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2010

GALA ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS

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SEPT 2010

GALWAY CAMOGS EDGE PAST CORK

It wasn't pretty on the eye but that won't bother Galway as they edged past Cork, 0-10 to 0-9, in their Gala All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final replay at Semple Stadium and in the process, dashed Cork's three-in-a-row ambitions.

In stark contrast to the drawn game, which yielded 32 scores and was brimful of outstanding passages of play, this game was dour with only seven of the 19 points coming from play.

There was never any flow or pattern to a match that was very stop-start in nature, due to injuries and a plethora of frees, and with neither side giving an inch, space was at an absolute premium.

Both sets of defences had the upper hand, with Sandra Tannian and Regina Glynn outstanding for Galway, while Rena Buckley - who played alongside Mary O'Connor in the Cork's defeat in the All-Ireland ladies football semi-final - was immaculate.

Crucially though, the winners had the upper hand around midfield and it wasn't until Gemma O'Connor was moved to that sector at half time that Cork began to get some joy.

The Leesiders hit the front for the first time in the 53rd minute through Eimear O'Sullivan but crucially, it was Galway who were able to lift it thereafter, Aislinn Connolly converting frees either side of an excellent point off the sod by Breda Hanney.

Sile Burns reduced to deficit to one from a free in the fifth minute of injury time after Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner had had to be alert twice to deny Cork goals.

There was time for one last opportunity to bring the tie to extra time but Gemma O'Connor's free from 65m drifted just to the right of the posts.

Galway led by 0-6 to 0-3 at the interval and were full value for that advantage. Tara Rutledge and Connolly gave them a good start but Cork were level by the 15th minute. O'Sullivan soloing through and striking off the stick before Burns slotted a free.

Three points in five minutes from Connolly, Veronica Curtin and Caroline Murray stretched Noel Finn's team clear before Orla Cotter and Connolly exchanged white flags.

The Tribeswomen might have led by more but for a brilliant reflex save by Aoife Murray in the 29th minute, from a deft one-handed flick by Curtin.

Cork's hopes were dealt a blow when full back Catriona Foley went over on her ankle early on and had to be replaced by Pamela Mackey, with Buckley taking up Foley's station at the edge of the square.

Gemma O'Connor was exerting an influence at midfield though and Burns slotted two frees to leave just the minimum between them.

The unerring Connolly slotted another free for Galway but pointed frees by Burns and Gemma O'Connor followed by O'Sullivan's second white flag edged the Rebels in front.

Galway showed their desire in the remaining 14 minutes (including injury time) however and when Gemma O'Connor's last ditch effort missed the target, the celebrations could begin.

Galway: S Earner, S Tannian, S Dervan, N Kilkenny; R Glynn, AM Hayes, T Manton; E Kilkelly, O Kilkenny; C Murray 0-1, T Maher, B Hanney 0-1; T Rutledge 0-1, V Curtin 0-1, A Connolly 0-6(fs). Subs: J Gill for Murray (45); A Lynskey for Kilkelly (54); L Ryan for Rutledge (60+6)

Cork: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, R Buckley; J Duffy, M O'Connor, G O'Connor 0-1(f); O Cotter 0-1, J

Duffy; J White, E O'Sullivan 0-2, J O'Leary; S Burns 0-5(fs), R Moloney, J Casey. Subs: P Mackey for Foley (35); D Cronin for Moloney (49); K Mackey for Casey (54)

Referee: U Kearney (Armagh)

OFFALY BACK IN JUNIOR FINAL

Offaly hooked their place in a third successive All-Ireland with a hard-fought victory over Derry in the Gala All-Ireland intermediate semi-final at Clones. They will play Wexford in the final, who just edged past Limerick in Ardfinnan.

Last year's junior champions were in fine fettle in the first half and Siobhan Flannery's goal gave them a 1-6 to 0-3 lead at the change of ends.

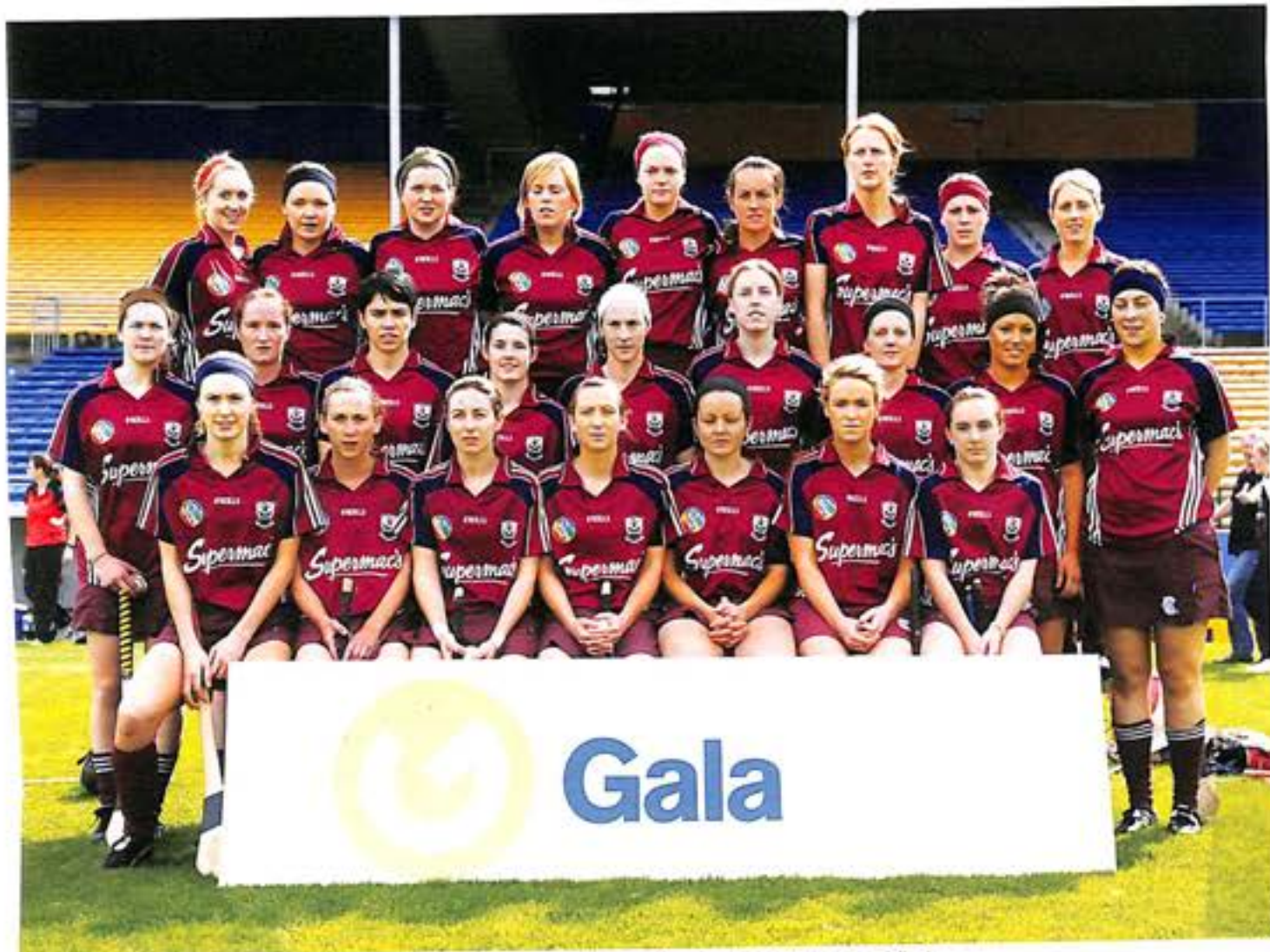
Joachim Kelly's side managed to maintain that advantage for most of the second half, despite the efforts of Karen Kieft - sister of Derry senior footballer James - who slotted 0-4 from frees.

Katie McCauley halved the deficit with a goal at the three-quarter mark but Elaine Dermody responded in kind and also had a penalty saved.

Derry kept plugging away, with young half-back Meabh McGoldrick hitting a brace of points. With the margin down to two, Katie McCauley got on the end of a long delivery late on but her shot was saved by Audrey Kennedy and Offaly held on to win 2-12 to 1-13.

A goal in the very first minute by the outstanding Ciara O'Connor proved the difference as Wexford kept their double dreams alive to win by 1-9 to 0-10. Limerick hit back well with four unanswered points but Wexford did exactly the same to lead by 1-4 to 0-4 at half time.

With Eileen O'Brien Costello adding three points to her first half tally of three, the Shannonsiders were level as they game went into injury time but a free from O'Connor - bringing her personal tally to 1-5 - and a wonderful point on the run from half-way by centre back Louise Codd snatched the honours for Wexford.



The Galway squad which defeated Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final



Joachim Kelly has led Offaly into another junior final

Team boss Finn is focused on Galway's game plan

EOGHAN CORMICAN

FROM eight championship matches they have lost just once, recording stirring victories over the League and All Ireland champions along the way, and still manager Noel Finn insists this current Galway senior camogie side have yet to play to their potential.

"To be quite honest we haven't really played to our potential this year but in saying that we are doing enough to win. If we are to win an All Ireland we need to be at our peak on All Ireland final day. We are getting there slowly but surely. If we go out play well and lose it's no good to us. It's about getting confidence in the jersey. A winning mentality you just can't break that. All year they have grinded out results."

Although Galway are once again forced to plan without the services of the injured Sinead Cahalan and Molly Dunne, former All Star Jessica Gill is almost back to full fitness and if required will be available for call-up from the bench, according to Finn. "She's getting there. We still have Friday's training session so we'll know after that. The girl is doing Trojan work to try to be even back. She's working extremely hard."

The Cappataggle clubman boasts an impeccable CV guiding Galway to All Ireland junior and Intermediate camogie titles in 2003 and 2004 and despite a brief sabbatical from the sideline, Finn returned to the helm last year following the disbandment of the Intermediate management in the aftermath of a dismal league campaign.

Along with a new back-ground team, Finn moulded a fresh panel that cruised to victory over Clare, Wexford and Derry in the group stages. Tipp were easily brushed aside at the semi-final juncture and although it took two attempts, the Tribeswomen eventually triumphed over Cork for the county's second Jack McGrath success.

Consequently, when Liam Donoghue sought not to extend his reign as Galway senior camogie manager, there was only one man for the job. Finn was finally awarded the position his success deserved. The management met with the players back in January with one initial aim-to reach an All Ireland final. Now that they are there, they are determined to take that final step and, in the process, put an end to 14 years without a senior crown.

After coming through an absolute cliff-hanger against Cork in the semi-final, with Galway scraping through on a scoreline of 0-10 to 0-9, the Westerners now face their biggest challenge to date.

"They (Wexford) are League champions and they have done well in the championship. Now I know we beat them in Athenry but when you're down to semi-final, final stage a lot changes. We're there on merit and they're there on merit and whoever wants it the most will win. Rightly so, they should be favourites their form hasn't dipped all season."

"It will help but it will be a different ball game on Sunday. There will be a complete different tempo and the intensity will be a lot higher. Having beaten them is great, but in



The Galway Senior Camogie Management team of Noel Finn, Manager, Noel Power and Helena Huban, selectors, and Bertie Sherlock, trainer.

saying that we need to go out and to do it again. If we win by 0-2 to 0-1 I don't care. I'd rather play bad and win, than

play in a stormer and lose."

Finn agrees that Wexford will attempt to disrupt his side's momentum with their

strong physical style of play. "There is a big difference between Cork and Wexford. Wexford are a more physical

opposition than Cork. Wexford will try to bring you down to their level. We need to be doing the right things this Sun-

day. We need to be moving the ball quick. We need to be working hard."

If there is one area of concern for the Galway manager, it lies in the opposition's full forward line. Wexford's attack is sprinkled with players of genuine class and scoring ability. Appearing in her first All Ireland senior final, Mullagh's Sarah Dervan is entrusted with the unenviable task of stamping out the threat of the championships top scorer to date, Ursula Jacob.

Furthermore, 19 year old St. Ibars corner forward Katrina Parrock is an industrious and wonderfully crafty player, capable of unhinging the most stubborn of defences. That said, Finn is paying little head to Wexford's formidable pair.

"We don't care what they do - if they have two girls in the full forward line and drag a player out the field. All year we have been playing to our strengths and that's what we will do again. We won't be worrying what Wexford are doing. We will be sticking to our own game plan."

Since their defeat to Kilkenny in the League semi-final, the panel have made huge strides to get their championship ambitions back on track. To this, he recognises the expert contributions of team trainer Bertie Sherlock, along with the input of selectors Noel Power and Helena Huban.

"We knew going to Tullamore for the League semi-final that we didn't have enough done. I said to the girls we just mightn't have enough done and we didn't. There's no point winning a league and getting knocked out in the championship. Teams are judged by

the All Irelands they win, not leagues.

"We've worked on hassling, harrying and helping one another out and it showed against Cork. We put them under serious pressures and our girls were there to pick up the breaking ball. You need high intensity and you need to be super fit to be able to do that. Bertie has done a super job with them. He has worked hard all year and you will win noting if you're not fit. We are trying to get belief in the girls not to drop their heads at the vital time."

With 13 survivors from the 2008 match day 25, eight of whom started, Finn is counting on the present Galway outfit to lay the ghosts of that 2-10 to 1-8 defeat firmly to rest.

"We have a lot of girls on the panel who were there in 2008. It probably did help that they got beaten in an All Ireland, they will want to atone for that. You can keep getting to finals but it's about stepping up to the plate on the day and getting the win."

"We have a lot of experienced players like Ronnie (Curtin) and Therese (Maher). I'd love people like Therese Maher who has given Trojan work to Galway camogie to win an All Ireland and I'm delighted she's captain. They know you get one chance and you need to take it."

With Finn at the forefront Galway certainly won't be lacking anything by the way of courage, conviction or focus come Sunday afternoon. All that remains is whether they can close out the deal. Noel Finn has done his job, now it's down to those inside the four white lines to do theirs.

SEPT 2010

Harking back to the camogie glory

SOME will remember the former All-Ireland senior camogie sharpshooter as Martina Harkin. Others will identify her by her married name of Martina Carr. To the rest of us, though, she is simply known as 'Harkie'.

It is hard to believe, given the abundance of talent in the county, that it is 14 years since 'Harkie' and the Galway senior camogie team claimed their one and only O'Duffy Cup. Since then, there have been a number of false dawns, while the years, at least at senior level, have become punctuated by heartache and disappointment. On Sunday, the class of 2010 has the unenviable task of bucking that trend.

To some degree, Galway camogie has lived off the heroics of '96. And why not? Having trailed Cork 1-9 to 1-6 at half-time of the decider, the Tribeswomen produced a second half of guile and purpose to run out deserving winners on a scoreline of 4-8 to 1-15, with Craughwell's Denise Gilligan bagging two goals and Harkin and Dympra Maher netting Galway's third and fourth. It was the county's finest hour.

"When I think about it," begins Harkin, "the first person I met when the whistle was blown was Ronnie (Veronica) Curtin, and we rolled, and we rolled, and we rolled on the ground of Croke Park. We didn't know what was happening."

"Okay, we knew we had won, we knew we had won an All-Ireland medal, but it was just one of those indescribable feelings that I hope these girls get to have a taste of on Sunday. The gap needs to be bridged and we need to get over this dream of '96. Make it a reality now for 2010. Galway's time has come. I definitely think so."

When it comes to camogie, there

TALKING SPORT



STEPHEN GLENNON

Former Galway star Harkin hoping that Tribeswomen can take All-Ireland title

are few more passionate about the game than 'Harkie'. At 35 years of age, she continues to ply her trade with her club, Pearse's - with which she has won eight county and five All-Ireland club titles - and, indeed, in 2009, she returned to the inter-county senior set-up on the back of her outstanding displays with the Galway intermediate team the previous year. What do they say about class being permanent?

In any event, Talking Sport is in the home of the Carr family - Martina is married to Ballinderreen hurler and strength and conditioning coach, Keith Carr - on this Tuesday afternoon. Her four-year-old son Adam, who is to begin his schooling the following day, is outside at play with his next-door neighbours and cousins.

As always, 'Harkie' has a beaming smile and a hearty welcome. One thing you need to know about the former camogie star, she has a wicked sense of humour. Indeed, when asked what have been the main changes she has seen over the years as a player, she laughs: "In '96, we thought the core was

the centre of the earth! Not something that you have to work on for your strength and conditioning!"

Mention of '96, though, brings the memories flooding back. Some, like the victory celebration with Curtin - who continues to line out for the county seniors and will lead the attack on Sunday - remain vivid; others have become a blur.

However, another of her abiding memories was the doing the warm-up drills with Galway coach Tony Ward before the final and just how difficult it was to acclimatise herself to the event and its surroundings. "I remember thinking 'my God, this is tough'."

"I also remember one specific thing where Tony took the forwards aside and he was basically telling us you could drop the hurl and things like that. He said the most important thing when you are in near the goal, if you haven't got the shot, was to use the hand."

"Now, I was the only one of the forwards who couldn't use my hand, of all of them. And he would say 'Harkie, you have to try and get the handpass'. And, ironically, the goal I scored in the All-Ireland final was from the handpass. I ran to him, and I remember him looking at me, with his hands up in the air! And I said, 'I used the handpass!'"

No doubt, moments like those encapsulate the beauty and magic of All-Ireland finals and while the rest of the day, including the presentation of the O'Duffy Cup to captain Imelda Hobbins (or Imelda Mullins as she is now) is sketchy, Harkin says the homecoming was something she will never forget.

"I think of all the memories, the one was Marty Morrissey taking a shine to me!" she laughs. "I remember the team hopping off the bus at the Shannon, on the bridge in

Athlone, and we walked with Marty across. Imelda Hobbins was there with the Cup in her hand, along with, Lord have mercy on him, the late Michael Kennedy. If he was alive today, he would be a very proud person to have two club players on the team, namely the two Kilkennys, Orla and Niamh.

"One last good memory, then, would be Rita Coen and Emer Hardiman, who sang the 'Ha Ha Ha and He He He'. It was a song that they had made up their own words to and it goes something like this..." grins Harkie, as she launches into a version.

Certainly, they were good times, but, for all that, she says she would give an arm and a leg - "I would nearly trade my All-Ireland medal"

They need to tear into it and break down the Wexford defence early

- to play in the Galway jersey in one more All-Ireland final at Croke Park. Understandably, then, she envies the ladies this Sunday.

"My advice, though, would be to those girls, 'leave it all on the field and have no regrets,'" continues the St. Raphael's secondary school teacher. "You hate saying it, but Galway, I reckon, are going in as underdogs. But that is a good thing."

"So, they need to tear into it and break down the Wexford defence early. No doubt, Noel Finn (manager) will have his homework done on certain key (Wexford) players but, at the same time, Galway also need to play their own game. If they do that, hopefully '96 will become a distant memory. It would be fantastic and I would be

absolutely thrilled."

And Harkin firmly believes Galway can do it. She notes the county is riding on the crest of a wave, having won back-to-back All-Ireland U-16 titles and a minor crown - all under mentor Johnny Kane, who Harkin has great time for - in the past year or so and this has helped to give the county fresh impetus.

"I remember when Galway were in the All-Ireland two years ago (2008), I did an interview with TG4's Se6 Sp6irt and I told Se6n B6n (Breathnach) that my heart was with Galway but my head was with Cork. I know hindsight is great, but I was right. This time, though, I think both. I think Galway have what it takes, if they just can keep calm."

She says her Pearse's team-mate, Orla Kilkenny, has been Galway's "most consistent player" in the championship, while forwards such as freetaker Aislinn Connolly, her former team-mate Curtin and young Tara Rutledge have given the Galway attack the necessary direction.

"I think there is more quality in the team now, and I think the potentially good players have stepped up and want to be counted. Therese Maher has been an absolute Trojan for Galway camogie, so for her, I hope she can win that All-Ireland medal before she ends her career."

Then, the likes of Ann Marie Hayes and Brenda Hanney, they have really stepped up and taken the bull by the horns. With a little bit of youthfulness added in to the experience of Maher and Curtin, they are now playing with a bit more passion, a little bit more fire. Like they want it."

She also thinks that it would be "fitting" if Noel Finn was to become the first manager since '96

to lead the seniors to the O'Duffy Cup, particularly as his arrival to the top job and subsequent parting in his initial stint with the team earlier in the decade had caused "ill feeling" in some quarters.

"Noel, though, has learned a lot. He took on the intermediates and had success there with them last year. If you look back at all the manager since Tony Ward, at the end of the day, Noel Finn has been the most successful, winning junior and intermediate titles. So, I think, it would be ironic, yet fitting, if he

was the one to bring the O'Duffy Cup home. I think it would put an awful lot of hurlers on the ditch to rest."

As 'Harkie' says, it is time to put a new picture in the frame. The only things that should remain constant should be the walk up the steps of the Hogan Stand, crossing the bridge of the Shannon, Marty Morrissey... and the 'Ha Ha Ha and He He He'!

To have that song resurrected should be enough of an incentive alone to bring O'Duffy back West.

days of 1996



Pearse's and former Galway All-Ireland senior medal winner, Martina Harkin, believes the Tribeswomen can take home the O'Duffy Cup from Croke Park on Sunday.

Fearless Torney playing on

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

AN Antrim camogie player will defy medical advice when she lines out in Sunday's Gala All-Ireland junior final against Waterford.

23-year-old defender Rhona Torney captained the county to Ulster championship and National League successes two years ago but was told by doctors last year to quit because of a rare heart condition called Long QT Syndrome (LQTS).

The St John's GAC player's problem is a disorder of the heart's electrical activity which can sometimes lead to sudden death but after six months spent on the sideline, the Belfast woman opted to return.

"They told me in July (2009)



Rhona Torney: did not enjoy spell on sidelines.

not to do anything" said Torney. "All I was allowed to do was light exercise but not competitive exercise."

"Last year, as the months went on and I wasn't playing, I had to talk about everything."

"When everyone saw how down I was, they knew it wasn't me. My family didn't want me

to go back and that was hard because obviously, it's them I care about. I was not feeling the best about myself. Everything I do involves camogie."

An operation to place a battery-operated mechanism into her heart would help her condition according to her doctors but they would still not have allowed her to play. After discussions with her family, she returned to training four months ago and is preparing for the biggest game of her life.

"I asked the doctors straight, what was the risk. They said they couldn't say because they hadn't done enough research. But you only get one chance and I might as well do something I enjoy instead of living and having regrets."

SEPT 2010

Galway seniors on brink of ending the All-Ireland famine

Tribeswomen hoping to defy the outsiders tag against Wexford in novel camogie showdown

EOGHAN CORMICAN

GALWAY will look to tear up the history books in their bid to secure only the county's second ever All Ireland senior camogie title when they face 2007 champions Wexford in what promises to be an explosive final encounter at Croke Park on Sunday (4pm).

Considering this is the first time since 1994 that neither Cork nor Tipperary will be involved in deciding the destination of the O'Duffy Cup, the eagerly awaited joust is a truly novel final pairing. A final that brings Galway's total at this level to 14. Only once have they emerged victorious.

Nevertheless, boasting a near clean bill of health, Noel Finn and his management team of Helena Huban, Noel Power and trainer Bertie Sherlock may face a selection headache if Athenry's Jessica Gill returns to full fitness ahead of the final. The full forward was introduced late on against Cork, but the mentors may keep the player in reserve until the need arises in Sunday's proceedings.

Given that the face of the Galway outfit has changed little throughout the summer campaign, it is unlikely to do so at such a crucial stage. Consequently, Galway will retain the backbone of the team that dethroned the treble chasing Rebelettes a fortnight ago.

Meelick/Eyre Court's Susan Earner will continue between the sticks, while the dependable duo of Sandra Tannian and Regina Glynn along with the ever improving Sarah Dervan will stand sentry in the full back line.

Ann Marie Hayes anchors the defence from centre-back, either side of Therese Manton and Niamh Kilkenny. Although a magnificent corner back, the Pearses defender was



Tara Rutledge, Orla Kilkenny and Emma Kilkelly.

rightly moved out to the wing providing the team with an extra dimension going forward.

Emma Kilkelly and Orla Kilkenny will undoubtedly renew a midfield partnership that has served Galway well this summer, with Kilkenny producing arguably the performance of her life in the replay encounter.

The half forward line should comprise of St. Thomas' Caroline Murray, Captain Therese Maher and Brenda Hanney, while inside the prolific Tara Rutledge and Castlegar's Aislinn Connolly will occupy the corner forward berths, with Veronica Curtin holding onto the No.14 jersey.

Finn will be hoping that the Galway half back line and midfield can get the kind of possession grip that they enjoyed in their historic semi-final win in Thurles, for there's enough wile to Veronica Curtin and power in Hanney to turn the screw on the Wexford rearguard. Although at the other end, Wexford will be confident that they too can inflict damage.

Centre-forward Therese Maher, whose battle with Mary Lacey should be one of the intriguing subplots of Sunday's final, will spearhead the attack, ably assisted by Kilmor's Brenda Hanney, both of whom are well capable of finding the target from dis-

tance.

Dead ball specialist Aislinn Connolly has amassed an incredible 3-51 heading into the contest, while experienced sharpshooter Veronica Curtin and Tara Rutledge have tallied 3-14 and 4-7 respectively. The form of Maher and especially Hanney will be crucial to a Galway victory against Wexford.

Orla Kilkenny's advance at midfield has been significant and while the attack has yet to fire on all cylinders, they have still managed to score an average of 18 points a game. If they can replicate that feat on Sunday, it will go along way to ending the county's title drought at senior level. Defensively, the work ethic and commitment has been exceptional, reflected in the team's concession rate which stands at just 12 points per game.

In all, Wexford have contested nine All Ireland finals, and they boast a record of four wins and five losses. Their last win came in 2007, Mary Lacey leading the Slaneysiders to a surprise victory over Cork. Eight of the Wexford side that started against Kilkenny in the semi-final marched behind the brass band on that day. Experience is something they will not be lacking in.

Certainly, their semi-final win was a statement in itself, decorated with flair, skill and electrifying pace from a potent offensive unit. Each of these ingredients contributed to a comfortable 3-12 to 1-11 win over the Cats, ensuring the League Champions' place in the showpiece event. Under the management of J.J. Doyle, they underlined their early season intent with a string of fine victories over Galway, Cork and Wexford to complete back to back League crowns.

In the round robin format, they scored comfortable wins over Dublin (7-25 to 0-3),

while Clare proved stern opposition before succumbing to the Westerners' superiority. Certainly coming through these tight scraps has fostered a winning mentality - evident in the semi-final against Cork.

Indeed, the side's unrelenting drive and belief is a far cry from the mental brittleness that saw them throw away in winning hand in Nowlan Park 12 months ago. In the past, tensing up on the home straight proved Galway's Achilles heel, failing to see out games which they controlled for large periods. That said, there have been plenty of signs throughout a memorable summer for Galway camogie that the current crop has turned a corner in their ability to come out tops in close encounters.

The question remains whether Galway can go the extra mile in their quest to end the 14 year gap without a senior title. If the Wexford hurdle is to be negotiated, then first and foremost their attack has to be closed down. Galway's half back line mustn't get sucked too far out, leaving

plenty of space inside for Katrina Parrock and Ursula Jacob to wreak havoc on Susan Earner's goal. Early green flag openings must be cut out.

Bookmakers have priced Wexford as 8/15 on favourites to win, with Galway afforded a 7/4 outside chance. In any event, next Sunday is the day when the class of 2010 must stand up and be counted. The day when their belief tested and desire severely examined. But as they showed against Cork, they will decide their own destiny. 2008 was about getting back to an All Ireland final. 2010 is about winning one.

There is a general consensus that Wexford will beat Galway for pace about the field and that their forwards will be far livelier than the Tribeswomen attack.

Galway though, will be fiercely determined to complete the treble of camogie titles (U16, minor and senior) and if the match develops into a close low scoring affair, there is every chance that Galway will shade it.

Clare (2-17 to 0-5), Tipperary (2-17 to 0-14) and Kilkenny (2-10 to 0-10), guaranteeing their place in the knockout phase despite losses to Galway and Cork.

Their main striking duo to date has been Ursula Jacob (2-57) and Una Lacey (4-12), with Kate Kelly returning from injury, conjuring 2-2 in the semi-final. They do, however, have other notable contributors in Michelle O'Leary and Captain Una Lacey. Josie Dwyer and Deirdre Codd form a steady midfield unit, but this is unquestionably a sector where Galway will be looking to rule the roost.

Further back the field, full back Catherine O'Loughlin, Karen Atkinson and Mary Lacey operate a frugal rearguard, in front of one of the most consistently solid 'keepers in camogie, Mags D'Arcy. Indeed, Wexford are chasing a unique double on Sunday with the county's Intermediate side in action against Offaly and, as a result, they will have the backing of huge support at headquarters.

Galway's one point win over Cork in the semi-final was all the more impressive taking into account it was a first semi-final triumph for the Tribeswomen over the Leesiders. So was the form displayed earlier in the summer when Kilkenny were the only team to beat them in the championship.

After suffering first round defeat in Nowlan Park, Galway bounced back with wins over Tipperary, Wexford, Cork, Clare and Dublin. The first and latter of these successes were achieved with consummate ease, the remaining however required no little heart, guile and determination.

Just when Wexford appeared set to return to the South East having taking maximum points from Kenny Park, they were rocked back on their heels in amazing fashion when Jessica Gill found the net from a free eighty yards out from goal four minutes into injury time.

Cork were subsequently blown away in Galway's most accomplished showing to date,

'No rocket science' in Finn's bid to end Galway drought

CAMOGIE

Cliona Foley

IT'S been 14 years since Galway last won the title but manager Noel Finn says his charges will be taking a very simple approach to Sunday's Gala All-Ireland senior final against Wexford.

Finn has a pretty amazing managerial record with the Galway girls.

Back in 2003, when he first took over their juniors, they won league and All-Ireland honours.

Finn then moved on to the intermediates, who immediately won an All-Ireland, and when he returned to them last year, they

landed another championship title.

The Killimordaly native arrived with a handful of that intermediate team to freshen up their seniors this season and has immediately led Galway back to their first final in three years after semi-final heartbreaks in 2008 and '09.

Finn's stock has soared particularly because they beat Cork in the semi-final, after a replay - a seemingly indestructible team who were chasing their ninth final appearance, and a third title, in a row.

Yet Finn insists: "It's camogie, not rocket science! Even after drawing with Cork the first day, I wasn't looking at their strengths, or trying to pinpoint their weaknesses.

"If you start worrying about opponents, you just lose the focus on your own game and your own strengths.

"We don't get carried away with all this talk about tactics. Look, it's not rocket science, it's a game of camogie!

"If you play to your strengths and work hard enough, you'll get the result."

Finn says that was proven by last weekend's All-Ireland hurling final.

"Tipp last Sunday were a great example of it; they just hunted in packs and worked their socks off and our team do work hard for each other," he stresses.

"Our first game with Cork was probably one of the matches of the year so far, there was fantastic

intensity and scoring in it.

"I thought we were unlucky enough not to win it," he says of its controversial climax, when Galway felt they should have been awarded a scoreable free that would have sealed it.

In-form veteran Veronica Curtin, the team's only survivor from their last winning side in 1996, bagged two goals in that 3-11 to 1-17 draw.

The replay was in stark contrast, an 0-11 to 0-9 victory for Galway, but Finn has no worries that his team may have peaked for the Cork challenge.

"Matches are better than 10 training sessions: you get that competitive edge and real intensity so I'd have no worries on that score," he says.

Galway have already beaten Wexford this year, in the round-robin stages. That victory was secured in most dramatic style when Jessica Gill came off the bench and goaled with a last-minute free.

One of Galway's stars when they lost the 2008 final, Gill has been confined to a bench role this summer after cruciate surgery, which makes their progress all the more noteworthy.

They have responded really well to Finn's management and he is equally impressed by them.

"They train their three or four nights a week, watch what they eat and have no social lives! It's right up there with the hurling now really," says Finn.

Team captain Maher aiming to atone for many past setbacks

Long serving Galway attacker believes they can topple Wexford rivals in All-Ireland final

EOGHAN CORMICAN

IN camogie quarters, there are few as passionate as Galway Captain Therese Maher. Indeed, there are few as talented who do not lay claim to an All Ireland senior medal. For over a decade or so, she has known little other than heartache, frustration and disappointment when it comes to September's second Sunday.

Despite previous setbacks, Maher is relishing a return to Croke Park, for it's the very reason she's still going strong. Maher's desire to follow in the footsteps of Imelda Hobbins in bringing the O'Duffy Cup west of the Shannon for the first time since 1996 was no more evident in her heroic exploits against Cork.

Instrumental in the creation of all three Galway goals in Nowlan Park first day out, Maher's relentless harrying forced Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan into taking more than the permitted amount of steps in the replay fixture at a time when Galway resembled a side dead on their feet.

The resultant free levelled proceedings. From the ensuing puck-out Maher gathered possession, before releasing the sliotar with a hand pass to Brenda Hanney who registered the lead score for the maroon and white.

Taking this into account and speaking to the former All Ireland minor winning captain ahead of a fourth All Ireland final appearance, it is obvious she is a player who wears her heart on her sleeve. Sister to All Ireland medal holders Dymna and Gretta, the versatile stickwomen was a substitute in 1997, played at midfield the following September and was centre forward in 2008, but left empty handed on all three occasions.

Consequently, Maher is well accustomed with the agony of



Galway captain Therese Maher in full flight during training in Ballinasloe.

defeat. The loss of two years ago proved particularly painful. "The feeling after that match, I don't really remember much only that I walked straight off the pitch, the loss was very hard to deal with because you put your life and soul into that game."

But, as in every walk of life, there were positives to be taken from the experience. Maher alluded to the fact that it was the first time for a large majority of the panel to play in Croke Park, something she hopes will stand them in good stead come throw-in on Sun-

day. "They will learn from the experience as a lot of them had not been there before."

Anxious that Galway grab hold of this latest opportunity to secure the elusive O'Duffy Cup, she is well aware that camogie days in the capital for those west of the Shannon are a rarity. "I was there in 1997/98 and then there was a ten year gap to 2008. I didn't think it would take that long after the win of 1996."

So was there ever a time she considered calling a day on her inter-county career. "Yes. After every loss you tend to wonder

will I ever win one, will I ever get to that All Ireland again? But the winter passes and you dust off your boots and get back into it again. You are part of team so that kind of helps. You say I'll give it one more year but this one is mine," she laughs.

A relatively poor league campaign that ended in such miserable circumstances and subsequent defeat to Kilkenny in the championship pointed towards another barren season without silverware, but Maher affirms it is the end of season form that counts most.

"I wouldn't worry about early on in the year. We gradually improved as the games went on. We kept winning and winning in the championship and that breeds confidence within a team. I think that confidence was evident in the win over Cork. There was a very strong mentality. In the drawn game we were up we were down and for a finish we drew."

"We have that never say die, never give up attitude which is important. Coming through the tight matches we know when our backs are to the wall that we are not going to hang our heads."

Buoyed by their win over Wexford in the round robin contest in Athenry, Maher - winner of four County senior medals - is keenly aware of the threat posed by J.J. Doyle's charges. "They (Wexford) are very strong, very fit, very sharp, very composed on the ball, but I think we are equally as good. We don't mind being the underdogs."

"They were a bit shocked that day they played us in Athenry. Jessie (Gill) came on and we thought the game was over. A long ball went in and we got a goal from it. There were very disappointed coming away from Athenry. Again, we played them in 2008 in the semi-final in an absolutely cracking game that came right

Gala All-Ireland Camogie finals

Tomorrow
Premier Junior

Antrim v Waterford, noon
(D Leahy, Tipperary)

Waterford are out to go one step further than last year, when they were beaten in the decider by Offaly. They held off the challenge of a gritty Meath outfit in the semi-final and can expect more another stern test from Antrim tomorrow. The Saffron girls just edged their All-Ulster semi-final with Down by a point and not for the first time, were left thanking the genius of Jane Adams for their progression. The O'Donovan Rossa star blasted three goals and added five points in that game so Waterford's focus, and in particular that of Shona Curran, is sure to centre on curtailing the threat of the two-time All Star. The Déise will look to Poc Fada champion Trish Jackman and captain Máiréad Murphy to drive them forward, while Antrim's never-say-die spirit is epitomised by Rhona Torney's appearance in defence, despite having been ordered by doctors to give up sport last year because of a heart defect. It should be the Munster side's day.

Verdict: Waterford

Intermediate

Wexford v Offaly, 2pm
(O Elliott, Antrim)

This is a repeat of the Division 2 league final which Wexford won. Offaly have plenty of experience of Croke Park though and will be appearing at HQ for the third September in a row. Elaine Dermody certainly relished the space at Jones Road and if Marion Crean can get on top at midfield, will cause plenty of trouble. Sheila Sullivan's return after missing that league final will inject extra pace to the half-back line in which captain Michael Morkan is the fulcrum. Wexford are looking to take the first leg of a famous double and have shown the benefits of training regularly with the seniors. By all accounts, training sessions are no-holds-barred affairs and that should stand to the Model County women. Shona Nolan is a key operator for Wexford and her clash with Morkan is a mouth-watering prospect. Ciara O'Connor is a dangerous attacker, in both a scoring and creative sense and while the margin could be very slim indeed - and a draw cannot be ruled out - the Yellowbellies might just sneak it.

Verdict: Offaly

Senior

Wexford v Galway, 4pm
(K O'Brien, Dublin)

This game is notable for the fact that Cork will not be appearing in camogie's centrepiece for the first time since 2001. That is due to the fact that Galway, beat them in a tight semi-final replay at Semple Stadium, after a thrilling drawn encounter.

Noel Finn's crew proved their adaptability and character to come through that tie and ignore the weight of history that has them still chasing a second All-Ireland, after winning their first 14 years ago. Veronica Curtin and substitute Aoife Lynskey are the only links with the side, with captain Therese Maher joining the panel the following year. Curtin, Maher and Tara Rutledge have been in stellar form throughout the year and with Aislinn Connolly unerring from placed balls, they will always be a scoring threat. Wexford are league champions and come into this tie full of confidence having blitzed last year's beaten finalists Kilkenny in the penultimate round. A combination of power in defence, where Mary Leacy is once again thriving, and pace and trickery up front, where the likes of former player of the year Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock are serious threats, makes them a dangerous outfit. And like Connolly, Una Jacob rarely misses from frees.

"We know Galway are a very good team" said Wexford captain Una Leacy during the week. "They're up and coming and very hungry. Being there in '08, having lost, I'd say they were very disappointed and they're going in very confident after beating Cork."

"We know ourselves we have to be very up for it but we want it as bad as them so it should be a very good game on the day."

Galway prevailed in the round-robin stages by virtue of Jessica Gill's late goal from distance and one expects that this will go right down to the wire once again, with Wexford getting the vote.

Verdict: Wexford



Frank Duane, Vice Chairman, Galway Camogie Board, Ann Kearney, Secretary, Galway Camogie Board, Paul Gilheany, Supermac's, sponsors, Carline Murray, Galway Senior Camogie Panel, Joan O'Flynn, President, Cumann Camógachta, Sandra Tannian, Galway player, and Geraldine McGrath, Chairperson, Galway Camogie Board, pictured at the Galway senior camogie squad press night at Ballinasloe.



Galway senior camogie players, from left, Niamh Kilkenny, Anne Marie Hayes, Aisling Connolly and Sarah Dervan.

Camogie chief: we can seize our day in Croke

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

CAMOGIE president Joan O'Flynn is hopeful the game will benefit from their standalone All-Ireland finals at Croke Park.

Traditionally camogie and the U21 hurling championship decider shared the billing at GAA headquarters each September. But this weekend, the show-downs have been split over two days — the hurlers of Galway and Tipperary facing off in Thurles on Saturday with the Gala junior, intermediate and senior showdowns dominating the Jones Road programme the next day.

O'Flynn also expressed delight at the decision of officials from the competing counties not to fix high profile domestic games on Sunday.

O'Flynn said: "Our core crowd would be around 16,000 so we'd be very happy with anything above that. If you look at attendances in women's games, the range is somewhere between 16,000 and 22,000.

"It's been a big help that all the hurling fixtures in the competing counties have been cancelled so there's an opportunity for the wider hurling community within those counties to come and support camogie.

"That's a big step forward and a recognition within those counties of the affinity between the hurling and the camogie community."



Joan O'Flynn: let's go forward and make the most of it.

Last year's finals, in conjunction with the U21 decider, attracted 26,000 people but O'Flynn envisions the restructured triple-header as a chance for her code to gain even more credibility. With the intermediate final on the programme, she is excited by the festival of camogie fixed for headquarters.

"I suppose the opportunity for us is to be able to put in a third camogie final. That means that two additional teams are going to get to play in Croke Park. That's a big bonus for us from the point of view of elevating the status of our championships. The glass is half full. This is an opportunity that comes as a result of the GAA's decision to have the U21s played the night before. We've reached an accommodation. Let's go forward on that and make the most of it."

SEPT 2010



The calm before the storm: members of the Galway senior camogie panel gearing up for Sunday's All-Ireland final against Wexford at Croke Park. PHOTOS: IAIN McDONALD.

No let-up in 'keep off grass' policy for triple-header

CAMOGIE

Cliona Foley

CROKE PARK'S firm 'keep off the grass' message will be strictly applied for Sunday's triple-header of Gala All-Ireland finals.

The crowd is not expected to be much more than 20,000 at Headquarters, yet fans from the five participating counties will still be kept off the park, in keeping with the GAA's new prohibition on pitch invasions.

"We are following what is now the standard health and safety procedure in Croke Park," revealed president Joan

O'Flynn yesterday. "Supporters will be asked to applaud and show their appreciation from the stands."

With camogie hosting its first All-Ireland triple-header of senior, intermediate and junior finals, the schedule is so tight that a lap of honour for the victorious teams is unlikely to be possible until after the new-look senior final between Galway and Wexford.

But O'Flynn said she did not envisage any problems keeping supporters in their seats, not least because only the Hogan and Davin stands will be open.

Despite being a triple-header, the attendance is expected to drop from

last year's 26,000, largely because the women's deciders are no longer being played in conjunction with the All-Ireland U-21 hurling final.

But O'Flynn is delighted that there is no direct clash between their big day and the U-21 showdown, which is being played on Saturday evening. She is also pleased that hurling administrators across all the counties involved have come on board to avoid a direct clash with club championship matches.

"It's been a big help that all the competing hurling fixtures, in each of the counties involved, have been cancelled, so there's a great chance for the wider hurling community to come

and support camogie," O'Flynn said.

"That's a really positive thing and a big step forward."

Previous to the GAA and camogie association's joint-hosting arrangement, there were occasions when the camogie association was furious with the clash of the All-Ireland U-21 final and their marquee event.

When the GAA decided to 'go it alone' again this year with the U-21 final, there were fears in the women's game that this clash might recur.

But O'Flynn said yesterday, that this "never came into question".

"Lessons have been learned and we're glad about that. We've reached an accommodation now," she said.

As for the GAA ending their joint-hosting arrangement, she said: "It gives an opportunity for two additional teams to play in Croke Park and that really elevates the status of our championships."

Sunday's senior final (4.0) pits 2007 champions Wexford against beaten 2008 finalists Galway, who knocked out Cork's three-in-a-row chasing Rebelettes after a replay.

Wexford are chasing a 'double' as they have also reached the intermediate final (2.0), where they face Offaly, last year's junior champions. And last year's beaten finalists Waterford face Antrim in the junior final (2.0).

Model of excellence

Camogie blueblood **Una Leacy** is looking to lead Wexford's All-Ireland assault from the front



CLIONA FOLEY

FRIDAY PROFILE

UNA LEACY has more reasons than the obvious one to want to win her second Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title on Sunday.

At 22-years-old, the Wexford star is pretty much the embodiment of the post-Celtic Tiger generation. Bright, bubbly and well educated, the only restrictions on her future are the nation's increasingly apocalyptic economic forecasts.

She qualified in social science from UCD last year and has interesting ambitions, which include seriously contemplating a career in the army. But right now she is selling satellite TV deals, a confessed stop-gap to fill in time before she heads off Down Under this winter.

Leacy figures that she may as well

get the travelling bug out of her system early and says that an All-Ireland medal would be the perfect send-off. Yet the experience of the last two summers has taught her that life is never quite that easy.

Four years ago, the world was her oyster. She was only 19 yet, in front of a crowd of over 33,000, she scored two goals in the opening 16 minutes of an All-Ireland senior final to kick-start the end of Wexford's 32-year-old title drought.

She hails from real camogie royalty. Her mum, Margaret O'Leary from Buffer's Alley, was a three-time All-Ireland winner with Wexford, and Una's older sister Mary, the Model girls' totemic centre-back, proved an inspirational captain in 2007.

The family is deeply immersed in a famous club that features more than one hurling dynasty. Oulart the Ballagh's senior camogie team currently features five sets of sisters: the Leacys, the Kehoes, the Atkinsons, the Morans and the Jacobs. They've won six of the last seven county titles and landed their first Leinster crown last year.

It's probably no coincidence that, when they lost the 2008 county final to Rathnure, Una Leacy was in hospital, recovering from an appendectomy. The club provides 13 players to the Wexford seniors and intermediates, who are chasing a big All-Ireland camogie double on Sunday.

Back in 2001, Oulart's boys and girls both won the premier division of Feile, the prestigious All-Ireland U-14 competition that, annually, franks the GAA's future stars. That actually

wasn't such a big deal for the girls, who won an astonishing five premier Feile titles in succession from 1998 to 2002.

Yet even by their lofty standards, little Una Leacy was exceptional, the only kid in the club who was on all five of those Feile-winning teams.

"Una always shone and stood out a lot at underage, though she was actually quite small for her age when she was younger," reveals Oulart secretary Bridget Moran.

If Leacy was small then, she is tall and strong now, which is the hallmark of this Wexford team that impressively powered past last year's beaten All-Ireland finalists Kilkenny in the semi-finals.

STRENGTH

Even JJ Doyle, the man who took over their management from Stel-lah Sinnott this year, has been struck by their strength and power.

"Up the middle we have a lot of tall, strong, fit, physical girls like Una. I've stood in some training sessions and sometimes you'd be sorry. It's like painting a target on your back," he laughs.

Sinnott says Leacy's "physical presence on the ball and an absolute bullet of a shot" are what set her apart.

"Una got a goal against Tipperary in last year's league final - she struck it on the turn as it was coming down. That was the best I've ever seen on a camogie pitch," Sinnott recalls.

And yet there's been heartbreak aplenty in Leacy's still nascent sporting career. On Sunday, Wexford meet Galway, whose injury-time goal

dethroned the Model girls in the 2008 semi-final. In '09 they got to the last four again and led at half-time until Briege Corkery and Cork took flight.

"It wasn't as if we weren't up for it in 2008 and '09, things just didn't go right for us on the day," Leacy reckons. "We've a new management and a new trainer this year, which has freshened us up. The intermediates and seniors all train together and that's also created a lot of competition for places."

The fact that their seniors and intermediates (managed by Karen Barnes) train collectively is seen as central to both teams not only successfully defending their Division 1 and 2 league titles but also progressing to All-Ireland Sunday.

"We wouldn't be holding too much back!" Leacy quips of their feisty training matches.

Under Doyle's management, she has a new role. She is no longer such a goal-grabbing, front-line attacker, but more a play-making half-forward. She is also now team captain.

And Galway?

"We got a good win over them in the league down in Wexford, but in the championship (round-robin) they snatched it in the last minute with a late free," Leacy says. "We know Galway are a very good team; they're up and coming and very hungry for success after losing the final back in 2008."

"They're going in very confident after beating Cork. We know ourselves we have to be very up for it, but we want it as badly as them, so it should be a very good game."

Camogie song 'Loch Garman Abu' in demand

SUCH is the demand for Wexford camogie song 'Loch Garman Abu' that new stocks had to be ordered within days of its release.

The CDs, which have been stocked in over 50 shops from Castletown to New Ross, are selling like hot cakes.

'Loch Garman Abu' was composed and is sung by Michael D'Arcy, brother of camogie star Mags, with the backing singer comprising some of her talented team mates the O'Connor sisters, Karen Atkinson, Colleen Atkinson, Bridget Cullen and intermediate man-

ager Karen Barnes.

The CD costs €5 and is an important fundraiser for the girls as all profits go to Wexford camogie. You can pick up your copy of 'Loch Garman Abu' at all WFC stores, Gala stores, Supervalu stores and some local shops.

All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final 2010 - Waterford v Antrim



Meet the Waterford panel



1. Aisling O'Brien

Club: Lismore
Age: 22
Height: 5'9"
Position: Goalkeeper

2. Kate Marie Hearne

Club: Butlerstown
Age: 26
Height: 5'4"

3. Sally O'Grady

Club: Gaultier
Age: 26
Height: 5'7" Position: Full-back.
Occupation: Physiotherapist

4. Emma Hannon

Club: Gaultier
Age: 23
Height: 5'2"

5. Jennie Simpson

Club: St. Annes
Age: 24
Height: 5'6"

6. Shona Curran

Club: Lismore
Age: 20
Height: 5'10"

7. Jenny McCarthy

Club: Cappoquin
Age: 17
Height: 5'5"

8. Mairead Murphy (Capt)

Club: St. Annes
Age: 26
Height: 5'7"
Position: Midfield

9. Charlotte Raher

Club: St. Annes
Age: 22
Height: 5'7"
Position: Midfield

10. Patricia Jackman

Club: Gaultier
Age: 19
Height: 5'11"
Position: Forward

11. Gráinne Kenneally

Club: Lismore
Age: 23
Height: 5'6"
Occupation: Student

12. Aine Breathnach

Club: Butlerstown
Age: 21
Position: Forward

13. Nicola Morrissey

Club: Lismore
Age: 23
Height: 5'7"
Position: Forward

14. Aine Lyng

Club: Gaultier
Age: 22
Height: 5'7"
Occupation: Student (Sports Science).

15. Karen Kelly

Club: St. Annes
Age: 26
Height: 5'5"

Occupation: Student

Honours: County Medals in U12, U14, U16, U18 and senior, All Ireland runners-up medal Felle, Munster colleges Junior medal, Munster and All Ireland with Waterford Minors, Munster Int '09, Munster colls A and B '04 and '05, Represented Ireland in shinty.

Position: Corner-back

Occupation: Primary Teacher

Honours: 2 Junior County titles with Tramore, Munster Junior/Intermediate Championship, Interprovincial medals with Munster 2004/2008.

Honours: Gaultier: Co. SCC 2008, 2006 (capt), Waterford Div 2 League Champions 2007 (capt) Munster IHC 2009 (capt), Munster Junior Champions '08 Munster: Played for Munster Junior team '08 and '07 All-star nomination 2007.

Position: Corner-back

Occupation: Airport Operation Staff

Honours: U16 Munster & All Ireland champion, National League titles, two senior club titles.

Position: Wing-back

Occupation: Student

Honours: Ashbourne Cup 2009, County Champions 2009, Munster Champions 2009, Munster Intermediate Champions 2009, Senior League 2010.

Position: Back/Forward

Occupation: Student Honours: Munster Intermediate final '09, underage county titles U12, U14, U16, U18.

Position: Defender.

Occupation: Student.

Honours: U16B and U18B County titles, Junior League title, Munster A League Final, 2 All-Ireland schools titles, 3 Munster schools titles.

Occupation: TV Researcher

Honours: All Ireland B Colleges 2002 with Mercy Convent, 6 Senior County Championships, Munster Junior Representative 2008, Div 3 and 4 National Leagues

Occupation: Student nurse.

Honours: Ashbourne Champions 2008, 6 Senior County Champions, NCAA Camogie scholarship 2008, Munster Junior rep, U16 All Ireland Camogie Medal 2003, Div 3 and 4 National League Medals.

Occupation: Student.

Honours: Nat League Div2, U16 All Ireland title, Munster Junior title, Munster Int Title, Munster Coll title, U12, U14, U16, U18 County titles, 2 senior county titles, 4 Wat/Munster & 2 All-Irl Poc Fada, Felle skills, Ashbourne 2010, Ashbourne All-Star 2010.

Honours: U-18 County Senior League, Munster Coll Medal with Presentation, Lismore, Two Int Munster Colleges Medals with BCS, Colleges Interprovincial Munster Junior Championship, Munster Intermediate Championship, National League Division Two, Gael Linn Interpro team, Munster Bursary, Ashbourne All-Star.

Occupation: Student.

Honours: U16 All Ireland, National league medals '06/'07, Munster Junior/Intermediate champions, Interprovincial winners '08.

Occupation: Primary Teacher

Honours: Underage County Titles U12, U14, U16, U18, Senior County title, Munster Junior and Intermediate Championship, National League medals '06 and '07, Munster schools Int '04 and '05, Munster team.

Honours: Munster Int Champs '09, Munster Junior champs '08, Nat League Champions, U16 all Ireland B, County champions '06, '08, Kilmacud Crokes 7's All Ireland champions '07, County medals U14, U16, U18, 2 UL colleges All stars, All Ireland colleges champions (Mercy), 4 All star nominations, Munster sen and jun.

Position: Forward.

Occupation: Teacher.

Honours: 2 x National League Medals, 2x Munster Medals, 6 x Senior County titles, Munster title 2009, Ashbourne 2010.

16. Niamh Rockett

Club: St. Annes
Age: 16
Height: 5'5"

17. Deirdre Fahey

Club: An Rinn
Age: 19
Height: 5'3"

Occupation: Student nurse

18. Shauna Kiernan

Club: Ardmore.
Age: 18
Height: 5'10"

Occupation: Student.

19. Mary O'Donnell

Club: An Rinn
Age: 28

Occupation: Accountant

Honours: 1 Junior/Intermediate Munster 2009.

20. Aileen Cummins

Club: Gaultier
Age: 25
Height: 5'5"

Occupation: Primary School Teacher.

21. Clara Hogan

Club: Gaultier
Age: 16
Height: 5'9"

22. Fiona Ní Chadla

Club: An Rinn
Age: 25
Height: 5'9"

Occupation: Special Needs Assistant

23. Margo Heffernan

Club: Gaultier
Age: 22
Height: 6'0"

24. Pauline Cunningham

Club: St. Annes
Age: 23
Height: 5'4"

25. Vicky Gaffney

Club: Butlerstown
Age: 21
Height: 5'2"

26. Aisling Kelly

Club: Butlerstown
Age: 27
Height: 5'7"

Position: Forward

Occupation: Primary Teacher

Honours: 2 Co. Senior titles, 2 Co. League titles, Munster Intermediate title 2009, All-Ireland junior club finalists 2009, U16-minor co. title 2009.

Honours: Camogie: U16B All Ireland Finalists '07, U18B All Ireland Finalists '08 and '09, U18 B County Champions '06, '07, '08, Interpro Post Primary Rep. Football: U18 B Shield All Ireland winners '09, Junior winners '07, Int winners '08, All Ireland Schools.

Honours: Munster Intermediate Champions 2009, All Ireland colleges Champions 2008 and 2009, Munster Colleges Champions 2008 and 2009, All Ireland U16 finalists 2007 and U18 finalists 2008 and 2009, Felle All Ireland winners 2006, U12, U14, U16, U18 and Junior Countys.

1 Junior Munster 2007; 1 Junior, 2005 1 Junior Club League, 2005 1 Junior Mini 7's 2006, County Football 4 All - Stars; 5 Munster & 1 Senior All-Ireland, 2 Senior Nat Leagues, 3 Munster & 2 Minor All-Ireland 4 Munster & 4 U-16 All-Ireland 1 Munster U-14 Club Football; 2 All-Ireland Jun Mini 7's.

Position: Centre-back

Honours: U-12, U-14, U-16, U-18, Junior and two Senior County Championship Medals; Ashbourne Shield Winner with Mary I 2005, Kilmacud Crokes 7s Medal.

Position: Goalkeeper.

Occupation: Student.

Honours: U-16 Munster title, County U12, U14 and senior medals

Position: Goalkeeper.

Honours: 2 National League titles, Munster Junior Camogie title, County Junior title, 2 All-Ireland Club 7's titles, club football county titles and club league titles.

Occupation: Physiotherapist

Honours: Senior Championship '06 '08, Senior League '06, Kilmacud Crokes Intermediate Title '06, Senior Finalists '07, U18, U16, U14, U12 Co Championships, U18, U16 League Titles.

Occupation: Student. Honours: Senior College League medal '09, 7 Senior Co Camogie medals, NCAA Camogie Scholarship '09, Div 3 and 4 Nat League medals, All Ireland B Colleges, Ashbourne medal '09, Shinty international.

Position: Corner-back.

Occupation: Student

Honours: U16 All Ireland winners, National League winners '06 and '07, Munster Junior and Intermediate champions.

Position: Corner back/wing back

Occupation: Pharmaceutical technician.

Honours: National League '06 and '07, Munster Junior and Intermediate Champions 2008 & 2009.

Tickets for Gala Junior All Ireland Camogie Final

Adult: €30, Juvenile (U16): €5, Student: €10 (Buy full price ticket and get refund on the day). Groups: Buy 10 Juvenile tickets @€5 and get one adult free of charge. Group forms can be obtained from any club secretary.

Family tickets: 2 Adult and 2 Juveniles - €60 - each additional child charged at €5
1 Adult and 2 Juveniles - €35 - each additional child charged at €5
Tickets can be booked and purchased from the secretary of any of the camogie clubs in the county or from County secretary Bernie Keane, Bernie can be contacted on (051)396451 or on (086)3946258. Contacts for your local camogie club can be got on waterfordcamogie.com.

Waterford's Path to the Final

Round 1: July 3rd @ Walsh Park: Waterford 3-18 Dublin 0-5

Round 2: July 10th @ Ashbourne: Waterford 3-18 Down 0-6

All-Ireland Semi-final: August 7th @ Nowlan Park
Waterford 2-14 Meath 1-9

Ibar's stun Rathnure

■ The successful Oulart-The Ballagh squad.

Don't rule out replay

DEAN GOODISON

Sports reporter

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM suggests that Sunday's Gala Intermediate camogie final in Croke Park (2 p.m.) is no more than a precursor to the main event - a pleasing hors d'oeuvre to the glistening main course - but conventional wisdom is wrong.

This game is massive in its own right. It's the chance for a first All-Ireland victory for an adult Wexford team since Stella Sinnott took her Senior camogie starlets to glory in 2007.

These chances don't knock on the county's door every day. Come Monday it could be the saving grace, the only reason for the gleaming smiles on thousands of young children's faces as the girls parade the cup through the streets of the county's main towns.

One thing is for sure, if it is to be won, it will be one almighty battle. This is not the Offaly who succumbed in the league; it's not even the Offaly who capitulated in Banagher in the opening round of the championship.

It's the Offaly who will experience the big day atmosphere of Croke Park for the third time in three years - that's a massive advantage.

Following a loss to Clare in 2008, the girls from the Faithful county rebounded to beat Waterford in last year's final, and with it promotion for this young side to the second tier of camogie.

And what a great year they have had. They boast a perfect record in league and championship except for their defeats to Wexford.

Their semi-final triumph over a Derry side who were in scintillating form is a testament to how well



Intermediate mentors Karen Barnes, Ray Quigley and Ger O'Reilly.

manager Joachim Kelly has these girls playing.

It helps when you have some great players. The best of all is Michaela Morkan. She is a player that would do any Senior team proud. Wexford manager Karen Barnes talks about keeping the ball away from her and that's imperative.

Yes, Elaine Dermody can hurt you, Siobhán Flannery can hurt you, as can Sheila Sullivan, but Morkan will kill you if she gets time on the ball and the opportunity to dictate play.

Hopefully Wexford can handle her. There are 24 players left in the squad that want nothing more than the chance to show that they can.

Those 24 have shown all year that they have the belief in each other, but most importantly they have shown they have the belief in themselves.

Helena Jacob in goal has hardly put a foot wrong all year but, with a full-back line like she has in front of her, she doesn't get many opportunities to.

What more can be said about Jean Hayden that hasn't been said in the past few weeks?

Herself, the rock-solid Louise O'Leary and Colleen Atkinson form a full-back line that is the bedrock of this side's success - they will have to keep the scores down for Wexford to take victory.

Louise Codd's return has boosted

a half-back line that was weakened by the loss of Ciara Storey. Frances Doran and Shelley Kehoe will take the wing slots and must be at their best to stop what will most likely be a lot of balls coming in their direction.

Question marks remain over the make-up of the midfield. Emma Moran will most likely start, but who her partner is will be a huge call.

As well as question marks there, the half-forward line of Bridget Curran, Siona Nolan and Fiona Rochford will need to retain possession a lot better than they did in the semi-final victory over Limerick (1-9 to 0-10).

The kind of pressure the Wexford defence were put under in that game would be almost impossible to repeat again.

Captain Ciara O'Connor, who started at full-forward in the semi, may well be required further out the field, but should she start at 14 she will, as always, be a credible goal threat but she has to be 'on' with her frees.

Stacey Kehoe and Lisa Bolger will most likely play in the corners and have shown over the course of the year that if they get the proper service they can take their scores.

Any of the substitutes could be called from the bench and they have all seen some action throughout the championship.

It would not be a surprise for one of those nine to come on and make the difference.

It's a game that should go to the wire; Offaly may have the stars but Wexford have strength from 1-24. However, previous Croke Park experience may prove vital and it's not unlikely that this one will need a replay to separate the sides.



Ciara O'Connor, the Wexford Intermediate captain.

Rookie manager Barnes close to near-perfect year

DEAN GOODISON

WEXFORD INTERMEDIATE camogie manager Karen Barnes, not even in the job a year, is just one game away from completing a near-perfect season.

However, memories of that earlier championship clash in Banagher are still fresh in the mind and Barnes is fully aware of the task that awaits her side.

'We started that game well. Then all of a sudden Offaly seemed to take off and, before we knew it, 21 minutes in, we were 1-4 to no score down and I thought "these are not the bunch of girls I know". They came back in fairness and got the goal and the few points and going in at half-time we were level.'

'I think we wanted it more on the day. Offaly really should have dictated the game and should have beaten us in their own back yard. Once we started hurling they just weren't able to cope with us but it just took us a long time to start on the day.'

As is often the case with first teams at the Intermediate level, some players can stand out and Barnes knows who the main threats are to Wexford's chances come Sunday.

'Michaela Morkan at centre-back, we need to keep the ball away from Michaela or put it over her head and get it into our full-forward line. She is a good centre-back but Siona (Nolan) has played on her before and Fiona Rochford was on her in the championship and they gave her a torrid time and didn't make anything easy,' said Barnes.

'Elaine Dermody is a very good player for Offaly who can either play full-forward or centre-forward. Our backs are hurling well so hopefully they will keep Elaine on her toes, but those are two of the stronger players and they have two or three more.'

How big a decision captaincy is these days is open to debate, but it would have been difficult to pick a better captain than the one they chose on a cold February day.

'In the very first league match in Waterford this year we told Ciara (O'Connor) that we were making her captain and she was absolutely shocked on the day and a bit awestruck. Ciara gives us her opinion and we talk to Ciara. I think she has been an exceptional captain and probably the Limerick game was her outstanding performance.'

When it comes to picking the team for Sunday's clash, it's a three-way process. Barnes and selectors Ray Quigley and Ger O'Reilly sit down to make the calls, and it's a system that's worked well through the year.

'We sit down and pick the team together, that's what the three of us are there for. We discuss everything; go through each position. If we are struggling we talk about it and have to make a decision. In fairness to the two lads they have been brilliant. Ray has lots of experience and Ger knows the game inside out.'

It's clear that Sunday will be a tough battle, but Barnes knows what her side needs to do to come out on top.

'We cannot give Offaly any time on the ball at all. The girls have to fight and close everything down. They have to hook and block, as on the day a lot of it will come down to the heart, the will to win it, and definitely the attitude in the camp. We need to open out the play. Whoever can play the accurate diagonal balls will have the advantage in Croke Park, as it's a big pitch. If we do hopefully we will be coming out with the right result.'

'We really have that desire' says Frances

DEAN GOODISON

THE DORAN family name is one that's not just ingrained in the Buffers Alley club history but also in the annals of great Wexford hurling campaigns.

The current crop have plenty to be proud of, with Willie lining out in the purple and gold of his county, but right now it's time for his 24-year-old sister Frances to shine as she heads to her first All-Ireland final with the Wexford Intermediate side.

'I suppose there will be nerves on the day, and in the week leading up to the game, but I think that since any of us were holding a hurl it's been our ambition, our dream, to play in Croke Park, so we're all just looking forward to it, we can't wait,' she said.

Despite brief dalliances at centre-back in recent challenge games, she will slot in at right half-back come 2 p.m. on September 12, and it's a position she has had to get used to.

'I play centre-back with the club and also for the Intermediate county team three or four years back. It's a position that I am more used to than wing-back. I suppose this is the first year I've played in the right wing-back position, I was always on the left so I found it hard to adapt, but I'm just happy to be playing. I don't care where I am on the team; I'd love to play in any position.'

A strong defence is vital to any team going for glory, and Frances knows that she has plenty of back-up should the odd ball get past her.

'Louise O'Leary has been outstanding all year and Colleen (Atkinson) and Jean (Hayden) on



Frances Doran

the corners have been amazing,' said Doran. 'They are tough players who are great on the ball and I suppose when you're playing on the wing you feel brilliant knowing you have such a steady rock behind you. When the ball goes by you've every confidence that they'll be able to deal with it.'

Following a disappointing championship last year, there were always question marks over how the team would perform in 2010, but

Frances could see from early on that things had changed for the better.

'I think it's just a real desire in us this year and a real fire in our belly that we just lacked the last few years. We always did seem to have a good team but it never materialised, we never lived up to what we should have been, so this year I think we really have that desire to go all the way.'

Despite the unbeaten season so far, Frances has seen at first hand the threat that the Faithful county pose.

'To be honest, I think any time that we played Offaly this year we felt that they were the strongest team we had against us. Having played them in the league final and in the championship, where we beat them by two points, I felt that it wasn't the last time we were going to see them.'

'They're a very determined young side, they just came up from Junior last year and I knew that they would have high ambitions as well for this year. I suppose this is the third time to play them now, so what better place than Croke Park to beat them. We hope we can do the same Sunday as we did in the previous matches.'

It's no real surprise to see the tenacious wing-back portray a confident, yet unassuming, demeanour. It's her way, but it's clear this is a medal that she really wants, even if it is hard to find the appropriate words for how special a feeling it would be.

'It would be just indescribable, an amazing feeling and just a lifelong ambition coming true. I don't know, hopefully I'll be able to describe it when it does happen!'

Deadly double act

SEPT 2010

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

TO WIN a big game, like the All-Ireland semi-final against Kilkenny, you need your side to perform at a high level. When two of your most dangerous players, working together, have a half when they are virtually unstoppable, well then the victory margin may just be a little more comfortable.

Those big game players that stuck out in Nowlan Park were the St. Ibar's-Shelmalier duo of Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock. It was their skill, but also an understanding that is nurtured at club level, which helped produced the two-goal blitz in the middle of the second-half that changed the complexion of the game.

'When you go to county level it does help you playing together at club,' said 2007 camogie player of the year Kate Kelly. 'You're training with someone at club and then you're going to county; it's easier to fit in with them on a county team.'

The first real evidence of how it could work was way back in the league when they played on the right-hand side of the attack against Galway in Enniscorthy.

'I was out on the wing, Kate was in the corner, and it worked really well,' said Katrina. 'The balls were going to us; I knew where she was positioned every time, I didn't even have to look up, but after that they didn't really play us together with injuries and stuff.'

As well as something that worked well, it produced arguably Wexford's best goal of the year

when a long, mazy Parrock run ended with her picking out a loose Kelly, and the experienced forward rattled the ball into the roof of the net. Yet Kelly picked up a shoulder injury in a club game which was not only a hindrance to the partnership but to the team as a whole.

'I picked up an injury at the start of the championship and because it was six weeks in a row it was very hard. Once you got that kind of injury at that stage, you were going to miss a lot. It was very hard to sit out and not be able to play, and at this level everyone needs to be at one hundred per cent to really perform,' said Kate.

'A huge loss,' Katrina says of missing her clubmate. 'Kate is probably the best camogie player in Ireland. I know we have not been on the wing as much but if she wasn't there for the semi it would have been tough to overcome Kilkenny.'

Kate believes that the key to that effectiveness in the semi-final was that it was one of those games where they got the right supply of ball, making it easier to pick off the goal chances that came their way.

'Some games you can go out and a lot of the play would be up the other wing but we got a couple of balls. Una laid the ball across to me and Katrina let a shout and I just gave it in to her,' said Kate.

Two minutes later the ball came across and Katrina gave one back to me and I was running through the middle and it worked really well. After that, Katrina was unlucky that the goalie saved one, I went in to bat it but it had just gone across the line.'

Looking ahead to the final, another performance from the double act could see Wexford as champions.

'It would be great if we did. We work really well on the wing together once we get the balls in, so it will be interesting to see what the team will be,' said Katrina.

Meanwhile, Kate insists that Galway will be a tough nut to crack. 'They are always physically tough, they are always breathing down your neck. We will be very well matched that way, so I think it will go down to the wire.'



Katrina Parrock and Kate Kelly have established a strong partnership on the right flank of attack.



Dublin's Leinster representatives in the Gael Linn Interprovincial Success - Tara Corrigan, Louise O'Hara and Ciara Burgess



At the Launch of the Gala Championships: Joan O'Flynn, President Camogie Association, Denise Lord, Customer Service Manager Gala, and Catriona Power, Dublin Senior Captain



Chloe Whelan from Screen will be supporting her aunt, Kate Kelly, in Croke Park on Sunday next.

Wexford to win after tough, physical battle

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

DEBATE SEEMS to rage around this county. Football lovers believe a modicum of recent success makes us a football county at present. Hurling lovers point to 1996 and several decades of moderately successful teams as to why we are a hurling county. Right now, as also-rans in both, there is a strong argument that we are neither.

Over 30,000 people will pack Croke Park on Sunday for the Gala All-Ireland Senior camogie championship final, the largest crowd any Wexford team would have seen all year. They will watch the best this county has to offer face Galway. But the barometer of what the county stands for is not only with people voting with their feet, it's in recent success.

Back-to-back league doubles are great achievements. A second All-Ireland in four years is something that can't be matched by any Wexford side in over half a century. Right now, Wexford is a camogie county and it's something all 130-odd thousand of us should be immensely proud of.

Standing in the way of our county side will be the girls from Galway. They're a team Wexford know only too well. Late goals have been a feature of recent heartache against the Tribeswomen, a late strike prevented back-to-back final appearances in 2008 while June's meeting in Athenry was also stolen away from the Slaney women at the death.

What it shows is their never-say-die attitude. They have players all over the field that can cause problems. They have arguably the best free-taker and top goalkeeper in the country. They don't have weak links and can even afford to have talented forward Jessica Gill propped up on a stool on the sideline. J.J Doyle and his charges have to expect an almighty battle.

And they will, because like Galway there are no weaknesses in this team. Mags D'Arcy may be

underworked but has made vital stops when called upon, and if the Wexford defence live up to form her biggest test will be to keep her concentration throughout.

The full-back line is summed up by the fact that Wexford have conceded fewer scores this championship season than any other team. Catherine O'Loughlin may well have had a couple of shaky moments here and there, but when push came to shove in the semi-final she completely stopped Katie Power from playing, and she can do the same to Veronica Curtin.

In the corners, Karen Atkinson has been a revelation and her presence has strengthened the side from last year, while Claire O'Connor is an All Star that's missing her trophy.

Mary Leacy is probably the front-runner to succeed Ann Dalton as player of the year and the way that those sweeping diagonal balls, left and right, now look like a natural reaction every time she gains possession is a testament to her work throughout the year.

Experience and know-how make Aoife O'Connor a natural shutter at wing-back, while on the opposite side Noeleen Lambert has played at a consistently high level throughout the year without a single dip.

Three into two doesn't go in midfield, so something has to give. Deirdre Codd looks at home in the centre and Josie Dwyer carried Ann Dalton around in her pocket for most of the semi-final. Caroline Murphy is pushing for a recall, and with someone so talented it could prove too difficult a decision to leave her out.

At centre-forward, Una Leacy needs to keep the recent form up to help the wings flourish. To her left, Michelle O'Leary will never stop working, a commodity that is hard to quantify for this Wexford side, while to her right, if Kate Kelly plays like



Cora McGrath and Kate O'Keeffe will be supporting Wexford.

she has of late, Galway will have a torrid afternoon.

Her partnership with gifted right corner-forward Katrina Parrock blossomed in the semi-final and will take some watching again, while Ursula Jacob is championship top scorer and is almost impossible to stop with ball in hand.

Fiona Kavanagh at left-corner has struggled to make an impact recently and her place must be under threat, but Lenny Holohan's recent honeymoon has seen her miss a lot of the preparations. Brid Gordon has offered plenty from the bench and may well see action on Sunday, while Evelyn Quigley and Ciara Storey are others who may play a part.

It will be tough, it will be physical, and it will likely be tight. These are the two best teams in the country, no doubt about that. But come Sunday Wexford will prove they are better, they will prove that they are number one. They will prove that Wexford is a camogie county.

Big stage holds no fears for Kenneally

BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY

It only takes a few minutes in the company of Grainne Kenneally to realise that she is a keen student of the game of

camogie. Ahead of Sunday's final against Antrim she tells you of how the minor team narrowly lost to the same opposition recently and also notes how well the schools

teams have shown up against their Northern counterparts. When asked about her idols names like Orla Cotter of Cork, Ursula Jacob of Wexford and Ashlenn Connolly of Galway are mentioned. "I could keep naming them all night!" And you believe her too.

Kenneally's enthusiasm for gaelic games is not limited to camogie as she also displays her wares for the ladies football team. Last weekend she lined out at number ten as the team qualified for the All Ireland intermediate final on September 25. On Sunday however the dual star only has eyes for the small ball. Her description of a recent training session shows that the team are ready for battle. "Hurleys were broken, blood was shed, nothing was said everyone came off the field feeling the buzz afterwards. We are very happy with how the training is going hopefully we can keep the intensity going and see it through to the All Ireland."

12 months ago the presence of the RTE cameras and playing in Croke Park undoubtedly affected the Waterford team. Kenneally lined up at wing back that day and feels lessons must be learned from that experience. "Last year was probably a bit daunting we wouldn't be used to the bigger scenes we would be used to the smaller pitches. That was our excuse last year so no more excuses. We are going out to do the business on the second Sunday of September."

As a student in UCC and having played in the Ashbourne Cup, Kenneally has perfected her game with some of the stars of the camogie scene. This development was awarded with a place in this year's Ashbourne All Star team at wing forward. "Ashbourne is completely different game to the normal club and county scene. Ashbourne is played during the harder months when most people don't want to know about it. We run through the muck and the rain and the snow and everything. We are only junior level county here so getting the opportunity to

play with the likes of Orla Cotter and all the big stars of Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford. It's a great opportunity for us to go out and prove that we can compete with the rest of the team. We just need our chance and our stage." Kenneally has seized her chance to enhance her reputation with both hands.

This season Kenneally has operated in the half forward line. Her partnership with sharp shooter Aine Lyng is one of the reasons Waterford are scoring freely in their campaign to date. "Aine is joining me out there at centre half at the moment. We seem to have a good sync with each other. We know when to lift each other up and when to get each other going." The forward line has racked up impressive scores as a unit with 3-18 against Dublin, 3-18 against Down and 2-14 the last day out against Meath. "Aine's doing the business with the frees, Karen Kelly is stepping up putting away the scores. You need people stepping up on the big day. Any one of the forwards will step up on any given day and get their scores."

Kenneally's analysis of opponents Antrim is precise and to the point. She knows what to expect. "Antrim are not the typical Northern team. Most Northern teams you would associate with dog hurling and physical teams. Antrim would be similar to ourselves, they would be fast, they would be pacy. It should make for a great game of camogie."



Team captain, Mairead Murphy, leads by example in the semi-final win over Meath in Nowlan Park. On Sunday she will hopefully be lifting the All-Ireland cup for Waterford.

Jane Adams who fired 3-5 in the semi final will obviously need to be watched. "Jane Adams is up there

she would be on any senior team in the morning but saying that many of our players would be on any

senior team in the morning. We are not fazed by them, we are looking forward to the challenge."

Murphy leads Waterford's charge for history

BY TOMÁS MCCARTHY

Despite qualifying for their second junior All Ireland final in a row captain Mairead Murphy of the St Anne's club knows big days like these don't come around too often. With the resurgence of camogie in the county recently the time to deliver Waterford's first ever All Ireland title has arrived.

Murphy is determined to right the wrongs of the 2009 where Waterford never found their rhythm in a nine point

defeat to Offaly. "Different players had different things to say. For some people it was the occasion, the Croke Park factor, there's all different things. Everyone has a different experience of it. Definitely on the day we didn't perform at all to anything that we were preparing towards." With that demoralising experience out of their system and discussed within the camp, the team can move on and grow stronger. It also brings an expectation and pressure to deliver at the next time of asking, a reality that Murphy accepts. "We will probably go in with favourites tag but at training that certainly doesn't come into it at all. There is pressure there after last year. We were so disappointed after last year's defeat and we have the experience of it though and I think it's going to stand to us this year. Even getting over the semi final was a massive thing last year while this year it was just another step to getting back to where we want to be."

Even though she is captain Murphy feels that her role is eased by the positive atmosphere within the camp. It all stems from years of hurling together. "We have been growing and building together now as group of players a good couple of years since Waterford camogie has really come on the scene and started to build. We all know each other so well between club and county. We are all working for the one thing."

The midfielder has Antrim in her sights on Sunday and recognises the

importance of a good opening against potentially tricky opponents. "I think they are going to be very sticky, I think they are going to try and grind out a result. They are going to be physical but we are just going to try and stand up to them and not get pushed off the ball, get a good start against them. We know what we are capable of but it will be just a matter of getting out there starting off with the intensity, starting off with our game and not leave them dictate them dictate anything from the start."

