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# CAMOGIE MATTERS

By Jennifer O'Leary

**HANDING OVER** | Rejuvenated executive has 11 members

## WGPA making things better for county ladies' football and camogie players

### Jennifer caught up with the outgoing chair Aoife Lane

THE year was 2015. It was a Tuesday, January 20th, to be exact. And, at a reception in the Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin, a group of seven women were instrumental in launching the WGPA (Women's Gaelic Players Association).

The seven founding members included its chairperson Aoife Lane, Fiona McHale, Anna Geary, Valerie Mulcahy, Kate Kelly, Deirdre Murphy and Gemma Begley.

This was an association set up to improve the playing, personal and professional lives of women playing at the highest level at intercounty level and now provides a solid support to players all over Ireland who represent their county in camogie and ladies' football.

The year is now 2019, January has come, and with the cold comes further changes in the association. With four of its founding members stepping down, including former Cork camogie-winning captain Anna Geary, Clare camogie native Deirdre Murphy, Mayo footballer Fiona McHale and the great leader, Aoife Lane of Galway, there now is a rejuvenated executive with 11 members on the board. Maria Kinsella from Carlow will now chair the Association and will work to build further on the solid foundations set in place by these inspirational women.

Having made great strides in supporting women's Gaelic games, the Association is now going from strength to strength.

And, while it takes a strong collective of women to bring about change for women, there was one lady who showed incredible leadership in bringing about this positive change; a woman who was instrumental in pushing for more, a female who wanted better and demanded better for intercounty players.

Aoife Lane was the catalyst in forming the WGPA. I asked Aoife a number of questions about her four years at the helm of the Association – a role she found both challenging and rewarding.

**How do you feel about moving on from leading the WGPA, a significant movement in ladies' football and camogie?**

I feel very content with my decision to move on, I think the time is right for me, but also I feel confident for the organisation and happy that it is in safe hands. I would be protective of it in some ways and worried that all would be okay, but you can't be too precious – things move on without you, there are very few areas in life where you are irreplaceable.

The organisation is solid now, it knows itself, it is moving into a very sustainable environment and has excellent people at the forefront, none more so than all the players who are supportive of the organisation, and who want to contribute to continually improving things for ladies' football and camogie.

**You have made many strides since founding the association in 2014, such as introducing scholarships and grants to support players in their education and sport. What do you feel has been the greatest achievement of the WGPA so far?**

The greatest achievement is securing Government funding, with a special mention to Deirdre Murphy from Clare for leading that for the WGPA. There are so many good things about the funding; it is a joint project with ladies' football and camogie, it is acknowledgement from the highest office in the land, it is equal funding across all codes and grades and it is money ring fenced to support a high-performance playing environment for adult county players. It has opened a very important door for the county player and is a show of respect and support for women who reach the highest level possible in their chosen sport.

**What were the toughest obstacles you have faced?**

The toughest obstacles are always related to issues where players or teams cannot represent their county in their sport.

There are so many reasons for this; injury, personal circumstances, team issues, fixture clashes and so on, but regardless, it's always disappointing and the WGPA aren't always able to help, or know exactly how to help.

The organisation will always do its best, but equally has to be better in those cases. In many situations, players do such brilliant work in overcoming obstacles at a local level displaying brilliant leadership qualities.

**What would be your vision for the WGPA in the years ahead?**

Vision questions are always hard! I guess I would like that the organisation has a greater set of resources to be able to help more and continue to make things better. The WGPA is probably working at its maximum, so it needs greater resourcing to move forward and I am confident that will happen.

I would also like that the organisation is to the forefront of all players' minds as a helpful, supportive, consistent, challenging entity. The organisation definitely needs to build greater awareness levels amongst all members. The bottom line is that every player across every squad in both codes feels equally appreciated and supported.

**On a personal level, you seem to have a busy schedule between your work commitments and the many committees you are part of, as well as leading the executive through an exciting time of change in women's sport in Ireland. How have you juggled it all? Has working for the WGPA been time consuming?**

I guess it was a pleasure and, for the most, the experience of a lifetime. Working with the other members of the executive was so much fun and we found our way together to do something that is really positive. It needs new leadership now and new ideas, but we set out to make things better and we achieved that.

It probably has got more



Aoife Lane who has just stepped down as chairperson of the Women's Gaelic Players Association WGPA after a successful four years in the role.

**Government funding has opened a very important door for the county player and is a show of respect and support for women who reach the highest level possible in their chosen sport**

time-consuming, and there have been elements I found really challenging, but the change is as much for the organisation as it is for me.

I also got so much from the WGPA in terms of my own personal and professional development, a leadership programme, trips to the US, meeting Billie

Jean King and a whole collection of new friends.

I look back now and am happy and content about it all, it's a nice way to finish. I'm sure it's like players who retire on their own terms after winning an All-Ireland – the best way to go.

What has been the high-

light of being involved in the WGPA?

The highlight is the relationships I built; both with friends and professionals. I was in rooms and conversations that there is no way I would have been near if I hadn't been involved with the WGPA. It gave me a leg-up into a world that I was fascinated with and I will always be grateful for that.

**In one sentence, how would you describe the WGPA?**

The WGPA is supportive, reflective, player-led, grounded and player-focused.



# Sars continue to set the standard

## Wallace plans to retain title for minors

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

NO sooner have the celebrations finished and it all systems go again as preparations are well underway again with the defence of the All-Ireland minor title just around the corner.

I caught up with manager Jerry Wallace during the week and he filled us in on how things are going.

Last season Jerry took the reins and guided the county for a first minor All-Ireland title since it became an U18 grade, while also organising and overseeing a development squad at U17 with an eye to this year.

Over the off-season, the Middleton man and his backroom have not sat back and enjoyed the celebrations.

They have been seen frequently at games casting an eye on the lookout for new talent.

Since early December preparations have been underway and the squad have been working away on Sunday afternoons on the Páirc Uí Chaoimh all-weather pitch where close on 70 girls have been involved between trial training and trial matches.

Cork will begin the defence of their title with their first game games on February 23 away to Tipperary.

Three weeks later it's a tough game away to Galway, the side they defeated in the All-Ireland final.

Then there will be two home games against Wexford and Dublin.

Two teams come out of the group to contest the semi-finals and it is expected that the final will be played the end of April or the first weekend May.

In preparation Jerry and his backroom mentors have named their panel which has a total of 21 clubs are represented with twelve of the panel from last season still eligible this year including Fiona Keating, Orla Cremin, Hannah O'Leary and Emma Murphy who all had a superb season in 2018 as Cork made history.

### MINOR PANEL

Ana Hartnett (Ballincollig), Miriam Cotter (Aghabullogue), Clara Murphy (Carrigaline), Laura Doyle (Charleville), Lucy Wallace (Middleton/St Catherine's), Hannah O'Leary (Ballincollig), Casey Coleman (Na Piaras), Clara O'Sullivan (Newcestown), Orla Cremin (Blarney), Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers), Fiona Keating (Courcey Rovers), Molly Lynch (Sarsfields), Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane), Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Isobel Sheehan (Eire Og), Clodagh Finn (Fr O'Neill's), Cliona O'Leary (Ballygarvan), Molly Barrett (Carrigaline), Ali Smith (Aghada), Eimear Hurley (St Finbarr's), Jennifer Murphy (Blarney), Aoife O'Neill (St Finbarr's), Cliona Martin (Glen Rovers), Emma Quigley (Eire Og), Sinead Hurley (Enniskeane), Fiona Burke (Glenagh), Emma Cooney (Carrigaline), Cliona Dooley (Ballinora), Sarah O'Keefe (Ballinora), Siobhan O'Donovan (Courcey Rovers), Clair Kingston (Ballinacorney), Eileen Murphy (Inniscarra).

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A HUGE amount of work at underage saw a total of 66 clubs registered and enter the various competitions organised by the juvenile board through an extremely busy 2018.

Clubs were well catered for with the Juvenile Board running off competitions for all age groups.

The U8 to U11s participated in Go Games blitzes while the U12s had three Cluster Blitzes followed by the hugely successful U12 leagues, organised so well on a new basis by GPC member Gerard Corcoran.

Without doubt, the U12 leagues were a huge success the decision to change the format and not grade the teams into A B or C sections as in previous years was an excellent idea.

The new structure was a resounding success the league was divided in to eight sections with six teams in each section each team played each other giving each club five games.

On completion of each of the sections of their games, the teams were then split into three groups of 16, based on their finishing position in their sections.

Group 1 consisted of the winners and second placed teams in each section. Group 2 was made up of the teams finishing in positions three and four, and Group 3 included the clubs in positions five and six in each section. These groups then played off in a knockout competition.

In U12 A final Sarsfields 1 defeated Newcestown. In U12 A1 Douglas took the honours over Clonakilty.

U12 A2 saw Sarsfields' second team overcome Middleton. In U12 B Kilbrittain/Timoleague defeated Fr O'Neill's to be crowned champions. U12 B1 saw Na Piaras take the honours over Aghada.

In U12 B2 Ballinhassig got the upper hand over Castlelyons. The U12 C title was won by Buttevant as they defeated Erin's Own.

U12 C1 saw Millstreet get the better of St Fanahan's. The U12 C3 was won by Sarsfields' fourth team as they beat Grenagh and it was Brian Dillon's who took the U12 C4 beating Douglas' second team.

The U14s had the main leagues at A, B and C levels while clubs were also afforded an opportunity to enter a U14 second league during the summer season. You also had the Cork U14 Féile competitions in two grades.

The U16s were also well catered for with leagues at A, B and C and an U16 Championship with a new grade of premier plus A, B and C with a backdoor system.

In the U14 League, 12 teams participated and were divided into two groups of six with the top two teams from each section qualifying for the semi-finals.

The final saw Sarsfields take on Aghabullogue with Sarsfields taking the title with Evie Twomey named as Player of the Match.

In the U14 B league 25 clubs were involved with five sections of five.

Aghada and Glen Rovers contested the final with Aghada running out winners.

The U14 C league also had 25 teams in five sections and in this final Middleton and Erin's Own battled it out,



Geraldine Downey presenting the Peter Downey Memorial Trophy to Sarsfields U14 camogie captain Ella O'Brien.



William Wallace, vice chairman of the Juvenile Camogie Board, presents the U14 B Championship trophy to his fellow club member Aghada captain Aoife Healy.

with the Magpies taking the honours on a 0-7 to 0-6 scoreline with Player of the Match award going to Aoife Fitzgerald.

At championship level, it was the third year the board organised this competition and again the backdoor system worked well.

First round games were played by the end of May with the losers rounds played by June 17. The quarter- and semi-finals were in September and the three finals were played on the same day, October 6.

In the U14 A Championship 10 competed and after some excellent games the final was played in Ballinlough where Sarsfields and Aghabullogue met before Sars made it a double.

This trophy in memory of the late Peter Downey, who was a prominent referee with the camogie and GAA, was presented to winning captain by Peter's wife Geraldine.

The Player of the Match award went to Cliona Lynch, Sarsfields.

There were 26 teams in the U14 B Championship and it was Aghada and Clonakilty who made it to the final.

Aghada won with the Player of the Match award going to Chloe McIntyre. The U14 C grade also had 26 teams and concluded with Sliabh Rua against Carrigtwohill.

The East Cork outfit won and Sinead Crowley was the star player.

Féile Na Gael was divided into two divisions, in Division 1 12 teams participated in three sections and in Division 2 there were 33 teams divided into eight sections.

Despite appalling weather conditions in the lead up to it the most of the section games were played March 24 as clubs made a huge effort to have pitches available despite a week of torrential rain.

The quarter-finals went ahead on

## Sars went on to represent Cork at Féile and retained their All-Ireland title for three in a row

March 25 with semi-finals six days later and then the Féile finals on April 14 in Castle Road.

The Division 1 final was contested by Sarsfields and Inniscarra with Sarsfields taking the title. Sars went onto represent Cork at Féile and retained their All-Ireland title making it three in a row.

The Division 2 Final was between Glen Rovers and Rockbawn with Rockbawn crowned winners and going on to represent Cork in the B All-Ireland Féile.

The Cork Féile Skills winner was Aisling Casey from Dungourney with Cliona Lynch (Sarsfields) in second place and Aoife Twomey (Aghabullogue) in third. Aisling went on to represent Cork in the National Féile Skills Competition.

A busy year at all levels for U12s and U14s players who can look back on a hugely successful season.



## IF SHE CAN'T SEE IT, SHE CAN'T BE IT

**T**he 20x20 initiative is a movement gathering momentum as it aims to shift cultural perceptions about women in sport in the time leading up to 2020.

The key targets set are:

A 20 per cent increase in media coverage of women in sport

A 20 per cent increase in female participation in sport at all levels

A 20 per cent increase in attendance at women's games and events

Cork's All-Ireland winning Camogie captain, Aoife Murray, told us about her support for the campaign.

She says: "I would have close ties to it because I would have played with Mary O'Connor who is the brains behind all of it.

"I think it's great and how you get the message out is extremely important and that it's communicated to people and that it is more about getting an equal status rather than one trying to be better than the other and I think that is a really important thing.

"I certainly don't want to be seen to be better than my counterpart in hurling, I just want to have the same level of opportunity and respect.

"We have a huge road to go but you have got to start somewhere. In women's sport we are behind the curve a huge amount, so for this to just get that ball rolling at least it is a start. There is a very long road ahead of us but now I can't go on twitter without seeing some 20x20 hashtag in something.

"Maybe I'm too old to benefit from that but at least my nieces and nephews which I think it's important for boys to grow up with this equal status in media, and hopefully it will mean we won't have to have the same conversations in 20 years' time."

"Seeing girls going around with their Cork camogie jersey rather than the Cork hurling or football jersey is one thing that has stood out. There's a lot going around in their club jersey which I think is even better again that they are so proud of where they come from."



## Amy dazzles to win overall Northside award



Overall award recipient Amy O'Connor, St Vincents and Cork Camogie, with her parents Connie and Tracey at the overall Northside & District Awards at the Commons Inn, with Gurrabraher Credit Union as main sponsor. Picture: Gerard Bonus

**DEMPSEY (Youghal):** On February 1, 2019, JOHN (JACK) (formerly of Our Lady's Hospital, Cork and St. Raphael's, Youghal), peacefully, at his home, after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family, beloved husband of Maura and much loved dad of Ken, Kathleen, Patricia, Mary, Colette, Jacinta and the late John Jr. Sadly missed by his loving family, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends. Reposing at Egan's Funeral Home, Greencloyne, Youghal on today (Monday) from 5pm, with Prayers at 7pm. Requiem Mass on tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11.30am in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, The Strand, Youghal. Funeral afterwards to North Abbey Cemetery, Youghal.



# Slaughtneil achievements deserve more recognition, says McKinley

Declan Bogue

Slaughtneil camogie manager Dominic 'Woody' McKinley has described what he feels is a 'disgraceful' lack of recognition in the wider media for his team as they prepare to create history by winning three consecutive All-Ireland titles when they face Wexford's St Martin's in a few weeks.

McKinley pointed to the huge numbers attending the last two Ulster finals when Slaughtneil came up against his home club.

"In Dungannon there last

year there was 4,000 people at the Ulster final," explained McKinley.

"In the year previous, it was played in Glen, Maghera. There were over 5,500 people, the biggest crowd ever recorded for a camogie match in Ulster.

"Teams like Loughgiel, Slaughtneil, it's about everybody here. It's not just because we are in the position we are in now. We are in a strong position to talk about it and maybe can connect to the story.

"The coverage they get for

all this work they are putting in is nil. I was sitting in someone's house the year we played the game in Maghera to see BBC and UTV. Spent half an hour wasted thinking they would say something about it. But not a word! I think it's disgraceful."

McKinley insisted that the issue had not been talked about within the group, but he felt he needed to raise it for the sake of equality, name-checking the lack of coverage Down's Clonduff camogie team have received in reaching the All-Ireland

Intermediate final.

"I am not speaking to the girls about this. The girls don't want any limelight, they are not like that. But as a person looking in and seeing what is going on..." said McKinley.

"At the start when I came in, I had watched camogie and never really paid attention to it. I hadn't the respect that I have for them now. You start working with them and get the vibes and the feelings. They care so deeply about this.

"And to get to the level they have got, anybody that knows anything about sport, there is

serious dedication to it. Serious time and effort to get to that level and then to maintain it and stay there? You are talking about a unique group of players."

McKinley insists the commitment from the Slaughtneil players show to their sport surpasses any senior men's group he has coached. It has been said within the club that the camogie team are setting the standards that the men's teams, who have won multiple hurling and football Ulster club titles, have to reach.

McKinley, who stepped

down from the role of joint Antrim senior hurling manager at the end of last summer, stated, "The amount of time and effort they put in, I have never worked with a group of girls like this in my life. I always say to those girls, I wish sometime in my life I could get a group of boys like this.

"We're going in to February and March every year, so these girls are training nearly every other day. We train Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday morning. And then they have their two gym sessions to do as well."

# Karate and camogie funding hit by governance issues

Cliona Foley

Irish karate hasn't received a cent of Government funding this year, despite the fact that the sport is one of the new inclusions at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

This has been blamed on a major split in its national governing body, with two bodies — ONAKAI and Karate Ireland ONAKAI — now arguing that they represent the sport. ONAKAI received a €6,000

grant last year, but Sport Ireland has not given it any allocation yet for 2019, saying that the grant is dependent "on the successful closure of ongoing governance items".

"We have tried to work with (Irish) karate but there's been a very significant split," said Sport Ireland's director of High Performance, Paul McDermott, pointing out that Sport Ireland offered to intervene with a mediator last summer, but to no avail.

The row has now gone to the International Karate Federation and in the meantime athletes, some of whom have already written to Sport Ireland, have been left in limbo, with no funding for their first-ever chance at Olympic qualification.

"Athletes are suffering," McDermott acknowledged, but he said that was not Sport Ireland's responsibility.

"Look, we have extensive experience of the connection

between [good] governance and performance. When we meet with a board of any kind and they say: 'We're having this absolute fight, but we're going to make sure our athletes aren't impacted', our response is: 'You cannot have open warfare at board level and think athletes won't be affected'.

"It's for that governing body to fix their own issues because you won't have a performance or a system and you can forget

about Olympic participation until you resolve that issue. You are not adhering to your obligations to your athletes. Simple as that."

Camogie and table tennis are two other sports who may quibble about yesterday's grants.

Both of them got the same 'core' funding as last year (€395,000 for camogie and €107,000 for table tennis), but virtually all other sports saw their grants increased.

McDermott said that camogie's did not increase because it lost its CEO last year and has still not finished the process of appointing her replacement, saying: "We made a decision that we're not going to support that until there's a bit of strength and leadership there with the appointment of a new CEO."

He said table tennis still has some governance issues to resolve after a new group took over the sport in the past year.

# Bal's camogie golden jubilee celebrated

**BALLINASCARTHY:** Last Saturday night was a special one of celebration and will go down in history in the village of Ballinascorthy as a combined dinner dance was held in Fernhill House Hotel for the victorious Junior B county-winning camogie team of 2018, and in honour of the original team of 1969 as they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

This was very much a community affair with a huge attendance, spanning the GAA, festival and hall committees as well as the camogie fraternity. Camogie club chairman Michael Pattwell welcomed everyone and get proceedings under way. Kate Crowley introduced the team of 1969, which included players from the early '70s also and they got a well-deserved standing ovation. A moment's silence was observed for the deceased players, coaches and mentors of 50 years ago.

A most beautiful meal was enjoyed by those present, after which Cork county and Enniskeane club player Orla Cronin presented medals to the Junior B team, who won the county and West Cork title in 2018, so now play Junior A in 2019 for the first time in the club's history.

The captain of the 1969 team, Marian McCarthy (Campbell) presented awards to Cork U16A captain Claire Kingston, Cork minor captain Moira Barrett and Cork intermediate player Caroline Sugrue.

Celebrations for the golden anniversary of the club continue with the compilation of a camogie storybook for over the past 50 years and they are appealing to anyone who has old photos or stories to tell to get in touch on 086-4540981 or email: katecrowley224@gmail.com

There will be mass in Ballinascorthy Hall for the anniversary at the beginning of May when the book will also be launched.



Members of the Ballinascorthy (Castlevue) team of 1969 and the early 70s at the community celebration in Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty — seated from left — Kay Keohane, Margaret Ryan, Kathleen Crowley, Eleanor Finn, Patrick Hennessy (trainer), Ann Galvin, Carmel Calnan, Mary Coffey, Pauline Smith, Eileen O'Mahony and Mary Deasy. Back: Teresa Ahearn, Betty Hennessy, Ita McCarthy, Loretta Tobin, Carmel McCarthy, Marian Campbell (captain), Joan Ryan, Eileen Walsh, Mary Power, Nora Collins, Mary Lehan and May O'Donovan.



Gemma O'Connor, Leah Weste and Saoirse McCarthy at the Ambassador Hotel.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



# Cork progress to camogie league knockout stage

**CORK** 3-8  
**WATERFORD** 0-10

**DANIEL S WALSH REPORTS**

CORK made it three Littlewoods National Camogie League Division 1 wins on the trot as they saw off Waterford at Castle Road on Sunday.

Following the victory over Tipperary and a walkover against Wexford the previous week, it leaves Cork with full points ahead of their last match against Galway on February 24th. It guarantees a spot in the knockout stages and pitches that game against the Tribeswomen as a play-off for top spot in the group.

Courcey Rovers star Saoirse McCarthy marked her first start with a goal and a point from corner forward, while Ciara McCarthy (Aghabullogue) showed up well at midfield on her bow.

Cork manager Paudie Murray was pleased overall with how his side did, while acknowledging that there is room for improvement.

'We got the job done,' he said. 'We played quite well for ten minutes but, beyond that, I felt we were quite mediocre, the ball in was poor a lot of the time.'

'One positive was that we blooded quite a few new players, Ciara McCarthy started

at midfield in her first game and showed a lot to say that she has a good future there. Saoirse McCarthy had her first start too and did well, so from that point of view it was a good outing.'

As well as the McCartys, Briege Corkery and Niamh O'Callaghan were handed starts while Julia White made a welcome return from injury and goalkeeper Amy Lee, Katie McCarthy, Cliona Healy and Siobhán Hutchison were all handed game-time too.

Three goals in quick succession put the game in Cork's control and a 3-3 to 0-5 half-time lead was never going to be relinquished.

While the Rebels played against the wind, Waterford couldn't take advantage as they had three early wides and Saoirse McCarthy had the game's opening score. Though Orla Hickey and Beth Carton had Waterford ahead, Orla Cronin and Julia White set up Amy O'Connor for the first goal and Saoirse McCarthy added another soon after before O'Connor got her second.

Further points from O'Connor and Linda Collins ensured Cork were comfortable by the break, with Carton adding to Waterford's tally, though the outcome looked decided even at that early stage.



Cork camogie goalkeeper Aoife Murray kept another clean sheet against Waterford at the weekend.  
(Photo: Bryan Keane, INPHO)

While Niamh Rockett did cut the gap slightly on the resumption, Orla Cotter (two) and Ciara McCarthy extended Cork's breathing space and, as the substitutes' bench was emptied, the game petered out.

Galway's big win over Wexford leaves them with two wins from two, meaning a win for them this weekend against Waterford would leave them

level with Cork ahead of the last game.

Theoretically, Cork's weekend off allows for some concentrated training, but unfortunately for Murray it's not as simple as that. Nevertheless, he is anticipating a stiff test when the team do get back back in action.

'The Ashbourne is on next week so we won't see some of

the girls until after that's over,' he says.

'It's hard to get a lot done and then you don't want to be overdoing things when those players do come back as I'm conscious of the kind of training we've been doing - we're not training for championship, let's put it that way.'

'In February, it's always a fairly heavy slog and you can see

in the games that we've played that the girls have started to tire around the 40-minute mark. It's not an easy workload.'

'The Galway game will be tough, most likely winner-takes-all for the top spot in the group and what people would say is an easier semi-final. It'll tell us where we're at and be a good test.'

'Galway have been going well so far, they've played a strong team in all of their games and it definitely won't be easy but that's not a bad thing.'

## Scorers

**Cork:** A O'Connor 2-1, O Cotter 0-4, Saoirse McCarthy 1-1, L Collins, C McCarthy 0-1 each.

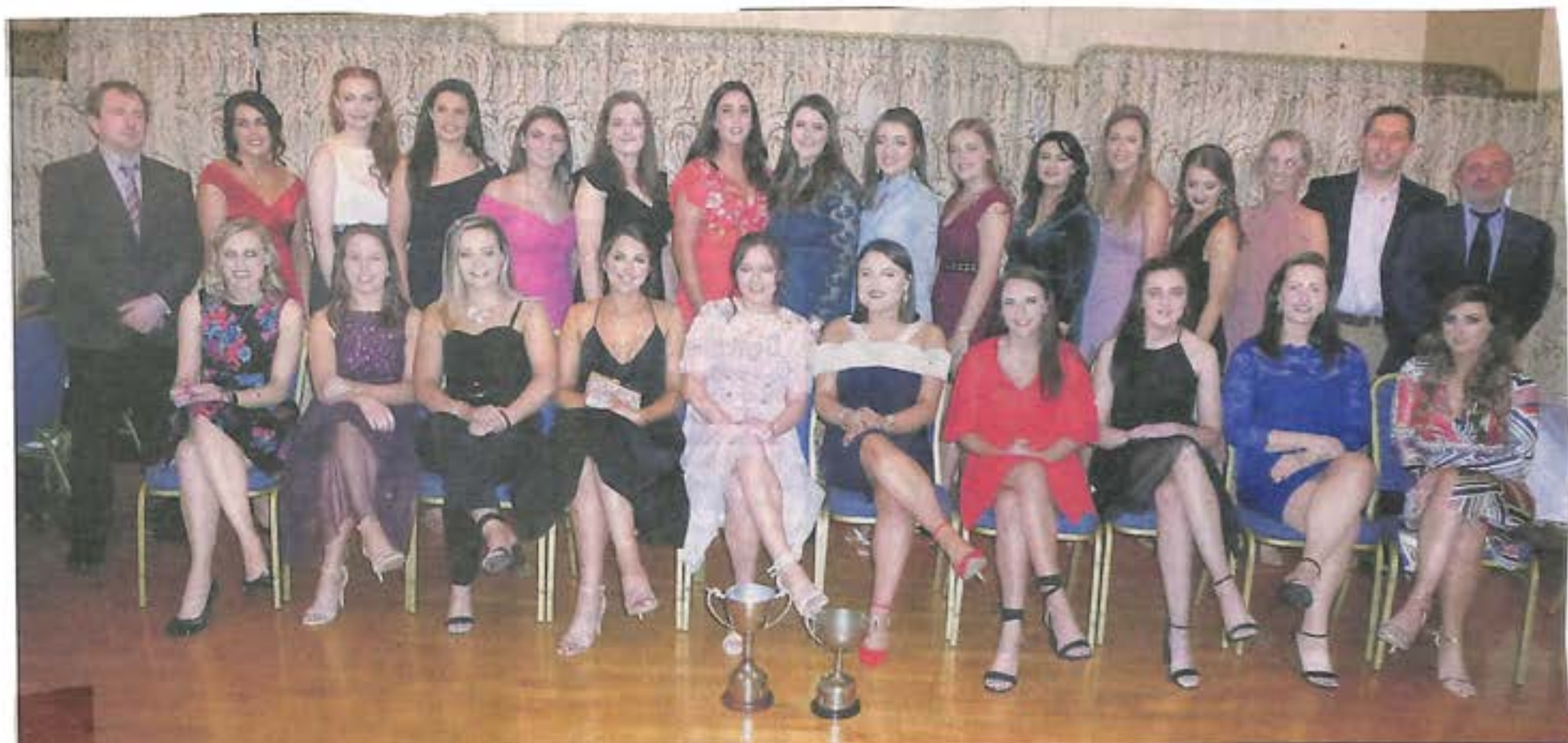
**Waterford:** B Carton 0-6 (3f), N Rockett 0-2, A Power, O Hickey 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Murray; N O'Callaghan, L Treacy, L Hayes, H Looney, B Corkery, C Sigerson, C McCarthy, A Thompson; A O'Connor, O Cronin, J White; O Cotter, L Collins, S McCarthy.

**Subs:** A Lee for Murray (35), K McCarthy for Looney (39), C Healy for S McCarthy (45), S Hutchinson for White (48).

**Waterford:** C Jackson; S Harney, I Heffernan, M Power, A Landers, A Lyng, C Whyte; C McGrath, L Bray, K Corbett-Barry, O Hickey, B Carton; N Rockett, A Power, K Tobin.

**Subs:** K Lynch for White, C Griffin for Landers (both half-time), S Fitzgerald for McGrath, S Curran for Tobin (both 45), N Murphy for Rockett (57).



The Ballinasclary Junior B county-winning camogie team at the community celebration in Fernhill House Hotel last weekend - seated from left - Kate O'Donovan, Siobhán Hennessy (captain), Lisa Hegarty, Claire Kingston, Clara Crowley, Anna Cullinane, Annie Condon, Sinead McCarthy, Martina O'Brien and Caroline Sugrue. Back: Micheál McCarthy (coach), Helen Harrington, Aoife Nyhan, Michelle Dullea, Moira Barrett, Cara Deasy, Breda McCarthy, Sarah Cahalane, Marie Phayer, Hannah O'Donovan, Lisa McCarthy, Kaela O'Driscoll, Elaine O'Brien, Ella Murray with Francis O'Driscoll and William McCarthy (trainers).





Finbarr McCarthy presents the sports star of the year award to Orla Cotter.

## Unassuming Cotter heralded as the sports star of the year

A WONDERFUL honour was awarded to Cork Camogie Star Orla Cotter as she was recently named the overall winner of the 96FM/C103 GAA Sports Star of the Year at the Gala Banquet in the Rochestown Park Hotel recently.

Before a packed attendance the Cork Camogie star from St Catherine's received a standing ovation as she made her way to the stage a clear indication of the popularity of this most unassuming and hugely talented player.

Orla was the September winner on the back of Cork retaining their All-Ireland senior Camogie title defeating old rivals Kilkenny in dramatic fashion.

It was a hectic year for one of Cork Camogie's top players on May 26 she got married to Mark and headed off on a dream honeymoon to Canada and then onto a cruise around Alaska before heading back home to celebrate her thirtieth birthday in July. Orla and Mark were back home on a Wednesday and she was back training with the Cork team on Thursday.

With six All-Irelands and five All-Stars safely tucked away in her back pocket one would have excused her taking an extended downtime to adjust to the new chapter in her busy life but not Orla.

It was business as usual as she helped Cork reach the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior final during an action-packed June, July and August where she was very much to the fore notching up crucial scores both from frees and play.

Earlier in the year she also became an auntie for the first time when niece Fia arrived so it was busy all through summer.

On to September and it was nip and tuck all through a tense final and as the All-Ireland Final headed towards full time with Cork and Kilkenny level it looked to be heading to a replay until Orla Cotter stepped up to the mark.

With an amazing sense of calm she landed a difficult match winning free sending it straight between the posts from almost the half way line and with it came the final whistle and the O'Duffy Cup was heading back to Leeside and Cork were back to back champions.

One of Camogie's most decorated players Orla holds hon-

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ours with her club St Catherine's from under 14 to senior B championship and she is also the holder of an All-Ireland under 16 medal as well as Senior B and seven senior medals.

She has won provincial honours with Cork and has All Ireland junior colleges honours as well as senior and junior national league medals.

Orla was the only player to actually play in two senior All Ireland finals in the same year in 2006 winning Senior B medal as Cork defeated Galway before going on to line out in the Senior All Ireland final later in the month when Cork overcame Tipperary to give Orla her first senior medal.

She went on to win her first All Star award in 2008 and is now the holder of seven.

On accepting the accolade presented to her by 96FM/C103s Finbarr McCarthy she said:

"I am in shock given the depth of talent here in the room this evening, and I am delighted to be chosen and it reflects where Cork Camogie stands right now."

Pushed to their bid for three in a row she said: "Well we are back in training and it would be brilliant to achieve it and we will certainly give it our best shot."

It's the 2nd year in a row that Camogie has taken the top award with Aoife Murray last year's recipient.

Joe Blake PRO Cork County Board addressed the gathering and paid tribute to all involved and thanked everybody for their on-going support of Cork GAA.

Joe also congratulated all the monthly winners and said their popularity is reflected in that all arms of our games are recognised.

This was the fifteenth year of the awards and already planning and preparation is underway for the 2019 awards.

The attendance included Officers of Camogie and Ladies Football Boards, Michael O'Mahony Rebel Og, County Board Officers Des Cullinane, Richard Murphy and Ronan Dwane, while also present were former GAA President Christy Cooney and Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin.

## Wexford camogie search for new boss

Eoghan Cormican

Wexford camogie are confident of having a new senior manager in place for their next league outing on Sunday, February 17.

Interviews for the vacant post are ongoing and the executive is optimistic of having the position filled by the time Tipperary visit the south-east on Sunday week.

The fixture represents Wexford's final outing of the league round-robin and even if they were to come out on top, it is likely the Model County will still be involved in a relegation playoff, such is their negative scoring difference arising from Sunday's 9-23 to 1-2 mauling at the hands of Galway.

Wexford's four-time All-Ireland medal winner Ursula Jacob felt sorry for the 13 players who endured such a heavy beating at the hands of Galway and stressed the importance of appointing a new manager as soon as is possible to begin the process of rebuilding Wexford camogie.

It remains unclear what level of support the Camogie Association has offered Wexford over the past fortnight in a bid to sort out the latter's sorry state of affairs, though it is known that the Women's Gaelic Players Association have been in regular contact with the two player representatives on the Wexford team and the feedback last week was not negative.

Of the 13 players who lined out against Galway on Sunday, only four featured in Wexford's concluding fixture of the 2018 championship.

Galway, ahead by 8-10 to 0-2 at the break, withdrew two players to even up the playing numbers for the second half.

Ciara Storey, who played at the weekend, described their recent results as "embarrassing".

"Getting a new manager has to be the first step, everything else can wait until that box is ticked," said Ursula Jacob, who was instrumental in Wexford's 2007, 2010, '11 and '12 All-Ireland final victories.

"The focus has to be on getting a set-up back in place that is professional, that is going to encourage the girls that are within the county to want to play for the county again. At the moment, things are a bit disillusioned."

"I would feel very sad for the girls that are in there at the moment."

"They are trying to keep things going but when there is such a small pool there, it is very tough."

Jacob added: "The talent is there. The county minors did very well last year; St Martin's are in the All-Ireland senior club final; Loreto Wexford won the Leinster senior A colleges title recently; Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy won the Leinster senior B colleges title."

"We need the best girls in Wexford playing for Wexford."



Saoirse McCarthy with parents Cella and Leonard. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Rebels look to shake off lingering rush as Déise come to town

Div 1 National League;  
Cork v Waterford;  
Sunday, February 2, 2pm.

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK found themselves without a round-two game last weekend when Wexford announced on Friday night they would not be fielding a team.

They now go into round three having had no game in two weeks and no doubt this is something that will have disrupted the work schedule of Paudie Murray and his management, who are using the league to get meaningful game time for their squad.

Waterford were not scheduled for a game last weekend and they come to Cork on the back of a very good opening round victory over Wexford.

They are determined to build on the excellent progress made in 2018. They showed huge confidence as they made it to the All-Ireland quarter-final against Tipperary, pushing the more experienced Tipperary side to the limits, losing out 1-14 to 1-7.

Beth Carton is without a doubt their standout player and her increasing profile is helping enormously with the promotion of the game in Waterford. She became the county's first-ever All Star and beat off stiff opposition to be named WLR/Granville Hotel Waterford GAA award winner for 2018 recently.

She showed just how valuable she is to Waterford as she contributed nine points as they survived a late Wexford rally in the closing quarter of a game they won 1-13 to 1-5.

Five of those scores came in the first half as Waterford led 1-7 to 0-3 at the interval — they included senior debutant Sarah Lacey who performed well at corner-forward, contributing two points.

Waterford are captained by Niamh Rockett, who grabbed their goal, and with players such as Orla Hickey, Aine Lyng, Ciara Jackman, Lorraine Bray, and Iona Heffernan in their lineup, manager Donal Hickey will relish an opportunity to measure themselves against the All-Ireland champions.

Cork fielded strong sides against Tipperary in round one but they were pinned to their collars to come away with a three-point win, only closing out the game in the last quarter as a determined home side never gave them an inch.

Orla Cotter again led the

way as she contributed six points as Tipperary held their own in the physical exchanges as they went in at the interval leading by a point.

It was level on 0-6 apiece entering the last quarter before Cork upped the ante with four points in the closing stages.

Paudie Murray is looking for another good display this weekend but it is about getting gametime at this stage of the season and slotting in the younger players to competitive action.

In keeping with his policy of introducing younger players to his set-up, last season's intermediates Saoirse McCarthy and Ciara McCarthy will be expected to see game time whilst his starting fifteen will be built around regulars Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, and Orla Cotter.

Briege Corkery was introduced at half-time against Tipperary and turned in a good half-hour. She is another who could figure in the starting 15.

The update on the injury list is that Julia White is expected to make a return this week to training while Katriona Mackey is making steady progress but unlikely to feature in the group stages of the league. She will hopefully be back for the latter stages, as will Pamela Mackey who has yet to return to training.

With Inniscarra having lost out in their bid for a place in the All-Ireland club final, Niamh McCarthy will be expected to return to inter-county duties.

Three of the Cork panel will be in action with the Cork ladies footballers on Saturday when they meet Galway in the national league — Hannah Looney, Libby Coppinger, and newcomer to the senior camogie panel this season Ciara McCarthy — and it is good to see that the games are on different days thus giving the girls every opportunity to be involved with both sides.

On paper Cork will be expected to have too much strength for Waterford but they are travelling to Cork determined to cause an upset and keep their unbeaten record intact.

# Cork all-conquering but Wexford woes get worse

### Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League

Daragh Ó Conchúir

First-half goals from Amy O'Connor (two) and Saoirse McCarthy were vital as All-Ireland champions Cork maintained their perfect start to 2019 with a victory over Waterford in yesterday's Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 tie at Cork

Camogie Grounds (3-8 to 0-10).

When O'Connor hand-passed to the net after eight minutes, the hosts led by 3-1 to 0-2 but Waterford curtailed their hosts to a just a point for the remainder of the half to trail 3-2 to 0-5 at the interval.

Beth Carton was scorer in chief for Waterford but Orla Cotter's accuracy from placed balls eased Cork to their third win of this campaign.

There was no such uncer-

tainty in Gort where Galway hammered Wexford 9-23 to 1-2 — having led by 8-10 to 0-2 at the interval. Wexford had failed to field against Cork last week, which put camogie in the county in the spotlight.

Galway withdrew two players in the second half to level things up with a Wexford team who could only field 13.

Niamh Kilkenny, Ailish O'Reilly, Sarah Spellman and Catherine Finnerty were

among the goalscorers for the westerners.

In the day's only Group 1 tie, Offaly earned their first point after a few narrow defeats, sharing the spoils with Dublin at the Parnell's grounds in Coolock (0-10 to 0-10). Mairéad Teehan secured a deserved draw for Offaly with her seventh point of the day. Dublin dug deep though and two points from Maguire, either side of a Finnegan

and Kerrie Finnegan nudging them two ahead. A couple of points from Teehan brought Offaly level but Ali Maguire, who accumulated five points in total, ensured that Frank Browne's charges went in at half time leading by 0-6 to 0-5.

Four points from Teehan moved Offaly 0-9 to 0-7 in front with eight minutes left on the clock. Dublin dug deep though and two points from Maguire, either side of a Finnegan

score, inched them ahead after 28 minutes only for Teehan to make no mistake off the deck with the opportunity to equalise and earn a merited draw for Mike Wall's unit.

On Saturday night, a Sophie O'Callaghan goal coupled with five points from Niamh Mulcahy enabled Limerick to chisel out a five-point victory, 1-14 to 0-10 over neighbours Clare in their Group 2 clash at the Gaelic Grounds.



# Three-goal blast does trick for Cork

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 3-8  
Waterford 0-10

A 10-minute spell of dominance which yielded three goals in quick succession was the foundations for Cork's victory over Waterford in round three of the Littlewoods Division 1 National League at Castle Road yesterday.

The result gives Cork three out of three, one a walkover, and with one game to go against Galway in three weeks qualification to the latter stages is secured.

Cork lined out with Brieghe Corkery, Niamh O'Callaghan, Saoirse McCarthy and Ciara McCarthy handed starting roles and Julia White making a return after injury, while Amy Lee, Katie McCarthy, Cliona Healy and Siobhán Hutchison were all introduced over the course of the hour.

Playing with the aid of the strong wind in the opening half Waterford hit three wides in a row as Saoirse McCarthy making her first senior league start opened the Cork account with a point.

With Orla Hickey and Beth Carton finding the range Waterford edged in front Cork regained the lead with Orla Cronin and Julia White linking up well before parting to Amy O'Connor who finished low to the net to give Cork a lead they never relinquished.

With the pacey Cork inside line opening up the Waterford defence twice in quick succession Saoirse McCarthy and Amy O'Connor extended the lead further with goals and with Cork moving well they held the upper hand.

O'Connor, who worked hard all through, then pointed before Beth Carton converted a Waterford free. Linda Collins had one before Waterford responded with two in a row and it was 3-2 to 0-5 in Cork's favour at the interval.

Waterford in an effort to curb the pace of Cork crowded out the middle of the field for the second half. Niamh Rockett cut the deficit with an early score but two in a row from Orla Cotter frees and one from senior debutant Ciara McCarthy stretched the advantage.

As both sides began to show signs of tiredness Waterford hit three points in a row but with continuing to find holes



Orla Cronin, Cork, tries to get away from Aine Lyng, Waterford, in the Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League tie yesterday.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

in the Waterford defence Cork kept the pressure on. They won a free which Orla Cotter duly converted.

Beth Carton did likewise at the other end of the field but again Cork responded well with Cotter and O'Connor finding the range with late points to consolidate Cork's lead to the full time whistle.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 2-1, O Cotter 0-4, S McCarthy 1-1, L Collins, S McCarthy 0-1.  
**Waterford:** B Carton 0-6 (0-3 f), N Rockett 0-2, A Power, O Hickey 0-1, each.

**CORK:** A Murray; N O'Callaghan; L Treacy, L Hayes; H Looney, B Corkery, C Sigerson; C McCarthy, A Thompson; A O'Connor, O Cronin, J White; O Cotter, L Collins, S McCarthy.

**Subs:** A Lee for A Murray (35), K McCarthy for H Looney (39), C Healy for S McCarthy (45), S Hutchinson for J White (48).

**WATERFORD:** C Jackman; S Harney, I Helleman, M Power; A Landers, A Lyng, C Whyte; C McGrath, L Bray; K Corbett-Barry, O Hickey, B Carton; N Rockett, A Power, K Tobin.

**Subs:** K Lynch for C Whyte (h-t), C Griffin for A Landers (h-t), S Fitzgerald for C McGrath (45), S Curran for K Tobin (45), N Murphy for N Rockett (57).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Orla Cotter, Cork, lets fly, under pressure from waterford's Claire Whyte, Waterford.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

## 'We've a lot of room to improve but it's early days yet'

CORK manager Paudie Murray while happy with his side's victory which put them joint top of their league group with Galway was a little disappointed with the overall display.

"I suppose really I'm disappointed with our overall display today.

"Yes, we won and got the result we needed and I support it is about getting results and moving on to the latter stages of the league at this stage.

"To be honest I would have to say disappointed with our overall performance."

Cork are now through to the knockout stages of the Littlewoods Ireland sponsored competition but must take on the unbeaten Tribe in the next game.

"We need to be getting a few more scores on the board we travel to Galway for our next game and we have three weeks now to get ourselves right for that.

"That will be a big game for us and the one that will decide who tops the group.

### REACTION

■ Mary Newman

"I suppose to be fair we have only done one session on the pitch so we have a lot of work to do.

"There a lot of the training we are doing at the moment that is hard so maybe the signs of that are there but that hard work has to be done."

Murray was happy with his side's first-half display which yielded three goals but failure to maintain the intensity allowed Waterford come back into the game a bit.

"We started well and took the goal opportunities but really we need to be doing that for the hour as I said it something we will be working on in the weeks ahead."

Waterford manager Donal O'Rourke, although de-

feated, was happy with his side's performance.

"We came to Cork today with six players into our sides that didn't play championship last year and really we tried things out today and we will learn from it.

"We lost out but we gave a good account of ourselves.

"Cork showed huge experience especially in the opening half when they hit us for three fast goals.

"They are All-Ireland champions and we are working hard to get to the high level they are at so of course whilst we are disappointed to lose a game we learned a lot here today.

"Cork had fierce pace and it showed especially in the opening half when they came at us fast a few times and left us stranded but again it is in league games you learn.

"We will continue to work towards the championship and hopefully continue our progress."



# Coppinger gets 2019 off to best possible start



West Cork's Libby Coppinger and Mourneabbey's Sandra Conroy. Picture: Gavin Brown

## CAMOGIE

Ger McCarthy

CORK Camogie star Libby Coppinger got 2019 off to the best possible start by accepting a Southern Star - C103fm - Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star award and helping her county enjoy a positive start to their National League campaign.

Coppinger was one of a galaxy of sporting guests invited to the Celtic Ross Hotel in Rosscarbery to receive her award from guest of honour, former Dublin All-Ireland winner Alan Brogan.

A tumultuous 12 months ended with recognition of Coppinger's efforts on behalf of Cork, West Cork, St Colum's and UCC.

The standout moment from that period was an obvious choice.

"Looking back last year was absolutely incredible for me and went by in the blink of an eye," Coppinger admitted. "You have to try and enjoy every minute but the highlight was definitely winning a Camogie All-Ireland title with Cork."

"There were a lot of other positives but nothing came close to that feeling when I heard the final whistle at Croke Park."

"Away from that, I had another very good year with my own club, St Colum's, as well as the West Cork (football) division and reaching a county final for the first time."

"We (West Cork) didn't get the result we wanted against Mourneabbey but the journey to the final and replay was important and sets us up to try and get back there again this year."

Coppinger was thrilled to receive her West Cork Sports Star award and acknowledged the efforts of those involved by stating: "Everyone associated with organising the awards and all those who attended are incredibly supportive of both Cork GAA ladies football and Camogie."

"The range of sports represented at the West Cork awards is always fantastic to see."

"In fairness, we have received terrific coverage at senior and inter-county level but it is great that the smaller clubs get regular write-ups in the newspapers now as well. Everyone is putting in the same effort and commitment so it is important that they are recognised too."

The day after accepting her trophy, Coppinger lined out for Cork in their Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Group 2 0-10 to 0-7 win over Tipp.

Since then, a walkover from Wexford has the Cork camogie squad in a good place albeit very early in the league campaign.

"The one thing you want to be doing the whole time is playing matches," Coppinger said. "I have no bother putting in all the work in



Senior camogie players Amy O'Connor, Libby Coppinger and Laura Treacy with the O'Duffy Cup at a reception in City Hall.

Picture: Howard Crowdy

training but I enjoy myself the most when I am out there playing."

"Cork's camogie panel put in a couple of hard weeks over Christmas and had a good start to our league campaign. Thankfully, I am doing well in terms of fitness and have stayed injury free."

"I am just hoping I can keep that going and get as many games as I can for Cork during the league."

"Things are hectic in that I am in my final year in UCC and back in college as well. We (UCC) beat Mary I in the Ashbourne Cup and are through to the tournament finals which will begin at the start of February."

"We also have some tough O'Connor Cup qualifiers coming up so it is all go."

On the football front, Coppinger is

looking forward to another tilt at the Cork LGFA senior championship in 2019.

The St Colum's player has been an important member of Brian McCarthy, Denis Enright and Anne O'Grady's West Cork Division over the past couple of years.

What a season it proved to be for the versatile forward who helped the Carbery side reach their first ever senior football decider.

West Cork and Mourneabbey squared off in a memorable clash at CIT that ended 1-10 apiece and included a 69th-minute equaliser from Rosscarbery's Sarah Hayes.

The replay attracted an even larger attendance to Cloughduv where Coppinger and her team mates came up short at the second

time of asking.

Eventual All-Ireland champions Mourneabbey utilised all their experience and a dominant fourth quarter to register a 4-11 to 1-10 triumph.

That win represented Mourneabbey's fifth Ladies SFC title in a row on a day Doireann O'Sullivan contributed 2-2 of the winners' total.

Coppinger managed to score a point during West Cork's disappointing loss but believes the surge of interest in ladies football bodes well for Cork GAA's future within the rural region.

"It is absolutely brilliant that West Cork takes ladies football so seriously," commented the St Colum's star.

"I believe that we (West Cork) have

now established ourselves as one of the key competitors in ladies football within the county."

"Mourneabbey and St Val's have been the top two for so long so it was important West Cork got to a county final last year."

"That showed how many great players are in West Cork and that we can play as a team."

"Brian, Dinny and Anne have been incredible and kept everything going over the last three years."

"It is a pity we couldn't get over the line in the end (for them) because they have put so much great work into ladies football."

"As for the increased attendances you don't notice the fact so many people are coming to the senior ladies championship games until you have a chance to reflect immediately after they are finished."

"It is great to see so much coverage in the newspapers and online too."

"That has definitely helped increase people's interest in Ladies GAA."

**“There were a lot of other positives but nothing came close to that feeling when I heard the final whistle at Croke Park**



# Mulcahy proud of his Sacred Heart players

## CAMOGIE

John Bohane

THE Sacred Heart Secondary School camogie team recently captured the Munster junior championship title after they defeated St Mary's from Middleton.

The Clonakilty-based secondary school team defeated their Middleton opponents on a final scoreline of 1-10 to 2-0 which enabled them to capture Munster championship success.

Their coach Ciaran Mulcahy was thrilled with the nature of their win. "It was a great achievement."

"It was a brilliant feeling to win the Munster final, they don't come around that often."

"To secure Munster championship success following a good win against a strong Middleton side is very satisfying," declared the dedicated GAA coach.

The GAA enthusiast is very proud of the exceptional form his talented camogie team have displayed all season.

The West Cork secondary school team had to negotiate their way through a very tough schedule to capture the Munster championship title.

Ciaran is full of praise for their strong performances throughout the Munster championship campaign.

"The team were fantastic, not only in the final, but all throughout the year."

"We played Middleton, Laurel Hill and St Flannan's of Ennis in the group stages and won all those matches."

"We took on Scariff in the semi-final and that victory set up a re-match with our old foes Middleton."

"The match was a lot different from the first encounter, where the game was more free scoring."

"The final was a war of attrition on a much softer pitch than last September's encounter."

"We played very well on the day to secure a great victory."

Winning Munster junior championship titles at the B grade reflects the strength of camogie in the Clonakilty secondary school.

Sacred Heart have endured two agonising defeats in the Munster championship campaign in recent seasons.

They were not to be deterred this season, however.

Ciaran is thrilled his charges have taken to playing in the higher grade with consummate ease.

"We were always in the C grade up until 2017."

"However, we were asked to move up to the B grade and we reached two Munster semi-finals in 2017 and 2018, but we were pipped by a point on both occasions."

"It is great to be successful in the B grade."

The dedicated camogie club loves helping the players improve and nurture their obvious talent.

Ciaran is especially proud of their hard work-ethic and their sheer will to win.

He regards them as great ambassadors for their secondary school.

"The girls in Sacred Heart Secondary School are excellent ambassadors for the school and they are a



The Sacred Heart SS camogie panel pictured with their coaches.



Daire and Eimear O'Brien both played key roles in helping the Sacred Heart SS junior camogie team win the Munster championship title. They play for the Enniskeane.

credit to their families.

"It is always so easy to bring them to matches and their behaviour is always exemplary."

"They are very talented players who love representing their school with great distinction."

The talented team are full of superb players who are inspiring them to Munster championship glory. The Munster junior camogie kingpins are blessed with supremely talented players and possess a ferocious desire to achieve success.

Ciaran acknowledges the talent which exists within the team.

"There are many strengths to this team. Their attitude is outstanding. They always work hard and they will always support a team member who may be in trouble."

"They are a joy to coach. They always want to improve and they are great to work with."

Sacred Heart SS now advance to an All-Ireland semi-final tie against the Leinster champions which is expected to be played in the latter stages of February.

Ciaran is looking forward to the closing stages of the All-Ireland junior camogie championship.

“They are very talented players who love representing their school with great distinction”

"We will take on Colaiste Bhríde from Enniscorthy."

"They have a rich tradition of winning Leinster A and All-Ireland finals, so we will have to get off to a quick start."

"It should be a very evenly poised match. We are looking forward to the challenge."

The camogie players are drawn from a number of local clubs located within the hinterland of the Clonakilty secondary school.

Integrating all the players together into one united team is testament to Ciaran's managerial

qualities.

The modest coach is thrilled with the coaching work going on within their own clubs.

"We train once a week and try to get a challenge match in when time permits."

"Clonakilty, Ballinascorthy, Enniskeane, Kilbree, Barryroe, Kilbrittain/Timoleague are the club's from whom the players hail from."

"Tremendous work is being put in at club level. That's where the players hone their skills, get fit and master their temperaments."

A number of their players are representing Cork at various underage levels. Ciaran is delighted with the progress camogie is making in West Cork at present.

"The standard in West Cork has improved exponentially over the last few years."

"I think that there is a great amount of work being put in by parents. They train, bring children to matches and foster the notion that playing camogie is a healthy hobby."

"I think then that children buy into the camogie and play it with their peers as a release from the books."

"It's a fast game and kids need that stimulation nowadays."

Ciaran is confident the future of camogie is very bright in Sacred Heart Community School.

"William Browne is doing fantastic work with the first year students."

"He trains them hard and gets them playing as many matches as possible."

"Brian Daly is also another teacher who loves the small ball and has brought camogie on light years in the school."

"The future is bright."



# The pinnacle of colleges camogie

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TWO years ago, in a first for camogie, the National Sports Campus, in Abbotstown, became the only venue outside of a university to host the Ashbourne Cup competitions.

The CCAO third-level organising committee has continued the trend, and today and tomorrow the Ashbourne Cup will take place in Mallow GAA complex. The weekend will encompass the Purcell Cup and the Fr Meachair Cup.

Last year, Irish company Cúl Sliotar became the main sponsors of the weekend. The Ashbourne Cup is camogie's oldest and most prestigious competition, and the highlight of college sporting life for camogie players. The players will have been training since college term and will be ready for the intense competition of the three cups.

The Ashbourne Cup is the highest level in colleges camogie, and features many of the current stars of the game, many of them of All Ireland and All Star level. It was the brainchild of Agnes O'Farrell, founder member and president of the UCD camogie club, who later served as president of the Camogie Association.

In 1915, she persuaded Lord Ashbourne to donate a trophy for the camogie intervarsity competition. The first game took place between UCC and UCD and the competition grew as more universities entered the competition.

Since 2010, the Purcell Cup has been staged alongside the Ashbourne. Since 1977, the Purcell Cup has served as the third-level colleges Division 2 championship and was donated by Una Purcell, president of the Camogie Association, and her husband, Pádraig Puirseil, who was GAA correspondent for *The Irish Press*.

Mary Immaculate College beat Polytechnic in the first final. The format is similar to the Ashbourne Cup: in the final stages of the competition, six teams are divided into two groups of three, in which each team play two matches.

The top two in each group go through to the cup semi-finals, while the bottom team in each group plays in the final of the Purcell Shield. The Purcell Cup winners play the Ashbourne Shield runners-up the following year to determine promotion and relegation. Having initially been established for non-university colleges in 1977, the standard of the team rather than the type of university determined whether colleges should participate in the Ashbourne Cup or the Purcell Cup.

Colleges who do not compete in the Ashbourne and Purcell Cups play for the Fr Meachair Cup, which was inaugurated in 1986.

Close on 400 camogie players will descend on the Mallow complex this afternoon for the six semi-finals in the three competitions. Many of the players are already involved in inter-county camogie, but it will be a huge privilege to represent their college on such a prestigious stage.

Many players have made the breakthrough to inter-county camogie thanks to the Ashbourne, and inter-county managers will be in attendance to scout talent.

Last season, UL made it three in a



Leanne O'Sullivan, UCC, in action in against UL in last year's Ashbourne Cup final defeat.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Action from UCC versus UCD in the Ashbourne Cup inter-varsity competition at Victoria Cross on March 1, 1916.

row of titles and they will be going all out to make it four, something last achieved by WIT. They will put their title on the line against DCU, at 12.45pm, while UCC will take on WIT, at 2.45pm. The Purcell Cup semi-finals go ahead at 12.45pm, with CIT meeting NUIG. At 2.45pm, MU will face DIT. In the Fr Meagher Cup semi-finals, AIT will meet ITT and TCD meet DIT. Both games throw in at 11am.

Cork are well-represented in the Ashbourne semi-finals, with UCC fielding a strong side of Cork senior and intermediate players: Hannah Looney, Leanne O'Sullivan, Niamh McCarthy, Libby Coppinger, Chloe Sigerson, Lauren Callanan, Finola Neville Keava McCarthy, Maebh Wall, Maeve Lynch and Maebh McCarthy.

Last year, they lost out in the final to UL and they will be hoping for better fortunes this year.

WIT will feature Kilkenny senior players Danielle Morrissey and Denise Gaule and Waterford's Brianna O'Regan.

Tipp's Niamh Treacy, Sarah Fryday, Mary Ryan, and Orla O'Dwyer, Waterford's Iona Heffernan and Beth Carton, and Galway's Niamh Hanniffy will lead a strong UL challenge. DCU have Dublin's Hannah Hegarty, Waterford's Ciara Jackman, and Kilkenny's Michelle Teehan and Kelly Ann Doyle.

On Sunday, the focus will be on the Ashbourne, Purcell, and Meachair Cup finals and the Ashbourne Shield final. The finals get underway at 12pm,

“Close on 400 camogie players will descend on the Mallow complex this afternoon for the Ashbourne Cup competitions”

with the Father Meachair final, followed, at 2pm, by the Purcell Cup final, with the big one, the Ashbourne Cup final, at 4pm. The Ashbourne Cup weekend always attracts huge crowds and big support is expected in Mallow on both days for a tightly fought series of semi-finals and finals.

It's been 15 years since UCC were victorious. They have a star-studded side and will go in as favourites. It's down to the last four and they want to go all the way.

This year, Ken Bulman, Fergal Cullinane, Dave Ellis, and Ciara Holden are at the helm and they are determined to get UCC back on the victory rostrum. It promises to be a feast of colleges camogie.

## Clubs and board set up vital courses

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

WHILE teams are only just getting back to the training pitches, there are plenty of courses being organised as coaches and mentors prepare for what they hope will be a long busy season on the playing fields.

The County Board Children's Officer has been ensuring club mentors are compliant with legislation regarding vetting which must now all be done online. Previous paper vetting is now no longer valid so mentors are reminded to log onto the national camogie web site and apply to be vetted.

The county officer has also organised three Child Safe 1 courses which must be done by all mentors and coaches who have anybody up to the age of 18 on their teams. Already two of these courses have taken place one before Christmas and one Wednesday last and both were fully booked out.

It's a similar story with next Wednesday's course which goes ahead in Castle Road. A Safeguard 2 course for children's officers and club-designated people had to be postponed due to bad weather recently. Anybody interested in doing this is asked to email [Childrensofficer.cork@camogie.ie](mailto:Childrensofficer.cork@camogie.ie).

There are also foundation courses 'Get a Grip' planned on March 3 in Cloghroe. On Sunday, March 10 the same course is being organised for Imokilly clubs. The day before there is a course at Midleton GAA, which is already full. Any clubs interested should contact Eoin Kennedy, chairman of Imokilly. Applicants must be 17 years and over as coaching Ireland will not issue certificates to U16s.

A Level One course open to those who have already completed a foundation level 'Get A Grip' and have one-year coaching experience is being organised.

Participants must be available to attend all three-course dates otherwise coaching Ireland will not issue certificates. These will take place on March 1, 2 and 9 at Bishopstown GAA club. Anybody interested in attending can contact development officer Esther O'Leary at [developmentofficer.cork@camogie.ie](mailto:developmentofficer.cork@camogie.ie).

The Munster Council have organised a coaching and ref mentoring workshop on Saturday, March 9 in Mallow GAA club. The course is open to both club and school juvenile mentors.

Anyone coaching from U8s up to and including U16s are invited.

The technical teaching points will be highlighted with sample drills to enhance the learning. Coaches will receive three 30-minute tutorials focusing on different skills and age groups.

Goalkeepers, who must be aged between 12 and 18, and goalkeeping coaches will have a separate coaching and tutoring session using current inter-county coaches and senior inter-county goalkeepers.

Teams will then play three games of 20 minutes a side and these will be refereed by the recent First Whistle students with experienced referees mentoring.





Cork Intermediate All-Ireland winners Maeve Lynch, Moira Barrett and Kate Hall who attended a fundraiser at Maxol Clonakilty in aid of Aware.

# West women enjoy success

WEST Cork stars Moira Barrett, Maeve Lynch and Kate Hall enjoyed a trophy-laden year representing Cork Camogie and hoping for more of the same in 2019.

Newcestown's Maeve Lynch and Kilbrittain/Timoleague's Kate Hall were part of the Cork intermediate squad that won a unique treble of trophies, enjoying All-Ireland, Munster and Division Two League glory last year.

Ballinascahy's Moira Barrett joined up with her fellow West Cork players in the intermediate squad having played an integral role in captaining Cork to a first ever Minor A Camogie All-Ireland Championship. Barrett added the intermediate equivalent to round off an unforgettable 12 months where the Ballinascahy player was also crowned West Cork Junior Sports Star of the Year.

Barrett, Hall and Lynch helped raise over a thousand euro for the Aware charity at a fundraiser in the Clonakilty Maxol Service Station organised by Breda Harrington recently.

"For me, the standout moment was this past year's league final with the Cork intermediates," commented Kate Wall. "It was our first victory with the team."

"Maeve (Lynch) was playing as well and it was a really tight match against Westmeath but we edged it by a point. It was my first win with the Cork intermediate team and just a very special moment for me, personally."

"I had come on against Down two weeks prior and (briefly) in the semi-final with Kilkenny but it was my first piece of silverware with Cork and was great start to the year, setting us up for a good run."

The jump from club to inter-county level is getting harder with each passing season and Newcestown's Maeve Lynch was glad to have Wall and Moira Barrett with her as the three West Cork players looked to cement their panel places.

"It is definitely a big step up," Lynch admitted. "Having been with the minors the



Ladies Football

Ger McCarthy

year before, this was a whole different level. Playing with the Cork intermediates was a whole new level of commitment."

"With the minors you would have trained twice, maybe three times a week."

"Now you were up to training four times a week. You had to be there an hour beforehand and everything was taken more seriously, from dieting right down to your sleep."

"Nothing was taken to chance and it really was a massive step up."

Moira Barrett concurred with her inter-county teammate's assessment by saying: "I suppose I was thrown in at the deep end when I joined the intermediate panel after they had won the league and Munster titles."

"I was still on a high from our All-Ireland success with the Cork minors and didn't really know what to expect. I was lucky in that I had Kate and Maeve with me and we were together on the road which made things a bit easier."

"You know, it was just a case of getting on with it and getting stuck into the training. Taking your first 50/50 shoulder at intermediate level is the best introduction as to what's in store, to be honest."

The only thing stronger than the shoulders each of the three intermediate debutantes experienced was the bond that grew within the successful squad.

"The physicality was a whole new level," Kate Wall commented.

"I remember coming on and taking a hit within five minutes of a league game against Down and my nose and ear rings nearly fell out. I got such a fright and I text

my dad afterwards saying 'whoa, like this is a whole new level'."

"I mean you are up against women as opposed to girls but you just get on with it. We made great friends with the other players in the Cork squad as the year went on."

Maeve Lynch agreed that gaining the trust of the more experienced Cork players helped settle the newcomers: "Every one of the experienced Cork players welcomed us into the panel when we first joined. That was a really nice touch and help settled us. They took care of us in the early days. They made sure we got to know everyone in the squad, from the first day. I think that's what made the atmosphere around the squad so good," added Moira Barrett.

"I think there was something like 32 players on the panel. The quality was so good and everyone was so competitive that anyone could have played on that starting 15."

Finally, Kate Wall's recollection of how the squad gelled before going on to claim three trophies, bodes well for each of the Rebel's camogie grades heading into another hectic year.

"We developed into a really strong unit and I remember things like going for breakfast in Mahon Point or out for a Starbucks on a Thursday night," said Wall.

"They were small things but helped the squad gel. Everyone made the effort and if you don't have that then it is not worth it. There are so many ups and downs with playing in an inter-county set-up that you need your friends around you. It is good to have a bit of craic."

"You wanted to play all the time but that bond meant you were glad to see your friends doing well if you weren't out on the pitch yourself."

Aware provides support for people who experience depression or bipolar disorder and their concerned loved ones.

FreePhone Aware: 1800 80 48 48.

## Camogie

There's a big weekend in Mallow on Saturday and Sunday when the third level competitions conclude with UCC and CIT involved.

In the main competition, it's UCC vs WIT at 2.45pm on Saturday in the Ashbourne Cup. It's been a long time since the college won this prestigious title, and with players like Leanne O'Sullivan, Chloe Sigerson, Hannah Looney, Niamh McCarthy, Libby Coppinger, Lauren Callanan and Fiona Neville, it will take a good team to deny them the title.

In the Purcell Cup, it's CIT vs NUIG at 12.45pm, and included in the Cork squad are Kayleigh Boland, Katie Walsh, Grainne Hannon and Amy Lee, but the Galway girls have a strong squad and CIT will need to be at their best to win.

## Camogie

**ASHBOURNE CUP SEMI-FINALS:** (Mallow)  
UCC 0-12 WIT 1-8; UL 2-10 DCU 1-6.  
**PURCELL CUP SEMI-FINALS:** (Mallow)  
Maynooth University 1-11 DIT 0-4; NUIG 1-12  
CIT 1-10.  
**FR MEAGHAIR CUP SEMI-FINALS:** (Mallow)  
AIT 2-17 IT Tuller 3-8; TCD 1-7 St Mary's 1-4.

## CAMOGIE

**Ashbourne Cup final:** UL 3-8 UCC 0-8;  
**Purcell Cup final:** Maynooth University 1-11 NUIG 1-10;  
**Fr Meaghair Cup final:** Athlone IT 1-11 Trinity College 1-4;  
**O Maolagáin Cup:** MIC Thurles 5-14 Sligo IT 3-6;

## Ashbourne Cup defeat for Libby and Maeve

THERE was no Ashbourne Cup joy for Newcestown's Maeve Lynch and St Colum's Libby Coppinger as UCC came up short in the colleges' final at Mallow GAA Complex last weekend.

Goals at the beginning of each half set University of Limerick up for a fourth consecutive Ashbourne Cup and fifth in six seasons, as they won 3-8 to 0-8.

It was a bitter pill for UCC to swallow, as they fell to a third final defeat in a row and whose wait for a 31st title will now extend to at least 17 years.

UCC qualified by virtue of a hard-fought, come-from-behind victory over the league champions WIT. In contrast, UL had a far more comfortable win over DCU and certainly it seemed early on as if the Cork contingent were feeling their exertions early on.

Despite Cork camogie stars Coppinger, Chloe Sigerson and Hannah Looney leading the charge, UL just held the edge on the day. The winners led 1-6 to 0-6 at half time and two second-half goals ended the UCC challenge, as the wait goes on.



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2018



NUIG's Carrie Dolan (right) holds on to the sliotar under pressure from Maynooth University's Aoife Dunne in the Purcell Cup final at Mallow yesterday. Maynooth won 1-11 to 1-10. See Page 25. Picture: Inpho/Oisín Keniry

# Hannniffy and Delee goals spur UL four in a row

**Ashbourne Cup final**  
**University of Limerick 3-8**  
**University College Cork 0-8**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
Mallow

Goals at the beginning of each half set University of Limerick up for a fourth consecutive Ashbourne Cup and fifth in six seasons at the Mallow GAA Grounds.

It was a bitter pill for UCC to swallow, as they fell to a third final defeat in a row and their wait for a 31st title extends to at least 17 years.

They battled hard but were playing catch up from the moment they conceded a goal in the second minute, Rebecca Delee getting the final touch on a Beth Carton delivery.

