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New Camogie President to be decided in Athlone

Press Release
27th March 2008
The President Elect of the Camogie Association will be chosen from two candidates at this weekend's Camogie Congress. The Congress, which takes place in Athlone, will see the successor to current President, Liz Howard, decided between Catherine O'Hara from Antrim and Kildare's Joan O'Flynn.
Howard has been in the position for two years and will move aside for O'Hara or O'Flynn when they move into the position in 2009. O'Hara has been heavily involved in Antrim Camogie for the past 34 years and has referred at Inter-County level for several years. She has held many administrative positions down through the years and is currently Chairperson of the Ulster Council.
O'Flynn is a native of Cork and started her playing career with Fr. O'Neill's club in East Cork, while she also spent time as a member of the London-Irish Camogie club. Since moving to Kildare she has thrown herself into the game at all levels and has served as PRO, County Secretary, County Chairperson and has also coached the minor team. O'Flynn is Chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee and has been part of the Association's Management Committee since 2006.
The congress will also see current President, Liz Howard, outline the importance of social inclusion for all within the family of Gaelic Games. "We are in partnership with the GAA and Ladies Football to work towards social inclusion for those who are now part of the island of Ireland. This is an exciting project and has huge possibilities for everyone within Gaelic Games. We must be very aware of the importance of acknowledging and respecting the various cultures and customs that are part of this process. However, there is another issue that must be addressed. By and large the family of Gaelic Games caters mainly for middle Ireland. We have ignored part of our own society - the socially deprived. If we are serious about social inclusion we must reach out and encourage all to become involved in our Gaelic Games," Howard said.
The Camogie Association's Annual Congress begins tomorrow and continues until Saturday at the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone.



First President Elect voted in

O'Flynn defeated Antrim's Catherine O'Hara in a vote to replace current President Liz Howard, who will step down next year.

O'Flynn started her career at the Fr. O'Neill's club in East Cork and went on from there to become a member of the London-Irish Camogie Club. Since moving to Kildare she has immersed herself in the game of Camogie and has administration experience at county, provincial and national level.

O'Flynn is the current Kildare Camogie Board PRO and has also served as the County Secretary, County Chairperson and has managed the county's minor team. She also documented the history of Camogie in Kildare when her book "Soaring Slother" was published in 2004.

At provincial level O'Flynn has been the Kildare delegate to the Leinster Council for several years, while at national level she is the Chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee and has also been a member of the Camogie Association's Management Committee since 2006. She will take up her post next year.



APRIL 2008

Two in race to fill Howard's post

CAMOGIE: Antrim's Catherine O'Hara and Cork native Joan O'Flynn will bid to become the next President of Ireland's Camogie Association when delegates vote on who will succeed Liz Howard at their Annual Congress this weekend. O'Hara is currently the sitting chairperson of Ulster council and

also served as chair of the Antrim county board. As a player she won Antrim and Ulster championship medals and has served as a referee and coach at the highest levels.

O'Flynn's interest in camogie started in the Fr O'Neill's club of the Ladysbridge/Ballymacoda parish in east Cork. She was also a member of the London-Irish camogie club and is now chairperson of the Celbridge club and is current Kildare PRO. She is also chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee.

O'Flynn is new camogie President

by Colm O'Connor

CORK'S Joan O'Flynn defeated Catherine O'Hara (Antrim) to be elected Camogie President Elect at the Association's Annual Congress in Athlone.

O'Flynn will succeed Liz Howard whose term finishes next year.

O'Flynn started her career at the Fr. O'Neill's club in East Cork before becoming a member of the London-Irish Camogie Club. She is currently Kildare Camogie Board PRO and has also served as the county secretary, county chairperson and has managed the county's minor team.

She has been the Kildare delegate to the Leinster Council for several years, while at national level she is the Chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee and a member of the Camogie Association's Management Committee since 2006.

Meanwhile in other business, a motion was passed to increase the Association's af-



Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, with Joan O'Flynn (Kildare), elected as the first Uachtarán Tofa.

filiation fees while the Congress agreed to explore the establishment, with the GAA and Ladies Football, of an International Gaelic Games Federation.

The federation will develop Gaelic Games worldwide and pursue the recognition of it as an Olympic Sport.

Joan wins vote to be president-elect

CORK'S Joan O'Flynn defeated Catherine O'Hara (Antrim) to be elected camogie president-elect at the association's annual congress in Athlone.

O'Flynn will succeed Liz Howard, whose term finishes next year.

O'Flynn started her career at the Fr O'Neill's club in Ballymacoda/Ladysbridge, before becoming a member of the London Irish Camogie Club.

She is currently Kildare PRO and has also served as the county secretary,

county chairperson and has managed the county's minor team.

She has been the Kildare delegate to the Leinster Council for several years, while at national level she is the chairperson of the National Strategic Plan

Committee and a member of the Camogie Association's Management Committee since 2006.

Meanwhile in other business, a motion was passed to increase the association's affiliation fees while the congress agreed to ex-

plore the establishment, with the GAA and ladies football, of an International Gaelic Games Federation.

The federation will develop Gaelic games worldwide and pursue the recognition of it as a possible Olympic Sport.



Tipperary representatives at the Camogie Annual Congress which took place at the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone on Saturday. Left to right: Rose Mannion (Tipperary Treasurer), Liz Howard (President of the Camogie Association), Joan O'Flynn (President Elect).

Flawless Millea points way as Cats set up decider with Galway

by John Fallon

KILKENNY defeated Cork (0-7 to 1-3) in terrible conditions at Páirc Uí Rinn to qualify for a National Camogie League (Division One) Final meeting with Galway.

The only goal of the game came after 12 minutes when Cork's Sheila Burns put the home side ahead after Katie Power pointed for the visitors. Though Rachael Maloney added a point for Cork, efforts from Sinead Millea had the sides level at the break (1-1 to 0-4).

Orla Cotter and Rena Buckley kept Cork in touch with points but it was the unerring accuracy of

Sinead Millea that proved decisive, especially when Cork squandered four late opportunities, handing the Cats a Nowlan Park-decider with Galway on April 26.

Wexford defeated Dublin 1-15 to 2-4 in the second game in Division One. The Model County, who returned from a break in Orlando three days earlier, led 0-7 to 1-3 at half time with Niamh Taylor scoring the Dublin goal.

Six minutes into the second half Kate Kelly found the net and Dublin had no answer thereafter.

In the other group of Division One, Tipperary defeated Limerick by 1-15 to 0-4.

Derry, already through to the Division Two final defeated Tipperary's second string (3-13 to 1-3). There they will meet Clare, who recorded a 6-9 to 3-5 victory over Waterford.

Aiveen O'Shea and Clare Commene scored early goals for the Banner who led 2-7 to 1-2 at the break with Trish Jackman getting the Waterford goal.

A second O'Shea goal and a hat-trick from Laura Linnane set Clare on their way after the restart. A brace of Waterford goals from Aine Lyng and Jenny Simpson did little more than put respectability on the scoreboard.

Loreto just one step from glory

LORETO (WEXFORD) will be looking to bring All-Ireland camogie glory to the school for the first time in Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, on Saturday next when they take on St. Mary's of Nenagh in the Junior 'B' championship decider.

Team manager Enda O'Sullivan will know all there is to know about their rivals as he hails from the Tipperary town, and he has prepared the squad diligently along with Kim Dudley, George O'Connor and Kevin Kennedy.

Loreto looked good in their 1-10 to 1-1 semi-final win over Cal-sanctus College (Oranmore) in

Hollymount early last month, although they can expect a much stiffer challenge this time around.

The Bolger twins, team captain Linda and leading scorer Lisa, can be sure to lead by example from midfield, while there is great pedigree in full-back Marie Doran who is the daughter of former hurling hero Tony.

It's been a marvellous year for camogie in the Loreto as the Seniors also clinched the Leinster title and were unfortunate to lose in the All-Ireland semi-final after a replay.

The bitter disappointment at that

exit was replaced by outright joy one week later when the Juniors lifted the spirits with their success at the same stage. And while it won't be an easy task on Saturday, the Loreto girls have the potential to bring home the silverware if they strike top form.

Their semi-final squad was: Marie Claire Morrissey, Niamh Boggan, Marie Doran, Sarah Jo Kenny, Maria Leacy, Clara McGuinness, Siobhán O'Regan, Lisa Bolger, Linda Bolger, Rachel Creane, Aoife Shell, Laura Warren, Celine Creane, Susie McGovern, Mairead Sutton, Alison Murphy, Clara Walsh, Rebecca Roche, Hannah Cleary, Dervla Nimmo, Katie Moore, Róisín Barden.

CAMOGIE: Munster Senior Preliminary Round: Limerick v Clare, Limerick TBC, 2.30pm.
All-Ireland Colleges Camogie:
Junior A: Cross and Passions, Ballycastle v St. Brigid's, Loughrea, 2pm, Ballyhoice, Cavan.
Junior B: St. Mary's, Nenagh v Loreto, Wexford, 2pm, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.
Junior C: St. Mary's, New Ross v St. MacNiall's, Garrison Tower, 2pm, Naomh Pádraig, Blanchardstown, Dublin.
U16B Championship Group One: Derry v Carlow, Derry; Down v Waterford, Ballyhoice, 2pm.
Group Two: Armagh v Meath, Armagh; Leix v Offaly, Leix.

Kilkenny win after second-half comeback

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Kilkenny
Cork

2-7
1-7

A GOAL separated the sides at the final whistle but the result mattered little, as the news came through that Clare had defeated Waterford to take the Division Two League final spot irrespective of the outcome in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Heavy underfoot conditions and thunder showers made it extremely hard on both sides, and Cork, aided by the strong wind, should have had more than a one-goal lead at the interval. Seven scores to two was the count, but crucially Kilkenny had managed to grab two goals, which were to be crucial.

Michelle Brown had two points as Cork held the early advantage, and a third from Charlotte Kearney had them looking comfortable before Julianne Woodcock grabbed a Kilkenny goal against the run of play.

Browne edged Cork ahead with a point before a mistake in the Cork defence saw Hanna Maher slip in for a second Kilkenny goal.

Cork responded well, Eimear O'Sullivan striking a superb long range free before Charlotte Kearney first-timed a ground shot to the net and Deirdre Twomey pointed to leave them 1-6 to 2-0 ahead at the break.

Kilkenny restarted in whirlwind fashion and two points from Bronagh Neary and Hanna Maher had them within point of Cork.

Kilkenny showed more determination as they held the ball up and forced mistakes from Cork.

Julie Anna Woodcock, who had a superb hour, had the sides on level inside 10 minutes of the restart.

And when Bronagh Neary edged the visitors ahead by the three-quarter stage, it was no more than they deserved.

Cork battled hard but conceded frees, twice Julie Ann Woodcock obliged striking long-range efforts over the bar. It was 23 minutes into the second half before Cork scored, Marie Watson unlucky that her effort for goal just shaved the cross bar.

Marie O'Connor relieved the pressure on Kilkenny with a point before Cork struck four wides in a row.

Scorers for Kilkenny: J A Woodcock 1-3 (0-2f, 1-1 pen), H Maher 1-1, B Neary 0-2, M O'Connor 0-1.

Cork: M Browne 0-3 (0-1f, 0-2 pen), C Kearney 1-1, M Watson, D Twomey, E O'Sullivan (0-1f) 0-1 each.

CORK: D Leahy, N Mulcahy, A M Fleming, L Weste, A Moynihan, C O'Neill, S Buckley, E O'Sullivan, M Browne, C Kearney, R Myers, M Jaego, M Watson, D Twomey, E O'Sullivan.

Subs: V Browne for S Buckley (40), C Deasy for A Moynihan (51), R De Faoite for R Myers (51).

KILKENNY: S Murphy, M Nolan, E O'Shea, S Brennan, A Butler, L Phelan, L Kavanagh, JA Woodcock, H Maher, E Keane, C Aylward, B Neary, L Gahan, C Ryan, S Long.

Subs: A M Phelan for C Aylward (45), M O'Connor for C Ryan (50).

Referee: Justin Heffernan (Wexford).

Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

Minors book final spot

CORK advanced to the Munster minor final with one point to spare over a determined Tipperary sides in Mallow on Saturday last.

Weather conditions were hard as both sides had to contend with a gale force wind and it was Cork aided by this who led 1-9 to 0-2 at the break. Niamh Dilworth was had a superb hour for Cork finishing with 2-6 to her credit was excellent for Cork but it was their defence that stood the test in the closing stages as Tipp threw everything at them in search of victory.

Catriona Shortt opened the scoring with a pointed free for Tipp but Cork took control Niamh Dilworth and Denise Luby pointing before Dilworth's sent a free to the Tipp net three points from Dilworth (2) and Julia White had Cork in control before Bonnie Kennedy pointed for Tipp.

Cork worked hard and kept the Tipp defence busy with four points from Niamh Dilworth, Julia White and substitute Sinead O'Callaghan. Fiona Young and Niamh Dilworth swapped early first half points before Julia White and Denise Luby combined with Luby laying

off a pass to Niamh Dilworth who finished to the net.

It was to be twenty one minutes before Cork scored again as Tipp gave it everything Catriona Shortt won a penalty but Tipp failed to convert Marie Gleeson saving on the line as Aisling Thomson cleared up field. Niamh O'Connell and Maria Ryan cut the deficit with points before O'Connell sent a long range free to net and now Tipp added three points without reply and as Cork came under pressure.

Bonnie Kennedy's struck for a Tipperary goal but from the puck out Cork attacked Denise Luby's flick for goal saved by Tipp keeper Christine Kenneally who conceded a forty five which Niamh Dilworth superbly converted again the wind and the lead was back at three points.

Tipp again upped the pace Fiona Young and Catriona Shortt pointed as they pinned the Cork defence in their own half.

Twice Tipp came close to grabbing an equaliser in the four minutes of added time but Cork held out to book their place in the Munster final where they will meet Clare or Limerick.



Cork under 16 A Munster champions

Association elect president elect

CORK native Joan O'Flynn

was last weekend elected as President elect of the camogie association at their annual congress defeating Antrim's Catherine O'Hara in a vote to replace current President Liz Howard, who will step down next year. Joan started her career at the Fr. O'Neill's club in East Cork and went on from there to become a member of the London-Irish Camogie Club.

On moving to Kildare

she immersed herself in the game of Camogie and has administration experience at county, provincial and national level. She is the current Kildare Camogie Board PRO and has also served as the County Secretary, County Chairperson and has managed the county's minor team. She also documented the history of

Camogie in Kildare when

her book "Soaring Shiotar" was published in 2004. At provincial level she has been the Kildare delegate to the Leinster Council for several years, while at national level she is the Chairperson of the National Strategic Plan Committee and has also been a member of the Camogie Association's Management Committee since 2006.

U18 FINAL

Referees course

DOUGLAS and Ballincollig will meet to decide the destination of the tower View Developments under 18 "A" championship title for 2007 on Sunday next. With this competition held up for various reasons both sides will be thankful that final stage has now been

reached. Ballincollig defeated Ballinhassig to reach the decider while Douglas had a victory over Eire Og. Also on Sunday the 2007 league semi finals take place with Courcy Rovers or St Finbarrs meeting Milford while Barryroe meet Cloughduv in Barryroe.

FOR anybody interested in taking up refereeing Cathal Egan is organising a foundation level referee course anybody interested in attending can contact Cathal on cathalegan@eircom.ie.

APRIL 2008

St. Mary's set for All-Ireland camogie final



St Mary's Secondary School junior 'B' camogie team with their Manager Ger Dullea before an indoor training session in preparation of the All-Ireland Junior 'B' Final - see match preview page 11. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

Camogie: All Ireland Colleges Junior 'A' Final

St. Mary's looking to add to All Ireland haul

By Shane Brophy

St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh will be looking to maintain their unbeaten record in All Ireland Finals when they face Loreto College from Wexford in Freshford on Sunday.

Just over a year after the senior team won the All Ireland title, the next generation of girls in the school are aiming to create their own legacy in the school.

Between the junior and senior age groups, this is St. Mary's seventh All Ireland Final and have won all six finals they have appeared in.

"It has been the late eighties before Camogie really became big in St. Mary's," said team manager Ger Dullea.

Nenagh last won the junior title in 1991 and 1992 when captained by Suzanne Kelly and Ciara Gaynor respectively who both went on to enjoy medal-laden careers with the Tipperary senior camogie team during their golden era.

Nocille Kennedy captained the senior team to the title in 1994 while another Tipperary camogie star Eimear McDonnell spearheaded the title charge in 2000 with current senior panellist Aoife McLoughney captaining the senior team last year of which four members of that squad will take their place on Saturday.

St. Mary's reached the final with impressive victories over Blackwater College from Lismore in the Munster Final while St. Pius High

School from Magherafelt were easily dispatched in the All Ireland semi-final.

Since then, there has been a growing excitement in the school as the big game approaches and the girls dedication was proven by coming into the school over the two-week Easter break for training.

Manager Ger Dullea is reporting no injury worries with 13-year-old Caoimhe Maher fully recovered from a broken sustained in the Munster campaign and should take her place at centre back where she has starred so far.

Aine Lucey has done well in goals while in the forward line, St. Mary's will be looking to both Gemma Grace and Amy Kennedy to star once again as they have done throughout the campaign to date while Danielle Slattery will captain the side from midfield.

St. Mary's face a Loreto College side that not a lot is known about but are sure to provide a tough test with camogie in Wexford in such a high after the county won the All Ireland senior title last year.

"We are expecting a tough game. Every Wexford team is always tough and you expect nothing easy in an All Ireland Final," said Ger Dullea.

He called on as many people as possible to head Freshford on Saturday afternoon to support the girls in their attempts to bring more silverware to the Nenagh school.



St. Mary's Secondary School Nenagh players looking forward to the All-Ireland Junior 'B' Final (l to r) Danielle Slattery (Silvermines -captain), Gemma Grace (Burgess), Amy Kennedy (Burgess), Riana Minogue (Toomevara), Lisa Shoer (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Mary Walsh (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Siobhan Peters (Kilruane MacDonaghs) and Aine Carroll (Burgess). St. Mary's Secondary School Nenagh players looking forward to the All-Ireland Junior 'B' Final (l to r) Danielle Slattery (Silvermines -captain), Gemma Grace (Burgess), Amy Kennedy (Burgess), Riana Minogue (Toomevara), Lisa Shoer (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Mary Walsh (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Siobhan Peters (Kilruane MacDonaghs) and Aine Carroll (Burgess).

St. Mary's SS Panel: Aine Lucey (Duharra), Niamh Slattery (Silvermines), Aine O'Carroll (Duharra), Lisa Shoer (Kilruane), Laura Power (Silvermines), Brid Quinn (Silvermines), Paula Kelly (Kildangan), Mary Dillon (Nenagh), Danielle Slattery (Silvermines), Amy Kennedy (Duharra), Riana Minogue (Toomevara), Clara McGrath (Nenagh), Emily Bergin (Moneygall), Gemma Grace (Duharra), Sarah Cuneen (Silvermines), Caoimhe Maher (Duharra), Mary Walsh (Kilruane), Siobhan Peters (Kilruane), Maria Kennedy (Silvermines), Rachel Green (Silvermines), Rachel Kennedy (Silvermines), Sarah Murray (Silvermines), Lisa Mulqueen (Duharra), Aisling Cremin (Duharra), Gemma Morris (Nenagh), Ciara Houlihan (Duharra), Eadoinn Hackett (Kildangan), Caitriona O'Connor (Nenagh), Sarah Maher (Nenagh), Rebecca White (Nenagh).

All Ireland Colleges Junior 'B' Camogie Final: St. Mary's SS, Nenagh v Loreto College, Wexford in Freshford on Saturday @ 2pm.

CAMOGIE

MUNSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
1st Rd: Limerick 0-10 (N Mulcahy 0-4), EOBrien 0-3, Fitzpatrick 0-2, 45 M Casey 0-1f) Clare 0-6 (C Commans 0-4), S O'Loughlin F Lafferty 0-1 each)
COLLEGES
Junior A Final: Cross and Passion, Ballycastle Antrim 2-8 (L Mc Keown 1-3, O'Hare 1-0, A Mc Fadden 0-3, S Mc Killen 0-1, R Walsh 0-1, 45) St. Brigid's Loughrea 2-5 (R Monahan 2-1, A Donoghue, T Murray, C Ryan, K Kennedy 0-1 each)
Junior B: St. Mary's Nenagh 5-6 (A Kennedy 2-3, G Grace 2-2, S Peters 1-0, E Bergin 0-1, Loreto, Wexford 0-4 (L Bolger 0-4, 0-1, 45)
Junior C: St. Mary's New Ross 3-4 (D O'Mahony, P Lawlor, E Murphy 1-0 each, D Meaney 0-4, 0-1, 45, 0-1f) St. Mac Nissi's Garraun Tower, Antrim 2-2 (A Ward 2-0, C Campbell 0-2f)

Passion edges out St Brigid's

CAMOGIE: Cross and Passion of Ballycastle took their first ever Junior A All-Ireland colleges title by beating St Brigid's Loughrea 2-8 to 2-5 in St Peregrine's Blanchardstown. Full-forward Louise McKeown found the net on 10 minutes for Ballycastle.

That goal left them ahead 1-3 to 0-3 at the break, but wind-assisted Loughrea hit a fine patch early in the second half, scoring 2-1 thanks to full-forward Rachel Monahan.

Ballycastle's defence remained solid though and despite being two points behind with 10 minutes left, they went on to win by three points.

All-Ireland Colleges' Junior Camogie Cup final: Cross and Passion Ballycastle 2-8 St Brigid's Loughrea 2-5

McKeown on song as Cross win first title

By Seamus McAleenan

CROSS and Passion College, Ballycastle are the toast of Ulster camogie today after becoming only the second school from the province to collect the A Colleges' All-Ireland junior title after defeating St Brigid's Loughrea, 2-8 to 2-5, in a thrilling final at St Peregrine's, Dublin on Saturday.

Unlike initial winners St Mary's Magherafelt 12 years ago, this was Ballycastle's first final but they showed little in the way of nerves, settling early in the game and test-

ing the Loughrea goalkeeper Cathriona Daly in the opening minute.

They hit the net in the 10th minute with Aisling McFadden releasing Louise McKeown who goaled. McFadden added two more points before the break to put her side into a 1-4 to 0-3 lead.

Immediately after the restart, full-forward Louise McKeown stretched their lead to five.

Although Karen Kennedy responded with a Loughrea point, Ballycastle had the balance of play but did not add to their total.

Midway through the second, the match seemed to turn in favour of St Brigid's when, inside the space of a minute, full-forward Rachel Monahan scored two goals to put her team into a two point lead, 2-4 to Cross and Passion's 1-5.

Loughrea then shut up shop at the back, with an extra player covering the dangerous Louise McKeown. Despite that McKeown did hit a point and the Loughgiel forward continued to cause them problems.

With just four minutes remaining, Ballycastle got the breakthrough they deserved when the speedy

Aisling McFadden cut up along the right wing. Her delivery found corner forward Orla O'Hara waiting to smash home the winning goal.

There was still time for Loughrea to force a 20-metre free, but the superb Emma Connor blocked and cleared for McKeown to seal the victory with a late point.

The whole Ballycastle side rose to the occasion, but special mention must go to Samantha McKillen, Aisling McFadden and Louise McKeown up front, Louise Watt in goal, defenders Aine and Laura Connolly and Aoife Lavery, and

Emma Connor and team captain Rebecca Walsh in the middle of the park.

MATCH STATS

Cross & Passion: L Watt, J McIlhatton, A Connolly, A Lavery, M Beattie, L Connolly, C Neill, E Connor, R Walsh, capt. (0-1), S McKillen (0-1), K Smyth, A McFadden (0-3), N Donnelly, L McKeown (1-3), O O'Hara (1-0) Subs: L Dallas for N Donnelly, M Donnelly for M Beattie.
St Brigid's: C Daly, N O'Brien, B Cahalan, M Connolly, N Cormican, D Kelly, L Burke, C Ryan (0-1), K Kelly, K Kennedy (0-1), S Kelly, T Murray (0-1), A Donohue (0-1), R Monahan (2-1), Emma Clarke

Down get their own back on Waterford

THE league sections of the All-Ireland U16 championship began on Saturday, and the game in Ballyholland proved the most interesting.

Down avenged last year's All Ireland semi-final defeat to Waterford with a narrow 2-6 to 2-5 victory.

The Down goals came from Danielle Toner and Suzelle Johnson, the latter obviously picking up tips from her brother Gareth.

Elsewhere, Derry and Armagh both cleared their first hurdles. Grainne McNicholl hit 1-3 as the Oak Leaf youngsters recorded a tough 1-7 to 1-0 victory over



CAMOGIE pitch with Seamus McAleenan

Carlow. And there were goals each for Noleen Bradley, Orla Curry and Eimear Murphy as Armagh came through the

test posed by Meath on a 3-3 to 1-2 scoreline. In the same section, Offaly signalled their intentions with a 2-9 to 0-0 whitewash of neighbouring Laois.

Down: D Toner (1-1), S Johnson (1-0), L Hughes (0-2), A McCarthy (0-2), C Hynds (0-1).

Waterford: R Whelan (1-1), M Toner (1-1), U Jackman (0-1), S Derron (0-1), S Keenan (0-1).

Armagh: N Bradley (1-1), O Curry (1-1), E Murphy (1-0), F Kelly (0-1).

Meath: K King (1-1), A Fagan (0-1).

Derry: G Mc Nicholl (1-3), T McElroy (0-2), M Glasgow (0-1), K Kilt (0-1).

Carlow: C Quirk (1-0). Offaly: C Nevin (2-2), O Murray (0-3), M Nevin (0-1), L Dooley (0-1), D Flynn (0-1), C Nevin (0-1).

MONAGHAN will play Tyrone as expected in the Ulster junior final after the O'Neill county overwhelmed Donegal 8-10 to 0-0 in their return to competitive action yesterday.

Tyrone stacked up 4-12 in the first-half, with Grainne O'Neill emerging top-scorer on 2-7. There were other goals for Julie Lagan, Meabh McGuckin, Maeve Kearney, Shauna Jordan, Frances Begley and Emma Fitzgerald.

MEANWHILE, Limerick bounced back from defeat in recent League games to beat Division 2 finalists Clare in

the Munster senior championship, 0-10 to 0-6, in Limerick on Saturday. Clare were kept to just two points from play, with the Young Allstar of 2007, Niamh Mulcahy, finishing top-scorer with four points.

Limerick: N Mulcahy (0-4 frees), E O'Brien (0-3), D Fitzpatrick (0-2), M Casey (0-1).

Clare: C Commans (0-4), S O'Loughlin (0-1), F Lafferty (0-1).

IF you have any news on camogie please contact CAMOGIE PITCH by e-mail seamas@gortnag.plus.com or phone/fax 028 21758284.

CAMOGIE

DIVISION 1
Tipperary 1-15 Limerick 0-4
Wexford 1-15 Dublin 2-4
Kilkenny 0-7 Cork 1-3
DIVISION 2
Clare 6-9 Waterford 3-5
Derry 3-13 Tipperary 1-3
Kilkenny 2-7 Cork 1-7
Wexford 4-12 Galway 1-6
DIVISION 3
Antrim 2-9 Laois 2-7

All-Ireland Colleges' Junior Camogie Shield final:

St Mary's, New Ross ..3-4
St MacNissi's,
Garron Tower2-2

MacNissi's save face in defeat

By Seamus McAleenan

ST Mary's, New Ross denied a north Antrim double in the All-Ireland colleges' finals by dismissing St MacNissi's, Garron Tower 3-4 to 2-2 in the opening game at St Peregrine's, Dublin on Saturday.

St MacNissi's showed real battling qualities throughout the game and probably shaded the balance of play. However, bad luck and an extra defender, posted to shepherd the dangerous Aisling Ward, meant that they didn't break down the Wexford defence often enough.

New Ross drew first blood with an early goal from Patrice Lawlor, but Garron Tower settled well and put them under constant pressure with Ward eventually breaking through to level in the ninth minute.

The rest of the first half was very tight with only two more points scored, one each for free-takers Deirdre Meaney and Ciara Campbell.

It was much of the same for a lot of the second half as well. The north Antrim school's constant pressure was not rewarded with scores. New Ross capitalised on three minutes of superiority with 1-2 midway through the half.

Aisling Ward pulled a goal back and the game was still in the balance until two minutes from time, when Aoife Lyng hit an important clearance that eventually was worked to Debbie O'Mahoney to poke home.

MATCH STATS

St Mary's: K Flynn, G Creane, A Dillon, G Doran, F Carroll, A Lyng, N Murphy, ME Doyle, C Barville, S O'Neill, D Meaney (0-4), E Murphy (1-0), P Lawlor (1-0), D O'Mahoney (1-0), L Hickey.
St MacNissi's: S Kelly, N Cosgrove, A Burke, S Cosgrove, B Convery, C Campbell, capt, (0-2), D Scally, M Connolly, C Patterson, E McCambridge, M Mulvanny, C McKay, F McDonnell, A Ward (2-0), E McToal.
Subs: E McAleenan for E McToal, S Lynas, R Haughey, O Hyndman, E Campbell, J Kearney, A Robbin, C McHenry, D Sebastian.

All Ireland Junior Colleges Finals for Cross & Passion, St Marys and New Ross

All Ireland Junior Colleges Finals for Cross & Passion, St Marys and New Ross

BY JACKIE CAHILL

Former Allstar and Antrim hurler Paul McKillen was the mastermind behind Cross and Passion's victory in the Junior A final as the Ballycastle outfit defeated St Brigid's Loughrea of Galway 2-8 to 2-5. McKillen's daughter, Samantha played a leading role for the Antrim side, who led 1-4 to 0-3 at half-time. Louise McKee won bagged 1-3 for the winners, who were rocked back on their heels by a Rachel Monahan double in the second half. But in the dying minutes, Orla O'Hara grabbed the vital goal to ensure victory for Cross and Passion in Blanchardstown.

Meanwhile, St Mary's from Nenagh in Tipperary captured the Junior B title in Freshford with a comfortable 5-6 to 0-4 victory against outclassed Loreto of Wexford.

Gemma Grace helped herself to 2-3 and Amy Kennedy scored 2-2 for the winners, whose fifth goal was supplied by Siobhán Peters. Lisa Bolger was the pick of the bunch for outclassed Loreto, who were 2-2 to 0-3 in arrears at half-time but still battled gamely to the very end.

In the Junior C decider, which was also played at the home of St. Peregrines in Blanchardstown, St Mary's of New Ross were too strong for Antrim's St MacNissi's from Garron Tower.

St Mary's ran out 3-4 to 2-2 winners after the sides were deadlocked at 1-1 apiece at the break.

Patrice Lawlor (St Mary's) and Aisling Ward traded first half goals before Eimear Murphy bagged a crucial goal for the Wexford girls midway through the second half.

Deirdre Meaney and Debbie O'Mahoney added points to push St Mary's into the comfort zone but there was a kick in St MacNissi's and Ward scored her second goal with nine minutes remaining.

However, O'Mahoney put the seal on a famous victory for St Mary's with the final goal of the game right at the death after taking a pass from sidekick Meaney.

In the Gala Munster senior championship, Limerick defeated Clare 0-10 to 0-6 in last Saturday's preliminary round to set up a meeting with reigning provincial champions Cork in next Sunday's semi-final.

Niamh Mulcahy scored 0-4 for Limerick, Eileen O'Brien chipped in with 0-3 and Deirdre Fitzpatrick scored two crucial points from play for the Shannonsiders, who led 0-8 to 0-5 at half-time.

Limerick were more economical with the chances that came their way and in a low-scoring second half, the physically-stronger Clare forwards were crowded out by a hard-working defence.

Clare managed just two points from play during the entire game, a testament to Limerick's defensive abilities, as Clare Connane whipped over four frees for the Banner County.

Clare will now regroup for the National League Division 2 final clash with Derry in three weeks time and before plotting an assault on the All-Ireland junior championship.

Meanwhile in the first round of the U16 B All Ireland Championship there were wins for Armagh, Derry, Offaly and Down.

Colleges All-Irl. Finals:
Junior A Final:
Cross and Passion, Ballycastle Antrim 2-8, L Mc Keown 1-3, O'Hara 1-0, A Mc Fadden 0-3, S Mc Killo 0-1, R Walsh 0-1'45
St Brigid's Loughrea 2-5, R Monahan 2-1, A Donoghue, T Murray, C Ryan, K Kennedy 0-1 each.

Junior B:
St Mary's Nenagh 5-6, A Kennedy 2-3, G Grace, 2-2, S Peters 1-0, E Bargin 0-1, Loreto, Wexford 0-4, L Bolger 0-4, (0-1'45)

Junior C:
St Mary's New Ross 3-4, D O'Mahoney 1-0, P Lawlor, E Murphy 1-0 each, D Meaney 0-4 (0-1'45, 0-17)
St Mac Nissi's Garron Tower, Antrim 2-2, A Ward 2-0, C Campbell 0-2.

Munster sen. C'ship, 1st rd:
Limerick 0-10, N Mulcahy 0-4, O'Brien 0-3, D Fitzpatrick 0-2'45, M Casey 0-1.
Clare 0-6, C Connane 0-4, S O'Loughlin, P Lafferty 0-1 each.

U16 B C'ship 1st rd:
Armagh 3-3, N Bradley, O Curry 1-1 each, E Murphy 1-0, F Kelly 0-1.
Meath 1-2, K King 1-1, A Fagan 0-1.

Derry 1-7, G Mc Nicholl 1-3, T Mc Elroy 0-2, M Glasgow, K Kilt 0-1 each.
Carlow 1-0, C Quirke 1-0.

Offaly 2-9, C Nevin 2-2, O Murray 0-3, (0-2'45, 0-17) M Nevin, L Dooley, D Flynn, C Nevin 0-1 each.
Laois 0-0.

Down 2-6, D Toner 1-1, S Johnson 1-0, A McCarthy, L Hughes 0-2 each, C Hynes 0-1.
Waterford 2-5, R Whelan 1-1, M Tobin 1-1 (0-17), U Jackman, S Denton, S Xernan 0-1 each.

Final spot for Barryroe

Barryroe
Cloughduv

2-12
1-3

A SUPER display from Barryroe saw them book their place in the 2007 senior league final where they will meet St Finbarrs as they had too much strength for Cloughduv.

It may be early in the season but Barryroe certainly looked sharp as they made all the early running. At the half time break they led 1-8 to 1-3.

Despite playing against the strong wind in the second half they worked tirelessly and their fitness proving crucial as they held their opponents scoreless.

Elaine McCarthy gave Barryroe an early led with two points in succession before Una O'Donoghue pointed for Cloughduv. Jennifer O'Leary showed her sharpness

with three points before Rosemary Dineen grabbed a goal as Barryroe opened up a 1-5 to 0-1 lead.

Battling hard to stay in touch Cloughduv had a pointed 45 from Una O'Donoghue before Sile Lucey had three points between the sides with a Cloughduv goal.

Ger Collins and O'Donoghue traded points, but it was Barryroe who finished the half stronger thanks to the accuracy of Jennifer O'Leary with two points.

Through the second half Cloughduv worked hard, but they failed to breach a solid Barryroe defence where Ann Marie Fleming, Elaine Carroll and Carol Dineen held firm.

Up front the lively Barryroe attack picked off the crucial scores, Jennifer O'Leary Rosarie Holland, Ger Collins all on target before a goal from Ann Marie O'Regan put

the finishing touch to a superb Barryroe performance.

Barryroe will be without Jennifer O'Leary who is travelling abroad for the summer months, and she will be a huge loss to both club and county as her performance, which yielded seven points, tells its own story.