This is a rare opportunity for the Waterford camogie team to display their abilities on national television. The comparison between the plight of the senior hurlers and their camogie counterparts couldn't be more stark. While the hurlers can train at Walsh Park and Carriganore Mairead Murphy and her colleagues have to settle for more modest venues such as Dunhill. Thousands travel around the country following the hurling team while camogie can't even attract a fraction of that fanbase. The captain admits the challenge to raise the profile of camogie is a difficult one. "Waterford have never won an All Ireland before which is why we are junior. Hopefully we will be able to step that up this year and build up to intermediate. It's the same with all women's sport really isn't it? They don't get the same profile. We put in as much work and commitment and all that but the men do get all the limelight."



Ready for the All Ireland Camogie Final, Niall Dunphy (Coach), Patricia McCarthy, Chairperson Waterford Camogie Board, and Mairead Murphy (Captain). Photo: Dan McGrath/Editorial Images.

Battle-ready Cloughduv will have the advantage

CAMOGIE

THE remaining quarter-final between Inniscarra and Cloughduv in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship takes places in Coachford tomorrow after Cloughduv advanced past St Finbarr's last month, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Joanne O'Callaghan has been racing against the clock to be fit after aggravating a quad injury she picked up in Cork's All-Ireland semi-final drawn game with Galway four weeks ago.

However, it's not looking good. Joanne hasn't trained since August 24 (the day they defeated St Finbarr's).

She will possibly still start the game but not line out in a key defensive position.

Her presence in the half-back line will be missed against an Inniscarra side that scored an impressive 5-11 to 0-10 victory over St Finbarr's in their opening round. O'Callaghan could well start at full-forward.

Cloughduv will welcome the extra game they had against St Finbarr's, a game that went down to the wire, which is sure to stand to them against a side who haven't lined out in the championship since July 10.

It's a long time without a competitive game and in this sense Cloughduv have the upper hand.

Inniscarra have tremendous skill and pace. They impressed greatly against Milford in the quarter final last year and seem to be building on that.

Cork senior players Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey will lead the Inniscarra charge with steady performers throughout the pitch namely Margaret O'Sullivan, Niamh Dilworth and Alanna Twohig.

Despite not having seen a great deal of Inniscarra this year they would be regarded as one of the strongest sides left of the remaining five.

Cloughduv will once again rely on the workrate and free taking ability of Katherine Corkery and the goal scoring touch of Una O'Donoghue.

After her impressive display upon being introduced in the qualifier Mairead Corkery is sure to make an appearance at some stage. Cloughduv's first half performance against the Barrs won't see them advance to a semi-final.

It's a tough assignment for them and considering the added injury of Joanne O'Callaghan it looks as if Inniscarra could take their campaign a step further than they did 12 months ago.

FIXTURE
TONIGHT

Evening Echo Cork County Junior A final: Blackrock v Enniskeane Cloughduv 8pm.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Cork County senior camogie championship quarter-final: Cloughduv v Inniscarra 8pm.

SEPT. 2010

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Jackman confident of erasing last year's disappointment

By Tomás McCarthy

Waterford attacker Patricia Jackman knows all about the recipe for success having racked up back to back All Ireland Poc Fada titles this year. Now she is determined to add another All Ireland to her collection on Sunday with her county colleagues.

Jackman's belief is strengthened by the fact that last year's experience will stand to the team. "The whole Croke Park factor won't be there this year. We will kind of know everything when we get there. Hopefully we will nail preparations this year. Last year it was kind of new we didn't really know until the day. I suppose this year we will have the experience of it, going up the night before. We won't be as fazed by the whole day."

In 2009 none of the team could cope with the enormity of the occasion. Jackman believes that final day is unique and brings its own novelties that don't exist all year. "We never had that sort of attention before. We are used to having fifty people at our games. Hopefully this year we will have our preparations right."

The story of Jackman's Poc Fada success is a remarkable one. For the last five years she has contested the All Ireland competition and has never been outside the top two places. It all started very innocently for the Gaultier woman. "One year I think I was 15 and they said there was no one going from the club so I said I'd go. It kind of took off from there Waterford, Munster and All Ireland." This year Jackman retained her title in the Cooley Peninsula fending off Fionnula Carr from Down. Before her two in a row Jackman settled for the runner up spot on three occasions. As she admits herself "the win was coming."

In a busy year Jackman has also played on the Waterford IT Ash-



Waterford wing-back, Jenny Simpson, likes the look of this clearance in the All-Ireland semi-final victory over Meath.

bourne Cup side. Rubbing shoulders with quality senior inter county players at college level sharpens the mind and refines any chinks in your armour. Survival instincts kick in. "When you are going to training with the likes of Ann Dalton, Ursula Jacob top class players you are not certain of your place at all you are just fighting, fighting, fighting. This year we had six Waterford players on the team. That was a big step forward from a few years ago when people said there wasn't even camogie in Waterford when WIT were playing."

Andy Maloney leads this year's

management team along with Niall Dunphy and Carolyn Ahearne. The former Waterford senior player is bringing this team to a new level. "He has a good hurling brain, he's been there and done it on the big day. Niall, Shay and Carolyn do great work as well and Mark Cooney even small things we never had before that we have now. Where we are at the moment is far from where we were five or six years ago."

Jackman respects the quality of an Antrim side that showed good signs in their semi final defeat of Down. "There's a lot of talk about Jane Adams their full forward,

Shannon Graham and Racquel McCarry. They've some classy, classy forwards."

On the other hand Jackman knows the potential of this Waterford team and the momentum built up by wins in the All Ireland series. With 1-9 to her name already this year in a free scoring forward division she is confident that a winning performance can be delivered. "At the end of the day our backs are just as good as them and our forward line is just as dangerous the likes of Aine Lyng and Karen Kelly. If we click on the day I don't think anything they have will stop us."

Camogie suffers in media blackout

I AM writing regarding the write-up on the senior camogie All-Ireland semi-finals on August 14. I don't have to go through every newspaper to know that reports were practically non-existent.

It is very disappointing to see such a lack of coverage especially when inter-county camogie players put in as much time, effort and sacrifice as any GAA players and don't get anywhere near the same amount of coverage.

Irish newspapers not only concentrate on GAA but also focus hugely on coverage of the English Premiership. Not only do these sports receive endless coverage on every daily and weekly newspaper, but they also receive coverage from numerous different writers about each match.

As an inter-county player, I have become disillusioned by the lack of attention paid to any female sports. Even on an international stage, women's rugby and soccer receive very little media space.

While yours is not the only newspaper guilty of largely ignoring or minimising the reporting of female sports, I would suggest that you could lead by example and start giving more space to female sports and not dwell on the all-male GAA games and English Premiership soccer.

To ask you to dedicate one or two pages to the three camogie All-Ireland finals is not an unreasonable request. This time, I hope you'll give us camogie players enough credit for the effort and sacrifices we have made.

Deirdre Codd

CAMOGIE

KILMACUD CROKES SEVENS
Cup Final: Cashel (Tipperary) 4-6 (C. Grogan 1-5 (0-2f), E. Hayden, J. McGrath, C. Ryan 1-0 each; J. Horan 0-1)
Leitrim Fontenays (Down) 2-2 (E. McCormack 2-0, M. Mc Mullin, C. McCrickard 0-1 each). Semi-finals: Leitrim Fontenays 2-7 Raheny (Dublin) 1-3; Cashel 7-4 Millford (Cork) 4-3
Shield Final: Clonoulty, Rossmore (Tipperary) 4-11 (S. Fryday 2-2, Cora Hennessey 1-6, N. Ryan 1-0, C. Devane 0-2, Cait Hennessey 0-1) Geraldines, Portlennone 1-2 (L. Mc Aleese 1-2)
Plate Final: Doiretreasc (Tyrone) 10-5 (C. Rafferty 5-2, A. Carr 3-2, N. Hughes 2-0, U. O'Neill 0-1) Kilcoole (Wicklow) 2-1 (D. Donnelly 1-1, R. Mulford 1-0)



Waterford County GAA Board Chairman, Tom Cunningham, speaks to the Camogie Team and gives his best wishes to the Waterford players in Fraher Field ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland Final. Photo: Dan McGrath/Editorial Images.



Galway captain Therese Maher, right, alongside Wexford's Una Leacy ahead of tomorrow's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final. BRENDAN MORAN/SPORTSFILE

Maher single-minded in bid for elusive medal



CLIONA FOLEY

A DAZZLER of an engagement ring sits on Therese Maher's left hand and she is getting married in December.

Yet it is not seating-plans or dress fittings that are consuming her this weekend, but her enduring and unrequited love affair with camogie.

A three-time All Star winner, the elegant Galway half-forward has played in three All-Ireland senior finals (1997, '98 and '08) yet lost all three.

Of the team who take on Wexford in tomorrow's decider, only Veronica Curtin, Galway's other brilliant veteran, has been around longer.

'Ronny' is the only team member already married and she, at least, has the consolation of being involved when Galway won their last title in 1996.

Maher has also led Athenry to two All-Ireland club finals in 2007 and 2009, only to be thwarted there too, each time by Cashel of Tipperary.

Back in '96 she was still a teenager and one of the county minor team that had just won an All-Ireland.

Her brothers, Vinny and John played for the county and, with two sisters - Dymphna (midfield) and Greta (came on as a sub) - involved in the '96 victory, she presumed senior success would come her way.

Thirteen years later she's still waiting.

Galway camogie has been through various upheavals in the meantime, yet Curtin and Maher have remained its constant and inspirational leaders, so it's particularly fitting that she is captain as they go knocking on the door again.

"After 1998 we didn't get back to a final for another 10 years, so it was a long wait," Maher reflects.

"I came on as a sub in 1997 and played in the '98 final and I've only missed one year since when I chose to play in America in the summer of 2001 which was a great experience."

So how, after so much heartbreak, has she found the motivation to stay involved?

"I suppose you just stay playing because you love it," Maher says cheerfully.

"There's a group of girls you enjoy playing with, year in, year out, and every season you go back and say 'right, maybe this year'."

MARGINAL

"We won a few national leagues and a few inter-pros, and in the championship there's been some years where it was just a point, very marginal stuff that you lost by, so you think: 'God, with a little bit of more effort next year'."

"The desire is there still to win that one medal that has eluded me," Maher admits.

"We lost last year's semi-final (to Kilkenny) in the fourth minute of injury-time. The ball broke down in our half-back line, there was one quick delivery into the full-forward line and a goal. That was particularly hard to

take. But you dust yourself off," she adds.

"Come January or February everyone's getting the gear out and you're like 'will I or won't I? And if I don't, will I miss something?'"

Galway's progress back to their second final in three years got new impetus with the arrival of Noel Finn as senior manager this season.

He led the county to All-Ireland intermediate success last year and brought a handful of that team with him to strengthen the seniors.

After taking the ultimate scalp; that of treble-chasing Cork in a replayed semi-final, is there more pressure on them now?

"Well we got two hard, physical games against Cork, but on the other side Wexford were in Croke Park in 2007 and have the experience of winning, so they'll be favourites," Maher asserts.

"Cork had been in the last eight finals and have been huge ambassadors so it was a huge task and very encouraging to beat them, even if it was only by a point the second day."

"The scoreline was just 0-10 to 0-9 - it wasn't exactly an epic encounter, but if it was 0-4 to 0-3 I'd take a win any day, especially tomorrow."

Victory main concern for top scorer Ursula

DEAN GOODISON

EVERY CHAMPIONSHIP will produce a top scorer, and going into the All-Ireland final the current holder of that crown is Wexford full-forward Ursula Jacob.

Typically in recent years, the Oulart-The Ballagh clubwoman has lined up in the corner for Wexford but, following a spell out of the side during the league Jacob has come roaring back in the championship to re-establish herself as one of the most dangerous full-forwards in the game.

"The last few years with the county it would always have been corner, but with the club and with college it would always have been full, so I'm well used to it now," said Jacob. "It's nice; I like to be in there because I'm so used to it. It doesn't really matter as long as I'm playing somewhere."

Her total of 2-57 may be points heavy, and certainly aided by frees, but while she has had no problem picking off points from play as well, goals in a goal-prolific team have been hard to come by.

It doesn't matter whether I get the goal, Katrina, Una, Kate or whoever is there. We have racked up a good few goals throughout the championship matches and even there against Kilkenny, Katrina and Kate got them. As long as one of us gets the goals and scores I'd be happy enough.

It would be an added bonus if I did get top scorer, but my main concern is us winning. We are not individuals, we are all a team, and the



■ Ursula Jacob

lads have definitely emphasised that. We have to play as one, it's not about individual glory, it's the whole team together," said Ursula.

"We have been working on it, we realise that we have to work as a team and if we don't we are not going to get the success. We have to work so hard for each other, J.J. and the lads are always on about workrate and working off the ball and finding the player in the better position. I think we

have been doing that fairly well so far. Obviously there are times when someone could have passed or whatever, but you have to move on from it."

As a group, the forwards were slow to really click and play as a team, but Jacob is certain that they are now moving in the right direction.

"We have definitely clicked more in recent weeks. At the start we got by Dublin easily and had the last-minute defeat to Galway, so we have learned from those games."

"All the games throughout we have learned different things, and I think we really have progressed from the start until now."

"At the same time we haven't had a complete performance either. There were times that Kilkenny were completely dominant in the first-half; at the start they really were on top, they got three of four points up and we struggled to get a few points, but we brought it back and we relaxed, we weren't panicky and we knew we could play better."

"In the second-half, once we got the goals we kind of opened out more. We won fairly comfortably but we still didn't have a complete 60-minute performance and we will need that for the final. 'Galway are not going to hold back and wait for us to score the points, they will be a severely tough challenge for us."

"There is always only a point or two between us, so we will have to step it up, but in saying that it's in us to do it. As long as we get our heads right for it we should go okay, hopefully."



U.16 Div 1 Dublin Camogie Championship winners 2010
 Back Row L-R Orla Breegan, Laura Morrissey, Lynsay Jordan, Ciara Sheehan, Siobhan Grimes, Laura Murtagh, Ailise Dowling, Sarah Courtney, Ali Iwomey, Tara Keenan, Claire Rigney, Niamh Berry, Emer Moloney
 Front Row L-R Rachael Kenny, Lauren Malone, Niamh Byrne, Annmarie Courtney, Ailish O'Grady, Kate Whyte, Ailbhe Ryan, Sharon Clarke



Camogie Association President Joan O'Flynn and Ard Stiúrthoir Sinead O'Connor addressed the Dublin Board on the new Camogie Constitution with Mona O'Sullivan (Secretary) and Marie O'Brien (Chair)

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS

Wexford eye up the double

Wexford
V
Galway

Tomorrow, Croke Park
 Senior Final, throw-in, 4pm
 Intermediate final
 Offaly v Wexford, 2pm
 Premier Junior Final
 Antrim v Waterford, noon
 All matches live on RTÉ 2

TOMORROW'S Gala All-Ireland camogie finals day at Croke Park represents a first for Gaelic games as both the senior and intermediate teams will line out with each player's name on their team jersey.

In an effort to increase player recognition amongst spectators, senior finalists Galway and Wexford, along with intermediate contenders Offaly and Wexford, have placed the names of their players on the reverse of the team jersey.

The senior pairing of Wexford and Galway is notable for the absence of Cork from the final for the first time since 2001.

Chasing a three-in-a-row this term, the Leesiders were edged out by Galway by a point in a tight replay at Semple Stadium, just a

week after the two teams had served up a free-flowing thriller in Nowlan Park.

Team captain Therese Maher is the heartbeat of the western side at centre-forward.

Her direct running has been the genesis of many scores for Noel Finn's charges during the season, with Veronica Curtin and Tara Rutledge the chief beneficiaries. They also have, in Aislinn Connolly, one of the great exponents of the placed ball in the game.

Curtin and substitute Aoife Lynskey are the only remaining links with the only Galway team to win this title in 1996, but they face a stiff task in overcoming Wexford, who blitzed last year's runners-up Kilkenny in the semi-final.

JJ Doyle's crew are chasing a double, having already pocketed league silverware. A combination of power in defence, where Mary Leacy is once again thriving, and pace and trickery up front, where the likes of Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock are very dangerous, makes them a complete outfit. And like Connolly, Una Jacob rarely misses from frees.

Galway prevailed in the round-robin stages by virtue of Jessica Gill's late goal from distance and one expects that this will go right



Captains Una Lacey of Wexford and Galway's Therese Maher

down to the wire once again, with Wexford possibly having the edge.

Joachim Kelly's Offaly side will be playing in their third successive All-Ireland as they take on Wexford in the intermediate decider. The junior champions have flourished since stepping up a level but Wexford's panel has been training with the seniors, and are taken to win the first leg of a famous double.

Waterford were Offaly's victims in last year's junior final and they are back again this time.

Poc Fada champion Patricia Jackman will bulwark their defence as they attempt to curb the very considerable threat of Antrim's Jane Adams. It will be tight but the Déise should come out on top.



Eve Talbot and Sharon Glynn at the Camogie Association's Night at the Dogs fundraiser in Shelbourne Park

INSIDE BACK

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

LIZ NEARY
 (Former Kilkenny camogie player)



IN a senior inter-county career that spanned 19 years, Kilkenny star Liz Neary amassed an astonishing seven All-Ireland camogie titles.

Surprisingly, though, Neary wasn't born with a hurl in her hand. The youngest of six and the only girl, she didn't play any camogie until she attended the Presentation Secondary School in Kilkenny.

"Playing camogie in school gave me some of my best memories," she says. "We had a great time. It was a small school but we did really well, we had no money, we had no facilities, we didn't even have a pitch. We played on a small piece of ground in the school and we won two All-Ireland colleges titles."

Neary wasn't playing too long when she caught the attention of the county manager. In fact, she was still in school when she played her first championship game for the Kilkenny seniors in 1968. The inter-county scene back then was very different to how it is now. The game was 12-a-side and played on a shorter, narrower pitch. Backroom teams and fitness sessions were unheard of the game was purely focused on hurling.

"I never did any regular training, I mainly played matches, I simply didn't have the time. I was a nurse all my life so our hours were demanding, we could be on night duty for 16 nights in a row. We couldn't fit it in even if we wanted to. There was just one

manager for the team then and for most of my career that was Tom Ryan. He was an absolutely brilliant trainer — he did so much work with us."

For the most of her career, Neary played with the St Paul's club in Kilkenny and by the time the club disbanded in the early 1990s, she had collected 20 county titles. She then went on to join Austin Stacks in Dublin where she won another county title.

Neary also earned a number of personal awards during her career. In 1981 and 1986, she was honoured with the prestigious Player of the Year Award and in 2004 she was named in the right corner-back position on the Camogie Team of the Century.

The Kilkenny woman retired from nursing at St Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny two years ago.

Neary is a keen golfer nowadays and plays off 12, although her hobby has been curtailed by a recent hip replacement. She is currently in the process of recovering from the operation and hopes to get back on the course as quickly as possible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATRINA



Wexford camogie player Katrina Parrock celebrating her 20th birthday at the media night in Wexford Park on Thursday met with her mother, Liz, and supporters Nicole Meyler and Karen O'Neill.

'I've never stopped wanting it, I will keep going until I get it'



Dreams of another All-Ireland medal still drive Galway's Veronica Curtin, says **Marie Crowe**

IF YOU win your first All-Ireland at 16 years of age, you would be forgiven for thinking that the good times would just keep on coming. But today, 14 years after Galway's Veronica Curtin captured her first title, she is back in Croke Park still looking for a second one.

"The drive to want to win one again is still there, I'm playing for a long time and I have never stopped wanting it," says Curtin. "When you are born into it and you have made it your life, it becomes such a priority. Winning becomes your main focus, I have given all this time and given all this commitment, it's in my blood and I want to win it so bad. I will keep going until I get it."

Curtin's senior debut came in 1995 when she was 15, an All-Ireland semi-final against Kilkenny. Since then she has dedicated half her life to inter-county camogie. That's 15 years of hard winter training, summers without holidays and, for the most part, disappointments.

"I'm completely conditioned to it now. I don't know any different. During my college years, I would have felt a bit aggrieved or a bit hard done by when I saw my friends heading off to America for summers but to be honest I love competing at the top. When I am at the top it doesn't bother me; it doesn't bother me because we've been winning and achieving success. I suppose that's what is important to me."

Obviously, 15 seems very young to break onto the county panel but Curtin believes that if you are good enough, you are old enough. It worked for her, although she does acknowledge that you can start



Veronica Curtin: 'Things won't always work out but I believe if you learn something from every day you go out, it will happen for you.' Photo: Brian Farrell

young in camogie — it's very different from hurling in that respect, not as physical. She has also been fortunate not to suffer any serious injuries along the way.

In many ways, her career has flown by. Surprisingly, she remembers her first All-Ireland well. In fact, it wasn't just her first one — it was Galway's first too. The cup had never crossed the Shannon before, and the whole province shared their success.

"That occasion was amazing but looking back I think we took it for granted," says Curtin. "All-Irelands are hard to win and it takes huge commitment and huge dedication, I think we thought that it was going to happen the whole time. Then we hit the bad times, we found it hard to adapt to 15-a-side and we were losing semi-finals continuously for a few years."

"I kept wondering if it was ever going to happen for us. Then we made the breakthrough in 2008 and it was fantastic and although we didn't win that bit of success brought us back again. You never get over the disappointments suffered but you live

with it and keep going."

Stretching out her career has been hard work, but down through the years Curtin has looked after herself well, paying careful attention to her diet, training and recovery. "I'm good to myself," she insists, "I never abuse my body."

During the off-season, Curtin plays hockey. Indeed, she is intent on maintaining a constant level of fitness all year round.

Back in 1995, the two-time All-Star started out as a full-forward but has moved round the field over the years. At the start of the current season, she found herself back where she started, lining out at full-forward once again.

"It's a place where you have to have patience and wait for the ball. I like it but I like wing-forward too. I want to be where there is ball. It took me a while to get used to full-forward, standing up for a while and no ball coming in. But then it just started happening for me, my performances started coming together and I'm getting the scores as well so I've been left there."

Along with getting the

scores Curtin has been using her experience to help the younger players before the big day. After 15 years at the top, she has plenty of it behind her, and is no stranger to the big occasions.

"I've been around for so long now I don't get nervous anymore. I try and help the other girls. I tell them to always try their best every day and learn from every game that they play. Things won't always work out but I believe if you learn something from every day, it will happen for you."

Nor is there any escaping the sport. Her husband Damian Coleman, a selector on the Galway team, has been involved in GAA for years, training the Ashbourne Cup team in NUI Galway and playing inter-county hurling with Galway.

"Damian understands the commitment that is required, it's never a problem if we have to cancel a holiday or if we can't do something because I have a match, he doesn't mind at all. He is used to it and he knows what is involved; he makes it easy for me."

Today is one of the biggest

of her career. She knows she can't compete at the top level forever and so is acutely aware of the importance of this opportunity.

Although Galway have beaten today's opponents Wexford twice this year, both occasions yielded only narrow victories.

Wexford last won the All-Ireland in 2007 and their core experienced players remain intact. But Galway aren't lacking anything either. They contested the final in 2008 and have been building towards a reappearance ever since. Overcoming Cork in the semi-final replay gave them confidence, winning the intermediate last year gave their new players experience and with Veronica Curtin leading from the front, they finally have all the pieces needed to put the jigsaw together.

Galway: S. Eamer; S. Tannian; S. Dervan; N. Kilkenny; R. Glynn; A-M Hayes; T. Manton; Emma Kilkenny; O. Kilkenny; C. Murray; T. Maher (c); B. Hanney; T. Rutledge; V. Curtin; A. Connolly
Wexford: M. D'Arcy; C. O'Connor; C. O'Loughlin; K. Atkinson; N. Lambert; M. Leacy; A. O'Connor; C. Murphy; D. Codd; K. Kelly; U. Leacy (c); M. O'Leary; K. Parrock; U. Jacob; J. Dwyer

Galway v Wexford, Live RTE2, 4.0



2010 National Camogie Feile Div 1 Winners

Back Row L-R Emer Murray, Amy Gorman, Ciara Casey, Rachael Leonard, Daiva Barry, Tara Farmer, Orla Beagan, Laura Morrissey, Orla Moloney, Niamh Power, Jenny Ryan, Maeve Ward, Sarah Boland.
Front Row L-R Charlotte Rooney, Ruth Mulligan, Aoife Greene, Cisca Devereux, Aoife Flynn, Annmarie Courtney, Rhona Downes, Amy Conroy, Aoife Clancey, Amber O'Connor, Niamh Byrne.



AN CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA
www.camogie.ie

GALA ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS

SENIOR
4.00PM • **GALWAY V WEXFORD**

INTERMEDIATE
2.00PM • **OFFALY V WEXFORD**

PREMIER JUNIOR
12.00 NOON • **ANTRIM V WATERFORD**

SUNDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2010, CROKE PARK

CLAR OIFIGIÚIL • LUACH €5

Gala
Your local market

Sinéad Ní Chonchúir
SINÉAD NÍ CHONCHÚIR
ARD STIÚRTHÓIR

Focal ón Uachtarán



AR SON Cumann Camógaíochta, fáilte isteach go bPáirc an Chrócaigh inniu le bhagairt Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann. Fáilte go leith roimh na h-imreoirí agus taim cinnte go mbéidh cluichí agus lá breá spóirtúil againn.

This second Sunday in September is rich in ritual, ceremony and tradition. There's the anticipation and the buzz; the pre-match parade; the Artane Band; the national anthem; the Hogan Stand presentation. There's meeting old friends; the sense of belonging and sharing; and, most importantly, the games – the heartbeat of the occasion.

The programme today creates a new tradition within Camogie. Our first triple header in this world class stadium is a special occasion. It is a truly national event bringing together six teams, five counties and representation from the four provinces.

The showpiece is the O'Duffy Cup final. In what some might consider a surprising Senior Final pairing, Galway and Wexford have the chance to achieve ultimate glory. Close followers of Camogie will know that over recent seasons these sides were never too far off. Both teams visited headquarters within the last three years – Galway in 2008 and Wexford, memorably, in 2007. One of them now has the chance to be declared the best of 2010.

Offaly and Wexford make their own unique history today. Either will be a first time winner of an All-Ireland Intermediate title and today's Final is the first occasion that the Jack McGrath Cup will be contested here.

For Waterford it's a second consecutive visit to Croke Park for the Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior Final. Antrim have a deep-rooted Camogie tradition and they will be set on re-igniting that. The winners take home the newly dedicated Kathleen (Kay) Mills Cup. Kathleen is one of the game's legends and I am delighted that future Camogie generations will now know and honour her memory.

Today's players follow in Kathleen's footsteps. They wear their county jersey with enormous pride and honour. As female athletes, each is a player in her own right and of the highest standard. Each demonstrates incredible skill variety, incredible speed and first touch on the ball and wonderful strength, athleticism and ambition to be the best.

A GROWING ASSOCIATION

As the three captains today make their way to the Hogan Stand to collect All-Ireland Cups, they will do so with the admiration of a growing and thriving Association.

The increasing attendances at inter county games is a heartening indication of this and has been a real joy in 2010. More people are coming to watch

camogie than ever before. Our All-Ireland Minor Final and Senior championship semi finals were the best attended ever. This is important because it gives public recognition and profile to the game. Today's innovation of incorporating players' names on their All-Ireland jerseys is a specific effort to further promote our star players to the public and the media.

Two hundred families and 50 leaders from communities of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds who now live and work in Ireland are our guests today. I am delighted with their participation. In an increasingly diverse society, I believe that through working together, our experience will be richer through knowing and experiencing each other's cultures.

This social inclusion and diversity initiative is also part of our drive to increase opportunities nationally and internationally to play Camogie. Our ambition to increase Camogie participation by 40 per cent over six years inspires this. In 2010 we have made an excellent start.

Since our March Congress and the launch of our new national development plan *Our Game Our Passion*, there are almost 20 new club start ups around the country. Exciting work has also commenced to establish underage Camogie in US and Britain.

APPRECIATION AND THANKS

The best buzz in sport is playing the game. However, nature dictates that this is a privilege for just a relatively small spell of our lives! The next best buzz is being part of the action – either pitch-side or behind the scenes and from nursery level up to All-Ireland Final level. Over the past 12 months, I have witnessed the loyalty, commitment and generosity of Camogie volunteers who are part of the action all over the country. I applaud you and generously thank you for your time and expertise. Your hard work within your counties makes days like today possible.

At the end of each game, one team will be jubilant and the other undoubtedly disappointed. Last Sunday's presentation showed that the opportunity for celebration and commiseration for players and backroom teams was enhanced as the crowd watched from the stands. This year, I call on all Camogie supporters to applaud your heroines from the comfort of the stand and view the presentation on the big screen.

I wish to extend special thanks to our All-Ireland championship partners, Gala. Your support is important and much appreciated. The GAA's support today and throughout the year, from club to national level, continues to be excellent and significant. The support of the statutory funding bodies, in particular the Irish Sports Council and Sports NI is also vital and again I am delighted that we have positive relationships with them.

The last word to all involved on this great occasion – players, managers, team mentors, referees, match officials, mini games' participants, musicians, volunteers, members of Croke Park Stadium and our own outstanding full time team and you our supporters – every success on what I know will be a great sporting day to savour and remember.

Siobhán Ní Ahtáin

JOAN O'LYNN
Uachtarán
The Camogie Association

CLAR AN LAE

Páirc an Chrócaigh, 12ú Meán Fomhair 2010

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 12 noon | Cluiche Ceannais na Primh Sóisear
AONTROIM v PORT LÁIRGE |
| 12.33pm | Camogie Mini Games
Cumann na mBunscoil Selection v Winners of St. Jude's U13
Tournament
Antrim (Portlennone) v Waterford (Roanmore) |
| 2.00pm | Cluiche Ceannais Idirmhéanach
LOCH GARMAN v UÍBH FHÁILÍ |
| 2.33pm | Camogie Mini Games
Galway (Cois Fharraige) v Wexford (Kilrush)
Offaly (County Selection) v Wexford (St. Anne's) |
| 3.28pm | Guard of Honour for Senior Teams
32 children representing new communities in Ireland
will form the guard of honour for the senior teams. |
| 3.52pm | Paráid na bhFoireann |
| 3.58pm | Amhrán na bhFiann |
| 4.00pm | Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear
GAILLIMH v LOCH GARMAN |
| 4.33pm | Jubilee team presentation – Kilkenny 1985-1991 – seven in-a-row
winning teams plus 1994 winning team |

The O'Duffy Cup will be brought onto the pitch by
Orla Young, Féile Dir-4 Winning Captain from Killard,
Co. Kerry and Ann Marie Courtney, Féile Dir-1 winning
Captain from Lucan Sarsfields, Co. Dublin

Musical entertainment: The Artane Band



MENTAL RESOLVE THE KEY FACTOR

Senior final preview by Linda Mellerick, 'Evening Echo'

WEXFORD AND Galway, the two counties contesting today's Gala Senior camogie final, remarkably hold just five All-Ireland titles between them. Wexford hold four achieved in 1968, '69, '75 and '07, while Galway possess one, taken in 1996.

Both have had more than their fair share of heartache in All-Ireland finals. Galway have lost twelve since 1932, their most recent being in 2008 when they were defeated by Cork. Wexford on the other hand have lost five, their last visit to Croke Park before their 2007 success ending in defeat in 1994.

There is therefore little by way of traditional rivalry between the counties, yet one feels that such a rivalry could originate today.

Having seen champions Cork unseated in the semi-final, 2010 is going to give way to a new champion for the first time in three years. Who will it be?

General consensus seems to be that Wexford are the favourites. I'm not so sure it's that easy to call.

The one vital ingredient which Galway didn't have in their make-up over the past decade or so was their ability to close out a game when it was theirs for the taking, nor stare defeat in the face and rise above it.

Noel Finn and Bertie Sherlock between them seem to have found the complete recipe if Galway's



Katrina Parrock (Wexford) in action against Sinéad Keane (Galway) in the sides' last meeting in Kenny Park, Athenry, on June 26th. (Photograph: Diarmuid Greene, Sportsfile)

All-Ireland semi-finals (drawn game and replay) are anything to go by. Twice in the drawn game they took a mental bruising and twice they rose above it, leaving Cork to chase the game at the death.

Similarly in the replay, Galway led all through until the 52nd minute when Cork edged in front. Yet they refused to surrender and snatched victory by the narrowest of margins.

Galway's shrewdness on the line could prove crucial today. Their tactical defensive switches for the replay were inspirational and they will no doubt

have their homework done on Wexford when they face what is regarded as the strongest forward division in the championship. While much of the talk revolves around Kate Kelly, Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob and deservedly so, the in-form Katriona Parrock

GALWAY SCORERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTALS
AISLINN CONNOLLY	0-7	1-9	0-5	0-7	0-4	2-8	0-5	0-6	3-51
VERONICA CURTIN	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-4	1-3	2-2	0-1	3-14
TARA RUTLEDGE	0-1	0-1	-	1-1	1-2	1-1	1-0	0-1	4-7
BRENDA HANNEY	1-0	0-2	-	0-1	0-1	-	0-1	0-1	1-6
ORLA KILKENNY	0-1	0-2	-	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	-	0-8
THERESE MAHER	0-1	0-3	0-1	0-1	-	-	-	-	0-6
CAROLINE MURRAY	-	0-1	-	0-2	0-1	-	0-1	0-1	0-6
JESSICA GILL	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	1-0
LORRAINE RYAN	-	-	-	-	-	0-3	-	-	0-3
SINÉAD KEANE	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	0-1
EMMA KILKELLY	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	0-1
AOIFE LYNSEY	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	0-1
LAURA MITCHELL	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	0-1

1: June 12 v. Kilkenny; 2: June 19 v. Tipperary; 3: June 26 v. Wexford; 4: July 3 v. Cork; 5: July 10 v. Clare; 6: July 17 v. Dublin; 7: Aug. 14 v. Cork; 8: Aug. 21 v. Cork.

WEXFORD SCORERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALS
URSULA JACOB	1-10	0-7	0-7	1-12	0-4	0-9	0-8	2-57
UNA LEACY	3-6	-	0-1	-	1-3	0-1	0-1	4-12
LENNY HOLOHAN	1-1	0-2	1-4	1-1	-	-	-	3-8
KATRINA PARROCK	1-3	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-1	-	1-0	2-8
KATE KELLY	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	2-2	2-3
EVELYN QUIGLEY	-	-	1-0	-	-	2-0	-	3-0
JOSIE DWYER	0-2	-	-	0-1	0-1	-	0-1	0-5
FIONA KAVANAGH	1-0	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	1-1
BRID GORDON	-	-	0-2	-	-	-	-	0-2
MICHELLE O'LEARY	0-1	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	0-2
DEIRDRE CODD	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-	0-1
MARY LEACY	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1
CLAIRE O'CONNOR	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1

1: June 19 v. Dublin; 2: June 26 v. Galway; 3: July 4 v. Clare; 4: July 10 v. Tipperary; 5: July 17 v. Cork; 6: July 24 v. Kilkenny; 7: Aug. 14 v. Kilkenny.

Kate Kelly will punish offenders. Discipline from both sides in their respective danger areas is crucial.

In 2007 as Wexford emerged from the dressing-room in Croke Park with the weight of not having won a title in 32 years sitting heavily on their shoulders, many felt the relatively young side would be overawed by the occasion and it was Cork's title. In fact, it was the opposite as they raced out of the traps and two goals inside fifteen minutes set the Slaneysiders on their way.

Galway felt Cork's wrath in 2008, a memory which is no doubt still very raw. At this stage when two teams reach an All-Ireland final it is generally regarded that little separates them on the playing field.

Mental resolve is the key factor. In a game which is bound to swing back and forth, the team which has the leaders will be the deciding feature as it is sure to go down to the wire.



Brenda Hanney (Galway) makes a spectacular catch as Ursula Jacob (Wexford) challenges during the Gala All-Ireland championship round three clash in Kenny Park, Athenry, on June 26th. (Photograph: Diarmuid Greene, Sportsfile)

could be the key for Wexford today. My player of the match in the semi-final, she may well prove to be the one who twists the knife into Galway.

Niamh Kilkenny may revert to left corner-back to mark the talented forward, although Galway could be best advised to start her at left half-back on Una Leacy and leave Regina Glynn inside, a position she seems more comfortable in.

The question is: will Galway have the defensive ability to cope with so much talent in one area of the pitch? Certainly in Sandra Tannian, Kilkenny, Glynn and Ann-Marie Hayes they have steady performers and shouldn't be overawed by the challenge which faces them.

The battle of the day will surely be between Mary Leacy and Therese Maher. Maher, the heartbeat of this Galway side over the years, will roam in search of action. Leacy will hold her pivotal centre-back position and play a sweeping role. Both players could have an impact on today's game.

Mags D'Arcy and Susan Earner are confident and assertive between the posts. Reading the game and targeting their advantage areas with their puck-outs will be just as essential.

Wexford's diagonal style of play should spread this game wide open. With both sides fast and skilful, we should have a rip-roaring contest.

Veronica Curtin was magnificent in the drawn semi-final, hitting 2-2. Cork held her to just a point in the replay. Should she line out at full-forward she will face a formidable opponent in Catherine O'Loughlin, and if Curtin is curtailed, Galway's main goal threat is extinguished. Tara Rutledge is playing well but may have to take on more responsibility in front of goal today, while Brenda Hanney needs to burst forward at every opportunity.

The midfield battle is hard to call. Expecting Josie Dwyer and Deirdre Codd to face Emma Kilkelly and Orla Kilkenny, Wexford might just edge it despite the impressive workrate of Kilkenny.

Aislinn Connolly's free-taking has been impeccable, often in pressurised situations. Likewise Ursula Jacob and

WHO WILL WIN AND WHY?

We ask some people best equipped to make a judgement - players from the beaten semi-finalists

PREMIER JUNIOR

LOUISE DONOGHUE (Meath)

FIRSTLY best of luck to both teams today. It should prove to be a very exciting final.

Antrim, with a number of O'Donovan Rossa players on board and with Jane Adams on form, will give Waterford a good game.

Waterford on the other hand will have gained experience from last year's defeat to Offaly. The combination of very classy forwards, Patricia Jackman and Aine Lyng, will cause a lot of problems and Waterford have some excellent strikers of the ball.

Given all this and the reminder of last year's defeat, Waterford should do it.

LISA McCRICKARD (Down)

HAVING played both teams twice this year, we are definitely set for a mouth-watering final, going right to the wire.

Waterford are an excellent team, and played very well together, especially with a few match-winners in the forward line, namely Patricia Jackman and Aine Lyng.

They will be very hungry for the title having been previously beaten by Offaly last year, and I am sure they are very well prepared for this year!

However, Antrim are quietly going about their business in the run-up to the final, having scraped through games with very little to spare! This shows the character of this team, fighting to the bitter end.

With Jane Adams getting back to her best, she can cause havoc in the Waterford defence.

This match will hang in the balance of defence, to see which team can limit two exceptional forward lines' opportunities to create space and get into scoring positions. Looking forward to a



SENIOR

ANNE DALTON (Kilkenny)

THIS IS a tough game to call. Both sides are physically strong with some very skilful players. Personally, I am looking forward to the clash between Mary Leacy and Therese Maher. Leacy plays in a sweeping role, while Maher is well capable of slotting over points from midfield. It will be interesting to see who wins this battle and it could be the difference between the sides.

Ursula Jacob is having a very good year with Wexford and is one of the most accurate free-takers in the game; Aislinn Connolly likewise for Galway. Galway must keep their fouling to a minimum, especially in scoring positions.

However, Brenda Hanney is a threat to the Wexford defence. She has everything a forward needs - strength, fitness, a brilliant hand and a bullet of a shot.

Both sides have played in the All-Ireland final in the last four years so the big day should not be an issue. They are where every camogie player wants to be on the second Sunday of September.

If both teams perform to their potential we are in for a cracker of a game. I would tip Wexford to lift the O'Duffy Cup, but I would not rule out Galway one bit!

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN (Cork)

GALWAY came out on top the last time these teams met back in June, snatching a dramatic injury time victory from Wexford when substitute Jessica Gill struck an 80-metre



free and it landed in the net.

This time around another close encounter is predicted. Both teams have strength in-depth and one of these strengths is the accuracy of their free-takers - Galway's Aislinn Connolly and Wexford's Ursula Jacob. Both girls have been clinical all year from placed balls so neither team would want to be giving away any easy frees as it could have a detrimental effect on the scoresheet against them.

The clash of Wexford centre-back Mary Leacy and Galway centre-forward Therese Maher has the makings of a great battle. Mary Leacy has won two Gala Performance player of the match awards this year and captained Wexford when they won in 2007 so has plenty of experience, while on the other hand, Therese Maher has been Galway's most consistent player over the last number of years and being captain of her side will give her even more reason to perform at the best of her ability.

Whichever one of these players is to come out on top could have a huge outcome on the winner of this game.

Predicting a winner is very tough; will the hurt Galway suffered after losing the 2008 final give them enough motivation to go on and win this one or will Wexford's experience of winning an All-Ireland in 2007 give them the confidence to do it all over again? A draw may be the final result of what has the makings of a very exciting All-Ireland final.

INTERMEDIATE

CLAIRE MULCAHY (Limerick)

IT SHOULD be a very tight final. Both Offaly and Wexford had very tough semi-finals. Wexford will hit the ground running and they will have the benefit and the intensity from training with their Senior squad which will be an added bonus for them.

The Offaly team will have the experience of playing in Croke Park from last year's Junior final



and with Joachim Kelly as a great motivator. From my own experience of playing Wexford this year, they are lively on their feet and all their forwards are capable of scoring.

Offaly could scrape it, being a younger and upcoming team, coming from Junior grade to Intermediate, reaching the final this year, and they have experienced players in Michaela Morkan and Sheila Sullivan. Offaly to win by a point or two, it will be very close.

JANE CAREY (Derry)

WEXFORD will probably be favourites, given that their Senior team are competing on the day and there is a wealth of experience in the county.

But I would have to favour Offaly; if they carry over the hunger and the intensity displayed in the semi-final against us, they will be very hard to stop.

Finally, all the best to all teams competing in finals today, especially our Ulster counterparts, Antrim.



Wexford's Lenny Holohan and David Armstrong on their wedding day on August 7th last.



Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship

TOP SCORERS

NAME	COUNTY	SCORE	TOTAL
URSULA JACOB	Wexford	2-57	63
AISLINN CONNOLLY	Galway	3-51	60
CLAIRE GROGAN	Tipperary	5-31	46
SILE BURNS	Cork	3-33	42
MICHELLE QUILTY	Kilkenny	0-35	35
CLAIRE McMAHON	Clare	2-23	29
UNA LEACY	Wexford	4-12	24
VERONICA CURTIN	Galway	3-14	23
LOUISE O'HARA	Dublin	0-23	23
ANN DALTON	Kilkenny	1-17	20

SHIP
2010

meet the Managers

with Mary Burke

GALWAY

Name: Noel Finn
D.O.B.: 18/12/1958
Place of birth: Killmordaly, Athenry, Co. Galway.
Currently living in: Donaree, Cappataggle, Co. Galway.
Family details: Single
Club: Cappataggle
Playing honours: one Junior 'B' and one Junior 'C' championship with Killmordaly. A number of under-age and schools championships. One Junior 'A' championship title with Cappataggle.



Managerial honours: two All-Ireland Intermediate championships, one All-Ireland Junior, one National league, one Connacht championship.
How long are you with the current team?: I started training Galway Intermediates in 2003 and continued for a few years, before I took a break and returned in 2009. I took over the Galway Senior team in January, 2010.
How did you get involved with camogie?: I started training Cappataggle Intermediate team in 1998, and it all took off from there. I was approached by a delegate from Galway County Board and offered the job, and I accepted it.

Other interests outside of camogie: I play some golf; I enjoy horse and greyhound racing.
Managers/players that you admire: Damien Joyce, Galway hurler, and Jackie Tyrrell, Kilkenny hurler.
How do you unwind after a hectic match?: Meet up with the lads.
Are you superstitious before a match?: Not really, I am on edge until I get there. I just like everything to go according to plan, to be there on time and ensure that it all runs smoothly.

WEXFORD Senior

Name: J.J. Doyle
(John Joe but always called J.J.)
D.O.B.: 19/3/1975
Currently living in: Marshalstown, Co. Wexford.
Club: Marshalstown
Playing honours: I played from eleven years of age up to adult level with Marshalstown and I also played with the Wexford Minor hurlers. Wear and tear was the cause of me giving it up.



Managerial honours: While involved with Naomh Eanna (Gorey) camogie club we won different competitions from

Under-12 to adult grades. One National league camogie title 2010.

How long are you with the current team?: This is my first year with the team.

How did you get involved with camogie?: I think I was a surprise selection for the job. I was initially approached and asked if I would be interested. I attended a meeting/interview with the selection committee, and following on after that I was offered the job which I accepted.

Other interests outside of camogie: I play golf in Courtown and I played rugby when I was younger.

Managers/players that you admire: I admire Mickey Harle of Tyrone.

How do you unwind after a hectic match?: I like to keep to myself after a match. You can get pretty hyped up at some games, so I prefer to be on my own for a while to unwind.
Are you superstitious before a match?: Not really, I just go along with it and hope it all works out.

OFFALY

Name: Joachim Kelly

D.O.B.: 1/12/1955
Occupation: Retired from An Garda Síochána.
Currently living in: Lismagh, Co. Offaly.



Family Details: Married to Anne, four children (two boys and two girls).

Club: Lismagh

Playing honours: two All-Ireland medals (1981 and 1985), All-Ireland finalists 1984, one National league 1991, seven Leinster championships, two All Stars, one County Senior championship.

Managerial honours: Lismagh – one Senior championship; Coill Dubh, Kildare – four Senior championships; Wexford Senior hurling manager and Portumna coach/trainer. One Gala All-Ireland Junior camogie championship 2009.

How long are you with the current team?: Three years.

How did you get involved with camogie?: My daughter Aoife, who plays on the county team, asked me would I be interested as they had no manager at the time, and I got involved from there.

Other interests outside of camogie: None really, it's mostly the G.A.A., training, coaching and development of the game.
Managers/players that you admire: Mickey Harle and Brian Cody.

How do you unwind after a hectic match?: I have a pint or two of Guinness in Hough's Pub in Banagher.

Are you superstitious before a match?: I am not really superstitious, I like everything running on time, 'I put the ducks in line', all have jobs to do.

ISLAND
GIE
PIONSHIP
S 2010

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship PATHS TO THE FINAL

DATE	VENUE	RESULT	REFEREE
June 12	Thurles	Cork.....1-16 Tipperary.....0-15	Fintan McNamara
June 12	Blakestown	Clare.....2-10 Dublin.....0-09	Mike O'Kelly
June 12	Nowlan Park	Kilkenny.....1-14 Galway.....1-11	Karl O'Brien
June 19	Ballinasloe	Galway.....1-19 Tipperary.....2-07	Mike O'Kelly
June 19	Páirc Uí Rinn	Kilkenny.....0-13 Cork.....2-06	Alan Lagrue
June 19	Wexford Park	Wexford.....7-25 Dublin.....0-03	Cathal Egan
June 26	Portmarnock	Cork.....1-23 Dublin.....1-06	Eamonn Browne
June 26	Corofin	Tipperary.....1-12 Clare.....1-09	Eadhonn Mac Suibhne
June 26	Athenry	Galway.....1-08 Wexford.....0-10	Una Kearney
July 3	Nowlan Park	Kilkenny.....2-18 Tipperary.....3-12	Fintan McNamara
July 3	Athenry	Galway.....1-14 Cork.....0-11	Eadhonn Mac Suibhne
July 4	Wexford Park	Wexford.....2-17 Clare.....1-05	Karl O'Brien
July 10	The Ragg	Wexford.....2-17 Tipperary.....0-14	Mike O'Kelly
July 10	Nowlan Park	Kilkenny.....6-20 Dublin.....0-06	Alan Lagrue
July 10	Corofin	Galway.....1-13 Clare.....1-11	Una Kearney
July 17	Páirc Uí Chaoimh	Cork.....2-10 Wexford.....1-10	John Morrissey
July 17	Portmarnock	Galway.....4-19 Dublin.....2-05	Cathal Egan
July 17	Corofin	Kilkenny.....4-14 Clare.....0-14	Karl O'Brien
July 24	Páirc Uí Chaoimh	Cork.....2-20 Clare.....0-08	Eadhonn Mac Suibhne
July 24	The Ragg	Tipperary.....5-21 Dublin.....0-06	Fintan McNamara
July 24	Wexford Park	Wexford.....2-10 Kilkenny.....0-10	Eamonn Browne
SEMI-FINALS			
Aug. 14	Nowlan Park	Galway.....3-11 Cork.....1-17	Karl O'Brien
Aug. 14	Nowlan Park	Wexford.....3-12 Kilkenny.....1-11	Fintan McNamara
Aug. 21	Thurles	Galway.....0-10 Cork.....0-09	Una Kearney

Therese Maher of Galway under pressure from Wexford's Mary Leacy and Catherine O'Loughlin when they met in Kenny Park, Athenry, in round three.



Gala Performance Award winners

in association with the **STAR**

Regina Glynn

(Galway v Cork – August 22nd)

IN A tight battle, with neither side giving a single inch, wing back Regina Glynn exemplified the tenacity of Galway as they overcame Cork in the Gala All-Ireland Senior semi-final replay at Thurles on August 22nd on a scoreline of 0-10 to 0-9. The classy defender shone, displaying calmness and authority throughout.



Mary Leacy

(Wexford v Kilkenny – August 14th)

PLUCKING balls from the air, clearing her lines with authority and marshalling a tight defence, Leacy led from the front as Wexford booked their All-Ireland final place against Kilkenny at Nowlan Park on August 14th. The lynchpin of the Wexford defence, the Oulart-The Ballagh clubwoman was highly impressive.



Jennifer O'Leary

(Cork v Galway – August 14th)

O'LEARY was inspirational at wing-forward, contributing 1-3 from play. Blistering pace, deadly accurate with her striking and displaying a razor sharp eye for goal, O'Leary showed no ill effects of her self-imposed break from the game and was, quite simply, back to her best.



Aoife O'Connor

(Wexford v Kilkenny – July 24th)

IN THE final Gala camogie championship round robin fixture, O'Connor put in a five-star performance in an all-star display against Leinster neighbours and rivals Kilkenny. Lining out at wing-back, O'Connor gave an assured display, full of energy and work-rate to collect her first Gala Performance Award.



Anna Geary

(Cork v Wexford – July 17th)

WITH TWO games remaining in the Gala round robin stages, Cork needed a vital victory against a resurgent Wexford side. The Rebels responded to the pressure and collected the points with wing-back Geary putting in an inspirational performance to carry her side to glory. Boundless energy, drive and sheer commitment were the hallmarks of a top performance.



Mary Leacy

(Wexford v Tipperary – July 10th)

LINING OUT in her customary number six, Leacy dominated proceedings against a Tipperary side desperately chasing victory. The 2007 All-Ireland winning captain was the rock upon which many of the Tipp attacks floundered.



Brenda Hanney

(Galway v Cork – July 3rd)

CORK travelled west in search of points but in a thrilling game returned home empty-handed. Hanney was one of the primary reasons – breaking up numerous Cork attacks, driving forward at every opportunity and taking her scores. The wing-forward gave an assured, confident performance to collect the weekly Gala Performance Award.



Aislinn Connolly

(Galway v Wexford – June 26th)

IN A GAME jam-packed with talking points, Connolly was to the fore as Galway pipped the Model county to collect vital points. Galway's sharpshooter was impeccable throughout, hitting five points (three from play) and contributing to general play with an exhibition of top-class passing.



Anna Geary

(Cork v Kilkenny – June 19th)

IN A GAME that ebbed and flowed, Geary was immense at wing-back – surging forward at every opportunity, thwarting Kilkenny attacks and clearing her lines with authority. A superb display on a day where there were many fine performances on both sides and with the Cats stealing the points at the death.

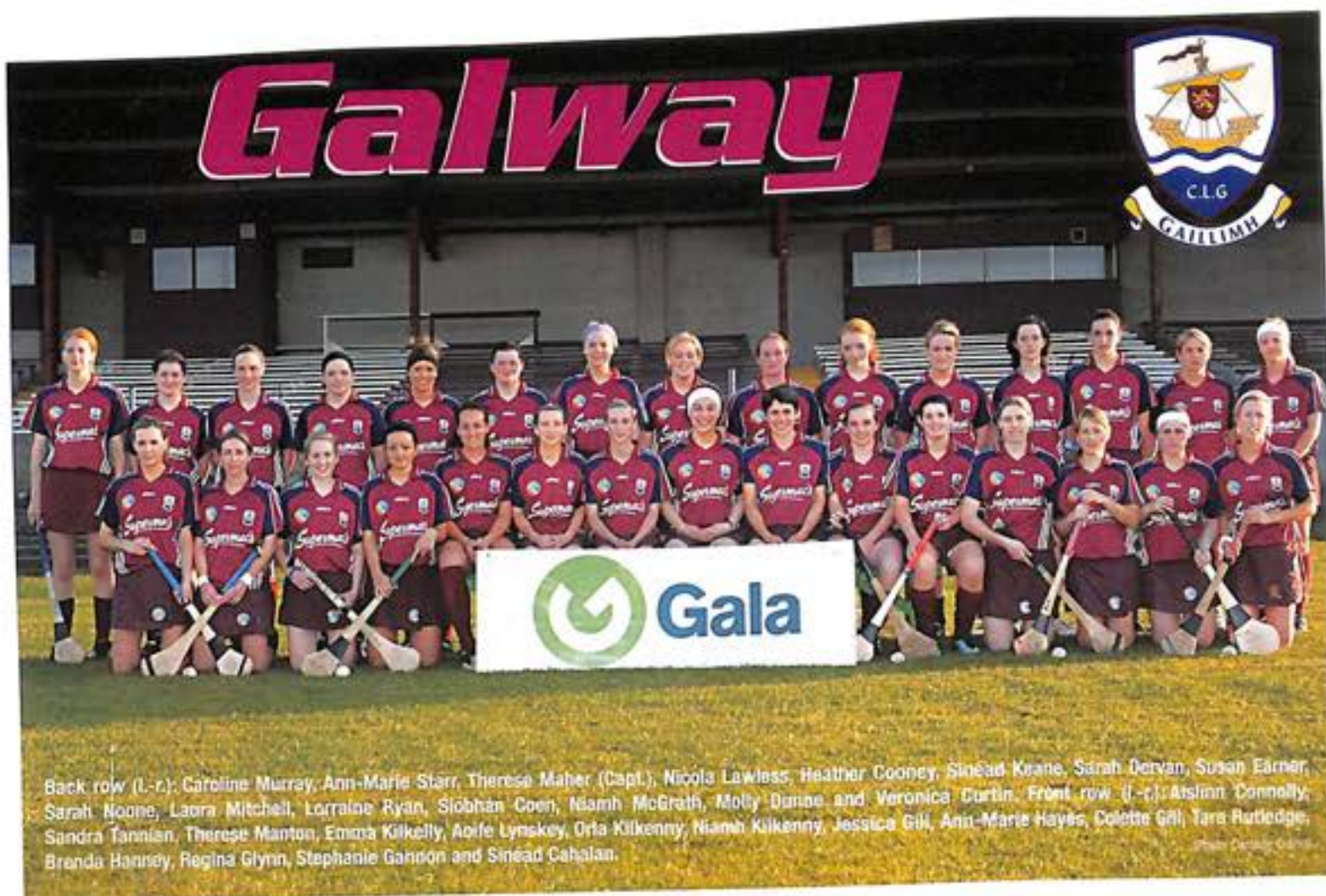


Gemma O'Connor

(Cork v Tipperary – June 12th)

ON THE opening day of the Gala All-Ireland Senior championship, O'Connor set the tempo, hitting five points from play from her midfield berth against Munster rivals, Tipperary. The six times All Star dominated the middle of the field with her passing, tackling and score taking to collect a deserved Gala Performance Award.





ALL-IRELAND
CAMOGIE
CHAMPIONSHIP
FINALS 2010

GAILLIMH

Dathanna: MARÚN agus BÁN



	1st LEAGUE	2nd LEAGUE
COIL		
COILIN		
SEACHAÍ		
AS		
SAOR		
POCANNA		



16. STEPHANIE GANNON S. Ní Fhiondaín Athenry	19. SINÉAD KEANE S. Ní Chatháin Kinvara	22. JESSICA GILL S. Ní an Ghaill Athenry	25. SARAH NOONE S. Ní Nuáin Ahascragh/Caitra	28. NIAMH McGRATH N. Ní Craith Sarsfields
17. LORRAINE RYAN L. Ní Ráin Killimordaly	20. COLETTE GILL C. Ní an Ghaill Kinvara	23. NICOLA LAWLESS N. Laighleis Killimor	26. LAURA MITCHELL L. Misteil Killimordaly	29. SINÉAD CAHALAN S. Ní Chatháin Mullagh
18. AOIFE LYNKEY A. Ní Lonscigh Ardara	21. HEATHER COONEY H. Ní Chuana St. Thomas	24. ANN-MARIE STARR A. M. Starr Killimor	27. SIOBHÁN COEN S. Ní Chadhain Ballinderreen	30. MOLLY DUNNE M. Ní Dhoirbh Eyre Court

Manager: Noel Finn. Selectors: Noel Power, Helena Huban. Trainer: Bertie Sherlock.

Wexford

SENIOR



2010
CHAMPIONSHIP



Back row (l.-r.): Bridget Curran, Kate Kelly, Josie Dwyer, Deirdre Codd, Evelyn Quigley, Ciara Storey and Caroline Murphy. Centre row (l.-r.): Mags D'Arcy, Mary Leacy, Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Karen Atkinson, Ursula Jacob, Helena Jacob, Fiona Kavanagh, Stacey Kehoe, Frances Doran, Ciara O'Connor. Front row (l.-r.): Noeleen Lambert, Aoife O'Connor, Jean Hayden, Shelley Kehoe, Louise O'Leary, Lenny Holohan, Katrina Parrock, Una Leacy (Capt.), Brid Gordon, Colleen Atkinson and Eimear O'Connor

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)



LOCH GARMAN
Dathanna: CORCORA agus ÓR

2010

CHAMPIONSHIP

1

Mags D'Arcy
M. Ní Dhorchai
St. Martin's

2

Claire O'Connor
C. Ní Chonchúir
Rathnure

3

Catherine O'Loughlin
C. Ní Lochlainn
Monageer-Booleavogue

4

Karen Atkinson
C. Nic Aidicin
Oulart-The Ballagh

5

Noeleen Lambert
N. Laimbéart
St. Martin's

6

Mary Leacy
M. Ní Laitheasa
Oulart-The Ballagh

7

Aoife O'Connor
A. Ní Chonchúir
Rathnure

8

Caroline Murphy
C. Ní Mhurchú
Ferns St. Aidan's

9

Deirdre Codd
D. Nic Óda
Duffry Rovers

10

Kate Kelly
C. Ní Cheallaigh
St. Ibar's-Sheilmallier

11

Una Leacy
U. Ní Laitheasa (Capt.)
Oulart-The Ballagh

12

Michelle O'Leary
M. Ní Laoire
Rathnure

13

Katrina Parrock
C. Ní Pharóg
St. Ibar's-Sheilmallier

14

Ursula Jacob
Ú. Iacób
Oulart-The Ballagh

15

Josie Dwyer
S. Ní Dhubhuir
Ferns St. Aidan's

16. HELENA JACOB L. Iacób Oulart-The Ballagh	19. CIARA STOREY C. Ní Stóirí Oulart-The Ballagh	22. JEAN HAYDEN S. Ní Héideáin Rathnure	25. STACEY KEHOE S. Nic Eochaidh Oulart-The Ballagh	28. EIMEAR O'CONNOR E. Ní Chonchúir Rathnure
17. EVELYN QUIGLEY E. Ní Choigligh Rathnure	20. LENNY HOLOHAN L. Ní hUallacháin Rathnure	23. SHELLEY KEHOE S. Nic Eochaidh Oulart-The Ballagh	26. COLLEEN ATKINSON C. Nic Aidicin Oulart-The Ballagh	29. FRANCES DORAN P. Ní Dheoráin Batters Alley
18. BRÍD GORDON B. Ní Mhuirneacháin Blackwater	21. FIONA KAVANAGH F. Casmhánach Buncloody	24. CIARA O'CONNOR C. Ní Chonchúir Rathnure	27. LOUISE O'LEARY L. Ní Laoire Rathnure	30. BRIDGET CURRAN B. Ní Chorráin St. Ibar's-Sheilmallier

Manager: J.J. Doyle. Selectors: Tommy Roche, Joe Brennan. Trainer: Gerry McQuaid.

Wexford

SENIOR



CHAMPIONSHIP
2010



Back row (l-r): Bridget Curran, Kate Kelly, Josie Dwyer, Deirdre Codd, Evelyn Quigley, Ciara Storey and Caroline Murphy. Centre row (l-r): Mags D'Arcy, Mary Leacy, Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire O'Connor, Michelle O'Leary, Karen Atkinson, Ursula Jacob, Helena Jacob, Fiona Kavanagh, Stacey Kehoe, Frances Doran, Ciara O'Connor. Front row (l-r): Noeleen Lambert, Aoife O'Connor, Jean Hayden, Shelley Kehoe, Louise O'Leary, Lenny Holohan, Katrina Parrock, Una Leacy (Capt.), Brid Gordon, Colleen Atkinson and Eimear O'Connor

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

Gaillimh



SUSAN EARNER

Eyrecoort
Age: 23. Honours: one All-Ireland Minor championship; one National league; one All-Ireland Junior championship; Galway player of the year '03; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; one All-Ireland Senior Colleges; one Senior Gael Linn.



SANDRA TANNIAN

St. Thomas
Age: 30. Honours: eight All-Ireland Vocational Schools championships; two All-Ireland Minor championships; one All-Ireland Junior championship; one Purcell Cup; two Gael Linn; one National league; one Intermediate County championship; three North American championships with Eire Og (Boston).



SARAH DERVAN

Mullagh
Age: 22. Honours: Connacht player of the year '09; Feile skills winner '01; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; Ashbourne Cup.



NIAMH KILKENNY

Pearse
Age: 21. Honours: one All-Ireland Minor championship; Connacht Schools championship; one Senior Gael Linn '08.



REGINA GLYNN

Athenry
Age: 26. Honours: two All-Ireland Club sevens; one Feile na nGael; four Senior County championships; two Ashbourne Cups with U.L.; U.L. player of the year '05; two All Stars.



ANN-MARIE HAYES

Killimor
Age: 25. Honours: one All-Ireland Minor championship; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; one All-Ireland Junior championship; three Connacht Schools championships; two Gael Linn; two All Stars; one Ashbourne Shield.



SINÉAD KEANE

Kinvara
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Minor, Junior and Intermediate championships; one All-Ireland Senior Colleges.



EMMA KILKELLY

Kinvara
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Minor, Junior and Intermediate championships; Junior and Senior Connacht Colleges titles.



ORLA KILKENNY

Pearse
Age: 27. Honours: three All-Ireland Senior Club championships; two All-Ireland Minor championships; two All-Ireland Senior Club sevens; one Gael Linn; one Ashbourne Cup with U.L.



CAROLINE MURRAY

St. Thomas
Age: 30. Honours: one All-Ireland Junior championship; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; three Ashbourne Shields with U.L.



THERESE MAHER

Athenry
Age: 29. Honours: two All-Ireland Minor championships; two Gael Linn; two All-Ireland Senior Club sevens; one Ashbourne Shield; one National league; four Senior County championships; Galway camogie player of the year; three All Stars.



BRENDA HANNEY

Killimor
Age: 23. Honours: one Senior and one Junior National league; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; one All-Ireland Junior championship; Ashbourne Shield with Cork I.T. '06.



TARA RUTLEDGE

Portlanna
Age: 19. Honours: one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; five Connacht Schools championships; Minor and Junior County championships.



VERONICA CURTIN

Kinvara
Age: 30. Honours: one All-Ireland Minor championship and one All-Ireland Junior championship (player of the match in both finals); one All-Ireland Senior championship '96; two Senior Gael Linn; one Junior Gael Linn; two All Stars.



AISLINN CONNOLLY

Castlegar
Age: 24. Honours: one All-Ireland Minor championship; two National leagues; three Ashbourne Cups with U.L.



STEPHANIE GANNON

Athenry
Age: 22. Honours: one All-Ireland Junior championship; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; one National league; Poc Fada winner '04; four Senior Club championships; two All-Ireland Kilmacud sevens.



LORRAINE RYAN

Killimordaly
Age: 21. Honours: one County Minor championship; one All-Ireland Junior Schools championship with Presentation College (Athenry); County league, championship and Connacht titles; one Senior Gael Linn.



AOIFE LYNKEY

Ardrahan
Age: 30. Honours: one All-Ireland Senior championship '96; one National league; Minor, Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland championships; one Gael Linn; two Ashbourne Cups with U.L.; one All-Ireland Feile na nGael.



THERESE MANTON

Mullagh
Age: 22. Honours: two Ashbourne Cups with U.C.D.; two Connacht Vocational Schools championships with Loughrea; one Gael Linn; Pan Celtic player of the year for St. Brigid's Vocational School '06.



COLLETTE GILL

Kinvara
Age: 22. Honours: one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; Connacht Junior Schools championship; under-age County championships.



HEATHER COONEY

St. Thomas
Age: 21. Honours: one All-Ireland Intermediate championship.



JESSICA GILL

Athenry
Age: 20. Honours: two All-Ireland Club sevens; one All-Ireland Minor championship; one All-Ireland Junior Schools championship; Senior Gael Linn; four Senior County championships; one All Star.



SARAH NOONE

Ahacragh/Celina
Age: 22. Honours: one All-Ireland Under-16 championship; one Purcell Cup with Athlone I.T.; Gael Linn; one All-Ireland Junior championship; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship.



NICOLA LAWLESS

Killimor
Age: 24. Honours: one All-Ireland Junior championship; one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; two Purcell Cups.



ANN-MARIE STARR

Killimor
Age: 18. Honours: Minor County championship; Connacht Schools championship.



LAURA MITCHELL

Killimordaly
Age: 17. Honours: one All-Ireland Intermediate championship; one All-Ireland Minor championship; one All-Ireland Under-16 championship; Minor and Intermediate County championships.



SIOBHÁN COEN

Bollindereen
Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Intermediate championship '09; All-Ireland Minor championship '10.



SINÉAD CAHALAN

Mullagh
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '03; All-Ireland Intermediate championship '04; one Pan Celtic '07; 1 Senior Gael Linn '08; 1 Ashbourne Shield with Mary I '05; two All Stars.



NIAMH MCGRATH

Sersfields
Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Minor '10; All-Ireland Under-16 '09; All-Ireland Feile '07; Gael Linn '08.



MOLLY DUNNE

Eyrecoort
Age: 23. Honours: one Purcell Cup '08; one Schools All-Ireland '04.

Loch Garman



SENIOR



MAGS D'ARCY

St. Martin's
Age: 22. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star '07; Ashbourne Cup with U.C.D. '07, '08; Leinster Under-14 '99, '00; Leinster Under-16 '02; Leinster Senior '03, '04, '07; Leinster Poc Fada runner-up '07 and winner '08, '09; Club Senior '8 '03, '07.



CLAIRE O'CONNOR

Rathmure
Age: 29. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All-Ireland Under-16 '95; All-Ireland Senior Club '95; three Leinster Senior Club '95, '96, '00; County Senior Club '95, '96, '99, '00, '08; Leinster Under-14 '93, '94; Leinster Under-16 '95, '96; Leinster Under-18 '97, '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00, '03, '07; Junior Gael Linn '99; Leinster Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '96, '98, '99; Purple and Gold Star '08.



CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN

Manager-Boolevogue
Age: 26. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; three All Stars '05, '07, '08; Wexford Supporters' Club player of the year '08; All Star nominee '06, '09; Ashbourne All Star '05, '06; Ashbourne player of the tournament '05; two Senior Gael Linn '06, '10; Junior Gael Linn '01; All-Ireland Junior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '00; Leinster Under-16 '00; Leinster Senior '01, '04, '07; Leinster Junior '03; Club Senior B '04, '08; Purple and Gold Star '08.



KAREN ATKINSON

Oulart-The Ballagh
Age: 23. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 and Division 2 '09, '10; Ashbourne Cup with W.L.T. '09; three All-Ireland Feile na nGael '98, '99, '00; Leinster Under-14 '00; Leinster Under-16 '02; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04; Leinster Junior '03, '04; Leinster Senior '04, '07; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; All-Ireland Club sevens '06.



NOELEEN LAMBERT

St. Martin's
Age: 27. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07, and selected as 'The Star' player of the match; Wexford camogie player of the year '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '08; Leinster Under-14 '95, '96; Leinster Under-18 '98; Leinster Junior '03; Leinster Senior '07.

Club Senior B '03, '07; Junior Gael Linn '99; Leinster Senior B Colleges with Loreto (Wexford) '96; Purple and Gold Star '08.



MARY LEACY

Oulart-The Ballagh
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star '04, '07; All Star nominee '05, '08; two All-Ireland Feile na nGael '98, '99; Leinster Under-14 '99; Leinster Under-16 '00; Leinster Senior '01, '04, '07; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04; Leinster Junior '03, '04; represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland '04; All-Ireland Colleges All Star '04; Ashbourne Cup with U.C.D. '07, '08; All-Ireland Club sevens '06; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Purple and Gold Star '08; Gael Linn '10.



AOIFE O'CONNOR

Rathmure
Age: 31. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All-Ireland Senior Club '95; three Leinster Senior Club '95, '96, '00; Club Senior '95, '96, '99, '00, '01; Junior Gael Linn '99; Leinster Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '96; Purple and Gold Star '08.



JOSIE DWYER

Ferns St. Aidan's
Age: 25. Honours: National league Division 1 '09, '10; Leinster Under-16 '00; Leinster Junior '03, '04; Leinster Senior '04; Leinster Senior Colleges with F.C.I. (Bundlod) '00; Club Junior '98; Club Intermediate '00; Purple and Gold Star '08.



DEIRDRE CODD

Duffry Rovers
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '05, '07, '09; Gael Linn '10; Leinster Under-14 '99, '00; Leinster Under-16 '00, '02; Club Intermediate '01, '03; Club Senior B '09; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04; represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland '04; Leinster Senior '04, '07; Leinster Junior '04; Purple and Gold Star '08.



UNA LEACY

Oulart-The Ballagh
Age: 22. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star '07; five All-Ireland Feile na nGael '98, '99, '00, '01, '02; Leinster Under-14 '99, '00, '01, '02; Leinster Under-16 '02; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04, '05.

All-Ireland Junior Colleges '04; Leinster Junior '03, '04; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Ashbourne Cup with U.C.D. '07, '08; Leinster Senior '07; Purple and Gold Star '08; Gael Linn '10.



KATE KELLY

St. Ibar's-Shelmallee
Age: 30. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star '04, '06, '07; All Star nominee '05, '08, '09; national camogie player of the year '07; Wexford Supporters' Club player of the year '07; All-Ireland Under-16 '95; Leinster Under-14 '92, '93, '94; Leinster Under-16 '94, '95, '96; Leinster Under-18 '97, '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00, '01, '03, '04; two Ashbourne Cups with W.L.T. '99, '01; Leinster Centenary Ambassador '04; Gael Linn '06, '10; four Senior Club '97, '98, '01, '02; two Leinster Senior Club '01, '02; Leinster Senior B Colleges with Loreto (Wexford) '96; Purple and Gold Star '08.



MICHELLE O'LEARY

Rathmure
Age: 30. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '08; All-Ireland Under-16 '95; All-Ireland Senior Club '95; three Leinster Senior Club '95, '96, '00; Club Senior '95, '96, '99, '00, '08; three Senior B Club '02, '05, '06; Leinster Under-14 '93, '94; Leinster Under-16 '94, '95, '96; Leinster Under-18 '97, '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00, '01, '03, '04, '07; Junior Gael Linn '99; Leinster Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '96, '98; Purple and Gold Star '08.



KATRINA PARROCK

St. Ibar's-Shelmallee
Age: 20. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '06, '09; Leinster Under-14 '02; Leinster Senior '07; Ashbourne Cup with W.L.T. '10; Ashbourne All Star '10; Ashbourne player of the tournament '10; W.L.T. Freshers player of the year '10.



URSULA JACOB

Oulart-The Ballagh
Age: 25. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '05, '07, '08; Leinster Under-14 '99; Leinster Under-16 '00; All-Ireland Junior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04; Leinster Senior Colleges '99, '03, '04; represented Ireland in second level Compromise Rules v. Scotland '04; All-Ireland Colleges All Star '04; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Leinster Senior '04; All-Ireland Freshers with W.L.T.; Ashbourne Cup '09, '10; Ashbourne All Star '09, '10; W.L.T. camogie player of the year and sportsperon of the year '10; two All-Ireland Feile na nGael '98, '99; All-Ireland club sevens '06.



FIONA KAVANAGH

Bundlod
Age: 25. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Leinster Senior Colleges with F.C.I. (Bundlod) '00.



CAROLINE MURPHY

Ferns St. Aidan's
Age: 26. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All Star nominee '07; Club Intermediate '00; Leinster Senior '04, '07; Leinster Junior '04.



EVELYN QUIGLEY

Rathmure
Age: 28. Honours: National league Division 1 and Division 2 '09, '10; All-Ireland Senior Club '95; three Leinster Senior Club '95, '96, '00; Club Senior '95, '96, '99, '00, '08; London Club Senior with Fr. Murphy's '07; three Senior B Club '02, '05, '06; Leinster Under-18 '97, '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00, '01, '03, '04; Leinster Junior '03, '04; Ashbourne Cup with W.L.T. '01.



BRID GORDON

Blackwater
Age: 22. Honours: National league Division 1 and 2 '10; Under-14, Under-16 and two Intermediate Club championships.



CIARA STOREY

Oulart-The Ballagh
Age: 20. Honours: National league Division 1 and 2 '09, '10; three All-Ireland Feile na nGael '00, '01, '02; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '03, '04, '05; All-Ireland Junior Colleges '04; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; All-Ireland Club sevens '06; Leinster Under-14 '02.



LENNY HOLOHAN

Rathmure
Age: 30. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09, '10; All-Ireland Senior Club '95; three Leinster Senior Club '95, '96, '00; Club Senior '95, '96, '99, '00, '08; three Senior B Club '02, '05, '06; Leinster Under-14 '94; Leinster Under-16 '96; Leinster Under-18 '97, '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00, '01, '03, '04; Leinster Senior Colleges with Coláiste Bride '96, '98, '99; Purple and Gold Star '08.

The details for the ten remaining Senior panel members are included with Intermediate player profiles.

The players in question are:

Helena Jacob, Jean Hayden, Shelley Keane, Ciara O'Connor, Stacey Kehoe, Colleen Atkinson, Louise O'Leary, Eimear O'Connor, Frances Dora and Bridget Curran.



TOP MODELS

Leacys lead Wexford's march to All-Ireland glory **pages 72-73**

Wexford captain Una Leacy, left, with Michelle O'Leary lead the celebrations after winning the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Croke Park yesterday **PAUL MOHAN / SPORTS ILLUSTRATED**

Wexford jumping for joy

Gala All-Ireland Camogie senior final



Daragh Ó Conchúir
Croke Park

Wexford 1-12
Galway 1-10

FOR THE most part the sun shone on what was an historic day for camogie at Croke Park yesterday, a memorable one for Wexford but another harrowing experience for Galway. With the three Gala All-Ireland finals taking place on the one bill for the first time, president Joan O'Flynn had promised a carnival of camogie and the 17,290 who came in through the stiles weren't disappointed.

Fears that the attendance would drop significantly in the wake of the U21 hurling All-Ireland's removal proved unfounded and the communications and marketing director of the Camogie Association, Claire Egan was understandably pleased with the turnout.

"Considering that this was the first time in a while that the U21 wasn't part of the programme and the fact that we retained our previous attendances while adding around 2,000, the response from the camogie public has to be considered as very positive," said Egan.

In an absorbing senior encounter Wexford deservedly claimed their first

title since 2007, although they were made to live on their nerves a little at the end by a resolute Galway.

Three years ago, Mary Leacy captained the side and this time it was her sister Una who was presented with the O'Duffy Cup. Considering their mother Margaret was involved in the county's other three successes at this level, that particular family's contribution to Wexford camogie is immense.

"I was delighted for her," said Mary of her younger sister. "She's struggled with injuries for the last while with her knees but, to be honest, it didn't matter to me whether it was Una or Mags (D'Arcy), as long as we went back with the O'Duffy Cup."

The game ended in a welter of excitement when Aislinn Connolly's free from under the Hogan Stand right on the hour flew all the way to the corner of the net to leave just two points between the sides.

Try as they might though, Galway could not break down a splendid Wexford rearguard one more time and so their search for a second All-Ireland continues.

The big news was the appearance of Jessica Gill at full-forward for the Tribeswomen. The Athenry star had made a number of substitute appearances in the round-robin stages of the championship as she continued her recovery from a cruciate knee ligament operation but this was her first start.

Veronica Curtin, who had been in flying form on the edge of the square all season, was switched to the corner. But even when Galway got more of a foothold around the middle in the second half, they found it difficult to

break down the Wexford defence and only managed three points from play in the entire game.

Corner-back Claire O'Connor maintained her phenomenal record of not conceding a single score in eight championship encounters, Curtin's sole point coming after she had switched to the opposite corner.

Catherine O'Loughlin was monumental at full-back and Mary Leacy gave another commanding performance in front of her. It was this dominance that laid the platform for Wexford's victory.

"We were happy to fight it out," said Mary Leacy. "We didn't care what kind of game it looked like. We battled it out. There was a lot of hooking and blocking in the second half. We didn't care if it was one point or 10 points, just to win was our main aim."

"Everyone gave 100%. You could see some tired legs... I was wrecked!" For Galway though, it was a second defeat at this stage in three years and team captain Therese Maher could not hide the pain.

"There's absolutely devastation in there now," said Maher. "No amount of words is going to console anybody. You go to Croke Park to win. Another day over. Another All-Ireland lost."

Wexford were three points clear by the 19th minute, Una Leacy, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock slotting points from play. To be fair to Galway, despite being clearly second best, that was still the margin with half time looming but in the 30th minute, Wexford struck for a crucial goal from Katrina Parrock.