That was the margin at the interval, and when Niamh Hannniffy hand-passed to the

net seven minutes after the resumption, after UCC goalkeeper Aoife Walsh had opted to bat Carton's dropping ball from a free rather than catch it, only one result was likely.

The champions had a perfect start with a Delee goal and Carton, who would be named player-of-the-match, followed up quickly with a pointed free.

Niamh McCarthy got UCC off the mark in the fifth minute but after Caoimhe Lyons and UCC captain, Chloe Sigerson (free) exchanged scores, UL registered three points in succession.

Sarah Fryday notched a neat score off her left and then Waterford All-Star Carton added to her tally with a couple of more frees and it was a six-point game with only 12 minutes elapsed.

But UCC showed that character that got them over the line 24 hours earlier, to get within two. Sigerson, a Player of the Year nominee after her



University of Limerick's Roisin Breen and Beth Carton celebrate after yesterday's Ashbourne Cup final. Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry

fabulous performances as Cork retained their All-Ire-

land Championship, led from the front, while fellow Rebel

stars, Libby Coppinger and Hannah Looney were also prominent.

Sigerson (45), Hayley Ryan (free), Sigerson again (free) and a fantastic score over the shoulder from Looney made it a game and it took a couple of important interceptions by Mary Ryan to deny UCC at least one other score.

Walsh made a brilliant save from point-blank range to deny Lyons but Carton slotted the resultant 45 for UL's first score in 20 minutes to make it 1-6 to 0-6 at half time.

Hannniffy's first goal took the wind out of UCC's sails though and they managed only one more point with 13 minutes left, from a Sigerson free.

Instead, it was UL who found another gear, with sub Grace O'Brien and Delee firing them six points clear.

Hannniffy provided the coup de grace with the last action of the weekend and the cel-

ebrations were underway.

Meanwhile Linda Bolger starred as Maynooth University dethroned NUIG to win the Purcell Cup final by 1-11 to 1-10.

**Scorers for UL:** N Hannniffy 2-0; B Carton 0-4 (3fs, 1 45); R Delee 1-1; C Lyons, S Fryday, G O'Brien 0-1 each.

**Scorers for UCC:** C Sigerson 0-4 (3fs, 1 45); H Ryan 0-2 (fs), N McCarthy, H Looney 0-1 each.

**UL:** R Breen (Kilkenny), C Grogan (Clare), M Ryan (Tipperary), L Loughnane (Tipperary), R Howard (Tipperary), C Hehir (Clare), A Keane (Clare), C Murphy (Galway), A Keefe (Clare), S Fryday (Tipperary), B Carton (Waterford), R Delee (Limerick), M Burke (Galway), N Hannniffy (Galway), C Lyons (Limerick).

**Sub:** G O'Brien (Tipperary) for Burke 40

**UCC:** A Walsh (Kilkenny), R Phelan (Kilkenny), L O'Sullivan (Cork), C Daly (Cork), A Landers (Waterford), L Callanan (Cork), M Lynch (Cork), C Sigerson (Cork), F Neville (Cork), L Coppinger (Cork), H Looney (Cork), K O'Keefe (Cork), H Ryan (Cork), N McCarthy (Cork), C McCarthy (Cork). **Sub:** K McCarthy for O'Keefe 43

**Referee:** L Dempsey (Kilkenny).

# Treacy: WGPA pushing for change to camogie rules

**Camogie**

**Paul Keane**

Cork camogie star Laura Treacy has revealed she's involved in efforts to change the game's rules in time for the 2020 season.

Full-back Treacy played in last year's All-Ireland final win, though referee Eamon Cassidy was heavily criticised for his handling of that game.

Many claimed he was overly fussy with Cork's winning point from Orla Cotter coming

from a controversial free.

In all, the game contained 36 frees and just nine points from open play. Cork manager Paulie Murray stated in December that camogie is at a crossroads and needs to move closer to hurling's rules, with more physicality and, specifically shouldering, permitted.

"He reffed to the rules of the game and when people are watching it, they're viewing it as hurling," said Treacy.

They're watching a camogie game as if it's hurling and that's how the whole 'why is

he blowing for that?' and 'would he not let that go?' came up.

"I think it's kind of the rules that have to change with us. I'm part of the WGPA and we're actually meeting as players at the minute with Aoife Lane and Gemma Begley and we're hoping to meet with the Camogie Association to try to bring in some rule changes, or to make a bit of initiative towards that.

"We're hoping to meet with the Camogie Association in the next few weeks to see if we

could even bring in some rule changes for next year's league, in 2020.

"Lean towards the hurling rules is what we're kind of discussing and what we'd like to discuss with the Camogie Association. If we lean towards the hurling rules; so get rid of the hand-pass goal, the advantage rule, I think little tweaks of the camogie rules could really make it a much more free-flowing game and then players would get to express themselves a little bit more."

Treacy said she's open to bringing shouldering into the game.

"I wouldn't object to bringing in a shoulder but like, how many shoulders do you see in a hurling game? Do you even see one proper, fair shoulder given now? I suppose the issue is at club level. At county level girls are trained and they'd be able to take the shouldering."

Treacy, a nurse by profession, also revealed she moved from full-time staff nursing to agency nursing to allow her to continue her Cork career.

"I remember playing a game, it was our first or second league game last year against Galway in Cork and I was on nights Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night and the game was Sunday," said Treacy. "So I came off nights Sunday morning at 8 o'clock, went to bed for two hours and then got up and played the game. I was marking Ailish O'Reilly and I'd know her from the All-Stars trips or whatever, and I was like, 'I actually can't do this anymore'."



# Mairead gives it all to camogie

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BALLINCOLLIG stalwart Mairead Donovan was recently honoured by the association for her life-long service to the club and camogie on Leeside.

The Camogie Association recently honoured the many hard working volunteers from every county at a function held in Croke Park where over 100 guests were in attendance at the event.

Late last year the Cork camogie board asked clubs to nominate club members for the Volunteer of the Year award. This scheme was inaugurated several years ago to acknowledge the huge effort put in by many people in all clubs within the country.

Each county board selected a winner and Cork honoured their recipient with a presentation before their trip to Croke Park.

The Ballincollig club nominated Mairead Donovan (nee O'Sullivan) and the board selected her as the Cork Volunteer of the Year.

A worthy choice, Mairead has been involved in the club and in camogie since the club in Muskerry was founded in 1974 and the work she has done in both her club and in Cork has been tremendous.

The Ballincollig club was started up when a group of ladies, among them Mairead mother Lillie O'Sullivan and Nell Hennigan, realised that there was no girls-only sport in Ballincollig and there were a lot of girls who were sporty and needed their own game.

So the wise women got together with a few more and started the club and with Fr Kieran Twomey, who would have been in Ballincollig at that time lending a hand, they got started.

Mairead remembers Fr Kieran's huge help to the club.

"He was a great coach with us all and I would have been on the first U14 team in Ballincollig. I went to school and played with South Presentation Convent as well so I suppose I really had a love for the game."

She attended secondary school in Scoil Mhuire, so it was all club camogie in those years as there was no camogie in the school. Her long playing career continued until 1989 but as by then she had three children under four years of age it was hard to fit everything. She was also coaching by then.

Despite calling it a day on the playing fields she did make one or two appearances when teams were short. Mairead went back as a coach in 1999 and with both her daughters Claire and Emma on the school team and panel the following year they were successful and won a Sciath na Scol title.

Along with her service to club Mairead has given huge service to both division and county. She was a very efficient county board officer and served for three years as treasurer from 1982 to 1984 before taking on the role of secretary.

In fact Mairead and her late mother Lillie served together as board officers from 1982 to 1984 when Lillie was board registrar. Mairead also held the role as development officer and development administrator in recent times.

Lillie was elected board president and sadly passed away while holding the office of President of Cork and Vice President of Ballincollig Mairead had the honour to chair her divisional



President of the Camogie Association, Kathleen Woods and Una Dunne present Mairead Donovan with her award last month

Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry



Mary Newman, Collette McCarthy, Crosshaven Camogie Club, Deirdre Murphy and Mairead Donovan at a camogie open day in Crosshaven.

Picture: Larry Cummins

board Muskerry and was chairwoman when Muskerry won the senior county championship title in 2007.

Her late father Con was also well known in GAA circles and was involved in the starting of the juvenile section of the Ballincollig club where he held the post of secretary.

He served on both the senior and central club committees in various officer roles, up to the title of his death he was vice president of the Ballincollig GAA club and also president of the Muskerry board. He was also very much involved and held an officer role in Bord na nÓg.

Mairead was afforded a huge honour earlier this year when she was made president of the Ballincollig club a

huge honour for her and her family; in fact she is the longest serving member with the club since 1974 and she has always been involved. In 1989 she took a brief two-year break but came back to be an officer and held nearly all roles except secretary.

In the chair when Ballincollig won the junior A championship and then senior B to elevate them to senior status, her role over the past seven years has been training the U6 group. As development officer up to two years ago, she was promoting good training practices within the club to give the girls their best start to learn and love and stay playing.

Her children, Alan, Claire, Emma and Eoin are immersed in the club but

**"Mairead was afforded a huge honour when she was made president of Ballincollig"**

it's not surprising. Alan played in 2014 when Ballincollig won their first senior football title, beating Carbery Rangers in the final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Mairead now has the pleasure of seeing and enjoying the fourth generation of the O'Sullivan family's involvement as her granddaughter Emily Donovan is wearing the green and white of Ballincollig.

Mairead herself is thrilled to see the love of the game and the love of her club Ballincollig passed down through the generations. It came as no surprise to see Mairead selected as the Cork Camogie Volunteer of the year and we congratulate her on her selection which is so well deserved.

## Leeside gears up for Féile festivities

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK is gearing up for a very busy weekend on June 7-9 as Féile na nGael come to Leeside, a festival of hurling and camogie at U14 level, involving teams from all over Ireland and overseas.

Young players will travel to Cork to represent their counties and for the eagerly awaited All-Ireland Féile competition.

Clubs throughout the country and indeed abroad will be busy participating in competitions for the right to represent their counties in what is, without doubt, the association's most prestigious underage competition nationwide.

Cork will be expected to provide the clubs to match these visiting teams where they will be hosted by the various clubs in the city and county with the young camogie and hurlers staying in the home of their opponents.

Visiting teams will travel to Cork and on the Friday play their host club, on the Saturday the teams in each section will play off on a round robin basis with one team emerging from each to participate in the semi-finals on Saturday evening, while the finals will be played on the Sunday.

The clubs and counties will be graded according to their strengths and with the emphasis very much on the younger players, there will be a section to suit all participants with the weaker counties and club afforded a chance to in their own grade.

With all of this will come lots of preparations and there will be a Féile meeting for all clubs who are hosting and participating this Monday at the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs Conference Centre in Tivoli.

It is important that club are represented at this meeting and this is for both hurling and camogie clubs. Registration for this is at 7.45pm with the meeting starting at 8pm.

To date a total of over 40 Cork clubs have expressed interest in participating, any club who has not as yet expressed interest in taking part can contact james.heffernan@camogie.ie, there will be an entry fee of €150 per club.

Hosting is a key part of the ethos of Féile and Cork host clubs are paired with a visiting team, the players from the visiting teams stay with members of the host club and visiting players are hosted in pairs by members of the host club.

The Féile skills event will take place on a separate weekend to the national Féile weekend at a date to be announced.

Certainly plenty of work lies ahead for clubs and committee as the county gears up for the All-Ireland Féile.



# This much I know Anna Geary

Life coach

I was encouraged to play sport from a very young age — although nobody had any idea if I'd any talent.

I grew up in the village of Milford in North Cork with one younger brother. My father was a farmer and my mother was a teacher. They were like good cop/bad cop — dad kept me grounded and my mother encouraged me to be competitive and ambitious.

I was into athletics first, but my secondary school St Mary's was a big hub for camogie so I became more focused on the game. I was probably encouraged by my father — who's a big hurling fan. I went on to captain Cork.

After school, I did a business degree at the University of Limerick and spent seven years working in HR for a multinational. I qualified as a life coach and that got me re-evaluating my own life. I realised that I wanted a job where I could interact with people more, where I wasn't so desk bound. When I was 27 I made the tough decision to step back from captaining Cork, to leave my secure job, and to move to Dublin.

I'm an extrovert to a tee. But being in the media spotlight happened by chance.

I firmly believe that things happen for a reason. Once I'd moved out of my comfort zone, out of the blue the producers of Ireland's *Fittest Family* rang me to ask if I'd become a coach on the TV show and soon after that I got invited onto Radio 1 to talk about sports.

I'm a creature of habit. I like knowing what I'm doing Tuesday week, so I've had to get used to the unpredictability of my new freelance lifestyle. I'm still very organised and try to plan ahead as much as I can. I keep telling myself that these days there is really no such thing as a permanent, pensionable job. You could say I was technically secure in my last job, but I was not fulfilled and happy. Now, I am, and that's the trade off.

I have always focused on what I can do with my body rather than how it looks. I want to show young girls and lads that we're all different and it's OK to have a 'different' body shape. Genetically I'd be prone to put on weight. Thankfully, with all the sport I've played, I now have an athletic body.

I'm very aware of the importance of good nutrition and believe that it is not just what you eat that matters, it is also when you eat. It's no good if you are having your first meal at 1pm or having your dinner at 10pm.

I'm a night owl by nature but I've got



into the routine of doing my exercise first thing in the morning, to get me moving and to help clear my mind.

The saying I live by is 'hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard'.

I may be new to this media and broadcasting world, I may not be the most talented or experienced, but I will work very hard at it until I have grown the skill-set I need.

Now, I'm going to do a masters in performance psychology and I'm getting married to my fiancé Kevin. We met through friends — he's a Dub who works for the GAA.

If I could be reborn as someone else for a day I'd be Michelle Obama when she was first lady.

The biggest challenge I've had so far is accepting who I am — that I am not one set way or another. When I was Cork captain I was also the Cork Rose but I worried a lot about what people would think of me.

In fact that's my biggest fault — worrying too much about what other

people think. Being on RTE's *Dancing with the Stars* last year was a hard one to get over — it taught me how to grow a thicker skin.

I've three pieces for advice for anyone who wants to get fit, or change any aspect of their life: 1. Set realistic targets for yourself; 2. Get support from a friend; 3. Be kinder to yourself — some weeks you may not reach your target but don't self sabotage and throw the whole plan out the window — just press the reset button and start again.

Life has taught me that if you do what you love, you won't go far wrong.

■ Anna Geary will be talking at Teen Talks, a Cork County Council initiative to promote positive mental health, fitness and well being to young people across Cork. The free Teen Talk events take place in Little Island, Cork on March 5 and in Bantry, West Cork on March 7. Read Anna's column in Friday's *Feel-good* in the Irish Examiner.

In conversation with Hilary Fennell

## This Cork side is still a work in progress

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**SUNDAY:** Littlewoods Division 2 National League; Cork v Carlow; Netwatch Cullen Park; 2pm.

A NEW YEAR, a new league and very much a whole new ball game as the Cork Intermediate side face into the first round of the Littlewoods Division 2 National league on Sunday with an away game to Carlow.

With all of the side who won the All-Ireland title in such splendid fashion last September now ineligible, Cork must find a new team so it is very much a case of starting from scratch. It is therefore very much a work in progress and mentor Frances Killeen, who was part of the victorious management team last season is currently working on blending a management team and panel together.

"It's hard at the moment as several players have been tied up with colleges but it's a work in progress and hopefully in the next few weeks we will know who we will have available and go from there."

Carlow announced the appointment of Brendan Phelan as intermediate manager in early December from Laois he is no stranger to the game and worked for eight years as a Games Development Officer for Dublin GAA before returning to teaching in 2015.

He is joined on his management team by former Laois hurler David O'Mahony who is in charge of strength and conditioning and former Kilkenny hurler Lester Ryan who comes in as a hurling coach.

After the highs of recent years where Carlow enjoyed huge success winning All-Ireland titles at junior level and qualified for a Division 2 league final the county has experienced a lull but Phelan is hopeful he can help to drive on the game on in the county.

"We are looking forward to the challenge. There is a good backroom team and we're hoping to add one or two selectors who have local knowledge," he said.

He recognises the amount of development work which has been done in Carlow over the last number of years and said it was an easy decision to get involved.

"The county board are very ambitious and looking back at the record of the players their commitment is top drawer." He is looking at quality opposition right from when the first ball is thrown in.

"It is a tough league.

"Cork won the intermediate All-Ireland last year, we are playing Meath who were Division 1 last year and we have to travel to Down who beat us in the championship last year.

"Tipperary are never bad and we will use the league to see how the players adapt to training."

Cork won the corresponding game well last season but with a new panel and a new set of players, it is very much a learning curve again.



Killeagh goalkeeper Stephanie Beausang. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Young Cork side get perfect start

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	0-7
Carlow	0-3

CORK got their opening game in the Littlewoods Division 2 National League at Netwatch Cullen Park Carlow off to the perfect start with a victory over the home side yesterday.

With Cork bidding for three in a row of league titles they are fielding a relatively new team this season with all of the All-Ireland winning team from 2018 now ineligible for the grade.

A low scoring opening half saw Cork lead by a point at the interval.

The crosswind was making it tricky for both sides as they battled to gain the upper hand. Carlow took an early lead on eight minutes with Eibhe Lawler pointing from play and they stretched it with Eleanor Treacy pointing from play 11 minutes later.

Cork had three wides before they registered their first score with Kate O'Keeffe pointing 22 minutes in and with Michele Murphy pointing a free they were on level, before Kate Wall gave them a half time interval lead 0-3 to 0-2.

The second half was similar to the first with scores hard to come by.

Cork got a great start to the half with a Kate Wall point to stretch their advantage and with Kate O'Keeffe converting a twenty metre free they opened up a three-point lead.

Digging deep Cork worked to hold their lead Eleanor Treacy had Carlow's first and only score of the second half with a pointed free 58 minutes in.

Cork rounded it off with a point from substitute Kate Dooley to secure a four-point victory after a tough contest.

**Scorers for Cork:** K O'Keeffe 0-2 (0-15), K Wall 0-2, M Murphy (f), C Harney, K Dooley 0-1 each.

**Carlow:** E Treacy 0-2 (f), E Lawlor 0-1.  
**CORK:** S Beausang; G Hannon, C Looney, C Daly, M Lynch, A Maloney, E O'Regan, M Murphy, A Nic A Bhair, I O'Regan, K Wall, E Looney, A Hurley, R Harty, K O'Keeffe.

**Subs:** E Flanagan for I O'Regan, C Harney for A Nic Bhair, K Dooley for R Harty.  
**CARLOW:** N Doyle, S Foley, N Quirk, A Ryan, M Nolan, N Canavan, M O'Shea, S Kavanagh, E Byrne, B Nolan, E Sinnott, E Treacy, A Breen, E Coogan, E Lawlor.

**Subs:** A Began for M Nolan, T Wilson for S Kavanagh, R Sawyer for E Coogan, A Cushen for E Sinnott.

**Referee:** John McDonagh (Galway).



# Galway clinch semi-final place

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Ailish O'Reilly hit 1-3 while Carrie Dolan slotted eight points from placed balls as Galway assured themselves of a place in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-finals when defeating Waterford 1-14 to 1-6 at Carriganore.

All that is to be determined in Group 2 now is who will advance as top seeds, with Cathal Murray's troops playing host next weekend to All-Ireland champions Cork, who also boast a 100 per cent record from three rounds.

The same applies in Group 1, with a 5-18 to 1-10 victory for Kilkenny over Offaly at St Rynagh's and a 1-16 to 1-12 triumph for Limerick over Dublin at Parnells leaving both with flawless records ahead of their clash on Sunday.

Beth Carton hit all six of Waterford's points against Galway, while young substitute Kaiesha Tobin's goal will take some bettering in terms of team play but the hosts did not do enough with the wind in the first half, despite the efforts of Orla Hickey, Aoife Landers and Keeley Corbett-Barry, while they were punished severely for repeated defensive indiscipline by Dolan.

Noreen Coen's brilliant opening point in the second minute did not signal any scoring rush, though she was to finish with three herself, and it was another 10 minutes before O'Reilly added to the visitors' tally.

Ann Marie Starr, Heather Cooney and Lorraine Ryan were to the fore and though Carton finally got Waterford off the mark from an 18th minute free, Galway would move five clear, with Dolan converting four frees and Coen also on target.

Carton hauled Waterford back into the fray with three well-struck frees from outside the 45 and when Tobin palmed the All-Star's perfectly-judged pass to the net shortly before half time, after brilliant work by Shona Curran, Clara Griffin and Sara Lacey, the teams were level.

Dolan was given another opportunity from a free however and Galway led by 0-8 to 1-4 at the break.

Waterford could only manage two points into the wind after the resumption however, both from Carton and the second of those, a fantas-



Waterford's Lorraine Bray and Galway's Aoife Donohue tussle for possession during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 clash at WIT Carriganore.

Picture: Laszlo Geczo

tic effort from play, coming deep in injury time.

Dolan, Coen and O'Reilly helped stretch the margin to four by the time O'Reilly gathered a Starr delivery, turned sharply and rifled a shot to the net in the 42nd minute, the power beating Brianna O'Regan, who did well to get a touch and later on, would make a full-length save from Niamh Hanniffy.

There was no way back for Waterford from there.

In the other Group 2 tie, Tipperary manager Bill Mullaney pitched in

four of last year's Minors for their first starts and he will have been delighted with how they fared as the Premier left St Patrick's Park with their first win of the campaign, by 5-11 to 0-8 over Wexford.

Though failing to make the knockout stages in the Championship, Limerick have been regulars in the penultimate stages of the League and make it for the fourth successive year.

This is as impressive as they have been though in getting this far and Declan Nash certainly appears to be

getting more complete team performances from his charges.

Niamh Mulcahy struck nine points for the Shannonsiders but the spread of scorers was notable with Caoimhe Costelloe, Rebecca Delee and Caoimhe Lyons carrying on their form of the past few weeks.

Dublin opened the scoring with a first minute point from Evelyn Twomey but Costelloe hit three of her four points from play as Limerick moved through the gears and went four clear by the 10th minute. Delee's 26th minute goal was a real

blow for Dublin, who had managed to remain in touch thanks to some fine scores by Ali Twomey. Mulcahy added a brace of points from frees and it was 1-10 to 0-4 at the half.

Limerick continued to be comfortable and though Dublin finished strongly with a 54th minute goal by Sinéad Wylde and points from placed balls by Aisling Maher and Aoibhe Dillon, the result was never in doubt.

Kilkenny showed little mercy of Offaly with Anne Dalton (2), Michelle Quilty (2) and Katie Power their goalscorers.



Cork camogie star Ashling Thompson at Cork District Court yesterday.

Picture: Daragh Mc Sweeney/Cork Courts

## Camogie star Thompson pleads not guilty to nightclub assaults

Liam Heylin

All-Star camogie player Ashling Thompson has indicated she will contest the case against her on charges of assaulting two young women at the Secret Garden nightclub in Reardens in Cork a year ago.

The 28-year-old's solicitor, Eddie Burke, asked Judge Olann Kelleher, at Cork District Court: "Will you fix a date for hearing? She is pleading not guilty."

It was not possible to hear the case yesterday and Judge Kelleher adjourned the case until May 1 at Courtroom 3 at Cork District Court.

Sgt Gearóid Davis estimated that it will take between an hour and a half and two hours to hear the case. Mr Burke agreed that it would take some time and said: "It will take at least two hours."

Ms Thompson faces charges of assaulting Aoife O'Flaherty and Jennifer Coakley, both contrary to Section 2 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act on February 25, 2018 at Secret Garden, Rearden's, Washington St, Cork.

Initially, she also faced the more serious charge contrary to Section 3 of the same act, namely assault causing harm to Jennifer Coakley. However, this charge was dismissed.

Ms Thompson was captain of the Cork camogie team which won the O'Duffy Cup in 2015. She has two All-Star awards and won three All-Ireland club medals with her club, Milford, in North Cork.





President Higgins hosts reception for the All-Ireland Camogie winners.

## Cork will have to work hard to break through sturdy Tribe rearguard

SUNDAY

Littlewoods Div. 1 National League: Cork v Galway, Gort, 3pm

Down to the last game of the group series and the one which decided who tops the group as Cork head to Gort for a clash with a Galway sides that are also undefeated to date.

Victories over Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford have put them joint top with Cork and this season they are playing with fierce determination as manager Cathal Murray and his backroom team seem to have done a lot of work since last seasons All Ireland semi-final defeat at the hand of Kilkenny.

Watching them against Waterford last weekend they showed a very impressive work rate, their fitness levels looked good and they worked hard all through especially playing against the strong wind in the opening half where they went in leading by a point.

They seem to have grown in confidence this year and with a huge volume of talent having come through from successful minor's squads in recent times this is no surprise, indeed it is somewhat amazing that they have failed to make any headway in recent years given the huge volume of success at under 16 and minor levels.

In their clash with Waterford Alish O'Reilly hit a goal and three points from play, an over persistence from Waterford to concede frees saw Carrie Dolan slot eight points from placed balls as Galway assured themselves of their semi-final spot. Ann Marie Starr, Heather Cooney and Lorraine Ryan are experienced campaigners and again they are very much the back bone of this Galway side that also has good performers in Niamh Hanniffy and Noreen Coen.

Through the league campaign Paudie Murray has been introducing new faces to his squad something he does at this stages every year in a bid to freshen up his squad and afford opportunities to player's on the panel to stake their claims and make a bid for starting places come championship.

From last season All Ireland Intermediate winning squad he has given game time to Niamh O'Callaghan, Laura Hayes, Siobhan Hutchinson, Ciara McCarthy, Saoirse McCarthy, Katie McCarthy, Amy Lee and Cliona Healy all afforded opportunities to experience life at the higher level and to their credit all have performed well. Briege Corkery played for the hour against Waterford at centre back

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

and she is another who will give the Cork management options. Julia White lined out in her first game since the All-Ireland final and performed well and Cork are built around the experienced players and whilst championship is without doubt the key focus there is a sense of determination about the squad that they are taking this league very seriously. Up to the Waterford game they had done very little pitch work with most of their training focusing off the pitch but with three weeks work behind them we can expect to see more sharpness in them on Sunday. Gemma O'Connor and Leanne O'Sullivan were injured for the clash with Waterford whilst Libby Copping was rested having lined the day before with the football side but they will all be expected to make a return on Sunday. The Mackey's Katrina are Pamela are both still on the injured list so it may be a game to soon for them whilst Aoife Murray is out of the country on holiday.

On Sunday it will be tough to dig out those scores against a strong physical Galway defence who worked extremely hard last weekend as they hunted in packed and closed down the Waterford attack with some excellent defensive play.

All that is to be determined from this Group two game is who will advance as top and who will go through in second place and the same applies in Group one with Kilkenny and Limerick having already qualified as both are undefeated ahead of their clash on Sunday.

### SATURDAY

Minor Championship: Cork v Tipperary, The Ragg, 2pm.

The Minor side open the defence of their title on Saturday with a trip to meet Tipperary at The Ragg as they bid to make it back to back titles.

Jerry Wallace continues as manager and he and his backroom have worked hard since early December as the squad have been busy every Sunday on the Pairc Ui Chaoimh all-weather pitch girls.

With twelve of last season's panel still eligible including Fiona Keating, Orla Cremin, Emma Murphy, Laura Doyle, Ciara O'Sullivan, Miriam Cotter, Lucy Wallace and Hannah O'Leary who captains the side cork will be hoping for a perfect start to the defence of the crown.



Members of Inniscarra camogie travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin on Tuesday where President Michael D Higgins held a reception for the Cork camogie team. From left, Inniscarra club chairman Tim Buckley, Rose McCarthy, Rebecca Keane, Aileen Sheehan, Michael D Higgins, Joe McCarthy and Niamh McCarthy.

## Fancy footwork from Sr Máiréad



Sr Máiréad Ni Fhearáin shows off her football skills after the All-Ireland Schools Camogie semi-final at Ballinascreen over the weekend. Photo: Margaret McLaughlin



# Éire Óg ladies toast a

## CAMOGIE

**Mary Newman**

ÉIRE ÓG camogie club celebrated a superb season on the playing fields when they held their victory celebrations with a dinner and medal presentation at the Rochestown Park Hotel recently.

Down through the years many honours have come to the Ovens-based club who celebrated their 50th year in 2016, with the history of the club written by their club president and long serving member Rose Malone. While that history included winning senior and provincial championship titles, the club in recent times stepped down to Senior B grade in an effort to rebuild after some wonderful years.

Having won the Senior B in 2000 they were promoted to Senior A but shortly afterwards were back in Senior B grade. The renaming of the senior B grade to Intermediate saw them battle for that title in 2018 and in an exciting final they overcame their divisional neighbours Aghabullogue to be crowned champions amid huge celebration. They also added the league title and summer cup to their impressive collection.

At the gala night a large gathering paid tribute to the players and mentors involved in that success.

Led by chairman Kenneth Murphy, vice chair Sheila O'Brien and secretary Martina Hutchinson they enjoyed a wonderful evening with club member Dixie Collins as MC.

Among the guests were chairperson of the County Board Mary McSweeney and club sponsor Michael O'Flynn of O'Flynn Construction who presented Championship, League and Summer Cup medals to the victorious Intermediate team.

Also in attendance were chairman of Éire Óg hurling and football club Pat Malone, PP Fr Liam Ó hici and Reg Halligan, ladies chairperson.

Club president Rose Malone made a presentation to Siobhán Hutchinson who was a member of the Cork Senior and Intermediate All-Ireland winning sides and to Grace Collins and Aideen Buckley members of the Minor All-Ireland winning side.

County chairperson Mary McSweeney congratulated the club on a superb year and for their contribution to Cork camogie, she said the club have a long and proud tradition and it was wonderful to see them continue this.

Chairperson Ken Murphy looked forward to the seniors' 2019 campaign.



Siobhán Hutchinson, with Grace Collins and Aideen Buckley who represented Cork at senior and minor level.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Club chairmen Ken Murphy and Pat Malone with Ann Murphy and Ann Malone.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Marie and Siobhán Gleeson, Éire Óg club.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Fiona and Kate Nagle at the Éire Óg camogie club victory dinner.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Michael O'Flynn presents long-serving player, Margaret O'Herlihy with her county championship medal at the Éire Óg camogie celebrations.



Donie and Lorraine Desmond at the Éire Óg camogie club victory dinner.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



# season of success



The Éire Óg camogie team who won the Intermediate county championship, league and the summer cup pictured with their trainers.



Sisters Fiona and Gillian Murphy at the Éire Óg camogie club victory dinner.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Emma Crowley with her parents Fiona and Pat Crowley.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Aideen and Mariette Buckley at the victory dinner.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Avril McSweeney, Kate Nagle and Eleanor O'Leary at the dinner.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sisters Rebecca and Isobel Sheehan with their cousin Ciara Sheehan at the Rochestown Park Hotel.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Martina Hutchinson with her daughters Gráinne and Siobhán.



# President shows champs the Arás

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT WAS a historic occasion on Tuesday for Cork Camogie as players, mentors, officials, families and friends were welcomed to Aras an Uachtaráin for a reception hosted by President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina.

The occasion was to honour the All-Ireland Senior and Intermediate championship winning teams who were watched by President Higgins when he attended in Croke Park last September. He was so impressed by that double-header that he extended an invitation to the Aras as guests arrived to the Aras they were welcomed by the president's staff for a reception and everybody was free to mingle around the impressive reception rooms and area. From here guests lined up and were introduced individually to President Higgins and Sabina.

The general consensus from everybody was that the President was well-versed in all things about the teams and indeed the clubs. On several introductions, he made references to different former players on the hurling fields to members of their clubs.

After the formal introductions were completed it was back to the reception rooms where the Uachtaráin gave a wonderful welcoming address. In his speech, he paid tribute to players, mentors and volunteers and he had a special mention for county board who he said were vital to the life blood of our Gaelic games.

"Your experiences and achievements will serve to inspire the imagination of others. On behalf of everyone who loves sport, everyone who followed with great interest and pride the exciting and exhilarating All-Ireland camogie final between Cork and Kilkenny in Croke Park last September, it is both a great pleasure and an honour to join with you and celebrate Cork camogie team's marvellous achievement in winning the All-Ireland camogie titles, one of the largest sporting events in Ireland."

He went on to say that the 2018 All-Ireland final was a memorable and thrilling game from beginning to end. He said this was most evident to him at the time, not only in the final heart-stopping moments of the game when Orla Cotter remained calm and composed under pressure to score the winning point that secured Cork's fantastic win, but that he was also struck by the great teamwork.

"This would not be possible if not for the dedication and commitment that you have all given and the hours of training, often in very cold and inclement weather that this beautiful country of ours offers us."

He had particular words of praise for teamwork and unity which he said is paramount in everyday lives, and he had a special word for the Murray family about their roles in Cork's win.

"It also strikes me how wonderfully typical the family connections in Gaelic games are and I am delighted to see that great example in the Murray family with Aoife Murray, goalkeeper and Captain, Paudie Murray, manager, and Kevin Murray, selector; a truly winning combination."

He had huge praise for the unity which exists within both panels and made particular mention of this.



President Michael D Higgins this week hosted a reception for the All-Ireland camogie winners Cork, who were senior and intermediate champions in 2018.

Picture: Maxwell's



President Higgins and his wife Sabina meeting with Paudie Murray and Cork captains Leah Weste and Laura Tracey.

Picture: Maxwell's

"It was very clear to me on that exciting All-Ireland final day in September that yours is a team of great unity and mutual respect, always encouraging and championing each other. Leadership, working as a team, and respect for others are important themes of Gaelic Games and indeed of all sports, and these are qualities that translate right across into community work and everyday life regardless of where you live."

President Higgins also made references to the challenges sports people face as they strive to get to the top in their chosen sport.

"You as members of the Cork Camogie teams possibly know more than anyone else that in sport there is never certainty about the outcome, there are no certain winners, but there are always courageous and committed athletes. That is part of the challenging journey each participant in sport must

travel, one of the challenges they face and overcome again and again, and it does not get progressively easier."

"All of you know only too well how tight the margins are between winning and losing, at the level of competing in excellence, how much courage it takes to face up to those margins, to accept the risks, to commit to the ethic of competing, of being tested and accepting the outcome whatever it is."

He told the players how proud they should be of the participation they make and the many sacrifices, to be the very best. He said their experiences and achievements will serve to inspire the imagination of others making them inspiring role models for Ireland's young women.

The President also spoke about the recent celebrations for International Women's Day where at Aras an Uachtaráin and both himself and Sabina are delighted to support the "20x20 If You

**President Higgins said their achievements make them inspiring role-models**

Can't See It, You Can't Be It' initiative. It's a movement which he said will shift cultural perception of women's sport by committing to increase media coverage of women in sport by 20% because if she can't see it, she can't be it.

Manager Paudie Murray replied on behalf of Cork Camogie and thanked President Higgins and Sabina for the wonderful genuine warm welcome afforded to everybody, he said it was truly an honour to be invited and said this will push the sides on in their bid for three in a row.

On behalf of Cork Camogie Paudie made a presentation of a painting of UCC to President Higgins who drew huge applause when he held it up and said "Up Cork".

A wonderful occasion and a day to be remembered as a special one for Cork Camogie who can be proud of all they have achieved and continue to do both on and off the playing fields.

## Muskerry honours Rose on retirement

Camogie

■ Mary Newman

THE long-standing Éire Óg and Muskerry camogie official Rose Malone has been honoured by the divisional committee to mark her retirement as their chairperson.

Rose has given huge service to club, county, Munster and national camogie. She represented Munster on central council for years and was also a member of central council.

Her knowledge of the rules and the general organisation of our game was second-to-none and her contribution was immense. She also served as an officer of Munster Council and on the Cork County Board for many years, when she became secretary in 1973.

New chairman of Muskerry, Pat Nolan, welcomed a large gathering of family and friends, from clubs in Muskerry and outside of the division, as well, to Rose's home club, Éire Óg. Pat and outgoing development officer, Mairead Donovan, spoke highly about Rose and her contribution to Muskerry, where she was, at various stages, both the secretary and chairperson.

Rose thanked the Muskerry board for the surprise presentation and everybody who attended. She spoke of her many years in the division and recalled the wonderful achievement when Muskerry were trained by her husband, Con, and were crowned senior county champions.

She also thanked everybody who worked hard for the Muskerry division and said it is great to see new faces stepping up to take on roles in the divisional board.

"I am very proud to be from Éire Óg and Mid Cork. Our tradition is important to us and I will always be proud to be from Muskerry."

Rose expressed delight to see her gran-nieces-in-law now all playing camogie, and perhaps wearing the Muskerry colours in future, as another generation of the family continue the tradition.

She recalled the night she took on her first officer role in the Cork County Board.

"I remember, many years ago, coming to the county board as a delegate for my club and the board were looking for a secretary."

"Nora Newman, from Glen Rovers, is the one that encouraged me to stand for the position and, I suppose, nobody else would go forward, so I did the job."

"It was supposed to only be for a while, but sure I stayed at it and, to be fair, Nora said she would always be at the end of a phone to help me out and she did, to be fair. I always enjoyed my involvement, but there came a time to step down, but sure when I did, I became involved at Munster and then central council."

Mairead Donovan and Pat Nolan made presentations to Rose to acknowledge her contribution to the division.



# 'I came off three night shifts and straight into a league match'



Cork camogie star Laura Treacy pictured at the launch of Bodibro's high performance sportswear 2019 GAA range. Bodibro specialises in personalised orders of training and match day gear for clubs, teams and colleges across Ireland. To find out more visit [www.bodibro.ie](http://www.bodibro.ie).

(Photo: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile)

LAURA Treacy was exhausted.

A nurse in the Mercy University Hospital, she'd just come off her third night shift on the bounce, managed to squeeze in two hours of sleep and was now going full throttle in Cork's 2018 national league opener against Galway at Castle Road.

It was hard enough to stay awake let alone play an inter-county game.

It was torture.

The Cork defender was marking Galway's Ailish O'Reilly, and they'd know each other from All-Star trips. O'Reilly took on the extra role of agony aunt that January Sunday.

'I was discussing with Ailish during the game that this wasn't going to happen any more, that I couldn't keep going like this,' Treacy says.

'That game was on a Sunday. I had been on nights (12-hour shifts that started at 8pm) the Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night, and our game was at two o'clock on the Sunday. I came off the Saturday night shift at eight o'clock on the Sunday morning, had some breakfast, went to bed around half eight for two hours and

**'I came off the Saturday night shift at eight o'clock on the Sunday morning, had some breakfast, went to bed around half eight for two hours and then up for a team meeting at about 12ish, and then played the game.'**

**Cork camogie star Laura Tracey chats to Kieran McCarthy about the game that made her change to agency nursing**



then up for a team meeting at about 12ish, and then played the game.

'I was exhausted. I got through the match and then went into nights again on Sunday night.'

The Killeagh woman knew that she was never going to get the best out of herself that way. She was already missing training sessions and the fear was that she would be left behind for the year if it kept going like this.

She'd won her first All-Star award the previous November, named left corner back on the camogie team of the year after playing her role in Cork's

All-Ireland senior triumph. But instead of building on that, she felt she was stalling.

'I was working 12-hour shifts in the Mercy from September 2017 to April 2018. It meant I was missing training on Friday nights as usually you're not done until eight o'clock and training is usually around seven,' Treacy explains.

'I'd have to go and do my own session with our strength and conditioning coach Martin O'Brien, maybe the day before, or before I went into work or maybe the following day, just to keep up.'

'I hated training on my own.' She knew she needed to change, otherwise she'd be left behind.

'Over the next few weeks and months after the Galway game, I was weighing up my options to see what I could do. I spoke to a lot of people and I ended up going agency nursing from

April – it was the best option for my career and to allow me play camogie,' the Cork defender explains.

That decision has allowed her take control of both her work and camogie commitments.

'I'm able to pick my own days now that suit me around camogie. It's ideal and it's working for me at the moment,' she says.

'Switching to agency nursing has allowed me, for example, to finish at six so I can make seven o'clock training. I don't put myself down for shifts on match days so there is no clash.'

'I could be working anywhere; in a surgery, in a clinic, anywhere. It just suits me at the moment while I play camogie.'

'I can sit down and organise my shifts for the month. I get my timetable for Cork training for the month and I can revolve everything around that then.'

'This has allowed me to work as a nurse and still play.'

Finding the right balance between work and camogie, Treacy went on to have a stellar championship in the Cork defence, and after the county defended their All-Ireland crown, she was shortlisted again for an All-Star.

Ahead of this Sunday's trip to Galway to take on the home side in their final Division 1 Group 2 game of the camogie league, Treacy is off both Saturday and Sunday, and will work a half day on Monday so she can fit in a recovery session that even-

ing. It's a long way from the last time these two counties met in the league – but she's expecting Cork's toughest game of the season so far.

Both counties are already through to the knockout stages and both have a 100 per cent record after the opening three rounds, so it's the ideal early-season indicator for Cork who want to top the group.

'This will be a massive battle,' Treacy says.

'We haven't travelled to Galway since 2015, they have a serious set up and have been beaten teams by big scores this year. It's a huge test.'

'We will have to bring a lot of character to the game. We have already qualified but we want to top the group – and we will be disappointed if we don't come out of Galway with a win.'

It's that attitude that helps explain what drives this Cork team that is chasing three All-Irelands in a row. Manager Paudie Murray and his management team have set the highest of standards.

'We can't be how we were last year, we need to be a better version of ourselves,' Treacy points out.

'It's driven from the management team – the professionalism they bring is second to none. If we win but don't play well, our heads will be down and we will be critical of ourselves, saying that we could have done this better or done

more of that. We expect a lot out of ourselves. We always want to be better. We are perfectionists. We want to hit the highest of our capabilities.'

'We do a lot of things really very well in games and we see that too – but we always want to improve.'

'We are always reminded that we need to step it up. The way we played in 2018 won't win us an All-Ireland in 2019 because teams are trying to catch up. There is nothing between us and Kilkenny so we need to step it up a notch.'

Helping to drive the 2019 challenge, Treacy says, is the ongoing battle for places. Paudie Murray is building a formidable panel. Courcey Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy, a minor last season, scored 1-1 in the recent league win against Waterford. Ciara McCarthy started her first game in midfield in the same match while Laura Hayes, another 2018 minor, has featured in the opening games too.

'No one's place is safe,' Treacy says.

'These girls are coming through and they're keen to make their mark. Sarah Hayes has played the last two league games and she's done super. It's keeping everyone on their toes.'

'The youth, the speed and the determination that they are bringing from minor is great for the panel.'

But first, it's Galway on Sunday.



# Late Cotter point sees Cork grab Div 1 draw

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Galway	2-7
Cork	0-13

IT was honours even in Gort in this Littlewoods Division 1 league clash, as a last-gasp Orla Cotter '45 saw Cork fashion out a draw.

It wasn't enough to see them top the group though, as Galway occupy first spot in Group 2.

The draw sees Galway set up a semi-final meeting with Limerick, whilst second placed Cork must face four-in-a-row chasing Kilkenny.

The Cats hit an injury-time pointed free from Michelle Quilty to earn a narrow victory over Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds to grab the top spot in Group 1.

Galway hit Cork with two early goals inside four minutes of the throw-in. Carrie Dolan had the ball in the net after just 15 seconds and a second from Noreen Coen on four minutes.

The home side had the momentum and from here on in Cork were chasing them.

Cork settled and got back into the game however with four points in a row — Ciara Mc McCarthy, Cliona Healy and Orla Cotter all keeping the pressure on the Galway defence. Carrie Dolan slotted over one for Galway in between.

Noreen Coen and Niamh Hanniffy gave the home side a 2-5 to 0-6 interval advantage as Cork finished the half with an Orla Cotter pointed free to trail by five.

Cork applied huge second-half pressure and slowly they ate into the Galway lead with Cotter again leading the way.

Chloe Sigerson drew the sides level with a pointed free with two minutes remaining, but Galway responded with Carrie Dolan slotting over from a free that looked as if it would be enough for Galway.

However, a converted 45 from the ice-cool Cotter, which was actually waved wide by one umpire who was overruled by referee Ray Kelly, saw Cork take a share of the spoils but it wasn't enough to see them go top of the group.

Cork and Kilkenny should be interesting in the semi-final, their first meeting since last year's All-Ireland final.

**Scorers for Galway:** C Dolan 1-3 (0-3 f), N Coen 1-2, N Hanniffy, N Kilkenny 0-1 each.

**CORK:** O Cotter 0-5 f, C Sigerson 0-2 f, C McCarthy 0-2, C Healy, L Collins, O Cronin, A Thompson 0-1 each.

**GALWAY:** S Healy, C Donoghue, S Derivan, H Cooney, S Healy, E Helebert, L Ryan, AM Starr, A Donoghue, N Hanniffy, N Kilkenny, N McGrath, C Dolan, A O'Reilly, N Coen.

**Subs:** D Higgins for C Donoghue, S Spellman for N McGrath.

**CORK:** A Lee, L Treacy, P Mackey, L Hayes, L Coppinger, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, C McCarthy, A Thompson, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney, C Healy, A O'Connor, L Collins.

**Subs:** J White for C McCarthy, N O'Callaghan for L Coppinger.

**Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).

# Tipp use wind to build lead in first half

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Tipperary	0-13
Cork	1-7

NOT the best of starts for defending All-Ireland minor champions Cork as the lost out to Tipperary in their round one clash at The Ragg on Saturday.

The home side laid the foundations for victory in the opening half when playing with the aid of a strong wind they hit seven points without reply.

They led by this margin at the interval as Cork failed to register a first-half score.

Having hit five in the opening twenty minutes Tipp had to battle to stretch their lead as the Cork defence came to grips with the situation but two points just before the interval gave them a seven point cushion with Clodagh McIntyre, Emer McGrath and Eimear Bourke all on the score sheet.

Cork came out fighting for the second half.

They got the scoreboard ticking over and they matched Tipp in all sectors of the field.

They had the lead trimmed to a point with Ali Smith on target from frees and Isobelle Sheehan, Fiona Keating and Hannah Sexton all pointing, whilst a Clodagh Finn goal was a much-needed boost.

However, Tipperary continued to hold their lead with Emer McGrath, Eimear Bourke, Karen Blair's and Grace O'Toole helping to keep them in front as they added points to their tally to run out winners.

In the other game in their group, Dublin had a 2-14 to 0-11 victory over Wexford, whilst in group one Clare had a 2-9 to 1-8 win over Waterford.

Cork now face a round two clash away to Galway on March 16 where a win will be a must to get keep their campaign for a place in the last four on track.

**Scorers for Tipperary:** E McGrath 0-6 (f), C McIntyre 0-3, E Bourke 0-2, K Blair, G O'Toole 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Smith 0-4 (f), C Finn 1-0, I Sheehan, F Keating, H Sexton 0-1 each.

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery, L Heffernan, S Ryan, M Connolly, E Heffernan, G Fox, C Dwane, L Shinnors, G O'Toole, M Flaherty, E McGrath, K Blair, E Bourke, R O'Donnell, C McIntyre.

**Subs:** M E Ryan for M Connolly (40), E Morrissey for L Shinnors (44), J A Quirk for R O'Donnell (50), K Grace for M Flaherty (52).

**CORK:** M Lynch, C Murphy, C Kingston, A O'Neill, A Smith, H Sexton, L Doyle, E Murphy, T Sheehan, S O'Donovan, S Hurley, C O'Sullivan, E Murphy, F Keating, H O'Leary.

**Subs:** I Sheehan for S O'Donovan (41), C Finn for S Hurley (46), O Cremen for C O'Sullivan (45), C Coleman for H O'Leary (45).

**Referee:** John Darmody (Westmeath).



Courcey Rovers' Grainne Hannon collides with Milford's Elaine O'Riordan in the Cork Camogie Senior Championship semi-final at Camogie Grounds, Blackrock.

Picture: Gavin Browne

# Cork look to add to their winning tally when they face Meath tomorrow

TOMORROW

Littlewoods Division 2

National League:

Cork v Meath;

Dunsany, Meath; 2pm.

WITH a win under their belt following a first-round victory over Carlow, Cork face a tough challenge on Saturday when they travel to play Meath in their second game of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League.

Cork had a bye last weekend, whilst for Meath it's their third game in the group series and with two wins to their credit a third would see them almost certainly secure a semi-final spot.

Following just a year participating in division one Meath are back playing in division two this season and they made a positive start to their campaign with a fine win over Down in the opening round before going on to defeat Tipperary's last weekend.

The victories got new manager Ray Gavin off to a winning start as he took over the reins from John Davis who enjoyed unprecedented success with the team over a 10 year tenure that saw huge success for the county.

John brought Meath Camogie from the depths of despair through to competing at the top level of senior camogie as he steered Meath Camogie through some wonderful times where they enjoyed huge success as they won numerous titles.

They went from National Leagues Division 4 up to Division 1, winning the All Ireland Nancy Murray cup, All-Ireland Premier Junior title against Down 2012, they overcame Cork in the All-Ireland Intermediate final of 2017 following a drawn game in Croke Park it took a very close replay with Cork to win the crown.

They also have enjoyed a lot of provincial success winning numerous Leinster titles along the way.

John came on board with Meath Camogie in 2007 and he worked hard and brought many Meath camogie players to the fore and introduced new and up and coming talent.

He contributed hugely to all aspects of Meath Camogie with a huge dedication to training and coaching and on retiring earlier this year left Meath camogie in a good place.

In their opening game, they posed too many questions for

# CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

a Down that lost out to Cork in the Intermediate All Ireland final last year as they turned in a strong display to win convincingly on a 2-13 to 0-7 scoreline and they followed this up defeating Tipperary 4-9 to 3-5 last weekend.

They are a very experienced outfit and can call on all of the players who were part of their All Ireland intermediate winning side of 2017, however, this is not the case with Cork as the winning side of 2018 as cork are a senior county they are all now ineligible for Intermediate and graded senior therefore Cork are fielding a completely new team.

They overcame the challenge of Carlow in a 0-7 to 0-3 opening round game.

It must be said that Carlow would not be one of the strongest in the group, having lost out to Cork they were defeated last weekend by Down.

Frances Killeen is managing the side and has Courcey Rovers Kevin Hannon and Fr O'Neill's Tom Harrington in her backroom team; currently, they are keeping all their options open and are very much on the lookout for new talent.

Their panel is still very much in the making and one gets the impression they will be using the league as to build a strong team for the championship.

Cork are a young side but in their clash with Carlow, Aisling Maloney Kate O'Keeffe, Grainne Hannon and Kate Wall were amongst the players who impressed and there is no doubt but with a few games under their belt, this Cork side will be more than capable of holding their own.

Meath are an experienced outfit and they turned in a powerful second half display to see of the challenge of Tipperary last week with goals from Caroline Quinn, Fia O'Brien, Caroline Quinn and Lisa Foley finally quenching a strong challenge from Tipperary.

Experienced players such as Kristina Troy, Megan Tynne and Aoife Maguire ensure they have a nice balance of youth and experience and they will pose a huge challenge to Cork.

CAMOGIE: Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues.

Division 2, Group 1: Meath v Cork, Dunsany, 2pm, (P Ryan, Kildare); Tipperary v Down, The Ragg, 2pm, (K O'Brien, Limerick). Division 2, Group 2: Kerry v Wexford, Abbeydorney, 2pm, (D Kirwan, Cork); Galway v Westmeath, Gort, 2pm, (A Doherty, Laois).

Division 2, Group 3: Derry v Kilkenny, Swatragh GAC, 2pm, (P McDonald, Cavan); Laois v Dublin, Camross, 2pm, (M Ryan, Tipperary).

Division 3: Kildare v Wicklow, St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge, 2pm, (B Nea, Cork); Limerick v Tyrone, Limerick IT (A McCormack, Clare); Roscommon v Clare, Oran, 2pm, (C Quinlan, Galway).

All-Ireland post-primary junior B camogie semi-final: Coláiste Bride Ennis-corthy (Wexford) v Sacred Heart Clonakilly (Cork), St Patrick's Park, Ennis-corthy, 2pm.

All-Ireland post-primary senior B camogie final: St Mary's Nenagh (Tipperary) v Castlecomer Community School (Kilkenny), St Rynagh's GAA grounds, Banagher, 2pm.

All-Ireland post-primary senior C camogie final: Cashel Community School (Tipperary) v St Pius (Derry), TBC, 3pm.

All-Ireland post-primary senior D ca-

# Cork and Kilkenny set for mouthwatering league semi

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Kilkenny will resume their rivalry with Cork while Galway will face Limerick in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-finals.

At the other end of the spectrum, Offaly and Wexford must meet to decide who

drops to the second tier.

Kilkenny are pursuing a fourth consecutive title but needed a 63rd minute point from Michelle Quilty to claim a 1-12 to 0-14 victory over Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds. That result ensured they finished the round-robin phase at the summit of Group 1.

Denise Gaule excelled in the first half for Kilkenny, with three points from play,

Caoimhe Costelloe had two for Limerick and the teams were level on four occasions and were also tied at the break (0-6 apiece).

But Anna Farrell's goal four minutes after the restart helped the visitors to open a four-point gap.

Caoimhe Lyons, Costelloe and Mulcahy kept the hosts in touch with pointed frees in 58 and 60 minutes from Mulcahy

— which brought her tally to seven from placed balls — appeared to have secured a share of the spoils.

But there was still time for Quilty to find the target for her sixth point and first from play to clinch it for Kilkenny.

Galway earned a 2-7 to 0-13 draw with Cork to finish top of Group 2 on score difference. They rocked the All-Ireland champions with a goal

from Carrie Dolan after just 15 seconds and they had a second four minutes later, through Noreen Coen.

Cork got back in the game with four points, including two from youngsters Ciara McCarthy and Cliona Healy, with the vastly more experienced Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter also on target. The game settled after that whirlwind opening and points

from Coen and Noreen Hanniffy gave Cathal Murray's charges a 2-5 to 0-6 interval advantage. Cork stepped up a couple of gears in the second half, points from Cotter, Thompson and Chloe Sigerson drawing them level but it wasn't enough to leapfrog over the Maroons on the table.

There were wins too for Dublin and Tipperary.



# Support our team's 1,800 laps fundraiser

As Inniscarra Camogie U16 team prepare to travel to Germany for a youth league, MARTINA O'DONOGHUE talks to their manager Liam Ryan about the girls' love for the sport, the significance of the upcoming trip and how they are fundraising to pay for it



TRIP AWAY: Inniscarra Camogie Club U16 team who are heading to Berlin this year, to take part in the first German Youth League.

IT'S not often that a sports team dedicated to the Gaelic tradition get to showcase their talents abroad.

There is endless dedication to local club games, matches across one's own county, and for some, a chance to represent that county in a provincial or ultimately national level. But the perks of being part of something like a World Cup, a Six Nations championship or an Olympic athletic team are unlikely aspirations.

However, one local camogie club is taking steps in that direction with a trip to Berlin later this month to play non-competitively with a select group of German teams, as well as providing mentorship to those teams.

While organising the trip is a group effort, it's fair to say that it wouldn't be happening without the input of the U16 Inniscarra Camogie Club manager, Liam Ryan, who says: "There is a long tradition of Irish cultural groups going abroad in music, dance, bands, etc. so why not bring our sporting culture abroad, and better again with emphasis on more participation from girls in sport."

"Let's lead the way in what girls can aspire to when they are part of a camogie club".

When Liam, a father of four, was hatching his plan he looked very close to home for inspiration, as his wife Michele is the founder of Blarney Dance Academy (BDA), an Irish dance school that celebrates abroad every second year during the St. Patrick's Day festivities.

In 2015 it was Paris, followed by Rome in 2017, while this year they are off to Amsterdam for more adventures.

Liam always travels with Michele and his three daughters, who are all involved in dancing, and those trips gave him food for thought in organising something similar for his camogie group, which he has been managing since they were on the U9 team.

Liam first went to Joan O'Flynn, the former director of Camogie in Ireland, based in Dublin, and spoke about taking a team to go into schools. She put him onto Kathleen Egan, the European Development Co-ordinator of Camogie in Europe. Germany was suggested and contact was made with Setanta Berlin, a club established in 2000, which has a schools program, as well as hosting a European Youth Camogie event every year on the weekend after St Patrick's Day. This year they will host the very first German Youth League, with teams arriving from Hamburg, Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich, as well as the Inniscarra U16s who will be the star attractions and rightly considered experts in their field.

"Inniscarra is the best camogie club in Cork right now and when the girls go out they'll be asked 'Can you show me side-line cuts? Can you show me how to take frees?' They're looking for specific coaching over there. Our girls will be providing mentorship to the teams, like during the match at half time."

"We have a girl of 16 who played for Cork, so for those kids that's the nearest they'll get to

their Ronaldo or Messi moment for the sport in which they play", says Liam.

"Quite a few of our girls do German at school so they might demonstrate a few skills and do it in German. It'll be a fun thing for them", adds Liam.

One wonders what German word will be found for sliotar!

It seems a few more languages could come in handy too on the trip: "We'll be visiting the Nelson Mandela School on the Friday to introduce them to camogie. There are students there from places like Yemen and Brazil, around 25 different nationalities in total in the school. It's a unique opportunity to introduce the sport to so many different cultures."

Giving a helping hand with organisation on the German end is Berlin-based Sinead Kavanagh, PRO of German Camogie, which organised its first Cúl Camp weekend last year.

Illustrating how the camogie movement in Germany may have been initiated by ex-pats but has grown to the wider community, only one of the five coaches for the camp was Irish, the rest made up of Germans.

Sinead backs up this observation: "In our youth division, we currently have 70 youth members, aged between three to 16, only one of whom was actually born in Ireland. While many of our youth have some Irish connection, many have been attracted purely for the love of the game and are as enthusiastic as any Irish child playing in their local GAA team in Ireland. When you take the adult players into consideration, the GAA is really international, with our teams made up of ex-pat Irish, local German born and even those from as far flung as having south African and Tunisian roots."

Back in Inniscarra, the planning is ongoing with Tipperary native Liam keen to stress that he's not a one man army. He carries out his duties alongside lead coach Fergal O'Leary and fellow coach Sheila Lyons who, like Liam, has been with the team since they were U9s.

"She does immeasurable work for underage teams", says Liam.

Still, Liam's own dedication is admirable, especially considering that his own daughters don't play the game.

"When I came to the parish first my older daughters didn't seem to have much interest. They were involved in karate and other things. My youngest daughter asked to join the U9s if

I'd help train. She stayed playing up until three years ago. She does a lot of Irish dancing and is out two or three nights a week with that. She still loves going to matches but she had to prioritise a little. By the time she'd given up — for me, you get to a stage where you're loyal to that group of kids. We have a great affinity, they are good kids and they train well."

"It's hard to get people to train teams and organise teams so I said I'd stay involved with the group all the way up along. Last year eight of those girls were on the Cork U14 panel, which was a great achievement. They have a real love for the game."

It's not only a challenge to keep trainers on board but also to keep the girls interested as they get older, with demands on their time from other recreational activities, not to mention the pressure of exams.

The U16 Inniscarra camogie captain, Katie Lordan from Blarney, is a prime example of someone with a busy schedule, as she manages to fit in piano, art and choir into her week, as well as playing camogie and basketball with her school, Coláiste Choilm in Ballincollig.

"I'm in fourth year this year but in third year it was tough to make it to every training session, but it's a break from the usual schedule, allowing you to relax and have fun", she says.

A 2017 study commissioned by Lidl, sponsor of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, found that while team sports have a direct and positive effect on self-confidence and mental wellbeing, half of young women drop out of their chosen sport by the age of 13.

So what is Inniscarra doing to keep their girls involved?

"Keeping girls in sport is very important and I've always been very conscious of the necessity to have a social side as part of what we're doing."

"Girls are just as competitive as boys for sure but perhaps they enjoy the social side a bit more", says Liam.

To that end, he has organised some fun (but physical!) days out for his team over the years, including trips to Ballyhass Aqua Park, West Cork Secret, Blackwater Outdoor Activities and Fota Island Adventure, as well as Mahem in Cahir, Co. Tipperary, a site used for filming TV show *Ireland's Fittest Family*.

Of course, on the upcoming trip to Berlin

there will be plenty scope for the social aspect.

"This is going to hopefully create bonds for life. And it's very healthy in a community club for the parents to have connectivity with each other too", says Liam.

The squad has been fundraising for the trip to Berlin and on March 9 they will participate in 1,800 laps of the community pitch in Ballynaly, representing one lap for every kilometre of distance from Cork to Berlin.

Team captain Katie is optimistic about the future of camogie.

"I feel like camogie is seen — not less than hurling — but not as well attended. I want it to grow and get bigger and to show that it's even growing in other countries", she says.

Meanwhile in Berlin, Wexford native, Sinead Kavanagh is waiting to greet Katie and her team-mates.

"The visit of Inniscarra to Berlin is so important to Setanta because it demonstrates to our players the wider reaching links to the GAA community at home and abroad, and for our growing camogie population, it serves to show how wonderful the sport really is when played at the highest level and gives them a goal of excellence to aim for," she said.

New members are welcome and online registration is available via the Clubforce platform.

"Inniscarra is the best camogie club in Cork right now and when the girls go out (to Berlin) they'll be asked 'Can you show me side-line cuts? Can you show me how to take frees?' They're looking for specific coaching over there. Our girls will be providing mentorship to the teams, like during the match at half time. We have a girl of 16 who played for Cork, so for those kids that's the nearest they'll get to their Ronaldo or Messi moment for the sport in which they play."

## Sacred Heart in All-Ireland semi-final

MUNSTER colleges' junior B camogie champions, Sacred Heart Secondary School Clonakilty are one game away from an All-Ireland final appearance.

The Clonakilty school take on Coláiste Bhríde in an All-Ireland junior colleges' semi-final this Saturday, March 2nd, in Enniscorthy (2pm) with a place in the final up for grabs.

Sacred Heart — managed by Ciarán Mulcahy — were very impressive in their 1-10 to 2-0 Munster final win against St Mary's Middleton in January. That was the first time the school had won the provincial competition.

That day, full back Emma O'Driscoll, captain and centre back Daire O'Brien, defenders Kate O'Donovan and Kellie

O'Gorman, midfielder Jessica McCarthy, corner forward Eimear O'Brien, as well as Maeve Kingston and Millie Condon, all impressed for the Clon side that includes players from Ballinascorthy, Clonakilty, Enniskeane, Kilbree and Barryroe.

It was Enniskeane's Eimear O'Brien who carried the threat in attack against St Mary's as she finished with 1-7.



# We have been willing this all our lives, says Foxxe on Croker return

**AIB All-Ireland Club Championship final**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Chloe Foxxe is taking time out from completing a college assignment to chat. The conversation flows, the 21-year-old at ease with discussing sport and life.

Though she will only turn 22 in May, the third-year UCD computer science student is a long-established dual Wexford player, having also played at underage level for the county in soccer. She will be going on placement in a data analytics role with Liberty Insurance shortly. There is potential for consultancy there, "which could be cool".

Keeping all those plates spinning while achieving at a high level academically is not for everyone, but Foxxe revels in the demands — not that she would view them as such.

"It's absolutely incredible, to be honest. It's a year and a day the other night since we started training for what was effectively 2018, but turned into 2019 now," Foxxe details.

"We said to ourselves last year (2017) was fun (to finally win the first senior county camogie title in the club's history). But if you are coming out in November to train and you are on the beach in December, you are not looking in the past, you are not looking in the present, you are always looking to be in Croker Park. You can't be thinking: 'Oh, I am here today and whatever happens tomorrow.' You have to be thinking about the All-Ireland final and going up the steps.



"I have played with six teams over the last year. I am playing UCD O'Connor Cup (third-level ladies football). That is coming to a head now (with the semi-final on Friday). UCD Camogie, Wexford football I am still involved with, obviously Wexford Camogie when it gets back on track.

"It's the enjoyment factor for me. Most people who know me know I don't like to be bored with college work and everything. I feel like I get more of it done when I have more things to do. You are setting yourself a time limit to finish things, instead of saying: 'I have a week to do that now and I will finish it on Friday.'"

Getting over Oulart-The Ballagh was special for the Piercestown/Barnstown contingent. To repeat the trick felt like they had really arrived and they were primed for Kilkenny giants Thomastown, who had gotten the better of them 12 months previously and were chasing a third consecutive Leinster title.

Now, they are looking to dash another three-in-a-row dream, that of all-conquering Derry queenpins Slaughtneil. Yet at half-time in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork representatives Inniscarra, it looked like they were on the way out, leading by just a point having played with a very strong wind.

"We have a really special group of players. The core of the team is in and around my age group or below it. We would have won multiple underage titles and gone to Féiles together. On the other side, you have the more experienced members of the

With her many sporting and academic commitments, Chloe Foxxe has more plates spinning than most could handle, but the third-year UCD student wouldn't have it any other way. Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

panel. If you were looking in, you might say: 'I can split them into two groups of players'. I don't think it really comprehensively describes the team that we are. That is where we have come from last year. We have seen that it doesn't matter what age you are. Everybody has a responsibility on the pitch even if that is going to the next ball, or if something needs to be said, it doesn't matter who you are. We are all part of the one team. That is something that has really brought us together this year in terms of collective responsibility."

Kate Kelly was a childhood hero of Foxxe and was still around when she first came into the Wexford panel. Kelly had retired when the teenager broke through, but remained a member of the backroom staff. To have trained with such a legend is a memory that Foxxe cherishes.

With St Martins, the likes of Noeleen Lambert and Mags D'Arcy were also role models.

"Very similar to Kate," she agrees. "Players my age who are in with Martin's now; myself, Amy Cardiff, Sarah O'Connor and the likes, we have seen those girls in 2007 and 2010, 2011, 2012 going on to win All-Ireland Championships with Wexford."

"There is a photo of myself and Mags when she called around to my school. When I look back on that now, it's quite surreal in a way. Now

we are playing together on the same team. She is always pushing everybody and always demanding the best. Noeleen Lambert is similar. They are the driving force for the younger players."

When D'Arcy dropped in with the O'Duffy Cup, Foxxe was in Clongeen, but her parish didn't have a camogie team. So her father Ger, a selector for the Wexford football team that reached the All-Ireland SFC semi-final 2008 under Jason Ryan, brought her down to St Martin's when she was a child.

And they're glad he did. Her heroics in the All-Ireland semi-final, when she hit nine points (six of those into the wind in that second half) were pivotal, while she also scored a second-half goal in the provincial decider to help overturn an interval deficit against Thomastown.

And now, having lined out at Croker Park for the Mini-Sevens in 2009, when she overcame the nerves to slot a free, she is ready to return with silverware on offer. "I am just eager. People are making it out to be this big occasion. But I would say every player on the team has been willing this our whole lives. When you are in your backyard and you are seven or eight years old, and you are banging in goals, you are saying to yourself: 'This is to me in Croker Park'. In a way, you have been psychologically preparing a lot of the time."

## Rebels will renew rivalry with Cats

CORK will resume their rivalry with Kilkenny in a Division 1 semi-final of the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League.

The two counties have clashed in All-Ireland and league finals in the past few seasons, and while Cork have won the last two All-Ireland finals, Kilkenny have held the upper hand in league deciders.

In fact, Kilkenny are pursuing a fourth consecutive title — but they still needed a 63rd minute point from Michelle Quilty to claim a 1-12 to 0-14 victory over Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds that ensured they finished the round-robin phase on top of Group 1.

Cork finish the group stage undefeated and rounded off the section with a 0-13 to 2-7 away draw against Galway who top the table on scoring difference.

The Rebels were rocked by a Galway goal from Carrie Dolan after just 15 seconds and the home side had a second four minutes later, through Noreen Coen.

Cork got back in the game with four points, including two from youngsters Ciara McCarthy and Cliona Healy, with the

vastly more experienced Ashling Thompson and Orla Cotter also on target. The game settled down after that whirlwind opening and Galway led 2-5 to 0-6 at half time.

Cork stepped up a couple of gears in the second half. Points from Cotter, Thompson and Chloe Sigerson drew them level but it wasn't enough to leapfrog over the Maroons on the table.

It means the semi-final line-up is Cork against Kilkenny, and Galway meet Limerick.

This will be Cork and Kilkenny's first meeting since last year's All-Ireland final at Croker Park.

### CAMOGIE DIVISION 1

#### Scorers

Galway: C Dolan 1-3 (3f); N Coen 1-2; N Hanniffy, N Kilkenny 0-1 each.

