to the drawing board two weeks later where a much focused Galway triumphed.

At minor level the Munster crown was annexed as Cork defeated Clare to take the title, however, the Banner reversed that result in the open draw championship at the All Ireland semi-finals.

Cork entered two teams at under 16 level in Munster. The under 16 All Ireland championship competitions began in unseasonable weather conditions in early March and there was little joy as Cork failed to make it through to the play-off stages. At provincial level the second team made it to the Munster final, but lost out to Waterford in a close game.

Cork were chosen as one of the counties to participate in the Coillte development squads at under 14 level and a panel of 30 players enjoyed the experience which finished with a blitz day on October bank holiday weekend in Croke Park.

LOCAL COMPETITIONS

There was plenty of focus on the club action with championship from Senior to minor coming under the umbrella of the senior county board,

at under age level the juvenile board ran competitions from under 12 to 16 and again in all codes championships and leagues were hotly contested.

The senior board were again fortunate to have the sponsorship of all the adult championship competitions sponsored by the Evening Echo and at senior level we had new champions as St Catherine's who took their first ever senior county championship title as they defeated Milford in a thrilling contest. From early season signs were good for the Conna girls as they came through the preliminary stages while it was the same story for Milford as they knocked out champions Douglas to make it to the final and having suffered the heartbreak of losing to Carrigrohoun in 200 hopes were high. In an action-packed final which drew huge crowds to Pairc Uí Rinn two committed sides battled it out for the title, a goal from full forward Evelyn Roynane with seven minutes remaining finally decided the outcome of a thrilling contest as both sides gave it everything to secure their first crown.

At Senior B level Ballincollig annexed their first title and won themselves promotion to senior level for the first time in the club's history when they held off the challenge of neighbours Eire Óg in the final. Both side had come through the round robin series and emerged from the same section to contest the final Eire Óg having recorded a victory over Killeagh with Ballincollig defeating Glen Rovers.

Ballincollig set the pace of the final from the throw-in, and with Leah Weste, Sarah Buckley and Maire O'Donoghue to the fore they had too much strength for their mid Cork neighbours. Ballincollig's Samantha Coomey named as player of the match as her side were crowned champions.

For the first time in a number of years the Intermediate grade was re-introduced and with six teams promoted from Junior A the championship was played on a round robin series with four teams emerging to contest the semi-final. After a lot of superb games Sarsfields, Fr O'Neills, Clonakilty and Tracton emerged to battle it out for a place in the final Clon piped Fr O'Neills at the post with a late point while Sars made it through after a tough hour. In the final Clonakilty had to battle all the way before denying Sars and it was Juanita Brennan who received the Nano Nagle trophy, kindly donated by the Presentations sisters in honour of the founder of the presentation order. Clon went on to represent Cork in the Munster junior club championship but lost out to Waterford's St. Ann's in the final.

At junior A level new names emerged to contest the championship semi-finals as Watergrahill, Ballyhea, Brian Dillon's and Enniskane booked their slots in the last four. On final day Watergrahill and Ballyhea were still standing and a superb display saw Ballyhea annex the crown and win themselves promotion to intermediate grade for 2010. Douglas and Blackrock contested the league final with Douglas

emerging victorious.

The Junior B championship has always proved one of the counties most competitive and this year's championship didn't disappoint. In a tough final Buttevant held off the challenge of St Catherine's second string to take the honours. They went on to make it a double as they added the league title at the expense of Na Piaras.

The Junior C final was one of the best games seen all season. The total commitment and spirit shown by Kildorrery and Castlelyons was a joy to watch. In a thrilling closely fought contest Kildorrery had three points to spare at the full-time whistle. A few weeks later the sides met again and they had to go to extra time before Kildorrery made it a double adding the league crown to their trophy cabinet before they bade good bye to the junior B grade.

Douglas made it a double as their first team took the Minor A title with a victory over Ballincollig.

intermediate league remains the only competition to be completed. It's down to the semi-final stage with Fr O'Neills, Mallow, Newtownshandrum and Clonakilty in line for the title.

UNDERAGE

Again the juvenile county board did a superb job in running competitions from under 12 to under 16 level and there was no shortage of action. The premier competition was the under 16 A grade where Douglas made it back-to-back titles defeating Ballinhassig in the championship final. Glen Rovers were crowned Under 16A league champions as they defeated Courcy Rovers.

At Under 16 B level, Inniscarra defeated Brain Dillons to take the championship, while the league title went to Newtownshandrum who defeated Killeagh. The Under 16 C championship title was won for the second year in a row by Eire Óg as

Clonakilty emerged as winners defeating St Vincent's.

Off the field of play there were plenty of awards. Cork dominated the All Stars with Gemma O'Connor taking her sixth successive award and she was joined by goalkeeper, Aoife Murray, full back Cathriona Foley, centre back Mary O'Connor, midfielder Briege Corkery and Rachel Moloney. To top a great night for Cork Denise Cronin was named the O'Neills Manager of the Year. Awards were plenty full as Aoife Murray was named player of the All Ireland final and also picked up the Southside and district award for September, Mary O'Connor was named Evening Echo ladies award winner for September while Orla Cotter was named Rochestown Park Hotel /96fm & C103 award winner for the month. Denise Cronin was named Northside and district overall sports star by the Ambassador Hotel as she annexed the award for September with Mary Newman honoured by the hotel



Stars of tomorrow, Fiona Murphy, Saoirse Lehane, Aisling Murray and Emily O'Flynn, who participated in the U9 Camogie blitz in Blackrock Hurling Club organised by Dolreann Ni Mhuiri to raise funds for her work in Calcutta with the Hope Foundation.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

Their second team took the minor C title defeating Enniskane.

Eire Óg defeated Ballygarvan to take the Minor B championship crown, at Minor D Sarsfields took the title with a win over Barryroe.

The junior shield was won by Ballygarvan when their second team defeated the second side from Inniscarra. The junior competitions for clubs who didn't make it to the closing stages of championship proved a big hit. Grenagh took the C plate with a win over Ballinora while Castlelyons, who earlier in the season lost the championship and league titles in their grade, stepped up to win the B plate with a two point victory over Glen Rovers' second team.

The Senior leagues threw up new winners as Milford reversed the county final result, defeating St Catherine's to be crowned league champions and Glen Rovers took their first Senior B league crown as they defeated county champions Ballincollig in thrilling final. The

they defeated Sarsfields with four points to spare while the league competition has to be completed. Blackrock took the under 16 D championship crown while Castlelyons defeated Newcestown in the league final.

Douglas won the Under 14 A league title and went on to win the Cork Feile na nGael crown where they won the All Ireland series. The Under 14 B title went to Buttevant, Kilbrittain took the C while Carrigrohoun were victorious in the D grade. The under 12 competitions were a huge success with Eire Óg winning the under 12 A, the B went to Killeagh; the Under 12 C winners were Kilbrittain while Clonakilty annexed the D.

The juvenile county board organised a very successful under 14 competition for teams who did not qualify for the semi-finals of the leagues run on a blitz basis. Killeagh and Glen Rovers qualified for the division 1 final where Killeagh ran out winners. In the division 2 competi-

with the December award, Sarsfields Emer O'Farrell picked up the Glanmire and District Vienna Woods Hotel award for her display with Cork and Sars in September, while the Sarsfields club's 40th anniversary was honoured by the hotel with an award in November.

And so another year has drawn to its conclusion as camogie continued to go from strength to strength. The county board's superb facility at Castle Road Blackrock is now firmly established as one of the best playing pitches in the county and hopes are high that despite the current economic climate, phase three will be up and running in 2010, a fitting tribute to the hard work by a dedicated group of officials who continue to push forward. The hard work being done at all levels for the promotion of camogie within the county continues, and we wish the clubs and county teams continued success in 2010 as they get their preparations under way for what will be another busy season ahead.



ABOVE: Cork captain Mary O'Connor raises the Brendan Martin Cup after defeating Dublin in the football final. LEFT: Mary kisses the O'Duffy Cup after beating Kilkenny in the camogie final.



Dual star Mary has battled back against odds



MARK
WOODS

FOR ordinary guys and gals it would have been the end of the road, the end of a quite brilliant playing career.

The medics were describing the horrific injury in terms of 'forget about Cork. It's all over'.

Mary O'Connor, though, is different.

In fact, she's a phenomenon.

Just look at her achievements in the accompanying factfile and you'll get the picture.

What more needs to be said about someone who's won 12 All-Ireland senior medals in camogie and ladies football, seven and five, respectively?

The 2007 camogie final defeat by Wexford was one of those rare afternoons of disappointment and frustration.

But O'Connor still had the prospect of the football final to come against Mayo, Cork's fiercest rivals, and strong hopes of another successful conclusion to the inter-county season.

The Killeagh native, however, didn't make it, as she explained.

"It was the Wednesday night after the camogie final, when I was training with the footballers.

"We were having a practice game and as I came down from challenging for a ball I hyper-extended my knee on falling.

"At the time the doctor thought my cruciate was gone and I had lateral collateral damage too, the ligament torn off the bone.

"He said he couldn't operate on the cruciate until the other injury healed and that I'd never play inter-county again."

Mary O'Connor captured her 12th All-Ireland medal this year but her journey to greatness has not been without its ups and downs due to a serious injury scare

Given that O'Connor had already a bucketful of honours and had nothing to prove to anyone it would have come as little surprise if she called it a day.

"I've always said I want to retire on my own terms so that made me more determined than ever to get back.

"I put my head down and just

worked and worked to return to playing.

"I went to the pool in the Quality Hotel in Youghal twice a day for six months, jogging up and down.

"I went back for another scan after about four months and while there was still 80% bruising, the surgeon admitted he had made a mistake."

That was the news she had waited to hear and her rehabilitation resumed with even greater urgency — if that was possible — with more remarkable results.

Then question of which of her All-Ireland medals she would keep should the choice have to be made?

"I'd have either of the 2008 medals (the camogie win over Galway in a very tight contest), but the sweetest of all was the football final win over Monaghan.

"I scored two points and contributed to a brilliant team performance.

"After what had happened the previous year I didn't think I'd get the opportunity again.

"Captaining Cork to the five-in-a-row this season was very special, but this wouldn't have happened if I didn't get my act together in 2007."

The second youngest in a family of six brothers and two sisters, sport was always at the centre of home life.

And Killeagh's strong hurling and camogie tradition made it easy enough for her to fall into it as well.

"I was always out in the garden either kicking a football or playing hurling. It was here I first heard the expression 'if you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen'.

"There was no real access to soccer or basketball growing up in the 1980s. You either played GAA or nothing at all."

Little surprise then that her

Born: Killeagh
Age: 32
Sports: Ladies football, camogie
Positions: Forward in football, defender in camogie
Hobbies: Reading and cycling
Occupation: Camogie Development Officer
Honours: Football - 5 All-Ireland senior, 6 Munster championships, 3 National Leagues, All-Ireland intermediate and junior clubs, 6 Munster clubs, 12 county championships, All-Star.
Camogie - 7 All-Ireland senior titles, 10 Munster senior titles, 9 National Leagues, 2 All-Ireland clubs, 3 Munster clubs, All-Star.
Career influences: My mother and Tommy Seward
Pet hates: Dublin traffic
Favourite music: Counting Crows, Van Morrison
Favourite film: 1997 Lions DVD
Favourite food: Mammy's Stew.

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Mary O'Connor, with her sons John and Kevin who played in the East Cork Junior Football final for Glenbowser Rovers on the same day her daughter, also Mary, played for Cork against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior final. Picture: Ger Bonus

chosen career path should be sport related.

"I studied leisure and recreation in college before taking up the position of GAA Development Officer at Limerick IT for four years.

"I remember we had literally nothing there, no pitch or anything, before the college began upgrading its facilities.

"We won Trench Cups and reached the Fitzgibbon Cup semi-final one year, but got hammered by Waterford IT.

"A short time later LIT dominated hurling.

"After that I was coaching in the primary schools in East Cork for four years.

"Then I was the Regional Development Officer for camogie, covering Munster and south Leinster before the current job came up after about 18 months.

"I'm Director of Camogie Development. There are seven regional development officers around the country and I'm supervising them.

"I make out work programmes for them as well as looking at club structures, player development, schools of excellence, academies, up-skilling coaches and administrators.

"A lot of our work is in developing camogie in places like Mayo, Kerry, Monaghan and Donegal, while also trying to consolidate what we have

in the traditional counties, Cork, Tipperary and Clare, for example.

"There's a fierce amount of driving involved. From now until February I could be away four nights of the week every week.

"It actually slots in nicely with my playing career, because once May comes all the clubs are active, playing games etc, and my travelling is reduced.

"Because I'm dealing with volunteers most of my work is at night and during the winter.

"Then during the summer, I'm getting ready to organise next winter's programmes.

"I really love my job. I'm in it now two-and-a-half years."

The question doing the rounds is O'Connor's intentions for next season, not that it requires answering one way or the other just now.

Especially as the dual sensation is hardly eligible for free travel, so there's plenty of time to weigh up the pros and cons.

"For me at the start of every season it is the challenge of getting there and the challenge of keeping your place that keeps me going.

"Once January comes around I'm thinking 'I'm going to have another go at this'.

"I'm going to get myself up, do all the disciplined things, make the hard choices. There's almost a sadistic enjoyment to be had out of it.

"I love a challenge and I enjoy the training and the friendship among both squads.

"I love seeing if I still have the ability to keep my place as I look over my shoulder at all the great players chasing me.

"I love seeing if I can still get up to the high standards of fitness and skill levels required to play for Cork.

"I know the minute I stop enjoying it I will give up.

"There will come a day, when I won't be good enough, quick enough or strong enough and I'll have to cope with that too.

"If it was only about the All-Ireland medals, I would have retired a long time ago.

"For me it's all about the enjoyment, the camaraderie, the friends. "Indeed I've friends for life now after playing with Cork in both sports.

"I've always been a person who thinks 'we've done that right, now what's next'.

O'Connor may have to choose between the two and she will be ready to make that decision, too.

"If you had asked eight or nine years ago, I'd have said camogie, hands down.

"At the time the footballers were getting hammered every year by Waterford and that was the season over.

"I was a dual player in name only. The skill and fitness levels have improved dramatically in football and both codes complement each other.

"If I had to answer the question now, I'd still say camogie, but it would be very, very marginal.

"Mind you, I still haven't even thought about it.

"Four doubles in five years is something special and great for women's sport.

"It will come to that eventually, but at the moment I'm not even thinking about it."

The influence of football coach Eamon Ryan cannot be stressed enough, not only in O'Connor's success story, but the astonishing rise in Cork's footballing stock generally.

"He's such a fantastic coach that even to go training is a learning experience.

"You take so much from a session that it would be very hard to walk away from that aspect.

"The quality of the training sessions with Eamon is very high. He's a brilliant coach."

Which leads nicely on to life after playing, a possible Cork coach in either code down the line?

"When I was younger I would have fancied it all right, but now I wouldn't say so because of the job I'm in.

"Managing is far more difficult

than being a player, because you have to take everybody's feelings into consideration.

"I might get involved at underage at club level."

It's not easy to switch off completely from sport, but O'Connor is still able to unwind in the company of familiar faces.

"I've 16 nieces and nephews and I try to see them as often as I can.

"They're all at an age where you can have great fun with them, out in the garden and all that kind of stuff.

"I like my own space too, going for walks and listening to music.

"I have fantastic friends involved in camogie and fantastic friends who have no interest in the sports whatsoever and couldn't care whether I've a dozen All-Ireland medals or none.

"There's a lot of understanding there from my family as well.

"We're very much family-oriented and they all live within five or six miles of the homestead.

"Ann excommunicated herself to Fr O'Neill's all right, but we will forgive her for that."

This Wednesday O'Connor picks up another award, the *Evening Echo* Ladies Sports Star of the month, in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel and Newbridge Silverware, for September.

There could be no more appropriate a recipient!



Blackwater Community School, Lismore, celebrating after victory over St. Caimin's, Shannon, in the Munster Colleges Senior A Camogie final.

Picture: Denis Minihane.

Ring proud of Blackwater's 'fairytale' rise to top

by Fintan O'Toole

THEIR rise to prominence has been nothing short of meteoric and, last Saturday, Blackwater Community School capped it off by climbing to the top of the Munster Colleges Senior Camogie tree.

The Waterford school only opened its door to students in 2003. But, from initial low depths, they have soared up through the college camogie ranks and on Saturday in Lismore staved off the challenge of Clare's St Caimin's to lift the Munster senior crown.

"It's been fairytale stuff for us ever

since we started competing", says school principal and team coach Denis Ring. "We started off at intermediate B level, a nice name for the 'E' competition. From there we won the intermediate A, then the year after the Senior C Munster and All-Ireland titles, and last year the Senior B Munster and All-Ireland titles. This year has been our first year competing at senior A level and we beat last year's champions Christ the King in the semi-final before Saturday's win in the final.

"In hurling we've been making good progress as well, reaching the Harty Cup semi-final last year before

losing out to Thurles CBS who went on to win the All-Ireland."

Ring believes the advances are a testament to the ground work being done at club level as well as the effort in the school.

"There's great being done in Lismore, Cappoquin and Tallow camogie clubs. They'd be the main three clubs we'd draw from although we do have some Cork representatives as well. There's a girl from Killeagh in our subs and Grainne Walsh, daughter of Cork senior manager Denis, from St Catherine's plays in our younger teams.

"We've put a lot of hard work into

it, especially from the likes of Fintan O'Connor, Tina Maher, Ann Fitzgerald, Ann Bennett and Catherine Quaid.

"We felt that with the camogie we had to make up the ground so we start our training around the time of the state exams. We then came back last July and August, as we felt we've to do more to be up to speed. To be fair the commitment from the players is outstanding, coming in for training in mid-term at Halloween and again at Christmas. Sunday morning's at 9am is our main session and we get great effort for that."

Next up is an All-Ireland semi-fi-

nal date with Portumna Community School on February 6 and Ring insists they will be making a bold bid to maintain their senior championship winning run, which stretches for three years at this stage.

"We'll keep putting in the same effort for the All-Ireland stages. It's an unparalleled achievement really in the steps we've taken in consecutive years to move up through the ranks. I didn't think it would be possible this year because we'd three long-term injuries but the win just shows the character of our team. We're delighted for the school with all the progress that has been made."



Evening Echo Sports Star of the Year 2009 last year Briege Corkery with family members, parents Kitty and Michael, Fr. Jackie, Katherine, Denis, Siobhian and Jim Twomey, and Diarmuid Scannell in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Richard Mills



Finbarr Cotter, Newbridge Silverware, presenting the trophy to the Sports Star of the year Briege Corkery at the Evening Echo Sports Star of the Year award in the Rochestown Park Hotel last January.

Picture: Richard Mills.



Portumna Golf Club members and supporters at the County Galway Sports Stars Awards 2009 banquet in the Ardilaun Hotel where they received the Club of the Year award. Seated are, from left: Agnes Donnellan, Mary Cahalan, Mary Conwell, Carmel Cunningham, 2009 Lady Captain, Marie Kelly, Lady Captain, Eileen Purcell, Bridget Broderick, Judith Barry, Club President, and Ann Lynch. Standing: Paddy Kelly, Des Lynch, Club President 2009, Marie Gibbs, Jimmy Cunningham, James Porter, Mary Kelly, Mary Madden, Kevin Donnellan, Captain 2009, Johnny Broderick, Sean Cahalan, Mary McDonagh, Claire Callanan, Audrey McGrath, Mary McElroy, John Joe Conwell, Mary Kilkenny, Frank Kilkenny, Anita Carey and Pete Gibbs, Captain.



Borrisoleigh Junior Champs: Back row left to right: Moira Ryan capt (Templederry), Ciara Dunne (Silvermines), Siobhán McCutcheon (Templederry), Claire Ryan, Louise McLoughlin (Templederry), Geraldine Kelly (Toomevara), Edel Ryan (Templederry), Georgia Brown (Drom-Inch), Shauna Ryan (Borrisoleigh), Sarah Marie Ryan (Borrisoleigh), Edel Cummins (Toomevara). Front: Karen Kenny (Borrisoleigh), Regina Cleary (Toomevara), Karen Purcell (Drom-inch), Elaine Murphy (Templederry), Maria Ryan (Silvermines), Aoife Ryan (Toomevara), Teresa Ryan (Borrisoleigh), Julie-Anne Bourke (Toomevara), Clíodhna Ryan (Templederry), Aisling Kiely (Borrisoleigh), Cliona Ryan (Toomevara).

Borrisoleigh Win Munster Junior Title

St Joseph's Borrisoleigh 3-11;
St Mary's Charleville 2-8

St. Josephs College Borrisoleigh upset the queens of schools camogie, St Marys Charleville, by winning the Munster junior A final on Saturday in Ballyhea.

It was a very tightly fought game played in very foggy conditions which made it difficult for players and supporters alike.

Borrisoleigh settled quite quickly into the game and were four point ahead before Charleville registered a score. Borrisoleighs' Aoife Ryan was clinical with her free taking but Charleville had similar qualities with Louise O'Flynn surprising Borrisoleigh with a quickly taken free ending up in the back of the net to set them off on a scoring spree.

Charleville were awarded a penalty which was saved by Edel Ryan but they piled on the pressure and were leading at half time 2-6 to 0-5.

Borrisoleigh began the second half full of

fighting spirit and with Julie Ann Burke moving to the half back line Charleville found it very difficult to win any decent possession. Teresa Ryan worked tirelessly at mid field with Aoife Ryan passing in quality ball to Clíodhna Ryan who scored a fine goal as did her name sake Cliona Ryan soon after. Charleville had no answer to the work rate and determination of the Borrisoleigh girls who are a credit to their clubs, Toomevara.

Silvermines, Templederry, Drom and Borrisoleigh. Having made history last year by winning the All Ireland Junior B championship for the first time it was a tremendous achievement to win this title.

Scorers: Borrisoleigh Aoife Ryan 1.7 Maria Ryan 0.2 Elaine Murphy 0.1 Clíodhna Ryan 1.0; Julie Ann Bourke 0.1; Charleville - Louise O'Flynn 1.4; Aoife Twohill 0.2; Sinead Dennehy 1.1



Shay Livingstone presents Kay Dunne with the Hall of Fame Award at the Annual Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the Year Award in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Darragh Kane

GLEN ROVERS

OUR U13 and 14 teams under the guidance of Pat, Mary, Tara and Trevor returned also to training and they will continue this weekend. Players are reminded that for this week only it will be on Sunday at 12 noon because of the school entrance exams on Saturday.

Our players from age 6 to 12 are reminded that they are training Sunday at 11.45 and Tuesday at 5.45. New members are welcome to attend, old members are reminded that we are back in action and to make their return.

Well done to our girls who were on the St Aidan's school team that recorded a victory last Wednesday over Mount Mercy Bishopstown to qualify for the Cork colleges final, best of luck to all in the final.

A reminder to everyone that our victory dinner dance takes place on Saturday Feb 6 tickets are available in the club, players are reminded that if they need extra tickets to get their order in before tomorrow Sunday.

BISHOPSTOWN

Underage indoor training has started again in the Bishopstown Community School Hall every Fri night. Girls U11 and younger train from 6 to 7pm and older girls train from 7 to 8pm. New and old members welcome.

COURCEY ROVERS

All-Ireland medals, county finals, leg waxing, and fond farewells were all part and parcel of the 2009 season for the members of the parish's camogie club.

On the field of play, it was another busy year with nine different teams competing in various competitions and over 50 games being played.

The Season in summary: Senior A Championship: Lost out at Quarterfinal stages to eventual champions St Catherine's.

Senior A League: Competed well but did not qualify for play-offs.

U18 B Championship: won the first round against Mallow

U16 A Championship: Lost QF to Mallow

U16 A League: Competed in the final against Glen Rovers, losing out by a point in the final.

U14 A League: Competed well but did not qualify for play-offs

U14 Feile: Played in a blitz format, the team competed well winning two of three games but unfortunately didn't progress

U13 South East: Waiting to play the semi final against Carrigaline or Sliabh Rua - date to be confirmed, so again keep an eye out for notices.

U12 A Championship: Went out at the semi-final stage to Ballinhassig.

U12 A League: Won four out of seven games but did not qualify for the play-offs

U10 and U8 Teams: This group of young players competed in the south east indoors blitzes in March, the indoor Ballinhassig blitz & various challenge games throughout the summer.

They were always a very enthusiastic bunch of players, keen to learn & a joy to watch.

Inter County Players: It was a tremendous year for our club members on the inter county scene with a total of 16 players wearing the red and white of Cork, three of them bringing home Senior All-Ireland Medals and an All-star.

Senior: Rachel Moloney, Sara Hayes and Christine O'Neill. U18: Clara Hayes, U16: Julie Mulcahy, Jacinta Crowley, Caron O'Reilly, Aisling Moloney U14: Aoife Keating, Lisa O'Donovan, Aoife O'Sullivan, Aisling O'Reilly, Edel Moloney, Primary Schools: Linda Collins, Leah O'Sullivan, Eimear Crowley, All-Star winner: Rachel Moloney, All-Star Nominee Sara Hayes

Besides the training and playing of matches that is involved, there are many other elements that went into making up the successful year. Some of these arose out of necessity some were as a result of success while others were incorporated in to bring an aspect of fun, enjoyment and socialising to the club. News and events from 2009 included the GAA Summer camps, Wax and Shave, Red and White Fundraiser and Socials the Underage Halloween Fancy Dress party, and the Visit of All-Ireland Players and Cups to the national schools.

The end of year prize-giving was held on Friday January 8 in conjunction with the juvenile GAA club and the ladies football club.