It was Kelly who started the move

and she found Una Leacy brilliantly. The skipper beat Ann-Marie Hayes before drawing Regina Glynn and hand-passing to Parrock, who drove low beyond the exposed Susan Earner. Una Jacob added a point and Wexford were full value for their 1-8 to 0-4 advantage.

Galway were a different proposition after the restart though. Wing-back Niamh Kilkenny gave an exhibition for the Maroons but they needed to take every chance that came their way.

They couldn't do it however, and Gill had a 34th minute penalty that she had won herself saved by Mags D'Arcy. The St Martin's custodian also advanced quickly off her line to deny Maher and they were to prove critical interventions, especially when Fiona Dwyer somehow hand-passed wide at the other end with the goal gaping.

Still, it looked like the game was meandering to an inevitable conclusion when Connolly was fouled around 35m out. When the Castlegar player's shot ended in the back of the Wexford net, the Galway supporters erupted in joy and hope. But it wasn't to be and two minutes later, it was Wexford who were celebrating.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy, A O'Connor; C Murphy, D Codd; K Kelly 0-2, U Leacy 0-1, M O'Leary 0-1; K Parrock 1-2, U Jacob 0-6 (4fs), J Dwyer.

Subs: C Storey for Atkinson inj (14); L Holohan for Codd (53)

GALWAY: S Earner; S Tannian, S Dervan; R Glynn; N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, T Mantoo; B Hanney, O Kilkenny 0-1; C Murray, T Maher, A Connolly 1-6 (1-4fs, 2 45s); T Rutledge, J Gill 0-10; V Curtin 0-1.

Subs: E Kilkenny for Rutledge temp (9-18); L Ryan for Murray (28); Kilkenny 0-1 for Rutledge (4th); H Cooney for Mantoo (39); J McGrath for Gill (58); A Lynskey for O Kilkenny (60+1)

Leacys keep it in family as Wexford take the title



CLIONA FOLEY

WEXFORD 1-12
GALWAY 1-10

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL

THEY made a brave effort to steal it in the dying stages, but Croke Park proved 'Heartbreak Hotel' yet again for Galway camogie yesterday as Wexford narrowly held out to clinch their second senior title in four years.

Defeat in the intermediate final thwarted the Slaneiders' big double ambitions, but their seniors added the championship to this year's league crown and, with their fifth title, proved that their 2007 victory was no one-hit wonder.

And one Wexford family was able to celebrate its own unique double, as Una Leacy lifted the O'Duffy Cup to match her equally brilliant older sister Mary, who captained them in 2007.

Daughters of Margaret O'Leary, who herself made camogie's 'Team of the Century', the Leacy girls led by example again yesterday when Wexford's seven-point half-time lead dwindled to just two, after they conceded a silly goal just as the game moved into injury-time.

"It's the best feeling in the world, I never thought this would happen," said Una Leacy after equalling her older sister's achievement.

But the centre-forward, whose barnstorming surging runs did so much to open up Galway's defence in the first half, admitted that there were times during that second-half siege when she got flashbacks to their last victory.

"It was very like the 2007 final; we got off to a brilliant start again and were under pressure in the second half. But thankfully that's two years we're after holding out now."

"Our defence stood out all year. You couldn't ask for tighter or more dependable backs; they've given everything," Leacy enthused.

A brilliant start saw Wexford lead by 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time but their goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy had to be alert just five minutes after the restart when Jessica Gill stood up to take a penalty that she had earned herself.

The St Martin's 'keeper deflected it well but she and a few more defenders were at fault in the dying minutes when Aisling Connolly's 35m free somehow crept over all their heads into the top left corner of the net to set up the cliffhanger finish.

But, in truth, Wexford always had a far greater scoring threat and, while they failed to find the target in those dying seconds, they always looked the side more capable of doing so throughout. That was little consolation

for Galway's player-of-the-match contender Niamh Kilkenny, or veterans like Veronica Curtin and captain Therese Maher, whose efforts to lift them in the second half couldn't be faulted.

Curtin was the only starter involved when Galway won their only senior title back in 1996. For Maher, losing her second final in three years, and fourth in total, was gut-wrenching.

"It's an absolutely devastated dressing-room in there," she admitted. "No amount of words is going to console anybody. You come to Croke Park to win but it's another day over, another All-Ireland lost."

Like manager Noel Finn, she pointed out that Galway's U-16 and minor titles this year gives them plenty of optimism for the future, but their pain was plain to see.

ATTACK

Finn's decision to start Jessica Gill, who had cruciate surgery last winter, in her first game of the summer will be debated. It meant reshuffling their attack and starting in-form Veronica Curtin at corner-forward.

She didn't get into the game until moved to the wing after 25 minutes and finished the game with just one late score.

Finn had hoped Gill's quality and good form in training might help unlock Wexford's teak-tough defence but that was not to be, thanks to the brilliance of full-back Catherine O'Loughlin, Mary Leacy and corner-back Claire O'Connor.

O'Connor's resilience, particularly in the second half, nicked her the player-of-the-match award in a great team defensive performance where Ciara Storey (Martin's daughter) did well after replacing early injury victim Karen Atkinson.

of a thrilling final. The south easterners had fought back from nine points down to level with 11 minutes on the clock.

But a superb Ailsa Hughes point ended a 15-minute drought for Offaly and they held out to claim victory.

Such an exciting denouement had looked unlikely at the end of a first half book-ended by goals from Offaly full-forward Elaine Dermody.

The first was a gift from

Wexford 'keeper Helena Jacob, who misjudged a Dermody point attempt which sailed into the net. That filled Offaly with confidence and Jear "Jady and Dermody added a double apiece, with Siobhan Flannery pointing to make the score 1-5 to 0-0.

Ciara O'Connor got Wexford off the mark with a 17th-minute point and Fiona Rochford, Lisa Bolger and O'Connor added points but a lovely flick home from

Dermody and two Flannery points gave Offaly a nine-point lead at half-time.

But whatever Karen Barnes said to the Wexford team at the break certainly worked as they outscored Offaly 2-4 to a sole Dermody free to level on 49 minutes.

With substitute Eimear O'Connor steadying the ship, speedster Fiona Rochford got both goals, the first a handpass and the second a beautiful

finish into the net.

But Offaly held their nerve as Hughes and Flannery sent over fine points to restore the lead.

And with Emma Dunne and Arlene Watkins countering Aoife O'Connor and Linda Bolger's efforts, they took their second successive title under a delighted Joachim Kelly.

"It's fantastic. We're delighted to come up two years in a row and win the intermediate a

Wexford's Jean Hayden tries to get past Jessica Gill of Galway during yesterday's senior camogie final.
PAUL MORGAN/SPORTSFILE



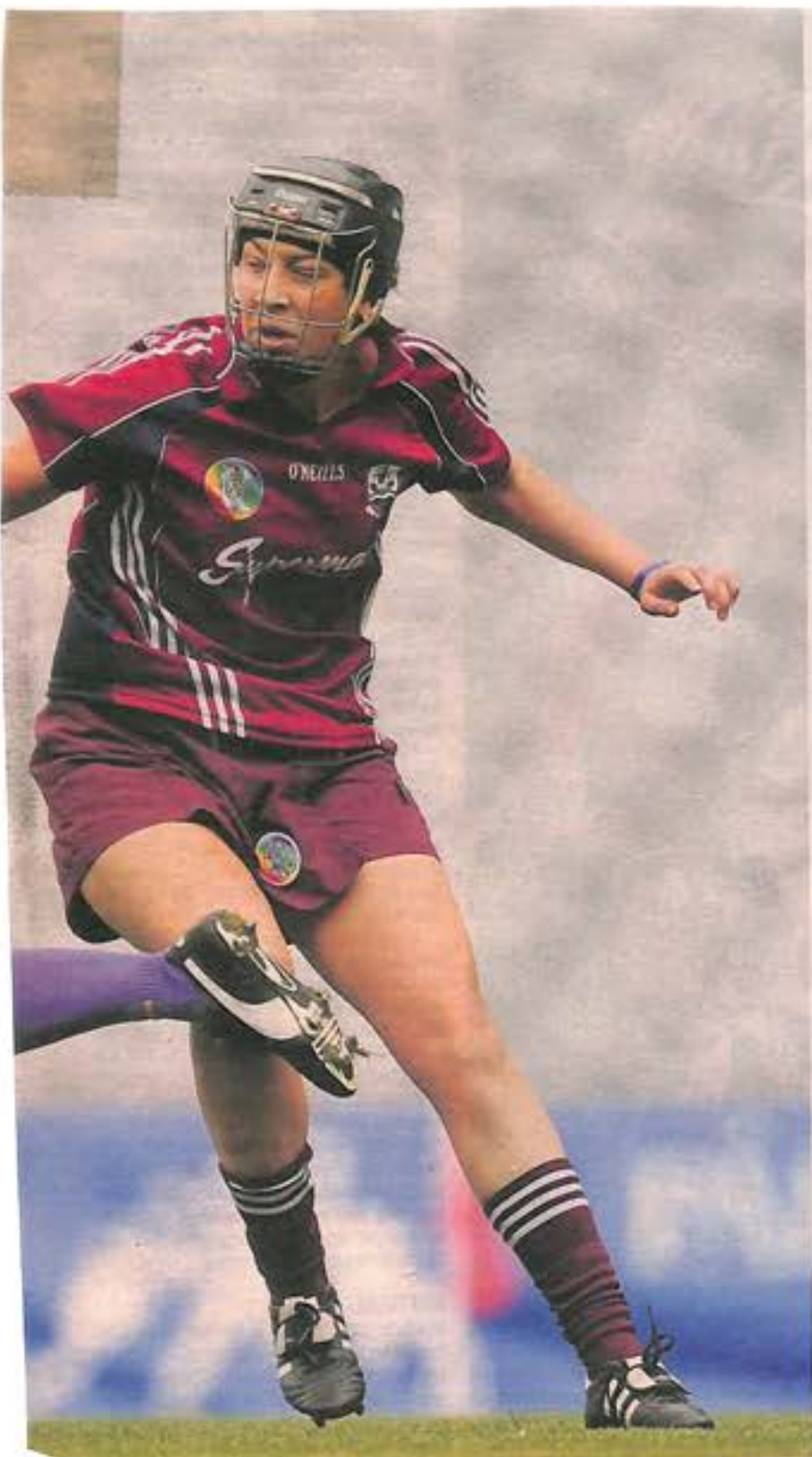
Kelly joy as Offaly hold off Model's fightback

OFFALY 2-12
WEXFORD 2-10
Ruaidhri O'Connor

INTERMEDIATE FINAL

OFFALY'S progression through the camogie ranks continued as they beat Wexford to claim this title at Croke Park.

The Faithful women stayed strong to fend off a determined Wexford comeback at the end



GAME AT A GLANCE

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Claire O'Connor (Wexford)

In such a team performance it is hard to single anyone out and both of the Leacy sisters were outstanding, but corner-back Claire O'Connor (below) did a mountain of subtle and selfless defending, especially in some critical situations in the second half.



TURNING POINT

Mags O'Arcy's penalty save from Jessica Gill in the 35th minute. Trailing by seven at half-time, an early goal would have given Galway massive early impetus and might have changed the whole nature of the game.

TALKING POINT

Galway's decision to start Jessie Gill for the first time this season. It meant switching Veronica Curtin to corner-forward and she, and Galway, only got into the game when they moved her out to the wing.

REF WATCH

Karl O'Brien let some two particularly heavy first-half challenges go unpunished and later probably opted for too many throw-balls, but did let the game flow well.

WHAT THEY SAID

JJ Doyle (Wexford manager):

"Anyone who looked at the (All-Ireland SHC final) match last week saw that Tipperary won it on desire and I think we won it on desire today. Galway nearly came back at us but it showed the great fighting spirit our girls have."

Noel Finn (Galway manager):

"We couldn't get into our rhythm early on but in the second half fought tooth and nail and it's disappointing that there was only a minute of injury-time because we were coming back at them and if we'd got the goal earlier it might have been different."

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides: Wexford 5 (3); Galway 3 (1).
Frees: Wexford 12 (6); Galway 15 (7).
Attendance: 17,290.

Kelly holds nerve to earn Deise second bite

ANTRIM	1-9
WATERFORD	1-9

Ruaidhri O'Connor

ALL-IRELAND JNR CAMOGIE FINAL

KAREN KELLY scored a last-minute point to earn a second chance for Waterford in this breath-taking decider.

The Deise full-forward kept her nerve to secure the replay as the clock ticked towards 60 minutes, which capped a fine second-half recovery.

Antrim led by 0-4 to 0-3 at the interval as defences stayed on top. All Star Jane Adams was limited to two frees, while Racquel McCarry and Michaela Convery added Antrim's other points. Aine Lyng and Kelly contributed points for Waterford.

McCarry took an Adams pass to raise the green flag four minutes after the break, and she and Adams then added points with only a solo Patricia Jackman pointed effort in reply for Waterford as Antrim took a commanding lead on a 1-6 to 0-4 scoreline.

GAP

But two Lyng frees and points from Jenny McCarthy and Kelly brought the gap back to just a point. Adams fed Natalie McGuinness for an Antrim point but Grainne Kenneally took McCarthy's high ball and found the back of the net to give Waterford the lead, 1-8 to 1-7.

Antrim reacted well and substitute Katie McAleese levelled the match before Adams sent over a point to retake the initiative.

However, Waterford remained calm and Kelly booked a second date to the massive disappointment of Antrim manager Michael McCollough.

"The mood here in the dressing room is a one of defeat. I'm sure Waterford know that they have got out of jail," McCollough commented afterwards.

"The fourth quarter just killed us, you can talk about a lack of experience in the form of it was there (for us) and sometimes the hardest thing to do is take it."

SCORES: Antrim: R McCarry 1-2, J Adams 0-4 (0-3), M Convery, N McGuinness, K McAleese 0-1 each. Waterford: A Lyng 0-4 (0-3), G Kenneally 1-0, K Kelly 0-3, P Jackman 0-1, J McCarthy 0-1 each.

ANTRIM: M Graham, R Torrey, A Martin, A Jackson, C Doherty, E Connolly, B O'Brien, K O'Neill, N Connolly, M Convery, N McGuinness, S Graham, R McCarry, J Adams, (capt), L Connolly. Subs: A McCall for Martin (7), C Hamill for N Connolly (27), K McAleese for L Connolly (30), M Connolly for B O'Brien (48), L McMullan for C Hamill (57).

WATERFORD: A O'Brien, E Hannon, S Durran, KM Heane, P Cunningham, P Jackman, J Simpson, C Rafter, M Murphy (capt), A Lyng, G Kenneally, J McCarthy, N Rockett, K Kelly, N Morrissey. Subs: S Kiernan for Morrissey (28), D Fahy for Murphy (38).

REF - D Leacy (Tipperary)

Leacy reiterates call for wider coverage

CAMOGIE: Wexford centre-back Mary Leacy has backed All-Ireland-winning team-mate Deirdre Codd's call for camogie to receive greater media exposure. Codd, who lined out at midfield in the Model County's defeat of Galway, had a letter published in a Sunday newspaper on the morning of the final criticising coverage of the semi-finals, camogie in general and women's sport overall.

"It is very disappointing to see such a lack of coverage, especially when inter-county camogie players put in as much time, effort and sacrifice as any GAA players and don't get anywhere near the same amount of coverage," wrote Codd. "I have become disillusioned by the lack of attention paid to any female sports," she added.

Leacy, who captained Wexford to success in 2007, added her support to Codd's campaign. "Camogie is a fantastic game. You need a lot of skill to play. There's the commitment and the sacrifices you make... you would like to see that coming across with more coverage."

Daragh O Conchúir



Katrina Parrock celebrates with Wexford manager JJ Doyle

year after winning the junior," he said. "It is all down to the girls in that dressing-room. The experience of playing in Croke Park three years in a row stood to us. That game could have been gone from us."

"We told them to dig deep, to stick to the plan. The plan was to work, work, work, to stick at it. It got back to a drawn match with five, six minutes to go but we brought on two subs and they got a point each. I'm

thrilled with the victory."

SCORERS: Offaly: E Dermody 2-3 (0-1), S Flannery 0-4, J Brady 0-2, E Danne, A Hughes, A Watkins 0-1 each. Wexford: F Rochford 2-1, C O'Connor 0-5 (0-3), Lisa Bolger 0-2, S Redmond, Linda Bolger 0-1 each.

OFFALY: A Kennedy, F Stephens, L Keane, K Brady, S Sullivan, M Morkan (capt), L Sullivan, A Watkins, M O'Connell, M Davis, A Kelly, S Flannery, K Nugent, E Dermody, T Hannon. Subs: M Davis for Kelly (41), A Hughes for Nugent (45), E O'Donnell for Flannery (50).

WEXFORD: H Jacobs, J Hayden, L O'Leary, C Adkins, F Doran, L Codd, S Kehoe, E Moran, L O'Connor, F Rochford, S Nolan, S Redmond, S Kehoe, C O'Connor (capt), Lisa Bolger. Subs: E O'Connor for Nolan (11), B Durran for Doran (11), S Sinnott for Moran (41), Linda Bolger for Kehoe (54). REF - D Elliott (Antrim).

WEXFORD Intermediate

Name: Karen Barnes

D.O.B.: 23/8/1974

Currently living in: Wexford town.

Family details: Single

Club: Faythe Harriers

Playing honours: I played in goal for my club. We reached a Junior championship final or two, but coming from a small club we were not blessed with many honours.

Managerial honours: I was involved with Wexford Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18 teams over the past 12 years; we won a number of Leinster championships.

How long are you with the current team?: This is my first year as manager. I was also involved last year as a selector.

How did you get involved with camogie?: My niece, Emma Barnes, started playing with the local club and I started by bringing her to games and got involved from there. My niece played on the Wexford team as a goalie on a few occasions. She has given it up since, whereas I have got more involved.

Managers/players that you admire: Kate Kelly, Colleen Atkinson and Stella Sinnott who has been a great inspiration over the past three to four years to me.

Other interests outside of camogie: I enjoy soccer, I am a keen rugby follower, and I also do a lot of travelling and reading.

How do you unwind after a hectic match?: I usually play the match over again that evening on the phone to selectors Ray Quigley or Ger O'Reilly.

Are you superstitious before a match?: Not really, I always tend to say the same things, I always say to the girls to believe in themselves.



Claire O'Connor of Wexford tries to get past Galway's Veronica Curtin.



Wexford's Josie Dwyer and Caroline Murphy celebrate their 1-12 to 1-10 victory over Galway in yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park. - (Photograph: Cathal Noonan/Inpho)



WINNERS' CIRCLE: Wexford camogie players Katrina Parrock, Emma Moran, Ursula Jacob, Ciara O'Connor, Helena Jacob, captain Una Leacy, Ciara Stoeck and Colleen Aikinson with Jade Whelan, from Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, during a team visit at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin.

Picture: David Maher

SEPT. 2010

Winning's what it's about for Wexford



GAVIN CUMMISKEY

at Croke Park

A HECTIC finish managed to save the Gala All-Ireland camogie final from itself yesterday. The match, as a spectacle, may have disappointed, and a crowd of 17,290 cannot be considered a decent return for their now established slot on the second Sunday in September.

But the thrilling end game and unvarnished celebrations that followed made it all worthwhile as the Wexford women did their sporting impression of Lazarus by coming again.

In 2007, they momentarily loosened Cork's grip on the O'Duffy Cup to clinch a long-overdue All-Ireland under the captaincy of Mary Leacy, while yesterday it was her younger sister Una who became just the fifth Wexford woman to climb the Hogan steps.

The 1-12 to 1-10 defeat proved crushing for Galway but, really, they would have been fortunate champions as they only came close to snatching the spoils due to a perfect strike from Aislinn Connolly in the last minute.

The negatives from camogie's showpiece event (dour games and poor turnout) were offset by the bullish manner in which Wexford survived, followed by the clarity of thought with which the Leacy sisters garnished the victory in their post-match comments.

The start of the match was delayed, presumably due to television, leaving referee Karl O'Brien stalling over the throw-in, with his head twisted towards the sideline awaiting instructions. The

four midfielders patiently waited without so much as a hint of aggression until the sliotar was in play.

Now, imagine the four rabid dogs from Tipperary and Kilkenny being denied their slab of meat in similar circumstances eight days ago? The flying splinters could have taken an eye out.

Camogie may be less barbaric or thrilling viewing, but to say the commitment and discipline is absent would be a disservice to these athletes.

"People don't realise camogie players, like footballers and hurlers, we train six nights a week," Mary Leacy told us. "We play club championship in between the All-Ireland semi-final and the final. We have no life! Absolutely no life other than camogie."

"The last two years have been hard and tiresome years - I'm not going to lie. But this year the new management brought a fresh touch to it, new trainers, and I think it worked out very good."

Galway's failing lay in their struggle to rediscover the performance that ended Cork's era of dominance in the semi-final replay.

A goal from Wexford corner forward Katrina Parrock in first-half injury time proved to be a seminal moment. It came from determined and cohesive build-up where Michele O'Leary, Kate Kelly and Una Leacy all contributed.

Importantly, it left an already stuttering Galway with a six-point mountain to scale against opponents who were aided by the priceless experience of having already won an All-Ireland.

Wexford had 30 minutes to cling on and they were more than willing to get dirt under their fingernails.

Forget the insulting "Chicks with Sticks" slogan - this was raw, sudden-death sport.

"We didn't care what kind of game it looked like, we battled it out," said Leacy. "A lot of hooking

and blocking in the second-half. We didn't care if we won by one point or 10 points - just the win was the main aim."

"It was body, head, legs, everything was going in. I think everyone gave 100 percent."

That was the second half in a nutshell. A scrappy, messy brawl where Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy was heroic in saving Jessica Gill's penalty. She was also flawless as high balls plummeted into her square.

Galway refused to go quietly, and when O'Brien felt obliged to punish dissent by bringing forward a late free 10 metres, and also improving the angle considerably, Connolly let fly the purest of shots that finished in the top of D'Arcy's net.

But Wexford wanted it more. No, they needed it more, and their tenacity guided them home.

Afterwards, the importance of this day was impressively summed up by Mary Leacy.

"The Wexford supporters, they really do follow the women. I

think women's sport in general, whether it's camogie, even rugby, swimming or soccer, is not thought the same (as men's) by people in general. Even women don't follow women's sport."

"But just to see the whole Hogan - they are the best supporters in the country."

"Camogie is a fantastic game, no offence to football, but you need a lot of skill to play camogie and it is such a commitment. The sacrifice we make. For women it is harder. Some women are getting married, having children - we lost two players this year who got pregnant."

Point is, they have had to force the respect from the public that sportsmen take for granted.

Yesterday, they impressively achieved that feat.

Not that it was a perfect day for Wexford, as Offaly beat them in the intermediate final, while the Junior decider between Antrim and Waterford ended in stalemate.

● **Snatch Success**: pages 6 and 7

Una repeats her sister act



Delighted Wexford captain Una Leacy lifts the O'Duffy Cup after her side held on for a narrow win over Galway in the

All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. The last Wexford winners were captained by Una's sister in

2007. "It's the best feeling in the world, I never thought this would happen," Una said. FULL REPORT: SPORT

Wexford forced to hang on in the end

Wexford
Galway

1-12
1-10

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR
Croke Park

THEY WERE made to live on their nerves a little at the end by a resolute Galway unit desperate for success, but Wexford were worthy winners of the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title for the first time since 2007.

On that occasion, Mary Leacy captained the side and this time it was her sister Una who was presented with the O'Duffy Cup.

The game ended in a welter of excitement when Aislinn Connolly's free from under the Hogan Stand right on the hour flew all the way to the corner of the net to leave just two points between the sides.

Try as they might, though, Galway could not break down a splendid Wexford rearguard one more time and so their search for a second All-Ireland continues.

The big news was the appearance of Jessica Gill at full forward for the Tribeswomen. The



Ashenry star had made a number of substitute appearances in the round-robin stages of the championship as she continued her recovery from a cruciate knee ligament operation, but this was her first start.

Veronica Curtin, who had been in flying form on the edge of the square all season, was switched to the corner.

But even when Galway got more of a foothold around the middle in the second half, they found it difficult to break down the Wexford defence and only managed three points from play in the game.

Corner back Claire O'Connor maintained her phenomenal record of not conceding a score in eight championship encounters, Curtin's sole point coming after she had switched to the opposite corner.

Catherine O'Loughlin was monumental at full back and Mary Leacy gave another commanding performance in front of her.

It was this dominance that laid the platform for Wexford's victory and in particular the first-half superiority that gave them a seven-point lead at the break, 1-8 to 0-4.

"We were happy to fight it out," said Mary Leacy. "We didn't care what kind of game it looked like. We battled it out. There was a lot of hooking and blocking in the second half. We didn't care if it was one point or 10 points, just to win was our main aim."

"There was bodies, heads, legs, everything was going in. Everyone gave 100 per cent. You could see some tired legs - I was wrecked!"

For Galway, though, it was a second defeat at this stage in three years and Therese Maher could not hide the pain.

"There's an absolutely devastation in there now," said the Galway captain. "No amount of words is going to console anybody. You go to Croke Park to win. Another day over. Another All-Ireland lost."

Wexford were three points clear by the 19th minute, Una

Una Lacey of Wexford holds aloft the O'Duffy Cup.



Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy is tackled by Therese Maher of Galway during yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship final at Croke Park. - (Photograph: Cathal Noonan/Inpho).

Leacy, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock slotting points from play.

Galway, despite being clearly second-best, that was still the margin with half-time looming. But in the 30th minute Wexford struck for a crucial goal from Katrina Parrock.

It was Kelly who started the move and she found Una Leacy brilliantly. The skipper beat Ann-Marie Hayes before drawing Regina Glynn and hand-passing to Parrock, who drove low beyond the exposed Susan Earner.

Una Jacob added a point and Wexford were full value for their advantage.

Galway were a different prospect after the resumption, and Wexford's forwards had nowhere near the space afforded earlier on. Wing back Niamh Kilkenny gave an exhibition for the Maroons, but they needed to take every chance that came their way.

They couldn't do it, and Gill had a 34th-minute penalty she had won herself saved by Mags D'Arcy.

The St Martin's custodian was also quickly off her line to deny Therese Maher, and these were to prove critical interventions, especially when Fiona Dwyer somehow hand-passed wide at the other end with the goal gaping.

Still, it looked like the game was meandering to an inevitable conclusion when Connolly was fouled around 35 metres out. When the Castlegar player's shot ended in the back of the Wexford net, the Galway supporters erupted. But it wasn't to be; two minutes later, Wexford were celebrating.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy, A O'Connor, C Murphy, D Codd; K Kelly (0-2), U Leacy (0-1), M O'Leary (0-1); K Parrock (1-2), U Jacob (0-6, 4fs), J Dwyer. Subs: C Storey for Atkinson (14); L Holohan for Codd (53). GALWAY: S Earner; S Tannian, S Dervan, R Glynn, N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, T Manton; B Hanney, O Kilkenny (0-1); C Murray, T Maher, A Connolly (1-6, 1-4f); T Rutledge, J Gill (0-1, f), V Curtin (0-1). Subs: E Kilkenny for Rutledge (temp, 9-18); L Ryan for Murray (28); Kilkenny (0-1) for Rutledge (11); H Cooney for Manton (39); J McGrath for Gill (56); A Lynskey for O Kilkenny (60+1). Referee: K O'Brien (Dublin).

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FINAL

Kelly earns replay for Waterford

Antrim
Waterford

1-9
1-9

the lead with points from Katie McAleese and Jane Adams before Kelly struck. The replay will be on October 3rd.

ANTRIM: M Graham; R Torney, A Martin, A Jackson; C Doherty, E Connolly, B Orchin, K O'Neill, N Connolly; M Convery (0-1), N McGuinness (0-1), S Graham, R McCarty (1-2), J Adams (0-4, three frees), L Connolly. Subs: A McCall for Martin (7 mins), C Hamill for N Connolly (28 mins), K McAleese (0-1) for L Connolly (36 mins); M Connolly for Orchin (48 mins).

WATERFORD: A O'Brien; E Hannon, S Curran, KM Hearne; P Cunningham, P Jackman (0-1, free), J Simpson; C Maher, M Murphy; A Lyng (0-4, three frees), G Kennelly (1-0), J McCarthy (0-1), N Bockett, K Kelly (0-3), N Murray. Subs: D Fahy for Murphy (39 mins), J Kieran for McCarthy (39 mins). Referee: D Leahy (Tipperary).

A LAST-MINUTE point from Karen Kelly set the seal on a fine second-half rally by Waterford who snatched a draw at Croke Park yesterday. Antrim, leading 0-4 to 0-3 at the break, looked set for victory as they opened up a five-point lead with a goal from Raquel McCarty. Waterford responded with four points and a goal from Gráinne Kenneally. Antrim took



PARTY TIME: Wexford players celebrate after their Gala All-Ireland final win over Galway at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Paul Moran/Sportsfile

Despite the curmudgeons, camogie's glass is half-full

After that we felt as if we were playing out time. Connolly's long-range free made the final few minutes exciting but Wexford's defence was unflappable. The final whistle was greeted by another stunning exhibition of the GAA's Plan A with no Eastern European-style crowd control methods necessary.

Camogie finals are benchmarks of the game's progress. In the end it was an All-Ireland final which for the first time in nearly a decade didn't feature Cork. With respect, that was a good thing. Wexford have been building on the work that brought Oulart five national Féile titles in succession, and the work that made Colaiste Bhríde so potent for a while, and for the second time in recent years got their reward. They are a nice team to watch especially when they attack with the intelligent movement and quick passing.

For Galway the future is bright. They won their second successive All-Ireland Under-16 title this summer taking the place of Kilkenny as the dominant county at this grade. Kilkenny harvesting the best of their underage sides of recent years will be senior champions in the next few years and so will Galway. That is good for the game. Joachim Kelly meanwhile has brought Offaly to a junior All-Ireland and then an intermediate title in the space of a couple of years. More promise.

Oh go on. We are persuaded. People like Joan Flynn, Sinead O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Eve Talbot and so on are driving the game on despite us curmudgeons. Half-full. The glass is half-full.

Veronica Curtin, a major source of scores all year, made any impact.

When I Rule the World (Part 3). There shall be a number of small changes. If Galway and Wexford meet in a final one county will wear different colour shirts. Shoulder-to-shoulder contact will be permitted in the game. Skirts will be worn in mass bonfires and players will be liberated to wear shorts like normal sportswomen do. On occasions when the average age in the crowd is such that Jedward might cause palpitations, the half-time entertainment shall not be a long cavalcade of Kilkenny out wans, no matter how fondly we recall them. The hooter shall be purloined from women's football. The quick play-on option instead of a free shall be stolen from hockey. And penalties shall be different.

The camogie penalty should be one on one. Penalty-taker and 'keeper. From the 21-yard line very few camogie players have the strength required to hit the ball so explosively that the human eye scarcely has time to register its flight. I can't remember the last time I saw a penalty scored in camogie.

When Jessica Gill was correctly awarded a penalty yesterday by Karl O'Brien. Gill stood over it and saw it saved by the wonderful Mags D'Arcy (how good to see Mags' mane of hair unhidden by micro burqa and her playing so brilliantly and bravely anyway). The penalty miss was a setback but in camogie penalties seldom result in anything else and any smart back is going to foul a forward and play the odds on a penalty rather than concede a goal.

Hurling and camogie aren't the same as other sports. They need time and money.

And yet the enthusiasm! 17,290 people, mainly kids and you could look around or just listen in Croke Park and understand the potential the game has. It is thoughtful and tactical and demands the use of space and speed. A great camogie player has a unique kind of brain. You could see it in Mary Leacy yesterday. She has the breeding of course and grew up as part of a great wave of teams in Oulart but when she got possession at centre back for Wexford yesterday she sprayed it about like a quarterback picking passes. And you could see in Katrina Parrock, at corner forward, her clever use of space.

Wexford's splendid half-back line suffocated Galway and their ferociousness under puck-outs was a lesson for kids needing to understand the aggression necessary to master the game. Galway were held to three points from play and it was late before

many teams are coached as it is by good-natured people content to just bring a team out. And, at the end of the day, puts on the back for just bringing a team out are too easy to come by. And unchallenged girls drift to the easy addition of football.

When I Rule the World (Part 2). It shall come to pass that the government will identify and 'fess up to its massive failings in the area of sport for children, but especially sport for girls, and when it increased its funding accordingly camogie would be a special case because hurling is hard. And it has a special part in our culture and history. Hurling and camogie aren't the same as other sports. They need time and money. And we need them to live if we are to have a distinctive sporting culture.

Camogie struggles. Money is a problem. Not enough full-time development officers and a poor rate of players returning to put back into the game what they took out is another. A seven-team All-Ireland championship is very worrying especially when you consider that Dublin haven't won a game in two years and lost their championships outings this year by seven points (Clare), 43 points (Wexford), 17 points (Cork), 32 points (Tipp). On sheer numbers alone Dublin should be competitive (Galway) and 30 points (Tipp). On sheer numbers alone Dublin should be competitive at senior level but this year's under-15 and under-16 championships in the city each have just four teams competing in the A Division. Good players can't get good games. And hurling is hard. You need good games. And

Camogie FINAL day is a sort of agony of indecision for those who love the game. Should we sell the glass as half-full and in danger of brimming over in the near future? Or should we betray those few people who work so hard at it and say that things could be better. First of all, having the fixture as a stand-alone event in Croke Park. Playing in the vast cathedral in front of 17,290 customers, most of whom are young players, may not create the best atmosphere but the argument goes it is great for the players. This is an archetypal camogie problem. Everybody wants to make everybody else happy.

Maybe it is great for the players. I can't see it though. Nor can I see how it is great for the sport as a whole to be having the showcase event in front of vast cliff-faces full of empty seats. If I was sitting at home watching on television I don't think it would make me say the All-Ireland camogie final was one event I needed to attend before my death. And selling camogie rather than making everybody in camogie feel happy, is the biggest problem. The plague of course is football. Hurling is hard. Football is easy.

When I Rule the World (Part 1) it will be illegal to show a girl a football before she had done the Junior Cert. Even then footballs would be introduced in controlled circumstances and would carry government health warnings. Hurling is hard. It is the greatest sport in the world because it is beautiful, visceral and demanding. Too



TOM HUMPHRIES
LOCKERROOM

Selling camogie, rather than making everybody in camogie feel happy, is the biggest problem

SEPT 2010

MOGIE
AMPIONSHIP
ALS 2010

meet the match officials

KARL O'BRIEN from Dublin will join the elite band of Gala All-Ireland Senior championship final referees today when he takes charge of the Galway v. Wexford decider.

The Good Counsel clubman took up the whistle for the first time in 2004, and he has really come to the forefront on the inter-county scene over the past twelve months.

A postman by profession, Karl



refereed three All-Ireland championship finals last year – Under-16 'C', the Gala Intermediate replay, and the Gala Junior replay.

He officiated at the National League Division 2 final between Offaly and Wexford last April, and his most recent big game was the drawn Gala All-Ireland Senior championship semi-final featuring Cork and Galway in Nowlan Park last month.

Karl is creating history in that

he is the first male Dublin referee to handle an All-Ireland Senior championship final, following in the footsteps of female whistlers Kathleen O'Duffy, Phyllis Breslin, Sheila McNamee, Anne Redmond and Aine Derham.

His umpires, all from the Good Counsel club, are Larry O'Brien, Val Hoary, Derek Brannigan and Aoife Maguire. The team is completed by Una Kearney of Armagh (stand-by), Mike O'Kelly of Cork (sideline), John Morrissey of Tipperary (fourth official) and Fintan McNamara from Clare (fifth official).

OWEN ELLIOTT from the All Saints (Ballymena) club in Antrim is the man in the middle for the Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship final between Offaly and Wexford.

A company director, he is married to Dolores with three children – Aisling, Cormac and Eamonn.

Owen started refereeing in 2004, and his major camogie



appointments include the National League Division 3 final 2010, the recent Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship semi-final between Derry and Offaly, the Ulster Club league finals of 2009 and 2010, and last year's Antrim Senior championship final.

He is also on the inter-county hurling referees' panel and took charge of the Nickey Rackard and National League Division 3B finals of 2009. Owen's umpires, drawn from

All Saints, are Martin Campbell, Vincent Casey, Hector Cassley and Seán 'Mucker' Magee. On this special day he also wishes to acknowledge the following who were coerced at various stages: John Sayers, Christopher Downey, Damian Gillan, Pat 'Speedy' McCafferty, Ryan O'Reilly and, in the beginning, Paul McNeill.

Today's team is completed by: Eadhonn Mac Suibhne of Dublin (stand-by), Eamonn Browne of Tipperary (sideline), Peter Whelan of Waterford (fourth official) and Donal Ryan of Dublin (fifth official).

DONAL LEAHY from the Moyne-Templetuohy club will become the second successive Tipperary-born official to referee a Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior championship final since last year's incumbent, Pat Walsh (Armagh), is a native of



Cappawhite. Donal, who is self-employed, is married to Rose with one daughter, Niamh, and three sons, Gearóid, Cillian and Diarmuid.

He has been refereeing since 2006 and had three major appointments last year – the All-Ireland Colleges final, the Under-16 'B' All-Ireland final, and the Munster

Minor final. He is also a familiar face on the camogie scene as a regular linesman at inter-county Senior games.

His umpires are Joe Kearney, Pádraig Kearney, Gearóid Leahy and Cillian Leahy, while the team is completed by: Killian Looney of Cork (stand-by), Aidan O'Brien of Wexford (sideline), Malachy McToal of Derry (fourth official) and John O'Leary of Cork (fifth official).

time to chat

Therese
MANTON
(Galway)

talks to Liz Howard



Club: Mullagh

Q Three people who have had an influence on your career?

A All the Manton family, Jimmy Cooney and Sinéad Cahalan.

Q Best game you played?

A When I captained St. Brigid's to win the Vocational Senior Connacht final in 2006.

Q Most cherished victory and why?

A Winning my second Ashbourne Cup with U.C.D. in 2008; I'll never forget the banquet!

Q The toughest opponent outside of your county?

A Maircad Luttrell (Tipperary).

Q Part of training you enjoy most?

A Bertie Sherlock's and Jessie Gill's debates!

Claire
O'CONNOR
(Wexford)

talks to Liz Howard



Club: Rathnure

Q Three people who have had an influence on your career?

A My parents, Teddy and Anne, both former players, players around me and Bernie Higgins, my first trainer who made me do laps for constantly chatting – I got fit quickly!

Q Best game you played?

A Does Under-14 count? If not, the All-Ireland semi-final this year against Kilkenny.

Q Most cherished victory and why?

A 2008 county championship final, we waited eight years for that.

Q The toughest opponent outside of your county?

A Eimear McDonnell (Tipperary).

Q Part of training you enjoy most?

A The warm down!

Q Favourite venue?

A Nowlan Park, great pitch.

Q Favourite venue?

A Nowlan Park.

Q Four words to describe yourself as a player?

A Determined, sticky, fast and furious!

Q Venue for girls' night out?

A Dessie O'Brien's, guaranteed for the talent!!

Q Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?

A 'Mikey B', Tommy Walsh, Tommy Bowe plus three Galway guys whom I won't name in case the others get offended!!

Q Three people you admire, local, national and international?

A Local: the late John Dillon, always positive and encouraging; Rena Buckley who never gives up; and Fiona Phelan!

Q Favourite song/piece of music?

A Everything by Michael Buble.

Q Three things you are serious about?

A My family, nursing profession, sports!

Q Ambition?

A To win the 2010 Senior All-Ireland today, to win a Senior county final with Mullagh, and to further my career in midwifery.

Q Personal motto?

A Hard work beats talent, if talent doesn't work hard.

Q Four words to describe yourself as a player?

A Ask my opponents. I'm sure it's all clean, competitive and complimentary!!!

Q Three most fun camogie colleagues

A Michelle, Mags and Ciara. Really this could go on to the next page!

Q Venue for girls' night out?

A Metro 17 of course!

Q Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?

A Rob Kearney, Bolt, Federer, Spartacus – six of those gladiators please!

Q Three people you admire, local, national and international?

A My aunt Martina, she does so much for camogie. At national and international, it's too broad to choose, anyone who brings a smile to our faces or gives us a reason to celebrate!!

Q Favourite song/piece of music?

A Oooo, so many, but 'Man in the Mirror' would be up there!

Q Three things you are serious about?

A Camogie, camogie, camogie!

Q Ambition?

A Win today, win an All Star, win a holiday, win a car, win the lotto.....!

Q Personal motto?

A If I can climb Kilimanjaro, with frost-bitten hands at minus 15 degrees, I can surely get through this match!! Or simply...pull hard and pull fast!!

Previous meetings point to a close contest

Intermediate final preview by Alan Aherne

TWO TEAMS in the midst of remarkable journeys meet in today's Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship final and, sport being sport, something will have to give – barring a draw of course, which wouldn't come as a huge surprise.

Take Offaly for starters. What an incredible achievement to be appearing in Croke Park on the big day for the third year running, having bounced back from a heartbreaking one-point loss to Clare in the Junior

decider of 2008 to claim the title in some style at Waterford's expense twelve months ago. In order to put those fine feats in

come up against an equally driven Wexford outfit. For only the second time in camogie history, bridging a gap of 33 years, two Slaneyside teams will be performing in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

Ten members of this Intermediate panel are also Senior substitutes so could feasibly pocket two prized medals in the same afternoon. And the fact that the recent tradition of both squads training together has carried on under a new management regime ensures that the Wexford Intermediates have honed their skills with some of the sport's elite players.

There are two ways of looking at this intriguing contest. On the one hand, the edge in big day experience clearly lies with Offaly who know all there is to know about the occasion and everything it entails at this stage. In contrast, none of the Wexford squad members have played in a Croke Park final before, although Helena Jacob, Colleen Atkinson, Louise Codd, Bridget Curran, Siona Nolan and Stacey Redmond were all on the Senior bench three years ago. Advantage Offaly then, one would assume.

But let's look at the game from another perspective. This will be their third meeting of the year, and the current scoreline is 2-0 to Wexford. That in itself has to inject even more confidence into the proud wearers of the purple and gold who will be intent on getting a potentially great day for the

county off to a bright start.

Their National league Division 2 final meeting in Semple Stadium on April 24th was a tight affair, with Offaly leading at the break by 1-6 to 1-5 but ending up on the wrong side of a 2-9 to 1-9 scoreline as Wexford retained the title.

Goals from the teenage Bolger twins, Lisa and Linda, made all the difference, although three key figures on that winning team graduated to Senior ranks during the championship and are no longer eligible – centre-back Ciara Storey, midfielder Evelyn Quigley and wing-forward Brid Gordon.

The sides met again in the first round of the championship in Banagher on June 12th, and it looked like revenge was on the cards when Offaly surged into a 1-4 to nil lead. However, a scoreless spell of 24 minutes followed as Wexford battled their way back into contention, and the visitors duly completed the double over their Leinster rivals on a 1-10 to 1-8 scoreline.

Wexford's manager, Karen Barnes, remarked to her Offaly counterpart, Joachim Kelly, as they came off the field afterwards: 'maybe we'll see you again in Croke Park' – prophetic words indeed!

Of course, Joachim has 'history' with today's opposing county, although what's unfolding today must have been the furthest thing from his mind when he managed the Wexford Senior hurlers ten years ago.

So, where will the final be won and lost? For starters, if it's tight entering the closing stages, don't expect either side to wilt. Quite apart from those two close clashes earlier in the season, there's also the fact that both displayed admirable composure to see off

strong teams in their respective semi-finals.

Indeed, many predicted a Derry v. Limerick decider beforehand, but when the pressure was greatest, Offaly and Wexford stepped up to forge fine two-point victories in Clones and Ardara respectively.

Both centre-backs will have significant roles to play. Offaly's number six, Michaela Morkan, is an elegant striker of the ball with a fine positional sense who isn't in the least bit burdened by the added responsibility of being captain. Her Wexford counterpart, Louise Codd, missed the entire campaign before the semi-final as a result of being based in England, but it was like she was never away last time out against Limerick.

Elaine Dermody, Siobhán Flannery and Karen Nugent are all proven score-getters in the Offaly forward line, while the wide open spaces of Croke Park will suit the speedy Tina Hannon who gave a great display here against Clare two years ago.

Marion Crean brings a lot of experience to the midfield department, while the Sullivans, Sheila and Linda, plus Lorraine Keena are strong and reliable in defence.

The expected edge

in support should give Wexford an extra lift, but it will take more than that to get over the line. Corner-back Jean Hayden has been soundness personified to date, while at the opposite end of the field Lisa Bolger will be hoping for a repeat of her National league final performance when she posed endless problems and finished with 1-2. Ciara O'Connor has stepped up to the plate with a series of scores under pressure both from frees and play, and the team captain will need to be firing on all cylinders again.

If previous encounters are the most reliable yardstick, expect the outcome to still be in doubt as we enter the last few minutes. And while I will be accused of sitting on the fence, perhaps the smartest conclusion is to predict a draw!

• ALAN AHERNE is Group Sports Editor of People Newspapers in Wexford and co-ordinated the material for this match programme as a member of the National Communications Committee.



Offaly's Jean Brady tries to shake off Louise O'Leary (Wexford) in the National League Division 2 final, last April.

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

context, bear in mind that, prior to this golden era for camogie in the Faithful county, they had only contested one previous adult All-Ireland final – a Junior loss to Tipperary in 2001. Now they are just one hour away from attaining Senior status at the first attempt. However, today they will



Elaine Dermody (Offaly) and Shelley Kehoe (Wexford) battle it out for possession in their National League meeting in Thurles earlier this year.

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

SEPT 2010

Offaly



Back row (l-r): Emma Dunne, Jean Brady, Ailsa Hughes, Lorraine Keena, Marion Crean, Claire Birmingham, Sheila Sullivan, Elaine Dermody, Michaela Morkan (Capt.), Audrey Kennedy, Karen Brady, Michelle Gleeson and Karen Nugent. Front row (l-r): Shauna Flynn, Orlagh-Kirwan, Siobhán Flannery, Debbie Flynn, Katie Bergin, Fiona Stephens, Tina Hannon, Aoife Corrigan, Arlene Watkins, Linda Sullivan, Michelle Davis and Aoife Kelly. (Missing from photograph: Emma Fogarty).

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

Uíbh Fháilí



AUDREY KENNEDY

Birr
Age: 31. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; two Leinster Junior championships; one Leinster Schools championship; five Junior Club championships; Scoring All Star '09.



FIONA STEPHENS

Drumcullen
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; one Leinster Junior championship; seven Club championships; Purcell Cup with A.I.T.; Scoring All Star '09; Colleges All Star '08.



LORRAINE KEENA

Kilcormac-Killoughey
Age: 21. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; one Leinster Junior championship; Colleges league and Ashbourne Cup winner with W.I.T. '09; Under-16 'B' Leinster and All-Ireland championships; one Senior 'B' Club championship; three Under-18 Club championships; two Under-16 Club championships.



KAREN BRADY

St. Sinchill's
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; one Leinster Junior championship; Scoring All Star '09; Ashbourne Shield winner with U.L. '08; Under-16 'B' Leinster championship; Under-12, Under-16 and Junior Club championships.



SHEILA SULLIVAN

Birr
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; two Leinster Junior championships; four Junior Club championships; one Leinster Under-16 'B' championship; one National League; three Ashbourne Cup; one Ashbourne Shield.



MICHAELA MORKAN

Shinrone
Age: 19. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; two Senior Club championships; Under-18 'B' All-Ireland championship; Under-16 Leinster championship; two Minor Leinster championships; All Star 2008; Scoring All Star 2009; Tipperary schools title with Borrisokane; two Junior Munster Colleges titles; Intermediate 'A' and Senior 'B' Munster Colleges; Tipperary V.E.C. sportsman of the year 2007; Borrisokane Community College female sportsman of the year 2008.



LINDA SULLIVAN

St. Rynagh's
Age: 20. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster Junior championship; one All-Ireland Schools Senior 'B' title; Under-16 Leinster championship; Senior and Junior Schools medals.



EMMA DUNNE

Kilcormac-Killoughey
Age: 19. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Minor 'B' All-Ireland championship; Division 2 League winner with Mary I. '09; Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Junior and Senior 'B' Club championships; Leinster Schools championship '07 with St. Brendan's C.S.



MARION CREAN

Shinrone
Age: 28. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; National Junior league; Leinster Junior championship; Leinster Minor 'W' championship; four Senior county championships; one Leinster Club championship; various Munster Schools championships; player of the year in Roscrea Vocational School and Mary Immaculate College; various under-age medals.



ARLENE WATKINS

Birr
Age: 21. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster Junior championship; Scoring All Star '09; Purcell Cup medals with A.I.T. '07 and '09; Junior Club championships.



KAREN NUGENT

Drumcullen
Age: 28. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster Junior championship; Leinster Under-14 championship; Leinster Under-18 championship; nine County Club championships; four Leinster Club championships; one Kilmacall All-Ireland sevens; one Féile na nGael '96; one Ashbourne Cup with W.I.T. '01.



SIOBHÁN FLANNERY

St. Rynagh's
Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; one Leinster Junior championship; Leinster Under-14 championship; Leinster and All-Ireland Under-16 'B' championships; two Under-16 county championships; one All-Ireland Under-18 'B' championship (player of the match); young player of the year nominee '05.



TINA HANNON

Naomh Bríd
Age: 22. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster Junior championship; Ashbourne Shield with U.L. '08; All Star nominee '08; one Junior Club championship; one Senior 'B' Club championship.



ELAINE DERMODY

Drumcullen
Age: 27. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; three Leinster Junior championships; Scoring All Star '09; nine Senior Club championships; four Leinster Club championships; Under-18 Leinster championship.



SHAUNA FLYNN

Kilcormac-Killoughey
Age: 19. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; All-Ireland Under-18 'B' championship '08; All-Ireland Féile runner-up; one Leinster Under-14 'B' championship; two Under-14, three Under-16, two Under-18 championships.



CLAIRE BIRMINGHAM

Lusmagh
Age: 21. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster and All-Ireland Under-16 'B' championships; Under-12 'B', Under-14 'B', Under-16 'B', Under-18 'A' and 'B', Junior Club championships; Under-14 'C' Leinster Schools; Under-14 County Schools; Cumann na mBunscoil medals.



AOIFE KELLY

Lusmagh
Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Leinster Junior championship; Under-18 County championship; Junior County championships; All-Ireland Senior 'B' Schools; captained U.L. seven-a-side to All-Ireland final '04-'05.



JEAN BRADY

St. Sinchill's
Age: 18. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; All-Ireland Under-18 'B' championship; Under-14 Leinster championship; three Offaly championships; two Leinster championships and All-Ireland finalists with Sacred Heart School; Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-16 Club championships; Cumann na mBunscoil Division 1 and 2 and mini-sevens winners with Killeigh National School.



MICHELLE DAVIS

Shinrone
Age: 38. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; three Offaly camogie sportster awards; Roscrea sportster award; three Senior Club championships; one Junior Club championship; one Leinster Club championship.

championship; one Gael Linn inter-provincial medal; millennium player of the year in Roscrea Vocational School; All-Ireland Vocational medals; two Leinster championships; member of the Offaly team which contested the All-Ireland Junior final in 2001.



ORLAGH KIRWAN

Birr
Age: 17. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Offaly Senior sportster '10; Offaly Under-16 sportster '09; two Leinster Under-14 championships; Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Junior Club championships; three Leinster Schools titles; All-Ireland Community Games bronze medal.



KATIE BERGIN

Birr
Age: 21. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Junior Club championships; Leinster championship '07; All-Ireland Féile runner-up.



EMMA FOGARTY

Kilcormac-Killoughey
Age: 19. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; All-Ireland Under-18 'B' championship; Under-14, Under-16, Minor and Senior 'B' Club championships.



AOIFE CORRIGAN

Kinsilly
Age: 20. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; represented school in Croke Park mini-sevens; two Leinster Schools championships with St. Brendan's C.C.; Under-16 'B' All-Ireland championship; Leinster Under-14 and Under-16 championships; Senior 'B' Club championship; five under-age Club championships.



MICHELLE GLEESON

Birr
Age: 19. Honours: two All-Ireland Minor championships; one All-Ireland runner-up medal; three Leinster championships; five County championships.



DEBBIE FLYNN

Kilcormac-Killoughey
Age: 15. Honours: All-Ireland Junior championship '09; All-Ireland Minor 'B' championship; three Leinster Under-14 championships; All-Ireland Community Games gold and bronze medals; Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Minor and Senior 'B' Club championships.



AILSA HUGHES

Tullamore
Age: 18. Honours: Senior Club championships; Under-18 Club championship; Under-18 'B' All-Ireland championship; 'B' and 'C' Senior Schools Leinster championships; All-Ireland Schools 'C' championship runner-up.

Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Championship PATHS TO THE FINAL

DATE	VENUE	RESULT	REFEREE
GROUP 1			
June 12	Thurles	Tipperary.....1-17	Cork.....3-10
June 19	Páirc Uí Rinn	Cork.....2-07	Limerick.....2-07
June 19	Ballinasloe	Derry.....4-17	Tipperary.....4-07
July 10	Ashbourne	Derry.....2-08	Limerick.....0-11
July 17	Hospital	Limerick.....2-12	Tipperary.....0-05
July 17	Ashbourne	Derry.....1-15	Cork.....1-10
GROUP 2			
June 12	Nowlan Park	Galway.....3-08	Kilkenny.....3-06
June 12	Banagher	Wexford.....1-10	Offaly.....1-08
June 18	Banagher	Offaly.....2-20	Galway.....2-08
June 19	Wexford Park	Wexford.....4-20	Kilkenny.....0-06
June 23	Kilmanagh	Offaly.....2-17	Kilkenny.....1-05
June 26	Athenry	Wexford.....6-05	Galway.....1-06
SEMI-FINALS			
Aug. 21	Clones	Offaly.....2-12	Derry.....1-13
Aug. 21	Ardfinnan	Wexford.....1-09	Limerick.....0-10



Siona Nolan of Wexford attempts to hook Arlene Watkins (Offaly) in the National League Division 2 final in Semple Stadium, Thurles, on April 24th. Wexford won by 2-9 to 1-5.

UÍBH FHÁILÍ

Dathanna: GLAS, BÁN agus ÓR



(INTERMEDIATE)

1 Audrey Kennedy A. Ni Chinnéide Birr	2 Fiona Stephens F. Ni Stiofáin Drumcullen	3 Lorraine Keena L. Nic Cionaoith Kilcormac-Killoughey	4 Karen Brady C. Ni Bhrádaigh St. Sinchill's
5 Sheila Sullivan S. Ni Shuilleabháin Birr	6 Michaela Morkan M. Ni Mhurcháin (Capt.) Shinrone	7 Linda Sullivan L. Ni Shuilleabháin St. Rynagh's	
8 Arlene Watkins A. Watkins Birr	9 Marion Crean M. Ni Chroideáin Shinrone		
10 Michelle Davis M. Ni Dhibhis Shinrone	11 Aoife Kelly A. Ni Cheallaigh Lusmagh	12 Siobhán Flannery S. Ni Fhlannabhra St. Rynagh's	
13 Karen Nugent C. Ni Mhurcháin Drumcullen	14 Elaine Dermody E. Ni Dhiarmada Drumcullen	15 Tina Hannon T. Ni hAnnáin Naomh Bríd	
16 CLAIRE BIRMINGHAM C. Birmingham Lusmagh	17 JEAN BRADY S. Ni Bhrádaigh St. Sinchill's	18 DEBBIE FLYNN D. Ni Fhlóinn Kilcormac-Killoughey	19 EMMA DUNNE E. Ni Dhoinn Kilcormac-Killoughey
20 SHAUNA FLYNN S. Ni Fhlóinn Kilcormac-Killoughey	21 AILSA HUGHES A. Ni hAodha Tullamore	22 KATIE BERGIN C. Ni Bheirgin Birr	23 AOIFE CORRIGAN A. Ni Chorráin Kinsilly
24 MICHELLE GLEESON M. Ni Ghlasán Birr	25 ORLAGH KIRWAN O. Ni Chiarubáin Birr	26 EMMA FOGARTY E. Ni Fhógartaigh Kilcormac-Killoughey	

Loch Garman

INTERMEDIATE



HELENA JACOB

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 28. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 and Division 2 '09, '10; Leinster Under-14 '95, '96; Leinster Under-18 '98; Leinster Senior '99, '00; Ashbourne Cup with W.I.T. '01; selected on Combined Ashbourne team '04; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; All-Ireland Club sevens '06; Leinster Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '98, '99.



JEAN HAYDEN

Rathnure

Age: 27. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Club Senior '99, '00, '08; Leinster Club '00; three Senior B Club '02, '05, '06.



LOUISE O'LEARY

Rathnure

Age: 21. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; All-Ireland Junior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '04; All-Ireland Senior Colleges '05; Leinster Junior Colleges '03, '04, '05; Leinster Senior Colleges '05, '07; Club Senior '08; Leinster Under-14 '02.



COLLEEN ATKINSON

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 27. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 and 2 '09, '10; Leinster Junior '03, '04; Leinster Senior '03, '04, '07; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09.



FRANCES DORAN

Butlers Alley

Age: 24. Honours: National league Division 2 '09, '10; Purcell Cup with St. Patrick's (Drumcondra); Club Intermediate B; Senior Gael Linn '10.



LOUISE CODD

Dolly Rovers

Age: 24. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Leinster Under-14 '99, '00; Leinster Under-16 '00, '02; Club Intermediate '01, '03; Club Senior '09; All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '03; Leinster Senior '03, '04, '07; Leinster Junior '04; Ashbourne Cup with U.C.D. '07.



SHELLEY KEHOE

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 20. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; two All-Ireland Feile na nGael '01, '02; All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '05; Ashbourne Cup with W.I.T. '10; Club Senior '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Senior Gael Linn '10.



EMMA MORAN

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 23. Honours: National league Division 2 '09, '10; four All-Ireland Feile na nGael '98, '99, '00, '01; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Ashbourne Cup and All-Ireland Colleges with U.C.D.



LORRAINE O'CONNOR

Oylgate-Glenbrien

Age: 21. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; two All-Ireland and five Leinster Colleges with Colaiste Bride; Club Under-18 and Junior.



BRIDGET CURRAN

St. Ibar's-Shelmallee

Age: 26. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 2 '10; Leinster Junior '03; Leinster Senior '03, '04, '07; Senior Gael Linn '06; Club Senior '97, '98, '01, '02; Leinster Senior Club '01, '02.



SIONA NOLAN

Manager-Boolevogue

Age: 22. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '03, '04, '05; All-Ireland Junior Colleges '04; Club Senior B '04, '08; Leinster Senior '07; Purple and Gold Star '08.



FIONA ROCHFORD

St. Anne's

Age: 21. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; Ashbourne Shield with U.L. '10.



STACEY KEHOE

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 20. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; two All-Ireland Feile na nGael '01, '02; All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '05; Ashbourne Cup with W.I.T. '10; Club Senior '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; Senior Gael Linn '10.



CIARA O'CONNOR

Rathnure

Age: 25. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '03, '04; All-Ireland Junior Colleges '00; Club Senior '00, '08; Leinster Club Senior '00; Club Senior B '02, '05, '06.



LISA BOLGER

St. Martin's

Age: 18. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; Club Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Senior B; All-Ireland inter-provincial; Leinster Schools Under-14 C and B, Under-16 B and Senior B with Loretto (Wexford).



NICOLA MURPHY

Faythe Harriers

Age: 25. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; Leinster Under-14 '99; Leinster Under-16 '01; Club Under-14 '99 and Junior '02.



EIMEAR O'CONNOR

Rathnure

Age: 18. Honours: National league Division 1 '10; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Club Senior '08; Junior Gael Linn; Leinster Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride; inter-provincial All-Ireland Schools '08.



STACEY REDMOND

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 21. Honours: All-Ireland Senior championship '07; National league Division 1 '09; National league Division 2 '09, '10; Ashbourne Cup with W.I.T. '09, '10; Ashbourne All Star and player of the tournament '09; four All-Ireland Feile na nGael '99, '00, '01, '02; Leinster Under-14 '02; Leinster Under-16 '02; Leinster and All-Ireland Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride '03, '04, '05; All-Ireland Junior Colleges '04; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Club Senior '09; All-Ireland club sevens '06; Leinster Senior '07.



LINDA BOLGER

St. Martin's

Age: 18. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; Club Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Senior B; All-Ireland inter-provincial; Leinster Schools Under-14 C and B, Under-16 B and Senior B with Loretto (Wexford).



NIAMH O'CONNOR

Rathnure

Age: 26. Honours: National league Division 2 '09, '10; Purcell Cup All-Star '05; Leinster Club Senior '00; Club Senior '00, '08; Club Junior B '02, '05, '06; Leinster Junior '03.



SHAUNA SINNOTT

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 16. Honours: All-Ireland Under-16 B championship '09; numerous under-age club medals; Club Senior '09; Leinster Club Senior '09.



AISHLING MORAN

Dulart-The Ballagh

Age: 28. Honours: Leinster Club Senior '09; Club Senior '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '09; Leinster Senior Colleges with Colaiste Bride; Pan Celtic; Leinster Junior '03, '04.



EMMA O'CONNOR

Rathnure

Age: 20. Honours: Club Senior '08; Club Junior; two All-Ireland and five Leinster Colleges with Colaiste Bride; two All-Ireland Community Games.



ELLEN KELLY

Marshallstown

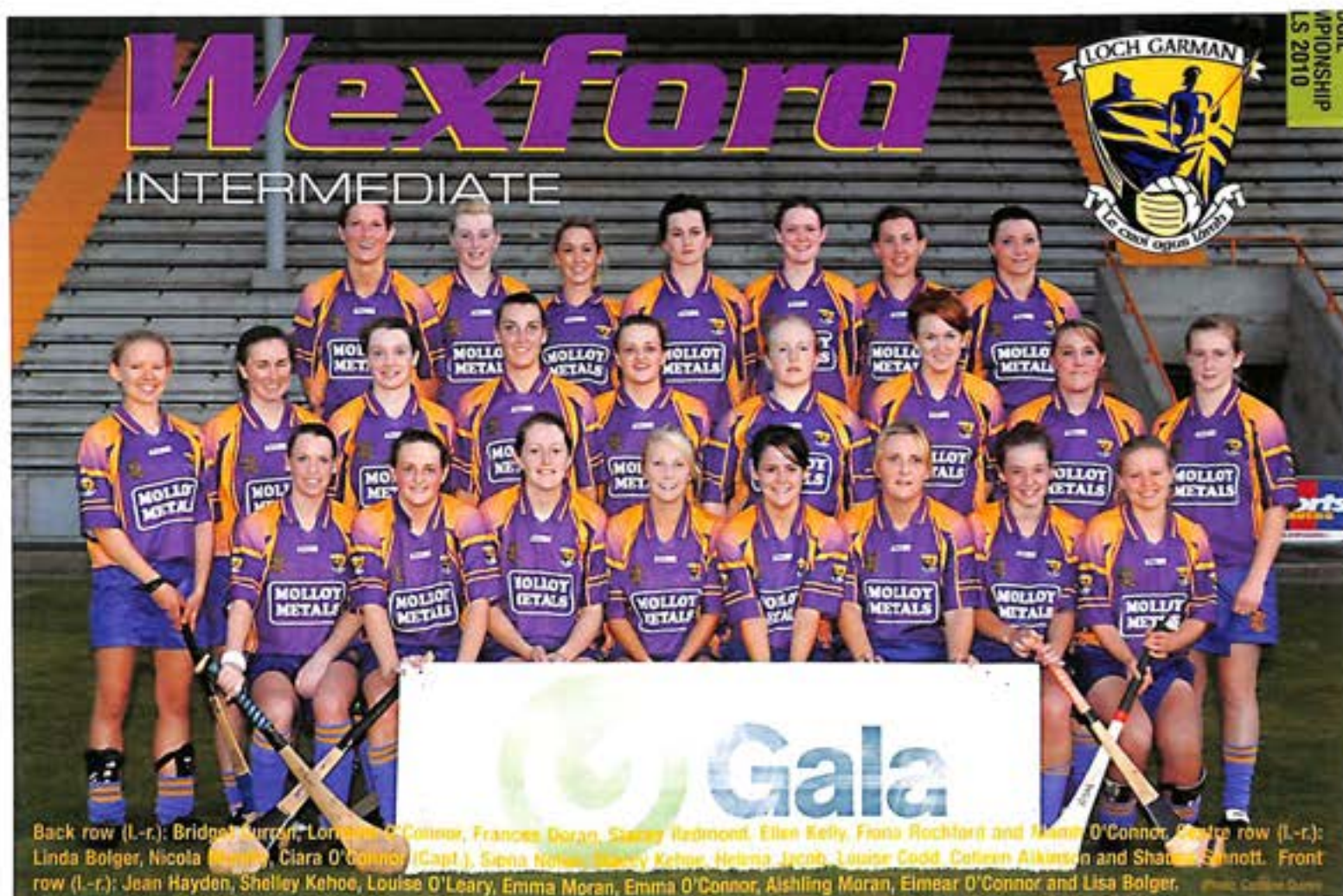
Age: 17. Honours: National league Division 2 '10; Club Under-14, Under-16 and Intermediate.

SEEING DOUBLE — ON THE DOUBLE!

CALLING the players by their correct names isn't as easy as it may seem for the Wexford Intermediate mentors, as there are two sets of twins on the panel of 24 – Shelley and Stacey Kehoe, and Lisa and Linda Bolger.

Indeed, it's a real family affair, as the squad also features the three sisters of Aoife and Claire O'Connor who are on the Senior team (Ciara, Eimear and Niamh), and their first cousin, Emma.

There's also the Moran sisters, Aishling and Emma, while Helena Jacob and Colleen Atkinson have sisters on the Senior team, namely Ursula and Karen. In addition, Louise Codd is a first cousin of Deirdre from the Senior crew. Talented college players certainly run in the family in Wexford.



Back row (l-r): Bridget Curran, Lorraine O'Connor, Frances Doran, Stacey Redmond, Ellen Kelly, Fiona Rochford and Niamh O'Connor. Middle row (l-r): Linda Bolger, Nicola Murphy, Ciara O'Connor (Capt.), Siona Nolan, Shelley Kehoe, Helena Jacob, Louise Codd, Colleen Atkinson and Shauna Sinnott. Front row (l-r): Jean Hayden, Shelley Kehoe, Louise O'Leary, Emma Moran, Emma O'Connor, Aishling Moran, Eimear O'Connor and Lisa Bolger. Photo: Cathleen Quirey



LOCH GARMAN

Dathanna: CORCORA agus CR
(INTERMEDIATE)

1
Helena Jacob
L. Iacób
Oulart-The Ballagh

2
Jean Hayden
S. Ni hEideáin
Rathnure

3
Louise O'Leary
L. Ni Laoire
Rathnure

4
Colleen Atkinson
C. Nic Aidicin
Oulart-The Ballagh

5
Frances Doran
P. Ni Dheoráin
Bullers Alley

6
Louise Codd
L. Nic Óda
Dultry Rovers

7
Shelley Kehoe
S. Nic Eochaidh
Oulart-The Ballagh

8
Emma Moran
E. Ni Mhóráin
Oulart-The Ballagh

9
Lorraine O'Connor
L. Ni Chonchúir
Dylegate-Glenbrien

10
Fiona Rochford
F. de Rosfort
St. Anne's

11
Siona Nolan
S. Ni Nualláin
Monageer-Boalavogue

12
Stacey Redmond
S. Nic Réamainn
Oulart-The Ballagh

13
Stacey Kehoe
S. Nic Eochaidh
Oulart-The Ballagh

14
Ciara O'Connor
C. Ni Chonchúir (Capt.)
Rathnure

15
Lisa Bolger
L. Ni Bholguir
St. Martin's

Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Championship TOP SCORERS



Elaine Dermody
(Offaly)

NAME	COUNTY	SCORE	TOTAL
GRÁINNE MCGOLDRICK	Derry	0-23	23
ELAINE DERMODY	Offaly	1-19	22
EILEEN O'BRIEN	Limerick	0-22	22
DENISE LUBY	Cork	3-12	21
CIARA O'CONNOR	Wexford	1-18	21
ORLA CURTIN	Limerick	3-10	19
KATIE McAULEY	Derry	5-4	19
AOIFE McLOUGHNEY	Tipperary	2-12	18
STACEY KEHOE	Wexford	4-4	16

WEXFORD SCORERS	1	2	3	4	TOTALS
CIARA O'CONNOR	0-7	0-5	0-1	1-5	1-18
STACEY KEHOE	-	1-3	3-1	-	4-4
BRIDGET CURRAN	1-1	0-4	1-2	-	2-7
EVELYN QUIGLEY	0-1	1-2	2-0	-	3-3
EIMEAR O'CONNOR	-	1-1	0-1	-	1-2
FIONA ROCHFORD	0-1	0-1	-	0-2	0-4
SIONA NOLAN	-	0-2	-	0-1	0-3
STACEY REDMOND	-	1-0	-	-	1-0
BRID GORDON	-	0-2	-	-	0-2
LOUISE CODD	-	-	-	0-1	0-1

1: June 12 v. Offaly; 2: June 19 v. Kilkenny;
3: June 26 v. Galway; 4: Aug. 21 v. Limerick.

OFFALY SCORERS	1	2	3	4	TOTALS
ELAINE DERMODY	0-4	0-7	0-4	1-4	1-19
SIOBHÁN FLANNERY	0-3	0-4	1-2	0-1	1-10
KAREN NUGENT	1-1	1-0	0-1	1-0	3-2
ARLENE WATKINS	-	0-1	1-3	0-2	1-6
SHAUNA FLYNN	-	1-4	0-1	-	1-5
TINA HANNON	-	0-3	-	0-2	0-5
MICHAELA MORKAN	-	-	0-3	0-1	0-4
EMMA DUNNE	-	0-1	0-1	-	0-2
MARION CREAN	-	-	-	0-1	0-1
AOIFE KELLY	-	-	-	0-1	0-1
LINDA SULLIVAN	-	-	0-1	-	0-1
SHEILA SULLIVAN	-	-	0-1	-	0-1

1: June 12 v. Wexford; 2: June 18 v. Galway;
3: June 23 v. Kilkenny; 4: Aug. 21 v. Derry.



Below:
Siobhán Flannery
(Offaly)

Stacey Kehoe
(Wexford)

Manager: Karen Barnes. Selectors: Ray Quigley, Ger O'Reilly. Trainer: Gerry McQuaid

SEPT 2010

Dermody delivers as Offaly hold on

Boxing

Offaly 2-12
Wexford 2-10

by Ruaidhri O'Connor

OFFALY will play senior camogie next season after they completed their impressive climb through the ranks at Croke Park.

A year on from winning the Junior title, Joachim Kelly's side held off a strong Wexford comeback to secure passage to take the Gala Intermediate crown.

The result had not looked in doubt at the interval after a dominant first half, bookended by Elaine Dermody goals, had left Offaly nine points up at the interval.

But Wexford battled back to level with eleven minutes on the clock, only for Offaly to respond in style.

Dermody's opener was a point attempt that goalkeeper Helena Jacob misjudged and it filled the Faithful with confidence as they raced into a 1-5 to no score lead. Ciara O'Connor's free steadied the Wexford ship, but Dermody flicked home a second be-

fore the break to make the score 2-7 to 0-4 at the break.

But Wexford roared back into the game thanks, in no small part, to a double from Fiona Rochford who handpassed home a first goal before beating Audrey Kennedy with a fine finish.

That levelled matters, but Offaly stayed calm and substitute Aika Hughes plucked a Marion Crean pass out of the air and pointed, before Siobhán Flannery did likewise.

O'Connor pulled one back, but Emma Dunne and Arlene Watkins sent points over to a Linda Bolger effort to secure the win to the delight of manager Joachim Kelly.

"It's fantastic," he said. "We're delighted to come up two years in a row and win the Intermediate a year after winning the Junior. It is all down to the girls in that dressing room. The experience of playing in Croke Park three years in a row stood to us. That game could have been gone from us."

"We told them to dig deep, to stick to the plan. The plan was to work, work, work. To stick to it. It got back to a drawn match with five, six minutes to go but we brought on two subs and they got a point each. I'm thrilled."



Offaly players Michaela Morkan, left and Tina Hannon celebrate their win over Wexford. Pic: David Maher / SPORTSFILE

Scorers for Offaly: E Dermody 2-3 (11), S Flannery 0-4, J Brady 0-2, E Dunne, A Hughes, A Watkins 0-1 each.

Scorers for Wexford: F Rochford 2-1, C O'Connor 0-5 (31), Lisa Bolger 0-2; S Redmond, Linda Bolger 0-1 each.

OFFALY: A Kennedy; F Stephens, L Keena, K Brady; S Sullivan, M Morkan (capt), L Sullivan; A Watkins, M Crean; M Davis, A Kelly, S Flannery; K Nugent, E Dermody, T Hannon.

Subs: M Davis for Kelly (41), A Hughes for Flannery (45), E Dunne for Flannery (56).

WEXFORD: H Jacob; J Hayden, L O'Leary, C Atkinson; F Doran, L Codd, S Kehoe; E Moran, L O'Connor; F Rochford, S Nolan, S Redmond, S Kehoe, C O'Connor (capt) Lisa Bolger.

Subs: E O'Connor for Nolan (11), B Curran for Doran (14), S Sinnott for Moran (41), Linda Bolger for Keogh (54).

Referee: O Elliott (Antrim).

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL

Offaly show spirit to finish the job

Offaly 2-12
Wexford 2-10

OFFALY HELD off a spirited Wexford to claim the intermediate title for the second season in a row.

Joachim Kelly's side showed tremendous character to finish strongly after seeing their good work in the first half wiped out by Wexford's scoring burst of 2-4 after the resumption.

The pacy Fiona Rochford bagged both of Wexford's goals in the 45th and 49th minutes to bring the sides level at 2-8 apiece but crucially, Offaly hit back with four of the next five points.

Offaly's goals came Elaine Dermody in the eighth and 29th minutes and with Siobhán Flannery driving over three points and Jean Brady hitting two, they were full value for their 2-7 to 0-4 interval lead.



Offaly's Sheila Sullivan and Elaine Dermody celebrate.

OFFALY: A Kennedy; F Stephens, L Keena, K Brady; S Sullivan, M Morkan, L Sullivan; A Watkins (0-1), M Crean; J Brady (0-2), A Kelly, S Flannery (0-4); K Nugent, E Dermody (2-3, lone free), T Hannon. Subs: M Davis for Kelly (43 mins), A Hughes (0-1) for Nugent (45 mins), E Dunne (0-1) for Flannery (56 mins). WEXFORD: H Jacob; J Hayden, L O'Leary, C Atkinson; F Doran, L Codd, S Kehoe; E Moran, L O'Connor; F Rochford (2-1), S Nolan, S Redmond (0-1); S Kehoe, C O'Connor (0-5, lone free), Lisa Bolger (0-2). Subs: E O'Connor for Nolan, B Curran for Doran (14 mins), Linda Bolger (0-1) for Keogh (54 mins). Referee: O Elliott (Antrim).

COURAGE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE SPOILS

Premier Junior Preview by Claran Woods, 'Gaelic Life'

IF FORTUNE favours the brave, then Antrim should have fortune in abundance this afternoon. It's been well documented that Saffrons defender Rhona Torney lines out this afternoon against the advice of doctors, defying a serious heart condition through a sheer determination to fulfil her All-Ireland dream.

We in the stands often dream about running out onto the hallowed turf of Croke Park, but when push would come to shove, would we be willing to put our very health and well-being on the line for the cause of the shirt?

All-Ireland winners' medals though aren't handed out for bravery alone. It's only one small facet of the overall mix which brings success.

Preparation, skill, determination... and a fair sprinkling of luck being just some of the others.

For Waterford, this afternoon represents a shot at redemption. Having lost out to Offaly in the decider last year, a 2-14 to 1-9 semi-final win over Meath booked their passage to another Croke Park showdown this afternoon. Aine Lyng was their scorer-in-chief against the Royals, and will spearhead the Deise attack as they attempt to make up for the disappointment of last season and take the title back to Munster.

At the opposite end of the field is Jane Adams, one of the country's top attackers who is on a mission of her own having missed out on last season due to a cruciate knee injury. The Rossa forward was the star of the show in their semi-final, finding the back of the net three times as Antrim saw off their neighbours and rivals Down with just a point to spare to book their ticket to this afternoon's final.

Prior to those semi-finals, the two competing sides had pretty similar runs through their respective group stages. Antrim topped their table with two wins and a draw, beating Roscommon and Meath

and sharing the spoils with Laois. Waterford too finished top of the heap even if it was in a smaller group, although their results were more commanding as they hit Dublin for 3-18 to 0-5 and repeated the feat against Down, again scoring 3-18 and conceding only six points.

The manner in which they have powered their way through to this afternoon's decider makes Waterford favourites to make amends for the heartache they endured last season, and Antrim will have to be at their very best in order to keep the shackles on a previously free-scoring Waterford attack.

However, Antrim sides have a habit of triumphing against the odds. In 2008, Jane Adams helped the Rossa

club to power to victory over a fancied Drom and Inch to claim the All-Ireland Senior club camogie title for the very first time.

Can they once again defy the bookies and take an unexpected victory?

If they do need inspiration, then they only have to look towards Rhona Torney to see first-hand the sort of courage that is required to take the spoils on such a momentous occasion.

The outcome may be very much in question, but what is for sure is that a cracking tussle is in store this afternoon as two of the country's biggest hitters go head-to-head for All-Ireland honours.



Waterford's Mairéad Murphy.
(P: Ray McManus, Sportstar)



Rhona Torney, Antrim's brave defender.
(Photo: Anne J. Boring)

Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship TOP SCORERS



Aine Lyng (Waterford)
(P: Sportstar)

NAME	COUNTY	SCORE	TOTAL
JANE ADAMS	Antrim	4-22	34
AINE LYNG	Waterford	3-23	32
KELLY HOPKINS	Roscommon	3-17	26
JANE DOLAN	Meath	1-20	23
SARAH-ANN FITZGERALD	Laois	4-8	20
KAREN KELLY	Waterford	2-9	15
FIONNUALA CARR	Down	1-10	13
AINE MAHONY	Laois	1-10	13
RACQUEL McCARRY	Antrim	3-4	13

WATERFORD SCORERS	1	2	3	TOTALS
AINE LYNG	1-4	2-10	0-9	3-23
KAREN KELLY	1-4	0-3	1-2	2-9
PATRICIA JACKMAN	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-9
NICOLA MORRISSEY	1-3	1-0	-	2-3
AINE BREATHNACH	0-2	-	-	0-2
DEIRDRE FAHY	0-2	-	-	0-2
GRAINNE KENNEALLY	-	0-1	-	0-1
NIAMH ROCKETT	-	0-1	-	0-1

1: July 3 v. Dublin; 2: July 10 v. Down; 3: Aug. 7 v. Meath.