Cork: O Cotter 0-5f; C Sigerson (2f); C McCarthy 0-2 each; C Healy, L Collins, O Cronin, A Thompson 0-1 each.

Galway: S Healy; C Donoghue, S Dervan, H Cooney, S Healy, E Helebert, L Ryan, AM Starr, A Donoghue, N Hanniffy, N Kilkenny, N McGrath; C Dolan, A O'Reilly, N Coen.

Subs: D Higgins for C Donoghue, S Spellman for N McGrath.

Cork: A Lee; L Treacy, P Mackey, L Hayes; L Coplinger, G O'Connor, C Sigerson; C McCarthy, A Thompson; O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney; C Healy, A O'Connor, L Collins.

Subs: J White for C McCarthy, N O'Callaghan for L Coplinger.

### DIVISION 1 GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts
Galway	4	3	1	0	47	31	16	10
Cork	4	3	1	0	40	30	10	10
Tipperary	4	2	0	2	30	37	-7	6
Waterford	4	1	0	3	29	48	-19	3
Wexford	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	-3



Cork's Orla Cronin (Enniskeane) bursts past Galway's Emma Herbert during last weekend's Division 1 dash. (Photo: Trevor Patchett)



## Busy day of action in Croker for club finals

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

IT'S a big day tomorrow for four clubs who will battle it out for AIB All-Ireland club championship honours in Croker Park.

Wexford's St Martin's take on senior club champions, Derry's Slaughtneil, while in the AIB All-Ireland Intermediate club final, Down's Clonduff battle it out with Waterford's Gailtír.

St Martin's will attempt to dethrone a Slaughtneil side who are hoping to make it three in a row of All-Ireland senior club titles. St Martin's appearing in their first senior club final defeated Cork's Iniscarra by nine points in their semi-final clash to book their place in the final.

Reigning champions Slaughtneil proved too strong for Galway's Ardara in a low-scoring semi-final, 0-8 to 0-4, to claim their spot in the final.

Down's Clonduff edged out Craughwell in their semi-final 1-8 to 0-9.

Waterford's Gailtír grabbed three vital goals that proved to be the deciding factor in their semi-final win over St Rynagh's with five points separating the teams at the final whistle. This set the scene for the upcoming battle between the Down and Waterford outfits in the final stage of the AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Club Championship.

Speaking at the launch Camogie Association President Kathleen Woods said:

"It's an honour to have witnessed the dedication, commitment, and skill shown by the players from all four clubs to reach this year's AIB All-Ireland Club Championships Finals.

"The club championships are undoubtedly one of the toughest competitions to win and hold a special place in the hearts of all Gaelic Games followers. The club is where it all begins and on these players will take to the hallowed turf of Croker Park to do their parish, friends and family proud on the biggest stage of all.

"These should be two exciting Finals and I'd encourage all fans of Gaelic Games to make the journey to Croker Park to witness this spectacle."

Maol Muire Tynan, a former inter-county camogie player and current head of Public Affairs for AIB said: "AIB is honoured to be a part of the Camogie Club Championships.

"The teams competing in the Senior and Intermediate Finals are a testament to the toughness of the competition and have shown relentless passion and dedication throughout the season.

"The unwavering support and community surrounding these games prove that it all starts at home in the club. AIB is delighted to show our support for Slaughtneil, St. Martin's, Clonduff and Gailtír and wish them the best of luck."



The Cork camogie U16 A team that defeated Tipperary in Munster semi-final.

# Mixed luck for Rebel U16 sides

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**Cork** 3-18  
**Tipperary** 4-3

THE provincial championship got underway last weekend as the Munster U16 A and B semi-finals were played and there were mixed fortunes for the Cork teams.

After the A semi-finals, Cork and Limerick advance to the final as they accounted for Tipperary and Clare respectively. In the B championship, Waterford overcame Cork to book a place in the final against Tipperary who defeated Clare 3-8 to 0-4.

With the provincial competitions played separately to the All-Ireland championship, it gives mentors an opportunity to prepare their teams and also ensured plenty of competitive games.

Cork were totally dominant in their clash with Tipperary in Castle Road on Sunday and they opened up an early lead with Amy Morgan, Lillie Hayes-Nally, Orlaith Cahalane, Katelyn Sheehan and Eimear O'Brien all on target as Cork went eight points clear inside the opening quarter.

Tipperary battled hard and showed glimpses of good play and Kate Flannery had them on the scoreboard 20 minutes in with a point before good play from Eve O'Dwyer saw them grab their first goal. O'Dwyer was on target again with her second goal as she finished low to the net whilst in between Katelyn Sheehan had a Cork point.

Tipperary were beginning to grow in confidence and with Rebecca Farrell pointing a free, there was just a point between the sides.

Amy Morgan who had an excellent game steadied the Cork challenge with a superb point and with Cliona Lynch pointing a free the gap was back to three points.



The Cork U16 B camogie team that lost out to Waterford.

Morgan struck for a point before she finished well to the net after winning a long delivery from a Cliona Lynch free and at the interval, Cork led 1-12 to 2-2.

Cork started the second half well with three quick points Sheehan, Morgan and Lynch all on target before a Hayes-Nally goal gave Tipperary no chance of coming back. Kate Flaherty and Eve O'Dwyer had Tipperary points but cork were now well in control.

Eimear O'Brien grabbed Corks third goal before points from substitute Ella Wigginton-Barrett and the excellent Amy Morgan.

O'Dwyer, who had an excellent hour for Tipperary, battled to the finish and had the final say with her sided fourth goal but by now Cork were on their way to a Munster final.

**Scorers for Cork:** A Morgan 1-6, E O'Brien 1-3, L Hayes-Nally 1-1, K Sheehan 0-3, C Lynch 0-2 (0-1 f), O Cahalane 0-2, E Wigginton-Barrett 0-1.

**Tipperary:** E O'Dwyer 4-0, E Flannery 0-2, R Farrell 0-1.

**CORK:** C Hurler, A O'Keefe, M Healy, G Ryan, S Desmond, E O'Driscoll, M Murphy, C Lynch, V Gleeson, A Morgan, C Golden, K Sheehan, L Hayes-Nally, E O'Brien, O Cahalane.

**Subs:** L Mc Nulty for A O'Keefe (25), E Wigginton-Barrett for C Golden (h-t), A Mc Namara for E O'Driscoll (44), S Hayes for V Gleeson (44), J McCarthy for K Sheehan (46).

**TIPP:** A Spain, G O'Donnell, E Gantly, C Doyle, L Kavanagh, C McCormack, A Mazzola, G Maloney, L Fogarty, C McEvoy, E O'Dwyer, K Flannery, E Cunnane, R Farrell, L Leenane.

**Subs:** E O'Sullivan for A Lenihan (h-t), O O'Brien for C McEvoy (h-t), A Lenihan for A Mazzola (45), C Flannery for E Cunnane (45).

**Referee:** Phillip Dee (Limerick).

In the other semi-final, a power packed second half display saw Limerick overcome a Clare side who lead them 0-5 to 0-1 at the break.

Limerick grabbed four goals to run out 4-3 to 0-7 winners and set up a final meeting against Cork.

**Waterford** 3-10  
**Cork** 0-2

Waterford's first team were too strong for Cork's second U16 team when they met in the Munster U16 B semi-final in Passage East.

Leading at the break 1-5 to 0-1 after Rachel Walsh had grabbed a goal after just four minutes Waterford piled on the pressure in the second half to run

out winners with Rachel Walsh, Mairead O'Brien, Aoibhinn O'Grady, Ellen Boyle and Alanna McNulty all on the scoresheet as they set up a final meeting against Tipperary.

For Cork, Eimear O'Donovan and Niamh O'Connor were on target with points but on the day a very strong Waterford first 15 were too strong for a Cork side that battled to the finish and never gave up against a Waterford side that had excellent performances from defenders Sarah Maher and Maebh Sheridan.

**CORK:** O Lynch, L Lyons, J Sheehy, R Murtagh, M Jackman, A Cochrane, A Quirke, S Ludgate, E O'Donovan, C Walsh, E Coffey, A Mhaolain Ni Chathain, A Hallahan, N O'Connor, G Lenihan.

**Subs:** K O'Goeman for A Quirke, L O'Brien for A Cochrane, L Hebbrow for C Walsh, O Beechiner for S Ludgate, L Concoran for M Jackman.

**WATERFORD:** Z Mackey, D Fitzgerald, C Power, L Forrest, A Hartley, S Maher, M Sheridan, E Boylan, A O'Neill, M O'Brien, A O'Grady, A O'Sullivan, A McNulty, A Flynn, R Walsh.

**Subs:** E Gallagher for Z Mackey, R Drohan for A Flynn, C Hector for M O'Brien, M Comerford for R Walsh, AM Drohan for A O'Grady.

**Referee:** Aiden O'Brien (Limerick).

## CAMOGIE

**Littlewoods National League:** Division 1, Group 1: Dublin 1-7 Clare 0-7, Kilkenny 1-12 Limerick 0-14; Group 2: Galway 2-7 Cork 0-13, Tipperary 1-11 Waterford 0-10.

**Division 2, Group 1:** Down 4-12 Carlow 1-8, Meath 4-9 Tipperary 3-5; Group 2: Galway 4-17 Wexford 0-6, Westmeath 5-16 Armagh 0-6.

**Division 2, Group 3:** Kilkenny 5-17 Antrim 2-8, Derry 3-13 Laois 1-8.

**Division 3:** Kildare 0-13 Limerick 1-8, Roscommon 2-10 Tyrone 1-6, Clare 5-16 Wicklow 1-2.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Camogie

**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 2, GROUP 1:** (Dunsany) Meath 0-4 Cork 0-4; (The Rags) Tipperary 0-8 Down 0-5.

**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 2, GROUP 2:** (Abbeydorney) Wexford 0-9 Kerry 0-6; (Cort) Galway 2-7 Westmeath 1-0.

**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 2, GROUP 3:** (Bardagh CAC) Derry 0-9 Kilkenny 1-5 (Camross GAA) Laois 1-0 Dublin 0-6.

**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 1:** (Newbridge) Kildare 11-17 Wicklow 0-2, Roscommon 9-9 Clare.

FEB. 2019





**FINAL COUNTDOWN:** Gailltír's Claire Dunne and Clonduff's Paula Gribben ahead of Sunday's AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club camogie final at Croke Park. Dunne admits reaching the final has been 'a bit surreal' but 'when the game comes, we'll be good to go'. Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

# Waterford champs Gailltír the talk of the town

## AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final

Shane Stapleton

Claire Dunne can't walk down the street without hearing talk of Gailltír's bid for All-Ireland Intermediate glory.

On Sunday, the Waterford champions face Down's Clonduff at Croke Park, hoping to lift the AIB All-Ireland intermediate camogie title.

It's been a long and winding road to get here. After beating De La Salle in the county final, Gailltír overcame Cork's Elre Og in the Munster decider, before defeating St Rynagh's of Offaly by 3-8 to 0-12 in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Dunne, who works as a teacher alongside former Waterford boss Derek McGrath at De La Salle col-

lege, can't wait for the big showdown at GAA HQ.

"I'm definitely excited," said Dunne. "It's a bit surreal to be here. We're excited, and I'm a little bit nervous, but when the game comes, we'll be good to go. It's been a long year for us. It's been constant, and now we're coming into March after starting pre-season last January, so we're just waiting for a long time. There's been a big gap, and we just can't wait now."

Dunne (28) is on the scene for quite some time and marvels at the idea of finally making it to Croke Park at this stage of her camogie career.

Former Déise men's senior boss McGrath recently took a training session with Gailltír, despite their beating his own De La Salle in the county decider, and imparted his wis-

dom on the team.

"It was fantastic to have him take a session, and he's such an inspirational speaker," says Dunne, whose side has a nice mix of youth and players who experienced a Munster title win two seasons ago. "We have a good few girls who have been playing for a number of years, but we have a few who have just come on the senior team in the last three years."

"The experience is important, but in fairness to the girls, and especially to the girls who have stepped up to the mark this year, you'd think they had been playing with us all along. There is something special in the younger girls, and then the older girls bring that experience on the day itself."

"The build-up has been great and we've had so much

support from everybody. Everyone you meet on the street, they just want to talk about it. Everyone is buzzing and they're behind us 100%."

"The club was 60 years old last year, so it's something special," she adds. "We'd love to get over the line — not just for us as a team. We want to do it for the whole community, all the supporters, and everyone who has contributed to us from the first day."

All-Ireland club successes have been few and far between for Waterford sides. Lismore secured the intermediate club camogie title in 2014 after a 3-8 to 0-7 win over Ballyhale Shamrocks. Last year Ardmore became the first men's side to take national honours after a 3-11 to 0-18 victory over St Mogue's Fethard of Wexford in the junior decider.

## CAMOGIE

**Littlewoods Ireland Division 2:** Meath 0-4 Cork 0-4, Tipperary 0-8 Down 0-5, Kerry 0-6 Wexford 0-9, Galway 2-7 Westmeath 1-10, Derry 0-9 Kilkenny 1-5, Laois 1-10 Dublin 0-6; **Division 3:** Kildare 11-17 Wicklow 0-7 Limerick v Tyrone (conceded by Tyrone); **AIB All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship Final:** Slaughtneil 1-9 St. Martin's 0-7; **AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Club Championship Final:** Clonduff 0-10 Gailltír 0-9



Gailltír's Clara Jackman clutches a hot-water bottle during yesterday's All-Ireland Club Intermediate camogie final against Clonduff at Croke Park. See page 7. Picture: Harry Murphy



# Magnificent Slaughtneil secure three in a row



AIB All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship Final

SLAUGHTNEIL (Derry) ..... 1-9

ST MARTIN'S (Wexford) ..... 0-7

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park



Slaughtneil's Bridin McAllister holds the trophy as the Derry club celebrates victory over St Martin's, Wexford, in yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship final at Croke Park. Picture: Oisín Keniry

She may have been player of the match for a second year in a row, but a shivering Tina Hannon, glad to have escaped the heavy snowfall outside, quite rightly emphasised the collective culture as Slaughtneil claimed a famous third AIB All-Ireland Senior Camogie title in succession and sealed a stunning Ulster double, after Down side Clonduff's earlier Intermediate success.

A former All-Star nominee during a fantastic career with Offaly that yielded All-Ireland titles at Junior and Intermediate level, the first of those a decade ago, Hannon is now firmly ensconced up north and although not involved in Slaughtneil's first triumph, has been a key cog of all that has happened since.

"When you're in the final you just want to perform to the best you can," said a beaming Hannon. "We have such big leaders on the team and when you combine that with the young talent we've coming through, to go out and play like that today, we're just delighted to be All-Ireland champions for the third year in a row."

"Before the game, we were just talking about winning an All-Ireland. We didn't want to put too much emphasis on the

fact we were going for a three-in-a-row, but now, that it's being said, it's unbelievable really."

"During the year, we played Kilkenny in a practice match and Ann Downey (the Kilkenny manager who was part of the St Paul's team that completed the three-in-a-row twice) spoke to us after and made us realise some great teams had won three-in-a-row. We had (Kilkenny hurling manager) Brian Cody speaking to us earlier in the year too."

"It's kind of surreal to think that you're placed among them great teams now and we're so, so honoured."

"But that's what's so special about the club championship,

A lot of the time, it's not clubs from the county powerhouses.

"We were in control for most of the game. Louise (Dugan) dropped back as sweeper because we knew their half-forward line was exceptionally strong. We'd seen that from their semi-final and Leinster final and as usual, Louise is just so brilliant at that role. There's not too many can play the role as she can."

"We pushed on from there once we got the lead. And when you have conditions like that, a lead is so important."

The first half was played in teeming rain that transformed to sleet and then snow in the second half.

Hannon ended with a tally

of 1-7 but her fourth minute goal was probably crucial in the context of establishing early dominance and in truth Slaughtneil never looked like being overhauled.

Josie McMullan, Hannon and Shannon Graham were on target as they established a 1-6 to 0-3 interval lead and early points by Hannon and Aoife Ni Chaiside from the restart extinguished St Martin's hopes.

To give JJ Doyle's side credit, they never gave up but Jolene Bradley saved Emma Codd's 47th minute penalty.

Slaughtneil were happy to sit back on their big lead and though Linda Bolger, Chloe Foxe (free) and Lettie Whelan hit the last three points, an as-

tonishing comeback was never on the cards.

Scorers for Slaughtneil: T Hannon 1-7 (0-5ls); S Graham, A Ni Chaiside, 0-1 each

St Martin's: C Foxe 0-3 (1st); L Bolger 0-2; E Codd, L Whelan, 0-1 each

SLAUGHTNEIL: J Bradley, G O'Kane, B Ni Chaiside, C McElowney, E Ni Chaiside, A Ni Chaiside, B McAllister, S Graham, F Burke, L Dugan, T Hannon, S Bradley, T Mellon, J McMullan, S Mellon.

Subs: N Glass for T Mellon (56), C Ni Mhianáin for McMullan (60+2), E McGrath for McAllister (60+2)

ST MARTIN'S: M D'Arcy, A O'Connor, N Lambert, MC Morrissey, A Ennis, K O'Connor, M Barrett, C O'Connor, E O'Connor, A Cardiff, L Bolger, C Foxe, E Codd, A Cronin, L Whelan.

Subs: L Firman for Ennis (41), A Hennessy for E O'Connor (41), A Ryan for K O'Connor (53), S O'Connor for Whelan (60+2)

Referee: L Dempsey (Kilkenny)

## Carr ensures dream return to Croke Park is a winning one

AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie final

Clonduff (Down) ..... 0-10

Gailltír (Waterford) ..... 0-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park

Fionnuala Carr was certain she had played her last ever match at Croke Park when Down were defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie final last September.

Yet, here she was, just six months later, in the bowels of Croke Park, contemplating winning an All-Ireland Intermediate Championship with her club, Clonduff.

The Hilltown crew had 10 representatives on that

Mourne panel, including Carr's sister Sara-Louise, who weighed in with three points and helped stop a fiercely-struck penalty by Aine Lyng in the last act of the opening half, and winning skipper and player of the match, Paula Gribben.

"I was so nervous yesterday," reflected Carr, despite 20 years' experience at senior level for her club and the last 17 for her county. "Sara-Louise, Paula and I were sitting in the car, and we were able to talk it out about how we were feeling. 'It's okay, it's normal.' I slept really well, I woke up this morning, my nerves were gone and I was so excited and I think that helped with our start."

"After September, we probably didn't think we'd be back in Croke Park. Whenever we

Gailltír's Claire Dunne is consoled by Clonduff's Fionnuala Carr. 'Croke Park is the best place in the world to win and the worst place to lose,' said Carr. Picture: Oisín Keniry

started with the club this year, we'd so many involved in Down, it took us a while to get going. Every game we've just improved. In the last couple of weeks I can safely say, we've lived as professional athletes. So much preparation has gone into this win."

"I feel for Gailltír. I'm not even going to tell you how long I'm playing senior camogie. I know what it's like. I've had so many heartbreaks in Croke Park. I think I've played five finals [here] and this is my second win. It's the best place in the world to win and the worst place in the world to lose," said Carr. Clonduff opened well with

the first five points, including four from placed balls by Gribben. The brilliant Annie Fitzgerald steadied the ship for Gailltír before the Carrs made it a five-point game again, Fionnuala lofting a monstrous score from the middle of the field.

However, it was 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval, with Fitzgerald a constant thorn.

The pacy teenager hit two more points and was fouled for the penalty, having initially



been brilliantly hooked by Clare Gilligan with the goal at her mercy, but Lyng's shot was stopped by Karen Haughey and Sarah-Louise Carr.

Again Clonduff stretched clear by four in the second half, but Gailltír powered back to within one and Jackman, Clodagh Carroll and Fitzgerald all fired efforts just wide. Clonduff defended resolutely and the day was theirs.

Scorers for Clonduff: P Gribben 0-6 (5ls, 1 45); SL Carr 0-3; F Carr 0-1.

Scorers for Gailltír: Annie Fitzgerald 0-7 (4ls, 2 45s); C Carroll, A Lyng (f) 0-1.

CLONDUFF: K Haughey, N O'Hagan, J Boden, S Murphy, C McGilgan, E Rafferty, F Carr, B Fitzpatrick, C Cowan, C Fitzpatrick, SL Carr, P Gribben, O Gribben, K McGilgan.

Subs: M O'Reilly for Rafferty (ht), R Mulholland for C Fitzpatrick (57)

GAILLTÍR: C Jackman, E Mahony, M Heffernan, C Dunne, L Sheridan, E Roche, H Flynn, S Fitzgerald, A Lyng, C Carroll, Annie Fitzgerald, K Lynch, A Corcoran, T Jackman, E Walsh.

Subs: C O'Sullivan for Walsh (ht), Aoife Fitzgerald for Corcoran (ht), Corcoran for Carroll (54)

Referee: J McDonagh (Galway)



## IF SHE CAN'T SEE IT, SHE CAN'T BE IT

The 20x20 initiative is a movement gathering momentum as it aims to shift cultural perceptions about women in sport in the time leading up to 2020.

The key targets set are:

A 20 per cent increase in media coverage of women in sport

A 20 per cent increase in female participation in sport at all levels

A 20 per cent increase in attendance at women's games and events

Cork's All-Ireland winning Camogie captain, Aoife Murray, told us about her support for the campaign.

She says: "I would have close ties to it because I would have played with Mary O'Connor who is the brains behind all of it.

"I think it's great and how you get the message out is extremely important and that it's communicated to people and that it is more about getting an equal status rather than one trying to be better than the other and I think that is a really important thing.

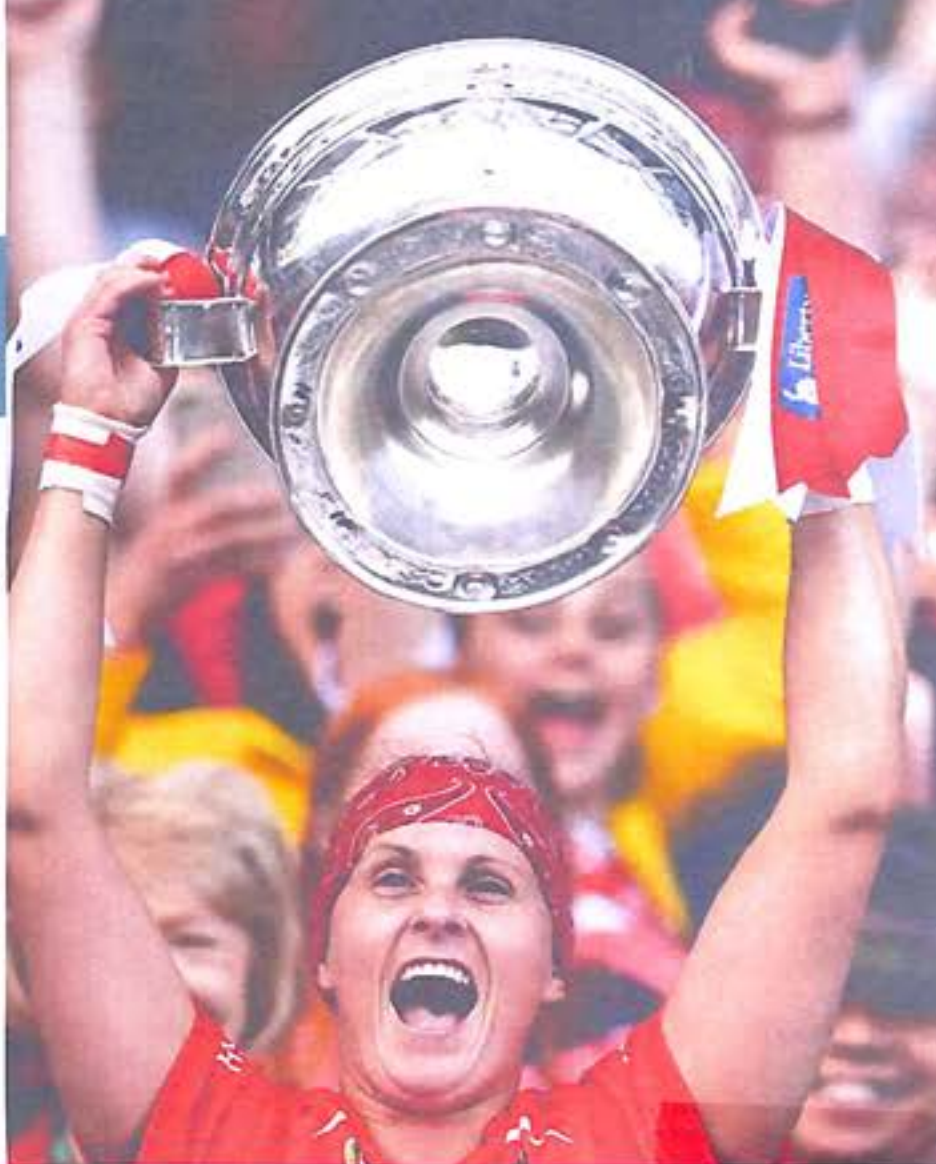
"I certainly don't want to be seen to be better than my counterpart in hurling, I just want to have the same level of opportunity and respect.

"We have a huge road to go but you have got to start somewhere. In women's sport we are behind the curve a huge amount, so for this to just get that ball rolling at least it is a start. There is a very long road ahead of us but now I can't go on twitter without seeing some 20x20 hashtag in something.

"Maybe I'm too old to benefit from that but at least my nieces and nephews which I think it's important for boys to grow up with this equal status in media, and hopefully it will mean we won't have to have the same conversations in 20 years' time."

"Seeing girls going around with their Cork camogie jersey rather than the Cork hurling or football jersey is one thing that has stood out. There's a lot going around in their club jersey which I think is even better again that they are so proud of where they come from."

Aoife Murray



# Three-in-a-row camogs setting Slaughtneil's lofty standards

Declan Bogue

Three All-Ireland titles in a row. In any other code in Gaelic games, it would be hailed as the astonishing achievement it is, but so much of the Slaughtneil camogie story is hidden from view.

For the last number of years, their ambitions and tilts at All-Ireland glory have been celebrated. Much of their history has been told, but of the three strands of the club, camogie has been more stage-hand than centre-stage.

Ask those within the club, however, and they will confide that the camogie contingent dictates standards within the club.

The camogs train every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday on the pitch. They have an app on their mobile phones, which they use to log their two compulsory gym sessions. If anyone misses a pitch session, they have to do it at another time, under the supervision of two others.

"The training would usually last anything from an hour and 20 minutes to an hour and 40," says team manager Damien McEldowney.

"The girls have their own gym programmes. Ollie Cummings (strength-and-conditioning expert in Maghera), does up a gym programme and updates it every six weeks.

"So, they go to his gym once every six weeks and he runs through the programme, and then they go themselves on other nights, or during the day, whatever suits them, twice a week. One of the nights would be upper body, one of them would be lower."

It's not just the accountability, although that makes managing the team a pleasure rather than a chore, but it is the culture of 'doing extras'



Slaughtneil's Grainne O'Kane and Siobhan Bradley celebrate victory over St Martin's in the All-Ireland camogie club final. Picture: Óisín Keniry/Inpho

that has delivered such success.

"At times, you have to hunt them from the pitch," says McEldowney.

"A couple of girls, Louise (Dugan) and Tina (Hannon), they stay on and work on frees after training and we are shouting at them to get the lights turned off. They have so much dedication themselves, it makes our job so much more easy."

That kind of talent on the pitch has been matched by the calibre of management on the sideline. For a while now, aspiring county managers have been managing ladies' football teams, but camogie teams copped that long ago.

When Slaughtneil won their first Derry camogie championship, in 2012, it was under the management of PJ O'Mul-lan Jr, who, earlier the same year, had managed Loughgiel

Shamrocks to the All-Ireland hurling club title.

When they stepped away, in 2014, the replacements were the late Thomas Cassidy — father of three playing sisters, Brona, Aoife, and Ellis — and Dominic 'Woody' McKinley, who has managed Antrim as joint manager with Terence 'Sambo' McNaughton for two stints.

This season has been like every other. They have asked

big questions of themselves, and have found that the club matches that commitment. While the club senior hurlers and footballers have embarked upon training weekends away to prepare for All-Ireland semi-finals in February, the exact same courtesy is afforded to the club camogs.

On a training weekend to Kilkenny a while back, they all attended Mass in the city on Sunday morning and re-

ceived a tip of the hat from the man on the altar.

If Slaughtneil are doing all they can, that is also being replicated by Down's Clonduff, who won the intermediate title.

Over the last few weeks, they had Tipperary hurling manager Liam Sheedy in to deliver a talk, as well as current Antrim hurler Neil McManus.

With ten of the Down panel that reached last autumn's All-Ireland intermediate final, they have a good share of players who are used to a certain level, but, as selector Ursula Quinn explains, "nothing comes easy and I would say our girls do as much as any intercounty camogie team, or intercounty football team, in terms of commitment and dedication to training."

"Preparation, too, was a big thing for us this year, down to the finer details, strength-and-conditioning, food, nutrition, all that.

"We targeted it more than any other year, but those finer details maybe made the difference."

She added: "We would be three or four times a week on the pitch and our girls are doing a lot of gym work, a lot of strength-and-conditioning under a brother of mine, Francis.

"Even within the club, outside of county players, that's the level the girls want to be training at. We have said it so many times: when you go down to the pitch you want to go and you want to do a good, hard session. When you are giving up the commitment, you want to train hard and you want to train hard because you have big aspirations for yourself and for your club, and you know that is going to take hard work."





# SHANE ELLIOTT

## A triumph of dedication

**S**torm Freya played havoc with the last weekend of the National Hurling League, but the sun was shining brightly on Ulster Camogie with the incredible achievements of Clonduff and Slaughtneil in the Intermediate and Senior Club finals in Croke Park. In a proud day for both clubs they demonstrated great skill levels in challenging conditions and showed tremendous tenacity to get over the line on the biggest stage of all for club players. That is not an easy thing to do and certainly does not come about by accident. I am sure both clubs spent endless hours on cold dark nights at God knows how many training sessions to reach that level of performance. Since Christmas they will have put their lives on hold to ensure no stone was left unturned in their preparations in order to perform the way they did. It goes without saying that they will feel every single minute of it was time well spent and would do it all again in a heartbeat to experience the euphoria they did at the weekend. The unbridled joy at the end of the games was great to see and clearly demonstrates the importance of the game in these communities. It is times like this you truly appreciate the impact of the GAA in towns and villages throughout the country.

Clonduff created their own history with a memorable first title, whilst Slaughtneil's achievement of a third is just incredible. Three in a row All-Ireland titles really does take some doing. Winning one is every club's holy grail but winning three in succession is just plain greedy. They say a good team wins one, a great team wins two, so I am not sure what superlative describes the achievement of Slaughtneil. Suffice to say it is up there with the top club achievements of all time in all codes and is highly unlikely to be surpassed any time soon. Damian McEl-downey and his backroom team deserve enormous credit for preparing the team in such a professional manner. The skills and fitness work will have been relatively straightforward for such a talented group but maintaining a hunger and desire to keep the players motivated despite previous successes must have been more of a challenge. That desire is generally what sets the great teams apart from the rest. A bit like the Kilkenny hurling teams of recent times and the current Dublin football team they appear to have an insatiable hunger for success and are prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve it. By all accounts, like all

CLONDUFF... The Down girls beat Gailltír in the Junior final



the great teams, they are an extremely disciplined and self-motivated group who are probably already thinking about four in a row. Teams like that only come around once in a generation and I am sure they will be aiming to continue to rewrite history and go on to achieve further success. On the evidence of last weekend who's to say they won't.

Going back to the hurling leagues the weather has shown how little wriggle room there is in a crowded fixture schedule. To date we have been very fortunate with the weather with unseasonal spring like weather kidding us all that spring had arrived. Mother nature had other ideas. However not all games were postponed though some were played in atrocious conditions. The fact that the majority were played undoubtedly prevented a bit of a crisis. Ultimately the final of Division 1 being pushed back a week is no real disaster but a more serious winter would inevitably have led to games being played in April. This would of course have been in direct competition with the agreed protection of the month of April for club fixtures



BACK TO BACK... Slaughtneil won back to back All-Ireland titles last weekend

and a serious debate, once again, about the fixtures conundrum which continues to challenge the powers

that be. For the Ulster counties the league was a bit of a mixed bag. Antrim achieved a mid-table posi-

tion in Division 2A and now focus their attention on what will be a very competitive Joe McDonagh. Derry have reached the Division 2B final where they will face their weekend conquerors Wicklow, who have always proved a troublesome opponent for them. I do however fancy them to join Antrim in 2A next year. Down missed out on a final place against Derry after going down to Kildare whilst in the same division Donegal face Warwickshire in a relegation play off. Armagh play Roscommon in the 3A final where both Tyrone and Monaghan will stay for another year having missed out on a final place to Armagh on score difference.

As the evenings lengthen teams with nothing to play for in the league will now be starting to move to championship mode in their preparations with players perhaps returning to their clubs for a short period. In aiming for a successful championship season, they will all be hoping for a little of the Clonduff and Slaughtneil magic dust. However, they will all know it doesn't come in a lucky bag.





## CAMOGIE DIVISION TWO GROUP THREE



**NERVES OF STEEL...** Grainne McNicholl hit a late winner in Derry's league clash with Kilkenny

# Derry camogs thriving despite lengthy injury list

**DIVISION TWO GROUP THREE  
DERRY V ANTRIM**  
Sunday, Ahoghill, 2pm

THE Derry camogs have refused to let a raft of injuries hamper their progress ahead of Sunday's third-round clash with neighbours Antrim.

Five girls in total are sidelined at the moment – cruciate victim Karen Kieft, Lauren McKenna, Niamh Gallagher, Dara McGuckin and Aine Kelly, but despite that they have won both their matches to date.

Overcoming Laois and Kilkenny has left them well-primed for a potential place in the knock-out rounds, and it's also worth recalling that their Slaughtneil contingent won't be available until the championship.

Joint-manager Movita Gallagher

says they have no choice but to take each weekend as it comes as they don't have a settled starting team at the moment.

"Every match is different but most counties are the same in that respect. We're just taking each weekend as it comes as we invariably have injuries and other girls who are unavailable."

"But we're heading in the right direction and we're keeping our fingers crossed that if the girls keep performing the way they have been we won't be far off qualifying from our group."

The Oakleafers clinched their latest win with a hard-fought win over Kilkenny at the weekend. Grainne McNicholl was the heroine as she popped up with the winning score with the final scoreline reading 0-9 to 1-5. Gallagher says there was nothing

between the two teams.

"The weather was atrocious but we started off well and were ahead by a point at half-time."

"Kilkenny got a goal early in the second-half but we got back on track shortly afterwards."

"The girls dug deep and in the last minute of the game Grainne McNicholl scored a superb point to get us the win."

Derry's win was all the more impressive considering they were only able to introduce one substitute.

"It's been great to get a couple of wins, it's helped the girls grow more confident and develop a winning habit."

"We've been plagued by injuries and we were down to the bare bones on Sunday but thank God we got

through it. It's quantity not quality and we'll probably only have two or three more players this weekend."

Gallagher, John O'Dwyer and Gerard McCloskey are entering their second season in charge of the Derry camogs and they have brought with them some players who didn't line out for the county last season. Encouragingly, they've also had longer to prepare for this year's Division Two campaign.

"Last season we were late into the job but this year we've had more time. We've been going since the first week in January and we've been at it now a couple of months and everybody's happy with the way things are going."

"If our injuries clear up we think we'll have a really strong squad."

**DIVISION TWO GROUP THREE  
ARMAGH V KERRY**  
Sunday, Killeavy, 2pm

ARMAGH will be hoping for an improved performance against Kerry after shipping heavy defeats in their first two league matches.

They lost out by 4-21 to 0-2 in their league opener against Galway before losing by 5-16 to 0-6 to Westmeath, while Kerry lost by both three points to both Westmeath and Wexford.

The Orchard County are in a period of transition but they'll at least be hoping for an improved performance this weekend.





CHAMPIONS - Niamh Murray, Lizzie Wilson, Orla Morgan, Jenna Bowen and Ursula Quinn celebrate Clonduff's All-Ireland final win. Picture: Brendan Monaghan

# Clonduff receive a hero's welcome

Niall Gartland



CLONDUFF'S all-conquering camogs received a hero's welcome when they returned home after claiming the All-Ireland Intermediate title for the very first time on Sunday.

The Hilltown-based club edged Waterford opponents Gailltír by a single point to bring the cup back North for the first time since Eoghan Ruadh completed their double in 2011.

The post-match scenes were unforgettable - Cushendall hurler Arran Graffin sliding knee-first with no thought to his health or safety to congratulate his wife Sara Louise, who scored three points on the day - and the excitement hadn't diminished when they returned to south Down, according to their joint-manager Damien Farnon.

"The reception was unbelievable. Even when they just came into Hill-

town, all the supporters were out on the square. The amount of fans who were there was unbelievable.

"It was the same again when we reached the clubrooms too. It was jam-packed."

While this was Clonduff's first appearance in an All-Ireland Camogie final, the players showed no signs of nervousness as they bossed the first quarter, racing into a 0-5 to no score lead.

They held a 0-9 to 0-5 lead before their opponents really clicked into gear, but the Yellas held firm and clinched a massively deserved win.

Farnon said: "Everyone seemed to be really relaxed on the road down to the hotel and then going into Croke Park. We were at the stage where they were ready to go for the full 60 minutes.

"It was hard to watch in injury-time but we knew standing on the sideline that the girls had it within themselves to defend their lead as they've done it so many times this year. We really had to dig deep in the final ten minutes of our semi-final as well."

Paula O'Hagan claimed the Player of the Match award and scored six



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC....Paula O'Hagan holds aloft the All-Ireland Intermediate title

crucial frees while half-back Fionnuala Carr scored a monster point from 70 yards.

Her sister Sara Louise scored the rest of their 10-point tally but their manager says their less well-known players also performed heroically on the day.

"There were a lot of young girls who were playing in Croke Park for the first time and they were all outstanding. Paula, Fionnuala and Sara Louise get most of credit but there are a lot of players there to help them and that makes them an awful difference."

Once they clinched the Ulster title with a win over Eglish, Farnon says they had a burning desire to make amends for their defeat to eventual champions Piltown of Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final four years ago.

"They knew how close they were in 2014. Once we got back to the All-Ireland stage they were 100 percent focused. They wanted the All-Ireland and they trained really hard to get there."

Farnon himself said he was largely composed on the touchline - until the closing moments at least.

"I wasn't nervous, the only time I was nervous was that last couple of minutes."

"We knew going down that it was going to be one hell of a team to beat us - we had serious confidence in the girls and the whole week leading into it we didn't do that much but we were fully focus."

He also hopes that it will inspire other Down teams to know what they can do if they put in the effort.

"Slaughtneil and ourselves should hopefully really help camogie in Ulster. I think touch wood it'll give other clubs in Down such a lift as well."

## Avoiding relegation the immediate priority for Kennedy

Eoghan Cormican  
Camogie

Wexford camogie are hopeful a difficult few months is behind them following the appointment of Barry Kennedy as senior manager.

Kennedy, given the job this day last week, succeeds Kilkenny's Martin Carey who vacated the role two months ago

and is immediately tasked with preserving Wexford's Division 1 league status as they face Offaly in this Sunday's relegation decider.

Wexford native Kennedy is in the process of finalising his backroom team and it remains to be seen what players he will have at his disposal for this weekend's crunch relegation fixture. It is unlikely the St

Martin's contingent will be involved given their lengthy club campaign, which ended in All-Ireland final disappointment at the hands of Derry's Slaughtneil, drew to a close only last Sunday.

The appointment of Kennedy, who guided Buffers Alley to last year's Wexford intermediate camogie title, comes after a turbulent two

months where Wexford lost all of their Division 1 league group games and were forced to hand Cork a walkover after not being able to cobble together 15 players in January. Wexford camogie lost half of their €9,000 WPGA grant for failing to fulfil this fixture.

Getting 15 on the pitch remained a problem for the following week's trip to Galway,

with a team of just 13 players suffering a 9-23 to 1-2 defeat. This run of results led defender Ciara Storey to label as "embarrassing" the lows to which Wexford had sunk.

A panel of 16 players turned out for their final group outing against Tipperary, which ended in a 5-11 to 0-8 victory for the Premier County.

Relegation for the Wexford

senior team would see the county's intermediates, currently operating in Division 2, drop to the third tier in 2020.

The Division 1 camogie semi-finals also take place this weekend. Cork and Kilkenny renew acquaintances this Sunday at Carriganore (2pm throw-in), while no venue has yet been confirmed for the clash of Galway and Limerick.



# Slaughtneil camogs make history – again

Niall Gartland

A THIRD All-Ireland title on the spin is a superlative achievement, but the Slaughtneil camogs almost made it look easy on a day where everything clicked into gear against St Martin's. Their manager Damian McElDowney says it was one of those rare days where all their best-laid plans actually did come to fruition on the pitch as they clinched a 1-9 to 0-7 victory at Croke Park.

They're masters of defending a lead and they never looked back after Tina Hannon's effort at a third minute point dipped under Mags D'Arcy's bar for the only goal of the game.

McElDowney commented: "It's not often that everything goes to plan. We felt the players played the way we wanted to and it's not often it works out like that. It was a very satisfying day all round."

The Emmett's didn't concede a single goal in their entire championship campaign which is a testament to their tireless defensive work in every sector.

Their discipline in defensive is exemplified by the fact that St Martin's free-taker Chloe Foxe, who had scored nine points from the dead ball in the semi-final, could only muster a relatively meagre three points from frees against Slaughtneil.



MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT...Niamh Glass, left, and Ellis McGrath celebrate Slaughtneil's All-Ireland title win

On his side's supernatural ability to prevent goals being scored against them, McElDowney said: "It's a brilliant statistic to have. I wouldn't say it's just our six defenders and our keeper as our half-forwards also come back to help out. As a collective unit our defence is very, very hard to break down."

Tina Hannon was the player of the

match, which is no surprise as she finished her day's work with 1-6 to her name, but the entire team played their part in another famous victory for the south Derry club. Jolene Bradley brought off a fine save in the 50th minute – and they last time she conceded a goal in championship camogie was in the 10th minute of last year's All-Ireland final. Louise

Dougan was majestic in the sweeper role once again as Slaughtneil protected their lead in the second-half, while Aoife Ni Chaiside was composure personified at centre-half back.

McElDowney says their experience of defending a lead was crucial as they overcame a relatively young St Martin's side.

"We got off to a great start. We got

a goal with our first score and popped over another couple of points and got ourselves into a bit of a lead. I just thought after that we were fairly comfortable."

"Our experience shone through. We know how to defend a lead, if we go a few points up we know how to keep the scores down at the other end."

"It was very important getting the lead – once we had it we knew if we defended the way we can we'd be hard to break down."

Unsurprisingly, their camogs got a rousing reception when they returned to the club on Sunday night.

"We went back to the club, we stopped for our dinner in the Carrickdale and then we went on up to the hall. There was the speeches and it was great seeing all the supporters. We got a great reception, the hall was packed and full of weans."

McElDowney was also pleased by both Ulster sides came home with silverware with Clonduff winning the All-Ireland Intermediate title in the curtain-raiser to Sunday's match.

"Clonduff played very well, we didn't have a chance to congratulate them as we were warming up, but I was glad to see both cups coming up the road."

And it'd be no major surprise if Slaughtneil do similarly well in the upcoming season as their players are either young or in their prime and retirements are unlikely.

"They're a young team, I don't see any retirements on the horizon. If the girls still have the hunger there's no reason why they can't be back next year."

## Ulster women made of sterner stuff

LAST weekend two camogie teams from Ulster won All-Ireland titles. The conclusion one might draw from that is that Ulster is better than camogie than the rest of Ireland, I think the message is deeper than that. We're told that in order for teams to be successful they have to have star players, they have to have excellent coaching, and they have to be playing against the best. But Ulster is not a hotbed of camogie. Only two teams compete for the Ulster senior championship in the province. The difference that Slaughtneil and Clonduff have is that they have some very hard-headed women, girls who believe with every fibre of their being that they are going to win. You can't always teach that.

Ronan Scott



Clara Crowley (Ballinasally) and Katie Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) were on the UL team that beat UCC by 1-5 to 0-4 in the All-Ireland third level colleges' intermediate camogie final on Tuesday night.



# Little to divide these old rivals

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**SUNDAY:**  
Littlewoods Div 1 National League  
semi-final: Cork v Kilkenny,  
WIT, 2pm.

OLD rivals Cork and Kilkenny meet once again this time it's a place in the Littlewoods Division 1 of the National League final that is the prize on offer to the victors.

These two sides know each other inside out and one gets the impression either would have preferred to have met either Galway or Limerick who contest the other semi-final.

Cork finished joint tops in their group on the same points as Galway but with Galway having notched up a massive score against a depleted Wexford they topped the group on scoring difference. It took a Michelle Quilty injury time point to put Kilkenny tops as they grabbed a late winner against Limerick.

During the league, Paudie Murray has been introducing new players to his line out and players such as Laura Hayes, Ciara McCarthy, Cliona Healy, Saoirse McCarthy, and Siobhan Hutchinson have been introduced to life at the top level and have acquitted themselves well.

In the clash with Galway, Cork welcomed back Pamela Mackey playing in her first game since the All-Ireland final, whilst Julia White was introduced as substitutes. Leanne O'Sullivan and Katrina Mackey were on the injury list for the Galway game.

Aoife Murray, who missed the game with Galway as she was out of the country but she is back and raring to go, Brieghe Corkery didn't feature against Galway having lined out at centre back against Waterford and she will be another option available.

Whilst Cork have been rotating players through the campaign they are still very much built around their experienced players Gemma O'Connor, Aisling Thompson and Orla Cotter continue to lead the way whilst Chloe Sigerson continues her good form of 2018 in defence alongside her club colleague Laura Treacy.

Cork had to battle back from a dreadful start against Galway after conceding two goals inside four minutes but they showed huge character as they worked away and whittled



Cork manager Paudie Murray before the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final against Kilkenny at Croke Park in Dublin last September.  
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

down the Galway lead to earn them a draw as Orla Cotter pointed a last minute forty five.

Kilkenny had to battle hard to grab the top spot in their group, Denise Gaule excelled at full forward against Limerick in the last game in the group with three points from play and with Anna Farrell, Anne Dalton and continuing to lead the way they will be confident of keeping their quest for four in a row of league titles alive.

The sides met twice last season with Kilkenny taking the league title but Cork bounced back and in dramatic fashion grabbed the All-Ireland title as Orla Cotter landed a massive free between the posts.

All through nothing has ever divided these sides and we can expect the same on Sunday, as always Kilkenny will be fired up and determined to get one over on Cork, but Paudie Murray whilst he will want to keep on a winning streak he will as always be more concerned about the bigger picture and it will be a huge test for the players that he has introduced to his team. A big game is where he will learn the most about these players.



Cork camogie's Aisling Thompson and manager Paudie Murray bring with O'Duffy Cup out on the pitch at half-time of the Munster vs Ospreys Guinness PRO14 match at Musgrave Park in September of 2018.  
Picture: INPHO/Dan Sheridan

In the second semi-final an ever improving Galway take on Limerick side that are shown this year they mean

business they ran Kilkenny so close and they will take huge encouragement from this.

## Rebels are looking to maintain their strong form

### SUNDAY

Littlewoods Div. 2 National League; Cork v Tipp;  
Camogie Grounds Castle Road; 2pm

WITH two games to go in their section of the Littlewoods Division 2 National league Cork are nicely poised.

On Sunday they take on a Tipperary sides that come to Cork just a point behind the home side on the table.

This is a vital game for both as a win for either would put them in a nice position as each has a game less played than leaders Meath or Down who are on the same points as Tipperary.

A win for Cork is vital as it would put them on seven points and in a good position to face a strong Down side in the last game of the group series.

This year, Cork have been doing well with a new side having to be fielded following the All-Ireland win last season and they have settled into the task in hand and are playing with a lot of confidence.

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

In their opening game against Carlow they had to work hard to fashion out a 0-7 to 0-3 victory but against a strong Meath sides last weekend they really dug deep to get themselves a deserving draw.

Having lost a player early in the second half for a second yellow card offence, Cork showed huge determination and character as they battered down the hatches and held Meath scoreless for the entire second half.

Mentor Frances Killeen is happy with the side's progress and they are working hard all the time to ensure every player gets a chance to stake a claim on a place in their championship panel.

For now, the focus remains on the league and getting out of the group.

Rachel Sheehan entered the fray against Meath

and slotted over two points whilst players such as Caitlin Looney, Michelle Murphy, Stefanie Beausang and Ciara Daly all performing well as Cork continue their quest to emerge from the group series.

Tipperary like Cork are fielding their second adult team but they have the advantage of having a lot of players who would have played senior and are now regraded, they lost out to Meath in their opening game on a 4-9 to 3-5 scoreline but they bounced back to fashion out a good win over Down 0-8 to 0-5.

However, on the day, it must be said down were minus several of the Clonduff players who were involved in All Ireland club championship.

Amongst the players who have been making an impact are former All-Ireland senior winning captain Joanne Ryan who brings huge experience to the side, Jenny Grace, Aoife Moloughney, Sabrina Larkin and Claire Stakelum will be amongst the players who will test Cork.



# Draw sees champs face newcomers

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

ALL eyes were focused on championship matters as the draws were made for the 2019 adult competitions from Senior down to Junior recently.

Every year the draws throw up exciting pairings and this season's package is no exception. Holders Inniscarra got the attention as everybody waited to see who would be the side to face the champions and those in attendance did not have to wait long as the task fell to senior debutants and neighbouring club Éire Óg.

At senior level, 15 sides will battle it out for the senior championship crown as 15 clubs and two divisions went into the hat with newly promoted Éire Óg joining the senior ranks following on their success last season in the Intermediate championship.

The county board will not make the losers round draws until the opening round has been played. There are some interesting games jumping out the meeting of champions Inniscarra bidding for four in a row will be interesting as they clash with their neighbours.

Cloughduv have a lot of young players coming through their ranks and with Aoife Murray and Brieghe Corkery in their ranks they will look forward to meeting the winners of the clash between divisional sides Carbery and Muskerry.

Douglas will meet a Sarsfields side who will be hoping to get a good run in championship with a huge volume of players coming through their hugely successful under age structure they are a side to watch.

Last year's defeated semi-finalists Ballincollig will meet Glen Rovers, whilst Milford and Courcy Rovers who met in last season's semi-final where Courcy's advanced will meet this year in the opening round. St Catherine's will meet Killeagh, Ballygarvan are a young side who have won two minor A championship titles in a row and they will meet a St Finbarr's sides who will be determined to go one step closer this season having won the league title last year.

In the preliminary round the clash of the divisional and Carbery can call on a host of experienced players from Clonakilty, Kilbrittain / Timoleague, Barryroe, Enniskeane and Newcestown to pick from they will be coming from a strong base they will meet Muskerry who despite losing the Éire Óg players this season can call on plenty of strength from Aghabullogue and Ballinora lead their challenge.

The first round draw is as follows: Carbery v Muskerry; St Catherine's v Killeagh; Douglas v Sarsfields; Ballincollig v Glen Rovers; Éire Óg v Inniscarra; Carbery or Muskerry v Cloughduv; St Finbarr's v Ballygarvan.

### INTERMEDIATE

With the decision last year to restructure the Intermediate grand and dispense with the Senior B grade the second competition continues as intermediate and with 13 teams participating on a round robin basis there will be two groups one of seven and one of six teams.

Last season's defeated Aghabullogue will be determined to go one better this year, Newcestown who lost out in the semi-final to Éire Óg will be hoping to go another step closer in 2019 and they are both in group one where



Inniscarra celebrate the SE Systems (Energy Efficient Solutions) Cork Senior Camogie Championship final victory over Courcy Rovers at Castle Road. Picture: Larry Cummin



Katie O'Mahony of Inniscarra, winner of the Rearden's Player of the Match Award for the Cork Camogie Senior County Championship final. Picture: Larry Cummin

they are joined by newly promoted Watergrasshill who won the Junior A championship in 2018, Enniskeane, Na Piarasigh Blackrock and Valley Rovers who have re graded down from Senior. In group two, last year's defeated semi-finalists Fr O'Neill's are paired with Carrigaline, Kilbrittain / Timoleague, Clonakilty, Ballinhassig and Brian Dillon's.

**Group One:** Watergrasshill, Enniskeane, Na Piarasigh, Blackrock, Newcestown, Aghabullogue, Valley Rovers.

**Group Two:** Carrigaline, Kilbrittain / Timoleague, Clonakilty, Ballinhassig, Fr O'Neill's, Brian Dillon's.

Junior There will be five junior grade competition and players of all grades are well catered for with Junior A, B and C, junior thirteen a sides and a new junior competition for clubs who are fielding second adult teams and want to compete on the same level as other clubs with second teams.

### Junior A

The Junior A championship has ten teams battling for the title and these are also played on a round robin basis. In group one Ballyhea who lost out in last year final to Watergrasshill are paired with Charleville, Tracton, Banteer and Bishopstown. In Group Two Barryroe having regraded down from Intermediate are in a group with Sliabh Rua, last year's defeated semi-finalists St Vincent's, Ballinascorthy and Malloy who have come down from senior.

**Junior B:** Group One we have Buttevant, Inniscarra, Millstreet, Cobh, Group two is Youghal, Ballinora, Castletyons and Bride Rovers.

**Junior C:** Group One: Kilworth, Aghada, St Fannah's, Castletyons, and Grenagh.

**Group Two:** Blarney, Na Piarasigh, Kinsale, St Colm's.

**Junior Second teams Group One:** Ballincollig, Cloughduv, Éire Óg, Sarsfields, Douglas, St Catherine's, Group Two: St Finbarr's, Barryroe, Glen Rovers, Kilbrittain / Timoleague, Newcestown.

“At senior level, 15 sides will battle it out for the senior championship crown”

Junior 13 A side Erin's Own, St Vincent's, Dungourney, Rockban, Castlemartyr, Kilbree.

### BUSY WEEKEND FOR COLLEGES AND CORK U16S

It's an all Cork clash today as Sacred Heart Clonakilty and St Mary's Middleton meet in the Junior B Post Primary All Ireland final in Castle Road at 2pm. The sides have already met in the provincial final with victory going to Sacred Heart. They will look to Sinead McCarthy, Emma O'Driscoll Daire and Eimear O'Brien and Jessica McCarthy to make it a double whilst Middleton will look to Ali Smith, Aimee Morgan, Lilly Hayes-Nally and Aisling Hartly to help them secure victory.

Tomorrow, the Cork U16 A side head to Kilmallock to take on Limerick at 2pm in the Munster final and with several of their panel in action in the post primary final today they will be hoping all come through uninjured.



# Limerick bid to end miserable record

## Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Limerick have plenty of incentive to qualify for the Littlewoods Ireland camogie league Division 1 final when they make the journey to St Brendan's Park in Birr tomorrow.

They have lost the last four semi-finals. Standing between them and success this time is Galway.

Limerick captain Caoimhe Costelloe, who led her county to All-Ireland minor glory in 2014 and was also a vital cog in their All-Ireland intermediate-winning side that year, says they are expecting a stern examination.

"Yes, definitely another big test for us. Birr is a fabulous pitch, we have played there before. This will be our fifth successive year making the semi-finals, we have lost every year since 2015.

"We just need to get over that line, it is about making progress. We have struggled to get over that hurdle."

Representing the Adare club, she maintains it is about believing in themselves. They will be hoping to replicate the level of performance they produced in their final group game when they lost to Kilkenny by the narrowest of margins.

"Even though we were both through to the semi-finals, we went out to win, 100%. We were beaten in the last few minutes by a point but it boosted our confidence knowing we can compete.

"We need to be able to do that against the more prominent counties.

"That game last month was a double header with the Limerick hurlers in the Gaelic Grounds.

"The crowd was starting to build for the second half of our match and it was tight on the scoreboard. With 15 minutes to go, the outcome was in the melting pot.

"The crowd got behind us.

Be it hurling or camogie, they appreciated the effort and the skill shown by ourselves and Kilkenny.

"It is not often that we get applauded off the field so that was a very nice moment. It was an honour, too, to play alongside our boys who are the All-Ireland champions. I would think highly of having got to do that."

Caoimhe is not certain when the Shannonsiders last reached the top tier league final. She prefers to focus on the present.

"I think Limerick got to a league final in the early 2000s. But this is a whole new crop of players. A very ambitious group. We are very focused on us as a group, we look out for each other a lot.

"We cannot get caught up in history. We met Galway in the championship last year and we were well beaten.

"But you can't dwell on the past. Galway are an incredible team and they are very skilful.

"Cork, Kilkenny and Galway are the teams up there, they are a credit to the Camogie Association. They have raised the bar. Galway had their fair share of hurt.

"I was delighted to see them win the All-Ireland in 2013. Galway will be favourites, but we are looking forward to it. We play a similar style."

Declan Nash has taken over the reins as Limerick manager.

"Declan was with us for the last three years as strength and conditioning coach, so that would have fed into his role as manager.

"Anything he can do, he will do for us and more. He is very approachable. I couldn't speak highly enough of him."

Holders Kilkenny will renew rivalry with All-Ireland champions Cork in the other semi-final in Waterford IT, also at 2pm.

"I find them intriguing to watch. Cork and Kilkenny know each other so well at this stage. Their matches are very tactical."

MARCH 2019

## McCormick keeps cool to rescue Ballycastle

Schools camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Six days after coming on as a sub for Gailltír in their one-point All-Ireland intermediate club final defeat to Clonduff at Croke Park, Aoife Fitzgerald scored 2-3 in a gripping Masita All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools' Senior A final at Donaghmore, Ashbourne, as Waterford's St Angela's Ursuline drew with Antrim's Cross & Passion Ballycastle.

With five points added by her cousin and team captain Annie, who excelled at Head-quarters last Sunday and was one of a number of Gailltír players on show, it looked like St Angela's would garner an historic first title at this grade, 12 months after completing the Senior B/Junior A double. It wasn't to be, however, as last year's Senior A runners-up Cross & Passion had the last say, with their skipper Róisín McCormick blasting to the net from a last-minute free to leave the teams deadlocked 2-13 apiece at the final whistle.

St Angela's had a very strong wind aiding them in the first half and Annie Fitzgerald was chief beneficiary at full-forward, making use of quick ball to record her entire tally.

Her first goal gave the Ursulines an early lead but by the time Rihanna McBride responded in kind, the Ballycastle side were 1-5 to 1-2 clear. They were on the back foot from the rest of the half though, and had no answer to Annie Fitzgerald, who made it 2-8 to 1-7 at the break.

Ballycastle stormed out and were soon level thanks to points from McCormick (two frees), McBride (who finished with 1-3) and Ciara Laverty.

However Fitzgerald again made her presence felt hitting four of her five points from placed balls into the wind.

When Rachael Walsh added a fine score from play with four minutes to play, the odds had moved in the Ursuline's favour but with time running out, McCormick kept her cool, drilling home the equalising free which forces a replay.

In the Junior B decider at Cork Camogie Grounds, Sacred Heart Clonakilty defeated St Mary's Middleton 3-8 to 1-7. Limerick's Scoil Pól Kilfinane won the Junior D final beating Derry's St Colm's Draperstown 3-6 to 1-3 in Mullingar.

## CAMOGIE

Littlewoods Ireland Leagues Division 1 semi-finals: Kilkenny 0-12 Cork 0-09, Galway 2-14 Limerick 0-4; Division 2 Group 1: Meath 0-05 Carlow 0-03, Tipperary 1-11 Cork 1-4; Division 2 Group 2: Westmeath 5-06 Wexford 1-03; Division 2 Group 3: Derry 4-7 Antrim 2-5, Kilkenny 1-6 Dublin 1-2; Division 3: Clare 4-12 Tyrone 1-03, Kildare 2-7 Roscommon 0-04, Limerick 5-16 Wicklow 1-4.

# Galway stand in the way of Kilkenny's four-in-a-row hopes

Daragh Ó Conchúir

A majestic performance by Anne Dalton gave Kilkenny a 0-12 to 0-9 victory over rivals Cork in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-final in Carriganore.

Now Galway stand in their way of becoming just the third team to complete a four-in-a-row with the Connacht side getting a 2-14 to 0-4 win over Limerick.

Player of the Year Dalton was magnificent, scoring four points from play while Michelle Quilty landed six from frees. Cork had wind advantage in the opening half but struggled to make it count on the scoreboard as they were overly reliant on Orla Cotter and young Cliona Healy. Dalton and Quilty kept Kilkenny in touch and left them just a point adrift (0-6 to 0-7) at the break.

Though Cotter extended Cork's advantage within seconds of the restart, Kilkenny, who introduced Denise Gaule, shot the next six points to take control. Quilty doubled her tally with three more frees. Gaule converted another from distance and as Dalton shot two more for a 0-12 to 0-8 lead.

Kilkenny failed to score in the last 12 minutes plus three of additional time but all Cork could manage was a Julia White point.

Meanwhile, it was glory for Galway in similarly difficult conditions in Birr where Limerick fell at the penultimate league hurdle for the fifth season in a row. Niamh



Galway's Ailish O'Reilly holds onto possession as she's tackled by Limerick's Sarah Carey and Muireann Creamer in yesterday's Camogie League Division 1 semi-final in Birr. Picture: Inpho/Bryan Keane

Hanniffy, who starred for the University of Limerick in their successful Ashbourne Cup campaign, carried on her goal-scoring run with an early major for Galway to lead by 1-2 to 0-0 after just four minutes.

Niamh Mulcahy converted a Limerick free in the seventh minute but thereafter the westerners ran amok. Four pointed frees by Carrie Dolan and a pair from play by Noreen Coen extended their

advantage before efforts from Ailish O'Reilly and Niamh Kilkenny had them 1-8 to 0-1 clear at the break.

Galway keeper Sarah Healy came to their rescue on the restart by denying Rebecca

Delee and moments later Mulcahy doubled Limerick's tally from another placed ball. It was only a brief reprieve as O'Reilly grabbed a second goal for the victors shortly afterwards. Ann Marie Starr and

Coen added points.

Meanwhile, the relegation play-off between Offaly and Wexford scheduled for Coolock, did not take place, with Wexford refusing to play with both teams in attendance.



# Strong Tipp side take the points

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Cork** 1-4  
**Tipperary** 1-11

A STRONG Tipperary side got the better of Cork to take the points on offer in this Littlewood's Division 2 National League clash at a bitterly cold Castle Road yesterday.

Conditions were hard on both sides as they gave it everything.

With the visitors determined to come away with a result, Cork found the going tough.

Inside the opening quarter, Tipp opened up a five-point lead.

Cork's only response was a sixth-minute point and when Aisling Farrell hand passed to the net Tipp went eight clear and were well on their way to setting the foundations for victory.

Jenny Grace slotted over two early points to settle them into the game.

Michelle Murphy pointed a Cork free six minutes in; however, Tipp took control with Niamh Treacy, Aoife McLoughney, and Claire Brennan finding the range before Farrell's goal stretched their lead.

Cork had points from Michelle Murphy and Cliona Sargent.

But with Mc Loughney and Grace slotting over twice before the break, Tipperary led 1-9 to 0-3.

Cork made a good start to the second half, with Kate Wall pointing and an Aoife Hurley goal cutting the Tipp lead to five points.

However, as Cork battled to get within touching distance the Premier defence stood firm.

Jenny Grace added two second-half points to the Tipp tally, one from play and one from a free.

Tipp held out to record a lead that ensures that they stay in the hunt for a place in the concluding stages as they now go to second place on the table.

Cork will take on Down in their last game.

A win is a must in that game if they are to stay in contention.

**Scorers for Cork:** A Hurley 1-0, M Murphy 0-2 (0-15), C Sargent, K Wall 0-1 each.

**Tipperary:** J Grace 0-5 (0-4 f), A Farrell 1-1, N Treacy, A Mc Loughney, A Loughnane, C Mc Keogh, C Brennan, 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Beausang, A Crowley, C Looney, E Loneragan, C Daly, A Maloney, E O'Regan, M Murphy, R Sheehan, C Sargent, R Hart, I O'Regan, K Wall, C Harney, K Wall, A Hurley.

**Subs:** M Lynch for E O'Regan (h-t), N O'Riordan for R Sheehan (h-t), S O'Regan for M Murphy (42), E Buckley for M Lynch (inj 45), K Dooley for I O'Regan (47), H Ryan for C Harney (49), C Murphy for C Sargent (50).

**TIPPERARY:** S Quigley, B Ryan, S Larkin, C Ryan, C Stakelum, C Brennan, E Carey, A Mc Loughney, N Treacy, C McKeogh, J Grace, A O'Dwyer, A Loughnane, J Ryan, A Farrell.

**Referee:** Paul Ryan (Kildare).

# Cats conquer as Cork blow cold

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A MAJESTIC performance by Anne Dalton gave Kilkenny a 0-12 to 0-9 victory over rivals Cork in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Semi-Final in Carriganore.

Only Galway stand in the Stripey women's way of becoming just the third team to complete a four-in-a-row as a result of their sensational 2-14 to 0-4 defeat of Limerick at St Brendan's Park.

Reigning Player of the Year Dalton was magnificent for Kilkenny, scoring four points from play in a more advanced role than has been the case in recent years, and with Michelle Quilty landing six from frees, Ann Downey's troops were able to turn around a one-point interval deficit to advance to the decider.

Indeed it was in the first half that the foundation for the triumph was put down, given that Cork had the benefit of a very strong wind and struggled to make it count on the scoreboard.

In fact, it was Kilkenny that carved out an early two-point advantage, Dalton returning a loose clearance with interest after Quilty had converted a couple of frees either side of one from Orla Cotter, who was Cork's leading scorer with five points.

Dalton and Katie Power added fine points for Kilkenny but Cotter landed a lovely score from play later on and young attacker, Cliona Healy helped herself to two, one after a brave save by Noreen Kavanagh.

Yet at only 0-7 to 0-6 at half time, the All-Ireland champions were up against it.

Though Cotter extended Cork's advantage within seconds of the resumption, Kilkenny, who introduced Denise Gaule for the second half, shot the next six points to put some daylight between the sides.

Quilty doubled her own personal tally with three more successful shots from frees, Gaule converted another from distance and as Dalton shot two more points, they established a 0-12 to 0-8 lead.

Kilkenny failed to score in the last 12 minutes plus three of additional time but Cork needed a goal and all they could manage was a point from Julia White so it was the Black and Ambers who progressed.



Katie Power collides with Libby Coppinger of Cork. Cork had the benefit of a very strong wind and struggled to make it count on the scoreboard.  
Picture: INPHO/Oisín Kenneally

The conditions were similarly difficult in Birr as in Waterford but for the fifth consecutive year, Limerick fell at the penultimate hurdle.

It was the manner of the defeat that will grate with both players and manager Declan Nash, however, as they followed an unbeaten group phase with a limp performance against a powerful Galway unit.

Niamh Hanniffy, who has had a tremendous start to the year not just for county but with the University of Limerick in their successful Ashbourne Cup campaign, carried on her goal-scoring run with an early major for Galway to lead by 1-2 to 0-0 after just four minutes.

Niamh Mulcahy converted a free in the seventh minute but there was absolutely nothing for the Shannonsiders to take from the opening half as they were blown away by Galway.

Four pointed frees by Carrie Dolan and a pair from play by Noreen Coen propelled them to lead, with Ailish

O'Reilly and Niamh Kilkenny also on the mark to make it 1-8 to 0-1 at the change of ends.

Rebecca Delee was denied a goal that Limerick desperately needed early in the second half by Galway netminder Sarah Healy.

Mulcahy doubled Limerick's tally from another placed ball but it remained largely one-way traffic.

O'Reilly, who like Hanniffy has enjoyed a strong League to date, grabbed Galway's second goal midway through the second half as the torment continued for Limerick.

The scoring rate dropped as Cathal Murray emptied his bench but Limerick were still unable to register even one score from play, Mulcahy providing their four points.

In contrast, Galway had six individual scorers. O'Reilly was a constant threat and finished with a goal and four points, three of those points coming from frees, while the ever-industrious Ann Marie Starr and Coen

also added scores in the most comprehensive of victories.

The relegation play-off between O'faly and Wexford scheduled for Coochlock, did not take place as scheduled with Wexford refusing to play with both teams in attendance.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** M Quilty 0-6 (0-5 f), A Dalton 0-4, K Power 0-1, D Gaule 0-1 f.