Cork senior dual All-Ireland winner Mary O'Connor was in attendance. On the night she spoke to the audience highlighting the importance of combining friendship, enjoyment, ambition and constant practice in order to achieve success. She presented the various medals and special presentations.

The Annual General Meeting of the club was held recently the outgoing officers gave detailed reports of all events and issued a sincere thank you to the players, parents, trainers and sponsors for their ongoing commitment and support of the club. We would also like to thank Courcy's GAA for the use of their facilities throughout the year. The incoming committee for 2010 is as follows: Chairperson, Bill Mulcahy; Vice Chairperson, Noreen Quinn; Secretary, Shirley Moloney; Treasurer, Mary Finn; PRO, Joanne Hayes; Registrar, Mairead O'Donoghue; Equipment Officer, Geraldine Collins.

2010 News: Club registration will take place on tonight at 8.30pm in the GAA Pavilion and on Sunday January 31 at 10.30 am in Corcoran's, Ballinadee.

U8 to U12 Indoors Training has recommenced on Friday nights in St Mulfosse Hall, Kinsale - New members welcome, Contact Margaret @ 087 6630751 for more details.

Congratulations to club member Lisa O'Donovan, who has made it to the Munster final of Scór Na nOg.

The club lotto will be running again for the new season, starting shortly, so if anybody is interested in joining up please contact any of the following: Johnny O'Mahoney, Liz Quinn, Mary Collins, Mary Ryan or Teresa Twomey.

An Email Distribution list communicating club news and fixtures etc will be up and running shortly also. If anybody would like to add their email address to this list and receive club notices, please email 'courceyroverspro@yahoo.com' with details.

Coilm girls are too strong for Dromcollogher

By MARY NEWMAN

Munster Colleges camogie final

Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig 2-9
Hazelwood, Dromcollogher 0-1

COLÁISTE Choilm turned in an impressive display as they were crowned Munster Senior B Colleges champions by defeating Hazelwood College.

An evenly contested opening quarter saw Dromcollogher take the lead thanks to a point from Aisling O'Brien and, enjoying plenty of possession, they put the Coláiste Choilm defence under a lot of pressure, but they stood firm.

Emma Crowley brought the Ballincollig school on level terms, striking a point and a goal from Sinéad O'Sullivan 13 minutes in saw the Cork school hit the front.

The same player extended the lead with a point and from then on, Ballincollig began to settle and, enjoying plenty of possession, they put the Dromcollogher defence under pressure.

Sarah Buckley converted two frees while, in between, Samantha Coomey hit a point from play and despite enjoying plenty of possession, the Dromcollogher girls could find no way past a solid Coláiste Choilm defence. Up front Patricia Buttimer had the final say of the half hitting a point to leave Coláiste Choilm ahead 1-7 to 0-1 at the break.

On the turnover the Dromcollogher defence tightened up and never allowed the Coláiste Choilm for-



Pictured at the U9 camogie blitz in Blackrock Hurling Club were Cliona Lynch and Nicky Barry, Sarsfields H&F Club. Picture: Gerard Bonus

wards the same latitude. They confined them to three second-half scores. Emma Crowley struck for her side's second goal to stretch their advantage and with Elaine Scally and Sarah Buckley pointing, Dromcollogher were left with a huge task. They battled to the finish but were unable to breach the strong Coláiste Choilm defence that held them to just one score over the hour.

Coláiste Choilm will now go forward to contest the All-Ireland Senior B semi-final.

Scorers for Coláiste Choilm: S O'Sullivan, E Crowley 1-1 each, S Buckley 0-3f, S Coomey 0-2, E Scally, P Buttimer 0-1 each.

Dromcollogher: A O'Brien 0-1.

COLÁISTE CHOILM: A Sheehan (cl); L Barry, A Coughlan, E O'Sullivan, C Irish, K O'Donoghue, E Looney, S Buckley, J Hennigan, E Scally, T Buttimer, N Byrne, E Crowley, S Coomey, S O'Sullivan.

Subs: C Looney for C Irish, E Nolan for J Hennigan, S Nic Aodh for E O'Sullivan, O Murphy for S O'Sullivan, H Morgan for E Crowley, S O'Brien for S Coomey.

DROMCOLLOGHER: A Ryan; J Murray M Geary, E Browne; S O'Sullivan, N O'Brien, K O'Sullivan; G Sheehy, T Hurley; M Flanagan, A O'Flynn, K Hodgson; S Moloney, A O'Brien, K Dillane.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).

Finally we are always looking for new members, so whether you would like to play help out with coaching or training or just assist with administration or fundraising events, please feel free to contact any of the officers listed above.

YOUGHAL

Youghal Camogie Club would like to congratulate Pádraic Scolláir, Youghal who got to the Munster Colleges Camogie Senior C final.

The Club had 10 players representing us with the school, Amy Motherway, Michaela Dalton, Chloe Daly, Niamh Quill, Edel O'Connell, Shannen Joyce, and Roisin O'Keefe & Nora Sheehan.

Unfortunately, it wasn't the girl's day as we were beaten by a very strong side from Pres Thurles. As this is only the start of the season for the girls with their club, we are sure that it won't take long to pick them up.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the girls from Fr O'Neill's and Killeagh who played with Pádraic Scolláir and good luck for the coming year.

Indoor training Wednesday & Friday at 8pm.

TRACTON

Tracton Camogie club held their AGM at the Hall in Minane recently. Our treasurer, Nuala Kennedy produced a financial report that showed the club to be in a healthy state. Our outgoing chairperson, Antoinette Kidney thanked all who were involved in the club for the year and the GAA club for providing the facilities and helping to set up the pitch for matches.

Tracton had a very unlucky season this year reaching the semi quarter and finals of many of their competitions but sadly we didn't win much, with the exception of the U13 South-East final.

The girls received their medals for this on Sunday November 29. These were presented

by DJ Kiely. The club would like to wish congratulations to six of their players for reaching the Cork teams. Officers: Chairperson- Carmel Murphy, Vice Chairperson- Antoinette Kidney, Secretary- Anne Sinclair, Treasurer- Nuala Kennedy, Child Protection Officer- Jayne Collins, PRO- Grace O'Sullivan.

Team Organisation: U6: Trainer- Jennifer Lynch, Laura Harrington, Coordinator- Angela Fahy.

U8: Trainer- Mags Moynihan, Mags Dempsey, Karen O'Sullivan Coordinator- Mags Moynihan.

U10: Trainer- Mags Moynihan, Carmel Murphy Coordinator- Mags Moynihan.

U12: Trainer- Christy Kidney, Anne Sinclair Coordinator- Anne Sinclair.

U14: Trainer- DJ Kiely, Trish O'Callaghan Coordinator- Antoinette Kidney.

U16: Trainer- DJ Kiely, Julie-Ann Kingston Coordinator- Maureen Lynch, Nuala Kennedy.

U18: Coordinator- Deirdre Kiely.

Delegates: County Board- Carmel Murphy, Mary O'Keefe Carrigrohoun Board- Nuala Kennedy, Anne Sinclair, Juvenile Board- Antoinette Kidney, Jayne Collins.

Membership for the year will be: 1 child - €35, Family - €55, Student - €35, Adult - €55.

ST CATHERINES

Our AGM was held recently. Outgoing chairperson, Ann Galvin welcomed all those in attendance. The minutes of last year's meeting were then read by club secretary, Faith Noonan.

Ann then addressed the meeting and spoke with great pride of the club's great honour in winning County Senior Championship for 2009.

This is undoubtedly the greatest achievement of St Catherine's camogie club particularly as

year, Marie and Aine O'Regan and Michelle Tobin and congratulated Marie Daly on her recent wedding and Emer O'Keefe on the recent birth of her baby daughter. Ann then informed the meeting that she would not be going forward for chairperson this year and thanked everyone who helped her in her eight years in that position.

Faith then read the secretary's report. Marie Clancy read the Treasurer's report which showed the club to be in a strong financial position heading into 2010.

All reports were proposed and adopted. Club President, Rena O'Leary presided over the election of officers which resulted in the following: Chairman - Billy Neville, Vice chairperson - Ann Galvin, Secretary - Faith Noonan, Asst Sec - Rena O'Leary, Treasurer - Marie Clancy, Asst Treasurer - Lisa Higgins, PRO - Brigid Cotter, Asst PRO Sarah England.

Newly elected chairman, Billy Neville, addressed the meeting and thanked outgoing chairperson, Ann, for her outstanding contribution during the past eight years.

Team managers were then appointed as follows: Senior A and B - Marie Clancy, U18 - Billy Neville, U16 - Claire Hurley, U14 - Sarah England, U12 - Yvonne O'Neill, U10 - Edmund Galvin.

County Board Delegates: Senior: Faith Noonan, Marie Clancy, Billy Neville.

Junior: Mary Mulcahy, Rena O'Leary, Sarah England.

Committee: The following were elected as committee members: Yvonne O'Neill, Annemarie Hayes, Maureen Leahy, Claire Hurley, Kevin Galvin, Sheila O'Leary. Also included as committee members are all club officers, team managers and senior captain.

Club Membership Adult €30, Students, €20, U12's €10.

Table quiz: Our annual table quiz is scheduled to take place in the Big Tree, Aghern on Friday 12th Feb.

Condolences: Condolences to the Flanagan and Bolger families on their recent bereavement. Bridie Flanagan was a former secretary of the club and remained a great club supporter.

Juvenile GAA and camogie social: On Friday night January 23 we joined with St Catherine's juvenile GAA club for the annual social and medal presentation. Shane O'Neill, Cork senior hurler, made the presentations to all players on the night including the victorious camogie teams which were our U13 Inokilly League 12-a-side winners and U11 Blitz winners.

ST FINBARR'S

The St Finbarr's Club Person of the Year for 2009 has been awarded to Maria McCarthy. Maria has given of her best both on and off the field and is generous with her time in passing on the skills of the game to younger members of the club.

Today marks the return of Saturday training for the Street League section. It is held from 11.45 to 1 pm for all age groups from U8 to U11. Any girls interested in joining this training session are always welcome, especially in the U9 category.

St Finbarr's Street League Committee's AGM was held last Tuesday night. Congratulations to Collette McCarthy who was re-elected as Chairperson and Lynda Keane to fill the role of Secretary. Collette McCarthy thanked the outgoing Secretary, Mary Cooke and Treasurer, Orla Hurley for their help in building up the Street League Committee to the thriving section it is today.

Thanks for Blackrock for hosting our U9s last Sunday. The event provided valuable experience for the girls.

DOUGLAS

Our U9s got their year off to a start with an indoor blitz in aid of the Hope Foundation at Blackrock Hurling Club last Sunday.

The girls played three matches, winning one and losing two. Our girls got off to a slow start against St Finbarr's and were two goals down after five minutes, they then went on to play well for the remainder of the match with our full back line excelling and not conceding any more goals.

In the second match we played Bishopstown and our girls played much better in this match, winning 3-0.

Cloagh Molloy scored a well taken first goal with Roisin Wall adding two more. Our third match was against Sarsfields who also won 2-0. We created plenty of scoring opportunities again in this match but again couldn't find the net.

The girls enjoyed their first outing of the year and will learn from these matches. Training continues on Mondays from 4.30 to 5.45, new girls are welcome.

CASTLELYONS

Officers for 2010: Chairperson - Aisling Dineen, Vice Chairperson - Clare Barry, Secretary - Sinéad O'Connell, Assistant Secretary - Paula O'Regan, Treasurer - Mairead Barry, Assistant Treasurer - Sarah Barry, PRO - Trish Carroll, Juvenile PRO - Helen McCarthy, Fixtures Secretary: Junior-Michelle Barry, Fixtures Secretary: Minor/U15 - Mary McNulty and Aisling Dineen, Fixtures Secretary: U12/U14 - TBA, Lotto Committee Rep - Helen Mackessey, Marie Wilson, Senior County Board Rep - Sarah Barry, Juvenile County Board Rep - Mary McNulty, Antonia Walsh, Inokilly County Board Rep - Niamh Barry.

NA PIARSAIGH

We held our AGM recently the new incoming officers are as follows: Chairperson Lorraine Kelly, vice chairperson Catherine Allen, Secretary Trisha Coleman, assistant secretary Taryn Lynch Treasurer Aine Martin.

We wish them all the very best for the year. All our underage kids are now back training in the arena every Saturday and the times are: ages 6, 7, 8s 12 to 1pm, ages 8, 10, 11 to 12 to 2pm.

For further details contact Trisha Coleman on 086-1713930 or Catherine Allen on 086-3120574 newcomers welcome

GAA MUSEUM & STADIUM TOURS

JAN-APR 2010

Lifetime achievement award for Kilkenny sisters

Lifetime achievement award for Kilkenny sisters

News Release 22/01/10

Lifetime achievement award for Kilkenny sisters

Celebrated camogie duo Angela and Ann Downey received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for their inter-county careers at the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sports Woman of the Year 2009 awards this afternoon at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin.

The Kilkenny sisters received their awards at a ceremony which also included Cork dual player Mary O'Connor, boxing champion Katie Taylor and world race-walking silver medalist Olive Loughane who was named Sports Woman of the Year.

Speaking about the awards Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael Joan O'Flynn said: "Angela and Ann Downey have contributed enormously to the game of camogie, not only during the course of their playing careers but also in their capacity as coaches and managers. It is fitting that their achievements have been acknowledged by such a prestigious award and the Association extends warm congratulations to both on this."

The Downey sisters amassed an astonishing twenty-four All-Ireland medals over the course of their respective playing careers. Both were part of the team that captured Kilkenny's first All-Ireland in 1974 as well as the historic seven-in-a-row winning team which dominated the camogie scene from 1985 to 1991. Ann Downey is also the current manager of the Kilkenny senior camogie team having led them to last year's Gala All-Ireland camogie final.

The Downey sisters now join Dame Mary Peters, who in 2008 received the very first Irish Times/Irish Sports Council 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for winning the pentathlon gold medal at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

*For further information contact: Claire Egan, Communications & Marketing, Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Claire@camogie.ie, 01 865 8651, 087 9030755

Camogie: Proud history to be celebrated with night

at Croke's museum

The tickets are flying out the door. Croke Park is expecting a sell-out.

Reverend sportsman and writer Eoghan Corry will address the gathering. The long and rich history of camogie will be examined and discussed. Gaelic Football Hurling Rugby Golf Horse Racing Other

its colourful personalities will be remembered with fondness. Characters like the legendary Nell McCarthy. And the many women and men who shaped the sport.

Also on the agenda are camogie's future and the issues facing the game today. Some distinguished guests will speak. They include the camogie president, Joan O'Flynn.

Acclaimed journalist, broadcaster and author Eoghan Corry will also address the gathering. As will the respected camogie writer Mary Moran, who has published several outstanding books on the sport.

"It should be a very interesting evening," states Mary. "And we are very pleased with the interest that has been shown already."

"It certainly does look like being a sellout and we'd advise people to book their tickets as quickly as possible."

"People are very welcome to bring along old photographs or any material they have relating to camogie. We'd be very grateful if they were willing to give us a copy of whatever they have."

"There is so much information out there about camogie down through the years, but the hard bit is to find out all the people who have it."

Mary's publications are regarded as the bible. They chart the history of the game from the first steps.

Her books include all the All-Ireland winners, complete with team lists and so much more. Dublin feature strongly with their record haul of 26 All-Ireland Senior Championship wins.

"They are still on top but we are catching up," quips the Cork native.

"Dublin had such wonderful teams back in the 50s and 60s. So many great players."

No doubt names like the 15-times All-Ireland winner Kathleen Mills will be feted on this special night.

As will the heroics of distinguished Dubs like Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony, Una O'Connor and Sophie Brack, all members of the Team of the Century. A selection of former players will form a panel to spark a question-and-answer session.

There's sure to be hot debate. And precious memories and tales of camogie's first lady, Angela Downey.

More information is available from 8192361 or email soregan@crokepark.ie or gaamuseum@crokepark.ie.

- Niall Scully

Ladies Night at the Museum

Ladies Night at the Museum

Ladies Night at the GAA Museum

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael will take centre stage this Thursday night, January 28 as the Croke Park GAA Museum presents an evening recalling the rich history, events and personalities which have shaped camogie down through the decades. Commencing at 7.30pm, Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael Joan O'Flynn will address the contemporary challenges and issues facing camogie. Mary Moran, a former president of the Association and an acclaimed manager, player and honoured administrator will speak about the evolution of the game of camogie and the factors which facilitated this. The position of camogie within Ireland's sporting culture will form the basis of a presentation by journalist and author Eoghan Corry who argues that the game has a far greater role in Irish sports history than people realise.

The evening will conclude with a panel of former camogie greats including the Downey sisters, Ann and Angela, who last week received the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for their inter-county careers, Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony, Mairead McAtamney-Magill, former Ard-sbíthóir Síle Wallace and past president Liz Howard, who will all be in attendance for a questions & answers session. Tickets for Ladies Night at the Museum are available from Croke Park Museum by calling 01 819 2361 and www.gaa.ie/museum. Prices from: Adults/EB, Senior/DAP/€6 and children €4. Places are limited and booking is essential.

ENDS
*For further information contact Claire Egan, Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Communications & Marketing, 01 865 8651 and Claire@camogie.ie



Ladies Night at the Museum January 28 2010

Joan O'Flynn was the Camogie Association's first President-Elect. In March 2010, she will complete the first of her three years as Uachtarán. Joan's playing career stretched across three counties – with her native club Fr. O'Neill's in east Cork, Celbridge, Kildare where she now lives and London Irish where Joan was a member of the first London representative team to play inter-county camogie twenty-one years ago. Joan served as Chair, Secretary and PRO of Kildare Camogie Board over a ten year period. She was a member of Leinster Council, Chair of the Association's National Strategic Plan Committee for six years and its Management Committee for three years. In 2004, Camogie Centenary Year, Joan authored *Soaring Sliothar, A History of Kildare Camogie*.

Mary Moran is a former president of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael as well as an acclaimed manager, player and decorated administrator. A native of Limerick, Mary lined out for her adopted county of Cork, club side Old Aloysians as well as the renowned Dublin camogie side Celtic. She is the author of *Cork's Camogie Story* and *Munster's Camogie Story* and is currently writing a *History of Camogie* due for publication in 2011.

Eoghan Corry played camogie for the boys against the girls in the annual summer fun fixture at Presentation Convent Clane in the 1970s and once saved a penalty from later Kildare county star Marianne Johnson. He is a former sports editor of the Sunday Tribune, History graduate of University College Dublin and former lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology. He is the author of over two dozen sports history books. A travel writer, broadcaster and weekly contributor to RTÉ's 'Today with Pat Kenny', Eoghan is also chairperson of the Communications and Website Committee of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Questions & Answers panel

Angela Downey was a joint recipient of the 2009 Irish Times/Irish Sports Council 'Lifetime Achievement' award for a glittering inter-county career with Kilkenny that saw her amass twelve All-Ireland titles, nine national league titles as well as six All-Ireland club titles. She captained Kilkenny to All-Ireland success in 1977, '88 and '89. In 1986 she became only the third camogie player to receive the prestigious Texaco Sports Star of the Year award and was named on the Camogie Team of the Century in 2004.

Ann Downey is the current manager of the Kilkenny senior camogie team and also led them to last year's Gala All-Ireland camogie final. She shares the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council 'Lifetime Achievement' award with her sister Angela. They are the first camogie recipients of such a prestigious accolade. She is the holder of twelve All-Ireland titles, nine national league and seven All-Ireland club titles and was part of the first All-Ireland success in 1974 as well as the invincible seven-in-a-row winning team from 1985 to 1991.

Eileen Duffy-O'Mahony represented Dublin from 1949 to 1957. She is the holder of eight All-Ireland titles and captained the side to glory in '57. She was selected as Sports Star of the Year in 1951 and again in '57. Eileen was a former member of Celtic Camogie club winning five county championships with the Dublin outfit. In 2004 she was named as goalkeeper on the Camogie Team of the Century.

Liz Howard served as president of the Camogie Association from 2006 to 2009. She represented her native county Tipperary as well as lining out for Clare and her adopted abode, Dublin. She also played club camogie with Dublin side Celtic. Liz holds the distinction of becoming the first female to serve on the Tipperary GAA Board acting as P.R.O. She was also one of the first GAA analyst on RTÉ's 'The Sunday Game'.

Mairead McAtamney-Magill won two All-Ireland titles with Antrim. The northern side captured their first in 1967 while Mairead captained the winning side in 1979. She is the holder of two Gael Linn medals; a Camogie All-Star and is a former Antrim Player of the Year. She is a manager, coach and administrator with club side Tir na nOg, Randalstown and is also involved in coaching and managing at inter-county level. Mairead was honoured on the Camogie Team of the Century in 2004.

Sheila Wallace served as Ard Stiúrthóir of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael for twenty-two years. During her tenure the Association underwent many significant changes, including an expansion of teams from twelve to fifteen-a-side as well as the Camogie Centenary celebrations in 2004. Sheila played senior inter-county camogie for Dublin during the 70s and 80s and was part of the 1984 All-Ireland winning management team. She is a member of Cuala Camogie club, Dalkey with whom she won numerous county titles.

THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY, 19.00

Ladies Night at the GAA Museum

The GAA Museum presents an evening recalling the rich history, identity, personalities and events which have influenced and shaped Camogie down through the years. Speakers on the night will include Mary Moran and Eoghan Corry along with Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Joan O'Flynn, who will speak about the challenges and issues facing Camogie today. Booking is essential as places are limited.

JAN 2010



More photos from Camogie night at GAA museum. Liz Howard, Mary Moran, Mairead McAtamney-Magill and Eileen Duffy O'Mahoney.

Camogie The sport's historian Mary Moran talked about the changes in the rules and the many controversies that dogged the game in the early days. It was 1951 before all disputes were resolved and counties re-affiliated.
Fri at 02:56

Camogie Eileen Duffy O'Mahoney, multiple All Ireland winning goalkeeper with Dublin, talked of how Dublin's camogie community got to know each other intimately at the Phoenix Park in the days before clubs developed their own grounds.
Fri at 02:56

Camogie Angela Downey on media coverage of camogie: "The first time I got on the front page of the Irish Times I had no skirt on me." On that All Ireland (1989): "Liz got the skirt, Marion got the hurt, but I still got the goal."
Fri at 02:55

Camogie Anne Downey quoted a Kilkenny women she met before the 2009 All Ireland final (inferred: "I hope you lose"): "The hurlers never win when you are doing well."
Fri at 02:55

Camogie Mairead McAtamney-Magill recalled the impact that the troubles had on camogie in Antrim.
Fri at 02:55

Camogie Eoghan Corry posed some questions about camogie and its place in sports history – was it a reaction to organisation of American and European women's sports movements, as is traditionally held, and to the success of the GAA, or was it something more pro-active, as might be suggested by personalities of the founders?



Angela and Anne Downey receiving their Lifetime Achievement award at the Women's Sports Awards last week.

From the
"Wall Photo"

Kay has Dunne her fair share

WHILE the stars of any particular club or sport are the ones to get the praise, rarely do the people behind the scenes get the plaudits.

When they do, it usually comes as a major shock and that is how it was for Kay Dunne who received the Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar Star Hall of Fame award at a packed Rochestown Park Hotel for the annual Ladies Sports Star awards ceremony.

"I'm shocked, absolutely stunned," said Kay who thought she was at the awards to watch Linda Meierick accept an award. The award is presented to someone who the judges feel has made an invaluable contribution to the wellbeing of their club and their sport by the service they have given in a non-playing role.

Kay becomes the third recipient of this award and if you ask anybody involved in camogie, there is none worthier.

A native of Turner's Cross, Kay started out at schools level with South Presentation Convent.

"The nuns in South Pres were the first ones to get me interested in sport. Even though they were an enclosed order, they encouraged all girls to get involved in sport whether it was camogie or table tennis or whatever."

From then until now the sport has played a huge part in her life and that of her family. She lined out with Seandún at senior level, and played a huge part in South Pres Past Pupils winning the senior county championship title in 1969.

By SEAN MCCARTHY
Ladies Sportstar awards

If there was one regret Kay had, it was that she never became a net-minder.

"If I'm to be honest I'd loved to have been a goalkeeper. It's a small regret but there were people there who were better than me."

She has served the camogie county board at various levels and held positions such as treasurer from 1987 to 1990.

She was registrar of the board from 1996 to 2007. She was elected to the position of honorary president in 2008 and is now in the third year of her five year term.

Never one to say no to any job Kay has continued to help out the county board with their fundraising efforts and is always willing to persuade anybody she can to make a donation to help swell the funds of her beloved camogie board.

Despite this hectic schedule she still finds time for others. She is very involved with the Everyman Palace theatre and is a regular front-of-house helper and is also very involved with the Choral Festival.

Another great love of hers is the Marymount Hospice where Kay is hugely involved.

"I'm a gardener by profession and you might be working in someone's house and look over the hedge and say 'that plant is in the wrong spot' and suddenly it's a case of 'we're doing a garden show could you help and it just progresses from there."

"I think it's maybe a Cork think, we love to be involved."



Kay Dunne, Winner of the Hall of Fame Award at the Annual Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the Year Award in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Darragh Kane



Camogie Ulster Camogie has a new Provincial Secretary. Briege McGilligan (Derry) took over from Maeve Moss (Donegal). Catherine O'Hara (Antrim) continues as Chair; Kathleen Woods (Armagh) as Vice Chair and Children's Officer; Rosemary Hughes Merry (Monaghan) as Treasurer and Niamh Archibald as PRO.