Barryroe: E White, M Mc Carthy, A M Fleming, E Carroll, K Mc Carthy, C Dineen, A O'Donoghue, I Dineen, N O'Driscoll, P Moloney, R Holland, G Collins, J O'Leary, E Mc Carthy, R Dineen
Subs: A. M O'Regan for P Moloney (inj 28)
M Sheehy for E Mc Carthy (50inj) Scorers: J O'Leary 0-7 (0-50 0-21), R Dineen and A M O'Regan 1-0 each, G Collins 0-2, E Mc Carthy 0-2, R Holland 0-1
Cloughduv: A Murray, S Corkery, Eva Dunne, S Lucey, J O'Callaghan, M Corkery, L Holland, J Lucey, M Lucey, Emma Dunne, S Buckley, G O'Sullivan, U O'Donoghue A B Murphy, C O'Donoghue Subs A. Cronin for L Holland, E Lynch for M Lucey, E Ahern for G O'Sullivan, A Murray for C O'Donoghue. Scorers: U O'Donoghue 0-3 (0-1 0-1 45 0-1p) S Lucey 1-0.



CHAMPIONS ALL: Cork's under-16 A and B sides captured the provincial Camogie titles on Easter Monday — Above, 16 B captain Patti O'Keefe and below 16A captain Katriona Mackey.



CUP OF CHEER: Cross and Passion, Ballycastle captain Rebecca Walsh is lifted shoulder-high by her team-mates after their win over St Brigid's, Loughrea in the All-Ireland Colleges Junior A Camogie final at St Peregrine's in Dublin on Saturday. See further camogie coverage on P57



Tipp brush aside Limerick

National Camogie League

Tipperary 1-16
Limerick 0-4

By Gerry Sleavin at The Ragg
Photographs by Rose Mannion

With nothing at stake except pride, it was Tipp's greater skill and scoring ability as against Limerick's over-concentration on toughness and hard pulling that separated these teams in Sunday's National Camogie League game played in The Ragg.

A fifteen point winning margin was no more than Tipp deserved against a very disappointing and disappointed Limerick side. The visitors brought their All-Ireland 'B' championship and league titles with them, along with having more supporters than the home team. Though they began promisingly enough with a first minute point while playing into a strong wind, gradually they found themselves being overtaken by a solid, resourceful Tipp side that built up a 1-8 to 0-3 interval lead, the goal coming just on half time when Claire Grogan gratefully accepted a pass from Emily Hayden to give the Limerick keeper no chance.

The opening quarter was close enough but once a rampant Philly Fogarty opened up and lofted over two splendid long range points with Jill Horan fol-

lowing suit, the Tipp class began to tell and with Claire Grogan only too willing to punish Limerick's indiscretions with her accurate free-taking, the seed was firmly sown for the home side's take-over.

Despite wind advantage Limerick could manage only one second half point from an Eileen O'Brien free after twenty minutes. Tipp's total control continued and several scoring opportunities were spurned because of over-elaboration and a failure to opt for more direct methods when in possession. The outcome was never in doubt, however, and Tipp availed of the allowable five subs in the closing ten minutes.

Because of Limerick's loss to Galway the previous week the result of Sunday's fixture was of no consequence, both sides having lost interest in the destination of the league title. Using the match with an eye to the start of the championship in two months time was, therefore, the prime consideration. Tipp upped their performance considerably from their disappointing outing against Galway. The defence was



Emily Hayden goes low for the ball in the Senior League game in the Ragg on Sunday last.

much tighter, Trish O'Halloran being very solid at centre back and Maria Tynan and Mary Ryan also prominent. The presence of Philly Fogarty at midfield where she partnered a much-improved Joanne Ryan gave Tipp a decided advantage in that sector.

In attack Claire Grogan had shaken off the injury that beset her in Athenry and was most effective. Jill Horan also improved and there were solid perfor-

mances from Emily Hayden and Cora Hennessy.

Undergoing quite an exhaustive pre-match warm-up campaign on field, Limerick clearly meant business and from the throw-in they were not sparing when it came to hard pulling. Much of it, however, was beyond the limit of what the referee was prepared to take and with Claire Grogan in splendid free-taking form, inevitable scores followed.

2007 Young Player of the Year Niamh Mulcahy opened the scoring with a point in the first minute and Limerick were very competitive in the opening quarter. It was taking Tipp quite some time to come to grips with the wind advantage they enjoyed but once mid field took over it became clear that Tipp were in the driving seat and had a greater advantage in terms of cohesive play and scoring ability.

Underfoot conditions were hazardous enough, the

game following a senior hurling league match but Tipp were better able to cope with them. There were several changes in the Tipp line up from the Galway match: Maria Tynan, Mary Ryan, Philly Fogarty, Mairead Morrissey were selected in preference to Suzanne Kelly, Therese Shortt, Paula Bulfin and Siobhan Ryan. Julie Kirwan, though in attendance had to bow out because of a heavy cold, Suzanne Kelly coming into the inner defence line instead.

Probably the most heartening aspect of the performance from a Tipp perspective was the eagerness to atone for the disappointment of the display against Galway. That Tipperary camogie is alive and well is still true and the coming weeks will tell a lot as preparations are undertaken for the championship, the first game being against League finalists Kilkenny on June 1st.

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Philly Fogarty (Tipperary)

Scorers: Tipperary: C. Grogan 1-9 (0-8 frees), P. Fogarty, J. Horan 0-2 each, M. Shortt, E. Hayden, and C. Hennessy 0-1 each. Limerick: E. O'Brien 0-3 (2 frees), N. Mulcahy 0-1.

Tipperary: Paula Ryan, Suzanne Kelly, Mairead Luttrell, Maria Tynan, Michelle Shortt, Trish O'Halloran, Mary Ryan, Philly Fogarty, Joanne Ryan, Cora Hennessy, Emily Hayden, Jill Horan, Claire Grogan (captain), Mairead Morrissey, Aoife McLoughney. Subs: Marion Ryan for S. Kelly, Paula Bulfin for E. Hayden, Geraldine Stapleton for P. Fogarty, Therese Shortt for M. Morrissey, Geraldine Kinane for A. McLoughney.

Limerick: Sile Moynihan, Fiona Hickey, Sarah Collins, Molra Dooley, Grace McNamara, Aoife Sheehan, Rose Collins, Vera Shanahan, Deirdre Fitzpatrick (captain), Naomi Carroll, Michelle Casey, Niamh Mulcahy, Eileen O'Brien, Aine O'Reilly, Orla Curtin. Subs: Catriona Davis for M. Casey, Joanne Clifford for V. Shanahan, Fiona Morrissey for A. Sheehan, Janet Garvey for A. O'Reilly, Judith Mulcahy for F. Hickey.

Referee: C. Quigley, Kildare.



Tipp's Aoife McLoughney blocks Aoife Sheehan of Limerick when the sides met at The Ragg.

Tributes paid to veteran GAA activist

By Barry McCaffrey

TRIBUTES were paid last night to Down GAA veteran Moya McCormack, who died at the weekend after a short illness.

Mrs McCormack had been heavily involved in club and Co Down GAA throughout her life.

She held various positions within the St Peter's club in her native town of

Warrenpoint.

In 2005 Mrs McCormack was presented with a special award by the GAA for more than 35 years involvement in scor competitions and feiseanna.

Her late husband Terry had been a Down county chairman and her son Donal is county secretary.

Mrs McCormack's sister Sheila McNulty wrote the official history of Down GAA.

Down GAA vice-chairman Brian McAvoy paid tribute to Mrs McCormack.

"Moya McCormack was an outstanding servant to the GAA and to promoting Gaelic culture in general," he said.

"She was heavily involved in set dancing and organising feiseanna."

"Mrs McCormack and her late husband Terry were an institution within

the GAA, not just in Down but throughout Ireland as a whole."

SDLP assembly member PJ Bradley also paid tribute to her.

"Mrs McCormack was known and loved by everyone in Warrenpoint," he said.

"There was always an open door in the McCormack household, especially if it had anything to do with GAA."

"She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her."

Mrs McCormack is survived by her children Roisin, Donal, Ruairi and Feargal.

Her remains will be removed from her home at Dun Mhuire, Newry Road, Warrenpoint, today at 11.30am for Requiem Mass at noon.

Interment will take place in St Peter's Cemetery.

Orla Considine

CLARE made it three wins from three in the National League in Walsh Park on Sunday. In doing so they claimed their place in the league final and a chance to renew rivalries with Derry. Continuing the recent vein of good form enjoyed by the Junior team, Clare scored 6-5 from play and outclassed the home side in every sector of the field.

Clare started brightly and Laura Linnane opened the scoring with a point inside the opening 30 seconds. Aiveen O'Shea and Claire Commene were next up with goals in the third and fifth minute respectively while Sharon O'Loughlin followed up with a point a minute later and Deirdre Murphy converted a free on 11 minutes to give the Banner a deserved cushion.

Clare were completely on top with Waterford struggling to come to terms with the Clare midfield and attack. Kate Lynch was replaced by Chloe Morey through injury in the 15th minute, which gave the young Sixmilebridge player her first taste of national League fare. Claire Commene was accurate with frees in the 15th and 19th and Waterford were yet to score, indeed they were even finding it difficult to get past half-way.

They eventually overcame this though and Trish Jackman had them on the scoreboard with a goal on the 21st minute. This gave the Deise some hope and they lifted their game a peg with Aine Lyng adding two points before Fiona Lafferty halted the comeback with a brace of her own before the half-time break.

Lyng had Waterford off to a good start with a free but it was cancelled out by Commene a minute later. Then Clare struck for goal again. Fiona Lafferty took a Clare line-ball and sent a long delivery to the cor-

ner where Sharon O'Loughlin was waiting. O'Loughlin collected and sent the ball across the goal where O'Shea was waiting to slot home. Lyng had a point for Waterford, but a long ball from Lafferty saw Laura Linnane put pressure on Fiona Kiely in the Waterford goal to score Clare's fourth and the first of a hat trick for Linnane.

Lyng, who was by far Waterford's best player, goaled on 12 minutes. The game continued at a lightning pace and a long ball to the Clare forwards saw O'Loughlin dispossess the corner back and send the ball across the goal to set up Laura Linnane who tapped in her second. Jenny Simpson had a goal back for Waterford on 47 minutes but Linnane struck for her third, after a cutting run, a minute later.

Clare: Denise Lynch, Jane O'Leary, Siobhan Lafferty, Amy Colleran, Kate Lynch, Dee Concoran, Orla Slattery, Deirdre Murphy (C) (0-1, 1f), Aoife Ryan, Carina Roseingrave, Fiona Lafferty (0-2), Laura Linnane (3-2, 1'45), Claire Commene (1-3, 3f), Aiveen O'Shea (2-0), Sharon O'Loughlin (0-1). Subs: Chloe Morey for Lynch (in), Sharon McMahon for Ryan, Cathy Hally for Colleran, Aine O'Brien for O'Loughlin, Stephanie Moloney for O'Shea.

Waterford: Fiona Kiely, Aisling Kelly, Sally O'Grady, Vicky Gaffney, Jenny O'Grady, Adele Cummins, Annette Maher, Charlotte Maher, Aine Lyng (1-4, 1f), Nicola Morrissey, Jenny Simpson (1-0), Mairead Murphy, Aine Breathnach (0-1), Trish Jackman (1-0), Kate Marie Aberne. Subs: Niamh Ryan for Gaffney, Tanya Morrissey for Ryan, Alisha Dunphy for Kelly, Roisin Heylin for Simpson, Emma Hannon for Hannon.

Player of the Game
Laura Linnane (Clare)

Match Official: Cathal Egan (Cork)

APRIL 2008

Rebels should win at a canter

SUNDAY
Munster Senior Championship semi-final,
Cork v Limerick,
Delanys, 2.30pm

WITH CORK out of the league and having to wait until June 1 for the opening round of the All-Ireland series, the only competitive fixture available to them is the Munster Championship, writes **LINDA MEL-LERICK**.

In reality this championship will do little to develop the squad, as they should bear Limerick, winners of the All-Ireland Senior B championship in 2007, with ease.

The Munster championship has become a sorry state since the All-Ireland became an open draw a number of years ago.

And with it now being a 'free for all', the mindset has developed it into a competition that takes place out of necessity rather than choice.

Waterford, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Cork are all in the hat for a title no one really cares about. Cork will get nothing out of Sunday's game. Waterford and Clare are junior-graded counties.

Limerick showed that they are still too far off the Division One mark when they only defeated Clare, last year's All-Ireland junior finalists, 0-10 to 0-6 last weekend.

Limerick's league run resulted in two games and two defeats, a 3-11 to 2-03 defeat to Galway and a loss to Tipperary on a scoreline of 1-15 to 0-4. While Cork can only boast one victory over Dublin, their defeats to Wexford and Kilkenny were of a stiffer competition.

Limerick do have players of quality. Vera Sheehan and Eileen O'Brien would be on Cork's starting XV any day. But thereafter, Cork should have far too much overall strength for the Shannonsiders.

If Cork fail to win this game by a comfortable margin, then questions must be asked.

Their performance against Kilkenny a fortnight ago was poor. The conditions were appalling but even allowing for that, Cork should have done better.

Cork's freetaking in particular let them down on the day and it is one of the areas they will have to work on. Cork's defence, spearheaded by Rena Buckley, is holding its own at present.

While Una O'Donoghue played well at midfield against Dublin, she didn't see of much of the ball against Kilkenny but Cork will possibly keep her in the position on Sunday as the trial continues.

Three of Cork's starting inside six, Aisling Thompson, Linda Dorgan and Rachel Moloney, were substituted against Kilkenny as Cork struggled up front to make any headway.

There isn't a huge choice of forwards on the bench.

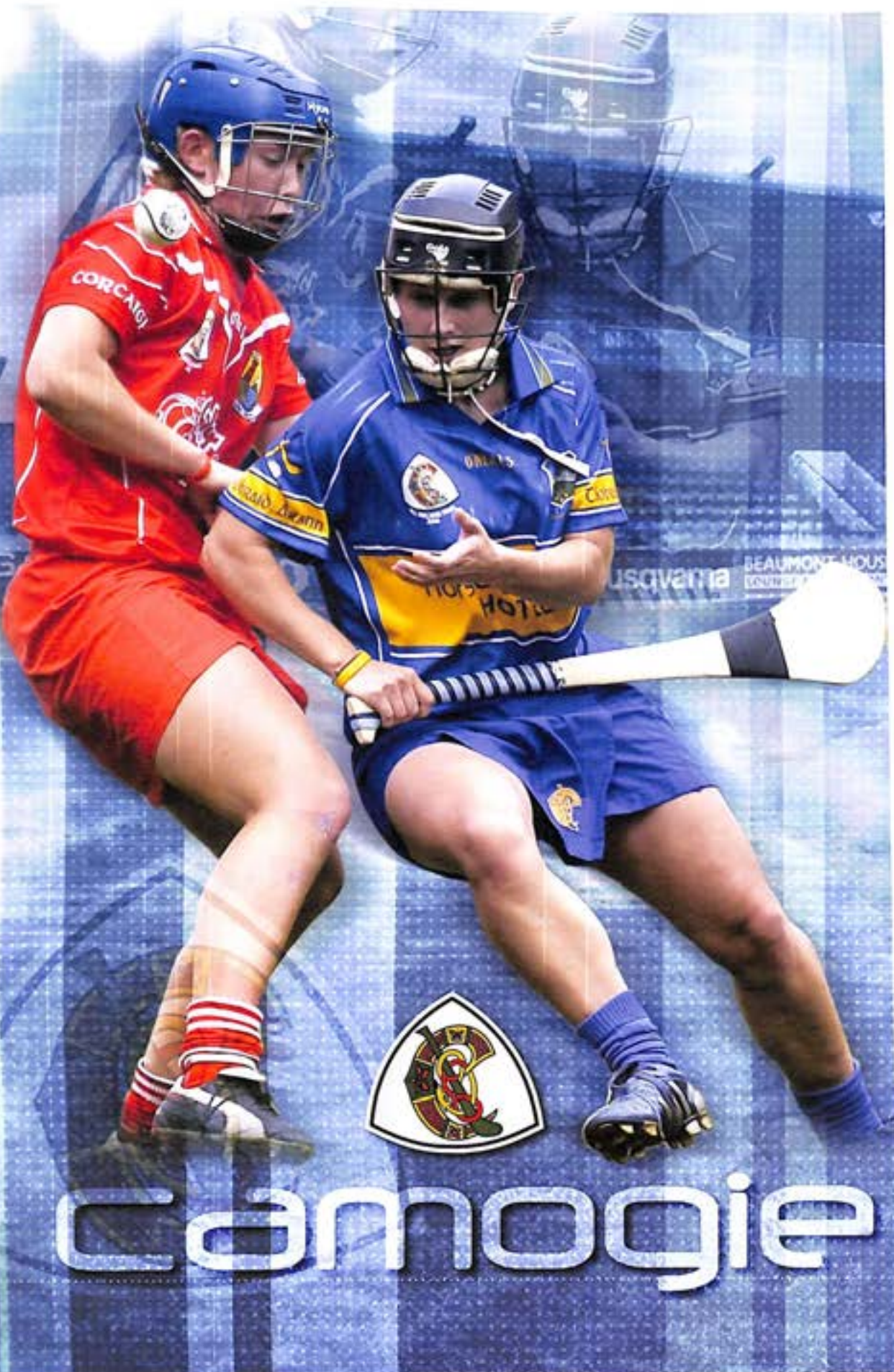
Deirdre Twomey needs to be given a chance of a full game at this stage, because when the going gets tough Cork are finding that they don't have too many options available to them.

Enright sinks Limerick effort

CLARE 2-6
LIMERICK 2-1

CAMOGIE: Limerick may have got a dream start to their Munster Minor championship semi-final against Clare scoring their total of 2-1 inside the opening five minutes but once Carina Rosengrave got the Banner's first goal after eight minutes it became all Clare and they went on to claim their place in next weekend's Munster championship final.

Scorers — Clare: S Enright 1-6, 10-1 45, 0-25, C Rosengrave 1-0. Limerick: N Campbell 2-0, K Bresnan 0-1.



RENA BUCKLEY + JILL HORAN

Douglas complete 2007 senior B double

Douglas 1-9
Rockbán 1-8

By **MARY NEWMAN**
Camogie

A CLOSE-FOUGHT 2007 Senior B league final saw Douglas bid farewell to the grade with a one-point victory over Rockbán as they completed the B double for 2007 in Ballinlough that was completed this week.

With the championship title already tucked away and a place in the A grade for this year secured the Douglas girls were determined to finish with a flourish. But they had to be at their best to deny a very determined Rockbán side who on this display laid down a marker for the season ahead. Earlier in the week

Rockbán had defeated Éire Óg, while Douglas accounted for Carrigaline. Douglas led from the throw-in but there was little between the sides for the hour as they battled for the title. Jenny O'Donovan opened the scoring with an early point but Sile Burns replied pointing a Rockbán free.

As the sides swapped points their was little margin for error and a goal from Moira O'Donovan eight minutes from half-time was the score that separated the sides at the break as Douglas led 1-5 to 0-5.

A determined start to the second half saw Rockbán cut the deficit inside

four minutes with points from Valerie Mulcahy and Elaine Casey.

Douglas upped the tempo as Katriona Mackey pointed two frees between the eight and 25th minute and they were thankful to keeper Jessica Kavanagh, who pulled off a superb save to deny Rockbán drawing level before Aileen O'Donovan knocked over a point as the gap widened to four points.

Douglas worked hard to deliver the killer blow but Rockbán battled on and with Valerie Mulcahy grabbing a goal with four minutes on the stopwatch, they were back in the game. Jenny O'Donovan gave Douglas breathing space with a point but again Rockbán replied as Elaine

Casey pointed. Rockbán searched for an equaliser, but it wasn't to be as the Douglas defence held firm to secure the title with the minimum to spare.

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey 0-5 (0-35, 0-1 45), M O'Donovan 1-0, J O'Donovan 0-2, A O'Regan (1), A O'Donovan 0-1 each.

Rockbán: V Mulcahy 1-1, S Burns 0-3 (0-2 f, 0-1 pen), E Casey 0-3, L Crowley 0-1.

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh, S O'Regan, F McSweeney, P Mackey, A Barrett, A O'Regan, L O'Regan, J O'Donovan, H O'Mahony, S O'Brien, H O'Connor, K Mackey, E Morgan, M O'Donovan Jordan. Subs: N O'Donovan for Helen O'Mahony (40), A O'Donovan for S O'Brien (41).

ROCKBÁN: E Harter, M Burns, S Keohane, M O'Keefe, C Foley, Katriona Foley, N Keohane, D Foley, L Crowley, E Casey, V Mulcahy, M Howard, M McSweeney, S Burns, C Coleman.

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscearra).

All Ireland title for St Mary's

All-Ireland Colleges
Junior 'B' Camogie Final

St Mary's SS Nenagh 5-6
Loretto Collge, Wexford 0-4

Report and photographs by
Rose Mannion at Freshford

To proudly hold up an All-Ireland Cup on your birthday is indeed a great way to celebrate the occasion for the captain of any team. Such was the case on Saturday last in Freshford when the captain of the victorious St. Mary's of Nenagh, Danielle Slattery lifted the All-Ireland Junior "B" cup and also turned 16 years of age.

While the impressive scoreline suggests an easy victory for St. Mary's, it was far from so as Loretto of Wexford made the Nenagh girls fight all the way for this success and indeed it wasn't until the final ten minutes that St. Mary's went on a goal-scoring spree to put the game well beyond their opponents.

A 17-point winning margin was no more than St. Mary's deserved against a Loretto side who despite some great individual displays, were denied on a number of occasions by the brilliant St. Mary's netminder Aine Lucey.

Throughout the entire campaign, this capable goalkeeper never conceded a goal. Loretto struck like a train coming out of a tunnel for the first twenty minutes but St. Mary's full back Lisa Shoer and centre back Caoimhe Maher performed heroically and were ably assisted by their defensive team-mates.

Lining out without

Riana Minogue - absent through illness - a reliable Ciara McGrath filled in and all fifteen of St. Mary's team blended well and this stood to them in abundance when they came under fierce pressure from Loretto's mid-field pairing of twins Linda and Lisa Bolger.

The very cold cross pitch breeze served no use to either side who served up a wonderful display of sheer skill on a lovely well manicured Freshford pitch. Though Loretto began well with a point in the seventh minute and enjoyed great spells of possession, they should have had more scores in the first quarter as St. Mary's took their time to settle and find a stride to suit.

Twelve minutes into play Amy Kennedy levelled the sides and St. Mary's were fully rewarded when Loretto keeper Maire Claire Morris saved a great shot and sent back out where Amy Kennedy was waiting and the result was to rattle the Loretto net and ignite the spirits of St. Mary's supporters and her team-mates.

A quick point from Lisa Bolger at the other end left two between the sides and with eight minutes remaining in this half Loretto forced a 45 which Lisa Bolger converted. St. Mary's had a chance just minutes later to pull ahead but were unfortunate with the effort. However, Brid



St. Mary's Amy Kennedy - who bagged 2-2 on the day - is challenged for possession by Loretto College's Siobhan O'Regan and Linda Bolger.

Quinn fed full forward Gemma Grace, who settled for palming the ball over the bar.

With less than a minute remaining in this half, St. Mary's second goal was set up out field when Mary Walsh passed to Danielle Slattery where Amy Kennedy took possession and she managed to get the ball to Gemma Grace. The full forward passed back to an unmarked Amy Kennedy who gave the Loretto keeper no chance and to leave the half time score St. Mary's 2-2, Loretto College 0-3.

Loretto found themselves in serious trouble when they set up three great efforts to draw closer in the opening five minutes but all were wasted and it was obvious their spirits were ebbing when Gemma Grace pulled her side further ahead in the seventh minute.

Brid Quinn and Danielle Slattery were

winning more possession now in midfield and St. Mary's were beginning to show their class when Emily Bergin lofted the ball over for another point.

The Bolger twins set up an Loretto attack where Celine Creane was hoping to salvage a goal but Niamh Slattery was having none of it and worked the ball upfield. Amy Kennedy made sure that the final result was now becoming more clearer as she fired over.

St. Mary's were now in the driving seat and were attacking with huge confidence and Gemma Grace split the uprights after Mary Dillon and Laura Power did the spadework. Loretto only managed one point in the second half which came from Lisa Bolger as St. Mary's went on to score a further three goals - the first coming from Gemma Grace after Emily Bergin did the ground work. Goal number two followed after Laura Power dropped the ball into substitute Siobhan Peters who saw

her ground stroke slip over the line and into the net. The game closed when Gemma Grace netted after Emily Bergin and Amy Kennedy engineered the score and the whistle sounded victory for St. Mary's.

This is St. Mary's seventh All-Ireland final to win between the Junior and Senior grades, their first back in 1991 and is a great tribute to their respective clubs and most especially to their manager Ger Dullea.

Overall, while the game was hard fought, St. Mary's showed a better display of skill and fitness over the hour and all quarters of the pitch was very capable while they also allowed the ball to do the work compared to Loretto who fought hard but lacked balance.

Camogie in St. Mary's is looking good for the future and without doubt, so many of these young players deserve a place on any of the county teams so lets hope we see them in action through the year at some level.



Paddy Butler representing the Colleges camogie committee presents the All-Ireland cup to St. Mary's captain Danielle Slattery.

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Lisa Shoer (St. Mary's)

Scorers: St. Mary's: Gemma Grace 2-3; Amy Kennedy 2-2; Siobhan Peters 1-0; Emily Bergin 0-1.
Loretto: Lisa Bolger 0-4, 1-45.

St. Mary's SS: Aine Lucey; Niamh Slattery, Lisa Shoer, Aine O'Carroll; Mary Dillon, Caoimhe Maher, Mary Walsh; Brid Quinn, Danielle Slattery (Captain); Amy Kennedy, Laura Power, Ciara McGrath; Emily Bergin, Gemma Grace, Sarah Cunneen. Subs: Paula Kelly for M Dillon; Siobhan Peters for C McGrath; Maria Kennedy for E Bergin; Ciara McGrath for L Power (inj).

Loretto College: Maire Claire Morris; Niamh Boggan, Marie Doran, Sarah Jo Kenny; Maria Leacy, Clara McGuinness, Siobhan O'Regan; Linda Bolger (Captain), Lisa Bolger; Rachel Creane, Aoife Shiel, Laura Warren; Celine Creane, Susie McGovern, Mairead Sutton. Subs: Alison Murphy for R Creane, Dervla Nimmo for M Sutton, Katie Moore for S McGovern, Hannah Cleary for C Creane, Roisin Barden for L Warren, and with agreement their last two subs Rebecca Roche for SJ Kenny, Ciara Walsh for M Leacy.

Referee: C. Quigley (Kildare).

Camogie



TIPPERARY

The April meeting of the Camogie County Board was held recently in the Ragg with a large attendance from all clubs. The main message from this meeting was the news that a new sponsor for our County Senior Camogie team was secured. O'wain Drought of O'wain Drought New & Used car sales Templemore Road, Roscrea has come on board to sponsor our Seniors for 2008. Mr. Drought has long been a fan of camogie in the County and was delighted to be associated with the Board & team & looked forward to a successful campaign for the team as they prepare for the Championship. Chairman, Lar O'Brien welcomed the sponsorship & wished Mr. Drought all the best in his business. Patsy Carroll from Roscrea was also commended for her effort & hard work in securing this sponsorship deal.

It was also passed at the meeting that for the rest of the year a nominal fee of €2 would be charged to all patrons attending all games at all grades. The collection of this money would be the responsibility of the home team and the co-operation of all clubs is vital in this effort. This money will go directly to the County Treasurer to help with the everyday running and costs of the various competitions. County semi & finals will have a charge of €5 as was always the case. We look forward to the support of all the patrons in this matter which will help the Board continue promote the game of Camogie in the County.

Congratulations also to the Holycross Intermediate Camogie team who travelled to London and won the Tara tournament. The National Congress was held recently in Athlone and the County Board was represented. One of the items which was passed was the increase in fees of registration for clubs to €300 starting in April 2009. Also, as this is the final year in Liz Howard's presidency Tipperary will host congress next year in March 2009. Venue will be decided at a later stage. Preparations are now at a final stage for this Thursday's April 10th Fashion Show in the Premier Ballroom Thurles at 7.30pm. A huge amount of work has been put into the organising of this night from the Models who have given up their time to the Fashion shops & everyone behind the scenes. Tickets can be purchased on the door so please support our fundraising effort.

Club match results

Junior A League;

Knockavilla 2-03, Annacarty 1-06, Moycarkey 3-6, Lorrha 0-8, (Cashel have pulled out of this competition so Duharra had a bye), Intermediate Lge Holycross 1-09, Bournea 1-02

Club Fixtures; Senior League April 11th 7.00pm

Cashel v Toomevara, Duharra v Silvermines, Shannon Rvrs v Moneygall

Intermediate league April 10th 7.00pm

Holycross v Toomevara, Templemore v Bournea

Junior League A, April 11th 7.00pm

Duharra v Knockavilla, Annacarty v Moycarkey, Lorrha Bye

Junior B League April 13th 12noon

Moneygall v Kilruane, Shannon Rvrs v Silvermines, Newport v Kildangan, Boherlahan v Moyle Rvrs, Cahir v Clonoulty, Drom v Thurles

U14A C-ship April 16th 7.00pm

Silvermines v Burgess, Toomevara v Thurles

U14B C-ship April 16th 7.00pm

Slievenamon v Clonoulty, Brian Borus v Boherlahan, Kilruane v Drom, St Cronans v Moneygall

U14C C-ship April 15th 7.00pm

Carrig Swan v Moyle Rvrs, Cahir v New Inn, Nenagh v Kildangan, Lorrha v Shannon Rvrs, Newport v Templemore, Borrisoleigh v Portroe, Ballingarry v Holycross, Knockavilla v Moycarkey

U14C April 12th 11.00am

Annacarty v Knockavilla

Home clubs are reminded of their responsibility to submit final scores to both PRO & fixtures Secretary & also to organise the gate collection at all games.

LORRHA

Junior: We played our first League match against a strong Moycarkey side in their home grounds on Sunday last. Even though there was a very strong wind and playing in bad conditions, the girls worked hard and did their best but were narrowly defeated in the end. Best for Lorrha was Catherine O'Meara, Michelle Moran and Aoife Brady. The girls will take both the good and the bad from this match and build on towards their next match which will be the weekend of the 18th of April and a home venue.

Training is on this Thursday night at 7.30pm sharp. Full attendance needed. Anyone who cant make it let either Conor or Katie know.

Collection: We are having a Church Gate Collection for Lorrha Camogie Club this weekend, 12/13 April in Rathcabbin, Lorrha and Redwood. We would greatly appreciate your support.



Linda Mellerick



The Cork camogie management team will be hoping that Mary O'Connor will be back sooner rather than later after losing a number of key players this season.

There may be trouble ahead

CORK have a lot of work to do before June.

The 2008 championship kicks off on June 1 with an away game to Dublin.

Four teams will emerge with a draw then made to decide the All Ireland semi-finals.

With only seven teams involved, you could almost pre-determine who won't make the semi-final stages.

Limerick and Dublin won't progress and you would expect the third victim to be either Tipperary or Galway.

Ignore the fact that Galway have reached this year's league final. Their group was pitifully weak; playing just Limerick and Tipperary to advance.

Based on Cork's league performances to date, they too would struggle to advance if the competition was tougher.

It now seems that Emer Dillon won't wear the red and white jersey in 2008.

Work commitments in Dublin prevent her from realistically giving 100% and she has decided not to make herself available for the forthcoming championship.

It is unlikely Anna Geary will return home from Luxembourg.

If she does, it'll be towards the latter end of the season. Mary O'Connor is gaining ground with her leg injury but in truth no one really knows how fast her recovery will be.

Breige Corkery, it is hoped, will make a return. Add to this star forward Jennifer O'Leary, who is heading to Australia in June, and in reality the panel Cork had for the league looks very much like the side they will have for the championship.

And they are struggling, particularly up front. Last year, Cork's management didn't have the quality of players on the bench that they would have liked.

There were no players who can pull a game out of the fire with a critical point or two. Now, having lost another four or five of last year's starting 15, we're in trouble.

I fail to see why Cork insist on trying out players who have been around for a number of years now.

They are more than aware of what these players are capable of and while these players may

have given Cork great service over the years at various grades they are not of senior A standing.

With the amount of clubs in Cork there must be young players out there with a bright future. Where are they?

I'd prefer to see Cork laying low on the trophy front for a few years but building all the time than witness us trying to force an average team together and sneak an All Ireland. Indeed we might well sneak an All Ireland in 2008 but only because the competition is poor. What about the future?

Muskerry took county honours in 2007 and yet only three of that squad are on the senior panel.

Catriona Foley and Sile Burns have been there for a few years now and Linda Dorgan stepped up from division two to join the panel. Other than that, Muskerry's championship run seems to have thrown up no other player capable of making the senior grade. Well that's what the current selection is telling us.

The O'Herlihy's, Margaret and Ellen, and Denise Cronin of Ballincollig had commendable 2007

championship campaigns.

Denise had a superb county final and is currently doing her Leaving Cert. She's surely worth a look in June and might emulate her brother Pa, who played for Gerald McCarthy's side last year.

Margaret got three points in the county final of top quality, a quality we are presently lacking on the inter-county front. They won't become stars overnight but the potential is there.

The Cork management are currently finding it difficult to field a strong starting 15. Because of this the options on the bench aren't there. It has been proven so many times that the strength of a squad is determined by who's sitting on the bench. It's looks as if the entire 2007 club championship brought no future Cork senior player to the forefront. And that is a frightening scenario.

The fixture list detailed as follows: June 1 — Dublin v Cork, June 22 — Wexford v Cork, July 5 — Cork v Tipperary, July 13 — Cork v Galway, July 20 — Cork v Limerick, July 27 — Kilkenny v Cork

● **TOMORROW'S** game with Limerick has been postponed as Limerick are unable to field a team.

CLUB NOTES

ST VINCENT'S

TRAINING TIMES: U5, 6 and 7, Tuesday, 6-7pm; U11, Wednesday, 6-7pm; U10, Thursday, 5-6pm; U12, Thursday, 6-7pm, U14, Monday, 6-7pm.

New members are always welcome and if you want to join or even find out information just come up at the relevant time to the club complex on Kilmore road. New volunteers also welcome and if you want to pass away some free time come up and help out.

ST CATHERINE'S

U14 Leagues

Our U14 team travelled to Na Piar-saigh to play their first league game. Na Piar-saigh dominated the first half and scored 3-2 while Catherine's failed to raise a flag. A much-improved performance in the second half saw them hold Na Piar-saigh scoreless and notch up 1-3 with Rachel O'Callaghan scoring 1-1 and Leanne Bumster adding two points, as it finished 3-2 to 1-3.

Team: R Spillane; E Murphy, C McAuliffe, M Kirby; L Ahern, M Galvin, E O'Brien; R O'Callaghan, M Mulcahy; K Mellerick, L Bumster, A Fitzgerald; N Coughlan, K England, A O'Brien.

Subs: M O'Connor for A Fitzgerald, L Leahy for L Ahern, K Mulcahy, E Roche, J O'Keefe.

U16 C League

On Monday, Catherine's travelled to Riverstown to take on Sarsfields in their third league match. This was Catherine's most difficult game to date and they came out on the wrong side of a 5-3 to 1-5 scoreline. Catherine's started well and were three points to no score in front but in a three-minute spell conceded four goals before half-time. The second half was closely contested, with both sides adding 1-2 to their tallies. Well done to the girls on a good performance against a very strong side.

Team: C McAuliffe; E Murphy, C Clancy, M Kirby; N O'Donoghue, F Cotter, A Ahern; R O'Callaghan, J Mangan; S Gallagher, F Neville, M Mulcahy; L Leahy, E Neville, K Mellerick.