**Cork:** O Cotter 0-5 (0-4 f), C Healy 0-2, L Collins, White 0-1 each.

**CORK:** A Murray, L Hayes, L Treacy, P Mackey, Coppinger, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, C McCarthy, Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, Healy, L Collins, H Looney.

**Subs:** B Corkery for C McCarthy (h-t), K Mackey for A O'Connor (45), J White for C Healy (54).

**Kilkenny:** E Kavanagh, C Dormer, C Foley, M Teehan, D Tobin, E Keane, C Phelan, M Farrell, A Dalton, A Farrell, M Walsh, K A Doyle, M Quilty, N Deely, K Power.

**Subs:** D Gaule for K A Doyle (h-t), A Doyle for N Deely (46), D Morrissey for M Walsh (52).

**Referee:** John Darmody (Westmeath).



Cork's Gemma O'Connor was dejected after the game yesterday.



The Cork team before the league semi-final defeat at WIT.



# Kilkenny end Cork's league bid

BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

## DIVISION 1 SEMI-FINAL

ALL-IRELAND champions Cork suffered their first defeat of 2019 when Kilkenny had the edge on them in their Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-final in Carriganore.

Kilkenny's bid for a fourth league title in a row remains on track with Anne Dalton the key player in their 0-12 to 0-9 victory over rivals Cork.

Reigning Player of the Year Dalton was magnificent for Kilkenny, scoring four points from play in a more advanced role than has been the case in recent years and with Michelle Quilty landing six from frees, Ann Downey's troops were able to turn around a one-point interval deficit to advance to the decider. Indeed, it was in the first half that the foundation for the triumph was put down, given that Cork had the benefit of a very strong wind and struggled to make it count on the scoreboard.

In fact, it was Kilkenny that carved out an early two-point advantage, Dalton returning a loose clearance with interest after Quilty had converted a

couple of frees either side of one from Orla Cotter, who was Cork's leading scorer with five-points. Dalton and Katie Power added five points for Kilkenny but Cotter landed a lovely score from play later on and young attacker, Cliona Healy helped herself to two, one after a brave save by Noreside goalie Emma Kavanagh.

Yet at only 0-7 to 0-6 at half time, the All-Ireland champions were up against it.

Though Cotter extended Cork's advantage within seconds of the resumption, Kilkenny, who introduced Denise Gaule for the second half, shot the next six points to put some daylight between the sides.

Quilty doubled her own personal tally with three more successful shots from frees, Gaule converted another from distance and as Dalton shot two more points, they established a 0-12 to 0-8 lead.

Kilkenny failed to score in the last 12 minutes plus three of additional time but Cork needed a goal and all they could manage

was a point from Julia White so it was the Black and Ambers who progressed.

Only Galway stand in the Stripecrowns' way of becoming just the third team to complete a four-in-a-row as a result of their sensational 2-14 to 0-4 defeat of Limerick at St Brendan's Park.

### Scorers

**Kilkenny:** M Quilty 0-6 (5f); A Dalton 0-4; K Power, D Gaule (f) 0-1 each.

**Cork:** O Cotter 0-5 (4f); C Healy 0-2; L Collins, J White 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Murray, L Hayes, L Treacy, P Mackey, L Coppinger, G O'Connor, C Sigersson, C McCarthy, A Thompson, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, C Healy, L Collins, H Looney.

**Subs:** B Corkery for C McCarthy (ht), K Mackey for A O'Connor (44), J White for C Healy (53).

**Kilkenny:** E Kavanagh, C Dormer, C Foley, M Teehan, D Tobin, E Keane, C Phelan, M Farrell, A Dalton, A Farrell, M Walsh, K A Doyle, M Quilty, N Deely, K Power.

**Subs:** D Gaule for K A Doyle (ht), A Doyle for N Deely (45), D Morrissey for M Walsh (53).

**Referee:** John Darmody (Westmeath).



Cork's Orla Cronin tries to get her pass away before Kilkenny's Michelle Teehan can challenge during their Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-final at WIT on Sunday.

(Photo: Oisín Keniry/INPHO)

## Major award for Ballygarvan's successful minor camogie team

BY JOHN NEWMAN

BALLYGARVAN camogie has gone from strength to strength since its reformation in 1988 and now has teams from U6 all the way through to senior level.

The current crop of minor players has evolved from a young age, with county championship success at U13, U14 and U16 (league) levels, while in 2013 they won the Cork Feile na Gael final. It was onwards and upwards from there on.

In 2015, an U16 league title was achieved, as their ambitious young ladies wanted more success and they achieved that in 2016 with an U16A championship, followed by a minor championship in 2017, and then a minor A league title in 2018 and then in June 2018 after a replay with Newcestown they scooped the minor A championship crown.

Thanks to their fantastic commitment and sportsmanship and guided by a well-run club and an experienced coach in Ollie Hallihan, they will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in Cork camogie in the future. They are deserving winners of the Cork City and County Youth January award sponsored by the Metropole Hotel and John Buckley Sports.

Ballygarvan minor camogie captain Shannon Wynne and team-mates pictured with Roger Russell (Metropole Hotel, main sponsor) and John Buckley (John Buckley Sports, award sponsor) after the team was named the January winner of the Cork City and County Youth Awards.



## TURN BACK TIME Bal camogie players reunite



Ballinascorthy camogie is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. It was set up in 1969 and called Castleview at the time. The club is compiling a book of camogie memories and stories over the five decades from all players, coaches and mentors, both past and present. Organisers are particularly interested in photographs from 1969 to 2000 as they are in very scarce supply. They can be emailed to katecrowley224@gmail.com or contact 086-4540981 and it can be arranged for them to be collected. On Sunday, Castleview camogie players from 1969 and 1970 gathered in Ballinascorthy pitch as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations. From left, Kay Keohane, Margaret Ryan, Pauline Smith, Mary Lehan, Teresa Ahearn, Eileen O'Mahony, Kathleen Fleming, Loretta Tobin, Marian Campbell (captain), Eileen Walsh, Carmel Calnan, Ann Galvin, Betty Hennessy, Mary Coffey, Carmel McCarthy, Noreen Nyhan and May O'Donovan.



Sacred Heart's Millie Condon, player of the match, forces her way past St Mary's Orla Evans during the All-Ireland colleges' junior camogie final at Mahon on Saturday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

# Magic Millie inspires Sacred Heart to glory



**Noel Horgan**  
reports from Mahon

**SACRED HEART SS 3-8**  
**ST MARY'S HS 1-7**

A SEASON of unprecedented success was completed by Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty when they accounted for St Mary's Middleton in the All-Ireland colleges' junior camogie final at Mahon last Saturday.

Having already lifted the Munster title at St Mary's expense, and beaten them in the group stage of the provincial competition as well, Sacred Heart went into the game as warm favourites but they were obviously under a lot of pressure not to slip up in the big one.

There was never any danger Sacred Heart would enter the fray suffering from complacency revealed elated team skipper Daire O'Brien in the wake of their historic triumph.

'We took nothing for granted, we knew we had to work hard and try to play as well as we can, so we were fully focused on the task,' she said.

O'Brien also expected St Mary's to make a bold bid to upset the odds, admitting she was worried the way the game was developing for much of the first half.

'We were under a lot of pressure, but we coped and the two goals scored by Millie (Condon) helped us to settle before half time. Millie has wicked pace and her scores were crucial today,' stressed O'Brien, who said it was a great honour to be captain of a team that had achieved so much over the past 12 months.

While they finished the match well in control, Sacred Heart were a tad flattered by their eventual winning margin, as St Mary's showed from the outset they weren't going to succumb easily.

With centre forward Ali Smith and midfielder Aimee Morgan to the fore, the Middleton girls led by 0-3 to 0-2 after Morgan posted the game's first score from play in the 13th minute.

One minute later, however, Sacred Heart made a major breakthrough when a specu-

lative shot from distance by Millie Condon went all the way to the net.

It was a fortuitous score but Condon struck again in the 19th minute with a goal that was unquestionably out of the top drawer after Anna Flynn and Eimear O'Brien were involved in the build-up.

That gave Sacred Heart a five-point cushion but St Mary's finished the first half with three unanswered points, courtesy of Ami Smith from frees, to make it 2-3 to 0-7 at the break.

Sacred Heart gradually stretched the gap on the resumption, primarily due to Eimear O'Brien free-taking expertise, which contrasted sharply with erratic shooting from placed balls on the part of Smith for Middleton.

O'Brien, fed by Millie Condon, added a sublime point

from play shortly before Caoimhe Murphy knocked in Sacred Heart's third goal to push them 3-8 to 0-7 ahead in the 50th minute.

The deal was done and dusted after that and Sacred Heart finally began to perform with the sort of swagger that had been a feature of their performances earlier in the campaign, although the late goal scored by St Mary's Lily Hayes-Nally was no more than the losers deserved.

It was a workmanlike rather than spectacular performance from the Clonakilty students, with particularly significant contributions coming from Allanah O'Brien, Emma O'Driscoll and Mary Murphy in a rock-solid full-back line, midfielder Annie Condon, and Eimear O'Brien and two-goal hero Millie Condon up front.

## Scorers

**Sacred Heart:** E O'Brien 0-8 (7f); M Condon 2-0; C Murphy 1-0.

**St Mary's:** A Smith 0-6f; L Hayes-Nally 1-0; J Morgan 0-1.

**Sacred Heart:** S McCarthy (Ballinascahy); A O'Brien (Clonakilty); E O'Driscoll (Enniskeane); M Murphy (Kilbree); J McCarthy (Barryroe); D O'Brien (Enniskeane); K O'Gorman (Kilbree); A Condon (Ballinascahy); K O'Donovan (Kilbree); M Kingston (Ballinascahy); C Murphy (Kilbree); L Sutton (Clonakilty); M Condon (Ballinascahy); A Flynn (do.); E O'Brien (Enniskeane).

**Subs:** O Deasy (Kilbree) for O'Donovan (ht); O'Donovan for M Murphy (55); K O'Driscoll (Clonakilty) for C Murphy (57); S Patwell (Ballinascahy) for Sutton (57).

**St Mary's:** E Hayes-Nally; O Evans; A Harty; S Dignam; K O'Brien; L Murphy; K O'Connell; A Healy; A Morgan; S Kent; A Smith; C Cronin; G Rooney; N O'Connor; L Hayes-Nally.

**Sub:** L Costigan for Cronin (inj, 42).  
**Referee:** C O'Ceadaigh (Wicklow).



Sacred Heart's Kellie O'Gorman celebrated the win with her supporters.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Millie Condon always moved menacingly when in possession at corner forward for Sacred Heart, and her two goals were instrumental in undermining St Mary's vibrant challenge in the first half.

**Star moment:** After taking a pass from Eimear O'Brien on the right wing, Condon bagged Sacred Heart's second goal in

the 19th minute, completing an incisive run with a sublime strike from the edge of the square.

**Talking point:** Arguably the game lacked fluency due to some pedantic refereeing, and that 13 of the 19 scores came from frees tells its own story.

**What's next:** Sacred Heart will compete at senior level with this team next season.

'There won't be a cow milked for two weeks!'

BY NOEL HORGAN

SACRED Heart manager Caoimhe Mulcahy felt that taking on St Mary's for the third time was always going to be an acid test for his charges.

Having comfortably accounted for the Middleton girls on two occasions in the Munster campaign, Mulcahy was aware Sacred Heart needed to guard against complacency ahead of the All-Ireland final showdown last Saturday.

'There's always a possibility that complacency can creep in when you are meeting a team for the third time that you have already beaten twice. In order to guard against that we got the girls together in the school following our All-Ireland semi final win the previous weekend,' he revealed.

'We told them they needed to keep their feet on the ground, that there's no All-Ireland won yet and that they'd have to go out and replicate what they did in Munster against a team that was bound to be hell-bent on turning the tables.'

While admitting he was a bit worried with the way things went for Sacred Heart early on, McCarthy said he fully expected St Mary's to raise their performance on this occasion and that it was always going to be a tight game.

'Middleton are a good team and they had their homework done on us from our previous two meetings,' he said.

'They jiggered their team around a bit, put a couple of players in different positions and it worked out well for them.'

'It was a big test of character for our girls but they all just put a shoulder to the wheel, they never lost their composure, and they upped their intensity big-time when the game was there to be won in the last quarter.'

'I thought we were well on top in the closing stages which didn't surprise me, because these girls are supremely fit, and today was about reaping the rewards for the huge amount of work they've put in all year.'

Mulcahy acknowledged the victory capped a great season for the team, adding that having lost a couple of Munster semi-finals by a point in recent years, they fully deserve what they have achieved.

'It's great for the girls and their families. It will give Clonakilty a bit of a buzz as well because we're all very proud of them. I'd say there won't be a cow milked in the town over the next two weeks,' quipped Limerick native Mulcahy.



## Galway test for minors in Gort today

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**TODAY**  
All Ireland Minor Championship; Cork v Galway; Gort; 2pm.

CORK head to Gort this afternoon for a vital clash with Galway in their second game in the All-Ireland minor championship round robin series of games.

Having lost out to Tipperary in their opening game Cork will be hoping for a better performance this time out as they face the side they defeated in last season All Ireland final.

It came as a bit of a shock to have Cork lose out to Tipperary in their opening game and with Tipperary also defeating Dublin in their second game they are sitting at the top of the table with two wins out of two.

Galway clash with Wexford last weekend was postponed due to weather conditions and having had a bye in round one this will be their first game of the round robin series. Galway have enjoyed huge success at under 16 level having won the last four All Ireland under 16 titles they are coming into this championship with huge confidence.

Losing out in last year decider to Cork was a huge disappointment to them given the players that had come through from their successful under 16 sides.

This year their team features six survivors from last year's panel, Pearl Finnerty, Alannah Kelly, Tegan Canning, Niamh Horan, Niamh Niland and Chloe Reilly were all on the sides that lost out to Cork and they will be determined to get the upper hand this time out.

Against Tipperary Cork were slow to settle and failing to register a score in the opening half saw them trail by seven at the interval and they gave themselves a mountain to climb as they battled to get something against a strong Tipperary side.

Without doubt the Cork management will be looking for a lot more from their side today and 1-3 from play as was the case against Tipperary will not suffice if Galway are to be defeated.

With experienced campaigners at this level from last season such as Fiona Keating, Emma Murphy, and Ciara O'Sullivan Cork are more than capable of gaining the upper hand but they need to stamp their authority on proceedings from the throw in this time out.

There are six changes to the side that lost out to Tipperary with starting places going to Sarah O'Keefe, Miriam Cotter, Cliona Dooley Isabella Sheehan, Cliona O'Leary and Clodagh Finn who was introduced against Tipperary and grabbed the game's only goal and she is named to start at full forward.

In the second game in the group Wexford play host to Tipperary in a clash where a win for Tipperary would all but seal their semi-final place and let the last place up for grabs between Cork, Galway, Dublin and Wexford.



THAT WINNING FEELING: Sacred Heart Clonakilty players celebrate after defeating St Mary's last weekend.

# Clon side on top in all Cork final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

The girls are superb and they really work so hard at training and games

**Sacred Heart, Clonakilty 3-8**

**St Mary's Midleton 1-7**

LAST Saturday was a huge day for the Post Primary Schools Committee, who had no less than four finals down for decision in various locations and with the fantastic support from Masita who sponsored all four All-Ireland competitions the Senior A, Junior A, B, and C.

All eyes from a Cork perspective were centred on the Junior B final which was an all-Cork clash between Sacred Heart Clonakilty and St Mary's High School Midleton, a wonderful achievement to have two of our Cork schools making it to the final.

Already this seasons the sides had met in the provincial decider with the honours going to Sacred Heart Clonakilty and this time out both sides were determined to be crowned All-Ireland champions.

The excellent Cork Camogie Grounds in Castle Road was in top class conditions and all credit to the board for the fantastic surface that the players enjoyed ensuring the game was played as it should have been on an excellent surface despite the time of the year.

Overhead conditions were excellent with just a strong wind to contend with both sides got down to business fast, Midleton playing with the aid of the wind in the opening half found themselves trailing inside eight minutes with Eimear O'Brien converting two Sacred Heart frees.

Keeping on the pressure, St Mary's were quickly into their stride and Ali Smith converted the resulting 45 after Sinead McCarthy was forced to make a good save, the same player had the sides level slotting over a free and with the Aimee Morgan adding one from play St Mary's hit the front.

Sacred Heart were very composed and moved the ball fast to their inside line where the pacey Millie Condon was causing bother for the St Mary's



Amy O'Connor keeps her eyes on the sliotar while running full pelt in Thurles.

Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

defence.

The lively corner forward showed great bursts of speed and fourteen minutes in she won possessions and with lightning speed shot low to the net to edge Sacred Heart in front.

With the sides evenly matched it was score for score Eimear O'Brien and Ali Smith had a point each as Sacred Heart held their two-point advantage.

Nineteen minutes in, they stretched it to five when Eimear O'Brien picked out Millie Condon with a superb pass the corner forward was off at lightning speed with only one thing on her mind and she slotted the ball to the net to increase her sides lead.

St Mary's responded well and taking the game to Sacred Heart they began to cause them a bit of bother and winning two frees which Ali Smith slotted over they stayed on Sacred Heart's heels. And with Sinead McCarthy again denying them a goal St Mary's Ali Smith pointed the resulting forty-five and there was just two between the sides 2-3 to 0-7 at the interval.

Sacred Heart with the aid of the

wind for the second half applied huge early pressure and winning three frees in a row which Eimear O'Brien converted they were five points clear.

St Mary's found the going tough against a strong Sacred Heart defence where Mary Murphy, Alanna O'Brien and Jessica McCarthy were excellent.

Eimear O'Brien extended the lead with a point before a Caoimhe Murphy goal with eleven minutes remaining gave St Mary's a mountain to climb.

Eimear O'Brien pointed a Sacred Heart free before Lillie Hayes-Nally grabbed a St Mary's goal with three minutes remaining but with seven points between the sides, Sacred Heart were on their way to taking the title.

Sacred Heart's Millie Condon was named as the Masita Player of the Match after turning in a superb performance, the fifteen-year-old showed huge skills and wonderful confidence as she took on the challenge and led her fellow forwards as she struck for two crucial first-half goals that helped build the foundations for victory.

“The girls are superb and they really work hard, so hard at training and games”

Both sides had worked hard to reach the decider and all credit to their back-room teams of teachers and helper who had the teams so well prepared.

For Sacred Heart, it was a great day and for coaches Claran Mulcahy and Brian Daly both teachers in the school it was a great achievement to be crowned All Ireland champions.

Principle Ann Marie Brosnan originally a Kerry native but now firmly ensconced in her adopted county of Cork was thrilled with the win and she told us after the game:

“The girls are superb and they really work so hard at training and games,” Brosnan said.

“They give it everything and I couldn't be prouder of them, also thanks to Mr Mulcahy and Mr Daly who put in huge out hours of time into preparing the team for days like today.

“We are delighted to be winners here today, credit also to St Mary's who battled to the end.

“I'm so proud of our girls and all they had achieved, well done to them all.”

**Scorers for Sacred Heart:** M Condon 2-0, E O'Brien 0-8 (0-6s), C Murphy 1-0.

**St Mary's:** A Smith 0-6 (0-4f's 0-2 45'), L Hayes-Nally 1-0, A Morgan 0-1.

**SACRED HEART:** S McCarthy, A O'Brien, E O'Driscoll, M Murphy, J McCarthy, D O'Brien(c), K O'Gorman, A Condon, K O'Donovan, M Condon, C Murphy, L Sutton; E O'Brien, A Flynn, M Kingston.

**Subs:** O Deasy for K O'Donovan (41), K Ryan for A O'Brien (44), K O'Donovan for M Murphy (55) S Patwell for C Murphy (56), K O'Driscoll for L Sutton (56).

**ST MARY'S:** E Hayes-Nally; O Evans, A Harty, S Dignam; K O'Brien, L Murphy, K O'Connell; A Healy, A Morgan; S Kent, A Smith, C Cronin; G Rooney, N O'Connor, L Hayes-Nally.





# CAMOGIE MATTERS

By Jennifer O'Leary

**CONGRATULATIONS** | It was fantastic to see Sacred Heart in Clonakilty win the All-Ireland colleges' junior B final

## O'Driscoll's and Murray's management styles are different but they both work

A RECENT video clip shared on Twitter by Joe Brolly caught my eye. It was one that went viral. Highlighting negative tactics that many coaches are teaching their players in Gaelic football.

In the U15 Brock Championship match between Abbey Grammar School Newry and St Patrick's Maghera, the former kept their 15 players inside their own half while St Pat's passed the ball around and maintained possession within their own half for fifty minutes of the game. It was as hard to watch as it sounds. Neither team could have enjoyed this game of football.

St Pats won 0-2 to 0-1, a soccer-style scoreline, and that video clip from the game caused quite a stir online with questions pointed in the coaches' direction. Negative tactics such as this are some of the reasons why changes have been made in the rules governing the game at inter-county level. However, how can you change a management/coaching system that teaches this style of play to players as young as 15 years of age?

So after seeing the clip online, it made me think about the types of management that surface most prominently in my mind. One being the management style that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is successfully implementing in Manchester United's exciting resurgence in the football world. His players look happier, they are expressing themselves in their play and the results show how his friendly approach towards his team is certainly paying dividends. The negativity left by Jose Mourinho has been lifted and what remains is a team who feel greater self-worth. After all, happy teams win games. It's the same group of players that Solskjaer and Mourinho are working with – but the end result couldn't be more different.

Closer to my own experience, there are two managers I had the pleasure of working under during my playing days with Cork, Fiona O'Driscoll and Paudie Murray. While these two couldn't be more different from one another, what they had in common was their understanding of the importance of a happy but positively prepared team.

Fiona O'Driscoll brought fantastic changes in the professional set-up of the team and management in 2005. It was

her coaching and organisation that really set the ball rolling for what female players deserve and should receive when playing at a high level. She made sure that every single detail was looked after from player welfare to focused training sessions to intricate preparation in the lead up to games and on the game day itself.

Having spoken to her years after her management and coaching role with the Cork senior team, she would admit herself that she found the whole process exhausting. She gave everything to that role in the years from 2005 to 2007, and in some regards was very hard on herself, to the point of trying to manage and perfect everything.

Her people management is second to none. She had the rare ability of reading you and your mood by just looking and observing your body language. A little friendly chat with players was a mechanism that in-

**'Paudie demands even more sacrifice from his players. If you want to be one of the starting 15 players, you have to imbed camogie into every day of your week.'**

stantly elevated your mood, leaving you with a sense of self-worth, a feeling that someone understands you and cares.

But it wasn't all a friendly experience. Fiona demanded sacrifice from every one of us. Missing training was unacceptable. In fact, you would dread telling her if you had to. Your reason would need to be well thought out and appropriately expressed to her. Letting her down was seen as letting the team down too. It was all connected when she was at the helm. It instilled in us that we should be making excuses to make training, not to miss it.

I loved every moment under Fiona's management with Cork. She was fully invested in every player and saw the importance of a happy squad. Trips to her hometown Ballymacoda for training weekends conjure up great memories with swims in the local Redbarn beach post



Cork manager Paudie Murray pictured during Cork's loss to Kilkenny in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-final at WIT on Sunday.

workouts that were always punishing but welcomed to soothe the tired limbs. In those torturous ten minutes of wading through water up to our waists, she succeeded in building a happy team. We were a team that knew each other much better than simply playing camogie on the same field together.

While I mentioned that Fiona started the rise in professionalism for the Cork senior camogie team, it was Paudie who elevated this even further and has improved every year since. However, compared to Fiona's understanding but firm approach, Paudie demands even more sacrifice from his players. If you want to be one of the starting 15 players, you have to imbed camogie into every day of your week. Two to three days in the gym, two to three camogie sessions in the week and a game to top it off. You live and breathe camogie. We needed

this approach. Other teams like Wexford, Kilkenny and Galway were upping their trainings and hitting the gyms just as hard as we were.

### Master-plan

It was crucial we remained proactive about our preparation and Paudie insured that a master-plan for the year was set in place with a solid backroom personal consisting of friends and family. With four out of seven O'Duffy Cup titles so far, his approach is working. He was always available, only a phone call away, always on the camogie beat. He is fully invested in Cork Camogie.

It's hard to determine what approach is best to take as a coach of a team. I feel it all depends on the players put in front of you. It's crucial that you understand the player in her/his entirety. You need to see the bigger picture. Not just what

you notice about the player as they train or how they work during a game. It's important that you get to know them. To see how they tick. Because one size does not fit all when it comes to managing a team. Personalities and interests are undoubtedly going to be different and the challenges this can bring is testing for even the most experienced coach.

I try and adopt a caring approach when it comes to managing school football teams. Taking the time to talk to your players, listening to their worries and thanking them for their efforts is so important. I've noticed that there are lots of insecurities that teenagers face and many don't realise their worth, and this could be simply because they didn't make the starting 15 on a given day.

A young person's life can be full of pressures and stresses also and we as coaches need

to be mindful of this. Just recently, a talented footballer on our team came over to the sideline at half-time and buried her head in her hands while sitting on the ground. I later realised that she was worried sick as her grandmother had broken her hip the day before and was poorly in hospital.

She played out of her skin that day but she was also going through a painful personal strain. I felt terrible that I didn't know this information before the game but I was also glad she had an outlet to express that emotion, a distraction from the upset.

Playing a sport can be an incredible means of self-expression and a stress reliever. However, coaches shouldn't be taking the opportunity of playing freely and without constraints away from players who just want to play their game in a sporting manner.



# Amy likes to turn on the style



Soccer

Barbara O'Connell

AS well as being a stylish player on the pitch, Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor can equally turn on the style off the pitch.

The Littlewoods ambassador is like most girls who love to dress up, although with a hectic schedule like hers there isn't a whole lot of time to do so, however, when there is, she certainly knows how and she tells us about the enjoyment of a girl who practically lives in shorts and tracksuits, can get, when she gets the opportunity to dress up.

"Like most girls, I do love to get dressed up," said O'Connor.

"I love wearing fake tan and getting my hair and make-up done.

"I also love looking at different styles of different celebrities and bloggers, especially on Instagram.

"I don't get dressed up too often, particularly during the season but when I do, I love it.

"I'm a big fan of bright colours but at the same time I love the darker tones over winter.

"Often during the season you wouldn't have much time for fashion, on training days especially, as you'd be immediately going straight from college or work to training.

"However, many girls including Anna Geary have really shown that girls can be both stylish and play camogie.

"I think since Littlewoods Ireland have gotten involved with the camogie leagues it's brilliant as it shows that just because women play sport doesn't mean they can't also be into their fashion.

"There's a bit of stereotyping involved, unfortunately, but I think when people see that such a large, well-known fashion and retail store like Littlewoods Ireland has gotten involved it might help stop that stereotyping."

At only 22, O'Connor is already one of Cork's most established players.

Having joined the Cork senior camogie panel in 2014, she now has four All-Ireland Senior medals under her belt.

Quite the achievement really for someone so young, but it comes as no surprise, as sport is in O'Connor's blood.

However, her first experience with camogie as a child was perhaps a fluke with a little touch of fate.

"My cousin had joined his underage hurling team and my aunt bought him all the gear from head to toe.

"The tracksuit, the boots, a helmet, a hurley, a jersey, shorts - everything! You name it, he got it - the works!

"But he left after about two weeks so my aunt was left with all the gear that was potentially going to waste.

"She asked my Mam would I like to try it instead of the gear going into the bin.

"After that, my Dad spent hours every evening after work with me pucking around.

From then on, Amy's sporting talent grew and grew. As a teenager, she played several sports.

She went on to play on the Ireland



Cork's Amy O'Connor is chased down by Waterford's Mairéad Power during the Littlewoods Ireland, National Camogie League, Division 1 clash at Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Mahon, Cork.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Sinead O'Donnell who plays football with Delany's and camogie with St Vincent's with Cork's Amy O'Connor and Lauren Homan at the St Vincent's medal presentation function.

Picture: Mike English

U19 soccer team that made it to the semi-finals of the 2014 European Championships.

She once played a county Gaelic football final, a championship camogie game and an All-Ireland soccer semi-final all on the same day.

"The biggest obstacle I had to overcome was choosing between soccer and camogie, and looking back, it probably wasn't even an 'obstacle'.

"At the time, I thought it was an awful position to be in, but looking back I was lucky to have had to make that type of decision.

"I think sport, in general, will help you with decision-making.

"It helps you also with confidence in all walks of life.

Amy was born and bred in Knocknaheeny, and she couldn't be prouder to be from there.

"I'm from Knocknaheeny and it's an area that wouldn't be known for many

good things, unfortunately.

"There is a problem of anti-social behaviour in the area and there has been for many years. Though, I am very proud to be from there.

"Sadly for a lot of people from Knocknaheeny, everyone is painted with the same brush and that is something that really annoys me.

"I suppose I just want people to see it's not all bad and those causing all the problems are in a minority.

"My club St Vincent's - do some excellent work in the area to try and keep people involved in sport.

"I find that a lot of the time in an area like Knocknaheeny - young people don't get to see the opportunities out there and often find themselves falling into the trap of not going to school and getting involved in things they shouldn't."

Education is not something that Amy takes for granted.

She is the first in her family to attend third level education and credits her parents for making her have an appreciation for education.

"My mam and dad never went to college but always encouraged me to break that cycle and go to university.

"They never put any pressure on me either. I also wanted to do it for myself - I could see the roads some people my age were going down and I didn't want that to be me.

"They always highlighted the importance of getting a good education.

"I'm not saying that going to university is the be-all and end-all and it isn't for everyone but I want to give myself the best life I possibly can, and for me, I think going to college could be the best way for me to do that."

Off the pitch and in the classroom, Amy developed a passion for science, and when she found out that her secondary school only offered biology for the Leaving Certificate, she successfully campaigned to have chemistry introduced into their curriculum.

Her interest and love for science paid off, as she gained a spot on one of UCC's toughest courses - Pharmacy.

She graduated last summer and is currently working for biotechnology company, BioMarin Pharmaceutical, and is now completing a one-year masters in Pharmacy in the College of Surgeons.

"My placement at the moment in BioMarin allow me to have a great work/life balance as I am able to go in and start early and then finish early because of that.

"When you understand that there are a lot more important things in life than exams, work or a match, it becomes a lot easier to cope with everything."

■ Amy O'Connor writes a monthly blog for Littlewoods.



## Club reflects on successful year

THE Carrigaline camogie club held their annual Awards Night in the Carrigaline GAA Club recently.

There a number of players were honoured in being chosen to play for Cork last season, with no less than five players winning All-Ireland medals last year. The GAA clubhouse was packed to capacity as medals were presented to the players as the chairman outlined the achievements and activities made by the club over the past year.

This included not only a full academy training programme, but participation in club activity days such as the Lá na gClub, Summer Camps during the school holidays, trips to All-Ireland finals and various fundraising activities in an effort to defray the cost of running an active and successful club.

Harry O'Sullivan, club chairman remarked that the club has over 320 players on its books from ages Under 5 right up to intermediate players, up from less than 280 only four years ago, with the very popular Academy and Street league attracting huge numbers backed by upwards of 40 coaches each weekend.

Although the club didn't pick up any silverware last season, it was still a very successful and busy year for the club, competing at all levels from Under 12's right up to senior grades in both league and championship grades and will be only a matter of time before teams come back to Carrigaline with divisional and county titles.

Speaking at the awards night, he went on to thank coaches, officers, players and parents for their support throughout the year, as well as the GAA club for the use of their excellent facilities.

He added that the club was blessed to have such excellent facilities in Carrigaline, with the use of three full-length pitches and the development of another pitch coming up, and went on to thank the GAA club in teaming up in a number of very successful fundraising activities with the Ladies Gaelic Football club over the past couple of years which has benefitted all three clubs.



Rachel Long receives the Jo Maye Memorial Trophy from Brian Maye and Harry O'Sullivan, club chairman, at the recent Carrigaline camogie club awards night in the GAA club. Picture: Howard Crowdy

### CAMOGIE

■ Howard Crowdy

He went on to thank club committee members, with special thanks to club sponsor James O'Regan of O'Regan Construction for their support in recent years as without their support and assistance it would not be possible to run the club effectively.

Presentations were made to a number of players who had played with Cork over the past year, with a very special presentation being made to Rachel O'Shea who had the distinction of playing in four All-Ireland finals in the past three years and has become a role model for up

and coming players in the club, being an integral part of the Cork Intermediate team at present, and will no doubt make the senior team in the near future.

Every year a special Hall of Fame Award is presented to the player who has made a contribution to the club which has been awarded each year since 2007.

The Jo Maye Memorial Award, in memory of Jo Maye who played for Carrigaline and Cork, picking up All-Ireland medals in an illustrious playing career, was presented by Brian Maye and club chairman Harry O'Sullivan to Intermediate player Rachel Long for her dedication, commitment and achievement to the club.

Presentations were made to

players who played on the Cork panel last season, namely Aoife McIlver (U14); Zor O'Herlihy (u15) and Under 16 players Kate Bowe and Ellen Herlihy. Under 17 players Emma Cooney and Mollie Barrett won All Ireland medals last season, while Ciara Murphy and Rachel O'Regan also won an All Ireland Minor title with Cork in 2018.

Finally Rachel O'Shea won yet another All Ireland medal with the Cork Intermediate team to bring the number of All Ireland medals won by Carrigaline players to five this year.

Finally, the Minor Player of the Year Award was presented to Kate O'Connell and the Intermediate Player of the Year for 2018 was presented to Rachel Long.

## Cork face Down but fate does not lie in their own hands

SUNDAY

Littlewoods Division 2 National League:  
Cork v Down; Cork Camogie Grounds Castle  
Road; 2pm

THE last games in section two of the round robin stage of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League take place this weekend.

It's down to the wire as the scramble for the top two places in the three groups reaches its conclusion.

In a change of format this year two teams qualify from each group with three quarter finals to be played, one of these winners will go straight to the final with the other two playing in the semi-final, this will be decided by means of a draw once the three quarter finals are over.

Cork take on Down in their last game where a win may not even be enough to see them through. Tipperary who defeated Cork in their third game are two points ahead of Cork with a game to play this weekend against Carlow. Cork need to defeat Down and hope that Carlow defeat

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

or draw with Tipperary.

It's a big ask given that Tipperary has to date been the team to have caught the eye their only defeat came at the hands of Meath who cork drew with.

Down are still in with a chance also were Tipperary to lose out and Down defeat Cork they would be on level points with Tipperary so it's all down to the games on Sunday.

Having recorded a draw in a tough battle with Meath cork were very disappointing against Tipperary losing out 1-11 to 1-4 and this was a game where Cork never reached the same heights as they did in the previous game and it will be the game that will haunt them.

Down will come to cork determined to avenge the All Ireland final results, although this is a new Cork team that

they are taking on and they will be at full strength again as in their opening games they were minus the players who were tied up on All Ireland club duties with Clonduff.

They are an experienced team with Niamh Mallon Catherine McGourty, Aoife Keown, and Aimee McAleenan in their line out.

Cork are very much a side in the making and the aim is to build a team for the championship and with this, in mind, Frances Killeen and her fellow mentors have been giving players every opportunity to put their hands up and grab a place on the championship panel.

Against Carlow, in their opening game, Cork just about got over the line but against Meath Cork showed huge fighting spirit and battled hard to get a draw having played almost 30 minutes with 14 players.

Against Tipperary they never rose to the same heights but on Sunday they will be determined to finish the group series of the game with a win and hope that Carlow can gain the upper-hand on Tipperary.



# Cork must focus on Wexford visit

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

### TODAY

All-Ireland Minor Championship  
Cork v Wexford  
Castle Road: 2pm

WITH bad weather forcing the cancellation of their game against Galway on Saturday last Cork now have to re-focus for their meeting with Wexford this afternoon in Castle Road.

Every game is vital as the hunt for a place in the last four continues, last weekend Wexford made Tipperary work hard for their five-point victory but it was a win that has Tipperary nicely placed with just one game to go against Galway.

Having lost out to Tipperary in their opening game Cork will be hoping for a better performance against a Wexford side that lost out to Dublin 2-14 to 1-11 in their first game before running Tipp close last weekend.

The disruption of having the game against Galway cancelled last weekend has been put aside and the focus is on getting a result today. Against Tipperary Cork were slow to settle and failing to register a score in the opening half saw them trail by seven at the interval and they gave themselves a mountain to climb as they battled to get something against a strong Tipperary side.

Meanwhile, thoughts turn to league competitions with the draws for the sections of Adult and minor competitions made recently.

The minors get the season up and running this weekend with game in all three sections down for decision this weekend.

With a starting date of the first week in April clubs for the adult leagues clubs are all presently busy with pre-season preparations. Fixtures for league have all been distributed to clubs so it's all systems go with the minors taking centre stage this weekend.

### Minor

There are three grades of minor and games get underway tomorrow Sunday with a full programme of games starting off a busy league programme.

### Minor A

In Minor A there are eleven teams with two sections.

Section A: Inniscarra, Aghabullogue, Ballincollig, Ballygarvan, Charleville and Courcy Rovers.

Section B: Sarsfields, Newcestown, Eire Og, Carrigaline and Ballinora.

### Minor B

There are 15 teams in three sections of five with the top two qualifying for the quarter finals on May 5/6th with the semi-finals scheduled for May 12/13th and the final on May 19th.

Section A: NA Piarasigh, Cloughduv, St Catherine's, Blackrock and Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

Section B: Fr O'Neill's, Bride Rovers, Ballyhea/Milford, Aghada, Blarney.

Section C: Killeagh, Glen Rovers, St Finbarr's, Enniskeane, Douglas.

### Minor C

The Minor C grade has 17 teams divided into three sections with two teams to qualify from each section to contest the quarter finals.

Section A has six teams: Grenagh, Castlelyons, Barryroe, Valley Rovers, Bishopstown, and Tracton.



Kilkenny's Michelle Teehan tries to chase down Orla Cronin of Cork in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 semi-final recently.  
Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry



Kilkenny's Anna Farrell puts a block on Chloe Sigerson of Cork.  
Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry

Section B: Banteer, Sliabh Rua, Ballinascorthy, Ballinhassig, Youghal and Rockban.

Section C: St Vincent's / Brian Dillon's, Midleton, Millstreet, Buttevant and Mallow.

### Minor D

Eleven teams, three sections with two top teams from each section going to the quarter final.

### SENIOR LEAGUE

There are 12 teams in the senior league and there are two sections of six with two teams to qualify from each section for the semi-finals.

Games comments on Wednesday, April 3rd and are scheduled for every Wednesday with semifinals down for May 19th and the final on May 26th.

### Section A:

Killeagh, Ballygarvan, Ballincollig, Eire Og, Glen Rovers and Courcy Rovers.

Section B: Douglas, Sarsfields,

league holders St Finbarr's, St Catherine's, Cloughduv and county champions Inniscarra.

### INTERMEDIATE

Thirteen teams will battle it out for the Intermediate league title.

There are two sections one with seven teams and one with six, again here the top two teams will qualify from each section for the semifinals which take place on 25th / 26th May with the final scheduled for 31st May.

Section A: newly promoted Watergrasshill join Ballinhassig, Aghabullogue, Valley Rovers who have come down from Senior grade this year, Enniskeane, Newcestown and Blackrock.

Section B: Na Piarasigh, Brian Dillon's, Clonakilty, Fr O'Neill's, Carrigaline and Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

### JUNIOR

There will be five junior grade competitions and players of all grades are well catered for with Junior A, B and

“Having lost out to Tipperary in their opening game Cork will be hoping for a better performance against Wexford”

C, junior 13-a-side and a new junior competition for clubs who are fielding second adult teams and want to compete on the same level as other clubs with second teams.

### Junior A

There are 12 teams in the Junior A league and there are two sections of six teams with two teams to qualify from each section for the semi-finals.

Section A: Tracton, Mallow, Cobh, Sliabh Rua, St Vincent's and Ballyhea.

Section B: Ballinascorthy, Barryroe, Charleville, Banteer, Bishopstown and Newtownshandrum.

### Junior B

In the junior B section there are seven clubs and these are in one section with the top four qualifying for the semi-finals.

The participating clubs are Youghal, Ballinora, Inniscarra, Millstreet, Bride Rovers, Castlelyons and Buttevant.



# Rebels back on track with victory

Ryan nudges Cork past Down

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 1-15  
Wexford 0-6

A COMFORTABLE victory for Cork in the round two of their group stage games in the All-Ireland minor championship at Castle Road on Saturday as they overcame Wexford.

Having lost out disappointingly to Tipperary in round one and having their game against Galway postponed last weekend Cork knew this was a must win game and they showed huge intensity in the opening half as they continuously put Wexford under pressure.

Ellen Murphy gave Cork a great start with a goal after just two minutes and with Emma Murphy Clodagh Finn

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

and Ciara O'Sullivan and Cliona O'Leary adding points Cork were eight points in front before Annis Curran converted a 45 to get the visitors on the score board.

Continuing to take the game to Wexford, Cork stretched their lead with four unanswered points before Annis Curran had two in between a converted Cliona O'Leary pointed free. With their defence rock solid, Cork held the upper hand and with Cliona Dooley, Cliona O'Leary Aoife O'Neill and Emma Murphy all causing Wexford a lot of problems, Cork continued

to control the game and at the interval they were full value for their 1-10 to 0-5 lead.

The second half was a much closer affair as Wexford closed down the Cork attack limiting them to just five points, two coming from frees.

Wexford however could not find a way past the solid Cork defence and this is where Cork were at their best as they worked hard to ensure no way through however Cork never rose to same heights that they had in the opening half and this will be a concern going forward as the pressure continues to hopefully win a semi-final spot. Dublin come to town next weekend and a win here would set Cork up for a vital showdown with Galway in their last game which could be the clash that

decides the two that go forward.

Scorers for Cork: C Finn 0-5 (0-2f's), Ellen Murphy 1-1, Emma Murphy 0-3, C O'Leary 0-3 (0-2f's), C O'Sullivan 0-2 M Lynch 0-1 (f).

Wexford: A Curran 0-5 (0-2f's, 0-1 45), C O'Connor, S Sinnott 0-1 each.

CORK: M Lynch; S O'Keefe, M Cotter, A O'Neill; H Sinden, C Kingston, C Dooley; I Sheehan, T Sheehan; C O'Leary, Emma Murphy (v.c), C O'Sullivan; F Keating, F Keating, C Finn, Ellen Murphy.

Subs: L Wallace for T Sheehan, C Coleman for C O'Leary, H O'Leary (c) for F Keating, S Hurley for Ellen Murphy (all 51).

WEXFORD: L O'Shea; L Doran, D Cullen, E Quigley; L Doyle, A Cahill, T Doyle; K Kirwin, C O'Connor; A Curran, C Walsh, E Dempsey; K Smith, M Crowdie, A O'Leary.

Subs: S Sinnott for A O'Leary (h/t), A Dempsey for K Smith (45), A Fielding for M Crowdie (45), E O'Connor for A Walsh (51).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).

Cork 0-13  
Down 0-11

CORK played with huge determination as they overcame Down in the last game of their group in the Littlewoods Division 2 league at Castle Road yesterday.

Playing with the aid of the stiff breeze in the opening half Cork led 0-8 to 0-3 at the interval as they put huge pressure on the Down defence.

Down made the better start with an Amy McAleenan point but three in a row from Hayley Ryan two from play one a free settled Cork into the game.

Continuing to play with fire and determination Cork added to their tally with a Rachel Harty point, but Down stayed within touching distance with excellent free-taker Catherine McGourty slotting over two in between Caoimhe Harney's one for Cork.

Yet it was Cork who finished the half strong with three points in a row Michelle Murphy with a free and Caoimhe Harney and Isobel O'Regan from play to give Cork a five-point interval lead.

Against the wind in the second half, Cork had to work hard but this they did. Catherine McGourty, who slotted over 10 points from frees had two in a row to narrow the gap but Cork replied with one.

McGourty converted two in a row before Hayley Ryan, with two scores, and Aoife Nic A Bhair, kept Cork in front. As the pressure on their defence continued Cork conceded too many frees.

McGourty converted four though Rachel Harty pointed in between as Cork held their lead to the finish despite huge pressure.

Unfortunately, the result won't be enough to secure a place in the concluding stages as Tipperary overcame Carlow to ensure they pip Cork for the second place in the group.

The Cork management will be reasonably happy how the league campaign panned out, given that this is a completely new intermediate team this year.

Cork are unable to play any of last season's All-Ireland winning team.

Scorers for Cork: H Ryan 0-6 (0-2 f), C Harney, R Harty 0-2 each, M Murphy 0-1 f, I O'Regan, A Nic A Bhair 0-1 each.

Down: C McGourty 0-10 f, A McAleenan 0-1.

CORK: S Ahern; C Daly, A Crowley, E Lonergan; A Moloney, R Sheehan, E O'Regan; A Nic A Bhair, M Murphy; C Harney, R Harty, I O'Regan; H Ryan, K O'Keefe, A Hurley.

Subs: E Buckley for E O'Regan (h-t in), K Dooley for A Hurley (45), N O'Riordan for K O'Keefe (45), E Looney for C Harney (51).

DOWN: C Lively; C O'Hare, N Kelly, B Savage; O Caldwell, D Magee, D Harrison; C McGourty, C Caldwell; M Ryan, S Sands, A McAleenan; D Savage, S McCartan, M Higgins.

Subs: A McKee for C O'Hare (40), N McCullough for M Higgins (45).

Referee: Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



CROWNING GLORY: St Angela's Ursuline, Waterford players celebrate their All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools Senior A Camogie final win over Antrim outfit Cross Passion on Saturday. Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Gecz



Members of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty camogie team: Annie Condon, Emma O'Driscoll, Daire O'Brien, captain; Sinéad McCarthy and Jessica McCarthy who were presented with the Rebel Og monthly award for March at a function at the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, after winning the All-Ireland schools' camogie title. See page 48 for more. Picture: Denis Minihane





Norina O'Callaghan, sales & marketing manager, Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, presenting the Rebel Óg monthly award for March to Sinéad McCarthy of the Sacred Heart Secondary School. Also included are: Shane Supple, Rebel Óg; Claran Mulcahy, team manager; Eoghan O'Connor, Rebel Óg, and Miriam Murphy, judging panel.

Pictures: Denis Minihane



Nicola Cullinane, marketing executive, The Echo, presenting the Rebel Óg monthly award for March to Daire O'Brien, captain of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty. Also included are: Donal McCarthy, judging panel; Ann Marie Brosnan, principal of the school, and John Purcell, chairman, Coiste na nÓg.

# More glory for Clon girls



Rory Noonan

SACRED Heart Secondary School Clonakilty, winners of the Munster and All-Ireland camogie titles, are the March winners of the Rebel Óg Monthly Awards, sponsored by the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cummins Sports (award sponsors) and in association with *The Echo* and RedFM, media partners.

The campaign began when Sacred Heart faced Middleton in the first of a trilogy of games between the two teams.

The first meeting took place in Ahamilla where Sacred Heart ran out 4-9 to 1-5 winners in the first group match. In the next group game, they travelled to University Limerick where they had a convincing 4-0 to 1-1 win over Laurel Hill on a very fast 4G pitch.

They then travelled to Bruff where they beat St Flannan's of Ennis 6-12 to 2-5 on a very blustery day.

These victories left Sacred Heart top of their group and awaiting a



The group attending the presentation of the Rebel Óg monthly award for March to the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty, camogie team at a function at the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Munster semi-final. Charleville provided the venue where the Clonakilty side were pitted against Scariff. Having suffered a few losses to the Clare outfit over the previous four years, the Clonakilty girls were determined to rectify those defeats and were in control from the outset and had a commanding 7-7 to 3-2 win.

Middleton were runners-up in the group and were paired against Nen-

agh in the other semi-final. The east Cork outfit fulfilled their promise and beat the North Tipp kingpins, meaning Clonakilty would meet their old foes on Munster final day.

Clonakilty's victory set up an All-Ireland semi-final against Coláiste Bhríde, Enniscorthy.

Clonakilty had to travel to the Leinster champions' home ground on the first Saturday in March. The

Cork ladies showed tremendous courage, passion, and skill on the day and dispatched an excellent Wexford, 1-5 to 0-6.

Middleton, as Munster runners-up, had a chance to redeem themselves as they accounted for Dublin A Champions, St Dominic's in the other semi-final. This left both Cork teams pitted against each other for a third time in this competition, with

the chance to lift the All-Ireland Cup. Castle Road was the venue. Millie Condon was sublime on the day and netted two first-half goals. This earned her the Player of the Match Award.

Others to shine on the day were Sinéad McCarthy, wing-back Jessica McCarthy, Caoimhe Murphy and Eimear O'Brien. 3-8 to 1-7 was the final scoreline.



Helena Day, marketing manager, RedFM, presenting the Rebel Óg monthly award for March to Annie Condon of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty. Also in picture are: Fachtna McCarthy, Rebel Óg West Region; Ronan Dwane, Cork County Board; Brian Daly, team trainer, and Jim Healy, Rebel Óg.



Kevin Cummins, director, Cummins Sports, presenting the Rebel Óg monthly award for March to Emma O'Driscoll of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty. Also in picture are (from left) Mick Evans, chairman, judging panel; Ann Marie Brosnan, principal of the school; Jessica McCarthy, team member, and Sean O'Gorman, judging panel.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Ellen Fitzgerald, Aoife Heffernan, Mairead Kennedy, Ciara Cashman, Mary Dorgan and Avril Heffernan at the Watergrasshill GAA Dinner Dance.

MARCH 2019





Imokilly inter divisional U15 winners.

# All systems go in underage leagues

## Best of U15 talent on show at blitz

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE divisional U15 teams were out in strength on Saturday last as Mallow was the venue for the Annual Inter-divisional U15 blitz. The blitz was the first of its kind to be held and each year it throws up new talent as the hard working divisional put in a lot of hard work in the lead up to the event which is taken seriously by all involved.

With a Cork U15 development squad to be selected in the coming weeks every division and players were anxious to give their best in the hope of making it onto the squad.

There were six participating divisions Seandún, Carbery, Muskerry, Carrighoun, Imokilly and Avondhu and these were drawn in two groups with Seandún, Muskerry and Imokilly in section one and Carbery, Carrighoun and Avondhu in section two.

In section one, Carrighoun got off to a great start as they hit and impressive 3-10 to overcome Carbery who notched up three goals. In the second game in group one, Carrighoun continued to impress as they overcame Avondhu 3-6 to 0-1 the last game, in section one saw Carbery overcome Avondhu 3-10 to 0-1.

In Section two, the opening game was a cracker as Seandún overcame Muskerry in a battle for supremacy two points separating the sides at the full time whistle 1-1 to 0-2.

Imokilly ran out winners in their first game as they got the upper hand on Muskerry 2-5 to 0-1 the score line at the finish.

In the last game of the group, it was a battle for a place in the final and Imokilly came out on top as they defeated Seandún 2-12 to 0-2. In the final Imokilly held the upper hand they took the Under 15 Inter divisional title for the first time with a 3-7 to 0-1 victory over Carrighoun.

### DIVISIONS GETTING READY FOR FEILE

With Feile Na N-Gael coming to Cork on the week of April 7th / 8th clubs all over the county are busy preparing and in a bid to be ready a lot of the divisions are holding divisional competitions to enable clubs get ready for Feile.

As games are played on a shorted time basis and there are different rules regarding substitution player and mentors need to adjust to this so it is a good opportunity to familiarise themselves with the rules.

Feile rules are 15 minutes per half, two substitutes after ten minutes of first half and one substitute five minutes into second half. Every player on the panel must play over the course of the two matches.

The Seandún division will hold their pre Feile blitz today in Castle Road and next door in the Colleges pitch, there will be two groups of three, group one is Group 1 is Blackrock, Glen Rovers and Bishopstown, Group two is Douglas, Na Piarasigh and Nemo Rangers. Games get under way at 10 am with the last game at 11.40am.

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT'S all systems go as the county underage league fixtures are circularised to clubs and will get underway shortly.

Following on the huge success of the new format in 2018 for under 12s a big decision has been made regarding Under 14 and under 16 league competitions.

The proposal that came from the three-person committee set up to review the juvenile competitions and juvenile affairs for 2019 was that club would not be graded into A B or C sections as in previous years as the feeling is that it is impossible to know the standard of each club as all but six clubs entering the league had requested to play B.

At under 14 levels there will be forty teams and the format is there will be eight groups of five teams, each of these clubs will play each other and at the end of the five first round game games there will be eight top teams and these will go into the A league where there will be two groups of four teams and the top in each section will play in the final.

The next eight teams which will be the second team in the original groups of five will be called Under 14 A1 and here again there will be two groups of four and top two go to final.

The teams that finish third in the groups will be the A2 league and again the same format will apply, this will continue down the group with each of the teams graded in the same way.

Outside of the forty clubs there are thirty nine clubs who will be graded in a B2 and C2 league and here the format is to be decided.

At Under 16 level there will be thirty two teams divided into eight groups of four and each will play three games to decide their grading, as with the under 14 teams will be graded according to their finishing position ie top team in each group with play A, second eight will be A1, next eight will be B and last eight will be B1.



Imokilly's Michaela Horgan proudly shows off the inter divisional U15 trophy with her dad Ger Horgan.

For Under 16 championship there will be a Premier, A B and C grades and all teams will be reviewed before championship draws are made.

There are also thirteen teams who already have been graded B2 and these will be divided into two groups one of six and one of seven and these teams will play a straight league, there is a group of fifteen clubs who will contest the C league a the format here is to be decided.

The Under 12 leagues will take on the same format as under 14 and 16 and last year this proved a wonderful success with plenty of matches for the younger players who were enjoying their first taste of competitive games.

In total, forty-eight teams will con-

test in eight groups of six and they will come out to be graded according to their finish.

In total there will be five first-round games and these will come out to be graded into A, A1, A2 and B, B1 and B3 where they will have then have two further groups of four, the top two in each section playing in a final.

### MINORS MEET DUBLIN AS UNDER 16S PLAY LIMERICK

Having recorded good victory over Wexford last weekend the Cork minors take on Dublin today in Castle Road at 2pm where a win is a must to keep their quest for a semi-final spot on target.

Dublin defeated Wexford but lost out to Galway and Tipperary and they are

almost out of the running for a place in the last four.

The big game that Cork will be keeping an eye to is the meeting in Gort between Galway and Tipperary.

Tipp head the group with three wins out of three games whilst Galway with just two games played are hot on their tails having recorded two victories from two games.

It could all go down to the last game for the second qualification place and cork will be hoping that Tipperary can get a result today and upset the Galway challenge.

The Cork under 16 A team will meet Limerick tomorrow Sunday in the Ragg at 2.30pm to decide the destination of the provincial title.



# Cats tyro Morrissey growing force

Camogie Division 1  
League final

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Danielle Morrissey may not turn 19 until next month, but she is already in her third season with a Kilkenny squad that is bidding for a fourth consecutive Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 title, against Galway, in Croke Park tomorrow (throw-in 12pm noon).

It was impossible to ignore the Conahy Shamrocks prodigy. She soared through

the ranks, with Ann Downey issuing an invite to their in-house games, prior to the All-Ireland final in 2016.

Morrissey clearly created a major impact and, within a few months, the precocious scoring machine was a first-team regular. Not alone that, she was entrusted with free-taking and the fifth-year pupil was on the scoresheet as Kilkenny defeated Cork in the league final at the Gaelic Grounds. It made for a surreal six months.

"In 2016, I was sitting in the stand, watching the girls win

the All-Ireland," she recalled. "Then, in 2017, to be up there with them and feeling the defeat with them, it was surreal. It is something you dream of. Obviously, you want to win, but the failure will make you stronger, in the end."

Though she would end 2017 scoring 3-11 of 4-18, as Conahy won the county junior title, Morrissey suffered a little from the dreaded second-season syndrome last year, when she had the Leaving Cert to contend with, too. Now, though the competition for places is fiercer than ever, she

feels more comfortable within the group.

"You feel like you have more of a place. It's the third year in there now and I need to start standing up. It takes time to get up to the standard of what the girls are used to." Losing a second All-Ireland final in 12 months, by a point last September, was a bitter pill to swallow.

"It took longer than the year before to get over. It is two years in a row losing by a point. It's parked now and it's a new year. This year, hopefully, we can do one better."

Galway's Niamh Hanniffy celebrates with Aoife Donohue and Dervla Higgins after the Tribeswomen overcame Kilkenny in Sunday's National League Camogie final at Croke Park.

INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE



# TOP OF THE PILE

Galway turn the tables on Kilkenny to claim camogie league title

► See 54, 55 & 56



## NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUE FINAL

■ Galway rise to occasion in sweeping to National League glory

GALWAY	0-16
KILKENNY	2-8

EANNA O'REILLY  
AT CROKE PARK

THE Galway senior camogie team produced a superb performance in Croke Park on Sunday to take home the National League trophy for the first time since 2015. Cathal Murray's side outplayed their Kilkenny opponents for the vast majority of this game and were full value for their victory.

Galway took their form from the earlier rounds of the league into this final and produced a performance of high quality on the day. The only negatives were the goals conceded in the second half which brought Kilkenny back to within a point against the run of play. However, the Cats never took control and it was the Galway ladies who pushed on, getting the decisive late scores to see the game out and keep up their unbeaten run in the 2019 season.

Winning a trophy in Croke Park for the first time since the 2013 All-Ireland final represents a significant achievement for the Tribeswomen at this stage in the year. The Galway team seemed to revel in the open spaces of Croke Park, with many terrific individual performances.

Aoife Donohue deservedly received the player of the match award and was closely followed by the likes of Shauna Healy, Niamh Hanniffy and Carrie Dolan. It was an occasion which should offer great optimism to Galway supporters for the camogie championship this summer.

The game began at a quick pace with possession evenly contested before Kilkenny's Katie Power opened the scoring with a point in the second minute. Galway then dodged a bullet when Anne Dalton went straight through on goal, only to shoot wide past the right post.

The Tribeswomen then seized the initiative when Niamh Kilkenny scored a point after a good catch and pass from Carrie Dolan. A minute later Dolan added her first free of the day to give Galway a lead they would never relinquish. The Clarinbridge forward then added a 45 before Niamh Kilkenny took her second point after showing great footwork to get into space.

Dolan added another 45 before Aoife Donohue made a good run from midfield and

took her first point to open up a five-point lead. In a consistent theme from this year's league, Donohue and Anne Marie Starr gave the team a strong platform as they dominated possession in the middle third.



**NIAMH HANNIFFY  
REPLIED FOR GALWAY  
WITH A TERRIFIC  
INDIVIDUAL POINT  
AFTER A STRONG RUN  
FROM THE LEFT WING**

Against a strong Kilkenny forward line, the Galway backs were also quite dominant, with Shauna Healy and Heather Cooney in particular, tying up the likes of Denise Gaule and Katie Power. At the other end, Noreen Coen played a great pass to Ailish O'Reilly who was fouled, and Dolan added the point. Michelle Quilty then scored Kilkenny's second point in the 25th minute with a con-



Galway midfielder Aoife Donohue launching at attack despite the best efforts of Kilkenny's Claire Phelan during Sunday's National Camogie League final.

verted free.

A minute later, Niamh Hanniffy got on to a great delivery from Niamh McGrath and fired

over another point for the Tribeswomen. Kilkenny were struggling to get scores from play, but Denise Gaule scored an

excellent free from the half way line to keep them in touch approaching half time.

Donohue then fired over a

marvellous score from the right wing with before Quilty got her second pointed free a minute later. The final score of the half

# REDEMPTION



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny aims for the opposition posts as Kilkenny's Claire Phelan prepares to challenge during Sunday's National Camogie League final at Croke Park.

INFO/RYAN BYRNE

## GALWAY CAMP DELIGHTED TO FINALLY END BAD RUN OF RESULTS AGAINST THE CATS

JOHN MCINTYRE

THE Galway players and management couldn't have been blamed for fearing the worst when Kilkenny struck for two timely second-half goals in Sunday's National League Camogie final at Croke Park.

After losing three times to the Cats in 2018, including the All-Ireland semi-final, this was the crisis period for Galway as they sought to end a tough run of defeats against Ann Downey's charges.

This time, however, Galway didn't blink. They were clearly the better team but now had to show the necessary steel and conviction to survive those hammer blows - the goals from Michelle Quilty and Anne Dalton.

From the off, Galway had set the tone of the exchanges and when character was required in those tension-filled closing minutes, they displayed sufficient backbone to weather the storm and end up claiming a first league title since 2015.

Naturally, team manager Cathal Murray was proud of his squad. "After three defeats to Kilkenny last year, there was a huge hunger among our players to get a victory over them. The work ethic was excellent all over the field and they made good use of the ball."

Murray admitted that he was "anxious" when Kilkenny hit the Galway net twice in the second-half, but was delighted with the response of the team. "Maybe, last year we didn't react so great in similar situations, but it was something we spoke about and Niamh Hanniffy got a terrific score after their first goal."

"They showed the necessary fortitude and the win on Sunday should do a lot for their belief and confidence heading into the championship. We have some very good players and they were men-



Triumphant Galway captain Sarah Dervan.

tally strong in that second-half."

Murray, however, was not losing the run of himself heading into the summer. "We have Kilkenny first up again in mid-June and they were missing key players Grace Walsh and Meighan Farrell last Sunday. It great's to win the league but our focus will be on one game at a time in the championship."

Galway captain Sarah Dervan said she was "delighted" to overcome Kilkenny after the disappointments against the same opposition last year. "It was maybe more of a mindset thing, but it was important that we reacted well when they got their purple patch."

"We were focused on having the right attitude regardless of what happened and the victory on Sunday will help us to drive on. It's 11 weeks to the championship and that's a long way away, but we will take massive learnings from the league final and there are aspects of our game to improve on."

Within two minutes of the second half, Galway had extended the lead to eight points with scores coming from a Carrie Dolan free and an excellent point by Ailish O'Reilly. Danielle Morrissey then took a good point for Kilkenny, before Dolan scored her fourth with another converted free.

Kilkenny were growing into the game, however, and Katie Power scored an excellent point a minute later. The Cats then opened up the Galway defence for the first time in the game, with Dalton making a strong run before hand passing to Quilty, who finished to the net past Sarah Healy. Kilkenny were greatly lifted by the goal and Quilty added another pointed free two minutes later.

Niamh Hanniffy replied for Galway with a terrific individual point after a strong run from the left wing through the Kilkenny defence. With a four-point lead, Galway looked comfortable again, but the Cats weren't finished. A long range free from Gaule was dropped into the square and Dalton connected to send a ground shot into the bottom corner beyond Sarah Healy.

A period of scrappy play fol-

lowed as both sides tried to take the initiative at a crucial stage of the game. However, it was Carrie Dolan who got the vital next point after being fouled herself and scoring the free from the left wing. She repeated the trick a minute later with an equally crucial converted free after a foul on O'Reilly.

Deep into injury time, Gaule's 21 metre free was deflected out for a 45, which Claire Phelan dropped over the bar for the final score of the game. Cathal Egan's final whistle was greeted joyfully by the Galway players, who had earned a well-deserved win.

Taking home the national league trophy reflects an excellent start to the 2019 season for the Galway senior team. Over the course of the six league games, the management used 30 different players and finished with a very strong and settled looking team. Their league success was built first and foremost on a very strong defensive unit, which restricted Kilkenny very impressively on Sunday.

Tara Kenny was solid in her first start of the year while Emma Helebert has filled the number six jersey impressively

this season. Sarah Dervan shows great leadership by commanding the square with authority and did so again on Sunday. Equally, the scoring potency of the Galway midfield/forward unit reflected their ability and showed how difficult they are to mark.

With the league title in the bag, the Galway players and management can look forward most positively to the beginning of the championship in June. Indeed, at 4/1 championship odds, those of a betting persuasion might well be tempted to take a punt on the Galway ladies this year.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S. Dervan, H. Cooney, T. Kenny, E. Helebert, L. Ryan, AM Starr, A. Donohue (0-3), N. Kilkenny (0-2), A. O'Reilly (0-1), N. McGrath, C. Dolan (0-8, 0-6 frees, 0-2 45s), N. Hanniffy (0-2), N. Coen. Subs: S. Spellman for McGrath (43 mins), M. Cooney for Coen (51 mins), D. Higgins for Ryan (61 mins), L. Ryan for Dolan (62 mins). **Kilkenny:** E. Kavanagh, C. Dorrner, C. Foley, M. Teehan, D. Tobin, C. Phelan (0-1, 45), K. Doyle, A. Farrell, N. Deely, D. Morrissey (0-1), A. Dalton (1-0), M. Walsh, K. Power (0-2), M. Quilty (1-3, 0-3 frees), D. Gaule (0-1 free). Subs: A. Doyle for Walsh (HT), S. Fitzgerald for A. Farrell (42), E. Keane for Teehan (52 mins), M. Kinnear for K. Doyle (65 mins).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Cork).

# DAY



Galway Niamh Hanniffy is chased by Kilkenny's Catherine Foley and Colette Dorrner at Croke Park on Sunday.

was another fine effort from Donohue, after a great passing move involving Tara Kenny and Anne Marie Starr. This score in

particular reflected the fluency Galway were playing with during the first half, moving the ball intelligently and using the open

spaces of Croke Park to their advantage. The Tribeswomen took a well-deserved 0-10 to 0-4 lead into half time.



## TOO COOL FOR CATS



The Galway players celebrate their National Camogie League final triumph over title holders Kilkenny at Croke Park on Sunday. PHOTO: INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE

# A trophy – and a prized scalp – secured by Galway

**Littlewoods Ireland  
Camogie League  
Division 1 final**

**Galway 0-16  
Kilkenny 2-8**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
Croke Park

The celebrations were measured but this was a big day for Galway.

It wasn't just that they had beaten one of the giants of their sport, a four-in-a-row chasing Kilkenny in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final. It was that they did so after staring down the barrel of a defeat that would have been hard to digest given their dominance.

Aoife Donohue, Niamh Kilkenny and the colossal Shauna Healy excelled as the free-flowing westerners led at half time by 0-10 to 0-4 and after landing the first two scores of the second half, they seemed on their way. But goals from Michelle Quilty and Anne Dalton got them to within a point by the 47th minute and the smart money seemed to be on Kilkenny claiming another crown. But back came Galway: Carrie Dolan and Ailish O'Reilly were awarded frees and Dolan slotted both - she ended the day with eight points from placed balls.

"We're delighted. We knew coming up today it was going to be a really tough challenge," said manager Cathal Murray. "Six points at half time probably didn't reflect how well we played. They were always going to get their purple patch. We spoke about it at half time and the reaction to that was good. We were delighted with it. This Galway team needed to show they were able to play a Cork or a Kilkenny and beat them in a final."

Tara Kenny was part of a defensive unit that held the upper hand on the Kilkenny attack for most of the proceed-



Galway were a picture of joy after beating Kilkenny in yesterday's Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final in Croke Park.

Picture: James Crombie/JC

ings. She too admitted this result was more than about securing a title. "We haven't beaten Kilkenny in the last few years so that's going to be good for us," said Kenny. "We're mentally stronger this year. People have looked at us sometimes nearly like we're spoofers or bluffers but we've worked hard and we'll keep the head down." Kilkenny boss Ann Downey questioned the free tally against her side - but insisted that Galway deserved victory. "We were

disappointed with the first half. There were too many frees given against us and it's something I'd have to sit down and see why. I think it was nine frees in a row at one stage against but it wasn't the losing and winning of the game either. We just weren't hungry enough. Galway were."

**Scorers for Galway:** C Dolan (0-8, 7fs, 1-45); A Donohue (0-3); N Kilkenny, N Hanniffy (0-2 each); A O'Reilly (0-1).

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** M Quilty (1-1, 15); D Morrissey (0-3, 2fs); A Dalton (1-0); K Power (0-2); D Gaule (0), C Phelan (45) (0-1 each).

All-Ireland glory for St Kieran's, Kilkenny, while Naas defeat Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne in semi-final shock  
**See our unrivalled post-primary schools' coverage P26-27**

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S Dervan, H Cooney, T Kenny, E Helebert, L Ryan, AM Starr, A Donohue, N Kilkenny, A O'Reilly, N McGrath, C Dolan, N Hanniffy, N Coen.  
**Subs:** S Spellman for McGrath (45), M Cooney for Coen (52), D Higgins for Ryan (60+2), Ryan for Dolan (60+3).

**KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh, M Teehan, C Foley, C Dormer, D Tobin, C Phelan, K Doyle, A Farrell, N Deeley, K Power, A Dalton, M Walsh, D Morrissey, M Quilty, D Gaule.  
**Subs:** A Doyle for Walsh (41), S Fitzgerald for A Farrell (42), M Farrell for Teehan (53), M Kinneally for Tobin (60+4).  
**Referee:** C Egan (Cork)





Galway camogie captain Sarah Dervan leads the celebrations after the Tribeswomen overcame Kilkenny in the National League final at Croke Park on Sunday.

INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE.

MARCH 2019



**FINAL FOCUS:** Galway's Aoife Donohue prepares to strike the ball under a challenge from Kilkenny's Claire Phelan during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final. See report Page 11 Picture: Sportsfile

## SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK AOIFE DONOHUE

THE Galway camogie team achieved an overdue national title when overcoming champions Kilkenny in the league decider at Croke Park last Sunday.

The Tribeswomen were much the better team but had to survive a second-half rally from the Cats before Cathal Murray's charges emerged victorious on a 0-16 to 2-8 scoreline. In a fine team display, Galway had many stars including Shauna Healy, Niamh Hanniffy and Niamh Kilkenny.

Pride of place, however, goes to midfielder Aoife Donohue, who apart from scoring three vital points, was a thorn in Kilkenny's side throughout. The Mul-



lagh player's outstanding performance earns her the Tribune Sports Star of the Week award ahead of school hurlers, Adrian Prendergast and Evan Cox of St Raphael's College, Loughrea, and Mark Kennedy of Pres Athenry.

## The Camogie Association Annual National Congress Awards

### Sighle Nic an Ultaigh

#### Distinguished Service Award

From Warrenpoint, Co. Down, Sighle Nic an Ultaigh is credited with guiding the path of Camogie for 50 years. Elected National President in 1949, Sighle served in many roles including Secretary of the Down County Board, Chairperson of Ulster Council, Ard Rúnaí (1953-1975), President of All-Ireland Primary Schools and Trustee (1985-2004).

In 1999 she was honoured with the title of Life President of the Camogie Association. Sighle passed away in the Centenary Year of the Association, 2004, at the age of 88.

The Sighle Nic an Ultaigh Award was inaugurated to acknowledge distinguished administrators of the Association.

### Sighle Nic An Ultaigh Award Winner 2019

Sheila O' Donohue is this year's winner of the annual Sighle Nic Ultaigh award. Sheila is member of Drumraney Camogie Club in County Westmeath and the CCAO (Waterford Institute of Technology).

Sheila has served on the CCAO Council, the National Coaching & Games Committee (current member), All-Stars Committee, Ard Chomhairle as Coaching and Games Representative and her most recent term as Secretary to Ard Chomhairle will complete at this year's Congress.

In addition, she has served and continues to serve on several other National committees such as the National Development Plan and the Governance Committee. During all of her time on National committees, Sheila continued to assist & help promote the growth of camogie in her adopted home of Waterford.

Sheila's most recent activity epitomizes her commitment to every level of the game is the running of Waterford Camogie U14 Development academy. It is rare that she is not present at games of every grade from club, college to intercounty.



Oranmore/Maree players Niamh Hanniffy and Ailish O'Reilly pictured with the Division 1 trophy after Galway defeated Kilkenny in the final in Croke Park on Sunday.



Ballindereen camogie players, Emma Helebert and Lisa Casserly, who won the National League title with Galway on Sunday.





## Inniscarra ace Aileen is Munster player of year

INNISCARRA'S Aileen Sheehan is the AIB Camogie Provincial Player of the Year award winner for Munster. As well as being named the provincial player of the year, Sheehan, is also on the team of the year with two of her clubmates, Rena Buckley and Niamh

## CAMOGIE

McCarthy. Adrahan's Shauna Healy from Connaught, and Slaughtneil's Tina Hannon from Ulster have been named as Provincial Camogie Club Players of the

Year for their respective provinces. St Martin's Chloe Foxe wins the Leinster award. AIB will honour the four camogie stars, among their family and friends, at an awards ceremony held at Croke Park Hotel later this week.

# Coláiste Choilm crush Coachford

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

COLÁISTE Choilm secondary school recently captured the Senior A Colleges county final following their win over Coachford.

The Ballincollig-based secondary school emerged victorious on a final scoreline of 4-11 to 0-9 after they produced a great performance.

Their coach Hilda Kenneally said she was thrilled with the manner of their win.

"It was a great win for Coláiste Choilm camogie. To be crowned Cork Colleges Senior A champions is something we are very pleased with. It is a great achievement," revealed the camogie enthusiast.

Despite the emphatic nature of the winning scoreline, Hilda revealed that it was far from a comfortable win against their traditional rivals.

"There is no love lost between both sides as many girls play with the same club, namely Éire Óg and Inniscarra. It is always good for our girls to have bragging rights when they go back to train with their clubs.

"We won by 14 points, but that didn't reflect the overall game.

"Coachford are always a tough opposition and we had to work hard all the way through to ensure victory. Another nice feature was the game was played in Coachford, so we had the added satisfaction of coming good on their turf."

Hilda, herself a great camogie player with both Newcestown and Cork for many years, has been involved in training teams within Coláiste Choilm over the last 14 years.

She believes the strength in depth they possessed this year played a key role in their success.

She loves her coaching role with the school.

"We had a very strong squad this season. Competition for places was very keen. We emptied the bench which is very important. It gives all players experience of playing in big games.

"I'm sure the girls would like a new voice, but every year the appetite comes back in September and away you go again for the year.

"I do love doing it, even if it is hard when you're on your own both on the training ground and at the games.

"The school give me great support, but it would be good if a few more hurling teachers would sign up.

"I can't praise the players enough. They are always such a pleasure to deal with. I try to remain honest and open with them and I always hope that they can approach me if there is an issue. The quality of players we have coming to Coláiste Choilm is second to none.

"We truly are blessed, although we'd always welcome more.

"The one thing that cannot be beaten is self belief and a never-say-die attitude. All our teams here possess that in bucket loads so it makes my job so much easier."

The Coláiste Choilm senior camogie team exited the Munster Colleges championship after they were defeated by Limerick side Doon.

Hilda still reflects back in anguish with regard that harrowing defeat.



The Coláiste Choilm camogie team recently captured the Senior A Colleges county final after beating Coachford. Coach Hilda Kenneally praised her team and said strength in depth was key to their success.



Katie Lordan, Rebecca Sheehan, Aileen Kelly, Cliona Dooley and Rose Murphy are all smiles after winning the Cork Colleges Senior A camogie title with Coláiste Choilm.

"Munster and Cork are two different competitions. We played Doon of Limerick in the Senior A Munster semi-final before Christmas. I still regret leaving that one after us.

"Doon were actually beaten by Ursulines Waterford in the final, who subsequently went on to win the All-Ireland. I know we're not too far off it, but it is hard when you lose excellent players every year.

"Unlike a club side, it's so hard to plan too far ahead, as players leave the school when they probably at their prime. However, I guess it's the same for all school teams across the board."

The Ballincollig secondary school team possess a very strong camogie tradition with a plethora of school titles won in recent years.

A number of their current players feature regularly for Cork underage teams at present. A lot of players choose the school due to their sporting

excellence revealed Hilda.

"Camogie in Coláiste Choilm was initially set up by the legendary Cork senior star Fiona O'Driscoll 17 years ago. After Fiona moved onto greener pastures, the mantle fell on me upon my appointment to the school and I'm there ever since.

"It may be true to say that some girls might base their decision to come to Coláiste Choilm, on the quality of players that have already come to our school.

"We worked our way up from Senior C to Senior A in a short couple of years after winning All-Ireland titles along the way. Our junior gradings have also gone from B to A which augurs well for the future.

"The senior team is backboned by that winning junior team, namely the Sheehan twins, Emma Quigley, Caoimhe Buckley, Rose Murphy and Cliona Dooley. Many players are

"The one thing that cannot be beaten is self-belief and a never-say-die attitude. All our teams have that"

regulars for their respective age-groups on county teams. Kate Dooley, Cork intermediate, Hannah O'Leary, Cliona Dooley, Isobel Sheehan and Emma Quigley are all Cork minor players, while Rose Murphy and Maeve Murphy are Cork U16 A players. I genuinely believe that some of these players will be gracing Croke Park representing our Cork senior team on All-Ireland final day in the near future."

Hilda also acts as chairperson and player for Newcestown Camogie Club. She is looking forward to another club season with Newcestown.

"We are currently competing in the Intermediate grade. Some players have retired or taken a break, but our strong underage success over the last few years, means that these young players are ready to take over. We are hopeful of success, but it is not going to be easy."

## Camogie club celebrations

SARSFIELDS Camogie Club celebrated an exceptionally successful year with an abundance of trophies on display at their recent medal presentation and awards evening.

It was a record year for the club, which claimed the three major underage county premier titles at U12, U14 and U16 level.

Added to that were a Cork and National Féile Division 1 title, a three in a row, U16 and U14 league trophies, an Imokilly U15A and two further U12 county titles at A1 and C3 grades.

The Rebel Óg and Glanmire Business Chamber honoured the club, and the U14s were recently invited to City Hall by Lord Mayor Cllr Mick Finn.



Moira Barrett, who received a youth award for sport.





The Killeagh team, winners of the Sheila Spillane tournament.

# Hosts claim Sheila Spillane Cup title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Killeagh Camogie club recently held their inaugural 'Sheila Spillane Perpetual Cup Senior Camogie' tournament where they hosted a superb day on their two main fields in Páirc Uí Chinnéide.

The tournament was named after the founder of the Killeagh club Sheila Spillane, who is also the club president.

Sheila is well known not alone in camogie circles but is also a well-known figure around the greyhound tracks and having trained many a fine hound to honours the length and breadth of the country and beyond she is no stranger to sport and the outdoors.

In the many years since 1973, when Killeagh Camogie was founded, right up to the present day Sheila Spillane has been at the core of Killeagh, she has been a constant supporter of all things club and camogie for many years and the club said the gesture was a small token from the club to honour a great club stalwart.

She was the founder of the club in 1973 and worked tirelessly for the promotion and development of camogie in the parish of Killeagh, herself and her late husband John donated a pitch in Burgess to the Killeagh camogie club in 1973 where they provided a venue for camogie to be played.

They set up two portable cabins which provided excellent changing facilities for players and many a fine game took place on the venue on the left hand side so the road after going through the village.

Many a person would reply when asked where the match "its In Mrs Spillane's pitch in Killeagh".

The prospered and grew and produced many fine players who went on to represent Cork and win All-Ireland



Sheila Spillane presents her trophy to Killeagh captain Rachel Sheehan.

medals and Sheila as coach and trainer in those days played a huge part in a lot of these player's development.

Killeagh won five senior county championships, one Club All Ireland and five Munster Club Championships along with numerous underage County titles and Sheila was involved in all the teams.

Whilst the club also produced All-Ireland senior winning captains in Cathy Landers (mother of former Cork hurling captain Seamus Harnedy) and Pat Maloney, Betty Joyce captained Cork to a Junior All-Ireland Title whilst Betty Joyce in 1986 had the honour of refereeing an All-Ireland Camogie final in Croke Park with Sheila Spillane acting as umpire.

Sheila held every officer ship in the club and was chairperson for twenty five years and as well as that she served at County Board level as vice chairperson and she was also a selector on Cork teams at various levels.

Still very active in the club despite being in her late eighties no job or role was or is too big for her.

When the club would hold their annual point to point fund raiser in January Sheila was renowned for the job of making the hot whiskeys all day long to help keep the chill away.

It was also well known that every team in the club was guaranteed to have spare jerseys and towels to dry the hurleys at games on wet days in winter as Sheila made sure of this, also if club membership needs to be collected or the sliotars need to be bought and taken care of the bag packing or church gate collection organized money needed to be counted or lodged, Sheila was always available to Killeagh Camogie club to do these jobs.

In 2010, Sheila recovered from a serious illness only to suffer the loss of losing of her second daughter in October 2011 when Shelley passed away at a young age, yet Sheila still carried on as

determined as ever with her beloved club ably assisted by her daughter Mary, who is also very much involved in all things camogie in the club.

The day was enjoyable from start to finish with six senior teams participating Killeagh, Sarsfields, Cloughduv, St Catherine's and Courcy Rovers.

Each club played four games which were 12 minute a side and there was an excellent standard of Camogie on show from in the teams participating.

There were many of the Inter county start participating with Chloe Sigeron, Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney, Finola Neville, Aoife Murray, Orla Cotter, Linda Collins, amongst those lining out.

The games were intense competitive games and a credit to all the clubs involved, games came down to the wire with just one point separating some of the teams.

Both Killeagh and Sarsfields succeeded in winning their first three games leaving them to battle it out in the final with both attempting to be the first side to claim the Sheila Spillane Perpetual Cup.

The final was played as a 15 minutes a side game and it was extremely high level of skill, competitiveness and passion from both teams so early in the season.

Killeagh proved the stronger of the two teams in the final as they showed huge determination.

Killeagh captain Rachel Sheehan was presented with the cup by the lady herself Sheila Spillane and after strong performance's across all four games Killeagh's Caoimhe Harney was named 'Player of the Tournament'.

All in all, it was a fantastic day of camogie enjoyed hugely by all participating clubs and their followers who were only too happy to participate as Killeagh celebrating the continued contribution and love for the game by their own Sheila Spillane.

## Winner takes all clash set for Gort

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TODAY

All-Ireland Minor Championship; Cork v Galway; Gort; 2.30pm.

CORK head to Gort this afternoon for a vital clash with Galway in the last game second in their group of All-Ireland minor championship round robin series of games.

Having lost out to Tipperary in their opening game, Cork were to play Galway in round two but this game was cancelled due to bad weather and in the interim Cork went on to get their house in order and defeated Wexford and Dublin.

Galway head into today's game on the same points as Cork having also lost out to Tipperary so it is most defiantly a winner takes all today with a semi-final place against Kilkenny the reward for the victors.

It came as a bit of a shock to have Cork lose out to Tipperary in their opening game but Tipperary showed they were full value for their win as they have topped the group and go to secure a semi-final spot against Clare.

Galway have enjoyed huge success at U16 level having won the last four All-Ireland U16 titles they came into this championship with huge confidence.

Losing out in last year decider to Cork was a huge disappointment to them given the players that had come through form their successful U16 sides.

This year their team features six survivors from last year's panel, Pearl Finnerty, Alannah Kelly, Tegan Canning, Niamh Horan, Niamh Niland and Chloe Reilly were all on the sides that lost out to Cork and they will be determined to get the upper hand this time out.

Against Tipperary Cork were slow to settle and failing to register a score in the opening half saw them trail by seven at the interval and they gave themselves a mountain to climb as they battled to get something against a strong Tipperary side.

Against Wexford and Dublin they improved their performance and played with huge determination but they will need to again improve on these displays if they are to get a result.

With experienced campaigners at this level from last season such as Fiona Keating, Emma Murphy, and Ciara O'Sullivan Cork are more than capable of gaining the upper hand but they need to stamp their authority on proceedings from the throw in.

Galway having won the Senior National league title are on a high and they will be determined to get one over on Cork having lost out to them in last year's All-Ireland minor final but Cork are champions and will be hard to beat.



# Camogie needs to change with the times



Ailish Considine of the Adelaide Crows is tackled by Jasmine Grierson of the Kangaroos during the AFLW match at Chirnside Park, Melbourne last month. Considine will return to Australia for the 2020 season after she was re-signed by the Crows. The Clare star was part of the Crows team that won the Grand final, beating Carlton. Considine follows Tipperary's Aisling McCarthy, who renewed her deal with the Western Bulldogs last Friday. Picture: Michael Willson/AFL Media

It's another couple of months before Sinéad McNulty commences her role as chief executive of the Camogie Association but what should be at the top of her inbox is obvious: the outdated rules that govern the game.

At Congress earlier this month, the pathway to making change became a little clearer when a motion to ease the introduction of experimental rules was passed. However optimism about those necessary alterations taking place seems in short supply despite a deluge of complaints from those at the coalface of the game about how it is officiated.

Last week, Galway's Sarah Dervan summed up the frustration when she remarked: "Nobody wants to see a free-taking competition as a game. I find it (the rules) restricts players from showcasing their ability."

The rule prohibiting players from shouldering each other is an archaic as the playing gear regulation that they must wear either a skirt or skorts. The non-contact element may have served camogie well for years but it is so dated now that it almost feels sexist.

The evolution of the game is in the hands of the players and managers.

And there is little doubt about the feelings on the ground.

**Paudie Murray**  
(Cork manager)

"We can all talk about the refereeing of camogie and does it need to be tidied up? Yes, it does. I've said that a number of times. I think the way the rules are at the moment makes it impossible for a referee to referee the game. (2018 All-Ireland final referee)

Eamon Cassidy is probably one of the top two referees in the country but there is so much in relation to the contact area and what is a free, or isn't a free, that it's next to impossible (to judge). If a player charges with a shoulder, it's just impossible."

**Aoife Murray (Cork)**

"They're going to have to change (the rules). It's not going to be an easy job but it has gotten more physical and faster and maybe the rules need to be tweaked and amended to reflect the standard."

**Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny)**

"If the rules change maybe the refs can change. It's hard when you are able to look and see what referee you have and you know that they are going to blow for everything. It's become way worse than it was."

**Niamh Rockett (Waterford)**

"The ladies football got 50,000 [attendance] last year in the All-Ireland final, camogie got less than half that... if things stay the way they are, we may not have any camogie in 20 years time, and that is a scary prospect."

**Amy O'Connor (Cork)**

"Whoever has the best free-taker wins. It's terrible — the majority of scores are from frees. I don't blame the referees at all, they're only doing their job. The rules are the problem. It's so frustrating, especially as a forward, because you get the ball and you're fouled every time."

**Eve O'Brien (Dublin)**

"The talk of the final this year (2018), the one day that people actually watch camogie, everybody's just talking about the ref... 'They can't touch each other'."

**Laura Treacy (Cork)**

"The physicality is there anyway, there's just a few tweaks to the rules that have to be made so the game can be opened up and, as players, we can express ourselves fully."

**Fiona Hickey (Limerick)**

"Girls want to be as strong and as powerful as they can be and the rules at the moment probably aren't allowing for that. I definitely feel they should reassess the rules."

**Libby Coppinger (Cork)**

"Obviously, we were delighted with the All-Ireland win and a free won us the All-Ireland so we can't complain too much but it's not really an enjoyable game to watch."

**W**hen the referee has become the most important person on the field, it is time to sit up and take notice. However, if Camogie Association president Kathleen Woods' stance on the matter is anything to go by, McNulty has a job on her hands.

In the wake of that awful All-Ireland final last year, Woods told the *Irish Examiner* that the organisation had no plan to address the glaring issue of the rules and if players felt so strongly about it, they should take matters into their own hands and propose a motion.

"The game is in the hands of Congress," she remarked. "If players wish to see rules changed, they must approach their higher body and try to impact their views. We are developing a new four-year development plan for our game, but it will not be looking at rules changes."

■ john.fogarty@examiner.ie



**John Fogarty**

## Rebels looking to build on recovery

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SATURDAY

All-Ireland Minor semi-final: Cork v Kilkenny WIT: 2pm.

IT'S down to the last four and Cork are safely through to the All-Ireland minor camogie semi-final after they dug deep to carve out a draw in the last game in group 2 and a result which was enough to see them edge Galway out on scoring deference to make it to Saturday clash with Kilkenny.

Cork got the worst possible start to their campaign losing out to Tipperary but they picked themselves up and dusted themselves down and overcame the challenges posed by Wexford and Dublin before shading to face a Galway side last weekend in a winner takes all clash.

It was certainly game of high intensity but Cork stood up magnificently to the challenge and despite going a point down as the game entered injury time they held their heads and grabbed a draw a result they knew would be enough as going into the contest they were on plus six scoring difference with Galway.

It's always hard to get a result in Galway but the Cork girls knew what they have to do and driven on by players such as Hannah Sexton who had a tremendous game at centre back, Ellen Murphy who grabbed the vital goal, Emma Murphy, Clodagh Finn, Fiona Keating and Molly Lynch, who made two magnificent saves as Galway pushed to close the game out.

It's backs to the wall now again and they will have to repeat the performance as they head to WIT to take on Kilkenny.

Kilkenny were impressive as they came through group 1 undefeated, in their opening game they had to battle to the final whistle before narrowly overcome Antrim by a point 2-9 to 1-11.

Round two saw them up the pace significantly to defeat Clare 3-10 to 1-6.

They hit an impressive 1-16 as they defeated an Offaly side who hit 0-9 against them.

Kilkenny have been out of the limelight at underage level for a while.

They last won the minor All-Ireland title in 2015 whilst the U16 title was last won in 2008.

They have excellent forwards in Therese Donnelly, Roisin O'Keeffe and Ciara O'Keeffe, whilst in defence, Clodagh Hanlon, Jenni O'Dea, Sinéad O'Keeffe and Jane Cass have all performed well in their campaign to date.

Manager Seamus Kelly and his backroom team have worked hard with this group of players and they will be confident they can overcome the champions.

Last year, Cork finally took the Minor title for the first time ever under the guidance of former Cork hurling Coach Jerry Wallace and following on that success Jerry is again at the helm and working hard to make it back to back titles.



# Book celebrates club's 50th year of camogie

Ailin Quinlan

A bet which led to a camogie trainer having his legs waxed onstage after his players won the county final is just one of several stories recalled in a new book spanning 50 years of sport since the establishment of a camogie club in West Cork.

Called *Give A Girl A Hurley*, the book reflects on 50 years of fun, friendship and camogie.

It will be launched on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6, at Ballinascairney Community Hall. The book's name is key, says Kate Crowley, who coordinated the stories for the volume, as the concept was that giving girls a hurley opened

important doors to friendship, leadership, championship and the cultivation of a strong team spirit over the subsequent years.

Everyone is invited to the launch of the 80-page paperback book, packed with local anecdotes and photographs.

"The book looks back to when the very first team was formed in 1969 when the girls of Ballinascairney were given hurleys for the first time."

The first club, then called Castleview Camogie Club, began with about two dozen members with maroon and amber colours.

It is now Ballinascairney Camogie club, playing in black and red, with more than 120

members. "We basically now have the two dozen, plus another 100 or so members," said Ms Crowley.

"There are more than 50 stories detailing players' experiences throughout the 50 years of the club's existence. We received contributions from former players, current players, captains of winning teams, parents, mentors, trainers and sponsors."

One story, she recalled, was from 1972 when a player entered what she thought was the anonymity of the confessional: "However, when she had finished her confession and was leaving the confessional box, the priest addressed her by name and asked if she

was due to play in Sunday's match. When she said she was, he warned her: 'Keep out those goals and don't let Barryroe beat us again!'"

Another story relates to players making a bet with their trainer — if they won the county final, he would shave or wax his legs in public. The team went on to win the County final. "The bet was played out in front of a big audience."

With a myriad of hilarious anecdotes from *Give A Girl A Hurley* in the years, she added: "It's a real snapshot of the life and times of our club from 1969 to the present day, through a range of real-life experiences as narrated by people with close ties to the club."



'Give A Girl A Hurley' celebrates 50 years of camogie in West Cork.

## Féile

In camogie the draw is:

**Division 1:** Sarsfields Galway 1; Aghada Limerick 1; Blackrock Kilkenny 1; Cloughduv Clare 1; Iniscarra Tipperary 1; Ballygarra Wexford 1; Aghabullogue Dublin 1; Eire Og Waterford 1.  
**Division 2:** Midleton Kildare 1; Glen Rovers Antrim 1; Douglas Down 1; St Finbar's Derry 1; Newcestown Offaly 1; Clonsilla 1; Carlow 1; Courcy Rovers Westmeath 1; Kilbrin/Timoleague Laois 1.

**Division 3:** Fr O'Neill's Galway 2; Cobh Wexford 2; Rockban Armagh; Na Piarasigh Dublin 2; Enniskeane Limerick 2; Ballinacraig Meath; Valley Rovers Kilkenny 2; Tracton Clare 2.

**Division 4:** Mallow Derry 2; Iniscarra 2 Tipperary 2; Killeagh Offaly 2; Carrigrohilly Down 2; Eirinn Own Antrim 2; Bishopstown Meath 2; Ballinora Laois 2; Eire Og 2 Waterford 2.

**Division 5:** Blarney Wicklow; Brian Dillon's Roscommon; St Columba Carlow 2; Bandon Kildare 2; Causeway (Kerry) Mayo; Cill Ard (Kerry) Westmeath 2; Ballyhea/Milford Tyrone; Grenagh Cavan.

**Division 6:** Fermoy Donegal; Nemo Rangers Armagh 2; Kilworth Cavan 2; St Fanahans Tyrone 2; Bandon 2 Louth; Clonsilla 2 Wicklow 2; Killamey Roscommon 2; Tralee Monaghan.

**Moore (Cork):** On April 14, 2019, peacefully, at Marymount University Hospital and Hospice, NORA (nee O'Mahony), Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny (late Glen Rovers), beloved wife of the late Denis (Dinky) and loving mother of Liz, Evonne, Veronica, Denise, Janet and June and sister of Neilus, Michael, Donal, John, Marion and the late Eleanor, Kathleen and Anthony. Sadly missed by her loving family, grandsons, great-grandchildren, brothers, sister, nephews, nieces, sons-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, relatives, neighbours and friends. Reposing at O'Connor Bros. Funeral Home, North Gate Bridge. Rosary on this (Tuesday) evening at 5.15pm followed by Removal to The Cathedral. Requiem Mass on tomorrow (Wednesday) at 1pm. Funeral afterwards to St. Mary's (Old) Cemetery, Curraghkippane. Requiescat in pace. [www.oconnorfuneralcork.ie](http://www.oconnorfuneralcork.ie)

**Lyons (Ballinure, Blackrock, Cork):** On April 13, 2019, peacefully, surrounded by her family, in the tender care of the staff in St. Luke's Nursing Home, EILEEN (EILY, nee Cashman), predeceased by her loving husband Patsy, son Kieran and grandson Darren, devoted mother of Thomas, Kenneth, Martin, Mary (Murray), Chris (Smith) and Ursula (Harte) and sister-in-law of Anne (Cashman). Sadly missed by her loving family, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Lying in repose at the Temple Hill Funeral Home, Boreenmanna Road of Jerh. O'Connor Ltd. Removal on this (Monday) evening at 7.30pm to St. Michael's Church, Blackrock. Requiem Mass at 2.00pm on tomorrow (Tuesday). Funeral afterwards to St. Michael's Cemetery, Blackrock. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to St. Luke's Nursing Home. May she rest in peace.

### Camogie

**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 2 FINAL:** (St Rynagh's, Banagher) — Tipperary 0-14 Kilkenny 0-8.  
**LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUES DIVISION 3 FINAL:** (St Rynagh's, Banagher) — Kildare 2-9 Limerick 0-11.  
**ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE MINOR A SEMI-FINALS:** Clare 0-12 Tipperary 1-8, Cork 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14.  
**ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE MINOR B SEMI-FINALS:** Laois 4-14 Derry 2-8, Limerick 2-19 Westmeath 0-11.

## Camogie forum tackles growing rules discontent

Therese O'Callaghan

Camogie chiefs have organised a 'Feedback forum' in Dublin on Saturday to hear the concerns county players and managers have around the rules of the game.

Each county board has been invited to select two senior players, their team manager, plus one more member of the management team to attend the meeting in the capital.

The forum is in response to growing disquiet over the rulebook, which many feel is outdated as the game has become faster and more physical.

Last year's All-Ireland final

between Cork and Kilkenny was a free-riden affair which sparked hugely negative commentary. Ann Downey's Kilkenny team lost by a point and she is looking forward to a chance to air her concerns this weekend.

Downey said: "For us, that final was fairly frustrating, and I definitely don't want this to sound like sour grapes, but when you come out of an All-Ireland final, the focus should not be on the referee. And that was the case. I met a few former hurlers after the game and they said they wouldn't go again. So, it is just good to have a conversation this weekend. There is a need to move

camogie forward and this will be a discussion with no barriers. Everybody wants to make the game more enjoyable to play in. You want to make it enjoyable for the spectators as well.

"The big problem I would see is the different interpretation of the rules.

"You go out one day and a referee is going to be pulling and blowing for everything and then the next day it is free-flowing.

"So, it is good to have this forum to see what can be done to improve the game."

A Camogie Association spokesperson outlined the rationale behind the weekend

gathering. "It is vitally important that we hear the views of both players and team managers and this is their opportunity to influence the future of camogie."

"The forum will focus on the future of adult inter-county competitions over the next five years and will invite the attendees to contribute on discussions regarding the future of our game and what changes should be considered to improve our game and how we can positively affect and influence change to improve it."

The event will take place at the Croke Park Hotel on Saturday.

## Most players want new rules

### Camogie

Eoghan Cormican

A WGPA survey has shown that 82% of inter-county camogie players are in favour of trialling new rules to bring the game more in line with how hurling is officiated.

Ahead of Saturday's Camogie Association 'feedback forum', this Women's Gaelic Players Association survey is the latest reminder to the game's top officials of the strong desire among players for a sweeping overhaul of the camogie rulebook.

At Congress earlier this year, a motion was passed to allow for the trialling of new rules. Of those surveyed, 70% want changed the rules relat-

ing to physical contact. Almost half are in favour of swapping skorts for shorts, while 30% would like to see an end to the hand-passed goal. At present, the camogie rulebook outlaws shouldering and 'moving into an opponent's body', effectively rendering the game a non-contact sport.

Last September's All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny made for pretty turgid viewing, the game blighted by 36 frees and containing only nine scores from play. Similarly unappealing was the Galway-Kilkenny semi-final, a fixture which also had a free-count in the 30s and produced a meagre seven scores from play.

Only 16% of players found the consistency of refereeing

to be either good, very good, or excellent, with 60% citing as poor the officiating of their game.

Not content to continue bemoaning the current state of the game, a WGPA working group is proposing the establishment of a player engagement group that might be integrated into the new Camogie development plan; commence a referee engagement process; and conduct a rules review.

Camogie Association president Kathleen Woods, in an interview with the *Irish Examiner* last September, said their new four-year development plan would not be looking at rule changes.

"A proper objective analysis of the trends in the game and refereeing needs to be car-

ried out because players currently don't feel engaged through the current mechanism for changing rules," said WGPA chairperson Maria Kinsella.

Added Cork's nine-time All-Ireland medal-winner Gemma O'Connor: "Players have been frustrated expressing frustration around rules and referees publicly for a long time and this now represents a collective call for change and an opportunity to improve the game."

Elsewhere, the majority of players (95%) were in favour of double-headers with men's games, with 96% of players keen for integration with the GAA in terms of a strategic plan and matched investment for camogie.

### CAMOGIE

**Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 2 final:** Tipperary 0-14 Kilkenny 0-8.

**Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 3 final:** Kildare 2-9 Limerick 0-11.

**All-Ireland Minor A Championship semi-finals:** Clare 0-12 Tipperary 0-8, Cork 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14.

**All-Ireland Minor B Championship semi-finals:** Laois 4-14 Derry 2-8, Limerick 2-19 Westmeath 0-11.

**All-Ireland Minor B Shield semi-finals:** Meath 2-8 Carlow 0-10, Down 4-17 Kildare 2-7.



# Inniscarra celebrate



Members of the Inniscarra camogie team, Cork Munster Champions and All-Ireland Runners-Up attending the Victory Dinner and Medal Presentation Function at Oriel House Hotel. Included are captain Treasa McCarthy, and selectors. Picture: Mike English



Selectors Joe McCarthy and Kevin Murphy welcoming Cork County Board Registrar, Mairead Donovan, to the Inniscarra Camogie's victory dinner. Picture: Mike English



Inniscarra Camogie officers: Sinead Ni Riain, Joint PRO, Louise O'Callaghan, Asst. Treasurer, Mairead Horgan, Registrar, Liz Hayes, Joint PRO, Elaine Buckley, Vice Chairperson, Sheila Lyons, Asst. Secretary and Tim Cronin, Chairman. Picture: Mike English



The Best Supporter Award was presented to a very happy Sheila Sheehan by Rebecca Keane, at the Inniscarra Camogie Club's Victory Dinner. Picture: Mike English



Three generations. Aisling Murphy, her Dad, Kevin and grandad, Jerry at the Inniscarra Camogie Club's Victory Dinner. Picture: Mike English

## CAMOGIE

■ Denis Hurley

INNISCARRA Camogie Club celebrated an historic 2018 at Oriel House Hotel in Ballincollig recently.

Players, family, friends, club officers many more gathered to look back at a great year for the Mid-Cork club.

Having won senior county championships in 2016 and 2017, the club went on to win a third in 2018, going one step further by winning the Munster club championship.

They lost out to St Martin's of Wexford in the All-Ireland club semi-final but this did not dampen spirits on the night.

The players on the senior panel were presented with their county and Munster medals and were praised and complimented by team managers, Kevin Murphy and Joe McCarthy, for the hard work and dedication.

Captain Treasa McCarthy also spoke about the pride in accepting the county cup on behalf of the team and particularly thanked all those involved who made it all happen.

Inniscarra had record success with Cork teams in 2018, with 12 girls on Cork panels from U16 to senior, with 16 medals won, and this was celebrated on the night with club chairman Tim Cronin and vice-chairperson Elaine Casey presenting each of them with a special plaque from the club.

Club persons of year Liam Ryan and Sheila Lyons were presented with the Hannah Kelly Memorial Cup by club president Emma Dineen for their hard work in bringing the U16 team to Berlin to the Setanta Berlin GAA Club in March and showcasing their camogie skills on an international stage.

Cork Camogie County Board was represented by registrar Mairéad O'Donovan, who spoke very highly of the club and its successes. Here's to more in 2019!

### Inniscarra players representing Cork in 201

Niamh McCarthy, Aileen Sheehan (All-Ireland and Munster senior winners), Aoife Kavanagh, Rebecca Keane (All-Ireland and Munster intermediate and league Division 2 winners), Erin Looney (Munster junior winner), Ellen Murphy, Clara Ring (minor A All-Ireland winner), Caoimhe Buckley, Claudia Keane, Marguerite Lyons (Munster U16A winners), Lucy Desmond, Eimear O'Reilly (Munster U16B), Reidin Murphy, Aisling Harty, Katie Lordan, Caoimhe O'Shea (U15), Lena Daly, Julie Lyons, Aoibha Dromey, Niamh Dinan, Aoife Ring, Niamh McSweeney, Claire Horgan, Ellen Crowley (U14)



# county final success



Inniscarra camogie team managers and selectors attending the club's victory dinner. Included are Martin Murphy, Kevin Murphy, Treasa McCarthy (captain), Joe McCarthy, Brid O'Keeffe and Joe O'Herlihy.

Picture: Mike English



Jenny Burke, Ciara Ring and Olivia Dineen pose with the Cork and Munster Camogie Championship trophies.



Twin sisters, Mary and Rena Buckley at the Inniscarra Camogie Club's Victory Dinner.

Picture: Mike English



Enjoying the pre-dinner reception were Aoife Kavanagh, Rebecca Quigley, Katie O'Mahony, Deirdre O'Callaghan and Sheila Walsh.



Proud Mum, Ann Dineen with daughters, Joanne, Aoife and Olivia at the Inniscarra Camogie Club's Victory Dinner.

Picture: Mike English



Selector Joe McCarthy, his daughter, Treasa, captain and wife Therese at the Inniscarra Victory Dinner.

Picture: Mike English



# Cork show their class in second half to beat Kilkenny

**Cork** 1-21  
**Kilkenny** 1-14

A POWERFUL second-half display, in which they over-turned a four-point interval deficit, saw holders Cork book their place in the All-Ireland minor final after they beat Kilkenny in WIT on Saturday.

A first-minute goal by Roisin O'Keefe gave Kilkenny a dream start and, aided by the strong wind, they came at Cork and, with the sides trading scores, Kilkenny led 1-9 to 0-8 at the interval.

With Alton Grace unerring from frees and Ciara O'Keefe, Tara Ronan, and Therese Donnelly all finding the range, Kilkenny held the advantage.

Cork worked hard with Clodagh Finn, Emma Murphy, Fiona Keating, and Ellen Murphy all on the score-sheet to stay within touching distance at the break.

After the re-start, Casey Coleman and Emma Murphy

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

fired over two points for Cork and with Finn forcing a great save from Elizabeth Phelan, Cork kept their foot on the pedal.

Finn and O'Keefe traded points and when sub Cliona O'Leary fired over a free, a point separated the sides.

Emma Murphy brought Cork level with a long-range effort, but Therese Donnelly edged Kilkenny in front again.

Cork upped the pace and took the lead when O'Leary pointed a 45 before nailing a free. Kilkenny drew level when Grace fired over with 10 minutes remaining.

The champions showed their class and experience when Keating hit two points before grabbing an excellent goal and followed up with a point to put Cork 1-18 to 1-12 in front.

Kilkenny got one back, but two in a row from Emma

Murphy had Cork seven clear in injury-time. Again the sides swapped points, but it mattered little as Cork progressed to meet Clare in next Saturday's final in Nenagh after they beat a highly-rated Tipperary side in the other semi-final.

**Scorers for Cork:** F Keating 1-5, Emma Murphy 0-5, C Finn 0-5 (0-3fs), C O'Leary 0-4 (0-3fs 0-1 45), Ellen Murphy C Coleman 0-1 each. **Kilkenny:** A Grace 0-6 (0-3fs, 0-1 45), R O'Keefe 1-1, C O'Keefe, T Ronan T Donnelly 0-2 each, A Phelan 0-1.

**CORK:** M Lynch; A O'Neill, M Cotter, S O'Keefe; H Sexton, C Kingston, C O'Sullivan; C Murphy J Sheehan; F Keating, Emma Murphy, C Dooley; Ellen Murphy, C Finn, C Coleman.

**Subs:** C O'Leary for C Murphy (h/t), A Smith for C O' Sullivan (40) L Wallace for Ellen Murphy (48) T Sheehan for C Coleman (48).

**KILKENNY:** E Phelan; J Cass, C Hanlon, J O'Dea; S O'Keefe, R Roche, G Costello; A Phelan, S O'Sullivan; C O'Keefe, S Treacy, T Ronan; T Donnelly, R O'Keefe, A Grace.

**Subs:** D Bolger for S Treacy (h/t), D Quigley for R O'Keefe (54), E Hynes for S O'Sullivan (42) M Flynn for A Phelan (45).

**Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).

## Cork target the banner headlines as they bid to retain All-Ireland title

Tomorrow: All-Ireland minor final: Cork v Clare, McDonagh Park, Nenagh, 3pm.

THERE have been many twists and turns in this All-Ireland minor championship competition. The favourites fell at the second last hurdle; highly fancied sides failed to make it out of their groups, and there have been close calls along the way. In one of the groups it took the scoring difference to decide who would go through to the last four. There is just 60 minutes separating Cork and Clare from claiming the Sighle Nic an Ulaigh Cup tomorrow.

A native of Warrenpoint, County Down, Sile McNulty gave a life time of excellent service to the Camogie Association. She brought her professionalism and business acumen to every office that she held, particularly in the roles of Uachtarán and then as Ard Rúnaí.

In 1999, such was her dedication to the sport she was honoured with the role of Life President of the Camogie Association and the naming of the All-Ireland minor trophy in her honour in the

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

year of the competition's inception in 2006.

Tomorrow's final brings together Cork and Clare for the first time in an All-Ireland Minor final, although it is not the first time either sides have been in the final.

Cork took the title for the first time last year with a brilliant display as they defeated holders Galway, and having previously lost out in 2007 and 2013 (replay) to Kilkenny and in another replay in 2014 to Limerick Cork were finally rewarded.

Clare have been runners up on no fewer than four occasions, losing in 2008 and 2009 to Kilkenny. They lost out to Galway in the finals of 2010 and 2017 and they will be hoping that maybe now their time has finally arrived.

They recorded a superb semi-final victory over a highly fancied Tipperary side that were the only outfit to defeat Cork in the group



The Cork minor camogie squad

stages. This will boost Clare as they take on the champions. Just a point separated the sides in a close contest and with players such as captain Roisin Minogue, Caoimhe Kelly, Amy Russell, Sinead McGee, Rachel Daly, Finia O'Brien and Gill Ryan in their line-up they had to dig out a victory in a game where they led 0-6 to 0-4 at the interval. They settled quickly into the second half and continuing to hold their lead, stretching it to three points, before a Tipperary goal levelled matters. They held their composure and won a free which Lorna McNamara duly

converted which saw them run out winners by a point. Cork trailed Kilkenny by four points at the interval in WIT on Saturday last and having worked hard in the opening half against the wind they had to keep their foot on the pedal to carve out a victory.

All over the pitch they were tremendous and up front Emma Murphy, Fiona Keating and Clodagh Finn proved more than a handful for the Kilkenny defence as they picked off some superb scores.

Work rate  
The Cork work rate was huge

and they never allowed Kilkenny get to far ahead and when they put the foot down in the second half Kilkenny had no response. Cork know Clare will not be easy opponents and manager Jerry Wallace who has done huge work both in 2018 as Cork took their first Minor title and now again in 2019 guiding a new group to another final he wants to make it back to back titles. "It's an All-Ireland final and we know it won't be won easily," Wallace said.

"We saw last year how we upset the form books to defeat Galway and of course Clare will be going

into this game boosted by their win over a very good Tipperary side.

"We know our workrate will again have to be increased but to date the girls have been tremendous and to be in the final is great.

"They are a pleasure to work with and we know they will give it everything on Saturday in a bid to retain the title and that is all we can ask for."

It promises to be a thriller, so hopefully, everybody will now get behind Cork and make the trip to Nenagh on Saturday to see them retain their title.



Camogie

Barbara O'Connell

## Sheehan is praised for a terrific year

PICKING up the AIB Camogie Club Provincial Player of the year for Munster topped off an excellent year for Inniscarra's Aileen Sheehan.

After a superb year winning the Munster title with her club, and winning her first All-Ireland with Cork, Sheehan looks back on a memorable year and tells The Echo what the award meant to her.

"I couldn't believe when I got the email telling me about the award to be honest," said Sheehan.

"It's lovely to get it with the club and also to have three of our club team mates picked on the team of the tournament is a huge boost for us."

The 27-year-old PE and Maths teacher in Blarney Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál school, where her dad Padraig is the principal, won her first senior All-Ireland with Cork this year and her career also includes an Ashbourne Cup medal with the University of Limerick, however, winning this year's Munster title tops all of the above mentioned wins.

"Winning three counties in-a-row with Cork was fantastic but the real bonus this year was getting the Munster medal.

"Some of our girls had it since 2010. I missed that because I wasn't transferred from Granagh (Limerick) on time, so to get that Munster medal was very special to me. Some people were disappointed over our All-Ireland semi-final loss to St Martin's of Wexford but I don't think we should be.

"We did very well and it's one step at a time. We're a very young team and there's a lot more experience to come under us, so give these girls another year or two and we'll be even stronger."

Sheehan found it quite hard returning to club action after inter county championship but she is quick to praise Inniscarra, the management, committee and players, who always made her feel so welcome ever since she transferred to

Inniscarra Camogie players who wore the red of Cork pictured at the club's victory dinner. Included are, back row: Rebecca Keane (Intermediate), Aileen Sheehan (Senior), Aoife Kavanagh (Inter), Eimear O'Reilly (U16), front row: Erin Looney (Junior), Caoimhe Buckley (U16), Ellen Murphy (U18), Claudia Keane (U16) and Ciara Ring (U18).

Picture: Mike English



them almost eight years ago.

"Inniscarra are a fantastic club who always have the players interest at heart.

"I found it hard to come back after the All-Ireland with Cork and to get my form in the county series but, by the time we'd reached the Munster semi-final, I was back into it, thankfully.

"And that was with the help of a lot of people involved at the club.

"I was straight back to Inniscarra the week after the All-Ireland with Cork.

"Some of the girls were out and

they needed me and really, I was so lucky to come back to such a good team.

"Some of the Cork panel girls weren't lucky enough to do that because their teams were knocked out by the time they got back but I was lucky.

"Only for such a great Inniscarra team, I wouldn't have won this award. I was with Granagh originally, mostly with the boys because we didn't have the numbers.

"I did play U16 camogie there and won a county but then I moved to Inniscarra because we had no senior

team.

It's never easy to do a move like that but I still play football with Granagh.

"I was going from Junior C to senior camogie but Inniscarra is just such an outstanding club that I quickly settled in and loving it here ever since.

"Winning brings the whole community together, they really get behind you when you reach semi-finals and finals.

"The amount of people who came to our Munster final was incredible. I don't think any of us wanted to come

off the pitch afterwards.

"There was such a buzz around the place, we'd over 45 players training, we could hardly fit in the dressing room at times! The success has created a real good bond, even for the minors coming through.

"The bigger the panel is getting, and it's getting bigger again this year, that's what winning does, that keeps the club moving forward.

"We had our 'social' last weekend and trainers from the past four years were at it. That was really special to see.

"They're not all from Inniscarra, some were from Bishopstown or up the country, but they call came back because that's just the kind of club Inniscarra is.

"It has this welcoming thing. It is very special and I am delighted to be part of it."

Although last season was Sheehan's first senior All-Ireland medal, she now believes it could also be her last, as she has decided to concentrate fully on her club career and hang up her boots at inter county level.

"I'm club out and out, always was! I've just the one All-Ireland and I think that'll be the only one.

"I just got engaged to Philip in January and I missed out on a lot with the club last year and was late coming back and, when I did I was struggling with my hamstring so missed a few club games.

So, I have committed totally to the club this year, it's my number one.

"It took me long enough to get there so I want to hold on to it every step of the way. It's my priority this year."



# Féile to light up Cork GAA scene

Glen come out on top in battle of the Rovers

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CAMOGIE clubs have been very focused on league competitions in recent weeks.

All credit to the senior clubs in particular, who without fail, are making huge efforts to ensure all their senior league game have been played on schedule. It's been moving along nicely as we head into the last round scheduled for Wednesday next May 1.

In section one the opening week saw Killeagh get off to a good start as they had a two point victory over Ballygarvan. Ballincollig edged it with a point to spare on Senior debutants Eire Og whilst Glen Rovers got off to a flying start with a seven-point victory over Courcy Rovers. In section two there were two draws with Douglas and Sarsfields ending all square whilst in the meeting of the saints St Catherine's and St Finbarr's also ended level.

Week two and Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers continued to set the pace in section one Ballygarvan with a win over Courcy Rovers as Glen Rovers defeated Ballincollig with Eire Og recording a win over Killeagh with four points to spare. In section two county champions Inniscarra had a win over Sarsfields, St Catherine's defeated Douglas and league holders St Finbarr's had the upper hand on Cloughduv.

Eire Og continued their good form with a round three win over Glen Rovers. Killeagh had their second win as they defeated Courcy Rovers and Ballygarvan had a victory over Ballincollig. Sarsfields had seven points to spare over St Finbarr's, St Catherine's had a six point victory over Cloughduv and Inniscarra had a win over Douglas as round three was completed.

On Wednesday last we had another evening of nonstop action and in section one Eire Og continued to make progress as they defeated Ballygarvan 1-11 to 0-12 to make it three wins out of four games. Glen Rovers also made it three out of four as they overcame Killeagh in tight contest 1-13 to 1-12 the score line here. Ballincollig had a victory over Courcy Rovers to make it two out of four.

In section two another win for Inniscarra as they overcame St Finbarr's 3-9 to 0-12. Sarsfields had seven points to spare over St Catherine's whilst Cloughduv defeated Douglas.

As we head into the last round of games on Wednesday next its wide open with the semi-final spots still up for grabs. In Section one Glen Rovers and Eire Og are on six points each, Ballygarvan, Ballincollig and Killeagh are each on four. Eire Og travel to meet Courcy Rovers, Glen Rovers will play Ballygarvan in Ballygarvan and Killeagh are at home for their meeting with Ballincollig.

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

KILKENNY'S Anna Farrell, Mayo ladies footballer Niamh Kelly, Mayo footballer Lee Keegan and Limerick hurler Aaron Gillane were in Croke Park recently to launch the 2019 John West Féile and to announce that John West will renew its sponsorship of the National Féile for a further four years until 2022.

The John West Féile competitions are national festivals for Gaelic football, ladies football, handball, hurling, camogie and rounders played at U14 level.

This is the fourth year that John West will sponsor the underage tournament, which is the biggest competition of its kind and the focus of the competition is to encourage children to participate in Gaelic games.

Speaking at the announcement, John West Country Manager Peter Rooney said: "We are delighted to extend our partnership with Féile until 2022. Féile is a unique series of events which hold a special place in our hearts."

"The competitions highlight the importance of sport in children's lives, which is something John West is truly passionate about, and it also allows us to educate on the importance of protein in children's diets," Uachtarán CLG John Horan said.

Féile is one of the most significant and successful initiatives in the history of the GAA.

It plays a hugely important role in the massive work which takes place within underage coaching and development every year.

Last year, there were 696 teams playing 1,507 games at the various John West Féile finals events in football, hurling, ladies football and camogie, in addition, more than 80 teams contested Féile finals across handball and rounders.

The ethos and tradition around Féile where teams travel to take part and stay with host clubs is unique, it adds to the sense of occasion and many great friendships and club links for life have been made this way as young people showcase their skills.

It's been 13 years since Cork last hosted the National Féile na nGael and it's all systems go as 168 hurling teams and 98 camogie teams are preparing to converge on Cork city and county and over into Kerry as Féile 2019 comes to town on the weekend of June 7/8.

Féile na nGael is a club festival of hurling and camogie at U14 level, involving teams from across both the GAA and camogie associations.

Féile was first established in 1980 and provides an opportunity for U14 players to participate in an annual festival of hurling and camogie where clubs experience playing against teams from other counties and provinces. Down through the years, it has helped clubs to forge links with other clubs in other counties to celebrate Gaelic games by acting as hosts.

The aim of Féile tournaments is to ensure every participating player has the opportunity to participate and play in their respective Féile tournament at a level suitable to their age, skills and strengths.

Féile na nGael competitions are



Anna Farrell, second from left, with from left, Aoibheann Stokes, Millie Hughes and Mia Rooney, from Lucan, Dublin, at the launch of the 2019 John West Féile at Croke Park in Dublin. Pic: Sam Barnes/Sportsfile.



John West ambassador and Kilkenny camogie player Anna Farrell in attendance at the launch of the 2019 John West Féile at Croke Park in Dublin. Pic: Sam Barnes/Sportsfile.

composed of host and visiting teams, host teams from Cork and Kerry will welcome visiting teams that will be representing their County.

Host clubs and visiting counties are graded into their respective divisions.

Divisions will be composed of 16 teams, eight host clubs and their eight visiting teams.

There are six divisions in camogie and since 2014 Féile na nGael has introduced both cup and shield competitions in each division.

To facilitate this, each division of 16 teams is divided into four groups, A to

D of four teams, two host clubs and their visiting clubs.

Each team plays each other team on a round-robin basis. Upon completion of the three group games, teams are ranked 1-4.

Teams ranked first and second proceed to the cup quarter-finals, while teams ranked third and fourth proceed to the shield quarter-finals.

Therefore, each participating team is guaranteed a minimum of four games three group games and either a cup or shield quarter-final.

After this its knockout with quarter-

finals, semi-finals and finals take place in each of the cup and shield competitions.

The draws were made for the groups recently at an information meeting in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and are as follows:

### Division 1

Group A: Sarsfields (Cork) will host the Galway champions and they're joined by Aghada who are hosting Limerick.

Group B: Blackrock host Kilkenny and Cloughduv paired with Clare.

Group C: Ballygarvan, Wexford, Inniscarra 1, Tipperary.

Group D: Eire Og 1, Waterford, Aghabullogue, Dublin.

### Division 2

Group A: Midleton, Kildare, Glen Rovers, Antrim 1.

Group B: St Finbarr's, Derry, Douglas, Down.

Group C: Clonakilly 1, Carlow, Newcestown, Offaly.

Group D: Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Laois, Courcy Rovers, Westmeath.

### Division 3

Group A: Fr O'Neill's, Galway 2, Cobh, Wexford 2.

Group B: Rockbawn, Antrim, Na Piarasigh, Dublin 2.

Group C: Enniskeane, Limerick 2, Ballincollig, Meath.

Group D: Valley Rovers, Kilkenny 2, Tracton, Clare 2.

### Division 4

Group A: Mallow, Derry 2, Inniscarra 2, Tipperary 2.

Group B: Killeagh, Offaly 2, Carrigrohilly, Down 2.

Group C: Erin's Own, Antrim 2, Bishopstown, Meath 2.

Group D: Ballinora, Laois 2, Eire Og 2, Waterford 2.

### Division 5

Group A: Blarney, Wicklow, Brian Dillon's, Roscommon.

Group B: St Colum's, Carlow 2, Bandon, Kildare 2.

Group C: Causeway, Mayo, Cillard, Westmeath 2.

Group D: Grenagh, Cavan, Milford/Ballyhea, Tyrone.

### Division 6

Group A: Nemo Rangers, Armagh 2, Fermoy, Donegal.

Group B: Kilworth, Cavan 2, St Fanahan's, Tyrone 2.

Group C: Bandon 2, Louth, Clonakilly 2, Wicklow 2.

Group D: Killarney, Roscommon 2, Tralee, Monaghan.



# All-Ireland glory for Cork minor camogie team

## Flying Finn fires Cork to Minor A title

Daragh Ó Conchúir

CLODAGH FINN scored 1-8, Emma Murphy slotted a brace of goals and player of the match Fiona Keating shot five points as Cork secured a second All-Ireland Minor A Championship in a row with a 3-15 to 2-12 over Clare at MacDonagh Park.

The Rebels were given a huge fright, however, as the Banner girls reduced a 17-point deficit at the change of ends to just six points before time ran out.

The impact of the wind was crucial. Cork were clinical in the opening period with the gale in their favour, leading by 3-11 to 0-3 at half time.

Clodagh Finn provided the first four

points before getting the final touch to make it 1-4 to 0-0 with just seven minutes elapsed.

Lorna McNamara registered Clare's opening two scores but Dervilla Moloney's troops were left shell shocked as Murphy grabbed her two majors inside a minute.

Clare resumed after the break with real intent and when McNamara set up Robyn Conway for a goal in the 36th minute, they were reinvigorated.

Finia O'Brien got their second in injury time, but Jerry Wallace's Cork had done enough by then.

Laois and Limerick will have to do it all again in the Minor B final, as they could not be separated following a

titanic tussle in Nenagh.

Again, the wind was a significant factor. The key score in the first-half was a fifth-minute Kirsten Keenan goal for Laois, after Keenan and Iris Kennelly had exchanged early points.

That gave Robert Jones's crew something to hold on to and though they ended up trailing at the change of ends, the 0-7 to 1-1 deficit would not have seemed insurmountable.

Laois did have two chances to snatch it from frees at the end after a great battle, but were unable to take them as it finished 1-5 to 0-8.

In the Minor C final, Tyrone had too much scoring power for Kerry, prevailing by 3-12 to 0-6 in Crettyard.



The Cork team celebrates winning the All-Ireland Camogie Minor A Championship. See P50 for more. Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne



Cork players celebrate their All-Ireland Minor A camogie Championship final win over Clare at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, on Saturday. It was the Leesiders' second time in a row lifting the trophy. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) tackles Clare's Lynda Daly during the All-Ireland minor A camogie final on Saturday.

## Cork stay calm after the storm to lift trophy again

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Clodagh Finn scored 1-8, Emma Murphy slotted a brace of goals and player of the match Fiona Keating shot five points as Cork secured a second All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship in a row with a 3-15 to 2-12 victory over Clare at MacDonagh Park.

The impact of the wind could not be underestimated, as Storm Hannah made a slow retreat. Cork were clinical in the opening period with the gale in their favour, leading by 3-11 to 0-3 at half time. It was the Clodagh Finn Show early on as Cork laid siege to Rachel Daly's goal. The Fr O'Neill's tyro provided the first four points before get-

ting the final touch to make it 1-4 to 0-0 with just seven minutes elapsed.

Lorna McNamara registered Clare's opening two scores but Dervilla Moloney's troops were left shell-shocked as Murphy grabbed her two goals inside a minute at the start of the second quarter. Keating provided a supplementary trio of points, McNamara Clare's third.

Yet Clare resumed with real intent and when McNamara set up Robyn Conway for a goal in the 36th minute, they were reinvigorated. McNamara brought her tally to 10 points but Clare had to wait until late in injury time for a goal — the brilliant McNamara providing the assist for Finia O'Brien but Jerry Wallace's Cork had done enough.

Laois and Limerick will have to do it all again in the minor B final, as they could not be separated following a titanic tussle at the opening game in Nenagh (1-5 to 0-8) with Kirsten Keenan goaling for the Midlanders.

In the minor C final, Tyrone had too much scoring power for Kerry, prevailing by 3-12 to 0-6 in Crettyard. The Red Hands did the damage in the first half, when Lára Devlin, Catherine Muldoon and Kaitlin Gallagher goaled to lead by 3-4 to 0-2. From there, it only needed some resolute defending to take the spoils for the first time, though Amy O'Sullivan excelled for Kerry.

Inniskeen Grattans played host to the minor B Shield decider with Down defeating Meath (3-6 to 1-6).

### Camogie

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP MINOR A FINAL  
(MacDonagh Park Nenagh) — Cork 3-15 Clare 2-12  
ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP MINOR B FINAL  
(MacDonagh Park Nenagh) — Limerick 0-8 Laois 1-5  
ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP MINOR C SHIELD  
FINAL (Inniskeen) — Down 3-6 Meath 1-6  
ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP MINOR C FINAL  
(Crettyard) — Tyrone 3-12 Kerry 0-6



# Dogged Clare come up short against Rebels

Despite outscoring Cork in the second half, Clare lost the All-Ireland Minor Camogie final

Cork	3-15
Clare	2-12
Eoghan Moloney	

A SPIRITED second-half display was not enough to bridge a massive half-time gap but Clare went down fighting in their All-Ireland final in Nenagh last Saturday.

Excellent play, and a hurricane at their backs, aided Cork in building up a 3-11 to 0-3 lead by the break and while Clare outscored the Rebels 2-9 to 0-4 in the second half, the damage had long been done.

Before Lorna McNamara registered Clare's first score nine minutes in, through a point, the Banner already trailed by 1-5, all coming courtesy of Cork's full-forward Clodagh Finn.

Finn was talismanic on the day and tormented the Clare full-back line from the word go.

Cork only had three scorers in the first half to Clare's one but between Finn, Emma Murphy and Fiona Keating, they amassed 3-11 in 30 minutes, while McNamara had two frees to follow her point from play to see Clare trail by 1-4 at the break.

Lovely points from McNamara and Sinéad McGee got Clare up and running in the second half, before a brilliant team move, in which Sarah Ní Cheallaigh was instrumental, saw Robyn Conway get Clare's first goal and give them a glimmer of hope.

The momentum was all in Clare's favour even though the breeze, which was now in their favour, had died down but Cork were struggling to contain the Banner.

Indiscipline crept into the Cork defence and McNamara landed two more frees, while Caoimhe Kelly also added a fine point from a placed ball. McNamara and Kelly proved chief tormentors for Cork and they added two more points each, as tension crept into the big Cork crowd in Nenagh.

Finn and sub Ali Smith got scores for the Rebels to stem the flow slightly but a second Robyn Conway goal brought the gap down to six points, with a few minutes of additional time remaining, with Clare doing all the hurling.

Conway once again found herself in on goal after a good run down the left but, unfortunately, left the sliotar behind her at a critical moment, much to the relief of the Cork defence.

Clare fought to the bitter end but ultimately ran out of time in a game in which the elements played a huge part. The Clare squad can be very proud of their valiant effort but fell just short of a Cork side who retained their minor title.

**Clare:** Rachel Daly; Gillian Ryan, Róisín Minogue, Michelle Mescal; Amy Russell, Susan Daly, Sarah Ní Cheallaigh; Sinéad McGee, Caoimhe Kelly; Emily Cahill, Greta Hickey, Lynda Daly; Aoibhín Ryan, Robyn Conway, Lorna McNamara.

**Scorers:** Lorna McNamara (0-8, 5f), Robyn Conway (2-0), Sarah Ní Cheallaigh (0-3) and Susan Daly (0-1).

**Subs:** Chloe Neylon for Emily Cahill (21, inj), Finia O'Brien for Aoibhín Ryan (48) and Ailise Roche for Greta Hickey (52).

**Cork:** Molly Lynch; Sarah O'Keefe, Miriam Cotter, Aoife O'Neill; Hannah Sexton, Claire Kingston, Cliona Dooley; Isobella Sheehan, Sinéad Hurley;



Clare's Lynda Daly in action against Hannah Sexton during their All-Ireland Minor A Camogie final at Nenagh.

Photographs by John Kelly



(Clockwise from above) Robyn Conway celebrates her goal. Amy Russell of Clare is consoled by a friend following their loss. Lorna McNamara battles for possession with Cliona Dooley.

bella Sheehan, Sinéad Hurley; Clodagh Finn, Ellen Murphy, Fiona Keating, Emma Murphy, Clara O'Sullivan; Casey Coleman,

Clodagh Finn, Ellen Murphy, Sub: Ali Smith for Ellen Murphy (24), Hannah O'Leary for Sinéad

Hurley, (40), Tara Sheehan for Casey Coleman (40) and Lucy Wallace for Clara O'Sullivan (40).

**Scorers:** Clodagh Finn (1-8, 5f), Emma Murphy (2-0), Fiona Keating (0-5), Isobella Sheehan and

Ali Smith (0-1 each). **Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



# Historic Rebels retain All-Ireland

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Cork** 3-15  
**Clare** 2-12

CORK won a historic back-to-back Minor All-Ireland title in a windswept McDonagh Park, Nenagh on Saturday as Jerry Wallace's girls had to defend a 17 point interval lead for dear life in the closing stages of a free-riddled second half.

Referee Gavin Donegan awarded an incredible 13 second half frees to Clare and played over five minutes of injury time as Clare staged a second half rally holding Cork to just four points.

The impact of the wind was huge and helped Cork lead 3-11 to 0-3 at the interval.

Clodagh Finn propelling Cork into a 1-5 to no score lead in the opening 10 minutes as Cork made the most of the howling wind in their favour.

Lorna McNamara had two points back for Clare before Fiona Keating stretched the Cork lead. Piling on the pressure Cork were in the driving seat thanks to two Emma Murphy goals inside 55 seconds, the first a long range effort going all the way to the net before Murphy send a pile driver home after confidently taking on and beating the Clare defence.

With Fiona Keating added three more points for Cork and Clodagh Finn two before Lorna McNamara replied for Clare.

Cork started the second half with fighting spirit. McNamara set up Robyn Conway for a goal inside six after McNamara and Sinead McGee had fired over points. Boosted by this they pressed for more.

Two on the trot for Clare narrowed the gap before Isobel Sheehan and Finn replied. It was 3-13 to 1-7 as the game entered the last quarter as an over fussy referee continued to make some strange decisions.

Caoimhe Kelly had one before Lorna McNamara brought her tally to 10 points. Finn and Keating relieved the pressure on Cork with one each as Clare fired over two frees.

Three minutes into injury time Lorna McNamara and Robyn Conway combined for a second Clare goal but Cork, thanks to a brilliant opening 30



Cork's Miriam Cotter, Emma Murphy and Ciara O'Sullivan celebrate with the All-Ireland Minor A camogie trophy after a great win over Clare on Saturday.  
Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

minutes, had done enough to retain their crown.

Fiona Keating was named as Player of the Match after being one of Cork's top players on a day that did Cork camogie proud and got new county sponsor Black Bee Investments term off to a great start.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Finn 1-9 (0-6f), Emma Murphy 2-0, F Keating 0-5, I Sheehan 0-1.

**Clare:** L McNamara 0-10 (0-6f's), R Conway 2-0, C Kelly 0-1 (0-2f's) S McGee 0-1.

**CORK:** M Lynch; S O'Keefe, M Cotter, A O'Neill; H Sexton, C Kingston, C Dooley; I Sheehan, S Hurley; F Keating, Emma Murphy, C O'Sullivan; C Coleman, C Finn, Ellen Murphy.

**Subs:** A Smith for Ellen Murphy (25) H O'Leary for S Hurley (52), T Sheehan for C Coleman (52), L Wallace for C O'Sullivan (52) L Doyle for A O'Neill (58).  
**Ref:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).

**CLARE:** R Daly; G Ryan, R Minogue, M Mescaill; A Russell, S Daly, S Ni Chollaigh; S McGee, C Kelly; E Cahill, G Hickey, L Daly; A Ryan, R Conway, L McNamara.

**Subs:** C Neylon for E Cahill (22), F O'Brien for A Ryan (48), S Lennihan for G Hickey (58).

**Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Cork players celebrates with the trophy after the game.

Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Fiona Keating receives her players of the match.  
Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne



The Cork team, winners of the All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship final at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh.  
Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne



# West's best inspire Rebels

## Courceys star shines as Cork defend minor title

### ALL-IRELAND FINAL

CORK 3-15  
CLARE 2-12

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

FIONA Keating showed her class to inspire Cork to All-Ireland minor A camogie championship glory on Saturday.

The Courceys Rovers star showed just why she is rated as one of the top talents in the county. Her player-of-the-match performance and five points secured Cork this All-Ireland title for the second year in a row with a win against Clare at a wet and windy MacDonagh Park in Nenagh.

'Fiona is a player who is able to cope with the big occasion and perform on the big occasion,' Cork minor manager Jerry Wallace told *The Southern Star*.

'She has the ability to become a championship player on the day of a big match. She scored five points from play in difficult conditions and two of those were in the second half when we needed scores against the wind.'

'She wasn't afraid to carry the ball and take on responsibility. She's a great prospect for the future.'

The impact of the wind could not be underestimated on Saturday, as Storm Hannah made a slow retreat.

Clare won the toss but decided to play against the wind in the first half. That allowed Cork build up a huge 3-11 to 0-3 at half time.

It was the Clodagh Finn Show early on as Cork laid siege to Rachel Daly's goal. The Fr O'Neills tyro provided the first four points before getting the final touch to make it 1-4 to 0-0 with just seven minutes elapsed.

Lorna McNamara registered Clare's opening two scores but Dervilla Moloney's troops were left shell-shocked as Emma Murphy grabbed two goals inside a minute at the start of the second quarter. Keating provided a supplementary trio

of points, McNamara Clare's third but it was looking forlorn for the saffron and blue at that juncture as Cork led by 17 points at half time.

'The conditions were quite difficult with the wind and some showers left over from the storm,' Wallace says.

'We discussed before the start the difficulties of playing with the wind and we asked our players to be composed and use the ball smartly. In fairness, they were brilliant in the first half. We scored 3-11. At half time we said that if we matched or bettered Clare's first-half tally in the first half that we would hold on.'

Early in the second half Clare showed their intent and took full advantage of playing with the strong wind as they notched up 1-4 without reply inside ten minutes. That cut the Cork lead to ten points after 40 minutes.

Cork responded with a brace courtesy of Isobella Sheehan and Finn to put 12 between the sides before Lorna McNamara, who finished with 0-10 for Clare, struck three scores to see the lead cut to nine and inside the last ten minutes. Finn responded when she fired over a close-range free to push Cork ten clear.

Clare did score 1-3 in the closing four minutes to move to within six points but Cork weathered the late storm to defend their title.

'We were never not comfortable in the second half,' Wallace says.

'The work that our midfield and our half-forward line did when we didn't have the ball, they never let Clare settle and get ball into their inside line. The pressure we put on them in the second half was vital and that was the pressure they didn't put on us in the first half.'

As well as Fiona Keating's five-star display there was lots of other West Cork interest too as Hannah Sexton of Kilbrittain/Timoleague and



Cork celebrate winning the All-Ireland minor A camogie championship final against Clare in Nenagh on Saturday.

(Photos: Ryan Byrne/INPHO)

Claire Kingston of Ballinascorthy started in defence, Sinead Hurley from Enniskeane was in midfield while Ciara O'Sullivan of Newcestown started in attack. A second Enniskeane player, Tara Sheehan, was introduced as a sub. Also, Siobhan O'Donovan of Courceys Rovers, who started the opening game of this campaign, is on the extended panel.