ANTRIM SCORERS	1	2	3	4	TOTALS
JANE ADAMS	0-9	0-5	1-3	3-5	4-22
RACQUEL McCARRY	0-1	1-0	2-2	0-1	3-4
SHANNON GRAHAM	1-1	0-2	0-4	0-2	1-9
CHARLENE HAMILL	0-1	0-2	0-1	-	0-4
KATIE McALEESE	-	0-2	0-2	-	0-4
MICHAELA CONVERY	-	-	0-1	0-1	0-2
MAIREAD GRAHAM	0-1	-	-	-	0-1
AILEEN MARTIN	-	-	-	0-1	0-1
ASHLING McCALL	0-1	-	-	-	0-1

1: June 13 v. Roscommon; 2: July 10 v. Laois; 3: July 17 v. Meath; 4: Aug. 7 v. Dwn.



Racquel McCarry (Antrim)
(P: Anne J. Boring)

Karen Kelly (Waterford)
(P: Sportstar)

ANTRIM

Name: **Michael McCullough**

Age: 31

Occupation: Regional Hurling Development Officer.

Currently living in: Falls Road, Belfast.

Family details: Married

Club: O'Donovan Rossa

Playing honours: Seven

Ulster Colleges/Schools,

one Ulster Club

championship, five inter-county provincial titles.

Managerial honours: Camogie - one All-Ireland Club title;

one Ulster Senior championship; five Ulster

championships; five county championships; two Kilmacud

Senior sevens - all with O'Donovan Rossa. Hurling - two

Ulster Under-21 championships with Derry.

How long are you with the current team?: This is my first

year with the Antrim Junior team.

How did you get involved with camogie?: Coaching is my

job, and I was always interested in looking after a team.



Jim Nelson took me on board with the O'Donovan Rossa club and with eight/nine girls from the club involved on the county panel it was a natural progression. The position became available and I went for it.

Other interests outside of camogie: I follow and play some soccer with my local club.

Managers/players that you admire: Ann Downey travelled with the Kilkenny team to play us this year and we travelled back down to give them another challenge.

It is not easy to get teams to travel up to us. I admire Ann for that. Mickey Harte - I think he is fantastic.

He spoke to the Rossa girls and I admired the way he spoke and motivated the girls. It was something else.

Paddy Tally - a man behind the scenes with the Down football team. He was doing ice baths before they were even heard of.

How do you unwind after a hectic match?: I meet up with the lads and head for a pint.

Are you superstitious before a match?: I am unreal. The same socks have to go on the same feet, and if I don't put my watch on first I would take my clothes off again and put my watch on first. That's how bad I am!

WATERFORD

Name: **Andy Moloney**

D.O.B.: 16/11/76

Place of birth: Cahir,

Co. Tipperary.

Currently living in: Dunmore

East, Co. Waterford.

Occupation: Sales Rep.

Family details: Married with

one son. My family has

been involved at all levels

of the G.A.A. down through

the years.

Club: Ballygunner

Playing honours: one All-Ireland Under-21; one Munster Under-21; two Munster inter-county; one Munster Club; one Munster Minor; three County Senior championships; two Fitzgibbon Cups. I played Senior hurling with

Tipperary and Waterford.

Managerial honours: one Under-21 County championship and one Minor County championship with Ballygunner.

Selector on the winning W.I.T. Fitzgibbon Cup team. One Munster Intermediate camogie championship. All-Ireland Junior championship finalists 2009.

How long are you with the current team?: I took it over full time when I was approached two years ago.

How did you get involved with camogie?: I was introduced to it by Paul Lyng about four years ago. I trained the Waterford team a few times then, as I could not give it

my full commitment while still playing hurling myself.

Other interests outside of camogie: I have a keen interest in rugby and do some cycling.

Managers/players that you admire: Justin McCarthy, Colm Bonnar and Nicky English.

How do you unwind after a hectic match?: My young son keeps me occupied - it's a change of focus.

Are you superstitious before a match?: I am not very superstitious, but before every game I eat the same food and try not to do anything different.



SEPT. 2010

Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship PATHS TO THE FINAL

time to chat

Lorraine
KEENA

talks to Liz Howard



- Q** When Joachim doesn't wake us do sprints after training...?
- A** Favourite venue?
- A** Croke Park and Temple Stadium.
- Q** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
- A** Friendly, outgoing, sporty and sociable.
- Q** Three most fun camogie colleagues?
- A** Siobhan Flannery, Orla Kirowan and Tina Hannon especially on nights out!
- Q** Venue for girls' night out?
- A** Birr, great place for fun.
- Q** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
- A** Joe Canning, Tommy Bowe, Jonathan Sexton, Tommy Walsh, Ken McGrath, Conor O'Mahony.
- Q** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
- A** Michael "Beck" Walsh, Ken McGrath, Lar Corbett.
- Q** Favourite song/piece of music?
- A** Rihanna - "Love the way you lie".
- Q** Three things you are serious about?
- A** Sport, college, family and friends.
- Q** Ambition?
- A** Hopefully win the Intermediate and play at Senior level; graduate from college; travel.
- Q** Personal motto?
- A** Ah, sure it will be given if I don't worry.

Jean
HAYDEN

talks to Liz Howard



- Q** Nowlan Park, great pitch.
- Q** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
- A** Committed, determined, witty, physically dominant!!!!
- Q** Three most fun camogie colleagues?
- A** Ciara O'Connor, Evelyn Quigley, Ciara Storey, three wild Wexford women, great fun.
- Q** Venue for girls' night out?
- A** Wren's and M17, where else??
- Q** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
- A** Rob Kearney, Tommy Bowe, David Beckham, Jonny Wilkinson, Janice Redknapp, Brendan O'Leary.
- Q** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
- A** The late Martin Codd, for the vision and drive he had to develop the club, Brian Cody and Nelson Mandela.
- Q** Favourite song/piece of music?
- A** Jason Mraz, "I'm Yours".
- Q** Three things you are serious about?
- A** Music, food, winning two All-Ireland medals with Wexford.
- Q** Ambition?
- A** To win two medals to-day.
- Q** Personal motto?
- A** If you don't see yourself as a winner, you can't play as a winner.

DATE	VENUE	RESULT	REFEREE
GROUP 1			
June 13	Hannahstown	Antrim 1-14 Roscommon 2-05	Seán McGuigan
June 19	Portlaoise	Meath 2-13 Laois 2-10	John O'Leary
July 3	Portlaoise	Laois 3-17 Roscommon 1-07	John Thompson
July 10	St. John's	Antrim 1-11 Laois 1-11	Malachy McToal
July 10	Athleague	Meath 2-12 Roscommon 1-06	Con Ó Ceadigh
July 17	Trillick	Antrim 3-13 Meath 3-05	John Thompson
GROUP 2			
June 19	Glensbryn	Down 0-24 Dublin 2-06	Owen Elliott
July 3	Walsh Park	Waterford 3-18 Dublin 0-05	Donal Leahy
July 10	Ashbourne	Waterford 3-18 Down 0-06	Ger O'Dowd
SEMI-FINALS			
Aug. 7	Casement Park	Antrim 3-10 Down 3-09	Alan Lagrue
Aug. 7	Dr. Cullen Park	Waterford 2-14 Meath 1-09	John Dolan



LEFT: Antrim's Emma Connolly making tracks towards the Down goal during the Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior championship semi-final in Casement Park, Belfast.
(Photograph: Anne J. Blaney)

BELOW: Patricia Jackman of Waterford stretches to beat Linda Sullivan (Offaly) to the ball in last year's Gala All-Ireland Premier Junior championship final.
(Photograph: Brian Lawless, Sportfile)



Kelly to the rescue for Déise

Boxing

Antrim 1-9
Waterford 1-9

by Ruaidhri O'Connor

KAREN KELLY'S last-minute point means Antrim and Waterford must face off again on October 3 after this exciting All-Ireland Premier Junior decider at Croke Park.

This clash was a slow starter but it ended up going down to the wire as Déise full forward Kelly struck to level in the closing stages.

Antrim led 0-4 to 0-3 in a first-half dominated by defence as star forward Jane Adams struggled to get the upper hand on Shona Curran. Kelly and Aine Lyng with two points were Waterford's scorers, while Rachel McCarty and Michaela Convery joined Adams on the Antrim scoresheet.

Adams set McCarty up for a goal four minutes after the interval as the duo added points to a lone Patricia Jackman free to put the Ulster side in a commanding position.

But two Lyng frees and points from Jenny McCarthy and Kelly narrowed the gap to a point. Natalie McGuinness extended Antrim's lead to two, but Grainne Kenneally caught McCarty's high ball to goal for the 1-5 and gave her side the lead. But Antrim, reacted well and sub Katie McAleese



Waterford's Aine Lyng gets in her shot as Antrim's Emma Connolly comes in to challenge in the Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park yesterday.
Picture: Oliver McVeigh/Sportfile

retelled before Adams worked a one-two with McGuinness to re-take the lead. But Waterford remained calm and Kelly booked a second date to the disappointment of Antrim manager Michael McCollough. "The mood in the dressing room is one of defeat. I'm sure Waterford know that they have got out of jail," he said.

Scorers for Antrim: R McCarty 1-2, J Adams (39) 0-4, M Convery, N McGuinness, K McAleese 0-1 each.

Scorers for Waterford: A Lyng (30) 0-4, G Ken-

neally 1-0, K Kelly 0-3, J McCarthy, P Jackman (16) 0-1 each.

ANTRIM: M Graham; R Torney, A Martin, A Jackson; C Dolan; E Connolly, B Orchin; K O'Neill, N Connolly; M Convery, N McGuinness, S Graham; R McCarty; J Adams (capt), L Connolly.

Subs: A McCall for Martin (7), C Hamill for N Connolly (27), K McAleese for L Connolly (36), M Connolly for B Orchin (48), L McMullan for C Hamill (57).

WATERFORD: A O'Brien; E Hannon, S Curran, KM Heame; F Cunningham, P Jackman; J Simpson; C Rahier, M Murphy (capt); A Lyng, GK McGuinness, J McCarthy; N Rockett, K Kelly, N Morrissey.

Subs: S Kiernan for Morrissey (40), D Kelly for Murphy (29).

Referee: D Leahy (Tipperary).

SEPT 2010

L-IRELAND
IMOGIE
CHAMPIONSHIP
NALS 2010

AONTROIM

Dathanna: BUI agus BÀN



PORT LAIRGE

Dathanna: BÀN agus GORM

<p>1</p> <p>Ashling O'Brien A. Ní Bhriain Lismore</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Emma Hannon E. Ní hAnnáin Gaultier</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Shona Curran S. Ní Chorráin Lismore</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Kate Marie Hearne C. M. Ní hEathirín Butlerstown</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Pauline Cunningham P. Ní Cuinneagáin St. Anne's</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Patricia Jackman P. Seac Gaultier</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Jenny Simpson S. Níc Shim St. Anne's</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Charlotte Raher C. Ní Reachair St. Anne's</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Mairéad Murphy M. Ní Mhurchú (Capt.) St. Anne's</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>Áine Lyng Á. Ní Loinn Gaultier</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Gráinne Kenneally G. Ní Chinnolaigh Lismore</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Jenny McCarthy S. Níc Carthaigh Cappoquin</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Niamh Rockett N. Rockett St. Anne's</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Karen Kelly C. Ní Cheallaigh St. Anne's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Nicola Morrissey N. Ní Mhuireasa Lismore</p>

Manager: Andy Moloney. Coach: Niall Dunphy. Selector: Carolyn Ahern. Trainer/Physio: Shay Fitzpatrick

<p>1</p> <p>Mairéad Graham M. Ní Ghréacháin Portlennane</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Rhona Torney R. Ní Thorna St. John's</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Aileen Martin A. Ní Mháirtín Dunloy</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Aisling Jackson A. Níc Shiacais St. John's</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Colleen Doherty C. Ní Dhochartaigh O'Donovan Rossa</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Emma Connolly E. Ní Chonghaile Loughgiel</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bronagh Orchin B. Orchin O'Donovan Rossa</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Kerrie O'Neill C. Ní Néill O'Donovan Rossa</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Noelle Connolly N. Ní Chonghaile Loughgiel</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>Michaela Convery M. Níc Ainmhire Tir na nÓg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Natalie McGuinness N. Níc Aonasa O'Donovan Rossa</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Shannon Graham S. Ní Ghréacháin Creggan</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Racquel McCarry R. Níc Fhearaigh Loughgiel</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Jane Adams S. Níc Adaim (Capt.) O'Donovan Rossa</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Laura Connolly L. Ní Chonghaile Loughgiel</p>

Management: Michael McCullough, Ronan McWilliams, Michael McCambridge. First Aid: Maria Donnelly

time to chat

Rhona TORNEY

talks to Liz Howard



- A** Enthusiastic, loud, determined, honest.
- Q** It would not be fair leaving out any of the girls, but the car I travel in to county training never fails to entertain!!
- A** It's a secret...usually start off in Dunmurray Lodge...
- A** Cesc Fabregas, Luke Fitzgerald, Tommy Walsh, David Beckham, Phil Jackson (NBA manager), Ollie Canning!!
- A** Jane Adams (she has achieved so much and has always been someone I've looked up to!!), Mickey Harte, Lance Armstrong.
- A** Alicia Keys, 'Wait Til U See Me Smile'.
- A** Camogie, career, and having fun.
- A** To win the next match.
- A** Hard work beats talent, when talent isn't working!

Sally O'GRADY

(Waterford)

talks to Liz Howard



- Club:** Gaultier
- Q** Three people who have had an influence on your career?
- A** Paul Lyng, Tony Cummins, Jenny O'Grady (sister).
- Q** Best game you played?
- A** County final 2006.
- Q** Most cherished victory and why?
- A** When we beat St. Anne's in the County final 2006; a long time since Gaultier won previously.
- Q** The toughest opponent outside of your county?
- A** Jenny O'Leary (Cork) - we played on opposing teams in Sydney.
- Q** Part of training you enjoy most?
- A** When Shay Fitzpatrick finishes his drills!!!
- Q** Favourite venue?

- A** Nowlan Park.
- Q** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
- A** Determined, sticky, strong, team player.
- Q** Three most fun camogie colleagues?
- A** Catherine Whitty, Vicky Gaffney, Áine Breathnach - all three have the ability to make me laugh even in defeat.
- Q** Venue for girls' night out?
- A** The Findlater in Dorset Street.
- Q** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
- A** John Mullane, Michael 'Brick' Walsh, John Galvin, John 'Bull' Hayes, Brian Cody (find out secret of his success up to Sunday last), Michael Phelps (to find out how much he eats).
- Q** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
- A** Fergal Hartley, Katie Taylor and Pádraig Harrington.
- Q** Favourite song/piece of music?
- A** Anything by O EMEROR, great new Waterford band. Little plug for them!!
- Q** Three things you are serious about?
- A** Camogie, my friends, my work as a physiotherapist.
- Q** Ambition?
- A** To be happy.
- Q** Personal motto?
- A** You only regret things you don't do.

Port Láirge



ASHLING O'BRIEN

Lisamore

Age: 22. Honours: County medals in Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 and Senior; All-Ireland Féile runners-up; Munster Colleges Junior medal; Munster and All-Ireland with Waterford Minors; Waterford Poc Fada winner; Munster Intermediate medal '09; Munster Colleges 'A' and 'B' '04, '05; represented Ireland in camogie/shinty '05.



EMMA HANNON

Gaultier

Age: 23. Honours: Under-16 Munster and All-Ireland championships; National league titles; two Senior Club championships.



SALLY O'GRADY

Gaultier

Age: 26. Honours: County Senior championships '06, '08; Division 2 league champions '07; Munster Intermediate champions '09; Munster Junior champions '08; inter-provincials '07 and '09; All Star nomination '07.



KATE MARIE HEARNE

Butterstown

Age: 26. Honours: two Junior County titles; Munster Junior and Intermediate championships; inter-provincials '04, '08.



JENNY MCCARTHY

Cappaquin

Age: 17. Honours: Under-16 'B' and Under-18 'B' County titles; Junior league title; Munster 'A' league final; two All-Ireland Schools; three Munster Schools.



SHONA CURRAN

Lisamore

Age: 20. Honours: Munster Intermediate final '09; County Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 titles.



JENNY SIMPSON

St. Anne's

Age: 24. Honours: Ashbourne Cup '09; Munster Intermediate championship '09; Senior Club championship '09; Munster Club championship '09; All-Ireland Club finalist '09; Senior Club league '10.



MAIRÉAD MURPHY

St. Anne's

Age: 26. Honours: All-Ireland 'B' Colleges '02 with Mercy Convent (Waterford); seven Senior County championships; Munster Club '09; All-Ireland Club finalist '09; Munster Junior representative '08; Division 3 and 4 National league medals.



CHARLOTTE RAHER

St. Anne's

Age: 22. Honours: Ashbourne Cups '08, '10; seven Senior Club championships; Munster Club winners '09; All-Ireland Club finalists '09; N.C.A.A. scholarship '08; Munster Junior representative; Under-16 All-Ireland championship '03; Division 3 and 4 National leagues.



PATRICIA JACKMAN

Gaultier

Age: 18. Honours: National league Division 2; Under-16 All-Ireland title; Munster Junior, Intermediate and Colleges titles; Under-18 and two Senior Club championships; four Waterford and Munster Poc Fada titles; two All-Ireland Poc Fada titles '09, '10; All-Ireland Kilmacud sevens; All-Ireland Féile skills champion; Ashbourne Cup '10; Ashbourne All Star '10; Division 1 Colleges league '10; All-Ireland Freshers '10.



AINE LYNG

Gaultier

Age: 22. Honours: Munster Intermediate champions '09; Munster Junior champions; National league champions; Under-16 All-Ireland 'B'; Senior Club champions '06, '08; Kilmacud sevens All-Ireland champions '07; two Colleges All Stars; All-Ireland Colleges; four All Star nominations; inter-provincial Munster Junior and Senior.



GRAINNE KENNEALLY

Lisamore

Age: 23. Honours: Under-18 County and Senior league; Junior Munster Colleges medal with Presentation (Lisamore); two Intermediate Munster Colleges medals with B.C.S.; Colleges inter-provincial team; Munster Junior and Intermediate championships; National league Division 2; Gael Linn inter-provincial team; Munster Colleges Bursary; Ashbourne All Star.



NICOLA MORRISSEY

Lisamore

Age: 23. Honours: County Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Senior titles; Munster Junior and Intermediate championships; National league medals '06, '07; Munster Intermediate Schools '04, '05; Munster



KAREN KELLY

St. Anne's

Age: 25. Honours: two National league medals; two Munster medals; eight Senior Club championships; Munster Club title '09; All-Ireland finalists '09; Ashbourne Cup '10.



NIAMH ROCKETT

St. Anne's

Age: 16. Honours: two County Senior Club championships; two County leagues; Munster Intermediate championship '09; All-Ireland Junior Club finalists '09; Under-16 Minor Club championship '09.



FIONA NI CHADHLÁ

An Rinn

Age: 25. Honours: two National leagues; Munster Junior championship; County Junior championship; two All-Ireland Club sevens; Club league titles.



AINE BREATHNACH

Butterstown

Age: 21. Honours: Under-16 All-Ireland; National leagues '06, '07; Munster Junior and Intermediate champions; inter-provincial winners '08.



DEIRDRE FAHY

An Rinn

Age: 19. Honours: Under-16 'B' All-Ireland finalists '07; Under-18 'B' All-Ireland finalists '08, '09; Under-18 'B' county champions '06, '07, '08; inter-provincial Post Primary representative.



PAULINE CUNNINGHAM

St. Anne's

Age: 23. Honours: Ashbourne Cup '09; Senior Colleges league '09; eight Senior County championships; N.C.A.A. scholarship '09; Division 3 and 4 National league medals; All-Ireland 'B' Colleges '02; played on

All-Ireland shinty team.



AISLING KELLY

Butterstown

Age: 27. Honours: National league '06, '07; Munster Junior and Intermediate champions.



AILEEN CUMMINS

Gaultier

Age: 25. Honours: Junior and two Senior County championships; Ashbourne Cup '05; Kilmacud sevens.



VICKY GAFFNEY

Butterstown

Age: 21. Honours: Under-16 All-Ireland champions; National league winners '06, '07; Munster Junior and Intermediate champions.



MARGO HEFFERNAN

Gaultier

Age: 22. Honours: Senior championships '06, '08; Senior league '06; Kilmacud All-Ireland Intermediate sevens '06; Senior finalists '07; Under-18 County championships; Under-16 and Under-18 leagues.



SHAUNA KIERNAN

Lisamore

Age: 18. Honours: Munster Intermediate champions '09; All-Ireland Colleges champions '08, '09; Munster Colleges champions '08, '09; All-Ireland Under-16 finalists '07 and Under-18 finalists '08, '09; All-Ireland Féile winner '06; Under-12, Under-14, Under-16, Under-18 and Junior County titles.



MARY O'DONNELL

An Rinn

Age: 28. Honours: one Junior/Intermediate Munster '09; one Junior Munster '07; one Junior Club championship '05; one Junior Club league '05; one Junior sevens '06 (player of the tournament).




CLARA HOGAN

Gaultier

Age: 16. Honours: Under-12, Under-14 and Senior county titles; Under-16 Munster title.

Waterford



Back row (l-r): Aisling Kelly, Nicola Morrissey, Margo Heffernan, Emma Hannon, Charlotte Raher, Mairéad Murphy, Pauline Cunningham, Patricia Jackman, Aine Lyng, Aine Breathnach, Aileen Cummins, Sally O'Grady and Fiona Ni Chadhlá. Front row (l-r): Shona Curran, Mary O'Donnell, Grainne Kenneally, Shauna Kiernan, Karen Kelly, Niamh Rockett, Ashling O'Brien, Jenny McCarthy, Vicky Gaffney, Kate-Marie Hearne, Deirdre Fahy, Clara Hogan and Jenny Simpson.

(Photo: Caroline Quinlan)

Aontroim



RHONA TORNEY

St. John's
Age: 23. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
Junior and Intermediate county c'ships;
two Colleges All Stars; Senior Gael Linn; National
League Division 3; Purcell Cup.



AI SLING JACKSON

St. John's
Age: 25. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
National League Division 3.



ASHLING McCALL

Rossa
Age: 21. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10; two
Ulster Minor c'ships; one All-Ireland Minor 'B'
c'ship; one Senior All-Ireland Club; four Antrim
Senior Club c'ships; four Ulster Senior Club c'ships;
three Ulster Premier league; All-Ireland Senior sevens.



AILEEN MARTIN

Dunloy
Age: 21. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Under-16 All-Ireland.



NATALIE MCGUINNESS

Rossa
Age: 19. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
one Ulster Minor c'ship; one Senior All-Ireland
Club; three Antrim Senior Club c'ships;
three Ulster Senior Club c'ships; three
Ulster Premier league; All-Ireland Senior sevens; one Ulster Colleges
All Star.



BRONAGH ORCHIN

Rossa
Age: 20. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
one Senior All-Ireland Club; five Senior Antrim
Club c'ships; five Senior Ulster Club c'ships;
four Ulster Premier league; All-Ireland
Senior sevens.



KERRIE O'NEILL

Rossa
Age: 28. Honours: two Ulster Senior c'ships;
All-Ireland Senior Club; All-Ireland Senior
Kilmacud sevens; seven Senior Club c'ships;
Ulster Club c'ships; All-Ireland Féile na
nGael; Junior and Intermediate All-Ireland c'ships; University
All Star with U.U.J.



EMMA CONNOLLY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 19. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
National League Division 3; All-Ireland Under-16
'B' c'ship; All-Ireland Minor 'B' c'ship; one Antrim
and Ulster c'ship; Ulster Premier league;
three Under-16 Club c'ships; five Minor c'ships; three Colleges All Stars;
one Ulster Colleges c'ship.



MICHAELA CONVERY

Tir na nÓg
Age: 21. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
one All-Ireland Colleges; eleven Ulster Colleges
medals; two Under-16 Ulster c'ships; three Under-
18 Ulster c'ships; Under-16 and Under-18
All-Ireland 'B' c'ships; three Ulster Colleges All Stars; one Intermediate
Club c'ship; one Intermediate league; Ulster Sports Trust School Leaver
recipient; Under-18 Club shield.



CHARLENE HAMILL

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 22. Honours: two Ulster c'ships; Under-16,
Under-18, Junior and Senior County c'ships;
Division 3 National League.



SHANNON GRAHAM

Creggan
Age: 19. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
one National league; Antrim and Ulster Junior
Club c'ships; three Ulster Colleges All Stars;
player of the match Ulster final '10.



RACQUEL MCCARRY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 19. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Feile skills winner; Ulster young player of the
year; Ballymoney sportsman of the year;
five Under-18 c'ships; three Under-16 c'ships;
one Senior c'ship; two All-Ireland c'ships.



JANE ADAMS

Rossa
Age: 29. Honours: two All-Ireland Intermediate
c'ships; Junior All-Ireland c'ship and league;
four Ulster c'ships; All-Ireland Féile na nGael;
two Ulster Minor c'ships; seven Antrim Senior
Club c'ships; five Ulster Senior Club c'ships;
one Purcell Cup; one University All Star; All Star award; four Boss
GAA Writers' camogie awards; two All-Ireland Senior sevens;
one All-Ireland Junior sevens; five Ulster Premier leagues; one Senior All-
Ireland Club.



KATIE McALEESE

Portlennane
Age: 19. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Junior Club c'ship; Under-18 shield; two
Ulster Under-16; Under-16 All-Ireland 'B';
Ulster Colleges All Star; Under-14 Féile skills;
Ulster Colleges Junior and Senior 'B' medals.



BERNIE MCKINLEY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 25. Honours: one Ulster c'ship; one
Intermediate All-Ireland; two Senior Club c'ships;
one Ulster Club; one Purcell Cup.



NOELLE CONNOLLY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 28. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
one Senior Club c'ship.



LOUISE MCMULLAN

Dunloy
Age: 21. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10.



CHLOE DRAIN

Dunloy
Age: 16. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Under-16 Féile; Junior Antrim league.



BRENDA CLARKE

Portlennane
Age: 25. Honours: three Ulster c'ships;
Under-14 Ulster c'ship; three Minor c'ships and
leagues; three Under-18 c'ships and leagues;
Purcell Cup; one Intermediate All-Ireland;
one Ulster Senior 'B' Colleges.



MAIREAD GRAHAM

Portlennane
Age: 26. Honours: three Ulster c'ships; two
All-Ireland Intermediate c'ships; one Division 3
league; two Purcell Cups; two Purcell Cup
All Stars; Under-14 Ulster c'ship and league;
Under-14 Antrim league; three Antrim Minor c'ships and leagues;
three Antrim Under-18 c'ships.



NOREEN GRAHAM

Ahaghall
Age: 18. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Ulster Colleges All Star; three Ulster c'ships
Under-16 and Under-18.



SINÉAD LAVERTY

Creggan
Age: 19. Honours: two Ulster c'ships '08, '10;
Colleges All Star '09; Ulster Junior Club c'ship '08;
National League Division 4 '08; three Ulster
Minor titles '06, '07, '08; two Ulster Under-14
titles '04, '05; All-Ireland Minor 'B' c'ship '07.



SARAH MAGUIRE

Creggan
Age: 18. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
Antrim and Ulster Junior c'ships; Antrim Senior
shield; Ulster Colleges Senior 'A' c'ship.



ELEANOR McCONVILLE

Creggan
Age: 27. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10; Under-14
Féile '96; Ulster Colleges '98; Antrim '98;
'98; Minor Féile '98; Division 4 league '98; Antrim
Minor league '99; Minor Féile '99; Division 3
league '99; Intermediate c'ship '00; Division 2
league '01; Senior shield '09.



COLLEEN DOHERTY

Rossa
Age: 29. Honours: two Ulster Senior c'ships;
one National league; six Antrim c'ships;
five Ulster c'ships; six Antrim leagues;
two All-Ireland Kilmacud sevens;



ORLAGH McCALL

Rossa
Age: 21. Honours: two Ulster Senior c'ships;
one National league; five Senior Club c'ships;
five Ulster Club c'ships; four Ulster leagues;
one All-Ireland Club c'ship; one All-Ireland
Kilmacud sevens; one All-Ireland Under-16 'B'; four Ulster Minor
c'ships; one Under-16 c'ship; three Colleges All Stars.



THERESA ADAMS

Rossa
Age: 23. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
seven Antrim Club c'ships; five Senior Ulster
Club c'ships; one Purcell Cup; two Purcell Shields;
five Ulster Premier league; one Senior
All-Ireland Club.



MUIRINN QUINN

Rossa
Age: 19. Honours: one Ulster c'ship '10;
one Senior All-Ireland Club; four Antrim Senior
Club c'ships; four Ulster Senior Club c'ships;
three Ulster Premier league.



LAURA CONNOLLY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 17. Honours: five Under-16 c'ships;
five Under-18 c'ships; three Intermediate c'ships;
three Ulster Intermediate c'ships; one Senior club
c'ship; one Senior Ulster league; two Under-18
county c'ships; Junior 'A' Schools All-Ireland; two Ulster Junior Schools
c'ships; one Ulster Senior Schools c'ship.



MAEVE CONNOLLY

Loughgiel Shamrocks
Age: 17. Honours: five Under-16 c'ships;
five Minor c'ships; three Ulster Intermediate
c'ships; three County Intermediate c'ships;
one Ulster league; one Senior club c'ship;
one Senior Ulster c'ship; two County Minor Ulster c'ships; Junior and
Senior Ulster Schools c'ships.

Antrim



Front row (l-r): Eleanor Mallon, Noelle Connolly, Muirinn Quinn, Patricia McCarry, Louise McMullan, Ashling McCall, Noreen Graham, Katie McAleese, Charlene Hamill, Sarah Maguire, Colleen Doherty, Jane Adams (Capt.), Theresa Adams, Natalie McGuinness, Bronagh Orchin and Mairead Graham. Front row (l-r): Racquel McCarry, Maeve Connolly, Laura Connolly, Shannon Graham, Rhona Torney, Cathy McCarry, Kerrie O'Neill, Eleanor McConville, Brenda Clarke, Aileen Martin, Emma Connolly, Orlagh McCall, Sinéad Laverty, Bernie McKinley and Chloe Drain. (Missing from photograph: Aisling Jackson and Michaela Convery).

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

Continuing the tradition – Camogie and GAA links

By Liz Howard

LAST SUNDAY in Croke Park, we applauded the All-Ireland winning Offaly hurling team of 1985 as they were introduced on the pitch. Brendan Birmingham, Mark Corrigan and Joachim Kelly were part of that famous group who made hurling history, bringing the MacCarthy Cup to the Faithful county for the second time.

Today their respective daughters, Claire, Aoife and Aoife, step onto that same sod as Offaly contest the Gala Intermediate final. How history repeats itself. Joachim himself will be patrolling the sideline today as Offaly team manager. Selector Ger Fogarty is one of a prominent Offaly hurling family.

There are many other camogie/hurling links here today. Galway forward, Aislinn Connolly, is daughter of John, one of the finest hurlers ever to wear the maroon and white. The Connolly family are 'mighty' as they say in Galway! Remember Joe's great speech 'as Gaeilge' on winning the All-Ireland in 1980.

Ann-Marie Hayes is niece of Conor, who captained Galway to All-Ireland success in 1987 and '88. Veronica Curtin's uncle, Gerry, was on the 1980 panel while her father, Mick, wore both the Galway and New York jerseys.

Full-back



John Connolly

Sarah Dervan is daughter of Jackie who was on the 1980/81 team. Sinéad Keane is niece of Iggy Clarke, the former stylish wing-back for the Tribesmen who unfortunately missed the All-Ireland final of 1980 due to a shoulder injury.

Emma Kilkelly is sister to Geraldine McGrath, Chairperson of Galway Co. Camogie Board, who played camogie for Galway and hockey for Ireland. Niamh McGrath is Geraldine's daughter; her Dad, Michael 'Hopper' McGrath, was one of the most skilful forwards of the 1987/88 era.

Caroline Murray is first cousin to hurler Richie Murray. The Galway P.R.O., Martina Molloy, is daughter of P.J. who scored 1-6 against Offaly in



Jackie Dervan



Margaret Leacy with daughters Una (left) and Mary.

the 1985 All-Ireland final. Heather Cooney's brother, Conor, was an outstanding midfielder for Galway Minors this year. Lorraine Ryan is daughter of Pascal who, with his twin brother John and other brother, the very talented Eanna, were part of the Galway success story of the early 1980s.

Wexford, with two teams here today, have several links. Mary and Una Leacy are daughters of the great Margaret (nee O'Leary) who won two All-Ireland titles with Wexford and featured on the Team of The Century.

Ursula and Helena Jacob are daughters of former Wexford star Mick, and their brothers, Rory and Michael, are current county hurlers. Mick was Wexford's first All Star.



Mick Jacob with daughters Ursula (left) and Helena.

The O'Connor sisters, Claire, Aoife, Niamh, Ciara and Eimear, are daughters of Anne and Teddy; Anne played camogie for Wexford while Teddy wore the purple and gold with distinction. Aoife is married to former Wexford hurler Declan Ruth. Evelyn Quigley's Dad, Dan, broke Tipperary hearts in the All-Ireland final of 1968. He captained that team.

Martin Storey, who captained Wexford to All-Ireland success in 1996 is father of Ciara, and Brid Gordon is a niece of Martin's. Kate Kelly's Mum, Peggie, and her aunt Mary (both nee Doyle) are All-Ireland medal holders.

Jean Hayden follows the footsteps of her mother Mary who also played for the county, goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy likewise, as her mother Ornagh (nee O'Mahony) is a former Wexford player. Noeleen Lambert's father, Robert, and her brothers, Barry and Robert, all wore the Wexford jersey.

Josie Dwyer is sister to Tommy, a current member of the Wexford Senior hurling team. Stacey Redmond's brother, David, is another Wexford hurler. Frances Doran keeps the female flag flying in the household; her Dad, Colm, is a former

Wexford player while her brother, Willie, is a current player.

Waterford's Niamh Rockett is daughter of Eddie who played hurling for the Deise. Margo Heffernan is daughter to Kilkenny legend Christy, one of the people who makes the day better when you meet him. Waterford manager, Tipperary native Andy Moloney, played for Tipp. and Waterford. He captained W.I.T. to Fitzgibbon victory.



Niamh Rockett with her father Eddie.

The Antrim team too has connections, some family, others romantic. Racquel and Cathy McCarry are daughters of Aidan 'Beaver' who played centre-forward for Antrim against Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of 1989. Charlene Hamill's brother, Darren, plays on the Antrim Senior hurling team, and her boyfriend is Johnny Campbell who also plays for Antrim.

More romantic links are: Bernie McKinley who is engaged to county hurler Neil McGarry, while goalkeeper Mairéad Graham is fiancée of Brian McFall, who wore the saffron and white with distinction, and Aileen Martin is to marry Antrim hurling captain, Neil McManus. Team manager Michael McCullough is Down GAA Games Development Manager.

We salute all the players and acknowledge the links with the past and the present. I hope that I have not left anyone out.



Teddy O'Connor with daughters (l-r): Eimear, Claire, Aoife, Ciara and Niamh.

(Photos: Caroline Quinn)

today's prizes

O'DUFFY CUP – All-Ireland Senior Championship

THE MOST coveted prize in camogie, the O'Duffy Cup, bears the name of a man who devoted his life to the promotion of the game. From Cill an Bhaile, near Westport, Co. Mayo, Seán O'Duffy came to Dublin in 1900. Six years later, when the Crokes Gaelic Club formed a camogie team, Seán offered to lend a hand. From his involvement with the Crokes Camogie club, he could see at first hand that the game was in decline. Along with his Crokes' colleagues, Seán helped to revive the game and place it on a sound footing.

Seán answered the call in Easter Week 1916 and served in the North King Street area. He was subsequently imprisoned in Stafford Gaol. When the conflict was over, Seán returned with renewed vigour to the spread of camogie. To generations of Dublin camogie players, he was a familiar figure in the Phoenix Park as he attended to the playing pitches and refereed matches. A practical man, Seán encouraged, organised and advised through the roles of National Organiser and Trustee of the Camogie Association. The quiet, dignified Mayoman went to his eternal reward in 1980 having given seventy-five years of his life to the spread of camogie.



JACK McGRATH CUP – All-Ireland Intermediate Championship

JACK McGRATH became involved in camogie by accident. A former hurler with Glen Rovers, he agreed to help out with refereeing at the Carrigaline G.A.A. club close to his home in the picturesque seaside village of Fountainstown, Co. Cork. He attended a Referee's Course and passed the exam. Around this time, the Carrigaline Camogie Club was formed and, they, too, required the services of a referee. They prevailed on Jack to assist them and he duly obliged. Requests to officiate at matches came thick and fast. Soon he was on the inter-county circuit and refereed the All-Ireland Club final between Leitrim Fontenoys and Newmarket-on-Fergus in 2005. When Jack heard that the Camogie Association was looking for a cup, he obliged once more and donated the fine trophy that will be presented to the Intermediate champions.

KAY MILLS CUP – All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship

TALL, SLIGHT and fair-haired, Kay Mills had an unrivalled camogie career. A natural athlete, she possessed a devastating turn of speed that never seemed to diminish as years went by. Pleasing to watch, Kay made her Dublin debut on the left side of midfield in 1941 and made the position her own over the following twenty years. A left-handed player, she scored more long-range goals than any other player in the game. She sprinted forward, rose and struck the ball in one movement sending it marginally under the opposing crossbar.

Losing only one match between 1948 and 1966, Dublin reigned supreme. Against this background, Kay finished her career with a staggering fifteen All-Ireland senior medals. An automatic choice for the Team of the Century, she was presented with a replica of the O'Duffy Cup when she retired.

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR B FINALS 1992-2009

YEAR DATE	VENUE	RESULT		REFEREE
1992 Aug. 23	Ballygalget	Dublin4-11	Down 4-04	Mary Connor (Louth)
1993 Aug. 29	Ennis	Clare..... 1-08	Dublin1-05	Colette Kennedy (Galway)
1994 Aug. 28	Tullamore	Armagh7-11	Kildare.....3-11	Miriam O'Callaghan (Offaly)
1995 Sept. 10	Toomevara	Clare..... 1-10	Tipperary.....1-09	Mary Connor (Louth)
1996 Sept. 8	Gaelic Grounds	Limerick 2-10	Down 1-06	Maria Pollard (Waterford)
1997 Sept. 21	The Ragg	Tipperary2-19	Clare..... 2-12	Aine Derham (Dublin)
1998 Sept. 20	Páirc Uí Rinn	Down 1-12	Cork 1-08	Biddy Phillips (Tipperary)
1999 Sept. 19	Dunloy	Clare..... 1-08	Antrim1-03	Aine Derham (Dublin)
2000 Sept. 17	Bishopstown	Cork 3-09	Limerick0-11	John Morrissey (Tipperary)
2001 Sept. 29	Casement Park	Antrim.....3-10	Derry0-05	Una Kearney (Armagh)
2002 Nov. 17	Ringsend	Cork3-06	Antrim.....1-10	Aine Derham (Dublin)
2003 Oct. 3	Navan	Antrim..... 2-09	Tipperary....0-10	Una Kearney (Armagh)
2004 Oct. 3	Thurles	Galway 1-10	Tipperary....0-04	Aine Derham (Dublin)
2005	NOT PLAYED			
2006 Sept. 30	Gaelic Grounds	Cork2-09	Galway1-07	John Morrissey (Tipperary)
2007 Oct. 6	Gaelic Grounds	Limerick 1-10	Cork2-07	Ciarrán Quigley (Kildare)
Oct. 13	Páirc Uí Rinn	Limerick2-09	Cork0-06	Ciarrán Quigley (Kildare)
2008 Oct. 5	Nenagh	Kilkenny5-05	Cork1-14	Alan Lagrue (Kildare)
2009 Sept. 19	Gaelic Grounds	Galway0-15	Cork2-09	Alan Lagrue (Kildare)
Oct. 3	Nenagh	Galway 3-10	Cork1-05	Karl O'Brien (Dublin)

SEPT 2010

Casey on song as ruthless Inniscarra destroy rivals

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

Inniscarra 3-12
Cloughdub 0-5

INNISCARRA advance to the last four of this year's *Evening Echo* Cork county senior championship after a comprehensive victory over Cloughdub in Coachford last Saturday afternoon.

Cloughdub were still in the race at half-time going out to play with the strong wind at their backs but three second half goals put an end to their championship hopes for another year.

The swirling wind saw Inniscarra dominate the opening period but Cloughdub's defence were up to the task. With Inniscarra at times taking too much out of the ball, Cloughdub had time to crowd them out and they denied their opponents at least two goalscoring opportunities.

Oria Healy was doing well at centre-field and with Rena Buckley playing deep, Cloughdub's inside line were getting little or no supply.

Joanne Casey had four points on the scoreboard by the 14th minute, one from play. Considering the strength of the wind this was a poor return and Inniscarra needed more of a lead at the break. The switch of the game was the move of Niamh Dilworth from full-forward, where Sinead Corkery was in control, to right half-forward midway through the second quarter. She was to play an important role from there on and finished the game with three points.

Seven wides by the 24th minute meant Cloughdub were still in contention as Inniscarra's striking, particularly from frees, failed to account for the conditions.

Three points from the 27th to 29th minutes from Dilworth, Laura Burke (only on the field three minutes) and Joanne Casey gave Inniscarra a nice, if not comprehensive, half-time lead of 0-8 to nil. It looked as if we would have a cracker



Inniscarra's Margaret Cosgrove and Allanah Twohig combine to shoot for goal despite the attentions of Cloughdub's Emma Dunne, Sinead Corkery, Sheila Lucey and Aoife Murray during the Evening Echo Cork senior camogie quarter-final at Coachford.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara

on our hands after Cloughdub raced out of the traps and two points inside the opening four minutes from Aoife Murray and Una O'Donoghue had the gap down to six. Cloughdub brought out their netminder to take their long range frees such was the wind factor. Indeed, Murray's puck-outs were landing on her half-forward line, setting Cloughdub on the attack.

Intelligent use of their own puck-outs meant Inniscarra were still able to conjure up attacks, something Cloughdub failed to do in the opening half.

With the industrious Healy and Rena Buckley sweeping up, Inniscarra kept the pressure on with

Niamh Dilworth and Laura Burke striking points on either side of Katherine Corkery's converted free.

The challenge for Cloughdub intensified nine minutes into the third quarter after Niamh McCarthy blasted past the advancing Aoife Murray with a well struck goal to extend Inniscarra's lead to 10 points.

To their credit, Cloughdub pursued the game vigorously, but once Joanne Casey's free went all the way to the net three minutes later after Katie O'Mahony raced in on top of Murray, the game was over.

A second McCarthy goal and points from impressive substitutes Laura Burke and Emma Kingston sealed a comfortable victory for In-

niscarra, the spread of forwards registering on the scoreboard a warning for semi-final opponents Douglas.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-5 (1-3 0-1 '65), N McCarthy 2-0, N Dilworth 0-3, Burke 0-3, E Kingston 0-1.

Cloughdub: K Corkery 0-2 (f), U O'Donoghue 0-2, A Murray 0-1 (f).

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley, R O'Mahony, F O'Connell, Kavanagh, O Healy, R Buckley, K O'Mahony, N Dilworth, N McCarthy; J Casey, M Cosgrove, A Twohig.

Subs: L Burke for A Twohig (25), E Kingston for M Cosgrove (44), L Buckley for N McCarthy (58), N McCarthy for L Burke (63 inj).

CLOUGHDUB: A Murray; E Dunne, S Corkery, S Lucey; E Dunne, M Corkery, A Murphy; J Lucey, M Lucey; G O'Sullivan, Corkery, C O'Donoghue; A Murray, O'Donoghue, J O'Callaghan.

Subs: A O'Donovan for Grace O'Sullivan (22), M Corkery for M Lucey (42).

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

Camogie Celebrating Inclusion and Diversity



At the launch of 'Gala All Ireland Camogie Finals - Celebrating Diversity in Ireland' was Pat Carey, Minister for Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs; Joan O'Flynn, President of the Camogie Association and Gala All Ireland Camogie Finals Day guests from Dublin (wearing colours of teams in Camogie Finals) (l-r): Natalia Timulakova, Slovakia; Patricia Kregdzite, Lithuania; Maki Nnogh, Nigeria; Alexis Yeboah and sister Idelle Yeboah, Ghana and Dominika Timulakova, Slovakia. This year's Gala All Ireland Camogie Finals will celebrate diversity in Ireland with 200 families from new communities attending the Association's premier sporting event in Croke Park.

(Photo: Caroline Quinn)

THE CAMOGIE Association welcomes 52 different ethnic minority communities from Leinster, Munster, Connaught and Ulster to today's Final. Partners in the initiative, the Integration Centre and New Communities Partnership talk about sport, inclusion and diversity.

The Integration Centre is very happy to be included in this initiative to celebrate inclusion and diversity in Ireland.

For successful integration to take place both immigrant and Irish individuals, families and communities need to reach out to, and learn from, one another. Sport is a powerful medium through which people are brought together. Camogie has been an important facet of Irish life for a number of years, and it is greatly important that this tradition be shared with new communities.

The Centre specialises in planning, monitoring and

advocacy and provides regionalised information, advice and training services. We have more than 250 affiliated organisations as part of our network.

New Communities Partnership (NCP) is honoured to be invited by the Camogie Association to participate in today's activities at Croke Park.

Whether on the field, in play or as enthusiastic supporters, team sports have a unique ability to rally the whole village, parish, town and county behind local teams. Sports participation builds bridges across cultural differences, and contributes to good community infrastructure long after the winning goal has been scored. Camogie alongside other Gaelic Games plays a major part in the building of good community relations throughout this country. Clubs have made significant progress towards the inclusion of ethnic minority women, men and children in their activities but there is still plenty more to do! We look forward to seeing the first woman from an ethnic minority background in a Senior Final in the very near future!

New Communities Partnership (NCP) is an independent national network of 111 ethnic minority led groups comprising 75 nationalities with offices in Dublin, Cork and Limerick.

Good luck to all counties in today's Finals

Funded by:



Wexford defence breaks Galway hearts

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Wexford 1-12
Galway 1-10

They were made to live on their nerves a little at the end by a resolute Galway unit desperate for success but Wexford were worthy winners of the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie title for the first time since 2007. On that occasion, Mary Leacy captained the side and this time it was her sister Una who was presented with the O'Duffy Cup. The game ended in a welter of excitement when Aislinn Connolly's free from under the Hogan Stand right on the hour flew all the way to the corner of the net to leave just two points between the sides.

Try as they might though, Galway could not break down a splendid Wexford rearguard one more time and so their search for a second All-Ireland continues.

The big news was the appearance of Jessica Gill at full-forward for the Tribeswomen. The Athenry star had made a number of substitute appearances in the round-robin stages of the championship as she continued her recovery from a cruciate knee ligament operation but this was her first start.

Veronica Curtin, who had been in flying form on the edge of the square all season, was switched to the corner. But even when Galway got more of a foothold around the middle in the second half, they found it difficult to break down the Wexford defence and only managed three points from play in the entire game.

Corner-back Claire O'Connor maintained her phenomenal record of not conceding a single score in eight championship encounters, Curtin's sole point coming after she had switched to the opposite corner.

Catherine O'Loughlin was monumental at full-back and Mary Leacy gave another commanding performance in front of her.

It was this dominance that laid the platform for Wexford's victory and in particular the first half superiority that gave them a seven point lead at the break, 1-8 to 0-4.

They were three points clear by the 19th minute, Una Leacy, Kate Kelly and Katrina Parrock slotting points from play.

To be fair to Galway, despite being clearly second best, that was still the margin with half time looming but in the 30th minute, Wexford struck for a crucial goal from Katrina Parrock.

It was Kelly who started the move and she found Una Leacy brilliantly. The skipper beat Ann-Marie Hayes before drawing Regina Glynn and hand-passing to Parrock, who drove low beyond the exposed Susan Eaner. Una Jacob added a point and Wexford were full value for their advantage.

Galway were a different prospect after the resumption though and Wexford's forwards had nowhere near the amount of space afforded to them earlier on. Wing-back Niamh Kilkenny gave an exhibition for the Maroons but they needed to take every chance that came their way. They couldn't do it however, and Gill had a 34th minute penalty that she had won herself saved by Mags D'Arcy. The St Martin's custodian also advanced quickly off her line to deny Therese Maher and they were to prove critical interventions, especially when Fiona Dwyer somehow hand-passed wide at the other end with the goal gaping.

Still, it looked like the game was meandering to an inevitable conclusion when Connolly was fouled around 35m out. When the Castlegar player's shot ended in the back of the Wexford net, the Galway supporters erupted in joy and hope. But it wasn't to be and two minutes later, it was Wexford who were celebrating.

Wexford: M D'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy, A O'Connor; C Murphy, D Codd; K Kelly 0-2, U Leacy 0-1, M O'Leary 0-1; K Parrock 1-2, U Jacob 0-6(4fs), J Dwyer. Subs: C Storey for Atkinson inj (14); L Holohan for Codd (53)

Galway: S Eaner; S Tannian, S Dervan, R Glynn; N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, T Manton; B Hanney, O Kilkenny 0-1; C Murray, T Maher, A Connolly 1-6(1-4fs, 2 45s); T Rutledge, J Gill 0-1(f), V Curtin 0-1. Subs: E Kilkenny for Rutledge temp (9-18); L Ryan for Murray (28); Kilkenny 0-1 for Rutledge (ht); H Cooney for Manton (39); J McGrath for Gill (56); A Lynskey for O Kilkenny (60+1)

SEPT. 2010

KILKENNY JUBILEE TEAM

By Mary Moran

TODAY we salute the Kilkenny Jubilee team, the undisputed kings of camogie from 1985 to 1994. This Kilkenny side was a special team. They rank as a truly great combination and among the best ever to grace the camogie fields.

Eight All-Ireland senior titles, seven of them in a row, and six National League titles are their very impressive statistics. Recognised as a team of real quality, Kilkenny had all the ingredients - superb skill, teamwork and fitness in abundance. But the special component that set the team apart was their intense will to win. Never satisfied with prior achievements, they united to pursue their aim with unwavering dedication.

The panel contained a glittering array of talent. Each player on the team was a star in her own right and exhibited the full range of camogie skills in such fashion that they were a pleasure to watch. Within the team were a number of super-stars who rank with the best that the game has produced.

Six players played in all of the 7 in-a-row finals: Angela Downey, Breda Holmes, Maria Fitzpatrick, Ann Downey, Biddy O'Sullivan and Deirdre Malone.

Number of medals won by this group of players:

12 medals: Angela Downey (St. Paul's & Lisdowney), Ann Downey (St. Paul's & Lisdowney)

9 medals: Bridie McGarry (St. Paul's) and Deirdre Malone (Ballycallan)

8 medals: Jo Dunne (Carrickshock) and Biddy O'Sullivan (Tullagher)

7 medals: Liz Neary (St. Paul's), Anna Whelan (Lisdowney), Breda Holmes (St. Paul's) and Marie Fitzpatrick (Ballycallan)

6 medals: Noelle O'Driscoll (St. Paul's)

5 medals: Clare Jones (St. Paul's) Frances Rothwell (Ballycallan), Anne Holden (St. Thomas, Galway), Marina Downey (Lisdowney)

4 medals: Rita Weymes (Ballycallan), Breda Cahill (Ballycallan), Siobhán Ryan (Shamrocks)

3 medals: Margaret Farrell (St. Finbarr's), Gillian Dillon (St. Lachtain's), Bridget Mullally (Glennmore)

2 medals: Sinéad Millea (Ballycallan), Tracy Millea (Ballycallan), Nora Whelan (Black & Whites) and Siobhán Ryan (Shamrocks), Norcen Tierney (Tullagher)

1 medal: Una Murphy (Tullagher), Geraldine Cuddihy (Lisdowney), Ann-Marie Brennan (Thomastown), Helen Holmes (St. Paul's), Margaret O'Keefe (Thomastown), Michelle Fennelly (Carrickshock), Sinéad Costello (St. Lachtain's), Marie Maher (Tullaroan), Catherine Dunne (Lisdowney), Esther Kennedy (St. Lachtain's), Margaret Hickey (St. Lachtain's) and Margaret Kavanagh (St. Lachtain's).

Offaly withstand Wexford onslaught to claim Jack McGrath Cup

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Offaly 2-12
Wexford 2-10

Offaly held off a spirited Wexford in a tumultuous second half to claim the honours in a Gala All-Ireland camogie final for the second season in a row.

Last year's junior champions have flourished under the stewardship of Faithful legend Joachim Kelly and showed tremendous character to finish strongly in this intermediate decider, after seeing their good work in the first half wiped out by Wexford's scoring burst of 2-4 in the 19 minutes after the resumption.

The pacy Fiona Rochford, who was switched to full-forward in the first half, bagged both of Wexford's goals in the 45th and 49th minutes. The second brought the sides level at 2-8 apiece but crucially, Offaly hit back with four of the next five points.

Ailsa Hayden notch up their first score in 15 minutes to put them in front and Siobhán Flannery followed up with a wonder score, her fourth of the day.

Inspirational Wexford captain Claire O'Connor reduced the margin to the minimum from a free. But the Offaly skipper Michaela Morkan colossal at centre-back the midlanders kicked on. Emma Dunne and Arlene Watkins slotted the points which made Linda Bolger's riposte an insufficient one.

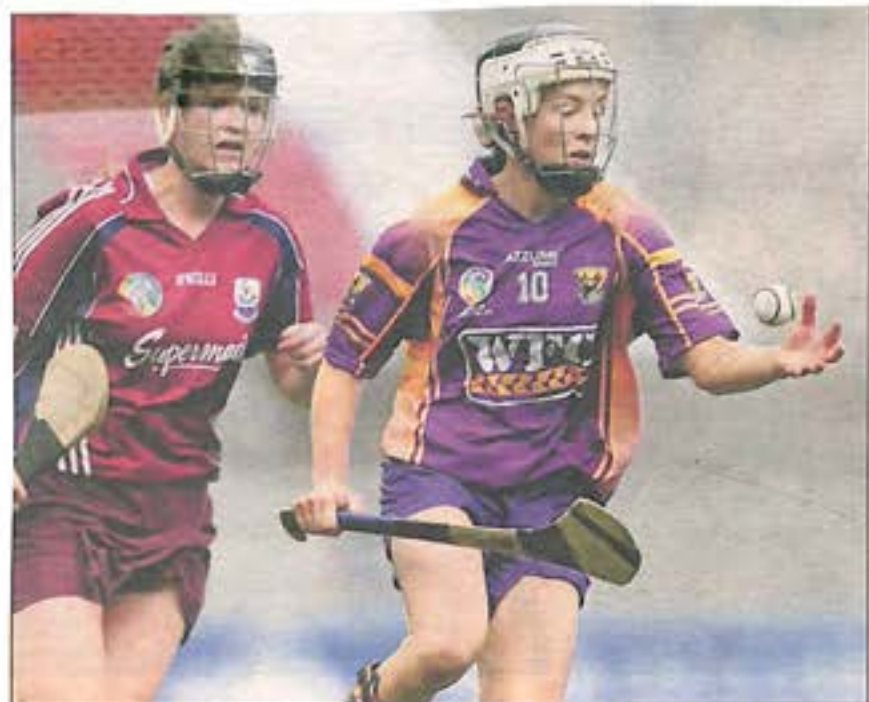
It had looked like a much more comfortable day at the office for Offaly when the magnificent Elaine Dermody threatened to win the game on her own.

The Drumcullen sharpshooter struck for goals in the eighth and 29th minutes, and with Flannery driving over three points and Jean Brady providing two, they were full value for their 2-7 to 0-4 interval lead despite the brilliance of Wexford centre-back Louise Codd.

Wexford made two substitutions at half time and with the switch of O'Connor and Rochford paying major dividends they made a thrilling contest of this final.

Perhaps significantly though, they never managed to get their noses in front and it was Offaly who showed the greater staying power to claim the Jack McGrath Cup.

Offaly: A Kennedy; F Stephens, L Keena, K Brady; S Sullivan, M Morkan, L Sullivan; A Watkins 0-1, M Crean; J Brady 0-2, A Kelly, S Flannery 0-4; K Nugent, E Dermody 2-3(0-1f), T Hannon. Subs: M Davis for Kelly (43); A Hughes 0-1 for Nugent (45); E Dunne 0-1 for Flannery (56) Wexford: H Jacob; J Hayden, L O'Leary, C Atkinson; F Doran, L Codd, S Kehoe; E Moran, L O'Connor; F Rochford 2-1, S Nolan, S Redmond 0-1; S Kehoe, C O'Connor 0-5(3fs), Lisa Bolger 0-2. Subs: E O'Connor for Nolan (ht); B Curran for Doran (ht); Linda Bolger 0-1 for Kehoe (54)



■ Kate Kelly of Wexford gathers as Galway's Lorraine Ryan gives chase.



■ Wexford's Katrina Parrock finds her path blocked by Regina Glynn of Galway.

WONDERFUL WEXFORD

DEAN GOODISON
At Croke Park

WEXFORD	1-12
GALWAY	1-10

THEY BELIEVED, they swamped Galway at headquarters and they confirmed what they already knew. Wexford are the best camogie side on the planet. From the first minute to the last they out-harried, out-manoeuvred and simply out-played the girls from the west to claim the Gala All-Ireland Senior camogie championship.

A goal always gets the attention, such a crucial goal is bound to, but it's the all-round game that makes Parrock so important to the side - indeed it's arguable that she played better in the semi-final but that cutting edge she provided yet again proved too much for the Galway rearguard to counter.

Yet the whole forward unit were immense, particularly in the opening half, Kate Kelly proved again that Wexford need her to continue into her 30th year next season. Una Leacy continues to blossom under the tutelage of J.J. Doyle at centre-forward and could well claim, and deserve, an All-Star.

Michelle O'Leary put on her best show of the season to help ease Josie Dwyer into the left corner-forward position, and while the Ferns clubwoman missed a sitter to tie the game up in the second-half she performed admirably in an unusual role.

The spine again played like the rock that they are. Ursula Jacob picked up six points in another great outing at full-forward while the midfield duo, the tenacious Deirdre Codd and the prodigal daughter Caroline Murphy, controlled the centre for long spells.

Mary Leacy was again immense and must be a shoe-in for the player of the year accolades, while Catherine O'Loughlin dominated whoever Galway tried to throw in on top of her.



■ Ursula Jacob of Wexford gets away from Galway's Sarah Dervan

Wing-backs Aoife O'Connor and Noleen Lambert buffered either side of Leacy to perfection while Claire O'Connor continued as a 'shutout corner' with another scoreless display that must mean her first All-Star is a mere formality.

Karen Atkinson, so good in her first season at Senior level, was desperately unlucky to have to leave the field early but Clara Storey, undaunted by the task, stepped in to her shoes like a grizzled veteran. Mags D'Arcy made crucial stops at vital times in the second-half when a Galway goal may have changed the course of the game and Lenny Holohan's cameo helped freshen tired legs.

Manager J.J. Doyle, along with his selectors Joe Brennan and Tommy Roche and trainer Gerry 'brilliant' McQuaid, have added the control and game discipline this team seriously

lacked and deserve enormous credit for this victory.

It proved to be a tense start to the game with Una Leacy's sixth minute point, after strong play by Josie Dwyer and Michelle O'Leary, putting Wexford ahead before Aislinn Connolly replied in the 14th minute with a free.

Three points in three minutes began to add scores to Wexford's dominance with Kate Kelly's point after a clever pass by Una Leacy, Deirdre Codd picking out Katrina Parrock for a brilliant score and Ursula Jacob slotting her first free after a foul on Josie Dwyer (0-4 to 0-1).

Connolly replied for the Tribeswomen but Michelle O'Leary quickly pointed after Kelly's shot was not dealt with properly by Susan Eamer and Jacob added another as Wexford started to pick off points at will.

A booming long-range free from Jessica Gill, her sides third of the match, momentarily edged Galway within a goal but Kelly again registered after a

clever spot by Jacob (0-7 to 0-3). Orla Kilkenny picked off her side's first score from play with two minutes of the half remaining but then came the vital Wexford goal. Una Leacy burst through the defence and, while in the semi she may have taken her point, this time she picked out Katrina Parrock in perfect position and the St Ibar's clubwoman's controlled finish skipped past a helpless Eamer.

Jacob clipped over her third point in first-half injury-time as Wexford, who at the stage were completely dominant, went in at the interval with a seven-point lead (1-8 to 0-4).

An early Connolly free was followed by a missed Jessica Gill penalty. D'Arcy got down low to save well when the Galway full-forward was adjudged to have been fouled by Clara Storey. Connolly notched her fourth point in the 36th minute but the mini Galway revival was to be shortlived.

Una Leacy proved the next two scores for her teammates as Parrock and Jacob helped to re-establish the seven point Wexford lead (1-10 to 0-6).

Connolly's fifth score was a brief respite for Galway but it should have been academic as Dwyer did everything right when collecting a Parrock pass until it came to hand-passing an effort at an open goal well wide.

Emma Kilkelly notched to pull Galway within five but when Dwyer was fouled moments later and Jacob held her nerve to keep the opposition at arm's length. Connolly and the subdued Veronica Curtin pulled Galway within four with five minutes remaining but an Ursula Jacob '45 moments later proved vital (1-12 to 0-10).

When Claire O'Connor was harshly penalised for a foul on Connolly, and subsequently saw the free moved closer for dissent, Connolly placed her shot from 35 meters into the postage stamp in the top right corner of the net and suddenly Wexford were under the cosh heading to injury-time.

One last Galway attack saw Connolly look to bare down on goal but Claire O'Connor blocked her route and Wexford clung on to lift the 2010 All-Ireland Senior camogie championship.

WEXFORD

SCORERS: Ursula Jacob (0-6, 3 frees, 1 '45), Katrina Parrock (1-2), Kate Kelly (0-2), Una Leacy, Michelle O'Leary (both, 0-1)

1. Mags D'Arcy
2. Claire O'Connor
3. Catherine O'Loughlin
4. Karen Atkinson
5. Noleen Lambert
6. Mary Leacy
7. Aoife O'Connor
8. Deirdre Codd
9. Caroline Murphy
10. Kate Kelly
11. Una Leacy (Capt)
12. Michelle O'Leary
13. Katrina Parrock
14. Ursula Jacob
15. Josie Dwyer

SUBS: Clara Storey for Atkinson, in (13); Lenny Holohan for Codd, also: Evelyn Quigley, Brid Gordon, Fiona Kavanagh, Helena Jacob, Jean Hayden, Shelly Kehoe, Colleen Atkinson, Louise O'Leary, Eimear O'Connor, Frances Doran, Bridget Curran.

REFEREE: Karl O'Brien

GALWAY

SCORERS: Aislinn Connolly (1-6, 1-4 frees, 0-2 '45), Jessica Gill (0-1, free), Emma Kilkelly, Orla Kilkenny, Veronica Curtin (0-1)

1. Susan Eamer
2. Sandra Tannion
3. Sarah Dervan
4. Niamh Kilkenny
5. Regina Glynn
6. Ann-Marie Hayes
7. Therese Manton
12. Brenda Hannay
9. Orla Kilkenny
10. Caroline Murray
11. Therese Maher (Capt)
15. Aislinn Connolly
13. Tara Rutledge
22. Jessica Gill
14. Veronica Curtin

SUBS: Emma Kilkelly for Rutledge, temp (8); Lorraine Ryan for Murray (27); Emma Kilkelly for Rutledge (HT); Heather Cooney for Manton (28); Niamh McGrath for Gill (56); Aoife Lynskey for O'Kilkenny (60).

VENUE: Croke Park



■ A jubilant Wexford Senior camogie team celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup following their win over Galway in Sunday's All-Ireland Senior camogie final at Croke Park.



■ Captain Una Leacy lifts the O'Duffy Cup in front of an ecstatic Wexford team and supporters.



■ Ferns duo Josie O'Dwyer and Caroline Murphy celebrate after the final whistle.



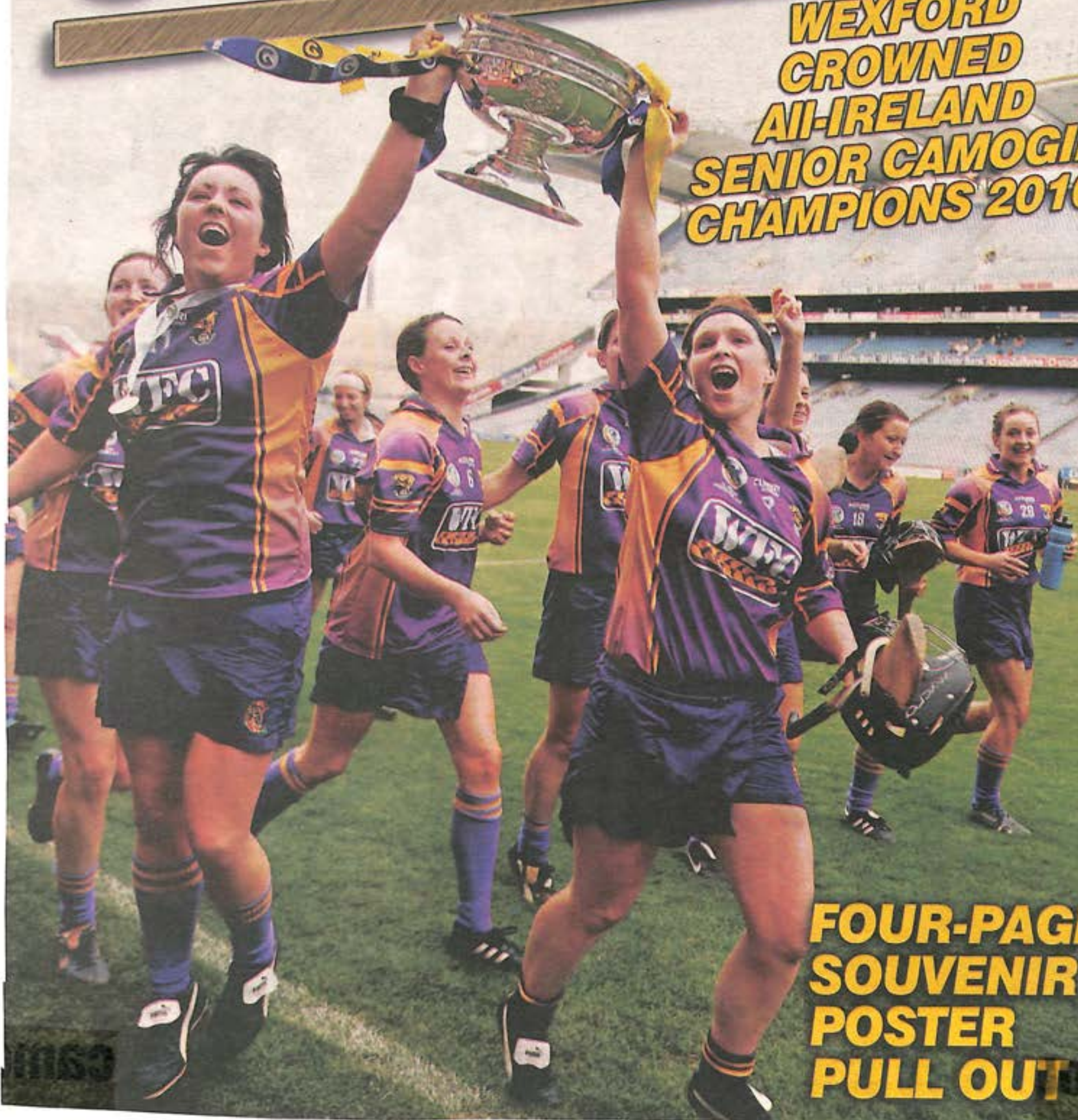
■ Player of the match, Katrina Parrock, celebrates with team manager J.J. Doyle.



■ Mags D'Arcy, Ursula Jacob and Helena Jacob celebrate with Wexford fans in Croke Park.

CHAMPIONS

**WEXFORD
CROWNED
All-IRELAND
SENIOR CAMOGIE
CHAMPIONS 2010**



**FOUR-PAGE
SOUVENIR
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PULL OUT**

MS3

Heartbreak for Intermediates as Offaly halt brave fightback

OFFALY 2-12
WEXFORD 2-10
DEAN GOODISON

IT WAS heartbreak for Wexford intermediates as they succumbed to their first loss of the year at the hands of Offaly in the Gala All-Ireland final on Sunday last.

There could hardly have been a worse situation in which to take that first defeat as Wexford made a heroic comeback only to come up short in the last few minutes.

Like in the semi-final defeat of Limerick the middle third of the field really struggled to gain control and by the time they did, with sorely needed positional switches and substitutions, the damage looked to be already done.

The first 15 minutes was nothing short of a catastrophe, Offaly's Croke Park experiences in the previous two years clearly stood to them as they came flying out of the traps against a disjointed Wexford.

A long-range effort by Elaine Dermody slipped through the fingers of Helena Jacob and into the Wexford net in the seventh minute and it proved to be the opening of the floodgates to a barrage of points.

Jean Brady was on hand to add a quick-fire brace before Dermody also doubled up for the Faithful county. Siobhán Flannery registered a fifth point at the end of the opening quarter as the lead eased out to eight (1-5 to 0-0).

The horror start was reminiscent of the opening game of the championship against the same side in Banagher when Wexford failed to score for 22 minutes, however, Ciara O'Connor's move to wing-forward began to pay small dividends as Wexford gradually edged back into proceedings.

She picked off a free following a foul on Stacey Kehoe before the corner-forward turned provider for Fiona Rochford to notch her sides second from a tight angle. Great combination play by the two point scorers allowed Lisa Bolger to add another as Wexford edged closer (1-5 to 0-3).

Flannery and O'Connor exchanged scores before the cruel blow of a second goal derailed the building Wexford momentum. A poor clearance by Jacob allowed Dermody to grasp possession close to goal and she hand-passed to the net to put her Offaly side eight clear again.

Flannery picked off her third point in first-half injury-time to make the score 2-7 to 0-4 at the break which left Wexford with a mountain to climb in the second-half.

Both sides number four traded minors in the first ten minutes after the resumption before an eight minute burst wiped out the nine-point deficit.

Again the excellent O'Connor was involved with Rochford as Stacey Redmond grabbed a score before Bolger picked up her second point from close range.

The goal that would inevitably be needed to bring Wexford back into the game came in the 44th minute when a great run and excellent pass from the lively Shelly Kehoe allowed Rochford to get the better of her marker and fire home. Ciara O'Connor pulled Wexford within three before her pass found Rochford in enough space to turn and lash an unstoppable shot past Offaly goalkeeper Audrey Kennedy to tie the match (2-8 to 2-8).

Following such a comeback the next score was always going to be vital and unfortunately for Wexford their opponents got it with Ailsa Hughes putting Offaly ahead. A final Flannery point put her side two clear with five minutes remaining but O'Connor coolly slotted a final free to narrow the deficit to one a minute later.

Emma Dunne and Arlene Watkins eased Offaly out to a three point lead as Wexford lost all momentum and Linda Bolger pointed in injury-time when a goal was needed and with the poor choice the hopes of a historic double were finally extinguished.



■ The Wexford squad prior to the Gala All-Ireland Intermediate camogie championship final.



■ Lisa Bolger of Wexford is chased by Offaly's Fiona Stephens.



■ Shelly Kehoe of Wexford holds off the challenge of Jean Brady of Offaly.

OFFALY

SCORERS: Elaine Dermody (2-3, 0-1 free), Siobhán Flannery (0-4), Jean Brady (0-2), Ailsa Hughes, Emma Dunne and Arlene Watkins (all 0-1).

1. Audrey Kennedy
2. Fiona Stephens
3. Lorraine Keena
4. Karen Brady
5. Shella Sullivan
6. Michaela Morkan
7. Linda Sullivan
8. Arlene Watkins
9. Marion Crean
10. Jean Brady
11. Aoife Kelly
12. Siobhán Flannery
13. Karen Nugent
14. Elaine Dermody
15. Tina Hannon

SUBS: Michelle Davis for Kelly (42), Ailsa Hughes for Nugent (44), Emma Dunne for Flannery (54), also: Claire Bermingham, Debbie Flynn, Shauna Flynn, Katie Bergin, Aoife Corrigan, Michelle Gleeson, Orlagh Kirwan, Emma Fogarty.

WEXFORD

SCORERS: Fiona Rochford (2-1), Ciara O'Connor (0-5, 3 frees), Lisa Bolger (0-2), Stacey Redmond and Linda Bolger (0-1, each).

1. Helena Jacob
2. Jean Hayden
3. Louise O'Leary
4. Coleen Atkinson
5. Frances Doran
6. Louise Codd
7. Shelly Kehoe
8. Emma Moran
9. Lorraine O'Connor
10. Fiona Rochford
11. Siona Nolan
12. Stacey Redmond
13. Stacey Kehoe
14. Ciara O'Connor
15. Lisa Bolger

SUBS: Bridget Curran for Doran (HT), Eimear O'Connor for Nolan (HT), Shauna Sinnott for Moran (43), Linda Bolger for Stacey Kehoe (53), also: Nicola Murphy, Niamh O'Connor, Aisling Moran, Emma O'Connor, Ellen Kelly.

REFEREE: Owen Elliott (Antrim).

VENUE: Croke Park.

Galway have no answer to Wexford class

Too many players suffer an off-day in yet another tale of All-Ireland camogie final heartache

Wexford 1-12
Galway 1-10

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT CROKE PARK

OUT-fought, out-muscled, out-hurled and quite simply outclassed. There can be no recriminations or excuses from the Galway camp this week where, despite a brave second half effort, they fell somewhat short in their bid to secure only the county's second ever O'Duffy Cup.

A final scoreline that left Galway just two in arrears of the Model County does scant justice to Wexford's superiority on the day, reflected by their unrelenting dominance in every sector. Indeed, it would not be wide of the mark to suggest that it was also injudicious to Galway's lethargic showing where they played second fiddle to an outstanding Wexford outfit.

Even so, heartache and devastation engulfed the Galway girls at the sounding of the full time whistle, fervent hopes of eclipsing past setbacks lay in tatters on the turf of Croke Park. For many it was an agonising second loss in three years, for others a fourth All-Ireland defeat.

However, it would be unfair to Wexford to suggest Galway



Dejected Galway players walk into the tunnel at the end of the game.

were unlucky on Sunday last. To be honest, Galway were nowhere near good enough to claim the spoils this time around. The simple tale of tape is that Wexford capitalised on their goal opportunity just before half time, whereas Galway in contrast could only find the net with a minute remaining on the clock.

Goals were desperately needed to give their second half revival real impetus, but instead, they had to rely on the

dead ball accuracy of Aislinn Connolly to remain in touch. In fairness, Galway did manage green flag openings but on both occasions were denied by 'keeper Mags D'Arcy. No doubt, the one that will stand out will be Gill's miss as it came from a penalty following a foul on the Galway full forward.

That said, when it came to the crunch last Sunday, the Galway forward division failed to perform and it wasn't

because of any failure to win a decent share of possession in the second half. If some of the bigger names in the Galway attack carried only half the heart shown by inspirational wing back Niamh Kilkenny, the final outcome could have been so much different. But then again, it wasn't the first time Galway's marquee players went hiding when the occasion demanded.

The reality is that only Niamh Kilkenny and to a lesser extent sister Orla and Aislinn Connolly produced the type of display required to overcome Wexford.

Quite incredibly, only one of the six starting Galway forwards scored from play, bringing Galway's total to a measly three points, an absolutely shocking return by any standards. That score arrived courtesy of Veronica Curtin in the 54th minute, but compounding matters is the statistic that only half of the attacking unit lasted the 60 minutes.

Michelle O'Leary and provider Una Lacey linked almost telepathically for the game's opening score, while at the other end Castlegar's Aislinn Connolly ended a near quarter hour barren spell for Galway when converting a 30 metre free.

Kate Kelly regained the initiative for Wexford with a fine



Galway's Therese Maher comes under pressure from Wexford's Mary Lacey and Aoife O'Connor in Sunday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final in Croke Park. PHOTOS: OLIVER MCVEIGH/SPORTSFILE.

score, before Katrina Parrock collected a Mary Lacey clearance out of defence, turned Regina Glynn with consummate ease, and fired Wexford into a two point advantage.

In the ensuing passages of play Ursula Jacob (2) and the lively Michelle O'Leary traded scores with Aislinn Connolly (free) and Jessica Gill (free). While still very much in contention, Galway were struggling to match Wexford's zip about the field and when Kate Kelly pointed from play Wexford moved four clear yet again.

Orla Kilkenny meandered her way through a sea of purple and gold en-route to landing Galway's first point from play after 27 minutes, but aspirations of crossing the Shannon with the O'Duffy Cup in hand suffered a fatal setback when Wexford goaled approaching first half injury time.

Kate Kelly offloaded possession with a hand pass to the onrushing Una Lacey, who despite shouldering a hefty challenge from Ann Marie Hayes, found Parrock inside,

and the St Ibar's speedster made no mistake in dispatching the sliotar to the net.

Ultimately, Parrock's goal proved the crucial score as it put Wexford six clear and left Galway with a puzzle they never looked like solving. Credit to Galway however, they never stopped trying, but answers or indeed scores were in short supply against a Wexford defence where Catherine O'Loughlin and Mary Lacey were particularly authoritative.

Trailing by seven points at half time, it was crucial for Galway to make a positive start to the second half which they duly did. Connolly sniped a pair of points to pare the margin back to five, the second a converted '45 resulting from Jessica Gill's saved penalty.