Subs: H Leahy for L Leahy
Scorers: F Neville 0-4, K Mellerick 1-0, F Cotter 0-1.

GLEN ROVERS

U16

Our U16 team travelled to Passage last weekend for their third game in the league series. A close opening half saw the sides evenly matched as we turned over leading by two points, 0-5 to 1-0. Despite playing against the wind in the second half we knuckled down to the task in hand and goals from Sinead O'Halloran and Sinead Fahy plus points from the three Sinead's, Fahy, O'Halloran and Gallen, and one from Nicole O'Brien ensured we came away with the points on offer. Next weekend we travel to Rockban to play our fourth game in the series more about that in next weeks notes.

U14

Our U14 squad open their league campaign with a trip to Ovens to meet Eire Og tomorrow evening, players to meet at club at 5.30. In the week ahead we have a game against Inniscarra on Thursday so plenty of games ahead.

U12

We field two U12 teams again this year and despite an excellent display of commitment and dedication, our first team lost out to Fr O'Neill's in their opening game of the league. With the full-time whistle just two minutes away the game was level but two late goals gave the points to Fr O'Neill's despite the best efforts of Emily McCarthy, Cioe Noonan, Aisling O'Brien and Niamh McCarthy. Today we welcome Brian Dillon's as visitors to the Glen Field at 11am as games continue.

Our second team is made up of our very young players but they enjoyed their outing to Aghabullogue where they met a very strong squad. With most teams only fielding one team our second string are going to meet strong opposition but this certainly did not bother them as they gave it their all with players such as Kelly Falvey, Nicole Cummins, Niamh Kelly and Yvonne Kelleher very much to the fore. Games continued with a visit from Ballyhea last evening update next week on this.

Senior

With league games pencilled in to begin on April 23rd where we will meet Valley Rovers in our first game our senior squad had their first work out for the year when we welcome Ballinhassig to the Glen Field. In a closely contested game we ran out winners with three points to spare. It was a good work out for both teams and no doubt we will meet again in the season ahead.

Training

U6 to 12 year olds. Sunday morning 11.45am and Tuesday nights, 5.45-7pm. New members welcome.

U13/14 teams. Friday in Glen Field, starting at 5.45pm sharp and Sunday mornings at 11.45am.

Senior/Junior, minor and U16 teams, Wednesdays, 7pm sharp.

We look forward to welcoming everybody and invite new members to come along and join.

ST FINBARR'S

St Finbarr's made good progress in the 2007 senior league in the past week. They enjoyed a convincing victory over Courcey Rovers at Ballinspittle by 3-8 to

0-5. Niamh Cooke turned in an excellent hour at full-forward, where she helped herself to 2-2. Catherine Barrett caught the eye at left half-back. She cleared a lot of ball with fine ground strokes while Rachel Myers made a worthwhile contribution with 1-1.

Last Sunday we travelled to Milford where we were very slow to get into the game the first quarter belonged to Milford they had 2-1 on the scoreboard before we opened our account.

Despite suffering the effects of flu, Gemma O'Connor was very influential in swinging the game around. Her excellent striking, from both play and frees, contributed 10 points. The whole team put their shoulders to the wheel in the second half and eked out a two-point win. Valerie Maher put 1-1 on the board and Claire Spellman added a point.

The reward for their efforts was a place in the 2007 senior league final against Barryroe.

Our U12 side played their opening game of the season against Courcey Rovers at Togher. The visitors were the more skilful team and took command of the game from the throw-in. Indeed only for the many saves made by the Barrs goalie, Naomi Collins, the outcome would have been worse. Alison Leisk, Orla McCarthy and Erin Ryan worked hard to stem the tide.

DOUGLAS

Pan-Celtic Festival

Well done to our U16 A team, who recorded a fantastic win recently as they took the Pan-Celtic U16 A title in Donegal. This team has won three All-Ireland titles since 2006 - All Ireland Féile na nGael 2006, All-Ireland Community Games 2006 and now Pan-Celtic 2008. Well done to all the team, with superb performances by Pamela and Katrina Mackey and Ailin O'Donovan, who all played big roles throughout the competition.

There was an outstanding performance by all those who played in the final against a very tough, strong and physical Ardarahe of Galway side. Ciara Lynch, Lorraine McCarthy, Emily O'Sullivan, Sinead Duggan, Rebecca Casey and Alison Peate stood shoulder-to-shoulder when necessary and contested great ball in our back line. Up front, the sheer guts and determination of Clare Shine, Lauren Jackson, Holly Bradley, Shannon Dempsey and Niamh O'Donoghue never gave up and of course, not forgetting the one and only Aine O'Donovan in goal.

Our subs Liz Olden, Sinead Bevan, Deirdre Cotter, Ellen Shine, and Clodagh Duggan all played a part in getting us to the final of this competition, even our surprise full forward Sarah Kavanagh, who normally plays amongst the back line, got a rocket of a goal in our first round game against Keady of Armagh. Well done to all of the team and their trainers Pat Peate and Tina and Ger Sheehan. The girls would also like to thank all those who sponsored our trip to Donegal and also would like to all those who travelled up with us.

U13 A Seandún final

The U13 A final of 2007 was played in Blackrock on Easter Monday. Douglas opened with a point from Laura O'Brien. Blackrock replied with a goal from a free that dropped in just under the bar. Another free secured a goal for Douglas' Emma Kavanagh, which saw Douglas lead by one point at half-time with a score of 1-1 to 1-0.

In the second half Blackrock levelled the score with a point, only for Douglas' Ellen Martin to get a goal in a frenzied scramble, eventually putting the ball securely in to the back of the net. The mid-field fought hard throughout the match, with great performances from Emma Kavanagh and Rachel McCarthy.

Erin Lynch at centre-back worked tirelessly from start to finish while Amy Curbin held her corner back position with mighty Douglas' defence stood firm with Jess Horgan, Eadaoin O'Gerain and captain Roisin Quinn helping to keep any of Blackrock's attacks at bay. Blackrock never gave up the chase and two attacks from their forward line put Douglas under pressure again. Keeper Chelsea Noonan pulled off two magnificent saves to see the full time score of 2-1 to 1-1. A great performance on the day by both teams, Douglas holding out in the end to bring the U13 A title home to Douglas.

MUSKERRY

The division held its AGM recently in Ovens where the following officers were elected.

Chairperson: Mairead Donovan (Ballincollig); vice-chairperson: Sean Twohig (Inniscarra); secretary: Rose Malone (Eire Og); Treasurer: Bernice O'Brien (Blaney).

It was a positive meeting and clubs will be notified over the coming weeks of the new underage playing structure. Congratulations to Con Malone on his election as selector for the Cork senior team; to Catriona Foley as captain of the Cork senior team and to Sile Burns as vice-captain.

All clubs were wished well for the 2008 season.

Good luck to the Muskerry U16 team for the divisional championship to be held today Saturday, April 12 and to their selectors Sean Twohig (Inniscarra), Con Malone (Eire Og) and Dan Joe Foley (Rockban).

COMPILED BY MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Mary Newman

Barryroe goals help them to first league crown

Barryroe
St Finbarrs3-7
1-9

BARRYROE finally came of age as they took their first senior title, the 2007 league crown, as they defeated St Finbarr's in an entertaining contest in Ballincollig on Friday.

Goals are vital and can sometimes win games, and with Barryroe grabbing three they carved out a four point victory in their semi-final clash with Cloughduv with Jennifer O'Leary showing her class.

Barrs had an over reliance on Gemma O'Connor who had a magnificent hour for the Barrs, notching up a personal contribution of eight points, and it was Gemma who struck four of their first half five with Valerie Maher contributing one as Barryroe led 2-4 to 0-5 at the interval.

Through the opening half Barryroe worked hard to lay the foundations for victory, vital goals from Rosalie Holland and Elaine McCarthy helped keep their noses in

front, while Jennifer O'Leary Rosemary Dineen and Rosalie Holland hit points as Barryroe made the early running.

O'Connor and Isla Dineen traded early first half points and a Valerie Maher goal inside eight minutes of the restart had the lead down to two points. Fighting to hold on Barryroe again looked to Jennifer O'Leary and she duly obliged with a point to stretch it to three. A goal from Ger Collins again had Barryroe in control and Jennifer O'Leary pointed in

reply to Gemma O'Connor for the Barrs.

Barrs battled to break down the Barryroe defence, but they held solid. Gemma O'Connor pointed twice, but the Barryroe girls stood firm denying St Finbarr's the goal they needed to stage a late rally.

And so a first senior crown for Barryroe since their elevation to senior status 10 years ago, but what a pity that this will possibly be the last time this season we will see the talented senior inter-county player

Jennifer O'Leary in action with the club as she plans to emigrate for 12 months in June, a huge loss to Barryroe and Cork.

Barryroe: E White; E Carroll, A M Fleming, L McCarthy; K McCarthy, C Dineen, A O'Donoghue; J Dineen, N O'Driscoll; R Holland, R Dineen, G Collins; J O'Leary, E McCarthy, P Moloney. Scorers: J O'Leary 0-4 (0-2p 0-1 f 0-1 45"), R Holland 1-1, G Collins and E McCarthy 1-0 each, R Dineen 1, Dineen 0-1 each.
St Finbarr's: E Clifford; C Harrington, M McCarthy, C Sargent, L O Connell Harris, C Barrett; B Maher, J Duffy, R Myers Spellman; Hosford; V Maher, O Connor, N Cooke. Sub C Myers for C Sargent. Scorers: G O'Connor 0-8 (0-4f 0-4 p), V Maher 1-1.

St. Mary's All-Ireland Junior B Camogie Champions



St. Mary's All Ireland Junior "B" Camogie champions with manager Ger Dullea after they beat Loreto Wexford. See match report on page 13. Photograph: Rose Mannion

Nenagh Guardian
Player of the Week

Lisa Shoer who was outstanding at full-back and helped St Mary's Secondary School win the All-Ireland Colleges Junior B Camogie final.

Sportsman's Dream sponsor St. Mary's



Deirdre Hughes presenting a set of jerseys sponsored by Sportmans Dream to Danielle Slattery captain of St. Mary's Junior All-Ireland winning team and Ger Dullea manager. Photograph: Donal Quinn

Camogie
Chat

by Mary Newman

Douglas take minor title

DOUGLAS edged out Ballincollig to take the Tower View Developments 2007 minor recently, leading by nine points at the interval they had to withstand a strong second half Ballincollig rally to hang on with a point to spare.

It took a late Julia White goal and a point from Katrina Mackey to secure the title after Douglas had led 2-4 to 0-1 at the break. Ballincollig rallied from the restart and four points without reply had them back in contention. A Holly Coomey goal and a

Patricia Buttimer had the margin down to one. Douglas with their backs to the wall battled back Julia White set up Katrina Mackey for their third goal the margin was again at four.

Ballincollig replied with goal and a point to draw level. With seven minutes remaining Julia White had Douglas back in front with a goal Katrina Mackey stretched it to four points but Ballincollig hit back with a Holly Coomey's goal but it came too late as the clock beat the brave Ballincollig revival.

Seandun three in a row

THREE in a row for Seandun as they retained the inter divisional under 16 crown defeating Carrighoun in an exciting final. Five divisional sides were joined by a team representing Kerry as they battled it out through the day for places in the final at the finish Seandun and Carrighoun made it through.

After an exciting contest it was Seandun who led at the finish to record three in a row. Well done to selectors Dave O'Connell Glen Rovers Liam O'Sullivan Passage and Liz O'Mahony Brian Dillon and to their charges, congratulations to all concerned who participated in a great day's camogie.

Well done Lisa



Congratulations to Lisa Shoer whose player of the match performance at full back was instrumental in helping St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh win the All Ireland Colleges Junior B Camogie Final over Wexford's Loretto College. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

Camogie



TIPPERARY

Tipperary Senior Camogie had a very emphatic win over a gallant Waterford side last Sunday in the Munster Semi Final. They now await the winners of Cork and Limerick in the final fixed for May 5th.

The fashion show held last week in Thurles was a massive success and well done to all involved. The night itself was enjoyed by the large attendance and the general comment of the patrons present was that they were already looking forward to next year's event. A special thanks to all the shops who displayed their fashions and donated vouchers and clothes for the raffle and auction, to the models who gave of their time, to the caretaker of the Premier hall for all their assistance in this superb venue, Don Andrews and his team who put the stage & lighting & sound together in such a professional manner and to all who supported this venture.

A reminder to all clubs who may still have ticket money outstanding to please send it to Treasurer Rose Mannion straight away so she can have a full report for the May County Board meeting.

Club Results

Junior A League: Knockavilla 4-06, Duharra 2-04, Moycarkey 0-04
 Annacarty 1-05
 Junior B League: Moneygall 4-04, Kilruane 2-05, Moyle Rvrs 3-06
 Boherlahan 0-11, Clonoulty 1-08 Cahir 1-04
 Intermediate League: Bournea 2-05 Templemore 1-03
 U14C C.ship: Knockavilla 6-03 Annacarty 1-00
 U14B C.ship: St Cronans 5-04 Drom 1-04, Moneygall 1-00 Kilruane 1-00, Clonoulty 4-06 Brian Borus 2-04

Club fixtures

Intermediate League, April 18th 7.00pm: Bournea v Slievenamon, Toomevara v Templemore
 Junior A League April 18th 7pm: Duharra v Moycarkey, Lorrha v Annacarty, Knockavilla Bye
 Junior B League April 20th 12noon: Kilruane v Shannon Rvrs, Silvermines v Moneygall, Kildangan v St Cronans, Moyle Rvrs v Cahir, Clonoulty v Boherlahan
 U14A C.ship April 23rd 7pm: Burgess v Toomevara, Thurles v Silvermines
 U14B C.ship April 23rd 7pm: Boherlahan v Clonoulty, Slievenamon v Brian Borus, Moneygall v Drom, Kilruane v St Cronans
 U14C April 22nd 7pm: Moyle Rvrs v Cahir, New Inn v Carrick Swans, Kildangan v Lorrha, Shannon Rvrs v Nenagh, Portroe v Ballina, Templemore v Borrisoleigh, Moycarkey v Annacarty, Holycross v Knockavilla

A reminder to all clubs who host a game in all grades that it is their responsibility to collect the €2 entrance fee for the County Board. This has been passed at a County Board meeting so all clubs are expected to play their part in this matter. Also, please note the following change in phone number for the PRO Kieran Slattery: 0877934071. e-mail: kieran.slattery1@eircom.net

LORRHA

Training: Training continues on Wednesday nights at 8pm sharp. Full turnout needed.

Collection: Thanks to all those who contributed to the Church-Gate collection at the weekend.

Munster Senior Camogie Championship Semi-Final

Tipperary's easy passage to Munster decider

Munster Senior Camogie Championship Semi-final

Tipperary 5-23 Waterford 0-4

Report and Photographs by Rose Mannion at The Ragg

In a Munster Semi-Final where the outcome was never in any doubt, Tipperary had a very easy win over a very disappointing Waterford side at a showy Ragg Hurling Pitch on Sunday last.

This was a totally one sided affair and served no purpose to Tipperary whatsoever. It was not even a good challenge game and surely Waterford must be feeling that the trip to Tipp while useful to them, was also demoralising.

The Tipp side was at its very best throughout the field and while Waterford had some fine players in the likes of Jenny O'Grady, Charlotte Raher, Nicola Morrissey and Aine Breathnach, they needed a lot more to curtail Trish O'Halloran, Philly Fogarty, Cora Hennessy, Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan, Mairead Morrissey and Joanne Ryan, all of whom were on song and unstoppable as they walked through the Waterford defence.

The Tipp class weren't long before taking control, and when all of the six Tipperary forwards cut off supply from the visitors back line and they made it all look so easy as they

fired over point after point. For many another side who would have thrown in the towel, Waterford however kept plugging away, as it was a good challenge for them.

Within a minute of the throw in, Mairead Morrissey split the uprights to register Tipp's opener, while without delay at the other end, Mairead Murphy cancelled it out. It looked as if this was going to be a close opener, when Jill Horan sent Tipp ahead two minutes later but then the killer blow came for Waterford when Claire Grogan netted after Philly Fogarty and Emily Hayden did the spade work.

There was very little competition in the centre as the ball came back in, it was Joanne Ryan who sent Tipp further ahead and in the eight minute Joanne Ryan had registered another point.

Waterford had a chance to keep in touch when they won a free but Sally O'Grady's effort fell short and Suzanne Kelly sent the ball back out where Siobhan Ryan's shot fell to Emily Hayden and passing to Joanne Ryan



Tipp's Sabrina Larkin is challenged by Waterford's Tanya Morrissey as during the Munster Senior Camogie Semi-Final in The Ragg on Sunday last.

who placed the ball on the hurley, took off on a solo run and making a bee line towards goal she gave the Waterford keeper Aisling O'Brien not a chance.

Waterford rallied and set up an attack which earned them a free and Trish Jackman sent over to keep the side in contact. A second chance to draw closer went out for wide and the gap widened further when the visitors fouled and Claire Grogan did what she does best.

Four minutes into the second quarter Siobhan Ryan dropped a long ball into the forwards where Mairead Morrissey picked out Joanne Ryan who lofted over to widen the gap. Tipperary made it all look so easy and when they won a 45, Claire Grogan dropped the ball short where full forward Mairead Morrissey whipped to the back of the Waterford net.

For a short time, the visitors enjoyed some possession and Sally O'Grady recorded Waterford's third point in the half and they also had some wasted ball but Tipp keeper Paula Ryan never had it so easy. Tipp too also wasted but over the remaining twelve minutes of the half, the Tipp backs were rarely bothered as the side recorded a further

1-08; Claire Grogan (4), Joanne Ryan (1-3), Mairead Morrissey (1), without reply as Waterford just failed to put up a challenge.

Leading by 4-14 to Waterford's 0-3, Tipperary's newly introduced sub Aoife McLoughney opened the Premier County's account within a minute when she split the uprights after Jill Horan did the spade work.

Waterford were to record just one point in this half which came from Aine Breathnach three minutes into time and the home side went on a further scoring spree record-

ing eight further points and one goal, Philly Fogarty (0-2), Rose Kennelly (0-20), Mairead Morrissey (0-4) and Geraldine Stapleton (1-0) as the heavens opened and the cold rain poured down. The sound of the final whistle brought great relief to a Waterford side who have huge mountains to climb.

Tipperary now go on to the Munster final on May 4th where the opposition is not yet known as the Cork and Limerick game failed to materialise.

Match Digest

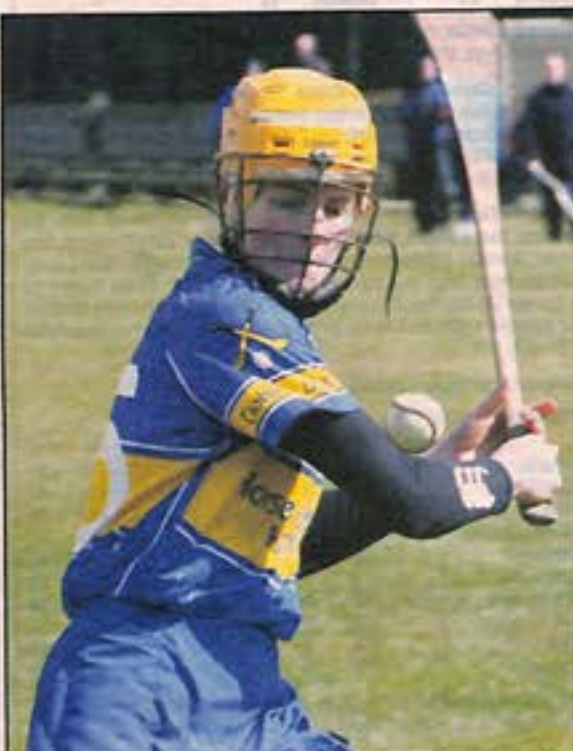
Player of the Match: Joanne Ryan (Tipperary)

Scorers: Tipperary: Joanne Ryan 2-6; Mairead Morrissey 1-6; Claire Grogan 1-5, 0-2 frees; Geraldine Stapleton 1-0; Philly Fogarty, Rose Kennelly 0-2 each; Jill Horan, Aoife McLoughney 0-1 each.
 Waterford: Mairead Murphy, Trish Jackman, Sally O'Grady, Aine Breathnach 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Paula Ryan; Marie Tynan, Suzanne Kelly, Paula Bullfin; Michelle Shortt, Trish O'Halloran, Mary Ryan; Philly Fogarty, Siobhan Ryan; Cora Hennessy, Emily Hayden, Jill Horan; Claire Grogan, Mairead Morrissey, Joanne Ryan. Subs: Geraldine Kinnane for J Ryan, Aoife McLoughney for C Grogan, Sabrina Larkin for M Tynan, Geraldine Stapleton for M Ryan, Clara Johnston for E Hayden.

Waterford: Aisling O'Brien; Aisling Kelly, Lisa Prendergast, Vicky Gaffney; Jenny O'Grady, Aileen Cummins, Annette Raher; Charlotte Raher, Sally O'Grady; Nicola Morrissey, Jenny Simpson, Mairead Murphy; Aine Breathnach, Trish Jackman, Kate Marie Hearn. Subs: Tanya Morrissey for K M Hearn, Ailish Dunphy for V Gaffney.

Referee: Oliver Webb (Cork).



Player of the match Joanne Ryan scored 2-6 against Waterford in the Munster Semi-Final and she set up as many more scores.

APRIL 2008

FLOWER GIRLS



At yesterday's launch of the Coillte Camogie Development squads at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, were, from left: Waterford's Colleen Patterson; Antrim's Orla O'Hara; Cavan's Roisin Dunne; Roscommon's Laura Dowd; Wexford's Louise Stafford; Carlow's Ciara Quirke; Louth's Emer Murray and Down's Leona McGarry.

Picture: Stephen McCarthy



St Mary's Secondary School junior camogie panel who defeated Loreto (Wexford) in the All-Ireland 'B' Final pictured with the Munster & All-Ireland silverware. Back row: (l to r) - Lisa Shoer, Caoimhe Maher, Maria Kennedy, Mary Walsh, Amy Kennedy, Aine O'Carroll, Brid Quinn, Paula Kelly, Riana Minogue, Siobhan Peters. Middle row: Ger Dullea (Manager), Aine Lucey, Lisa Mulqueen, Sarah Cunneen, Ciara Holohan, Gemma Grace, Sarah Murray, Eadaoin Hackett, Niamh Slattery. Front: Ciara McGrath, Rebecca White, Laura Power, Emily Bergin, Danielle Slattery (captain), Mary Dillon, Rachel Kennedy, Gemma Morris, Sarah Maher, Catriona O'Connor. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

ST BRENDA'S CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!!

After a scrumptious meal and entertaining delivery of the odes of the Bard of Armagh Jimmy Rafferty, the evening's formal presentations were conducted by Club Vice Chairperson Sally Rafferty. Sally's first job was St Brenda's Club Chairperson



Jacqueline McParland was called to come forward for a personal presentation. The organisation and preparation for the night by the Clubs Gals Organising Committee was outstanding, but there was no-one more involved in the excellence of the evening than Jacqueline McParland who left no stone unturned and whose fingerprints were on every aspect of the evening. The outstanding contribution of Jacqueline was recognised on the night to popular applause.

The Players of the late 30's

The six ladies of the 1938-1940 era of camogie in Ballymacnab were recognised for their contribution to the playing and development of the game in the area. Mary Kerr (formerly Rocks) was presented with a commemorative print of the history of camogie in Ballymacnab by one of today's underage players- Kate McGivern. Molly McClelland (formerly Mackin) was presented to by her granddaughter and current camogie great Mairead McClelland, Sarah McKee, better known as Mairie McKee (formerly Short) was represented on the evening by her daughter Elizabeth, who received her mothers award from underage player and grandniece Michelle McParland, Lizzie Beagan (formerly Cassidy) was presented to on the night by underage player Elish Canavan, Rose Frances Lambkin (formerly Cunningham) was represented by family friend Colette McCusker who received Rose Frances' award from Jayne Lavery and last but by no means least, Beatrice Short (formerly Cosgrove) was presented to by her grand daughter and current senior star of the back line Mairead Short.

All of these six great women have made their own mark on camogie in Ballymacnab and their presence on the night greatly added to the occasion. Thanks were expressed on the night to one of these ladies, Mary Kerr who was a great source of information in the weeks running up to the Gala. Mary's memory is still as sharp as her wit and her input to the success of the evening cannot be measured. Thanks to all of our six ladies of the 1930's for your work for camogie in Ballymacnab, the current generation of players will strive to keep strong the tradition that you were so involved in all those years ago.

Liz Howard- President of Cumann Camogaiachta na nGael

The main special guest of the evening was Liz Howard- President of Cumann Camogaiachta na nGael. Liz gave a very good speech which recognised the great work of the Ballymacnab club in the past but also to the sterling efforts that continue today, with three of the club's members being qualified as Coaching Tutors. She thanked in particular Gerard Gribben, for his work as Development Officer for Cumann Camogaiachta na nGael. Liz reminded all present of the contribution that a club like St Brenda's makes to the community as a whole. Liz then remained on the platform to make the presentations to the team of 1968.

Short history of camogie in Ballymacnab

After a number of barren years of camogie in the Nab during the 40's and early 50's the game was again started up in the late 1950's when another batch of players came to the fore. This team was successful in 1959 winning their league when beating the famous Blackwater town team in the final but however after this short successful run, camogie in Ballymacnab experienced another lean period. It was great to see three members of this 1950's team at our Anniversary gala- the great Ethne Rice (nee McParland), the great Maureen O'Keefe (nee Beagan) and the great Patricia Boyle (nee Beagan).

Camogie became active in Ballymacnab again in 1968 when the club was reformed under the Chairmanship of the present Club President Brendan Harvey, and since then it has grown from strength to strength. The successes of the club over the past 40 years were recounted last Saturday night and would stand against any club record across the country.

The contribution of the Ballymacnab Club was recognised in a very nice congratulations letter received in the run-up to the night from current Chairperson of Armagh County Camogie Board, Yvonne Morgan. Whilst Yvonne's comments were not relayed on the night this report can quote: "Congratulations to St. Brenda's Camogie Club, Ballymacnab on promoting the sport of Camogie for the past 40 years. It is a fabulous achievement and the club has enjoyed great success on the playing field during this period of time. I would like to express my gratitude to the St. Brenda's for their commitment both at club and county level"

1968- The team of Honour at 40th Anniversary Gala

The presentation of commemorative prints to the players of 1968 was the finale and highlight of the evening.

The team of 1968 that were honoured at last Saturday's Gala Night were:

Rosie Devlin: Captain in 1968. One name that keeps popping up when talking about great Nab camogie players is Rosie Devlin. Rosie was the Berlin Wall for many's an opposing team, no way around, no way through! Rosie Devlin was voted Club Player of the Year in 1968, an outstanding individual achievement for an outstanding player in her first season of camogie. Rosie went on to remain in camogie for many more years as a player for Ballymacnab and later as a player and administrator in neighbouring club Mulabrack. Rosie was described on Saturday night as Ballymacnab's "Rock"- a reference to the great hurling star of Cork- Diarmuid O'Sullivan. There's no doubt that in her day Rosie would have given Diarmuid a very good run for his money!

Anna Mary Haughey was a very talented mid-fielder and a great free-taker. Anna captained Ballymacnab for a few years in the late 60's/early 70's period and Anna went on to play for Clan Emainn when she moved to Lurgan. Anna showed her outstanding natural camogie skills and leadership talents when she captained the Clans to senior championship titles 1975 and 1976. A naturally gifted player who also starred for county.

Alice Beagan was another very talented mid-fielder who continued to play for Ballymacnab until the mid 70's. Alice captained Ballymacnab to their first Intermediate Championship in 1975. She was one of Armagh's outstanding players in the 1970 All Ireland final and was County Player of the year in 1979! A player described as in a class of her own, Alice had it all- style, speed and a great reader of the game. Alice travelled home to our gala from England and it was great to see her there with all the Beagan sisters!

Ann Fearon started her camogie days in Ballymacnab as goal-keeper but moved outfield to make her position in the half back line. She was always as steady as a rock and saved the nab from many an attack! Ann's exceptional administrative skills were noted on the night as she worked very hard behind the scenes back in the 1968-early 70's era.

Kathleen Fearon goalkeeper supreme in the late 60's for both Ballymacnab and Armagh. Fearless between the posts and was the saviour for both club and county many's a day. Kathleen won an Ulster Minor Championship with Armagh in 1968 and was one of the stars for Armagh on All Ireland Final day 1970, when Armagh were narrowly beaten by Dublin.

May Fearon: May is the third of the Fearon trio of camogie players of the 1968 team. An all-round player who switched between the midfield and centre half back lines. Very strong in both attack and defence and totally committed.

The contribution of the Fearon household was remembered and recognised on Saturday night when the Fearon's house to camogie in the late 60's/early 70's was what Tommy O'Hare's was to football- the meeting place where it all happened. Mary's a late evening would be had with Paul centre stage and Mary (RIP) providing the unending supply of tea into the wee small hours. St Brenda's send their best wishes to their former great stalwart Paul Fearon who is unwell and thank him for his work all those years ago.

Ann Gribben was a defender in the half back line in 1968. A very strong pucker of the ball and a tenacious back. When you were coming up against Ann you would find no way through!

Olive Gray was a forward back in 1968 and not surprisingly given the talented and sporting family she is from, she had plenty of style and flair. She was fast and nifty and gave many's a defender a hard time. One of Olive's other great attributes was that she brought her wee sister Mary into the club not long after 1968 and for this introduction as much as for Olive's own playing contribution, the Nab will be forever grateful and all other teams in the county will be forever envious!

Stella Gribben was a classy half forward in 1968. She was the scorer of many goals for the Nab and was quoted as being the one the man on the line hoped would have the ball when a score was needed- and Stella rarely let him down!

Dymphna Gribben

The Gribben family has been synonymous with Ballymacnab camogie down through the decades and Dymphna, with Stella were the flag bearers in 1968 and fly the Nab flag high they did! Dymphna was a very strong player who asked for nothing from her markers and definitely gave nothing in return! A great player back in 1968 who gave nothing less than 100%.

The Harvey household has been another great supplier of camogie players to Ballymacnab. Back in 1968 it was Teresa and Una that played, both very determined and skilful players.

Una Harvey was a very speedy forward who had great all round potential. A player who received the overdue attention of many's an opposing defender but Una took whatever came her way, got up and got on with the game. A great player in the Nab colours.

Teresa Harvey was a very versatile player who had no shortage of determination. A great asset to the team of 68 with speed, skill and style to burn and who made life difficult for many of her markers.

Another set of sisters on the 1968 team were Ann and Eileen Donnelly.

Eileen Donnelly was one of the tightest markers around in 1968. Eileen was always as steady as a rock, a tenacious defender who let nothing past. Her manager Brendan Harvey had nothing to worry about when the ball went down Eileen's wing- he knew who would be coming out with it and that was Eileen.

Ann Donnelly was a player who could switch from midfield to forward. Ann was a real grafter who had an abundance of skill and determination and was always present when a score was for the taking. Ann was a classy player who also represented Ballymacnab on the winning Armagh minor team that beat Antrim in the 1968 Ulster Minor Championship final.

The Loughran sisters- Rita and Marion all played on the 1968 team and played for Ballymacnab through until the late 70's. Ann Loughran was usually in the full-forward position and gave many's a fullback a good drubbing. She was a fantastic player to have as a target women up front and got her name on many's a score sheet. Ann's disallowed goal in the 1976 county senior final was also referred to on Saturday night, even 32 years later we're all still convinced it was over the line and Ann was denied her moment of glory! We've great memories in Ballymacnab when it comes to great players like Ann Loughran. Ann's husband Aidan's fantastic contribution to camogie in Ballymacnab was also noted on the night with many of Aidan's coaching tips back in the mid 1970's and again in the 80's being remembered by several of his proteges who have no hesitation in citing Aidan Reynolds as being one of their major influencers in terms of their enjoyment from and love for camogie.

Rita Loughran was another of great defender for Ballymacnab not only in 1968 but also in the 70's and 80's. Rita player a major role in the successes of Ballymacnab in the years after 1968 and she was referred to once by the great St Joseph's Madden forward of the time- Rita McGilgan, as the hardest player she had to play against- a great endorsement for one great camog from another!

Marion Loughran is the youngest of the Loughran sisters but could push her siblings every inch of the way when it comes to guile and cuteness on the pitch. Marion was part of many a winning Nab team right up into the 80's and was said to have been able to sort out many's a challenging forward by her strong defensive play and determination. If you beat Marion to the ball you had to be a good one!

The second set of Loughran sisters- Kathleen and Noreen (RIP) also played their part in the 1968 team and subsequent years. Kathleen Loughran was a stylish player who had a great turn of speed. She was an all rounder who had it all- skill, stamina and style. Kathleen was a great ten player and a great asset for the girls in maroon and white.

Noreen Loughran (RIP) was the youngest player on the team 1968 at just 12 years of age and was a raw talent as a player and showed this to great effect in later years being a leading player in the Intermediate championship team of 1975. Noreen turned many's a game in the Nab's favour in the 70's. Sadly Noreen is now in her heavenly home.

Eileen McGivern was one of St Brenda's defenders in 1968, a solid player who gave and asked for no quarters! Eileen could also foray upfield to take a chance at a score. She was a great reader of the game and very solid and determined who always gave her all in the Nab jersey. Maureen McCone was a very versatile member of the 1968 team who played in several positions. Maureen was a fantastic club worker and was the club's first secretary back in 1968. Maureen's tremendous contribution to Ballymacnab camogie around the committee table was also recalled on Saturday night.

Mary McGivern was an all-round player whose versatility saw her in both defence and attack for Ballymacnab back in 68. Mary was very determined and committed and left nothing to chance when going for a ball, her technique was not one of fancy style but of was definitely one of great effect. Mary now resides in Belfast and it was great to see her join us on Saturday night.

Bernie Keeley was one of the 1968 who was always ready and willing to take up any position or job asked of her. Credited with the ball in midfield when called to duty.

Betty McCreech (RIP) is the last member of the 1968 team to be reported on here but by no means the least. Betty was a versatile player who gave many years to camogie in Ballymacnab from the beginning in terms of playing and administration. Betty's enthusiasm and hard work for the team both on and off the field of play, most significantly as a hard working committee worker, has left Betty's fingerprint indelibly marked in the history books of Ballymacnab Camogie. Betty may also have gone to her heavenly home but her sense of spirit for the Ballymacnab club remains very strong within today's members.

Brendan Harvey All great times need to have a great manager to take the best out of them and the Nab girls of 1968 definitely had one of the best around in the form of Brendan Harvey. Brendan would today modestly proclaim that he was just learning as he was going along and made things up as he went along but Brendan knew a lot more about managing a team than he is prepared to admit and has probably forgot more about lining out and motivating players than many's a manager even knew! So Brendan's place in the history of Ballymacnab and his contribution back in 1968 both as Club Chairperson and as Team Manager was also rightfully recognised last Saturday night!

These 24 players along with their manager of 1968 were honoured at the Club's Gala Night on Saturday past. They received a standing ovation from those present and what was an historic moment in the history of our club was also a very emotional one that few will forget, especially the girls of 1968. They were the girls who proudly wore the maroon and white for St Brenda's 40 years ago back in 1968. Little did they know the extent of the positive impact that their efforts and those of the committee behind them would make for the young girls and women of Ballymacnab who would come during the 40 years after them! Ballymacnab still reaps the fruits of the seeds that were sown by these girls back in 1968.

On Saturday night, St Brenda's said "Well done and thank you" to these 24 women & to Brendan Harvey. Go daga rath agus bliath ar bhar goad oibre!