Yesterday at 11:57



Camogie Change of the guard at Saturday's Leinster Convention. New chair is Catherine Neary (Kilkenny), Ray Quigley (Wexford) having completed his three year term as Chairman, Camogie National Vice President. Nat Pearson (Wicklow) was elected ViceChairperson. Rachel Hogan (Wexford) assumed the Treasurer's role in place of Kildare's Marie Woods who completed 34 years service on Leinster Council.

Yesterday at 11:56

FEBRUARY 14 sees the return of intercounty camogie action as intermediate teams play the first game of division 2 of the national league.

Two groups will participate with one team from each going to contest the final on April 24. Cork are paired with Derry, Antrim, Kilkenny Tipperary and Offaly and there will be plenty of travelling with four away trips pencilled in.

Derry will provide the opposition on Feb 14 at a half way venue and on Feb 28 they take on Antrim and again at a half way venue. On March 6 it's a trip to Kilkenny as part of a double header, the first home game is game four where Cork will meet Tipperary in Cork but it's on the road again on April 4 for a trip to Offaly, so out of five national league games, Cork's second string will be travelling to four.

On March 6, senior national league division 1 gets underway as Cork travel to Kilkenny for a repeat of the All Ireland final in what is their first game. In the second game Cork will play host to Tipperary on March 14, and two teams will qualify from each of the groups for the semi final on April 10 with the final on April 24.

On March 13 the U16 All Ireland championship begins as the county squad head to Tipperary for their opening championship game in the

Busy season ahead for Cork teams

February 14
Division 2 National League
Cork v Derry: Half way venue
February 28 Division 2 National League
Cork v Antrim: Half Way Venue
March 6
Senior Division 1 and 2 National Leagues
Cork v Kilkenny in Kilkenny
March 13
Under 16 All Ireland Championship
Cork v Tipperary in Cork
March 14
Senior Division 1 and 2 National Leagues
Cork v Tipperary in Cork
April 4
Division 2 National League
Cork v Offaly in Offaly
April 10
Senior Division 1 League Semi Finals
Under 16 All Ireland Championship
Cork v Clare in Cork
April 24 Senior Division 1 And 2 National League Finals
All Ireland under 16A All Ireland Semi Finals
May 8
Under 16 A All Ireland Final
May 16
Gael Linn Competitions
June 12
Gala All Ireland Senior and Intermediate Championships
Cork v Tipperary in Tipperary
June 19
Gala All Ireland Senior Championship: Cork v Kilkenny in Cork
Gala All Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Limerick in Cork

June 26
Gala All Ireland Senior Championship
Cork v Dublin in Dublin
June 30
All Ireland Minor Championship
Cork v Wexford in Wexford
July 1
Gala All Ireland Senior Championship
Cork v Galway in Galway
July 7
All Ireland Minor Championship Round 2
July 17
Gala All Ireland Senior Championship: Cork v Wexford in Cork
Gala All Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Derry Half Way Venue
July 24
Gala All Ireland Senior Championships: Cork v Clare in Cork
July 25
All Ireland Minor Championship Semi Finals
August 7
All Ireland Minor Championship Final
August 14
All Ireland Senior Semi Finals
August 21
All Ireland Intermediate Semi Finals
September 12
All Ireland Senior Final
September 19
All Ireland Intermediate Final

round robin series. The second game is a home game against Clare on April 10. In group two champions Kilkenny are joined by Galway Wexford and Dublin. Two teams from each group to contest the semi finals on April 24 with the All Ireland final on May 8.

The minor All Ireland championship gets underway on June 30 with Cork travelling to Wexford. The result of this will determine who Cork will meet next on July 7 as the winners and losers from the first rounds meet.

Semi-finals are pencilled in for July 25 with the final on

August 7. All the focus will be on Cork's bid for three in row of senior titles and in changed format again this year seven counties will battle it out in round robin format with Galway, Tipperary, Kilkenny Wexford, Dublin and Clare joining Cork with the top four contesting the semi-finals.

The intermediate championship is on a different format to the senior with two groups. Cork are paired with Tipperary while Limerick who have dropped down from senior and Derry, with Kilkenny, Galway, Offaly and Wexford making up the second group. The top two teams will contest the semi final stages.

So there is plenty to look forward to in the months ahead as Cork get the various inter county campaigns up and running.

THE Camogie Association has announced the appointment of Mayo native Claire Egan as communications and marketing director.

Previously employed as a publicist with Gill and Macmillan, and as a journalist with The Mayo News, Claire has played inter-county ladies football with Mayo with whom she won All-Ireland honours.

Impressive Coláiste Choilm Munster champs

Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig 2-9
Hazelwood Dromcollogher 0-1

COLÁISTE Choilm Ballincollig took the Munster Senior B Colleges champions title thanks to an impressive display as they defeated Hazelwood College Dromcollogher.

Dromcollogher took an early lead with an Aisling O'Brien point and they enjoying plenty of possession as Coláiste Choilm worked at finding their feet. The Coláiste Choilm defence came under a lot of early pressure but they held their lines and with their own midfielders and forwards beginning to settle they came into the contest with Emma Crowley bringing them on level with a point to open their account.

Thirteen minutes in Sinead O'Sullivan grabbed a goal and the same player extended the Coláiste Choilm lead adding on a point and from here on in they were in control.

Sarah Buckley converted two frees while in between Samantha Coomey hit a point from play. Despite enjoying plenty of possession the Dromcollogher girls could find no way past a solid Coláiste Choilm defence while up front Trisha

Buttimer had the final say of the half hitting a point to leave Coláiste Choilm ahead 1-7 to 0-1 at the break.

The Dromcollogher defence tightened up and confined Coláiste Choilm them to just three second half scores. Emma Crowley struck for her side's second goal to stretch their advantage, and with Elaine Scally and Sarah Buckley pointing, Dromcollogher were left with a huge task on their hands. They battled to the finish but were unable to breach the strong Coláiste Choilm defence that held them to just one score over the hour.

Coláiste Choilm will now go forward to contest the All Ireland Senior B semi-final.

Dromcollogher: A Ryan; J Murray; M Geary; E Browne; S O'Sullivan; N O'Brien; K O'Sullivan; G Sheehy; T Hurley; M Flanagan; A O'Flynn; K Hodgson; S Moloney; A O'Brien; K Dillane. Scorers: Dromcollogher: A O'Brien 0-1
Coláiste Choilm: A Sheehan (c); L Barry; A Coughlan; E O'Sullivan; C Irish; K O'Donoghue; E Looney; S Buckley; J Hennigan; E Scally; T Buttimer; N Byrne; E Crowley; S Coomey; S O'Sullivan. Subs: C Looney for C Irish; E Nolan for J Hennigan; S Nic Aodh for E O'Sullivan; O Murphy for S O'Sullivan; H Morgan for E Crowley; S O'Brien for S Coomey. Scorers: S O'Sullivan 1-1; E Crowley 1-1; S Buckley 0-3; S Coomey 0-2; E Scally 0-1; P Buttimer 0-1
Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork)

Mallow will be buzzing for U16s

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie news

INTER DIVISIONAL U16 CHAMPIONSHIP

THE first camogie trophy title for 2010 is up for grabs on tomorrow with the U16 inter-divisional championship taking place in Mallow.

Over the years the inter-divisional competition has gone from strength to strength with participation by players from every club in the county and it has been of huge benefit to the Cork U16 selectors as they make their championship preparations. Over the last number of weeks the divisions have been busy preparing and now all is in readiness.

The competition is divided into two sections with the top team from each section qualifying for the final and with all games taking place on the same day it's sure to be a test of endurance.

Games will be 15 minutes a side with the final 25 minutes a side. Six divisions will vie for the title with teams divided into two groups of three.

Holders Avondhu are paired in section one with Carbery and Muskerry while Seandun, Carrigdhoun and Imokilly battle it out in section two for a place in the final.

It's an early start to the day with registrations at 10.15am and with two games going ahead at the same time, the first games are scheduled for 11am and running through to 1.30pm. Players will have a break until 3pm when the final is scheduled to begin.

With all six divisions having put in huge preparation it promises to be another exciting day as the Avondhu girls battle to make it back-to-back titles and retain their crown but they are sure to come up against strong opposition.

Inter-divisional U16 Championships: 11am Avondhu v Muskerry, Imokilly v Seandun; 12.10pm Carbery v Muskerry, Carrigdhoun v Seandun; 1.15pm Avondhu v Carbery, Carrigdhoun v Imokilly.

Final at 3pm.

Busy season ahead for camogie teams

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie news

AS the return to action date looms in the various competitions at inter-county level, selection committees have been busy organising trials and practice matches.

February 14 signals the start of competitive action for Cork with the county intermediate team opening their campaign in division two of the national league.

The competition is divided into two groups with one team emerging from each group to contest the final on April 24. Cork are paired with Derry, Antrim, Kilkenny Tipperary and Offaly and there will be plenty of travelling with four away trips pencilled in.

They meet Derry in their opening game on February 14 and this will be played at a half way venue possibly in Dublin.

Two weeks later on February 28 they will be on the road again when they take on Antrim and again it's an away game as it will be played at a half way venue.

The travelling continues on March 6 with a trip to Kilkenny as part of a double header.

The first home game is game four where Cork will meet Tipperary in Cork but it's off on the road again on April 4 for a trip to Offaly.

Out of five national league games, Cork's second string will be travelling to four which is a tough assignment by any means.

March sees the senior National League Division One get underway and with just three teams in their group Cork travel to Kilkenny for a repeat of the All-Ireland final in their first game. In the second game Cork will play host to Tipperary on March 14. Two teams will qualify from each of the groups for the semi-final on April 10 with the final on April 24.

Cork kicks off its U16 All-Ireland Championship on March 13 and the travelling continues as the county squad head to Tipperary for their opening championship game in the round robin series.

The championship continues with a home game against Clare on April 10. In group two champions Kilkenny are joined by Galway, Wexford and Dublin.

Two teams form each group to contest the semi-finals on April 24 with the All-Ireland final on May 8.

The minor All-Ireland championship



Sarsfield's camogie club members Orla Barry, Sinead O'Leary and Trish Dwyer enjoy the Glanmire and District Sports Award function at Fitzgerald's Vienna Woods Hotel.

Picture: Mike English

get under way on June 30 with Cork travelling to Wexford, the result of this will determine who Cork will meet next on July 7 as the winners and losers from the first rounds meet. Semi-finals are pencilled in for July 25 with the final on August 7.

All the focus will be on Cork's bid for three in a row of senior titles and in a changed format again this year. Seven counties will battle it out in round robin format with Galway, Tipperary Kilkenny Wexford Dublin and Clare joining Cork with the top four contesting the semi-finals.

The intermediate championship will follow a different format to the senior with two groups, Cork are paired with Tipperary, Limerick who have dropped down from senior and Derry with Kilkenny, Galway, Offaly and Wexford making up the second group. The top two teams will contest the semi-finals.

So there is plenty to look forward to in the months ahead as Cork get the various inter-county campaigns up and

running.

The dates and venues are as follows:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Division 2 National League Cork v Derry; Half way venue

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28
Division 2 National League Cork v Antrim; Half Way Venue

SATURDAY, MARCH 6
Senior Division 1 and 2 National Leagues Cork v Kilkenny in Kilkenny.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
U16 All-Ireland Championship Cork v Tipperary in Cork

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
Senior Division 1 and 2 National Leagues Cork v Tipperary in Cork

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
Division 2 National League: Cork v Offaly in Offaly.

SATURDAY APRIL 10
Senior Division 1 League Semi Finals U16 A All Ireland Championship Cork v Clare in Cork.

SATURDAY APRIL 24
Senior Division 1 And 2 National League Finals All Ireland U16A All Ireland Semi Finals

SATURDAY MAY 8
U16 A All Ireland final.

SUNDAY MAY 16
Gael Linn Competitions.

SUNDAY JUNE 12
Gala All Ireland Senior and Intermediate Champi-

onships Cork v Tipperary in Tipperary.

SATURDAY JUNE 19
Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Cork v Kilkenny in Cork.

SUNDAY JUNE 26
Gala All Ireland Intermediate Championship Cork v Limerick in Cork.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30
All Ireland Minor Championship Cork v Wexford in Wexford.

THURSDAY JULY 1
Gala All Ireland Senior Championship Cork v Galway in Galway

WEDNESDAY JULY 7
All Ireland Minor Championship Round 2

SATURDAY JULY 17
Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship Cork v Wexford in Cork.

SATURDAY, JULY 24
Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Cork v Derry Half Way Venue

SUNDAY JULY 25
All-Ireland Minor Championship Semi Finals

SUNDAY AUGUST 7
All-Ireland Minor Championship Final

SUNDAY AUGUST 14
Gala All-Ireland Senior semi-finals

SUNDAY AUGUST 21
Gala All Ireland Intermediate semi-finals

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12
Gala All Ireland Senior final

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19
Gala All-Ireland Intermediate final

Munster convention comes to Cork

THE annual convention of Cumann Camógaíochta Comhairle na Mumhan will take place on Sunday at the Rochestown Park Hotel and proceedings will get underway at 2pm.

President of the Camogie

Association Joan O'Flynn will be in attendance as she continues to establish strong links with all divisions of camogie. In what is a full agenda there will be reports from the secretary, treasurer, PRO,

schools and post primary schools as well as the chairman's address. Provincial championship draws for 2010 are also on the agenda. All outgoing officers are re-elected unopposed: president Rose

Malone Cork, chairperson Morgan Conroy Waterford, vice-chair Eamonn Browne Tipperary, secretary Marion Graham Tipperary, treasurer Jean Hayden Tipperary, registrar Marie Kearney Cork, PRO Orla Con-

sidine Clare, delegate to Central Council Marie Kearney, trophy officer Bridie O'Looney Clare, delegate to Central Council, dxtures Marion Graham Tipperary, Child Welfare Officer Margaret Skehan, Tipperary.

ST. COLM'S FLYING HIGH ...

Two-thousand-and-nine was an absolutely stunning year for the girls of St Colm's, Draperstown who won a landmark first-ever All-Ireland senior colleges camogie title in March and completed back-to-back Ulster victories in December. The twelfth month of the year also saw the school completing a notable double by capturing the Ulster (U16) junior crown, while St Colm's footballers are also making great strides under the watchful eye of a former Tyrone player. All in all, things are really looking up for the Derry school.

The girls of St Colm's reached their first-ever All-Ireland senior colleges camogie final with a superb 3-7 to 2-2 defeat of Mercy Convent, Roscommon at the semi-final stage. Despite trailing by a point at the interval, they rallied wonderfully in the second half to record a comprehensive success on Roscommon soil. This set up one of the most exciting times in the Draperstown high school's history as they prepared for their maiden appearance in a national final – against the might of Kilkenny outfit Grennan College on Saturday March 14 2009. Incredibly, the Ulster champions – who were rank outsiders – produced an unbelievable performance to win that final by 1-7 to 0-9. In so doing, they wrote a special place for themselves in the history books of colleges GAA.

Since Post 16 was introduced by the school four years ago, it provided an opportunity for returning girls to participate in senior camogie. Having reached their first Ulster senior final in March 2008 (narrowly defeated by St MacNissis of Garren Tower), St Colm's lost only two players from that side and went into the 2009 campaign in fine fettle. Entering last year's competition, the target was an Ulster title. The team duly delivered by defeating St Louis, Killeel in the provincial final (3-5 to 3-2).

St Colm's High School then made history by winning their first All-Ireland senior camogie title in an epic thriller that required extra time against Grennan College at Ratoath, County Meath. With seconds remaining in normal

time, the St.Colm's dream appeared to be slipping. But their resolute determination and self belief was enough to force the equalising point, which came from goalscorer Kelly Marie Hegarty. It would now come down to mental strength...

The first period of extra time saw both teams create many chances but tenacious defending resulted in both teams only scoring one point each with Grace Kelly getting the St.Colm's score. All square with ten minutes to play in the second half of extra time the apprehension and excitement were overwhelming...

Character, temperament and passion were evident throughout, but this final ten minutes of extra time was going to be a real test for both teams. With fatigue setting in and possession so vital, the crucial score came in the eighth minute for St.Colm's: Catriona McBride was fouled in the square and a penalty was awarded. Bronagh McGillian wisely took her point and this was the defining score which enabled St.Colm's to clinch their first All Ireland camogie crown.

The all-conquering panel was: Fiona Breen (captain), Cathy Convery, Michelle McIvor, Patricia McNamee, Teresa Bradley, Patricia McBride, Mary Jo McCullagh, Joni McEldowney, Kathryn McNamee, Gemma Conway, Kelly Marie Hegarty, Grace Kelly, Theresa Kelly, Louise Kennedy, Louise Murphy, Shannen O'Hagan, Leanne Grant, Aimee Kelly, Mary T McCullagh, Charlene



The U14 captain receives the Derry Vocational Schools Cup from county chairperson Maura McCloy



Captain Mary Joe McCullagh with Corna an Athar Daibhis following the Ulster final defeat of St. Patrick's

Scullion, Aine Gallagher, Catriona McBride, Bronagh McGillian, Paula McElwee.

Amazingly, as an extraordinary year drew to its close, the successes just kept coming. Firstly, St Colm's clinched their first Ulster junior title with a magnificent 4-10 to 3-5 victory over St Columba's, Portaferry at Belfast's Corrigan Park. Meanwhile, the school's onslaught on the Ulster senior colleges crown saw them meet St Patrick's, Keady in an epic provincial decider. Having moved up a grade, the girls of St Colm's demonstrated all the characteristics of true champions as they prevailed by 2-7 to 0-8 at the second time of asking in Casement Park to secure the Fr Davies Cup and a coveted place in the All-Ireland series.

'Believe and Achieve' is the motto at St Colm's High School, Draperstown and the application of this ethos has been instrumental in the phenomenal success enjoyed by the camogie team (not to mention the footballers, who are also getting in on the act). There exists a great bond, a togetherness and camaraderie throughout the team, which comprises girls from aged 14 up to 17/18. A thorough sense of teamwork and unity permeates everything.

Team manager Fiona Devlin explains: "They are a fantastic group of girls and I honestly couldn't say enough about them. Their spirit is incredible. They were behind in many's a match and things often looked bleak, but they had that tremendous will to win and never gave up and somehow they managed to keep turning things around. This is an exceptional group and you have to do everything in your power to make sure they are afforded every possible opportunity. We had Davy Harte and Peter Canavan in speaking to them about what it takes to win at the highest level and giving them encouragement. We prepared them to be ready for when the chips were down and the girls responded magnificently.

"A great buzz went through the school as we prepared for the All-Ireland semi-final against Mercy College last year. We were going into the unknown and the excitement was unbelievable. It was a cracking match against a big physical side but our camogie came out in the end and we rollercoasted past them in the second half. That led us to an All-Ireland final and again the four-week build-up was unbelievable around the school.



The St. Colm's, Draperstown team that won the 2009 Ulster senior colleges camogie 'B' title with an excellent final replay victory over Keady



The St. Colm's side that toppled St. Columbus in the U16 Ulster Junior 'C' final

"A lot of these girls had experienced All-Irelands before through participating in Feile with the local club, Ballinascreen, and they knew what it takes. It was a massive occasion for the school. We were underdogs and we were written off beforehand but the girls have a lot of character and they trained hard and put in a lot of effort, with no stone left unturned to secure the win. It was one of the most intense games I've ever witnessed. It went right down to the wire and was a true test of stamina and character. The girls emptied the tank to record a remarkable win.

"After 70 minutes, our destinies would be settled in ten minutes and we crossed the line and got the penalty in the dying minutes and Bronagh popped it over with 90 seconds left. Needless to say, there was absolute euphoria afterwards. The atmosphere and the support we had from the entire parish was unbelievable.

"We've since moved up a grade in the Ulster senior colleges and we lost four girls from that panel but we still have a good solid core. We aimed for a Top Four finish in this season's qualifying group and actually ended up topping the section. We beat Loretto, Coleraine in the semi-final and St Patrick's, Keady (a school of 1,000-plus) in the final - another fantastic game where both defences were outstanding. We beat them after a replay to make it back-to-back Ulster titles in two grades.

"The level of skill, commitment and determination was incredible. There were no ifs, no buts and no regrets and they refused to come off the field beaten. Considering that we are a school of just over 400 pupils, with just one feeder club - Ballinascreen - and one other girl from Swatragh, they have done remarkably well. We couldn't ask for any more. It's been an unbelievable journey and so many people have contributed towards this, including the principal Roisin McKenna, Patsy McElwee from Swatragh who coaches the junior team, and our school caretaker Malachy who drives the coach to the matches and always gives the



St. Colm's, Draperstown also won the U14 Derry county title, beating St. Mary's in the final

players brilliant encouragement. There's just a great support network running throughout the school.

"The Ballinascreen club has given them their grounding and the foundations have been laid at the local primary schools. That's where they got their skills from and they know what it takes. Now it's up to us to make sure they get every chance to maximise their potential at colleges level. So far, they've been doing pretty well!"

Former Tyrone footballer Ciaran Meenagh is over the St



St. Colm's, Draperstown captain Lee Ann Grant receives the Shield from Usher Colleges rep Cathy Mulholland after the Ulster U16 Junior 'C' championship victory



St. Colm's girls celebrate their sensational All-Ireland success

FEB 2010

2nd Level Colleges Results & Fixtures

(Wednesday, February 11, 2010 12:23:00)

MUNSTER COLLEGES RESULTS:

Sat 30th Jan. Junior B Final. St. Flannan's, Ennis 6-3 Colaiste Cholm, Ballincollig 2-7.
Sun 31st Jan. Intermediate B Final. Pres. Thurles 2-13 Pobalscoil, Roscrea 1-4.
Mon 1st Feb.
Intermediate A League Semi Final. St. Mary's, Mallow 4-9 Borrisokane CC 4-2.
Hayes Intermediate Quarter Final. Ard Scoil, Tramore 5-3 Col Dun Iascaigh, Cahir 5-5
U16 1/2 A South Quarter Final. St. Declan's, Kilmacthomas 2-3 Col An Trionode, Youghal 3-4
U16 1/2 B North. St. Patrick's, Shannon 3-1 Colaiste, Ennis 2-5
Tue 2nd Feb.
Munster U16 1/2 C Final. St. Anne's, Killoe 4-7 St. Mary's, Nenagh 0-2.

FIXTURES:

Wed 3rd Feb.
Munster Senior A League Semi Final @ St. Mary's, Charleville. Colaiste Cholm, Ballincollig v St. Mary's, Nenagh. 2pm. Ref: Frank Fitzpatrick
Thur 4th Feb.
Munster Colleges U16 1/2 A South semi final @ Carrigrohane. Carrigrohane v Col An Phlanshaigh.
Cork Colleges Junior B quarter final @ Carrigaline. 10.15am. St. Mary's, Donakilly v Carrigaline CS.
Ref: P. Moran.
Sat 6th Feb.
Munster U16 1/2 A North Final. St. Joseph's, Doon v Pobalscoil, Roscrea. @ The Ragg GAA, 2pm. Ref: Eamon Browne.
Munster U16 1/2 B South Final. Causeway Comp v Ard Scoil, Dungarvan. @ St. Mary's, Mallow. 2pm.
Ref: John O'Leary
All Ireland Colleges
Senior A Semi Final. BCS Lismore v Portlanna, 1pm @ Tynagh. Ref: TBA
Senior B Quarter Final. Holy Rosary, Mountbellew v Our Lady's, Templeogue. 1.15am @ Mountbellew.
Ref: Annette McGonery.
Senior C Semi Final. Seamount, Kivvara v Pres. Thurles. 1pm @ Kivvara. Ref: Dermot Connolly.
Tue 9th Feb
Hayes Shield Intermediate Final. St. Anne's, Tipperary v Bohertue. @ Tipperary, Noon. Ref: Eamon

CAMOGIE

National League Div 3

Kildare 1-7 (S O'Carroll 1-6 (0-1), R O'Connell 0-1)
Dublin 0-4 (E Murphy, K Elvert, B O'Neill, N Adams 0-1 each).

Leois 5-14 (A Mahony 3-5, K Cuddy, N Dollard 1-0 each, L Mahony 0-5 (0-2), 1-45), S A Fitzgerald 0-2, E Delaney, E Mahony 0-1 each) Meath 3-3 (J Dolan 1-3 (0-2), E Oakes, A Keogh 1-0 each).

Armagh v Roscommon off.

Ashbourne Cup quarter-final: Waterford IT 4-18
Cork IT 0-6; UCD 5-12 NUIG 1-8; UCC 0-11 U Limerick 0-9. Purcell Cup quarter-final: Mary I 1-7 Queens 2-2.

All-Ireland Senior semi-finals

Senior A: BCS Lismore 3-5 Portlanna 0-2 Senior C: Pres. Thurles 3-11 Kivvara 1-1

Munster Colleges U16 1/2 B quarter-finals: St. Patrick's, Shannon 3-1 Colaiste; Ennis 2-5; Colaiste An Chraoibhin; Fermoy 3-0 Ard Scoil; Bruff 8-4; Colaiste An Dun Iascaigh; Cahir 0-1 Desmond College; Newcastlewest 1-5. U16 1/2 C Final: St. Anne's, Killoe 4-6 St. Mary's, Nenagh 0-2. Senior A League semi-final: St. Mary's; Nenagh 2-13 Colaiste Cholm 4-6. U16 1/2 A South: Carrigrohane 2-4 Colaiste An Phlanshaigh 7-0; Colaiste An Trionode; Youghal 3-4 St. Declan's; Kilmacthomas 2-3; U16 1/2 A North final: Pobalscoil Roscrea 4-6 St. Joseph's; Doon 2-8. U16 1/2 B South final: Ard Scoil Dungarvan 5-2 Causeway Comp 2-5.