This is the second All-Ireland minor A title for both Keating and O'Sullivan as both were involved in last year's team while both Sexton and Kingston are eligible to play minor again next year.

#### Scorers

Cork: C Finn 1-9 (6f), E Murphy 2-0, F Keating 0-5, I Sheehan 0-1.  
Clare: L McNamara 0-10 (7f), R Conway, F O'Brien 1-0 each, S McGee, C Kelly (1f) 0-1 each.

Cork: M Lynch (Sarsfields); S O'Keeffe (Ballinora), M Cotter (Aghabullogue), A O'Neill (St Finbarr's); H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascorthy), C Dooley (Ballinora); I Sheehan (Ballygarvan), S Hurley (Enniskeane); F Keating (Courceys Rovers), E Murphy (Glen Rovers), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), C Coleman (Na Piarsaigh), C Finn (Fr O'Neills), E Murphy (Inniscarra).

Subs: A Smith (Aghada) for E Murphy (23), L Wallace (Midleton/St Catherine's) for C Coleman (51), O Cremen (Blarney) for S Hurley (51), T Sheehan (Enniskeane) for C O'Sullivan (51), L Doyle (Charleville) for A O'Neill (55).

Clare: R Daly; G Ryan, R Minogue (c), M Mescall; A Russell, S Daly, S Ni Cheallaigh; S McGee, C Kelly; E Cahill, G Hickey, L Daly; A Ryan, R Conway, L McNamara.

Subs: C Neylon for E Cahill (21), F O'Brien for A Ryan (47), S Lenihan for G Hickey (59).

Referee: G Donegan (Dublin).



Cork forward Fiona Keating makes inroads against the Clare defence.



Cork forward Ciara O'Sullivan breaks away from Clare's Amy Russell.

### ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Courceys Rovers' Fiona Keating scored five points, including two in the second half against the wind, to lead the Cork charge and hold off the Clare comeback.

**Star moments:** Two goals in quick succession in the first half for Cork from Emma Murphy saw the Rebels surge 3-6 to 0-2

ahead. They helped to build a lead Cork never relinquished.

**Talking point:** That's back-to-back All-Ireland minor A camogie titles for Cork and the good news for Cork camogie is that they were 21 clubs represented on the county panel last Saturday. That's very encouraging for the future.

## Famous five play big roles in final victory



Celebrating after their fantastic All-Ireland minor A camogie final win over Clare in Nenagh on Saturday were Claire Kingston (Ballinascorthy), Sinead Hurley (Enniskeane), Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown), Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane) and Hannah Sexton (Timoleague).



# 'They are not going to take the heads off each other'

## Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

All-Ireland winning manager Paudie Murray hopes that camogie bosses will act on the feedback they received at the weekend's specially convened 'Feedback Forum' in Dublin. Association chiefs organised the event to hear the views of players and officials in an effort to continue to promote and grow the game of camogie.

The chief topic of debate last weekend centred around the rules and how they are enforced, particularly at inter-county level.

Many present at the forum, including Murray, believe that the rulebook must move with the times in an effort to increase the attractiveness of the sport for players and spectators alike.

Murray insists that three rule changes must be prioritised.

He explained: "One is the advantage rule. That is a five-second rule at the moment. Our feeling would be the advantage rule suits the person that commits the foul rather than the player on the ball.

"Certainly, we would like to see the five seconds go and that the advantage would continue until play breaks down or there is an actual advantage.

"Two, there is a need to look at the contact area, particularly the frontal challenge. I think that is impossible to referee.

"I can't see what is wrong with a shoulder, they are not going to take the heads off each other.

"There is probably a fear within certain people in the camogie that is going to happen.

"The third thing, which I think is very, very important, is to get some sort of consistency within the referees who are refereeing inter-county games, which isn't there at the moment.



Cork manager Paudie Murray believes rule changes in three key areas must be prioritised for camogie.

Picture: Inpho/Oisin Keniry

"You go from week to week and you don't know what way the game is going to be refereed.

"They are the key areas, and I think they are areas that can be acted on very quickly and implement them for the championship if they can at all, which I then think will speed up our game.

"The rest of the issues are really irrelevant at the moment compared to those three key areas.

"You would hope after our meeting that the Camogie Association would take our views on board and would act on them. It is only then you

can say it was successful."

What a lot of people do not realise is the number of rule differences that exist between hurling and camogie.

With the game constantly evolving, these rules are coming more and more under scrutiny.

For instance, in camogie, players are not allowed to put a hand on an opposing player's back. They are also penalised for deliberately shouldering an opponent, while in hurling these are not fouls.

The hand-passed goal in camogie is another much debated point.

Noticeable too is the lack of scores from open play, and the low-scoring nature of the last two All-Ireland senior finals.

Aoife Murray captained Cork to a 0-14 to 0-13 victory in 2018, while Rena Buckley brought the O'Duffy Cup to Leaside in 2017 following a 0-10 to 0-9 result.

One more item that generated discussion at the weekend was the wearing of skorts, which many were in favour of retaining.

■ To hear more on this story log onto [www.irishtimes.com/podcast](http://www.irishtimes.com/podcast).

**"You go from week to week and you don't know what way the game is going to be refereed"**

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Minor A Championship final: Clare 2-12 Cork 3-15; Minor B final: Laois 1-5 Limerick 0-8; Minor B Shield final: Down 3-6 Meath 1-6; Minor C final: Kerry 0-6 Tyrone 3-12; Munster Senior Cship: Cork 4-15 Clare 1-9; Munster Junior Cship: Waterford 1-10 Clare 1-9.



Tyrone's Reagan Fay and Kerry's Sarah Walsh tussle for the ball during the All-Ireland Camogie Minor C Championship final in Crettyard, Co Laois.

Picture: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho





Cork celebrates winning the All-Ireland Camogie Minor A Championship final over Clare at , MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

Picture: ©INPHO/Ryan Byrne

# 'We proved we could do it'

CORK manager Jerry Wallace beamed as he basked in the huge achievement of his Cork minor charges as they made it back to back titles with a win over Clare last Saturday.

"All credit to the girls it was very hard conditions out there today, the gale force win in the opening half was a huge advantage to us," Wallace said.

"In fact, Clare won the toss and elected to play against the strong wind we gathered together before throw in and told the girls to use the wind and to make sure we used the ball well and not to squander any chances and to get the ball into the inside forwards and to their credit we only hit one wide in the opening half every ball we hit was hit wisely."

Turning to play against the strong

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

wind Wallace and his fellow mentors knew that despite leading by 17 points they knew Clare with the strong wind in their favour would come at them:

"We felt at half time it was very dangerous despite our big lead.

"We said if we could get four or five points against the wind it would probably get us over the line, in games like this small decisions could be costly so we needed to stay focused and thank God we did that."

Whilst the Cork attack was superb Wallace also had praise for his defence.

"We worked very hard on our de-

fensive play all year and the girls executed it brilliantly today.

"In the second half we really had to work and work and credit everybody they did, we got the points to keep us ahead and when they came at us we had enough in hand to keep us in front."

Last year Jerry Wallace led Cork to their first minor All-Ireland Camogie title and is delight at making it back to back titles was very evident.

"I am ecstatic and so proud to be involved with helping to bring two All-Ireland minor titles to Cork.

"Huge credit goes to all the girls who worked so hard to retain the title huge credit to them and their clubs they are fantastic ambassadors for Cork Camogie."

Joint captains Hannah O'Leary and Emma Murphy were delighted with their sides victory and O'Leary thanked the team management who had huge faith in the side despite they losing the first game in the round robin series to Tipperary.

"We lost out in our first game but we showed huge determination to get out of the group and retain the title today and I am honoured to be representing a wonderful group of players,"

"Emma my team mate and friend led the team with huge determination and I am so proud to stand with her today and bring the title back to Cork."

Emma Murphy expressed delight at the win and said: "We proved we could do it and we are delighted to retain our title."

## Daire wins award

ENNISKEANE'S Daire O'Brien is the first winner of a 2019 West Cork Youth Sports Star quarterly award.

O'Brien was honoured after she captained the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty camogie team to Munster and All-Ireland junior titles earlier this year. Centre back Daire was a key player on the Clon school team that beat St Mary's of Midleton in the All-Ireland final by 3-8 to 1-7.



Daire O'Brien, centre, with her family; from left, Pat, Maebh, Claire and Elmeare O'Brien.

APRIL 2019



# Cork too strong for the Banner girls

Clare were defeated in the Munster Camogie Championship preliminary round at Fr McNamara Park

Cork 4-15  
Clare 1-9

Derrick Lynch

CLARE camogie manager Ger O'Connell was searching for positives to take as his side saw their Munster Championship campaign come to an end at the first hurdle.

In truth, it was always going to be a massive task to take down the All-Ireland champions, who came to Fr McNamara Park focused and ready. So focused, in fact, that manager Paudie Murray paced across the field on the Quin Road prior to throw-in to ensure that the dimensions were all in order.

The contest was decided in a blistering 20-minute spell in the second half, when Cork hit 3-6 unanswered to quell any hopes the home side had of causing an upset. Before they embarked on that scoring spree, the gap was just three points and had Clare been more clinical from placed balls in the opening half, they might even have been in front at that stage.

At the break, Cork led 1-6 to 0-5 after a half that had seen the Banner make their opponents work for their supremacy. Three Chloe Morey frees and two brilliant efforts from Andrea O'Keeffe accounted for their tally but it was the Rebels who notched the only green flag of the first half. It came midway through, as Lauren Honan sent Katrina Mackey rac-

ing clear and she rifled to the net to establish the four-point lead they would take to the dressing rooms. The usually reliable radar of Chloe Morey from placed balls was having an off day, as the former All-Star struggled to find the range at crucial junctures.

She did start the second half with an excellent point from play but, from there, it was all Cork as Ciara McCarthy, Linda Collins and a Chloe Sigerson penalty killed any hope of a contest. Clare did finish on a bright note, as Morey buried a free to the net late on but there was no danger of it affecting the outcome.

**"We asked the girls to dig in and be aggressive with them and I think they did. They're just that bit ahead of us in terms of fitness, so that's where we need to get to."**

Ger O'Connell felt early-season fitness played its part.

"We were happy enough with the first half, even though we were down the couple of points. I thought we really did stick with them but, to be honest, legs probably cost us particularly in the last

20 minutes. It was a very even game outside of that. Fitness is an area we need to work on in the next few weeks. They are ruthless and don't take the foot off the neck at all but that's why they are where they are and where we want to get to. I knew it was going to be a tough challenge and that's what it was. We asked the girls to dig in and be aggressive with them and I think they did. They're just that bit ahead of us in terms of fitness, so that's where we need to get to," he noted.

**Clare:** Lauren Solan (Whitegate); Ciara Grogan (Clooney-Quin); Laura McMahon (Newmarket, captain); Ciara Doyle (Scariff-Ogonnellloe); Aoife Keane (Inagh-Kilnamona); Alannah Ryan (Kilishen); Michelle Caulfield (Truagh-Clonlara); Amy Barrett (Scariff-Ogonnellloe); Niamh Corry (Sixmilebridge); Chloe Morey (Sixmilebridge); Andrea O'Keeffe (Inagh-Kilnamona); Orlaith Duggan (Clooney-Quin); Aoife Power (Scariff-Ogonnellloe); Eimear Kelly (Truagh-Clonlara); Amy Keating (Inagh-Kilnamona).

**Subs:** Niamh O'Dea (Kilmaley) for Corry; Carol O'Leary (Newmarket) for Doyle; Clare Hehir (Inagh-Kilnamona) for Keane; Mairéad Scanlon (Scariff-Ogonnellloe) for Duggan and Fiona Lafferty (Inagh-Kilnamona) for Power.

**Scorers:** Chloe Morey (1-5, 1-4f), Andrea O'Keeffe (0-2), Amy Keating and Orlaith Duggan (0-1 each).

**Cork:** Aoife Murray; Leanne O'Sullivan; Laura Treacy; Pamela Mackey; Libby Coppinger; Niamh O'Callaghan; Chloe Sigerson; Laura Hayes; Briege Corkery; Amy O'Connor; Orla Cronin; Orla Cotter; Katrina Mackey; Lauren Homan; Niamh McCarthy.

**Subs:** Hannah Looney for Coppinger; Katelyn Hickey for Sigerson; Gemma O'Connor for Corkery and Linda Collins for Mackey. **Scorers:** Orla Cronin (0-6, 5f), Linda Collins (1-3), Chloe Sigerson (1-1, 1-0 pen), Ciara McCarthy (1-1), Katrina Mackey (1-0), Orla Cotter (0-2, 2f), Amy O'Connor and Lauren Homan (0-1 each). **Referee:** John Lillis (Tipperary).



Clare's Orlaith Duggan under pressure from Cork's Libby Coppinger at Fr McNamara Park, Ennis on Sunday.

Photograph by A



(Left) Andrea O'Keeffe battles with Cork's Niamh O'Callaghan. (Above) Clare's Aoife Keane chases Katrina Mackey.





Ashling Thompson, left, pleaded guilty to elbowing Jennifer Coakley, in the jaw at a nightclub in Cork City on February 25, 2018.

Picture: Cork Courts

## Camogie star pleads guilty to nightclub assault

Liam Heylin

GAA All-Star camogie player Ashling Thompson has admitted that she assaulted a woman at a nightclub by elbowing her in the jaw.

The victim came home to Cork from Abu Dhabi, where she rides horses for the royal family.

Jennifer Coakley said she had a suspected hairline fracture to her jaw, but did not follow up with medical attention, as she had travelled to Abu Dhabi.

The case against Thompson had been listed for hearing at Cork District Court yesterday, but Eddie Burke, defence solicitor, said the accused was pleading guilty to the charge of assaulting

Jennifer Coakley, contrary to Section 2 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, on February 25, 2018, at Secret Garden, Rearden's, Washington Street, Cork.

Inspector James Hallahan summarised what had happened that morning, at 2:44am, in the nightclub.

"The defendant was speaking with a male, Jennifer Coakley was standing nearby and she began speaking to the male. She (Thompson) struck out with her right elbow and contacted her face, doing damage to same. It was superficial," Insp. Hallahan said.

Judge Con O'Leary asked the injured party if she disagreed with anything in the inspector's summary. She said she did not. Asked how

it affected her, she said: "Mostly in the fact that I had to come all the way back from Abu Dhabi. I was about to go to Singapore, with my other half. I did not follow up in the medical reports as much as I would."

"It was a huge impact, having to take the time out. I don't know the person. I did not know her beforehand. It was not pleasant, when someone comes up and attacks you when you are minding your own business, on your last night-out in Cork."

Judge O'Leary said to the injured party: "The evidence is that you were not minding your own business and that you started talking to the man."

Ms Coakley replied that

she knew the man and that they were all in one group, but that she did not know Ms Thompson before this.

She said she sustained a hairline fracture to her jaw, which still caused her problems. She added not following up on medical treatment was her own fault.

Judge O'Leary asked her what she did in Abu Dhabi. She replied: "I currently ride horses for the royal family over there."

Eddie Burke said there were a number of complications in the background, precluding the possibility of Ms Thompson being given an adult caution at a garda station, rather than being prosecuted for assault. He said one complication was the initial charge for assault

causing harm, which was withdrawn by the State.

Insp. Hallahan said she also had a previous drink-driving conviction. Mr Burke said that would be considered to be a spent conviction, as it was more than seven years old.

Mr Burke said: "The media got hold of things. I think the glaring eye of the media had an influence on it (the initial prosecution for a more serious assault charge). Unfortunately, that is the case."

Judge O'Leary put sentencing back to June 18, when another case is listed for hearing, where Ashling Thompson is accused of assaulting another young woman, Aoife O'Flaherty, at the same time and place.



Daire O'Brien (back row, sixth from left) was named the Celtic Ross West Cork Youth Sports Star second quarterly award winner following her role in Sacred Heart Secondary School Clonakilty's Munster and All-Ireland success this year. Daire was presented with her award at the Celtic Ross Hotel.

(Photos: George Maguire)

MAY

2019



# Honours even as clubs salute Alan

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BLAZING sunshine on Easter Monday greeted Blackrock, Douglas, Na Piar-saigh, Glen Rovers and Charleville as the clubs converged on Blackrock from early morning for the Alan Hurley Memorial Tournament.

The camogie club lost one of its most dedicated and loyal workers with the untimely passing of Alan Hurley, a hugely popular figure at camogie games far and wide.

Alan was a popular mentor with the club and worked with many of the club's teams. Alan was not only a member of the club but was a committee member, an officer, and a coach to the U16s and in later years coach to the minor and junior teams and the tournament is a celebration of his life and a dedication to all his work and love of the game.

The games were played in one group with each team playing each other and with two pitches in operation at the same time the action was back to back games of 15 minutes a half with a quick turn around and players were kept busy as they moved from pitch to pitch to play.

In the opening games on pitch one hosts Blackrock took on their neighbours Douglas and in an exciting contest, the visitors took the spoils by a point on a 4-2 to 4-1 scoreline. It was an all northside clash of neighbours Na Piar-saigh and Glen Rovers that got proceedings underway on pitch two and here the Glen Rovers girls came out on top with Meaghan Martin very much to the fore notching up 3-1 as her side ran out 3-1 to 0-4 winners.

Round two and on pitch one Blackrock got their bid for a place in the final back on track as they turned in a huge performance to overcome Glen Rovers 3-5 to 1-0, meanwhile on pitch two Charleville played their first game of the day and they defeated Douglas 5-4 to 2-1.

It was onto round three and it was here that the competition took on a life of its own and everything was blown wide open as Na Piar-saigh turned in a strong performance to defeat Blackrock with four points to spare, 2-3 to 1-2 whilst on pitch one Glen Rovers got the upper hand on Charleville 5-2 to 2-1.

It was onto round four and now a lot of the legs were feeling the pressure from a long day but they battled it out with tremendous spirit and on pitch one Na Piar-saigh defeated Charleville 3-4 to 1-2 whilst Glen Rovers were 2-4 to 1-3 winners over Douglas.

Round five and it was Na Piar-saigh who ran out winners over Douglas to ensure they would meet Glen Rovers in the final, Blackrock overcame Charleville to book their place in the shield final and it worked out on scoring average that the same sides were through to the final so it was Charleville against Blackrock again.

Both finals were on at the same time and on pitch one Na Piar-saigh and Glen Rovers served up a cracking contest, Glen Rovers took an early lead with a point from Caitlin Brosnan.

Na Piar-saigh replied to level matters with a point from Emma O'Connor and with Lauren O'Connor pointing a 45, Na Piar-saigh held a one-point interval lead 0-2 to 0-1.



Abbey Murphy Na Piar-saigh and Emily O'Meara Glen Rovers are presented with the Alan Hurley memorial cup by Pat Hurley after the sides finished level in a thrilling final



Cork's Fiona Keating celebrates after last weekend's All-Ireland Minor A championship final against Clare in Nenagh. Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne

Tiredness was evident in both teams and all credit to both who were now playing in their sixth game of the day. From the restart, Glen Rovers battled to get on level and a point from Ella Buckley was followed by a Caitlin Brosnan goal and now a goal separated the sides. Na Piar-saigh threw everything at the Glen defence and were rewarded with an Aine Ring point and they narrowed the gap to just one with a Lauren O'Connor free.

As the clock ticked towards full-time Na Piar-saigh's Ellie Walsh levelled it and despite Glen Rovers' pressure Na Piar-saigh defence held their lines with goalkeeper Rachel O'Reilly denying them a goal with a smart save from an Olivia Lennon hand pass.

At the full time whistle it was all square at 1-2 to 0-5 and after consultation it was decided given the amount of games that had been played the sides would share the spoils and it was

a unique sight to see both captains Glen Rovers Emily O'Meara and Na Piar-saigh's Abbey Murphy presented with the Alan Hurley Memorial Cup by Alan's dad Pat.

Blackrock overcame Charleville to take the Shield and this was accepted by Emma McCarthy and Rachel O'Mahony.

Blackrock camogie secretary Michelle Daly addressed the large gathering. "Today showed that the future of Cork Camogie is in safe hands judging by the displays of camogie here. This afternoon teams came out in ideal conditions to celebrate a great Rockies club man, Alan Hurley, in this our seventh Annual Memorial Tournament to honour his memory. Glen Rovers, Na Piar-saigh, Charleville, Douglas and Blackrock gave their all in every match and showed us just how committed they are and put their training to good use. I extend a mass-

ive thank you to all of the clubs who took part."

Michelle had special thanks for Blackrock Hurling Club for their help and the use of the facilities she also has special mention to the Hurley family for their continued support.

The Player of the Tournament was Amy McCarthy from Glen Rovers who was outstanding all through and she was presented with her award from Alan's dad Pat.

Kellie, Alan's wife, spoke and thanked the club and all the teams who participated in making it another great day. She also thanked the Echo for the wonderful preview given to the event and said Alan would have been proud to see camogie enjoy the headlines.

And so another Alan Hurley memorial tournament came to an end but it would be remiss of me not to give special mention to the Blackrock camogie club for the wonderful event.

## Cork in command against Clare

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 4-15  
Clare 1-9

The Cork seniors got back to competitive action on the playing fields as they travelled to Clare last weekend to face the home side in the provincial championship.

With the All-Ireland series played as an open draw across two groups, the provincial competitions give counties some quality games in their preparations.

On this occasion, Cork proved to be far superior as they ran out winners to set up a semi-final meeting with Limerick.

Chloe Morey edged Clare 0-2 to 0-1 converting a free inside seven minutes but with Orla Cronin and Chloe Sigerson finding the range Cork edged back in front.

A Katriona Mackey goal after 13 minutes extended the lead but from the puck-out Andi O'Keefe pointed to keep the home side in touch.

With Orla Cronin and Chloe Morey converting frees for their sides, Clare stayed within touching distance of the All-Ireland champions and an O'Keefe point had the lead down to two points as the half-time whistle approached.

Cork finished the half well though with Amy O'Connor and Linda Collins points.

On the restart, the sides again swapped points, with Chloe Morey and Linda Collins again on target but four minutes later the champions showed their class with a worked move starting with Amy O'Connor to Lauren Honan before Ciara McCarthy finished to the net to open up a commanding seven-point Cork lead.

From the puck-out Cork again applied pressure and with Collins finishing to the net for the third goal the floodgates were beginning to open.

With six minutes remaining Chloe Sigerson dispatched a penalty to the net and now it was 4-11 to 0-6 in Cork's favour.

Cork continued to hold the upper hand with Orlaith Duggan pointing for Clare in between one each from Orla Cotter and Ciara McCarthy.

Again the sides swapped points before Chloe Morey grabbed a Clare goal four minutes into added time to put a gloss on the scoreboard.

Cork will now meet Limerick in the semi-final on the weekend of May 11-12.

Meanwhile in the Munster junior championship Cork clash with Limerick is also down for decision the same weekend.

The Munster Intermediate championship will see Cork take on Division 2 National League winners Tipperary on May 18.



# Ballinascorthy's camogie gems

## CAMOGIE

■ John Bohane

**BALLINASCORTHY** Camogie Club will compete in the Junior A county championships this season.

Their talented team won the Junior B County final and the West Cork Junior Cup last season.

Club official Kate Crowley is confident they will be competitive in the higher grade this year.

"It is brilliant to be up competing in the junior A grade this year.

"I think the girls will relish the challenge. They are a committed bunch of players who are eager for success.

"The talented younger girls in the squad are also a huge addition," declared the club administrator.

The progressive camogie club are also in the midst of celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

The club were founded in 1969 and they were initially called Castlevue.

To commemorate reaching their significant milestone, the club are embarking on a series of events designed to celebrate their illustrious history.

The club have already held a successful dinner dance which attracted a huge crowd.

They also plan to bring out a commemorative book which should prove nostalgic and very informative.

It will include much-cherished anecdotes and pictures of various teams and players who have all contributed to their rich and illustrious history.

Camogie in Ballinascorthy has always enjoyed a strong following and reputation down through the years.

Camogie in the greater hinterland of Ballinascorthy can be traced back 100 years as Kate declared.

"There was actually camogie in the Ballinascorthy greater area a hundred years ago.

"This was back in 1919, when the Ballymacowen/Clonakilty camogie team were in action, with girls from Ballinascorthy playing.

"The tradition was always there, but it was the founding members of the Castlevue club who put the wheels in motion in 1969 for their own club to be formed. This showed great courage at the time, considering there was no school, church, pitch or finances.

"Our team of girls in 1969 are rightly to be honoured for the 50th anniversary."

The success of Ballinascorthy Camogie Club has been driven on by a great sense of pride and unity displayed by volunteers and supporters in the community over the years.

Kate and her fellow committee members are indebted to the local community for the great support they have played in the success the club have enjoyed since they were founded.

"Community spirit is alive and kicking in the Ballinascorthy hinterland, this was very evident at the recent dinner dance.

"Close-knit and family feel-good" were words used by our club chairman Michael Pattwell on the night, which typify the willingness and spontaneous response to any event that promotes our locality.

"We have always enjoyed great support from within our community.

"There is a great sense of unity within our area. This has played a big role



Ballinascorthy camogie players pictured at their dinner dance which was held earlier this year. Left to right: Cara Deasy, Aoife Nyhan, Breda McCarthy, Lisa Hegarty, Michelle Dullea, Moira Barrett and Clara Crowley.



Marian McCarthy Campbell (second from left) making a presentation to Ballinascorthy players Caroline Surgrue, Claire Kingston and Moira Barrett.

in helping us enjoy success in recent years.

"Community spirit isn't any one person, it is everyone combined."

The playing pool within the club at both adult and underage level is good at present revealed Kate, but they are always open to new members joining their ambitious club.

"We have a lot of talented players coming through at present, but as always new players are very welcome.

"Like most rural clubs, we have seen numbers rise and fall over the years.

"We are confident the club is in good hands right now which augurs well for the future."

There is also great unity within the club. Everybody shares the same goals to achieve success for their beloved GAA club.

"What goes on behind the scenes in Ballinascorthy camogie club is how the success came about in 2018.

"The coaches, mentors, parents and players are second to none.

"Their dedication to pitch training in the summer, indoor, ball alley and gym training in the winter, coupled with generous access to all GAA facilities, makes a huge difference.

"Our committee members have great organisation skills and enjoy their role within the club.

"I have to acknowledge Cork County Board and the Carbery Board for all their training courses and help with developing and progressing the club over the years."

The club have also provided a plethora of players for various Cork camogie teams since they were founded.

Kate is proud of all their inter-county players.

"There is great credit due to all the girls, past and present, who have played for their county.

"We had Eileen Walsh back in 1974

“The club have also provided a plethora of players for various Cork camogie teams since they were founded”

with the Cork U16s, then Helen Walsh who moved to Eire Og when Ballinascorthy had only teams up to U14 level.

"She enjoyed wonderful success captaining Cork to All-Ireland Junior glory in 1999. The tradition has always been there."

Current camogie star Moira Barrett continues on the great tradition.

She captained the Cork minor team to All-Ireland glory last year.

All at Ballinascorthy GAA Club are proud of her exploits.

"We are immensely proud of Moira Barrett, who last year captained the Cork minor team to All-Ireland glory.

"She is an inspirational player and a great leader. Caroline Surgrue is also terrific and was our top scorer last year.

"She won intermediate medals with Cork in 2018. Claire Kingston also led Cork to win the Munster U16 A crown last year."



# Rena bucks the trend

One of the country's most decorated sports stars talks to **Donal O'Keeffe** about life off the pitch — and what it feels like to be a modern-day work of art



ON REFLECTION: Rena Buckley at the Bealick Mill in Macroom, Co Cork. Picture: Dan Linehan

**R**ENA Buckley, one of the most decorated players in GAA history, has lately reached new heights of fame. Joining local icons like Roy Keane, Róry Gallagher, and Karl Marx (per *The Sultans of Ping FC*), she has been honoured by Mad About Cork's guerrilla art campaign — her face now adorns an electrical box on St Peter's and Paul's Place.

On a rainy Monday afternoon in her busy Macroom physiotherapy practice, Rena laughs with delight when asked how she feels about this newest decoration.

"I think it's class," she says. "It's strange to have something like that about yourself, you know, but it's great for women in sport. I hope too many people aren't laughing at me."

It seems unlikely many would laugh at someone with 18 All-Ireland medals. With six camogie and football doubles, Rena remains the only GAA player to captain her county to All-Ireland success in both codes.

The soul of modesty and fairness, she is quick to correct her interviewer when told she is

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"unique in Irish sporting life, in having 18 All-Ireland medals". "Briege Corkery does as well," she says. "And Briege is still playing with Cork, so she could very easily pass me out. In fact, she has a great chance, because Cork are going well this year in camogie."

**R**ena retired from inter-county competition almost a year ago, but the 32-year-old still plays camogie with Inniscarra and football with Donoughmore. She trains twice a week with both clubs, although she says she has seen a slight drop in her own levels of fitness.

"I wouldn't be quite where I was at inter-county, but I won't be breaking the weighing scales anytime soon either. The standard of training in Cork is very high, and

it's hard to maintain that if you're not playing at those high levels."

"But I would take club level very seriously. Inniscarra is a senior camogie club. We got to the All-Ireland semi-final last year. We were beaten by St Martin's from Wexford. Donoughmore is a junior football club — we're a competitive junior club."

Physiotherapy was something Rena always hoped to work in: "When I was in school, I always loved sports, and I always loved science, so I just hoped to put them together."

Approximately a third of her work is sports-related, the majority from footballing and hurling. Of the rest, she says, back injuries would be the most common, some down to lifestyle, and not getting enough exercise.

Rena advises clients to try to get, when possible, 30 to 40 minutes of exercise, five times a week: "Ideally, you should mix it between cardiovascular training, like walking, cycling and swimming, and then a bit of resistance training, exercises using your own body weight. Press-ups, squatting, lunging, bridging, step-ups."

"To do both types of exercises is important for your health, especially as you get older in life."

In an age of social media, every negative voice can seem amplified. Rena isn't into social media and says it's important to tune out the negativity. "What's very important is that you have a couple of people around you that will support you no matter what, and if they need to give some construc-

tive feedback, take it from them, but Joe Soap on the street? Don't take as much notice."

When asked about her partner, Freemount GAA player Páidí Collins, and their long-term plans together, Rena laughs and says she saw another GAA star "get caught with a question like that one time". She recalls an article where the player's relationship status became the focus of the headline and says she has no intention of that happening here.

She says she and Páidí are in a good place, and long may

that continue.

"We're just enjoying life and enjoying our time together. Sure you never know what's around the corner."

When it's put to Rena that she is one of the greatest athletes the country has ever produced, she demurs modestly that she is very lucky to have been part of some great teams.

"I've been on brilliant teams with brilliant people. I'm talking about the whole set-up — management teams, players. And, like me, those players would have had great family support."

"To become a successful player, you need support as a person. The players who tend to play for years at a high level



tend to get great support from the people around them.

"My family has been hugely supportive, and I think family support is something you'll see with most sportspeople, especially those who play after school level."

Her parents still come to her club games, and that family support has made all the difference to her.

**S**ince retiring from inter-county competition, weekends have become more flexible. She is grateful that she now can devote a little more time to her clubs, and notes that her social life is a little freer too.

"Obviously, if you put a lot of time into sports, you have to put less time into everything else.

That can affect your work situation, your social life, your relationships, and it can be tricky, for both males and females, to get that balance right."

"A male sportsperson can sometimes be celebrated that bit more, so it can be a bit easier for a man to commit more time to his sporting life. Girls who are involved in sport are very dedicated, but there definitely would still be a higher recognition for a male than there would be for a female, but I do think that's changing."

Rena notes that for female teams, the All-Ireland final can often be their first visit to Croke Park, something she says can be a pressured situation.

"If you're a male team, you're there for the quarter-final, you're

there for the semi-final. It's the same routine, whereas for a female team it's such a big deal to get to Croke Park. And then it's a pressurised situation of an All-Ireland final as well."

So what can be done to support female players?

"I think we're going in the right direction, but the momentum has to keep up. I think double-headers are excellent, where you have a female fixture and a male fixture paired. Those encourage supporters to cheer on both female and male players."

Rena champions the 20x20 campaign, which plans that by next year, women's sports will have 20% more sponsorship, 20% more media coverage, 20% more attendances, and 20% more participation in playing and adminis-

tration. "There's a lot of talk in media at the moment about female empowerment, and that's very popular in sport too, and numbers have increased significantly in terms of female participation. I think the rest of society will follow that."

"Media will follow that. And I hope attendance at events will follow it as well."

She might be retired from inter-county competition, but work or play, Rena Buckley has no intention of slowing down.

And, despite her unjustifiable modesty, it seems unlikely that a city-centre electrical box will be the last or best monument Cork offers to the only GAA player to captain her county to All-Ireland success in camogie and football.



# Camogie contest gets new format

Four teams in race for semi spot

GAA

■ Mary Newman

THE senior league has proved to be most competitive and in section one it could not have been any closer.

In section one the last round of games on Wednesday last produced results which saw four teams end up on level points in the race for the two semi-final spots.

Eire Og lost out to Courcy Rovers, Ballygarvan had two points to spare over Glen Rovers where it ended 2-16 to 3-11, while Killeagh overcame Ballincollig to end their interest in the league and keep their own bid for a semi-final spot alive.

With Killeagh, Glen Rovers, Eire Og and Ballygarvan all on the same points it meant there will have to be a playoff for the two semi-final spots.

The draw for the playoff will see Eire Og taking on Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers meeting Killeagh.

In section two, St Catherine's got the upper hand on Inniscarra 0-14 to 1-8 the scoreline here, Sarsfields had a victory over Cloughduv with St Finbarr's accounting for Douglas.

Inniscarra go through from section two as group winners but Sarsfields and St Catherine's will playoff to decide who will go through to the semi-final as both finished on level points.

In the playoffs, the venue of the original meeting between the sides will be reversed.

That means in section one Killeagh will be at home for their meeting with Glen Rovers, whilst Ballygarvan have home advantage in their meeting with Eire Og.

Both games are scheduled for the week ahead.

In the section two playoff Sarsfield's is the venue for the meeting between Sarsfield's and St Catherine's and this is down for decision on Wednesday.

The semi-finals will take place on May 19.

**MINOR:**  
The minor A league final takes place on Sunday in Castle Road at 11.30am between Sarsfields and Ballinora.

The minor D final on Monday night will see Castlemartyr meeting Kilbree at 7.15pm.

The minor B semi-finals are down for decision on Sunday at 1.30pm with Aghada playing St Finbarr's, venue to be confirmed and Kilbrittain/Timoleague meeting Glen Rovers at 12.30pm in Ballygarvan.

The Minor C semi-finals are also scheduled as follows:

Last night in Castle Road at 7.15pm Middleton and Tracton clashed.

The second semi-final is Sunday in Castle Road at 7.15pm where Grenagh will face Youghal.

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

REPRESENTATIVES from twelve clubs gathered at the Blackrock GAA Club launch of the Cork Garda U13 Camogie tournament which will take place next Saturday.

Since its inaugural year, it has been a wonderful success and anticipation is high that this year will be equally as productive.

Since its inception in 2014 either Brian Dillon's or Glen Rovers have acted as hosts and it was then called the Mayfield District Garda tournament.

But in a change of format this year it has been decided that from now the name will change to The Cork Garda Camogie Tournament and every year a different club will get an opportunity to host the event.

This year the event is being hosted by the Blackrock club.

Sergeant in charge of Community Policing Mick Comyns was in attendance and hosted the launch and he welcomed the invited guests from each club and introduced the Gardaí who were present to the young audience and their mentors and parents.

Amongst those present were players representing each of the participating clubs.

The whole concept for the tournament was indeed very much like the saying, from little acorns springs big trees.

The Mayfield Division have very strong links with sport and the community Garda always worked closely with local clubs and they were looking at organising something for youngsters and camogie was the chosen sport.

The Gardaí are working with young people to help them enjoy sport and to give them something to aim towards and to help them on the right path in life and they were delighted to organising the tournament.

The feedback each year that the Gardaí got from the participating clubs they invited was superb and they continued each year to build and make a solid foundation for the tournament.

They are looking forward to a great day's camogie in Blackrock where the twelve teams will battle it out on two pitches.

John O'Driscoll, Tony Hartnett and Ben Flahive, Juvenile Liaison Gardaí, were in attendance and they outlined to everybody present what will be happening on the day.

Twelve clubs will participate and they will be divided into three groups of six, games will be twelve minutes aside and will be played under camogie rules while unlimited substitutions will be allowed.

The top team in each section plus the best second-placed team from the three remaining groups will contest the semi-finals.

On the day refreshments will be provided and it is hoped that the youngsters will be treated to a lot of surprises — last year the Garda from the rapid response unit were on hand with their colleagues and the youngsters had a wonderful day as they tried on Garda caps, jackets and enjoyed the sirens and the whole atmosphere the Garda created as they worked flat out to make it a hugely enjoyable day.



Members of an Garda Síochána and Cork camogie board, with players from the various clubs that will be taking part in the Cork Garda Camogie Tournament which will take place at Blackrock GAA Club next Saturday.



Players Lilly Condon, Faith, Siofra and Eala Pattwell, Emma Galvin and Aileen Murphy at the Carzone.ie sponsorship presentation to Ballinascorthy Camogie Club, on behalf of Finbar Galvin Bandon. The competition is being run by Carzone.ie. Picture: Daragh Mc Sweeney

Representatives from the clubs who were invited to participate were present whilst the camogie county board were represented by county secretary Tracey Sheehan and members of the Community Policing Gardaí and juvenile liaison officers were also present.

The clubs participating are Brian Dillon's, Inniscarra Na Píarsaigh, Glen Rovers, Douglas, Sarsfields, Blackrock, St Finbarr's Bishopstown, Ballinora, Carrigaline and Ballincollig.

The young players in attendance showed huge enthusiasm for the forthcoming event with several giving their reaction to the launch and the big day on May.

Their reactions when asked was: "This is a brilliant tournament and a lot of us would have seen the other teams in our clubs play in it so we are really looking forward to it."

This was amongst the hugely positive feedback from the young players present as the Garda treated them to some refreshments to launch their event.

The Garda really make it a very special day each year and they go to huge trouble to ensure everything goes well.

They bring horses from Dublin, the Garda dogs and the rapid response unit all pay a visit to ensure those participating and supporting the teams get to meet the Gardaí in a fun atmosphere — something which promotes positivity for the young players and supporters.

It will be a busy day for the host club who are looking forward to hosting the event for the first time and a spokesperson for the Blackrock Camogie told the Echo no stones are being left unturned.

"Over the years Brian Dillon's and

“A lot of us would have seen the other teams in our clubs play in it so we are really looking forward to it”

Glen Rovers have done a superb job hosting this very prestigious tournament and we are very conscious that we have huge boots to fill but we are honoured to be asked host and are really looking forward to a great day.”

The schedule of games and the groups are not announced until the morning of the tournament, therefore, clubs arrive and it is then they find out who their opponents will be.

Every year the sun has shone on the event and this year all participants are hoping it will be the same.

Games will get underway with the first games throwing in at 10.30am and there will be two groups on six teams with top two from each group contesting the semi-finals with the final following.

It promises to be a fun-filled day as the tournament crosses the river for the first time to new surroundings on the south side of the city.



# Newcestown young gun Ciara helping Carbery camogie become a real force

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CIARA O'Sullivan never doubted that Cork would defend their All-Ireland camogie minor A championship title.

Apart from an early wake-up call when they lost their Group 2 opener against Tipperary, the young Rebels have impressed en route to a second successive All-Ireland crown.

Newcestown teenager Ciara (17) has been a key player in these back-to-back successes.

'At the start of the year we found it hard to get going and then we came up against a Tipperary team that had hit the ground running. But we know that if we played them now we'd be a different proposition,' Ciara says.

'That loss to Tipp brought us together as a team and we fought harder as a unit after that. From there on, we got better and better.'

Group wins against Wexford and Dublin and a draw with Galway (a repeat of last year's final) saw Cork advance to an All-Ireland semi-final against Kilkenny. They beat the Cats by 1-21 to 1-14. In the final they lowered the Banner with a 3-15 to 2-12 victory against Clare.

'By the time we got to the final we had momentum. We took that from the group stage into the Kilkenny semi-final and we felt unstoppable going into the Clare game,' Ciara says.

The wind was really strong in the final. We played with it in the first half and we wanted to

put as many scores on the board as we could when we had that advantage. We did. We led 3-11 to 0-3 at half time and I knew we had control in the second half.

'I never doubted us once from the Tipp match onwards.'

In 2018 Ciara won the All-Ireland minor title alongside Newcestown club-mate Ashling O'Donovan and Ballinascorthy's Moira Barrett who was captain. This season there were five Carbery players on the panel and all five played in the final. As well as Ciara at wing forward, Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Claire Sexton (Ballinascorthy) lined out in defence, and Enniskeane's Sinead Hurley started in midfield, while another Enniskeane player, Tara Sheehan, replaced Ciara in the second half. Courcey Rovers' Fiona Keating, another who was involved last year, was named player of the match after a five-point haul.

'There are more and more West Cork girls being selected for Cork which is brilliant,' Coláiste na Toirbriote fifth-year student Ciara says.

'There has always been one or two from West Cork involved on county teams – but this year has been phenomenal. There are five of us from West Cork, there were three last year, and of course the Courcey girls are very local too.'

The future is bright for Carbery camogie, Ciara says, and a good senior championship run is one of many targets in



Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan in action for Cork in the All-Ireland camogie minor A championship final win against Clare at Nenagh. Wing forward Ciara won her second successive All-Ireland title at this grade.

**'There has always been one or two from West Cork involved on county teams – but this year has been phenomenal. There are five of us from West Cork, and there were three last year.'**

the months ahead. She's also confident that Newcestown will be in the battle for silverware.

'We won the county intermediate final two years ago. That

was one my best moments. I'd love a cut off that again this year. I know the grades have been brought together – senior B and intermediate – but I feel

that we have a chance this year,' says Ciara, who has more boxes to tick at county level too.

'The Munster championship is played after the All-Ireland series and it's one I'd love to win with Cork this year. Last year we were beaten by Waterford in the Munster final so there's unfinished business there.'

The daughter of Richard and Jackie, who are heavily involved in Newcestown GAA, and an

older sister to Cormac and Karen, who both play with Newcestown too, Ciara is another talent on the Carbery camogie conveyor belt that is producing All-Ireland winners and stars for the future.

Colette Desmond, Suzanne Deasy and Maeve Lynch are some of the Newcestown players that Ciara looks up to. It won't be long before her name is added to that list.

## New Ballinascorthy camogie book on sale locally

THE new Ballinascorthy Camogie Club book, Give A Girl A Hurley, was launched at a packed Ballinascorthy hall on bank holiday Monday night.

Former player Helen (Walsh) McManamon launched the book with great aplomb as she cut the ribbon after a heart-warming speech. She played camogie with the club in the mid 1980s and then went on to play with Éire Óg as there was no adult team in Bal.

A former captain of an All-Ireland winning Cork junior team in 1999, she now trains underage camogie teams in Bal. Her daughters, Aoife and Ciara, play for Ballinascorthy Camogie Club.

Three cakes were baked for the launch by Betty Hennessy and her sister Kathleen. The 1969 cake was cut by Mary (Meade) Lehane and Patrick Hennessy, the 2019 cake was cut by Martina O'Brien who was just back from Dublin after captioning the Cork senior ladies' footballers to national league success, and the book cake was cut by Marion Campbell and club secretary Kate Crowley.

The book is now for sale in The Village Store, Ballinascorthy.

**Camogie**  
ALL-IRELAND MINOR B CHAMPIONSHIP REPLAY  
(Wex/Douglas Park, Nenagh) Loris 4-6 Limerick 2-5



Pictured at the launch of the new Ballinascorthy Camogie Club book in Ballinascorthy hall on Monday were former Castlevue/Ballinascorthy players. Back from left, Mary Coffey, Kathleen Crowley, Nora McCarthy, Nora Collins, Kathleen Fleming, Carmel Calnan, Mai O'Donovan, Carmel McCarthy, Eleanor Finn and Ann Galvin. Front from left, Betty Hennessy, Joan Shannon, Mary Deasy, Marion Campbell, Mary Meade, Kay Keohane, Pauline Smith and Eileen O'Mahony.



# Sending off makes life easier for Rebels

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 1-13  
Limerick 0-4

IT WAS a comfortable victory over Limerick in Pairc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening for the Cork seniors as they advance to a Munster final meeting with Tipperary.

Leading by six points at the break, Cork controlled matters all through.

Limerick's tactic of opting to play a defensive game ensured Cork were on top in their own defence and had time to find gaps in the crowded Limerick rearguard.

Limerick's cause wasn't helped when they lost Caoimhe Lyons following a straight red card after a high tackle on Cork keeper Aoife Murray 15 minutes into the second half and when Amy O'Connor finished Linda Collins' offload to the net for the game's only goal with nine minutes remaining the result was done and dusted.

Orla Cotter again showed her class as a free taker, converting six from placed balls, while Katriona Mackey and Orla Cronin had an excellent hour as Cork took the game to their opponent. In defence, Gemma O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson, and Laura Treacy were in control.

With Cork leading 0-6 to 0-1, it took an excellent save from Aoife Murray to deny Niamh Mulcahy, and with Katriona Mackey firing over a point as Cork swept upfield, they were ahead 0-7 to 0-1 at the interval.

Cork worked hard through the second half and never looked in any danger, with Amy O'Connor and Orla Cotter twice finding the range.

Limerick's response was two from Niamh Mulcahy before Linda Collins superbly grabbed a long-range Chloe Sigerson free and passed cleverly to O'Connor who dispatched it to the net.

As the clock wound down Orla Cronin and Collins had points in between as Mulcahy pointed free to leave Cork comfortable winners.

**Scorer for Cork:** O Cotter 0-6 (f's), A O'Connor 1-2, K Mackey, L Collins 0-2 each, O Cronin 0-1.

**Limerick:** N Mulcahy 0-4 (f's).

**CORK:** A Murray; N O'Callaghan, L Treacy, P Mackey; L Coppinger, G O'Connor (c), C Sigerson; L Homan, C McCarthy; A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter; K Mackey Collins, H Looney.

**Subs:** L Hayes for H Looney (40), N Mc McCarthy for C Mc McCarthy (41), J White for O Cronin (57), L O'Sullivan for L Treacy (59), S McCarthy for L Collins (59).

**LIMERICK:** L O'Neill; J Mulcahy, M Creamer, M Quaid; R Delee, S Carey, M Ryan; R Ambrose, K O'Leary; D Murphy, C Lyons, N Mulcahy; K Hennessy, C Costello, S O'Callaghan.

**Subs:** D Egan for S Carey (h/t inj), L Leonard for S O'Callaghan (46), L Stack for K Hennessy (56).

**Referee:** John Ullis (Tipperary).

Meanwhile, in Kilmallock, the Cork junior side recorded an eight-point victory over Limerick to advance to a final meeting with Kerry on a scoreline of 2-11 to 1-6.

## Tipperary and Cork power to Munster final repeat

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Tipperary will have an opportunity to avenge last year's Munster Senior Camogie Championship final defeat to Cork when the sides meet in the 2019 decider on Saturday week.

The Premier girls recorded a 2-23 to 1-8 victory over Waterford in their semi-final at the Ragg while the titleholders defeated Limerick 1-13 to 0-4 in Pairc Uí Rinn.

In a week when Cork-based investment firm BlackBee announced a three-year partnership with Cork camogie, the hosts led 0-7 to 0-1 at half-time.

Goalkeeper Aoife Murray was impressive in that spell while Orla Cotter was unerring from frees.

Niamh Mulcahy was Limerick's main contributor from placed balls but their cause was not helped when Caoimhe Lyons was red-carded midway through the second half.

Amy O'Connor's late goal sealed the win.

Tipperary were equally impressive in defeating Waterford leading 1-13 to 1-4 at the break with home star, Niamh Treacy, and Beth Carton (penalty) the goal scorers. Chief scorer Cáit Devane had the second goal for the hosts in the second half.

Elsewhere, Cork and Kerry booked their places in the Munster junior final after their respective victories over Limerick (2-11 to 1-8) and Waterford (1-12 to 0-7). This showdown is also pencilled in for Saturday week.

Cork and Tipperary will feature in the first of the provincial finals next Saturday, when they meet in the Intermediate decider at Kilmallock (7.15pm).

### CAMOGIE

**Interprovincial tournament:** Leinster 0-5 Ulster 3-10, Munster 3-7 Connacht 1-3, Ulster 0-9 Munster 1-3, Leinster 1-6 Connacht 0-5, Leinster 0-1 Munster 1-15, Ulster 4-7 Connacht 0-10; Shield Final: Connacht 1-12 Leinster 0-10; Cup Final: Munster 1-5 Ulster 1-8



Cork players Stephanie Beausang, intermediate captain; Olivia McAllen, under 16 captain; Gemma O'Connor, senior captain; Hannah O'Leary, minor captain and Nicole Crean, junior captain as BlackBee announced a three year sponsorship deal with Cork Camogie. PHOTO: MIKI BARLOK

## The bees knees for Cork camogie

All-Ireland champions Cork have a bee in their bonnet but don't let that fool you! The camogie team have announced a three year partnership

with investment firm BlackBee. The first of its kind for BlackBee, the partnership will see the company sponsor jerseys for the senior, intermedi-

ate, junior teams as well as the minor and under 16 teams.

CEO of BlackBee, David O'Shea said: "We are delighted to partner with the Cork camogie teams who have been fantastic ambassadors for Cork. They are an amazing group of athletes who have really made the county proud with their achievements. We are looking forward to the coming years as we support them on their task of bringing more trophies back to Cork. This is the first and biggest sponsorship deal for BlackBee to date. We are excited

about what's to come in the future."

Chairperson of Cork Camogie, Mary McSweeney said: "Cork Camogie are delighted with the announcement by BlackBee of a three year partnership/sponsorship of Cork camogie. This sponsorship will help Cork to grow, develop and further enhance camogie and keep Cork to the fore front of the world's fastest female sport. With our new sponsors BlackBee we look forward to the journey ahead and I have no doubt it will be a winning partnership both on and off the field."



Munster's Clare Stakelum, left, and Ulster's Dearbhla McGee battle for possession in yesterday's Camogie Junior Interprovincial final at the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown. Ulster won 1-8 to 1-5. Picture: INPHO/Dián Keniry



# Inniscarra have to remain hungry



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

FOR the majority of clubs, they are still over two months away from championship as the inter-county fixtures take precedent.

I have to say that the senior opening round fixtures has thrown up really close ties.

There is no obvious outcome in any of them.

That's the way the championship has unfolded in the last few years.

Since Milford's domination waned it became open season and even though Inniscarra won three in a row in 2018 they weren't raging favourites at the beginning of each season, last season in particular having lost Joanne Casey from their championship winning team of 2017.

What they have achieved is down to tremendous discipline, work ethic and leadership qualities.

You need leaders in teams.

To all just do your bit is more often than not, not enough.

When the chips are down, and the pressure is on, it is the team with leaders that will prevail.

I think Inniscarra had many leaders last year.

How club 'player of the year' Niamh Dilworth stood up and was counted after Casey's departure is noteworthy.

Captain Treasa McCarthy wore her heart on her sleeve throughout the campaign, making runs and winning possession she had no right to.

Katie O'Mahony and Niamh McCarthy amongst others were true leaders.

What will 2020 bring for Inniscarra?

It gets harder every year to keep the hunger and momentum going, added to the fact that the opposition will raise their game by 20% to try and dethrone you.

But don't rule out four in a row for a club with a strong underage structure coming up behind.

Courcey Rovers will of course be hoping to build on last year.

And just like Glen Rovers in 2018, if you don't reach the final again it's seen as a step backwards.

But it isn't. Sometimes pairings go with you and you get stronger as the season progresses.

At times you could be up against the best in round 2 or 3.

So focusing on just one game at a time and bettering themselves on the training ground should be Rovers' target and see where that takes them.

They're a young side and they'll be tough opposition for anyone.

The fact that they're up against Milford in round one is still a tough opener despite Milford not being champions for a while.

Rovers had the better of Milford in last years semi-final after a top-class performance.

The North Cork side are typically not at their best in opening rounds so this will be a difficult one for them.

An exciting game is predicted.



Inniscarra's Niamh Dilworth scoring a second-half goal against Ahane in the Munster Club Senior A Camogie Championship semi-final at Ballyanly. Picture: Denis Minihane



Douglas's Katrina Mackey on the ball with St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor closing in on her in the Cork Camogie Senior Championship game at Castle Road. Pic: Gavin Browne

Glen Rovers need leaders. They are a nice balanced outfit but when they are playing below par there isn't anyone grabbing the game and team by the scruff of the neck and driving them to rise their performance.

They let a six-point lead behind them in their first round to Milford last year, losing 2-16 to 0-16 and while they showed great drive in the opening twenty minutes of that game, they faded, and didn't live up to expectations against Ballygarvan in round 2, losing by a goal.

If they can toughen up and go for this championship with the grit between their teeth they've a great chance.

Sarsfields had an horrendously facile

victory over Mallow in round one last year, Mallow since opting to wisely downgrade and rebuild.

But the East Cork side got hit for five goals against Inniscarra and exited the championship.

I don't think they were prepared for the physicality of that game, but that's what you're up against when you face the best.

That game will stand to them heading into the meeting with Douglas on July 23rd.

Plenty of challenge games against better opposition is the way to go and tough battles in training.

I find at times that girls don't go in hard enough on each other at training. If you don't do it in training, you won't do it on match day.

“If girls don't go in hard enough on at training. If you don't do it in training, you won't do it on match day”

Eire Og make the step up for the first time in many years and we wish them luck in the top flight.

Good luck to all clubs. It promises to be once again, a highly entertaining championship.

SE Systems Senior Championship fixtures

Preliminary Round A - June 30th - Carbery V Muskerry Round 1 B - 23rd July - Milford V Courcey Rovers C - 24th July - St. Catherine's V Killeagh D - 23rd July - Douglas V Sarsfields E - 25th July - Ballycollig V Glen Rovers F - 25th July - Eire Og V Inniscarra G - 26th July - Winklers A V Cloughduv H - 26th July - St. Finbarrs V Ballygarvan

Losers round - dates to be determined Round 2 - 14th/15th September (Sept 21st/22nd in event of draws)

Quarter finals - 21st/22nd September (28th/29th in event of draws)

Semi-finals - 28th/29th September (5th/6th October in event of draws)

Final 12th/13th October.

## Crowley notches hat-trick in final

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Kilbree 5-8  
Castlemartyr 2-12

KILBREE got the upper hand in the Minor D 13-a-side league final in Castle Road recently.

Castlemartyr made a strong start with two early points from Aimee Morgan and Lilly Hayes Nally.

Kilbree replied with their captain Mairead Crowley leading the way as she notched up two goals and a point.

Maeve O'Neill added a point and Leanne Sheehy added a goal as Kilbree settled into the game.

Castlemartyr dug deep and points from Aisling Murphy and Aimee Morgan kept them in touch.

Mairead Crowley added the Kilbree tally with a goal and they had a Maeve O'Neill point as they continued to hold the upper hand.

Castlemartyr battled back adding a goal and a point before the break where Kilbree aided by the strong wind lead 4-5 to 1-5.

Kilbree had to defend against a strong second half wind as Castlemartyr put early pressure on with a Lilly Hayes Nally goal and with Zara Bowles pointing the gap was narrowed.

Goal

Maeve O'Neill responded with a goal and now Castlemartyr really upper the pace with four points in row from Aimee Morgan. Maeve O'Neill pointed and in between Aimee Moran responded but Emily O'Donovan had the final say as Kilbree ran out winners to take their first at minor level.

Scorers for Kilbree: Mairead Crowley 3-4, Maeve O'Neill 1-3, Leanne Sheehy 1-0, Emily O'Donovan 0-1.

Castlemartyr: A Morgan 0-7 (0-4f's), L Hayes-Nally 2-1, A Murphy, E Hayes-Nally, Z Bowles, A Harty 0-1 each.

KILBREE: H Brimble; S O'Donovan, K Lancaster, R Deasy; R Hurley, K O'Donovan, M Collins, E O'Donovan, M Murphy, A O'Neill, L Sheehy, M Crowley, C Murphy, M O'Neill.

CASTLEMARTYR: K Butler, C Steele, A Harty, F McGrath, C Barry, C Dean, G Lynch, Z Bowles, E Hayes-Nally, S Horgan, A Morgan, A Murphy, L Hayes-Nally. Subs: M McCarthy for C Barry, C Barry for C Dean, A Newlands for A Murphy.





The Cork junior team who defeated Limerick to book a Munster final place.

# Juniors book a place in decider

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	2-11
Limerick	1-8

**HOLDERS** Cork made a great start to the defence of their Munster junior crown as they overcame Limerick in Kilmallock recently.

With the sales director of their new county sponsors Blackbee Investments Donie Daly at the helm as team manager, the Cork girls were anxious to do their managers proud and they did so in excellent fashion as they ran out winners to book their place in the final against Kerry.

Limerick started brightly, with a goal after four minutes from Geri Maye O'Kelly but the Cork response was immediate with a point from Emma Cooney and when county minor joint captain Emma Murphy's long range effort found the net Cork took the lead.

Limerick responded with a point from Nicole Crean and they followed up with a point from the hardworking Clara O'Sullivan.

Cork settled into the game and with Lucy Wallace dropping back to centre back to mark Limerick's danger woman Rebecca Noonan Cork began to close down the attacking threat she posed.

Emma Cooney pointed eighteen minutes in but three Limerick points without reply from Rebecca Noonan pointed frees had Cork under pressure.

Nicole Crean pointed a free was to edge Cork back in front but Limerick responded with a Brenda O'Keefe point and with three minutes to the break Limerick lead by a point.

With the Cork defence beginning to win a lot of ball and get it quickly to their inside line the Cork attack upped the pace and points from Emma Murphy and Nicole Crean just before half time edged Cork back in control.

Corks Emma Murphy suffered a head injury just on the stroke of half time as Cork lead 1-7 to 1-6 and this necessitated changes in the Cork attack with Courtney O'Keefe coming into the side.



Kilbree winners of the Minor D League title.

Cork started the second half in tremendous fashion with a goal from Nicole Crean and they followed up with a point from the hardworking Clara O'Sullivan.

Limerick put the pressure on and they were rewarded with two points inside the opening ten minutes from Marie Danagher and B O'Keefe but with the cork defence closing down their attack Limerick began to struggle to get further scores and for the rest of the game Cork began to dominate.

With their attack doing huge work the Cork forward enjoyed huge possessions and putting the limerick defence under constant pressure they never allowing them any backs time on the ball Cork introduced fresh legs to their line out with Claire Sexton and Caron O'Reilly joining the fray as Cork pushed for home with Christine O'Neill, Sinead Hurley and Claire Sexton all adding a point to their tally.

Cork had tremendous displays all over the pitch with their defence particularly impressive and amongst those that impressed were Lucy Wallace, Danielle Carroll Sinead Hurley Fiona Nelligan and Nicole Crean.

Cork will now meet Kerry in the Munster final on May 25th after they

overcame the test provided by Waterford on Saturday last.

**Scorers for Cork:** N Crean 1-4, E Murphy 1-1, E Cooney 0-2, C O'Neill, S Hurley, C Sexton, C O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**Limerick:** R Noonan 0-5 (0-4Fs), G M O'Kelly 1-1, B O'Keefe 0-1, M Danagher 0-1

**Cork:** M Lynch, J Murphy, D Carroll, L Wallace, L Doyle, C O'Neill, C Murphy, M Barrett, S Hurley, C O'Sullivan, E Murphy, E Cooney, N Crean, F Nelligan, L Collins.

**Limerick:** L O'Carroll, K Herbert, Y Lee, E Barry, S Shanahan, T Fitzgibbon, S McElliot, L Browne, O Killeher, R Noonan, G Lee, M Danagher, M Hogan, G Maye O'Kelly, B O'Keefe.

**Subs:** E Whelan for M Hogan, O Rea for B O'Keefe, S Foley for S McElliot, U Bluet for Marie Danagher.

## CORK TAKE ON TIPP IN INTERMEDIATE FINAL

Holders Cork take on Tipperary this afternoon in Kilmallock at 2.30pm for the Munster intermediate crown.

This will be a first provincial outing for both sides as they are the only two counties participating in the Munster Intermediate championship and it is a pity given that a lot of the other counties could enter this competition.

Last year Cork recorded a comprehensive victory over Tipperary to take the title before continuing on to take the National league and All-Ire-

land title.

This year it is a new look Cork side as all of the players who won All-Ireland medals are no longer eligible for the grade, this is a pity given that most of the players will not play senior therefore they are denied a chance to continue to play Inter county camogie.

Tipperary, like Cork, are fielding their second adult team but they have the advantage of having a lot of players who would have played senior regressed down to Intermediate.

Amongst the players who have been making an impact are former All-Ireland senior winning captain Joanne Ryan who brings huge experience to the side, Jenny Grace, Aoife Moloughney, Sabrina Larkin and Claire Stakelum will be amongst the players in their line out.

When the sides met in the National league Tipperary were 1-11 to 1-4 winners and their experienced players were the ones who stood out on the day.

Cork have been working hard building a new team and Stefanie Beausang, Grainne Hannon Ashling Maloney, Katie O'Mahony and Erin Looney will be amongst the players on a young Cork panel who will be hoping to retain the crown.

## Sars defeat Ballinora in classic minor league final

CAMOGIE

Sarsfields	2-15
Ballinora	2-10

THE Minor A league final proved to be a thriller as two evenly matched sides battled it out in Castle Road for the title.

With the result in doubt to the final five minutes when Sarsfields finally began to pull away the title was there for the taking and Ballinora to their credit gave it everything they had in their bid to be crowned champions.

Both sides got off to a great start with a goal at either end of the field after just two minutes.

Katelyn Sheehan had the ball in the net for Sarsfields inside a minute of the throw in but Ballinora responded as they got off to a perfect start with a goal from Rose Murphy in the second minute of the game.

As the sides settled into the game they traded points Aine Mullins and Orlaith Mullins were on target for Sarsfields but with Kate O'Shea and Cliona Dooley responding it was level pegging.

Aoife Quirke and Alannah Linehan found the range for Ballinora as Katelyn Sheehan replied but Rose Murphy pointed to put Ballinora ahead in the ninth minute 1-4 to 1-3.

It was nip and tuck as play flowed and with both defences standing firm goals were hard to come by.

As the sides traded points Olivia McAllen and Orlaith Mullins kept the scoreboard ticking over for Sarsfields and with Katelyn Sheehan grabbing a goal they matched Ballinora who had points from a Kate O'Shea free and Rose Murphy from play and just before the break a pointed free from Kate O'Shea made it level pegging at the short whistle: Sarsfields 2-5 Ballinora 1-8.

Sarsfields edged ahead with three points without reply and by the 42nd minute, Cliona Lynch with two pointed frees and Olivia McAllen with one from play had edged them ahead.

Ballinora responded superbly and applying huge pressure on the Sarsfields defence they were back on level with a goal from Cliona Dooley.

Orlaith Mullins and Cliona Dooley swapped points but upping the pace Sarsfields took control and with Cliona Lynch superbly converting two frees and Orlaith Mullin and Katelyn Sheehan adding two a piece they were in control.

Ballinora with the game slipping away could find no way through for a goal Aoife Quirke pointed but the goal they needed to get back into the game was denied by a strong Sarsfields defence.

For Sarsfields captain Becky Morgan Gabby Cashman, Olivia McAllen and Katelyn Sheehan were to the fore whilst Cliona Lynch was superb showing tremendous accuracy from free at a crucial stage in the game, whilst Ballinora had a good hour from Cliona Dooley, Kate O'Shea captain Jane McAuliffe, Kate Ann Crean and Aoife Quirke.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** K Sheehan 2-3, Oh Mullins 0-5, C Lynch 0-4 (Fs), O McAllen 0-2, A Mullins 0-1.

**Ballinora:** R Murphy 1-2, C Dooley 1-2, K O'Shea 0-3 (0-2Fs), A Quirke 0-2, A Linehan 0-1.

**SARSFIELD'S:** M Lynch, A McNamara, R O'Gorman, E Murphy, C Irwin, B Morgan, C Lynch, G Cashman, R O'Mahony, E Woods, O McAllen, A Mullins, O Mullins, S Desmond, K Sheehan.

**Sub:** I Kelly for E Murphy.

**BALLINORA:** O O'Shea, K O' Riordain, S O'Keefe, A Quirke, M Murphy, B Holmes, G Linehan, K A Crean, J McAuliffe (C), N Meyer, K O'Shea, R Murphy, C Dooley, A Linehan, A Murphy.

**Referee:** Dave O'Connell (Glen Rovers).



# Murray feels that camogie will eventually adopt hurling rules

Cork boss says some refs don't know the difference between hurling and camogie

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

PAUDIE Murray believes that camogie should adopt hurling rules.

The Cork manager also feels that some referees who officiate camogie games don't know the difference between hurling and camogie.

A number of high-profile camogie players have hit the headlines in recent months calling for the game's outdated rules to be updated. Murray agrees that the rulebook needs urgent attention and he wants to see two rule changes made before the start of this summer's All-Ireland championship.

'Eventually I think we should be going to hurling rules, simply because the audience that the Camogie Association are trying to attract are hurling people,' Murray says.

'When they tune in they apply hurling rules automatically to the game and that's why sometimes they are scratching their heads over some decisions – and because they don't know the rules they could be giving out about a referee even if he is doing his job perfectly.'

But Murray also feels that there is a problem with the consistency of refereeing in camogie. That's an opinion echoed in a recent Women's Gaelic Players Association (WGPA) survey. Sixty per cent of inter-county camogie players surveyed felt that the consistency of refereeing is poor.

'A big problem is the consistency of refereeing. Some referees don't actually know the difference between hurling and camogie,' Murray says.

He highlights his frustration with a recent example from Cork's Munster championship win against Clare. 'The referee wanted all players outside the 20-metre line for a puck-out, even though the camogie rules state that it's only the opposition that have to go outside the 20-metre line. That's how poor things are,' Murray says.

'We have our own plans for puck-outs and that worked against our plans. We plan within the rules that are there but then you go out and play but the referee won't allow you do what you had planned – and which is



Cork's Amy O'Connor, Julia White, Aoibhe Daly, Laura Treacy and Orla Cronin pictured at the announcement that BlackBee, the Cork-based investment firm, has signed a three-year partnership with Cork camogie. The partnership, which is the first of its kind for BlackBee, will see the company sponsor jerseys for the senior team, intermediate, junior as well as the minor and U16 teams. (Photo: Miki Barlok)

within the rules – because he doesn't know the rules.'

The All-Ireland winning Cork boss has also called on the powers-that-be to implement rule changes before the championship throws in next month. The WGPA survey found that 82 per cent of inter-county camogie players are in favour of trialling new rules in league competitions. Murray wants to fast forward the process.

'I hope that they look at the contact and the advantage rules before the start of this year's championship. I can't see why not,' he says.

'I think it's essential that we do it.'

This year's championship will be exciting. Galway are the front-runners, then there is Kilkenny in second and I'd have Cork in third at the moment; that's going on what we saw in the league.

Then you have Limerick, Tipperary, Dublin, Waterford, and they'll all be in the shake-up.

'It could be a very exciting championship if things are left flow. But what you don't want is to pick up the newspaper on the Monday morning after a championship game and see that 70 to 80 per cent of scores came from frees. No one wants that.'

'Camogie could be a wonderful product if we make it free flowing.'

To improve the game Murray feels that two rules could be changed straightaway and have a positive effect on the game. Not surprisingly he – like a vast majority of camogie players – wants to see a change to the rules relating to physical contact, which are slowing the game down and turning matches into shoot-outs between free-takers.

'The rules around contact

**'I hope that they look at the contact and the advantage rules before the start of this year's championship. I think it's essential that we do it.'**

are an issue, especially the frontal challenge and the shoulder. They need to be looked at fairly quickly,' Murray insists.

'All the up-to-date data we have will tell you that frees have increased in the game – and that's not a good thing. If you analysed the frees, they're not down to pulling and dragging. In the main it's because players have got fitter and physically stronger. Girls are covering ground now quicker than they were six years ago.'

Murray is also adamant that the advantage rule should be changed immediately.

'We need to let advantage develop until the play breaks

down rather than having a five-second rule that we use at the moment,' he points out.