No more than two years ago, Gill's penalty was a poorly struck shot and one would wonder as to why Susan Eamer was not brought forward to take it. In a game of inches, such decisions are critical.

In any event, a Wexford burst re-opened the seven point gap after Katrina Par-

rock and Ursula Jacob (free) raised white flags. Galway, refusing to surrender, countered with two points Connolly and Emma Kilkelly providing a glimmer of hope for the Western contingent. That said, Noel Finn charges were lucky to even be alive in the contest following a guilt edge goal chance spurned by corner forward Josie Dwyer.

Ursula Jacob punished a Sandra Tannian foul to stretch their advantage once more, that point nullified however by the stick of Connolly moments later. Veronica Curtin registered Galway's third point from play with six minutes remaining to bring the deficit back to four, but Ursula Jacob subsequently pointed to dispel thoughts of a late fight back.

Galway's seemingly lost cause though, was resurrected in the most dramatic circumstances when Aislinn Connolly's free underneath the Hogan stand flew into the top corner of the net. All of sudden only the puck of a ball separated the sides, and Galway supporters in every section of Croke Park were on their feet

urging their side forward.

It was hard to believe Galway were even in a position to strike for victory given Wexford's supremacy in defence. Nevertheless, with one minute of stoppages allotted there was time for a last assault on the Wexford goal.

Emma Kilkelly gathered possession, sending the sliotar cross field ball in the direction of Connolly. Crucially, she failed to control the leather and when Therese Maher was adjudged to have pushed Mary Lacey, Galway's time had run out.

Wexford: M D'Arcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson, N Lambert, M Lacey, A O'Connor, C Murphy, D Codd, K Kelly (0-2), U Lacey (0-1), M O'Leary (0-1), K Parrock (1-2), U Jacob (0-6, 0-3 free's, 0-1 '45), J Dwyer. Sub: C Story for Atkinson (14 mins), L Holohan for Codd (53 mins).

Galway: S Eamer, S Tannian, S Dervan, R Glynn, N Kilkenny, AM Hayes, T Mantion, B Hanney, O Kilkenny (0-1), C Murray, T Maher, A Connolly (1-6, 1-4 free's, 0-2 '45's), T Rutledge, J Gill (0-1 free), V Curtin (0-1). Sub: L Ryan for Murray (28 mins), E Kilkelly for Rutledge (11 mins), Cooney for Mantion (39 mins), N McGrath for Gill (56 mins), A Lacey for O Kilkenny (60 mins).

Referee: K O'Brien (Dublin).

SEPT 2010

Kelly's leveller sets up All-Ireland final replay

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

ANTRIM1-9
WATERFORD1-9

KAREN KELLY'S last minute point means Antrim and Waterford must face off again on October 3 after this exciting All Ireland Premier Junior decider at Croke Park.

This clash was a slow starter but it ended up going down to the wire as Deise full forward, Kelly, struck to level in the closing stages.

Antrim led 0-4 to 0-3 in a first half dominated by defence as star forward, Jane Adams, struggled to get the upper hand on Shona Curran. Kelly and Aine Lyng with two points were Waterford's scorers, while Raquel McCarry and Michaela Convery joined Adams on the Antrim score-sheet.

Adams set McCarry up for a goal four minutes after the interval as the duo added

points to a lone Patricia Jackman free to put the Ulster side in a commanding position.

But two Lyng frees and points from Jenny McCarthy and Kelly narrowed the gap to a point. Natalie McGuinness extended Antrim's lead to two, but Grainne Kenneally caught McCarthy's high ball to goal for the Deise and give her side the lead. But Antrim reacted well and sub, Katie McAleese, levelled before Adams worked a one-two with McGuinness to re-take the lead. But Waterford remained calm and Kelly booked a second date to the disappointment of Antrim manager, Michael McCollough. "The mood in the dressingroom is one of defeat. I'm sure Waterford know that they have got out of jail," he said.



Antrim's Bronagh Orchin and Jenny McCarthy of Waterford.



Patricia Jackman gets her shot away.



Antrim's Jane Adams fouls Shona Curran of Waterford during the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.



Waterford's Grainne Kenneally celebrates her goal.



Niamh Rockett, Waterford, in action against Mairaid Murphy, Antrim. Photo: Sportsfile.



Waterford's Grainne Kenneally scores the Waterford goal in Croke Park. Photo: Inpho.

MATCH FACTS

Scorers for Antrim: R. McCarry 1-2, J. Adams 3f 0-4, M. Coveney, N. McGuinness, K. McAleese 0-1 each.

Waterford: A. Lyng (3f) 0-4, G. Kenneally 1-0, K. Kelly 0-3, J. McCarthy, P. Jackman (1f) 0-1 each.

ANTRIM: M. Graham, R. Torney, A. Martin, A. Jackson, C. Doherty, E. Connolly, B. Orchin, K. O'Neill, N. Connolly, M. Convery, N. McGuinness, S. Graham, R. McCarry, J. Adams (capt.), L. Connolly.

Subs: A. McCall for Martin (7); C. Hamill for N. Connolly (27), K. McAleese for L. Connolly (36), M. Connolly for B. Orchin (48), L. McMullan for C. Hamill (57).

WATERFORD: A. O'Brien, E. Hannon, S. Curran, K.M. Hearne, P. Cunningham, P. Jackman, J. Simpson, C. Maher, M. Murphy (capt.), A. Lyng, G. Kenneally, J. McCarthy, N. Rockett, K. Kelly, N. Morrissey.

Subs: S. Kiernan for Morrissey (39), D. Fahy for Murphy (39).

Referee: D. Leahy (Tipperary).



The Waterford panel before last Sunday's Gala All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final against Antrim in Croke Park. Photo: Sportsfile.

Kelly to the rescue for Déise girls in Croke

Waterford's Karen Kelly about to score the equalising point in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final in Croke Park. For full coverage see pages 6 & 7. Photo: INPHO.



Wexford's goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy in a tussle with Therese Maher of Galway.



Una Leacy of Wexford keeps her eye on the ball.

Memorable night as camogie team returns

ANNE MARIE O'CONNOR

THE STRAINS of Lady Ga Ga boomed into the night sky, revving up the gathering crowd. But this wasn't a night for poker faces.

This was a celebration of girl power of a different kind - Lady GAA GAA.

As Wexford's senior and intermediate camogie players did their county proud on the pitch of Croke Park on Sunday afternoon, Monday night became Wexford town's opportunity to return the compliment.

And bedecked in the purple and gold, over ten thousand excited supporters ignored the autumn chills to swarm Wexford Quay and cheer on their sliothar smashing superstars.

The sense of pride was palpable.

From the youngster carrying a duvet-sized purple and gold chequered flag and, to the more sedately dressed but equally beaming pensioners, it was evident that this was a special and memorable night.

The girls of Wexford were coming home, and restoring to the county a sense of achievement - a sense of worth. Recession gloom was banished. For the first time in a long while, Wexford had good reason to dance at the crossroads.

And dance they did. They waved their flags, they whooped and cheered. They boogied along as the song as the Black Eyed Peas blared over the tannoy. Tonight WAS going to be a good night. We were 'Simply the Best'. We are the champions, my friends.

It was a magnificent turn out. Undeterred by the downturn in the weather, the Wexford fans wanted to fly their flags. Even the lateness of the hour failed to dampen spirits.

The girls were due to arrive on Wexford Quays at 8 p.m. - but celebrations further up the county delayed their triumphant return and it was closer to 9.30 p.m. when the open-topped bus snaked its way around Redmond Square and onto the Quay.

It was a moment that evoked several tears along with cheers.

Pride is a very strong emotion, and Wexford fans weren't afraid to let their hearts burst and joyous tears fall as the jubilant team held

the O'Duffy Cup aloft.

The girls were in fine form. 'Championnes, championnes, Olé, Olé, Olé' was screamed from the top of the double decker, as the two teams and their mentors jiggled up and down with excitement.

As these camogie heroes were photographed by hundreds of camera-flashing fans, they in equal measure took pictures and cam-recordings of the crowd. This incredible homecoming was something that these girls wanted to savour. A moment they would carry with them forever.

Mags D'Arcy's brother Michael led the singing on the stage as the girls took to the podium. Flags were waved vigorously and the crowd sang 'Loch Garman Abú'.

It wasn't a night for lengthy speeches. Mayor of Wexford Joe Ryan gave a multi-lingual welcome, praising the players and speaking of the pride the fans had in their achievement. 'Wexford people know that they can be the best in the country. You proved them right,' he said to triumphant cheers.

Both teams, the winning seniors and the narrowly defeated intermediate players were introduced one by one to the crowd. Each girl, and their mentors JJ Doyle and Karen Barnes, received an individual cheer. The crowd were hoarse from the yelling.

It was a heart-warming homecoming - something which team manager JJ Doyle said would inspire them to continue at the top of their game, and would encourage them to bring home the silverware again next year, and the next.

By 10 p.m. it was time for the crowd to disperse. It was a school night, after all, and plenty of over-excited children wandered home with their Wexford flags on their shoulders. You can be sure as they settled down to sleep, their dreams were filled with purple and gold.

■ The celebrations will continue for the All-Ireland camogie team for the remainder of the week.

Last night (Tuesday), there were celebrations at the GAA grounds in Oulart when the Leacy sisters returned home with the O'Duffy Cup, while a civic reception is planned in New Ross tonight (Wednesday).

School visits are also planned for the week as well. Yesterday, Tuesday, the victors visited schools in Enniscorthy, while they're due in Rathgarogue and Cushinstown today, Wednesday. Tomorrow, Thursday, they visit schools in Gorey.



■ Una Leacy holding the O'Duffy Cup on Wexford Quayfront on Monday night.



SEPT 2010



Why I love Faughs
by Orlagh Martin

My name is Orlagh Martin and I am 10 years old. I play U-10 camogie with Faughs and we train on Thursday evenings in Kimmage Manor and play our home matches in Tymon Park. Our matches are usually on Sunday mornings. We also have a ball wall and an all weather pitch. I also play camogie with my school St Pius X and most of the girls on my team play with the school as well. In June our U-13 school team played the finals in Croke Park and we all travelled over to support them.

In May we went to Toomevara in Tipperary on our annual club trip and we played Go Games against them. After the match we went into their clubhouse for lunch and drinks. On our way home we went to the leisure centre in Portlaoise. It was a brilliant day!

Earlier this year our club celebrated its 125th Anniversary and we had a massive party in our club house. The GAA president, Christy Cooney, visited the club and we had a parade followed by games. We also had the Wexford camogie player, Aoife O'Connor, come to train us earlier in the year. I have made lots of friends through camogie and I love playing with my club and school.



Aoife O'Connor goes by Antrim's Bronagh Orchin. photo: Dan McGrath/Editorial Images.

“The most important skill is to be able to strike the ball off both sides”



ANNE DALTON



STAR FILE!

Name	Anne Dalton
Age	22
Team	Kilkenny
Debut	2006 v Dublin
Position	Midfield
Honours	1 National League Div 1 title, 2 Leinster Senior titles, 1 All-Ireland Minor title, 3 All-Ireland Club titles, 4 Leinster Club titles, 6 Kilkenny Senior titles, 1 Inter-Provincial title, 2 Ashbourne Cup titles, 1 All-Star Award, Vodafone Player of the Year 2009, WIT Player of the Year 2008/09.
Club	St Lachtains, Freshford.
Fav Food	Bacon, cabbage and new potatoes!
Fav Band	Pink, Snow Patrol and Paolo Nutini.
Fav Book	Anything by Michael Connelly
Fav TV	Lost and The Katherine Lynch Show
Fav Book	Old School, Anchorman & Lord of the Rings
Hobbies	Soccer and reading
Occupation	Student

KILKENNY

Kilkenny has its great hurlers but they also have their camogie superstars who have burst onto the scene in the last few years. One of these is Anne Dalton who captains the Kittens and only last year led them to an All-Ireland final against Cork. In a tight game it was the Rebelettes who took the honours but Kilkenny proved it was no flash in the pan by bouncing back this year with some great performances. Earlier in the year, after an amazing comeback from 8-points down to Galway in the semi-final, they reached the National League final only to lose to arch-rivals Wexford, with Ursula Jacob scoring the winning point in the 7th minute of injury-time. Then it was onto the Championship and having won 5 of their 6 round-robin matches they met Wexford at the semi-final stage yet again. Alas, it was the Yellow Bellettes who made it to the final. Even though they didn't take any honours in 2010 they can take a lot of confidence from it as they look forward to another year and building on their phenomenal progress and promise.

Kilkenny had a good run in this year's National League and Championship, what was the highlight of the year for you?

Coming back from 8 points down in the National League semi-final to beat Galway, that was a real team effort.

What has been your greatest moment in sport?

Making it to the 2009 All-Ireland final v Cork.

Which is the toughest team that you have faced?

Without a doubt it has to be Cork.

Who's your toughest opponent?

Cork's Gemma O'Connor.

Which players do you admire the most?

Kilkenny's Katie Power and Cork's Catriona Foley.

Who was your childhood sporting hero?

One of the Kilkenny all-time greats, John Power.

What club do you play for and who are your biggest rivals?

I play my club camogie with St Lachtains and our biggest rivals would have to be Mullinavat.

What is your best Club memory?

Winning the All-Ireland Club Championship is the best feeling you can ever have with your club.

What's the most important skill in your opinion?

To be able to strike the ball off both sides.

What advice would you give to young players coming through the ranks?

It's simple - enjoy the game!

What are your future hopes?

To win an All-Ireland with Kilkenny and to win another Ashbourne Cup with my college, WIT.

Cúl Fact!

When Anne was young, she played in goal for the St Lachtains boys under-age team!

The INTO GAA Mini-Sevens feature children from the four corners of Ireland and Britain. In all, two hundred and forty children experience the thrill of playing on the hallowed ground with at least a child from every county playing on GAA Hurling and Football Final Sunday. In many counties a skills system has been used to select players. The games are played on a ten-a-side basis with the players rotating between positions through the course of the games. The emphasis of GAA Go Games is on enjoyment and skill development. They ensure that the first experience children have of our Gaelic Games is a positive one. In this edition, Beth Carton from Waterford, sent us in her brilliant story of her day in Croke as part of the INTO GAA Mini-Sevens played at half-time during the Tipp v Waterford All-Ireland semi-final.

MY DAY IN CROKE PARK

BY BETH CARTON

I'd been waiting for this day since I found out that I would be playing back in June. After an early rise my family and I left my house at 8am to head to Dublin. On our way I heard a number of requests on Waterford Local Radio from my family and friends. I also got some text messages from my club-mates in De La Salle. This made me realise how special the occasion was.

We met at the Mater Dei Institute at 10.45am, all of the other children were there early. We were all waiting anxiously but at last we were called in to get changed into our gear. I was lucky enough to get to wear the Waterford gear. After changing, group photos were taken in the garden and after some speeches we headed over to Croke Park. More photos were taken on the field and we were then brought to lunch under the Cusack Stand.



After lunch we took our seats for the Minor match. We were all getting anxious during the first 35 minutes of the Senior game. Imagine playing before a crowd of 49,000 in Croke Park. It seemed like a dream come true. Then it was my time to play. We walked out on to the field behind the band and then got into our positions. I wanted to do well as I was representing my school, Presentation Primary School from Waterford. Our match lasted 12 minutes and I managed to score 2 points. I was really pleased with this. It was a pity that the Waterford Seniors lost but I was delighted with the lovely day I had. All of the people involved were very nice to us throughout the day and it was the experience of a lifetime, which will stay with me forever. Thanks to everyone who made it cool!

ABOVE: No big day out in Croke is complete without a march around the hallowed turf with your team-mates. Beth is loving every minute of it - there she is pictured wearing No 2.

TOP: Beth lines out with her new team-mates from all over Ireland for the GAA INTO Mini-Sevens during half-time of the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final between Waterford and Tipperary in Croke. It was a proud day for Beth as they all wore the Waterford colours. Pictured with INTO President Jim Higgins are: (Back row, left to right) Elizabeth Kennedy (Ayle NS, Monard, Co Tipperary), Michelle O'Rourke (Laragh NS, Stradone, Co Cavan), Michaela McCloskey (St John's, Dernaflaw, Co Derry), Beth Carton (Presentation Primary, Co Waterford), Nadine Murphy (Scoil Fiachra SNS, Beaumont, Co Dublin). (Front row, left to right) Sarah Marshall (Scoil Mhuire, Broadway, Co Wexford), Claire Madden (Scoil Colmcille, Knocklyon, Co Dublin), Sharon Williams (Bunscoil Bhothar na Naomh, Co Waterford), Orlaith Dee (Ayle NS, Monard, Co Tipperary), Lauren Homan (Cloghroe NS, Co Cork).

MIDDLE: Giving it her Beth shot! Beth gets on the ball during the Mini-Sevens game.

SEPT 2010

Sean Kelly inside the GAA



JUST CHAMPION: Wexford captain Una Leacy shows off the O'Duffy Cup at the homecoming parade in Wexford Quay last night.

Picture: Mark McGrath/SPORTSFILE

Camogie finals a model promotion

It was a dream weekend for camogie. Sunday's three All-Ireland finals at Croke Park all helped project a positive image for the sport on an afternoon when they didn't have to share the spotlight with the U21 hurling decider.

With the U21 clash in Thurles on Saturday evening, it meant all three camogie showdowns — junior, intermediate and senior — were able to be staged at GAA headquarters. Another spin-off was that the U21B final acted as curtain raiser in Thurles, and congratulations are due to John Meyler's Kerry on their victory over Meath.

A huge amount of work has gone towards promoting camogie in recent years, with the Association cleverly capitalising on their 2009 centenary celebrations to rebrand the image of the game and promote it in those so-called weaker counties.

Sunday's three finals exemplified clearly how much progress the game has made in this decade — all three being competitive, skilful and sporting.

Camogie too has been blessed by its officers at national level. They have a very competent and dedicated chief executive Sinead O'Connor and their president Joan O'Flynn is a fantastic ambassador for the game.

Another sensible decision on Sunday was to confine the crowd of about 20,000 to the Hogan

Stand side, thus maximising the atmosphere in the huge stadium.

Another smart move was to ensure that the TV cameras were on the Cusack Stand side, thus showing the crowd rather than highlighting empty seats.

Not surprisingly, the fans kept off the pitch again for the presentation. People have different views on it but not even the most ardent health and safety officer could claim that it was motivated by concerns over the safety of either fans or players last Sunday.

A largely female audience were hardly going to go on the field to cause a riot.

Ironically, there was no commando style operation in Thurles for the U21 final presentation.

The crowd, which was similar to Croke Park, went on to the field as they have always done and, as always, no one was injured or killed. Makes you wonder!

Finally, I have one suggestion for camogie authorities. Change the penalty puck from the 20 metre line to somewhere between 14m and 17m. Penalties are awarded for goal opportunities denied.

Men are physically stronger and more powerful than women so taking the penalty from the same spot in both hurling and camogie, makes scoring more unlikely in camogie. In golf, women and men tee off from different points.

It may be worth considering.

Four goals by Buckley swing game

CAMOGIE

By SARAH O'DONOVAN

Mallow	5-10
Fr O'Neill's	1-9

MALLOW cruised to victory in the Evening Echo Intermediate Camogie Championship final as Katie Buckley proved too hot to handle, notching four goals over the course of the hour.

Fr O'Neill's went in as favourites having thrashed the same side 3-15 to 1-7 in the group stages but Mallow dominated proceedings from the outset and never allowed the East Cork side to get a foothold in the game.

Buckley had notched her first goal inside the first minute and two further points from Buckley and the very impressive Michelle Browne put Mallow five points clear with 10 minutes played.

Buckley and Browne continued to cause havoc, notching three further points to stretch the lead to eight points as Fr O'Neill's struggled to provide their forwards with ball.

A Gearóidine Kearney pointed free opened Fr O'Neill's account but Michelle Browne stormed past the Fr O'Neill's defence in the next exchange and smashed the ball to the roof of the net to put Mallow 2-6 to 0-2 clear.

Fr O'Neill's were awarded a lifeline with a penalty in the 22nd minute but had to settle for a point as Mallow's defence navigated the danger over the bar.

Buckley notched her second goal of the day with 25 minutes on the clock and completed her hat-trick with the help of astute play from Jane Fitzpatrick before the half-time whistle.

Credit to Fr O'Neill's, who threw themselves into proceedings in the second half and fought to reduce the considerable deficit.

Points from Fiona O'Driscoll, Gearóidine Kearney and a superb goal from Nora Aherne buoyed Fr O'Neill's, but the side were denied a second goal when Sinead O'Connor proved equal to Linda Hayes's effort.

Sarah Harrington tried her heart out for Fr O'Neill's but her side were no match for the well-drilled Mallow outfit where Kathryn Coakley, Miriam Byrne and Emma Coakley excelled.

Buckley finished out the game with a fourth goal in the 50th minute and captain Kathleen O'Brien added a point to wrap up matters.

Scorers for Mallow: K Buckley 4-3, M Browne 1-5 (0-3ft), J Fitzpatrick 0-1, K O'Brien 0-1.

Fr O'Neill's: G Kearney 0-6 (0-5f, 0-1 '65), N Aherne 1-0, F O'Driscoll 0-2, S Harrington 0-1.

MALLOW: S O'Connor, B O'Sullivan, K O'Halloran, L Tanner, K Healy, K Coakley, A O'Rourke, M Byrne, E Coakley, S Fitzgerald, K O'Brien, J Fitzpatrick, B Ganley, K Buckley, M Browne. **Subs:** E Forde for S Fitzgerald (41).

FR O'NEILL'S: T Cusack, C McGrath, L Sweetnam, R Aherne, S Harrington, U Day, Y Murphy, F Wiggins, N Aherne, K Aherne, G Kearney, M Finn, F O'Driscoll, N Nagle, C Phelan. **Subs:** E Bohan for N Nagle (41), L Hayes for C Phelan (45), M Harrington for U Day (50), U Day for K Aherne (54).

Referee: C Egan.

Fr O'Neill's can claim Nagle Cup

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Intermediate
Championship Final
Mallow v Fr O'Neill's

Castle Road Grounds, Blackrock, 11.30am
FR O'NEILL'S and Mallow will battle it out to decide the destination of the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship title at Castle Road tomorrow and it is a pairing few would have predicted at the start of the championship series, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Both teams emerged from Section A battling their way to the final with impressive displays. Fr O'Neill's came through as winners of the group while Mallow were runners-up.

In their meeting in the round-robin series Fr O'Neill's were comprehensive winners on a 3-15 to 1-7 scoreline and going on this they will go into the final as raging favourites to take the title.

They have a lot of experience in their side, none more so than former Cork senior players Fiona O'Driscoll, Mag's Finn and Nora Aherne all who won senior County championship medals when Fr O'Neill's took the senior county title back in 2003.

Since then the club has gone through a transition, re graded to junior four years ago and last season made the step up to the new intermediate grade which the board successfully introduced.

They have worked hard to reach the final and in their semi-final outing defeated a fancied Sarsfields side on a 1-16 to 3-5 scoreline.

With players such as Gearóidine Kearney, Sarah Harrington and Katie Aherne also in their line out, they will be confident of taking the Nano Nagle Cup back to Ladysbridge.

Mallow may be the surprise package in their championship final but they are there on merit, they had to go to a replay to shake off the challenge of a strong Tracton side but they did it with confidence as they recorded a 2-9 to 2-7 victory.

They never allowed their opponents play in both games against Tracton as they closed them down at every opportunity. Their defence in particular was magnificent where Karen O'Halloran, Brid O'Sullivan and Aoife O'Rourke stood tall.

Michelle Browne has been their scorer-in-chief but they are by no means a one-woman show, they are a well-balanced outfit young and full of enthusiasm and with players such as Katie Buckley, Jane Fitzpatrick, Kathryn Coakley and lion-hearted captain Kathleen O'Brien, they have players more than capable of taking the title.

It promises to be close one, a puck of a ball may just decide it either way.

BLACKROCK were crowned Evening Echo Junior A champions as they overcame the challenge of Enniskeane under the light of Cloughduy on Friday last. Continuous rain made life difficult for both teams, but to their credit both teams gave it everything in quest of the title.

Enniskeane, in their first year at Junior A following their promotion this year, showed they were in the final

Blackrock crowned Junior A champions

on merit and they hit three unanswered points inside the opening three minutes from Orla Cronin, Orla Coughlan and Sinead Hennessy. Blackrock never panicked and with Kerrie Fleming and Katelynn Hickey firing over two point each they took the lead. Sinead Hennessy had Enniskeane level, but a superb long range point from Cait Kelleher edged a determined

Rockies back in front.

Rockies grabbed two goals in as many minutes, the first a fortuitous strike as Katelynn Hickey's long range free dipped to the net to stretch their lead to four points. The second came as Blackrock attacked from the puck out Michele Murphy finishing to the net to give them cushion they would hold to the finish.

Blackrock added two points before the break as Enniskeane battled to regain their composure. Orla Cronin pointed a free but they could find no way past the strong Blackrock defence where captain Roisin De Faoite was superb.

Blackrock's Katelynn Hickey and Michelle Murphy stretched their lead before Orla Cronin pointed an En-

niskeane free. Enniskeane threw everything they had at the Blackrock defence but they struck the post and the upright three times as the goal they needed failed to come. Blackrock, holding the upper hand, picked off their scores to maintain their advantage. Katelynn Hickey pointed twice with Michelle Murphy again on target as she showed maturity beyond her

fourteen years in the showing plenty of skill in the Blackrock attack. Enniskeane battled to the finish but there was no denying Blackrock their day.

The win was a special one for the club and they dedicated it to one of the selectors, Alan Hurley, who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Captain Roisin De Faoite gave an inspirational acceptance speech as Gaeilge and she paid tribute to the Alan whose daughter Mollie played a big role in the team's success.

Eire Óg are champions

Eire Óg 2-6
Valley Rovers 2-4

EIRE ÓG took the Under14A county league champions, but not before receiving a strong test from Valley Rovers in an exciting contest in Coachford.

Eire Óg did all the hard work in the opening half as they put the Valley Rovers defence under a lot of pressure and with Eimear Scally striking 1-4 in the opening half Eire Óg settled. Aoife O'Shaughnessy added a goal as Eire Óg set the pace and they were 2-4 to 0-2 ahead at the half-time whistle after turning in a strong opening half performance.

Valley Rovers stayed in touch with first half points from Eimear Cummins and Emily Palmer as they strove to keep Eire Óg in sight.

Valley Rovers tore into the game from the start of the second and now it was Eire Óg who had to work hard to protect their eight point interval lead as Valleys

battled to get into the game. Lisa Lynch grabbed a goal from a 45 metres free and also added a point to the Valley Rovers tally, Eimear Cummins added a point and in a goalmouth scramble they grabbed a goal.

Eire Óg had to work hard to protect their advantage, and with Eimear Scally again showing her class, striking two second half points, it was enough to ensure the title was secured by Eire Óg.

Eire Óg: R Murphy; A Hennessy, R Murray, N Gleeson; A O'Shaughnessy, A Dennehy, L O'Shea; M E Desmond, A O'Callaghan; L O'Keefe, A Cronin, H O'Sullivan; L Cleary, E Scally, G Murphy. Subs: M O'Leary, for H O'Sullivan, C O'Connor for A O'Shaughnessy. Scorers: E Scally 1-6, A O'Shaughnessy 1-0.

Valley Rovers: L Coveney; N Lorton, A Harte, M O'Brien; C Richardson, L Murphy, J Murphy; L Lynch, E Cummins; K Lynch, M E Sweetnam, M O'Regan; E Hallahan, E Palmer; R O'Regan. Subs: J Woods for R O'Regan, E Wall for E Hallahan. Scorers: E Cummins 0-2, E Palmer 0-1, L Lynch 1-10 (1-45), 1-0 goal mouth scramble.

Kildorrery capture Junior B crown

Kildorrery 3-5
Castlemagner 2-4

JUST a year after taking the Junior C championship title Kildorrery captured the Junior B crown and with it promotion to Junior A grade for next season as they overcame Castlemagner in Buttevant.

Castlemagner were two points ahead inside the opening 10 minutes, Shelly Twohig and Susan Falvey striking early points as they applied huge pressure on the Kildorrery defence and it was thanks to their defence that Kildorrery held their composure as Castlemagner enjoyed the lion's share of possession.

Kildorrery got off the mark with a pointed free from Valerie Mc McCormack and inside a minute they were in front as they hit two goals in as many minutes.

Ann Marie McCarthy struck the first, reacting quickest tapping the ball over the line after Niamh Long had saved Valerie McCormack's long-range effort, and

it was McCormack who struck the second, her long-range free dipping over the heads of the Castlemagner defence to the net. Castlemagner responded well, Susan Falvey hitting two goals before the break to get them on level and it was 2-2 each and all to play for.

Kildorrery took the lead

with a Shelly Twohig point inside four minutes of the restart and they grabbed a goal, Orlaith Murphy finishing well to the net. All over the field Kildorrery were working hard and with Aoife Hennessy doing huge work in their half forward line, ably assisted by Caroline Hanley and Eileen McCarthy, they

continued to pressurise Castlemagner. The sides swapped points and as Kildorrery held their lines Castlemagner could find no way through. Orlaith Murphy stretched the lead to three points before Ann Marie McCarthy had the final say to put four between the sides.

Aoife Hennessy Kildorrery was named as player of the match following the presentation of the trophy to team captain Laura Hanley by Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board.



Kildorrery's Aoife Hennessy is presented with the player of the match award by Kay Dunne, president of the County Board, after the Junior B final.

Kildorrery: J Dawson; H Hennessy, N Hennessy, E O'Connor; B Allen, D Murphy, L McCarthy; C Hanley, E McCarthy; L Hanley (c); V McCormack, A Hennessy, A Hunter; O Murphy, A M McCarthy. Subs: C Lynch for H Hennessy (23), N Walsh for A Hunter (43). Scorers: V McCormack 1-3 (0-2).

Castlemagner: N Long; M O'Keefe, E O'Donovan, Y Coleman; U Twohig, R Twohig, C Healy; S Twohig (c) M Weather; C Twohig, S Weir, S Falvey; E Twohig, E Gayer, L Aherne. Subs: J Lynes for L Aherne (21), E Twohig for R Twohig (21). Scorers: S Falvey 2-1, S Twohig 0-3 (0-3f), A M McCarthy 1-0 (1-0-1-Teach).

Referee: Peter Downey (Hobart).

Such was the commitment of the Blackrock players that midfielder Kate O'Brien missed out on attending the earlier part of her Debs Ball to play in the final before being whisked away on the full-time whistle to enjoy the latter stages of the night. Such dedication is one which was a feature of the Blackrock side's commitment to winning under the guidance of former hurler Liam Meaney.

Fifteen-year-old Katelynn Hickey was named player of the match following a superb performance.

Blackrock: S Naughton; T Cummins, C Meaney, A Nagle; M Hurley, R De Faoite (c); J Irwin; K O'Brien, A Roberts; C Kelleher, K Fleming, K Hickey; M Murphy, A Brennan, A Brohan. Subs: D O'Leary for K Fleming (53), M Moynihan for M Murphy (59). Scorers: K Hickey 1-6 (0-4f), M Murphy 1-2, C Kelleher, C Fleming 0-2 each.

Enniskeane: K McCarthy; K O'Shea, C O'Mahony, M O'Leary; A O'Callaghan C Nyhan, D Jackson; A O'Leary, S Curtin; K Buttimer (c), A Halpin, O Coughlan; O Cronin, D Curtin, S Hennessy. Scorers: O Cronin 0-3 (0-3f), S Hennessy 0-2, O Coughlan 0-1.

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

County Board chairperson Marion McCarthy presents the Junior A Cup to Blackrock captain Roisin De Faoite.



■ COUNTY chairperson Marion McCarthy has appealed to clubs and players to help raise funds for the development at Castle Road.

At the forthcoming night at the dogs, one can sponsor a race (€500) or a dog (€50 each). The board is also selling tickets for entry to the track on the night at €10 each, as well as selling adverts in the programme.

Clubs and players are requested to find out more through your local club or via www.corkcamogie.ie.

Fr O'Neill's 6-3
Buttevant 1-5

FR O'NEILL'S took the U14 C county league title with an impressive display as they defeated a strong Buttevant side. Buttevant made a good start and had two points on the scoreboard before Fr O'Neill's settled into the game with a Ciara O'Neill goal.

Points from Rebecca Walsh and Keelagh Cullinane extended the Fr O'Neill's lead as Buttevant put a lot of pressure on their defence. Buttevant, with points from Katie Cronin and Laura Fitzgerald, stayed in touch but a goal from Sadbh O'Connor stretched the Fr O'Neill's advantage. Buttevant upped the pace and replied with a goal from a long-range Katie Cronin free as Fr O'Neill's led 2-3 to 1-4 at the break.

Turning to play with the aid of the wind, Fr O'Neill's took control as their defence limited the Buttevant attack to just one point in entire



Fr O'Neill's U14 camogie team, winners of the County 'C' camogie championship.

Fr O'Neill's romp to U14 C title

second half. Fr O'Neill's applied huge pressure on the Buttevant defence and they struck four goals without reply, Sadbh O'Connor on tar-

get with one while Sharon Murphy struck three.

Fr O'Neill's goalkeeper Sophie Kearney was named player of the match.

Fr O'Neill's: S Kearney; S Lee, E McCarthy, A Dunne; C Sexton, K McCarthy, M Aherne; S O'Sullivan, K Cullinane; R Walsh, S O'Connor, C Murray; E Smiddy, S Murphy, C O'Neill. Subs: R Dunne for E Smiddy, K Finn for C O'Neill, O O'Neill for S Murphy, S Broderick for S Lee. Scorers: S Murphy 3-0, C O'Neill, K Cronin S O'Connor 1-0 each, R Walsh, K Cullinane 0-1 each.

Buttevant: L Carey; A Cronin, S O'Driscoll, L Barrett; A Buckley, L Guinane; C Burke; E O'Mahony; E Nagle; C Cremin; K Cronin, N Daly; J Nagle, L Fitzgerald, A Fitzpatrick. Subs: O Casey for C Cronin, A Casey for A Fitzpatrick. Scorers: K Cronin 1-3, L Fitzgerald 0-2.

Wins for Killeagh and Ballinhassig

Killeagh 1-9
Eire Og 2-5

KILLEAGH and Eire Og met in Castle road to decide the first and second place spots in the group as both had already their semi-final places secured in the Evening Echo senior B championship semi-finals before a ball was struck, but it took a late Killeagh rally to snatch victory.

Erin Corkery had Eire Og ahead with a point and she followed with a goal before Killeagh could open their account. Gillian Cunningham had them on the scoreboard with a point and a Mary O'Connor free brought them within two of Eire Og before Angela Walsh struck for a goal to give Killeagh the lead.

Margaret O'Herlihy pointed an Eire Og free, but Killeagh finished the half strong with points from Katie Murphy, Gillian Cunningham and Angela Walsh to lead 1-5 to 1-2.

Eire Og dug deep on the resumption and again it was Margaret O'Herlihy with a pointed free who narrowed the gap. Katie Murphy and Margaret O'Herlihy swapped points before O'Herlihy sent a long range free to the Killeagh net.

Killeagh dug deep and were back on level with a Mary O'Connor point and two in a row had them three ahead. Eire Og had a point from a Margaret O'Herlihy 45, but Killeagh had done enough.

Ballinhassig 3-19
Clonakilty 1-8

BALLINHASSIG finished their games in the round robin series as they recorded a victory over Clonakilty to ensure they went through as section winners and face Eire Og in the semi-finals.

Evening Echo
Senior B semifinals
Killeagh v Newcestown
Eire Og v Ballinhassig

Leacy family are a



Kildorrery captain Laura Hanley is presented with the Junior B county trophy by Marion McCarthy chairperson camogie board after her sides victory over Castlemagner.



IT WASN'T the best of All-Ireland finals but I'm sure Wexford won't care one little bit about that.

It was a great achievement for the Leacy's with Mary captaining the victorious side in 2007, Una captaining them last Sunday and their mother holding two All-Ireland titles and featuring on the Team of The Century.

That's a remarkable feat.

Before I mention the match I have to say that it's great to see Wexford in Croke Park because the support they bring with them is the best in the country.

You might say that they have little else to support, that their camogie players haven't had too much success either, so the county gets behind them.

Well you could say the same for Galway and others yet they don't come close to travelling in the same numbers.

What truly impressed me was the fact that all GAA games were called off in Wexford on Sunday so that as many as possible would travel to support the girls.

I don't think that has ever happened in any other county. We here in Cork have fixed County hurling finals for the same day that player's siblings were playing in Croke Park. Entire families have been split on the day.

Wexford's homecoming last Monday evening was also something I'm sure every other camogie player or indeed ladies footballer in the country would wish to have after winning their sport's top prize.

It was a funny sort of game. Not as open and free flowing as we hoped for.

Wexford's defence was outstanding on the day but Galway played into their hands. Galway seemed to have no game-plan at all. They crowded themselves out up front and that is a

Hennessey propels Kildorrery to victory

Kildorrery 3-5
Castlemagner 2-4

KILDORRERY guaranteed their place in the Junior A Championship next season as they defeated Castlemagner in the Junior B Championship final, writes MARY NEWMAN.

In an even contest all through, there was little between the sides but a superb second half display from Kildorrery ensured they were four points in front at the final whistle. All through the opening half it was thanks to their defence that Kildorrery held firm as Castlemagner enjoyed the majority of possession searching for the game's opening goal. Kildorrery opened their account with a point from

Valerie McCormack and inside a minute they were in front grabbing two goals in as many minutes to leave Castlemagner reeling.

Ann Marie McCarthy struck the first as she reacted quickest to tap the ball over the line after Niamh Long had saved Valerie McCormack's long range effort. McCormack struck the second goal as her long range free dipped in over the heads of the Castlemagner defence to the net. Castlemagner responded well, Susan Falvey hitting two goals before the break as they fought back to get level and it was 2-2 each at the half-time whistle.

Kildorrery took the lead with a Shelly Twohig point inside four minutes of the restart and applying a lot of pressure on the Castlemagner defence, they grabbed a goal

through Orlaith Murphy. The side's swapped points but still Castlemagner could find no way through the Kildorrery defence. Orlaith Murphy stretched the lead to three points before Ann Marie McCarthy put four between the sides. Castlemagner still battled for a goal but the Kildorrery defence held firm.

Aoife Hennessey of Kildorrery was named as player of the match.

KILDORRERY: J Dawson; H Hennessey, N Hennessey, E O'Connor; B Allen, D Murphy, L McCarthy; C Hanley, E McCarthy; L Hanley (capt); V McCormack, A Hennessey, A Hunter; O Murphy, A M McCarthy.
Subs: C Lynch for H Hennessey (23), N Walshe for A Hunter (43).
CASTLEMAGNER: N Long; M O'Keefe, E O'Donovan, Y Coleman; U Twohig, R Twohig, C Healy; S Twohig (capt); M Weathers; C Twohig, S Weir, S Falvey; E Twohig, E Gayer, L Aherne.
Sub: J Lynes for L Aherne (21).
Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

Newcestown pip Valley Rovers to claim semi spot

Newcestown 2-4
Valley Rovers 1-6

A CLOSE one right down to the final seconds as Newcestown pipped Valley Rovers to earn themselves a place in the Evening Echo Senior B championship semi-final.

This was the last game in the section in the round robin series and it was the game that would decide who would emerge from the group with Ballinhassig to contest the semi-finals.

A win for either side was a must and they battled it out with fierce determination under the lights at CIT. Valley Rovers started minus two players. Luck Hawkes and Marion Cottrell, whose

flight from the UK was delayed, but they led at the break 0-3 to 0-2 after a close opening 30 minutes where little divided the sides. Hilda O'Mahony had Newcestown in the lead inside minutes of the throw in, but Ena Coughlan levelled it with a Valley Rovers free. Colette Desmond and Connie Hawkes swapped points before Ena Coughlan pointed a free to send Valley's to the dressing rooms a point ahead. With their line out reshaped with the arrival of Lucy Hawkes and Marion Cottrell Valley started the second half well and points from Lucy Hawkes and Liz Bugler had them three ahead inside five minutes.

Newcestown applied huge pressure and levelled the scores. Ena Coughlan pointed to put Valley ahead and when Lucy Hawkes' long delivery was caught by Eimear O'Regan she made no mistake hand passing to the net from close range.

Newcestown, as they have so often in the past, showed tremendous fighting spirit and keeping the pressure on they got the break they needed when Grainne Cronin kicked to the net. Coleen Long added a point to level matters and an Evelyn Crowley point had them ahead for the first time since the opening minute.

Valley battled bravely and almost succeeded in grabbing

an equaliser, but Newcestown stood firm in the four minutes of injury time played to secure their place in the semi-final.

Newcestown: L O'Sullivan; K Murphy, F Deasy, M Crowley; G O'Mahony, F Crowley, C O'Mahony; E Crowley, A Coughlan; T McCarthy, S Deasy, C Long; H O'Mahony, C Desmond, G Cronin. Subs: A Crowley for T McCarthy (41), A Keane for C O'Mahony (inj 43). Scorers: G Cronin 2-0, H O'Mahony, C Desmond, C Long, E Crowley 0-Teach.
Valley Rovers: G Harrington; J O'Mahony, C Hawkes, A M Murphy; E Coughlan, S O'Shea, J Hawkes; K Richardson, A Cummins; L Bugler, E O'Regan, J Callanan; O Deasy, T Hawkes, E Foley. Subs: M Cottrell for T Hawkes (18), L Hawkes for J O'Mahony (h/t). Scorers: E O'Regan 1-0, E Coughlan 0-3 (0-2) 0-1 45, L Hawkes 0-1 (f), C Hawkes, L Bugler 0-Teach.
Referee: Walter Cole

SEPT 2010

credit to Wexford

Youngster Hickey stars for Rockies

Blackrock
Enniskeane

2-12
0-6

BLACKROCK overcame Enniskeane to claim the Evening Echo Junior A Championship at Cloughduv last Friday. Enniskeane had a whirlwind start but Blackrock subsequently grabbed two goals in as many minutes, the first coming as Katelynn Hickey's long range free dipped into the roof of the net to stretch their lead to four points. The second came from Michele Murphy as she evaded the Enniskeane defence to fire the ball home to give them a lead they would hold to the finish. Blackrock added two points to their tally before the break as Enniskeane battled to get back into the game. Orla Cronin pointed a free but they could find no way past the strong Blackrock defence.

Blackrock maintained their advantage through the second half and points from Katelynn Hickey and Michelle Murphy stretched their lead before Orla Cronin pointed an Enniskeane free. Enniskeane threw everything they had at the Blackrock defence and in the course of the second half they struck the post and the upright three times as the goal they so desperately needed failed to come. Blackrock continued to press and they picked off the scores as they maintained their advantage. Katelynn Hickey pointed twice with Michelle Murphy again on target. Enniskeane battled to the finish but their was no denying Blackrock.

The win was a special one for the club and captain Roisin De Faoite dedicated it to the late Alan Hurley as she gave an inspirational acceptance speech as Gaeilge. She also paid tribute to the late Alan whose daughter Mollie played a big role in the Rockies' defence as the title was secured. Fifteen-year-old Katelynn Hickey was named Player of the Match following a superb performance.

Scorers for Blackrock: K Hickey 1-6 (2-4), M Murphy 1-2, C Kelleher, C Fleming 0-2 each.

Enniskeane: O Cronin 0-3 (0-3f), S Hennessy 0-2, O Coughlan 0-1.

BLACKROCK: S Naughton, T Cummins, C Meaney, A Nagle, M Hurley, R De Faoite (capt), J Irwin, K O'Brien, A Roberts, C Kelleher, K Fleming, K Hickey, M Murphy, A Brennan, A Brohan.

Subs: G Mulqueen for A Brohan (50), D O'Leary for K Fleming (53), M Moynihan for M Murphy (59).

ENNISKEANE: K McCarthy, K O'Shea, C O'Mahony, M O'Leary, A O'Callaghan, C Nyhan, D Jackson, A O'Leary, S Cudde, K Buttner, (capt), A Heaton, O Coughlan, O Cronin, D Cudde, S Hennessy.

Referee: John O'Leary (159).

you could almost feel the hope seeping out of them.

I thought Galway's mentors were poor to be honest and I had complimented them for their actions in the replay with Cork.

To bring Tara Rutledge back on after she had to be assisted in limping off the field was very questionable.

If it was a dead leg for five minutes or so then fair enough yet she left the field on nine minutes, came back in on the 18th, didn't strike a ball and then failed to reappear after half-time.

Despite the fact that Wexford never looked like losing this game, they never quite put it beyond Galway's reach.

They led by three points with 28 minutes played despite winning many positions on the field. Almost four minutes of added time did see Wexford head for the dressingroom in a far more deserving position after Katriona Parrock goalied with one of the best moves of the game and Ursula Jacob pointed.

Niamh Kilkenney was Galway's best performer I felt. She drove the ball out of defence in attacking mode.

After that however, Galway played the ball too much, with silly passes and no one taking responsibility.

The difference between the sides was clear when a fast ball into Parrock saw her gather and strike over the bar in one deft movement from a difficult angle. Galway had no one like that on the day.

Mag's D'Arcy was excellent in goal for Wexford, strong, confident and leading from the back.

I thought the ref was only fair. I counted a minimum of 27 frees, at least 10 of which could have been let go.

Owen Elliot of Ballymena refereed the Intermediate final and I thought he was excellent, the best inter-county referee I have seen in a long time and what a great game it was because of it.

Congratulations to Wexford. Galway suffered another All Ireland defeat, their second in three years. That's hard to take.



The Éire Óg U14A side who won the county league.

LAST round-up this week and a last reminder of the county boards fundraising venture for the pitch development at Castle Road which takes place next Friday night, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The board is hoping for huge support for their "Night at the Dogs" and are calling on all former and current players and indeed the GAA family as a unit to dig deep and support

Last shout out for support

them. Castle Road has been a huge step forward and it has enabled the board to play their game and keep the huge fixture schedule on track, proper changing facilities are badly needed and they are working towards this now.

The board are seeking sponsorship for races at €500 a race. We are also

seeking sponsorship for dogs at €50 each and are selling tickets for entry to the track on the night at €10 each. They are also seeking sponsorship for advertisements in the programme at €100 for a full page and €60 for a half page advertisement. They are making a plea to every player who wore the Cork jer-

sey to support the event, anybody who will sponsor a race or a dog or just take €10 tickets can contact the county board through their local camogie club or they can be contacted on the Cork camogie web site at www.cork-camogie.ie.

In order to support the Board in their fundraising efforts, admission tickets will have to be purchased in advance.

defence's dream.

I can't recall any fast open passage of play created by Galway which split the Wexford defence.

Veronica Curtin was starved inside in the corner. She got one fast ball in with five minutes of normal time remaining and showed what she was capable of doing if only Galway had spread Wexford. Three

points from play is an awful return.

I thought it was a mistake to start Jessica Gill, particularly when even before her injury she wasn't doing the business.

She isn't a Henry Shefflin or a Katriona Parrock for that matter and I didn't expect much of a return from her. To give her the penalty right after half-time was madness. It was

very poorly struck.

With Galway only deciding at the 11th hour to play Gill, after she rarely featured all summer, surely they had someone else prepared to take penalties. In truth, I don't think they did.

That missed penalty sealed Galway's faith because while there may have still been plenty of time left,



12 September 2010: The Offaly team celebrate with the Jack McGrath Cup. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan



12 September 2010: The Offaly team celebrate with the Jack McGrath Cup. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan

AS Cork prepare to meet Down in Croke Park on Sunday one woman who will be keeping a keen eye on proceedings from afar is Cobh native Treasa Goodwin Smyth.

All-Ireland day will see her rise at 7.30am in her adopted home of New York to present a special match-day show on WFUV, a non-commercial radio station for Fordham University in The Bronx, which is heard throughout the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Her role is to set the scene for the listener, outlining the team line-ups, details of the managers and referee and the conditions for the game. She also makes sure to play music representing the two competing counties, before cutting straight to an RTE feed for Amhrán na bhFiann and the match itself.

It would be a special day for Treasa, regardless of who was playing, as she feels more connected to her homeland when she can tap into Irish culture and bring a flavour of it to other ex-pats listening in New York. Her love of gaelic games didn't begin as an emigrant though, as she recalls playing camogie from a young age, even when the tools available to her were rather primitive. "I would get a board and ball and hit the ball for hours outside the back wall of our house."

Happily her practice paid off and as she played camogie for Cobh Vocational School and the Cobh club team before going on to play for the Imokilly divisional side.

All-Ireland final days also hold warm memories for her, with her father, uncle Davy and their friends gathered in the sitting room for the match. "I would be sent out to play but I would sneak back in and be under the chair, watching," she laughs.

Cork can bank on a Goodwin in final



Cork fan Treasa Goodwin Smyth

After her Leaving Cert she went to Gurteen Agricultural College. She then worked in farm accountancy for a firm in Fermoy, before going on to manage farms around Ireland. At that time, however, Ireland was suffering the 1980s recession and opportunities weren't plentiful so she emigrated in 1986 and studied to become a registered professional

nurse, which brought her employment in several areas of nursing for many years.

Her love of camogie continued as she got involved with New York's Young Ireland Camogie Club, playing for many years, eventually becoming the club's president.

In a plot development worthy of any Hollywood rom-com, camogie led her to true love with her husband Tommy Smyth, originally from Drogheda and now a sports commentator for TV network ESPN.

"I met Tommy in one of the Irish institutions in New York, a hallowed place called Gaelic Park. Tommy was announcing a camogie game on a visit by Glen Rovers," she recalls. They struck up a friendship, with Treasa giving him the camogie scores to announce on his radio show each week.

They have now been together 22 years and married since 1999, bonding over a shared love of sport, especially football, hurling, soccer and horse-racing.

Tommy's work takes him all over the world, which often means time spent apart, although she has managed to join him on occasion, such as for the last six Champions League finals, which have taken her to Istanbul, Paris, Athens, Rome, Moscow and Madrid. Their compatibility has also seen them work alongside each other, hosting the St Patrick's Day parade annually on WNBC TV, where the broadcast — which is also streamed live on the net — rates close to one million viewers per minute over four hours.

Treasa also has her own Saturday evening radio show called Ireland Calls on New York's WVOX, a show Tommy established in 1969.

Her guests on the show have included singers Micky Harte and Mary Black, sports stars like David Beckham and Ray Keane, politicians such as Bertie Ahern and Brian Cowen and multinational film stars Maureen

Martina O'Donoghue talks to Treasa Goodwin Smyth, the Cobh native married to famous ESPN soccer commentator Tommy Smyth, about her job as a radio broadcaster covering All-Ireland finals



O'Hara and Jennifer Lopez. Back to the All-Ireland final, what are her hopes for the Cork footballers? "In our house nothing short of a Cork victory will suffice. Tommy, who is a Louth man, is even supporting 'the other red and white', as he calls us!"

If, however, Down are victorious she will find some solace.

"First off it's not Kerry!" she quips, before going on to explain that Down player Benny Coulter is a cousin of Tommy's.

And in the midst of broadcasting the game to her listeners, is there any danger she might let her professional

impartiality slip?

"It is the worst feeling in the world to have to come on at half-time and be full of energy if we are losing — but remaining impartial is a must.

However, I think Cork will do it this year!" she predicts.

Despite missing her family back home in Cobh ("I miss them so bad at times it hurts to the bone") Treasa is content with her New York life and remains confident for the future.

"I feel I have achieved more than I ever thought possible, even though I am not finished yet. I would love to broadcast a camogie All-Ireland final."

SEPT 2010

Inniscarra advance to senior semi-final

Inniscarra 3-12
Cloughduv 0-5

INNISCARRA advance to the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Championship semi-final after they overcame Cloughduv. Inniscarra dominated the opening half and with Joanne Casey Niamh Dilworth and Laura Burke all on the score sheet they led 0-8 to 0-0 at half time.

Two points inside the opening four minutes from Aoife Murray and Una O'Donoghue had the gap down to six. Inniscarra kept the pressure on with Niamh Dilworth and Laura Burke as Katherine Corkery converted a Cloughduv free. Inniscarra upped the pace with 14-year-old Niamh McCarthy blasting the ball to the net.

Cloughduv battle on but their task was a huge one after Joanne Casey's sent a free to the net and when Niamh McCarthy hit her second goal Inniscarra had a semi-final spot against Douglas.

■ Evening Echo County Senior Championship Semi Finals Sunday Sept 25: Douglas v Inniscarra; Imokilly v Ballincollig in Castle Road.

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley; R O'Mahony, F O'Connell, A Kavanagh; O Healy, R Buckley; K O'Mahony, N Dilworth, N McCarthy; J Casey, M Cosgrove, A Twohig. Subs: L Burke for A Twohig (25), E Kingston for M Cosgrove (44), L Buckley for N McCarthy (58), N McCarthy for L Burke (63 in).
Score: J Casey 1-5 (1-3 1, 0-1 45), N McCarthy 2-0, N Dilworth 0-3, L Burke 0-3, E Kingston 0-1

Cloughduv: A Murray; E Dunne, S Corkery, S Lucey; E Dunne, M Corkery, A B Murphy; J Lucey, M Lucey; G O'Sullivan, K Corkery, C O'Donoghue; A Murray, U O'Donoghue, J O'Callaghan. Subs: A O'Donoghue for Grace O'Sullivan (28), M Corkery for M Lucey (44).
Score: K Corkery 0-2 (0, 0-1 45), U O'Donoghue 0-2, A Murray 0-1 (0, 0-1 45)

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

Factfile

NAME
Treasa Goodwin Smyth

FROM
Ballard, Cobh.

RESIDENT
Queens, New York

AGE
49
OCCUPATION
Registered Nurse/
Radio and TV
Broadcaster

FAMILY
Husband Tommy,
son Anthony and
daughter Lisa

ACHIEVEMENTS
Cork Woman of the
Year, as voted by
the Cork Association
of New York.
PRO Celtic Gaelic
Football Club.
President of New
York Young Ireland
Camogie Club.



TEAM ANTRIM... The girls who faced the Deise last Sunday, Natalie McGuinness (below) and Raquel McCarry (right, below) cannot hide their disappointment

All to do again for Antrim

Saffron girls set for another showdown with Waterford after draw in All-Ireland Junior final

MIXED EMOTIONS are the only certainty from any draw. When it's an All-Ireland final, those feelings are only intensified.

Last weekend, when referee Donal Leahy blew the full-time whistle at Croke Park, Antrim's players fought with the conflicting emotions of disappointment at not having won the All-Ireland Premier Junior title, and the relief that Waterford's comeback was not a complete one and at least the Saffrons are still in the race.

But it is the sense of missed opportunity which will have been the overriding feeling in the Antrim camp as they gathered together again this week. Manager Mickey McCullough alluded to it when he said post-match that Antrim "left it behind them" at Croke Park. They had held the upper hand for most of the game but could not manage to get the crucial scores which would have seen them claim the spoils.

They had led by 0-4 to 0-3 at the break, Jane Adams having scored two points from frees but it wasn't until the second half that the game finally came to life. Raquel McCarry bagged a close-range goal to help the Saffrons to a five-point advantage, but Waterford weren't finished.

The Deise girls hit four successive points before Grainne Kenneally booted the ball to the net with seven minutes left on the clock. Things could have been much worse for the Saffrons had Karen Kelly's rasping shot found the back of the Antrim net instead of the side netting.

Antrim gave it one final surge and Rado McAliese caught brilliantly in a heavily contested aerial battle before turning and firing the ball over the bar, before Adams edged her side ahead with just over a minute remaining, a fantastic individual score which made space brilliantly be-



fore hitting a fine point.

Waterford were not to be beaten though and Kelly sent over her third point from play from all of 35 metres out with just seconds of normal time remaining to equalise the game. They could easily have stolen the spoils as with almost the last attack Niamh Rockett's persistence earned an opportunity but her shot veered just wide, leaving the sides to do it all over again on October 3.

The downside for whichever team wins the replay is that although no venue has yet been fixed for the replay, the one certainty is that it won't be played at Croke Park, with Parnell Park a possible alternative. Having

mistakes made by their own team while at the same time attempting to forge ways of exploiting weaknesses they may have spotted in the opposition. Finally, it's up to the management and leaders within the team to lift the troops back towards the dizzy heights of another All-Ireland final.

The draw will have given Antrim confidence, and at the same time will ensure that there is not even a hint of complacency going into the replay. Jane Adams will have time to figure out how best to deal with the sort of double-marking

she experienced last Sunday, and her colleagues will have come up with ways of how best to work around that particular problem.

Rather than view last weekend's draw as a disappointment, Antrim must now get into the frame of mind that what they now have in front of them is an opportunity to put right the wrongs, to make sure that at the second time of asking there is no mistake. The large crowd they brought to Croke Park last weekend will be back in full voice, and the Saffrons have the chance to write another chapter in their illustrious history. There will be no mistake second time around.



Imokilly on verge



Blackrock players, Amy Roberts, Jennifer Irwin, Cait Kelleher, Grace Mulqueen, captain Roisin De Faoite and Theresa Cummins celebrate their sides victory in the recent Evening Echo Junior A Championship final over Enniskeane.



LINDA MELLERICK

IMOKILLY are one hour away from reaching their third county final in 34 years. 2006 saw them lose out to St Finbarr's on a score of 2-9 to 0-12.

They appeared in the final in 1996 where they suffered a 2-8 to 2-5 defeat to Glen Rovers. Previous to that one would have to go back as far as 1976 to locate Imokilly's last final appearance and indeed a victorious one at that.

That year saw the east Cork divisional side complete a five-in-a-row of county titles. They dominated from '72 to '76 yet from there they slipped into County final oblivion for 20 years before that '96 re-emergence.

A 10-year gap bridged the '96 and 2006 finals and it is now 34 long years since success. Winning the final won't be on the divisional sides' minds tomorrow, getting past debutantes Ballincollig will be.

Much of that '96 panel has changed in the intervening years. St Catherine's, now a senior club side, no longer contribute players yet the East Cork divisional side have found suitable replacements in the likes of Stephanie Beausang, Jenny Murphy, Shona Cunningham and Gearoidin Kearney. Managed by Emmett Fennell, trained by former Cork physical coach Frank Flannery and with selectors Mags Finn and Don Ryan at the helm, it is the second half of most games where Imokilly have shown their true potential.

They wear teams down during this period and much of the credit must go to their fitness levels for that.

Ballincollig strive to reach the final for the very first time.

It may be a bridge too far for them, their first year in the top flight, but one shouldn't rule them out and they need only look to St Catherine's and Douglas for evidence on how the 'New Kids on the Block' can achieve success. They have nothing to lose and have gained admiration already even if their 2010 season ends tomorrow. The pressure is all on Imokilly for this one. With last year's finalists St Catherine's and Milford out of the running after defeats to Imokilly and Douglas respectively, the score is set

Cronin's goals edge Newcestown home

Newcestown 2-4
Valley Rovers 1-6

By MARY NEWMAN

NEWCESTOWN came from behind to pip Valley Rovers for the semi-final spot in the Evening Echo Senior B championship.

The sides battled it out with determination under the light at CIT. Valley Rovers started minus two players Lucy Hawkes and Marion Cottrell whose flight from the UK was delayed but they led at the break 0-3 to 0-2.

Hilda O'Mahony and Ena Coughlan exchanged points and Colette Desmond and Connie Hawkes did likewise before Ena Coughlan pointed a free to give Valleys a slender half-time lead.

With the arrival of Lucy Hawkes and Marion Cottrell, Valley started the second half well and points

from Lucy Hawkes and Liz Bugler had them three ahead inside five minutes.

Newcestown upped their game and when Grainne Cronin got the last touch in the square to finish the ball to the net, it was level.

Ena Coughlan pointed to put Valley ahead and Eimear O'Regan extended it with a handpass to the net to put Valley Rovers four points ahead with nine minutes of normal time on the stopwatch.

Newcestown showed tremendous spirit and fought back with Grainne Cronin kicking the ball to the net, Coleen Long added a point to level matters and an Evelyn Crowley point had them ahead for the first time since the opening minute. Valley almost succeeded in grabbing an equaliser but

Newcestown stood firm in the four minutes of injury-time played to secure their place in the semi-final.

Scorers for Newcestown: G Cronin 2-0, H O'Mahony, C Desmond, C Long, E Crowley 0-1 each.

Valley Rovers: E O'Regan 1-0, E Coughlan 0-3 (0-2f 0-1 45), L Hawkes 0-1(f), C Hawkes, L Bugler 0-1 each.

NEWCESTOWN: L O'Sullivan, K Murphy, F Deasy, M Crowley, G O'Mahony, F Crowley, C O'Mahony, E Crowley, A Coughlan, T McCarthy, S Deasy, C Long, H O'Mahony, C Desmond, G Cronin.

Subs: A Crowley for T McCarthy (41), A Keane for C O'Mahony (inj., 43).

VALLEY ROVERS: G Harrington, J O'Mahony, C Hawkes, A M Murphy, E Coughlan, S O Shea, J Hawkes, K Richardson, A Cummins, L Bugler, E O'Regan, J Callanan, O Deasy, T Hawkes, E Foley.

Subs: M Cottrell for T Hawkes (18), L Hawkes for J O'Mahony (h-t).

Referee: Walter Cole.

County semi-final very tough to call

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

DOWN to the final four and pending a draw it'll be down to the final two as they bid for the Punch Cup continues with two exciting duals on Sunday.

First up at 12.30pm in Castle Road are, who many believe are now the championship favourites, Imokilly paired against debutantes Ballincollig.

Having not even progressed out of their divisional group 12 months ago, Imokilly's progression in 2010 is to be admired.

Imokilly's defence is tight and tidy, led by Mary O'Connor but it is their scoring prowess which has sides quivering. Angela Walsh is

the driving force from centre-field, her size and strength difficult to combat.

Ann Marie Walsh scored a hat-trick in the quarter-final. Add in Marie O'Neill, Gearoidin Kearney, Emer O'Farrell and Shone Cunningham and Ballincollig have a lot to contend with.

At this stage of the competition the best remain and it is here that Ballincollig will receive their true baptism of fire despite already recording impressive victories over St Catherine's and Courcey Rovers. Many felt that Ballincollig caught St Catherine's on the day but they subsequently overcame an experienced Courcey Rovers side and certainly deserve their standing in the top flight.

Aisleen Sheehan has had two good outings to date in goal for Ballincollig and will certainly need to bring that form with her

into the semi-final to deny a side with an 11-goal tally to their credit. Eimear O'Sullivan and Kate O'Donoghue will play important roles while Leah Weste and Denise Cronin will be required as leaders to drive their side on against all the odds.

Surprisingly, Douglas are considered the most experienced side left in the competition despite only entering the senior ranks three seasons ago.

It all had a fairytale ending in '08 but reality hit hard in '09 when they were defeated 3-11 to 0-9 at the semi-final stage. Their defence, which looked vulnerable last season, were very impressive in the quarter-final against Milford.

Maria Harkin, lining out at full-back, proved a master move and one wonders if Douglas will hold her there such was her display against the North Cork side.

Emma Jordan had one of her best games in the corner and with Amanda and Louise O'Regan in the half-back line, Inniscarra should find it harder to make headway than they did against Cloughduv, particularly with the ever-dependable Jessica Kavanagh between the posts.

Player of the match in the quarter-final, Katrina Mackey will take some marking as will sister Pamela in the middle of the park and Julia White who had a good season with Cork.

FIXTURES

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Senior B semi-finals: Ballincollig v Eire Og, Brinny, noon; Kilsheel v Newcestown, Castle Road Blackrock, 7pm.

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Cork County Senior Championship semi-finals: Imokilly v Ballincollig, Castle Road, 12.30pm; Douglas v Inniscarra, 2pm.

of overdue success



Sile Golden, Camogie Board secretary, presents Shonagh Cunningham with the player-of-the-match award after her side's victory in the Evening Echo Junior C Championship final recently.

Killeagh win group thanks to late rally

By MARY NEWMAN

Killeagh	1-9
Éire Óg	2-5

KILLEAGH overcame the challenge posed by Éire Óg with a late rally to snatch victory in the Evening Echo Senior B championship.

Erin Corkery hit 1-1 for Éire Óg before Gillian Cunningham and Mary O'Connor pointed for Killeagh. Angela Walsh struck for a goal to give Killeagh the lead and again Margaret O'Herlihy pointed an Éire Óg free. Killeagh finished the half strong however to lead 1-5 to 1-2 at the break.

Éire Óg's Margaret O'Herlihy pointed a free to narrow the gap and as Katie Murphy and Margaret O'Herlihy swapped points, Killeagh held their lead. O'Herlihy sent a long range free to the Killeagh net to give Éire Óg the advantage but Killeagh were back level with a Mary O'Connor point and two in-a-row had them three ahead. Éire Óg had a point from a Margaret O'Herlihy 45 but Killeagh had done enough to ensure they topped the group.

for themselves by not spreading their play and using their speed. Joanne Casey is their main threat up front alongside Niamh Dilworth who eventually came into the game in the quarter-final when switched to right half-forward and played well.

It will be interesting to see how Douglas will react to marking Joanne. If both sides line out as they did for the quarter-final, it'll be a strong test for Emma Jordan. Amanda O'Regan will no doubt again command her team from centre-back.

Rena Buckley will play a key role again. Lining out at midfield she tends to drift back and sweep up a lot of play, having the confidence in her midfield partner of Orla Healy and her inside six to do the job up front.

Orla had a fine game in the semi-final and crucially will need to work twice as hard with the middle of the park and half-forward line are strong areas for Douglas.

It's a shame the games couldn't be played as a double-header but due to the Ladies Mini-Marathon route taking in Castle Road the second game was moved to Ballincollig.

Killeagh's form has them as favourites

By MARY NEWMAN

IT'S down to semi-final stages in the Evening Echo Senior B championship.

TODAY

Éire Óg v Ballinhassig, Brinny, 12pm.

Éire Óg were defeated finalists in 2008 and 2009 and semi-finalists in 2007 so are hugely experienced and naturally desperate to finally get up to the senior ranks.

In the group stages they lost just one game to Killeagh by the narrowest of margins.

Alanna McKenna is one of their driving forces, while Margaret O'Herlihy, Erin Corkery, Katie McCarthy and Claire Meaney have been prominent. However they will need to be strong to overcome a fancied Ballinhassig side that have blazed a trail in their path to this semi.

Impressive from day one Ballinhassig have been notching up big scores in all games with Aileen Kilmartin settling in well at full-forward. In defence Miriam Reardon and Catriona Collins have been impressive while Cork senior Eimear O'Sullivan at mid field will prove a handful.

Up front Sinead O'Callaghan, Deirdre Coomey and Katie McCarthy will cause problems.

TODAY

Killeagh v Newcestown, Castle Road, 1pm.

Last season Killeagh bowed out at semi-final stage to Éire Óg and this season they are looking to make it to their first senior B final. They topped the group with victories over Kilbrittan, Glen Rovers, Carrigaline and Éire Óg. They have excellent performers in the experienced Mary O'Connor, who is a leader in defence, while up front Angela Walsh, Katie Murphy and Noelle O'Donovan have been to the fore as Killeagh have progressed through this championship.

They will meet tough opposition from a Newcestown side, who are in this semi-final on merit.

They recorded victories over Aghabullogue and Clonakilly before losing out to Ballinhassig but they held their composure to record a victory in their last game against Valley Rovers, which ensured they finished the section as runners-up and secured the much sought after semi-final spot. Down through the years they have worked hard and with players of the caliber of Grainne Cronin, Colette Desmond, Coleen Long and Fiona Crowley they will battle hard to reach the final.

The form books point to a Killeagh-Ballinhassig final but Newcestown and Éire Óg have plenty of ability. These games therefore are extremely difficult to call.

Murphy and Kearney inspire O'Neill's to U14 C

Fr O'Neill's	6-3
Buttevant	1-5

FR O'NEILL'S took the U14 C league title with a victory over Buttevant recently. writes MARY NEWMAN.

Buttevant had two points on the score board before Fr O'Neill's settled into the game with a Ciara O'Neill goal. Points from Rebecca Walsh and Keelagh Cullinane extended the Fr O'Neill's advantage, but But-

tevant hit back with points from Katie Cronin and Laura Fitzgerald to help them stayed in touch.

A goal from Sadbh O'Connor stretched Fr O'Neill's advantage, but Buttevant upped the pace and replied with a goal from a long range Katie Cronin free as Fr O'Neill's led 2-3 to 1-4 at the break.

Turning to play with the aid of the wind Fr O'Neill's took control and their defence was superb, limiting

the Buttevant attack to just one point in the second half. Fr O'Neill's applied huge pressure on the Buttevant defence and they struck four goals without reply. Sadbh O'Connor on target with one while Sharon Murphy bagged three in a stunning display in attack.

But O'Neill's goalkeeper Sophie Kearney was named Player of the Match after turning in a superb display.

Scorers for Fr O'Neill's: S

Murphy 3-0, C O'Neill, K Cronin S O'Connor 1-0 each, R Walsh, K Cullinane 0-1 each.

Buttevant: K Cronin 1-3, L Fitzgerald 0-2.

FR O'NEILL'S: S Kearney; S Lee, E McCarthy, A Dunne; C Sexton, K McCarthy, M Aherne; S O'Sullivan, K Cullinane; R Walsh, S O'Connor, C Murray; E Smiddy, S Murphy, C O'Neill.

Subs: R Dunne for E Smiddy, K Finn for C O'Neill, D O'Neill for S Murphy, S Broderick for S Lee.

BUTTEVANT: L Carey; A Cronin, S O'Driscoll, L Barrett; A Buckley, L Guinane; C Burke; E O'Mahony, E Nagle; C Cremin; K Cronin, N Daly; J Nagle, L Fitzgerald, A Fitzpatrick.

Subs: O Casey for C Cremin, A Casey for A Fitzpatrick.

for a new champion. Once again back-to-back titles elude the holder.

Douglas are the latest side to hold a county senior title, that achieved as recently as 2008.

As champions they were there to be knocked and comprehensively knocked out they were too by a rampant Milford in the 2009 semi-final. One can't really blame Douglas. Much of their senior side had phenomenal success at underage.

They carried that into their first senior championship season and for young girls they possibly imagined that this onslaught of success would just keep coming and coming. You need to lose at the top to really experience pain. You need to experience both sides of the coin. Douglas experienced the highs and lows in '08 and '09 and they look all the better for it.

Inniscarra head for their third final, having lost in 2003 to Fr

O'Neill's and 2005 to Cloughdun. It shows the shift in the game over the past decade or so with Cork's suburbs and rural dwellings taking over from what was city-dominant during the nineties.

Irene O'Keeffe and Paula Goggins, former inter-county stars, pace the sideline for Inniscarra. They were never in danger of losing to Cloughdun in their quarter-final victory of 3-12 to 0-5 but they created problems

The death has occurred of Francis (Frank) O'GRADY of 15 Emmett Avenue, Mervue, Galway

Formerly of Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath. Reposing at the Holy Family Funeral Home, Mervue tomorrow, Thursday evening, from 5pm with removal at 7pm to the adjoining church. Requiem Mass on Friday at 11am. Burial afterwards in the new cemetery, Bohermore. Family flowers only, by request. Donations, if desired, to Galway Hospice.

Date published: Wednesday, September 22, 2010



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Ballincollig 2-11
Imokilly 3-8

O'Neill goals give Imokilly another chance

SEPT 2010

TWO Marie O'Neill goals in the space of two minutes gave Imokilly another bite of the cherry after it looked as if Ballincollig had done enough to see them through to their first ever senior county final.

It was Ballincollig who levelled the match a minute into injury time to force a replay. Justice was served as the very least Ballincollig deserved over the hour was a replay after leading all through.

Imokilly were a pale shadow of the goal machine that they can be for 54 minutes before Angela Walsh finally struck the net for the divisional side.

That can be put down to two reasons; excellent defending by Ballincollig, where player of the match Alison Coughlan played a blinder and Lady Luck on the side of this seasons debutants.

Patricia Buttimer and Sarah Buckley gave Ballincollig a dream 1-1 to no score start against the favourites within three minutes.

They settled well and were playing confidently. Having said that Imokilly were piling on the pressure, hitting everything but the net, as time and again the woodwork and good defending denied them. Gearoidine Kearney's free taking is what kept Imokilly in contention at the break, scoring 0-4 from her side's 0-5 tally.

Meanwhile 1-5 (1-4 from play) gave Ballincollig a deserved lead.

Ballincollig started the second half as confidently as they finished the first, extending their lead to five points.

Linda Dorgan came storming into the game as Aoife Cotter continued her excellent first half form. Imokilly's striking was letting them down with balls dropping short and a number of wides. With seven minutes of normal time remaining Ballincollig led 1-10 to 0-7 yet Imokilly remained composed. Angela Walsh broke her side's goal drought followed by a Claire Keohane point and suddenly it was a two point game.

Denise Cronin's strike went all



Ballincollig's Holly Coomey gathers the ball from Imokilly's Jenny Murphy during their Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

the way to the net pushing the gap to five again, surely finishing Imokilly off.

But the divisional side don't do panic and Marie O'Neill's double strike ensured another seven days go by before we know who this year's senior county finalists are.

Scorers for Ballincollig: S Buckley 1-5 (0-5 ft), D Cronin 1-1, P Buttimer 0-2, L Weste, L Dorgan, M O'Donoghue 0-1 each.

Imokilly: M O'Neill 2-0, A M Walsh 1-1, G Kearney 0-4 (ft), C Keohane 0-3.

BALLINCOLLIG: A Sheehan; E O'Sullivan, A Kiely, A Coughlan; C Irish; K O'Donoghue, A Cotter; D Cronin, S Coomey; L Dorgan, L Weste, S Buckley, P Buttimer, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey.

Sub: A Lovett for H Coomey (53).

IMOKILLY: S Beausang (Killeagh); N O'Keefe (do), N Barry (Castletyons), S Smiddy (Killeagh); B Stack (do), M O'Connor (do), Y Murphy (Fr O'Neill's); S Harrington (do), E O'Farrell (Sarsfields); S Cunningham (Youghal), A Walsh (Killeagh), M O'Neill (Watergrasshill); C Keohane (Killeagh), A M Walsh (do), G Kearney (Fr O'Neill's).

Subs: J Murphy (Sars) for B Stack (ft), O Keane (Sars) for E O'Farrell (49).

Referee: Oliver Webb (Tracton).

Dilworth equaliser sends semi-final into replay

Inniscarra 0-12
Douglas 2-6

THE second county senior camogie semi-final also ended in a draw as Inniscarra and Douglas couldn't be separated in Ballincollig yesterday afternoon.

Despite not scoring from the nineteenth to the 42nd minute a spirited final 18 minutes saw Douglas take a one-point lead into the final minute with Niamh Dilworth grabbing the all important equaliser for Inniscarra.

A fast paced opening saw

Inniscarra settle that bit better, their forwards making more headway than the city side's. Douglas were struggling up front with Katrina Mackey the only threat as Rosie O'Mahony kept a tight reign on Julia White.

A high intensity game ensured a low scoring half with Inniscarra leading 0-6 to 0-2, three of those six points coming from play.

Three further frees converted by the accurate Joanne Casey extended Inniscarra's lead to seven points ten minutes into the second period. Rena

CAMOGIE
By LINDA MELLERICK

Buckley highly influential. While it may have looked as if the game was slipping from Douglas, two key moves were instrumental to their comeback. One, the introduction of Clare Shine at half time and two, the switch of Maria Harkin from the full back line to outfield.

Harkin's free on 42 minutes seemed to go all the way to the net without a second touch and when Clare Shine pointed two

minutes later, the game was within reach again.

Excellent substitute Laura Burke calmed Inniscarra for a brief period before a magnificent soccer style goal, one her Irish mentors would surely be proud of, saw Shine narrow the gap to a single point. Burke stepped up again before a Katrina Mackey free, an inspirational point from Amanda O'Regan and Shine again gave Douglas the lead for the first time in the game with fifty eight minutes gone on the clock.

Niamh Dilworth got that all important equaliser. It's

all to play for again.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-6 (ft), N McCarthy, N Dilworth, L Burke 0-2 each.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-3 (0-1 ft), C Shine 1-2, M Harkin 1-0 (ft), A O'Regan 0-1.

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

Subs: L Burke for M Cosgrove (34), M Cosgrove for E Kingston (51).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; M Harkin, S Duggan, E Jordan; A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan; P Mackey, O Murphy; C Lynch, J White, K Mackey; M O'Donovan, Aileen O'Donovan, Aine O'Donovan.

Subs: C Shine for M O'Donovan (ft), C Murphy for D Murphy (48), C Clarke for Aileen O'Donovan (52).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

OCT. 2010

Joanne ends a

AFTER the final whistle went as Galway beat Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final Joanne O'Callaghan's first instinct was to head for the safety of the dressing room.

But she didn't, instead she stood in the centre of the pitch at Semple Stadium and looked around and soaked up the atmosphere. Not a pleasant one from a Cork point of view but Joanne knew this was it. This was the last time she would walk off the pitch as a Cork player and despite losing, every last second was there to be remembered.

At just 27-years-old Joanne has decided to retire from inter-county camogie, a decision she didn't come to easily, but one she is determined to stick by. Initially, she was going to go at the end of the All-Ireland campaign last year but the lure of trying to win three-in-a-row was too much for her.

"I thought long and hard about going after our win over Kilkenny last year but, like others, I had this burning desire for the three in-a-row and that drove me on," said Joanne.

"Unfortunately it didn't work out that way and after the Galway loss I knew that it was time for me to call a halt. It wasn't a decision I had come to lightly as I have enjoyed my time with the Cork squad and I'm really going to miss it."

"But it had to come to an end sometime and I know my heart isn't in it from a training point of view and all the other parts of my life I would miss out on if I continued."

Joanne says it has been a privilege to play for her county and is reluctant to speak about the sacrifices that she has made.

A typical year starts in January and all going well ends in September in the All-Ireland final, a date that has been a permanent fixture in the Cork calendar for eight years until this one.

A small example was a holiday that she had booked after the first Galway game. Joanne and a few others were due to fly out for a short break the day after the game, but with the replay set for a week later this wasn't possible.