UCC are facing into a tough UL test

TOMORROW

Ashbourne Cup quarter-final
UCC v UL
Mardyke, 2pm

THE cream of Ireland's camogie talent will be in action in this weekend's prestigious Ashbourne Cup quarter-finals.

Cork's two colleges UCC and CIT, who take on WIT at CIT also at 2pm, will find out whether their destiny lies in either the Ashbourne Cup or Shield competitions.

The winning teams will get the chance to go on to fight for the coveted Ashbourne Cup, while a place in the Ashbourne Shield semi-final awaits the losers.

Despite a few barren years, a determined UCC side will take to their home pitch to take on fellow Munster rivals and 2009 beaten Shield finalists UL in their Ashbourne Cup quarter-final tie.

The last time these two sides met in championship was in the 2008 Ashbourne Shield final where it was UL who were victorious on the day.

Two years have since gone by, but both teams still include many of the players who played that day, such as Jill Horan and Orla Cotter for UCC and Aine Lyng for UL.

Hopefully, tomorrow will be the day that UCC will reverse that result.

UCC will be led by Waterford dual-player Grainne Kenneally and she will be supported by her team-mates, who hail from all four provinces of Ireland.

Cork camogie clubs will be well represented on this UCC panel by no less than eight players, which include Orla Cotter and Denise Leahy from the current senior A Cork county champions, St Catherine's, who will have to put their club loyalties aside when they will come up against their club mate Carolyn Motherway, who lines out for UL.

Once again, UCC will look to their experienced campaigners Jill Horan and Fionnuala Carr to lead the way in this intriguing Ashbourne contest.

Ray Delaney (Blackrock), Finbarr Bradley (Ballincollig) and Aoife Murray (Cloughduv) provide all the management skills needed behind this UCC team, who will have to be at their very best to overcome a strong UL challenge.

UCC (panel): Julie Brien (Galway), Fionnuala Carr (Down), Sarah Collins (Limerick), Orla Cotter (St Catherine's), Denise Cronin (Ballincollig), Grainne Cronin (Newcestown), Miriam Crowley (Bishopstown), Aine Donegan (Bishopstown), Grace Dunphy (Kilkenny), Deirdre Fahay (Waterford), Emma Fitzgerald (Waterford), Lucinda Gahan (Kilkenny), Niamh Goulding (St Finbarr's), Sharon Hayes (Tipperary), Jill Horan (Tipperary), Grainne Kennelly (Waterford), Denise Leahy (St Catherine's), Siobhan McGrath (Tipperary), Aoife McLoughney (Tipperary), Aileen McNamara (Limerick), Theresa Muldowney (Kilkenny), Sadhbh Ni Cheallsaigh (Galway), Elaine O'Shea (Kilkenny), Laura Wall (Kilkenny), Eimear White (Barryroe).

Cotter and Cronin star as UCC make semi

UCC 0-11
UL 0-9

A DETERMINED second-half display from UCC proved enough to secure the home side passage to this year's Ashbourne Cup semi-finals, writes SARAH O'DONOVAN.

UCC struggled in the opening exchanges with UL half-forward Aine Lyng punishing early mistakes with two pointed frees while Ballyhea player Mary Coleman added a third from play.

Orla Cotter replied for UCC in the 13th minute but three further points from the visitors had them firmly in the driving seat by the 20th minute with a 0-5 to 0-2 lead.

UCC full-back Sarah Collins ensured that UL did not build on their lead despite significant pressure and points from Cotter and Jill Horan steadied the UCC ship.

Ballincollig star Denise Cronin gained a foothold at midfield and her point just before the break brought the deficit to the minimum.

UCC were level for the first time in the 37th minute through Aoife McLoughney and the sides traded further points through Cotter and Lyng.

With Bishopstown's Miriam Crowley and Waterford's Grainne Kenneally rowing in with Cronin and Horan, UCC finally looked to be finding a rhythm midway through the second half.

A superb long-range point from Denise Cronin in the 45th minute looked to have put UCC on course for victory with Niamh Goulding adding a neat point in the next exchange to further momentum.

The two-point lead was snuffed out though by Lyng with a succession of points before the 50th minute and as tension mounted neither side was found wanting as the exchanges became increasingly physical.

A second point from Goulding with five minutes remaining renewed UCC energies and a considerable effort in the final minutes, despite tired legs, saw UCC over the line.

Orla Cotter's fifth pointed free before the full-time whistle settled nerves further and a dogged defensive display quelled a late UL resurgence.

The displays of Cronin and Cotter will have been of interest to Cork manager Denise Cronin as she looks to defend the All-Ireland title and secure a long anticipated three-in-a-row in 2010.

Scorers for UCC: O Cotter 0-5 (f), D Cronin, N Goulding 0-2 each, J Horan, A McLoughney 0-1 each.

UL: A Lyng, 0-6 (0-5f), M Coleman, M Scanlon, C Johnson 0-1 each.

UCC: D Leahy; E O'Shea, S Collins, J O'Brien; A McNamara, F Carr, M Crowley; J Horan, D Cronin; G Kenneally, O Cotter, T Muldowney, N Goulding, L Gahan, A McLoughney.

Sub: S McGrath for L Gahan (52); S Hayes for A McLoughney (55).

UL: S Vaughan; E Frisby, S Larkin, A Walsh; C Ryan, M Ryan, K Duggan; C Glynn, S Kerins; F Rochford, M Coleman, A Lyng; C Johnson, M Scanlon, D Ryan.

Sub: J Brennan for S Kerins (41).

Referee: D Kirwan (Eire Og).

HOLDERS have far too much for CIT

WIT 4-19
CIT 0-7
By MARY NEWMAN
Ashbourne Cup

HOLDERS WIT signalled their intentions of retaining their Ashbourne Cup title as they brushed aside the challenge posed by this season's hosts CIT with a power-packed quarter-final display at CIT on Saturday.

Their line was made up of inter-county stars, Wexford's Ursula Jacob, Stacy Redmond and Katrina Parrock, Kilkenny's Colette Dormer, Anne Dalton and Katie Power, Waterford's Karen Kelly and Cork's Marie O'Neill all prominent over the hour.

CIT set the early pace and matched points from Ursula Jacob and Marie O'Neill with points from Michelle Browne and Evelyn Roynane.

Brown pointed a free to give CIT the lead but from early on their defence had to work tirelessly as the fast WIT attack spread the play around.

Ursula Jacob, Karen Kelly, Denise Gaule and Katie Power alongside the hard-working Marie O'Neill hit points as WIT regained the lead and it took a good save from Lisa Marie O'Mahony to deny Ursula Jacob the game's opening goal.

Continuing to pressurise the CIT defence the goal finally arrived 24 minutes in as Ursula Jacob left the CIT defence in her trail to find the net from close range.

CIT's Michelle Browne pointed two frees before the break but they continued to struggle and could find

no way through a solid WIT defence where Colette Dormer, Anne Dalton and Therese Shortt were prominent.

At the break WIT were full value for their 1-12 to 0-5 lead.

CIT restarted with a pointed free from Michelle Browne but WIT maintained their dominance and upping the pace, had added 1-5 to their tally without reply before Elaine O'Riordan hit a CIT point.

Struggling to keep in touch CIT showed plenty of fighting spirit and never allowed their heads to drop but the champions simply had too much strength, their first touch was excellent and their awareness and reading of the game was first class.

The game was over as a contest long before substitutes Kilkenny star Michelle Quilty and Katrina Parrock added goal as WIT confidently booked their place in the

semi-final which will take place in Cork on February 20.

For CIT, Elaine O'Riordan and Julie McGrath gave good displays and they will look ahead to contesting the Ashbourne Shield semi-final and hope for better days as they host one of camogie's most prestigious competitions.

Scorers for WIT: U Jacob 2-9, (0-5f, 0-1 45), M O'Neill 0-5, K Parrock, M Quilty 1-0 each, D Gaule, K Kelly 0-2 each, K Power 0-1.

CIT: M Browne 0-4, (frees) E Roynane, E O'Riordan 0-1 each.

CIT LM: O'Mahony, A O'Keefe, C O'Neill, P Maloney, C Long, J McGrath, C Kearney, E O'Riordan, E Reidy, E Roynane, U Day, S Cunningham, E Corkery, D Luby, M Browne.

Subs: C McKenna for A O'Keefe (24), S Lynch for E Reidy (41), C Kavanagh for E Corkery (49), M O'Sullivan for P Maloney (51).

WIT: K Kenneally, T Shortt, S A Fitzgerald, K A Cottrell, C Dormer, A Dalton, S Redmond, K Parrock, C Maher, D Gaule, M O'Neill, P Jackman, K Power, U Jacob, K Kelly.

Subs: M Quilty for K Kelly, K Ryall for S Redmond, L Kenna for K A Cottrell, J Lynch for C Dormer and M Brennan for C Maher.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).

Ashbourne quarter-finals weekend

This weekend six teams battle it out to reach the final stages of the Ashbourne Cup hosted by Cork Institute of Technology on February 20th & 21st. University of Ulster Jordanstown already booked their place, defeating Athlone IT by 3-19 to 0-03 on Wednesday afternoon in Kinnegad. Read Fionnuala Carr's previews of the remaining fixtures.

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) v Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

CIT@2.00pm

WIT have a wealth of talent to call on including Kilkenny captain and All-Star recipient Ann Dalton, Wexford's prolific forward Ursula Jacob and 'Young Player of the Year', Kilkenny's Denise Gaule. CIT, in front of a home crowd at their newly built GAA complex will look to the guile of Julie McGrath and Elaine O'Riordan in the backline as well as the skills of Michelle Browne, Christine O'Neill and Denise Luby to cause an upset.

However, the experience of WIT, this year's Ashbourne favourites, may tip the balance in their favour.

University College Cork (UCC) v University of Limerick (UL)

Mardyke@2.00pm

Also in Cork at the famed Mardyke grounds UCC take on UL in what promises to be an enthralling encounter. Cork's Orla Cotter and Denise Cronin, Tipperary's Jill Horan and Aoife McLoughney along with Kilkenny duo Therese Muldowney and Elaine O'Shea line out for the Cork side.

UL also boast a talented squad that includes Waterford's Aine Lyng along with Cork pair Mary Coleman and Gail Johnston. With two evenly matched teams predicting a winner is difficult but home advantage for UCC may prove a deciding factor.

University College Dublin (UCD) v National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)

UCD@2.00pm

In the final qualifier UCD have home advantage against the 2009 Ashbourne Shield winners. The Dublin side enter the tie as favourites despite having lost many of the players that helped them claim back-to-back titles in '07 and '08. NUIG fresh from last year's success have Cork's Deirdre Twomey and Offaly's All-Star winner 2008 Michaela Morkan. UCD will be relying on the experienced Mairead Luttrell at full-back and Kilkenny's Leanne Fennelly to pull them through.

This weekend's camogie action

This weekend's camogie action

Ashbourne quarter-finals weekend

UCD 5-12 NUIG, Galway 1-8

UCD advanced to the semi-finals of the Ashbourne Cup with a convincing 5-12 to 1-8 win over NUIG, Galway at Belfield, Saturday afternoon. NUIG simply had no response to a cohesive UCD outfit and in particular their full-forward line of Aine Mahony, who recorded a personal tally of 2-6, Denise McGrath (2-0) and Katie O'Dwyer (0-2). Aine Mahony and Alison Murphy were to the fore in the opening quarter with Mahony chipping in with 1-1 and Murphy pointing three frees. Galway's chief scorer on the day was Lorraine Ryan who contributed 1-08 (1-6fs). UCD now go on to play UCC on February 20th at Cork Institute of Technology. CIT, this year's Ashbourne & Purcell Cup hosts saw their season end at the hands of a relentless WIT side which registered a total of 4-19 to 0-7 at CIT, Saturday afternoon. Ursula Jacob led the way scoring a total of 2-8; her first coming five minutes before the break and her second fifteen minutes from full-time. Katrina Parrock and Michelle Quilty scored the remaining goals while points from Marie O'Neill (0-5), Karen Kelly (0-2), Katie Power (0-2) and Denise Gaule (0-2) completed a comfortable victory for the defending champions who now face ULJ.

Meanwhile, UCC recorded a hard fought 0-11 to 0-9 win over Munster rivals UL at the Mardyke, Saturday afternoon. UL led by a point at the break but the home side battled back to record a two-point win.

In the opening round of the Camogie National League Division Three, Laois had a comprehensive 5-14 to 3-3 victory over Meath at Donaghmore Ashbourne on Sunday afternoon. Aine Mahony led with a tally of 3-5 (2fs), Louise Mahony (0-5, 2fs), Sarah Ann Fitzgerald (0-2), Emer Delaney (0-1), Elaine Mahony (0-1) with Niamh Dollard and Karen Cuddy scoring the remaining goals. Jane Dolan scored 1-3 for Meath with Aine Keogh (1-0) and Elizabeth Oaks (1-0) adding to their final tally. Meanwhile, Kildare defeated Dublin 1-7 to 0-4 at Ballyboden St Enda's with Suzie Carroll in scintillating form scoring 1-6 for Kildare.



The Cork camogie team who played Kilkenny in the 1914 All-Ireland championship.

Picture: A.H. Somerville, Quaker Road, Cork

FEB 2010

Honour for Cork camogie president

CORK Camogie Board President Kay Dunne has been honoured with the Hall of Fame award at the Evening Echo ladies' sports awards in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel and Newbridge Silverware.

The award comes in recognition of the service Kay has given to camogie over a long number of years.

Having started playing the game in South Pres she went on to win senior championship medals with the South Pres past pupils in 1969, '70 and '71.

A native of Turners Cross and now resident in Military Hill, she has served the Cork county board at various levels and acted as a selector with Cork teams. She became registrar of the board in 1996, served in the office until 2007 and was elected honorary president in 2008.

Cork's delegate to Munster council over a long number of years, she has also represented the county at national congress and is a selector with the Munster junior team.

Aside from her huge involvement in camogie, Kay is a renowned gardener by profession.

A great worker for Marymount Hospice, she is hugely involved with the Friends of Marymount. She is very active with the Everyman Palace theatre as well as lending a hand with Cork International Choral Festival.

Kay is married to Terry Dunne who is a retired member of the Defence Forces. Terry is a native of Kilkenny and he is hugely supportive of Kay's work.

Cork camogie has played a huge part in Kay's life and the honour bestowed on her is one she really deserves.

Avondhu retain Under-16 title



Avondhu
Carrigdhoun

3-6
3-5

IT WAS a game of two halves but in the finish holders Avondhu showed tremendous fighting spirit to fashion out victory and in the process made it back to back Under 16 Interdivisional titles in Mallow on Sunday last.

A biting wind ensured it was very much a game of two halves and Carrigdhoun aided by the gale in the opening thirty minutes made good use of their advantages as they built up a seven point interval lead.

First half goals from Julia Mulcahy and Orla Murray inside the opening ten minutes settled Carrigdhoun and with Emma Jordan striking four points and Rebecca Murphy adding one they had 2-5 on the score board. Louise O'Flynn pointed for Avondhu and they grabbed a vital goal five minutes before the break as Becky Ryan finished over the line to cut the deficit to see Avondhu trail 2-5 to 1-1 at the break.

Louise O'Flynn pointed an early free to bring Avondhu within six points of the leaders but when Aisling Moloney kicked the ball to the net Carrigdhoun were nine points

in the clear.

Battling hard to hold their lead Carrigdhoun could find no way past the Avondhu defence, and it took the upright to deny Avondhu the led Bronagh Ganley's shot hitting the post and coming back into play.

Louise O'Flynn levelled matters with four minutes of normal time remaining and it was the same player who pointed a 45 a minute into injury time to give Avondhu the lead for the first time in the contest. Carrigdhoun pressed for an equaliser in

the four minutes of added time, twice they came close to grabbing it shooting wide from close range before the Avondhu defence scramble to safety and held out for victory.

Avondhu's Kallie Hodgson was named player of the tournament.



Siobhan O'Callaghan presents the Player of the Tournament award to Kallie Hodgson of winners of the Interdivisional U16 champions Avondhu.

Avondhu: A Ryan (Newtownshandrum); S Dennehy (Charleville); K Galvin (Milford); E Collins (Mallow); A Twohill (Newtownshandrum); A Barry (C) (Millsstreet); E Madigan (Buttevant); G Sheehy (Milford); M O'Connell (Mallow); D Cagney (Newtownshandrum); L O'Flynn (Milford); K Hodgson (Milford); M Murphy (Millsstreet); R Harrington (Buttevant); B Ryan (Newtownshandrum); Subs: K Sheehan (Millsstreet) for M Murphy (h/t); B Ganley (Mallow) for R Harrington (50); K O'Keefe for K Hodgson (58). **Scorers:** L O'Flynn 0-6 (0-3f, 0-1 45"); K Galvin 2-0; B Ryan 1-0.

Carrigdhoun: K O'Donovan (Ballygarvan); T Scully (Carrigaline); C O'Callaghan (Slabh Rua); T O' Connor (Carrigaline); C Hawkes (Valley Rovers); M Mc Guinness (Tracton); T Crowley (Valley Rovers); A O'Keefe (Carrigaline); E Jordan (C) (Ballinacorney); A Moloney (Courcy Rovers); R Murphy (Ballygarvan); J Mulcahy (Courcy Rovers); M Maguire (Carrigaline); O Murray (Ballinacorney); E Phelan (Carrigaline); Subs: A Keohane (Ballygarvan) for M Mc Guinness (18); A O'Sullivan (Courcy Rovers) for A Keohane (h/t); A Keating (Courcy Rovers) for E Phelan (48); E Harrington (Tracton) for M Harrington (50). **Scorers:** E Jordan 0-4 (0-1f, 0-1 45"); J Mulcahy, O Murray, A Moloney 1-0 each; R Murphy 0-1.

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).



Cork's Marie Costine takes on an Antrim player in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park in 1973.



Fionnula Carr, Down, Camogie (EMC scholarship); Ashley Prendiville, Kerry, Handball; Aoife McLoughney, Tipperary, Camogie; and Orla Cotter, Cork, Camogie; at the presentation of Sports Scholarships at UCC.

Picture: Noll Danton

Cork to host Ashbourne and Purcell Cups at weekend

AN HISTORIC first for camogie next weekend as Cork Institute of Technology play host to both the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions, a first in the history of these two competitions with both being held on the same weekend.

The news was greeted with enthusiasm by participants when arrangements for the weekend's competitions were formally launched on Monday last at CIT. Amongst those at the launch were Barry O'Connor, Registrar of CIT, Joan O'Flynn, president of the Camogie Association, Rose Malone, president Munster Council, Marian McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie board and Lynn Kelly, chairperson Third level Colleges, as well as representatives of the competing colleges and Eddie McGrath representing sponsors Britvic Ireland. Also present were the officers of the CIT Camogie Club, including Charlotte Kearney, chairperson, and Ann Marie Ryan, secretary, as well as officers of the Cork Camogie Board and members of the Cork senior camogie team led by captain Amanda O'Regan.

All speakers spoke of the huge task involved in hosting both competitions over the same weekend and national president Joan O'Flynn expressed the confidence of all speakers.

"It's a huge achievement for CIT to be in a position to host both the Ashbourne and Purcell competitions on the one weekend. The magnificent facilities here in Cork are second to none and I am sure that the organising committee here in CIT, under the guidance of Keith Ricken and Miriam Deasy, will be more than capable of ensuring everything will run smoothly. Its fitting two

such prestigious competitions should be held in the home of the reigning All Ireland senior camogie champions Cork."

The thoughts behind the holding of both competitions on the same weekend is that combined the two will create what will be a festival of camogie with 600 camogie players converging on Cork. Some of the country's top camogie players will be in action from early on Saturday when the first games get underway, and it's expected that the standard of these competitions will probably be of an all time high.

In total 16 teams will descend on Cork Institute of Technology next Saturday and Sunday where the destiny of four trophies will be decided.

Without doubt the cup finals in both the Ashbourne and Purcell are the big ones, while the shield com-

petitions for the losing quarter-finalists in both competitions are equally sought after and every player and team management will be anxious to bring back silverware to their respective institutes.

Over the last two weekends the quarter-finals have taken place and it has come as no surprise to see Ashbourne Cup holders WIT through to the semi-final stages and, on the form shown last weekend, installed as firm favourites to retain their crown, but they will face a tough semi-final test from UCD who relinquished their title last year to WIT. The second semi-final has WIT facing UUJ.

Host CIT will be hoping to make it to the Ashbourne shield final, with Athlone IT providing their semi final opposition, UL meeting NUIG in the second semi-final. The Purcell semi-final will

also provide plenty of action with DIT meeting Mary Immaculate College and Garda College meeting Tralee IT.

Fixtures

Saturday, February 20
Ashbourne Cup Semi Finals
 WIT v UUJ 1.30pm
 UCD v UCC 3.30pm
Ashbourne Shield Semi Finals
 CIT v AIT 11.30am
 UL v NUIG 3pm
Purcell Cup Semi Final
 Tralee IT v Garda College 11am
 DIT v Mary Immaculate 1pm
Purcell Shield Semi Finals
 NUI Maynooth v DCU 12pm
 Trinity v Queens 2pm

Sunday, February 21
Purcell Shield Final 11am
Ashbourne Shield Final 11.30am
Purcell Cup Final 1pm
Ashbourne Cup Final 3pm

All-Ireland winning captain Amanda O'Regan with Lord Mayor Dara Murphy at the All-Ireland champions victory dinner dance at the Ambassador Hotel.



Cork camogie stars celebrate another successful year

CORK Camogie celebrated a successful year on the playing field when they held their victory dinner dance last Friday at the Ambassador Hotel.

Central to the celebrations were the victorious senior team who retained their All Ireland crown and made it back to back titles, while also in attendance were the county minor team who were crowned Munster champions. Among the silverware on display was the O'Duffy cup, the Munster senior championship cup and the Munster minor championship trophy.

Guest of honour were the victorious teams and their mentors, and they were joined by president of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn who addressed the large gathering and was loud in her praise for Cork and their mentors.

"Here in Cork you have set huge standards as a county board, the achievement in having your own camogie pitch is a huge one and a

credit to Cork. It is a tribute to the many great workers you have in Cork for our game and I congratulate you on all your successes, both on and off the playing fields. Your camogie players are the finest in the country and you are one of the few counties fielding two adult teams at inter county level."

Among the guests were Lord Mayor Dara Murphy and Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy, Deputy County Mayor Noel O'Connor, and Jerry O'Sullivan, chairman of the Cork GAA board, and Jerry Walsh of the ladies football board.

Senior captain Amanda O'Regan spoke about her side's achievement and thanked everybody for their efforts during the year. She then made presentations to the selectors Denise Cronin, Lillian Zinkant, Mick O'Regan and coach Frank Flannery, while the county board chairperson Marion McCarthy also made presentations to the backroom teams of both the senior and minor sides.



LEFT: Cork camogie player Lynda O'Connell with her mother Barbara and sisters Barbara and Mary at the victory celebrations for the All-Ireland Camogie champions.

RIGHT: Cork camogie players Lynda O'Connell, Una O'Donoghue, Sara Hayes, Emer O'Farrell and Jenny Duffy with captain Amanda O'Regan at the Ambassador Hotel.



This weekend's camogie results

CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

Offaly got their Division Two national league campaign off to a winning start with a 2-13 to 0-3 victory away to Kilkenny on Sunday afternoon.
 Last year's Junior All-Ireland champions had a commanding 1-6 to 0-0 lead at half-time with Karen Nugent netting a goal in the 5th minute and points coming courtesy of Elaine Damoddy (2), Tina Hanson (2), Arlene Watkins (1) and Nugent.
 Joachim Kelly's side were the more cohesive outfit and found scores easier to come by, Elaine Damoddy added four further points along with Arlene Watkins (0-1), Michelle Gleeson (0-1) and Joan Brady (1-1) - the goal coming moments from full-time. Lucinda Gahan (0-1), Anna Farrell (0-1) and Tara Warren were on target for Kilkenny.
 Claire Grogan led the way for Tipperary with a personal tally of 2-7, 2-5 of which was from open play as they defeated Antrim 2-10 to 0-4 in their opening Division Two encounter on Sunday. Grogan grabbed a goal in the closing stages of each half while Elaine Hough (0-1) and Geraldine Kinane (0-2) also pointed to give the Munster side a convincing win over an Antrim team which had no answer to a superior Tipperary forward line. Rachel McCarty (0-2), Sharon Graham (0-1) pointed for Antrim with Emma McMullin notching up a point from a superbly taken sideline cut. In the remaining Division Two fixture Wexford defeated Waterford 5-8 to 2-7.
 Meath bounced back from last week's defeat to Laois with a hard fought 1-9 to 0-5 victory over Armagh in round two of the Division Three national league.
 Jane Dolan was to the fore contributing 1-7 overall (21%) with Jenny Rispin and Sinead Hackett adding a point each. Armagh's scores came from Bernice Murray (0-2), Joanne Mallon (0-1), Paula Mallon (0-1) and Colette McSorley (0-1). Meanwhile, Laois continued their rich scoring form notching up 3-16 to 0-1 against Dublin at O'Moore Park while Roscommon defeated Kildare 2-5 to 0-7.