Thanks are extended to Molly Kerr, Brendan Harvey and Joe Halpin in providing background material for this report and in previous reports. Thanks also and well done to all those who played their part in helping to organise the night. Your work paid off with dividends! Anyone wishing to obtain photographs from the Gala evening may do so at the below website. Is (www.photobloggallery.com/armaghgael). St Brenda's wish to thank John Merry for his excellent coverage of our 40th anniversary year to date and most especially for his work last Saturday night.

Storming second-half gives Ballincollig victory

**Ballincollig
Fr O'Neill's**

**3-8
1-3**

A SUPERB second-half display ensured Ballincollig were crowned Junior A league champions for 2007 on Wednesday last in Ballinlough as they defeated Fr O'Neill's.

Aided by the strong wind Fr O'Neill's took an early lead with a Sarah Harrington point. O'Neill's kept the pressure on and a goal from Harrington stretched their lead to four points as they settled quickly. Ballincollig took time to settle into the game but a Denise Cronin point helped them find their feet. Fr O'Neill's extended their advantage with a Gearóidín Kearney-pointed free but Denise Cronin replied for Ballincollig. Margaret O'Sullivan gave her side a timely boost with a goal before the break to leave the minimum between the sides at the interval as O'Neill's held a one-point lead, 1-3 to 1-2.

Inside three minutes of the restart Ballincollig were level with a Claire Ryan point and with the wind in their favour they began to gain the upper hand, twice Sarah Buckley found Leah Weste who duly

obliged, striking two points without replay. Substitute Ashley Lovett showed her worth grabbing a Ballincollig goal as the O'Neill's defence began to feel the pressure and now with Ballincollig well in control, Fr O'Neill's found the going tough. Points from Ashley Lovett and Margaret O'Sullivan stretched the lead before Patricia Buttimer's long-range effort ended up in the net to signal no way back for O'Neill's. On the full-time whistle, Margaret O'Sullivan pointed to seal a deserved victory for Ballincollig.

Ballincollig: T O'Donnell; B O'Callaghan, A Kiely, Coughlan, K O'Donoghue; L Weste, A Cotter, E Nolan, O Ni Chasaigh; S Buckley, P Buttimer, M O'Sullivan, C Ryan, H Coomey, O Cronin. Subs: A Lovett for E Nolan (in) 40; C Irish for C Ryan (50); F Ryan for A Coughlan (55); J Walsh for H Coomey (55). Scorers: M O'Sullivan 1-2, A Lovett 1-1, P Buttimer 1-0, D Cronin 0-2 (0-1f 0-1p) C Ryan 0-1, L Weste 0-2.

Fr O'Neill's: N Ahern; M Harrington, L Sweetnam, C Day, Y Murphy Day, C McGrath, K Harrington; V O'Sullivan, SA Harrington, G Kearney, D O'Leary, K Ahern, F Higgins, E Swaine. Sub: L Hayes for N Ahern (35 in) A Griffin for D O'Leary (48) C Ahern for Y Murphy (48), M O'Brien for E Swaine (55). Scorers: S Harrington 1-2 G. Kearney 0-1f.

Referee: Ger Sheehan, Douglas

All ready for Cork Féile na nGael

NINETEEN teams will battle it out on Saturday next to find Cork's representative for Féile Na nGael. Teams will participate in four sections with the top two teams in each going forward to contest the quarter-finals

Division 1

Section A Venue: Eire Og; Ballinlissig, St Vincent's, Milford, Valley Rovers, Eire Og.

Section B Venue: Aghabullogue Aghabullogue, Douglas, Brian Dillon's, Blackrock, Cloughduv.

Section C Venue: Inniscarra Sliabh Rua, Newtownshandrum, Inniscarra, Killeagh, Buttevant.

Division 2

Eight teams will participate in two sections —top two to contest final. As this is a special Cork competition, the winners will not go on to national Féile as Cork are a senior graded county.

Section 1 Venue: Castletyons: Carrigtwohill, Castletyons, Sarsfield's, Mallow.

Section 2 Venue: Tracton: Clonakilty, Fr O'Neill's, Na Piarsaigh; Tracton.

County championship draws

The County Camogie championship draws are as follows. Clubs fielding second teams will participate in a separate Junior Shield competition, the draws for which will be made later in the season.

Senior County Championship

Divisional sides play off first as follows in a straight knock-out, the winner to go into the championship proper.

Carbery v Imokilly

Carrighduv v Seandun

Winners Carbery/Imokilly v Muskerry

Winners Carrighduv/Seandun v Carbery,

Imokilly or Muskerry

A Cloughduv v St Catherine's

B Barryroe v Inniscarra

C Milford v Courcey Rovers

D Ballygarvan c St Finbarrs

E Douglas v Aghabullogue

Losers round back door

Losers E V Losers A

Divisional winners v Losers B

Losers D v Losers C

Senior B Championship

Played on a round robin basis, two group of five teams; top two in each go to semi-finals

Group 1 Carrigaline, Bishopstown, Ballinlissig, Valley Rovers, Killeagh

Group 2 Eire Og, Newtownshandrum, Rockban, Kilbrittan, Glen Rovers

Junior A Championship

Played on a round-robin basis, two group of five teams; top two in each go to semi-finals

Group 1 Ballyhea, Sarsfield's, Ballincollig, Fr O'Neill's, Blackrock, and Watgrasshill

Group 2 Newtownshandrum, Mallow, Clonakilty, Tracton, Enniskeane

Junior B

Played on a straight knock out basis

A Sliabh Rua v St Catherine's

B Bride Rovers v Na Piarsaigh

C Erins Own v Douglas

D Dungourney v Brian Dillon's

E Erin's Own or Douglas v Sliabh Rua or St Catherine's

F Grenagh v Buttevant

Semi-Finals: D v G; F v E

Junior C Championship

Played on a straight knock-out basis

A Ballinascarty v Millstreet

B Castlemagner v St Vincent's

C Cobh v Passage

D Delaney's v Youghal

E Cobh or Passage v Castlemagner or St Vincent's

F Blarney v Bandon

G Ballinora v Ballinascarty or Millstreet

H Castletyons v Delaney's or Youghal

Semi-finals: G v E; F v H

CAMOGIE *world*

PRESIDENT ELECT

Cork native Joan O'Flynn is the lady chosen to take over from President Liz Howard when she steps down this time next year when Congress will be held in her native county of Tipperary.

Joan who has long been associated with Kildare and Leinster Council defeated Antrim native Catherine O'Hara who first wore the Antrim jersey at the tender age of fifteen and who has since served Antrim and Ulster with great pride in many positions.

Joan has much experience and is currently the Lilywhites PRO while she also chairs the National Strategic Plan Committee as well as being a member of Management.

O'Flynn started her career at the Fr. O'Neill's club in East Cork and went on from there to become a member of the London-Irish Camogie Club. Since moving to Kildare she has immersed herself in the game of Camogie and has administration experience at county, provincial and national level. She has also served as the County Secretary, County Chairperson and has managed the county's minor team. She also documented the history of Camogie in Kildare when her book "Soaring Sliothar" was published in 2004.

While the election was of major importance, the delegates had much also to discuss. For the first time ever the Kerry County Board were there as was Peter Cassidy, the chairman of the recently formed Mayo County Board who did not have a vote this year due to only recently being formed. Europe were well represented by Tony Bass while Annie Redmond travel all the way from Chicago representing North America while Mary Mc Arthur and Ety Kelly flew over from London.

VISITORS

Other visitors to Congress over the weekend included National Director of Camogie Mary O'Connor who gave a fine power point presentation on the work being carried out on the development being done by herself and the regional Camogie directors around the country. Current Galway player Caroline Murray and Connacht Regional Development Officer Caroline Murray also popped in with Mary. Former GAA President Sean Kelly was a Saturday visitor while current President Nicky Brennan was a guest at the Banquet on the Saturday night.

While Joan Flynn was chosen to be the next President to lead the Association, Máire Uí Scoláir who has served as National PRO for the past nine years stepped down but will take up a position as Results Co-Ordinator for the present.

As always motions get peoples interest and this year one motion involved increasing the affiliation fees which will come into action next year. Clubs will be asked for €300-00 with a break down going to the County Board as well as the Provincial council while Central Council will also receive a cut. This extra revenue will allow for further development of the game. Europe have their sights set for long term development with Europe delegate Tony Bass requesting the Congress to look at exploring the possibility of setting up of a possible Gaelic Games Federation to oversee the

development of Gaelic games world wide. It was accepted by the floor that Central Council would look into this.

As always the report by Ardstiúrthoir Sheila Wallace is of major importance to delegates and she outlined the Action Plan for 2008 which is part of the National Strategic Plan. The main thrust of the plan includes, working with primary, secondary and third level schools, clubs, consolidating of structures in re-established county Boards. Further work will involve working with British GAA Council and incoming Development Officers in Britain. Continued development of Shinty is also on the agenda. Training of referees, seeking increased number of qualified coaches and tutors. The need for a continued review of the competitions is also part of the 2008 Action Plan. Other items include the integration with the GAA, Anti Doping, Code of Ethics, reviewing of full-time staffing levels enhancing of internal communications and implementing a media Plan.

There is no doubt but Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is one of the most vibrant associations in the country and is certainly heading for a very bright future.

NATIONAL LEAGUE FINALS

Meanwhile the National League has reached the final stages with Galway and Kilkenny reaching the Division 1 Final while Derry and Clare will contest the Division 2. Antrim and Offaly will meet in Division three with Meath and Roscommon joining up in Division four. All finals will go ahead this month.



Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association with Joan O'Flynn (Kildare) who was elected as the Association's first Uachtarán Tola at the Annual Camogie Congress



Christine O'Neill has been a key player for Cork and will be one of the players Cork will be looking to for a big performance against Clare.

Cork look for fourth provincial title of 2008

SUNDAY
Munster Minor Camogie final
Cork v Clare, Clarecastle,
2.30pm

By MARY NEWMAN

Munster camogie minor final

IT MAY only be April but already the Cork minor camogie side go in search of the county's fourth provincial crown of the year.

Cork had to be at their best to reach this decider.

Having led Tipperary by 12 points at one stage in their semi-final, the full-time whistle was music to the Cork ears, as they scraped home by 2-11 to 2-10.

Weather conditions played a huge part on that horrific day.

Cork were pinned back in their own half for the entire second half and the girls had to stand up and be counted when the pressure was applied.

Cork's defence showed great resolve to hold out under enormous

pressure to book their place in the final.

Once again Cork will look to players such as Christine O'Neill, Lydia Cunningham, Mary Ann Hawkes and Maria Walsh to hold a tight reign on the Clare attack.

Up front, the Cork mentors will be looking for a better return from their attack, as only four players got on the scoresheet against Tipp.

Niamh Dilworth, who struck 2-6 led the way, while Julia White, Denise Luby and Sinead O'Callaghan were also on target.

Clare knocked out holders Limerick 2-7 to 2-1 in their semi-final encounter last weekend.

Having annexed the provincial U16 crown in 2007 at the expense of Cork, this group of players will not be overawed by the occasion on Sunday.

Five minutes into their clash with

Limerick they trailed by seven points, but a superb rally ensured Limerick were held scoreless for the remainder of the game.

They have strong performers in Carina Rosengrave, Carol Kaiser, Aine O'Brien, Roisin O'Brien, Aileen O'Shea and Shona Enright, who contributed 1-6 of the tally.

She is one the Cork defence will have to keep a close eye on if title number four is to wind its way Leeside on Sunday afternoon.

CORK PANEL: Maria Gleeson (Eire Óg), Mary Ann Hawkes (Valley Rovers), Sinead O'Brien (Clonakilty), Sarah Cotter (Carrigaline), Maria Walsh (Ballyhea), Lydia Cunningham (Glen Rovers), Christine O'Neill (Courcey Rovers), Sarah Buckley (Ballincollig), Jennifer Lynch (Tracton), Julia White (Douglas), Niamh Dilworth (Inniscarra), Ashling Thompson (Milford), Roisin de Facite (Blackrock), Denise Luby (Glen Rovers), Sinead O'Callaghan (Ballinhassig), Catriona Collins (Ballinhassig), Maria Moran (Carrigaline), Grainne O'Keefe (Carrigaline), Patricia Buttner (Ballincollig), Mairead Foley (Rockbank), Karen Jones (Inniscarra), Katie O'Mahony (Inniscarra), Karen O'Connell (Glen Rovers), Aileen Sheehan (Glenagh), Eimear Harrington (Buttevant), Sinead O'Neill (Clonakilty), Ashleen Sheehan (Ballincollig).

Gemma O'Connor Captain and Private

Private Gemma O'Connor is well used to operating under difficult conditions and that includes being under high incoming missiles - even if they're mostly O'Neills sliothars.

Gemma joined the Defence Forces over three years ago and is a member of the Army's 4th Infantry Brigade, based in Collins Barracks, in Cork. That's a handy location for her, because she also holds the rank of Captain. Except, it's not a military rank, but maybe the even more prestigious one as Captain of Cork's senior camogie team.

Gemma has probably won more medals and major honours in her chosen sport than the Chief of Staff himself, former Roscommon football ace, Dermot Earley. She has three All Star Awards, one of them presented to by President McAleese while she was serving overseas with the Army. She has two minor and three senior All Ireland medals as well as National League medals. She was 'Irish Examiner' Young Player of the Year in 2002 and Camogie Player of the Year in 2005.

Three years ago, Private O'Connor served for six months in the African troublespot of Liberia, as part of the 92nd Infantry Battalion. It was tough work. Liberia had just come out of a bloody civil war with 150,000 people dead as a result. The United Nations seemed determined to bring peace to that troubled land and, so, a 15,000 strong force was deployed drawn from African and European countries.

The infantry's job was to take part in long range patrols out into dangerous rebel-held territory, sometimes lasting nine days. They guarded key installations, kept the roads open, searched for weapons, and became a key element of the UN's Quick Reaction Force, designed to stamp out aggression immediately.

As usual when they are overseas, the Irish were heavily involved in humanitarian projects. These included the construction of a major extension to a HIV/AIDS hospice in Monrovia run by the Sisters of Charity, and support for leprosy and polio centres and numerous schools.

Africa was an interesting, if tough experience for Gemma: "You see things you wouldn't see at home. The poverty is unreal. However, it was a great experience. The thing about the Army is you get to see the world. The people in Liberia were extremely happy to see Irish UN forces out there and it's been appreciated and that's a positive for the Army".

Gemma says Army life is good for anyone interested in sport: "They look after me very well. It's a good environment. The Army emphasises sport a lot, so the interest is there. It's a good job for anybody that's active and interested in sport. They look after you well on that side of things".



RIGHT: Cathiona Foley, camogie; Sam Cronin, rugby and Laura McMahon, ladies Gaelic football, at last night's 25th UCC Sports Star Awards in Association with Jurys Hotel and Bank of Ireland, at Jurys Hotel, Cork. Picture:

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

CARRIGTHOULL

Carrigthoull Camogie Club hosts a fashion and beauty event on Sunday, April 27 from 2-6pm in the Carrigthoull Community Centre. Family tickets are €10 while a single ticket costs €5. A fun afternoon guaranteed so come along and support us on the day.

ST FINBARR'S

Seniors: In the final of the 2007 senior league against Barryroe at Ballincollig, our forwards managed only five points in the opening half-hour. They all came from the stick of Gemma O'Connor. Although moved further out from goal, she added another three in the second half. We were heavily reliant on Gemma's performance. Ellen Clifford made some excellent stops in goal. Lynda O'Connell gave everything in an attempt to curtail Barryroe danger girl Jennifer O'Leary and Vivienne Harris played a lot of ball from centre-back. Hard work on the training ground is needed to improve the side before the championship.

U18: The showing of our U18 side against Valley Rovers at Brinny was very disappointing. Regular forward, Ellen Crowley is recovering from injury and so lined out in goal and made a continuous string of saves throughout the match. Granted, our team had not played together for a considerable time but we played second fiddle to the opposition in terms of skill and teamwork. Shannon McCarthy, Kate Leisk, Jennifer Mehlman and Lisa O'Connell showed up well, particularly in the second half.

This team are in the care of four members of the 2006 senior championship-winning side, Claire Spellman, Colette O'Mahony, Claire Harrington and Colette Kirby. The U18 panel can learn much from these experienced players and improve individually and as a team.

ST VINCENT'S

New members welcome at the following times below there are also opportunities for adults if you want to get involved in your local team. Come up at any of the times for further information.

Training Times: U5, 6 and 7, Tuesday, 6-7pm

U11, Wednesday, 6-7pm

U10, Thursday, 5-6pm

U12, Thursday, 6-7pm

U14, Monday, 6-7pm

ST CATHERINE'S

U12 League: On Wednesday last our U12 team travelled to Dungourney and ran out comfortable winners. All our girls played well on the night and were too strong for Dungourney on this occasion. N Coughlan had our only score of the first half when she goalied after four minutes. We dominated the second half with M Mulcahy and E O'Brien playing very well at midfield and L Ahern also playing well when she changed to the forward line.

N Coughlan continued her good form by adding three more goals and K England also contributed a goal.

Scorers: N Coughlan 4-0, K England 1-0
Team: E Spillane, L Hartnett, M Galvin, B O'Keefe, A Fitzgerald, J O'Keefe, C McCarthy, M Mulcahy, E O'Brien, L Ahern, K England, K Mulcahy, A Mulcahy, N Coughlan, M Walsh.

Subs: K Norman, A Hegarty, N Clohesy, M Leahy, E Roche, E O'Keefe, N Philpott, F Leahy, A O'Keefe, S Mellerick.

On Saturday last we travelled to Glimmire to take on Sars in another U12 game. We started well with M Walsh goaling after five minutes.

However this proved to be our only score with Sars dominating the remainder of the game. Nonetheless our girls worked very hard and never gave up.

Scorers: M Walsh 1-0

Team: E Spillane, L Ahern, M Galvin, A Hegarty, C McCarthy, J O'Keefe, A Fitzgerald, E O'Brien, M Mulcahy, A Mulcahy, K England, K Mulcahy, K Norman, N Coughlan, M Walsh.

Subs: N Clohesy, B O'Keefe.

MUNSTER COLLEGES

Munster Camogie Council are initiating development squads for primary schools in all six counties. Trials for Primary school girls from fifth and sixth class will take place today Saturday, April 19 from 11am-1pm in Colaisle an Chroí Naofa, Carrigrohane. A panel of 30 girls will be chosen from this trial and in the weeks to follow they will be taken through skills based training sessions culminating in a Munster intercounty blitz to be held on the weekend of June 28/29 at LIT. For information, contact Fr Terry O'Brien at 021-4884104.

GLEN ROVERS

Our U12 teams found the going tough last weekend as both lost out in their games. Our first team hosted Brian Dillon's on Saturday morning and through the game worked hard however in the closing stages the strength of our visitors told. Mikaela Hyde, Jessica Lane, Cloe Noonan and Niamh Gowen were very much to the fore in this outing.

Our second team, is made up of the younger girls, had an excellent outing against Ballyheh's first 15, again turning in a superb display they only lost out narrowly at the final whistle, with Yvonne Kelleher, Kayleigh Bridgeman and Nicole Cummins impressing.

U14: A busy five days for our U14 team as they got their league campaign up and running with two games. It was off to Ovens on Sunday night where we met Eire Og. In a close opening half the sides were evenly matched. Eire Og took the lead with a goal after we had two early points on the scoreboard but we battled back, excellent play from Edel O'Connell, Nicole O'Brien, Leeann O'Sullivan, and subs Sarah Hourihane and Cloe Noonan ensured we came away with the points.

Seandún win third consecutive title

Seandún
Carrigdhoun

1-11
1-4

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 Inter-Divisional Championship

SEANDÚN made it three wins in a row as they retained their U16 Inter-Divisional Championship after a hectic day's in Coachford.

In a repeat of last year's decider, Carrigdhoun tried to wrestle the title from the city representatives.

They provided a strong challenge but in the finish Seandún held their composure to retain their crown.

At the full-time whistle seven points separated the sides and the final was a fitting finale.

Five divisional sides were joined by a Kerry team as they battled it out for a place in the final.

Teams were divided in two groups with the top team in each emerging to contest the final.

Muskerry had a victory over Imokilly before Seandún recorded their first win over Muskerry.

It was all to play for as Seandún faced Imokilly and in a tight contest and they won by five points to book their place in the decider.

Carrigdhoun were also working their way to the final with impressive victories over Kerry and Avondhu, while Avondhu had a victory over Kerry.

In a tight opening to the final, Seandún led at the break, 0-5 to 1-1.

Sinead Gallen, Sinead O'Halloran

and Katrina Mackey were on target for Seandún, while Rachel Keohane grabbed Carrigdhoun's goal, with Mary Ellen O'Donovan pointing as Carrigdhoun kept pace.

It was close throughout the second half. Points from Ciara Lynch, Sinead O'Halloran, Jane Dooley and Katrina Mackey helped Seandún hold the upper hand.

Carrigdhoun battled to keep in touch with Rachel Keohane and Mary Ellen O'Donovan adding points to reduce the lead.

Seandún were boosted by a goal from Sinead O'Halloran, who was also on hand with a point to bring her tally to 1-4, while Katrina Mackey struck her fourth point.

Ciara Lynch also contributed one point to seal a superb victory.

Seandún's Ailin O'Donovan was named as player of the competition following superb performances.

Juvenile chairperson Tracy Sheehan presented the trophy to Ailin O'Donovan and paid special tribute to Kerry, who travelled so far to participate.

Scorers for Seandún: S O'Halloran 1-4, K Mackey 0-4, S Gallen 0-1, C Lynch, J Dooley, 0-1 each.

Carrigdhoun: R Keohane 1-1, ME O'Donovan 0-3.

SEANDÚN: J Kavanagh (Douglas); E Twomey (Passage); S O'Reilly (do); C O'Keefe (Glen Rovers); S Duggan (Douglas); P Mackey (Douglas); L Crowley (Glen Rovers); C Lynch (Douglas); S Gallen (Glen Rovers); O



Seandún captain, Ailin O'Donovan pictured with trophy after her side's victory over Carrigdhoun in the U16 Inter-Divisional Championship.

Bourke (Na Piarraigh), K Mackey (Douglas), SK Brosnan (Brian Dillon's); S O'Halloran (Glen Rovers), A O'Donovan (Douglas), N O'Sullivan (Passage). **Subs:** J Dooley (Brian Dillon's), D Moynihan (Na Piarraigh), Aine O'Donovan (Douglas).

CARRIGDHOUN: T Hawkes (Valley Rovers); A Coleman (Slabh Rua), E Coughlan (Valley Rovers), H Cullinane (Ballinacorney); C Murphy (Ballygarvan), ME O'Donovan (do), E

O'Regan (Valley Rovers); M Moynihan (Ballygarvan); A Whitnell (Slabh Rua); A Byrne (Ballygarvan); C Richardson (Valley Rovers); C O'Reilly (Courcey Rovers); L Browne (Ballygarvan); R Keohane (do); A O'Brien (Ballinacorney). **Subs:** C O'Driscoll (Courcey Rovers); C Duggan (Valley Rovers); C Sheehan (Slabh Rua).

Referee: J O'Leary (Mallow).

Sharp Ballincollig land first ever junior title

Ballincollig
Fr O'Neill's

3-8
1-3

Fr O'Neill's, playing with a gale force biting wind, were quickly on the score board thanks to Sarah Harrington who rifled 1-1.

BALLINCOLLIG captured the 2007 junior A league title thanks to a superb second-half display.

In last year's championship semi-final it took a replay to separate these sides, but this time there was no dispute.

But Ballincollig soon settled with a Denise Cronin point, and Margaret O'Sullivan goal gave her side a timely boost, as O'Neill's led 1-3 to 1-2.

Inside three minutes of the restart Ballincollig were level

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

after a Claire Ryan point and gained the upper hand.

Twice Sarah Buckley found Leah Weste, who duly obliged striking two points, and sub Ashley Lovett showed her worth grabbing Ballincollig's second goal.

Points from Lovett and Mar-

garet O'Sullivan stretched the lead, before Patricia Buttner's long-range effort drifted into the net to settle it.

Scorers for Ballincollig: M O'Sullivan 1-2, A Lovett 1-1, P Buttner 1-0 D Cronin (0-1), 0-1 pen), L Weste 0-2 each, C Ryan 0-1.

Fr O'Neill's: S Harrington 1-2, G Kearney 0-1.

BALLINCOLLIG: T O'Donnell; B O'Callaghan, A Kiely, A Coughlan; K O'Donoghue, L Weste, A Cotter; E Nolan, O Ni Cheseigh; S Buckley, P Buttner, M O'Sullivan; C Ryan,

H Coomey, D Cronin.

Subs: A Lovett for E Nolan (inj 40), C Irish for C Ryan (50), F Ryan for A Coughlan (55), J Walsh for H Coomey (55).

FR O'NEILL'S: N Ahern, M Harrington, L Sweetnam, C Day, Y Murphy, P Day, C McGrath, K Harrington, V O'Sullivan, SA Harrington, G Kearney, D O'Leary, K Ahern, F Wiggins, E Swaine.

Sub: L Hayes for N Ahern (35 inj), A Griffin for D O'Leary (48), C Ahern for Y Murphy (48), M O'Brien for E Swaine (55).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

Team: Clara McCarthy; Shauna O'Sullivan; Barbara O'Mahony; Shauna Busted; Claudia Hogan; Nicole O'Brien; Maria Sheehan; Lauren Callanan; Jennifer Hosford; Leeann O'Sullivan; Aisling O'Keefe; Edel O'Connell; Katie Arnold; Clara O'Sullivan; Kay Lynn Lee.

Subs: Sarah Hourihane, Cloe Noonan. Inniscarra were visitors to the Glen Field on Thursday evening and again it was excellent contest from two committed sides. We took and early lead with points from Edel O'Connell and Nicole O'Brien and two goals from Edel had us in comfortable position before Inniscarra struck back with a goal. Captain Aisling O'Keefe rallied us with a superb effort to the net and with Nicole O'Brien pointing we stretched our lead. Inniscarra fought back and struck 1-1 without reply before the break. On the turnover, aided by the wind we began to grab vital scores Nicole O'Brien, Edel O'Connell and Leeann O'Sullivan all on target while our defence held Inniscarra to a goal to help us gain the points on offer.

Team: Clara McCarthy; Katie Arnold; Shauna O'Sullivan; Claudia Hogan; Maria Sheehan; Aisling O'Keefe (capt); Shauna Busted; Lauren Callanan; Leeann O'Sullivan; Jennifer Hosford; Nicole O'Brien; Clara O'Sullivan; Cloe Noonan; Edel O'Connell; Sarah Hourihane.

Subs: K Lee J Lane, N Murray, E McCarthy, N Gowen.

We continue our league games when we pay a visit to Ballinacorney on Thursday next before we contest Feile na nGael on Saturday, April 25.

U16: Our first U16 squad continue their league programme when they travel to Carrigdhoun today Saturday to meet Rockban, players to meet at club at 11.30am.

Senior: Our senior girls returned safely from their recent trip to Clare where a great weekend was enjoyed by all. Games will continue in the weeks ahead as league action begins.

Good luck: Best of luck to our girls Lydia Cunningham, Denise Luby and Karen O'Connell as they line out with Cork tomorrow Sunday in the Munster minor final against Clare.

TRACTON

U14 League: We recently played Ballinacorney in Minane Bridge, where we emerged winners on an 8-2 to 2-1 scoreline.

Scorers: Aisling Kiely 2-2, Chloe Castleton 4-0, Jessica Dempsey 2-0.

Team: Sarah Louise Coughlan; Laura O'Donnell; Claudia Murray; Eimear Lynch; Jennifer Kiely; Claire Canavan; Eimear Cooney; Mary McGuinness; Erin Harrington; Steffi Castleton; Aisling Kiely, Erika Kind; Tessa Hegarty; Chloe Castleton, Jessica Dempsey.

Subs: Sonia Gleasure, Laura O'Callaghan, Una Lyons, Aoife Lyons.

We travelled to Kilbrittain where the home side had to much strength as they ran out winners.

Scorers: Chloe Castleton 1-0, Aisling Kiely 0-1.

Team: Sarah Louise Coughlan; Laura O'Donnell; Claudia Murray; Eimear Lynch; Jennifer Kiely; Claire Canavan; Eimear Cooney; Mary McGuinness; Erin Harrington.

Steffi Castleton, Aisling Kiely, Erika Kind; Tessa Hegarty, Chloe Castleton, Jessica Dempsey. **Sub:** Laura O'Callaghan.

BRIAN DILLON'S

The U18 C League began last Sunday we took on Newtownshandrum in Newtown, both teams met twice already in the championship semi-final last year after a draw forced a replay so a good game was expected.

Newtown advanced early on in the first half and it took both sides a while to settle down. However, as the game improved so too did the standard of camogie and both teams enjoyed a few great scores.

However we began to edge forward after a great save by Saoirse Rodgers in the first few minutes seemed to give us a boost. Deirdre Ring held the half-back line well and dominated in the centre, Susan Kate Brosnan was superb in the half-forward and kept the ball moving.

She was helped by Claire Dooley, who continued to send the ball into the half-forward line. Brian Dillon's led at half time, 1-1 to 0-3.

The second half saw a great improvement by both sides and the scoreboard reflected this. Sarah Cotter had a tough game at half-back and worked hard to keep her player quiet. Amanda Dorgan battled hard in the second half at centre forward and ensured a win with three superb goals. Jane Dooley kept the play going at half-forward and continued to send the ball into Donna Carroll and Orlaith Ni Shuilleabhain, who dominated the forward line well. Brian Dillon's were the stronger team and enjoyed a 5-4 to 2-6 win. Thanks to the girls' trainers Theresa Drum-

mond and Claire O'Mahony for the effort they put in and we look forward to the coming matches.

Scorers: Amanda Dorgan 3-0, Jane Dooley 1-1, Claire Dooley 0-2, Rebecca O'Mahony 1-0, Donna Carroll 0-1.

Team: Saoirse Rodgers; Kate O'Brien, Aisling Russell, Emma Burns; Deirdre Ring, Sarah Cotter, Susan Kate Brosnan; Claire Dooley, Jane Dooley; Amanda Dorgan, Orla Ni Shuilleabhain, Donna Carroll; Rebecca O'Mahony, Michelle Ring, Eadoin Kelly.

Subs: Rebecca Myers for Kate O'Brien and Sarah O'Mullane for Eadoin Kelly.

U12B League: An outstanding performance from our team with each individual showing true skill and motivation saw us over come Glen Rovers on Saturday last. It was a great game throughout but we came out on top after an great contest with all the girls giving a skilful display. Shauna Walsh, the goalie, had a very strong presence. Huge time and commitment is going into this team and it is all paying off for the girls as they well deserved winners on the day. Huge thanks to John Ring (coach).

Scorers: Chloe O'Mahony 2-0, Ruth Brosnan 1-0, Caoimhe Rodgers 2-0, Kayleigh Luby 1-0, Keira O'Sullivan 1-0.

Team: Shauna Walsh; Emma Carroll; Deirdre Keane, Nicole Malone; Niamh Cotter, Niamh O'Leary, Emma Sharpe; Kayleigh Luby, Jessica Aibhloga; Ruth Brosnan, Alison Smith, Caoimhe Rodgers; Essie O'Connell, Chloe O'Mahony, Lauren Barry.

Compiled by: Mary Newman

CAMOGIE NOTES

NA PIARSAIGH

U12 League, Na Piarasigh 6-7 Blarney 0-0
Scorers: Carmel Kelly 4-0, Amy O'Connor 0-4, Niamh O'Sullivan 1-0, Orla Connolly 0-2, Vanessa O'Connor 0-1.

Our U6-10 played Mallow in the club arena two weeks ago. Those who took the eye were Caitlin Harrington, Lauren Rice, Erica Costello, Eimear Butterworth, Shannon Lee, Amy Stokes, Ciara Buckley, Sofia Hennessy, Erica O'Neill, Emma Buckley, Amy Leahy, Cait Murphy, Shauna Bell and Saoirse O'Sullivan.

Over 45 of our players travelled to St Finbarr's two weeks ago. Ages ranged from six to 11. Three matches took place on the all-weather pitches there. Tremendous skills were shown by both teams. People that caught the eye for us were U6s Chloe McCarthy, Marie Dempsey and Chloe Morey, U7 and 8s Ally O'Sullivan, Carla Tobin and Holly Ahern, older girls: Rebecca Cooke, Rebecca Sheehan, Carmel Kelly and Erin McElhinney.

U14 League v St Catherine's
St Catherine's travelled to us recently where the game started really close but Na Piarasigh girls pushed ahead after half-time.

Great performance from Aisling Hannon, Orla Connolly, Niamh Connolly, Niamh Batt, Vanessa O'Connor and Rebecca Rourke.

Training times: Monday, U14s, 5-6pm; Wednesday, junior 8-9pm; Thursday, U16s 5-6pm; Saturday, underage 12-1pm, U10s 1-2pm, U12s 2-3pm, junior 5-6.30pm. All new and old players welcome.

We would like to congratulate Seandun on winning the interdivisional championship and to Na Piarasigh players Orla Bourke, Danielle Moynihan and Jessica Cronin.

Congratulations to Orla Bourke, who was called on to the Cork U16 A panel and Charlotte Kearney who is on the Cork senior B.

We are proud of the two girls and wish them and their teams the best of luck for the coming season.

Any clubs wishing to play a game under age please contact Taryn Lynch on 085-1455210.

CARRIGALINE

Our U16 A team played its fourth league game recently where they met Inniscarra in Ballyanley but lost by a large margin. Last week we were well beaten in Churchtown by a superior Milford side on a cold night. Kelly Ahern and Ciara O'Connell have been performing consistently. Our next game is as hosts to Douglas and we will look to Leah Healy and Danielle Neville for inspiration!

Our U14 B team had a narrow win away to Killeagh in an exciting game during the week. Best were Emily Phelan and Anna O'Keefe.

CARRIGTHOILL

Last Saturday at St Vincent's our U12 D team picked up their first points with a fine win against St Vincent's. The game started at a very fast pace with Ellen Collins scored the first goal for us. Fifteen minutes later St Vincent's equalised. Holly Brehany hit a great free which dropped inside the 21, with Sarah Curtin doubling on it and Courtney Horgan put it in the back of the net for our second goal. With two minutes to half-time St Vincent's equalised again. The pace of the match was increased in the second half, with good skill on both sides. Twenty minutes into the half Holly Brehany drove a 21-yard free over the bar, putting us into the lead, which we held for the remainder of the game to run out winners, 2-1 to 2-0. Well done to both teams who served up a highly competitive game.

We would like to give special thanks to St Vincent's U12 players for their fair play on the field and for making us very welcome.

Fashion event: Carrigthoill Camogie Club hosts a fashion and beauty event featuring Greenhouse - Danish ladies designs, Captain Tortue - French kids designs, beauty makeover by Rimmel Magnotherapy, a natural form of pain relief accessories by The Little Daisies. This will take place on Sunday, April 27 from 2-6pm in the Carrigthoill Community Centre, family tickets are €10 while a single ticket costs €5.

A fun afternoon is guaranteed for both young and old so come along and support us on the day.

ST VINCENT'S

New members welcome at the following times below there are also opportunities for adults if you want to get involved in your local team. Come up at any of the times for further information.

Training Times:
U5, 6 and 7: Tuesday, 6-7pm
U11: Wednesday, 6-7pm
U10: Thursday, 5-6pm
U12: Thursday, 6-7pm
U14: Monday, 6-7pm

ST FINBARR'S

Our U12 side showed great form on Friday evening when they fashioned a 4-0 to 0-2 over St Vincent's. The young Barrs girls got into the game from the start and dominated the play. The good work of Rebecca O'Sullivan, Orla McCarthy, Amy Cotter and Chloe McNamara was rewarded with a three goal lead at half-time.