Missing holidays or other social events is nothing new to Joanne and she just accepts it as something that happens.

"Yes I have missed out on countless holidays, going away for a few days to concerts and other events, but I wouldn't change it for the world. Pulling on the Cork jersey has been an honour and it has also done a lot for me personally as well."

"I work as a business development representative for Lucozade Sport and I have no doubt playing with Cork has helped me get my job. So from a career point of view playing with my county has been very good."



Joanne O'Callaghan, Cork, in action against Brenda Kerins, Galway in the 2008 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final. Picture: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

Rory Noonan speaks to camogie star Joanne O'Callaghan who has retired from the Cork team



to me."

Joanne's love of camogie started when she was in primary school and was part of the Cloughdun NS side that won the Sciath na Scol title in 1995 and from here she joined her local club.

With Cloughdun she quickly established herself as a top-class player was captain of their side when they won the county U14 title in 1996. More club success was soon to follow and at just 14 she made her senior debut. U18 success at county level came in 2000 and 2001 and the latter was a special year for Joanne as she won her first senior county medal that year as well.

Two more senior county titles were to follow in 2002 and 2005 and the success in '05 saw her captain her county the following year. Long before that Joanne had established herself as an inter-county star. She was an integral part of the Cork set-up, starting at U16 level in 1998.

That year Joanne was on the Cork team that won the All-Ireland and she was still young enough to be on the side again the following year when they retained the title.

"1998 was a special year for me as winning your first All-Ireland, no matter what age, is also going to stand out and it's one I will never forget."

"I was lucky enough to be around again the following year when we retained the title," said Joanne. 1999 was a busy year for Joanne, as she was also part of the U18 county side who won the Munster title and with youth on her side was part of that squad for the following two years as well, making it three titles in-a-row for her.

"Back then there was no All-Ireland at U18 level so Munster was as far as we could go and thankfully those three years we managed to win it."

"That has changed now and there is an All-Ireland for U18 teams and I think that was helped to improve

the standard of camogie overall in Cork and other counties."

Joanne's busy schedule continued on in 2000 when Cloughdun won the county U18 title and as well as the U18 side she came to the attention of Cork teams further up the rankings.

That season saw her part of both the junior and intermediate teams and again success followed. They won the junior Munster title and were beaten in the All-Ireland final.

However disappointed Joanne was to lose that final, she made up for it when winning the intermediate All-Ireland final the same year.

"Losing any final, especially an All-Ireland, is never easy and I was gutted when we lost the junior one. But winning the intermediate helped to make up for that loss."

"I have been lucky to have won more finals than I have lost, but you never forget the feeling of losing and that's why you can see what it's means to players when

they win.

"It's an unbelievable feeling and one that is hard to describe in words. Months and sometimes years of work have finally paid off and it makes it all worthwhile."

"When you look around at the bunch of players who have trained hard with you for months, you know they are all feeling the same way and the only way you can really experience that feeling is, like

me, to have been lucky enough to be on a winning side." 2001 saw Joanne break into the senior side and from there to two recent

Joanne O'Callaghan factfile

Age: 27

Work: Business development representative with Lucozade Sport

Club: Cloughdun

Position: Defender

Favourite player: Gemma O'Connor

Toughest opponent: Emer McDonnell, Tipperary

Most memorable game: Winning All-Ireland camogie final in 2006 when I was captain and winning my first senior county against Fr

O'Neill's in 2001

Game you'd like to forget: Losing against Wexford in 2007 when we were going for three-in-a-row

Favourite food: My boyfriend, Jonathan's, pork medallion and mashed potato dinner

Favourite film: The Hangover

Interests outside of camogie: Socialising with my friends, going to the cinema and getting pampered in Ouch beauty Salon by my sister Ora.

glorious career



Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan and Briege Corkery celebrate with O'Duffy Cup after their All-Ireland win over Galway in 2006. Picture: Dan Linehan



Joanne's camogie honours

National School: Sciath na Scol winner in 1995.

Club: U14 county 1996, which she captained. U16 county in 1997.

U18 county titles in 2000 and 2001.

Three senior county titles in 2001, 2002 and 2005.

Cork success: All-Ireland U16 winner in 1998 and 1999.

Three U18 Munster titles in 1999, 2000 and 2001 (no All-Ireland title at that age level at that time).

Junior Munster champion in 2000.

Intermediate All-Ireland champion in 2000.

Six Munster senior league medals: — 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Four national league medals: 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2007.

Five senior All-Ireland medals: 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, captain in 2006.

Two Ashbourne Cup medals with UCC in 2002 and 2003.

Six Gael Linn medals with Munster: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009, captain in 2009.

retirement she has been a permanent fixture in the team.

"I have been lucky enough to play with some great players all through my time with the senior squad and I am thankful to them all for their help and support.

"From day one I was made welcome by all the squad and it is something I have always made sure to try and do in recent years when new faces have come in.

"In my early days I had the privilege of playing with one of my heroes, Fiona O'Driscoll. I had to try and mark her in training sessions and I can tell you that was never an easy task.

"But I have to thank her as Fiona always advised me where to stand and what to be looking out for.

"She could have run rings around me but that wasn't her style and she helped me to improve my game."

As with the rest of her Cork career, success soon followed for Joanne and she won her first senior All-Ireland medal in 2002. By the time she stopped playing this year she had added four more, along with countless others including league and six intro-provincial medals with Munster.

Of all the Cork wins, 2006 was a special one for Joanne as captain.

"Winning the county title meant I was captain that year and it was the proudest moment of my life.

"To play for your county is an honour, but to then captain the side is a dream come true. Walking up the steps to collect the cup is something I will never forget and the memory will live with me as long as I live," concluded Joanne.

But now, by her own choice, her days of running out in the red of Cork are over and the jersey won't be worn anymore — except maybe at an odd training session with her club just to remember her achievements.

Eire Óg advance to senior B decider

Eire Óg 2-7
Ballinhassig 1-6

EIRE ÓG booked their place in the Evening Echo Senior B Championship final for the third year in a row after their four-point win over Ballinhassig in a highly competitive clash in Brinny.

Ballinhassig played with the wind in the first half, but it was Eire Óg who were first on the scoreboard when Margaret Herlihy pointed a free after two minutes.

Ballinhassig replied with an Emma Jordan point and they took the lead with points from Sinead O'Callaghan and Jordan.

The sides traded points with Erin Corkery and Herlihy on target for Eire Óg while O'Callaghan replied for Ballinhassig.

As half-time approached Ballinhassig goaled through Jordan to give them a 1-4 to 0-4 interval lead.

Eire Óg started the second half well and two points from Herlihy and one from Roisin Murray had the sides level at the three quarter stage.

As they battled for control, Murray grabbed a goal for Eire Óg but Ballinhassig kept in touch with a Jordan point.

Eire Óg kept the pressure on the Ballinhassig defence and it paid off when O'Herlihy got their second goal with 10 minutes left.

Ballinhassig applied huge pressure but found Eire Óg's defence hard to break down. A point in injury-time cut the deficit but it wasn't enough as Eire Óg with a four-point lead dug deep to hold on.

Scores for Eire Óg: M Herlihy 1-5, R Murray 1-1, E Corkery 0-1.

Ballinhassig: E Jordan 1-4, S O'Callaghan 0-2.

EIRE ÓG: M Gleeson; Catriona McKenna, A Hennessy, K McCarthy; L Murphy, A McCarthy, Ciara McKenna; E Scally, M Herlihy; C Meaney, Aoife McCarthy, S Hutchinson; E Corkery, A McKenna, R Murray. Subs: E Crowley for L Murphy, M Corkery for Aoife McCarthy.

BALLINHASSIG: G O'Callaghan; E O'Regan, M Reardon, E O'Donovan; L Jordan, C Collins, A Coleman; E O'Sullivan, M Kelleher; S O'Callaghan, D Coomey, K McCarthy; E Jordan; A O'Callaghan. Subs: J Cullinane for A O'Callaghan, E O'Regan for E O'Donovan.

Douglas need more



Breda O'Neill (Castletownroche), Mary, Donal, Deirdre, Maura and Sean O'Callaghan (Berrings) photographed at Curraheen Park at the Cork County Camogie Board's Benefit Night.

Picture: Mike English

Board appeals for collectors at final

SUNDAY, October 10 is a very important day for the camogie board as the annual collection takes place at half-time in the county senior hurling final.

As in previous years, collectors are urgently required to come down and help the County Board. With the new pitch development having reached its final stages and the planning permission granted for the dressing room development it all systems go. The many clubs that have played on the pitch have had nothing but praise for the facility and the county board are now driving on and with their plans to construct a pavilion and dressing rooms. All of these plans need to be financed and the annual

collection is a major fundraiser every year for the county board.

Players, former players mentors and supporters are urged to come along and give up just 10 minutes of their time to help in the venture. Collectors are asked to meet at 1.45 pm at the covered stand side of Páirc Uí Chaoimh where they will be escorted through the gates and given a spot in the grounds where they can view the game and then take up the collection at half time. Every year the board makes a plea for help and this year is no exception with the four clubs involved in the hurling games asked to make a special effort to get as many collectors as possible down.

Charity game to raise funds for worthy cause

THE Chaplaincy Student Support Team of Cork Institute of Technology have organised a charity camogie match as a fundraiser in aid of Action Breast Cancer. The game will be played on Wednesday October 6 at 7pm in CIT.

The hard working committee have invited all past camogie players of the college back to play, with former star players from the college who have lined-out at inter county level such as Mag's Finn, Miriam Deasy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Julie McGrath, Gillian Harrington, Emer O'Farrell, Val O'Keefe, Nora Aherne Paula O'Connor and Elaine O'Riordan all

signed up to participate. It's also widely reported that there will be two mystery guest players with reports coming through that two males will be lining-out but we are reliably informed there will be few objectors.

On the night there will be a €2 admission fee at the gate and all proceeds will go to Action Breast Cancer. Any former camogie players from CIT who are interested in participating are urged to get in contact, come along and lineout and help a very worthy cause. Anybody interested in helping out can contact Charlotte Kearney at charlotte.kearney@mycit.ie or chaplaincy@cit.ie



LINDA MELLERICK

BOTH senior camogie semi-finals will go to extra-time tomorrow in the event of a draw with the county final date fixed for next Saturday.

Based on last weekend's performances you would possibly put your money on Douglas against Inniscarra, but it could be a totally different ball game tomorrow.

At half-time last Sunday, with the score at 0-6 to 0-2 in favour of Inniscarra, I'd have put my money on them to advance.

Not because of their four-point advantage, but by virtue of the fact that Douglas were struggling up front.

They didn't seem to be making any headway from their half-forward line up, with the exception of Katrina Mackey.

Credit must be given to Rosie O'Mahony and her handling of Julia White. Inniscarra and Niamh McCarthy in particular looked far more menacing yet surprisingly very little came out of that in the end. Six points was all Inniscarra managed from play.

What must be a concern for Douglas and something they will need to address before tomorrow is the large number of frees they conceded.

Nineteen conceded to five received isn't an attractive ratio. While they might not agree with many of them, they put themselves in the position where a free could be awarded and that needs to be taken into consideration.

The only way to be sure of avoiding frees is to get to the ball first. If Douglas discipline themselves in this way and Julia White can rid the shackles that is Rosie O'Mahony they would go a long way to ensuring victory.

This game could head west just as easily. Very little separates the sides. The game was intense last weekend. Rena Buckley's contribution is immense for Inniscarra and heavily relied upon. Joanne Casey worked very hard, won a lot of ball and

Late Imokilly goals halt a brave display by newcomers Ballincollig

Imokilly 2-8
Ballincollig 1-8

IN A REPLAY which never really came to life until the last 10 minutes, Imokilly advanced to face Inniscarra in the Evening Echo senior camogie final next Saturday.

The sides were level four times in the opening half, six in total but the physical strength of Angela Walsh proved key when, in the 49th minute, she finished clinically to the net. Setting up team-mate Emer O'Farrell to hit a second a minute later — Imokilly's goal-scoring prowess was critical.

It was two points apiece after 11 minutes with Denise Cronin and Marie O'Neill striking. Imokilly began to put some good fast moves together but weren't getting any real return and Ballincollig punished them on the break. Patricia Buttimer and Samantha Coomey edged Ballincollig 0-4 to 0-3 in front but Imokilly finished the half stronger. Angela Walsh and Shona Cunningham, the latter displaying excellent ball control, pointed to give the divisional side a 0-5 to 0-4 lead. The excellent Denise Cronin hit two after the break, the pendulum swinging again before Sarah Harrington and Linda Dorgan swapped points.

CAMOGIE By LINDA MELLERICK

Mary O'Connor was commanding at centre-back while Marie O'Neill and Angela Walsh always threatened up front. Leah Weste and Linda Dorgan battled hard along with Cronin, but good defensive play kept them at bay. Players lost their footing as the greasy conditions worsened. It was still anyone's game entering the final quarter but you could see Ballincollig tiring against a physically stronger Imokilly outfit. As has been their form throughout the season Imokilly stayed

in contention throughout and then pounced as the opposition weakened. Angela Walsh gathered about 25 metres out and struck the net. Emer O'Farrell's followed leaving the score 2-6 to 0-7. Two further points from Walsh gave Imokilly a comfortable seven point advantage entering the 56th minute.

Senior debutants Ballincollig refused to surrender though and a cracking Denise Cronin free from 30 metres split the crowded goalmouth to the net. A pointed free two minutes into injury-time left only a goal between the sides but try as they did that goal didn't come for Ballincollig.

Scorers for Imokilly: A Walsh 1-3, M O'Neill 0-2, E O'Farrell 1-0, G Kearney (45), S Cunningham, S Harrington 0-1 each.
Ballincollig: D Cronin 1-5 (1-2 f, 0-2 45), P Buttimer, S Coomey, L Dorgan 0-1 each.
IMOKILLY: S Beausang (Killeagh), N O'Keefe (do), N Barry (Castletown), S Smiddy (Killeagh), AM Walsh (do), M O'Connor (do), Y Murphy (Fr O'Neill's), E Murphy (Sars), S Harrington (Fr O'Neill's), S Cunningham (Youghal), A Walsh (Killeagh), G Kearney (Fr O'Neill's), C Keohane (Killeagh), M O'Neill (Watergrasshill), E O'Farrell (Sars).
Subs: Annie Walsh (Killeagh) for E Murphy (50), U Day (Fr O'Neill's) for Y Murphy (55), S Stack (Killeagh) for S Cunningham (56).
BALLINCOLLIG: A Sheehan; E O'Sullivan, A Coughlan, A Kiey, C Irish, K O'Donoghue, A Cotter; S Coomey, L Dorgan, L Weste, D Cronin, S Buckley; P Buttimer, M O'Donoghue, H Coomey.
Subs: J Ryle for H Coomey (41), A Lovett for Irish (52), S O'Callaghan for O'Sullivan (55).
Referee: Michael Sheehan (Liscarrow).

from their attack



Marian McCarthy, chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presents the prize to Jerry Griffin (Abbeyfeale) following Sporting Dame's win in the Cork Business Group 525 Race at Curraheen Park in aid of Cork County Camogie Board. Included are Joe McCarthy, Liz Igoe, commercial manager Curraheen Park and Micheal Cahill.

Picture: Mike English.

showed great speed up the right wing. She played a bit too deep however to be a major threat.

Showing great accuracy from frees, but failing to score from play, I feel she'd be more of a threat in the corner. She would need to be sure of a supply though and be given space.

For the second time in a month Laura Burke has come on as a substitute and made a significant contribution. At this stage I would be considering starting her.

She impressed me in both the quarter-final against Cloughduv when, after coming on in the 25th minute, she contributed three points and again last Sunday, against tougher competition, entered the

fray in the 34th and hit two.

The timing of her double strike was what impressed most last weekend. Douglas had commenced their fightback and struck 1-1 before Laura stepped up and calmed the situation with a well-struck point. Claire Shine goaled again for Douglas which really threw the impetus in their direction yet it was Burke again who responded.

That confidence and more importantly the willingness to accept responsibility is a trait that shouldn't sit on a bench for too long.

Inch Rovers' county football final today could have a big bearing on Imokilly's progression against a young, energetic Ballincollig side.

Tired legs will have an impact. Imokilly looked tired last weekend with some of their key players not as dominant as you would have expected. Some of that had to be put down to Killeagh's Senior B Championship match the previous day.

Not all of it mind you, as to point the finger at that for the sole reason Imokilly were staring defeat in the face wouldn't do justice to a very good Ballincollig side.

Ballincollig's defence was excellent. Alison Coughlan was magnificent. A big performance will be required from them again. When Imokilly run at defences they seem to find it very easy to split them open. It's like a river's mouth spill-

ing out to the ocean.

Players back off instead of closing them down. It is a cliché to say that the supply needs to be cut off. That is true, yet if there is a leak and the supply gets through, which it undoubtedly will, there needs to be that infamous plan B.

Imokilly scored 3-1 in six minutes last Sunday and it's not the first time they have hit sudden scoring bursts. They have that going for them.

They can play second fiddle for most of a game but can pounce and kill you off before you even know what's hit you.

The axiom 'It isn't over till the final whistle' was coined for a side like Imokilly.

Killeagh girls are too strong for Newcestown

Killeagh 4-12
Newcestown 0-2

FROM the throw-in, Killeagh were focused as they set about securing a place in the Evening Echo Senior B Championship final with victory over Newcestown in Castle Road.

In defence Mary O'Connor, Marie Smiddy and Ann Marie Walsh were solid all through as Killeagh limited Newcestown to just two scores.

Killeagh played against the strong wind in the opening half and by the half-time whistle they had built up a 2-8 to 0-1 lead.

Kate Murphy was on target twice with goals as they controlled the game. Gillian Cunningham, Mary O'Connor, Jessica O'Shea, Annie Walsh Noelle O'Donovan, Claire Keohane and Angela Walsh were all on target with points as Newcestown battled to get into the game.

Coleen Long pointed a Newcestown free 10 minutes into the game, but they could find no way past a Killeagh defence that were in total control.

Newcestown, with the wind in their favour for the second half, opened with a Coleen Long pointed 45m free, but it was to be their only score of the half as Killeagh, as they did in the first half, piled on the pressure.

Angela Walsh, Kate Murphy and Annie Walsh hit points before Noelle O'Donovan found the net with a superb goal, two minutes later Angela Walsh goaled and by now Killeagh were on their way to the final.

Claire Keohane pointed a late free for a Killeagh side that were dominant despite the best efforts of a Newcestown outfit that battled to the very end.

Scorers for Killeagh: K Murphy 2-1 (0-10), Angela Walsh 1-3, N O'Donovan 1-1, Annie Walsh 0-3, C Keohane 0-2 (0-10), G Cunningham 0-1.

Newcestown: C Long 0-2 (0-10), 0-1 45'.

KILLEAGH: S Beausang; S Smiddy, M Smiddy, Aoife Walsh; AM Walsh, M O'Connor, N O'Keefe; J O'Shea, B Stack; C Keohane (c), Annie Walsh, Angela Walsh; G Cunningham, K Murphy, N O'Donovan. Subs: R Culligan for G Cunningham (36), E O'Neill for K Murphy (48), S Landers for B Stack (53), D Cunningham for N O'Donovan (58).

NEWCESTOWN: L O'Sullivan; M Crowley, F Deasy, G O'Mahony; A Coughlan, F Crowley, C O'Mahony, T McCarthy, E Crowley; C Long, S Deasy, A Crowley; H O'Mahony, C Desmond, G Cronin. Subs: K Murphy for C O'Mahony (19), E Goomey for K Murphy (48), U Crowley for C Long (54).

Ref: Michael Sheehan (Droghda).

Inniscarra's Burke breaks the deadlock in added time

Inniscarra 0-9
Douglas 0-8

A LAURA BURKE point eight minutes into injury time finally broke the deadlock between Inniscarra and Douglas in an enthralling Evening Echo senior camogie championship semi-final replay in Owens yesterday. There were just four points from play in a physical, intense 75-minute game with the sides level five times, though the better side advanced. Both sides were guilty of a number of wides in the opening 12 minutes before

Katrina Mackey registered Douglas' opening score with Fiona O'Connell replying two minutes later.

For the second week running Inniscarra seemed more threatening up front but Amanda O'Regan cleared a lot of ball and with the ever dependable Jessica Kavanagh manning the posts Inniscarra's attacking bore little return. Douglas lacked firepower with Sinead Ni Riain having little to do in comparison to her counterpart. Similar to seven days ago both defences had a big say. Dogged and physical it was obvious at half-time, with Douglas leading 0-4 to 0-3, that

very little was going to separate the sides at the end.

For that reason discipline was crucial and in the second period Inniscarra won here, with Douglas guilty of giving away a plethora of frees as the game entered the final quarter. Niamh Dilworth was heavily involved and with Fiona O'Connell having a fine game Inniscarra took a one-point lead 11 minutes into the second half. A 45 by Amanda O'Regan and two

Katrina Mackey frees gave the city side a two-point advantage again by the 49th minute. But from here on it was Inniscarra who attacked incessantly, despite losing the services of Rena Buckley through injury moments earlier. They edged a point in front before another Katrina Mackey free levelled it as the game entered injury time. With a number of stoppages additional time was on the cards and 11 minutes were played. Both sides had chances yet it was Burke, who grabbed her's and Inniscarra, head to their first final in five years when they take on Imokilly.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-4 (0-10), N Dilworth 0-2, L Burke 0-1.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-7 (0-5 F, 0-1 45), A O'Regan 0-1 F.

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; R O'Mahony, L Hayes, M Buckley; K Jones, R Buckley, A Kavanagh; O Healy; J Casey; F O'Connell, M O'Sullivan, N Dilworth; L Burke, N McCarthy, M Cosgrove.

Subs: A Twohig for M Cosgrove (26), E Kingston for R Buckley (47), L Buckley for O Healy (65).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; E Jordan, M Harkin, S Duggan; A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan; P Mackey, C Murphy; C Lynch, J White, K Mackey; Aine O'Donovan, Aileen O'Donovan, C Clarke.

Subs: R O'Sullivan for C Clarke (42), S Long for C Murphy (60), L O'Mahony for Aileen O'Donovan (62).

Referee: Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheale).

Clear goal in mind

"NO DRINK could substitute for the feeling of winning an All-Ireland." This was how goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy summed up her elation at Wexford's two-point win over Galway in this year's camogie final.

Immediately after winning their fifth All-Ireland senior camogie championship, Mags just wanted to get a good night's sleep. "Since then I've been getting back to my routine, eating good food, having good exercise, embracing everything around the celebrations," says the 22-year-old.

From Piercestown, a village just outside Wexford town, Mags was a sales and marketing manager with a health and fitness club in Dublin until her contract ended just a week before the All-Ireland. "I'm taking a bit of a break at the moment and keeping my options open," she says.

What shape are you in?

I'm comfortable with the shape I'm in. The weighing scales doesn't come into it — I weigh myself from a training point of view but not because I'm hung up on weight. I tend to enjoy myself in the gym or occasionally play hockey when I'm home in Wexford.

Do you have any health concerns?

Not as such. I had trouble with my stomach over the summer and was in hospital. I had too much acidity and had digestive problems as a result — I was on medication for it.

What are your healthiest eating habits?

I always eat breakfast — brown bread, with a cup of tea as a caffeine kick-start. I eat a lot of fruit and nuts in the car. I always have a flask of water with me so I'm not carrying around bottles of water.

What's your guiltiest pleasure?

I'm carbs-mad. I love Italian food. When I want to let my hair down, it's Italian all the way.

What would keep you awake at night?

Not much after a day's work but I didn't have a good sleeping pattern coming up to the All-Ireland. Waiting for the game to come around, you're visualising it at night and your mind's racing.

How do you relax?

I believe in power naps, especially before training. Also, I'd hit the water — go for a walk along the beach. Sea breezes can be very helpful when it comes to relaxing.

When did you last cry?

Coming down on the bus to Wexford after we'd won the All-Ireland. My family and all my relations were in Oilgate village and there was a bonfire going. They were so proud of me, lifting me up. It was fantastic. I got a bit emotional.

What would you change about your appearance?

I'd like to think I wouldn't change anything. You are who you are. Some days you might have a spot here — the next day it's gone, so no, I wouldn't change anything.

What's your favourite smell?

Dinner cooking — that smell of home, of safety and security.

"I eat a lot of fruit and nuts in the car. I always have a flask of water with me so I'm not carrying around bottles of water"

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Alex Ferguson — he'd speak his mind and I like people who do that. Also I'd have someone musical so that we'd have a sing-song — probably Newton Faulkner — and a woman too for a bit of girl-power. I'd invite Cheryl Cole.

What trait do you least like in others?

Fakeness — I like people who are themselves and are straight.

What trait do you least like in yourself?

Some people probably think I go on a bit, but I'm happy with who I am.

Do you pray?

I do — I come from a very Catholic background. As a team, we had Mass before the All-Ireland. I think that helped.

What would cheer up your day?

Just seeing friends and family.

Helen O'Callaghan

SAFE HANDS: Wexford goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy, follows a winning formula, in sport and health.

Picture: Patrick Browne

Inniscarra determined to land first senior title

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior Camogie final: Inniscarra v Imokilly, CIT, 7.30pm

THE one trait you must have in any championship game is respect for your opponents, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

Respect is top of the agenda for Irene O'Keefe and Emmett Fennell when their sides face each other in the 2010 mouth-watering county final in CIT on Sunday evening.

Irene, a former dynamic forward with Inniscarra and

CAMOGIE

Cork, forms part of a back-room team involving Sean Twohig, Fergal O'Leary and Paula Goggins. From the outset of 2010 she felt, after playing Imokilly in challenge games, that should Imokilly get the right structure in place, they would be the team to watch.

Imokilly did get their house in order, so often a hard thing to do with divisional sides.

Emmett Fennell, Frank

Flannery, Mags Finn and Don Ryan took over the helm and once that structure was in place organisation and commitment were always going to be in situ.

Irene recalls: "Our club was founded in 1967. We have enjoyed so much underage success and we need to be landing a senior title at this stage."

"We hadn't won the first round in a couple of years. For that reason we treated our first round like a county final."

In a pulsating semi-final

replay against Douglas, which saw the game level five times, it was Inniscarra which carved out a victory. That victory was all the more commendable when one considers they lost their leader, Rena Buckley, midway through the second half. Irene says they'd "have lost that two years ago."

Imokilly have gelled like a club side, the bulk of the panel coming from senior B finalists Killeagh, Sars and Fr O'Neill's. They have an array of strong clubs to pick from. Yet talented as they

might be as individuals, getting them to gel as a unit is the key. The longer the season went on for Imokilly the stronger they became as one.

Emmett Fennell, manager of the side, holds Inniscarra in very high esteem. "They're a great side with great heart. We'll certainly be up against it. I suppose everything is in their favour at the moment. With 12 of our panel involved with Killeagh in the senior B final on Saturday it is bound to have an affect."

Antrim crowned Gala All Ireland Premier Junior Champions

GALA All Ireland Premier Junior Championship Replay

Antrim 2-10
Waterford 0-12

As the old saying goes, goals win games, and in this Gala Premier Junior All Ireland Final replay it rang true yet again. Antrim found the net twice in the second half to see off the challenge of Waterford who had come back to force a replay in Croke Park on September 12th.

The Deise were looking good in the first half with the aid of a strong breeze, but after the change of ends it was the Ulster outfit who made better use of the elements with Michaela Convery and Laura Connolly's goals proving decisive.

In the opening half hour it was Waterford who raced clear with Aine Lyng proving very accurate from placed balls. After Jane Adams opened the scoring Lyng hit her first and had hit four points after 17 minutes.

Adams and Karen Kelly exchanged scores before Waterford put on the power to hit three more points without reply through Lyng, Niamh Rockett and a free from Poc Fada champion Patricia Jackman.

At the break the scoreline read 0-9 to 0-3 in Waterford's favour and it looked like they were well on their way to making up for last year's heartbreak. But, Antrim emerged a totally different team for the second half and began to dominate with Rhona Torney imposing herself on midfield matters.

With the wind at their backs Antrim began to find Jane Adams and Racquel McCarry with good ball and they really came to life. Torney and Aine Lyng swapped scores before the first goal of the day. Michaela Convery made a great fetch from a McCarry ball and dispatched it emphatically.

McCarry, now on free duty, converted two in quick succession before Kerrie O'Neill made it all square. Another McCarry free saw Antrim in front for the first time since the first minute. The breeze was a major factor as was demonstrated when Patricia Jackman's free dropped short.

Aine Lyng finally got her side going again having failed to score for over 20 minutes but soon Waterford were dealt a knockout blow as newly-introduced Laura Connolly found the net. Aine Lyng tapped over another free as the game entered injury time, but Shannon Graham had the last say in the scoring stakes.

Waterford will hope it's third time lucky next year, but luck had little to do with a deserved Antrim win built on a quality second half showing.

WATERFORD: Ashling O'Brien; Emma Hannon, Shona Curran, Kate Marie Hearn; Pauline Cunningham, Patricia Jackman 0-1 (f), Jenny Simpson; Charlotte Maher, Shauna Kiernan; Nicola Morrissey, Aine Lyng 0-8 (3 45, 3f), Jenny McCarthy; Niamh Rockett 0-2, Ashling Kelly, Karen Kelly 0-1.
Subs: Deirdre Fahy for Kelly (20mins), Mairead Murphy for Kiernan (38mins), Mary O'Donnell for Fahy (57mins).

ANTRIM: Mairead Graham; Colleen Doherty, Aisling Jackson, Muirinn Quinn; Bronagh Orchin, Ashling McCall, Emma Connolly; Rhona Torney 0-1, Kerrie O'Neill 0-1; Michaela Convery 1-1, Natalie McGuinness, Shannon Graham 0-1; Racquel McCarry 0-4 (3f), Katie McAleese, Jane Adams 0-2 (45, 1 f).
Subs: Charlene Hamill for McAleese (42mins), Bernie McKinley for Doherty (50mins), Laura Connolly 1-0 for McCall (55mins)

REFEREE: Killian Looney (Cork)
PLAYER OF THE MATCH

As it was with their respective teams a number of players performed well in each half, notably Aine Lyng for the Deise with Racquel McCarry making a great final 30 minutes. However, over the contest Rhona Torney was a consistent performer and deservedly picked up the honour. Her workrate was immense and she also chipped in with a point.

President's October Blog

Autumn leaves means that all the inter county All Ireland finals are now settled. The provincial distribution of titles is interesting. Munster counties are notable absentees amongst the national silverware.



Leinster took majority honours at adult level with champions, Wexford (Senior), Offaly (Intermediate) and Kildare (Junior A).

Antrim (Premier Junior) and Monaghan (Junior B) ensured some Ulster spoils.

At underage, Galway, Derry and Carlow were unique achievers. Incredibly, they all won All Ireland doubles at minor and under 16 - Galway (Minor and under 16A); Derry (Minor and 16B) and Carlow (Minor and Under 16B).

Thanking you

A word of thanks to all Camogie teams, managements and of course 17,300 supporters. You ensured All Ireland Sunday in Croke Park was a great success.

Hosting three Camogie finals was historic and very well received. There was excellent reaction to other innovations too including:

- Participation of 200 families and 50 community leaders from minority ethnic groups
- Players' names on back of their jerseys
- Fair play initiative where opposing senior players lined up to shake hands in pre-match parade
- Accommodation of the attendance in Hogan/Davin Stand
- Participation of All Ireland Féile captains in bringing O'Duffy Cup on to the pitch

Our attendance was strong and reflected the pattern of increased attendances all year.

Watch out for innovations re All Ireland Club Finals to be announced shortly!

County finals

These are as exciting as All Irelands!

I was delighted to get to a number in recent weeks:

Kiltegan put up a great fight to overcome Glenealy in Arklow for the Wicklow title; Raharney came out on top in Mullingar v Lough Lene Gaels at a very well supported final Inniscara and divisional side Imokilly couldn't be split under lights at the Cork Institute of Technology grounds, again at a very supported final and Celbridge overcame debutants Johnstownbridge to claim the Kildare title. In Greenford, London it was exciting to see a new club on the scene in the Junior Championship final. John Mitchells, Birmingham - just two years old, with a Polish-born goalkeeper and several Birmingham-born players were too strong for Tara's second team. The final was followed by an excellent underage development blitz aimed at growing juvenile Camogie in the capital.

Distinguished service - Mary Moran; Marie Woods

Mary Moran is one of our Past Presidents. As Association Trustee, Mary served on Central Council and the National Resource Management Committee. When Mary's Trustee term concluded this autumn, Mary did not seek re-election. Happily, Mary is continuing her long and very distinguished career in Camogie as she is writing the first national history of Camogie to be published next year.

Marie Woods served Leinster for 35 years as Treasurer and as well as 'minding the books' was

particularly involved in Leinster Gael Linn teams. I recently attended a very warm and sociable event in Marie's Clane club to honour her contribution. Hosted by Leinster Council, it was a bit of a reunion with several past Provincial Chairs and Past Presidents Phyllis Breslin, Mary Fennelly, Pat Rafferty in attendance along with Iar Ard Stiúrthóir Sheila Wallace.

Camogie is close to Mary and Marie's hearts and long may that be so.

Dates for your diary

Here's some events in the pipeline!

Date	Venue	Event
16 th Oct	Croke Park	Announcement of Camogie development funding to counties
30 th Oct	Ratoath GAA 11.30 a.m.	Ireland v Scotland Women's Camogie/Shinty Tournament
6 th Nov	City West	Annual All Stars and Soaring Stars Presentation Dinner
4 th Dec	Croke Park	Annual Joint GAA/Camogie/Ladies Football Coaching Conference

Inniscarra banking on Buckley fitness

Cork senior camogie final

by Sarah O'Donovan

TOMORROW sees the culmination of the Cork Senior camogie championship with Muskerry club side Inniscarra pitted against divisional side Imokilly.

The game, being played under lights in CIT for the first time, has the makings of a classic as both sides have showed impressive form up to now.

Inniscarra have undoubtedly been the most consistent club team in the 2010 championship, having beaten St Finbarr's, Cloughduv and most recently 2008 county champions

Douglas. Former All Star Rena Buckley, Joanne Casey, Niamh Dilworth and Rosie O'Mahony ensured progression to the final with significant performances throughout the campaign.

A major concern for Inniscarra is the possible absence of Buckley as a shoulder injury picked up in the semi-final replay victory over Douglas could rule her out for the final.

Buckley's absence would be a huge blow to Inniscarra, as they would need to be at full strength to hold the challenge posed by a star-studded Imokilly outfit.

The divisional side, trained by All-Ireland winning coach Frank Flannery, were lucky to force a draw

the first day out in their semi-final duel with Ballincollig but eased in to the final at the second time of asking.

Backbone by Killeagh's Angela Walsh and Mary O'Connor, the side also possesses a talented attack that includes Watergrasshill and W.I.T star Marie O'Neill.

Imokilly have threatened to win this competition since 2004 but early exits from both the All Ireland Senior camogie and football championships this year have allowed the side to gel as a unit.

Rena Buckley: picked up a shoulder injury against Douglas.



12 September 2010; Michelle Davis, left, and Karen Nugent, Offaly, celebrate at the end of the game. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: David Maher

Similar paths to the final makes this tough to call

TODAY
Evening Echo Senior B Championship Final:
Éire Óg v Killeagh;
Páirc Uí Rinn, 5.15pm.

THEY met at semi-final stages last season where Éire Óg recorded a 1-12 to 0-5 victory to send them into their second final-in-a-row, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

This year they have already met in the round-robin series of games with Killeagh just about edging it with a point to spare after a close fought encounter.

The stage is now set as they come face to face once again this time the ultimate prize awaits the winner.

Both teams have come from the same section of the draw, in their respective outings both recorded victories over Carrigaline, Bishopstown, Kilbrittain and Glen Rovers.

However, that's where the pattern differs as their semi-final outings did not bear any similarities.

Killeagh were totally in control as they dealt with the challenge posed by Newtown, while Éire Óg had to battle to the finish before overcoming a fancied Ballinhassig side.

Down through the year's there has been many a famous battle between Éire Óg and Killeagh at senior level and for many years both dominated the Cork camogie scene. Killeagh hold five Senior county championship titles while Éire Óg have four to their credit, both clubs went through lean spells with Killeagh withdrawing from adult camogie for a time and concentrating on under age before coming back with a junior B team to take the B championship title and four years ago they annexed the Junior A crown.

Éire Óg dropped down a grade from senior and captured the Senior B crown in 2000 and again enjoyed a brief spell in the top tier before dropping down and regrouping in Senior B.

Two years ago Killeagh were fancied by many to take the title but they fell to eventual winners Rockbawn at the semi-final stage while Éire Óg advanced to the final and ran Rockbawn close, last year Éire Óg lost out to Ballincollig and this time out they will be hoping to eventually one better.

Killeagh are a powerful outfit spearheaded by experienced players such as Cork senior Mary O'Connor who has been the dominant figure in their defence all season, while the winged Walsh, Kate

Murphy Noelle O'Donovan and Stefanie Beausang backbone a strong all round outfit. This season they have acquired the services of former Erin's Own player Niamh O'Keefe and she has slotted into their defence and proved a big asset to them.

Having contested the last two finals and four semi-final Éire Óg must be wondering if their day is ever going to arrive.

This season they have a new management team in place Kenneth Murphy, Donal Lyons, and Sile O'Brien have taken over the reigns from the long serving Con Molone who did such wonderful work in both the adult and under age sections of the Ovens club as they set down a solid foundation.

They will be hoping to now build on that foundation and that the experience gained in their last two final appearances will stand to their younger players, they have always been there or there about for a while and no doubt but they feel a title win is over due to them.

They have fine young players in Katie McCarthy, Claire Meaney and Siobhán Hutchinson, Elaine Scally and Roisin Murray while experienced players such as Erin Corkery, Alanna and Ciara McKenna and Margaret O'Herlihy provide the vital mix needed.

It's a hard game to call, Éire Óg with the experience of the last two seasons behind them just might shade it but Killeagh are a powerfully physically strong side. Éire Óg have been relying a lot on Margaret O'Herlihy to do all of their scoring and if Killeagh can close her down Éire Óg might be in a bit of trouble but if they can stay the distance and match Killeagh in strength they are in with a right shout of taking the title.

Éire Óg panel: Marie Gleeson, Cathriona McKenna, Aoife Hennessy, Katie McCarthy, Siobhán Hutchinson, Ciara McKenna, Emma Crowley, Claire Meaney, Elaine Scally, Alanna McKenna, Margaret Herlihy, Aoife McCarthy, Erin Corkery, Lorraine Murphy, Maeve Corkery, Aine Barry, Ciara O'Connor, Siobhán Gleeson, Clodagh Crowley, Orla Boylo, Orla Meaney, Ciara O'Keefe, Muireann Corkery, Eilise Corkery, Lisa Marie O'Mahony, Louise Stack, Deirdre McAuliffe, Alanna Murphy.

Killeagh panel: Stefanie Beausang, Sandra Smiddy, Marie Smiddy, Aoife Walsh, Ann Marie Walsh, Mary O'Connor, Niamh O'Keefe, Claire Keohane, Jessica O'Shea, Angela Walsh, Brid Stack, Annie Walsh, Gillian Cunningham, Kate Murphy, Noelle O'Donovan, Carmel Deane, Shauna Landers, Eanna O'Neill, Laura O'Connor, Elizabeth Kelly, Deirdre Cunningham, Aisling Fitzgerald, Sharon Walsh, Roisin Culligan, Elinor, Shauna Harnedy.

Mix of age and



Player of the Match in the Evening Echo Intermediate Championship final Katie Buckley is presented with the trophy by Kay Dunne.



Kathleen O'Brien is presented with the Nano Nagle trophy by Sr Patricia after Mallow's victory in the Intermediate Championship, watched by board chairperson Marion McCarthy and president Kay Dunne.

Nine Rebels on All-Star shortlist

CORK have received nine nominations for All-Stars after their All-Ireland semi-final defeat this year.

While Wexford and Galway, with 11 nominations each, will

backbone the selection on November 6 at City West Hotel, the Rebels are still likely to be represented.

Gemma O'Connor is

in contention for a seventh All-Star, having won in all six years since the awards inception in 2004. Cathriona Foley and Aoife Murray are in line for

three in a row.

Cork nominations:

Aoife Murray, Cathriona Foley, Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary, Orla Cotter, Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary, Sile Burns.



LINDA MELLERICK

TOMORROW
Evening Echo senior camogie championship final: Inniscarra v Imokilly, CIT, 7.30pm

IT WILL be a huge day in the history of Inniscarra camogie club if they lift the Punch trophy tomorrow evening.

It is well within their capabilities to win their first title since the club was founded in 1967.

They say that a team which has both experience and youth is the ideal potion. But what if the age gap is so wide that players don't gel?

The youngest player on the Inniscarra senior squad is only 14 years of age and the oldest is in their 30s, so there was every chance that could happen. But it hasn't, they have all blended together superbly.

Karen Jones and Rosie O'Mahony stand out in a well-disciplined defence. Rena Buckley is the leader in the side. She could start at centre-back or midfield but I'd expect her to hold the pivotal centre-back role particularly if Angela Walsh is centre-forward.

Both players may drift out to midfield at some stage in the game. Rena picked up a collar bone injury in the semi-final replay and Inniscarra will put her through a fitness test before determining their position. Even at 50% fit I believe Rena will start.

Orla Healy, at just 15 years of age, has had a good season at midfield and should have a say again tomorrow. Fiona O'Connell had an excellent replay and that form coming into the final is a big boost.

Joanne Casey, very accurate from frees, is winning a lot of ball and creating opportunities. She played at midfield last Sunday. I believe however that Inniscarra need her closer to goal.

Niamh Dilworth can grab this game by the scruff of the neck. What of Niamh McCarthy? I was stunned to hear that Niamh has only just turned 14. Her physical strength and speed totally defies that. She is an outstanding player with a great future, though with the new laws governing



St Mary's Secondary School Camogie coach Ger Dullea holds the Liam MacCarthy Cup with two camogie stars Niamh Gallagher and Tara Kennedy.

youth packs Punch

Call goes out for more collectors at county finals

TOMORROW is a very important day for the Camogie Board, as the annual collection takes place at half-time in the county senior and intermediate hurling finals writes MARY NEWMAN.

As in previous years, collectors are urgently required to come down and help the board and this year more than ever, with the new pitch development now having reached the last stages and planning permission granted for the dressing room development, it's all systems go.

The many clubs that have played on the pitch have had nothing but praise for the facility and the County Board are now driving on and with their plans to construction a pavilion and dressing rooms. All of these plans need to be financed and the annual collection is a major fundraiser every year for the County Board. Players, former players, mentors and supporters are urged to come along and give up just 10 minutes to help in the venture.

Collectors are asked to meet between 1.30 and 3.30pm at the covered stand side of Páirc Uí Chaoimh where they will be escorted through the gates and given a spot in the grounds where they can view the game from and then take up the collection at half time.

Every year the board makes a plea for help and this year is no exception with the four clubs involved in the hurling games asked to make a special effort to get as many collectors as possible down.

A special word of thanks must go to the Cork Medical Centre in City Gate, Mahon, who started off our collection tomorrow with a presentation of a cheque to us at their new facility during the week.

Welcome to Mahon lads and thanks.



Lord Mayor Cllr Michael O'Connell presenting Mary Newman of the Cork Camogie Board with a cheque on behalf of the Cork Medical Centre during a visit to the new centre at City Gate in Mahon yesterday. Also pictured are Philip Sheehan, Chief Operations Officer, Lady Mayoress, Catherine O'Connell, and John Cleary of John Cleary Developments.

Picture: Diane Cusack

erning under-age players playing at senior grade coming into force next year Niamh will be sitting next season out.

I was happy to see Laura Burke start the last day. She deserved that after quarter final and semi-final introductions to be proud of. She may not have figured hugely in the replay over the hour but who did the ball fall to eight minutes into injury time last Sunday? Laura. The right person and she made no mistake.

The concern for Inniscarra tomorrow would be their finishing in their last two outings. They aren't getting the return from the opportunities they create, mainly down to hesitancy at the last minute with uncertainty as to which option to take, costing them that split second and a score. That hesitancy comes with youthfulness. As individuals they need the same self belief they possess as a team.

I have a feeling this game will be decided in the last quarter. Inniscarra have to be very much aware that this is when Imokilly are at their most lethal. Imokilly's finish is as strong as it is impressive. Will this current crop of players end the division's 34-year wait for a title?

Though Imokilly have two extra games played the scoring stats stand as follows — Imokilly 16-64, Inniscarra 8-44. It is very obvious where Imokilly are punishing teams.

General consensus is that it is best if clubs rather than divisional sides win county titles, that no single club benefits from a divisional side winning. After the final players will go their separate ways, some never to wear the same jersey again, depending on their club's success.

Despite this theory I don't necessarily agree. Should these divisional players never be in with a chance of winning a senior title?

Some of the Imokilly players will never win a senior title with their club. Sunday may be their last chance and they shouldn't be denied nor begrudged their opportunity.

If younger club players see the older girls winning titles and individual clubs make a fuss of their divisional players then it will rub off. Maybe not to the extent of a club winning but there is surely some spin off.

Mary O'Connor's expertise on Sunday will play a huge role. She has been solid when games hung in the balance, always popping up for that crucial interception. The tidy Niamh O'Keeffe has impressed me.

I've noticed over the past number of games that if Angela Walsh is quiet, Imokilly are relatively quiet. When she bursts into action the goals come. While not being the sweetest striker in the game her athleticism is immense and she is at her

most dangerous when running. Imokilly are strong up front. Marie O'Neill, Gearoidine Kearney and Emer O'Farrell are experienced.

Should Joanne Casey and Orla Healy line out against Edel Murphy and Sarah Harrington Inniscarra will win the midfield battle. Imokilly need to be alert to this. If Angela Walsh is also curtailed Inniscarra will go a long way to ensuring victory. They need to get more from their forwards.

Fitness will be a key factor and Imokilly seem to have this in abundance in the closing stages.

I wish both teams the best of luck. Don't be surprised if we end up with another draw.

I think I've got more predictions wrong this season than right, so I could sit on the fence for this one but that would be playing it safe so I'll call it.

Verdict: Inniscarra.



The Oranmore/Maree squad which lost to Shamrocks in the Junior A county final. Back row, left to right: Angela Moran, Cathrine Spears, Lorraine Reynolds, Susan McGrath, Aisling Finn, Leanne Nolan, Christina Brennan, Michelle Dempsey, Elaine Hanniffy (Capt), Sarah Reynolds, Emily Gill, Rebecca Grealty, Orla Geoghegan, Ailobhe Flaherty. Front row: Edel Gormally, Aisling Nolan, Aoife Fogarty, Clara Hanniffy, Ailish O'Reilly, Ann Marie Healy, Aoife Bannon, Orla Hanniffy, Sarah Morley, Sinead Burke, Gemma Lohan.



Under 14 captain Danielle McKee pictured receiving cup from Ulster Colleges official Sr Mairéad

Evening Echo
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 Wednesday, September 30 2009

SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

**Imokilly v
 Inniscarra**

at 7.30p.m. Sunday
 10th October 2010 at C.I.T.



€2

Referee:
 Walter Cole, Buttevant

INNISCARRA

IMOKILLY



1. Sinead Ni Riain



2. Karen Jones



3. Liz Hayes



4. Mary Buckely



5. Rosemary O Mahony



6. Rena Buckley



7. Aoife Kavanagh



8. Margaret N O Sullivan
 (Captain)



9. Orla Healy



10. Fiona O Connell



11. Niamh Dilworth



12. Laura Burke



13. Joanne Casey



14. Margaret Cosgrove



15. Niamh Mc Carthy

16. Amanda Twohig
 17. Roslyn Mc Carthy
 18. Emma Kingston
 19. Katie O Mahony
 20. Allanah Twohig

21. Elizabeth Buckley
 22. Aine Ni Riain
 23. Aine O Connor
 24. Catherine O Brien
 25. Claire Sheehan

26. Mary Desmond
 27. Caitlin Looney
 28. Susan Buckley
 29. Rachel Mc Carthy
 30. Deirdre O'Callaghan



1. Sefanie Beausang
 (Killeagh)



2. Naimh O Keeffe
 (Killeagh)



3. Niamh Barry
 (Castleyons)



4. Sandra Smiddy
 (Killeagh)



5. Annmarie Walsh
 (Killeagh)



6. Mary O Connor
 (Killeagh)



7. Yvonne Murphy
 (Fr O Neils)



8. Edel Murphy
 (Sarsfields) (C)



9. Sarah Harrington
 (Fr O Neils)



10. Shona Cunningham
 (Youghal)



11. Angela Walsh
 (Killeagh)



12. Gearoidin Kearney
 (Fr O Neils)



13. Claire Keohane
 (Killeagh)



14. Marie O'Neill
 (Watergrashill)



15. Emer O Farrell
 (Sarsfields)

16. Michelle Barry
 (Castleyons)
 17. Edel Murphy
 (Watergrashill)
 18. Orlaith Keane
 (Sarsfields)
 19. Bríd Stack
 (Killeagh)

20. Ursula Day
 (Fr O Neils)
 21. Jenny Murphy
 (Sarsfields)
 22. Annie Walsh
 (Killeagh)

23. Marie Smiddy
 (Killeagh)
 24. Asling Whooley
 (Sarsfields)
 25. Noelle O Donovan
 (Killeagh)
 26. Ella Ryan (Killeagh)

Cosgrove point saves Inniscarra

Cork senior camogie final

Imokilly
Inniscarra

4-9
4-9

by Sarah O'Donovan

THE Cork senior camogie final ended in a stalemate at CIT last evening with Margaret Cosgrove notching a last-gasp point to ensure another day out for Inniscarra.

Inniscarra were forced to line out without former All star Rena Buckley due to injury but took the game to the divisional side from the outset.

The game began at a frenetic pace with Inniscarra grabbing two goals through Niamh McCarthy and Laura Burke inside the first 10 minutes but Imokilly's response was immediate with Emer Farrell pulling one back.

Imokilly lost centre-forward Angela Walsh to injury at this juncture but maintained momentum with a Marie O'Neill goal with 21 minutes gone.

Farrell gave Imokilly the impetus with a second goal before the 25th minute but again Inniscarra engineered a goal through Niamh McCarthy and a further point from Joanne Casey brought parity.

Casey, in splendid form, pointed before the break to give Inniscarra a minimal 3-4 to 3-3 lead at the half-time whistle.

The second half began as the first with an Inniscarra goal after a goal-mouth scramble but the re-introduction of Angela Walsh turned the game on its head.

Walsh had 1-1 by the 40th minute to restore Imokilly's lead on a scoreline of 4-6 to 4-5.

Both defences found themselves under immense pressure and further

points from Gearoidin Kearney and Walsh put Imokilly in a strong position with a three-point lead heading in to the final minutes.

Inniscarra were not to be outdone though and pointed through Casey and Fiona O'Connell to level matters with two minutes remaining.

Walsh looked to have got the deciding score with her point in the 59th minute but in added time Cosgrove pointed the equaliser to ensure the sides would have to do it all over again.

Scorers for Imokilly: E Farrell 2-0, A Walsh 1-3, M O'Neill 1-1, G Kearney 0-3 (0-2), S Harrington, S Cunningham 0-1 each.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-7 (0-6), N McCarthy 2-0, L Burke 1-0, K O'Mahony 1-0, F O'Connell, M Cosgrove 0-1 each.

IMOKILLY: S Beausang, N O'Keefe, N Barry, S Smiddy, A Walsh, M O'Connor, Y Murphy, E Murphy, S Harrington, S Cunningham, A Walsh, G Kearney, C Keohane, M O'Neill, E O'Farrell.

Subs: A Walsh for A Walsh (13 inj), A Walsh for E Murphy (33), A Whooley for C Keohane (52).
INNISCARRA: S Ní Ráin, K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley, E Kingston, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh, O



Imokilly's Shona Cunningham and Inniscarra's Aoife Kavanagh battle for a dropping ball in the Cork Senior Camogie Final at Cork IT. Picture: Larry Cummins

Healy, F O'Connell, N Dilworth, M N O'Sullivan, R McCarthy, L Bourke, N McCarthy, K O'Mahony.

Subs: M Cosgrove for O Healy (40).
Referee: W Cole, Buttevant.



Imokilly
Inniscarra

4-9
4-9

THE atmosphere was electric as Imokilly and Inniscarra couldn't be separated after a rip-roaring Evening Echo Cork county senior camogie championship final in CIT last evening.

Eight goals, 18 points, passion, heart, sweat and bruises gave the huge crowd a game to remember and oh how they showed their appreciation.

Substitute Margaret Cosgrove hit the equalising point as the third of the three minutes informed injury time struck the clock. It was a fitting finale.

With Inniscarra rocked by the injury to Rena Buckley, who failed to line out, it fell to others to accept the mantle of responsibility.

Many Inniscarra players, and in particular Joanne Casey, answered the call.

Imokilly too were hit for six when star player Angela Walsh had to leave the field 13 minutes in with ligament damage to her ankle.

She re-appeared heavily strapped as the second half got underway, making a powerful impact, hitting 1-3.

Inniscarra got a perfect start. They took the game to Imokilly and settled the better of the two sides. Aoife Kavanagh was commanding at left half back while Joanne Casey was making strong runs.

Two goals in the seventh and eighth minutes by Niamh McCarthy and Laura Burke gave Inniscarra a six-point lead they themselves possibly didn't envisage.

Their joy was short lived when from the puck-out Marie O'Neill found Emer O'Farrell, who finished to the net from the edge of the post.

Player for player Inniscarra were on top yet they had to work harder for their scores. One break from Imokilly and they could produce an end result.

With Inniscarra leading 0-8 to 0-5 19 minutes in, a five-minute scoring burst by Imokilly turned their three-point deficit into a four-point lead. Marie O'Neill and Emer O'Farrell again rocking the net. O'Neill was causing problems, having a say in all of the divisional side's three goals.

Niamh Dilworth's long-range free dropped in front of goalkeeper Stephanie Beausang.

Her first time pull was mistimed and Katie O'Mahony rushed in to finish home. With Joanne Casey



Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy causes problems for the Imokilly defence in the Evening Echo senior camogie final at CIT. Picture: Larry Cummins

Brave Inniscarra survive in dramatic eight-goal thriller

CAMOGIE

Her pass to the running Walsh was inch perfect and Walsh made no mistake.

Gearoidin Kearney and Walsh again struck points giving Imokilly a three point lead entering the final quarter.

A spirited Inniscarra side fought back. Three points by Casey (two frees) and Fiona O'Connell had the sides level again.

Play swung end to end. The tension was palpable, the crowd playing every ball and disputing every decision which went against their side.

Angela Walsh hit what seemed the winner on full time. Additional time was announced. Three minutes in hurling is a long time. Inniscarra were still in with a chance. They would leave everything they had on the pitch as

they hunted that equaliser.

As warriors they triumphed and live to fight another day.

Scorers for Imokilly: E O'Farrell 2-0, A Walsh 1-3, M O'Neill 1-1, G Kearney 0-3 (0-2), S Harrington, S Cunningham 0-1 each.

Inniscarra: J Casey 0-7 (0-5), O-1 45), K O'Mahony 2-0, N McCarthy, L Burke 1-0 each, F O'Connell, M Cosgrove 0-1 each.

IMOKILLY: S Beausang (Killeagh), N O'Keefe (Idol), N Barry (Castletyons), S Smiddy (Killeagh), A Walsh (Idol), M O'Connor (Idol), Y Murphy (Fr O'Neill's), E Murphy (Sars), S Harrington (Fr O'Neill's), S Cunningham (Youghall), A Walsh (Killeagh), G Kearney (Fr O'Neill's), C Keohane (Killeagh), M O'Neill (Watergrasshill), E O'Farrell (Sars).

Subs: Annie Walsh for Angela Walsh (13 inj), Angela Walsh for E Murphy (33), A Whooley (Sars) for C Keohane (53).

INNISCARRA: S Ní Ráin, K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley, E Kingston, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh, M N O'Sullivan, O Healy, J Casey, N Dilworth, L Burke, F O'Connell, N McCarthy, K O'Mahony.

Sub: M Cosgrove for O Healy (39).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

KILLEAGH were crowned *Evening Echo* Senior B champions as they proved much too strong for an Éire Óg side contesting their third final in-a-row at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening.

From the throw-in, despite playing against the strong swirling wind, Killeagh signalled their intentions. Noelle O'Donovan pointed with their first attack and a minute later they extended their lead to four points when Angela Walsh set up Annie Walsh for a goal with a perfectly timed hand pass.

Éire Óg, despite playing with the aid of the elements, struggled to get a grip on the game, the strength of the early Killeagh challenge knocking them and they found the going hard against a strong Killeagh defence where Mary O'Connor was dominant.

Claire Meaney worked hard in the middle of the field for Éire Óg and she hit their first score a point after seven minutes but they were living on scraps as they failed to make any real headway against a dominant Killeagh rearguard. Up front, Killeagh continued to bombard the Éire Óg defence and they hit three points without reply. Noelle O'Donovan with two and Angela Walsh on target with one as they continued to hold all the aces.

In all sectors, Killeagh were physically strong and despite playing against the wind they were in command holding the Éire Óg attack to just one point from play in the opening half.

Éire Óg, with Claire Meaney and Elaine Scally working hard, did at times put pressure on the Killeagh defence, Margaret O'Herlihy pointed two frees and a 45 to get Éire Óg within a goal but with Kate Murphy pointing a free before the break Killeagh led 1-5 to 0-4 and turning to play with the wind in their favour for the second half they looked in a commanding position.

From the start of the second half, Killeagh applied huge pressure and with their midfield and defence driving long ball to their inside lines, Angela Walsh and Noelle O'Donovan fired over two early points. Kate Murphy added two to stretch their advantage to eight points as the game entered the final quarter, Margaret O'Herlihy pointed an Éire Óg free but they struggled against a stronger Killeagh who never allowed them get a grip as they closed them down at every opportunity. All through Killeagh played with a fierce determination, their desire and will to

Killeagh win Senior B title



Killeagh team captain, Claire Keohane is presented with the cup by Marian McCarthy chairperson, Cork Camogie Board, after their victory in the Evening Echo Senior B Camogie final in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

Picture: Larry Cummins

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

win very obvious from the start.

Éire Óg to their credit never allowed their heads to drop and they grabbed a goal with two minutes remaining, Erin Corkery finishing to the net after keeper Stefanie Beausang batted Stobhan Gleeson's long range effort into her path. Killeagh added two further points to their tally with Noelle O'Donovan and Angela Walsh again on target and

they finished in style with substitute Shauna Landers grabbing a goal with her first touch to ensure a perfect finish and promotion to senior grade for 2011, while the quest for the title continues for Éire Óg.

Angela Walsh was named as Player of the Match after an excellent performance in the heart of the Killeagh attack.

Scorers for Killeagh: N O'Donovan 0-5, Angela Walsh 0-3, K Murphy 0-3 (0-15) Annie Walsh, S Landers 1-0 each.

Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 0-4 (0-3f, 0-1 45"), E Corkery 1-0, C Meaney 0-1.

KILLEAGH: S Beausang, S Smiddy, M

Smiddy, Annie Walsh, A M Walsh, M O'Connor, N O'Keeffe, C Keohane, J O'Shea, Angela Walsh, B Stack, A Walsh, G Cunningham, K Murphy, N O'Donovan.

Subs: R Culligan for G Cunningham (47) WE O'Neill for B Stack (inj., 55), S Landers for K Murphy (59)

ÉIRE ÓG: M Gleeson, Catriona McKenna, A Hennessy, K McCarthy, S Hutchinson, Ciera McKenna, E Crowley, C Meaney, E Scally, A McKenna, M Herlihy, A McCarthy, E Corkery, Aoife McCarthy, R Murray.

Subs: C O'Connor for A McCarthy (2-4), L Murphy for K McCarthy (40), S Gleeson for R Murray (45), M Corkery for E Crowley (49), A Barry for Ciera McKenna (53)

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Killeagh captain Keohane marvels at success

KILLEAGH CAPTAIN CLAIRE KEOHANE:

IN her acceptance speech, Killeagh captain Claire Keohane spoke of the honour it was to captain her club: "I am just so proud of the team from the start of the year we said we were going for it and nothing was going to stand in our way, we just took it one game at a time and got through the group series winning all our game, it was tough sometimes we just scraped through and we had a few hiccups along the way but we kept on

REACTION

By MARY NEWMAN

course and today nothing was going to stand in our way. I have to pay tribute to Éire Óg. It is so hard to lose three finals in-a-row, they are a great team and I know they must be heart broken, they are a good honest hard working club and I know they will be back, there are so many clubs out there who could have won the this title this year. There was only a puck of a ball

between a lot of us but I am delighted that we are champions. "We really wanted to go up to senior ranks again for people like Sile Spillane and a few others have kept camogie going in Killeagh and we are delighted with this win it is a tribute to them."

PLAYER OF MATCH ANGELA WALSH:

"We have worked hard over the last few years to win this title and this year after the disappointment of losing the semi-final last year to Éire Óg we were determined to

atone for it and win it out. We got a great start and we were four points up before they attacked and that was important, we wanted to play against the wind in the first half and it suits us to do so, once we were able to contain them we had the advantage for the second half. "It is great to win it finally after all the disappointments and every player on the panel must be complimented. This was a great effort and we had to make a lot of sacrifices but it has been worth it. "We are delighted to win."

Mixed emotions as both sides miss chances

UNSURPRISINGLY both Emmet Fennell and Irene O'Keeffe looked shook at the final whistle, a dozen emotions bouncing inside their heads, writes LINDA MEL-LERICK.

Such was the intensity and pace of the game they as yet hadn't time to sit down and reflect in a calm environment. Instead with pulses

racing and surrounded by well wishers they managed to put a few immediate thoughts together.

"I'm a bit lost for words being honest with you," stated Imokilly's Emmet.

"We had it and a couple of poor decisions I felt went against us. But that's neither here nor there now I suppose. I felt we gave

REACTION

away a couple of soft goals but look we'll get that right the next day."

He acknowledged that Angela Walsh's recovery was a big boost for them after it looked as if her county final was over 13 minutes in.

"Yeah it was a big blow

when Angela went off and she ignited the place again when she came on."

Looking ahead to the replay? "We've a Munster football championship with Inch Rovers next week. We've never got a clear run at it. We're always playing a game before or a game after; we've never had really fresh girls."

Irene's response to the epic encounter was similar. "Mixed emotions, I've gone through them all. Ah, we could have won it, could have lost it, could have won it again so a draw is probably a fair result."

"We possibly didn't convert as many chances as we should have. It'll be 50/50 again the next day."

The Camogie Association Soaring Stars 2010 team announced

The Camogie Association Soaring Stars team in association with O’Neills was announced today with All Ireland Premier Junior Champions Antrim dominating the line-up.

The Ulster side that defeated Waterford, following a replay of the Gala Premier Junior final have five players selected on the team while finalists Waterford take four positions. The remaining places are shared by Roscommon, Kildare, Down, Armagh, Laois and Meath.

The recipients will be presented with their Soaring Stars Awards at a Gala banquet at City West Hotel on November 6th.

Antrim captain Jane Adams, along with team mates Rhona Torney, midfielder Kerrie O’Neill and forwards Michaela Convery and Shannon Graham receive their first Soaring Star awards. Waterford occupy three of the defensive slots with All Ireland Poc Fada champion Patricia Jackman selected at centre back; Shona Curran at full back and Jenny Simpson at wing-back while forward Áine Lyng takes the centre forward position.

Kildare, this year’s Junior A champions have been rewarded, with Regina Gorman named at corner back. Leinster’s remaining recipients include Meath forward Jane Dolan and Laois attacker Sarah Ann Fitzgerald.

In all eight counties are represented on a team which selects players from the Gala Premier Junior and Junior A championships. This is the second year of the Soaring Stars Awards which are presented in conjunction with the All Stars.

Commenting on today’s announcement Joan O’Flynn, President of the Camogie Association:

“The Soaring Stars, like their senior counterparts the All Stars, acknowledge fantastic individual displays over the course of the year. Now in its second year, the Soaring Stars places the spotlight firmly on those competing in our Premier Junior and Junior A championships.

The recipients of these prestigious awards have been chosen for displays which are rich with skill, passion, commitment and good sporting conduct.

I am delighted that this particular group of players from eight counties will be afforded national recognition for their excellent displays throughout the year.”

Camogie 2010 Soaring Stars Team:

Goalkeeper
Caroline Connaghton (Roscommon)

Backs
Rhona Torney (Antrim)
Shona Curran (Waterford)
Regina Gorman (Kildare)
Fionnuala Carr (Down)
Patricia Jackman (Waterford)
Jenny Simpson (Waterford)

Midfield
Bernie Murray (Armagh)
Kerrie O’Neill (Antrim)

Forwards
Michaela Convery (Antrim)
Áine Lyng (Waterford)
Shannon Graham (Antrim)
Sarah Ann Fitzgerald (Laois)
Jane Adams (Antrim)
Jane Dolan (Meath)

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Munster Colleges 7's Results
MUNSTER COLLEGES 2011
Sevens A @ St. Mary's, Charleville. (Champs 2010 BCS Lismore)
Refs: Cathal Egan, Eamonn Browne
Charleville 4-1 0-5 Borrisoleigh
Christ King 4-3 2-0 BCS Lismore
Christ King 6-2 3-0 Borrisoleigh
Charleville 6-0 0-1 Lismore
Charleville 5-4 0-0 Christ King
Lismore 13-3 1-1 Borrisoleigh
Dromcollogher 0-1 2-5 St. Calmin's
St. Flannan's 4-3 2-5 Nenagh
Drom 3-3 3-5 Nenagh
St. Flannan's 4-4 2-4 St. Calmin's
Drom 3-2 2-5 St. Flannan's
St. Calmin's 3-4 3-1 Nenagh
Semi Finals
Charleville 3-3 0-1 St. Calmin's
St. Flannan's 5-3 1-2 Christ King
Final
St. Flannan's 5-6 4-1 Charleville

Sevens B @ Mallow GAA. (Champs 2010 BCS Lismore)
Refs: John O' Leary, Elaine Hayes, Michelle Healy
Rathkeale 4-4 4-3 Coachford
Rathkeale 3-3 7-6 Borrisokane
Borrisokane 0-0 2-2 Coachford
St. Mary's, Mallow 6-1 3-6 Cashel
Cashel 2-1 5-3 Ursuline's, Thurles
Mallow 5-3 3-4 Thurles
Play Off: Coachford 4-3 2-1 Rathkeale
Semi Final
Borrisokane 2-2 1-2 Coachford
Final
Borrisokane 5-5 2-4 Mallow

Sevens B Plate @ St. Mary's, Mallow. (New Comp)
St. Patrick's 6-3 0-1 Rathkeale B
Coachford B 1-1 4-0 Borrisokane B
Rathkeale B 0-1 5-3 Coachford B
Borrisokane B 4-1 3-3 St. Patrick's
St. Patrick's 0-3 2-5 Coachford B
Borrisokane B 5-3 2-0 Rathkeale B
Mallow B 4-1 2-2 Cashel B
Cashel B 2-2 12-1 Thurles B
Mallow B 2-1 3-2 Thurles
Final
Borrisokane B 3-3 2-2 Thurles

Sevens C @ Newtownshandrum. (Champs 2010 Rathkeale)
Refs: Mike O' Kelly, Laura O' Kelly, Deirdre Twomey, Dave O' Conne
Laurel Hill 2-5 2-2 Roscrea
Millstreet 0-1 1-2 SMI Newcastlewest
Carrigtwohill 2-1 1-2 SMI
Laurel Hill 2-1 0-2 Millstreet
Laurel Hill 4-3 2-1 SMI
Carrigtwohill 1-0 8-1 Roscrea
Laurel Hill 3-3 4-2 Carrigtwohill
Millstreet 0-4 5-2 Roscrea
Roscrea 8-2 1-2 SMI
Charleville B 9-2 0-2 St. Calmin's B
Charleville B 8-1 0-0 Borrisoleigh B
St. Calmin's B 2-0 3-1 Borrisoleigh B
Loreto Fermoy 3-2 1-2 Kilmallock

Fermoy 2-1 1-3 St. Aidan's
St. Aidan's 2-1 0-1 Kilmallock

Play off
Carrigtwohill 0-3 3-1 Laurel Hill
Semi Finals
Laurel Hill 2-1 1-0 Roscrea
Fermoy 2-5 1-0 Charleville B
Final
Laurel Hill 2-7 0-1 Fermoy

Sevens C Plate @ Cahir. (Champs 2010 Kilmallock)
Refs: Danny O' Neill & TY Green Carders

Killenaule 0-1 4-6 Glanmire CC
Killenaule 3-0 2-1 St. Fanahan's
Glanmire 8-3 0-0 St. Fanahan's
Cahir 4-5 1-0 Crosshaven
Cahir 3-3 0-0 Carrignavar
Crosshaven 4-4 0-1 Carrignavar
Col Daibheid 4-1 1-2 Ursuline's, Blackrock
St. Als Cork 0-2 0-0 Blarney
Blackrock 5-3 1-0 Blarney
Blarney 1-0 2-2 Col Daibheid
St. Als 3-0 4-3 Blarney
Quarter Final
Cahir 6-9 0-0 Killenaule
Glanmire 1-2 0-1 Crosshaven
Semi Finals
Cahir 2-5 1-2 Col Daibheid
Glanmire 2-4 0-0 Blackrock
Final
Cahir 3-4 1-2 Glanmire

Sevens D @ Kilfinane. (Champs 2010 Cahir)
Refs: Mary O' Mahony + TY Green carders

Kilfinane 4-7 0-1 GC Luimni
GC Luimni 0-1 7-5 Killaloe
Kilfinane 2-3 4-1 Killaloe
Boherbue 8-1 5-1 Pallaskenry
Newport 4-2 1-1 Boherbue
Pallaskenry 1-0 3-2 Newport
Causeway 3-6 1-1 Castletroy
Castletroy 5-3 1-1 Croom
Croom 0-1 9-10 Causeway
Semi Finals
Boherbue 1-0 3-6 Killaloe
Kilfinane 1-6 3-7 Causeway
Final
Causeway 3-6 1-2 Killaloe

Sevens Shield @ De La Salle, Gracedieu. (New Comp)
Refs: Dave Daly + Local Ref

Pres Waterford 2-3 1-0 Tramore
Tramore 0-1 0-1 Mercy Waterford
Pres Clonmel 0-0 5-4 Abbey Waterford
Pres Clonmel 0-0 2-4 Pres Waterford
Mercy Waterford 2-3 1-0 Pres Clonmel
Tramore 2-1 0-0 Pres Clonmel
Abbey 2-2 1-0 Tramore
Abbey 2-2 0-0 Pres Waterford
Abbey 6-2 0-0 Mercy
Final
Abbey 1-3 1-0 Ard Scoil Dungarvan

OCT 2010

Burgess/Duharra win first ever

County Senior Camogie Championship Final
Burgess/Duharra 1-14 Toomevara 2-9
(After Extra Time)

Report and photographs by Rose Mannion
at The Ragg

Burgess/Duharra created history on Sunday afternoon by winning the county senior camogie title for the first time ever but they had to come through a nerve-shredding extra time period against great rivals Toomevara.

This was a tough and exciting game that served up some wonderful displays throughout. Nothing was spared from either side with the marking very tight.

The large crowd that spilled into the camogie pitch certainly got value for money as both teams battled it out with little or nothing separating these two great teams and it had to take an extra twenty minutes to see the girls from Shannon-side hold on by their fingertips to salvage a two point win and a place in camogie's history books.

The final was overshadowed somewhat by the boycott of camogie games in the county by some members of the referee's committee because of the decision to appoint a referee from outside the county to take charge of this game and some have decided for the immediate future not to officiate at any further camogie matches.

Burgess/Duharra were first out of the traps within the opening minute with their captain fantastic Eimear McDonnell open-

ing the scoring after Caoimhe Maher sent a long ball into the forwards. Aine Brislane replied at the other end soon after.

Both sides looked nervous, in particular Toomevara as they were finding it hard to settle and were let off the hook when Amy Kennedy's great shot for goal went narrowly wide. Duharra lost Aine Mulcahy with an ankle injury but they were winning a lot of ball in the middle and Toomevara's indiscipline was also hurting them which allowed McDonnell push her side out to a three point lead with Tara Kennedy also finding the target.

Defensively, Duharra were also dominating and they kept Toomevara scoreless for sixteen minutes before Nicole Walsh picked out Aoife Ryan who fired over their second point. After missing a free earlier, Walsh found target to reduce the arrears further before they hit the front with five minutes to go to the break when Aoife Ryan offloaded to Aine Brislane and she struck low and hard to the net to put Toome in front for the first time.

The sides were level for the second time when McDonnell converted a free before Duharra missed a good goal chance as Caoimhe Maher was

blocked by Noelle Kennedy. However, good work from Sinead Nealon saw Ciara Gaynor bring the sides level on the break, Toomevara 1-4, Burgess/Duharra 0-7.

Burgess applied a lot of pressure on the resumption with the Toome backline but the full back line of Trish, Sheila and Michelle Ryan as well as goalkeeper Paula resisted.

However, they succumbed to Eimear McDonnell six minutes into the second half and Burgess opened a three-point lead. However, the goal actually spurred Toomevara on and they signaled their intentions with Aine Brislane leaping high to catch a Lizzie Woods long ball and turning on her heel she fired over the bar. Although Toomevara dominated for the following seven minutes, they were inaccurate in front of goal and could only manage a Walsh free which left one point between them again.

Duharra responded as a long solo run by Amy Kennedy ended with a fine point from the corner forward. Toomevara struck it lucky though when they took the lead once again with seven minutes to go when Nicole Walsh struck the back of the Burgess net from a 21-metre free.

The greyhounds pushed hard to seal victory with another goal but the Burgess back line held firm. Eimear McDonnell however was deadly accurate as she brought the sides level four minutes from time and it proved to be the final



Jenny O'Halloran (Burgess/Duharra) tries to stop Michelle Ryan (Toomevara).

score of normal time as extra time was required.

The commencement of the extra time was delayed as the earlier injured Mairead Devaney was removed from the sideline by ambulance, but after the first ten minutes, the sides were still deadlocked as two 45's from Toome's Nicole Walsh were cancelled out by two points from Eimear McDonnell, one from a free.

Both sides dug deep for the last ten minutes but it was Burgess/Duharra who, spurred on by their memories of losing last year's final took the game by the scruff of the neck, keen not to let another title slip by.

They got a few lucky breaks, coupled with

McDonnell's accuracy from placed balls were ultimately to prove the defining moments as she converted two more frees.

Trailing by two points, Toomevara's Nicole Walsh went for a goal but her shot was blocked but she managed to point the rebound. However, they could not create another attack and it was more than fitting that player of the match and Burgess/Duharra Eimear McDonnell scored the final insurance point in the dying moments to seal a first county senior title for Burgess/Duharra as the wild celebrations commenced.

MATCH DIGEST

Player of the Match: Eimear McDonnell (Burgess/Duharra).

Scores: Burgess/Duharra: Eimear McDonnell 1-11, 0-8 frees; Tara Kennedy, Ciara Gaynor, Amy Kennedy 0-1 each. Toomevara: Nicole Walsh 1-6, 1-4 frees, 0-2 45s; Aine Brislane 1-2; Aoife Ryan 0-1.

Burgess/Duharra: Nessa O'Driscoll; Sinead Daly/Dillon, Sheena Howard, Deirdre McDonnell; Eimear Dwan, Ashling Cremin, Therese Brophy; Aine Mulcahy, Caoimhe Maher; Tara Kennedy, Ciara Gaynor, Sinead Nealon; Amy Kennedy, Jenny O'Halloran, Eimear McDonnell (Capt). SUBS: Ruth Barry for Mulcahy (inj); Trish O'Halloran for T Kennedy.

Toomevara: Paula Ryan; Trish Ryan, Sheila Ryan, Michelle Ryan; Therese Ryan, Maria Tynan, Lizzy Woods; Emma Louise Coffey, Nicole Walsh; Elaine Young, Suzanne Kelly, Noelle Kennedy (Capt), Aoife Ryan, Aine Brislane, Anna Woods. SUBS: Mairead Devaney for Coffey; Fiona Young for Devaney (inj); Julie Anne Burke for F Young.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork).



When well-known neighbours meet: Former Tipperary Senior hurling manager Liam Sheedy congratulates Eimear McDonnell after the match as she firmly clutches the O'Dowd Cup.



Three happy mothers with their children celebrate their county final success. Ciara Gaynor with her son Charlie, Sheena Howard with her son Paul and Sinead Daly/Dillon with her daughter Hannah

senior camogie title



Burgess/Duharra – County Senior camogie champions 2010.

Match Reaction

Duharra treasure first senior title

By Rose Mannion

Burgess/Duharra manager Noel Maloney admitted he was relieved to hear the final whistle which saw his side crowned county senior champions for the very first time.

"It was a great game but any game against Toomevara is going to be tough and we just got those couple of points at the right stages to get us over the line."

"I always have faith in our girls and I knew if we got a run on them and got a couple of points we could get over the line. Last year we went under by two as we didn't get the run at the team at the right time and this year we turned the tide a bit with the scores and frees coming at the right time to drag us over the line," he concluded.

Captain Eimear McDonnell can only be described as captain fantastic as she comes with an incredible string of success from her long playing career.

"It was always close" she said commenting on the game, "but we are getting used to that and it was obviously tough."

"In Toomevara you never know, they always come at you but I believe in our own girls too as we have been at this stage so many times and while it got airy at times and it got hard, you dig deep and believe you come through. This is our fourth county final where we drew twice so you can only speak highly of our girls" said Eimear.

Commenting on the outcome of last year's final she said: "It's probably wrong to say but it was like a death, we mourned and we never thought this day would ever come again and for the girls to dig deep and come out and win this year."

"I just can't speak highly enough of them and the fight out there was unbelievable."

Eimear was enjoying the moment as she firmly clutched the cup and asked about next year and even next weekend's Munster Championship clash she replied: "We'll enjoy tonight and decide then what" and with that she went back to join the on-pitch celebrations.



Captain Eimear McDonnell celebrating with her team-mates.