CAMOGIE

(All games in CIT grounds)

Saturday: Ashbourne Cup semi-finals: WIT v UUJ, Pitch 1, 1.30pm, (C Egan); UCC v UCD, Pitch 1, 3.30pm, (J Morrissey).
Purcell Cup semi-finals: IT Tralee v Garda College, Pitch 4, 11am, (M O'Kelly); DIT v Mary I, Pitch 4, 1pm, (P Whelan).
Ashbourne Shield semi-finals: CIT v AIT, Pitch 1, 11.30am, (F McNamara); UL v NUIG, Pitch 4, 3pm, (E Browne).
Purcell Shield semi-finals: NUI Maynooth v DCU, Pitch 3, noon, (J O'Leary); Trinity v QUB, Pitch 3, 2pm, (M Sheehan).
Sunday: Purcell Shield final: Pitch 3, 11am, (J O'Leary).
Ashbourne Shield final: Pitch 4, 11.30am, (C Egan).
Purcell Cup final: Pitch 1, 1pm, (M O'Kelly).
Ashbourne Cup final: Pitch 1, 3pm, (J Morrissey).

Avondhu claim U16

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie news

Avondhu
Carrigdhoun

3-6
3-5

THE STRONG wind that blew in Mallow made conditions bitterly cold for the participants as the six divisional U16 sides battled it out for a place in the final.

From 10am games took place and in the finish it was Avondhu and Carrigdhoun who won through to contest the final.

In what was a hectic day's activities at the Mallow complex, the senior hurlers from Limerick and Kerry were busy preparing for the forthcoming national hurling league on pitch one and the camogie players availed of the break to watch proceedings before turning their attentions away from John Meyler's and Justin McCarthy's charges to concentrate on their own game.

It was very much a game of two halves and it was dominated by Carrigdhoun in the opening 30 minutes but in the end Avondhu showed tremendous fighting spirit coming from seven down to retain their title.

Aided by the gale in the opening half Carrigdhoun made good use of possession as they built up an impressive seven-point interval lead.

Goals from Julia Mulcahy and Orla Murray inside the opening 10 minutes settled Carrigdhoun and with the impressive Emma Jordan striking four points and Rebecca Murphy adding one they had 2-5 on the score board.

Avondhu battled against the wind and Louise O'Flynn pointed before they grabbed a goal five minutes to the half-time whistle with Becky Ryan finishing to the net as Carrigdhoun led 2-5 to 1-1 at the break.

Avondhu made a good start to the second half with Louise O'Flynn pointing an early free to bring her side within six points of the leaders but when Aisling Moloney kicked the ball to the net Carrigdhoun were nine points ahead.

With the strong wind in their favour, Avondhu worked hard and coming at the Carrigdhoun defence Louise O'Flynn pointed a free



Treacy Sheehan, chairwoman of the Juvenile Camogie Board presents the Inter-divisional U16 trophy to Avondhu captain Alanna Barry.

Winning a lot of possession they shot five wides in a row before they grabbed two quick goals and inside a minute they had the deficit down to three points. Katie Galvin finding the net twice as the game turned in Avondhu's favour.

Rattling hard to hold their lead Carrigdhoun

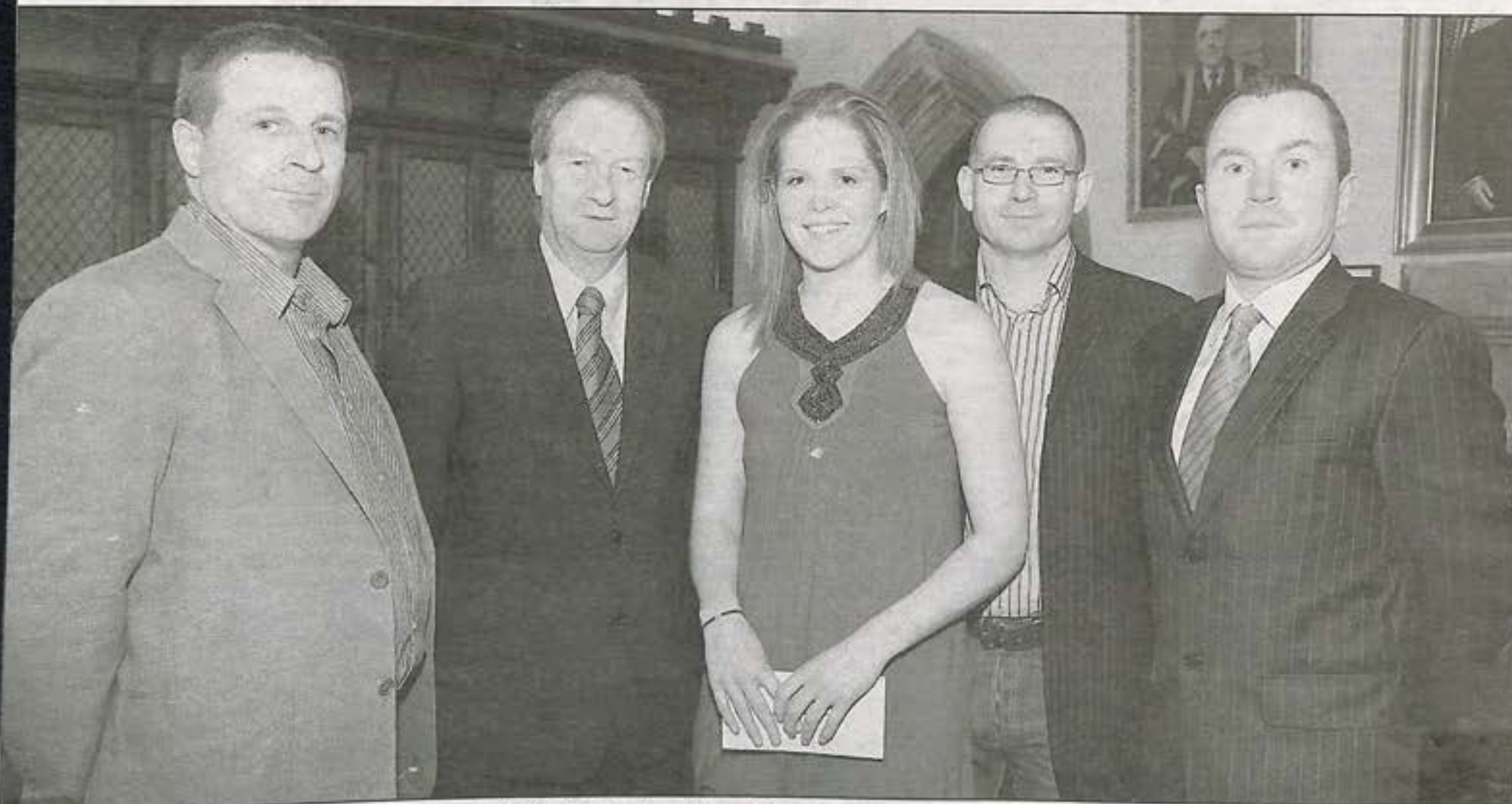
were under enormous pressure and they found it hard to break down the strong Avondhu defence and as they piled on the pressure it took the upright to deny Avondhu the lead, substitute Bronagh Ganley's shot hitting the post and coming back into play.

Louise O'Flynn levelled matters with four

minutes of normal-time remaining and the same player pointed a 45 a minute into injury time to give Avondhu the lead for the first time in the game.

Carrigdhoun battled to get on level in the four minutes of added time twice they shot wide from close range before the Avondhu de-

title in tense finale



John Grainger, GAA Development Officer UCC, Con O'Brien VP Student Experience, Fionnula Carr, Down EMC Scholarship for Camogie, Ross Carr and Bill O'Connell EMC, at the presentation of Sports Scholarships at UCC.

fence scrambled to safety, as they held out for victory as they made it back-to-back titles and retained their crown.

Avondhu's Kallie Hodgkinson was named player of the tournament following impressive displays.

Scorers for Avondhu: L O'Flynn 0-8 (0-3f, 0-1 45), K Galvin 2-0, B Ryan 1-0.

Carrigdhoun: E Jordan 0-4 (0-1f, 0-1 45), J Mulcahy, O Murray, A Moloney 1-0 each, R Murphy 0-1.

AVONDHU: A Ryan (Newtownshandrum); S Dennehy (Charleville); K Galvin (Milford); E Collins (Mallow); A Twohill (Newtownshandrum); A Barry (c) (Milstreet); E Madigan (Buttevant); G Sheehy (Milford); M O'Connell (Mallow); D Cagney (Newtownshandrum); L O'Flynn (Mil-

ford); K Hodgson (Milford); M Murphy (Milstreet); R Harrington (Buttevant); B Ryan (Newtownshandrum).

Subs: K Sheehan (Milstreet) for M Murphy (h-t); B Ganley (Mallow) for R Harrington (50); K O'Keefe for K Hodgson (50).

CARRIGDHOON: K O'Donovan (Ballygarvan); T Scully (Carrigaline); C O'Callaghan (Slabh Rua); T O'Connor (Carrigaline); C Hawkes (Valley Rovers); M McGuinness (Tracton); T Crowley (Valley Rovers); A O'Keefe (Carrigaline); E

Jordan (c) (Ballinacorney); A Moloney (Courcy Rovers); R Murphy (Ballygarvan); J Mulcahy (Courcy Rovers); M Maguire (Carrigaline); O Murray (Ballinacorney); E Phelan (Carrigaline).

Subs: A Keohane (Ballygarvan) for M McGuinness (18); A O'Sullivan (Courcy Rovers) for A Keohane (h-t); A Keating (Courcy Rovers) for E Phelan (46); E Harrington (Tracton) for M Harrington (50).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Down)

Picture: Neil Danton

URSULA JACOB

Making The Grade

Having tasted success at the highest level this WIT Girl is looking for more room in her trophy cabinet.

She won an All-Ireland with Wexford in 2007, but after a few fruitless years in the 3rd Level competition, Ursula Jacob finally won the Ashbourne Cup with Waterford IT last year. Now she's back doing a Masters in Sports Psychology. Keeping her eyes on the prize should not be an issue, she spoke to Fired Up on her experience with the current champions.

HARDYARDS



Name **Ursula Jacob**
 Age **24**
 College **Waterford IT**
 County **Wexford**
 Club **Oulart the Ballagh**
 Position **Full-Forward**
 HONOURS:
 1 All-Ireland SCC,
 2 Leinster SCC,
 1 National League,
 1 Ashbourne Cup,
 1 Freshers All-Ireland,
 1 Leinster Club SCC,
 6 Wexford SCC,
 2 Colleges All-Irelands,
 4 College All-Star Awards.

THE BIG RIVALS

In the last few seasons UCD have set the standard in the Ashbourne Cup, but having lost out to them in the 2008 decider, Waterford IT beat them last year and now are sitting pretty on top of the pile. "There is definitely a big rivalry at the moment between the two teams. Since I was in first year every year we seemed to end up playing UCD at some stage. It was either in the qualifiers, semi-finals or like the last two years, in the final itself. They would have beaten us every time up until last year and that's what made it a sweet victory. They were going for the three-in-a-row at the time as well. No doubt they'll be coming back at us this year even stronger. They have got their old manager, David Kennedy from Tipp, back involved and he was in charge when they won it in 2007 and 2008. That shows they mean business. No doubt they are training away hard, the same as every other team, and they will want to get the trophy back."

THE BEST OF ENEMIES

Ursula has had to put friendships aside in the last two Ashbourne finals as both WIT and UCD have a big Wexford contingent. "It gets hard sometimes when you are with the county and with the college at the same time. You are training with them one night and the next you are trying to get ready to play against them with the college and are planning



THE JACOBS ARE REVERED IN THEIR NATIVE WEXFORD

on beating them. It's tough enough alright. There are three or four Oulart players down here and there were five last year, and there are a good few Wexford girls in UCD and the other colleges as well, so we have even played against club-mates as well. It's not too bad at the moment as we are all concentrating on the Ashbourne so we are only seeing each other now and then with the Wexford training."

SISTER ACT

The Wexford attacker never has to look too far from home if ever in need of some advice as her older sister Helena has been in charge of the Waterford team for a number of years. "She's been over the team for a few years now and is a former player with WIT, she works within the college as an accountant. She mixes the work load with the coaching and does a very professional job with the team. We wouldn't have won it last year if she didn't have us so well prepared. There has been a lot of work done already this year but we know there's a lot to do still. It's not too bad and I'm used to it at this stage although sometimes we'd have the odd row.

But she doesn't favour me in any way and I'm treated the same as any other player. We get on well, although I still don't like it when she has out doing laps!"

GETTING READY

The time is coming near for the trip to Cork and the reigning champs are intent on hanging onto their title and are putting in the hard work. "At this stage all the teams are working hard and just putting the heads down. It's been particularly hard with the bad weather, having to keep things going in training. Still we have to keep working on the skills and we are out running for the fitness work. Everyone is wondering what the other teams are doing as we don't get much of a chance for challenge matches so we'll have to wait and see. There isn't much we can do except focus on the next few weeks, train hard and prepare well. We are playing Cork IT in the qualifiers and we know that will be a tough match. They are the hosts so no doubt they will be wanting to go all the way. We have our work cut out."

A CLUB A PART

Ursula Jacob not only has had to line out against her fellow Model County friends in the Ashbourne Cup, but also her club-mates in recent years. Oulart the Ballagh have dominated the Wexford Championship during the 90s, winning six of the last seven titles. Their status in the county is unquestioned but they also have a big influence in the third level grade. In 2007, Mary Leacy lifted the Ashbourne Cup. In 2008 and 2009 as UCD and WIT went head to head, the club had a big representation once again. WIT's title defence will feature four Oulart the Ballagh players among their ranks showing that they can do it on the national stage and not just for their home club.





Picture Diary WINNING SMILES: The Ballincollig team who were winners of the county B camogie championship at a victory dinner in their club at the weekend.



UP FOR THE CUP: Cork IT team members Julie McGrath and Christine O'Neill at the launch of the Ashbourne & Purcell Cup Finals weekend. CIT host the finals next weekend.

Picture: Neil Danton

FEB 2010

CIT will host a feast of camogie

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie latest

THE countdown began last night as hosts Cork Institute of Technology formally launched the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions for 2010. In the history of these two prestigious intervarsity Camogie Competitions this is the first time that both will be held on the same weekend and it is hoped that having combined the two it will create what will be a festival of camogie as 600 camogie players converge on Cork. And with some of the country's top players in action, it's expected that the standard of these competitions will probably be of an all-time high. In total 16 teams will descend on Cork Institute of Technology on Saturday and Sunday of the weekend February 20-21, where the destiny of four trophies will be decided. The cup finals in both the Ashbourne and Purcell are the big ones while the shield competitions for the losing quarter-finalists in both competitions are equally sought after and every player and team management will be anxious to bring back silverware to their respective institutes. Over the last two weekends the quarter-finals have taken place and it has come as no surprise to see Ashbourne Cup holders WIT through to the semi-final stages and, on the form shown last weekend, installed as firm favourites to retain their crown. Among those in attendance at last night's launch were Barry O'Connor, registrar of CIT; Joan O'Flynn, president of the Camogie Association; Rose Malone, president of the Munster council; Marian McCarthy, chairperson of the Cork Camogie board and Lynn Kelly, chairperson of Third level Colleges and also representatives of the competing colleges and Eddie McGrath, representing sponsors Britvic Ireland. Also present were officers of the CIT Camogie Club, including Charlotte Kearney, chairperson and Ann Marie Ryan, secretary as well as officers of the Cork Camogie Board and members of the Cork senior camogie team, led by Amanda O'Regan. Sports officer at CIT Miriam Deasy welcomed everybody to the launch, where the format and draws for both competitions was announced:

Ashbourne Cup semi-finals: WIT v UUJ, UCD v UCC.
Ashbourne Shield semi-finals: CIT v A IT, UL v NUIG.
Purcell Cup Semi-finals: DIT v Mary I, winners NUIM v ITT v winners DCU v Garda.
Purcell Shield: QUB v TCD, losers NUIM v ITT v losers DCU v Garda.

President's Blog – February 2010

Spring is in the air! The inter-county season has started with the first rounds of the National Leagues.

Recognising Camogie talent

During the last few weeks the talent and abilities of Camogie people received lots of well deserved public recognition. This included:

- Angela and Ann Downey on winning the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sarah Dervan, centre backwith Galway All Ireland Intermediates champions winning Galway GAA's Camogie Player of the Year
- Kay Dunne, Cork Camogie Board and Ballincollig Camogie receiving the Evening Echo Women's Sports Star Hall of Fame Award
- Marion Conway, Roscommon recognised at Connacht GAA Awards
- Ety Kelly, Rita O'Hanlon-Wright and Mary McArthur acknowledged as the 'founding sisters' of London Camogie at its 21st anniversary celebrations last week.
- In early March, Cashel Town Council will give a civic reception to the Cashel Camogie, All Ireland Senior Club Champions.

Provincial changes

There's some personnel changes afoot within the Provincial Councils following the recent Conventions. Catherine Neary Kilkenny takes over as Cathaoirleach from Ray Quigley in Leinster. Rachel Hogan will be in charge of the purse strings there. Briege McGiligan from Derry is the new Runal in Ulster. Marion Conway is Connacht's Runal.

I attended all Conventions which were very successful. Connacht elected Maeve Healy as its new Development Officer. Munster, Ulster and Leinster will fill this position at their meetings. Development Officer is a new role within County Boards and Provinces. It will be vital to delivering on our new national development plan and strengthening links between the clubs, administrators and full time development team.

Camogie Charity Challenge-17th April

The Hope Foundation, which supports women and children in Calcutta, are hosting an innovative event on 17th April at Blackrock Hurling Club in Cork. All Ireland Senior Champions Cork will take on a Rest of Ireland team, managed by Sandy Fitzgibbon, Jack McGrath and John Pender. I attended the Camogie Charity Challenge launch last week, along with Madeleine Cummins from Hope, Amanda O'Regan, 2009 Cork Captain and Marie O'Brien, Blackrock Hurling Club. Great to see our current stars supporting work to give children better life opportunities in India.

Ashbourne and Purcell Cup Finals

The excitement is mounting as the draws for the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup Finals weekend are finalised. Sixteen teams will present themselves in Cork Institute of Technology on weekend 20th/21st February seeking lots of Camogie action and some glory and silverware too. That's up to 400 Camogie players all in the one place! Its got to be the biggest gathering of third level female athletes anywhere in the country this year.

Judging by the professionalism and interest in the launch last week and the outstanding facilities of CIT it should be a memorable weekend. Congratulations to Cathaoirleach Shamóglaigh Ard-Oideachais and CIT on the initiative to unite the Finals and best of luck to all teams.

So, get Valentine's weekend out of the way first! Then put the following weekend in your diary for Ashbourne and Purcell and look forward to seeing you there.

Siohán Ní Fhlóinn
Joan O'Flynn
11 February 2010

Camogie hit by downturn as contest scrapped

by Therese O'Callaghan

CAMOGIE, like many other sports, is feeling the effects of the current economic downturn.

Munster Camogie Council held their annual convention in Cork at the weekend where it was revealed that one of the organisations's main competitions has been taken off the calendar for 2010.

The meeting was told that the Inter Provincial Gael Linn junior championship will not take place this year as provinces were finding it difficult to field teams due "to financial restrictions in the current climate".

The Gael Linn senior competition which was first played for over 50 years ago will go ahead as usual.

Meanwhile, a number of motions were put forward to the meeting which was attended by President Joan O'Flynn and Ard Stiúrthóir Sinead O'Connor.

Among them was a proposal on behalf of Munster Colleges that the wearing of shin pads be mandatory for all Munster Council juvenile competitions (U18 downwards), was adopted into the Bye Laws.

A motion from the Waterford County Board that the runners-up in all All-Ireland finals receive medals was submitted to National Congress.

■ See digest for officers and championship

CAMOGIE

Munster Camogie Convention

Officers: Uachtarán: R Malone, (Cork); Cathaoirleach: M Conroy, (Waterford); Leas Cathaoirleach: E Browne, (Tipperary); Runal: M Graham, (Tipperary); Cisteoir: J Hayden, (Tipperary); Cláradoir: M Kearney, (Cork); PRO: O Considine, (Clare); Delegate to Central Council: M Kearney, (Cork); Trophy Officer: B O'Looney, (Clare); Child Protection: M Skeehan, (Tipperary); Delegate to Central Council, Fixtures: M Graham, (Tipperary).

Championship Draws Senior semi-final (Apr 18th): Tipperary v Waterford; Cork v Clare, Final; May 8th U18 preliminary (April 17th): Cork v Tipperary; Semi-finals (May 11): Clare v Waterford, Cork/Tipperary v Limerick; Final: May 15th U16A semi-finals (July 3rd): Clare v Limerick, Cork v Tipperary, Final: July 18th

National League

Sunday

Division Two (Group 1): Waterford v Wexford, Waterford Venue, (M O'Kelly, Cork); Down v Limerick, Donaghmore Ashbourne, 2.45pm, (K O'Brien, Dublin).

Group 2: Tipperary v Antrim, Halfway Venue TBA, (A Leagus, Kildare); Kilkenny v Offaly, Lisdowney, noon, (A O'Brien, Wexford); Cork v Derry, Halfway Venue TBA, TBA).

Division Three: Kildare v Roscommon, Celbridge, 2pm, (A Lawlor, Westmeath); Laois v Dublin, Laois, Venue TBA, (TBA); Meath v Armagh, Donaghmore Ashbourne, 1pm, (TBA).

Northern star Carr driven to succeed



Therese O'Callaghan

FIONNUALA CARR was always destined for a life in GAA. Her father is Down All-Ireland winning legend Ross and now his 26-year-old daughter is aiming to carve out a name for herself in the list of family honours and achievements this weekend when she lines out for UCC against UCD in college camogie's showpiece, Ashbourne Cup tournament, at Cork IT.

"I arrived in UCC in September to do a Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development," she explained of her move to Cork.

"I had finished my degree in Jordanstown and I wanted to get out of my comfort zone. I didn't know many people in Cork but UCC were so accommodating and went out of their way to help me. I got an EMC-sponsored scholarship. I was always interested in sport. I live in a small village called Hilltown where everything



Down camogie player Fionnuala Carr who will line out this weekend for UCC in the Ashbourne Cup. Picture: Dan Linehan

Ashbourne Cup

revolves around the GAA. Camogie was the only sport when I was growing up. I used to follow my dad to training as I was just learning to walk. It sort of stemmed from there."

There is another twist to today's action as sibling Sara Louise is on the UUJ panel, who meet champions Waterford IT in the first semi-final this afternoon.

So, what happens should they collide in tomorrow's final?

"Sara Louise has been injured since Christmas but she will play

some part. She is a very good full forward. If we meet I will shake her hand at the start and at the end and whatever happens in between happens," she smiles.

"I was at Jordanstown for a long time and loved it. But I'll be playing for UCC. If UUJ win there will be nobody happier for them than me. But, I'd love to win an Ashbourne. I don't know what it is about colleges' camogie but it is different to everyday sport. There's a great bond. You're playing with people your own age and of high quality. I couldn't say nicer things about UCC."

FEB 2010

Terry Dunne dies

THE death has occurred of retired army sergeant Terry Dunne who was involved in the Irish United Nations Veteran Association (IUNVA).

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Dunne passed away at his home in Cork city this morning. He was in his early 70s.

He is survived by his wife Kay, president of Cork Camogie Board.

2010 ASHBOURNE & PURCELL FINALS

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Feb 2010

CIT set to host weekend Ashbourne and Purcell finals

SOME 600 camogie players descend on Cork this weekend as CIT host both the Ashbourne and Purcell competitions.

With the magnificent facilities in CIT, the organising committee, under the guidance of Keith Ricken and Miriam Deasy, are capable of ensuring everything will run smoothly. The thoughts behind the holding of both competitions on the same weekend is that combined, the two will create what will be a festival of camogie as some of the country's top players will be in action from early on Saturday when the first games get under way. It's expected that the standard of these competitions will probably be of an all-time high. The destiny of four trophies will be decided and without doubt the Ashbourne Cup

By MARY NEWMAN

Ashbourne Cup

final is the big one with the Purcell Cup and Ashbourne and Purcell Shield titles also up for grabs.

Cork interest will be firmly focused on UCC and CIT. Unfortunately the hosts will not be battling it out for the cup but their near neighbours UCC will take on UCD in Saturday's Cup semi-final. UCC received a stern test from a strong UL side in their quarter-final clash before two late points finally sealed victory. UCD were denied three in row in last year's final by WIT and they have reached this season's semi-final after a comfortable victory over last year's Ashbourne Shield winners NUIG.

UCD are a strong side that hold

plenty of ability.

Aine Mahony, Denise McGrath and Katie O'Dwyer have been prominent all through their campaign while in defence Sarah Collins, Julie Brien, Leanne Fennelly, Elaine O'Shea will have plenty of work to do if they hope to contain the strong UCC forwards where new Cork senior captain Orla Cotter will lead the attack and it's expected that the duel between Orla Cotter and Kilkenny's Leeann Fennelly will be one of the key match-ups in the game. UCC have a strong line up of inter-county players with Cork's Denise Cronin, Emer White, Denise Leahy and Miriam Crowley, Tipperary's Aoife McLoughney and Jill Horan, and Waterford's Grainne Kenneally who captains the side. UCD have their fair share of inter-county talent and

they will look to Fennelly and Galway star Therese Manton to lead the way.

This is one that will come down to the wire but UCC look the more balanced side and should have enough to get over the line where either holders WIT or UUJ await.

Hosts CIT will be hoping to overcome the challenge of Athlone IT and make it to the Ashbourne Shield final.

They have put in huge work in hosting both competitions and were disappointed to lose out in the cup semi-final to a strong WIT. They will not treat Athlone IT lightly, winners of the Purcell Cup last season, Athlone have lost the services of a lot of that panel and while they were comprehensively defeated as they made their exit from the cup at

the hands of UUJ, they will come to Cork determined to make amends.