St Vincent's came more into the game in the second half. Great work by our defence kept our goal intact. Our goal scorers were Amy Cotter, Kevea McCarthy, Avril O'Callaghan and Lindsey McHale.

For ten minutes of our U18 match against St Catherine's on Sunday morning, the Barrs dominated the play but were unable to convert possession into scores. It went downhill after this as St Catherine's took over and



Linda Mellerick

THE DRAW for the 2008 Evening Echo Senior Camogie Championship took place during the week.

The first three stages were determined, preliminary, first and second. The third round will be decided upon completion of these.

Once again the divisional sides have their own 'mini' county championship. Only one of the five divisions will progress to round one.

Carbery play Imokilly while Carrigdhoun meet Seandun. County champions Muskerry lie in wait for the outcome of the Carbery-Imokilly clash and the winners here will meet the winners of the Carrigdhoun v Seandun encounter.

In brief, the likes of Imokilly could end up playing three games just to advance to round one. Many clubs would relish the preparation.

However there is no back door for the divisional sides and some will exit the championship as early as June.

The winners of round one go straight to Round three, where they will meet the winners of Round 2. Further draws will take place after round three is complete.

The divisional clash between Carbery and Carrigdhoun 12 months ago ended all square with Carbery taking the replay by two points, 1-10 to 1-08. Seandun also exited the championship at the early stages at the hands of outright winners Muskerry.

Imokilly and Ballygarvan produced one of 2007's highlights with seven goals and 19 points, drawing their Cork County Senior Championship game at 2-14 to 5-5.

Ballygarvan took the replay to secure their place in the quarter-final. Muskerry eventually ended Carbery's hopes and the last remaining divisional side pushed on.

Having lost three championship games last season, Aghabullogue will be happy and feel confident of taking senior A debutantes Douglas.

St Catherine's encounter with Cloughduv is a repeat of last year's second round tie where Cloughduv had a convincing 3-14 to 0-10 victory.

Catherine's, however, defeated Courcey Rovers in round three and proudly glided into the county quarter-finals in their first season at senior A status. St Finbarr's eventually ended their campaign, advancing to the semi-finals on a 3-08 to 0-8 victory.

Trying to predict the county champions for 2008 is difficult. Would anyone have predicted Muskerry at the beginning of last year's campaign?

We didn't get too many inspiring games in 2007. Many clubs under performed. Cloughduv is one such club



Morgan Conroy, chairman Munster Camogie, presenting the cup to Cork captain, Pamela Mackey, after they beat Clare in the Munster U16 camogie final in Mallow.

Picture: Richard Mills

Barrs a good bet for title

and if the truth be told St Finbarr's didn't set the world on fire either.

Yet these two clubs, with the players they have, should be there or there about again. I'd fancy the Barrs to have another go at it. Their mentality will be stronger in '08 than it was in '07. Possibly the desire to win wasn't as strong as it could have been after taking their first title in 2006, and you can forgive them for that.

Depending on Anna Geary's plans, Milford may miss her too much to seriously contest the title. They start slow and leave it too late time and again to stage a comeback. They often have teams hanging on for dear life but lack that killer instinct to finish them off.

They had a star-studded underage side a number of years ago and came close to winning the senior championship on a couple of occasions. If they can hold it together the chance isn't gone yet. But unless the cycle is continuous the opportunity will slip by.

So, to call it: Cloughduv and Milford

will enter the knockout stages. Based on the experience of taking the title in 2007, Muskerry should also reach the latter stages. However I don't see Muskerry winning back-to-back titles.

My money is on St Finbarr's. If they had brought Vivienne Harris out to the half-forward line earlier in the county final they could well be heading for three in a row. On paper they are one of the most evenly balanced club sides in the championship. They can depend too much on Gemma O'Connor and Harris though. Often their team mates rest on their laurels waiting for these two to perform. If their approach is right they should take the 2008 county championship.

Preliminary Round (Divisional): (F) Carbery v Imokilly; (G) Carrigdhoun v Seandun; Winners of (F) v Muskerry; Winners of (G) v Carbery/Imokilly or Muskerry.

1st Round: (A) Cloughduv v St Catherine's; (B) Barryroe v Inniscarra; (C) Milford v Courcey Rovers; (D) Ballygarvan v St Finbarr's; (E) Douglas v Aghabullogue.

Backdoor (2nd Round): Losers (E) v Losers (A); Divisional Winners v Losers (B); Losers (D) v Losers (C).

Tough task for Rebels

THE Cork intermediate team travel to Lismore on Sunday (11.30) for a first-round meeting against Waterford in a competition that only goes to provincial level.

A huge task lies ahead for a Cork side, not allowed field players who have already won Munster intermediate medals. Having already fielded two teams in the national league this season Cork will effectively be lining out the county's third adult team.

On the plus side, Cork recorded a fine victory over Clare in the Munster Junior Championship and they will be building their squad around these younger players, many of whom have made steady progress from U16 and minor.

The Cork panel has plenty of experienced performers who will not be found wanting, such as Eimear O'Sullivan, Michelle Browne and Linda Dorgan while younger players Emma Dunne, Denise Luby, Leah Weste and Lydia Cunningham have been making their mark at underage.

This Waterford side is a settled one that have been together continuously over the last three years, there has been huge injection of enthusiasm in Waterford and this has helped the game prosper in the county.

They won the Division 3 final in 2006 and when to take Division 2 last year and this was a huge boost as it was their first adult national trophy in years.

Aine Lyng, daughter of manager Paul and impressive underage players such as Trish Jackman, Lisa Prendergast (sister to hurlers Seamus and Declan), Tanya Morrissey, Aine Breathneach, Karen Kelly, Emma Hannon, Grainne Kenneally and Jenny O'Grady played pivotal roles during the league and will be expected to spearhead their challenge.

In last season's fixture Cork had no answers to Waterford and no doubt will be determined to reverse that result but they have a tough job on their hands.

showed how to put scores on the board.

Slack marking allowed our opponents through on goal time and again. Jennifer Mehan, Katie Leisk, Natasha Varian and Sarah Browner worked hard throughout but others need to show improvement. This was the second game in succession that we failed to raise a flag.

BALLINHASSIG

U12 A Team: Recently our U12 A team played their first game of the season away to Douglas. A great display of camogie by both teams with Ballinhassig first to score with a point from Niamh Sheehan.

Douglas were not going to give up easily with both teams fighting very hard. First to find the back of the net were Ballinhassig from a free scored by Niamh Sheehan who was tremendous on the night. The score at half time read 1-1 to 0-0 in our favour.

The introduction of Ciara O'Brien at half-time proved worthwhile as the lively

full-forward scored two goals within five minutes of the restart. Although Douglas fought hard the Ballinhassig backline stood strong keeping a clean sheet. Ballinhassig ran out winners in the end on a score line of 5-1 to 0-0.

U12 D Team: Ballinhassig lined out against Barryroe for their first U12 D league game. It was a very closely contested game with Ballinhassig eventually running out winners by one goal to no score. This goal was scored by Geraldine Collins who had an excellent game for the Blues. Rebecca Moynihan, Kelly Walsh and Diane Jordan also had terrific games.

We met with Passage in the second round of the U12 D league in Ballinhassig. After a very uneventful first half with no score we were treated to a blitz of scores from Ballinhassig in the second. Rebecca Moynihan scored 3-1 point, Emer O'Riordan scored 2-0, with the eventual score being Ballinhassig 7-

1 Passage 0-0. Kate Bohane and Geraldine Collins had very good games for the home team.

U9: The budding stars of the club played in the South East indoor blitz this month. The A team reached the final, playing excellently but were beaten by a golden goal by Courcey Rovers. The B team also reached a final and ran out convincing winners against Slabh Rua.

GLEN ROVERS

Arctic-like conditions greeted our U12 team, who travelled to Cloughduv on Friday night last but driving wind and rain failed to quell the enthusiasm of two spirited teams.

Through the opening half they battled hard to find an opening score but it wasn't to be as it was level pegging at the break.

Through the second half it was the same story as the youngsters from both sides gave it everything, eventually with time running out it was Cloughduv who got the break to

grab a vital goal, despite superb efforts from all our girls we failed to breach the home sides defence as they held on for victory. Once again well done to everyone who gave an excellent performance, no game for this team this weekend as our scheduled opponents Killeagh were unable to make Friday this week therefore we will rearrange in the coming weeks.

U14: All roads lead to Ballincollig today Saturday when we contest Féile na nGael and we will be hoping that this years crop of players can go on to enjoy this years Féile as much as last year's girls when we reached the Cork finals. We are in a tough group that included Carrigaline, St Finbarr's and host club Ballincollig we will be hoping that we can do enough to secure a quarter-final spot on Wednesday next best of luck to our girls and to their selectors and coaches Pat Aoife Tara and the two Marys.

U16: An impressive performance saw our

Dublin's Tipps pay tribute to Liz Howard and Tony Wall

By Gerry Slevin

It was one of those nights when everyone, irrespective of where one came from was a Tipperary person. One of the best-attended Tipperary Association functions in years saw Premier County natives and friends assemble in the splendid Louis Fitzgerald Hotel on Dublin's Naas Road last Friday night. The highlight of the vibrant Association's year saw the Tipperary Personality of the Year 2007 award presented to National Camogie President Liz Howard. The Hall of Fame award was presented to former Tipperary All Ireland winning captain Tony Wall. The worthiness and the entitlement of both recipients to their respective honours was reflected in the reception they received on acceptance of their awards.

A night of camaraderie, and of rejoicing, all with a very definite Tipperary bias as under the direction of Association President Michael Fenton upwards of 250 people thoroughly enjoyed an occasion graced with the presence of notables in many walks of life, particularly sporting. They included Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Patron of the GAA and of the Association, Ollie Kilkenny, Chairman of the Irish Sports Council, John Treacy, CEO Irish Sports Council, Tipperary GAA Board officers John Costigan (chairman), Timmy Floyd (secretary), Con Hogan (Central Council delegate), John Ryan (Munster Council delegate) recent GAA Presidential candidate Liam O'Neill, and Lar O'Brien, Tipp Camogie Board chairman. Dublin City Manager John Tierney was also present as was Ger Ryan Chairman of the Tipperary

Supporters club.

Liz Howard's immediate predecessor as Camogie President, Miriam O'Callaghan also attended along with Joan O'Flynn who will succeed her next March. Former Personality award winners present included Michael 'Babs' Keating, Louis Fitzgerald, John Lonergan and Alice Leahy. Previous Hall of Fame recipients, Tommy Barrett and Jimmy Doyle were also there. Tipp All-Ireland hurlers Mick Roche, Mick Murphy, Sean McLoughlin and Tommy Dunne joined in the celebrations too and there was a very special welcome for an All-Ireland winning member of the 1945 team, 90 year old Clare native (Kilmaley) Michael Murphy, who also played with his native Clare against Tipp in the Munster semi final of 1949. Mick resided and worked in Thurles for several years (Russell's Drapery) and now lives in Dublin.

Michael Fenton told the gathering that they were proud of their county and proud of the people who by their own personal achievements had brought honour to Tipperary. An occasion like this, he added, also gave the Association in Dublin an opportunity to thank them and to mark their achievements in a more formal way. The trophies, specially commissioned, were designed and sculpted by Jarlath Daly (MC for the evening and a former Association President). Michael described him as a sculptor of national importance and the most respected sculptor working in Ireland at present.

Referring to the venue for their celebrations, Michael said they were delighted, after some great years in the Burlington Hotel and after that in Moran's Red Cow, to be celebrating in a hotel

owned by a great Tipperary man and a former Personality of the Year, Louis Fitzgerald. He expressed the Association's gratitude to Louis and his staff and wished him every success.

The Personality of the Year award (sponsored by Omada Security Group) was presented to Liz Howard by John Treacy, on behalf of the Association. Louis Fitzgerald, sponsor of the Hall of Fame award presented the trophy to Tony Wall, following the reading of citations by Michael Fenton (Liz Howard) and Association secretary Liam Moyles (Tony Wall).

Their Personality of the Year, Michael Fenton said, was born in Carrick on Suir to a family steeped in GAA tradition. Her father Garrett, a Limerick native had the distinction of winning senior All-Ireland medals with both Limerick and Dublin. Liz played camogie in Tipperary, Clare and Dublin and won a National League medal with Tipp in the inaugural league in 1977. When she moved to Dublin she joined the Civil Service and then Aer Lingus where after a period in the HR department she joined the management team in Flight Services. She also spent a period in secondment to a fledgling airline in Nigeria. She was elected the first woman President of the Tipperary Association in Dublin and was a member of the first committee of the Tipperary Supporters Club.

Liz was PRO for the Tipperary County GAA Board for several years and also spent a period as analyst in the early years of RTE's 'The Sunday Game'. In March 2006, she was elected President of the Camogie Association, the first Tipperary person to hold that office.

In accepting the award Liz Howard said it meant

a lot to her. She thanked the Association for so honouring her adding that she accepted it with great humility because to be honoured by one's own county meant so much. Those who knew her knew how much she loved Tipp. She spoke of the regard with which she held Hall of Fame winner Tony Wall as a hurler when she was growing up. Coincidentally, Tony's own hero, Michael Murphy was also with them this evening.

She spoke also of the great influence of her parents on her and her family members and was delighted that three of her four her sisters Pat (O'Driscoll) Jo (Needham), Anne (O'Meara) and her brother Gary as well as other family members were with her to share in the great honour being bestowed on her. The support of other camogie personnel, of her club Burgess, of the Tipperary county GAA and camogie boards was also so much appreciated, as was that of former Aer Lingus colleagues.

Liz ended her acceptance address with some lines from a poem.

*"You cannot buy or borrow a minute
Time is not and will not be for sale
For the time that we are given is always for life itself"*

Tony Wall, said Liam Moyles, was born in Clonmel. He won two Harty Cup medals with Thurles CBS in 1951 and '52 and played with Tipp minors in '50, '51 and '52, winning two Munster titles and captaining the All-Ireland winning team of '52. 1952 also saw him win the first of eleven county senior hurling medals with Thurles Sarsfields. He captained the Tipp All-Ireland winning side of '58 and won All-Ireland medals in '61, '62, '64 and '65. He

also won eight Munster medals, seven NHL medals and five Railway Cup medals and he also spent a time in Tipperary team management (1986).

Tony had a very successful career in the Army, reaching the rank of Adjutant General. An excellent golfer, he won five All-Army golf championships and the prestigious Lord Mayor's Cup. A member of Clontarf Golf Club, he was elected President of the club last year.

Tony said it was an emotional occasion when looking around at such a gathering assembled to honour Liz and himself. He and his wife Betty were accompanied by three generations of his family. He was delighted to see a group from Thurles Sarsfields in attendance and he spoke of the great warriors it was his privilege to play with in his hurling days.

He said he was so lucky to have been involved with great teams all his life, the CBS team, Sarsfield and Tipperary. He spoke of the great comradeship that existed in those days and referred to the encouraging developments in Tipperary hurling of late.

Tony recalled some moments to remember in his career, many amusing ones and he finished with some lines from what he described as the most hopeful bit of poetry he knew. It was from a Bryan McMahon ballad on Clare goalkeeper Dr Tommy Daly;

*"Beyond this place of toil and tears, beyond this plain of woe
There is a bourne in Paradise where all the hurlers go
And there in prime they're goaling and race across the sod
And thrill our dead forefathers on the level lawns of God"*



Louis Fitzgerald, Liz Howard, Tipperary Person of the Year; Tony Wall, Hall of Fame and Michael Fenton, President of the Tipperary Association at the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Awards. Photograph: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE.



Former Tipperary hurler Tony Wall is presented with the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Hall of Fame award by John Treacy, CEO of the Irish Sports Council at the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Awards. Photograph: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE.



Liz Howard is presented with the Tipperary Person of the Year award, by John Treacy, CEO of the Irish Sports Council at the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Awards. Photograph: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE.

APRIL 2008

Liz Howard and Tony Wall to be feted on Friday

By Gerry Slevin

Burgess lady Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association will, on Friday night become the 27th person to be honoured as Tipperary Personality of the Year 2007 when that accolade is conferred on her by The Tipperary Association in Dublin at its annual dinner in Louis Fitzgerald's hotel on just beyond Newland's Cross.

Joining her at the top table from which he will be inducted into the Association's Hall of Fame will be former Tipperary All-Ireland senior hurling captain Tony Wall from Thurles and a big attendance is anticipated, not only to join in the well deserved tributes to be paid to both guests of honour but in appreciation of the great work undertaken by the Association under the guidance of its President Michael Fenton, a native of Ballina.

The Association is now seventy four years in existence and the Personality of the Year accolade (changed in recent years from Person of the Year) has been a feature since 1981 when Borrisokane greyhound trainer Ger McKenna was the inaugural recipient.

Since then men and women with achievements in many fields, particularly sporting, have been honoured. These have included GAA personnel Seamus McCarthy (1984), Michael 'Babs' Keating ('87), Nicky English ('89), Pat Fox ('91), Declan Browne ('98), Michael Cleary (2000), John Leahy (2002) and Una O'Dwyer ('04). Other sports people honoured were jockeys Michael Kinane ('88), Charlie Swan ('94) and Christy Roche ('97). Also honoured have been Labhras O'Murchu, Director General of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (1982), Peter Treacy ('83), Dr Willie Nolan ('85), broadcaster Tommy O'Brien ('86), Dr Tony Ryan ('90), publican Louis Fitzgerald ('92) at whose new hotel Friday night's function will be held, fashion designer Louise Kennedy ('93), Mountjoy Prison Governor John Lonergan ('95), Chernobyl children's project founder Adi Roche ('96), former Muintir na Tire President Jim Quigley ('99), cancer specialist Dr Michael Maher (2001), Alice Leahy founder of TRUST (caring for the homeless) ('03), peace maker Fr Alec Reid ('05)



Liz Howard

and Louis Ronan, founder of Enfer group ('06).

Liz Howard is only the fifth female to have been chosen.

The Hall of Fame award is relatively new on the scene, having been first introduced in 1999. Here, all recipients have had a distinctive sporting flavour with the exception of former farm leader and European politician (MEP) T.J. Maher for 2000. Joint All-Ireland senior medal holder (with Christy Ring) John Doyle was the first one to be so honoured and others were show jumper Tommy Wade for 2001, former County Board secretary Tommy Barrett ('02), another hurling great Jimmy Doyle for '03, Babs Keating for '04, Seamus O'Riain former GAA

President for '05 and for '06 Jimmy 'Butler' Coffey, the longest surviving Tipperary All-Ireland medal holder.

Michael 'Babs' Keating had the distinction of having won both Person of the Year and the Hall of Fame awards.

Michael Fenton will preside over Friday night's function which always attracts big numbers of Tipperary residents in Dublin as well as families and friends of the recipients and others travelling up from the county itself.

Liz Howard and Tony Wall are thoroughly deserving of being respectively honoured by the Tipperary Association. Both have been very much to the fore in various roles they have played within the GAA family. Liz is also a former President of the Tipperary Association and it was on her election to that office that the Association changed its name from the Tipperary Men's Association. Tony, resides in Dublin and is a staunch member of the Association and is a regular attendee at the annual dinner.

The secretary of the Association is Liam Myles from Ardfinnan, a former Tipperary footballer.

APRIL 2008

Cats end long title drought

KILKENNY 3-11
GALWAY 0-17

A HAT-TRICK of goals earned Kilkenny a first National Camogie league title since 1993 following a three point win over Galway at Nowlan Park yesterday.

Second half goals from Michelle Quilty and substitute Edwina Keane paved the way for a historic success.

Scorers — Galway: J Gill (7) 0-8; V Curtin (21) 0-5; L Kavanagh 0-2; B Kerins, L Ryan 0-1 each.
Kilkenny: A Neary (11) 1-3; S Millea (31, 145) 0-4; M Quilty, E Keane 1-0 each; K Power, M Dargan 0-1 each.

Confident Kilkenny bridge 15-year title gap



Therese O'Callaghan
Nowlan Park

Kilkenny 3-11

Galway..... 0-17

ARE KILKENNY re-emerging as one of the top camogie forces for 2008? At Nowlan Park on Saturday, they produced a glittering display to capture their first National League title in 15 years against a Galway side that came with high hopes of silverware. The cats returned to the main stage in style producing a fast and skilful display. Many of their younger guns, who have won five underage titles in the past three years, showed great promise.

Accordingly, manager Ann Downey can be in confident mood as the cats bid for their first All-Ireland title since her playing days in 1994.

"The girls had plenty of experience, but not at senior level. This will give them more confidence," she affirmed.

Yes, and they surely did it the hard way. Full back Catherine Doherty cried off before the game due to ill health, which meant a move for Aine Fahy to the square with Amy Butler at corner back. And with the action just 18 minutes old, wing-forward Katie McDonald was wined off with injury.

However, this was where the black and amber showed huge resolve. Marie Dargan — a former Irish Examiner National Junior Sports Star — was no sooner off the bench as McDonald's

replacement when she fired over a point. As Kilkenny introduced all five substitutes, their hand never weakened. It looks as if the manager might have learned a thing or two from Brian Cody. Nobody is guaranteed their place, even captain Marie O'Connor didn't make the starting lineup, but did come on in time to accept the silverware from president Liz Howard.

Still, Kilkenny endured a nervous start, allowing Galway to dictate. Through the accuracy of Veronica Curtin and Jessica Gill (with 13 points between them) Galway held an impressive 0-10 to 0-5 lead approaching half time. They were the bigger and stronger side, but the cats showed tremendous pace and heart. It was when the brilliant Aoife Neary fired home their first goal in injury time that we sensed the maroon and white might not get their own way.

Julie-Ann Woodcock was introduced after the break and her injection of speed around the middle for Kilkenny was significant. Through points from Neary, Ann Dalton and Sinead Millea they drew level with a quarter of an hour remaining, 1-10 to 0-13.

This was when the cats pressed for home. They scorched into the lead when Katie Power found Michelle Quilty who buried from close range. But, it was the goal by substitute Edwina Keane (back after a six month cruciate injury) that clinched the deal.

"We got great goals," agreed Downey. "We hadn't been getting them all year. Credit to Paul (Murphy) and John (Lonergan) for having the girls in such good form."

Really, this was the difference. Leaking three goals was trouble for Galway and put them under a lot of pressure.



Kilkenny celebrate after their victory over Galway in the National League Division One camogie final at Nowlan Park, Co. Kilkenny.

Picture: Sportsfile

Clare edge out Derry in decider

CLARE gained revenge for last year's heartbreaking Gala All-Ireland junior final defeat to Derry with a 4-8 to 3-9 victory against the Oak Leaf County in Saturday's Division Two decider.

Clare led 2-6 to 1-5 at half-time and although substitute Oonagh Mullan bagged a second-half brace of goals for Derry, the Banner County held on for a precious win.

In the replayed Division Three decider, Antrim ran out 6-11 to 3-7 victors against Offaly.

Antrim led by 5-3 to 3-7 at half-time and only managed to pull away from the Faithful County with late scoring blitz. Grainne Connolly, Clare Laverty and Sharon Graham each scored 2-1 for the Glenswomen while Michelle Davis scored 1-5.

Kilkenny dominated centre field too.

But, for now, it is Kilkenny who look the bigger threat. And with championship looming in early June, All-Ireland champions Wexford will surely be casting a wary eye over the county bounds.

Scorers for Kilkenny: A Neary 1-2, S Millea 0-5 (0-4 frees, 0-1 45m), M Quilty and E Keane 1-0 each, A Dalton 0-2 (0-1 free), K Power and M Dargan 0-1 each.

Scorers for Galway: J Gill 0-8 (0-7 frees), V Curtin 0-5 (0-2 frees), L Kavanagh 0-2, B Kerins and L Ryan 0-1 each.

KILKENNY: C Ryan, A Butler, A Fahy, E Lyng, E Aylward, K A Cottrell, J Frisby, A Dalton, L Lyng;

A Neary, K Fennelly, K McDonald; K Power, S Millea, K Power.

Subs: M Dargan for K McDonald (18 mins inj), J A Woodcock for E Lyng (14), E Keane for K A Cottrell (45), C Dargan for K Fennelly (57), M O'Connor (capt) for M Quilty (61).

GALWAY: S Eamer, S Noone, S Cahalane (capt), S Keane, A M Hayes, T Maher, A Hillery, S Tannion, A Kelly, J Gill, V Curtin, N Kilkenny, O Kilkenny, L Kavanagh, B Kerins.

Subs: L Ryan for A Kelly (25), C Kelly for S Tannion (40).

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary)

**Pity no national television station covered the game live. This final deserved to be seen by a much wider audience.



Kilkenny's Katie Power is pursued by Galway's Aine Hillary, Therese Maher and Sarah Noone in the National League Division One final at Nowlan Park

Neary nets crucial goal as Cats roar to league title

KILKENNY were crowned camogie league champions for a 10th time following Saturday's thrilling 3-11 to 0-17 final victory against Galway at Nowlan Park.

Goals proved crucial for the Noreiders, who trailed against Liam Donoghue's Tribeswomen by 0-11 to 1-5 at half-time.

Galway were heading for a comfortable half-time advantage but goals proved crucial for Kilkenny on the day and Aoife Neary bagged a crucial strike just before the break to haul the Cats back into contention.

In an exciting encounter, the sides were level at the three-quarter point before

two goals in three minutes from Michelle Quilty and Edwina Keane sent Kilkenny into the comfort zone and on their way to a first Division 1 crown since 1993.

Galway, chasing a first title since 2005, had superb performances from Jessica Gill, who landed 0-8 and Veronica Curtin, who chipped in with five points.

Meanwhile, Clare gained revenge for last year's heartbreaking Gala All-Ireland junior final defeat against Derry with a 4-8 to 3-9 victory against the Oak Leaf County in Saturday's Division 2 decider.

Clare led by 2-6 to 1-5 at half-time and although substitute Oonagh Mullan bagged a second-half brace of goals for Derry, the Banner County held on for a precious win.

Clare had sparkling per-

formances from Sharon O'Loughlin, sister of former Clare hurler Ger 'Sparrow' O'Loughlin, Fiona Lafferty and super sub Laura Linnane.

At St Peregrine's in Blanchardstown, Dublin, O'Loughlin scored 2-1, including a goal in each half, while Lafferty and Linnane chipped in with 1-1 each.

In the replayed Division 3 decider, Antrim ran out 6-11 to 3-7 victors against Offaly but the final scoreline flattered the Saffrons.

Antrim led by 5-3 to 3-7 at half-time and only managed to pull away from the Faithful County with late scoring blitz.

Gráinne Connolly, Clare Lavery and Sharon Graham each scored 2-1 for the Glenswomen while Michelle Davis top scored for Offaly with a 1-5 haul.



Máiréad O'Callaghan (Hon Sec Sciath na Scol) presents the trophy to Amanda Palmer, captain Ballyheada NS following their win in the Indoor Camogie League final at Na Píarsaigh.

Picture: Mike English

League titles for Kilkenny, Clare and Antrim

BY JACKIE CAHILL

Goals proved crucial for the Noreiders, who trailed against Liam Donoghue's Tribeswomen by 0-11 to 1-5 at half-time. Galway were heading for a comfortable half-time advantage but goals proved crucial for Kilkenny on the day and Aoife Neary bagged a crucial strike just before the break to haul the Cats back into contention.

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ends



Hungry Kilkenny get taste for silverware



Kilkenny 3-11



Galway 0-17

The scorers:

Kilkenny - Aoife Neary (1-2); Sinead Millea (0-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45); Michelle Quilty, Edwina Keane (1-0 each); Ann Dalton (0-2); Katie Power, Marie Dargan (0-1 each).

Galway - Jessica Gill (0-8, 0-6 frees); Veronica Curtin (0-5, 0-2 frees); Lourda Kavanagh (0-2); Brenda Kerins, Lorraine Ryan (0-1 each).

Trevor Spillane

HUNGER for glory proved to be the driving force as the Kilkenny senior camogie team feasted on League spoils at Nowlan Park on Saturday.

At times Kilkenny looked in danger of falling away against a physically bigger and sharper-looking Galway side - but the desire to dine at camogie's top table proved enough to spur the Cats on.

There was a brief glimpse of this when Kilkenny fought their way into the game close to half-time. Trailing by five points, a quick surge through the centre of the Galway defence ended when a Katie Power pass was swept to the net by the in-rushing Aoife Neary.

That injury-time goal proved vital, as when the interval arrived there were just three points between the sides (0-11 to 1-5).

However, the big swing towards victory arrived in a magical three-minute second half spell for the Cats.

Smashed into lead

Having worked hard to get back on level terms, Kilkenny smashed their way into the lead on 44 minutes when Michelle Quilty took a pass from Power, drew goalkeeper Susan Earner from her line and coolly drilled the sliotar to the net.

That lead was copper-fastened when, from their next attack, Kilkenny raised the green flag again three minutes later.

With the confidence soaring through the team, they attacked and carved Galway open. Led by Julie-Ann Woodcock and Quilty, play was moved on to Marie Dargan on the edge of the square.

With only one thing on her mind, the St Martin's girl went for goal. Her shot was well stopped by Earner, but the goalkeeper was powerless to stop sub Edwina Keane flicking the rebound to the net with her first touch of the game.

Keen to hit the ground running from the throw-in, Kilkenny's preparations were thrown into disarray when illness ruled full-back Catherine Doherty out of the game. Then, as if to really test them, they lost livewire half-forward Kate McDonald to injury midway through the first half.

Second best

At that stage, things were looking anything but rosy for Kilkenny, who had been second best to the visitors from the West. With forwards Veronica Curtin and Jessica Gill tormenting the Kilkenny backs and scoring with confidence, the Galway girls looked comfortable with a four point lead (0-5 to 0-1), an 11th minute Katie Power point the only time the Cats had troubled the scoreboard operator.

A Sinead Millea free brought Kilkenny back into the game before a point from sub Marie Dargan, the replacement for the injured McDonald, made it back-to-back scores for the first time for Cats.

That rally was ended by Curtin's third point of the afternoon, but there was a notable change in Kilkenny's mood by then, as they looked like getting more from the game.

Hopes of a comeback grew stronger when midfielder Ann Dalton, who impressed throughout, and Sinead Millea added points late on, but a surge from Curtin, Gill and Brenda Kerins meant Kilkenny were starting down a five point gap at the break (0-10 to 0-5).

That all changed when Neary goalied midway through four min-



The Kilkenny senior camogie team who beat Galway in the Division One League final. Back row (from left): Sinead Brennan, Linda Cotterall, Bronagh Neary, Sinead Long, Marie Dargan, Lucinda Gahan, Anna Farrell, Edwina Keane, Hannah Maher, Marigan Nolan, Elaine O'Shea. Middle row: Claire Aylward, Grace Dunphy, Linda Phelan, Claire Ryan, Bridget Mullally, Julie Ann Woodcock, Elaine Aylward, Collette Dormer, Keava Fennelly, Catherine Doherty, Kelly Ann Cottrell, Catriona Ryan, Jacqui Frisby, Laura Kavanagh. Front row: Siobhan Murphy, Amy Butler, Emer Lyng, Sinead Millea, Michelle Quilty, Katie Power, Lizzy Lyng, Marie O'Connor, Aoife Neary, Aine Fahy, Ann Dalton. Missing from pic: Kate McDonald.

utes of injury-time. Although Gill converted a free from all of 65 metres soon after, that goal meant Kilkenny were chasing a single score deficit going in at half-time (0-11 to 1-5).

Strength in depth

While goals win games the strength in depth Kilkenny had at their disposal proved vital in overturning Galway's advantage. Julie-Ann Woodcock was introduced to the fray for the second half, and instantly helped shore up the defence.

With that added steel at the back, the forwards were able to really show their teeth. Aoife Neary showed that with the first point of the half, swiftly followed by an Ann Dalton free from some way out.

Galway were quickly back on the offensive thanks to Curtin's fifth point of the day, but with Kilkenny now dominating the attack proved fleeting. Another Neary point, scored following a one-two with Dalton, kept Kilkenny going, before two Millea frees in a minute saw Kilkenny take the lead for the first time with 19 minutes to play (1-10 to 0-12).

An angled point from full-forward Lourda Kavanagh had Galway back on level terms by the 43rd minute, but parity lasted just 60 seconds as Michelle Quilty rattled the Tribeswomen's net. With Edwina Keane doing the same just minutes

later, it was now advantage Kilkenny.

There was still the not so small matter of ten minutes to endure before Kilkenny could celebrate. Any premature thoughts of victory were cancelled when goalkeeper Catriona Ryan had to make a near-post save to deny Orla Kilkenny a goal from point-blank range. Jessica Gill managed to point the loose ball, but a Sinead Millea 45 meant

Kilkenny maintained that six-point cushion.

The closing minutes were played at 90 miles an hour, as Galway went flat out for a way back into the game. That drama intensified when sub Lorraine Ryan and Gill (two frees) cut the gap to just three with time almost up.

With Kilkenny shutting up shop, that was as close as they'd get to wrestling the title from the Cats.

The teams

Kilkenny - C. Ryan (Tullagher), A. Butler (Mullinavat), A. Fahy (Emeralds), E. Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), E. Aylward (Mullinavat), K.A. Cottrell (Tullagher), J. Frisby (Shamrocks), A. Dalton (St Lachtain's), L. Lyng (Rower-Inistioge), A. Neary (James Stephens), K. Fennelly (Shamrocks), K. McDonald (Thomastown), M. Quilty (Mullinavat), S. Millea (Cashel), K. Power (Piltown). Subs: M. Dargan (St Martin's) for McDonald, 18 mins; J.A. Woodcock (Danesfort) for E. Lyng, 31 mins; E. Keane (St Martin's) for Cottrell, 46 mins; C. Dormer (Paulstown) for Fennelly, 58 mins; M. O'Connor (St Lachtain's) for Quilty, 61 mins.

Galway - S. Earner, S. Noone, S. Cahalane, S. Keane, A.M. Hayes, T. Maher, A. Hillary, S. Tannion, A. Kelly, J. Gill, V. Curtin, N. Kilkenny, O. Kilkenny, L. Kavanagh, B. Kerins. Subs: L. Ryan for Kelly, 26 mins; C. Kelly for Tannion, 36 mins.

Referee - E. Browne (Tipperary).

LEAGUE ROLL OF HONOUR

Cork (14) - 1984, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007.
Kilkenny (10) - 1978, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 2006.
Dublin (3) - 1979, 1981, 1983.
Galway (3) - 1994, 2002, 2005.
Tipperary (2) - 1976, 2004.
Wexford (1) - 1977.



Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny) tries to get past the challenge of Lourda Kavanagh (Galway) during the Senior Camogie Division 1 League Final in Nowlan Park.



Aoife Neary (Kilkenny) stretches out to control the sliotar as Therese Maher (Galway) gives chase during the Senior Camogie Division 1 League Final in Nowlan Park.

APRIL 2008

Valley beat the champs Milford

By MARY NEWMAN

Felie Na Na's round-up

A HECTIC day's camogie on Saturday at six different venues as 18 clubs battled it out for a place in the Cork Felie Na Na Gael division one quarter-finals.

In Ovens, Cork Felie champions Milford had to be content with finishing as runners-up in their group but it was enough to book them a semi-final spot.

Valley Rovers held the upper hand with victories over Milford, Elie Og, St Vincent's and Balinassag to finish top of the group.

In Coastford, Douglas blazed a trail to confidently top the group with victories over Brian Dillon's, Blackrock and Cloughduv and it was Cloughduv who booked their place as runners-up with good displays over Blackrock and Brian Dillon's.

Section C was held in Ballyanley and it was topped by Courcy Rovers, who came into the competition as late replacements for Kelleigh who withdrew after the draws were made.

Courcy edged out Inniscarra in a close game before going on to defeat Butevant and Newtownshandrum. Newtown were content with the runners-up spot as they qualified with victories over Slisah Rua, Inniscarra and Butevant.