'What we want to see is that instead of the five-second rule that the advantage keeps going until the play breaks down or there is an actual advantage.'

The Cork boss attended the recent Feedback Forum – organised by camogies bosses and held in Dublin at the end of April – and he hopes that the voices of managers and players will be listened to.

'There are areas to improve on straightaway that can make the game flow that bit quicker. That's what we all want: a better and more enjoyable game.'

Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray.





# Relentless Rebels on course to defend their Munster title

CORK 1-13  
LIMERICK 0-4

SHIRLEY MOLONEY  
REPORTS

**HOLDING** Limerick scoreless from play for the entire match, Cork powered into the Munster senior camogie championship final.

The reigning All-Ireland and provincial champions were comprehensive 12-point winners over a Limerick team that was restricted to just four points from placed balls in this semi-final at a sun-drenched Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening.

A well-taken Linda Collins point inside the opening minute and three Orla Cotter frees saw Cork hold a four-point advantage after 13 minutes.

Cork were already well on top but the Limerick defence – and especially their half-back line that was well marshalled by Sarah Carey – ensured Cork scores were hard earned.

Niamh Mulcahy opened the Limerick account when she slotted over a 30-metre placed ball on the quarter-hour mark. This was Limerick's solitary score in the first half, but they did threaten to grab a goal on two occasions in the second quarter.

Rebecca Delee pulled a shot across the face of goal that went just wide of the target,

## MUNSTER CAMOGIE



Cork forward Orla Cronin (Enniskeane) shoots for a point.

before Mulcahy was denied by a superb diving save from goalkeeper Aoife Murray just shy of the half-time whistle.

In contrast, Cork notched up three unanswered points courtesy of two fine Katrina Mackey efforts either side of a Cotter placed ball. Cork led 0-7 to 0-1 at the break.

Early in the second half two Amy O'Connor points either side of a Mulcahy free saw Cork move 0-9 to 0-2 ahead. Cotter was very consistent on free-taking duty and she stretched the lead to eight when she pointed a placed ball

from 40 metres.

Cotter and Mulcahy exchanged frees before Limerick were reduced to 14 when Caoimhe Lyons was shown red after a high tackle on Murray.

Limerick were dealt a further hammer blow when Amy O'Connor blasted to the net after being set up by Collins before Orla Cronin fired over to stretch the Cork lead to 12 points with seven minutes left.

Limerick scored two late frees through Mulcahy that sandwiched a Linda Collins effort for the home side who are back in the provincial final.



Cork forward Linda Collins, from Courcey Rovers, drives forward in the Munster senior camogie championship semi-final win against Limerick at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

### Scorers

Cork: O Cotter 0-6 (6f), A O'Connor 1-2, L Collins, K Mackey 0-2 each, O Cronin 0-1.

Limerick: N Mulcahy 0-4 (4f).

Cork: A Murray; N O'Callaghan, L Treacy, P Mackey; H Looney, G O'Connor, C Sigerson; L Coppinger, C McCarthy; O Cotter O Cronin, K Mackey; A O'Connor, L Collins, L Homan.

Subs: L Hayes for H Looney (40), N McCarthy for C McCarthy (41), J White for O Cronin (57), L O'Sullivan for L Treacy (inj, 59), S McCarthy for L Collins (59).

Limerick: L O'Neill; J Mulcahy, M Creamer, M Quaid; R Delee, S Carey, M Ryan; R Ambrose, K O'Leary; D Murphy, N Mulcahy, K Hennessy; C Costelloe (c), S O'Callaghan, C Lyons.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Amy O'Connor finished with 1-2 for Cork and her second-half goal rubberstamped this win. Linda Collins played well too.

**Star moment:** We're going for Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray's superb diving save from Niamh Mulcahy in the first half when the game was still close.

**Talking point:** A bad day at the office for Limerick's attack as the Rebels held them to just four points from frees in total – and no score from play.

**What's next?** Cork will meet Tipperary in the Munster final on Saturday, May 25th (time and venue to be confirmed).

Subs: D Egan for S Carey (inj, ht), L Leonard for S O'Callaghan (46), L Stack for K Hennessy (56).

Referee: J Lillis (Tipperary).

# Listen to players and update camogie's rules

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

LIBBY Coppinger told The Southern Star earlier this year that too often camogie is 'not an enjoyable game to watch.' The All-Ireland winning Kealkill woman (pictured above) said everyone would 'prefer less frees and more open play.'

That's a familiar cry for change that several top inter-county players have made in recent months.

Cork great Gemma O'Connor pleaded that 'players are crying out for change' and 'the game needs to be revised urgently.'

Amy O'Connor admitted that camogie 'is a game of free-takers', that it can be 'a bit boring to play', 'boring to watch' and has become 'just free after free after free.'



Galway captain Sarah Dervan told the 42.ie that 'nobody wants to see a free-taking competition as a game', and just last week Kilkenny legend Anne Dalton added her voice to the calls for an overhaul of the rulebook: 'The game has changed. The rules have to change with it.'

The players must be listened to. One of the main gripes is the lack of physical contact in camogie. It's non-existent. Camogie is a non-contact sport. That's frustrating for players who are fitter, stronger and faster than ever before – but the rules haven't evolved to mirror the improvement in players' physicality and conditioning.

'I don't think it would be any trouble to have a bit more physical contact in the game,' Libby Coppinger said. That's an opinion shared by a large percent of inter-county players. In a recent WPGA survey 70 per cent of players were very much in favour of change to the rules relating to physical contact.

The survey found that 'there was a sense that the rules of camogie were not keeping pace with changes in the fitness of players, and equally, that the technical skills of the game are not as visible as they could and should be.'

Players have become frustrated with the high number of frees awarded in games. In last year's televised All-Ireland senior final, 18 of the 27 scores were from frees, including Cork's winning point. The game has become stop-start. It doesn't flow. It can be hard to watch. As Amy O'Connor said, whoever has the best free-taker wins.

The rule book is the problem.

In camogie both shouldering and 'moving into an opponent's body' are against the rules. But players want more physicality in the game and not have the referee blow for a free every time there is contact.

Cork boss Paudie Murray says rules around 'the frontal challenge and the shoulder' need to be looked at fairly quickly.

More physicality should be allowed in the game. Let camogie be played at speed and with hits.

At Camogie Congress in April, Rule 20.4, re: introduction of ability to trial playing rules passes with a majority of 67 per cent, and that's a tentative step in the right direction – but managers and players need to see a plan put in place and a timeline for change.

Camogie players are training harder than ever and preparing

better than ever, and they deserve the chance to show off their talents and skills without being restricted by an archaic rulebook (that hasn't changed with the times) and the referee's whistle.

It's in everyone's interests – the Camogie Association, the players, the managers and the supporters – that the concerns of players are listened to and acted on, and the rulebook is updated.

'People want to be able to see a stylish, skilful game. I think those players in the present day are capable of doing that, just that they're not allowed to go out and demonstrate that because of the stop-start nature of the match,' Amy O'Connor said earlier this year.

There is an overwhelming desire for change. It has to happen. The players deserve that at the very least.





Cork players celebrate after defeating Tipperary in the Munster camogie intermediate championship final at Charleville.

Picture: Eddie O'Hara

# Rebels have the edge over Tipp

**Cork** 1-12  
**Tipperary** 1-8

CORK retained their Munster Intermediate championship crown and in the process overcame Division Two National League champions Tipperary in Charleville on Saturday evening.

Earlier in the season a strong Tipperary sides had got the upper hand when the sides met in the national league clash but this time out the young Cork sides were the ones that came out on top.

Cork got a superb start with an early Kate Dooley goal insides six minutes of the throw in after Hayley Ryan and Rachel Harty had minutes earlier had fires them into a two point lead. The goal was to prove crucial as was the excellent free-taking of Hayley Ryan who

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

slotted over eight points from placed balls and one from play as Cork kept the league champions under constant pressure.

Jenny Grace opened the Tipperary account with a pointed free after seven minutes and with Slobhan Quirke adding one in between two Hayley Ryan points from frees Cork held their lead. Aoife Loughnane slotted over a Tipp point as Hayley Ryan and Jenny Grace swapped scores from frees and at the interval Cork were 1-5 to 0-4 in front but were turning to play against the wind.

The sides swapped early second half points before Grace O'Toole rattled the net with a ground shot to narrow the

Cork lead to just a point and with Cork hitting the upright form a close in free Tipperary were granted a reprieve and they availed of it as they swept down field with Clodagh McIntyre levelling matters at 1-6 apiece as the game entered the final quarter.

Now under pressure, Cork needed to respond and they did in tremendous fashion and as they put the Tipperary defence under pressure they won frees which Hayley Ryan converted and four without reply opened up a 1-10 to 1-6 lead. Kate Dooley from play stretched the lead to five but Tipperary fought back with Jenny Grace converting a free, Erin Looney steadied the Cork nerves with a point and Sinead Meagher responded four separate times as the game entered added time. Pressing to salvage the game Tipperary went for broke and it took an excel-

lent save from Cork captain and keeper Stephanie Beausang to deny them with three minutes of injury time played. It was to prove vital as Cork held on to retain their title and record a superb victory.

**Scorers for Cork:** H Ryan 0-9 (0-7fs 0-1 4s), K Dooley, 1-1, R Harty E Looney 0-1 each.

**Tipperary:** G O'Toole 1-0, J Grace 0-3 (1's), S Quirke 0-2, C Mc Intyre, A Loughnane, S Meagher 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Beausang, A Crowley, C Daly, G Hannon, E Flanagan, R Sheehan, C Hayes, A Maloney, K O'Mahony, I O'Regan, R Harty, E Looney, H Ryan, N O'Riordan, K Dooley.

**Subs:** A Hurley for N O'Riordan, F Keating for R Harty.

**TIPPERARY:** C Houlihan, B Ryan, S Larkin, C Ryan, C Stakelum, C Brennan, E Carey, N Loughnane, G O'Toole, C Mc Keogh, J Grace, A Dwyer, S Delaney, A Loughnane, S Quirke.

**Subs:** S Meagher for A Dwyer, C Mc Intyre for J Grace.

**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).

## Cork start and finish stronger

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Cork claimed Munster intermediate camogie championship honours at Charleville on Saturday.

As the 1-12 to 1-8 final scoreline implies, this was a hard-fought decider with Cork's better start combined with a strong finish enabling them to hold out for victory.

Cork took charge early on. They led 1-2 to nil before Jenny Grace opened Tipperary's account. The Cork goal from Kate Dooley followed Hayleigh Ryan and Rachel Harty points.

The Premier County came

more into the game. Shauna Quirke, Andrea Loughnane and Grace closing the gap, but the accuracy of Ryan ensured Cork remained in the driving seat. At the interval, they were 1-5 to 0-4 in front.

In the second half, backed by the breeze, it was Tipperary who got the stronger start.

Despite Ryan getting the scoring going, Quirke fired a point, followed by a goal from Grace O'Toole. A Clodagh McIntyre point put Tipperary back in the match (1-6 apiece).

Cork responded. The accuracy of chief-scorer Ryan and a late save from captain Stephanie Beausang was enough for the silverware to return Leeside.

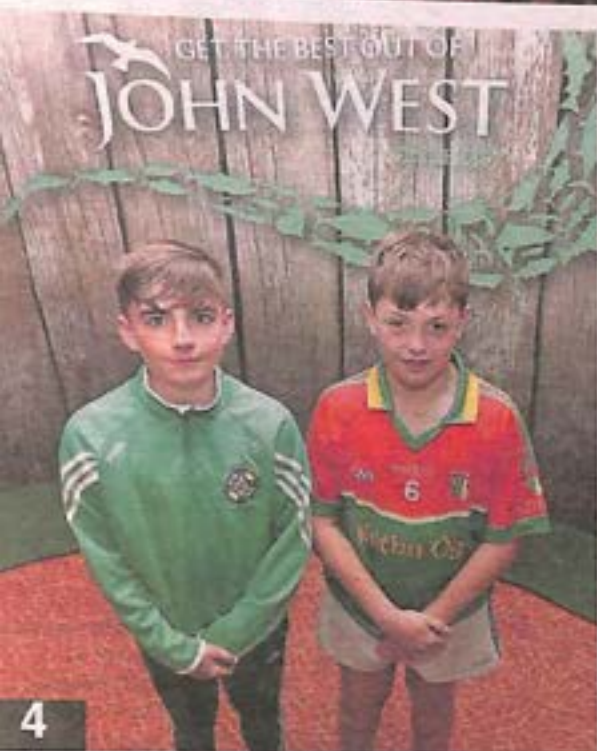
## GAA glory on a perfect day in Páirc Uí Rinn



Eliza Laverty and Jane Larkin, captain and vice captain of Scoil Bhailénóra, celebrate after they defeated Gaelscoil na Dúglaise in the Sciath na Scol C3 Camogie final. SEE: Echo Sport

Picture: Jim Coughlan





## Festival of Féile fun is launched at Nemo Rangers

THE John West Féile hurling and camogie competitions, which will take place in Cork and Kerry on the weekend of June 7-9, was launched at Nemo Rangers GAA Club. At the launch were:

- 1. Aoife Mulcahy, Glen Rovers, Emily Ray, Brian Dillon's, Caoimhe O'Flynn, Kilworth, Amy Lane, Ballinora.
- 2. Kate Richardson, Bishopstown, Sadie Hoare, Ballincollig, Susan O'Donovan, Ballygarvan, Saskia Purcell, Nemo Rangers.
- 3. Féile ambassadors, Gemma O'Connor, Cork senior camogie, and Alan Cadogan, Cork senior hurling, with raffle winners, Seán Ahern, Bandon, and Megan McGuire, Rockbawn.
- 4. Tomás Condon, Aghada, and Cathal Murphy, Kiltia Óg.
- 5. Jake Bones, Mayfield, Sadie Hoare, Ballincollig, and Sean Dennehy, Whitechurch.
- 6. Féile ambassadors, Gemma O'Connor and Alan Cadogan, with raffle winners, Ross O'Sullivan, Na Piarsaigh, and Laura O'Brien, Douglas.
- 7. Laura Sheehan and Ella McCarthy, both Killeagh.
- 8. Cian Walsh, Tracton, Laura Sheehan, Killeagh, Adam McCarthy, Sarsfields, and Ella McCarthy, Killeagh.
- 9. Mark Scally, Bishopstown, Ciarán Gould, Inniscarra, and Ben Heffernan, Glen Rovers.
- 10. Kathleen Woods, Camogie Association President, addressing the Féile launch.

Pictures: Jim Coughlan







Scoil Padre Pio captain, Chelsea Dunne, and vice-captain, Nichole Fitzpatrick, lift the cup after their Allianz Sciath na Scol camogie win.



Eye on the ball for players and referee during the final between Scoil Padre Pio and St Mary's on the Hill.

# Padre Pio take their chances in second half to claim title

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

**Scoil Padre Pio 1-1**  
**St Mary's on the Hill 0-0**

AFTER a low-scoring, but entertaining game, Scoil Padre Pio claimed the Allianz C Urban 2 camogie title with a win over St Mary's at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Scoil Padre Pio piled on the pressure in the first half with Nicole Fitzpatrick and Erica Birmingham superb going forward. However, superb defending by Leah Keenan Duncan, Emily Dunlea, and Lydia O'Sullivan kept the game scoreless at the break.

A tactical switch in the second half saw Scoil Padre Pio keeper Sarah Sheehan switch from goal to attack and this proved to be a great move.

She picked up the game's first score when she pointed after eight minutes.

Birmingham came close to doubling their lead on a number of occasions, but superb defending by Keenan Duncan and Alex Raymond Hennessy denied her on each occasion.

With two minutes remaining, and



Scoil Padre Pio, captained by Chelsea Dunne, who won the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí Urban 2 camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

with both teams battling hard, with St Mary's excellent defensively, Padre Pio managed to get another score when a superb long range effort by Fitzpatrick hit the back of the net.

A great effort by both teams with very little between them.

**Scorers for Padre Pio:** N Fitzpatrick 1-0, S Sheehan 0-1.

**ST MARY'S ON THE HILL:** H Pike, L Keenan-Duncan, J Lynch-Hornbrook, N O'Riordan, E Dunlea, S O'Sullivan, E Egan, A Raymond Hennessy, K Martin, L O'Sullivan, R Cullen-Anderson, A Conroy, W Jompel, A Sheehan, D O'Driscoll, A Crowley, C Flynn, S Daly, C Crowley, C Keenan-Kelly, S Con-

don, A Lynch, L O'Donovan.

**SCOIL PADRE PIO:** S Sheehan, A Vainoraitė, A Spillane McNamara, N Fitzpatrick, N Collins, S Scully, E Birmingham, L Buckley O'Brien, S Garraio, K Kenny, L Manning, J Green, L McCarthy, A Buckley, C Dunne, E Curtin, L Okunola, A Skulmowska, K Keenan, A O'Sullivan, J O'Donovan.

**Referee:** D Horgan (St Patrick's).

## Brilliant Beaumont see off brave Castlelyons

**Beaumont GNS 2-6**  
**Castlelyons 1-4**

A SUPERB team performance from Beaumont GNS helped them claim the Allianz C4 camogie title with a victory over Castlelyons yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

It was a great game of camogie, with both teams battling hard right until the end and with great play from both teams.

Castlelyons scored first, a well-taken point from the outstanding Robyn Hickey. But Beaumont dominated this half, through the unstoppable Nicole McSweeney, who scored 2-1. With a point apiece from Meadh O Sé, Jessica Murphy and Ellie Boland, Beaumont led 2-4 to 0-1 at the break.

Castlelyons fought back after the break. Hickey scored a point, having gone on a great individual run. She followed with another score soon after, closing the gap, 2-4 to 0-3.

Jessica Murphy responded

Barbara O'Connell

with a lovely point, her second of the game.

However, the impressive Hickey continued to excel and she unleashed an unstoppable shot to the roof of the net to make it 2-5 to 1-3 in favour of Beaumont.

Meadhbh O Sé added her second point of the game.

Although Hickey brought her tally to 1-4, the game ended with a well-earned victory for Beaumont.

**Scorers for Beaumont:** N McSweeney 2-1, M O Sé, J Murphy 0-2 each, E Boland 0-1.

**Castlelyons R Hickey 1-4.**

**BEAUMONT:** A Kearney, A Leahy, S Barry, S James, C Boath, S O'Reilly, M O Sé, J Murphy, L McCarthy, N McSweeney, E Boland, R O'Mahony, A Walsh, S Ryan, K Johnson, T Coleman, E Cleary.

**CASTLELYONS:** E Murphy, A Moran, S Hallahan, S McAuliffe, A Mack, R Hickey, C Morrison, E Quirk, L Shimmmin, S Crowley, S Hallahan, E Cotter, P Hallahan, L Barry, G Shimmmin, C Gray Walsh, S A O'Sullivan, N O'Sullivan, A Rosner, A O'Mahony.

**Referee:** C O'Callaghan (Summercove NS).



Beaumont GNS captain Meadh O'Shea and vice captain Lucy McCarthy.

Pictures: Gerard Bonus



Castlelyons' Eavan Cotter breaking past Beaumont's Meadh O Sé and Sophie O'Reilly.



Castlelyons were captained by Lily Barry and vice captain Robyn Hickey.





Kathleen Woods, Camogie Association President, presents, Eliza Laverty with the cup. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Ballinora's captain and vice-captain Eliza Laverty and Jane Larkin. Picture: Jim Coughlan

# Scoil Bhailenóra fight back to claim C3 camogie title

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Scoil Bhailenóra	2-8
GS na Dúglaise	3-1

AFTER a thrilling game of camogie, Scoil Bhailenóra claimed the Allianz C3 title with a win over GS na Dúglaise, yesterday, at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Douglas opened the scoring via Aoife Ní Chianáin's goal. Then, Niamh NicGafráidh tapped in from close range.

Bailenóra responded with five consecutive points from Ellie McAuliffe, Rachel Murphy, Eliza Laverty, and two from Jane Larkin.

Bailenóra took the lead early in the second-half, when Laverty scored three consecutive points.

Clodagh Nic Suibhne added a point for Douglas. However, a great goal by Amy O'Riordan gave Bailenóra a four-point lead.

This lead didn't last long, as Orna Ní Shuilleabháin scored a goal for Douglas. However, a great catch, great turn, and a great finish by Jane Larkin, for a goal, ensured a memorable victory for Bailenóra.



Ballinora celebrate with the trophy yesterday.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Scorers for Bhailenóra: J Larkin 1-2, A O'Riordan 1-0, E Laverty 0-4, R Murphy and E McAuliffe 0-1 each. GS na Dúglaise: A Ní Chianáin, O Ní Shuilleabháin, N Ní Gafráidh 1-0 each, C Ní Suibhne 0-1.

SCOIL BHAILENÓRA: Caoimhe Ahern, Ellen O'Driscoll, Eimear O'Flynn, Siún Warner, Cliona Twomey, Aoife Guiney, Ellie McAuliffe, Rachael Murphy, Eliza Laverty (Captain), Amy O'Riordan, Lucia Kelly, Jane Larkin, Lily Twomey, Maria Twomey, Katelyn Noonan, Megan Hegarty, Eabha O'Ma-

hony, Julia Mehigan, Mai O'Driscoll, Kate Keohane. GS na DÚGLAISE: Linn Nic Eoin, Ciara Ní Mhaolruaigh, Ellie De Brú, Saoirse Ní Choleáin, Laura Ní Bhusacháin, Clodagh Nic Suibhne, Aoife Ní Chianáin, Emma Ní Argáin, Sarah Ní Dhálaigh, Orna Ní Shuilleabháin, Solene Halligan, Ciara Ní Mhaolchaí, Niamh Nic Gafráidh, Aisling Ní Chláirín, Cara Ní Iodrá, Katelyn Ní Bhroin, Ella Delamere Ní Chuana, Cailt Ní Mhuirich, Lily De Butler, Aoife Ní Aicéin, Louise Ní Chathail, Fionnuala Ní Chorbua,

Sadhb Ní Chéidín, Lish Ní Mhaoláin, Cailt Ní Ríordáin, Molly Ní Shuilleabháin, Anna Rose Ní Cionnath Ní Chearúill, Clodagh Nic Eoin, Alex Nic Gearáid, Lola Bloom Curham, Hannah Lobhaol, Rachel Uillis, Alannah Ní Fhlannchadha Ní Fhinn, Aisling Ní Gearailt, Eleanor Ní Urmhoilteigh, Eimear Ní Ainle, Amy Ní Laighin, Abbie Ní Bhriain, Aisling Ní Ríogáin, Amalia Jane Ní Raghaileigh, Jaime Breathnach.

Referee: C O'Murchu (Carrigrohilly BNS).



At Nemo Rangers for the official launch of Féile hurling and camogie competitions which will take place in Cork and Kerry on the weekend of June 7-9 were Féile ambassadors, Shane Kingston, Cork senior hurling; Gemma O'Connor, Cork senior camogie; Alan Cadogan, Cork senior hurling and Julia White, Cork senior camogie with: Aoife Mulcahy, Glen Rovers; Lauryn Quinn, Na Píarsaigh; Emily Ray, Brian Dillons; Killian McCarthy, Cloughduv; Mikey O'Connell, Douglas; Ella Moore, St. Finbarr's, and Sean Healy, Ballinhassig. More than 256 teams from around the country will be taking part, with games across both counties over the three days.

Picture: Jim Coughlan





**VICTORY MARCH:** Castlemartyr captain Natasha Fouhy leads the celebrations with the cup after victory over Ballynoe in yesterday's DC5 final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Larry Cummins

## O'Halloran pops up for vital score for Castlemartyr

**Castlemartyr NS** 3-1  
**St Catherine's** 2-3

■ Barbara O'Connell

AFTER a thrilling contest and 10 minutes of extra-time, a solitary point in that period from Lily O'Halloran was enough for Castlemartyr to claim the Allianz DC5 camogie title with a win over St Catherine's, Ballynoe yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Although St Catherine's started excellently getting the first three points through Clara Fitzgerald and two from Ally Mulkerrins, it was Castlemartyr who finished the half stronger and goals from Isabella O'Regan, Lauren Kenneally and Natasha Fouhy gave them a 3-0 to 0-3 lead at the break.

The second half was a much more exciting half with both teams showing great skill throughout. A well worked move involving Amy Leahy and Mulkerrins saw the latter score a goal leaving three points between the sides. Mulkerrins added another

to level terms and bring the game into extra time.

An excellent battle in extra time period saw Sophia Fitzgerald excel for St Catherine's while Lily O'Halloran dominated for Castlemartyr and a solitary point from O'Halloran was enough to seal victory for Castlemartyr.

**Scorers for Castlemartyr:** I O'Regan, N Fouhy and L Kenneally 1 0 each, L O'Halloran 0 1.

**St Catherine's:** A Mulkerrins 2 2, C Fitzgerald 0 1.

**CASTLEMARTYR:** A Mullane, R Lynch, I Murphy, M Casey, M Mullane, B O'Riordan, M Rose Kelly, I O'Regan, N Fouhy, L O'Halloran, L Kenneally, G Ojelabi, E Costigan, D Corcoran, R Forrest, L Creamer, N Chakwana, V Kafka, M Mullane, A Cotter, E Murray, T Mackessy, H Wnek, A Black, S A L'hostis, C Le Fondre, A Sheehan, K Power, A Moore, TSice.

**ST CATHERINE'S:** E Twomey, G Dinneen, S Early, S O'Sullivan, S Fitzgerald, A Mulkerrins, K O'Donovan, S O'Sullivan, M Mulcahy, A Leahy, C Fitzgerald, E O'Connor, C Higgins, J O'Sullivan, C McLaughlin.

**Referee:** A McSweeney (Sunday's Well).

# Lotty brace helps give Berrings the double



**Berrings celebrate their win over Ballyheada in the DC3 camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn.** Picture: Jim Coughlan

**Berrings** 4-4  
**Ballyheada** 1-3

■ Barbara O'Connell

BERRINGS delivered a double yesterday, as the girls followed the boys when they captured the Allianz DC3 camogie title with a win over Ballyheada at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The sides were level at the break 1-1 apiece. Captain Meadhbh O'Sullivan was in top form for Ballyheada, though an Adele Lotty point and a superb goal from Heather Foley, whose initial strike had been saved by Aisling Daly, cancelled her scores out.

Ballyheada took the lead early in the second half when O'Sullivan pointed again, first from a free and then a beautiful point from play. Lotty closed the gap before she blasted to the net to make it: 2-2 to 1-3. Lotty then hit the net again, after a great run.

Credit to Ballyheada who played very

well with Aoife Cottrell and O'Sullivan doing excellently. However, a 1-2 blast from Eva Costelloe secured the win.

**Scorers for Berrings:** A Lotty 2-2, E Costelloe 1-2, H Foley 1-0.

**Ballyheada:** M O'Sullivan 1-3.

**BERRINGS:** Aimee Seignott, Abigail Wills, Sadhbh Cogan, Sophie Dromey, Ellen McSweeney, Adele Lotty, Eva Costelloe, Ali Dromey, Lucy Whelton, Beibhinn O'Connell, Heather Foley, Sarah O'Connell, Niamh Desmond, Aisling O'Driscoll, Danielle O'Shea, Kate Walsh, Sarah Horgan, Niamh Buckley, Nell Maher, Cate Larkin, Clara O'Keefe, Aine Fleming, Chloe Broderick, Dominique Desmond.

**BALLYHEADA:** Aisling Daly, Klaudia Nowak, Lauren Mullane, Meadhbh O'Sullivan, Amy Reynolds, Aoife Cottrell, Roisin O'Sullivan, Riadh O'Sullivan, Eimear Casey, Kayla O'Toole, Lily McDonagh, Rebecca Deasy, Isabelle Boyce, Katie Mullane, Eva Clarke.

**Referee:** G Harrington (Carrigaline).



**Adele Lotty and Beibhinn O'Connell, Berrings, with the trophies.** Picture: Jim Coughlan



**Abigail Wills, Berrings, gets her shot away from Kayla O'Toole, Ballyheada.** Picture: Jim Coughlan



**Meadhb O'Sullivan, Ballyheada, gets away from Berrings' Lucy Whelton and Adele Lotty.** Picture: Jim Coughlan



# Leah shines as Walterstown get better of Togher girls

**Walterstown 3-3  
Togher GNS 1-2**

■ Barbara O'Connell

WALTERSTOWN, inspired by Leah O'Connell, who scored 2-2, claimed the Allianz C Urban 1 camogie title, denying Togher GNS a three-in-a-row, yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn. Togher's Cara O'Neill opened the scoring in the first minute with a lovely point. Five minutes later, Walterstown replied with a well-taken goal from Isabelle Bardsley and Ruby O'Rourke added a point. Minutes later O'Connell hit a superb strike that rattled the crossbar, and she converted a point from a free soon after to make it 1-2 to 0-1 at the break. Togher's Heather O'Connor got the first score of the second half when she pointed from close range. Walterstown got the next two scores, 1-1 from O'Connell, who was superb throughout. Both teams battled hard and although Togher created a few opportunities, they weren't clinical enough. Walterstown, on the other hand, some excellent players and took

their chances. O'Connor grabbed a late goal for Togher, but another late goal from Blanaid Laffan gave Walterstown a much-deserved victory. Leah O'Connell, Aislinn Hackett, Caoimhe Morrissey and Sadhbh O'Regan excelled for Walterstown, while Amanda Miller, Rachel Clarke O'Mahony, Ellie Good, Cara O'Neill, Kate Cahalane and Aine Crowe did well for Togher. **Scorers for Walterstown:** L O'Connell 1-2, I Bardsley and B Laffan 1-0 each, R O'Rourke 0-1. **Togher GNS:** H O'Connor 1-1, C O'Neill 0-1. **Togher Girls School:** Amanda Miller, Tara Leahy, Ellie Good, Lucy Maloney, Rachel Clarke O'Mahony, Taylor Crinion, Kate Cahalane, Heather O'Connor, Cara O'Neill, Abbie Grayam, Aine Crowe, Aislinn Crowley, hania Maughan, Leah Scannell, Chloe Griffin, Ava McEniry, Natalina O'Regan, Amelia Ryba, Faye Moynihan, Courtney O'Mahony, Nabihah Asim, Amy Scannell, Sarah Kelleher, Alicia Lane, Chinyere Ohama. **WALTERSTOWN:** Emily Bardsley, Orla Leahy, Caoimhe Carolan, Aislinn Hackett, Caoimhe Morrissey, Leah O'Connell, Ruby O'Rourke, Sadhbh O'Regan, Isabelle Bardsley, Blanaid Laffan, Ella Deris, Aine Griffin, Abbie O'Halloran, Grace Leahy.



The Walterstown team which beat Togher GNS in their final.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Kate Cahalane in action for Togher against Walterstown.



Leah O'Connell holds the cup with parents Pauline and Owen.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Sile Ni Laoire Aodha, Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann on the attack during the Sciath na Scol final with Scoil na nÓg at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Deirdre Nic Carthaigh, Scol na nÓg, Glanmire is chased by Mia Breathnach, Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann.

Picture: Larry Cummins

# Saoirse hits all the scores in Mhainistir na Corann's win

## SCIATH NA SCOL

■ Barbara O'Connell

**GS Mhainistir na Corann 3-4  
Scoil na nÓg 1-0**

MHAINISTIR NA CORANN, inspired by Saoirse Ni Theagana, who scored 3-4 claimed the Allianz DC1 camogie title with a win over Scoil na nÓg yesterday at Pairc Uí Rinn. The Middleton school led at the break 1-4 to no score with all scores coming from the impressive Ni Theagana. Scoil na nÓg did battle hard and had some good performances from Deirdre Nic Carthaigh and Aoife Ni Mhaolain, however superb defending from Isibéal Nestor denied them of any scores in this half. Ni Theagana opened the scoring again in the second half as she blasted to the back of the net after two minutes. She added another to make it 3-4 to no score. Scoil na nÓg continued to battle hard with Eimear Ni Neachtain standing out in this half while keeper Julie



Saoirse Ni Theagana, captain, left, with her Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann team-mates after the win over Scoil Óg. Picture Larry Cummins

Ni Chathasaigh pulled off a magnificent save from Mia Breathnach. And they deservedly got on the scoreboard when Ni Mhaolain hand passed into the net. **Scorers for Mhainistir na Corann:** S Ni Theagana 3-4. **Scoil na nÓg:** A Ni Mhaolain 1-0. **Scorers for Scoil na nÓg:** L Óg O'Elgeartaigh 1-3, B O'Flinn and S Mac Craith 0-1 each. **Mhainistir na Corann:** D MacAoghaigh 1-0, P O'Ballread 0-2, J MacSuihbne 0-1. **Scoil na nÓg:** Julie Ni Chathasaigh, Heidi Ni Ghúid, Gráís Ni Loisigh, Rebecca Ni Dhuibhachra, Laragh Ni

Ghríola, Máiread Ni Shuilleabháin-Clavo, Emma Ni hUigín, Aine Nic Gearailt, Eimear Ni Neachtain, Deirdre Nic Carthaigh, Aoife Ni Mhaolain, Suzie Bhreathnach, Ella Ni Artaigh, Eimer Ni Laocha, Muireann Ni Chláirigh, Sadhbh Nic Airtéide, Sophia Ni Icí, Aoife Ni Shuilleabháin, Elle Ni Loinsigh, Tara Ni Chathasaigh, Aoibhe Ni Chochláin, Lucy Ni Chonail, Cara Nic Cormack, Jennifer Ni Chéilleacháir, Alex Ni Néill, Ellen de Brún. **GS Mhainistir Na Corann:** Faye Doinné, Cailt Ni Shuilleabháin, Alannah Nig Annaidh, Eibhlín Ni

Néill, Isibéal Ni Fhlaitheartaigh, Laura Ni Ghollín, Mia Ni Chóileáin, Sile Ni Laoire Aodha, Róisín Nic Mhánais, Mia Breathnach, Saoirse Ni Theagana, Kelly Ni Chulro, Siorcha Ni Chroínín, Lily Ni Cheallaigh, Cailt Ni Fhlóirbhúil, Cara Ni Fhoghú, Siolta Ni Chearnaigh, Niamh Ni Mhuiri, Cailt Saunderson, Róisín Ni Aodha, Séana Ni Bhriain, Aine Ni Ráin, Cara Paghan, Aoife De Nogla Ni Fheinnheadha, Niamh Nic Enrí, Pippa Ni Aonghosa, Máire Ni Fhinn, Amy Ni Chiseáin, Clara Ni Mhurchú. **Referee:** K Richardson.





Aine and Kevin Cummins of Cummins Sports, make a presentation to Emma Murphy, Cork minor camogie player. Also included are Trisha Coleman, selector, Shirley Moloney, PRO, and John Purcell, Rebel Óg chairman. Picture: David Keane



Nicola Cullinane of The Echo, makes a presentation to Cliona Martin, Cork minor camogie player. Also included are Mary McSweeney, Cork Camogie Board chairperson, Ronan Dwane, Cork GAA coaching officer, and Michael Walsh, team mentor. Picture: David Keane

# Two-in-a-row titles for camogie minors

■ Rory Noonan

THE Cork minor camogie team, winners of the All-Ireland Minor A title for the second year in-a-row, are the May 2019 winners of the Rebel Óg Monthly Awards sponsored by the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs and Cummins Sports, (award sponsors) in association with *The Echo* and RedFM, media sponsors. In 2018 the Minor A side reigned supreme when they recorded the first Cork victory at this grade since it was changed to U18 from U16 in 2006.

In 2019 the team qualified for the semi-final after they secured a second place spot in Group 2 by the narrowest of margins. The team commenced the season with an away fixture to Tipperary at The Ragg, with the home side winning.

The next two fixtures were home games against Wexford and Dublin and the team registered two convincing wins.

The final game of the group came down to a crunch fixture away to Galway. It ended all square and, as a result, Cork took second place in the group ahead of Galway on score difference and behind table toppers Tipperary.

They then enjoyed a win over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final,



before facing Clare in the final at MacDonagh Park in Nenagh.

Cork took advantage of playing with the strong wind and raced into an eight point lead, all via the stick work of full-forward Clodagh Finn.

Player of the Match Fiona Keating then struck for the first of a personal tally of five points from play when she fired over on the run.

Emma Murphy billowed the net to see Cork head to the dressing room leading 3-11 to 0-3. Upon the resumption of play, Clare showed their intent and took advantage of playing with the strong wind when inside 10 minutes they notched up 1-4 without reply.

They kept up the pressure on Cork, but the Rebels got a number of crucial points to secure the title on a final scoreline of 3-15 to 2-12.



Sponsors Kevin and Aine Cummins of Cummins Sports, Nicola Cullinane of The Echo and Norina O'Callaghan, Clayton Hotel, with Cork minor camogie team players and officials, winners of the Rebel Óg monthly award for May 2019, at the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs. Also included are Rebel Óg officers and officials. Picture: David Keane



Norina O'Callaghan, Clayton Hotel, makes a presentation to Hannah O'Leary, Cork minor camogie captain, winners of the Rebel Óg monthly award for May at the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs. Also included are Shane Supple, Rebel Óg, Tracy Sheehan, Cork Camogie Board secretary, and Miriam Murphy Wood, judging panel. Picture: David Keane



Diarmuid O'Leary of Red FM, makes a presentation to Casey Coleman, Cork minor camogie player. Also included are Eoghan O'Connor, Rebel Óg treasurer, along with Mick Evans and Donal McCarthy, both judging panel. Picture: David Keane



Lord Mayor Clr Mick Finn presents Natasha Fouhy and Molly Casey with the cup. Picture: Larry Cummins



Castlemartyr NS defender Rachel Lynch clears her lines.



Leanne O'Sullivan, Cork in action against Tipperary.



## Collins' goals the highlight of Kilcredan's big win

Kilcredan	5-3
Scartleigh	0-1

A COMFORTABLE victory for Kilcredan who claimed the Allianz DC2 camogie title with a win over Scartleigh yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Kilcredan led at the break, 3-1 to 0-1 thanks to two goals from the outstanding Meadhbh Collins, a goal from Yasmin Fitzgerald, while Tara O'Neill chipped in with a lovely point.

Scartleigh's Brianna Smith got her side's score as she pointed over with a lovely strike.

Kilcredan started the second half the way they finished the first and got on the scoreboard in the opening minute when Clara Murphy struck to the back of the net.

This was followed with a point from Collins. A minute later, Collins completed her hat-trick when her long range effort hit the back of the net.

Barbara O'Connell

Scartleigh's Shauna Whyte had two great efforts on goal however she was denied on both occasions with great saves from Hannah Law.

Collins added another point which finished the scoring giving her side a well deserved victory.

Scorers for Kilcredan: M Collins 3-2, C Murphy and Y Fitzgerald 1-0 each, T O'Neill 0-1.

Scartleigh: B Smith 0-1.

SCARTLEIGH: A McIntyre, E Hennessy, M Horgan, E Wright, C O'Neill, A Lee, A O'Brien, S Whyte, E Ryan, M McRae, C Horgan, J Long, G Sheehan, B Smith, C O'Brien, E O'Brien, E Anderson, L McLoughlin, K Bowden, K Crowley, E Murphy, A Coughlan, C Hynes.

KILCREDAN: H Law, E Finn, L Wiggins, R Long, R Cody, A O'Brien, K Millerick, C Murphy, O Murphy, A O'Brien, Y Fitzgerald, T O'Neill, C Murphy, M Collins, L Turvey, P O'Leary, R Dunphy, C Cahill, A Flanagan, O Hennessy, C Millerick, A Carroll, A McGuckian, L Hill, R O'Donovan, B Mulhare, E Whelan, E Daly, B Finn, A Walsh, A Smiddy, M Holland, E Rose Ray, E Buckley, M Horgan, E Prendeville.

Referee: Paul Brophy (Glounthaugh).



The Kilcredan panel before their victory yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Rebecca Dunphy, Kilcredan, with possession.



The Scartleigh panel that competed at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork 'looking forward to a great battle with a good Kerry side': Daly

**TOMORROW**  
Munster Junior  
Championship Final  
Cork v Kerry, 2pm Cashel

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

CORK and Kerry will contest the Munster Junior Championship final tomorrow in Cashel after good victories in their respective semi-finals over Limerick and Waterford recently.

This will be Kerry's first choice adult side while Cork are fielding their third adult team so it will be a battle to retain the crown, but Donie Daly and his mentors have huge faith in their side and with a nice blend of youth and experience they will be hoping for a Cork victory.

They overcame Limerick to reach the final with a good solid display as they ran out 2-11 to 1-8 victors.

Limerick hit the front with an early goal after just four minutes but the Cork response was immediate and they settled into the game and fashioned out an excellent victory.

With the inclusion of several of the All-Ireland winning minor side in their panel, the Cork backs have a nice blend of experienced campaigners. Christine O'Neill, Nicole Crean, and Ciara Hayes joined by minors Emma Murphy, Molly Lynch, Lucy Wallace, Clara O'Sullivan, last year's minor captain Molra Barrett, Fiona Nelligan, Sinead Hurley, and Emma Cooney were all among the starting 15 against Limerick and they will be hoping to do enough to retain the title.

Manager Donie Daly is looking forward to the challenge facing his side.

"We have worked hard and we have a nice blend of youth and experience; against Limerick we had to respond when they went ahead but the girls dug deep and fashioned out a win. Kerry are a very good side and they have huge experience," said Daly.

"They have played together through the league campaign and this will stand to a side, but our girls have worked hard and prepared well and we could not be happier with their approach to the Munster campaign.

"It is a pity that this will be the last outing for them as the competition only goes to Munster level but having won the title last year we are determined to make it back to back titles.

"It will be hard and tough but we are ready to take the challenge and are looking forward to a great battle with a good Kerry side."

With the game continuing to grow in the kingdom, Kerry travelled to Waterford to face the home side who fielded a strong side.

Kerry hit the front early with two points in a row and they confidently held their lead to the full time whistle.

They have some excellent players no more so than in Patricia Diggin, the most recognisable member of the Kerry side panel. She has been without doubt the face of Kerry camogie since the games growth in the county.

She was a huge figure when University of Limerick won the Ashbourne Cup in 2014, 2016, and 2017. She was Player of the Match in the 2016 final and captain when they retained the title.

As a very young player she was the driving force to victory in the Munster Junior Championship and the Division 4 League in 2015 as Kerry took their first ever title.

In 2018 her club Clannmaurice lost out narrowly on becoming All-Ireland Junior Club champions in a replay to Kilmessan and such was her contributions that she was named Munster GAA's Camogie Player of the Year in 2017, holding off stiff opposition from senior players in all the Munster counties.

They are by no means a one-woman outfit.

Niamh Murphy, Brid Horan, Sara Murphy, Jackie Horgan, Liz Houlihan, Niamh Leen, and Laura Collins all contributed enormously to their semi-final victory and they will take on Cork in confident mood.

The growth in the game has been strong and consistent.

They were winners of the Division 4 national league title in 2015. They made the step up to Division 3 and took the title in 2018. They participated in Division 2 this season and while they found the going tough they were by no means out of their depth. The experience gained is sure to stand to them as they continue to work towards their ultimate aim of reaching Division 1.

# Round robin is worth a try



Linda Mellerick

THE Munster Senior Camogie Championship final between Tipperary and Cork takes place on Saturday at Leahy Park, Cashel (4pm) and will be preceded by the provincial junior final between Cork and Kerry (2pm).

Bill Mullaney's senior team racked up an impressive 18-point Munster semi-final win over Waterford at The Ragg on May 11, (2-23 to 1-8) but facing the All-Ireland champions is a different story.

Cork defeated Tipperary by 0-19 to 0-6 in the Munster final last year at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in what was a poor and tedious game.

There's little or no interest in Munster surrounding the game.

No Munster excitement or intensity that you get in Munster hurling.

It's primarily because the competition is somewhat meaningless.

Perhaps it would be an idea to bring the Provincial championships into the round robin All-Ireland championship structure.

That way, the provincials won't be used as an experimental exercise.

We have the national league for that. However we do it, we need to bring some excitement back to the Munster/Leinster/Ulster and Connaught championships.

I say there's no 'general' interest in the game but for the counties involved, of course, there is.

Tipperary launch their All-Ireland senior championship campaign in June at home to Waterford followed by trips to Cork and Clare, a home game against Dublin and finally an away clash with Meath.

They will want to lay down a marker in advance of that.

With just one win from four in their league campaign, finishing just ahead of Offaly at the bottom of the table, it seems Tipp have a lot of work to do.

They've won two minor titles in the last



BlackBee, the Cork based investment firm, has announced a three year partnership with Cork Camogie. The partnership, which is the first of its kind for BlackBee, will see the company sponsor jerseys for the senior team, intermediate, junior as well as the minor and U16 teams. Pictured are Amy O'Connor, Julia White, Aoibhe Daly, Laura Treacy and Orla Cronin.

Picture: Miki Barlok

14 years.

The Tipperary management team is led by manager Bill Mullaney and Niamh Lillis, Dinny Ferncombe, Carmel Bradshaw, Eddie Costello, and Cian Treacy.

Paddy Quinlan is responsible for the strength and conditioning of the side.

Recently crowned the Division 2 national league champions was a boost for Tipp but they lost out to Cork in the intermediate Munster final last weekend, 1-12 to 1-8.

It would be great for the game if there was strong competition in Munster and we need the likes of Tipperary to the fore again.

Cork have a few of their familiar faces missing for Saturday.

Briege Corkery is nursing an injury, Ashling Thompson and Hannah Looney are unavailable, Aoife Murray is out while Julia White is sick.

Paudie Murray won't be concerned and will use this to give his extended panel a taste of championship action.

His team may be along the lines of: Amy Lee; Leanne O'Sullivan, Laura Treacy, Niamh O'Callaghan; Laura Hayes, Pamela Mackey, Chloe Sigerson; Gemma O'Connor, Libby Coppinger; Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin, Katrina Mackey; Linda Collins, Amy O'Connor and Laura Homan.

Still a very strong Cork lineout and they'll be expected to take the title.

But if Tipp bring a strong intensity and one would hope they will, they have the calibre of players to push Cork.

Orla O'Dwyer, Cáit Devane, Gemma Grace, Nicole Walsh and Eirena Fryday are fine players.

It'll depend on how tenacious the Tipperary defence are on the day as to whether they'll do better than last year's decider.

With the All-Ireland series three weeks away, teams should be close to peaking and for that reason, both sets of management will be interested in seeing where their teams are at.

Both counties have a new sponsor on board. Evros Technology sits on the Tipperary jersey, BlackBee Investments on the red and white.

The Tipperary team which beat Waterford in the senior semi-final read as follows and if free from injury are expected to line out again on Saturday: Caoimhe Bourke (Drom & Inch), Julianne Bourke (Borris-leigh), Gemma Grace (Burgess-Duffarra), Eimear Loughman (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Clodagh Quirke (Clonoulty-Rossmore, captain), Karen Kennedy (Thurles Sarsfields), Aoife McGrath (Drom & Inch), Megan Ryan (Borris-leigh), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Orla O'Dwyer (Cashel), Cáit Devane (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Eirena Fryday (Knockavilla Kickhams), Nicole Walsh (Borris-leigh), Niamh Treacy (Drom & Inch), Miriam Campion (Drom & Inch).

May 2019



# Cronin keen to lay down a marker for All-Ireland

BY DENIS HURLEY

AFTER a long lay-off since the end of the national league, Cork camogie star Orla Cronin is happy of the opportunity to build up towards the All-Ireland series with a successful Munster championship.

The All-Ireland champions, who will be seeking a three-in-a-row in 2019, chase a second successive provincial senior title when they travel to Cashel on Saturday to take on Tipperary (4pm).

Wins over Clare and Limerick have brought Cork to the decider against the same opposition they overcame by 0-19 to 0-6 in Páirc Uí Chaoimh a year ago. Tipp did manage to make it to the All-Ireland semi-finals after that, but there Cork put them to the sword again, winning by 0-21 to 0-9.

It means that Paudie Murray's side, beaten by Kilkenny in the league final, will be strong favourites to retain their title but Enniskeane player Cronin insists that there will be no complacency.

## SHOWDOWN

**SATURDAY, 25TH**  
**Munster camogie**  
**senior final**  
**Cork v Tipperary**  
**Cashel, 4pm**

'We were disappointed with the league,' she says, 'we didn't get a good run as the Wexford game was conceded to us and then in the final we fell short.'

'We had a seven-week break since then so it was good to get back on the field against Clare and Limerick in the Munster championship. We got the results but there's still a lot of room for improvement and things to work on, we know that Tipp will be tougher.'

'The Munster championship is a good way to get players ready for the All-Ireland and Tipp will want to show they are closer to us than last year and that they are in the top bracket.'

'All the talk is about our-

selves, Kilkenny and Galway but Tipp aren't too far off and they've had underage success. We definitely can't go in taking it for granted.'

First called up to the Cork panel at the age of 16 in 2012, Cronin is now an integral part of the side and it's a growing profile she's happy to assume.

'You definitely see an improvement,' she says, 'you step up more as a leader and you try to be a bit more dominant and vocal.'

'I'm still really enjoying it, definitely not getting sick of it!'

However, one notable change this year is that Cronin is out in the real world, working in the Mardyke as she takes a break from college, having completed a degree in physiology in 2018, with a Master's in physiotherapy to come in the autumn.

While one might think that it would harder to combine work and play than when she was a student, she is enjoying the novelty.

'It's definitely given me a breather,' she says, 'it has been



Enniskeane's Orla Cronin is one of the key players on the Cork senior camogie team.

hard to balance things in the last few years.

'With preparing for exams and playing in the Ashbourne Cup, things are full on with col-

lege but this year has given me time to focus and work on the physical side of things. I had a problem with my back but I've been able to give that attention.

'There a bit of mental freedom too, which is always good, but at the same time I'm looking forward to starting the Master's as well.'

# New-look Cork are crowned Munster champions

## MUNSTER CAMOGIE

**CORK** 1-12  
**TIPPERARY** 1-8

**SHIRLEY MOLONEY**  
**REPORTS**

A NEW-LOOK Cork intermediate camogie team retained their Munster title on Saturday.

Off the back of winning the 2018 All-Ireland intermediate crown Cork had to wipe the slate clean and start with a new squad this year – but the class of 2019 has already added silverware to the trophy cabinet.

What's more, Cork beat a Tipperary team in Charleville that had beaten the Rebels 1-11 to 1-4 in Division 2 of the national league in March. Tipp

also went on to win the league title.

But Cork hit the ground running here and scored 1-2 without reply inside the opening six minutes. Hayley Ryan and Rachel Harty scored the points before Kate Dooley's goal put Cork in the driving seat. By half time Cork led 1-5 to 0-4.

Upon the resumption Ryan pushed Cork five clear. That point was quickly cancelled out by a Shauna Quirke score for Tipp. The lead was then trimmed to a single point when Grace O'Toole goaled for Tipperary.

But even when Tipp levelled, Cork never dropped their heads. Instead, they rallied. With their defence holding firm Cork surged forward and



Clara Hayes, Ashling Moloney, Grainne Hannon and Fiona Keating, all from Courcey Rovers, show off the cup after Cork beat Tipperary in the Munster intermediate camogie championship final.

(Photo: Trevor Patchett)

scored five unanswered points in a ten-minute spell to see them restore a five-point lead for the fifth time after 54 minutes.

Four Ryan placed balls and a Dooley effort from play showed the work rate and response from Cork where Katie O'Mahony and Ashling Moloney at

midfield held firm and Dooley, Ryan and Erin Looney proved prominent in attack.

Cork led 1-12 to 1-8 after 58 minutes and Rebel goalkeeper Stefanie Beausang made an excellent point-blank save in injury-time to keep the Cork lead intact.

Captain Beausang said afterwards: 'We are only three months in, this is a lovely bunch and everyone is looking out for each other. There is a nice team dynamic there, lots of different characters. This is a team-building period but we should be going well by the summer and it's going to be very exciting.'

### Scorers

**Cork:** H Ryan 0-9 (7f, 145), K Dooley 1-1, E Looney, R Harty 0-1 each.

**Tipperary:** G O'Toole 1-0, J Grace 0-3 (3f), S Quirke 0-2, A

Loughnane, C McIntyre, S Meagher 0-1.

**Cork:** S Beausang (Killeagh); A Crowley (Kilbrittain-Timoleague), C Daly (Killeagh), G Hannon (Courcey Rovers); E Flanagan (Aghabullogue), R Sheehan (Killeagh), C Hayes (Courcey Rovers); A Moloney (Courcey Rovers), K O'Mahony (Innisscarra); I O'Regan (Ballygarvan), R Harty (Ballyhea), E Looney (Innisscarra); H Ryan (Blackrock), N O'Riordan (Glen Rovers), K Dooley (Ballinora).

**Subs:** F Keating (Courcey Rovers) for R Harty (ht), A Hurley (St Catherine's) for N O'Riordan (46).

**Tipperary:** C Ryan; C Stakeelum, C Brennan, E Carey; N Loughnane, G O'Toole; C McKeogh, J Grace, A Dwyer; S Delaney, A Loughnane, S Quirke.

**Subs:** S McIntyre for S Delaney (36), S Meagher for N Loughnane (51), L Shinnors for J Grace (56).

**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).



# Market opening in women's sport

## County league reaches climax

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

AS exam time looms closer the county league competitions are reaching their conclusions.

Already we have had the Minor A, B and D titles decided with Sarsfields taking the A, Aghada the B and the D was won by Kilbree.

The C league final ended all square and the replay between Midleton and Grenagh went ahead last night.

Inniscarra who had a semi-final victory over Ballygarvan on Sunday last will take on Sarsfields in the final on Sunday morning at 11.30am in Castle Road.

In the Intermediate league, Blackrock and Fr O'Neill's have booked their semi-final spots and they will meet tomorrow Sunday at 7pm in Castle Road, whilst Piarasigh, who came out on top in their section, are through to the semi-finals but they await their opponents as there may have to be a playoff to decide who come out of the other sides of the group.

At Junior A level the semi-finals were held on Friday last where Charleville who had progressed on full points out of Section B, had a victory over St Vincent's.

Banteer, having had a good win over Newtownshandrum in a playoff the previous Wednesday, were out again on Friday 17th in the semi-final against Ballyhea who topped section A of the league.

This was a superb contestant both teams gave their all in a battle for the final spot and it was Banteer who prevailed on a score line of 1-11 to Ballyhea 2-6.

Banteer and Charleville will contest the final tomorrow Sunday in Blarney at 3pm.

The Junior C league final between St Colm's and Blarney takes place tomorrow Sunday in Castle Road at 3pm, in the Junior C 13 a side league final Rockban or Castlemartyr will meet Kilbree who had a semi-final victory over St Vincent's last weekend.

Under age league will take centre stage for the next few weeks and it has been all systems go as the under 16s teams have now got their preliminary round games completed.

The results of these will now be collated and the clubs will be graded according to the results with the top eight going forward to the A grade, the next eight going to A1 and they will continue as such with all teams graded according to their ability.

Whilst the Under 14 leagues have been continuing the focus of most clubs will be on Feile Na Gael in the next three weeks.

The under 12s are busy as they continue their leagues and both the Under 14 and Under 12 will be graded according to results once their schedule has been completed.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE Cork senior Camogie team are going for three in a row of All-Ireland titles this year. The Dublin ladies' footballers are going for likewise.

Blackbee Investments have come on board as Cork's new sponsor in a three-year deal. Despite playing in front of 50,141 people last September, the Dublin ladies still struggle to find corporate investment and are forced to organise 'golf classics' and other small-scale fundraising events.

Ciara McGuigan is an All-Ireland winner at both minor and U21 level with Dublin and has completed her master's in marketing, with her dissertation focusing on 'The Benefits, Return on Investment and Brand Engagement within Ladies Gaelic Football & Camogie', for sponsors.

McGuigan found that women's sport receives just 0.4% of corporate investment globally.

Women's sport has, up until now, been very much an afterthought when it comes to sponsorships. Men's sport has always dominated the industry and it can often feel as though the Olympics and Wimbledon are the only tournaments in which female athletes are taken as seriously as their male counterparts.

In recent years, there has been a major shift in public perception of women's sport, despite a severe lack of funding among many women's teams. Some sponsorship deals have been on the rise, however, which indicates that real change is happening and will continue to do so.

Globally, are women's sports worth the sponsorship investment if they aren't as popular as men's sports? A LogoGrab blog put forward a strong argument recently that "yes, they definitely are". Let's explore why.

Women's sport is actually thriving and there are many reasons for this, most notably, the successes of women's teams and athletes in tournaments, particularly in the US and Europe. Participation in women's sport is at an all-time high, despite the argument that sponsorship decisions are entirely market-driven.

Over 3.3 million girls play sports in the US and women make up 58% of participants at running events. The most important statistic of all, from a brand and ROI perspective, is that women control 70-80% of consumer purchases.

Perpetuating the excuse that sports sponsorships are purely market-driven in order to justify the lack of sponsorship support for women's teams won't cut it anymore. Women's sport is a huge market for sponsorships and the growth in the industry only serves to validate this.

It's not just active women in sport. Their popularity amongst fans is increasing at a substantial rate. For example, the 5,000 tickets designated to the Wales vs. England game for the Women's Football World Cup on 31 August 2019 sold out in just 24 hours. In addition, The Football Association announced that it is likely to double the number of players and fans by 2020.



Organisers of the Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz Pat Costello, Tony Harnett, Alison O'Flynn, Supt Mick Maguire, Helen Courtney, Sgt Mick O'Connell, Karen Butler, Sgt Ben Flahive and John O'Driscoll at Blackrock National Hurling Club. Picture: Derek Connolly



The Domonic Rooney Memorial Most Valuable Player was presented to Deirdre McCarthy (Sarsfields) by Margaret Rooney and sons Cillian and Eoin, along with Supt Mick Maguire. Picture: Derek Connolly

There is a major misconception that both men and women have an interest in men's sport, while only women have an interest in women's sport. But that's simply not the case. According to Nielsen, 84% of sports fans have an interest in women's sports, 51% of whom are male. Furthermore, 56% of fans watching the Women's Rugby World Cup final from home were male, as well as 58% of fans watching the Women's Euros semi-final.

Turnout at major women's sporting events has grown an average of 38% each year since 2013. Moreover, while over four million people tuned in to watch soccer's Euro 2017 semi-final, 1.94 million people watched the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017 final. And according to Sky, the Women's Cricket World Cup was also seen by over 1.1 million.

So, if women's sports are indeed extremely popular, then why haven't sponsors acknowledged this?

The bottom line is that the media

needs to take action to support women's sport in order to encourage sponsors to invest in them. Although there is an abundance of sportswomen out there, there is a serious lack of representation of these women and their sports in the media. (It is improving marginally here).

It's also disappointing from the point of view of young girls. If they can't actually see female athletes achieving incredible victories, then they will be left with very few sports heroines to look up to who could be role models for them. That's where our own "20x20" - If she can't see it, she can't be it" sport's initiative was introduced by the Federation of Irish Sport to raise the profile and participation of females in sport.

This historic lack of exposure has meant that sportswomen and their teams need to circumvent traditional media and innovate in order to keep up (thank God for social media). And if they have to do this, then so do sponsors.

According to Nielsen, 84% of sports fans have an interest in women's sports, 51% of whom are male. Furthermore, 56% of fans watching the Women's Rugby World Cup final from home were male, as well as 58% of fans watching the Women's Euros semi-final.



Aoife Mulcahy, Glen Rovers; Emily Ray, Brian Dillons; Caoimhe O'Flynn, Kilworth and Amy Lane, Ballinora, at the launch at Nemo Rangers. Picture: Jim Coughlan



The Cork junior camogie team who defeated Limerick.



# Tipperary bid to halt Murray's mighty Rebels

## Camogie

### Therese O'Callaghan

Tipperary will face defending champions Cork in a repeat of last year's Munster senior camogie championship final at Leahy Park, Cashel today (4pm). The home side, seeking their first provincial crown since 2010, were impressive in recording a comprehensive victory over Waterford in the semi-final.

The fact they had a host of different scorers speaks for itself while they had impressive performances all over the pitch. Karen Kennedy was resilient at centre-back, while

Megan Ryan and Mary Ryan were formidable at midfield. A menacing forward line included chief scorer Cait Devane, Nicole Walsh, and Orla O'Dwyer.

They won't, however, get anything easy from the titleholders who overcame Limerick in their penultimate round. Gemma O'Connor is captain of the team this year, and with three-in-a-row All-Ireland senior titles in their sights, they will be determined to start the season on a high — and with a Munster title under their belt.

Paudie Murray has a strong panel to choose from. They were comfortable all the way

**Gemma O'Connor: Will be hoping to lead Cork to third straight All-Ireland senior title.**

through in their victory over the Shannonsiders — albeit Limerick were forced to play with 14 players for a lot of the second half didn't help their cause.

Orla Cotter, Katrina Mackey and Orla Cronin remain key in attack. Last year's triumphant skipper Aoife Murray is a very experienced goalkeeper, and with an evenly balanced defensive unit in front of her, the holders will be hard to break down.



This game will also serve as a rehearsal for when the counties meet in the group stage of the All-Ireland senior championship next month.

Meanwhile, the Munster junior decider which will also involve Cork, up against Kerry, throws in at the same venue at 2pm. The green and gold travelled to Lemybrien a couple of weeks ago and after getting an early grip on proceedings, they came away with the spoils.

Patrice Diggin is a quality player, and she was helped in the scoring stakes by Sara Murphy and Jackie Horgan. They are managed by Ian Brick — Brick, who took over the reins earlier this year, was in charge last weekend when the Munster junior interprovincial squad narrowly lost to Ulster in the final. Along with

Diggin, Murphy, and Horgan, Aoife Fitzgerald and Laura Collins also lined out in that Munster team.

In the meantime, the Rebels will be looking to get the day off to a successful start. They got the better of Limerick in the semi-final and can call upon a number of the recent All-Ireland winning minor side, among them Molly Lynch, Aoife O'Neill, Emma Murphy, and Lucy Wallace. Cork's win in the Munster intermediate final last weekend over Tipperary, means they are looking to complete a clean sweep of junior, intermediate, and senior titles — a feat they achieved last year.

# Double treble



Cork junior camogie captain, Nicole Crean, with the cup after they won the Munster Junior championship final at Cashel.



Cork captain Stefanie Beausang raises the trophy after defeating Tipperary in the Munster camogie intermediate championship final.



Cork captain Gemma O'Connor receives the Morrissey Cup from Munster chairperson Marion Graham. Picture: Sportsfocus Images

## Cork senior and junior camogie teams land Munster championship titles to add to intermediate success

IT was a double treble for Cork camogie as the senior and junior sides claimed Munster titles on Saturday, adding to the intermediate team's success a week previously.

The treble was all the more remarkable as Cork have a completely new intermediate team this season, having won the All-Ireland at this level last year.

That meant that none of the team who participated in the intermediate campaign were eligible to play this year, so in effect, players had to move up from junior team, which then had to be filled by other up and coming players.

On Saturday the senior side got the

### CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

better of Tipperary for the second year-in-a-row, with a superb second-half display securing the title for them.

Level at 1-7 apiece at the break, Cork outscored Tipp by 2-10 to 1-3 in the second-half, with Player of the Game, Linda Collins leading the attack.

Afterwards, manager Paudie Murray said he was "delighted with the win and they were going in the right direction ahead of the All-Ireland Championship, which starts in three weeks time."

The juniors faced Kerry and they were also level at the break. But, led by captain, and Player of the Game, Nicole Crean they brushed aside the Kingdom in the second-half, with Crean getting two vital goals in their 2-9 to 1-4 victory.

Manager Donie Daly has been involved with the side for four years and they have won the title three times in that period.

"It was a great win and those goals from Nicole were vital to see us come out on top," he said.

A week earlier, the intermediates defeated Tipp in their final at Charleville, with a goal from Kate Dooley proving to be a vital score for the Rebels.

See P52 for reports on the junior and senior games.



# Crean on the double as Cork cruise past Kerry juniors to retain crown

**Cork** 2-9  
**Kerry** 1-4

TWO second-half goals from Nicole Crean put Cork on their way to retaining the Munster junior camogie title at Cashel on Saturday.

Up to then the game had been close as the Cork side were finding it difficult to shake off a resilient Kerry side. At half-time the sides were level, and with Cork having played with the wind in the first-half, the possibility of an upset was on the cards.

But Cork upped their game and with Crean dominating up front and Christine O'Neill in control at the back they started to take control. Afterwards manager, Donal Daly, was full of praise for his side.

"It was a great win and for a lot of the game it was tight, but Nicole's first goal turned it in our favour. She took the game by the scruff of the neck and drove us on."

"At the back we tightened up, with Christine O'Neill

## CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

using all her experience to lead by example at the back. I have been involved with the junior side for four years and we have managed to win this title three times and it was great to see Cork complete the Munster triple (junior, intermediate and senior) titles again this year."

Kerry got the perfect start when Julieanne O'Keefe opened the scoring. Lucy Wallace and O'Neill, from a free, responded for Cork, before frees from Patrice Diggin and Sara Murphy made it 1-2 to 0-2 to Kerry.

Wallace hit Cork's third point and scores from Emma Murphy and Crean had the sides level at half-time.

Crean levelled it, with 40 minutes gone, with O'Sullivan putting the holders in front. With 48 minutes gone Crean got her first goal, from a free.



The Cork junior camogie team celebrate their Munster success.

Diggin pulled a point back from a free, but Crean got her second goal and added two late points.

Scorers for Cork: N Crean 2-4 (2f), L Wallace 0-2, C O'Neill (1f), E Murphy, C

O'Sullivan 0-1 each.  
Kerry: J O'Keefe 1-0, P Diggin 0-2 (2f), S Murphy, J Fitzell 0-1 each.

CORK: M Lynch, J Murphy, D Carroll, A O'Neill, L Doyle, C O'Neill, C Murphy, C O'Keefe, S Hurley, C O'Sullivan, E Murphy, L Wallace, N Crean, L Colley, F

Nelligan.  
Subs: M Browne for L Colley (26m), C Sexton for E Cooney (34m), F Nelligan for C O'Neill (60m).

KERRY: A Fitzgerald, A O'Connor, L Houlihan, M Costello, R McCarthy, P Diggin, A Behan, L Collins, E Ryan, A

Whelan, S Murphy, B Horan, J O'Keefe, J Horgan, J Fitzell.

Subs: C Walsh for J O'Keefe (36m), M Leen for A Whelan (44m), M Weir for A Behan (51m in), E Lawlor for E Ryan (60m).

Ref: John Lillis, Tipperary.



Camogie

Rory Noonan

**Cork** 3-17  
**Tipperary** 2-10

CORK retained their Munster senior camogie title after a hard-fought win over Tipperary at Cashel on Saturday.

It took a blistering second-half display from the Rebels to see of a determined Tipp side, which saw them level at the break. The strong wind played its part in proceedings with Cork turning to play with it in the second-half. But even at that they fell behind to an early goal, before they rallied to hit 1-5 without reply as they started to pull away.

There were a number of outstanding displays, with Linda Collins and Amy O'Connor leading the attack. Collins finished with 1-3 and for her overall display it was no surprise she was named Player of the Game afterwards.

But key to Cork's win was their defence, with Laura Treacy and Gemma O'Connor showing the spine is rock solid. Alongside O'Connor, Libby Coppinger was another who was superb all through.

The win saw Cork make it a double treble, as they won the junior, intermediate and senior titles for the second year in a row. With the minors also winning the All-Ireland recently it has been a good few weeks for Cork camogie.

Afterwards, manager Paudie Murray was happy with the win and felt they were going in the right direction ahead of the All-Ireland championship in a few weeks.

"3-17 is a good score and I thought that some of our combination play was very good at times. I was disappointed at conceding the two goals and I'm not sure how the second one was given with someone standing inside in the square like that."

"Overall happy enough, we are moving in the right direction and some of our more senior players need to be in the square like that."

# Rebels retain Munster title



Aoife Murray with her dog after the victory. Picture: Sportsfocus



The Cork senior team before Saturday's Munster final up in Tipperary.

ship but we have three weeks to get that right so I am happy enough.

"We responded well and we are getting there and, as I said three weeks out from championship, we would want to be at this stage," concluded Paudie.

Megan Ryan put Tipp in front, with Orla Cotter equalising from a free, before two from Nicole Walsh made it 0-3 to 0-1 to Tipp.