CIT will go in as favourites to advance to the final and with inter-county players Elaine O'Riordan, Christine O'Neill, Michelle Browne, Julie McGrath and Denise Luby in their line they should have enough power on home ground to reach the Shield final where it will be either U L or NUIG.

TOMORROW

Ashbourne Cup semi-finals: WIT v UUJ 1.30pm; UCD v UCC 3.30pm.
Ashbourne Shield semi-finals: CIT v AIT 11.30am; U L v NUIG 3pm.
Purcell Cup semi-finals: Tralee IT v Garda College 11am; D T v Mary Immaculate 1pm.
Purcell Shield semi-finals: N U I Maynooth v DCU noon; Trinity V Queens 2pm.
SUNDAY, February 21
Purcell Shield final, 11am.
Ashbourne Shield final 11.30am.
Purcell Cup final 1pm.
Ashbourne Cup final 3pm.

Jacob leads Waterford IT to title victory

Ashbourne Cup final

Waterford IT
UCC

0-11
1-6

by Denis Hurley

WATERFORD IT retained the Ashbourne Cup with two points to spare over UCC in the final at Cork IT yesterday.

Inspired by captain, Wexford star Ursula Jacob; Katie Power; Stacey Redmond and player of the tournament Katrina Parrock, WIT were efficient in most sectors while UCC suffered from an over-reliance on Cork players Orla Cotter and Denise Cronin, though centre-back Fionnuala Carr also put in a solid performance.

Ultimately though, WIT's better

economy from scoring opportunities swung it when it was in the melting pot after Cronin scored a brilliant goal for UCC in the 39th minute.

In a low-scoring first half, WIT led by 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval, Marie O'Neill having the best goal opportunity for them only to be denied by Denise Leahy.

WIT produced a brilliant start to the second-half, however, and points from Parrock, Jacob, Redmond and Karen Kelly extended their lead.

Cronin struck to narrow the gap again though, dispossessing Redmond before soloing from halfway and unleashing a brilliant shot from just outside the 20m line.

When Cronin's midfield partner Jill Horan pointed, there was a point between the sides and it was all to play for, but UCC could not muster an

equaliser. Instead, Parrock responded for WIT and then Jacob won the resultant puck-out and slotted over to put the margin back to three points. After Cotter and Power exchanged points, UCC's Horan had a goal chance but Kristina Kenneally was equal to it and in the end WIT managed to hold out thanks to some good defending.

IN THE Purcell Cup decider, a goal from Noelle Corrigan inside the game's first 30 seconds proved to be the difference as Dublin IT overcame IT Tralee on a scoreline of 1-5 to 0-5.

Despite the early boost of a goal, DIT only managed one other point in the first half as frees from Orlaith Murphy had Tralee level at the break, 1-1 to 0-4. In the second half, however, it was all DIT, Jane Dolan on form with her frees, and afterwards she was awarded player of the tournament.

Collette
Dormer, left,
and Sarah Anne
Fitzgerald, WIT,
celebrate
victory over
UCC.

Picture:
Stephen McCarthy /
SPORTSFILE



In the Ashbourne Shield, UL were 1-10 to 1-4 victors against CIT, while the Purcell Shield saw Queen's University, Belfast beat NUI Maynooth by 1-8 to 0-8.

Scorers for Waterford IT: U Jacob 0-4 (0-2f), M O'Neill, K Parrock 0-2 each, S Redmond, K Power, K Kelly 0-1 each.

UCC: O Cotter 0-4 (0-3f), D Cronin 1-1, J Horan 0-1.
WATERFORD IT: K Kenneally; T Shortt, SA Fitzgerald, K Cotterell; C Dormer, A Dalton, S Redmond; D Gaule, T Jackman; K Power, M O'Neill, K Parrock; K Kelly, U Jacob, M Quilly.
UCC: D Leahy; J Brien, S Collins, E O'Shea; A McNamara, F Carr, M Crowley; J Horan, D Cronin; G Kenneally, O Cotter, T Muldowney, D Fahy, S McGrath, A McLoughney.
Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).

CIT and UCC fail to make Ashbourne finals

while holders WIT had too much strength for UUJ on a 2-10 to 0-3 margin.

The Purcell cup saw DIT record a one point victory over Mary Immaculate College, while Tralee IT had a victory over Garda, who may have been participating in their last Purcell competition due to the fact that there is currently no recruitment into the force. In the Purcell Shield Maynooth had a 0-13 to

1-05 victory over DCU, while Queens booked their place in the final with a 4-9 to 1-3 win over TCD.

And so to the final on Sunday and again sunshine greeted visitors to the CIT complex where proceedings got under way with the Ashbourne Cup final and here despite a huge effort CIT had to give way to a stronger UL side that captured the shield on a 1-10 to 1-4 scoreline.

In the Purcell Shield final just a goal decided the outcome as Queens took the spoils 1-8 to 0-8 over Maynooth. The Purcell Cup final was another close contest as Dublin Institute of Technology edged out Tralee IT 1-08 to 0-5 to life the Purcell.

And so to the big one, the Ashbourne Cup, where UCC battled to dethrone holders WIT. WIT led by a point at the interval 0-3 to 0-2 but

powered by Katrina Parrock, Marie O'Neill and Ursula Jacob they stretched their advantage 0-7 to 0-2, but UCC dug deep and were back within a point, Denise Cronin's long range effort deceiving the WIT keeper to end in the net. WIT replied with two points but UCC with three Orla Cotter points stayed the distance. However, UCC could never draw level and Ursula Jacob stretched the WIT lead to two points as the game entered injury time. UCC battled to grab a goal but the WIT defence stood firm.

Ballincollig's floodlit senior tournament

FOLLOWING on the success of last season's competition, Ballincollig Camogie Club have organised their floodlit senior camogie tournament which will commence on Friday next.

Ballincollig Credit Union have come on board as main sponsors again this year and their continuing support will give the competition a boost and they are to be complimented on their support of the venture.

Present at the launch was Eoin O'Doherty who spoke on behalf of the sponsors.

Ballincollig Camogie club Chairperson Mairead Donovan helped launch the venture at a function at the club and she expressed delight at the organising of the tournament.

The groups are as follows.

Group 1: Cloughduv, Douglas Ballincollig
Group 2: Iniscarra, Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan.

FIXTURES

Friday February 26th:
6.45pm Cloughduv v Douglas,
8pm Glen Rovers v Iniscarra.
Friday March 5
8pm Glen Rovers v Ballygarvan
Douglas v Ballincollig date to be arranged
Friday March 12th:
6.45pm Cloughduv v Ballincollig,
8pm Iniscarra v Ballygarvan.
Friday March 19th: Semi finals
6.45pm and 8pm
Friday March 26th:
6.45pm Plate final,
8pm Tournament Final.

ALL is in readiness for another busy season of underage camogie as the Juvenile camogie board recently passed their gradings for the season ahead.

It has the makings of another busy season as clubs will compete from under 12 to 16 in all grades of leagues.

With fifty nine clubs to cater for there are competitions in grades from A to D to suit every club therefore players can look forward to competing in the grade which is suitable to their abilities.

A suggestion was made that maybe second teams from clubs in the Under 12 age group would compete together in separate section and the juvenile board will be taking this into consideration before finalising their fixture schedule.

Under-12 A six teams
Aghbullogue, Ballinhassig 1, Douglas 1, Valley Rovers 1, St Vincent's, Sarsfields 1.

Under-12 B 14 teams
Ballincollig, Ballyhea, Brian Dillon's, Carrigaline 1, Cloughduv, Eire Og, Iniscarra, Glen Rovers, Kilbrittain Timoleague, Killeagh, Mallow, Milford, Na Piarasigh, Courcy Rovers.

Under-12 C 23 teams
Ballygarvan, Barryroe, Bishopstown, Blackrock, Blarney, Buttevant, Ballinora, Carrigaline 2, Carrigrohilly, Clonakilly, Charleville, Dungourney, Fr O'Neills, Enniskeane, Millstreet, Newtownshandrum, Rockbar, St Finbar's 1, Tracton, Newtownshandrum, Glen Rovers, Kilbrittain Timoleague, Killeagh, Sarsfields, Sliabh Rua, Na Piarasigh.



Juvenile Camogie Board officers Tracy Sheehan and Tina Sheehan with Lord Mayor Dara Murphy and Deputy County Mayor Noel O'Connor at the All-Ireland champions victory celebration.

Under-12 D 23 teams:
Ballinacorra, Ballinhassig 2, Banteer, Bantry, Bandon, Ballinascarty, Carrigaline 3, Castletyons, Cobh, Cill Bri, Douglas 2, Grenagh, St Fanahan's, St Finbar's 2, Sarsfields 2, Valley Rovers 2, Youghal, Watergrasshill, Sarsfields 3, Passage, Bride Rovers, Na Piarasigh 2, Glen Rovers 2.
Under-14 Six teams:
Courcy Rovers, Douglas, Eire Og, Iniscarra, Valley Rovers, Brian Dillon's.
Under-14 B 16 teams:
Ballincollig, Ballinhassig, Ballinora, Blackrock, Carrigaline, Cloughduv, Enniskeane 1, Mallow, Millstreet, Newtownshandrum, Glen Rovers, Kilbrittain Timoleague, Killeagh, Sarsfields, Sliabh Rua, Na Piarasigh.

Under-14 C 20 teams:
Aghbullogue, Ballinascarty Ballyhea, Barryroe, Bishopstown, Blarney, Bride Rovers, Buttevant, Carrigrohilly, Clonakilly, Charleville, Douglas 2, Dungourney, Fr O'Neills, Rockbar, St Finbar's, Tracton St Catherine's, St Vincent's, Milford.
Under-14 D 19 teams:
Ballinacorra, Bandon, Banteer, Bantry, Castletyons, Cobh, Douglas 3, Enniskeane 2, Cill Bri, Grenagh, Kildorrey, St Fanahan's, Sarsfields 2, Youghal, Watergrasshill, Ballygarvan, Newtownshandrum, Passage, St Vincent's 2.

Under-16 A Seven teams:
Ballinhassig, Courcy Rovers, Douglas 1, Iniscarra, Milford, Glen Rovers 1, Valley Rovers.

Under-16 B 18 teams:
Ballincollig, Ballygarvan, Brian Dillon's, Carrigaline, Cloughduv, Eire Og, Enniskeane Mallow, Millstreet, Newtownshandrum, Kilbrittain Timoleague, Killeagh, Sarsfields 1, St Catherine's, Sliabh Rua, Na Piarasigh, St Vincent's 1, Buttevant.

Under-16 C 17 teams:
Aghbullogue, Ballinhassig, Ballinora, Ballyhea, Barryroe, Bishopstown, Blackrock, Blarney, Castletyons, Clonakilly, Charleville, Douglas 2, Fr O'Neills, Rockbar, St Finbar's, Tracton, Newtownshandrum.

Under-16 D 11 teams:
Banteer, Carrigrohilly, Dungourney, Cill Bri, Grenagh, St Fanahan's, Sarsfields 2, Youghal, Watergrasshill, St Vincent's 2, Glen Rovers 2.

2010 Ashbourne Cup

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The 2010 Ashbourne Cup inter-collegiate camogie championship was staged at the Cork IT sports complex in Bishopstown, Cork over the weekend of February 20-21. It was won by Waterford Institute of Technology who defeated University College Cork in the final by two points^[1], a repeat of the pairing and result, though not the margin of victory, of the 1999 final. Player of the tournament was WIT's Katrina Parrock.

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The Final

Waterford led 0-3 to 0-2 at half-time and extended their lead before Denise Cronin's 37th minute goal for UCC, dispossessing Redmond and soloing from halfway and unleashing a shot from just outside the 20m line. WIT saw their lead cut back to a point immediately afterwards but regained the initiative and goalkeeper Kristina Kenneally's late save from Jill Horan secured their victory.

Arrangements

For the first time the Ashbourne Cup, the highest division in collegiate camogie, was played alongside the Purcell Cup, the second division of collegiate competition, bringing 400 collegiate camogie players had been together at one event for the first time in camogie history.^[2]Cork City Council held a reception for the 16 Ashbourne and Purcell Captains before the event on February 19 2010^[3].

Purcell Cup

Dublin Institute of Technology, beaten finalists by a point in 2008, won the Purcell Cup defeating IT Tralee 1-5 to 0-5 in the final. An early goal from Noelle Corrigan proved to be the difference between the teams.^[4] The Purcell Cup quarter-finals threw up an upset when Mary Immaculate defeated Queens University Belfast 1-7 to 0-2. In the semi-finals IT Tralee defeated Garda College 2-10 to 0-2 and Dublin IT defeated Mary Immaculate 3-7 to 2-9.

Purcell Shield

Queens University Belfast won the Purcell Shield defeating NUI Maynooth by 1-8 to 0-8 in the final. In the Purcell Shield semi-finals, played off among the four defeated Purcell Cup quarter-finalists, Maynooth defeated DCU 0-13 to 1-5 and QUB defeated Trinity 4-9 to 1-3.

Purcell Shield Panels

QUB: Laura Quinn, Sarah Louise Henry, Anne McGuigan, Adelle Archibald, Theresa Adams, Kerry Crossey, Maire McGeehan, Claire Laverty, Mairead Short, Claire Dallat (0-1), Keelin Bradley (1-0), Shauna Jordan (Captain) (0-1), Louise McAleese, Collette McSorley (0-6), Ciara Donnelly. Subs Leona Quinn, Breanainn Mullan, Maeve Boyle, Janine McNeill, Brenda Toner, Ciara O'Kane, Eimear Murphy, Kathleen Kieft, Orla O'Neill, Sinead Cassidy NUI Maynooth: Jane Power (Meath), Jackie Doyle (Wexford), Therese Lynn (Kildare), Laura Hogan (Wicklow), Jenna Murphy (Meath), Sarah King (Westmeath), Aisling Newton (Donegal), Annie Kirwin (Dublin), Siobhan Mac Court (Kildare), Aoife Kavanagh (Dublin), Catherine Walsh (Kilkenny) (0-1), Martha Kirwin (Laois) (Captain), Sabine Kennedy (Kildare), Sinead McHugh (Kildare), Maria Divilly (Kildare). Subs Louise Walsh (Kildare) (0-7), Niamh Lyons (Kildare), Sarah Nealon (Kildare), Mariona Tyrell (Kilkenny), Mags Shorthall, Aimee Singleton (Dublin), Emma Carroll (Kilkenny), Ailbhe Rogers (Louth), Laura Newman (Westmeath), Edel Ni Dhunaigh (Dublin)

Ashbourne Cup 2010

Championship Details

Dates Jan 2010 – 21 Feb
Competitors 8
Sponsor

Ashbourne Cup winners

Winners Waterford IT (4th title)
Captain Ursula Jacob
Manager Helena Jacob

Ashbourne Cup Runners-up

Runners-up University College Cork
Captain Grainne Kenneally
Manager Aoife Murray
Matches played 7

FEB 2010

Ashbourne and Purcell All Stars

Ashbourne and Purcell All Stars

Ashbourne All Stars 2010

Elanor Mallon
Mairead Luttrell
Sabrina Larkin
Grainne Stapleton
Collette Dorrer
Fionnuala Carr
Jill Horan
Katrina Parrock
Alison Maguire
Grainne Kenneally
Aine Lyng
Patricia Jackman
Fiona Lafferty
Ursula Jacob
Deirdre Twoomey

UJ
UCD
UL
UCD
WIT
UCC
UCC
WIT
UCD
UCC
UL
WIT
UL
WIT
NUG

Purcell All stars 2010

Martina O'Brien
Karen Mullins
Therese Lynn
Sarah Ryan
Rachel Ruddy
Edwina Keane
Aileen O'Loughlin
Jane Dolan
Paula Kenny
Christine Kenny
Keelin Bradley
Niamh Mulcahy
Shauna Jordan
Collette McSorley
Louise Walsh

IT Tralee
DIT
NUI Maynooth
DIT
Trinity
IT Tralee
DIT
DIT
Garda College
DCU
Queens
Mary I
Queens
Queens
Louise Walsh



Participants

Waterford IT and UCC emerged as the favourites for the competition from an early stage, although University College Dublin ran UCC to one point in the Ashbourne semi-final. The two finalists had several inter-county players among the entrants, from Kilkenny and Cork respectively, including Ann Dalton captain of the Kilkenny team, All Star Katie Power (Kilkenny) and Orla Cotter from the Cork team had played in the 2009 All Ireland final the previous September. The competition is administered by the by the Higher Education (<http://www.ccao.ie/>) committee of the Camogie Association of Ireland.

Results

February 6 Quarter-Final	Waterford IT 4-18 - 0-6	Cork IT	Cork IT
February 3 Quarter-Final	UU Jordanstown 3-19 - 0-3	Athlone IT	Athlone IT
February 6 Quarter-Final	University College Cork 0-11 - 0-9	University of Limerick	Mardyke, Cork
February 6 Quarter-Final	University College Dublin 5-12 - 1-8	NUI Galway	Belfield, University College Dublin
February 20 Semi-Final	University College Cork 0-10 - 0-9	University College Dublin	Cork IT
February 20 Semi-Final	Waterford IT 2-10 - 0-3	UU Jordanstown	Cork IT
2010 Waterford -02- 21 Final U Jacob 0-5, 15:00 K Parrock 0- BST 2, M O'Neill 0-2, K Kelly 0-1, C Raher 0-1.	0-11 - 1-6	University College Cork	Cork IT Attendance: 1,000 Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary) D Cronin 1-0-4, J Horan 0-1.

GK 1	Kristiana Kenneally (Tipperary)
RCB 2	Therese Shortt (Tipperary)
FB 3	Sarah Anne Fitzgerald (Laois)
LCB 4	Kellyanne Cottrell (Kilkenny)
RWB5	Collette Dormer ((Kilkenny)
CB 6	Anne Dalton (Kilkenny)
LWB7	Stacey Redmond (Wexford)
MF 8	Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)
MF 9	Patricia Jackman (Waterford)
RWF10	Katie Power (Kilkenny)
CF 11	Marie O'Neill (Cork) (0-2)
LWF12	Katrina Parrock (Wexford) (0-2)
RCF 13	Karen Kelly (Waterford) (0-1)
	Ursula Jacob (Wexford)] (Captain) (0-5)
FF 14	▼ 37
LCF 15	Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny)
Substitutes:	
	Charlene Raher (Waterford) (0-1)
LCF	▲ 37

GK 1	Denise Leahy (Cork)
RCB 2	Julie Brien (Galway)
FB 3	Sarah Collins (Limerick)
LCB 4	Elaine O'Shea (Kilkenny)
RWB5	Aideen McNamara (Limerick)
CB 6	Fionnuala Carr (Down)
LWB7	Miriam Crowley (Cork)
MF 8	Jill Horan (Tipperary) (0-1)
MF 9	Denise Cronin (Cork) (1-1)
RWF10	Grainne Kenneally (Waterford) (Captain)
CF 11	Orla Cotter (Cork) (0-4)
LWF12	Therese Muldowney (Kilkenny)
RCF 13	Deirdre Fahey (Waterford)
FF 14	Siobhan McGrath (Tipperary)
LCF 15	Aoife McLoughney (Tipperary)

MATCH RULES

- 60 minutes
- Extra Time if scores level
- Maximum of 5 substitutions

Ashbourne Shield

The Ashbourne Shield, played off among the four beaten Ashbourne Cup quarter-finalists, was won by the University of Limerick who defeated Cork IT 1-10 to 1-4 in the final. In the semi-finals Cork IT (8-19) defeated Athlone IT (1-8) and UL (6-9) defeated NUI Galway (0-7).



ASHBOURNE SHEILD

CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Colours: Red and White
 Captain: Charlotte Kearney
 Selectors: Niall O' Mahony and Barry Day
 Sponsor: EMC2

Right: Charlotte Kearney, Captain



NO.	NAME	COURSE	HOME CLUB	COUNTY
1	Lisa Marie O' Mahoney	Design	No Club	Cork
2	Patricia Moloney	Business (Masters)	Barryroe	Cork
3	Christine O'Neill	Recreation Leisure	Coursey Rovers	Cork
4	Aisling O' Keefe	Recreation Leisure	Iniscara	Cork
5	Colleen Long	Business	Newcestown	Cork
6	Julie McGrath	Sustainable Engineering	Cashel	Tipperary
7	Charlotte Kearney	Business	No Club	Cork
8	Elaine O' Riordan	Quality Surveying	Millford	Cork
9	Erin Reidy	OCEL	Newtownshandrum	Cork
10	Shona Cunningham	Mechanical Engineering	Youghal	Cork
11	Ursula Day	Business (Masters)	Fr. O' Neills	Cork
12	Evelyn Ronayne	Culinary Arts	St Catherines	Cork
13	Erin Corkery	Social Care	Eire Og	Cork
14	Denise Luby	BBS	Glen Rovers	Cork
15	Michelle Browne	Recreation Leisure	Mallow	Cork
16	Anne-Marie Ryan	Construction Management	Annacarty	Tipperary
17	Ciarra McKenna	Bio Engineering	Eire Og	Cork
18	Suzanne Lynch	Bio Science	Ballygarvan	Cork
19	Clara Kavanagh	Recreation Leisure	Douglas	Cork
20	Emma O' Reagan	Business	Blarney	Cork
21	Mairéad O' Sullivan	Social Care	Journafulla	Limerick
22	Aoife Doyle	Business Admin	Newtownshandrum	Cork
23	Orla Gleeson	Biomedical Science	Emeralds	Kilkenny
24	Sorcha Fennelly	Culinary Arts	Dicksboro	Kilkenny
25	Aileen Hogan	Accounting	St Catherines	Cork
26	Claire Curley	Culinary Arts	Tallow	Waterford
27	Paula O' Mahoney	Social Care	Slabh Rua	Cork
28	Deirdre Nugent	Social Care	Brick Rangers	Waterford
29	Marykate Mac Grathann	Culinary Arts	Slevenamon	Tipperary

ASHBOURNE CUP FINAL

ASHBOURNE CUP FINAL

Waterford IT 0-11 UCC 1-6

Waterford IT retained the Ashbourne Cup as they had two points to spare over UCC in the final at Cork IT yesterday afternoon.

Inspired by good performances from their captain, Wexford star Ursula Jacob, Katie Power, Stacey Redmond and player of the tournament Katrina Parrock, WIT were efficient in most sectors while UCC suffered from an over-reliance on Cork players Orla Cotter and Denise Cronin, though centre-back Fionnuala Carr also put in a solid performance. Ultimately though, WIT's better economy from scoring opportunities was what swung the game when it was in the melting pot after Cronin scored a brilliant goal for UCC in the 39th minute of the game. In a low-scoring first half, the sides traded blows, and with chances were hard to come by WIT led by 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval, Marie O'Neill having the best goal opportunity for them only to be denied by Denise Leahy. WIT produced a brilliant start to the second half, however, and points from Parrock, Jacob, Redmond and Karen Kelly extended their lead. Cronin struck to narrow the gap again though, dispossessing Redmond before soloing from halfway and unleashing a brilliant shot from just outside the 20m line. When Cronin's midfield partner Jill Horan pointed immediately after, there was a point between the sides and it was all to play for, but UCC could not muster an equaliser. Instead, Parrock responded for WIT and then Jacob won the resultant puckout and slotted over to put the margin back to three points. After Cotter and Power exchanged points, UCC's Horan had a goal chance but Kristina Kenneally was equal to it and in the end WIT managed to hold out thanks to some good defending.

Scorers for Waterford IT: U Jacob 0-4 (0-2f), M O'Neill, K Parrock 0-2 each, S Redmond, K Power, K Kelly 0-1 each.

UCC: O Cotter 0-4 (0-3f), D Cronin 1-1, J Horan 0-1.

WATERFORD IT: K Kenneally; T Shortt, SA Fitzgerald, K Cottrell; C Dorrer, A Dalton, S Redmond; D Gaulo, T Jackman; K Power, M O'Neill, K Parrock; K Kelly, U Jacob, M Quilty.

UCC: D Leahy; J Brien, S Collins, E O'Shea; A McNamara, F Carr, M Crowley; J Horan, D Cronin; G Kenneally, O Cotter, T Muldowney; D Fahy, S McGrath, A McLoughney.

Referee: J Morrissey (Tipperary).



Pictured L to R: Emer O'Farrell, Eimear O'Sullivan, Jenny Duffy

ASHBOURNE CUP

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Colours: Black & Red
 Captain: Grainne Kenneally
 Coach/Selectors: Ray Delaney, Finbarr Bradley, Aoife Murray
 Sponsor: Bank of Ireland

Right: Grainne Kenneally, Captain



NO.	NAME	HOME CLUB	COUNTY
1	Denise Leahy	St. Catherines	Cork
2	Julie Brien	Kilimor	Galway
3	Sarah Collins	Ballygran	Limerick
4	Elaine O'Shea	Windgap	Kilkenny
5	Aideen McNamara	Na Piarisigh	Limerick
6	Fionnuala Carr	Clonduff	Down
7	Miriam Crowley	Bishopstown	Cork
8	Jill Horan	Cashel	Tipperary
9	Denise Cronin	Ballincollig	Cork
10	Grainne Kenneally (Capt)	Lismore	Waterford
11	Orla Cotter	St. Catherines	Cork
12	Therese Muldowney	St Bridgets Ballycallyan	Kilkenny
13	Niamh Goulding	St. Finbarrs	Cork
14	Lucinda Gahan	Mullinavat	Kilkenny
15	Aoife McLoughney	Shannon Rovers	Tipperary
16	Eimear White	Barryroe	Cork
17	Grainne Cronin	Newcestown	Cork
18	Aine Donegan	Bishopstown	Cork
19	Grace Dunphy	St Bridgets Ballycallyan	Kilkenny
20	Deirdre Fahy	An Rinn	Waterford
21	Emma Fitzgerald	St. Annes	Waterford
22	Sharon Hayes	Cashel	Tipperary
23	Siobhan McGrath	Drom-Inch	Tipperary
24	Sadhbh Ni Cheallainigh	Cois Fharraige	Galway
25	Laura Wall	Moocoin	Kilkenny



Pictured at the official launch of Ashbourne '02 on Friday 15th February. L to R: Miriam Deasy (CIT Coach), Paula O'Connor, Nora Aherne (captain), Mairéad Kelly, Valerie O'Keefe (CIT Players), and Keith Ricken (GAA Officer).