Last year's defeated Cork finalists Glen Rovers topped their section out in Ballycally with victories over the host club Ballycally, Carrigaline and St Finbar's and in a close game to decide who would emerge as runners-up it was Carrigaline who grabbed the spot with a goal to spare over Ballycally.

In division two, Mallow blazed a trail as they booked their place in the semi-finals with comprehensive victories over Sarisfields and Castleyons. Castleyons going through as runners-up.

lowers:

TOMORROW

Division Two: Mallow v Courcy Ballycally 7pm, Na Piarasigh v Castleyons Glenmire 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

Division One: Courcy Rovers v Cloughduv in Newtownshandrum in Glen Rovers v Newtownshandrum in Glen Rovers v 7pm Valley Rovers v Carrigaline in Valley Rovers v 7pm Douglas v Milford in Douglas v 7pm.

RESULTS

DIVISION 1: Section A: Ballycally 3-8 St. Vincent's 0-0; Valley Rovers 3-3 Milford 1-0; Balinassag 1-1 Elie Og 0-2; Milford 6-4 St Vincent's 1-0; Valley Rovers 5-3 Elie Og 0-0; Milford 4-5 Balinassag 2-1; Valley Rovers 5-3 St. Vincent's 0-0; Milford 5-9 Elie Og 1-0; Valley Rovers 1-3 Balinassag 1-2; Elie Og 4-3 St. Vincent's 0-1.

Section B: Douglas 3-8 Brian Dillon's 0-1; Cloughduv 2-2 Blackrock 0-0; Douglas 3-5 Blackrock 0-0; Cloughduv 1-1 Brian Dillon's 0-2; Douglas 5-6 Cloughduv 0-0; Brian Dillon's 6-4 Blackrock 0-1.

Section C: Newtownshandrum 2-2 Slisah Rua 0-0; Courcy Rovers 3-1 Inniscarra 2-0; Butevant 2-6 Slisah Rua 0-0; Newtownshandrum 4-1 Inniscarra 0-1; Courcy Rovers 1-6 Butevant 0-1; Inniscarra 8-5 Slisah Rua 0-0; Newtownshandrum 4-2 Butevant 1-3; Inniscarra 6-1 Butevant 1-0; Courcy Rovers 4-5 Newtownshandrum 2-1.

Section D: Ballycally 5-0 St. Finbar's 0-0; Glen Rovers 4-5 Carrigaline 0-0; Glen Rovers 2-2 Ballycally 1-0; Carrigaline 4-2 St. Finbar's 3-5; Carrigaline 2-1; Ballycally 1-1; Glen Rovers 3-5 St. Finbar's 0-0.

Division 2: Section E: Mallow 6-1 Sarisfields 0-0; Mallow 7-1; Castleyons 0-0 Castleyons 0-2 Sarisfields 0-0.

Section F: Courcy 2-0 Ft. O'Neill's 1-0; Tracton 1-1 Na Piarasigh 1-0; Na Piarasigh 1-1 Courcy 2-1; Tracton 2-0 Ft. O'Neill's 1-0; Courcy 2-1 Tracton.

0-0: Na Piarasigh 3-4 Ft. O'Neill's 0-0.

League secured, now Cats eye up Tipp challenge



GOAL-DEN GIRLS... Edwina Keane, Michelle Quilty and Aoife Neary who scored the three goals for Kilkenny in the Division 1 Camogie League final in Nowlan Park on Saturday.

Trevor Spillane

KILKENNY may have ended a 15-year wait for camogie League glory, but the Cats are firmly focused on the bigger challenges that lie ahead.

"It's great to win a League title, but hopefully this is only the start of bigger and better things for Kilkenny," said manager Ann Downey in the aftermath of what was a fabulous victory over gallant Galway.

"From the start of the year our stall was set out for the championship game against Tipperary

on June 1 and that's what we're going to focus on from now."

Given the manner of their dramatic 3-11 to 0-17 victory over Galway on Saturday - at one stage Kilkenny trailed by double scores - dreaming of future glory is expected. However, even Downey admitted her surprise at the fact that the county had endured a long barren spell without senior success.

"I captained the last Kilkenny team that won the All-Ireland in 1994, while Marina Downey captained the last side to

win the League the year before," she said. "It's unbelievable to think that we've been out of the limelight at senior level for so long."

Huge step-up

"While we have been winning titles at under-16 and under-18 levels it's a huge step-up to play senior camogie. We have youth there in the panel but there's experience too with Sinead Millea and Brigid Mullally. They have been helping the girls along and now they really believe in themselves."

Another big factor in Kilkenny's return to the

big time has been the work ethic of the squad.

"The work rate the panel has put in has been phenomenal," said Ann. "We have had training for an hour and a half three nights a week. John and Paul are so professional in their approach, always making training sessions different, that the girls really appreciate it."

Given that youth is on their side, the question was put to the Kilkenny manager about whether nerves affected her side and led to a slow start that saw them trail 0-4 to 0-0 against Galway after ten minutes.

"Perhaps," she said. "We were playing in Nowlan Park, and it's a great achievement to be playing a final on home turf. Certainly the girls were nervous before the game as they are very young, but we knew that if we stuck to the task we could settle into the game."

Do damage

"Our full-forward line had been on fire all year, but weren't getting enough ball to do real damage. We told the players to knuckle down and to be confident in their own ability because they are a great bunch of players, and they have worked hard with us (the management team of Downey,

Paul Murphy and John Loneragan) since last November."

"Coming in at half-time the team knew they hadn't played as well as they could, but it's all down to having belief in themselves. The first few points of the second half helped to set us up, but more importantly it was the goals that won the match, especially the two that came within a few minutes in the second half. At that stage it was anyone's game," she said. "Galway had been threatening, especially with their frees, but at the end of the day it's goals that win matches."

"That was something we hadn't been doing in the League," Downey added. "We had scored just one goal in our other League games before the final but the three goals were the difference on the day."

Ready for anything

Another key part in Kilkenny's victory lay in the naming of a big panel. Prior to the final Ms Downey stated that having a big panel ensured that Kilkenny would be ready for anything. The benefit of that decision came to light with the introduction of Marie Dargan in the first half and Julie-Ann Woodcock at half-time, switches which strengthened the Kilkenny chal-

lenge.

"There was added steel in the team with those changes," the manager agreed. "We have a rule that players must attend training - if you don't, then you find yourself slipping down the pecking order when it comes to naming the team. Julie-Ann had been caught up with the Ashbourne Cup in college, but when she stepped in in the second half she did help to make a difference. It was great to be able to bring on the substitutes we did," she added. "We said at the start of the year that we needed a good strong bench and that's exactly what we have. You could put out any starting 15 on the day and you know that we have players who are equally as good ready to come in when needed."

"Kate McDonald going off with an injury was a big loss to us, but we had suffered another setback before a ball was pucked as Catherine Doherty, who has been outstanding at full-back all year, was forced to miss the game through illness."

"Catherine has always played her camogie in the forward lines, but we needed a full-back this year. While she might have questioned our decision to play her in the backs we knew she

had the ability in her. It was a massive blow to lose her before the game but the girls put their shoulders to the wheel and went out to win it for her."

Back on the map

"That's what we told them," she added. "Win this League final for yourselves and put Kilkenny back on the map."

While Kilkenny won't get carried away with winning the League, hopes in the camp are high that this could be the start of something big.

"We had always hoped to do well this year," Downey said. "Winning the League is a good start, but it means that every team we face is going to step up to the mark against Kilkenny and may be watching what we do, but we'll concentrate on our own game."

"We'll tip away and do our own thing," she insisted. "There's no point in worrying about the opposition - we didn't with Galway or any of the other sides we faced in the League. If we get our own game right and play as a unit on the day then we can play as good as what's out there."

Boosted by Saturday's win, Kilkenny now have a great chance to challenge for their 13th All-

Ireland success. They picked up seven of their dozen titles between 1985 and 1991, in what was a golden era for the county, but have only won one more since - when Downey was captain in 1994. The challenge of making it to the top is even greater considering only Wexford (2007) have broken the Cork and Tipperary stranglehold in the game

over the last 11 years, with both Munster counties taking five O'Duffy Cups apiece.

It's a big ask, but Downey and Kilkenny will relish the challenge which begins on June 1.

"It's time to get our heads down now," she said. "We're playing Tipp in the first round of the championship in June. We're not looking beyond that."



Kilkenny Captain Marie O'Connor lifts the Division 1 League Cup aloft in Nowlan Park. Photos: Eoin Hennessy

APRIL 2008

Intermediate team book final spot

THE Cork Intermediate team advanced at the expense of Waterford to the Munster Championship decider where they will meet Clare on Monday next at a Clare venue at 2.30pm. There has been plenty of success on the provincial stage already with the under 16 A and B and junior titles secured. The minor team will shortly play Clare in their decider while on Saturday next the senior teams will do battle with Tipperary when they meet in Pairc Uí Rinn at 5pm.

A determined Cork side spearheaded by experienced performers such as Captain Linda Dorgan Eimear O'Sullivan and Lucy Hawkes Cork were well worth their five point winning margin striking nine points in the opening thirty minutes they laid the foundations for victory. Cork coming under pressure held their composure under strong Waterford pressure in the early stages but points from Denise Luby Michelle Browne Marion Jaego and

Eimear O'Sullivan helped Cork settle. In defence Cork goalkeeper Denise Leahy denied Waterford with some fine saves and Waterford found the going tough against the strong Cork defence that closed them down at every opportunity. Nicole Morrissey Jenny Simpson Charlotte Raher and Kate Marie Hearn had Waterford points as Cork led 0-9 to 0-5 at half time.

A Denise Luby goal inside ten minutes of the restart was the boost Cork needed as they maintain their dominance, points from Eimear O'Sullivan Linda Dorgan Michelle Browne and Evelyn Roynane added to the Cork tally with Nicola Morrissey pointing twice as Waterford found the going tough. Waterford substitute Aine Lyng added a goal five minutes from full time before the same player added a point but by the Cork girls had done enough to ensure no way back for the home side.



Cork's Denise Luby tussles for possession with Waterford's Lisa Prendergast during the Munster Intermediate camogie.

Feile na nGael

BY the time we go to print just four teams will remain in the hunt for the Cork Feile Na nGael title. On Saturday last eighteen clubs battled it out for a place in the Cork Feile Na nGael division 1 quarter finals which took place last night (Wed).

The eight quarter finalists were Courcy Rovers, Carrigaline, Valley Rovers, Newtownshandrum Clough-

dun, Glen Rovers, Douglas, and Milford.

In division 2 Na Piar-saigh and Mallow qualified for the final with semi finals victories over Castleyons and Clonakilty. Clubs are reminded that the Feile skills takes place on Monday next May 5th in St Finbarrs starting at 5.30p, two entries per club on or before Friday to Mary Moran.

CAMOGIE

Cork Colleges Senior A final, Coachford
3-8 St Mary's Charleville 1-9
Cork College Junior A final: Christ the King 1-8 Coachford 1-5.
Fixture: Tuesday next - Cork Colleges Intermediate C final, at the Tank Field, 1pm, St Patrick's v Mount Mercy.

Coachford College
St Mary's, Charleville

3-8
1-9

ST MARY'S, Charleville relinquished their prolonged ownership of the Cork Colleges Senior A Camogie title at Mallow yesterday, losing out to rivals Coachford in a highly entertaining final.

Coachford started well with a point from Michelle Healy after good approach play by Aisling O'Keefe and Caroline Kiely.

Indeed, Healy was unfortunate when her next attempt rebounded off the crossbar before Rosemary Rea cleared her lines.

Aine O'Connor was performing well on the 40 and when Aileen Twomey put Joanne Casey through, her path was blocked by defender Aisling McAuliffe. Casey tapped over the resulting free.

The Charleville midfield were finding it difficult to gain any consistent possession due to the dominance of Niamh Dilworth and Rosemary O'Mahony in that sector.

The Avondhu school opened their account after 10 minutes with a Eimear Healy free.

Coachford had the experienced Sinead McCarthy and Catherine O'Brien in fine form in front of Cork minor keeper Marie Gleeson.

Emma Kingston, Katie McCarthy and Aisling O'Keefe were all instrumental in Coachford's first goal, with O'Keefe placing Casey through with only Kate Keane to beat and the Cork star made no mistake with a trademark finish.

St Mary's did redress the balance with points from Darina O'Callaghan and a 45 from Eimear Healy. A foul on the attacking centre back Brid Twomey yielded a long range point from captain Niamh Dilworth for the Muskerry school to put two points between the teams at half time.

Charleville made some positional switches with Marie Walshe going to full forward, Rosemary Rea to



The Coachford team which defeated St Mary's, Charleville, in the Cork Colleges Senior A Camogie final held at Mallow yesterday.

Coachford are new champs

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork Colleges Senior A Camogie final

midfield with Darina O'Callaghan drifting outfield to provide space for the Cork minor Walshe. Louise O'Flynn scored a point before Aine O'Connor scored a fortuitous goal, deceiving the Charleville keeper for Charleville with a dipping shot.

Niamh Dilworth added another free and Michelle Healy scored her second point after dispossessing Rebecca Finn.

Charleville began to improve and added points from Eimear Healy, Darina O'Callaghan and Marie Walshe whilst Coachford responded with scores from Niamh Dilworth and Michelle Healy. The best score of the afternoon was

compliments of Charleville's Rebecca Finn who doubled on a dropping ball to give Gleeson no chance.

Brid Twomey, Claire Dennehy and Aoife Barry Murphy began to create chances and when Dilworth, an outstanding talent, goaled with five minutes remaining, the reigning champions were fighting a forlorn cause. The final score came from the tenacious work of Aileen Twomey, who blocked two separate clearances and provided Dilworth with the point opportunity which she duly converted.

Best for Coachford were Rosemary O'Mahony, Niamh Dilworth, Michelle Healy and Caroline Kiely, whilst Lisa Potter, Marie Walshe

and Clodhna Galvin impressed for St Mary's.

Coachford's junior squad will attempt to make it a double when they meet Christ the King in the Junior A final at Nemo Rangers tomorrow at noon.

COACHFORD: Marie Gleeson, Sinead McCarthy, Catherine O'Brien, Marguerite Vaughan, Emma Kingston, Brid Twomey, Katie McCarthy, Rosie O'Mahony, Niamh Dilworth (1-3), Aileen Twomey, Caroline Kiely, Aine O'Connor (1-0), Aisling O'Keefe, Joanne Casey (1-1), Michelle Healy (0-3).

Subs: Claire Dennehy, Aoife Barry Murphy, Clara O'Keefe, Susan Buckley, Grace O'Sullivan.

CHARLEVILLE: Katie Keane, Aisling McAuliffe, Rosemary Rea (0-1), Clodhna Galvin, Marie Walshe (0-1), Lisa Potter, Orla O'Mahony, Sinead O'Flynn, Louise O'Flynn (0-1), Sarah Reidy, Annette McAuliffe, Mariah Reidy, Darina O'Callaghan (0-3), Rebecca Finn (1-0), Eimear Healy (0-3 Frees, 0-1 '45).

Referee: Cathal Egan.

Camogie results

Camogie Féile results:

Division one quarter-finals: Courcy Rovers 3-8 Cloughduv 0-0; Glen Rovers 2-9 Newtownshandrum 1-3; Valley Rovers 6-1 Carrigaline 0-0; Douglas 1-6 Milford 1-0.

Division two semi-finals: Mallow 4-3 Clonakilty 0-0; Na Piar-saigh 4-2 Castleyons 0-2.



Captains collide . . . Marie O'Connor (right), the Kilkenny captain of the National Camogie League winning team with Marina Downey, who was the captain of the last Kilkenny senior camogie team to win the league back in 1993.

Photos: Eoin Hennessy

Cork book their place in another Munster decider

Cork 1-13
Waterford 1-8

ANOTHER Cork side is safely through to a provincial decider as the Intermediate team advanced at the expense of Waterford on Sunday last in Lismore.

These are busy times for Cork camogie. Already the under 16 A and B and junior provincial titles have been secured while the minor and senior teams will contest Munster finals in the coming weeks.

Waterford, who fielded a strong side, had to contend with a determined Cork team which had plenty of youth and experience.

The skill and experience of players such as captain Linda Dorgan, Eimear O'Sullivan and Lucy Hawkes helped the younger players — many still on the county minor team — to settle quickly into this provincial semi-final. Cork were well worth their five-point winning margin and they will look ahead to next Monday's final against Clare with enthusiasm.

Cork struck nine points in the

opening 30 minutes and turned in an impressive display which helped lay the foundations for victory. Dorgan led by example and was inspirational at midfield.

Cork came under pressure but held their composure and points from Denise Luby, Michelle Browne, Marion Jagoe and Eimear O'Sullivan helped Cork settle. In defence, Cork goalkeeper Denise Leahy denied Waterford with some fine saves. Waterford found the going tough against the strong Cork defence which closed them down at every opportunity. Waterford kept in touch through the half with points from Nicole Morrissey, Jenny Simpson, Charlotte Raher and Kate Marie Hearn as Cork turned over leading 0-9 to 0-5.

From the start of the second half, Cork continued to apply pressure and a Denise Luby goal inside ten minutes of the restart helped maintain their dominance. Points from Eimear O'Sullivan, Linda Dorgan, Michelle Browne and Evelyn Ronayne added to the Cork tally with Nicola Morrissey pointing twice as

Cork players surround Waterford's Jenny O'Grady during Sunday's Munster Semi-final in Lismore.

Waterford found it hard to make headway against a determined Cork side.

Waterford substitute Aine Lyng added a goal five minutes from full time before the same player added a point but by then, the Cork girls had done enough to ensure no way back for the home side.

Cork: D Leahy; L Cunningham, N Mulcahy, T Murphy; L Weste, L Hawkes, C Motherway; L Dorgan (c), A Thompson; M Browne, L Bugler, E O'Sullivan; C Collins D Luby M Jagoe. Sub: E Ronayne for C Collins. Scorers: M Browne 0-4 (0-3f 0-1p) D Luby 1-1, E O'Sullivan 0-3, M Jagoe and L Dorgan 0-2 each, E Ronayne 0-1.

Waterford: T Jackson; N Ryan, L Prendergast, V Gaffney; A Raher, A Cummins, A Kelly; S O'Grady, C Raher; J Simpson, N Morrissey, T Morrissey; K Marie Hearn, R Heylin, A O'Brien; Subs: A Lyng for R Heelan (45) P Cunningham, for T Morrissey (45) A O'Brien for N Ryan (50).
Scorers: A Lyng 1-1, N Morrissey 0-3, J Simpson, 0-2, KM Hearn, and C Raher 0-1 each.

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary)



AFTER the dust had settled at different venues through the city and county on Saturday last, eight clubs remained from the original 18 that battled it out for a place in the Cork Féile Na nGael division 1 quarter finals which take place tomorrow evening.

Cork Féile champions Milford finished as runners up in their sections as a strong Valley Rovers side topped the group with victories over champions Milford Eire Og St Vincent's and Ballinhassig.

In Coachford Douglas held the upper hand as they topped their group with victories over Brian Dillon's Blackrock and Cloughdun, the runners-up spot going to Cloughdun who showed plenty of skill with good displays over Blackrock and Brian Dillon's to advance to the quarter final.

Section C was held in Ballyanley and it was topped by Courcy Rovers, coming into the competi-

Féile na nGael

tion as late replacements for Killeagh who withdrew after the draws were made. Last years defeated semi-finalists Courcy edged out Inniscarra in a close game before going on to defeat Buttevant and Newtownshandrum. Newtown took the runners-up spot as they qualified with victories over Sliabh Rua Inniscarra and Buttevant.

Last year's defeated Cork finalists Glen Rovers topped their section out in Ballincollig with victories over the host club Ballincollig, as well as Carrigaline and St Finbarr's. In a close game to decide who would emerge as runners-up it was Carrigaline who grabbed the spot with a goal to spare over Ballincollig in a close contest.

In division two Mallow were far superior as they confidently booked their place in the semi-finals with

comprehensive victories over Sarsfield's and Castlelyons where Castlelyons went through as runners-up. It couldn't have been closer in the second section in division 2, Na Piar-saigh and Clonakilty going through on scoring difference.

Eight teams remain with chance of representing Cork at national Féile which takes place in Laois/Offaly on June.

With the division 2 Féile just a Cork competition the winners will not advance outside the county.

The quarter-finals pairings are as follows:

Division 2 Semi-Finals

Tonight
Mallow v Clonakilty in Ballincollig 7pm
Na Piar-saigh v Castlelyons in Glanmire 7pm

Division 1 Quarter-Finals

Tomorrow
Courcy Rovers v Cloughdun in Courcy Rovers 7pm
Glen Rovers v Newtownshandrum in Glen Rovers 7pm
Valley Rovers v Carrigaline in Valley Rovers 7pm
Douglas v Milford in Douglas 7pm

Féile na nGael results

Division 1 Section A
Ballinhassig 3-8 St Vincent's 0-0
Valley Rovers 3-3 Milford 1-0
Ballinhassig 1-1 Eire Og 0-2
Milford 6-4 St Vincent's 1-0
Valley Rovers 5-3 Eire Og 0-0
Milford 4-5 Ballinhassig 2-1
Valley Rovers 5-3 St Vincent's 0-0
Milford 5-9 Eire Og 1-0
Valley Rovers 1-3 Ballinhassig 1-0
Eire Og 4-3 St Vincent's 0-1.

Division 1 Section B
Douglas 3-6 Brian Dillon's 0-1
Cloughdun 2-2 Blackrock 0-0
Douglas 3-5 Blackrock 0-0
Cloughdun 1-1 Brian Dillon's 0-2
Douglas 5-6 Cloughdun 0-0
Brian Dillon's 6-4 Blackrock 0-1

Division 1 Section C
Newtownshandrum 2-2 Sliabh Rua 0-0
Courcy Rovers 3-1 Inniscarra 2-0
Buttevant 2-6 Sliabh Rua 0-0
Newtownshandrum 4-1 Inniscarra 0-1
Courcy Rovers 1-6 Buttevant 0-1
Inniscarra 8-5 Sliabh Rua 0-0

Newtownshandrum 4-2 Buttevant 1-3
Inniscarra 6-1 Buttevant 1-0
Courcy Rovers 4-5 Newtownshandrum 2-1

Division 1 Section D

Ballincollig 5-0 St Finbarr's 0-0
Glen Rovers 4-5 Carrigaline 0-0
Glen Rovers 2-2 Ballincollig 1-0
Carrigaline 4-2 St Finbarr's 0-0
Carrigaline 2-1 Ballincollig 1-1
Glen Rovers 3-5 St Finbarr's 0-0

Division 2 Section E
Mallow 5-1 Sarsfield's 0-0
Mallow 7-1 Castlelyons 0-0
Castlelyons 0-2 Sarsfield's 0-0

Division 2 Section F
Clonakilty 2-0 Fr O'Neill's 1-0
Tracton 1-1 Na Piar-saigh 1-0
Na Piar-saigh 1-1 Clonakilty 1-0
Tracton 2-0 Fr O'Neill's 1-0
Clonakilty 2-1 Tracton 0-0
Na Piar-saigh 3-4 Fr O'Neill's 0-0

Players delivered on potential – Millea

SUCCESS in the National Camogie League final has seen Kilkenny finally deliver on the potential that is bubbling throughout the county.

That was the opinion of one person who is more than qualified to give the verdict – Sinead Millea.

The Kilkenny full-forward grabbed 0-5 in Saturday's decider, but the former All-Star and All-Ireland winner felt that the praise should be equally shared by a young group who gave their all in the months prior to the big game.

"I said to the other players before we went out that this team had great potential," she said. "However, potential really means that we haven't done it yet, so it was a case of doing it on Saturday or never. We've trained as hard as the senior hurlers, if not, harder, three times a week in all conditions. Saturday was the fruition of all those days of hard work. I'm

delighted for everyone, from the management to all the players – it's just fantastic."

Real battle

Millea, who picked up a club All-Ireland title with Tipperary's Cashel in 2007, got what she had expected from Galway – a real battle.

"It was a tough and physical game," she said. "It took everything in our power to pull away from them but Aoife Neary's goal just before half-time gave us a bit of a lift going into the second half. We pulled out all the stops after the restart so it was great to get the win."

Given the tough game, she wasn't surprised at the Galway challenge.

"Galway has been in training since early November, the same as ourselves, so we knew they'd be fighting fit," said Sinead. "They're always a big and physical side so we knew what

they'd bring to the game. We were playing within ourselves in the first half.

"We probably had done all of the hurling up to that point, while most of Galway's scores had come from frees. We knew there was more in the tank, and were very calm at half-time – the management team just told us to settle down."

Lift game

"It was just a matter of biding our time," she added. "We managed to lift our game and it all came good in the second half."

When things were not going so well for Kilkenny the burden could have fallen on the shoulders of some of the team's stalwarts, players such as Millea. However, she was quick to give the praise back to the younger members of a side who never threw in the towel.

"The younger players in this team more than stepped up to the mark in the final," she said. "I'm probably the most experienced player on the team, and got a few frees that might have helped to steady us at different times, but we have a tremendous panel. All of the players who came in during the game made their mark in some way on the game."

"That just goes to show the strength of our panel," she added. "To have the National League title is a brilliant feeling, and will give us a great confidence boost going into our first championship match against Tipperary in June."

While Sinead was just as keen to look forward to the next challenge, she was also able to appreciate the feat of helping her county to their tenth League title. The longest serving member of the team, she has expe-

rienced her fair share of highs and lows.

Years fly by

"I was there the last time we won the League," Sinead recalled. "Looking back it feels just like yesterday, but it's amazing how the years just fly by. People take things for granted; if they lose it's 'ah sure there's always next year'. The years just roll by, so you just have to seize the moment when it comes your way – who knows, we may not be in a League final for another 13 years."

"Kilkenny camogie really needed this win," she said. "It was all about getting us back on the map. We know we're as good as the Tipperys, the Corks and the Wexfords – now our eye is on the O'Duffy Cup. That's our next objective, so hopefully we'll have that on the mantelpiece come September."



Linda Mellerick

IN mid-March I mentioned how dangerous Kilkenny were going to be in the future.

I hinted that the glory days weren't too far away based on their huge success at underage level in recent years.

I have to admit though that I didn't think they'd win the national league outright this season.

But they have, without dropping a point.

Ann Downey's Kilkenny were placed in the tougher group but came through unscathed, taking the scalps of Cork, Dublin and All-Ireland champions Wexford en route to the final.

Last Saturday in Nowlan Park, they had an impressive 3-11 to 0-17 victory over Galway to take their first Senior National League title since 1993.

Goals from Michelle Quilty and Edwina Keane in a four-minute spell, midway through the second half, paved the way for their success.

Kilkenny always had the aptitude for scoring goals and that hasn't changed with this new generation of players.

Galway, managed by Liam O'Donoghue, got off to a flying start.

They raced into a 0-4 to 0-0 lead after nine minutes with Veronica Curtin (0-2), Jessica Gill and Lourda Kavanagh taking the points.

Katie Power got the Cats off the mark in the 10th-minute and although Kilkenny cut the gap to two points with seven minutes remaining in the first-half.

Galway, thanks to scores from Curtin and Gill, broke five points clear as half-time approached.

With four minutes of first-half injury-time, Kilkenny reduced the gap again and an Aoife Neary goal cut the gap to two points, before a fifth Gill point left the score at 0-11 to 1-5 at the break.

The hosts came bursting out of the blocks in the second-half and outscored Galway by four points to one after 10 minutes.

Aoife Neary was on target with two excellent points from play, while Ann Dalton and Sinead Millea also contributed scores, to level the contest for the first time.

Kilkenny were in the driving seat



Kilkenny's Sinead Millea is tackled by Sinéad Cahalane of Galway during their National Camogie League Division 1 final at Nowlan Park.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

The Cats return to limelight

as a third Millea point put the Cats in front and goals from Quilty and Keane saw them take a 3-10 to 0-13 lead with 13 minutes remaining.

Despite Galway piling on the pressure in the closing stages with scores from substitute Lorraine Ryan and free-taker Gill (0-2), Ann

Downey's charges held firm for their momentous win.

Kilkenny have a 100% record from National League final appearances, rubber stamping the theory that they are very hard to beat in a final.

This victory signals a return to

the limelight for Kilkenny.

Their captain, Marie O'Connor of St Lachlain's stated: "The league is massive for us."

"We see it as the first step towards an historic three-title year; the league, the Leinster Championship and the All-Ireland Champion-

ship and we want to prove what we're made of."

So now you have it!

Does that mean that Kilkenny will now sit on their laurels with year one of the three-year plan achieved?

You can bet your life they won't. They'll eagerly await their clash with Tipperary on June 1 in the first round of this season's championship.

Kilkenny is possibly one of the few counties not seriously divided by the dual status of camogie and ladies football just as it isn't seriously divided between hurling and football and they have a significant advantage because of it.

Camogie is thriving in Kilkenny again and it was only a matter of time.

A great rugby stronghold in the city, Kilkenny College has now embraced Gaelic games, and more especially camogie.

The prestigious second level institution, which is one of the oldest schools in the county, regularly provides talented players for boys and girls regional and international hockey teams.

The Kilkenny GAA Board has thrown their weight behind the initiative, and has assisted with the promotion of the game in the school.

What of Galway?

To score 17 points and lose a National League final is no shame, but what will come of the Westerners come championship time.

They have let themselves down so many times, counties find it hard to take them seriously.

Former Galway goalkeeper Liam Donoghue has taken the helm of the Tribeswomen this year and to be fair has turned around the team in a relatively short period of time.

On record Galway have stated that the casual approach to perform is gone and there is a hunger in the camp for success.

We wait and see.

With Wexford taking the All-Ireland title in 2007 and Kilkenny and Galway contesting the 2008 National League final, have we seen a shift at the top?

Is the stronghold of Cork and Tipperary relinquished at last?

The association would like to think so; after all it would be great for the game.

I wouldn't write Cork off just yet.

Cork look to lower Banner in intermediate final

MONDAY

Munster Intermediate final
Cork v Clare
Searríf, Clare, 2.30

FOLLOWING victories over Waterford and Tipperary respectively last weekend, Cork and Clare meet to decide the destination of the Munster Intermediate Championship crown on Monday.

Cork have enjoyed huge success on the provincial playing field

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie News

already this year, with the junior and U16 A and B titles tucked away, and this weekend hopes are high that the senior and intermediate teams will add to that haul.

Last weekend Cork faced a tough challenge from Waterford but they showed plenty of determination as they carved out a 1-13 to 1-8 victory. The Cork side has a nice

blend of youth and experience about it, captain Linda Dorgan, Eimear O'Sullivan, Marion Jaego, Lucy Hawkes and Liz Bugler are all experienced campaigners, while younger players such as Leah Weste, Denise Luby, Michelle Browne, Catriona Collins and Lydia Cunningham are moving nicely through the ranks from underdog.

Last weekend Denise Leahy had a superb hour in the Cork goal,

denying Waterford at crucial stages and again this weekend Cork will be looking for a repeat display from the St Catherine's custodian.

Clare recorded a good 2-6 to 0-7 victory over a fancied Tipperary side, who they never allowed settle and built up a seven-point lead after just 16 minutes. The lively Clare side have strong performers in the three Kaiser sisters, Ruth, Carol and Iris, and they are joined

by Ciara O'Leary, Danielle Sheedy and experienced goalkeeper Aine Nic Cormaie.

Reports from the Clare camp suggest they may be minus players due to exams, and while they did seek a postponement of the final it was not possible.

If both counties field full strength panels it will be a close one to call but Cork are on a roll we expect to continue.

Verdict: Cork

Cork are the underdogs for the Munster final

TOMORROW
Munster Senior A
Championship Final,
Cork v Tipperary,
Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm.

CORK aim to bring a fourth Munster championship to Leeside this weekend when the senior side take on Tipperary in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

With the U16 A, U16 B and junior Munster titles safely tucked away, Cork's senior side will want to keep momentum going.

The Munster championship is not a title either Cork or Tipperary will shed many tears over should things not go their way, but the game will be utilised to its fullest by both sets of management with just four weeks to go to championship throw-in.

Both Tipperary and Cork are going through a period of trans-

By LINDA MELLERICK
Camogie

ition at present with neither side having a good league campaign.

Cork, defeating just Dublin, lost out to All-Ireland champions Wexford and newly crowned 2008 National League winners Kilkenny.

Tipperary, on the weaker side of the group, lost to Galway and defeated Limerick.

With it practically impossible to get challenge games, Cork will welcome Saturday's clash, as their last competitive outing was on March 30.

It's difficult to assess how good Tipperary will be. They last won the league title in 2004, completing the championship double in September of the same year.

Tipp haven't won a major trophy since but it isn't as negat-

ive as it seems.

They continue to have nail-biting battles with Cork yet somehow the consensus seems to be that their glory days are over.

Cork and Tipp met five times last year. The first round of the league saw the spoils shared.

Tipp came from behind in the dying minutes with an Emer McDonnell goal to leave the game at 0-11 to 1-8.

Six weeks later the sides met in the Munster final and league play-off (two for one) and played out a 1-15 apiece thriller.

Tipp came from an eight-point deficit to lead by three entering the second half of extra-time.

A Briege Corkery point levelled it with two minutes remaining.

Tipp were very impressive but they never quite reached those heights in the replay just four

days later and Cork ran out victors, 2-15 to 2-10.

The sides met again in round two of the 2007 championship on May 27 with Cork again taking the points, 0-12 to 1-5.

Cork were mentally up for the All-Ireland semi-final when they met Tipp for a ridiculous fifth time and had their most comprehensive victory of the season over their Munster rivals, 2-11 to 0-9.

So Cork had the upper hand in 2007 but a lot can change in 12 months and despite Tipperary's poor league performance, against Galway it is Cork who is looking most vulnerable at present.

Losing four or five key players this season has hit Cork badly.

Based on this, Tipperary possibly go into the game as favourites but don't rule out a Cork victory in their own backyard.



Sinead Millea in the Division 1 League Final in Nowlan Park

Cumann Camogaiochta Comhairle na Mumhan

Cluiche Cheannais
Sinsear
2008

Reiteoir
Seanie McMahon (Clár)

Corcaigh v
Tiobraid Arann

Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm
Luach: €2

MAY 2008

Camogie Clip Board

Joan O'Flynn has been elected President Elect of the National Camogie Organisation.

O'Flynn's interest in camogie started in the Fr. O'Neill's club of the Ladysbridge/Ballymacoda parish in east Cork. She was also a member of the London-Irish camogie club and is now chairperson of the Cellbridge club and is current Kildare PRO. She is also chairperson of the National Strategic Plan-Committee.

O'Flynn will take over from current President Liz Howard at congress 2009 which will be held in Howard's home county of Tipperary.

Gael Linn will be held in Dublin and is fixed for Sunday May 18th.

Clare are holding the first of the years U14 Development Blitz
This will be held in St. Flannan's college Ennis on May 5th

Munster Intermediate Final Clare v Cork @ Scariff May 5th, 2:30

Munster U18 Final Clare v Cork, @ Clarecastle, Wed May 14th,



Coachford Senior College who won the Cork Colleges Senior Final recently.