Cork hit back through O'Connor and Chloe Sigerson before Tipp got their first goal. A shot from distance by Eibhlís McDonnell came back off the post and Miriam Campion was

quickest to react to the breaking ball.

But it didn't seem to bother the Rebels, with Collins hitting two and Katrina Mackey one to level it, 0-6 to 1-3.

Tipp went back in front, with two from Walsh and one from Orla Dwyer, to go three in front again. A brilliant run from O'Connor saw her ghost past several defenders to blast to the back of the net to make it 1-6 each.

Mackey and Walsh exchanged points to see them level at half-time.

Campion got her second goal at the start of the second-half, but again Cork responded, with Collins getting

their second goal straight from the restart.

Two from Cotter, along with points from Collins, Mackey and Homan made it 2-12 to 2-7 as Cork started to dominate.

When Niamh McCarthy got Cork's third goal, to make it 3-13 to 2-9, with 55 minutes gone, it was all over for Tipp and two late points from Cotter, and one from Julia White ensured that Cork retained their title.

Scorers for Cork: L Collins 1-3, A O'Connor 1-1, N McCarthy 1-0, O Cotter 0-5 (5f), K Mackey 0-3, C Sigerson, L Homan, L Coppinger, G O'Connor, J White 0-1 each.

Tipperary: M Campion 2-0, N Walsh 0-5 (2f, 0-4f), G O'Brien 0-2 (1f, 0-1 4f), Megan Ryan, C Dwyer, K Kennedy 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, P Mackey, L Coppinger, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, N O'Callaghan, L Homan, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, K Mackey, L Collins, L Hayes.

Subs: N McCarthy for L Homan (50m), J White for K Mackey (56m), C McCarthy for L Collins (57m), C Healy for N O'Callaghan (60m).

TIPPERARY: C Burke, J Burke, G Grace, L Loughman, C Quirke, K Kennedy, A McGrath, Megan Ryan, Mary Ryan, O Dwyer, E McDonnell, E Fryday, N Walsh, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: G O'Brien for N Walsh (45m), C McKee for M Campion (50m), L Loughman for Mary Ryan (50m).

Referee: Kevin O'Brien, (Limerick)

Picture: Sportsfocus



# Inniscarra and Sars reach final

Aghada edge past the Glen for the win

MINOR CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

INNISCARRA and Sarsfields will meet in the senior camogie league final after they recorded victories recently.

**Inniscarra 3-12**  
**Ballygarvan 1-7**

County champions Inniscarra booked their place in the Senior league final as they wore down a determined Ballygarvan sides in the semi-final played at Castle Road on Sunday evening last.

Inniscarra were missing three of their usual starting fifteen due to injury.

Ballygarvan showed huge determination and fought to the end against the county champions who fielded a strong line out.

Goals proved vital and Inniscarra grabbed two aided by the strong wind in the opening half and these helped set the foundation for victory.

Isobel O'Regan opened the scoring with a Ballygarvan point but with Niamh Dilworth grabbing an Inniscarra goal inside five minutes of the throw in they opened up a three-point lead after they had earlier replied to Ballygarvan's opener.

Twice the sides traded points but aided by the wind Inniscarra pushed forward and a strong closing quarter saw them add 1-4 to their tally without reply Niamh McCarthy grabbing the goal as Michaela Buckley added a Ballygarvan point and it was Inniscarra who led 2-6 to 0-4 at the break.

Three pointed Niamh Dilworth frees helped Inniscarra settle into the second half as in between Michaela Buckley and Isobel O'Regan pegged them back with a point each.

Ballygarvan battled hard but the experienced Inniscarra were controlling matters around the middle whilst up front they were always threatening.

Sarah Ahern in the Ballygarvan goal was excellent as she handled a lot of long probing efforts and by the three-quarter stage it was 2-10 to 0-6.

Ballygarvan battled hard to make inroads on the scoreboard Michael Buckley pointed but Niamh Dilworth replied converting a forty-five, with three minutes remaining Isobel O'Regan struck for a Ballygarvan goal.

Her long-range strike finding a way past the Inniscarra defence.

From the puck out they pressed for more but Inniscarra had the final say with a Niamh McCarthy goal to seal their place in the final.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 1-10 (0-7Fs 0-1 4S) N Mc McCarthy 2-0, E Looney 0-1.

**Ballygarvan:** M Buckley 0-5 (0-4Fs), I O'Regan 1-2.  
**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh, A O'Regan, R Buckley, R Quigley, R Keane, A Sheehan, A Dineen, C Keane, K O'Mahony, T Mc McCarthy, N Dilworth Looney, C Doyle, N McCarthy, E O'Reilly.

**Subs:** A Condon for R Quigley (24), C Buckley for E Looney (51), S O'Callaghan for K O'Mahony (52), L Desmond for C Keane (55).

**BALLYGARVAN:** S Ahern, S Lyons, E Ryan, A Keohane, S J Brady, A Moynihan, K Dorney, E O'Regan, E Bateman, M Buckley, I O'Regan, R Crowley, C Keohane, C O'Leary, A Finnegan.

**Subs:** G Kelleher for E Bateman (36), C O'Sullivan for C Keohane (54), E Murphy for A Keohane (54).  
**Referee:** Cathal Mc Allister (Aghada).

**Sarsfields 1-14**  
**Glen Rovers 3-7**

A pointed free in injury time edged it in Sarsfields favour as they got past Glen Rovers in an entertaining contest



Aghada, winners of the Minor B League title.



Supt Mick Maguire presents Sarsfield captain Laura Delea with the cup for Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 held at Blackrock National Hurling Club. Picture: Derek Connolly

in Castle Road on Wednesday evening.

In a closely contested opening half it was level pegging 0-6 to 1-3 at the interval after a Katie Walsh goal five minutes to the break saw Glen Rovers draw level.

Denise Luby edged them in front but Emer Fennelly replied for Sarsfields before the half time break.

Sars hit a five minute purple patch on the re start and they opened up a five point level Emer Fennelly pointing a free before Maeabh McCarthy added a goal and a point.

Emma Murphy had one back for Glen Rovers but a Fennelly pointed free on fourteen minutes saw Sars hold their five point advantage.

Glen Rovers battled back with a

Lauren Callanan goal form a long range free but three points without reply had Sars back in front by five again.

The Glen girls upped the pace with points from Sharon Hayes and Emma Murphy and now piling on the pressure they were back on level when Nicole O'Brien grabbed a long-range delivery and hand passed to the net.

Again the sides swapped points as Sars edged ahead with a Holly Herlihy point Emma Murphy replied from a close in free.

As the sides battled on Sarsfields won a free which Emer Fennelly converted, Glen Rovers tore down the field from the puck out but the sound of the full-time whistle beat them and secured a place in the final for Sarsfields

“Inniscarra and Sarsfields will meet in the senior camogie league final after they recorded victories recently”

after a tremendous battle which both sides are to be complimented on.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennelly 0-6 (0-3Fs 0-1 4S), M Mc McCarthy 1-2, H Herlihy 0-2, C Casey, E Woods, D Kerrigan, L Kelly 0-1 each.

**Glen Rovers:** E Murphy 0-4 (0-2Fs), D Luby 0-2 (Fs), L Callanan (f), N O'Brien 1-0 each, S Hayes 0-1.

**SARSFIELDS:** M Lynch, K Walsh, K Barry, E Loneragan, E Casey, E Murphy, B Morgan, L Kelly, C Holland, E Woods, C Casey, R O'Mahony, M Mc McCarthy, E Fennelly, D Kerrigan.

**Subs:** H Herlihy for C Holland (h/t), C Irwin for K Walsh (h/t), C Mullins for D Kerrigan (h/t), M Mullins for R O'Mahony (50), L Allen for C Mullins (inj 54).

**GLEN ROVERS:** L O'Riordan, S Fahy, K Falvey, K O'Connell, A O'Rourke, M Browne, K Buckley, L Callanan, L Cunningham, K Walsh, E Murphy, T Mc McCarthy, N O'Riordan, D Luby, S Hayes.

**Subs:** N O'Brien for D Luby (43), C Martin for K O'Connell (inj 50).

**Referee:** Ger Ahern (Cloughduv).

**Aghada 1-14**  
**Glen Rovers 1-9**

AGHADA and Glen Rovers served up an exciting Minor B league final in Castletyons on Friday evening last where a strong last quarter saw Aghada wear down their opponents to go on to take the title.

The sides were evenly matched in the opening thirty minutes with Ali Smith and Emma Murphy both hugely prominent for their respective sides as the teams battled to gain a grip.

Glen Rovers hit the front with a pointed Emma Murphy free but Ali Smith responded pointing two Aghada frees to edge her side in front. Again the sides swapped pointed frees with Murphy and Smith showing their accuracy it was nip and tuck and level at 0-3 each.

Emma Murphy put a goal between the sides as she took on and beat the Aghada defence and sent the ball to the net but Aghada responded with a goal after an Ali Smith long range free fell short Emer Cronin got the last touch to get the ball over the line and it was all level.

Glen Rovers hit a purple patch with Emma Akinoulie pointing and with Emma Murphy back on free taking duties converting two in a row the gap was at three in Glen Rovers favour.

Aghada dug deep Ali Smith pointed two frees and hit one from play to claw their way back to level again the Glen Rovers girls responded with an Abbey Lynch - O'Shea point, Smith again replied but the last say was with Emma Murphy who converted a Glen Rovers free to give her sides a narrow one point interval lead 1-8 to 1-7.

Ali Smith had Aghada back on level inside five minutes of the restart, Emma Murphy then edged Glen Rovers back in front and as the play swung from end to end both sides battled for supremacy. Ali Smith again converted a free and it was level pegging as the game entered the final quarter. Beginning to gain a grip Aghada pushed for home with the excellent Ali Smith now enjoying a lot more freedom she struck three points with reply, the Glen Rovers girls pressed for the goal they needed to get back on level but the Aghada defence under huge pressure held their lines. Aoife McGrath and Ali Smith had points in added time to seal an Aghada victory.

**Scorers for Aghada:** A Smith 0-13 (0-8Fs) E Cronin 1-0, A Mc Grath 0-1.

**Glen Rovers:** E Murphy 1-7 (0-6Fs), A Lynch O'Shea, A Akinoulie 0-1 each.

**AGHADA:** E Lewis, A Rose, L Mc Allister, A Gilroy, C Boylan, M Leahy, A Healy, E R Boylan, S Geary, A Mc Grath, C Walsh, M Culligan, A Smith, K Terry, E Cronin.

**Subs:** R Leahy for A Gilroy (h/t), R Barry for M Culligan (45), R Keane for K Terry (51).

**GLEN ROVERS:** E Buckley, E O'Meara, L O'Riordan, A Hyde, S Lane (c), T Mc McCarthy, E Akinoulie, I O'Meara, K O'Sullivan, C Martin, E Murphy, A Lynch O'Shea, A Newman, M Martin, C Halpin-Hurley.

**Subs:** J Conway for A Newman (51), A Mc McCarthy for M Martin (55).

**Referee:** Mark Murphy (Bride Rovers).



# Goals make difference for Cloghroe in tight decider

Cloghroe 4-4  
Spiorad Naomh 1-6

## CAMOGIE C2

Barbara O'Connell

GOALS can win games. This certainly proved to be the case as Cloghroe claimed the Allianz C2 camogie title with a win over Spiorad Naomh yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

In a game that Spiorad Naomh dominated in terms of possession, the goals they conceded were too difficult to recover from to get the win.

Cloghroe opened the scoring in the first half with an excellent point from Shelly O'Sullivan. Both keepers made great saves early in this half.

Xuyen O'Driscoll denying Katie O'Sullivan while Cloghroe's Leah Hayes saved from Rachel Moran. Two quick goals

from Evie Burke and Eva Harrington gave Cloghroe the lead. Spiorad Naomh closed the gap when Simone Looney struck to the net after an excellent ball was played in by their key player Aisling Carroll.

Harrington added another goal while Amy McCarthy and O'Sullivan added a point each. Carroll added a point for the Bishopstown school to make it 3-1 to 1-1 at the break.

Four early scores in the second half, a point from Moran, Ava Kelly and two from the hard working Carroll closed the gap to four points, 3-3 to 1-5. It took 15 minutes of play before Clogh-

roe got their first score of the half when Cara Harty pointed over from a free.

Carroll added another score before an injury goal from Harty sealed the victory for Cloghroe.

**Scorers for Cloghroe:** E Harrington 2-0, C Harty 1-1, E Burke 1-0, S O'Sullivan, A McCarthy and K O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**Scoil an Spioraid Naomh:** S Looney 1-0, A Carroll 0-4, R Moran and A Kelly 0-1 each.

**CLOGHROE:** L Hayes, E Geary, E Burke, L Murlagh, J Mollaghan, C Harty, C O'Connell, A Ryan, E Harrington, S O'Sullivan, K O'Sullivan, Z Riordan, R Griffin-Healy, L Collins, A McCarthy, A Madden, A Higgins, S Doyle, A Golden, A Tuite, A Linehan.

**SCOIL AN SPIORAD NAOIMH:** X O'Driscoll, K Murphy, A Bohan, M Forrest, C Barry, A Buckley, K McSweeney, A Carroll, R Moran, S Looney, E Doherty, S O'Shea, A Kelly, H Gultinane, E Brosnan, A Cuthbert, M Sheehan, C O'Connor, E Honohan, L Scully, E J Long, C Savage. Referee: M Harrington (Carrigaline).

Cloghroe's Evie Burke clears from Simone Looney at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cloghroe secured a double by adding the camogie title to the hurling crown. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cloghroe players celebrate after defeating Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Late drama grabs crown for Goggins Hill

Lyons converted from close range. The equaliser came again when Crowley struck.

As tension grew and extra time looking like a certainty, an injury time goal from Lynch brought scenes of celebrations for Goggins Hill but heartbreak for Kilbrittain, and the Ballinhaslig school snatched a dramatic victory.

**Scorers for Goggins Hill:** A Lynch 2-1, K Reynolds 1-0

**Kilbrittain:** L Sheehy 1-2, A Crowley 0-2

**GOGGINS HILL:** E Downey, S White, S Connolly, A Cussen, K O'Leary, M O'Rourke, L O'Sullivan, M Lombard, L O'Mahony, A Lombard, A Lynch, A Collins, D Rice, K Reynolds, I Mulcahy, E O'Sullivan, M McCarthy, C McCarthy, R O'Connor.

**KILBRITTAIN:** R Warner, E Hurley, M Nagle, C O'Sullivan, C Callaghan, K Butler, L Sheehy, C Madden, S Skinner, A Crowley, K O'Mahony, D Walsh, N McCarthy, A Enright, M McCarthy, H Raftery, C O'Connor.

Referee: M Harrington (Carrigaline).



Goggins Hill NS players Muireann McCarthy (right), Leila O'Mahony and Millie O'Rourke celebrate. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Kilbrittain's Katie Butler wins the ball from Goggins Hill's Millie O'Rourke. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Barbara O'Connell

Goggins Hill 3-3  
Kilbrittain 1-4

AFTER a super exciting game, Goggins Hill claimed the Allianz DC4 camogie title with a win over Kilbrittain yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Goggins Hill led at the break 2-0 to 0- thanks to a goal apiece from Kathryn Reynolds and Aine Lynch while the impressive Laura Sheehy got Kilbrittain's point. It was a fairly even first half with both teams battling hard. Aisling Cussen, Millie O'Rourke, Sasha Connolly, Millie and Aisling Lombard impressed for Goggins Hill while Laura Sheehy, Katie Butler and Eimear Hurley excelled for Kilbrittain.

A superb long-range effort from Sheehy dropped to the back of the net early in the second half to make it 2-0 to 1-1. She added a beautiful point a minute later.

The equaliser came soon after though through Anna Crowley.

An exciting final few minutes saw Goggins Hill taking the lead once again when



Goggins Hill NS team celebrate after defeating Kilbrittain at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare





Riverstown, Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C1 winners following their final against Ovens at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Pictures: Larry Cummin

# On fire Riverstown breeze past under-strength Ovens

Riverstown	4-6
Ovens	0-2

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

RIVERSTOWN had a comfortable victory in their win over Ovens as they claimed the Allianz C1 camogie title yesterday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

In a game that was expected to be a cracker, unfortunately for Ovens, they had eight of their players playing in the FAI soccer five-a-side finals in the Aviva on the same day, and therefore the camogie team had to suffer without these players, which made this game very much one-sided.

A one-sided first half saw Riverstown lead at the break 3-4 to no score.

Jane O'Brien scored 1-1 early in the half while Kate Fennessy and Amy Gray added a point each.

Further scores from Kaydee Sari (1-0), Lucy Lynch (0-1), and Amy Gray with another goal gave Riverstown the lead at the break.

Lucy Lynch opened the scoring in the second half with Fennessy adding another point before she took up the position as goalkeeper.

Ashling Desmond and Nevaeh O'Connell worked well for Riverstown.

Katie Walsh added a goal for Riverstown, however, great credit to

Ovens, who battled hard with Clara Murphy and Lily Waugh doing excellently and helped their side to eventually get on the scoreboard.

Two great points from 45s for goalkeeper Emma O'Sullivan, while Saoirse Moynihan had a superb strike saved by Fennessy and the game ended with a comfortable victory for Riverstown.

Scorers for Riverstown: A Gray and J O'Brien 1-1 each, K Sari and K Walsh 1-0 each, L Lynch and K Fennessy 0-2.

Ovens: E O'Sullivan 0-2.

SCOIL NAOMH IOSAF (Riverstown): Ava McCarthy, Leah Walsh, Aishling Desmond, Sophie Pomeroy, Aoife McMahon, Nevaeh O'Connell, Orlaith Walsh, Kate Fennessy, Kaydee Sari, Tara Loftus, Lucy Lynch, Jane O'Brien, Isabelle Ryan, Amy Gray, Ella Buckley, Laura Scannell, Isabel Kidney, Clara Scannell, Rachael Cullen, Kate McGarry, Grace Harrington, Una McCarthy, Ellie Mulkenra, Katie Walsh, Robyn Clifford.

OVENS: Emma O'Sullivan, Gemma Young, Genny O'Sullivan, Grace Harris, Orlaith Cremen, Clodagh Dillon, Kate O'Riordan, Emma O'Sullivan, Saoirse Moynihan, Amy Slattery, Lily Waugh, Claire O'Regan, Julie White, Mairead Stapleton, Maebh Larkin, Clara Murphy, Alannah Whelton, Abbie Hyde, Clodagh O'Sullivan, Roisin O'Callaghan, Caoimhe Lehane, Tamara Moynihan.

Referee: J Anderson (Sunday's Well).



Riverstown supporters celebrate their win.

Pictures: Larry Cummins



Captain Kate Fennessy and vice-captain Ava McCarthy, Riverstown, receive the cup from Denis Hurley, president, Sarsfield.



Orlaith Walsh in action for Riverstown in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C1 final.

# Cloghroe claim Sciath na Scol

MAY 2019



Clockwise from above: Double joy for Cloghroe captains Evie Burke and Darragh O'Brien after defeating Scoil an Spioraí Naoimh and Scoil Oilibhéir, respectively, in the C2 and H2 finals at the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday; the colourful Kilbrittain supporters; Goggins Hill NS joint captains Shona White and Muireann McCarthy after their victory over Kilbrittain in the DC4 final.





## Picture Diary

**JUMPING FOR JOY:** Fifth class girls from the Riverstown team celebrate their victory in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C1 Final against Ovens at Pairc Uí Rinn yesterday. See Sport for more. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Worthy winners



**Cloghroe captain Evie Burke and vice captain Aine Ryan** after defeating Scoil an Spioraí Naoimh in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C2 final at Pairc Uí Rinn yesterday. Pictures: Eddie O'Hare



**Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan** starred on the Cork minor team that won the All-Ireland A camogie title.



# Munster win shows Cork moving in right direction

## MUNSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE

Courceys star Linda Collins shines as Rebels retain title

**CORK** 3-17  
**TIPPERARY** 2-10

SHIRLEY MOLONEY  
REPORTS

GEMMA O'Connor feels Cork's successful defence of the Munster senior camogie title is the ideal stepping stone towards the All-Ireland series.

Level at half time with Tipperary on Saturday evening in Cachel, reigning All-Ireland and Munster champions Cork blew the Premier County away in the second half.

Cork found another level midway through the second period when they scored 1-5 without reply in a ten-minute spell to secure back-to-back Munster senior titles.

With the All-Ireland series starting later this month - Cork are in Group 2 alongside Clare, Dublin, Meath, Tipperary and Waterford - this was the ideal preparation.

'The Munster championship is a separate competition and doesn't have a direct effect on the All-Ireland series - but it's important because it gives us quality games at this time of the year and let's us see where we are ahead of the championship,' Cork captain Gemma O'Connor said.

'It's not as serious as the All-Ireland but it's a competition that we always want to win. It gives you a boost going into the championship. It's a step-

ping stone.

'And it's silverware too. There are only a few trophies on offer every season so it's one that we want to win.'

The experienced O'Connor at centre back, as always, was rock solid in the Cork defence on Saturday. Laura Treacy at full back and Libby Coppinger were another two to shine in defence.

The first half was an open and free-flowing game with little separating the sides. Megan Ryan got Tipp up and running with an early point before Orla Cotter, unerring on placed balls, fired over her first of five to level proceedings.

Two Nicole Walsh frees in quick succession had Tipperary two clear after five minutes. But an unanswered Cork brace from Amy O'Connor and a fine Chloe Sigerson long-range effort soon levelled the game.

After 13 minutes Tipp struck for the first goal of the final. When an Eibhlís McDonnell placed ball came back off the upright, Miriam Campion blasted to the net past Cork goalkeeper Amy Lee.

A brace from player-of-the-match Linda Collins and a fine point off the stick of Katrina Mackey on the run had the sides all square again, ten minutes from the break.

Tipp were giving as good as they got. Three points in a row saw them lead ahead of half time - but Amy O'Connor's goal, after a surging run down the



Cork forward Linda Collins shoots for a point during the Munster senior camogie championship final against Tipperary in Cachel on Saturday evening. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

right wing, levelled the match for the fourth time. Walsh and Katrina Mackey swapped scores and the teams were level at the break, 1-7 apiece.

In the second half Cork outscored Tipp by 2-10 to 1-3. Linda Collins of Courceys led the way. But Cork conceded a second goal early in the half that pushed Tipperary 2-7 to 0-7 ahead after Miriam Campion got the final touch on a goal-bound shot.

'Linda Collins played well, she'd a great performance. Amy

O'Connor had a great game too and the forwards played well,' Gemma O'Connor says.

'It was good to see too that so many players got on the scoreboard and that we were not over-reliant on one or two players all the time.'

'We scored 3-12 from play and we weren't over-reliant either on frees. It was a good performance against a good team and it's just the test that we needed now - but we still have a lot to work on ahead of the championship.'

After Tipp's early second-half goal Collins struck for Cork. She was a handful in the Cork attack and blasted to the net to level before pushing Cork ahead one minute later with a super long-range effort.

A further four points without reply courtesy of Lauren Homan, two Cotter frees and a fine Mackey effort had Cork five clear after 48 minutes.

A Grace O'Brien 45-metre free pulled one back for Tipp, but when substitute Niamh McCarthy was on the end of a

Collins pass, she made no mistake to hit the back of the net and push Cork seven clear. That goal extinguished any Tipperary hopes.

A superb Gemma O'Connor point from distance was cancelled out by Karen Kennedy before two Cotter frees either side of a Julia White point saw Cork take an impressive victory.

Next up is the All-Ireland series in a few weeks.

**Scorers**  
Cork: L Collins 1-3, O Cotter 0-5

## Murray demands more from Cork's

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK camogie manager Paudie Murray has called on his senior players to lead the charge ahead of the All-Ireland series.

With the Munster title staying in the trophy cabinet for another 12 months, all eyes will turn to Cork's defence

**'We need to improve. I wouldn't be jumping up and down about the display against Tipperary on Saturday' - Cork manager Paudie Murray**

of their All-Ireland title, which starts this month, and Murray wants more from his senior players.

'We have to push on now and we need a reaction from

our senior players,' the Cork boss said.

'We have rotated a lot up to now and tried to develop the younger players. We are happy enough with where

the younger players are while we need a bit more from the senior members of the team. It's key now that they push on for the next few weeks before the All-Ireland series starts.

'We are an experienced group, we know what needs to be done for the group stage and how to get out of that. But we need to improve. I wouldn't be jumping up and down

about the display against Tipperary on Saturday.'

Murray will take the positives from the Munster final win in Cachel against the home team. The teams were level at the break but Cork stepped up a gear in the second half.

'We played against a strong breeze and we were unlucky to give away a goal - it came off the post, down onto the







Cork's Libby Coppinger (St Colum's) gets her long-range shot away against Tipperary.

5f), A O'Connor 1-1, N McCarthy 1-0, K Mackey 0-3, L Homan, L Coppinger, C Sigerson, G O'Connor, J White 0-1 each.  
**Tipperary:** M Camplion 2-0, N Walsh 0-5 (3f, 2 45), G O'Brien 0-2 (2f), D Dwyer, Megan Ryan, K Kennedy 0-1 each.

**Cork:** Amy Lee (Na Plarsaigh); Leanne O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers); Laura Treacy (Killeagh); Niamh O'Callaghan (Sarsfields); Pamela Mackey (Douglas); Gemma O'Connor (St Finbarr's); Chloe Sigerson (Killeagh); Libby Coppinger (St Colum's); Orla Cotter (St Catherine's); Amy O'Connor (St Vincents); Orla Cronin (Enniskeane); Katrina Mackey (Douglas); Lauren Homan (St Vincent's); Linda Collins (Courcey Rovers); L Hayes (St Catherine's).

**Subs:** Niamh McCarthy (Innischara) for L Homan (50); Julia White (Douglas) for K Mackey (55); Clara McCarthy (Aghabullogue) for L Collins (57); Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue) for N O'Callaghan (60).

**Tipperary:** C Burke; J Burke, G Grace, E Loughman; C Quirke, K Kennedy, A McGrath; M Ryan, Mary Ryan; O Dwyer, E McDonnell, E Fryday; N Walsh, N Treacy, M Camplion.  
**Subs:** G O'Brien for N Walsh (45); C McKeogh for M Camplion (49); L Loughnane for Mary Ryan (51).  
**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).



Cork forward Linda Collins (Courcey Rovers) receives the Player of the Match award from Brid MacNamara, Munster Camogie PRO.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Courcey Rovers' Linda Collins finished with 1-3 and was a thorn in the Tipp defence all game. She scored 1-1 early in the second half in response to Tipp's second goal.

**Star moment:** Collins' goal came straight after Tipp scored theirs at the start of the second half. Cork kicked on from that moment as they hit 1-5 without reply.

**Talking point:** Cork's dominance of Munster camogie. It's a clean sweep of senior, intermediate and junior titles for the second year in a row.

**What's next?** The All-Ireland series is starting in mid-June and Cork's first game is against Clare.

# Clinical Crean powers Cork to Munster glory

## MUNSTER JUNIOR CAMOGIE

**CORK** 2-9  
**KERRY** 1-4

**SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS**

LEVEL at half time and only one point up with 20 minutes left, Cork were pushed all the way by Kerry in the Munster camogie junior final at Cashel on Saturday evening.

In the end, reigning champions Cork, thanks to captain fantastic Nicole Crean from St Vincent's, pulled away in the last quarter against a Kerry team that was defeated by Dublin in the All-Ireland Premier Junior final last September.

In 2017 Kerry won this Munster title by one point after extra time. Last year Cork finished strong and won by seven. Again, an impressive finish by the Rebels was key to victory last Saturday.

It was Kerry who got off to a flying start when Julianne O'Keeffe caught a long delivery at the edge of the square to blast past Cork goalkeeper Molly Lynch.

Cork responded with points from Lucy Wallace and Christine O'Neill (free) but Kerry led 1-1 to 0-2 after ten minutes thanks to a Patrice Diggan free, against the wind.

Kerry's Sarah Murphy and Cork's Lucy Wallace then swapped points. The Cork rearguard – spearheaded by Enniskeane's Danielle Carroll, Laura Doyle and Aoife O'Neill – proved a tough nut to crack, and after Cork goalkeeper Lynch pulled off a save from a tricky Jessica Fitzell shot, they cleared their lines.

An Emma Murphy point for Cork left the Rebels one point behind before captain and player of the match Nicole Crean pointed a free to level the game



Cork defender Sinead Hurley (Enniskeane) confronts Kerry's Laura Collins during the Munster final.

by the break, 0-5, to 1-2.

After the sides swapped points early in the second half, Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan – who won a minor All-Ireland last month – scored an excellent point in the 40th minute to nudge Cork ahead for the first time.

Then followed a Cork goal. Crean's 20-metre free deceived Kerry goalkeeper Aoife Fitzgerald and Cork opened up a four-point margin with 13 minutes left.

After Diggan responded with a Kerry free, Crean struck for her second goal after a surging run to see the defending champions take a six-point lead three minutes from time.

Kerry kept battling. Two Diggan frees were drilled goalwards, however the Cork defence held firm and cleared their lines before a Crean brace deep in injury time quenched Kerry hopes of pulling a result out of the fire.

**Scorers**  
**Cork:** N Crean 2-4 (1-2f), L Wallace

0-2, C O'Neill (1f), C O'Sullivan, E Murphy 0-1 each.

**Kerry:** J O'Keeffe 1-0, P Diggan 0-2 (2f), S Murphy (1f), J Fitzell 0-1 each.

**Cork:** M Lynch (Sarsfields); J Murphy (Blarney); D Carroll (Enniskeane, vice captain); A O'Neill (St Finbarr's); L Doyle (Charleville); C O'Neill (Courcey Rovers); C Murphy (Carrigaline); C O'Keeffe (St Vincent's); S Hurley (Enniskeane); C O'Sullivan (Newcestown); E Murphy (Glen Rovers); L Wallace (St Catherine's); N Crean (St Vincent's, captain); L Coffey (St Vincent's); E Cooney (Carrigaline).

**Subs:** M Browne (Glen Rovers) for L Coffey (25); C Sexton (Barryroe) for E Cooney (33); F Nelligan (Charleville) for C O'Neill (61).

**Kerry:** A Fitzgerald; A O'Connor, L Houlihan, M Costello; R McCarthy, P Diggan, A Behan; L Collins, E Ryall; A Whelan, S Murphy, B Horan; J O'Keeffe, J Horgan, J Fitzell.

**Subs:** C Walsh for J O'Keeffe (36); AM Leen for A Whelan (44); M Weir for A Behan (52); E Lawlor for B Horan (62).

**Referee:** John Lillis (Tipperary).

## senior players

crossbar and fell into the path of a Tipperary player,' Murray explained.

'We were chasing the game a small bit in the first half but with the wind in the second half, we hurled well in patches. The positive is scoring 3-17. The negative is conceding 2-10. I am never happy when we concede a goal like that and that's an

'Some of our combination play was good, our composure was good. To go into Cashel, a tight field, Tipperary's home ground, I thought our play was quite composed at times.'

Murray added: 'We always look forward to the Munster championship. The opposition normally takes us on a trip when they host us but we enjoy that. It's a challenge hurling wise but it's

a mental challenge too. You learn a lot about players and a team in that environment.'

Amy Lee started in goal ahead of Aoife Murray, who was away until late last week. Murray says: 'It was always our intention to give Amy a run out and she would have learned a lot playing in an environment like that.'



Cork celebrate their Munster junior camogie final win against Kerry in Cashel.



# Sarsfields recapture



The Ballincollig team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Glen Rovers team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Na Piarsaigh team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Douglas team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Inniscarra team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

BLACKROCK hosted the Cork Garda U13 Camogie Tournament recently.

This is a competition which is proving to be one of the most prestigious underage events on the camogie calendar and again it was a day to remember for the youngsters.

Games got underway at 10.30am sharp with Garda Tony Hartnett, John O'Driscoll and Community policing Sargent Mick O'Connell and their colleagues ensuring the time schedule was adhered to.

Through the day 12 teams battled it out on the playing fields whilst off the field of play plenty of refreshments were available as visiting mentors and parents were looked after whilst a barbeque with a very efficient chef ensuring no one went short of hot food.

### Holders

Down to semi-final and the teams to emerge to contest these were holders Sarsfields, Douglas Glen Rovers and Inniscarra. Now facing into their fourth game a lot of the players were getting tired but they battled on. Sars had to battle all the way to overcome a determined Inniscarra side but they did in the finish on a 3-2 to 0-1 scoreline.

Douglas and Glen battled it out with Douglas taking an early lead but a strong second-half fightback saw Glen make them fight to the finish before Douglas emerged 3-4 to 1-3 winners.

From the throw-in, Sarsfields hit the front and it was obvious they determined to hold onto their title as they raced into a 1-5 to 0-2 interval lead with Ava Fitzgerald, Aoife Mullins, and Amy Grey all on target.

From the start of the second half, Douglas fought back and putting enormous pressure on



# their Garda U13 title



The St Finbarr's team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.

the Sars defence they narrowed the gap with points from Kate Hourihan and Emma O'Driscoll. Nessa Treacy had one for Sars but the pressure was really on and their defence had to be strong as Douglas pressed and pressed.

A superb goal from Robyn Falvey came too late to effect the outcome as the final whistle sounded in the puck out but it was most de-

fiantly the goal of the day a superb first-time connection to the roof of the net.

Sars captain Faye Nodwell was presented with the trophy by Superintendent Michael Maguire. Deirdre McCarthy was Player of the Tournament and presented with the Dominic Rooney Memorial trophy by his wife Margaret and sons Cillian and Eoin.



The Sarsfields team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Bishopstown team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Carrigaline team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Blackrock team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Ballinora team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



The Ballinora team at Cork City Garda Camogie Blitz 2019 in Blackrock National Hurling Club.



# Will Cork meet Kilkenny in final?

## Blarney hold on to secure league title

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Blarney 6-5  
St Colum's 4-7

BLARNEY and St Colum's battled it out for the junior C camogie league title in Coachford on Sunday last. This was a great game, full of excitement and great scores.

This was a clash where Blarney opened the scoring with a point from Orla Cremen and they added to their tally with goals from Megan Murphy and Alanah Cotter.

Orla Cremen extended the Blarney lead with a point before St Colum's responded with a Paula O'Mahony goal.

Blarney continued to hold the upper hand as they responded with three points without reply from Emma Power and Orla Cremen and they added a third goal when Orla Cremen finished to the net.

St Colum's fought hard and added a goal before the break from Corney McCarthy but Aoife Dillon responded with a Blarney goal to leave them 4-5 to 2-0 in front at the interval.

All to do

St Colum's had it all to do in the second half and they hit the first point of the second half but Blarney quickly responded to with a Megan Murphy goal.

St Colum's weren't going to go down without a fight and the introduction of Libby Coppinger saw her hit 1-1 without reply but Blarney substitute Emma Murphy settled her side's nerves with their sixth goal.

St Colum's kept battling on and they finishing the stronger as they applied a lot of pressure to Blarney's defence adding goals from Paula O'Mahony and Seadna O'Sullivan and a Ciara Manning point.

Blarney goalkeeper Sarah Bannon was called on to produce three fine saves to prevent St Colum's taking the title as Blarney held on under huge second half pressure.

Scorers for Blarney: O Cremen 1-4, M Murphy 2-0, A Cotter, A Dillon, E Murphy 1-0 each, E Power 0-1.

St Colum's: P O'Mahony 1-4, L Coppinger 1-1, C McCarthy, S O'Sullivan 1-0 each, C Manning 0-1.

BLARNEY: S Bannon; K O'Keefe, J Murphy, E Hayes; N Twomey, E O'Regan, A Cotter, Y Horgan, S McCarthy, M Murphy, E Power, T Martin, A Dillon, O Cremen, E Quill. Subs: E Murphy for A. Dillon (40), Linehan for E. Quill (50).

ST COLUM'S: A Sheehan; J Ryan, C O'Sullivan, T O'Riordan, J Hourihan, C Manning, M Coppinger, P O'Mahony, E Burke, R Harrington, E Barrett, C McCarthy; S O'Sullivan, A Murnane, L Burke.

Subs: K Dineen for A Murnane, Coppinger for K Dineen, D O'Regan for L Burke, C Hurley for C McCarthy.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship is only two weeks away.

Reigning champions Cork are in a group (2) that features last year's semi-finalists Tipperary, quarter-finalists Waterford and Dublin, Meath and Clare.

Having met in the semi-final stage in 2018, Kilkenny and Galway will face off once more, drawn alongside each other for the opening game in group 1. They will face competition from Offaly, Limerick and Wexford.

The two teams to top their respective groups will automatically qualify for the semi-finals, while second and third placed teams will qualify for the quarter-final stages. This year will see one team face relegation from the senior championship as the two teams to finish bottom of their groups will face off in a relegation play-off.

With Galway having defeated Kilkenny in the National league final earlier this year, is it as foregone a conclusion as people think that it's going to be another Cork and Kilkenny final?

After so many years of unrest in Galway, has new manager Cathal Murray finally settled a rocky ship, calmed the waters and set to ride the tide in 2019? His side captured their first national title since 2015 and ended the Cats' league dominance, pulling the curtain down on their four in-a-row bid while shaking things up nicely ahead of championship.

Cork and Kilkenny have really dominated the inter-county landscape over the past few years.

Since Galway last lifted the league crown in 2015, Ann Downey's Kilkenny have won three — beating the Tribe in 2016 and then the Rebels in 2017 and 2018. The Noreiders' ended Cork's three in-a-row All-Ireland championship bid in 2016, but the Leesiders' have beaten them in the past two finals to lift back-to-back O'Duffy Cups.

Galway have had an array of talent through the years, but their failure to stay at the very top since their second All-Ireland senior championship title win in 2013 has puzzled many.

The lack of continuity at management level has surely not helped, but now they seem a much more solid unit. And league silverware provided a nice boost.

Sarsfields defender Tara Kenny wouldn't allow herself or her teammates get too carried away, but she was well aware of the value of their league triumph. "At the end of the day, we know it's the league and we have Kilkenny in the first round of the Championship and that's different gravy, but we haven't beaten Kilkenny in the last few years so mentally that's going to be good for us."

Kilkenny will be a different side come June 15 for that opening clash.

They hadn't a huge amount of hurling done for the league, focusing on the gym due to the difficulty in trying to get a pitch for some consistent hurling.

But they used a lot of young girls throughout the league and that will stand to them.



John West Féile ambassadors, Gemma O'Connor, Shane Kingston, Julia White, and Alan Cadogan, at the launch of the John West Féile hurling and camogie competitions in Cork and Kerry. Pictures: Jim Coughlan



Cian Walsh, Tracton, Laura Sheehan, Killeagh, Adam McCarthy, Sarsfields and Ella McCarthy, Killeagh at Nemo Rangers Gaa Club for the John West Féile launch.

Outside of the top three again, one wonders where the other challengers lie. They are still a fair bit off what's required. Kilkenny hit six goals past Dublin in the Leinster championship quarter final played in O'Toole Park.

Cork defeated Tipperary last week to take their 61st Munster title, 3-17 to 2-10 and they weren't at full strength.

Dublin are also facing into their first championship under a new manager, Frank Browne.

Frank brings with him a proven track record with senior inter-county squads in both hurling & ladies' football.

He managed the Mayo senior ladies football team and took them to the All-Ireland Final in 2017.

He has also managed the Mayo senior hurling team and worked with the Roscommon senior hurling team as Director of Fitness & Coaching.

Frank can only work with what he

has, and Dublin are going to need consistent underage success over the next decade to bring them closer to the cherry.

Kilkenny have won six minor titles since the U18 championship's inauguration in 2016.

Galway have won three, Tipperary two, Cork two and Limerick one.

Galway have won the last three U16 All Ireland titles in a row (6 in ten years).

Tipperary won three out of the previous four. So where should the strong competition be coming from?

Definitely, Galway and Tipp but while Galway are always close to the dining table, Tipperary are seated further back, and they seriously need to do a root and branch on why that is.

Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Offaly, Wexford and Waterford, strong hurling counties, need to be at the forefront when it comes to camogie too.

“We have Kilkenny in the first round of the Championship and that’s different gravy”

The game needs them.

**FIXTURES:**

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 1: Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Offaly, Wexford

Saturday/Sunday June 15th/16th: Galway v Kilkenny Limerick v Offaly

Saturday/Sunday June 22nd/23rd: Offaly v Galway Wexford v Kilkenny

Saturday/Sunday June 29th/30th: Kilkenny v Offaly Limerick v Wexford

Saturday/Sunday July 6th/7th: Galway v Limerick Offaly v Wexford Group 2: Clare, Cork, Dublin, Meath, Tipperary, Waterford

Saturday/Sunday June 15th/16th: Clare v Cork Dublin v Meath Tipperary v Waterford

Saturday/Sunday June 22nd/23rd: Cork v Tipperary Meath v Clare Waterford v Dublin

Saturday/Sunday July 6th/7th: Clare v Tipperary Dublin v Cork Meath v Waterford

Saturday/Sunday July 13th/14th: Cork v Meath Tipperary v Dublin Waterford v Clare

Saturday/Sunday July 20th/21st: Dublin v Clare Meath v Tipperary Waterford v Cork

Saturday/Sunday July 27th/28th: Relegation Play-Off



# Inniscarra take senior league title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Inniscarra 1-9**  
**Sarsfields 0-10**

INNISCARRA took the senior camogie league title with a two-point victory over Sarsfields in Castle Road last Sunday.

This was a game where the accuracy of Niamh Dilworth from placed balls was crucial as she slotted over all of her side's nine points in their 1-9 to 0-10 victory.

Despite scoring just a goal from play, it was enough to see Inniscarra take the title in a game that never came to life and was very much stop-go.

The opening half saw Inniscarra lead 0-6 to 0-3 at the interval after they took an early lead with Niamh Dilworth converting a free, and she added two inside ten minutes as Clara Irwin replied with a point to open the Sarsfields' account.

Despite battling hard, Sarsfields met resistance from a strong Inniscarra defence where former Cork senior captain Rena Buckley was a commanding figure.

Inniscarra stretched their lead to three points as Dilworth again converted a free at the end of the opening quarter and, with Emer Fennelly replying from a free, Sarsfields stayed in the hunt.

Again with a lot of frees stopping play, the game struggled to gain momentum.

Two converted frees saw Inniscarra lead 0-6 to 0-2 before Emer Fennelly slotted over to make it a three-point game at the interval.

Inniscarra started the second half in style as they took a grip on the game with an Ellen Murphy goal after only a minute after the throw-in.

But Sars responded in tremendous fashion as they hit four points in row without reply that narrowed the gap with Emer Fennelly from a free and two 5s, and Ella Woods with one from play putting just two between the sides.

Battling hard to stay in front, Inniscarra maintained their lead as Niamh Dilworth converted a 45.

Sars again replied, but two in a row led Inniscarra four points in front with two minutes remaining.

Sars battled hard and cut the lead with two injury-time points from Edel Lonergan and Meabh Mullins — but, defending well, Inniscarra held on to take the title.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 0-9 (0-6fs 0-3s), E Murphy 1-0.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennelly 0-5 (0-3fs, 0-2s), C Irwin, M Mullins, E Lonergan, E Woods 0-1 each.

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh; A O'Regan, R Buckley, A London, R Keane, A Sheehan, A Dineen; C Keane, O'Mahony; T McCarthy, N Dilworth, E Looney, C Doyle, N Mc McCarthy, E Murphy.

**Subs:** E O'Reilly for A Dineen (30); C Buckley for E Murphy (51).

**SARSFIELDS:** M Lynch; K Walsh, K Barry, B Moran; E Casey, E Murphy, E Lonergan; C Casey, L Kelly; C Holland, E Fennelly, H Herlihy; E Woods, M McCarthy, D Kerrigan.

**Referee:** Andrew Larkin

**Charleville 6-14**  
**Banteer 7-11**

THE sides will have to do it all again in an exciting Junior A camogie final at the same time.



Inniscarra, the Senior Camogie League winners.



The Blarney side who won the Junior C Camogie League.

separate Charleville and Banteer. As scores came thick and fast it was nip and tuck all through as neither sides could gain control.

Charleville held a one-point interval lead 3-5 to 3-4 with Fiona Nelligan grabbing two goals and three points. Meadhbh Buckley added a goal as Kate Liddy, Sinead Dennehy and Alma Jones all struck points.

Clionadh Healy was on target for Banteer with three pointed frees whilst Kate Foley notched up two goals and a point and an Elizabeth Philpott goal ensured Banteer stayed in touch.

All through the second half, little divided the sides with Banteer's Susan Falvey, Elizabeth Philpott, and Clionadh Healy all on target, while Charleville had second-half goals from Meadhbh Buckley and Molly Jackman, with Alma Jones, Laura Doyle, and Fiona Nelligan finding the range with points continuing to keep Char-

leville in touch and, at the full-time whistle, it was 5-11 apiece and extra time beckoned.

The sides added a goal each in the first period of extra time.

Meadhbh Buckley was on target for Charleville, with Kate Foley ensuring Banteer remained on course, and it was 6-11 each as they turned around for another ten minutes.

By now, both teams were feeling the strain.

Still they battled on, but still they could not be divided.

A Kate Foley goal was replied to with points from Meadhbh Buckley and Fiona Nelligan, as both sides lived to fight another day after a high-scoring entertaining contest.

**Scorers for Charleville:** F Nelligan 2-7, M Buckley 3-2, M Jackman 1-0, A Jones 0-2, L Liddy, L Doyle, S Dennehy 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Banteer:** K Foley 5-1, C Healy 1-7 (0-4), E Philpott 1-1, S Falvey 0-2

“Inniscarra stretched their lead in the opening quarter to three points as Dilworth again converted a free”

**CHARLEVILLE:** L Byrne; K Dore, L Costello, S Barrett, M Jones, L Doyle, M Jackman, K Liddy, A O'Keefe; C O'Brien, M Buckley, S Dennehy; A Jones, F Nelligan, K O'Reilly.

**Subs:** S Jones for S Barrett, T Dore for S Dennehy.

**BANTEER:** A O'Keefe; Y Coleman, V Weathers, J O'Keefe; R Foley, G Cashman, O Roche; M Twohig, A Foley, K Foley, K Murphy, E Philpott, C Healy, S Falvey, R Twohig.

**Sub:** H Buckley for Y Coleman (h/t).

## Focused Blackrock set for league final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

BLACKROCK booked their place in the intermediate camogie league final with a solid display as they overcame Fr O'Neill's in Castle Road on Sunday evening.

With Grace Mulqueen, Michelle Murphy, Hayley Ryan, and Kate Leneghan all on target, they opened up a 0-8 to 0-2 lead.

Blackrock extended their lead with Kaitlin Hickey sending a penalty to the Fr O'Neill's net and, at the interval, Blackrock led 1-9 to 0-2.

Throughout the second half, Blackrock kept the pressure on and they added to their tally with Kaitlin Hickey, Alison Grimley, Hayley Ryan, and Michelle Murphy pointing.

Fr O'Neill's gave it their all in finding the range but on the day a well drilled and focused Blackrock were full value for their victory.

Na Piarasigh have booked their place in the semi-final but they had to await their opponents as there was a tie for the second semi-final spot in the other section.

Here, Enniskeane overcame Aghabullogue last weekend to secure a place in the semi-final where they meet Na Piarasigh on Monday in Castle Road at 11am.

### Junior B League

The junior B league is down to semi-final stages with both games due to be played this weekend. Ballinora are through to meet Buttevant while Inniscarra will take on Castletyons.

### Underage Leagues

With exams getting under way next week the underage leagues will be very much focused on the younger age groups.

The under 16s have all now completed their pre-league programmes and the teams will now be put into groups relevant to their results from the pre-league games.

The next step will see each club play three league games, starting on July 22 with a game in August and in September, before the semi-finals and finals at the end of September.

At under 14 level, the programme of pre-leagues will take a back seat next week as Feile Na Gael comes to town; this is a huge occasion for the under 14 players in all Cork clubs.

Most clubs have three rounds of the league completed and the cut-off date for round five is the first weekend in July after which the teams will be grouped for the official league programmes.

Meanwhile, the under 12s are all busy playing their rounds of pre-league games and reports are that all clubs are enjoying some great games.

So let's get the games played in the good weather.



# Sexton thrives in UL camogie success yarn

## CAMOGIE

John Bohane

Kilbrittain/Timoleague camogie player Katie Sexton recently helped the UL team capture the All-Ireland intermediate championship title after the Limerick-based college team defeated UCC in the final.

The camogie star played a key role in helping UL win capture the prestigious All-Ireland title.

Katie was pleased to play her part in their recent success.

"It was a great win. We had to play four matches to win the cup in one day.

"We played UCC twice and beat them. It was nice to bring the cup home.

"Winning the All-Ireland was a fantastic way to end the year," declared the talented camogie player.

Katie was joined on the victorious UL team by another two Cork players.

Clara Crowley who plays her club camogie with Ballinascarthy and Mairead Shinnick from Buttevant made up the Cork connection.

Katie was full of praise for the integral roles both Clara and Mairead played in their triumphs.

"Clara played class, like she always does.

"We've played with each other since our secondary school days and she has always been a mighty player.

"Another Cork player that was vital in helping us win the final was our goalkeeper, Mairead Shinnick from Buttevant.

"Mairead is unreal in goal. She was key to us winning the match.

"She is a very talented player."

The 20-year-old player, has recently concluded her first year in UL, where she is studying Applied Languages. Katie developed her camogie game enormously while attending the Sacred Heart Secondary School in Clonakilty.

The camogie ace enjoyed a lot of success with various Sacred Heart camogie teams.

Sacred Heart enjoyed more success this year when they captured the All-Ireland junior championship title. Katie really enjoyed her time playing camogie with her local school team.

"My best memories of playing camogie were back in Sacred Heart, Clonakilty.

"Brian Daly trained us well and led us to the All-Ireland final back in 2015. We didn't win unfortunately, but that match was the highlight of my sporting life by far.

"I loved playing camogie with my friends and the memories we made will last forever.

"The junior team won the All-Ireland title this year, which my sister Margaret was a part of.

"Their success augurs well for the school team going forward.

"I'm delighted that Sacred Heart has an All-Ireland title yet again.

"They have a great reputation for developing players."

Katie is currently on a break from club duty due to her busy college commitments.

She loves representing her beloved Kilbrittain/Timoleague club with whom she has already enjoyed good



The victorious UL camogie team that features Katie Sexton along with their management team before their recent All-Ireland final clash against UCC.



Katie Sexton (right) is pictured with Ballinascarthy camogie player Clara Crowley after they won the All-Ireland Intermediate college title with UL.

success with.

"I played with Kilbrittain/Timoleague up until last year.

"I am on a break now this year, with work and college taking priority.

The club is great. We have also won a lot of west Cork finals.

"We have achieved a lot of success. We won the county final back in 2013, which was a great achievement.

"They are a great club. There are some great players coming through which is a good sign for the future.

"Kilbrittain/Timoleague are still offering up great players to the Cork senior panels, like Kate Wall, Aine Crowley, Caroline Murphy and Hannah Sexton.

"I have no doubt that they will all be playing for Cork in Croke Park in the near future."

The west Cork camogie star has previously represented Cork at underage level.

A succession of injuries in recent years have curtailed her involve-

“My best memories of playing camogie were back in Sacred Heart, Clonakilty”

ment with the various Cork teams. She loved her time playing for the Rebels.

"I played with Cork up until U16 level. I was the captain of the U16 B team, which was a great honour.

"I then took a step back from camogie after picking up some tough hamstring injuries.

"Playing at inter-county level was a great experience and I was proud to wear the Cork jersey.

"It was another highlight from my

career. I enjoyed a good few years playing with them."

The camogie genes evidently run deep in the Sexton family.

Katie's younger sister Hannah was a member of the victorious Cork minor team who captured the All-Ireland title recently.

Katie is very proud of her progress.

"I'm really proud of my sister Hannah."

"They beat Clare in the All-Ireland final in Nenagh."

"It was a great match, but Cork secured their dominance from the start and maintained their lead until the end."

"Hannah is a great sports player, both at camogie and road bowling."

"She is a good fighter and is a team player."

Camogie in west Cork is thriving at present.

The progress of current stars Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger are great examples of the great coaching work and talent which exists throughout the division at present revealed Katie.

"Camogie is definitely on the rise in west Cork, thanks to the development schemes put in place by the Carbery Development Squads and the Cork Camogie Board.

"This year, there were five Carbery girls on the Cork minor team which was a fantastic achievement."

"They are really focusing on developing camogie in Beara and Bantry in the secondary schools, where previously there was no camogie played."

"There are always underage blitzes taking place and the enthusiasm shown by the organisers is definitely a key factor in attracting people to play the sport."

"Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger are great at encouraging the sport."

"They are both unreal camogie players."

"They are raising the standard of camogie in west Cork."



# 'We are not afraid of change and we're not afraid of the challenge'

## Camogie

### Daragh Ó Conchúir

The Camogie Association is "not afraid of change" as players demand rule changes to improve the game as a spectacle.

That was the strong message from association president, Kathleen Woods at yesterday's launch of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championships, where it was also revealed that six of the group matches in the senior championships will be streamed live, and that New York will be the venue for the second All-Stars tour in November.

Both of these developments are backed by Liberty Insurance, who are entering their seventh season as championship sponsors, and have placed a major emphasis on raising the profile and exposure of camogie, as well as looking to drive increased participation and attendances.

An attractive spectacle is central to that ideal, and it was notable that Woods acknowledged the new horizons created by the players' growing dedication to being elite athletes and the challenges facing the sport in view of that.

There has been widespread debate surrounding the rules

of the game, particularly in the wake of last year's stop-start All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny. The revolutionary motion passed at Congress in April, allowing the introduction of trial rules without having to wait for the previously-required three-year cycle to come around, showed that the association was listening.

Yesterday, Woods spoke of the players "going through an evolutionary period", doing "the exercise of a professional athlete in an amateur world".

"Ard Comhairle are not afraid of change and we're not afraid of the challenges. Our most important step is the creation of the playing rules review working group."

Cork captain, Gemma O'Connor, was part of a group of players brought together by the WPGA to look at the issues and welcomed the acknowledgement change was needed.

"Things are slow, but I think they're finally starting to move," said O'Connor, a nine-time All-Ireland winner and 11-time All-Star who captains the Rebels as they bid for three-in-a-row honours this season. "They're setting up the rules review group which hopefully will start sooner rather than later. Liberty Insurance, with the All-Star trip



**FAB FIVE:** At yesterday's 2019 Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship launch were, from left: Tipperary's Cáit Devane, Kilkenny's Grace Walsh, Cork's Gemma O'Connor, Galway's Sarah Dervan, and Dublin's Aisling Maher. Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

and the streaming of games is moving it in the right direction. We just hope that it's moving a bit quicker and it continues to move in that direction. More than likely I won't be there to play with (any new) rules but it's for the future players, to make the game that bit better. And we have the product to make it an unbelievable sport. What we

want is a bit more flow to the game."

O'Connor asserted that "the game has to reflect what the players are doing off the pitch" and that an opportunity existed now to make real progress. "We're not being negative about it. We're all in it together to make sure it's a great game... We want the talking point (after the All-Ire-

land final to be) that camogie is a great sport, that the hurling is fantastic, it's fast, it's physical. That's what attracts viewership. We don't want to go backward, we want to move forwards."

Kilkenny defender Grace Walsh concurred. She said: "I would just like the rules to be tweaked a little bit... Let girls show the skill-base they have,

show the quality, show the pace (Camogie) can be played at, the way it's played at training" stated Walsh.

"I think that will bring the game forward and get more people to come to the games because they want to watch it, because they think it's going to be an exciting game."

Dublin's Aisling Maher was part of the WPGA group along with O'Connor, Chloe Morey from Clare, Kilkenny's Anne Dalton and others, and emphasised the need for "constructive steps" in a shared journey involving all the stakeholders.

"I think there's a common perception that everyone wants shouldering in, and I don't think necessarily that's the case" Maher observed.

"I would like to see a slight change in the definition in the tackle. I feel like at the moment it's a little ambiguous."

"It's very difficult for referees to implement, and it's very difficult as a player to know how a referee is going to implement it game-to-game. It's very difficult to spend all this time on strength and conditioning, and then tackle a player and not give away a free, because any kind of physical contact seems to be falling on the wrong side more often than not."

## Ashling on a new direction



Ashling Thompson.

### MOTORSPORT

#### Martin Walsh

ALL-IRELAND and All-Star winning Cork camogie player Ashling Thompson (29) will hurtle rather than hurl this weekend.

The Milford star makes her motor racing debut at Mondello Park driving a Ford Fiesta in three rounds of the Keelan Construction Fiesta Zetec Championship at the County Kildare track.

However, Ireland's premier racing circuit isn't going to be a totally new experience for the Milford star as she has driven there previously, albeit once at a charity time trial event (which she won) and at the Formula Female One Lap Challenge.

Motorsport is very much a male-dominated sport and her appearance is in association with Motorsport Ireland and part of the Formula Female, an initiative set up by hockey star Nicci Daly to encourage more women into motorsport.

"I have always had a taste for motorsport, even from a very young age. GAA has always been at the forefront of my career though," Thompson said.

"But now that I finally have the opportunity to race this weekend, I'm so excited for the challenge and looking forward to a new experience."

Cork's All-Ireland and All-Star winning camogie player Ashling Thompson, who made her competitive motorsport debut at Mondello Park over the weekend in the Keelan Construction Fiesta Zetec Championship. Qualifying 14th. out of 22 for Saturday's race the Milford woman made a good start but her progress was stymied on the second lap when she had to go off course to avoid hitting the car of Aimee Woods that spun ahead of her, dropping a few places, she eventually finishing 16th. Yesterday, she netted a 13th. place finish in the day's first race but failed to finish race three when the engine of her Fiesta blew on lap six.



At the official launch of the Féile hurling and camogie competitions at Nemo Rangers were Kate Richardson, Bishopstown, Sadie Hoare, Ballincollig, Susan O'Donovan, Ballygarvan, Saskia Purcell, Nemo Rangers. The Féile will take place in Cork and Kerry this weekend. More than 256 teams from all around the country will be taking part, with games across both counties over the three days. Picture: Jim Coughlan



# Veteran Gemma still dreaming big



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CORK camogie followers would like to see the legendary Gemma O'Connor captaining Cork to a third-in-a-row All-Ireland title in September.

I asked Gemma, who is playing in her 18th championship at 34 years of age, whether it was the possibility of the three-in-a-row, the captaincy, or the chance to win her 10th All-Ireland medal that convinced her to return for another season?

"To be honest, I don't think it has anything to do with the captaincy, as that wasn't announced until a few weeks after I had come back.

"But for me to come back, things had to be right.

"I said to Paudie (Murray, the Cork camogie senior team manager) that I've a lot of commitments this year and, as you get older, the commitments get greater.

"I've a lot of close family weddings. My cousin Alan got married a few weeks ago and it was one of the first real opportunities to celebrate something as a family, as opposed to grieving (referring to the loss of her mother, her nan, and her cousin over the past three-and-a-half years). That was important to me. I had to leave that early for training and I'm bridesmaid for a friend's wedding the day of our game against Dublin, so I'll more than likely miss that wedding.

"Aoife and I have a number of weddings and we train Saturdays and Sundays mornings, so life becomes a rush.

"So, I said I will come back on condition that the set-up would be the same, that there would be no change in management, that we weren't starting from scratch.

"I'm not saying that what worked the last few years will work this year — anything can happen in any given championship — but things went well for us over the last few years and I've a good relationship with the management and the girls.

"Obviously, Paudie changes things some bit every year to keep it fresh, but to have the backbone of the management and the team remain, yeah, I decided to give it one more year. Then, of course, the three-in-a-row is at the back of your mind. That's something I never achieved. That thought came at a later stage, but I'd be lying if I said it wasn't an incentive."

When St Finbarr's won their first senior county title, in 2006, only one person was going to be handed the captaincy of Cork for 2007. Unfortunately, Cork lost their bid for three-in-a-row that year and now Gemma finds herself in a familiar position.

"I'm honoured to be captain again. 2007 didn't work out, but I've achieved loads. Regardless of what happens this year, I'll just have to take it on the chin if it doesn't work out, but I'll give it my everything."

Her job as army sergeant can interfere with training. "I was in the Curragh for 6/7 weeks recently, with work. Now, I'm up in the CMU (Central Medical Unit).



Gemma O'Connor and strength-and-conditioning coach Martin O'Brien celebrating after Cork won the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final, Croke Park, Dublin, last September. Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane



Donie Daly, sales director with investment firm BlackBee, Gemma O'Connor, Cork camogie senior captain and Paudie Murray, Cork camogie senior team manager, announcing a three-year partnership. Picture: Miki Barlok

"I did a combat medical technician course in UCD for a year and I transferred to the medical unit.

"It's a bit more routine and it's great. It's more a 9-to-5 job, so I've more flexibility for training now."

In truth, the championship doesn't light up for Cork until the semi-final stage. They won almost every group game by a cricket score last year.

What's the reason for the drop in standard in the counties outside the top three?

"I don't know. We played Tipperary recently and I think some of them are excellent hurlers."

"I don't know what's missing with them.

"Is it a mixture of management and a sense of belief from the players?"

Personally, I feel that Paudie Murray, over the last four years, in particular, and his management team, has

made Cork camogie more professional. His attention to detail and the analysis of his players and the opposition are second-to-none and I don't know that other inter-county camogie managers are doing the same.

"Yeah, I think you hit the nail there. Other teams seem to have the players, but it's that combination of management and players and the set-up.

"Paudie has done that with us. The constant regeneration of fitness, hurling, statistics.

"It's very professional. Also, do other counties have the backing of their county board?"

"While we're doing the training, there are many people behind closed doors doing a lot of work.

"I'm always onto the board and if I ask for anything, I typically get it.

"I appreciate the funds aren't always there, but they're always accommodat-

"I said I will come back on condition that the set-up would be the same, that there would be no change in management, that we weren't starting from scratch"

ing in some shape or form.

"It's watching yourself off the field, too. Training is high-tempo and it's really specific to what we do in games.

"We try and prepare ourselves for match scenarios as best we can. If you don't perform at training, obviously you're limiting your opportunity to play.

"This year, we've a good few young players on the panel and it's great to see that, when we played Tipp, they could step up to the mark and get a feel for championship."

So, the dream would be to captain Cork to three-in-a-row and win her 10th All Ireland medal at the same time?

It doesn't get much better than that does it?

"No, it doesn't," laughs Gemma. "That would be the dream."

And dreams are there to be chased.

## Rockbán rock to the top as they take title from Kilbree

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Rockbán	3-11
Kilbree	2-11

(AET)

ROCKBÁN and Kilbree had to go to extra time before Rockbán shaded it in the Junior 13 aside league final in Ballyanley recently.

It was a tough battle between two evenly matched sides and it was Rockbán who made the better start as they led 0-4 to 0-1 inside 20 minutes of the throw in with points from Elizabeth McGrath, Eve Mullins and Jennifer Whelan.

Kilbree settled with points from Mairead Crowley and Aife O'Neill but with Jennifer Whelan adding two and Myra O'Sullivan one Rockbán led 0-6 to 0-3 at the interval.

Kilbree came out determined in the second half Mairead Crowley hit three points without reply to level the game but Rockbán responded superbly with Elizabeth McGrath hitting 1-2 and a goal from Eva Callanan and an Elizabeth McGrath point had them back in the game on now in control.

Kilbree fought hard and won a penalty which Mairead Crowley converted, and again adding pressure on the Rockbán defence they grabbed a goal with Leanne Sheehy on target.

As the excitement continued Mairead Crowley hit three points that left the sides level at full time 2-9 a-piece.

And so to extra time where an early goal from Eva Callanan gave Rockbán the advantage and as play swung from end to end the sides traded two points each but it was to be the early goal that proved to be the difference between the sides at the end of extra time as Rockbán held on to take the title despite huge Kilbree pressure.

**Scorers for Rockbán:** E McGrath 1-6, E Callanan 2-0, E Mullins, J Whelan 0-2 each, M O'Sullivan 0-1.

**Kilbree:** M Crowley 2-10, R Dullea, L Sheehy 1-0 each, L McCarthy, A O'Neill 0-1.

**ROCKBÁN:** O Murphy, C Kelleher, A O'Connor, J Mulcahy, C McSweeney, J Stoke, D Hendley, E Mullins, M O'Sullivan, E McGrath, J Whelan, E Callanan, B Mulcahy.

**Subs:** Aileen Donovan - came on at half time for Brid Mulcahy.

**KILBREE:** K Lancaster, Sarah O'Donovan, Sinead O'Donovan, R Hurley, A Crowley, G O'Brien, E O'Brien, M O'Brien, M Crowley, R Dullea, L Sheehy, L McCarthy, A O'Neill.



## Brendan Coffey

At this time of year, it might seem strange to hear tell of two sports stars from Cork and Tipperary working side by side.

For Ashling Thompson, camogie takes a back seat this weekend. The Rebel star has made the trip to Mondello Park instead, to take the wheel of a Ford Fiesta for her first motor race. Thompson is going it alone, but Ireland's fastest female driver will be there to guide her.

Nicole Drought, 24, from Tipperary has already made her mark on the track. Two weeks ago in Wales, the Roscrea native won a major endurance race – the Citroen C1 Challenge 4-Hour Race. In 2016, Drought became the first woman to win a round of the Irish Touring Car Championship. Before she started racing, Drought excelled at camogie, captaining Roscrea to an U18 County Championship title.

No wonder Drought has discovered Thompson is a kindred spirit.

"She's fast," said Drought. "She's so competitive. I'm hopeful she can get a top ten."

Thompson has to learn quickly. When they line up on the grid for the Keelan Construction Fiesta Zetec Championship tomorrow, Thompson will be racing other cars for the first time.

"Motorsport was something that I always had an interest in," Thompson revealed. "I've always loved driving. I was taught at the age of 12 how to drive. We'd go to the Rally of the Lakes every year while rally driving around north Cork is very popular."

The two-time All-Star first met Drought two months ago. Drought is an ambassador

# All-Star Thompson gets into the swing of motorsport challenge



LANE SWITCH: Cork camogie star Ashling Thomson, left, and Ireland's fastest female driver Nicole Drought in Mondello Park. Thompson lines up for her first motor race tomorrow, guided by Drought, who said 'she's so competitive. I'm hopeful she can get a top 10'. Picture: Celtic Photography

for Formula Female, established by Ireland hockey international Nicci Daly. Thompson starred at Mondello last April when she was pitted against Ireland's leading sportswomen in an

unique one lap challenge.

This weekend she returns to Mondello in association with Motorsport Ireland and Formula Female.

"Your positioning on the track is very much like your

positioning on the field," Thompson explained. "You have to be able to read the situation. To get past people and to get yourself up to speed, you have to be on the ball. You have to be in the

right position at the right time."

With guidance from Drought, who races in the Irish Strykers Championship today, Thompson is on the right road.

"I think she'll be good," said Drought. "She's unsure of herself driving in traffic but she just has to keep an eye on her mirrors. If she doesn't, she won't be the only driver not looking in their mirror."

During practice yesterday, Thompson spent time figuring out turning points and braking points. In her black overalls, the 29-year-old was a world away from camogie.

"I'm kind of just taking time out at the moment," Thompson relayed. "This is the perfect opportunity to keep the brain focused somewhat. I don't know what I'll do yet in terms of camogie."

Although uncertain about the future, she is keeping her options open: "I played camogie during the league. I didn't play Munster Championship. The door is definitely not closed. I'll decide what I'm going to do in a few weeks' time when I've a clearer mind on things. It won't be a retirement job or anything like. We have Championship with the club in July so there'll be no finish to camogie at all yet. They haven't seen the last of me playing camogie."

Meanwhile, Drought continues to climb the ladder. Only four years into her motor racing career, she has clocked up wins at home and abroad, her latest success coming at Anglesey Circuit in South Wales on 26 May. Against all expectations, Drought took the chequered flag, 21 seconds ahead of her nearest challenger after four hours of racing.

"To win in the UK was massive," said Drought. "It's the biggest win I've had. I couldn't believe it when I crossed the line. I kept thinking, 'This is mental.' It wouldn't sink in even though I knew it was real."

## Dr Rena caps it all



Pupils of Glasheen National School cheer Rena Buckley, winner of 18 All-Ireland medals, who was recognised for her achievements with the conferral of a honorary degree of Doctor of Arts at University College Cork. Picture: Dan Linehan