"MY BALL" Emer O'Farrell in action against Kilkenny



"BOOO!" Jenny Duffy in action against Kilkenny

FEB 2010

Earlier Cotter move may have saved UCC

WIT
UCC

0-11
1-6

WIT retained the Ashbourne Cup title with two points to spare over UCC in an exciting final at CIT yesterday.

At times it was hard, tough and physical as referee John Morrissey allowed some obvious fouls on both sides go unchecked while blowing for the slightest infringements such as sloppy hand-passes or slight over carrying.

The inconsistency frustrated both players and team management alike but when all was said and done in the finish it was the better balanced WIT who were worthy winners.

UCC showed signs of having come through the tougher of the semi-finals on Saturday where they had to fight to the finish to dispose of the challenge posed by a strong UCD while WIT coasted to victory over UUJ in their semi final outing and were able to afford the luxury of resting some of the big names early in that contest.

Yesterday WIT had many stars, none more so than their captain, Wexford senior Ursula Jacob, who led by example, turning in a superb hour, while Denise Gaule, Ann Dalton and Marie O'Neill were excellent and never relaxed while player of the tournament Katrina Parrock was all over the pitch and worked herself to a standstill as WIT retained college camogie's most prestigious trophy.

UCC gave it everything in quest of victory and contributed enormously to a superb Ashbourne finale. New Cork senior captain Orla Cotter once again turned in a superb performance but one must wonder why UCC chose to line out with Cotter up front for the entire opening half and into the second half as the supply she needed never arrived.

When they moved her to midfield early in the second half she proceeded to drive UCC forward and helped bring them back into a game they looked to be drifting out of.

Centre-back Fionnuala Carr was excellent in defence while Julie Brien, Grainne Kenneally, Jill Horan contributed enormously to UCC quest for the title.

It was nip and tuck in a low scoring first half as the side's traded points and with both defences dominant scores were hard to come by. WIT led by 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval. Ursula Jacob hit a point while Watergrasshill's Marie O'Neill had two on the board for WIT as Denise Cronin and Orla Cotter kept UCC in the hunt.

WIT upped the pace from the restart with points from Katrina Parrock, Ursula Jacob, Karen Kelly and Michelle Quilty extended their lead as UCC struggled to find their feet.

With the game threatening to drift away from them, UCC were granted a lifeline when Denise Cronin grabbed a vital goal and from the puckout Jill Horan pointed and suddenly it was all UCC as now just a point separated the



Julie Brien, left, and Orla Cotter, UCC, show their dejection following their defeat to WIT in the Ashbourne Cup final at CIT yesterday.

Picture: Sportsfile

By MARY NEWMAN

Ashbourne Cup final

sides.

Driven on by the superb Cotter, now operating at midfield, UCC searched for the equaliser but WIT were equal to the challenge. Katrina Parrock hit a superb point and when Jacob won the resultant puckout and slotted over, the margin was back to three points.

UCC were not going to die easily. Orla Cotter and Jacob exchanged points and as UCC kept the pressure on the WIT defence they won frees.

Twice Orla Cotter pointed to cut the margin to a single point as UCC battled to get level but they had to withstand tremendous WIT pressure at the back and from that pressure WIT won a free that Ursula Jacob pointed and the gap was at two as the game entered injury time.

UCC did have a chance to get something back but despite pressure they failed to grab the goal they needed in the added time as WIT held on to make it back-to-back titles.

Hosts CIT must be complimented on their hosting of both the Ashbourne and Purcell Cup and Shield competitions over the weekend. Sixteen colleges were in Cork for what was a historic first with both competitions held at the same venue.

From first throw-in on Saturday at 11am right to Sunday at 3pm everything was spot on — the four everything went to plan with arrangements both on and off the playing fields first class.

CIT's Miriam Deasy, Keith Ricken and Irene Hogan and their superb



Siobhan McGrath, left, and Deirdre Fahey, UCC, in action against Kellyanna Cottrell, WIT in the Ashbourne Cup final at CIT.

Picture: Sportsfile

army of helpers can take a well deserved pat on the back for a job well done, there were many winners and losers over the weekend but the big winner was college camogie.

Scorers for WIT: U Jacob 0-5 (0-2f), M O'Neill, K Parrock 0-2 each, M Quilty, K Kelly 0-1 each.

UCC: O Cotter 0-4 (0-3f), D Cronin 1-1, J Horan 0-1.

WIT: K Kenneally, T Shortt, S A Fitzgerald, K Cottrell, C Dormer, A Dalton, S Redmond, D

Gaule, P Jackman, K Power, M O'Neill, K Parrock, K Kelly, U Jacob (c), M Quilty.

UCC: D Leahy, J Brien, S Collins, E O'Shea, A McNamara, F Carr, M Crowley, J Horan, D Cronin, G Kenneally, O Cotter, T Muldowney, D Fahy, S McGrath, A McLoughney.

Subs: N Goulding for A Mc Loughney (48), S Hayes for T Muldowney (48).

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary).

CIT give Limerick ladies a stern test in shield

UL
CIT

1-10
1-4

THEIR ability to pick off scores from play proved crucial for UL as they overcame hosts CIT to take the Ashbourne Shield title yesterday, but the competition's hosts can be proud of their performance, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Yes, they will be bitterly disappointed at their failure to score from play over the hour but earlier in the season UL had overpowered them in the league and many expected this shield final would be a foregone conclusion but credit the CIT girls who gave it everything they had, but in the end scores on the board count and it was UL who did enough and notched them up at crucial stages.

Michelle Brown pointed early frees to settle CIT but three in a row from Ciara Johnson, Fiona Lafferty and Aine Lyng gave UL the upper hand. CIT hit back as Michelle Brown grabbed a goal, sending a free all the way to the net to restore her side's lead.

CIT battled hard to hold their lead, but inside seven minutes UL were level when Aine Lyng's long-range effort ended up in the net and from here to the half-time whistle, UL tacked on the points. Fiona Lafferty hit one from play, Aine Lyng pointed twice and CIT's reply was a pointed Denise Luby free as they battled to stay in touch and at the break it was UL who led 1-6 to 1-2.

Denise Luby pointed twice in reply to Darina Ryan and Fiona Lafferty strikes as CIT matched UL on the scoreboard.

CIT needed a goal to revitalise their challenge but it never arrived as the UL defence worked hard and defended well.

To their credit, CIT battled hard, but UL strove to put the game beyond their reach in the finish with points from Elaine Haugh and Lyng to seal victory for a UL side that will be the first to admit that they received a much sterner test than they expected from a spirited CIT outfit.

Scorers for UL: A Lyng 1-4 (1-3f), F Lafferty 0-3, E Haugh, D Ryan, C Johnston 0-1 each.

CIT: M Brown 1-1(f), Denise Luby 0-3 (f).

UL: S Vaughan; E Frisby, S Larkin, A Walsh, K Duggan, M Ryan, C Ryan; C Glynn, S Curran; F Lafferty, M Coleman, A Lyng; C Johnson, M Scanlon, D Ryan.

Subs: E Haugh for D Ryan (46), M Walsh for C Ryan (47), U Quinn for C Johnson (55).

CIT: L M O' Mahony; P Moloney, C O'Neill, C Mc Kenna; C Long, J Mc Grath, C Kearney (c); E Reidy, E O' Riordan; S Cunningham, U Day, E Corkery; E Roynane, D Luby, M Browne.

Subs: S Lynch for M Browne (24 inj), M O' Sullivan for E Reidy (40), C Kavanagh for S Cunningham (42), M Browne for U Day (48), U Day for E Roynane (56).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).

UCC lose out in Ashbourne decider

**Ashbourne Cup
Final
WIT 0-11
UCC 1-6**

Waterford IT retained the Ashbourne Cup as they had two points to spare over UCC in the final at Cork IT last weekend.

Inspired by good performances from their captain, Wexford star Ursula Jacob, Katie Power, Stacey Redmond and player of the tournament Katrina Parrock, WIT were efficient in most sectors while UCC suffered from an over-reliance on Cork players Orla Cotter and Denise Cronin, though centre-back Fionnuala Carr also put in a solid performance.

Ultimately though, WIT's better economy from scoring opportunities was what swung the game when it was in the melting pot after Cronin scored a brilliant goal for UCC in the 39th minute of the game.

In a low-scoring first half, the sides traded blows, and with chances were hard to come by WIT led by 0-3

to 0-2 at the interval, Marie O'Neill having the best goal opportunity for them only to be denied by Denise Leahy.

WIT produced a brilliant start to the second half, however, and points from Parrock, Jacob, Redmond and Karen Kelly extended their lead.

Cronin struck to narrow the gap again though, dispossessing Redmond before soloing from halfway and unleashing a brilliant shot from just outside the 20m line.

When Cronin's mid-field partner Jill Horan pointed immediately after, there was a point between the sides and it was all to play for, but UCC could not muster an equaliser.

Instead, Parrock responded for WIT and then Jacob won the resultant puckout and slotted over to put the margin back to three points. After Cotter and Power exchanged points, UCC's Horan had a goal chance but Kristina Kenneally was equal to it and in the end WIT managed to hold out thanks to some good defending.



Slobhan McGrath, and Deirdre Fahey, UCC, in action against Killyanna Cottrell, WIT. Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



St. Thomas' members of the victorious Galway Intermediate Camogie team, from left, Heather Cooney, Caroline Murray, Tracey Murray.

Minam Crowley, UCC, in action against Katie Power, WIT. Ashbourne Cup Final Waterford Institute of Technology v University College Cork. Cork Institute of Technology, Cork. Picture: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



FEB 2010



Ballincollig's Leah Weste, a 2nd B Ed student at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and the current captain of the college camogie team, is presented with a GAA Munster Council Higher Education Bursary 2009/2010 Award by Jimmy O'Gorman, chairman of Munster GAA Council at the recent awards ceremony held in Tailteann. Picture: Press 22

CAMOGIE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Division 2

Down 1-13 (S Coulter 1-0, F Carr 0-8 (0-7)), M Mc Nally, K Tinley, K Mc Mullian, C Mc Clann, N Mallon 0-1 each) Wexford 2-10 (C O'Connor 2-3, S Kehoe, Lisa Bolger 0-2 each, Linda Bolger, B Gordon, E O'Connor 0-1 each). Westmeath 3-3 London 1-7

Terry: A genuine gentleman who will be missed

By DEIRDRE O'REILLY

IT WAS with sincere sadness that the people of Cork learned of the sudden death this week of Terry Dunne.

From Wellington Road, Terry, aged 70, and his beloved wife Kay were valuable members of many associations and charities around the city.

Terry's contribution to life in Cork was invaluable, generous and reliable.

Originally from Piltown, County Kilkenny, he joined the Army in Cork on August 4, 1961. He served for 21 years, which included two tours of duty with United Nations deployments in Cyprus in 1964 and again in 1968.

An Army man to the core, Terry approached everything with precision and organisation, believing in leaving nothing to chance.

Having served with the 12th Battalion in Limerick and the 4th Battalion in Cork, Terry retired from the Army at the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant.

However, he never left the Army behind and was one of the founding members and driving forces behind the United Nations Veterans' Association.

Wearing his blue beret with pride, Terry was totally dedicated to the cause and proudly represented it in any way he could.

Terry Dunne, Wellington Road, Cork

A former secretary of the association, just three weeks ago, Terry was voted president. The honorary position is bestowed on people who have dedicated themselves to its work.

Retired Quartermaster Pat McCarthy, who took over as secretary from Terry, described him as a true gentleman.

"He worked tirelessly and diligently as secretary. He taught me everything I know — I'm only trotting after him," said Pat.

UN veterans came from all over the country to bid a final farewell to Terry and under the instructions of a parade commander, his coffin, which was draped with the tricolour and the United Nations flags, was shouldered by his comrades.

Following his retirement from the Army, Terry took up the position of steward at the Sundays Well Lawn Tennis and Boating Club. He and Kay lived in a house on the club's grounds and, for 10 years, were part and parcel of life there.

Secretary manager of the club and fellow ex-Army man, John Walsh, said Terry was respected by everyone.

"Even though Terry left here 18 years ago, he was still highly regarded and called in for a cup of tea and a chat regularly.

"During his time here, Terry made a huge contribution. He was a lovely gentleman and there weren't too many like him. I knew him for 30 years and I couldn't speak highly enough of him," said John.

Another cause very close to both Terry and Kay's hearts was Marymount Hospice, and wherever there was a fund-raiser, the couple were sure to be there.

Vice-chairman of the fund-raising branch of the hospice, the Friends of St Patrick's, Terry dedicated years of his life to the charity.

Chairperson of the fund-raising committee and friend of Terry, Regina Donnelly, said they were all devastated by his passing.

"Terry was one of life's true gentlemen and I never heard him say anything bad about anyone. He was also a brilliant confidante. You could tell Terry anything and it wouldn't be repeated.

"The fund-raising coffee morning was his baby and it was only last month that he reminded me about it. Terry and Kay have been with us for 14 years and did so much work behind the scenes.

"Terry was everybody's friend, and a friend to everyone. He was the most unassuming and genuine gentleman that was ever put on



A TRUE FRIEND: Tributes to Terry Dunne have underlined his great contribution to the Army, sporting clubs and charities around Cork city.

this earth. People learned a lot from Terry. He always sat in the same chair at our meetings and we will all miss him, and the twinkle in his eye," said Regina.

Terry also gave Kay 100% support in her role as president of the Cork Camogie Board. Just two weeks ago, Terry kept secret the fact that Kay had been chosen as this year's recipient of the Evening Echo Hall of Fame award.

County board PRO Mary Newman said Terry dedicated his life to others.

"Everyone in Cork camogie will miss Terry. We are all saddened by his passing. He was a larger-than-life character and our sympathies go to Kay. No event will be the same without him," said Mary.

As president of the United Nations Veterans' Association and as Kay was president of the Cork Camogie Board, Terry recently joked that not too many houses had two presidents living in them.

His kind nature, generous heart and welcoming and friendly manner will be missed by many.

St. Marys take the Fr. Meachair Cup while Froebel take Shield

St. Marys take the Fr. Meachair Cup while Froebel take Shield

It took St. Marys extra time to shake off the challenge of Dundalk IT to claim the Fr. Meachair Cup. Group B table toppers, St. Marys, also beat 2009 champions Carlow IT in the semi-finals to claim top honours on the day. Froebel beat off the challenge of Coleraine to claim the Fr. Meachair Shield.

Fr. Meachair Championship Results

Group A

Marino 4-04 v Carlow I.T. 1-07

Froebel 3-02 v Carlow I.T. 5-02

Froebel 0-5 v Marino 1-02

Group B

Crumlin 1-01 v Dundalk I.T. 1-04

St. Marys's Belfast 3-04 v Dundalk I.T. 0-02

St. Marys's Belfast 3-05 v Crumlin 3-03

Coleraine 0-0 St. Marys's Belfast 10-04

Coleraine 1-01 Crumlin 2-04

Coleraine 1-01 Dundalk I.T. 3-03

Cup Semi Finals

Marino 2-02 v Dundalk I.T. 2-04

Carlow I.T. 0-0 v St. Marys's Belfast 2-06

Shield Final

Froebel 4-04 v Coleraine 1-0

Cup Final

St. Marys's Belfast 1-06 v Dundalk I.T. 1-04 (AET)



Captain Leacy plans renewed model push

Captain Leacy plans renewed model push

CAMOGIE ROUND-UP

Captain Leacy plans renewed model push

Wexford attacker Una Leacy has vowed to put the crushing disappointment of last season behind her as she prepares to lead her side out against Dublin this Sunday in the opening round of the Division One National Camogie League.

Leacy, an All-Star winner in 2007 reveals that a poor run of form plus rigging injuries forced her to re-consider her commitment to the game after the Wexford defeat to Cork in last year's GAA All-Ireland semi-final.

"Our season was really disappointing to be honest. After winning the league we felt that we could push on from there. Against Cork in the All-Ireland semi we were leading at half-time but failed to perform in the second half and they ran out winners by around five points. I was not happy with my own performance at all and this year I want to improve and push on from it and get my playing confidence back again."

It will be very much a family affair for the Oulart-the-Ballagh attacker on Sunday afternoon as older sibling Mary lines out in defence while their mother, Margaret, a nominee on the Camogie Centenary team will be leading the support from the stand.

Former Wexford hurler JJ Doyle takes charge of the side following the departure of 2007 All-Ireland winning manager Stella Sinnott and he welcomes back last weekend's victorious WIT Ashbourne trio Ursula Jacob, Katrina Parrock and Stacey Redmond while twin attackers Una and Lisa Bolger as well as Clara Storey, daughter of Martin, will hope to get their first competitive start.

Meanwhile, last year's All-Ireland finalists Kilkenny face Tipperary on Sunday and manager Ann Downey will hope that the recent Ashbourne and Purcell finals and a raft of post-primary fixtures will not adversely affect her team's opening performance. Jill Horan captains the Tipperary side for the year and they will be anxious to record an early season victory over their close rivals while Galway take on Clare in the remaining Division one fixture.

In a busy weekend for camogie, Division Two action sees Wexford and Galway intermediate sides play Down and Waterford respectively; Tipperary play Kilkenny while Cork take on Antrim. Joachim Kelly's Offaly will hope to record another league victory over northern rivals Derry.

In Division Three, Laois will aim to extend their winning run against Kildare; Roscommon face Meath and Armagh play Dublin. Division Four side Westmeath make the journey to London while Tyrone entertain Carlow in Brocagh.



National Volunteer Award for former president

National Volunteer Award for former president

National Volunteer Award for former president

Former President of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard was recognised for her unstinting dedication to camogie at the 2009

Volunteer in Sports Awards at Farnleigh House yesterday (Thursday, Feb 24).

Liz, who served as Uachtarán of Cumann Camógachta na nGael from 2006 to 2009 was presented with the National

Administrator of the Year Award by Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, Martin Cullen at a special ceremony which included

Olympian Dr. Ronnie Delaney, Irish rugby and Leinster player Malcolm O'Kelly and Dublin footballer Jason Sherlock.

"On behalf of Cumann Camógachta na nGael I would like to congratulate Liz Howard on this award which she has received in recognition of her

work for camogie as president of the Association. Liz continues to give full commitment, enthusiasm and energy to her role as a member of

Central Council of the Association and her continuous dedication to promoting and developing camogie at local and national levels has helped our

sport greatly. I would like to also commend Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Martin Cullen and his department for running this awards

scheme which is a tremendous recognition of the contribution by volunteers to our sports," said Sinéad O'Connor, And Stúrthóir

During her tenure as President of the Association Liz was instrumental in establishing a full-time administrative and games development team

while she also initiated a Strategic Review of the Association, work which is ongoing at present.

The national awards to Volunteers in Irish Sport is an initiative of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism in conjunction with the Federation

of Irish Sports. The awards seek to recognise the voluntary contribution of people across Ireland to sporting clubs and societies. This is the

second time for the awards to be presented- they were previously presented in 2007.



FEB 2010

Cork camogie players

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

PRESIDENT of the Camogie Association Cork native Joan O'Flynn was among the guests as Cork Camogie celebrated a successful year on the playing field.

They held a victory dinner dance and medal presentation at the Ambassador Hotel to celebrate.

Central to the celebrations were the victorious Cork senior team who retained their All-Ireland crown defeating Kilkenny as they made it back-to-back titles.

In the process they secured their sixth title in eight years an impressive statistic given the huge competition that exists.

The night was one of celebration also for the county minor team who were crowned Munster champions and pride of place went to the O'Duffy Cup while the Munster senior championship cup and the Munster minor championship trophy were also on display.

Cork chairperson Marion McCarthy welcomed the large gathering and heaped praise on the victorious teams and she then went on to make presentations to the back-room teams of both the senior and minor sides.

Senior captain Amanda O'Regan spoke about her side's achievement and thanked everybody for their efforts during the year.

She then made presentations to the selectors Denise Cronin, Lillian Zinkant, Mick O'Regan and coach Frank Flannery.

Guest of honour Joan O'Flynn was among those who addressed the large gathering and she was loud in her praise for Cork and the huge amount of work going on in the county and paid tribute to the county's hard-working selection committee.

"Here in Cork you have set huge standards as a county board the achievement in having your own camogie pitch is a huge one and a credit to everybody working to promote camogie in the county."

"It is a tribute to the many great workers you have in Cork for our game and I congratulate you on all your successes both on and off the playing fields."

"Your camogie players are the finest in the country and you are one of the few counties fielding two adult teams at inter county level."

Camogie Association president Joan O'Flynn presented the victorious teams with their medals and everybody present enjoyed the evening that followed.



Lynda O'Connell (third from left) with parents Jerry and Barbara, grandmother Mary Blake, sisters Barbara O'Connell and Mary Kenny and Br Vianney attending the Cork camogie All-Ireland victory dinner.

Picture: Larry Cummins



John and Irene Duffy, Rose Lawn with Jenny Duffy and Lillian Zinkant attending the victory dinner.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Mary O'Connor, Marion Murphy, Sile Burns and Eimear White attending the victory dinner at the Ambassador Hotel.

Picture: Larry Cummins



All-Ireland winning team captain Amanda O'Regan holds the O'Duffy Cup with parents Mick and Christine.

Picture: Larry Cummins

celebrate a great year



Tracy Sheehan, chairperson Juvenile Board; Mary Newman, PRO; Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork County Camogie Board, Amanda O'Regan, team captain; Joan O'Flynn, president Camogie Association; Sile Golden, secretary; Mary McSweeney, treasurer and Noreen Daly, children's officer attending the Cork camogie All-Ireland victory dinner at The Ambassador Hotel.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Shirley Moloney, Rachel Moloney and Joanne O'Callaghan attending the Cork camogie All-Ireland victory dinner.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Denise Cronin and Eimear O'Sullivan attending the Cork camogie dinner at the Ambassador Hotel.

Picture: Larry Cummins

O'Leary will boost Cork's second side

Blitzes will keep the young guns busy

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie news

TOMORROW
National league senior division two: Cork v Antrim, Trim, 2.30pm. **CORK** will get their division two National League campaign off to a start when they take on Antrim tomorrow in Trim.

Because of the Ashbourne Cup commitments, which tied up most of their panel, Cork were unable to field

a side in the opening round against Derry.

Meanwhile, Antrim have been busy in recent weeks preparing for the start of the league having played UCD and Kildare in friendly games and in these outings players such as Rhona Torney, Emma McMullan, Aisling Jackson and Ashling McCaul were to the fore.

A strong Tipperary side which features several current senior players

proved much to good for Antrim in round one of the league where they lost out on a 2-10 to 0-4 score line and they will be hoping for an improved display this time out.

Big name players such as Raquel McCarry and Aisling Ward will be expected to provide the main threats up front to Cork.

The Cork side will feature several of last season's line out amongst them Jessica Kavanagh, Marion Jagoe,

Leah Weste Christine O'Neill and Denise Luby.

Good news for the Rebels is the return to the country from a stint abroad of former senior player Jennifer O'Leary, who is now eligible again to line out for the division two team, while players such as Lydia Cunningham, Linda Dorgan and Michelle Hegarty have joined the panel this year to give it a strong look.

THE annual Walsh Traders Ballinhassig Indoor tournament gets under way this weekend. The U11s play today while the focus of attention will switch to the U12s tomorrow and there is also a special slot for the U9 players.

Both the U11 and 12 competitions will be played on a five-a-side basis and will be confined to panels of 10 players from each club. Each competition is divided in two sections with four teams in each section. Games will be of eight minutes duration with no half-time.

The top two teams in each section will play in the semi-final of the cup while the third and fourth placed teams will contest the shield semi-finals.

Action gets underway on both days at 11am and will continue to the 3pm and 3.15pm when the finals are due to take place. An U9 fun blitz will be a seven-a-side game, played six minutes a half and the emphasis here is that the U9 is not competitive but for enjoyment with all the participants presented with medals irrespective of the result of the games.

Organiser of the tournament is Ballinhassig senior player Maggie Collins who has everything organised and ready to go with plenty of help and support from all sections of the Ballinhassig camogie club and its members. Meanwhile, a new initiative which will see U10 camogie players from Na Piarasigh Glen Rovers, Brian Dillon's and Carrigtwohill take part in a series of fun games on the last Saturday of each month swung into action today as the young aspiring stars head to Na Piarasigh for the first in the series of game.

The idea, to get something off the ground for the very young players came from the Na Piarasigh club.

Under the guidance of Trisha Coleman and Catherine Sloane the club mentors got together and set a date for the series of games to commence.

Na Piarasigh are the host for the first day and each of the other three clubs will host a day for the remaining following three months, the second series of games will be hosted by Glen Rovers on Saturday March 27.

On each day the team will play two games which will of 15-minute-a-side duration. All involved feel it will be a fun way to introduce the children to playing games and again the emphasis is on fun, on the final day each participant will be presented with a medal.