Tiobráid Árann

Buí is óir
Blue and gold

1. Paula Ryan (Toomevara)
2. Paula Bullfin (Cashel)
3. Susan Kelly (Toomevara)
4. Julie Kirwan (Moneygall)
5. Michelle Short (Drumaninch)
6. Patricia O'Halloran (Duharra)
7. Mary Ryan (Moneygall)
8. Siobhan Ryan (Holy Cross)
9. Philly Fogarty (Cashel)
10. Geraldine Kinnane (Drum)
11. Emily Hayden (Cashel)
12. Jill Horan (Cashel)
13. Claire Grogan (C)
14. Mairead Morrissey (Cashel)
15. Jane Ryan (Drum)

Mná Ionaid: 16. Rosie Kennelley (Drum) 17. Aoife McLaughney (Shannon Rovers) 18. Cora Hennessey (Cashel) 19. Geraldine Stableton (Silvermines) 20. Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers) 21. Maria Tynan (Toomevara) 22. Julie McGrath (Cashel) 23. Therese Short (Drum) 24. Ciara Johnson (Drum) 25. Deirdre Dunne (Sleibhnamon) 26. Noreen Flannagan (Holy Cross) 27. Marian Ryan (Shannon Rovers) 28. Lizzie Woods (Toomevara) 29. Alison Lonregan (Cashel) 30. Mairead Luttrell (Sleibhnamon, inj)

Dearg is bán
Red and white

Corcaigh



1. Aoife Murray (Cloughduv)
2. Joanne O'Callaghan (Cloughduv)
3. Linda O'Connell (St. Finbarrs)
4. Rosaire Holland (Barryroe)
5. Catriona Foley (C) (Rochban)
6. Gemma O'Connor (St. Finbarrs)
7. Rena Buckley (Inniscarra)
8. Bridge Corkery (Cloughduv)
9. Orla Cotter (St. Catherines)
10. Emer O'Farrell (Sarsfields)
11. Una O'Donoghue (Cloughduv)
12. Rachel Moloney (Courcey Rovers)
13. Sheila Burns (Rochban)
14. Linda Dorgan (Grenagh)
15. Amanda O'Regan (Douglas)

Mná Ionaid: 16. Michelle Brown (Mallow) 17. Emer O'Sullivan (Ballinhassigh) 18. Emer White (Barryroe) 19. Mary O'Connor (Killeagh) 20. Jenny Duffy (St. Finbarrs) 21. Elaine O'Riordan (Milford) 22. Lucy Hawkes (Valley Rovers) 23. Sarah Hayes (Courcey Rovers) 24. Marion Murphy (Kilbrittan) 25. Gillian Harrington (Valley Rovers) 26. Ashling Thompson (Milford)

Bainisteoir: Denise Cronin
Traenálaí: Jim McCarthy

Chóirí: Denise Cronin, Con Malone, Pat Murray



Tipperary's Julie Kirwan and Cork's Rena Buckley take a tumble as they race for possession in the Munster Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork, on Saturday evening

Picture: Des Barry

Cork put down a marker as Tipp tamed in Munster final

Cork 2-11
Tipperary 0-12

by Therese O'Callaghan

WITH these great rivals looking forward to the Gala All-Ireland senior championship next month, Cork drew first blood by defeating Tipperary in the Munster senior championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening.

Both sides carried a great tradition into the game, but this time the honours fell to the home team, who were boosted by two first-half goals

from Emer O'Farrell and Sile Burns in the sixth and 12th minute. And with Rachel Moloney firing six points over the 60 minutes, the gap proved insurmountable for the Premier girls.

The visitors trailed 2-6 to 0-5 at the break, however, any fight back was denied by player-of-the-match Aoife Murray in the Rebel goal. Although, Claire Grogan who proved to be Tipperary's greatest threat knocked over nine points, they were not able to raise any green flags which they so desperately needed to be in contention.

Scorers for Cork: E O'Farrell and S Burns 1-1 each, R Moloney 0-6 (0-4 frees), M O'Connor, B Corkery and O Cotter 0-1 each.

Scorers for Tipperary: C Grogan 0-9 (0-4 frees, 0-2 45's), G Kinnane 0-2, J Ryan 0-1.

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, L O'Connell, R Holland; C Foley, A O'Regan, R Buckley, B Corkery, L Dorgan; E O'Farrell, O Cotter, U O'Donoghue; S Burns, M O'Connor, R Moloney.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for O'Donoghue (46 mins).

TIPPERARY: P Ryan; P Bullfin, S Kelly, J Kirwan; M Short, P O'Halloran, M Ryan; S Ryan, P Fogarty; G Kinnane, E Hayden, J Horan; C Grogan, M Morrissey, J Ryan Subs: G Stapleton for J Kirwan (43), C Hennessey for M Morrissey (51).

Referee: Seanie McMahon (Clare)

caigh	Cúil	Cúilíní	Ar Foraol	45m	Pocanna Saora
h					
h					
lan					

Dorgan in top form for Rebels

Cork 1-13
Waterford 1-8

A GOOD showing from the Cork intermediate side that was well worth their five-point victory over a strong Waterford side in Lismore, writes Mary Newman.

Their ability to pick off points at crucial times was the difference.

Captain Linda Dorgan was inspirational at midfield, while Lucy Hawkes at centre-back was very much to the fore.

Cork set the pace with early points from Denise Luby, Michelle Browne, Marion Jaego and Eimear O'Sullivan, while in defence goalkeeper Denise Leahy denied Waterford with some fines saves.

Waterford kept in touch with points from Nicole Morrissey, Jenny Simpson, Charlotte Raher and Kate Marie Hearn, but it was Cork who led at the interval 0-9 to 0-5.

A Denise Luby goal inside ten minutes of the restart came at a vital time for Cork.

Further points from Eimear O'Sullivan, Linda Dorgan, Michelle Browne and Evelyn Roynane added to the Cork tally.

Nicola Morrissey pointed twice as Waterford battled to stay into the game.

Waterford substitute Aine Lyng added a goal five minutes from full time before adding a late point but it was too little too late.

With the U16A, U16B and junior provincial titles already resting on Leaside the intermediate side now join the minor and senior teams in the hunt for further provincial titles.

Scorers for Cork: M Browne 0-4 (0-3f 0-1pf), D Luby 1-1, E O'Sullivan 0-3, M Jaego and L Dorgan 0-2 each, E Roynane 0-1.

Waterford: A Lyng 1-1, N Morrissey 0-3, J Simpson 0-2, KM Hearn, and C Raher 0-1 each.

CORK: D Leahy; L Cunningham, N Mulcahy, T Murphy; L Weste, L Hawkes, C Motherway; L Dorgan, A Thompson; M Browne, L Bugler, E O'Sullivan; C Collins, D Luby, M Jaego. Sub: E Roynane for C Collins.

WATERFORD: T Jackman; N Ryan, L Prendergast; V Gaffney; A Raher, A Cummins, A Kelly; S O'Grady, C Raher, J Simpson; N Morrissey, T Morrissey; K Marie Hearn, R Heylin, A O'Brien. Subs: A Lyng for R Heelan (45), P Cunningham for T Morrissey (45), A O'Brien for N Ryan (50).

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary).

MAY

2008

Douglas girls Shine as holders bow out

By MARY NEWMAN

Féile Na nGael

IT'S down to four teams after the Cork camogie Féile Na nGael quarter-finals took place on Wednesday evening last.

Holders Millford bowed out to Douglas in a contest where the sides were level with no score recorded by either side in the opening half.

The reigning champions lost the services of centre-forward Louise O'Flynn with a leg injury in the early stages and they struggled to get into the game again a strong home side. Claire Shine proved the main threat notching up 1-4 of the Douglas tally and she was ably assisted by Clodagh Duggan and Fiona Sexton who gave excellent performances.

Millford tried hard and were in it to the finish. Aine Fitzgibbon, Katie Galvin and Ciara Fitzgibbon battled hard as they strove to salvage their crown but it was not to be as Douglas marched to the semi-final on a 1-6 to 1-0 margin.

Last season's runner-up Glen Rovers booked their place in the semi-finals with a good performance against Newtownshandrum at the Glen Field. The home side led at the interval after an early Lauren Callanan goal settled her team mates, Newtown battled back and it was 2-2 to 1-1 at the interval. Very much to the fore for the Glen girls were Nicole O'Brien, Ciara O'Sullivan and Edel O'Connell who were in top form as their sides picked off second-half scores while for Newtownshandrum Aoife Twohill, Sarah Moloney and Christine Watson tried to the finish in a game that saw Glen through on 2-9 to 1-1 winning margin.

Valley Rovers laid the foundations for success from the throw-in as they put Carrigaline under pressure, impressive performances from Susan O'Leary, Aoife Cummins and Leona Murphy ensuring them of a 6-1 to 0-0 victory.

The Carrigaline girls gave it everything to make it to the semi. Tara O'Connor, Amy Maye, Ruan McSweeney and Toni Scully working to the final whistle, but it was not to be, as Valleys marched on.

Defeated in last season's semi-final Courcsey secured their place in this season's last four by striking an impressive 3-8 as they defeated Cloughduv.

Notching up 3-3 in the opening half they met strong resistance from a determined Cloughduv defence in the second half but added 0-5 to their tally they marched on. For Courcsey's Jennifer Ryan, Aoife Keating, Aisling Moloney and Julie Mulcahy were in top form while Derbhilla Aherne, Edel O'Sullivan, Ciara O'Leary and Maria Meehan gave top displays from Cloughduv.

And so the stage is set for next Tuesday's semi-finals as Douglas take on Valley Rovers while in a repeat of last season's semi-final meeting its Glen Rovers against Courcsey Rovers, venues and times as they come to hand.

In the division two semi-finals Na Piar-saigh recorded a 4-2 to 0-2 victory over Castletynes while Mallow had a 4-3 to 0-0 victory over Clonakilly.

The division two final will take place as a curtain raiser to the division one final on Friday May 9.

CORK FEILE NA NAGAEI SKILLS COMPETITION

The Cork camogie Féile Na nGael skills competition takes place ON Monday next May 5 at the St Finbarrs club in Toghur starting at 5.30pm. A

Rebels grind out the victory

Cork
Tipperary

2-11
0-12

THE standard might not have reached great heights, but Saturday's Munster final victory over Tipperary at Páirc Uí Rinn was an important win for Cork as they head towards the All-Ireland series on June 1.

Losing the services of both Gemma O'Connor and Sarah Hayes through injury, Cork welcomed back the travelling Breige Corkery and the recovered Mary O'Connor to the starting 15.

The game was tightly-contested throughout. Cork's breathing space came as a result of a goalkeeping blunder from Tipperary's Paula Ryan and a 'Player of the Match' performance from Cork's net minder Aoife Murray.

The home side raced into a four-point lead after 13 minutes with goals from the alert Emer O'Farrell and Sheila Burns. Burns' strike from 45 metres looked to be over the bar, but it dipped at the last minute into the hand of Ryan who, in the extremely greasy conditions, let it slip through her fingers into the net.

Clare Grogan had registered three points for Tipp, all from frees, in the first 12 minutes as Tipp failed to score again until the 25th.

This contradicts their possession as the Cork defence were busy.

Joanne O'Callaghan was switched before the game to left corner-back, presumably to watch danger woman Grogan.

Amanda O'Regan looked far more comfortable back in a defensive role and while centre-back is unfamiliar to her at inter-county level, she coped admirably.

Corkery, well in touch after her sojourn, fell back regularly to help her defence and as a unit Cork smothered many a Tipp threat. The absence of Tipperary's top forward Emer McDonnell was evident as the Premier County lacked that killer touch in front of goal.

Murray: Cork are a work in progress

CORK selector Pat Murray, while stating that Cork still have a lot of work to do, was happy with his side's victory over rivals Tipperary.

"The win was a great boost for us but we're still a long way off top form," he said.

"We're a work in progress. Today Gemma O'Connor and Sarah Hayes were out injured but Breige Corkery is back having been out of the country for the past six months so we're

going in the right direction at least but there's a lot of room for improvement.

"It's nice to beat Tipp, we're great rivals with Tipp always but we're far from the finished article."

Referring to the return of Breige and Mary O'Connor after her serious knee injury last season Pat said, "We played Mary at full forward today.

"She returned to training recently and while she's still not fully fit it's a step in



Cork's Amanda O'Regan and Tipperary's Philly Cotter in a race for the ball during their Munster final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



LINDA MELLERICK

With outfield play closely contested and two goals separating the sides, Murray made the first of her many fine saves two minutes to the break. Emily Hayden, clear in front of goal had Murray at her mercy, but Murray faced her down and in the end coped comfortably with Hayden's relatively poor strike. Cork led 2-5 to 0-5 at the break.

With the wind at their backs, it was Tipperary who held the lion's share of possession in the second

period. Again they came unstuck in front of goal, due mainly to Murray's heroics. Converted frees and '45's from Grogan kept Tipp in the hunt.

With limited possession, Rachel Moloney, at the other end of the field, kept Cork ticking away with two beautiful points from play.

Midway through the half Cork still held their six-point half-time advantage as Tipp piled on the pressure. With 10 minutes remaining and the gap narrowed to five points, Tipp won a couple of close-in frees.

Grogan opted to strike over the bar when the goal opportunity should have been availed of.

The same player did go for broke in the dying minutes but once again

Murray, diving to her knees, saved superbly and the moment was lost.

A Burns point on 28 minutes sealed Cork's triumph in what was a major psychological boost for the Rebels.

Scorers for Cork: R Moloney 0-6 (0-4f), S Burns 1-1, E O'Farrell 1-1, O Cotter 0-2, B Corkery 0-1.

Tipperary: C Grogan 0-8 (0-7f, 0-1'45), G Kinnane 0-2, J Ryan 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Connell, R Holland, J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan, R Buckley, B Corkery, L Dorgan, E O'Farrell, O Cotter, U O'Donoghue, S Burns, M O'Connor, R Moloney.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for U O'Donoghue (48m), Tipperary: P Ryan, P Bulfin, S Kelly, J Kirwan, M Short, P O'Halloran, M Ryan, S Ryan, P Fogarty, G Kinnane, E Hayden, J Horan, C Grogan, M Morrissey, J Ryan.

Subs: G Stapleton for J Kirwan (42m), C Hennessy for M Morrissey (49m).

Referee: Sean McMahon (Clare)

WHAT THEY SAID

the right direction. She provides a lot of experience to the players around her."

How serious are the injuries to O'Connor and Hayes?

"Sarah will probably be back in two weeks' time. Gemma's injury is more long term but we would be hopeful that she would be

back for the Dublin game.

"It's disappointing but those injuries give other players a chance and today I thought Emer O'Farrell had her best game so far this year, particularly in the first half.

"Emer O'Sullivan, when she was brought on, won three or four very good balls and Linda Dorgan was much improved."

What of the championship in four weeks' time?

"Well, we play Dublin first in Dublin. We beat them in the league but championship is a different situation," he said.

"They've home advantage, we're short a number of players as you know from last year but we'll give it our best shot and hopefully get off on a winning foot.

"We might try and arrange a couple of challenge games between now and then, but Dublin will be our next competitive outing."

Camogie



Munster Camogie Final

Cork hoodoo continues in Tipp's final defeat

Tipperary:

Tipperary were unlucky against Cork last week in the Munster final. All preparation now is focused on the Championship when Tipp will play Kilkenny in their first game on June 1st in a Kilkenny venue. The Intermediate team will also play their first Championship game against Kilkenny on June 1st also at a Kilkenny venue.

Our U18 team had better luck against Limerick in Ahane last Saturday. Even though Limerick were 1.05 to Tipp's 0.01 after 10 minutes the Tipp girls settled to the task & emerged victorious on a score of 4.12 to 1.12. Tipp scorers: Sheena Ryan (2goals), Niamh O'Connell (1goal), Bonny Kennedy (1.06), Aine Brislane (0.01), Cait Devane (0.05).

Next weekend sees Tipperary take on Limerick in the U16 Championship in a Limerick venue. Time & date to be decided.

The first training session for the Primary schools development squad was very well attended with over 40 girls taking part. Next week's training session will take place in Dr. Morris Park Thurles Monday May 12th at 4.15pm & anyone who missed the first training session is welcome to attend. The selected panel of 30 players will take part in a Munster Council promoted blitz on June 28th as well as taking part in the primary game during the Munster Semi final between Tipp & Cork. A special thanks to the caretaker Pat O'Callaghan for his assistance with the facility.

The club scene is also running its games and all clubs are fulfilling their fixtures. Unfortunately, some host clubs haven't yet started to collect the €2 fee at the gates and still results are not being forwarded to the PRO for publication. We hope these matters can be dealt with as soon as possible. It is hoped that for every County final in all grades and ages this year a match program will be available to the public. When the time arrives for finals, the co-operation of both competing clubs would be appreciated.

Eire Og:

Under 8, Training: on Monday evenings 5.30 to 6.30pm. Matches are being arranged by trainers so all players are asked to attend training.

Under 10 Training: on Mondays and Fridays 5.30 to 6.30 pm. All Under 10 players to attend training next Friday. The Final of our Under 10 Blitz takes place on Saturday May 10th 10.30am at McDonagh Park Nenagh. All teams are to arrive at 10am. Toomevara, Burgess, Moneygall, Kilruane, Roscrea, Nenagh Eire Og, Portroe and Newport are participating. Please contact Pat Sheridan 087-9180830 for information if required.

Under 12 Training: on Mondays and Fridays 5.30 to 6.30 pm. Under 12 Championship starting in two weeks so all players are requested to attend training.

Under 14s: Training continues on Monday and Friday evenings 5.30 to 6.30pm. We would ask all members of the panel to attend.

Kilruane MacDonaghs:

U10: The U10 and U12 teams played a practice match against Carrig-Riverstown on Saturday last in Ardcroney. Both teams went down to strong well-drilled Carrig teams. We would like to thank Carrig-Riverstown for these matches which will stand to our panels later in the year. The finals of the Nenagh Blitz is on Saturday next 10th May in Nenagh - panel to be in Nenagh at 10am.

U12: The first round of the championship took place on Tuesday night in Kilcolman against Burgess.

Community Games: The club represented the parish in the first round of the Community Games Camogie competition against Moneygall. After a tough match, we came out winners and are due to play Roscrea in the next round.

U14: The U14 panel are due to play a challenge match against Nenagh on this Friday night 9th - details will be sent by text. This will be their last work-out before the County Semi-Final.

Sympathy: The club extends sympathy to the Ryan, Cahill, Culhane, Hill and Heffernan family on their recent bereavements.

Munster Camogie Final



Cork 2 - 11 - Tipperary 0-12



By Gerry Slevin Pairc Ui Rinn.
Photographs by Rose Mannion

The hoodoo exerted by Cork over Tipp's camogie ambitions since 2004 appears to be continuing into the present season. Their first clash of the year in the provincial senior final in Pairc Ui Rinn on Saturday evening saw the home side come out on top by five points, two early goals within a four minute period providing Tipp with an exercise in catch-up management, which, though gallantly embarked upon, was never reached.

While much of Tipperary was experiencing a kind enough evening, weather-wise, in the lead in to the bank holiday weekend, it could hardly have been worse down south. We had drizzle turning to heavy rain, blustery wind and it was very cold, conditions totally unsuited to a demonstration of the fine skills of these camogie talents.

A lone piper Dan O'Neill led the teams around in parade prior to playing the National Anthem and referee Seanie McMahon's throw-in.

Cork won for a number of reasons. They scored goals which Tipp failed to do (the visitors notching but three points in all from play as against 2-7 for the home side); they showed better teamwork and, overall, their attack was far more potent than a Tipp unit that simply didn't play as a unit.

Neither goal should have been conceded. The first came in the 8th minute when a Cork attack should have been adequately dealt with and even though Paula Ryan saved well from Sile Burns, the ball wasn't cleared away sufficiently and Emer O'Farrell belted it home. This sent Cork into a 1-1 to 0-1 lead, Claire Grogan having opened the scoring from a free after four minutes. The Tipp captain lofted over a 45 two minutes after Cork's first goal, following which Trish O'Halloran made two magnificent

blocks-down in quick succession to deny what appeared to be certain Cork scores. Misfortune then struck, following a Claire Grogan-converted free when a speculative shot from Sile Burns saw the sliotar rebound off Paula Ryan's cold, wet fingers and over the line. Extremely hard luck on Paula who went on to more than make amends for that slip-up with some fine saves throughout the hour.

The concession of these goals and, more tellingly, the manner in which they were conceded left Tipp with a mountain to climb against a side, determined to hold the whip hand over their great rivals. But by half time, it was only those goals that separated the teams, 2-5 to 0-5, although Tipp had to wait until the 25th minute for their first score from play, a Geraldine Kinane point to which she added another two minutes later.

There was a definite lack of penetration in the Tipp attack during that first half. The defence did settle back after the early damage and responded positively but the attack was a worrying sector. Despite this, there was a hesitancy to adequately deal with it from the sideline and the withdrawal of Julie Kirwan from the inner defence line early in the second half was as surprising as it was undeserved. The problem from a Tipp perspective was much further out field and the game had entered its final quarter when Cora Hennessy was introduced to the attack. One would have thought she would have been an automatic choice from the start.

There certainly was more urgency from Tipp in the second half but scores were so difficult to notch, a reliance on Claire Grogan's free taking keeping hopes alive. A Joanne Ryan point eleven minutes from the end was Tipp's only score from play. Cork keeper



Tipp corner back Paula Bulfin goes in to block down a Cork attack during the Munster Senior Camogie Final in Pairc Ui Rinn on Saturday last.

Aoife Murray indeed earned her Player of the Match status when denying Emily Hayden on two occasions with saves that had 'goal' written all over them as they left the Cashel girl's stick. Philly Fogarty came much more into the heart of things in the second half too and towards the end, when having soloed through the Cork defence she found Aoife Murray standing between her and a Tipp goal, with another outstanding save. Tipp still had an opportunity to narrow the gap when Claire Grogan shot for goal from a free. She aimed at the top left hand corner of the net but the ball was saved and cleared and with it went Tipp's final opportunity to coming closer to their great rivals.

No blame to the Tipp defence which was very solid, especially the outer line where Trish O'Halloran continues impress in the central position. Michelle Shortt and Mary Ryan on wings also played well. Siobhan Ryan had some good moments at mid-field with Philly Fogarty emerging far closer to her own usual solid self in the second half. From the possession that wended its way to the attack, Tipp should have made much greater use of it. There was a lack of incisiveness in that department and in the first half an over-concentration on trying to lift the ball when conditions were totally unsuited to such an exer-

cise, saw many an opportunity lost. Picking out better-placed colleagues might have harvested better dividends. Claire Grogan sent over two-thirds of Tipp's total from placed balls which doesn't reflect highly on the attack as a scoring unit. Credit Geraldine Kinane though for her spirit of enterprise when sending over her two first half points, while Emily Hayden would certainly have seen her status shoot up had those goal attempts not been foiled. Joanne Ryan is probably best suited to a more out-field role.

Tipp's championship clash with Cork will also be an away game on July 6th, by which time they will have played Kilkenny, Galway, Dublin and Limerick. John McGrath and his back room team have quite an amount of work to do. Saturday's game might well have been won. It wasn't, and coming up with an attack that has potency and verve, not to mention plenty of score-conscious attitude is a 'must' if those memorable days of the early years of this decade are to be re-visited.

Match Digest

Player of the Match: Aoife Murray (Cork)

Scorers: Cork: R. Moloney 0-5 (4 frees), S. Burns 1-1, E. O'Farrell 1-0, B. Corkery 0-2, O. Cotter 0-2, M. O'Connor 0-1.

Tipperary: C. Grogan 0-9 (frees and 45s), G. Kinane 0-2, J. Ryan 0-1.

Tipp had six wides (five of them in the first half to Cork's total of five (two in the first half). Tipp also earned one more free than Cork, seventeen to sixteen and they forced three 45s as against none forced by Cork.

Cork: Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Linda O'Connell, Rosalie Holland, Catriona Foley (captain), Amanda O'Regan, Rena Buckley, Briege Corkery, Linda Dorgan, Emer O'Farrell, Orla Cotter, Una O'Donoghue, Sile Burns, Mary O'Connor, Rachel Moloney. Sub: Emer O'Sullivan for Una O'Donoghue.

Tipperary: Paula Ryan (Toomevara), Paula Bulfin (Cashel), Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara), Julie Kirwan (Moneygall), Michelle Shortt (Drom-Inch), Trish O'Halloran (Duharra), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Siobhan Ryan (Holycross), Philly Fogarty (Cashel), Geraldine Kinane (Drom-Inch), Emily Hayden (Cashel), Jill Horan (Cashel), Claire Grogan, captain (Cashel), Mairead Morrissey (Cashel), Joanne Ryan (Drom-Inch). Subs: Geraldine Stapleton (Silvermines) for Julie Kirwan, Cora Hennessy (Cashel) for Mairead Morrissey.

Referee: Seanie McMahon (Clare).



Gerry McInerney Ferry Service Station Lorrha presents sponsorship cheque to Amy Kennedy, Captain of Tipperary U16 team ahead of their first outing in the Championship with Limerick this Saturday 10th in Limerick. Also in photo is Rose Mannion, Co. Treasurer, Helen Kennedy, Lar O'Brien Co. Chairman. The Board thank Gerry for his continuous financial support to this team over the last three years.

Camogie

It's a wide open All-Ireland Championship

By Gerry Slevin

New All-Ireland champions last year in Wexford; newly crowned National League champions last Saturday week in Kilkenny; the possible dawn of a new era for Galway; the continuing progress of Dublin; Limerick back in big time company again and, of course, the ever present threat from Tipp and Cork. For quite a while (probably for too long, many might say, unless you were from Tipp or Cork!) the camogie reins were firmly held by the two great Munster rivals and a sense of stalemate began to creep into the game. From 1997 until 2007, the O'Duffy Cup was in the exclusive grip of two counties only, Tipp and Cork. Each won it on five occasions and while the rejoicing in those counties was never less than effusive, the taste it left on the other combatants was hardly encouraging. Yes, they tried hard to knock them down, to change the order of the day but it became a futile exercise and the result was that while camogie was thriving in Tipperary and Cork, the mood in the other counties had a 'what's the use?' attitude about it.

It wasn't that the spirit wasn't willing. It certainly was. Then, as Cork began to have the edge on a Tipp side that was gradually seeing so many great stalwarts of the 1999-2004 era easing into retirement, other counties sat up and began to take notice. Dublin, for instance, a county with no fewer than twenty six All-

Ireland senior titles to their credit between 1932 and '84, out of the limelight for so long, earned a return to senior ranks by winning the junior championship on two successive years. Wexford, consistently tough opponents for Tipp started to make an impression.

One particular week last year also had a defining influence on the way matters would develop. Cork beat Wexford in the league final but a week later that result was reversed when Wexford, most surprisingly, inflicted quite a damaging defeat on the All-Ireland/League champions. That sense of inevitability about the championship was evaporating and even though everyone knew that Cork would come back because of the round robin arrangement, the fact that Wexford had ruffled their feathers as they did made other counties see and realise that there was hope, great hope. Kilkenny, in transition, had lost much of their glow and they found their dominance of the Leinster scene greatly disturbed. Wexford were on the way and Dublin too posed problems. Tipp stuck in there without causing too much fuss and Cork, recovering from the Wexford setback, saw their resolve heighten and, eventually the All-Ireland final became a repeat of the league decider. This time, however, it would be Wexford's day. That long cycle of success that accompanied the performances of Cork and Tipp over a decade was broken at last, and the camogie world rejoiced.

So, what of 2008?

Wexford again? Their league form might not suggest such to be the case, but then, during Tipp's great reign their championship triumphs weren't always matched with league success. Cork? The Rebelettes have lost a number of their big stars through retirement, the travel bug etc but they invariably manage to fill in the gaps with more than adequate replacements as they showed in Saturday night's provincial final against Tipp. Kilkenny? Now under Anne Downey's management and with the league title deservedly theirs to cherish, they will be the focus of much championship attention. (Interestingly, Kilkenny's Sinead Millea was an interested spectator at Saturday's Munster decider) Kilkenny's opening game will be against Tipp on June 1st and the league champions will have a home venue. Galway? They looked very determined and indeed impressive when knocking Tipp out of the league down in Athenry and from the league final performance against Kilkenny it would seem they are sure to be there or thereabouts. Dublin and Limerick, especially the Dubs will not be found wanting either but in each case 2008 may be a season too soon for them.

Which leaves us with Tipp! It would not be totally unjust to line them up them after Wexford, Cork, Kilkenny and Galway in the pecking order. And that's not a bad thing. The magnitude of the league defeat suffered against Galway was the biggest since Tipp's rise to prominence in 1999. Stung by

their performance in Athenry, they rebounded against an admittedly less experienced Limerick side in The Ragg. It wasn't so much the size of the victory there that impressed as the industry shown by a side, strengthened somewhat from the Galway game, especially through the return of Philly Fogarty and a fully-recovered-from-injury Claire Grogan. The result of that match was of no consequence in the context of the league but it was easy to see that John McGrath had re-infused a determination, which, if built upon, could well make Tipp strong challengers again. A huge difference in class made the Munster semi final clash with Waterford no more than a training spin and it was a different matter when lining out against Cork last Saturday. Several questions were asked How they will be answered will tell a lot. Whether or not Una O'Dwyer returns is a moot point. Her presence around the edge of the square in front of Paula Ryan would add considerable skill and authority to that area. Sinead Nealon has definitely gone from the half back line and farther on a return of Eimear McDonnell, should it transpire, would work wonders for a unit that could well do with her craft and acceleration. Others like defenders Trish O'Halloran, Julie Kirwan, Marie Tynan, Mary Ryan and Suzanne Kelly, mid fielder Philly Fogarty as well as Cora Hennessy, Jill Horan, Joanne Ryan and evergreens Claire Grogan and Emily Hayden in attack are very much part of the Tipp scene. Others

scrapping for places in a highly competitive set up include Mairead Luttrell, Michelle and Therese Shortt, Paula Bulfin, Aoife McLoughney, Mairead Morrissey, Sabrina Larkin, Geraldine Stapleton, Geraldine Kinane, Linda Grogan, and Julia McGrath.

Looking at the general scene, one would have to conclude that the 2008 All-Ireland championship is indeed wide open. Like Tipp and Cork for so long, Wexford are now there to be toppled and with new league champions in Kilkenny opening their championship challenge against Tipp, there could hardly be a stiffer test for Tipp as the Premier County seeks get back on the All-Ireland carousel once again. That June 1st opening championship day will see O'Duffy Cup holders Wexford 'idle'. Along with the Tipp v Kilkenny clash, Galway will be at home to Limerick while Cork must travel to Dublin. There's a break after the opening series until June 22nd when Tipp will be at home to Dublin. July 6th sees them away to Cork and a week later, 13th, at home to Limerick. 'Idle' on July 20th, Tipp will be back in action on July 27th when at home to All-Ireland champions Wexford and they complete the round robin series with a home game against Galway on August 3rd.

Hopefully, after all that, sufficient will have been achieved to see Tipp in the All-Ireland semis on August 16th.

Camogie



BURGESS

Training: for U8, U-10, U12 and U 14s every Tues 7pm to 8pm and also Sat mornings at 10.30-12.00.

Feile: Parents of U14 panel, please return completed Feile forms to trainers as arrangements for that weekend need to be made. We are in need of more families to host players on that weekend so your help would be very welcome.

Membership: and registration forms should be returned the treasurer now. Membership Family - €50, individual - €30.

Well done to the U14 team who had a great win against Thurles in the league last week. They now play their semi final on Sat 10th May. Good luck to all concerned.

Our U10 team took part will take part in the finals of their blitz tournament on Sat. May 10th in Nenagh. We wish them all the best.

Our U 12 team played the first round of the championship against Kilruane and will play their next match against Roscrea. Players will be informed of times at training.

LORRHA

We played Duharra in Duharra on Bank Holiday Monday. The girls came out with a great win and a great effort was put in by all. Keep it up girls. Training continues this Wednesday and we need full attendance as our next league match is on Sunday. Final Score Lorrha 5-9 Duharra 0-3. Lorrha scorers: Megan O'Meara 2-0; Catherine O'Meara, Michelle Kennedy, Caoimhe Kennedy 1-1 each; Doireann Moran, Elaine Hough 0-2 each; Anne Hough, Beibhin Kennedy 0-1 each.

SHANNON ROVERS

Under 12/14: Training continues for the under 12s and 14s on Saturday mornings.

We congratulate the Under 14's on their win last week over Kildangan. This was a very good performance by all the girls.

Training: The junior and senior training continues this Wednesday evening at 7pm.

County teams: Well done to Marian Ryan and the Tipp under 18's on their win over Limerick at the weekend.

We commiserate with the Tipp seniors and Aoife McLoughney, Sabrina Larkin and Marian Ryan on their defeat to Cork in the Munster Final on Saturday last.

Exams: The club wishes all those who are doing exams at this time the very best of luck.

TOOMEVARA

U 10: Best of luck to the Under 10 team who are taking part in the final stages of a blitz kindly organised by the Nenagh Club. The girls will play their semi-final against Nenagh on Saturday 10th at 10.30. All players are asked to be in Nenagh at 10.00

U12 Championship: Toomevara v Moneygall at 7pm in Moneygall on Wednesday the 7th of May.

All players to be in Moneygall at 6.30.

U12 and U 14 Training: Training for all U12 and U14 players will take place on Friday 9th at 6pm.

Intermediate: Congratulations to the Intermediate team who defeated Slievenamon in round 2 of the League. They now play Dournea on Sunday 11th at 12pm in Toomevara. Training for all panel members takes place on Friday 9th at 6pm.

County Scene: Best of luck to everyone concerned with the County U 16 team who play Limerick on Saturday at 2.30 in Ballygarra Co. Limerick. Well done to the Minor team who defeated Limerick last Saturday and hard luck to the Seniors who were beaten by Cork.

Feile: Congratulations to the Toomevara boys team who won the Feile Competition at the weekend. They now represent Tipperary in the National Competition which takes place in June. This is a historic moment for Toomevara as both the U 14 boys and the U 14 girls will be taking part in the competition.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol report

A GAA SPORTING MOMENT FROM YOUR CLUB TO CROKE PARK: The GAA Museum, Croke Park in Association with Fujifilm is running a Photographic Competition. Entry forms are available on <http://cumb.tipperary.gaa.ie>. Enter to win two All Ireland Final tickets, A Fujifilm FinePix Digital Camera and a class trip to Croke Park. Photographs to be submitted by August 31st 2008.

PRIMARY GO GAMES TRIALS: Each school is entitled to send a child, to a trial. That child must be in 6th class. Reminder: A child may only attend a trial for one team. Hurling: Wednesday May 7th, in The Ragg, at 4 p.m. Thursday May 8th, in New Inn, at 4 p.m.

CONTACT CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL: Any school wishing to submit match reports, photos or results please email kateoconnell@tipperary.gaa.ie or text 087 4150320. All Reports are on the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol website <http://cumb.tipperary.gaa.ie>.

Lafferty and Linnane lead Clare to glory

Clare 4-8 Derry 3-9
Peter O'Connell reports
DIVISION 2 LEAGUE FINAL

THE element of luck which deserted Clare in last September's All-Ireland junior camogie final sided with them in West Dublin on Sunday.

An injury-time Aisling Diamond goal finished Clare in Croke Park and it seemed that a similar fate was about to floor them in the Division 2 League final, at Naomh Peregrine's grounds, as Derry pressed for a late, winning goal.

Clare held out though, largely thanks to a couple of crucial interceptions from

Siobhán Lafferty, who was outstanding at full-back.

The winners just about deserved their win, with their ability to score goals a telling factor. Laura Linnane's introduction

was equally important. She started on the bench, having been hit by flu during the week but she was brought on 12 minutes into the second half and the Shannon girl hit 1-2 from play.

Clare started impressively, with Carina Roseingrave pointing in the second minute, after Aoife Ryan and Claire

Commame had linked up.

A lovely Sharon McMahon flick freed Fiona Lafferty, who careered through the heart of the Derry defence, before hand-passing to the net. Sharon O'Loughlin then hit a chance wide, before Lafferty put over a superb point from play, leaving Clare 1-2 to 0-0 in front after just 10 minutes.