McGrath girls deliver in style as Sarsfields achieve senior status

Gallant Portumna outfit come up short in high quality Co. intermediate camogie showdown

Sarsfields 0-14
Portumna 2-5

EOGHAN CORMICAN
IN LOUGHREA

THE emerging force in Galway camogie announced their arrival onto the senior stage in splendid fashion on Saturday evening in Loughrea as a youthful Sarsfields outfit overcame Portumna to capture the Duane Hardware & Foodstore Intermediate title and, in the process, book their place in the senior championship for 2011.

An entertaining game as any played over the weekend, the camogie on show was a wonderful endorsement for the grade and served to highlight the plethora of talent coming down the line with regard to both clubs. Portumna may have lacked the necessary style and skill required to triumph at this level, but for bravery, heart and commitment they couldn't be faulted.

Sarsfields, on the other hand, played with an abandon that troubled their opponents from the outset. Deadly accurate from all angles, their striking was crisp and movement exquisite and while they may be a little young to mix it with the Athenrys or Killimors of this world their time will most certainly come.

Interestingly, the sides had already clashed twice earlier in the summer - Portumna being victorious in both the League final and the first round of the championship. Consequently, when All Star nominee Tara Rutledge struck for 1-1 inside



Sarsfields captain Tara Cooney is presented with the Intermediate Cup by Frank Duane of the Galway Camogie Board.

the game's opening two minutes, it appeared Portumna were on course for a hat-trick of wins.

Crucially though, Johnny Keane's charges would only register one further point in the entire first period, as Sarsfields asserted their attacking prowess fashioning eight scores, five from the stick of the wonderfully crafty Orlaith McGrath.

Indeed McGrath, whose pace did untold damage in the opening 30 minutes, was one of many problems Portumna simply had no answer to. Following Rutledge's early scoring blitz, Sarsfields settled and began to stamp their authority on proceedings with the likes of Tara Kenny, Aisling Spellman, Niamh and Orlaith McGrath to the fore in powering Sarsfields to a three point interval lead.

Point after point was added with Orlaith (0-3) and Niamh McGrath (free) hitting sweet efforts to level the contest by the 14th minute. Sarsfields flowing play didn't stop there as they reeled off a further four

points from the sticks of Orlaith McGrath (0-2) and Niamh (two frees). A converted free from an unusually subdued Tara Rutledge was all Portumna could muster in response.

Critical to the outcome of the game was the decision of the Sarsfields management to re-deploy half back Tara Kenny to full back to marshal Rutledge following her first minute goal strike. The switch proved vital as Rutledge failed to score from play for the remainder of the contest.

Rutledge (free) opened Portumna's second half account, but Niamh McGrath pointed to restore Sarsfields three point advantage. Back came Portumna, however, with Tara Harte engineering their second green flag of the decider. Mary Burke's delivery was insufficiently dealt with by the Sarsfields rearguard and when the sliotar broke to the Galway U14 player, she pulled first time to reignite proceedings.

Katie O'Brien and Niamh McGrath exchanged points to

leave it tied at 2-4 to 0-10, but Sarsfields displayed greater hunger from there in outscoring their opponents by 0-4 to 0-1 to seal the win.

Clodagh McGrath edged Sarsfields back in front with an inspired score on the three quarter mark and that was followed by a point from sister Niamh. Rutledge (free) brought the deficit back to one but, in truth, Portumna never looked like reeling in their opponents and Niamh McGrath polished off the win with two points (both frees) late on.

Lethal from the placed ball, Niamh McGrath gave an outstanding performance providing a constant threat in attack, while also chipping in at the back to relieve late Portumna pressure. Sister Orlaith is also one to watch out for in the future. Five points from play for a fifteen year old is some haul.

Tara Kenny tightened the leash on Portumna's scorer-in-chief to desired effect, while Aisling Spellman, Noreen McMahon, Marese Flanagan and Caoimhe Staunton were all superb. Best for Portumna on the day were Ciara Molloy, Trish Burke, Nicola Muldoon and Megan Moran.

Sarsfields: L Glynn, C Ward, C Cooney, C Kelly, A Spellman, N McMahon, T Kenny, C McGrath (0-1), A Kenny, N McGrath (0-8, 0-6 frees, 0-1'45'), M Flanagan, M Kelly, O McGrath (0-5), T Cooney, C Staunton. Subs: G Flynn for Staunton (52 mins), E McMahon for A Kenny (62 mins).

Portumna: C Molloy, E Keane, T Burke, L McClean, M Moore, N Muldoon, S Conboy, M Moran, M Burke, K O'Brien (0-1), M Moran, N McClean, T Harte (1-0), T Rutledge (1-4, 0-4 frees), B Gordon. Subs: R O'Brien for Gordon (24 mins), N Molloy for M Burke (47 mins).

Referee: J Landon



Sarsfields Niamh McGrath is presented with the Intermediate final Player of the Match award by Emma Mooney of the Camogie Board.



Shamrocks Fiona Shaughnessy is presented with the junior final Player of the Match award by Sean Geraghty of the Camogie Board.

CAMOGIE
MUNSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS
Senior semi-final: Trillicks, Cork 2-10
Burgess/Dufferrin, Tipperary 2-6
Intermediate semi-final: Lismore, Waterford 1-13, Templemore, Tipperary 0-4
Junior Final: Corofin, Clare 2-12
Cappoquin, Waterford 1-4
LEINSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
Senior semi-final: Ballyboden, St Enda's, Dublin 1-11 Mullins, Kilkenny 1-8



The Sarsfields intermediate camogie squad which overcame Portumna in the county final. Back row, left to right: Chloe McGann, Emma Sheridan, Aoife Cooney, Clara Cooney, Claire Kelly, Ruth Kelly, Gemma Flynn, Mairead McMahon, Eimear Cuskelly, Aisling Spellman, Tara Cooney, Niamh McGrath, Clodagh McGrath, Elaine McMahon, Cathrine Kelly, Laura Scully, Laura Glynn. Front row: Caoimhe Staunton, Marese Flanagan, Caoimhe Kenny, Noreen McMahon, Stephanie McMahon, Elaine Kelly, Tara Kenny, Maureen Kelly, Clara Ward, Aolbhinn Kenny, Orlaith McGrath, Teresa Madden, Karen Earls, Sorcha Noone.



Gary Desmond, CEO of Gala, presents the player of the match award to Offaly captain Michaela Morkan. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly.



The Portumna camogie squad which lost to Sarsfields in the county intermediate final. Back row, left to right: Shannon Whelan, Róisín Ryan, Niamh Hackett, Emma Rutledge, Niamh Molloy, Orla Hayes, Clara Molloy, Tara Harte, Nicola Muldoon, Mandy Moore, Trish Burke, Katie O'Brien, Niamh McClearn, Brenda McClearn, Richeal O'Brien, Lisa Moran. Front row: Clara Walsh, Caoimhe Horan, Rhona Geraghty, Sarah Conboy, Megan Moran, Maeve Moran, Mary Burke (capt), Lindsay McClearn, Emma Keane, Brid Gordon, Tara Rutledge, Aoife Burke, Philippa Coleman, Sile Ryan.

Murphy shows the way for Shamrocks in Junior final

Shamrocks 0-7
Oranmore/Maree 0-6

EOGHAN CORMICAN
IN LOUGHREA

VICTORY by the narrowest of margins over a gallant Oranmore/Maree side ensured Shamrocks stay in the realms of Junior camogie as they earned promotion to the Intermediate grade courtesy of a one point win in Saturday's lack lustre decider.

In retrospect, the 2009 junior 'B' champions probably deserved the one point win given their dominance at mid-field where Shauna Murphy turned in an outstanding display. Nevertheless, the East Galway outfit were pushed all the way to the line as Oranmore sought to secure parity at the death, the equalising score however failed to transpire.

Playing with the aid of a strong breeze, Oranmore-Maree started all guns blazing and were first off the mark with Ailish O'Reilly converting a free less than a minute in and that score was followed by a second from O'Reilly. Despite enjoying plenty of possession, however, Oranmore/Maree

were far from economical with the sliotar shooting three unforgivable wides in the opening quarter.

In truth, Oranmore showed an over reliance on Galway U16 and minor star O'Reilly to tally the bulk of their scores and despite O'Reilly's wholehearted endeavours, the winners' defensive unit operated with a ruthless efficiency limiting the opposition to just three scores from play.

Shamrocks' lively full forward Laura Burns registered their first point in the 12th minute and indeed Burns was at the end of a sweeping move involving Lisa and Rachel Callinan that tied proceedings.

Burns edged Shamrocks in front for the first time with another converted free before Lisa Callinan split the posts from the tightest of angles on 24 minutes to double their lead.

David Dillon's charges continued where they left off at the change of ends with Laura Burns (free) and Shauna Murphy the providers in stretching their advantage to four. Again, Oranmore/Maree's forward division were guilty of some wayward shooting which would come back to haunt them at the finish.

That said, Ailish O'Reilly sniped a pair of points to reduce the deficit marginally, and subsequent efforts from O'Reilly (free) and full forward Edel Gormally levelled the encounter at 0-6 apiece. With momentum firmly on their side, Oranmore were hassling, harrying and hooking at every turn. It seemed only a matter of time before they hit the front such was their dominance in the key areas.

Crucially, it was Shamrocks who would score next, a free from Laura Burns following a foul on Katie Kelly, which proved to be the winning score. With five minutes remaining, Oranmore pressed for the equaliser, their first chance a free struck by Christina Brennan was dealt with by 'keeper Rita Coen. In the ensuing passage of play, Ailish O'Reilly gathered possession but her effort tailed to the right and wide and with it any hope of an Oranmore/Maree leveller.

For Shamrocks Laura Burns proved reliable from the dead ball, Shauna Murphy did a Trojan amount of work around the middle, while Rachel Callinan, Rita Coen, Helen Pearse and Lisa Callinan all excelled. Oranmore/Maree showed

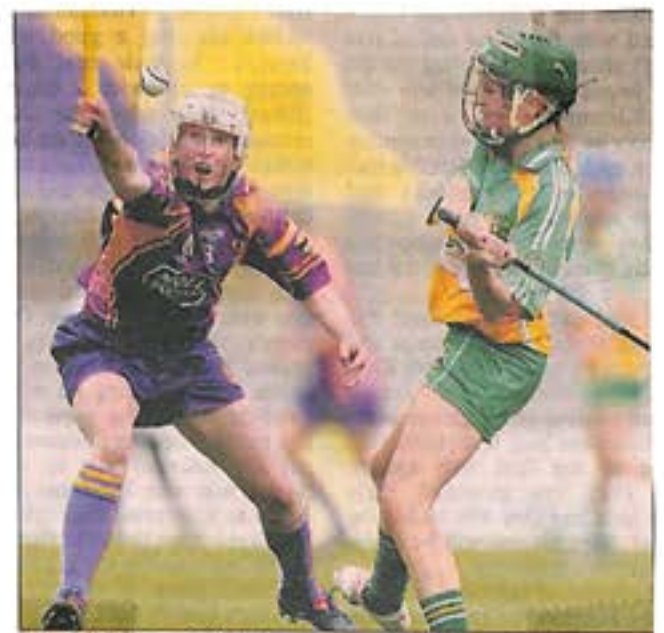
admirable grit and determination to haul themselves back into contention in the second half, but will rue the many scoring opportunities they failed to capitalise upon throughout the hour. Lorraine Reynolds, Christina Brennan, Ailish O'Reilly and Michelle Dempsey were their impressive performers.

Shamrocks: R Coen; L Geraghty, A Callinan, D Leahy; R Callinan, L Burke, C O'Reilly; A Coen, L Callinan; F Shaughnessy, L Callinan (0-1), S Murphy (0-1); H Pearse, S Burke, L Burns (0-5, 0-4 frees), K Kelly. Subs: C Donoghue for S Burke (59 mins).

Oranmore: G Lohan; A Bannion, E Hanratty, A Nolan; C Spears, L Reynolds, S Reynolds; C Brennan, E Gil; A O'Reilly (0-5, 0-3 frees), A Finn, M Dempsey; O Hanratty, E Gormally (0-1), S Morley. Subs: S Burke for A Nolan (42 mins), S McGrath for Morley (42 mins), C Hanratty for Spears (45 mins).

Referee: M Murphy

Footnote: Kinvara advanced to the semi-final of the Loughrea Hotel & Spa senior club championship following their 1-10 to 1-9 win over Peares on Sunday morning. Kinvara will now play Mullagh in this weekend's semi-final, while Athenry face Killimor in the other semi, a repeat of last year's County final which Athenry won by six points.



Linda Sullivan, Offaly, in action against Lorraine O'Connor, Wexford. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



Dublin qualified for the first time to participate in the Coillte Development Programme - at the Croke Park event were Shannon Croke, Fiona Ní Shúilleabháin (Dublin U14 Coach) and Emma Newe



The Shamrocks Junior A Camogie squad which overcame Oranmore/Maree in the county final at Loughrea. Back row, left to right: Ailish Loughnane, David Dillon (Manager), Aoife Joyce, Valarie Callinan, Jessica Deeley, Lisa Callinan, Aine Callinan, Shauna Murphy, Imelda Hynes, Mary O'Connor, Aishling Coen, Lorna Deeley, Sinead Burke, Donna Leahy, Katie Moran, Mags Naughton, Rita Coen, Danica Mitchell, Clara McDonald, Pat Donoghue (selector), Donal Burke (selector). Front row: Tara Treacy, Shauna Maher, Sharon Flaherty, Laura Burns, Racheal Callinan, Katie Kelly, Clara Donoghue, Helen Pearse, Fiona Shaughnessy (Capt), Louise Geraghty, Lorraine Burke, Emma Lawless, Albhne O'Toole, Charlotte O'Regan, Marie Barrett, Una Mitchell.



Alison Maguire was named Camogie Player of the Year 2009 by the Dublin GAA Supporters Club

Inniscarra face a tough semis task

Oct 2010

Munster senior camogie club semi-final: Inniscarra v Burgess/Duharra (Tipp), Ballyanley, 2pm.

WHILE winning their first senior title is uppermost in Inniscarra's minds, they take to the field tomorrow in the Munster club championship semi-final against Burgess/Duharra of Tipperary in Ballyanley. Inniscarra may look upon the timing of this as an inconvenience or embrace the extra competitive game as perfect preparation for the county final replay showdown on October 31.

Should they emerge victorious tomorrow there is the possibility that the county final may have to be brought forward to midweek with the Munster club final down for October 30/31. The opposition is of the highest quality with Burgess/Duharra dethroning All-Ireland champions Cashel in a drama-filled Tipperary county semi-final where an injury-time penalty saw them emerge with a 2-5 to 0-10 victory. Eimear McDonnell, Therese Brophy and Ciara

CAMOGIE
By LINDA MELLERICK

Gaynor wear the Burgess/Duharra jersey with McDonnell playing a blinder last weekend when they overcame Toomevara in the final. Tara Kennedy and Deirdre McDonnell also contributed hugely to their victory. Burgess aren't one-hit wonders despite this being their first senior title. They lost last year's final to Cashel by a single point with Cashel going all the way to claim their second

All-Ireland club title. Rena Buckley won't line out for Inniscarra but the club will be pulling out all the stops to ensure she is fit for the county final replay. They won't jeopardise that. There didn't seem to be any further injuries arising from last Sunday's game so Inniscarra may well start with the same lineup. It will be an opportunity for them to tighten up their defence which Maria O'Neill and Angela Walsh ran ragged. They will face one of the country's most lethal

forwards in Eimear McDonnell. Rosie O'Mahony may be the player to hold McDonnell. Burgess's defence withstood heavy pressure from Cashel and Toomevara. However, Inniscarra have good talent up front with Niamh Dilworth, Niamh McCarthy, Joanne Casey and Katie O'Mahony a good scoring spread. Add in Laura Burke and Inniscarra should be capable of creating the scores. It's a tough assignment for the home side.

McCarthy goal seals Inniscarra's final slot

Munster camogie

Inniscarra, (Cork) 2-10
Burgess Duharra (Tipperary) 2-6

by Sarah O'Donovan

NIAMH MCCARTHY'S late goal sealed victory for Inniscarra in this Munster senior camogie championship semi-final at Ballyanley on Saturday.

Burgess Duharra, captained by former Tipperary All-Star Eimear McDonnell, led for the majority of the tie but the Cork girls, with Niamh Dilworth prominent, refused to give in.

The Premier side had a dream start with a Ciara Gaynor goal in the sixth minute. Inniscarra found the net moments later when a Joanne Casey free



Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy blocks Deirdre McDonnell's shot during the Munster Senior Camogie semi-final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

ended in the net.

But points from McDonnell and Amy Kennedy restored Burgess Duharra's lead to six points by the 25th minute. Two late points from Casey and Dilworth left the hosts four points in arrears (1-6 to 1-2) at the break.

Inniscarra stormed out on the restart and scores from Casey, Dilworth and sub Margaret Cosgrave had just a point between the sides by the 45th minute. But then Burgess Duharra's only attack of the half yielded a goal through Tara Kennedy. Inniscarra didn't panic and were level through Joanne Casey by the 55th minute. Inniscarra's match-winning goal arrived when Niamh McCarthy waltzed past four de-

fenders before firing to the net.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-5f, N Dilworth 0-3, N McCarthy 1-0, M Cosgrave, F O'Connell 0-1 each.

Burgess Duharra: E McDonnell 0-4f, C Gaynor 1-0, T Kennedy 1-0, A Kennedy 0-2.

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

Subs: M Cosgrave for L Burke (ht), A Twohig for E Kingston (59).

BURGESS DUHARRA: N O'Driscoll; S Daly-Dillon, S Howard, D McDonnell; T Brophy, C Mahon, A Cremin; S Hayes, J O'Halloran; T Kennedy, C Gaynor, S Nealon; A Kennedy, E Dwan, E McDonnell.

Subs: A Mulcahy for S Hayes (44), T O'Halloran for T Brophy (58).

Referee: J Dolan (Clare).

All Ireland 2nd Level 7's Results

All-Ireland 7's RESULTS. Sat 16th Oct @ Naomh Perigrine's, Blanchardstown.
Coordinator: Paul Beecher

Sevens A Ref: Paul Beecher

Loreto, Kilkenny	2-9	St. Flannan's	2-0
St. Brigid's Loughrea	4-5	St. Mary's, Magherafelt	1-1
Magherafelt	0-2	Loreto, Kilkenny	1-8
St. Flannan's	1-0	Loughrea	3-7
St. Flannan's	1-1	Magherafelt	4-2
Final (AET):			
Loreto Kilkenny	8-8	St. Brigid's Loughrea	7-6

Sevens B Ref: Paul Flanagan

Pres Kilkenny	2-7	Borrisokane CC	3-3
Loreto Coleraine	2-5	Coachford College	3-3
Loreto Coleraine	1-3	Pres Kilkenny	2-2
Coachford College	1-4	Borrisokane CC	1-6
Loreto Coleraine	1-4	Borrisokane CC	0-5
Coachford College	1-1	Pres Kilkenny	1-2
Play Off: Coleraine	1-5	Borrisokane	1-4
Final:			
Presentation Kilkenny	4-14	Loreto Coleraine	0-4

Sevens C Ref: Mark Ryan

Laurel Hill	4-2	St. Paul's, Kilrea	0-1
Castlecumber CC	0-0	Roscrea	2-3
Castlecumber CC	1-1	Laurel Hill	2-3
St. Paul's, Kilrea	1-1	Roscrea	3-3
Roscrea	2-1	Laurel Hill	3-5
Castlecumber CC	3-0	St. Paul's, Kilrea	1-0
Final:			
Roscrea	7-0	Laurel Hill	3-6

Competitions are all nearing conclusion in county camogie

By MARY NEWMAN

AS THE push continued to get competitions completed, all but the destination of the senior and minor county championships are left to be decided at adult level.

With the senior final having finished in a draw, Inniscarra and Imokilly will have to renew rivalry to find a home for the Punch Trophy but for the moment that has been put on hold as Inniscarra focus on representing Cork in the Munster club championship competition. Their date with Limerick champions Grenagh/Ballingarry is on Saturday next October 30.

The Senior B title rests in Killeagh after they defeated Éire Óg in an exciting final. The intermediate title went to Malin who surprised everybody to take the title with a victory that was truly merited. At junior level the A championship title was won by Blackrock, Kildorrery took the B crown while the C county title went to Youghal.

The stage is now set for championship finals at minor level from A to C and this weekend Enniskeane and Newtownshandrum will go head to head to decide the destination of the minor C title when they meet in Castle Road tomorrow at 2pm.

The minor B final between Ballygarvan and Mallow is down for decision on November 7. Barryroe and Youghal have qualified for the D final but a date to be fixed for this. In the U18 A championship Douglas and Milford will play off tomorrow Sunday in Milford at 2pm for a place in the final where the winners will meet Inniscarra.

The Junior B shield is also at final stage with Courcy Rovers and Inniscarra qualified for the final which is pencilled in for October 31. In the Junior B plate competition Millstreet are through to the final and they await the winners of the Sarsfields/Glen Rovers. In the junior C plate competition Charleville are through to the final and they await the winners of the Cobh versus Blarney clash.

Adult league competition have now reached the concluding stages and titles have already found homes. Enniskeane took the Junior A league title when they defeated Blackrock. At senior level the semi-final pairings are Douglas versus Ballincollig and Inniscarra versus St Catherine's. In the Senior B league Killeagh and Clonakilty will meet in the final on November 6. The Intermediate league final will see Tracton meeting either county champions Mallow or Sarsfields who are pencilled in to meet today Saturday. Na Piaras and Kildorrery are through to the junior B league final this one is pencilled in for Saturday next October 30.

All going well weather wise competitions should be done and dusted by mid November allowing mentors and players alike a well deserved rest and a chance to recharge their batteries.



LINDA MELLERICK

Inniscarra 2-10
Burgess/Duharra 2-6

A **STORMING** second half performance by Inniscarra saw them defeat hot favourites Burgess/Duharra in the Munster club semi-final at Ballyanley last Saturday afternoon.

It was a top class display from the home side which saw them hit 1-8 while holding Burgess to a single goal after they trailed by four points at the break.

Player of the match Niamh Dilworth inspired, the dynamic Niamh McCarthy struck a magnificent goal while the excellent Karen Jones gave Eimear McDonnell a torrid afternoon.

It was all Burgess in the opening 22 minutes. Playing with a strong wind, they piled on huge early pressure.

Clara Gaynor was on the end of an Eimear McDonnell's pass to strike the opening goal five minutes in.

Joanne Casey's '45 dipped under the post to bring the sides level.

Thereafter, Burgess scored point after point as they raced into a 1-6 to 1-0 lead. Indeed only for some good defending where Aoife Kavanagh stood out and Liz Hayes and Mary Buckley worked hard, the deficit could have been worse.

Inniscarra played deep against the wind opting for a four-player attack so made little headway.

The last 10 minutes of the half saw Inniscarra start to gain some control and how crucial that was. Joanne Casey pointed a free and an inspirational score by Niamh Dilworth narrowed the gap to four points with the home side still very much in contention as they turned to play with the wind at their backs.

Casey pointed a free, Niamh Dilworth scored the second of her three top class points, substitute Margaret Cosgrave hit over as by the 40th minute, the gap was down to one.

Against the run of play, Tara Kennedy grabbed a goal for Burgess after Eimear McDonnell's free dropped short. For a brief period it broke Inniscarra's stride.

McDonnell had chances to add to the goal but three frees dropped short against the wind and were cleared.

Opting to play Orla Healy as a protective wall in front of Karen



Burgess Duharra's Amy Kennedy tries to block Mary Buckley's shot, during the Munster senior camogie semi-final game at Ballyanly.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Casey on fire for Inniscarra in semi-final

CAMOGIE

on the way.

Play went end-to-end for the next six minutes until Niamh McCarthy's wonder goal. Gathering 45 metres out she outran four Burgess defenders. Forced wide she managed to strike the far corner of the net from an acute angle. Joanne Casey hit the insurance point as Inniscarra recorded a wonderful victory full of spirit and pride.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-5 (1-0 '45, 0-5 ft), N Dilworth 0-3, N McCarthy 1-0, M Cosgrave, F O'Connell 0-1 each.

Burgess/Duharra: C Gaynor 1-0, T Kennedy 1-0, E McDonnell 0-3 (ft), A Kennedy 0-2, S Nealon 0-1.

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

Subs: M Cosgrave for L Burke (ft), A Twohig for E Kingston (59).

BURGESS/DUHARRA: N O'Driscoll; S D Dillon, S Howard, D McDonnell; E Dawn, C Maher, A Cremin; J O'Halloran, S Hayes; S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy; A Kennedy, E McDonnell, T Kennedy.

Subs: A Mulcahy for S Hayes (39), T O'Halloran for T Brophy (52).

Referee: John Dolan (Clarecastle).

Brave Mallow lose out to Clare champions

Newmarket-On-Fergus 6-9
Mallow 0-3

IT was a bridge too far for Cork intermediate county champions Mallow as their bid for a place in the Munster club championship final fell well short against Newmarket-On-Fergus yesterday.

It was always going to be an uphill battle against the Clare

senior champions who, on the basis of their performances, are much too strong for the intermediate club championship.

The home side heaped huge pressure on the Mallow defence from the start and led by eight points inside 10 minutes, Aine O'Brien grabbing two goals and a point and Niki Kaiser adding a point.

Michelle Browne pointed for Mallow but the Clare champi-

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

ons held the upper hand throughout.

Katie Buckley had a Mallow point but Newmarket-On-Fergus hit back with goals from Niki Kaiser, Sharon McMahon and Iris Kaiser to lead 5-6 to 0-2 at the break.

Mallow pushed forward after the restart and were twice

denied by Carol Twomey in the Newmarket-On-Fergus goal.

Newmarket-On-Fergus added to their tally, with Aine O'Brien, Erica Minogue and Niki and Iris Kaiser continuing to dominate, and they ran out comfortable winners.

Scorers for Newmarket-On-Fergus: A O'Brien 2-2, N Kaiser 2-1, S McMahon 1-4, (0-3ft), I Kaiser 1-1, E Minogue 0-1.

Mallow: M Browne 0-2 (0-1ft), K Buckley 0-1.

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS: C

Twomey; A Griffin, J O'Leary, C C Leary; A McInerney, R McMahon, C Kaiser; R Kaiser (c), J Walsh; S Mc Mahon, E Minogue, A O'Brien; C Cassidy, I Kaiser, N Kaiser.

Subs: J Kelly for D Cassidy, C Arthur for A O'Brien, S McInerney for N Kaiser, C Lawlor for A Griffin, A Kehoe for E Minogue (injured).

MALLOW: S O'Connor; B O'Sullivan, K O'Halloran, L Tanner; Healy, K Coakley, A O'Rourke; Coakley, M Byrne; E Forde, K O'Brien (c); J Fitzpatrick; B Gapeley; K Buckley, M Browne.

Subs: J O'Donnell for S O'Sullivan, S Fitzgerald for L Tanner.

Referee: Donal Leahy (Tipperary).

Kilkerley clinch title

THE Louth Senior Camogie Championship final was held in Stabannon G.F.C. Grounds last Sunday week between St Kevin's and Kilkerley.

St Kevin's started off well and took the lead before halftime and looked like the stronger side at that stage, but Kilkerley hauled themselves back into the game to prevail by a single point.

Before presenting the cup to Kilkerley captain Ann-Marie Kane, Louth chairperson Ann Callan thanked Stabannon G.F.C. for the use of the pitch, the referee Kevin Brady for officiating, the umpires and all the clubs who helped make the day a success. **KILKERLEY:** Yvonne Quigley, Lisa McEntee, Claire Mulholland, Michaela Woods, Elaine Woods, Julie Ann Finnegan, Cara McElroy, Eilish Mulholland, Ciara Rafferty, Elizabeth Mc Nulty, Voureen Quigley, Martina Quigley, Sheila Murphy, Blaitnaid Callan, Ann-Marie Kane, Karen Quigley, Sandra Conlon, Sinead Maguire, Sinead Woods, Arlene Keenan, Lauren Quigley. **Trainer:** David McGahon **ST KEVIN'S:** Vivienne Weldon, Philomena Matthews, Leanne Meehan, Linda Fagan, Eimear Muarray, Sarah Mulroy, Linda McCabe, Eleanor Smyth, Debra Hynes, Susan Byrne, Nicola Carter, Nicola Reddan, Michaela Callan, Dawn Hynes, Cheryl Campbell, Carol Mulroy, Niamh Murray, Clodhna Duffy, Aoife Hand. **Trainer:** Red Mc Grath.

Enniskeane beat old rivals to junior A title

Enniskeane 2-8
Blackrock 1-9

HAVING lost the championship final to the same opposition, Enniskeane turned the table in the recent, junior A league final to defeat Blackrock and be crowned champions.

Blackrock made a great start via the play of Katelynn Hickey and Cait Kelleher, and opened up a three-point lead. Enniskeane never panicked and got the break they needed as Katie Buttimer had them level with a goal after an Orla Cronin free. Both sides battled and

it was Enniskeane who hit three points without reply, with Orla Coughlan on target as they began to set the pace and take the lead.

Blackrock battled hard and never allowed Enniskeane out of sight. Katelynn Hickey hit two points to leave just a point in it, at the break, 1-3 to 0-5 in favour of Enniskeane.

Blackrock started the second half well and were back level, thanks to a Michelle Murphy point, but, again, Orla Cronin replied to edge Enniskeane back in control. With both defences coming under pressure, play swung from end to end, and it was the county champions who hit

the front with a Cait Kelleher goal and they opened the gap to four points, Michelle Murphy and Katelynn Hickey adding two to their tally without reply. Refusing to die, Enniskeane kept their head up, and, continuing to work hard, they cut the gap, with Katie Buttimer pointing twice, and, again, two points separated the teams.

Orla Cronin found the net from a 21-metre free to give Enniskeane the lead, Blackrock replied with a point as the sides were deadlocked again. With both sides giving it their all, the battle for supremacy continued and it was Enniskeane, with

points from Aine O'Leary and Orla Coughlan, who took the title, much to the delight of their players and supporters.

Enniskeane: K McCarthy; K O'Shea, A O'Callaghan, M O'Leary; D Jackson, C O'Mahony, M Nyhan; A O'Leary, O Cronin; S Curtin, C O'Donovan, O Coughlan; D Curtin, K Buttimer (cl). S Hennessy. Sub: N O'Regan for M Nyhan. Scorers: O Cronin 1-3, K Buttimer 1-2, O Coughlan 0-2, A O'Leary 0-1.

Blackrock: S Naughton; T Cummins, C Meaney, A Nagle; M Hurley, R De Faoite, J Irwin; K O'Brien, L Twomey; C Kelleher, J Fleming, K Hickey, M Murphy, A Brennan, A Brohan. Subs: G Mulqueen for K Fleming, D O'Leary for A Brohan, A Roberts for L Twomey, K Fleming for A Roberts. Scorers: K Hickey 0-6, C Kelleher 1-1, M Murphy 0-2.

Inniscarra win place in the Munster final

Inniscarra (Cork) 2-10
Burgess/Duharra (Tipperary) 2-6

CORK representatives, Inniscarra, defeated favourites, Burgess/Duharra (Tipperary), in the Munster club semi-final at Ballyanley. As Imokilly are a divisional side, Inniscarra represent Cork irrespective of the result of the county final, and they turned in top-class display after trailing by four points at the interval.

Burgess were on top in the first half. Ciara Gaynor hit a goal after five minutes, but Joanne Casey hit a 45 to the net to level matters. Burgess were 1-6 to 1-0, narrowed to four points at half-time.

In the second half, Joanne Casey pointed a free, Niamh Dilworth and Margaret Cosgrove hit one each, and the gap was down to one, but Tara Kennedy scored a goal for Burgess. Niamh McCarthy led Inniscarra's comeback, brushing aside four defenders to score a goal. Joanne Casey hit a point to ensure a place in the Munster final.

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, K Jones; E Kingston, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; M N O'Sullivan, O Healy; F O'Connell, N Dilworth, J Casey; L Burke, N McCarthy, K O'Mahony. Subs: M Cosgrove for L Burke (h/t), A Twomey for E Kingston (59). Scorers: J Casey 1-5 (1-0 45, 0-5 fl), N Dilworth 0-3, N McCarthy 1-0, M Cosgrove, F O'Connell 0-1 each.

Burgess / Duharra: N O'Driscoll; S D Dillor, S Howard, D McDonnell; E Dawn, C Maher, A Cremin; J O'Halloran, S Hayes; S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy; A Kennedy, E McDonnell, T Kennedy. Subs: A Mulcahy for S Hayes (39), T O'Halloran for T Brophy (52). Scorers: C Gaynor 1-0, T Kennedy 1-0, E McDonnell 0-3 (fl), A Kennedy 0-2, S Nealon 0-1.

Referee: John Dolan (Clarecastle).

Teams must meet again after exciting final clash

Imokilly 4-9
Inniscarra 4-9

THE sides will have to do it all again after Imokilly and Inniscarra ended up all square at the finish of a superb Evening Echo senior county final under the lights of CIT.

In a game that produced eight goals and 18 points, watched by a huge crowd, it took a late point from Inniscarra substitute Margaret Cosgrove in the three minutes of injury time to give Inniscarra a second chance. An injury to Rena Buckley denied Inniscarra one of the county's finest defenders but her team mates stood up and were counted.

During the game Imokilly lost the services of Angela Walsh, a leg injury sidelining her for a vital 15 minutes, however she rejoined the

fray at a vital stage to help ensure Imokilly kept their challenge on course as she added 1-3.

Inniscarra got a great start and hit two goals in the seventh and eighth minutes. Niamh McCarthy and Laura Burke were on target as they opened up the Imokilly defence. From the puck out Marie O'Neill set up Emer O'Farrell who finished to the net from close range.

Inniscarra held their lead and were eight points to five in front but a five minute scoring spree saw Imokilly take control. O'Neill and O'Farrell were again on target as they drove at the Inniscarra defence. Inniscarra finished the half strong, as Katie O'Mahony finished the ball to the net, and with Joanne Casey converting two frees Inniscarra led 3-4 to 3-3 at the break.

O'Mahony extended the Inniscarra lead with a goal on the restart but three points in a row had Imokilly back in the game. Joanne Casey pointed to stretch it to two but Walsh had Imokilly back in the lead with a goal after good work from O'Connor and O'Neill. Beginning to gain control, Imokilly hit two points and Gearoidine Kearney and Walsh were on target as they held a three-point lead.

Inniscarra fought back as Ger Casey converted two frees and one from play. Fiona O'Connell had the sides level again as play swung from end to end. Imokilly looked to have hit the winner as Walsh pointed but three minutes is a long time and Inniscarra were not going to be denied. Sweeping down field, it was left to Margaret Cosgrove to fire

over the equaliser and she did it confidently to give both sides another day out and the huge crowd plenty more to look forward to.

Imokilly: S Beausang (Killeagh); N O'Keefe (do), N Barry (Castletyons), S Smiddy (Killeagh); A M Walsh (do), M O'Connor (do), Y Murphy (Fr O'Neill); E Murphy (Sars), S Harrington (Fr O'Neill); S Cunningham (Youghall), A Walsh (Killeagh), G Kearney (Fr O'Neill); C Keohane (Killeagh), M O'Neill (Watergrasshill), E O'Farrell (Sars). Subs: Annie Walsh for Angela Walsh (13, inj), Angela Walsh for E Murphy (33), A Whooley (Sars) for C Keohane (53). Scorers: E O'Farrell 2-0, A Walsh 1-3, M O'Neill 1-1, G Kearney 0-3 (0-2 fl), S Harrington, S Cunningham 0-1 each.

Inniscarra: S Ni Riain; K Jones, L Hayes, M Buckley; E Kingston, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; M N O'Sullivan, O Healy; J Casey, N Dilworth, L Burke; F O'Connell, N McCarthy, K O'Mahony. Subs: M Cosgrove for O Healy (39). Scorers: J Casey 0-7 (0-5 fl, 0-1 45), K O'Mahony 2-0, N McCarthy, L Burke 1-0 each, F O'Connell, M Cosgrove 0-1 each.

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).



Angela Walsh, Cork



Camogie All Stars

Mary O'Connor (Cork)
Anna Geary (Cork)
Centre-field
Orla Cotter (Cork)
Jill Horan (Tipperary)

Half-forwards
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)
Jennifer O'Leary (Cork)
Deirdre Murphy (Clare)

Full-forwards
Sile Burns (Cork)
Claire Grogan (Tipperary)
Fiona Lafferty (Clare)

• This is the seventh year of the Camogie All Stars in association with O'Neills. 2004 (the Centenary Year of the Camogie Association) marked the first year of the event.
• Gemma O'Connor (Cork) is the recipient of six All Star awards.
• Cathriona Foley, Aoife Murray (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway) are all in contention for three consecutive All Star awards.
• Tickets are available to purchase for the event.

See www.camogie.ie

The following are the nominees from Munster counties, we wish all the girls the very best of luck we hope that you have an enjoyable night, but above all we applaud you for your nomination and your contribution to our game.

Goalkeeper
Aoife Murray (Cork)

Full-Backs
Cathriona Foley (Cork)
Rena Buckley (Cork)

Half-Backs
Mary Ryan (Tipperary)

The Camogie 2010 Soaring Stars Team has also been announced and the winners will receive their awards on the night. This is the second year of the Soaring Stars Awards which reward players from the Premier Junior and Junior A championships. The following Munster players have received awards for their performances during the year.

Backs
Shona Curran (Waterford)
Patricia Jackman (Waterford)
Jenny Simpson (Waterford)

Forward
Aine Lyng (Waterford)

The Soaring Stars are presented in conjunction with the Camogie Association All Star Awards at Citywest Hotel on November 6th. President Mary McInerney will be the guest of honour at the event.

In addition to this year's nominees the following Munster Counties and players have been the recipients of All-Star awards 12 Cork players have won 32 All-Star Awards in total Gemma O'Connor (6), Jenny O'Leary (4), Briege Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Cathriona Foley, Aoife Murray and Rachel Moloney (3 each), Rena Buckley and Anna Geary (2 each), Sile Burns, Emer Dillon and Orla Cotter (1 each).

12 Tipperary players have won 17 All-Star Awards in total. Suzanne Kelly, Ciara Gaynor, Claire Grogan, Jovita Delaney and Philly Fogarty have 2 each. Una O'Dwyer, Therese Brophy, Deirdre Hughes, Julie Kiwin, Eimear McDonnell, Joanne Ryan and Trish O'Halloran have 1 each.

1 Limerick player, Rose Collins (1)
1 Clare player, Catherine O'Loughlin (1).

Soaring Star Awards.
Aine Lyng Karen Kelly both of Waterford each have 1.

Inniscarra set to break

Newtown survive second-half surge to land U16 title

By MARY NEWMAN

Newtownshandrum 2-9
Éire Óg 4-2

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM and Éire Óg battled it out in a thrilling contest to decide the destination of the U16B county championship title in a game that produced an excellent hour of camogie.

At the final whistle it was Newtownshandrum who emerged victorious with a point to spare in a game where they managed to claw their way back into contention after finding themselves with a nine-point first-half deficit as Éire Óg made all the first half running. Aisling Dennehy hit an early point for Éire Óg and it was followed by a goal from Elaine Scally.

Becky Ryan was on target with two Newtownshandrum points but as Éire Óg applied huge pressure Elaine Scally continued to be a hand full for the Newtownshandrum defence and she added a further point to their tally before they stretched their lead further with a Ruth Murphy goal.

All through the opening half Newtownshandrum had to battle hard to keep pace but they never allowed the strength of Éire Óg bother them and they showed plenty of fighting spirit as they took the chances that presented to them. Rosin Twohill grabbed a first-half goal and they added to their tally with points from Kara Clifford and Katie Coughlan but it was Éire Óg who led by four points at the break 3-2 to 1-4.

Newtown took the game to Éire Óg from the start of the second half and three points in-a-row from Rosin Twohill, Katie Coughlan and Chloe Ryan had them within a point inside nine minutes of the restart. Now applying all the pressure Newtown hit the front with Kara Clifford striking for a goal as the game entered the final quarter. Kara Clifford stretched the lead to three points the Newtown defence continued to hold the challenge posed by the Éire Óg attack. With their goal keeper Emer Scally moving outfield, Éire Óg were rewarded as she grabbed an equalising goal with 19 minutes of the second half gone.

Newtown's Chloe Ryan with a point in the 22nd minute point who edged her side back into control. Éire Óg threw everything at the Newtown defence but they held firm to secure the title.

Newtownshandrum centre back Aoife Twohill was named as player of the Match while captain Becky Ryan received the championship trophy from Tracy Sheehan chairperson juvenile county board.

Scorers for Newtownshandrum: K. Clifford 1-2, R. Twohill 1-1, B. Ryan C. Ryan K. Coughlan 0-2 each.
Éire Óg: Elaine Scally 2-1 Emer Scally, R. Murphy 1-0 each, A. Dennehy 0-1.

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM: A. Ryan, R. McNamara, C. Watson, E. O'Connor, L. Hooper, A. Twohill, C. O'Callaghan, S. Moloney, D. Cagney, K. Coughlan, R. Twohill, C. Ryan, Clara Copps, B. Ryan, J. K. Clifford.

ÉIRE ÓG: Emer Scally, S. Murray, M. Corkery, A. Lyons, D. Meaney, S. Hutchinson, H. Hutchinson, M. E. Desmond, E. Crowley, J. Boyle, A. Murphy, A. Dennehy, A. Dennehy, Elaine Scally, R. Murphy.
Subs: L. O'Shea, S. Mearns, N. Elliot for J. Boyle, S. O'Mahony for A. Lyons.
Referee: Billy O'Sullivan (Bishopscourt).



Player-of-the-Match, Newtownshandrum's Aoife Twohill is presented with her trophy by Tracey Sheehan, chairperson of the Juvenile Board.



LINDA MELLERICK

INNISCARRA could break Cork's hoodoo, that dates back to 1994, in the Munster Club Championship after their magnificent 2-10 to 2-6 victory over Burgess/Duharra last Saturday.

I think it was Inniscarra's best performance of the season and a big boost for them ahead of the county final replay for which a date has yet to be confirmed.

It was a big ask of Inniscarra and speaking with management after the game they were right when they said that if they had suffered a heavy defeat it would have been hard to pick the team up ahead of the county final.

Such was the esteem in which Burgess are held that many felt it could have been a heavy defeat for the Cork side. No such problem now.

Glen Rovers were the last Cork team to win a Munster club championship and that's hard to believe. Sixteen years where Tipperary clubs and Limerick's Granagh Ballingarry have dominated.

Toomevara were the club who dethroned Glen Rovers after the Glen had won five Munster titles in-a-row.

We had some tremendous battles with Toomevara over the years and it was fitting that they were the ones to dethrone us.

Deirdre Hughes recalls the time fondly. "I remember when we played the Glen in Toomevara one particular year, we ran them to three points; it was a great achievement for us. But in 95 we finally beat the Glen in the Glen field and to us it was better than winning an All-Ireland."

"I think we blew the horns through every town and village on the way home and it was only the first round of the Munster championship."

Granagh took titles in 1996 — 2000, 2003 and 2004. All-Ireland titles followed for them in '98, '99 and 2003.

While Inniscarra's intent for 2010 I'm sure is winning the county title, they should push all the way at winning the Munster club title and then the All-Ireland. It's not

a Munster hoodoo

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out of their reach. It's a tremendous honour, the highest accolade you can win with your club and it's only when you win an All-Ireland club title that you appreciate just how much it means.

With the 2010 All-Star announcement just two weeks away speculation is building as to who the 15 will be.

Wexford, this year's Gala All-Ireland and National League champions, have received 11 nominations as have defeated All-Ireland finalists Galway.

Cork, who were aiming for a ninth consecutive All-Ireland final appearance, received nine nominations followed by National League finalists Kilkenny on eight. Tipperary received three. Clare have two nominations while

Dublin has one. The winners will be announced at a gala banquet in the Citywest Hotel on Saturday, November 6.

Wexford Captain Una Leacy and sister Mary will be hoping to top off a great season with the All-Ireland and league titles safely tucked away. They became the first sisters to win All-Star awards in 2007.

The All-Star awards were introduced in 2003 independently and accorded official status by the camogie association in 2004. I'm quite sure had they been in circulation before then both the Downey's and Dunlea's would have a closet full.

Katrina Parrock, who received the Player of the Match award for her All-Ireland final display will

be looking to secure her first All-Star and she is sure to get one. She is in the running for player of the year in my view.

Team-mates Claire O'Connor, Karen Atkinson, Josie O'Dwyer, Noleen Lambert and joint championship top scorer Ursula Jacob are also chasing their first.

Galway have been rewarded for their consistent displays with captain Therese Maher, forwards Brenda Hanney, Veronica Curtin, Tara Rutledge and top scorer Aislinn Connolly all nominated.

Cork has nine nominations in total with Gemma O'Connor in contention for a seventh consecutive All-Star. Jennifer O'Leary, an All-Star in 2007, receives a nomination following her return to championship action this season

after a two-year break. Tipperary, who captured this year's Munster title, has Claire Grogan, defender Mary Ryan and midfielder Jill Horan all in contention.

Clare forwards Deirdre Murphy and Fiona Lafferty have been rewarded for their performances while Dublin's sole nominee, Louise O'Hara, will hope to add to her 2006 All-Star. Louise is a fine player and impressed me in Cork's 1-23 to 1-6 victory over Dublin last June. She would be a more familiar name in the country were she playing with a more successful county.

All seven counties competing in this year's Gala Senior Camogie Championships have received nominations with 45 players short-listed.

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Lights shine on County



The Mallow Intermediate camogie team that defeated Feenagh-Kilmeedy in the quarter-final of the Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship.

Mallow face Clare senior title holders in semi-final



LINDA MELLERICK

IT'S possibly 2004 since we had such an exciting county final.

That year we had 11 goals and 22 points. Last Sunday evening we had eight goals and 18 points with the sides deadlocked at the end.

I was initially a bit annoyed that we were hosting the most important day in our local sporting calendar year on a Sunday evening, after the county hurling final, in CIT under lights. I felt we were doing an injustice to ourselves and undermining our sport.

Yet the pressure the County Board came under to switch from the Saturday afternoon to Sunday evening was immense. Due to football commitments and the senior B championship being a priority for Killeagh (that final brought forward a week) the County Board succumbed to the demands for a switch.

They can't win at times. Many wouldn't be aware of what occurred the week of the game and 'had a go' off the board for the Imokilly players once again being sent out to play within 24 hours of a senior B championship game.

But the initial fixture gave Imokilly a clear run. The board accommodated the request when both finalists were given the opportunity to state their desire to stick with the original fixture or move. Both agreed to switch.

That said, maybe Sunday evening turned out to be a good fixture after all. The crowd in CIT was fantastic with many having to move to the opposite side of the pitch, with the stand packed to capacity. The enclosed environment led to an electric atmosphere and the game didn't disappoint.

The only issue I have with playing under lights is that depending on the design of the jerseys, it can be near impossible at times to distinguish numbers and therefore players. Familiarity with the players gets you by but for those unfamiliar I would think it is a prob-

TOMORROW
Munster Intermediate Club Championship semi-final: Mallow v Newmarket-on-Fergus (Clare), Newmarket-on-Fergus, 1pm.

A BIG task facing Evening Echo intermediate champions Mallow as they make the trip to Clare to take on their senior champions Newmarket-on-Fergus in the Munster semi-final, writes MARY NEWMAN.

It was decided that Clare would be represented in the intermediate club competition by their senior county champions while Cork are represented by the winners of the third adult competition in their county, which is probably unfair.

Mallow have enjoyed a superb season to date, coming from nowhere to be crowned intermediate county champions and it was a title well deserved. All through they were focused and determined.

They had to be at their very best to

CAMOGIE FIXTURES

TODAY

Munster Club Championship semi-final: Inniscarra v Burgess/Duhamra (Tipperary), Ballynaly, 2pm

U18 C Championship semi-final: Enniskeane v Sarsfields, Ballinhassig, 3pm

TOMORROW

Munster Intermediate Club Championship Semi-final: Mallow v Newmar-

ket-on-Fergus (Clare), Newmarket-on-Fergus, 1pm.

Junior Shield semi-finals: Courcy Rovers v Ballinhassig, Brinny, 11.30am; Douglas v Inniscarra, Whitechurch, 11.30am

U18 D semi-final: Barryroe v St Vincent's, Ballygarvan, 12pm

Intermediate League semi-final: Fr O'Neill's v Tracton, Castle Road, 1pm

the final and semi-final stage and this year their efforts were finally rewarded as they defeated Kilmaley with seven points to spare in a thrilling county final. They are a well-balanced side spearheaded by the McMahon sisters, Sharon and Roisin, while the four Kaiser sisters, Iris, Ruth, Carol and Niki feature prominently, players of the calibre of Aimee McInerney and Aine O'Brien are experienced performers in a strong all round outfit.

They have a very busy schedule this weekend as most of their panel are lining out with the ladies football team who contest the Munster intermediate final today.

Given that the Clare champions are a senior team, Mallow will be up against it, but all through the year they have defied the odds to reach the top, so we can expect another huge performance from them on Sunday as they battle for a place in their first Munster final.

defeat a strong Tracton side in a semi-final that went to a replay, but in the final they were superb as they overcame a highly-rated Fr O'Neill's side. They had too much strength for Limerick representatives Feenagh/Kilmeedy when the sides met in the opening round of the Munster championship recently, and they will be looking forward with confidence to meeting the Clare representatives.

They are a young side led by captain Kathleen O'Brien and they will

give it everything they have for a place in the Munster final.

Brid O'Sullivan, Aoife O'Rourke, Michelle Browne, Katie Buckley, Jane Fitzpatrick and Kathryn Coakley are players that have grown in confidence with every outing and they will relish the challenge the Clare champions pose. It's been five years since Newmarket-on-Fergus were Clare champions and this year they put in a huge effort to take the title. Over the last number of years they had lost out at



The Newtownshandrum U16 B championship winners who defeated Éire Óg to take the title recently.

final to remember



Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy causes problems for the Imokilly defence in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie final at CIT.

Picture: Larry Cummins

lem. Who should or could have won the game? You might say that had Angela Walsh not gone off in the 13th minute and returned in the 33rd, then Imokilly would have won such was her contribution when she resumed play.

A tally of 1-3 in the second half was great scoring particularly with her ankle heavily strapped. On the flip side, had Rena Buckley lined out surely Inniscarra would have prevailed? We'll never know now. It's all to play for again the last weekend of October (provisionally).

I understand Rena was given a recovery period of five weeks from the initial diagnosis. Well October 31 is four weeks so I think we can assume that Rena will start the replay. Often when teams possess players of great quality their team-

mates tend to do their bit without ever assuming responsibility for grabbing a game by the scruff of the neck.

It's not that it isn't in them, it's that they seem shy and willing to sit, for the best part, in the shadows.

When their star player is incapacitated they step out of their cocoon and become leaders. That impressed me last Sunday with Inniscarra. They took the game to Imokilly. Trailing by three points entering the last quarter, you would have put your money on Inniscarra wilting. But they didn't. Fiona O'Connell stepped up, substitute Margaret Cosgrove stepped up and I thought Niamh McCarthy played like someone 10 years her senior.

Her goal after seven minutes

was superb when she brushed three defenders aside to rocket the net. Joanne Casey became chief.

Inniscarra got two fairly soft goals, one in either half, on a day when Stephanie Beausang was slightly out of sorts. But credit Katie O'Mahony for being in on top of the keeper like a flash.

Imokilly got a relatively soft goal too 22 minutes in when Inniscarra had plenty of time to clear the danger area. When chances like that fall to you you've got to take them with both hands and Imokilly are masters at that.

Maria O'Neill had a great game, setting up three goals and scoring a fourth herself.

Mary O'Connor's second half performance was top class. After the disappointment of losing two All-Ireland semi-finals in the space

of 24 hours last August, what an end of season she is having with Inch footballers, Killeagh and Imokilly.

Inniscarra set out on their Munster campaign today when they take on Burgess/Duharra in Ballyanley. It's not the ideal situation.

I'm quite sure Inniscarra's main focus is on winning their first senior county title. Yet, they may well look on this competitive game as worth its wait in gold as they pass the next fortnight.

Further drama could develop if Inniscarra emerge victorious today. The Munster club final is fixed for the weekend of October 30-31.

In that scenario the county final may have to be brought forward to mid-week under lights.

Never a dull moment!

Cronin fires as Enniskeane edge league title decider

Enniskeane	2-8
Blackrock	1-9

ENNISKEANE took revenge for their defeat in the junior A county championship final when they turned the tables on county champions Blackrock to take the league title recently, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Enniskeane came under a lot of early pressure as Blackrock set about making it a double. Blackrock, with Katelynn Hickey and Cait Kelleher prominent, hit three points before Enniskeane were back level, Katie Buttner sending the ball to the goal after latching onto a well-directed free from Orla Cronin.

Boosted by the goal, they put the Blackrock defence under pressure and three points without reply from Orla Coughlan saw them take the lead. Blackrock battled hard and never allowed Enniskeane out of sight, Katelynn Hickey hit two points to leave just a point in it at the break 1-3 to 0-5 in favour of Enniskeane.

Blackrock started the second half well and equalised through a Michelle Murphy point, but again Orla Cronin replied to edge Enniskeane back in control.

With both defences coming under pressure, play swung from end to end and it was the county champions who hit the front with a Cait Kelleher goal, and they opened the gap to four points through Michelle Murphy and Katelynn Hickey.

Refusing to die, Enniskeane kept their head up and cut the gap with Katie Buttner pointing twice and again two points separated the teams. Orla Cronin found the net from a 21-metre free to give Enniskeane the lead. Blackrock replied with a point as the sides were deadlocked again.

With both sides showing great spirit the battle continued and it was Enniskeane, with points from Aine O'Leary and Orla Coughlan, who took the title after another exciting contest between two committed sides.

Scorers for Enniskeane: O Cronin 1-3, K Buttner 1-2, O Coughlan 0-2, A O'Leary 0-1.
Blackrock: K Hickey 0-6, C Kelleher 1-1, M Murphy 0-2.
ENNISKEANE: K McCarthy, K O'Shea, A O'Callaghan, M O'Leary, D Jackson, C O'Mahony, M Nyhan, A O'Leary, O Cronin, S Curtin, C O'Donovan, O Coughlan, D Curtin, K Buttner (capt), S Hennessy. Sub: N O'Regan for M Nyhan.
BLACKROCK: S Naughton, T Cummins, C Meaney, A Nagle, M Hurley, R De Foa, J Irwin, K O'Brien, L Twomey, C Kelleher, K Fleming, K Hickey, M Murphy, A Brennan, A Brown. Subs: O Mulqueen for K Fleming, D O'Leary for A Brown, A Roberts for L Twomey, K Fleming for Roberts.

Becky Ryan leads Newtownshandrum to victory

Newtownshandrum
Eire Og

2-9
4-2

IN a game where both sides battled to the final whistle, Newtownshandrum turned in a superb second-half performance to take the Under 16B county championship crown at Castle Road. Played in ideal weather both teams were totally committed and they gave it everything they had as they worked to the final whistle. It was a thrilling contest from start to finish as the play swung from end to end. At the full-time final whistle it was Newtownshandrum who were crowned champions by the narrowest of margins.

The early stages of the game belonged to Eire Og as they set the pace. Aisling Dennehy pointed for the Overs girls and Elaine Scally struck for their opening goal, as Becky Ryan was on target with two Newtownshandrum points. Eire Og applied pressure on the Newtown's defence with Elaine Scally added a point to their tally and a goal from Ruth Murphy increased their lead.

Newtownshandrum battled hard to stay in contention and they never allowed their heads to drop as Eire Og held the upper hand stretching their lead to eight points. Newtown's Rosin Twohill hit a first-half goal and they added to their tally with points from Kara Clifford and Katie Coughlan as Eire Og turned

Newtownshandrum: A Ryan, R McNamara, C Watson, E O'Connor, L Hooper, A Twohill, C O'Callaghan, S Moloney, D Cagney, K Coughlan, R Twohill, C Ryan, Clara Copps, B Ryan (c), K Clifford. Scorers: K Clifford 1-2, R Twohill 1-1, B Ryan, C Ryan, K Coughlan 0-2 each.

Eire Og: Emer Scally, S Murray, M Corkery, A Lyons, O Meaney, S Hutchinson, M E Desmond, E Crowley, J Boyle, A Murphy, A Gleeson, A Dennehy, Elaine Scally, R Murphy. Subs: L O'Shea for S Murray, N Elliot for J Boyle, S O'Mahony for A Lyons. Scorers: Elaine Scally 2-1 Emer Scally, R Murphy 1-0 each, A Dennehy 0-1.

Referee: Billy O'Sullivan (Bishopstown).

over at half time leading 3-2 to 1-4. Newtown were a changed side for the second half as they fought back with determination and, applying huge pressure, they began to prove a handful for the Eire Og defence.

Three Newtown points in a row from Rosin Twohill, Katie Coughlan and Chloe Ryan had them within a point inside nine minutes of the restart and, beginning to gain a grip on proceedings, Newtown hit the front with Kara Clifford striking a goal as the game entered the final quarter. Clifford stretched the lead to three points and the Newtown defence continued to hold the challenge posed by the Eire Og attack. With their goalkeeper, Emer Scally, moving outfield, Eire Og were rewarded as she grabbed an equalising goal with 19 minutes played in the



Newtownshandrum captain Becky Ryan is presented with under 16 B county championship trophy by Tracey Sheehan, chairperson Juvenile Board.

second half. With the title hanging in the balance, it was Newtown's Chloe Ryan with a point in the 22nd minute who edged her side back into control. Eire Og threw everything at the Newtown defence

but they held firm helped by goalkeeper Amy Ryan who denied Eire Og a certain goal with a superb save as her defence held out under huge pressure to secure the title.

Newtownshandrum centre-back

Aoife Twohill was named player of the match and presented with the trophy, while captain Becky Ryan received the championship trophy from Tracy Sheehan, chairperson Juvenile County Board.

Dawn of a new era as Killimor claims its first senior title

East Galway side atone for final heartbreak of last year to edge past Mullagh in enthralling contest

Killimor 3-7
Mullagh 2-7

EOGHAN CORMICAN IN LOUGHREA

KILLIMOR achieved glorious redemption for the heartbreaking defeat of last year's final in securing the club's first senior camogie title as the East Galway outfit saw off the determined Mullagh challenge in a pulsating decider at Loughrea on Sunday.

Lacking the same level of fluency that brought them to the final, Tommy Callaghy's charges were nothing less than clinical in the second period outscoring their East Galway neighbours 3-2 to 1-3.

Although Killimor trailed Mullagh at the interval 1-4 to 0-5, once Susan Keane netted the second of her side's gift-wrapped goals on 51 minutes, the favourites always looked the more likely to secure their first Catherine Donnellan Cup from just their second final appearance.

Aside from the gripping entertainment it provided, the final quarter of this epic encounter proved critical in deciding the destination of the County Cup. Following a foul on Imelda Mullins, Rachel Monaghan proceeded to level affairs, but tenacious defending subsequently from Ann Marie Hayes and Nicola Lawless ensured Mullagh failed in their bid to recapture the lead.

With nine minutes remaining Ann Marie Starr negotiated five Mullagh jerseys before delivering the sliotar into the Mullagh goalmouth where keeper Catriona Daly dropped the prized possession and Susan Keane was alert in punishing the fatal error.

Rachel Monaghan (free) pared the margin back to two in the ensuing passage of play, but Killimor had one hand on the title moments later as Martina Conroy struck for their



Killimor's Martina Conroy receiving her Player of the Match award from Lough Rea Hotel & Spa's Barry Kilroy.

third goal. Collecting a booming clearance out of defence, she rifled the sliotar past Daly.

Having opened up a five point advantage Killimor looked to be cruising at this stage, but Mullagh didn't lose heart, responding with a major of their own two minutes later.

Redeployed at midfield, Sinead Cahalan was instrumental in the build up and despite the best efforts of 'keeper Helen Campbell, substitute Ally Clarke pulled first time to re-ignite their cause.

With time almost elapsed Rachel Monaghan's long range free was caught magnificently by Ann Marie Hayes in the Killimor square. The missed opportunity deflated the Mullagh challenge and strengthened Killimor's resolve with Susan Keane landing the insurance point deep in injury time.

In any event, the fearless

ness, spirit and conviction shown by players from both sides was refreshing and a joy to witness. Consequently, this was as hard and as a competitive a game of camogie played all season and while the opening half was tight and tense, it was to be second fiddle to what unfolded at the change of ends.

In the build up to Sunday's contest it was widely pre-empted that Mullagh would struggle to match Killimor in the physical stakes, instead it was the women in the green and gold that bossed proceedings in the opening half.

Sinead Cahalan eradicated the threat of Martina Conroy in the corner, while Sarah Dervan hurled the proverbial socks of Brenda Hanney. Mullagh's Aoife Donoghue certainly had no qualms in standing toe to toe with Galway senior Ann Marie Hayes. If anything, the feisty half forward came out on top in their

intriguing battle.

Hugely impressive Mullagh forward Rachel Monaghan opened the scoring from a free on 37 seconds, but successive points from the stick of Martina Conroy (2 free's and '45) had Killimor 3-1 up by the 13th minute.

Monaghan was again involved in Mullagh's second score this time however, the umpire was reaching for the green flag. The corners forwards delivery broke in the square and Cathy Bowes connected with the leather to nudge Mullagh into a slender advantage. Martina Conroy (free) levelled proceedings thereafter, but Killimor were clearly rattled by their opponents hunger and desire.

It was tit for tat for much of the opening half with Aoife Donoghue edging Mullagh back in front, before Ann Marie Starr split the posts to leave the sides deadlocked. Indeed, Starr's 19th minute effort was Killimor's first score from play in the contest.

Rachel Monaghan converted a pair of free's approaching the break to hand Mullagh a deserved interval lead. Their first half display was full of purpose and inventiveness, but failure to replicate it on the turnover is largely due to the positional changes rang by Killimor where Ann Marie Hayes moved to centre back, while Martina Conroy was brought out to the forty.

Those switches worked a treat as within twelve seconds of the throw-in Killimor registered their first goal of the tie through opportunist Lorraine Donnelly. Rachel Monaghan issued Mullagh's reply that score cancelled out by opposing free taker Martina Conroy.

From there in Killimor began to gain a strangle hold on proceedings with those fortuitous goals pivotal in carving out the win. Nonetheless, one senses that Sunday represented a new era in Galway Camogie where these two rivals are



Killimor's Martina Conroy looks to set up another attack in the county sencho. PHOTOS: TONY O'HEHIR.

to set to dominate the local scene for some time to come.

In midfield Killimor's Ann Marie Starr once again excelled, while in attack Martina Conroy posed a constant threat finishing with a personal tally of 1-5-four from placed balls-with Susan Keane dangerous in patches.

Further back the field, Nicola Lawless put in a rock solid hours work at full, Marie Duane impressed on the wing, while Karen Brien and Ann Marie Hayes (second half) mopped up a huge amount of ball at a time when Mullagh desperately craved scores.

Sinead Cahalan was unquestionably Mullagh's stand out performer over the hour delivering an inspired performance at corner back. Deirdre Kelly more than held her own in the half back line, where Sarah Dervan was the undisputed winner in her key duel with Brenda Hanney.

In attack, the work rate was there but the clinical efficiency required at crucial moments evaded Mullagh. Still, Collette Glennon led the offensive unit superbly along with Rachel

Monaghan-Galway's most promising underage player.

The talent is certainly there and it's only a matter of time before Mullagh return to the helm of Galway camogie.

For now though, Killimor

reign supreme.

Killimor: H Campbell, J Brien, N Lawless, N Hanney, M Duane, K Brien, AM Hayes, AM Starr (0-1), E Haverly, S Keane (1-1), B Hanney, A Lagana, M Conroy (1-5, 0-3 free's, 0-1 '45), C Conroy, L Donnelly (1-0). Subs: H Quinn for Lagana (36 mins).

Mullagh: C Daly, S Cahalan, A Hobbins, J Coone, D Kelly, S Dervan, C Donoghue, T Manton, N O'Brien, S Kelly, C Glennon, A Donoghue (0-1), R Monaghan (0-6, 0-6 free's), C Bowes (1-0), I Mullins. Subs: A Clarke (1-0) for C Donoghue (1-1), N Murphy for S Kelly (52 mins).

Referee: R McNicholas.

All-Ireland Club finals set for Croke Park

CAMOGIE: The All-Ireland Club finals are to be held in Croke Park for the first time since 1972. The 2010 senior and intermediate club finals will be staged as a double header on March 6, 2011 in GAA headquarters.

It is also the first year of an All-Ireland competition for the intermediate club grade.

The club championship previously only allowed for senior and junior champions to progress to All-Ireland honours.

There will also be new All-Ireland senior club champions as title holders Cahal and beaten finalists Athenry were defeated in their respective county finals. Both clubs have dominated the club championship for numerous years.



OCT 2010

Camogie > MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL PREVIEW

Newmarket keen to make amends



**Newmarket-on-Fergus
v Lismore (Waterford)**
@ Cashel, Saturday 1pm

Eoin Brennan

WHILE Newmarket had a facile 6-9 to 0-3 point victory over Cork side Mallow in the semi-final over a week ago, they certainly won't have it all their own way for this weekend's final that sees the newly crowned county senior champions take on the rapidly emerging force of Waterford's Lismore whose star potential has been noted for some time now.

Much like Newmarket, Lismore stopped their county final opponents from completing a three-in-a-row of senior titles, beating St Anne's by 2-9 to 1-7 to bridge a nine year gap from their last senior title.

Of course, many will point to the influence of Waterford seniors Shona Curran (who was named at full-back on the Soaring Stars team, the All-Stars for the All-Ireland Junior Championship of which Waterford were finalists), goalkeeper Ashling O'Brien, Shauna Kiernan, Nicola Morrissey and Grainne Kinneally. However, the real source of Lismore's recent success lies with Blackwater Community School who have blossomed as one of the leading country schools in the country in recent years after a meteoric rise. Indeed, the school almost pulled off a unique treble of winning All-Ireland senior C, B and A grades in successive years but did create history at provisional level when capturing successive crowns at D, C, B and finally the A title earlier this year. That school success has

inevitably aided Lismore's club side who now can boast substantial representation on all county panels. The Under 16's who won the Munster B championship for the second year in a row had Ruth Geoghegan, Aoife Hannon, Shauna Prendergast and Joanna Houlihan in their ranks while the minor squad also have senior star Shauna Kiernan, Emily Heneghen, Sarah Fenton, Rachel Whelan and Ciara Kearney as well as Under 16 stars Hannon, Geoghegan and Prendergast.

However, Newmarket have vast county experience themselves and have predominantly played at a higher inter-county level. The O'Leary's, Kaisers and McMahon's contributions will be vital to the cause as will freetaker Aine O'Brien and the experience Erica Minogue, and after coming up short in the Munster junior football decider, Newmarket will feel that they have a point to prove by claiming an intermediate title in the competition's inaugural year. It could also be fate as the cup was donated by the Toomey family in memory of Trixie Toomey whose daughter Carol will play in goals for the Blues this weekend. It will be tough but having won back the senior crown, Newmarket will have nothing to lose this Saturday.

Verdict: Newmarket-on-Fergus

Munster Senior Club Final

Iniscarra(Cork) v Granagh/Ballingry(Limerick) @ Cashel, Saturday 3pm

Left: Aine O'Brien, Newmarket-on-Fergus, gets by the challenge of Kilmaley's Lorna Higgins. Flann Howard

Camogie > MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL PREVIEW

Enright relishes 'journey into the unknown'

Dermot Hogan

THE Newmarket-on-Fergus camogie team finally achieved their county senior title ambitions this season. As this challenge concluded, another opportunity for further accolades has arrived. Next weekend sees the proud GAA club face Lismore of Waterford in a Munster Final. Their manager Brian Enright gives us an insight into the mood of his team in anticipation to one of their biggest games in recent years.

"We are confident enough. It's a journey into the unknown. We spent the whole year hoping to reach a county final and if we got to that stage, to win it. Now all of a sudden we have another new competition to deal with. It'll be a tough game but come Saturday we will be up for it."

Lismore will also be very confident of success after a similar campaign to the Clare side. What does Enright know about the opposition?

"Not really a lot to be honest. They are a strong senior club like

ourselves. They have a very young talented team. They have three inter-county players in their panel. Without doubt they will be a quality side as by reaching the Munster final they have proven that already."

His views of the opposition are vivid. An incredible performance will be required to bring home a Munster crown. Surely a decent preparation will also be vital for this feat to be achieved.

"Training has been great. The county final win was a huge mon-

key off our backs. There has been a great confidence in the squad since that game. My job has certainly got a lot easier. The girls are in high spirits and have been very eager to train."

Many of these Newmarket girls have already reached a Munster football this year. Football was on the cards then but unfortunately so was defeat. After the game their manager Kevin Halpin spoke of tiredness as being the main factor for the loss. It has been a hectic season for the Newmarket girls but Enright is not wor-

ried about lightening striking twice.

"10 or 11 of the girls would have been involved with the football. We had slight concerns before Mallow in the semi-final as the football had taken place the day before. We got through that unscathed so you can't worry about it too much before this game. In fairness many of the girls focus would have been on camogie from the start. It's more of a priority and that's why I cannot see that being an excuse next weekend."



Jenny Kelly, Carol Kaiser, Sharon McMahon, Ailinn Keogh, Deirdre Cassidy, Caroline Feehily, Carol Toomey, Aimee McInerney, Aoife Griffin, Joanne Walsh, Niki Kaiser, Jane O'Leary, Gemma McInerney



Iris Kaiser, Clodagh Lawlor, Erica Minogue, Carol O'Leary, Aine O'Brien, Ruth Kaiser, Roisin McMahon, Claire Arthur, Sarah McInerney, Trish O'Grady, Brian Enright, Elaine McMahon, Noel McInerney, Paddy Meenan

Gemma on the All-Star trail again

THE camogie All-Stars presentation evening will be held next Saturday night in City West Hotel, Saggart and the All-Stars team will be announced, along with the Manager of the Year, Young Player of the Year and the 2010 Soaring Stars.

The importance of the event will be further enhanced by the attendance of the President of Ireland Mary McAleese.

The nominations for the 2010 camogie All-Stars in association with O'Neill's saw All-Ireland champions Wexford and finalists Galway dominating the shortlist of 45 nominees, with 11 each. Cork have nine nominees while Kilkenny have eight, Tipperary received three, with Clare having two and Dublin one.

Cork's Gemma O'Connor is in contention for her seventh consecutive award while Cork captain Orla Cotter is joined on the nominee list by Jennifer O'Leary, Aoife Murray, Cathriona Foley, Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary, and Sile Burns.

The All-Stars are the social highlight of the camogie year and it is hoped that all units of the association will support the event. Clubs are encouraged to come along and support their players. Tickets cost €75 each and they can be ordered from the camogie web site www.camogie.ie. Closing date for ordering tickets and payment is Tuesday.

The evening will start with a reception at 7pm, followed by dinner and entertainment. It is a black tie evening and one which is hugely enjoyable and central council is urging support for same.

● An indoor camogie strike-to-score workshop organised by Munster development officer Deirdre Murphy — for coaches involved with coaching the 10 to 14 age group — is being held in Ballincollig GAA Club on Wednesday November 24 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. There are 30 places available, limited to three per club.

The cost is €10 per person attending and to book a place clubs can contact Linda Lohan on 086-1938646 after 4pm. Closing date to reserve places is Wednesday, November 17.



The Bishopstown U11 team which won the Seandun title.

Newtown girls add to their trophy haul

Newtownshandrum 2-13
Enniskeane 2-5

MINOR C CHAMPIONSHIP
By MARY NEWMAN

NEWTOWN added the Minor C Championship title to their ever increasing trophy cabinet as they overcame the challenge posed by Enniskeane in Castle Road last weekend.

From the throw-in Newtownshandrum made all the running and, playing against the strong wind, put the Enniskeane defence under a lot of early pressure.

Three points without reply, two from excellent captain Mariah Reidy and one from Sarah Moloney, saw Newtown hit the front but it took a great save from their alert goalkeeper Amy Ryan to deny Enniskeane's Sinead Hennessy the game's opening goal.

Orla Cronin opened the En-

niskeane account pointing a free 17 minutes into the game but Newtown replied with points from Mariah Reidy and Kara Clifford.

Enniskeane enjoyed a lot of first-half possession but they failed to convert it to scores, striking four wides in a row before Orla Cronin pointed twice from frees.

In between Newtown kept the pressure on and a Mariah Reidy goal eight minutes to the break helped them enjoy a 1-7 to 0-3 interval lead.

Newtown started the second half well. Captain Mariah Reidy and Orla Cronin swapped points before Newtown took over. Roisin Twohill, Mariah Reidy and Aoife Twohill striking three points in row.

A Sarah Moloney goal 43 minutes

in looked to have sealed the game in Newtown's favour but it served as a wake-up call to Enniskeane. Orla Cronin grabbed a goal after she showed great skill to outpace the Newtown defence before crashing the ball low to the net.

Boosted by this, Enniskeane applied pressure and from the puck-out Orla Cronin's close-in free was deflected over the bar for a point.

As the clock ticked towards full time Enniskeane continued to bombard the Newtown defence. Orla Cronin sent a close-in free to the net and just four points separated the sides.

Newtown, having been held scoreless for 18 minutes, needed something to keep their focus and it was captain Mariah Reidy who led the charge, pointing a minute into injury-time to stretch their lead to five points.

Newtown substitute Ciara Copps finished to the net with seconds remaining to ensure Enniskeane's late challenge would not succeed.

Newtownshandrum captain Mariah Reidy was named as Player of the Match, following her superb display where she led by example from the throw-in, as her side added the Minor C championship title to the U16 B championship crown annexed the previous week.

Scorers for Newtown: M Reidy 1-7 (0-4 f), C Copps 1-0, S Moloney, K Clifford 0-2 each, A Twohill, R Twohill 0-1 each.
Enniskeane: O Cronin 2-5 (1-5 f).
NEWTOWNSHANDRUM: A Ryan; S Cagney, C Herlihy, C Griffin; M Doyle, A Twohill, C Watson; F Twomey, S Curtin; M Reidy (c), B Ryan, D Cagney; S Moloney, R Twohill, K Clifford. Subs: C Copps for B Ryan (48), C O Callaghan for K Clifford (51).
ENNISKEANE: K McCarthy; A Duggan, A O'Callaghan, K O'Shea; N O'Regan, D Jackson, A Buttner; O Cronin, S Curtin; M O'Regan, C O'Donovan (c), A O'Leary; D Curtin, S Hennessy, A O'Donovan. Subs: J O'Donovan for N O'Regan (48), A Hayes for A O'Donovan (48).
Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscearra).

Inniscearra face tough test in quest for Munster club crown

Camogie

by Sarah O'Donovan

COUNTY finalists Inniscarra go in search of a first-ever Munster club camogie title success when they lock horns with Limerick champions Granagh-Ballingarry today.

A win would see them bring a Munster club title back to Cork for the first time in 16 years.

Granagh-Ballingarry have serious pedigree, including 19 county titles, seven Munster titles and three All-Ireland titles to their name, though Inniscarra should have the upper hand this time around.

Granagh-Ballingarry will once again look to Eileen O'Brien and sisters Vera

and Aoife Sheehan to lead their charge.

Inniscearra have accounted for past county champions Cloughduv and Douglas in this year's county championship, as well as Tipperary champions Burgess/Duharra in the Munster semi-final.

Burgess had beaten Cashel and Toomevara in a closely-contested county championship and were

favourites to win the provincial championship, but a blistering second half display from the Cork side saw them progress into today's decider.

A Niamh McCarthy goal sealed Burgess/Duharra's fate in the final minutes of that game, and the win immediately saw them installed as championship favourites.

Rosie O'Mahony, Joanne Casey, Niamh Dilworth and Niamh Mc-

Carthy have helped guide Inniscarra through the Munster championship, with All-Star Rena Buckley out of action because of a shoulder injury since her side's victory over Douglas.

Buckley could make an appearance in today's Munster final and her inclusion in the side for Inniscarra's county final replay with divisional team Imokilly next month would be an immense boost.



12 September 2010: Offaly players from left, Shelia Sullivan, Karen Nugent, Emma Dunne, Karen Brady and Linda Sullivan celebrate with the cup after the game. Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Oliver McVeigh

LINDA MELLERICK

NOMINEES FOR Manager of the Year have been announced with Wexford manager JJ Doyle obviously among the contenders and hot favourite.

Doyle guided Wexford to All-Ireland senior championship and National League success in his first season at the helm. The Leinster side, who last won the All-Ireland in 2007 after a 32-year gap, defeated Galway in this year's decider, while they also collected division one league honours earlier in the season at the expense of Kilkenny.

Galway manager Noel Finn and well known former Offaly hurler Joachim Kelly, who managed the county to their second All-Ireland title in three years securing the Gala Intermediate championship crown, complete the shortlist.

The winners will be announced at this year's All-Star banquet which at City West on November 6.

The inaugural Intermediate Soaring Stars will also be presented on the night. Offaly's captain Michaela Morkan, team-mate Elaine Dermody and Wexford captain Clara O'Connor will be rewarded for their outstanding displays throughout the season.

Noel Finn managed Galway intermediates to All-Ireland glory in 2009 and took over as Galway senior camogie manager later that year guiding them to this year's All-Ireland final.

Once again however Galway fell short on the day and must wonder if success will ever come their way.

Offaly will play in the Gala Senior Championship in 2011 after their intermediate success. They won the Gala Premier Junior crown in 2009 after being defeated in the 2008 final by Clare.

Joachim has managed Offaly since November 2007. Guiding the county to senior status in three short seasons is a remarkable achievement.

It has to be a toss up between Joachim and JJ Doyle as to who will take the coveted title.

The Cork county championship final has been set for November 14, possibly the latest we've ever held it.

With the inter-county senior championship campaign structured the way it was it allowed for little club activity during June and July. Once Cork were defeated in the All-Ireland

Kelly and Doyle vie for top prize



The Enniskeane junior A team which won the league title recently.

semi-final we should have brought forward a number of fixtures which were initially fixed for post All-Ireland final day.