Team captain Amanda O'Regan, Marion McCarthy, chairperson, Cork County Camogie Board, Sara Hayes and 2011 captain, Orla Cotter attending the recent Cork camogie All-Ireland victory dinner at The Ambassador Hotel.



Pictured at the reception for the sides contesting the Purcell and Ashbourne cups. BACK: Faith Noonan Garda College, Siobhán Ní Fhloinn president Camogie Association, Lynn Uí Cheallaigh President CCAO, Cllr Dara Murphy Lord Mayor of Cork. Front Row: Louise Hayes Athlone IT, Leah Weste Mary Immaculate College, Charlotte Kearney CIT and Gráinne Kennealy UCC.



John O'Neill, Marie O'Neill and Ursula Jacob after WIT captured the Ashbourne Cup last week in CIT.

Terry was one of life's true gentlemen

IT WAS with deep regret that we learned early on Tuesday morning of the passing of our dear friend Terry Dunne, husband of county board president Kay, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Terry was a Kilkenny man born and bred yet he was a great and loyal supporter of Cork camogie and was a wonderful back-up to Kay in all her work with Cork camogie, and indeed in the many voluntary and charitable organisations both of them did so much work for.

As recently as two weeks ago Terry joined the Cork senior and minor camogie teams at the Ambassador Hotel as they celebrated a successful season. As always he arrived early in the evening with Kay to the hotel and was busy helping put the finishing touches to everything before everybody arrived. In fact he helped me arrange the photographic display which we assembled in the hall, he helped to pick out and arrange the pictures and as always was in great form. Terry was one of nature's gentlemen, quiet and refined always in the background saying little but a constant support to Kay and her camogie colleagues. He was very proud of her achievement with the county board and indeed many the occasions he stepped into the breach and helped out when the need arose.

To say we in Cork camogie will miss Terry is an understatement. The door in Belgrave Avenue was always open to us all and he always had a huge welcome and a big smile for Kay's many camogie friends, the turnout at his funeral was a testament to the esteem in which he was held by all.

To our president Kay and his extended family, we in Cork camogie extend our sympathy and support at this sad time we will never forget Terry. May He Rest in Peace.



Glanmire Community College who beat Ballincollig to win the Cork Colleges Intermediate C title recently.

O'Brien's high five wins it for Glanmire

Glanmire CC 2-7
Ballincollig CS 0-5

GLANMIRE Community College took the Cork Colleges Intermediate C title when they overcame the challenge of Ballincollig Community School, writes MARY NEWMAN.

In a close opening half Glanmire held the upper hand when Nicole

O'Brien showed her accuracy from frees, pointing three, while Aisling Whooley grabbed a vital goal from play. Sarah Fahy added a point to the Glanmire tally as they led 1-4 to 0-3 at the interval.

For Ballincollig Community School Claire Meaney, Roisin Murray and Siobhán Hutchinson worked hard as they strove to keep pace with the Glanmire School. Glanmire held their advantage through the second half.

Nicole O'Brien pointed twice once

from play and a free while Sarah Fahy was again on target from play as she added a goal to the Glanmire score sheet Aisling Whooley added a point as they continued to hold the upper hand.

Ballincollig worked hard to add to their tally but with the Glanmire defence in good form they found strong resistance.

Despite adding two more points to their tally they failed to breach the Glanmire defence for the vital goal as Glanmire ran out the eventual win-

ners to take the title.

Scorers for Glanmire: N O'Brien: 0-5 (0-4f), A Whooley, S Fahy 1-1 each.

Ballincollig: C Meaney, R Murray 0-2 (0-1f) each, S Hutchinson 0-1 f.

GLANMIRE CC: A Carry, C Cashman, S Gaffey, S Keena, E Meaney, A Murray, T Kerrigan (c); Y O'Callaghan, I Kearney, A Whooley, N O'Brien, S Fahy, K Walsh, S Dooley, L Murphy.

BALLINCOLLIG CC: A Driscoll, G Heffernan, O Boyle, G Hutchinson, R O'Callaghan, C O'Riordan, S Hutchinson, A Barry, C Meaney, E Lynch, A Murphy, R Murray, A Henchinson, O Meaney, A Dennehy.

Sub: J Boyle for G Hutchinson.

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

Camogie club notes

Two were also both involved with the NUIG, over the weekend.

BALLINASCARTY

We are holding a social in Ballinascarty Hall on Friday, March at 10pm.

Music is by Eddie Lee and Cathriona. This night has been organised for your enjoyment and entertainment, it is essential that everyone supports it.

Remember tickets for this dance make a nice gift for family and friends, looking forward to seeing you all on Friday March 5.

GLEN ROVERS

Busy underage section: Last weekend was a busy one for all of our underage players, in what was a busy day on Sunday, our U16 team got proceedings under way in the Glen Field when they met Sarsfields in a friendly game. Immediately afterwards it was the turn of our U14 squad as they played Blackrock, both clubs and ourselves enjoyed the work out as everybody strives to get back into competitive action.

Early on Sunday morning a steady troop of our very young players assembled for the first trip of the new season and they headed off to St Finbarr's where they played games on the

Astro turf against our hosts.

Everybody enjoyed the trip and the game and we say a big thanks to the BARRs, hopefully they will make the journey to visit us shortly for another day of camogie for our very young members who are improving with every outing.

Any clubs with young player U7 to U11 that are interested in playing games please contact us to arrange same.

It's all go again this weekend as our U10 girls head to Na Piarasigh to participate in the fun blitz which will take place at four different venues on the last Saturday of each month. On Sunday our U12 girls are off to Riverstick to participate in the Ballinacorney indoor tournament. They are meeting at the club at 10am for bus to same.

GOOD LUCK

Today our local school St Aidan's play the colleges final when they meet Carrigrohilly in Carrigrohilly at 4pm. We wish all of our girls and coach Jill Delaney the very best of luck as they strive to bring the trophy back to our parish.

On Sunday Denise Luby, Lydia Cunningham and Michelle Hegarty line out for the Cork division two side that meet Antrim in the National League in Meath and we wish the best of luck to the girls.

New members welcome: A reminder that our underage camogie academy caters for girls from age six upwards. Coaching is held on Tuesday nights from 6pm to 7pm and Sunday

mornings 11.45 to 1pm. Sessions are held indoors if weather is bad, we invite girls to come down and join at any of the time above.

Fundraiser: Our senior team have organised a bowling night at the Planet on Thursday next, March 4. To enter a team costs €50 and this includes finger food as well as bowling.

Anybody entering a team is asked to do so in advance and to contact Sean, 086-1574228, Aileen 087-6833013 or Aoife 086-3766666 to reserve a time slot in advance to avoid waiting around on the night.

Sympathy: Glen Rovers wish to extend our sympathy to county Board president Kay Dunne on the recent death of her husband Terry, our thoughts are with Kay at this time.

BALLYGARVAN

We celebrated the county junior shield success last season by holding a victory celebration in the Five Mile Inn recently.

Club chairman Ollie Hallahan congratulated the girls on obtaining county success and paid tribute to team selectors and to the club committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Team selector Bunny Dunne presented the medals to each of the players who defeated Inniscarra in the final last November.

ST FINBARR'S

OVER 100 girls attended our inaugural third and fourth class camogie blitz on St Finbarr's Astroturf last Wednesday. Students from Gaelscoil Uí Riada, Glasheen Girls School, Togher Girls School, Gaelscoil An Teaghlaigh Naofa, Greenmount NS and Christ the King Girls NS assembled at 12.30 and each team of 10 aside played four matches between 1 and 2pm.

A medal presentation to all the participants followed along with some light refreshments. The blitz was well supported by teachers and parents who helped their respective schools ferry the girls to and from the event. Their first reaction was to compliment St Finbarr's on their impressive astroturf. Over the past couple of weeks members of the organising committee have been contacting and visiting schools to encourage participation in the blitz.

We were delighted to see the level of interest and hard work being put into preparing the girls.

After the blitz, some of the girls and their teachers asked when we would be running our next blitz and other schools who were unable to field a team have committed to participating next time around.

We are hoping that all this activity will promote Camogie within the schools and that some of the girls might consider joining St Finbarr's on Saturdays for training.

We would like to thank the schools, their

teachers who attended and those who prepared the girls, the parents and our own committee members, who gave up their lunch breaks etc, to come and help run a very successful event.

Saturday training continues this week, on the Astroturf, with girls U6 to U10 at 11.45 to 1pm and U11s at 1 to 2pm. Any girls interested in joining this training session are always welcome, especially in the U9 category.

Thank you to the Glen Rovers who turned up in impressive numbers for some friendly games on St Finbarr's astroturf, last Sunday. Thank you to all the parents and mentors who travelled and helped create a fun friendly atmosphere for the girls.

ST CATHERINE'S

Last weekend saw the conclusion of this year's Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions. St Catherine's were well represented with many players involved with different colleges.

Congratulations to Andrea Mangan, who was part of the successful Ashbourne cup winners WIT and to her St Catherine's team-mates, Orla Cotter and Denise Leahy, who were on the losing UCC side.

Carolyn Motherway was on the UL panel who won the Shield while Aileen Hogan and Evelyn Roynane were involved with the losing CIT side.

Jill Hurley lined out with 1 TT in the Purcell Cup final while Orna Neville played with MIC in the same competition. Denise and Deirdre

Galway camogie manager with Midas touch

ANYONE who has been following Galway senior camogie in the last number of years will tell you if that there has been one fundamental element the Tribeswomen have been sadly lacking, it has been that little bit of luck.

Well, that is something they hope to rectify this year with the appointment of Noel Finn, a man who has led Galway to three All-Ireland titles between junior and intermediate on the three previous occasions he was involved in the county camogie set-up.

It may be unfair to put Finn's significant All-Ireland title haul simply down to luck – there are few who work harder for the cause – but, certainly, he is the first to acknowledge that there are times when you have to unashamedly flirt with the fair Lady.

"I suppose I have (been a lucky manager), but you make your own luck too," insists Finn. "It is great winning the three All-Irelands the three years that I was there, but having said that you can't do it without the players."

"As I always said, there are loads and loads of great camogie players in Galway and it is no different this year. But, yes, I suppose you do need a bit of luck as well. If you don't have a bit of luck, well..." Finn's voice trails off. It can be a fine line.

His assessment, though, that you make your own luck is just

TALKING SPORT



STEPHEN GLENNON

Lucky Finn hoping to increase his All-Ireland haul with county's seniors

as pertinent. In guiding the Galway juniors to National League, Connacht and All-Ireland success in 2003, Finn left little to chance. It was the same in 2004, when he coaxed the same team to annex the All-Ireland intermediate outfit to their tidy collection of silverware.

Although Finn, having also took charge of the seniors in 2004, was unable to deliver with that team in the top tier – they were defeated by Cork in the semi-final – he did return to the intermediate set-up in the Summer of 2009 to, once again, inspire them to yet another All-Ireland crown.

Yet, what prompted him to return to the fold after an absence of five years? "It was kind of funny. When the U-16s won (the All-Ireland) last year, I

met Ann Kearney (Camogie Board Secretary) and she asked me would I be interested in going back.

"This was May – the intermediate manager (Gerry Flannery) had stood down – and we were out in June, so we had exactly 28 days before we played our first championship match against Clare. So, we had to get the players together," recalls the affable bookmaker.

After assembling a management team of trainer Basil Larkin and selectors Helena Huban of Kinvara, U-16 manager Johnny Kane and Killimordaly's Kevin Kelly, Finn and company began to construct a squad of

'The players are there in Galway to win an All-Ireland senior'

substance and in the group stages his charges accounted for Clare, a strong Wexford side, and a fancied Derry outfit, before taking Tipperary apart in the semi-final. This set up an All-Ireland final meeting with championship favourites Cork.

While it took Galway time to settle to the task in hand in the decider, they did hold a three-point lead as the contest entered injury-time. However, Cork – as Cork do – then hit the Westerners for a goal to earn a 2-9 to 0-15 draw, and force a replay

To be denied the victory in such a fashion, one would have thought that the psychological edge would have been with Cork heading into the replay. Finn and company had other ideas, deciding to "freshen up" their preparations through the acquisition of former Waterford and LIT senior hurling coach, Bertie Sherlock, who has subsequently taken over as team trainer of the senior team this year. It proved a masterstroke.

"I have great admiration for his training, his ball drills and his awareness," says Finn. "He is very, very professional. He wants it done right and he is a perfectionist really. As he says, himself, if you train for an hour, then it should be quality for the hour. Anyone who has come and seen him training, and the girls themselves, they are all very impressed with him."

True to their character, the Galway women – who felt they had left it behind them first day out and desperately want to atone – returned to the battle with plenty of fighting spirit. A goal by Laura Mitchell in the first half lay the foundation, with further majors from Caroline Murray and Aoife Lynskey sealing the 3-10 to 1-5 victory. It capped a fine year for Galway camogie, given the county had already claimed the All-Ireland U-16 title earlier in the year.

Still, the senior title has continually eluded them, and after former Galway captain Liam Donoghue stood down from the



Noel Finn, the new Galway senior camogie team manager.

managerial post, Finn decided to throw his name into the hat and he was duly appointed to the position late last year.

Now, with his restructured management team of Sherlock, Larkin, Huban and former Galway hurler Noel Power (Tommie Larkins), he hopes Galway senior camogie can put behind it the heartbreaks and disappointments of recent years, particularly their All-Ireland final loss to Cork in 2008 and a heart-breaking semi-final defeat to

Kilkenny last year.

"It is a new year, a new management and a new beginning," says Finn. "I just think let the last two years be forgotten about, and let's move on. It is fresh ideas we need now. We need to look to the future, rather than looking back. The players are there in Galway to win an All-Ireland senior, but saying that we need to take it just one step at a time."

"We will start off with the league and try to build momen-

tum there. If we can, we will try to win the league, because winning builds confidence. I know they have suffered heartbreak the last couple of years, but they just need to forget about that and move on. This is a new year."

Firmly believing his charges can bounce back, he has nothing but praise for their early season dedication. "We are very happy with them. Their commitment and effort is super. Training is going very well and we couldn't be happier. They want to win an All-Ireland and, hopefully, we will do that this year. However, there is a long journey ahead of us."

In the group stages of the National League, Galway will face Clare, Wexford and Dublin, with the top two in the group qualifying for the semi-finals. That should be well within Galway's capacity and, after that, who knows?

The All-Ireland series, meanwhile, has reverted to the system where every senior team will play each other in the round-robin stages. "We have a tough schedule in the championship," continues Finn. "We are out six Saturdays, one after the other, starting on June 12. We have no break. It is going to be tough on the girls in fairness. If you get injuries, you haven't a lot of time to prepare them for the following Saturday."

Indeed. Consequently, it may be then that Finn's courtship of Lady Luck may need to recommence.

CAMOGIE
National League Div 1: Galway 3-18 Clare 1-5; Wexford 2-17 Dublin 0-6; Kilkenny 5-8 Tipperary 0-11; Div 2: Down 1-13 Wexford 2-10; Wexford 3-3 London 1-7; Galway 2-10 Waterford 2-7; Div 3: Sligo 1-15 Roscommon 2-10; Lough 4-11 Kildare 2-4; Armagh 4-13 Dublin 0-3; Div 4: Tyrone 4-12 Carlow 0-7.

2nd Level Results & Fixtures

Senior C Semi Final Replay

Baughey Community College 5-06 v 0-06 St Louis Grammar School Kildare

Junior A Semi Finals

St Josephs Borrisokane 5-09 v 0-12 St Brigid's Longhena

Loreto Kilkenny 3-06 v 2-07 St Patrick's Maynooth

Junior B Semi Finals

St Flannan's Ennis 5-12 v 0-00 Henry Ballinacree

Junior C Semi Finals

Presbyterian Thurles 8-16 v 0-01 St Mac Dara's Templeogue

Greennan College Thomastown 3-04 v 2-05 St Columba High School Drogheda

UP COMING FIXTURES

Sat 6th March

Junior B Semi Final

Presbyterian Kilkenny v St Louis Grammar School Ballinacree

Romden Park Kilkenny @ 12.00pm, Ref John Morrissey

Senior A Final

Blackwater Community School Limerick v Loreto Kilkenny

Artisanan GAA Pitch @ 3pm, Ref John O Leary

Senior B Final

Borris Vocational School Carlow v Coláiste Choluin Baile an Ombaigh

Cahir GAA Pitch @ 4pm, Ref Willie Barrett

Senior C Final

Presbyterian College Thurles v Baughey Community College

Verue TBC, Ref Mike O Leary

Tough opening match for Banner County

**Sports Editor
Seamus Hayes**

ST Joseph's, Doora-Barefield man Patsy Fahy will take charge of the Clare senior camogie team for the first time in a competitive game when they travel to Athenry on Sunday to play Galway in the opening round of this season's national league.

Grouped with Galway, Dublin and Wexford, the Banner County squad have been handed a tough task against such experienced opposition.

"I will know a lot more on Sunday about what is ahead of us this year. Galway would be in the top four in senior camogie, along with Kilkenny, Cork and Tipperary, so we know that we have a difficult task but we have trained well and we are looking forward to the game," Fahy said this week.

Clare will face their neighbours without Dee Corcoran, Aoife Ryan, Denise Lynch and Laura Linnane, who have indicated that they will not be playing this year.

"We will have a relatively young team on duty on Sunday but we also

have some experienced players in the squad," the team boss said this week.

These include Siobhán Lafferty, who is likely to be at full-back, Kate Lynch and Chloe Morey, who are expected to be in the half-back line, Deirdre Murphy, Shónagh Enright and Newmarket duo Sharon McMahon and Ruth Kaiser.

Fahy, whose backroom team includes Eamonn O'Loughlin (St Joseph's), Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilnamona), Tom Hogan (Kilmaley) and Ger O'Halloran (Clooney-Quin) is impressed with the form of

the young players.

"The minor team of the past few years has been very impressive and there are some great young players coming through. Eimear Considine is part of the squad, while the availability of Naomi Carroll is a huge addition to Clare camogie," he said.

Cratloe girl Naomi Carroll has recently transferred from Limerick club Na Píarsaigh to Sixmilebridge and she has declared for Clare for the coming year.

Like all managers, Fahy has experienced difficulty in getting pitches for training, mainly due to the recent

inclement weather conditions.

"We have a nice bit done but there have been a few interruptions due to a number of girls being involved in the Ashbourne Cup, while there have also been a few injury problems. There is no doubt but that we face a difficult task on Sunday but we are looking forward to the game. We will know a lot more about where we are after this match," according to Fahy.

Clare will play Dublin on Sunday week and will have home advantage for their clash with Wexford a week later.

Fiona in Ashbourne all-star team

KILNAMONA and Clare's Fiona Lafferty helped the University of Limerick to win the Ashbourne Shield title last weekend. She scored two points as the Limerick side defeated Cork IT in the final on a scoreline of 1-10 to 1-4.

Fiona's performances in the competition impressed the Ashbourne all-star selectors, as she was named at wing-forward on the team named at the end of the competition. She is the only Clare player to win a place on the team, which includes players from UUJ, UCD, WIT, UCC, NUIG and UL.

Also included in the UL squad were Susan Vaughan from Ogonnelloe and Mairéad Scanlon from Scariff.

Another Clare player to do well in the third level colleges competitions was Danielle Sheedy from Broadford, who played with IT Tralee, who went down to DIT in the Purcell Cup final. Danielle scored a point in the final but it wasn't enough to prevent the Kerry side from a 1-5 to 0-5 defeat.

DIT had overcome Mary I of Limerick in the semi-final by a single point, where a late rally gave them their narrow win. The Limerick side had Kate Lynch (Kilkishen) and Róisín McMahon (Newmarket) (0-01) in their line-up.



Fiona Lafferty was named at wing-forward on the Ashbourne Cup all-star team.

St Flannan's chase All-Ireland final spot

ST FLANNAN'S College will contest the All-Ireland semi-final of the Junior Colleges B camogie championship on Saturday.

This is the first time that the Ennis college will participate at this stage of the competition. In the recent Munster final, they defeated Coláiste Choilm from Ballincollig in Cork.

Their opponents on Saturday will be St Mary's from Ballinasloe and the game will begin at 1pm at the Éire Óg grounds in Ennis.

The Laura Linnane and Damian Noonan-trained outfit will be looking for big performances from the likes of Suzy O'Shea, Claire McMahon, Alana O'Brien, Aisling Darcy, who captains the side, Rachel Mulcaire, Sarah O'Keefe and Rebecca Culligan as they chase a first All-Ireland final place.

The panel in full is Suzy O'Shea, Claire McMahon, Louise Deloughery, Clodagh Lawlor, Aisling Darcy, Nikki Kaiser, Edel Hehir, Rebecca Culligan, Alana O'Brien, Sinéad O'Keefe, Christina Glynn, Orla Devitt, Kate O'Neill, Shaunnagh O'Brien, Rachel Mulcaire, Ciara Mulcaire, Sarah O'Keefe, Sarah Molloy, Sinéad Quinn, Lauren McGuane, Aoibheann Malone, Chloe McAleer, Aine Meehan, Niamh Daly, Emma Carey, Sally Curragh, Louise Collins, Ruth Collins, Katie Malone, Sophie Hanna and Deirbhile Ryan.

Information night

A CAMOGIE club féile information night, in association with Glór na nGael. Inis will take place on Thursday.

All club secretaries and PROs are urged to attend the meeting at the Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis at 8pm, when Dónal O'Loinsigh of Glór na nGael Inis will give pointers and information.

Injury-free Galway seniors start League programme against neighbours Clare

Cappataggle, Carnmore and Ardahan in their Group B endeavours. The first round of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior championships will take place on the weekend of July 12.

At last weekend's Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions, there was plenty of Galway involvement at the Cork IT GAA grounds. NUJG suffered a heavy loss (6-7 to 0-8) at the hands of UL in the Ashbourne Shield semi-final on Saturday.

Cathy Bowes played a key role for DIT in capturing the Purcell Cup. The Mullagh forward registered four points in DIT's semi-final win over Mary Immaculate College, before adding a further point in Sunday's decider against IT Tralee.

Kiltormer's Clodagh Glynn featured for UL as the Limerick College defeated hosts CIT in the Ashbourne Shield final. Therese Manton and Katie O'Dwyer lined out for UCD in the Ashbourne Cup semi-final, but the Dubliners were defeated by one point by UCC in a thrilling encounter.

Kiltormer's Julie Brien starred at corner back for UCC as they reached the Ashbourne Cup final only to be defeated by favourites Waterford IT in an entertaining climax to the weekend's camogie action.

Paula Kenny, who lined out at midfield for the Garda College, was named on the Purcell team of the tournament.

Reigning County Champions Athenry have been drawn in an extremely tough group for the upcoming senior championship.

Along with Athenry, who are seeking a fifth straight title, Group A also comprises of 2005 County champions Davitts, Mullagh - who were the last side within the county to defeat Athenry - last year's semi-finalists St. Thomas', not forgetting Intermediate Champions Kiltormer, who will have it all to do if they are to avoid a relegation battle.

Group B comprises of 2009 beaten finalists Kiltormer, former All Ireland club winners Pearces, Kilmordaly, Kinvara and Ahacragh. It is a group that also does not lack the competitive edge that is forecast for Group A.

Barring a major upset Kiltormer and Pearces will be favourites to emerge from Group B, while it is anyone's guess as to who will join Athenry in progressing from Group A. If Mullagh get their house in order, one would have to fancy the East Galway outfit as major contenders for the Catherine Donnellan Cup.

Meanwhile, beaten Intermediate finalists Mountbellew/Moylough have been drawn in Group A, consisting of Sarsfields, 2009 Junior Champions Portunna and Meelick-Eyrecoort, while last year's semi-finalists Castlegar will face stiff opposition in

they might be much sharper than us. We have only been together for just over a month. You cannot underestimate any side."

Finn and his new management team of Basil Larkin, Bertie Sherlock, Noel Power and Helena Huban know too well the challenges they will face during the forthcoming year. "It's going to be a tough

year, after the League we have six championship matches to look forward to, which is an incentive for every county to do as well as they possibly can to secure one of those four semi-final spots," Finn added.

The Galway intermediates also begin their quest for honours this Sunday as they face Waterford in Division 2 of the League at the same venue at 2.30 pm while, on Saturday, St. Brigid's Vocational School travel to Tipperary to meet St. Joseph's, Borrisoleigh in the All-Ireland School' Junior A semi-final. On the same day, Ard Scoil Mhuire Ballinasloe play St. Flannan's, Ennis in the All-Ireland Junior B semi-final.

Elsewhere, the draws for the County Senior, Intermediate and Junior championships took place last weekend at the Lough Rea Hotel and Spa.

However Finn was quick to play down any notion that Sunday's encounter is a mere formality. "We cannot underestimate Clare; we have no idea what they have doing in preparation for the League,

Galway will be confident of claiming their first scalp of the 2010 season, having dished out a heavy drubbing to their Banner counterparts during last Summer's championship. Indeed, a spot in the semi-finals is a definite possibility for the squad as they received a favourable draw alongside Clare, Dublin and Wexford in Group A.

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EOGHAN CORMICAN

THE Galway senior camogie side boast a clean bill of health ahead of their National League opener against Clare at Athenry on Sunday (1 pm).

The Tribeswomen start out on February's last Sunday with thoughts of bridging a 14 year gap since their last O'Duffy Cup triumph. For Clare, aspirations will be on a much smaller scale as the Banner women embark on only their second year in the top tier of inter-county camogie.

Speaking on his side's League intentions, team manager Noel Finn said: "Our prerogative is to be hurting as long as we can, the more hurting we get the better. The more competitive matches we get, the more our fitness levels will improve."

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CAMOGIE
WRAP UP