To be fair given Cork's record one had to assume or at the very least allow for the fact that they might reach the final again. Once the clubs received fixture dates, very few would be willing to bring them forward after Cork were eliminated as short breaks/training plans would have been geared towards a certain date.

It will be five weeks between the drawn Inniscarra and Imokilly county final and the replay and the longer it drags on the less the eagerness for supporters. Although I'm sure once the day arrives the crowd will be large again. I hope the weather remains in our favour for it.

Initially the All-Ireland club semi-fi-

nals were scheduled for November 14 with the finals down for decision on November 28.

Suddenly it seems the dates have been switched to February and March, the All-Ireland club final down for March 6.

I can't understand why we had to go down this path. We seem to copy almost everything the GAA do. Certainly some of their initiatives are very good and it is wise to follow suit but in this case, not.

Our All-Ireland Club Championship has been running fine for years. I never agreed with the GAA taking a championship into a second season and I don't agree with us starting to run with the same format.

The senior and intermediate finals will be played as a double header in Croke Park. Hopefully Inniscarra will

go all the way.

Should they win their Munster final today they play Ulster in the semi-final. There is every chance of them reaching an All-Ireland final.

No wonder it's difficult for All-Ireland club champions to retain their county trophy as the seasons all roll into one.

From Cork's point of view we are fortunate the dates have been changed as we faced huge pressure in closing out our own season.

President of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn often cites Cork as an example of how the dual player system can work if the organisations work hand in hand. It can work but with a lot of sacrifice. For the ordinary club player waiting for their team-mate's availability, it can be a very long season.

FIXTURES

TODAY

Munster Senior Club Championship final: Inniscarra v Granagh-Ballingarry, Cashel, 3pm.

U16D league final: Banteer v Carrigrohilly, Castle Road, 1pm.

Junior B league final: Kildorrey v Na Piersaigh, Mallow, 8pm.

TOMORROW

Junior B Plate final: Glen Rovers v Millstreet, Ovens, 11.30am.

Senior league semi-final: Douglas v Ballincollig, Ovens, 1.30pm.

Intermediate league final (provisional fixture): If Tracton v Sarsfields, Castle Road, 11.30pm. If Mallow v Tracton, final on Nov 13 or 14.

TUESDAY, November 2

U16A county semi-final replay: Inniscarra v Valley Rovers, 8.30pm, Coughdov.

LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW
Munster Camogie Club final
Inniscarra v Granagh-Ballingarry
Cashel, 3pm

GRANAGH-BALLINGARRY were crowned Limerick senior camogie champions for the 19th time following their recent victory over neighbours Ballyagran.

It was a title they last held in 2006 after dominating the Limerick scene for almost 17 years, 1990 to 2006, their only defeats during that period being in 1995 and 2005.

During that period of dominance they claimed seven Munster titles and three All-Ireland club titles, their last title in 2003.

Granagh lost All-Ireland finals in 1996 and 2004 and the 2004 defeat possibly saw the end of an era.

Granagh don't have that talent still at their disposal but they still have big names such as Eileen O'Brien and Vera and Aoife Sheehan.

Granagh confirmed their pre-match favourites billing in the county final, but received a stern examination from Ballyagran in what was a game contested with high intensity and had some good passages of play.

Inniscarra can end a barren Munster spell

Granagh-Ballingarry had more scoring power up front mainly due to scorer-in-chief Eileen O'Brien who contributed all but two points of her side's total.

It is hard to visualise them overcoming the all round strength of Inniscarra, who gave a magnificent performance two weeks ago to eliminate hot favourites Burgess/Duharra in the Munster semi-final.

Tipperary clubs have had their fair share of club success over the past number of years, with Cashel claiming two All-Ireland club titles and Drom an Inch losing their All-Ireland final in 2008.

For that reason when Burgess defeated Cashel in the Tipperary county semi-final, and then Toomevara in the final, they were expected by many to go all the way. At the very least they were expected to win the provincial decider.

They came to Cork confident and indeed at half time one couldn't have visualised the second half turnaround by Inniscarra.

An all-round great team display was enforced by big performances from Niamh Dilworth, Niamh McCarthy, Karen Jones and Joanne Casey.

Casey's fortunate goal from a 45 kept Inniscarra in the hunt during the first half, when in general play Bur-

gess were totally dominating with the aid of a strong wind.

But it was the 10 minutes before half time which laid the foundation for an incredible second-half performance.

Should Inniscarra hit form against the Limerick club, they will be the first Cork club in 16 years to win a Munster club title, with their regional county final against Imokilly still to play.

But what an incredible victory that will be both for Inniscarra and for Cork.

Verdict: Inniscarra.

Oct. 2010

Sarsfields land intermediate provincial title but no joy for Shamrocks in junior decider

EOGHAN CORMICAN

A PERSONALLY tally of 0-8 from Niamh McGrath and a tour de force performance from Tara Kenny proved more than sufficient in securing Sarsfields the Connacht Intermediate Camogie title in this one-sided affair at Dugan Park, Ballinasloe on Bank Holiday Monday.

As a contest, this final was done and dusted by half time as Sarsfields held a 1-8 to 0-3, despite never reaching the heights of their County final heroics a fortnight ago.

Niamh McGrath registered three unanswered points in a blistering opening quarter from Tony Ward's charges where Aoibhin Kenny was also on target. Roscommon champions Four Roads were first on the board through Patricia Lennon, but a goal from Sarsfields corner forward Caoimhe Staunton extended their advantage to six after just 10 minutes of action.

Niamh (three frees) and Orlaith McGrath added further to Sarsfields tally thereafter, as Four Roads struggled to carve open a stout Sarsfields defence led by the imperious Tara Kenny. That said, Lizzie Glennon-Tully sniped a pair of points for the visitors approaching the break to leave them eight in arrears.

The two McGraths exchanged further efforts with Glennon-Tully before Caoimhe Staunton landed the score of the day after plucking Niamh McGrath's delivery effortlessly from the sky.

CAMOGIE WRAP UP

Niamh Coyle - Four Roads most wholehearted player on the day - narrowed the gap momentarily before Niamh McGrath struck for her eight point of the afternoon. Coyle struck two further efforts along with another from Glennon-Tully thereafter, in truth though, the result was never in doubt with Sarsfields winning out on a final scoreline of 1-13 to 0-8.

Again Sarsfields played with an abandon that troubled their opponents from the outset. Deadly accurate from all angles their striking was crisp and purposeful. Caoimhe Staunton, Niamh and Orla McGrath showed prominently in attack, while Clodagh McGrath and Aoibhin toiled diligently around midfield.

Laura Glynn was solid between the sticks, while Aisling Spellman, Ciara Cooney

and Tara Kenny led the lines well.

Sarsfields: L Glynn, C Ward, C Cooney, C Kelly, A Spellman, N McMahon, T Kenny, C McGrath, A Kenny (0-1), N McGrath (0-8, 0-5 free's, 0-1 '45'), G Flynn, M Kelly, O McGrath (0-3), M Flanagan, C Staunton (1-1).

Subs: C Kelly for Ward (54 mins), A Cooney for C Kelly (54 mins), E McMahon for M Kelly (55 mins), T Madden for Flanagan (56 mins), S McMahon for C McGrath (60 mins).

Four Roads: B Mannion, C Glennon, O Hughes, M Glennon-Kelly, A Fallon, S Coyle, C Rogerson, G Dowd, D Kelly, S O'Brien, G Egan, N Coyle (0-3), L Glennon-Tully (0-4, 0-3 free's), P Lennon (0-1), E Treacy. Subs: B Hughes for M Glennon-Tully, N Crean for D Kelly (45 mins), O Gately for O'Brien (55 mins).

Shamrocks defeated

MEANWHILE, Shamrocks failed in their bid to add the Connacht Junior title to the County championship crown secured earlier this year, losing out to a committed Athleague outfit in Ballinasloe last Saturday.

Despite a whirlwind opening from Shamrocks in which they led 1-3 to 0-0 at the end of the first quarter, Athleague soon came to the pace of proceedings before winning out by 5-5 to 1-9.

County junior 'B' champions Ballindereen encountered little trouble in sweeping aside the limited challenge of St. Dominic's, comfortably claiming the provincial spoils on a

scoreline of 4-14 to 0-6.

In the County Minor A semi-final Adrahan eased into the decider at the expense of St Thomas', 8-14 to 2-4 the final result, while Davitts were victorious in the final of the Summer League defeating Kiltormer by 1-11 to 0-4.

Team of championship

FINALLY, following on from last year's initiative, the Connacht Tribune has selected the senior team of the championship. Given the close nature of this year's title race, selecting 15 players proved an extremely difficult task.

Consequently, a number of high profile players were unlucky to lose out in the final selection, such as Killimor duo Brenda Hanney and Karen Brien, Mullagh trio, Sarah Dervan, Aoife Donoghue and Cathy Bowes, Athenry's Laura Linnane, Kinvara's Caoimhe Mahon and Ahascragh's Sarah Noone.

Senior Team of the Championship: 1 Helen Campbell (Killimor), 2 Sinead Cahalan (Mullagh), 3 Nicola Lawless (Killimor), 4 Ruth Kilkenny (Kiltormer), 5 Deirdre Kelly (Mullagh), 6 Therese Maher (Athenry), 7 Ann Marie Hayes (Killimor), 8 Ann Maire Starr (Killimor), 9 Niamh Kilkenny (Pearses), 10 Martina Conroy (Killimor), 11 Collette Glennon (Mullagh), 12 Emma Kilkenny (Kinvara), 13 Rachel Monaghan (Mullagh), 14 Lourda Kavanagh (Davitts), 15 Noreen Coen (Athenry).

OCT. 2010

SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK

Martina Conroy:
Corner forward gets crucial scores in final



KILLIMOR ended their long wait for a first-ever county senior camogie title at the weekend, and key to their success was the accuracy of Martina Conroy, who scored 1-5 of her side's total of 3-7 as they beat Mullagh in the final by three points.

Her display earned her the player-of-the-match award, and to that she can now add the Connacht Tribune Sports Star of the Week award, seeing off the challenge of Galway United's Jason Molloy; Cian McBrien of Salthill

Devon; Mervue United's Mike Elwood; Maree basketballers Liam Conroy and Ken Hansberry; Monivea boxer Kieran Forde; and Catherine Cullinan of the Galway Black Dragon Kickboxing Club.



Loughrea student, Ruth Maher, pictured receiving the 2010 Irish Taxation Institute Award for Best Taxation Student from Geraldine Beattie, AIT Registered Tax Consultant, at a special ceremony in Athlone IT, where Ruth is in her final year.

Doyle shortlisted for manager of year

WEXFORD'S J.J. Doyle is among the three contenders for the camogie manager of the year award.

The Marshalstown native guided the county to All-Ireland Senior championship and National League titles in his first season. The Slaneiders, who last won the All-Ireland in 2007, after a 32-year gap, defeated Galway in last month's decider while they also collected Division 1 league honours earlier in the season, at the expense of Kilkenny.

Galway manager Noel Finn and Offaly supreme Joachim Kelly, who managed the county to their second All-Ireland title in successive years, securing the Gala Intermediate championship crown, complete the shortlist.

The winner will be announced at the All Stars banquet which takes place at City West on November 6, with eleven Wexford players in contention for places on the team.

Wexford captain Ciara O'Connor will be rewarded for her outstanding displays throughout the season along with Offaly duo Michaela Morkan and Elaine Dermody.

Prior to that big social event, Oulart-The Ballagh will be bidding to retain their Leinster Senior Club title which they won for the first time last year when they host the 2008 champions, Ballyboden St. Enda's from Dublin, on Saturday next at 3 p.m.

It remains to be seen whether or not injured All Star nominee Karen Atkinson will be fit enough to take her place in

the full-back line, having sustained a knee injury during the All-Ireland Senior championship triumph.

Half of the Ballyboden team are dual players and will be out to make amends for last weekend when they lost the provincial football final to Timahoe of Laois.

Meanwhile, on December 8 next, Wexford camogie brings the hugely-popular 'Who wants to be a Thousandaire' to the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. This show has attracted large audiences all over Ireland over the past seven years and is fast becoming the most popular source of fundraising for schools and clubs.

Contestants are drawn from ticket sales and each contestant will play for €1,000. The show is fully computerised with 50/50, Ask the Audience and a brilliant video-linked Phone a Friend.

The questions and four possible answers are displayed on two 8ft x 6ft screens, one at each side of the stage. There will be an official launch of the event on November 8 in the Riverside Park Hotel, and further details will be announced in the coming weeks.

If you want to support Wexford camogie in a practical way, why not organise a group of friends to come along on December 8 and join in this fun-filled evening, while at the same time helping the camogie team in their fundraising efforts.

Munster Junior Cup. Clare O'Herlihy Memorial

Claire O'Herlihy was Secretary of Limerick Co. Board and the Limerick delegate to Munster Council. She was a very friendly and good-humoured person and very popular with everyone. Claire had a very professional approach to everything she did. Sadly, she died in 2003 leaving a young family.

Munster Intermediate Club Championship. Trixie Toomey Memorial Cup

No previous competition 2010 sees the start of this competition and the teams in

the final will be playing for the first ever presentation of this Cup.



Trixie Toomey Memorial Cup

Munster Camogie Club Championship. Buan Chorn Thomais Mhic Dhonngha 1916-1966

The Munster senior club championship cup was presented by Bill Carroll. He was father of Ann Carroll who played for Tipperary and Munster for many years. When the family moved to Kilkenny, she lined out with Kilkenny and won All-Ireland senior medals. She won All-Ireland Club Championship with both St. Patrick's, Glengoble and St. Paul's, Kilkenny. His wife Agnes was Secretary of Tipperary Co. Board.



Shelley Kehoe, Wexford, in action against Jean Brady, Offaly, Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Ulster dominate Irish Camogie/Shinty panel

Ulster dominates the Irish Camogie/Shinty Panel with ten camogie players from the province representing Ireland in this Saturday's Camogie Shinty International at Ratoath.

Monaghan, this year's Gala All Ir. and Junior B Champions, are rewarded with Róisín McKenna and Isabel Kiernan listed in the side while beaten finalists, Cavan have Brid Boylan, Róisín O' Keefe and Rosie Crowe selected.

Shauna Jordan and Aisling Corr, members of the victorious Tyrone team who captured the Division Four National League title earlier this year are represented while Armagh have 2010 Soaring Star recipient and captain Bernie Murray along with team mates Laura Gribben and Colette McSorley amongst the ranks.

Speaking about this year's Irish Camogie/Shinty Panel President of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn:

"Congratulations to all those selected in this year's Irish Camogie/Shinty Panel. It is a tremendous honour to represent your country. Each of the players chosen on this year's panel are fantastic camogie ambassadors for their respective counties and have been rewarded for their excellent displays throughout the year.

We wish the Irish Camogie Shinty panel the very best on Saturday and we extend a warm welcome to the Scottish selection and look forward to an excellent game."

Kildare, this year's Gala All Ireland Junior A champions have 2010 Soaring Star recipient Regina Gorman and team mates Niamh Breen and Susie O'Carroll all selected while Tom O'Mahony who managed the side to this year's All Ireland is a selector.

Clodagh Byrne (Carlow), Áine Charlton (Mayo), Claire Coffey (Meath) Jemma Egan, Pamela Greville (Westmeath) Bronagh McLernon and Brid Grennan (London) complete the panel while Louth's Mary Connor and Paul Ward (Monaghan) are the remaining selectors.

- Ireland v Scotland in the 2010 Irish Camogie/Shinty International will take place on Saturday October 30th at 11.30am in Ratoath. Referee Una Kearney (Armagh)
- The 2010 Irish Camogie/Shinty Panel selected as follows: Róisín McKenna, Isabel Kiernan (Monaghan); Brid Boylan, Rosie Crowe, Róisín O' Keefe, (Cavan) Aisling Corr, Shauna Jordan (Tyrone); Laura Gribben, Colette McSorley, Bernie Murray, (Armagh); Niamh Breen, Regina Gorman, Susie O'Carroll (Kildare); Clodagh Byrne (Carlow); Aine Charlton (Mayo); Claire Coffey (Meath); Jemma Egan, Pamela Greville (Westmeath); Brid Grennan, Bronagh McLernon (London).
- Róisín McKenna, Niamh Breen, Aisling Corr, Rosie Crowe, Pamela Greville, Isabel Kiernan, Colette McSorley and Bernie Murray have previously represented Ireland.
- The Irish Camogie/Shinty Internationals began in 2004 (the Centenary Year of the Camogie Association).
- Ireland won the Camogie/Shinty title in 2004/2005 while Scotland recorded a hat-trick of titles in '06, '07 and '08 before Ireland reclaimed the crown, away from home in 2009.
- The Irish Camogie/Shinty International is played on a home and away basis. It took place in Scotland last year.



Camogie

Following on from last week's significant Convention, the Down County Camogie Board have asked anyone who once played, or contributed, to camogie in any way over the years to make a point of returning to help out. County Chair, Sean Coughlin, said: "At the Convention, Ulster Council Chair, Catherine O'Hara (above), made the very valid point that many are not involved in camogie simply because they have not been asked nor do they know how to get involved again. "I appeal to anyone who may even have the slightest bit to give to please get in touch and let us move Camogie forward with a sense of purpose. Many good people have been lost to our Association due, in many cases, to the way they were treated and the amount of work they were asked to do. That will not now be the case and I look forward to welcoming these people back." He concluded "I would appeal to all the Clubs to look at their parish and seek to identify people who may be able to play a part in their clubs. If each club were even only two get 2 more members per year to help it would make a substantial difference to the running of our clubs and game." Anyone interested in further information should email County Chair, Sean Coughlin at chairperson.down.camogie@gmail.ie



Aislinn Connolly, Offaly, in action against Claire O'Connor, Wexford, Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final, Wexford v Offaly, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit:

CAMOGIE

CAMOGIE/SHINTY INTERNATIONAL
Ratoath: Ireland 6-9 (C.Mc. Sorley 2-0, S. O'Carroll 1-4, R. McKenna 1-2, B. Boylan 1-1, A. Corr 1-0) Scotland 2-2 (J. Nicol 1-0)
Ireland team: R. McKenna, N. Breen, R. Gorman, C. Byrne, R. Crowe, I. Kiernan, L. Gribben, B. Grennan, B. Murray, J. Egan, P. Greville, S. O'Carroll, S. Jordan, R. O'Keefe, C. McSorley, Interchange subs: B. Boylan, A. Charlton, C. Coffey, A. Corr.
LEINSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
Final: Oulart The Ballagh, Wexford 2-9 (U. Leacy 2-2, U. Jacob 0-5 (2f, 1 45) S. Kehoe, S. Redmond 0-1 each) Ballyboden St Enda's, Dublin 1-9 (C. Lucey 0-5 (4f, 1 45), F. Ni Chiorraín 1-0, P. McGrath 0-2, C. Ruddy, E. Lucey 0-1 each)
MUNSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
Final: Inniscarra, Cork 0-10 (J. Casey 0-9 (6f, 1 45), L. Burke 0-1) Granagh Ballingarry, Limerick 0-7 (E. O'Keefe 0-4, 1 45).
MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CLUB
Final: Lismore, Waterford 5-5 (R. Geoghegan 2-1, C. O'Moide, C. Mc Givern, S. Curran 1-0 each) A. McKeown 4-1.
Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare 0-13 (F. Kaiser 0-4 (2f), A. O'Brien 0-3 (2f), R. Kaiser 0-2, L. Kaiser, D. Cassidy 0-1 each)

O'Carroll quality helps ladies retain trophy

IRELAND	6-9
SCOTLAND	2-2

CAMOGIE-SHINTY

A MASTERCLASS from Kildare's Susie O'Carroll guided Ireland to a comprehensive victory against Scotland in Saturday's international in Ratoath.

The game was over as a contest within 20 minutes. By that stage the hosts had already bagged three goals courtesy of O'Carroll, Róisín O'Keefe and Colette

McSorley, who later added a second.

Restricted by their camans to playing the sliotar on the ground, Scotland never got to grips with the heavy conditions and had went to worse when their first attack of note resulted in Fiona Mathie being stretchered off.

When play resumed after a lengthy hold-up, Scotland did manage to pull a goal back when Joanne Gillanders swept a cracker past goalkeeper Róisín McKenna. But it was a brief respite and it

wasn't long before Jemma Egan and Aisling Corr goaled to seal Ireland's triumph.

SCORERS - Ireland: S O'Carroll 1-6 (0-3), C McSorley 2-0, R O'Keefe 1-1, J Egan, A Corr 1-0 each. **Scotland:** J Gillanders 1-2, J Nicol 1-0.
IRELAND - R McKenna (Monaghan); N Breen (Kildare), R Gorman (Kildare), C Byrne (Carlow), R Crowe (Cavan), I Kiernan (Monaghan), L Gribben (Armagh), B Grennan (London), B Murray (Armagh), R O'Keefe (Cavan), P Greville (Westmeath), S O'Carroll (Kildare), J Egan (Wexford), C McSorley (Armagh), S Jordan (Tyrone). Subs: B Boylan (Cavan), A Charlton (Mayo), B McLernon (London), O Connolly (Offaly), A Corr (Tyrone).
SCOTLAND - E McGregor, L MacKay, E Wilson, A McKeown, M Myrescough, L McCafferty, A Gribben, K Brown, J McNaughton, J McGee, K Smith, J Nicol, F Mathie, J Gillanders, O Connaughton. Subs: S Martin, L McKeown, L Norman, L MacLeod, J Aitken.
REF - Una Kearney (Armagh).

Oct. 2010

CUMANN CAMOGAÍOCHTA GAEL

COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAIN

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB FINAL

INNISCARRA

(Co. Cork)

V

GRANAGH BALLINGARRY

(Co. Limerick)

Láthair: Cashel • Data: Dé Domhnaigh 30/10/2010
 Tosnú: 1:00pm • Réiteoir: John O'Leary (Cork)

MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CLUB FINAL

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

(Co. Clare)

V

LISMORE

(Co. Waterford)

Láthair: Cashel • Data: Dé Domhnaigh 30/10/2010
 Tosnú: 3:00pm • Réiteoir: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary)

Leach €2

Munster Senior Club Finals 2010

Granagh Ballingarry
 Dathanna - Dubh agus Bán

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | | |
| Aileen O'Sullivan | | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sarah Carey | Laura Leslie | Aimee McCarthy |
| 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Fiona Hickey (C) | Aoifa Sheehan | Emer Hickey |
| 8 | 9 | |
| Tara Power | Vera Sheehan | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Eileen O'Brien | Nollaig Houlihan | Siobhan Enright |
| 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Mairead Fitzgerald | Joanne Clifford | Fiona Morrissey |

MNÁ IONAID: 16. Niamh Chawke, 17. Margaret Lynch, 18. Grainne Noonan, 19. Niamh O'Keefe,
 20. Catriona Noonan, 21. Emma Noonan, 22. Bridgid Lenihan, 23. Margaret O'Shea,
 24. Grace O'Connor, 25. Aine Smith, 26. Kaylee Stapleton, 27. Claire Enright,
 28. Lisa Potter, 29. Meadhbh Nash.

BAINISTEOIR: Eddie O'Brien, Selectors Kevin Carroll, Denis O'Connor, Neil Dunworth, Louise Enright



Captain Fiona Hickey, Age - 23, Position - Half Back, Occupation - Teacher
 Achievements - 2 Minor All Ireland Titles with Limerick, Ashbourne Cup winner with UL in 2005, Ashbourne Shield winner in 2007 with UL, U14 All Ireland Féile winner, Munster Club winners Medal in 2004, Numerous County titles with the underage and senior panels with Granagh Ballingarry and has been a member of the Limerick Senior Panel for the past few years.

Munster Senior Club Finals 2010

Inniscarra
 Dathanna - Gorm agus Bán

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | | |
| Sinéad Ni Riain | | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Mary Buckley | Liz Hayes | Karen Jones |
| 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Rosie O'Mahony | Rena Buckley | Aoife Kavanagh |
| 8 | 9 | |
| Margaret N O'Sullivan (C) | Orla Healy | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Fiona O'Connell | Niamh Dilworth | Laura Burke |
| 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Joanne Casey | Margaret Cosgrave | Niamh McCarthy |

MNÁ IONAID: 16. Amanda Twohig, 17. Roslyn McCarthy, 18. Emma Kingston, 19. Katie O'Mahony,
 20. Allannah Twohig, 21. Liz Buckley, 22. Áine Ni Riain, 23. Áine O'Connor,
 24. Catherine O'Brien, 25. Claire Sheehan, 26. Mary Desmond, 27. Caitlin Looney,
 28. Susan Buckley, 29. Rachel McCarthy

BAINISTEOIR: Fergal O'Leary, Seán Twohig, Irene O'Keefe, Paula Goggins First Aid: Anne O'Keefe



A life long member of Inniscarra CC, Margaret Noelle is a charismatic figure within the club and in the dressing room. She has won Co. medals at U12, U14, U16, Junior B & A, Intermediate and Senior B. Margaret has also represented Cork at U18 and Intermediate level. A solicitor by profession she also held the role of club secretary for a no. of years. To sum up Margaret is a true ambassador for Inniscarra Camogie.

Newmarket-on-Fergus - Co. Clare



The Club went through a number of transition phases down through the years. Established in the 1960's competing at Junior level, winning the Junior championship in 1967 and Junior League in 1979. Following many years of inactivity the club was reformed in 1988. Numerous underage titles were won between 1988-1993. However at adult level was inevitable and the Junior A championship and league double was secured in 1994. Intermediate league and championship in 1995. A wait of 5 years before the club's first of four senior titles in 2001 accompanied with two Munster Junior Club titles in 2003 and 2005.

The club competes in A grades in all competitions thus maintaining a high standard and attaining many titles in all grades from U12 - U18 over the years. This is reflected in the successes achieved and continued competitiveness at adult level. During this time many members of the club represented the club at intercounty level winning various provincial and All-Ireland medals. Integral to past successes and our further progression is the close links and cooperation that exists with the GAA Club and National Schools.

Lismore - Co. Waterford



Lismore Camogie Club was founded in 1974, and initially fielded three teams -u16, -u18 and Junior. The club has gone from strength to strength and now fields teams in all grades from U12 to U18, Junior and Senior. Lismore has enjoyed plenty of success over the years, winning numerous county finals in all grades. They are currently U14A and U16A County champions, and also have representatives on County U14, U16, U18 and Junior panels. Lismore represented Waterford Feile na nGael for the last eleven years, winning the '06 Division 3 title in Cork and Division 4 in 1989.

Lismore Camogie Club fielded their first senior team in 1980 but did not win their first senior County title until 1985 followed by a series of County titles in the following years. This year Lismore Camogie club won the County senior title for the first time in nine years and are proud to be representing Waterford in

Inniscarra - Co. Cork



Formally established in 1967 Inniscarra camogie club has great leaders on and off the field. A proud history has led to today's first ever appearance in a Munster final. Mary O'Callaghan R.I.P. was National President, Sheila Golden County Chairperson and County President and is at present County Secretary. Con Hayes and Tim Buckley were officers of Cumann Camógachta na nGael at its formation. Also Inniscarra has won 3 All-Ireland question time titles.

One of our most famous players is Irene O'Kearle who won 5 Senior All-Ireland Medals with Cork, and was also voted player of the final on 2 occasions. Rena Buckley has 4 Senior medals with Cork. Ger Casey also has a Senior and Junior All-Ireland medal and was voted player of the final in the Junior All-Ireland Final, which was a great achievement as she was goal-keeper. Rena Buckley, Joanne Casey Niamh O'Leary represented the club on this year's Cork Senior team.

Exactly one hundred years and one week since the first official Camogie game was played in Navan on the 17th of July 1904 history was made in Camogie circles in Co. Cork on Sunday 25th of July 2004 when Miniam Uí Cheolacháin, Uachtarán Cumann Camógachta na nGael, officially declared Páirc Camógachta Inis Certha in Ballyearly open for business.

Granagh Ballingarry - Co. Limerick



The present Granagh Ballingarry Camogie club was set up in 1977. Officers were, President - Mick Fitzgerald, Chairman - Jimmy Stapleton, Secretary - Sheila Treacy, Treasurer - W. Biggins. The Club won their first county final in 1979 when the u14 team beat Knockaney 8-3 to 0-0. Granagh Ballingarry line out today in chase of their 8th Munster Club Title. The club's most amazing period was between 1996 to 2004 when they claimed 9 in a row of county titles. They also captured 7 Munster titles and 3 club All-Ireland wins in this period. In 1993, the Granagh Ballingarry U14 team did the double by winning the Feile Na nGael Div 1 in Tipperary and later that year won Gold in Wexford. A tremendous achievement, due in no small way to trainers and selectors John O'Connor and the late Mike O'Brien. Great Credit must also go to Tammy Treacy and to Mike Chanke who brought great success to the Senior club over the years.

Munster Intermediate Club Finals 2010

Newmarket-on-Fergus

Dathanna - Gorm agus Ór

1	Carol Toomey	
2	Aoife Griffin	3
	Jane O'Leary	4
	Carol O'Leary	
5	Aimee McInerney	6
	Róisín McMahon	7
	Carol Kaiser	
8	Ruth Kaiser (C)	9
	Joanne Walsh	
10	Sharon McMahon	11
	Erica Minogue	12
	Aine OBrien	
13	Deirdre Cassidy	14
	Iris Kaiser	15
	Niki Kaiser	

MNÁ IONAID: 16. Jenny Kelly 17. Claire Arthur 18. Sarah McInerney 19. Gemma McInerney
20. Caroline Feehily 21. Clodagh Lawlor 22. Aislinn Keogh

BAINISTEOR: Brian Enright ROIGHNOIRI: Trish O'Grady, Paddy Meehan, Noel McInerney, Elaine McMahon



Ruth Kaiser leads Newmarket-on-Fergus into today's final. Of Swiss origin Ruth was introduced to camogie aged 10yrs and adapted well to the sporting life in her new surroundings. As Ruth progressed through the grades she was a key component in the underage successes obtained from 1996 - 2005 and made her debut at senior level in 2000. To date she is the proud holder of 4 senior championship & 6 league titles. Ruth has also represented the club with much distinction at county, provincial and 3RD level. Ruth is the eternal student, NUIJG, UCC, having had the pleasure of her company. She now continues her studies in UCD where she is embarking on a PHD. Indeed the Kaiser family will have a big say in the outcome of today's proceedings as Ruth's siblings Iris, Carol and Niki have all contributed in reaching today's final. Notwithstanding the invaluable contribution of her mother Marie Louise, the club's secretary a title that encompasses "numerous roles".

Munster Intermediate Club Finals 2010

Lismore

Dathanna - Dubh agus Bán

1	Aisling O'Brien	
2	Jenny Houlihan	3
	Niamh Ryan	4
	Laura Buckley	
5	Jennifer Hannon	6
	Shona Curran	7
	Sarah Fenton	
8	Marie Russell	9
	Rachel Whelan	
10	Grainne Kenneally	11
	Aoife Hannon	12
	Shauna Kiernan	
13	Kate Heneghan	14
	Cathriona Ormonde	15
	Tanya Morrissey	

MNÁ IONAID: 16. Ruth Geoghegan 17. Cathriona McGlone 18. Katie Hannon 19. Anne Marie O'Gorman
20. Jodi Walsh 21. Mary Murphy 22. Gemma Tobin 23. Ciara Kearney
24. Nicola Morrissey 25. Emily Heneghan 26. Patricia Broderick 27. Sandra Prendergast

BAINISTEOR: Johnny Flynn, Mary Murphy



Aisling has played camogie with Lismore since she was 9 years old, originally outfield she moved into goal at an 16 level and has held that position at both club and county for the last number of years. She has won titles at all grades on age along with senior league but this is her first senior championship title. She represented her county in Feile na nGael on three occasions and her country at shinty on one occasion. She has been well supported by parents Mary and Donal in all her exploits.



Camogie Remains One Of The Best Female Sports In The World And The Club Championship Is An Integral Part Of Its Development. The 90'S Brought A New Dawn For Granagh/Ballingarry In Munster. Vera Sheehan Recalls Many Proud Days Wearing The Black And White.

Granagh/Ballingarry's return to Munster Club final day is pretty special. For the last couple of years we've had a barren spell, but we regrouped at the start of the year and our aim was to win the county title - we are now in bonus territory!

It all started out in the late eighties, early nineties when Granagh/Ballingarry were dominant in Limerick. I remember the early days when I first started out with the club and we were winning numerous county titles and then we represented Limerick in Munster which

was all new to us. I remember losing to Glen Rovers in 1993 and Wolfe Tones in 1994 so winning our first Munster Club title in 1996 against the famous Glen Rovers was very special. As the saying goes "you have to lose one to win one."

I remember it as if it was yesterday, we were complete underdogs and we played them in their back garden. It was 12-a-side and we went on to win seven Munster club titles between 1996 to 2004. We played great teams in Munster like Cashel and Toomevara of Tipperary and the likes of Glen Rovers, Bishopstown and Milford of Cork. Some of those games went down to the wire with only a point or two separating us on many occasions. I suppose winning was the most important, but the celebrations will stick in my memory for a long time. A lot of stories could be told but I would probably be lynched!

Many people here today might not know we have the unique distinction of winning the last 12-a-side senior All Ireland club title and the first 15-a-side title in 1998 and 1999. They were great days for the 'Parish'. During those glory days everyone got behind us putting up flags and bunting and the big crowds that turned out at the matches. Those days will live long in my memory especially when we won our first All Ireland club title in 1998 in Ballingarry.

We had a golden era back then, winning three All Ireland club titles and the Kilmacud 7's. The team was backboned by the double winning Féile na Gael and Community games teams that won the All Ireland in 1990/91 which was managed by the legendary Michael O'Brien (RIP). In those glorious years every player ate, drank and slept camogie and that was instilled in us from an early age through Mike Chawke who was the successful manager of that era. Looking back now it was definitely worth it with all the titles we won.

Many of us have worn the Green and White of Limerick but unfortunately we weren't as successful. That is where the Club comes in. We have developed great rivalries and friendships down through the years - that is why it is such an honour to be still tagging out today in the Munster Club final.

Winning with your club means everything as it is the players you grow up with, your great friends that help you through thick and thin. With the crop of players we have today there is a great bond between us all both on and off the field. I have no doubt that every player will live and die for each other out in that playing field today.

Vera Sheehan in conversation with Therese O'Callaghan

Fáilte Ó Chathaoirleach



Fáilte isteach chuig cluich an lae inniu i gCaisheal. Táimid ag súil le cluichí spóirtúil. Fáilte go leith roimh na h-imreoirí, na roghnóirí, na réiteoirí agus na h-aifigí.



I would like to extend a sincere welcome to the champions of Clare, Waterford, Cork and Limerick to Cashel today for the highlight of our club season in Munster - the Munster Intermediate and Senior Club Finals. To the players, mentors and supporters of Newmarket-on-Fergus, Lismore, Inniscarra and Granagh/Ballingarry we acknowledge all your efforts in nurturing and promoting our sport. Your success is a reflection of the enormous efforts of all our clubs in Munster and your progress to today's finals is just reward for your efforts. We wish all four teams the best of luck and look forward to two keenly contested finals. To our match officials and umpires we extend our appreciation for your efforts. To Cashel G.A.A. and Camogie clubs we thank you for the use of your

excellent facilities. Munster Finals in any sport are always special occasions but for our Intermediate Champions there is the added incentive that this year's competition continues on to All-Ireland. For both our Senior and Intermediate champions there will be an opportunity to compete for the right to contest the finals which will historically be held in Croke Park on 6th March 2011 for the very first time. A fitting stage for our club players.

A special word of thanks to two groups - our supporters and media. Attending Camogie games is an important way of publicly recognising the artistry, skill and commitment of our players. Your support is vital. We all depend on the media for information and knowledge so giving recognition and prominence to women's sporting achievements is really important. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

Enjoy the games and good luck to all teams

Murchadh Ó Conraoi,
Cathaoirleach, Comhairle na Mumhan

Buiochas

On behalf of Coiste Camógachta na Mumhan I wish to acknowledge the help and co-operation which I have received from all in the production of this programme. To Mary Newman of Corcaigh, Tom Allen of Luimneach, Mary Russell of Port Láirge, Therese O'Callaghan, Mary Moran and all the club representatives and photographers who have given permission for the use of their material and your help and guidance, I thank you all.



Céad míle fáilte agus míle buiochas to media, sponsors, guests, referees and officials to camogie.

Órlaith Uí Chonsidín,
PRÓ na Mumhan

Referees

Senior Final
Eamonn Brown,
Tipperary



Intermediate Final
John O'Leary, Cork

Umpires for both games are
Pádraig Kearney, Noel Fitzgerald, Mark Ryan,
Joseph Kearney
Lines People
Donal Leahy and Hugh Coughlan

PHOTO CREDITS

Declan Hehir for Granagh/Ballingarry photo
Jim Coughlan for Inniscarra photo
Flann Howard for Newmarket-on-Fergus photo
Daniel McGrath for Lismore photo

Munster Council Camogie Development

Primary School development squads - The 6 County Managers attended the "best practice" tutorial session in St. Mary's, Charleville in March 2008 which instructed them on how to run the double blind trial system, organise their squad, communicate effectively and gave sample drills to cover the essential skills. It is based on the template for the schools of excellence created by the development committee (Lar O'Brien, Deirdre Murphy, Eamonn Brown, Noelle Kennedy, & Lotty). The 2008 blitz was played in Rathkeale and the 2009 blitz was in Mallow. The 2010 blitz was in Cahir on Saturday, 26th June. Shin Pads are compulsory.

Coaching in Primary & Secondary - Schools have been targeted by the County Development Administrators (CDA) to receive ten or more weeks of coaching. Esther O'Leary facilitated coaching in Ovens, Cobh, Banteer, Mitchelstown, Kanturk, Suckalee National schools & Millstreet CS. Moira McMahon sent assistance to Killaloe, Meelick, Parteen, Crusheen, Kildysart, Kilrush, Colaiste Ennis, Scariff CC, Rice College, Tulla & Ennistymon. Dave Doyle organised coaching for Listowel, Dromcurragh, Ardfer, Lixnaw, Tralee & Causeway Comp. Sean Condon sent help to Milford, Killeenure, Granagh, Scoil Mhuire, Scoil Chaitríona, Knockea, Rathkeale CC, Castletroy College & Abbeyfeale. Siobhan Ryan & Mags

Leahy sent coaches to Newport, St. Michael's, Clonmel, St. Joseph's, Sisters of Charity NS, Templemore, Carrig On Suir, Thurles & Cashel. Breda Kennedy sent a coach to Portlaoise, Knockmahon/Seafield, Ballyduff, Glor Na Maire, Stradbally, Garinbain, St. Mary's, Light of Christ, John of God, Ursuline's, Mercy & Pres Waterford, Kilmacthomas, Ard Scoil Dungarvan, St. Paul's, Stella Maris Tramore.

Referee Green Card Courses - The secondary schools run two courses annually for those TY students. Tutors Cathal Egan & Peter Downey, in conjunction with Munster Colleges, have trained in 70 new student referees who then ref at school blitzes, the intercounty primary & u14 blitzes. Also in Clare where it was run as a Summer Academy over 3 day.

U14 Development Squads - The emphasis is on participation, learning the essential skills, teamplay options & fun! Managers select the blitzes that suit their girls to play in, with county club, school and holiday commitments considered. Limerick (16/4), St. Flannan's (2/5), James Hurley @ Mallow (4/6), Dublin (16/7), Waterford (6/8), Orla McDonagh @ Thurles (27/8) are the dates for 2011.

Weaker Counties Development - Numerous workshops, coaching courses, fun days, blitz days, camps,

coaching schemes, new club development, club visits are in operation.

North & South Munster League - For non county players, the clubs that participate find this essential to ensure the girls have plenty of camogie matches. A South Munster League will also be run this season.

Referees Committee - Many ref courses are run during the year. Rule differences are highlighted and motions to congress are analysed by this committee to ensure they follow procedure. Cork Colleges have one scheduled for late Nov.

U15 Development squads - Waterford, Clare, Limerick, Cork (2), Tipperary & Kerry have must appoint Managers by Feb 2011. These squads will do 6 to 8 sessions in May, June, July with the blitz in Cahir in mid August.

Many thanks to Munster GAA, Munster Camogie Council, Local Sports Partnerships, RAPID,

NEKD & Munster Colleges for providing funds to ensure the development plan is a success.

Any Ideas or queries contact: Noelle Kennedy 087-2536797 Lotty 086-1693787

Eamonn Brown 087-1256025 Lar O'Brien 087-2439436 Deirdre 087-6415485

Rolls of Honour

Munster Senior Camogie Club Championship Roll of Honour 1964 - 2009

Year	Winner	Runner up
1964	Glen Rovers	Croagh-Kilfinny
1965	St. Patrick's Glengoose	Glen Rovers
1966	St. Patrick's Glengoose	Croagh-Kilfinny
1967	Glen Rovers	Ahane
1968	Ahane	Glen Rovers
1969	Ahane	South Pres P.P.
1970	South Pres P.P.	Ahane
1971	Thurles	Ahane
1972	Ahane	Eire Og, Ennis
1973	Thurles	Ahane
1974	U.C.C.	Eire Og, Ennis
1975	Croagh-Kilfinny	Drom-Inch
1976	Ahane	Drom-Inch
1977	Ballingrann	Eire Og, Cork
1978	Ballingrann	Eire Og, Ennis
1979	Ballingrann	Shannon
1980	Killengh	Eire Og, Ennis
1981	Killengh	Cashel
1982	Killengh	Old Christians
1983	Croagh-Kilfinny	Spinnlebridge
1984	Killengh	Ardfert
1985	Eire Og, Cork	Portree
1986	Glen Rovers	Granagh-Ballingarry
1987	Glen Rovers	Cashel
1988	Killengh	Spinnlebridge
1989	Spinnlebridge	Cashel
1990	Glen Rovers	Spinnlebridge
1991	Glen Rovers	Cashel

1992	Glen Rovers	Granagh-Ballingarry
1993	Glen Rovers	Wolfe Tones, Shannon
1994	Glen Rovers	Wolfe Tones, Shannon
1995	Toomevara	Wolfe Tones, Shannon
1996	Granagh-Ballingarry	Glen Rovers
1997	Granagh-Ballingarry	Toomevara
1998	Granagh-Ballingarry	Cashel
1999	Granagh-Ballingarry	Cashel
2000	Granagh-Ballingarry	Bishopstown
2001	Cashel	Granagh-Ballingarry
2002	Cashel	Cloughduin
2003	Granagh-Ballingarry	Drom-Inch
2004	Granagh-Ballingarry	Milford
2005	Cashel	Killeedy
2006	Cashel	Kilnamona
2007	Cashel	Killeedy
2008	Drom-Inch	Douglas
2009	Cashel	St. Catherine's

Munster Junior Cup. Clare O'Herlihy Memorial Cup Roll of Honour 2003 - 2010

Year	Winner	Runner up
2003	Newmarket on Fergus	St. Anne's
2004	Kilnamona	St. Anne's
2005	Newmarket on Fergus	Craggan (London)
2006	Gallier	Pearson (London)
2007	Kilnamona	St. Anne's
2008	Kilnamona	Gallier
2009	St. Anne's	Clonsilla
2010	Corofin	Cappaghin

Munster Young Player of the Year.



Sarah Carey of Limerick has been chosen as the Munster Young Player of the Year for 2010. This is a prestigious award and one which is justly given to a young player who shows great skill, determination and appetite for the future. Insert piece from attached doc here.

This award will be presented at the All-Stars in Citi West in Dublin on November 6th, where an over all young player of the year will be chosen from the four provincial winners.

Casey's placed ball brilliance secures Inniscarra's first title

Munster camogie finals

Inniscarra (Cork) 0-10
Granagh-Ballingarry (Limerick) 0-7

WAS a battle to the final whistle in this senior provincial camogie decider, Inniscarra of Cork winning their first Munster title with a three-point victory over Granagh-Ballingarry of Limerick. Most of the scoring came from frees, and it was in this area that Inniscarra's Joanne Casey and Granagh's Eileen O'Brien were virtually unerring. Defences were dominant, and it was a case of Casey and O'Brien trading paces and placed balls throughout. Granagh did open up a two-point lead mid-way through the first half

when O'Brien gave her side a 0-4 to 0-2 lead and they still led by a point, courtesy of an O'Brien free, at the break (0-6 to 0-5).

Inniscarra were first off the mark in the second half as Joanne Casey converted two frees to level and then edge in front. Eileen O'Keefe then levelled and it was clear that the next score was crucial.

It was at this point that Casey stepped up, scoring from play before converting a free which left Inniscarra two points ahead with five minutes remaining.

She then shored up the Inniscarra defence in the frantic final stages, helping the Cork club to its first provincial title.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-9 (0-6f, 0-1 45), L Burke 0-1;
Scorers for Granagh-Ballingarry: E O'Brien



Inniscarra captain Margaret N O'Sullivan holds aloft the Munster Senior Club trophy after their victory over Granagh-Ballingarry.

Picture: Flann Howard

long, high delivery. It proved to be their undoing when player of the game, Shona Curran, drifted a ball in over keeper Carol Twoomey's head only after eight minutes.

Aine O'Brien and Niki Kaiser pointed for the Banner girls, but after a couple of Aoife Hannon frees for Lismore, 16-year-old Ruth Geoghan was on hand for Lismore's second goal. Cathriona McGlone added a scrappy third as the winners changed ends 3-4 to 0-6 in front.

However, once Geoghan goaled early in the second half, the writing was on the wall for Newmarket.

Scorers for Lismore: R Geoghan 2-1, A Hannon 0-4f, S Curran, K Heneghan and C McGlone 1-0 each.

Scorers for Newmarket-on-Fergus: N Kaiser 0-4 (0-2f), A O'Brien 0-3 (0-2f), R Kaiser 0-2, O Cassidy and I Kaiser 0-1 each.

LISMORE: A O'Brien; J Hannon, N Ryan, L Buckley; M Russell, G Kenneally, S Fenton; S Curran, R Whelan; C O'Rourke, S Kiernan, A Hannon; K Heneghan, C McGlone, R Geoghan.

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS: C Toomey; A Griffin, J O'Leary; A O'Brien, G O'Leary, M McElroy, C Kaiser, R Kaiser, J Walsh, D Cassidy, E Minogue, A O'Brien, S McManus, F Kelly, N Kaiser. **Referee:** J O'Leary (Cork).

Inniscarra end Cork's title famine

Inniscarra 0-10
Granagh-Ballingarry 0-7

AN historic day for Cork representatives Inniscarra as they became the first club from the county in 16 years to capture the Munster Senior club championship title.

They overcame the challenge posed by Limerick county champions Granagh-Ballingarry in Newtownshandrum on Saturday to take their first provincial title.

It was a victory fashioned out by sheer hard work and determination. It certainly wasn't pretty but that will not worry the new champions, who must now turn their attention back to their senior county championship replay with Imokilly on November 14.

Both defences were under a lot of pressure all through and the stats tell their own story with only four scores in a total of 17 coming from play.

It was a busy afternoon for free takers Joanne Casey and Eileen O'Brien as they slotted balls over from all angles when the need arose.

Granagh-Ballingarry played with the aid of the slight breeze in the opening half and they led by a point 0-6 to 0-5 at the interval, all but two points of the opening half total coming from frees.

Inniscarra came under a lot of first half pressure as Granagh opened up a 0-5 to 0-3 lead with the game entering the second quarter.

It took three good saves in a row from Sinead Ni Riain to deny Granagh a goal, and they were content to eventually slot over a point from the resulting 45 five as the Inniscarra defence survived the scare.

All through the half it was score for score. Joanne Casey had Inniscarra level with two pointed frees before Eileen O'Brien replied on the stroke of half time to send her side to the dressing room a point ahead.

The second half was again a ding-dong battle, Aoife Sheehan at centre-back was superb for Granagh as time after time she relieved the



Morgan Conroy chairman of the Munster Camogie Council presents the senior club cup to Inniscarra captain Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan.

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

pressure on her side but again up front Granagh fell short as they failed to make any inroads against a solid Inniscarra defence.

Inniscarra's Joanne Casey in mid field began to have a huge impact as she took on the Granagh defence and she had good support from hard working captain Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan.

At the back Orla Healy and Rosie O'Mahony were prominent as Inniscarra began to gain control and two pointed frees had Inniscarra ahead 13 minutes into the half.

It was 20 minutes before Granagh registered their first score of the half Eileen O'Brien pointing from play. It

was to be their only score of the half as they failed to match the intensity of Inniscarra who upped the pace of their game considerably.

Joanne Casey pointed from play before putting Inniscarra two clear with a pointed free, substitute Laura Burke confidently slotted over to make it three and the Cork representatives just had to sit tight and hold their composure.

They introduced Rena Buckley for the eight minutes remaining and her experience on the field was invaluable as they nervously defended their lead but defend it they did to ensure a superb day for Inniscarra and Cork camogie.

Having contributed all but one of her side's total of 10 points, Inniscarra's Joanne Casey was named as Player of the Match.

Next on the agenda is an All-Ire-

land club semi-final meeting against the Ulster champions, but first there is a little matter of a county final replay with Imokilly to be played, one I am sure they are eagerly looking forward to with their confidence now sky high.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-9 (0-6f, 0-1 45), L Burke 0-1.

Granagh-Ballingarry: E O'Brien 0-6 (0-3f, 0-1 4f), A Sheehan 0-1(f).

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, L Hayes, K Jones; O Healy, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; F O'Connell, J Casey; N Dilworth, M N O'Sullivan (c), K O'Mahony; M Cosgrave, N Mc Carthy, A Twohig.

Subs: L Burke for A Twohig (45), R Buckley for M Cosgrave (52).

GRANAGH-BALLINGARRY: A O'Sullivan; S Carey, L Leslie, A Mc Carthy; F Hickey (c), A Sheehan, E Hickey; T Power, V Sheehan; E O'Brien, N Houlihan, N Chawke; J Clifford, F Morrissey, S Enright.

Sub: M Lynch for N Chawke (45).

Referee: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).

Oct. 2010

Wexford dominate Camogie All Stars awards

All Ireland champions Wexford dominate this year's Camogie All Star team with eight players named in the side; finalists Galway take five positions while Kilkenny and Cork share one a piece.

President Mary McAleese presented the recipients with their awards at a gala banquet at City West hotel tonight (Saturday, November 6th)

Winning captain Una Leacy and sister Mary both collected awards; veteran attacker Kate Kelly picked up her fourth accolade while Katrina Parrock, Player of the Match in the Gala All Ireland final received her first award.

Galway sisters, Niamh and Orla Kilkenny collected their first awards at corner back and midfield respectively. Wing forward Brenda Hanney and joint championship top scorer Aislinn Connolly were also honoured.

Cork wing-back Anna Geary collected her county's sole All Star while Anne Dalton, Kilkenny is named in midfield for the second consecutive year.

Joachim Kelly was honoured with the Manager of the Year accolade. The former Offaly hurler guided his county to three All Ireland finals in two years, securing the Gala Premier Junior crown and most recently the Gala Intermediate title.

Galway's Laura Mitchell was named as the O' Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year. It tops off a wonderful season for the Killimordaly club woman who won a Minor All Ireland earlier in the season.

Speaking at the awards President Joan O'Flynn: "Congratulations to all of this year's nominees and award winners. It is a fantastic honour to receive an All Star award but also to be nominated. The All Star awards are a prestigious individual accolade and cherished amongst players. They reward consistent displays throughout the season which are rich with talent, commitment and limitless skills.



Cork's Anna Geary with her Camogie All-Star trophy at the 2010 awards, in association with O'Neills, Citywest Hotel, Dublin. Picture: Sportsfile



Therese Maher, Loughrea, Co. Galway, left, and Aisling Connolly, Castlegar, Co. Galway, at the 2010 Camogie All-Star awards.

2010 Camogie All Star Team

Goalkeeper

Mags D'Arcy, Wexford

Backs

Claire O'Connor, Wexford
Catherine O'Loughlin, Wexford
Niamh Kilkenny, Galway
Regina Glynn, Galway
Mary Leacy, Wexford
Anna Geary, Cork

Midfield

Orla Kilkenny, Galway
Anne Dalton, Kilkenny

Forwards

Kate Kelly, Wexford
Una Leacy, Wexford
Brenda Hanney, Galway
Katrina Parrock, Wexford
Ursula Jacob, Wexford
Aislinn Connolly, Galway

O'Neills Manager of the Year

Joachim Kelly, Offaly

Camogie Young Player of the Year

Laura Mitchell, Galway

2010 Camogie Soaring Stars Team

Goalkeeper

Caroline Connaughton (Roscommon)

Backs

Rhona Torney (Antrim)
Shona Curran (Waterford)
Regina Gorman (Kildare)
Fionnuala Carr (Down)
Patricia Jackman (Waterford)

Jennie Simpson (Waterford)

Midfield

Bernie Murray (Armagh)
Kerrie O'Neill (Antrim)

Forwards

Michaela Convery (Antrim)
Aine Lyng (Waterford)
Shannon Graham (Antrim)
Sarah Anne Fitzgerald (Laois)
Jane Adams (Antrim)
Jane Dolan (Meath)

Intermediate Soaring Stars 2010

Elaine Dermody (Offaly)
Michaela Morkan (Offaly)
Ciara O'Connor (Wexford)

Camogie club finals move to Croke

by Fintan O'Toole

CAMOGIE President Joan O'Flynn is confident the decision to hold their All-Ireland club finals in Croke Park next March will be vindicated.

Concerns having been expressed about the association moving away from traditional practice of completing their competitions within a calendar year.

The national deciders have been played in November and December in recent seasons but the championships will now be run along similar lines to the GAA's All-Ireland club championships.

The semi-finals are scheduled for the weekend of February 5th/6th with the intermediate and senior finals pencilled in for a double-header on March 6th.

O'Flynn said: "We would have preferred to complete everything in the calendar year and we did seek to get Croke Park before the end of the year. Unfortunately it wasn't available and we were offered a date in March instead. Ultimately we believe that having Croke Park as a venue will give this prestigious event a more prestigious platform. It's also known well in advance on this occasion when and where the finals will take place, whereas before it was only confirmed at late notice what venue we were using because of the difficulty in getting pitches towards the end of the year. We have a longer lead in to the finals which gives us more time to market and promote the games successfully."

O'Flynn does not share reservations that the finals will be diminished if attendance levels in Croke Park are poor.

"I think the availability of Croke Park will enhance the final attendances if anything. Marketing wise we'll be better able to promote these games. Croke Park is a huge attraction and it's an occasion attended by people who ordinarily would not go to such a match. I'd be anticipating that this will be a regular date for the camogie association and we're determined to take the opportunity to offer our players a chance to play in Croke Park."

The All-Ireland senior championship will be contested by Inniscarra (Cork), Oulart-the-Ballagh (Wexford), Rossa (Antrim) and Killimor (Galway), while the intermediate grade is down for decision between Lismore (Waterford), The Harps (Laois), Eoghan Rua (Derry) and Sarsfields (Galway).



Veronica Curtin, Kinvara, Co. Galway, left, and Claire O'Connor, Rathnure, Co. Wexford, at the 2010 Camogie All-Star awards.

Nov. 2010

CAMOGIE ALL STARS PRESENTED BY MARY MCALEESE AND JOAN O'FLYNN



■ Mags D'Arcy, goalkeeper (second award).



■ Claire O'Connor, right corner-back (first award).



■ Catherine O'Loughlin, full-back (fourth award).



■ Mary Leacy, centre-back (third award).



■ Kate Kelly, right half-forward (fourth award).



■ Una Leacy, centre-forward (second award).



■ Katrina Parrock, right corner-forward (first award).



■ Ursula Jacob, full-forward (first award).



Anna Geary of Millford, Co Cork, with her 2010 Camogie All-Star award at the 2010 Camogie All-Stars in association with O'Neills at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin. Picture: Sportsfile

Historic double for Kildorrey

Kildorrey
Na Piarraigh

2-10
1-4

KILDORREY added the junior B league title to their championship crown for an historic double, as they defeated Na Piarraigh in the Mallow GAA complex.

Kildorrey were in determined mood from the throw-in, and they set the trend early in the game with a perfect start, taking the lead, with Orla Murphy, Ann Marie McCarthy and Valerie McCormack all to the fore as they applied a lot of pressure on the Na Piarraigh defence. Danielle Moynihan and Trisha Coleman ensured Na Piarraigh stayed in the hunt as they struck points, but it was Kildorrey who led at the interval, 1-5 to 0-2.

Trisha Coleman was on target for Na Piarraigh early in the second half, but, with the Kildorrey inside line continuing to hold the upper hand, they extended their advantage with points from Orla Murphy and Eileen Murphy. Na Piarraigh battled hard to stay in contention. Trisha Coleman grabbed a second-half goal, but Kildorrey, with Orla Murphy continuing to cause the Na Piarraigh defence huge problems, maintained their advantage.

Both sides gave it their all in quest of victory, but Kildorrey, with Orla Murphy in su-

perb form, striking 1-7 of their tally, were always just that bit stronger, despite a spirited display from Na Piarraigh.

St Vincent's
St Finbarr's

6-4
1-2

ST Vincent and St Finbarr's played out a good contest in the Seandun under-11 premier final, recently. It was an historic occasion, given that it will be the last time competition at this grade will be allowed take place, as, under the new rules, which come into force next season, competitions for players aged 12 and under are now played on the go-game model. Both teams worked hard from start to finish, as they showed great determination.

■ An indoor camogie/strike-to-score workshop organised by Munster development officer, Deirdre Murphy, for coaches involved with coaching the 10 to 14 age group, is being held in Ballincollig GAA club hall on Wednesday, November 24, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are 30 places available and places are limited to three per club, the charge is €10 per person attending, and to book a place clubs can contact Linda Lenehan, on 086-1938646, after 4pm, closing date to reserve places is Wednesday, November 17.

Senior camogie final replay

It's back to the drawing board next Sunday, when Inniscarra and Imokilly meet to replay their county senior camogie final at CIT. Four weeks ago, an injury-time point from Inniscarra's Margaret Cosgrave gave her side a draw, and with neither side managing to break the deadlock it ended all square, and it's all to play for, once again.

Both sides possess plenty of talented performers, who have played crucial roles in their

paths to the final. Inniscarra captain, Margaret Noelle O'Sullivan, has proved inspirational, while she has good support from Niamh Dilworth, Joanne Casey and Niamh McCarthy.

Inniscarra have yet to engrave their name on the county's most prestigious trophy and they make no secret of their desire to do so, especially since losing out to Fr O'Neills in 2005.

With two such talented sides, it promises to be quite a game.

CAMOGIE ALL STARS



Galway recipients of 2010 Camogie All-Star awards, from left, Orla Kilkeny, Brenda Hanney, Aislinn Connolly, Regina Glynn and Niamh Kilkeny at the Citywest Hotel.



Sisters Orla, left, and Niamh Kilkeny with their 2010 Camogie All-Star awards.



Collette and Sean Walsh, from Turloughmore, enjoying the camogie All Stars.



Martina Harkin, Michelle Glynn and Aine Hillary, all from Pearsees, attended the 2010 Camogie All-Stars in the Citywest Hotel.

Camogie All-Stars

Nov. 2010



Attending 2010 Camogie All-Stars in the Citywest Hotel are, from left, Bertie Sherlock, trainer, Tara Rutledge, Susan Eamon, Sandra Tannian, Laura Mitchell, Caroline Murray, Orla Kilkeny, Niamh Kilkeny, Ann Kearney and Noel Finn, manager, all from Galway.

O'Flynn defends finals in March

CAMOGIE

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SEANDUN U11 A CAMOGIE FINAL

UNDER 11S CAPTURE COVETED TITLE

CONGRATULATIONS to our U11 girls who recently won the Seandun U11 A Camogie final, beating Glen Rovers on a score line of 3-2 to 0-1.

The 1st half was a very close affair, with no score coming for a long time into the half. Both defences were under a lot of pressure and it was very tight in the centre of the pitch. Bishopstown opened the scoring with a fine point from Saoirse O'Sullivan.

The Glen fought back again putting our full back line of Méabh Broderick, Emily Carr & Ide Ni Dheasmhunaigh under severe pressure but they kept them from getting through. Bishopstown then had a period of dominance and drove forward with our half-backs of Sarah Murphy, Rachael Leisk & Nora Hayes starting several attacks.

Our full forward line of Sophie Murphy, Laura Fitzpatrick and Fiona Richardson were fighting hard to make the breakthrough and were involved in several goal mouth scrambles but The Glen were resolute and would not let them in for a score. The game move back and forth with a lot of hard work being put in by both teams around the centre.

Then our breakthrough came when our tireless half forwards of Claire Reidy, Caoimhe Dineen & Aisling O'Sullivan got on top and Aisling came through with a powerful shot to put the ball in the net.

The Glen fought back again and were not letting Bishopstown get away, they went up and got a fine point and only for some fine saves by our goalie Jemma Kelleher, they could have had a couple of goals. The Glen went close and were unlucky not to get a few more points before half-time. The 1st half

ended with the score line of 1-1 to 0-1.

GREAT SPELL

From the start of the 2nd half the Bishopstown girls came out with a determination to press on and increase their lead. Una Stevens and Saoirse O'Sullivan in midfield put in tireless 2nd half performances and Una got the next score a fine goal. Our half forwards and full forwards had a great spell going close on several occasions. Saoirse added another point. Bishopstown then got another goal with both Laura Fitzpatrick & Una Stevens claiming it. We were able to bring on all the subs throughout the remainder of the half and they all played well, Amy O'Sullivan & Orla Hynes went close to scoring.

Again well done to all the girls, it was great to see how much they improved this year and having the courage to try things during the game that

they do during training. Hopefully this win will give them the confidence and determination to train and improve further and go on to other victories in the years to come.

Our full panel on the day was Jemma Kelleher, Méabh Broderick, Emily Carr, Ide Ni Dheasmhunaigh, Nora Hayes, Rachael Leisk, Sarah Murphy, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Una Stevens, Claire Reidy, Caoimhe Dineen, Aisling O'Sullivan, Fiona Richardson, Laura Fitzpatrick, Sophie Murphy, Amy O'Sullivan, Orla Hynes, Emma O'Driscoll, Loraine Wilson, Kayleigh Whelton, Charlotte Ware, Jane Murphy, Derbhla Ni Dheasmhunaigh, Nary Richardson, Cloadagh Reidy, Orla Dunne,

Other girls that were unable to make it on the day were Mairead Collins, Julie Nunan, Sinead Richardson, Michelle Quaid

Nov. 2010

MARY O'CONNOR

Born: Killeagh
Age: 33
Sports: Ladies football and camogie
Positions: Forward in football, defender in camogie
Occupation: Camogie Development Officer
Honours: Football - 5 All-Ireland senior, 7 Munster championships, 4 National Leagues, All-Ireland senior, intermediate and junior clubs, 7 Munster clubs, 13 county titles, Allstar
Camogie: 7 All-Ireland senior, 10 Munsters, 9 National Leagues, 2 All-Ireland club, 4 Munster club, Allstar
Career influences: My mother and Tommy Seward
Pet Hates: Dublin traffic
Hobbies: Reading and cycling
Favourite music: Counting Crows, Van Morrison
Favourite film: 1997 Lions DVD
Favourite food: Mamma's stew

IN Mary O'Connor's glorious career, last month could be considered mere routine, just three county finals, including two in 24 hours, and a couple of Munster finals as she dabbled in her favourite sports, ladies football and camogie, for three different teams! Our October winner talks to Mark Woods



Mary O'Connor, director of camogie development, with a Camogie le Celdin promotional sticker. Picture: Larry Cummins

Mary's

FROM inter-county despair to the joy of parish success!

That's been Mary O'Connor's 2010, a year which has ticked the right boxes at club level, following a rare collapse in the red of Cork.

Back in January the footballers of Inch Rovers and the camogie players of Killeagh wrote down their objectives for the season.

For the footballers it was all about setting the record straight and salvaging lost pride following their county final drubbing in 2009, while the camogie equivalent had just one wish, reclaiming the club's top flight status after a long stint in the wilderness.

Mary would be a central figure in both, an ace marksman with the footballers and a stalwart in the camogie defence.

Inch duly qualified for the final to renew rivalry with Donoughmore and Mary's class was evident in a magnificent nine-point contribution in a 0-15 to 0-9 victory.

"At the start of the year we definitely wanted to atone for last year's county final defeat, when Donoughmore wiped us off the field.

"The game was over after 25 minutes because they had scored a couple of goals and we weren't converting at the other end.

"It was very disillusioning and people put it down to a lot of things, but the simple fact is we were well beaten by a better team on the day.

"We said if we got back to the final again we'd make up for that.

"I think the main difference this year was the hurt we were feeling from 12 months ago and it wasn't just the defeat in itself more than manner.

"We had a lot of experienced players who were used to winning, but this was hard to take.

"Yet, when we got to the final we focused on producing a performance, something we didn't do in '09, rather than concentrating on winning.

"We believed if we could perform we would push Donoughmore, but as it turned out, we gave one of the most complete team performances, having stuttered through the earlier rounds.

"Every player did their job and what made the victory sweeter was the fact that we did perform on the big day," she said.

Typically, Mary tried to dilute the significance of her scoring contribution and was more prepared to acknowledge the roles played by those at the back.

"All six were outstanding in the way they limited a free-scoring Donoughmore team.

"It showed once again success is built on a strong defence and for my time playing in defence in camogie, I can relate to that."

Skip a couple of weekends to the Munster club final against Waterford's Ballymacarbery and more major tests of skill and indeed character.

The first game ended level in a topsy-turvy affair, Inch, twice, recovering from six-point deficits before edging in front late on only for their opponents to force a replay.

Evening Echo Lady sports star winner for October, Mary O'Connor, winner of seven All-Ireland camogie medals and five All-Ireland ladies football medals with Cork, plus county medals with Killeagh and Inch Rovers.

Picture: Larry Cummins



★ Evening Echo **LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS** ★





An unsuccessful year on the intercounty front has been made up for with club honours for Killeagh native O'Connor.

Picture: Larry Cummins

keeping very busy

"Rena Buckley always says the team who learns more from the draw will win the replay and that's how it panned out.

"Waterford football is coming again, though. Seven of the Ballymacarbery team were on the Waterford side which lost the All-Ireland intermediate final, so they were very fit.

"We needed to improve our team-work, because we had a bye straight through to the final and hadn't played since the county final, due to camogie and other things.

"What we did learn, though, was that there's a lot of character in our team.

"It showed a bit of steel in the team, something that people may have questioned beforehand, saying we lacked bottle and stuff like that.

"We proved our doubters wrong in that sense in what was a great effort by all concerned."

Inch won a high-scoring second game by 5-13 to 2-10, Mary chipping in with 1-4, though the MVP award went to young Jessica O'Shea, who helped herself to 2-2.

"The replay was a carbon-copy of the first game, but in reverse.

"We got the good start, Jessica popping up with a beautiful goal after five minutes and then we got a second goal. Once again, our defence was superb, restricting Ballymacarbery's forwards, and when you see that happening it gives us forwards great confidence.

"We didn't play as well as we did in the county final, but we did more than enough to win, putting in a per-



After disappointment in the county decider last year, Inch Rovers have gone on to win the Munster title this year.

formance for the whole 60 minutes."

In between games, Mary figured in two county senior camogie finals in 24 hours, the first finishing in triumph, the second still to be decided this Sunday.

She put the senior 'B' final against Éire Óg in context of what camogie means to the people of the east Cork village.

"Killeagh hasn't had a senior team for over 20 years and this for a club which won All-Ireland titles in the past.

"For a lot of us who've been around a long time that was the main goal, especially as we knew what it would mean to people like Síle Spillane, who's been around the club for an age.

"Killeagh is such a strong hurling area with the men playing senior and the hope was the camogie would be doing the same.

"It's hard to say why exactly the club slipped down the various levels.

"Football was new to the parish

and it took girls a while to realise you could play both.

"The club underwent some restructuring and the executive that's there now is full of hard workers.

"I think it also helped that Killeagh under-age hurling is very strong and we sort of mirrored the structure there.

"Camogie is going from strength to strength. I mean you have 30 U12s training every week all year and they wouldn't miss a session.

"It took a bit of time to build up again and I think there was a certain amount of responsibility on us as the team in the shop window, so to speak, to get us back up to the highest grade.

"At the start of the year we decided to put all our energies into this and it helped that both clubs and the team managements worked very well together.

"I think it showed you can have dual players in a dual club set-up in a small area like Killeagh.

"We had seven dual players in the starting 15 in both teams, plus a number of subs, as well."

Killeagh and Éire Óg played out a closely fought game in the round robin section earlier in the campaign, Mary's side edging it by a point.

"We knew what to expect.

"It was felt if we could restrict their forwards, we'd have the fire power in our attack to do the job.

"We got a really good start against the wind and generally had the edge over them.

"It was such a relief to win, be-

cause we had been trying for so long.

"We reckoned this was our best chance yet, because we had everyone fit and everyone was around for the summer.

"My brother Kevin trained the team this year and another brother John did it before, so that added to the satisfaction."

Killeagh won by 2-11 to 1-5, Mary's career having come full circle from a raw 14 years old, when she made her adult debut.

Back then Killeagh were an intermediate club, but dropped back to junior B because of a lack of numbers.

"It showed with a bit of hard work and a focus you can achieve things, though it took us longer than we thought it would."

Mary considers Imokilly's progress as bonus territory, though she spoke enthusiastically about the 4-9 each drawn game.

"The atmosphere was special. It was played under lights in CIT and Inniscarra brought a huge crowd with them.

"I think it showed what a super team they have, going on to win the Munster title, and underlining the work that's being done at under-age.

"It was a great game to be involved in. We looked dead and buried six points down early on, but came back and it was the sort of game in which everyone played a part.

"I will certainly remember it for a long time."

Win or lose, Mary will reflect fondly on a great October.

Evening Echo **LADIES SPORTSTAR** AWARDS



Tuesday, November 9

The Evening Echo Ladies Sportstar of the month for October, Mary O'Connor. Picture: Larry Gammans

Mary has the title in the bag

Nov 2010



Shay Livingstone, general manager Rochestown Park Hotel, makes a presentation to Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star award winner Mary O'Connor. Picture: Richard M...

Dermody Goals Inspire Offaly To Intermediate All-Ireland Victory

By Rose Mannion

Offaly2-12

Wexford2-10

OFFALY camogie created sporting history on the 'sacred soil' of Croke Park on Sunday last when they overcame a second half spirited fight back by their opponents Wexford in the Intermediate All-Ireland final.

A tremendous first half where they dominated all over the pitch, Offaly were firmly in the driving seat at the break with a 2.7 to 0.4 lead. Despite a second half spirited come back from the Slaneysiders who never managed to overcome and edge out in front, Offaly continued to rule the roost by controlling the game and edging home to victory with two points to spare and in doing so - Thus taking the giant step up to the senior grade and at the first time of asking too. This game served up some fine individual displays from both and as it turned out, was a far more entertaining hour than the senior one that followed.

A dream start for the girls from the Faithful County settled any nerves they were harboring when their sharp shooting full forward Elaine Dermody struck for their first goal just under eight minutes into the game as the ball came

across from an Arlene Watkins line ball and this was the inspiration that the side needed after shooting two opening wides. This was quickly followed up by substitute Jean Brady who replaced Michelle Davis at wing forward before the game started.

Offaly were here before, in 2008 when they suffered a heartbreaking one point defeat to Clare in the Junior final but came back in 2009 to claim the Junior title with a powerful display over Waterford. Now here they were again in the Jones Road venue for the third successive year in a bid for the Intermediate crown and they could be forgiven indeed if things didn't work out for them on the day, but the players had it firmly fixed in their minds that they weren't leaving empty handed as they tore back into attack and Brady turned over the figures on the scoreboard for her second point.

Wexford were struggling both mentally and positionally as they were unable to come to terms with their opponent's early lead as Offaly held most of the possession with midfielders Arlene Watkins and Marion Crean keeping a plentiful supply to the forwards. Elaine Dermody was having the game of her life as she caught a line ball from Siobhan Flannery and turning on her heel she side stepped Louise O'Leary to stretch the Offaly

lead with deadly accuracy.

The thought of five months previously, April 24th actually and the League final where Wexford denied Offaly by a single goal was unleashed as Offaly set a high standard from the moment the ball was thrown in and now they were on the attack again and Dermody reaped her second point. Wexford managed through Louise Codd to work the ball up their end of the pitch but Siona Nolan wasted the effort as Dermody set up Siobhan Flannery for her first point of the game at the other end. Wexford upped their performance and Ciara O'Connor registered their first score which came from a placed ball mid way through the half and when full forward Fiona Rochford went looking for certain goal, Lorraine Keena forced her out for wide but she did, however, get back in for a point two minutes later.

The Offaly backs were now coming under fierce pressure but their centre back and Captain Michaela Morkan lorded the back line and made this position her own as she cleared time and again investing a huge work rate which earned her player of the match. Aided on either side by the Sullivans, Sheila and Linda, very little got through them throughout the half.

Wexford were on the attack once again with Ciara O'Connor heading in for goals when she slipped, lost

possession, regained and fired low and hard, but keeper, the solid Audrey Kennedy, made a superb save and cleared to the side line where a build up followed but eventually the ball was waved out.

Offaly continued to dominate when Siobhan Flannery caught a dropping high ball and pointed and when she went in search of another score, Louise O'Leary dispossessed. Wexford were losing ground so when Fiona Stephens fouled Lisa Bolger, Ciara O'Connor fired over. With time fading, Offaly set up another attack but Jean Hayden's clearance gave Elaine Dermody control and while Louise O'Leary tried to stop her progress, Dermody had goal on her mind as she wriggled her way through the Wexford full back line and hand passed the ball to the back of the Wexford net with one minute of normal time remaining. Coming close to the break, Offaly tore back into attack and Siobhan Flannery fired over as the game went into injury time and to leave Offaly leading 2.7 to 0.4 at the break.

While Wexford left the pitch in a sad and sorry mood and under massive attack, they returned like new players in the second half, striking back and applying massive pressure on the Offaly backs and keeper from the very start. They also made two changes and turning the game

around, they had done the same to Offaly in two previous meetings this year, April and June, like cats playing with it's prey before destroying, but Offaly were fully aware of this and were ready and more importantly, they were able, showing great strength of character as the game wore on. However, those two first half Dermody goals were to prove vital for survival in the end to help Offaly over the line.

With Wexford going for an early second half goal, Offaly keeper Audrey Kennedy made three early successive saves when she first forced Ciara O'Connor off her tracks, but she was quickly defending again and was on her knees to control a Stacey Redmond attack and her third block came fast when Siona Nolan tasted hunger but Kennedy denied. O'Connor brought Wexford closer in the sixth minute but within a minute Dermody pointed from a free at the other end to cancel out. Arlene Watkins was working very hard and Colleen Atkinson failed to clear her high ball in where Karen Nugent's effort to finish it off hit the side of the net.

Wexford hit back through Redmond and Bolger to claw into the Offaly lead and holding the girls from the faithful county scoreless but the real blow hit when Fiona Rochford tore through the Offaly defence and palmed to

the Offaly net mid way through the half. Winning the puck out, O'Connor fired over to leave just three points between them and the question was could Offaly hold out. Rochford brought the sides level for the first time after a magnificent effort as she split open the Offaly rear guard in a repeat of earlier meetings.

But the girls in green, white and gold were not about to lie down or give up easily and in fairness to them, they didn't panic but remained calm as newly introduced substitute Ailsa Hughes restored their lead with a well taken point after a fifteen minute drought where Dermody, Linda Sullivan, and sub Michelle Davis all had a hand in the build up and Siobhan Flannery's wonderful point less than a minute later was the tonic her team mates needed at this crucial period. Wexford hit back through an O'Connor free and Offaly were determined not to make the same mistake for the third time in five months as substitute Emma Dunne brought their lead back up to two. With tension mounting from both sets of spectators, Wexford shot wide while Watkins caught the puck out and making a great effort, she was robbed as several of the opposition swarmed upon her where Bridget Curran gathered crossed to O'Connor who in turn wasted the chance

by shooting wide of target after she came under heavy Offaly defending.

Arlene Watkins brought Offaly up to three while Michelle Davis was unfortunate to have her insurance effort go astray. Having learned from their mistakes it was obvious that no matter how deep Wexford dug, Offaly had that extra bit left in

the tank to go the extra mile and this was never more obvious as when Linda Bolger brought the lead down to two and Offaly tore back into a quick attack making progress as Owen Elliott's whistle ensured that the Jack McGrath cup came to spend the next twelve months in the Faithful County for the first time in the history of Offaly camogie.

THE SCORERS

OFFALY: Elaine Dermody 2.3 (0.1f), Siobhan Flannery 0.4, Jean Brady 0.2, Ailsa Hughes, Emma Dunne, Arlene Watkins 0.1 each.

WEXFORD: Fiona Rochford 2.1, Ciara O'Connor 0.5 (0.3f), Lisa Bolger 0.2, Linda Bolger, Stacey Redmond 0.1 each.

THE TEAMS

OFFALY: Audrey Kennedy, Fiona Stephens, Lorraine Keena, Karen Brady, Sheila Sullivan, Michaela Morkan (Captain), Linda Sullivan, Arlene Watkins, Marion Crean, Jean Brady, Aoife Kelly, Siobhan Flannery, Karen Nugent, Elaine Dermody, Tina Hannon. Subs: Michelle Davis for A. Kelly (43), Ailsa Hughes for K. Nugent (45), Emma Dunne for S. Flannery (56).

WEXFORD: Helena Jacob, Jean Hayden, Louise O'Leary, Colleen Atkinson, Frances Doran, Louise Codd, Shelley Kehoe, Emma Moran, Lorraine O'Connor, Fiona Rochford, Siona Nolan, Stacey Redmond, Stacey Kehoe, Ciara O'Connor, Lisa Bolger.

SUBS: Bridget Curran for F. Doran, (ht), Eimear O'Connor for S. Nolan (ht), Shauna Sinnott for E. Moran (52) Linda Bolger for S. Kehoe (54).

PLAYER OF THE MATCH: Offaly Captain Michaela Morkan.

REFEREE: Owen Elliott (Antrim).