Clare owned the ball during this opening period. However, then conceded a goal, when Méabh McGoldrick rounded on, before hitting a high ball over the head of Clare goalkeeper Denise Lynch.

A minute later, Claire Commame shot wide, before she had a goal chance deflected for a '45, after Fiona Lafferty and Sharon McMahon combined to create the opportunity.

Deirdre Murphy pointed the '45, before Derry hit five successive scores to shoot 1-5 to 1-3 ahead.

Sharon O'Loughlin then netted a critical goal for Clare, after Deirdre Murphy had fielded a puck-out and hit a perceptive pass outside the Clarecastle forward.

Now 2-3 to 1-5 ahead, Clare shot three successive points from play, with Claire Commame hitting the first from close range. Murphy followed up with a lovely long-range point, before Kate Lynch and Aine O'Brien placed O'Loughlin for Clare's final first-half score.

Now 2-6 to 1-5 ahead, Clare introduced Kilmaley's Helen McMahon for Jane Scanlon at half-time.

The northern girls dominated the early stages of the second half and put over two points to pull to within a brace of scores, 2-6 to 1-7, of Clare.

Sharon O'Loughlin struck again with an opportunist goal, to extend Clare's advantage to five points, 3-6 to 1-7.

However, Derry hit back immediately when Oonagh Mullen netted after a Méabh McGoldrick shot wasn't cleared.

Substitute Laura Linnane put over her first point from her wing-forward berth, before Katie McCauley replied for Derry.

Eight minutes from full-time, Linnane somehow found the Derry net,

with three Derry players hanging off her. The Athenry player kicked the ball over the line from close range to put Clare 4-7 to 2-9 ahead.

Gráinne McGoldrick responded with a pointed '45, before Linnane landed a classy score from 40 yards.

Four minutes from full-time, Derry's Oonagh Mullen netted her second goal, leaving Clare just two points, 4-8 to 3-9, ahead.

Derry sensed that Clare were vulnerable and pressed forward.

However, with Siobhán Lafferty defending heroically, Clare held out. They owed a bit to luck though, when a Méabh McGoldrick shot slid across the Clare goal mouth.

Clare were relieved to hear Ciarán Quigley's final whistle, which signalled a badly needed trophy. Defeat here could have purged them of belief and confidence.

Siobhán Lafferty and Kate Lynch were Clare's steadiest defenders, while Chloe Morey's striking was impressive.

Deirdre Murphy did well in midfield, while up front, Fiona Lafferty in the opening half and Sharon O'Loughlin were Clare's best forwards.

However, the Clare attack was aided hugely by Laura Linnane, when she was sprung from the bench.

In her acceptance speech, Deirdre Murphy paid tribute to the memories of the late Enid O'Loughlin, who had played with many of the Clare team and Ann Maher, who had contributed hugely to Clare camogie for many years.



THE BREAKDOWN

Clare

TEAM: Denise Lynch (Kilmaley); Jane Scanlon (Clarecastle); Siobhán Lafferty (Kilnamona); Aileen McInerney (Newmarket); Kate Lynch (Kilkishan); Deirdre Corcoran (Celbridge); Chloe Morey (Sixmilebridge); Deirdre Murphy (Cloonery - captain); Aoife Ryan (St Vincent's, Dublin); Carina Roseingrave (Kilnamona); Fiona Lafferty (Kilnamona); Aine O'Brien (Newmarket); Claire Commame (Corefin); Sharon McMahon (Newmarket); Sharon O'Loughlin (Clarecastle).

SUBS: Helen McMahon (Kilmaley) for Jane Scanlon; Laura Linnane (Athenry) for Aine O'Brien; Stephanie Moloney (Broadford) for Aoife Ryan and Aileen O'Shea (Sixmilebridge) for Carina Roseingrave.

SCORERS: Sharon O'Loughlin 2-1, Laura Linnane 1-2, Fiona Lafferty 1-1, Deirdre Murphy 0-2, (0-1 '45), Carina Roseingrave and Claire Commame 0-1 each.

FREES FOR: 9 **WIDES:** 7

YELLOW CARDS: Carina Roseingrave and Denise Lynch.

REFEREE: Ciarán Quigley (Kildare)

Derry

TEAM: Claire O'Kane; Kate Lavery; Sinéad McKeever; Jane Carey; Ceara Cushman; Edelle Henry; Brieghe Convery; Gráinne McGoldrick; Aileen Lavery; Katie McAuley; Aisling Diamond; Claire McNicholl; Sinéad Cassidy; Oonagh Mullen; Méabh McGoldrick.

SUBS: Attracta McPeake for Aileen Lavery and Aileen Lavery for Oonagh Mullen.

SCORERS: Oonagh Mullen 2-0, Gráinne McGoldrick 0-2 (0-2 '45), Aileen Lavery 0-3, (0-1 '45), Méabh McGoldrick 1-0, Sinéad Cassidy 0-2, Claire McNicholl and Katie McAuley 0-1 each.

FREES FOR: 7 **WIDES:** 4

YELLOW CARDS: Oonagh Mullen.

2008
May

PROVISIONAL dates have been set aside for the Senior Camogie Championship.

Sunday, June 15 is the day set for the Carbery v Imokilly divisional preliminary round tie with the weekend commencing June 28 the real start with no fewer than 14 teams in action completing all preliminary and first-round fixtures.

These dates must yet be ratified as club representatives have until Monday next to take the fixtures back to their respective clubs.

Personally I don't think the clubs should be afforded this flexibility.

It's amazing and even laughable at times the way some clubs want games postponed because such and such a player is going away.

The scope the county board have in which to arrange fixtures is very tight. The dates should be fixed and final. Years ago a player wouldn't dream of going on a holiday during championship. Fair enough with younger players who have no option but to go on the family annual trip but with adults it's a different story.

As it stands, practically the entire month of June is a non-runner due to exams. Even the month of May is out as students prepare for exams and declare themselves unavailable.

We are too lenient. Maybe we have to be as demand dictates however there was a plethora of championship hurling and football games played last weekend and I'm quite sure many of those players are students too, currently in the middle of third-level examinations.

The effort has been made in the past to ensure that inter-county players would be given a two-week match-free, run-in to both inter-county and club fixtures. This doesn't look possible to continue. Cork are out on July 6, one week after the club championship kicks off and again on the 13 and 27. So July is out for any club activity.

August 6 is the date provisionally set aside for the second-round club fixtures. Even that is running it close as, should Cork advance, the



Linda Mellerick

Clubs given too big a say



Marion McCarthy presents Glen Rovers' Nicole O'Brien with the Cork skills trophy at the recent Féile na nGael skills competition.

All-Ireland semi-finals are down for August 16.

If Cork progress there is every reason to assume that the management team will request a clear run into the All-Ireland Final on September 14. They may not get their wish but the latest any club fixture could go ahead would be the weekend of the 23, thereby giving Cork three weeks' uninterrupted preparation.

So, just like last year it could be November before we see a county fi-

nal. There are a few senior B games splattered throughout July. This involves clubs with no senior inter-county representative.

That's the way camogie has developed and it is out of the control of individual county boards. Certainly in Cork, full credit must be given to the county board that do their utmost to ensure both clubs and county teams are afforded every chance in their run-up to games. In the '90s the fixtures situation was ri-

diculous with players expected to turn out sometimes two and three times a week for competitive fixtures.

Cork's Munster championship victory over Tipperary last weekend brought the title to the Rebel county for the 49th time. That record is phenomenal, considering the Munster competition is only active since 1934. Cork took the first nine titles on the trot. In 1943 they went through unchallenged and were

nominated to contest the All Ireland. Cork and Tipperary dominate the roll of honours. Waterford have two titles, Clare have, on four occasions the championship wasn't completed and Tipperary have 17 titles.

The championship holds less and less significance since the All-Ireland series became an open draw.

Provincial title number five was captured on Monday last as the Cork Intermediate side defeated Clare in Scariff.

CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

ST FINBARR'S

St Finbarr's U14s found them selves somewhat off the pace at the Féile na nGael blitz in Ballincollig recently. Grouped with Ballincollig, Glen Rovers and Carrigaline, they took on each in turn. The statistics make disappointing reading as the Barrs lost all three games. But it was not all bad. Stephanie Punch, Lauren Cud, Shirley Burns and Niamh Cahalane worked hard and deserved better. The senior panel continues its preparation for the championship. They have drawn Ballygarvan in their opening game. The feeling that they did not do themselves justice in last year's county final will drive the players on.

ST VINCENT'S

Training Times: U5, 6 and 7, Tuesday, 6-7pm; U11, Wednesday, 6-7pm; U10, Thursday, 5-6pm; U12, Thursday, 6-7pm; U14, Monday, 6-7pm.

New members are always welcome and if you want to join, just come up at the relevant time to the club complex on Kilmore Road. New volunteers also welcome and if you want to pass away some free time then don't be afraid to come and help out.

CARRIGTWOHILL

U12: Our U12 D camogie Team picked up their second league win with a good performance against Fr O'Neill's recently. In the 12th minute, Carrigtwohill's Sarah Curtin scored the first goal. Ten minutes later Holly Brehany scored our second. The match continued at a fast pace with Fr O'Neill's coming very close to scoring. Just before half-time Ceire O'Flynn stretched the lead with a goal. In the second half, Holly Brehany scored again, with an excellent goal followed by Sarah Curtin with her second goal as we led by five goals. Our sixth goal was put into the back of the net by Carmel Cronin. With two minutes to go Holly Brehany scored her hat-trick with an excellent free to give Carrigtwohill the points. We would like to thank Fr O'Neill's for a very sporting and fair game.

GLEN ROVERS

Féile na nGael: Our U14 squad topped their group in Féile na nGael with good victories over Ballincollig, Carrigaline and St Finbarr's to book their place in the quarter-finals against Newtown. In an exciting contest Lauren Callanan gave us an early lead with an excellent goal but Newtown quickly replied with a point. We failed to avail of several chances that came our way and were

punished when Newtown grabbed a goal to take the lead after 14 minutes. We rallied well with a Nicole O'Brien goal and points from Edel O'Connell and Nicole had us leading 2-2 to 1-1 at the interval. Driven on by captain Aisling O'Keefe, Leeann and Shauna Busted, we kept the pressure on our opponents from the start of the second half and we added to our tally, striking seven points to Newtown's two as we ran out winners to book our semi-final spot where we met Courcy Rovers on Tuesday last. Courcys dominated the first half and led 1-4 to 0-2 at the break but our girls turned in a superb second-half display and had it down to just two points as the clock ticked to full-time. However it wasn't to be, the width of the upright denying us twice in as many minutes as Courcys held firm.

Attention now turns back to the U14 A league and next week we will strive to catch up on our game which we put to one side during Féile. On Tuesday we welcome Milford and on Friday we face Ballinacorney.

Nicole does us proud: Pride of place goes to Nicole O'Brien who did us proud by winning the Cork Féile na nGael skills competition on Monday, a first for our club and one we are very proud of. It's a wonderful achievement for Nicole and we wish her all the best as she represents Cork at National Féile, well done also to Leeann O'Sullivan, who was in fourth place.

U12: Our U12 '2' team, made up of our very young girls from nine to 11, recorded their first victory on Friday last when they defeated Brian Dillon's second team. Having suffered a big defeat in their first game against Aghabullogue, the girls failed to be disheartened and despite losing again to Ballyhea they look forward to every game. First-half goals from Kayleigh Bridgeman and Orla Geary gave us the upper hand in the first half and the switching of Olivia Harrington from her customary defensive role to the forward line saw our girls extend their lead to run out winners. Well done to all our youngsters on their commitment and superb attitude to every outing which they always enjoy

win or lose. We wish to extend thanks to Brian Dillon's chairperson Mary O'Sullivan for the refreshments for our girls on the day.

Good luck: Good luck to Sinead O'Halloran and the Cork U16 team who travel to Galway today for the first round of the All-Ireland. Best of luck also to the Cork minor team that play Clare in the Munster final and the first round of the All-Ireland on Sunday and to Lydia, Denise and Karen, who are part of the panel.

Well done: Well done to the Cork intermediate team and Lydia and Denise as another Munster title was won last weekend and also to the senior team on winning the title.

Summer Camp: The VHI Cui Camp will take place in Glen Rovers on the week starting July 7, anybody interested in taking part must register and pay before May 21. The cost, which includes a full set of playing gear for each child, is €55 for the first child, brothers or sisters can avail of a group rate of €55 for the first child, €45 for the second child and €35 for the third child. Registration forms available from any of the coaches or in the club shop on Monday and Friday nights from 7.30pm, don't forget to register early.

FR O'NEILL'S

Following the recent appointment of Joan O'Flynn as president-elect of the Camogie Association, we are having an evening in her honour in Ladysbridge Hall tonight at 8.30pm. It will be a night of old friends with a few surprises in store, all welcome.

Junior A: The start of the season saw these girls head straight into the county final of 2007 league v Ballincollig. The match started in their favour and by half-time both teams were level. But the night was not to be in their favour as Ballincollig played the second half with fervour. Final score, Fr O'Neill's 1-3, Ballincollig 3-5. Well done to Sarah Harrington and Gearoidin Kearney, who kept us on the scoresheet. We meet Ballincollig again in the league of 2008, hopefully under the strict training schedule of Billy Harrington and helpers we'll be better prepared next time.

U16: These girls have had two matches with no joy, but with a very young side keep up the good work your day will come!

U14: We have had three matches with no luck either. As the matches progressed, the girls' performances have improved. The same team participated in the Division 2 U14 Féile against Tracton, Clonakilty and Na Piarasigh. A great day was had by all with Na Piarasigh being the winners of their group.

U12 B: Our first outing was against Glen Rovers, where the girls had a great start with a win of 1-1 to 0-0. Not so lucky next time when Carrigaline won 1-0 to 0-0. Hope all those training skills pay off next week when the girls take on our neighbours Killeagh at 6pm on Tuesday 13 in Killeagh.

U12 D: With two matches played these girls have put up brave performances with no joy, with a young team they had great experience playing both Youghal and Carrigtwohill.

U10: Under the very capable hands of both Carrie Higgins and Fiona O'Driscoll, this group have just finished their indoor session. Their first night on the big pitch brought many a comment on the eagerness of so many wee ones! This night meant as much to them as if they had stood out on Croke Park. Let's hope for the best! Keep up the good work Fiona and Carrie, the kids love it!

BRIAN DILLON'S

Our U12 team took on Carrigaline last Sunday in the Tank Field and, although conditions were awful and the standard was not very high, both U12 teams fought hard for the whole game. Our girls took the lead in the first 10 minutes with both goals scored by corner-forward Chloe O'Mahony. Although this was the final score of the game there were lots of missed opportunities.

Junior B: The junior B league started recently when we took on St Catherine's at home, given that it was the start of the season, both teams took a while to settle. Our backline was put under pressure early on as St Catherine's began to advance. However Orla Lawrence kept her player quiet in the corner and Anita Cotter dominated the full-back line well. They were helped by the half-back line, for which Deirdre Ring was superb on the wing. Anthea O'Brien did a lot of work in the centre. As the match progressed, we began to push forward with Susan Kate

Brosnan doing trojan work. She continually sent the ball into Clair and Jane Dooley in the half-forward line and they did fantastically well to set up most of the scores. We were clearly the stronger team on the day and battled hard to ensure our 3-3 to no score victory. We would also like to thank trainer John Ring for his continued time and effort. **Team:** S. Rodgers; C. O'Mahony; A. Cotter; O. Lawrence; A. Russell; A. O'Brien; D. Ring; A. Dorgan; S. K. Brosnan; C. Dooley; T. Deane; L. Bradfield; J. Dooley; Le Fleming; G. O'Connell. Subs: E. Burns for C. O'Mahony.

Scorers: L. Fleming 2-0, G. O'Connell 1-1, T. Deane 0-1, C. Dooley 0-1.

DOUGLAS

Douglas played Cloughduv in the first round of the senior league recently. This was Douglas' first match at senior A after moving up from Senior B. We trailed 1-1 to 0-10 at half-time, playing against a strong wind but with sheer determination we came out with all guns blazing to turn the score line around to 4-10 to 0-13 points at the final whistle. Pamela Mackey held many challenges from Cloughduv at bay, Julia White and Katrina Mackey also performed to their usual standard. Well done also to Helen O'Mahony, Louise O'Regan and the rest of the team for such a riveting game on a cold Sunday.

U14C League: We played Fr O'Neill's last Monday in the Community Pitch in Douglas. The half-time score showed a nil-all draw. Perseverance paid off in the second half with Alisha McCarthy getting a hat-trick and Aisling McDonald getting the fourth goal. A point from Emma Kavanagh sealed the win.

ST CATHERINE'S

U12: On Saturday last our U12 team travelled to Millstreet. Despite their best efforts the home team proved too strong and ran out winners 3-4 to 0-0. **Team:** R. Spillane; L. Hartnett; M. Galvin; A. Hegarty; C. McCarthy; J. O'Keefe; B. O'Keefe; K. Mulcahy; M. Mulcahy; M. Walsh; K. England; L. Ahern; N. Clohessey; N. Coughlan; I. Tanner. Sub: G. Ahern.

Intercounty players: Well done to Orla Cotter, who lined out with Cork last Saturday when they defeated Tipperary in the Munster final. Also well done to Denise Leahy, Norma Mulcahy and Orna Neville who were members of the Cork intermediate panel who defeated Clare to win the Munster final.

Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

Munster double

TWO more provincial titles found homes Leaside over the Bank holiday weekend as the senior and intermediate teams made it a clean sweep of provincial adult titles.

The senior team were always in control as they defeated Tipperary in Pairc Uí Rinn on Saturday. Cork's ability to grab goals was vital and they struck for two in the opening half as aide by the strong wind they stamped their authority on the game.

Tipperary were over-reliant on Claire Grogan for scores their only other contributor Ger Kinnane scoring two from play in

the opening half.

Inside six minutes Cork had a goal Emer O Farrell making no mistake from close range. Grogan had Tipp within a point but Sile Burns had cork back in control with a goal before the break.

Brieger Corkery was very influential at mid field added a point as Rachel Moloney pointed two frees and Orla Cotter had one Cork turned over six points ahead.

Tipp had the wind to their back for the second half with the rain beginning to cascade down conditions were hard for both sides. Grogan and Moloney exchanged points and again Aoife Murray denied Emily Hayden as Tipp worked to manufacture a goal, twice Grogan and Moloney swapped points as the Cork defence began to come under more pressure.

Cork worked hard as

they hung on to their two goal lead Orla Cotter and Grogan again exchanging points and two in a row from Joanne Ryan and Claire Grogan had Tipp within five points with eight minutes remaining.

It continued to be nip and tuck as both converted close in free again Tipp came close to a goal Murray turning a close in Tipp free over the bar, it was Sile Burns with a late point that ensured Cork's victory.

Provincial title number five wound its way Leaside as the Intermediate side defeating Clare in the finish it was Corks strength in the closing ten minutes that ensured victory.

Clare led by two points heading into the closing stages but Cork finished the game stronger to be crowned champions.

Charlotte Kearney gave Cork an early lead as the sides battled to gain control Cork opened up a two point advantage only for Clare to bring it back to one but they it was Cork who led by two at the half time whistle 1-03 to 0-04.

Again through the second half it was close but a strong Cork finish with Michele Browne and Eimear O'Sullivan prominent ensure the title was

secured.

Douglas and Courceys in Feile Na nGael Final

Douglas over came Valley Rover to book their place in the Feile Na Nagel final a goal from Aisling Fox proving decisive while Claire Shine and Alex Hourihane also got on the score sheet as they had five points to spare at the full time whistle.

Courcey Rover had to stand firm as Glen Rovers almost snatched it at the death in an action packed game.

Courcey's led 1-4 to 0-2 at the interval thanks to Aisling Moloney and Julie Mulcahy scores but they had to be at their best in a second half as the Glen girls bombarded their goal in the finish they hung on to book their place in the decider which takes place on Friday in Ballinlough at 7.15pm.

It will be preceded by the division 2 final Mallow versus Na Piarraigh takes place at 6.15pm.

Nicole O'Brien to represent

Cork

Nicole O'Brien from Glen Rovers was crowned Cork Féile Na nGael skills champions for 2008 and will represent Cork at the All Ireland Féile Na nGael skills competition to be held in conjunction with National Féile Na nGael to be held in Laois / Offaly.

A pupil in Glanmire Community College where she plays on the school team Nicole is a past pupil of New Inn Primary school. Grainne Sheehy from the Milford club and Rebecca Murphy from Ballygarvan tied for second place with Grainne winning a play off to take the second place spot with Leeann O'Sullivan Glen Rovers in fourth place.

Well done to the three girls on giving superb displays their clubs can certainly be proud of their achievements.

Inter County games

The Cork under 16 and minor teams open their quest for All Ireland honours this weekend, the under 16 side travel to Turloughmore for a meeting on Saturday with Galway while the minor side are in action in Clare on Sunday.

MAY 2008

Rebels do enough to edge past Galway

Cork 2-19
Galway 2-10

CORK got their All-Ireland U16 camogie championship campaign off to a winning start as they defeated Galway in the opening game of the round-robin series at Turloughmore on Saturday, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The Cork girls struck a magnificent 19 points, 11 in the second half when they upped the ante and really showed their class as they put the home side under enormous pressure to fashion out a well-deserved nine-point victory.

In a close opening half, the sides were evenly matched with Cork leading at the half time whistle 0-8 to 0-6. Niamh McGrath and Niamh Fox had opening points for the home side before Katrina Mackey pointed a Cork free.

McGrath and Finola Neville swapped points and it was nip and tuck as the sides slogged it out to gain the upper hand. Katrina Mackey, Aileen O'Donovan, Katie Buckley Finola Neville and Joanne Casey were all on the score sheet for Cork while McGrath and Siobhan Kelly were on target for Galway.

Cork gave an early indication as to their intentions from the restart with Neville rifling the Galway net inside a minute for the game first goal and with Joanne Casey and Mariah Reidy adding points Cork stretched their lead to seven points inside five minutes.

McGrath held her nerve to finish a seventh minute penalty to the Cork net after she had been brought down in the square but the Cork response was superb three points in a row from Mackey, Joanne Casey and Katie Buckley restoring their seven-point advantage.

Still Cork could not shake Galway off and as they continued to press and a Deirdre Ward goal at the three-quarter stage was followed by a Mairead Linnane point and the gap was suddenly at three points.

Cork showed their class in response, firing over two points, but twice Galway pegged the lead back to four and when McGrath pointed on 25 minutes, it was down to three points as they battled to find an equaliser, but Cork were not going to be denied.

A Mackey goal with five minutes remaining signalled a strong Cork finish as Mackey with one point and Casey with two gave Galway no way back.

Cork will now look forward confidently to their next game at home to Clare on Saturday next.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 1-5 (0-2), 0-1 45', 1-2p, J Casey 0-6, F Neville 1-2, A O'Donovan, M Reidy and K Buckley 0-2 each.

Galway: N McGrath 0-6 (0-2), 1-0 pen 0-4 p, D Ward 1-0, M Linnane 0-2, N Fox 0-1, L Mitchell 0-1 (f).

CORK: T Hawkes, S Harrington, A Coughlan, K McCarthy, R O'Mahony, P Mackey (CL), C Lynch, E Kingston, K Mackey, J Casey, M Reidy, S Coomey, F Neville, K Buckley, A O'Donovan.

Subs: S O'Halloran for S Coomey (40), F Cotter for K McCarthy (50), J Fitzpatrick for K Buckley (56), K Harrington for F Neville (57).

GALWAY: O Lane, K Kenny, K Brien, L Reynolds, N Murphy, M Connoughton, L Mitchell, C Ryan, T Murray, F Kealey, S Kelly, M Linnane, N Fox, N McGrath D Ward.

Sub: N Muldoon for N Murphy (38)

Referee: Una Kearney (Antrim).

Courceys hang on to make Féile final

Courcey Rovers 1-5
Glen Rovers 1-3
By MARY NEWMAN
Féile na nGael camogie semi-final

A CLOSE call in the finish as Courceys hung on to book their place in the camogie Féile decider on Friday night.

But they had to do it the hard way withstanding a second-half rally from a Glen Rovers side that looked buried at half time.

Courcey's led 1-4 to 0-2 at the interval after an opening half where they availed of every chance that came their way.

Aisling Moloney had an early point, to which Edel O'Connell

replied. Courceys edged ahead with an Aisling Moloney pointed free and two in a row from Moloney and Julia Mulcahy had them 0-4 to 0-1 to the good 20 minutes in to the half.

Absorbing huge amount of pressure, the Glen defence were finally caught out when Aisling Moloney drilled the ball to the net, but Nicole O'Brien pointed a 45 for the Glen as Courceys now led by five points at the break.

Julie Mulcahy pointed to stretch the lead to six points inside four minutes of the restart, but that was

to be Courceys only score of the half as the Glen Rovers continued to showed improvement.

Switching Edel O'Connell to mid-field, they began to gain the upper hand.

Leeann O'Sullivan struck an excellent point but poor shooting saw the Glen squandered chance after chance as they laid siege to the Courceys goal.

Their perseverance finally paid off when Marie Sheehan finished to the net and now the pressure was really on Courceys.

Again they came under pressure as the Glen looked for a winner but with the excellent Julie Mulcahy

playing superbly and rallying her side, they weathered the storm as time ran out on for the Glen girls.

Scorers for Courcey Rovers: A Moloney 1-3 (0-1), J Mulcahy 0-2.

Glen Rovers: M Sheehan 1-0, N O'Brien (0-1 45), E O'Connell, L O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

COURCEY ROVERS: S Keating, C Crowley, L O'Donovan, J Ryan, L Collins, A Keating, JL Condon, J Mulcahy, E Moloney, A Reilly, A O'Sullivan, E Crowley, T Collins, A Moloney, E Wright.

GLEN ROVERS: C McCarthy, S O'Sullivan, B O'Mahony, K Arnold, L O'Sullivan, S Busted, C O'Sullivan, L Callanan, A O'Keefe, M Sheehan, N O'Brien, J Hosford, S Hourihane, E O'Connell, K Lee.

Sub: C Noonan for S Hourihane (45).

Referee: Peter Downey (Iniscarra).

Fox goal is crucial for Douglas

Douglas 1-6
Valley Rovers 0-4
for whom Tessa Crowley with two points and Vicki Crowley with one set the pace.

DOUGLAS booked their place in the Féile na nGael Camogie final after a hard-fought semi-final in Coachford last night, writes MARY NEWMAN.

It was nip and tuck through the first half between Douglas and Valley Rovers.

It was 0-3 apiece at the interval. Douglas, with two pointed Claire Shine frees and one from play from the same player, kept pace with the lively Valleys side.

On the turnover it was close, neither side giving away much.

Claire Shine converted a Douglas 45, Tessa Crowley replied with one from play as Valleys went the distance.

A point from Alex Hourihane edged Douglas ahead and when Aisling Fox struck for the games opening goal 12 minutes into the second half, Douglas were four in front. Valleys battled but the goal they needed failed to come as the Douglas defence stood firm.

With the minutes ticking away Claire Shine pointed to give Douglas a five-point advantage and see them through.

Scorers for Douglas: C Shine 0-5 (0-2), 0-1 45), A Fox 1-0, A Hourihane 0-1.

Valley Rovers: T Crowley 0-3, V Crowley 0-1.

DOUGLAS: S O'Mahony, A Peato, D Bevin, M Mulrooney, F Sexton, C Duggan, S Kavanagh, S Dempsey, C Hickey, A Birmingham, A Fox, C Shine, J Leo, A Hourihane, A Downing.

Sub: L Cooney for A Downing.

VALLEY ROVERS: V Buckley, L McCarthy, C Hawkes, A Kilduff, L Murphy, S O'Leary, O Ryan, A Cummins, J Callanan, E Cummins, N Glavin, T Crowley, JM O'Leary, V Crowley, R Callanan.

Referee: Peter Downey (Iniscarra).



Douglas' Shannon Dempsey breaks away from Courcey Rovers' Edel Moloney, in their Féile na nGael Division One final last night in Ballinlough. Picture: Kieran Boyde

Douglas fully deserving of Féile victory

Douglas
Courcey Rovers

8-5
2-1

By MARY NEWMAN
Cork Féile na nGael camogie

WHILE the scoreline does not do justice to Courcey Rovers' efforts in this Cork Féile na nGael Division One camogie final in Ballinlough last night, there can be no denying Douglas the title.

They got their Féile bandwagon back on track to regain a crown they last held in 2006 with a superb team performance.

Inside the opening minute they took the lead with a Claire Shine point, but dogged Courcey defending ensured we had to wait until the 11th minute before Alex Hourihane first-timed the ball to the net in a crowded goalmouth to extend the Douglas advantage.

Courcey's settled and matched their opponent's step for step, but failure to avail of the many chances that came their way proved costly.

In defence they held the Douglas attack with Julie Mulcahy and Aoife Keating working hard, but it was up front they lacked the killer touch.

With the half-time whistle looming Courceys were dealt a blow as Douglas struck for two goals.

Aisling Fox and Claire Shine

found the net twice inside a minute, but Courceys got a major boost when Ellen Hannon kicked the ball past Douglas keeper Siobhán O'Mahony two minutes into injury time to leave Douglas leading 3-1 to 1-0 at the short whistle.

The Courcey girls quickly cut the deficit after the restart.

Aisling Moloney finished a free to the roof of the Douglas net inside three minutes and with just four points now separating the sides the title was there to be won.

Now Douglas had to be at their best as Courceys came in search of more scores, but they stood up to that test.

Aoife Downey steadied their nerves with a point and a goal from Aisling Fox saw them open up an eight point advantage and the storm was beginning to pass.

Courceys found it hard to match the physical strength of the Douglas girls and as the game progressed Douglas grew in stature.

In a master move, they switched midfielder Shannon Dempsey, who received a hand injury, to full-forward and from here to the finish there was only one team in it.

Dempsey helped herself to 3-1,



Marian McCarthy, Chairperson, Cork Camogie Board, presents the Cork Féile na nGael trophy to Douglas captain, Alison Peate. Picture: Damien Quirke

while Laura Coomey chipped in with a goal.

Courceys' reply was an Aoife Keating point and with the Douglas defence in total control, Courceys could find no way through for the remainder of the game.

They battled to the finish, but the Douglas experience which had helped them in the earlier stages of the game when the going was tough was very evident.

They confidently booked their place to represent Cork at the national Féile finals weekend, which is being held in Laois/Offaly.

Player of the match was Shan-

non Dempsey.

Scorers for Douglas: S Dempsey 3-1, A Fox 2-0, C Shine 1-1, L Coomey, A Hourihane 1-0 each, A Downey 0-2, A Birmingham 0-1.

Courcey Rovers: C Hannon 1-0, A Moloney 1-0, A Keating 0-1.

DOUGLAS: S O'Mahony, D Bevan, A Peate (capt), M Mulrooney, J Leo, F Sexton, S Kavanagh, S Dempsey, C Hickey, C Shine, A Birmingham, C Duggan, A Hourihane, A Fox, A Downey.

Subs: L Cooney for A Hourihane (45), B Butler for A Birmingham (53), R Cotter for A Fox (56), R Butler for M Mulrooney (57).

COURCEY ROVERS: S Keating, C Crowley, L O'Donovan, J Ryan, L Collins, A Keating, J Condon, J Mulcahy, E Moloney, A Reilly, A O'Sullivan, E Crowley, T Collins, A Moloney (capt), E Hannon.

Subs: I Lordan for C Crowley (38), E Wright for T Collins (48), L O'Sullivan for E Crowley (48).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Tracy Sheehan, Chairperson, Juvenile Camogie County Board, presents Douglas' Shannon Dempsey with the Player of the Match award. Picture: Damien Quirke

Mallow put in a great display to win in final

By MARY NEWMAN

Cork Camogie Féile na nGael

Mallow 5-3
Na Piarasigh 1-0

MALLOW took the Division Two Cork Féile na nGael title with a polished performance against a Na Piarasigh side that battled to the final whistle in Ballinlough last night.

Mallow built up a commanding lead in the opening half and led at the interval 3-3 to no score.

Two Jessica Murphy goals and one from Tilly Downes helped them settle as Na Piarasigh battled to get into the game.

Mallow had excellent performers in Bronagh Gamley, who confidently struck two first-half points, while Jessica Murphy added to her personal tally with a point as the clock ticked towards half-time.

Inside 10 minutes of the restart, Lynn O'Sullivan had increased the Mallow lead but credit to the Na Piarasigh girls, who never let their heads drop.

They gave it their all to get something from the occasion and they were rewarded for their efforts with a Katie Cooke goal by the three-quarter stage.

However, the strength of this Mallow side was very evident all over the field.

They had stars in Jessica Murphy who grabbed every opportunity that came her way, while Lynn O'Sullivan and Maire O'Connell's workrate was excellent.

They finished in style with a Lynn O'Sullivan goal to ensure victory after a sporting contest by two committed sides.

Mallow's Bronagh Gamley was named as player of the match following an excellent performance.

Scorers for Mallow: J Murphy 2-1, L O'Sullivan 2-0, T Downes 1-0, B Gamley 0-2.

Na Piarasigh: K Cooke 1-0.

MALLOW: C O'Donoghue, O Crowley, A Neenan, S Hennessy, A Barry, P Healy, O Hanlon, M O'Connell, S Glynn, R O'Callaghan, B Gamley, T Kelleher, T Downes, L O'Sullivan, J Murphy.

Subs: I Herlihy for L O'Hanlon (half-time), C O'Connor for J Murphy (40), F O'Connor for J Murphy (45), C Long for L O'Sullivan (50).

NA PIARASIGH: C Wise, R Sheehan, R Rourke, N Connery, V O'Connor, A Moynihan, E Kelly, A Hannon, A Lee, E McElhinney, A O'Connor, O Connolly, C O'Keefe, N Connolly, L Connery.

Sub: K Cooke for L Connery (half-time).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

May 2008

St. Mary's Camogie presentation ceremony



St Mary's Nenagh Junior Camogie Panel - All-Ireland 'B' Champions were presented with their All-Ireland Colleges medals at a function in Ryan (Lackens) Dolla. Back row: (l to r) - Laura Power, Catriona O'Connor, Mary Dillon, Caoimhe Maher, Sarah Murray, Eadaoin Hackett, Sarah Maher, Rebecca White, Sarah Cunneen, Aisling Cremin. Middle row: Siobhan Peter, Emily Bergin, Niamh Slattery, Maria Kennedy, Amy Kennedy, Mary Walsh, Brid Quinn, Gemma Morris, Clara Holohan, Riana Minoghue, Ger Dullea (Manager). Seated: Paula Kelly, Ciara McGrath, Aine O'Carroll, Aine Lucey, Danielle Slattery (captain), Eimear and Deirdre McDonnell (guest players), Lisa Shoer, Rachel Kennedy, Lisa Mulqueen, Gemma Grace. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



St Mary's Nenagh camogie captain Danielle Slattery who led her side to Munster & All-Ireland Colleges junior 'B' honours made a presentation on behalf of the team to Manager Ger Dullea at a Presentation Function in Ryan (Lackens). Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



St Mary's Nenagh Junior camogie captain Danielle Slattery makes a presentation to Eimear McDonnell who presented the Munster & All-Ireland medals to her former school camogie team at an impressive Presentation Function in Ryan (Lackens) Dolla. Picture: Bridget Delaney.



The Douglas camogie team celebrate defeating Courcy Rovers in the Cork Division One Féile na nGael final at Ballinlough last night. See page 49 for full match report.

Picture: Damien Quirke

A minor set-back in bid for six provincials

Clare 1-8
Cork 0-6

DISAPPOINTMENT for the Cork minor's in Cusack Park Ennis yesterday, writes, MARY NEWMAN.

Forced to play with 14 players for three quarters of the game they failed by five points to a determined Clare side that took both the Munster minor title, and the two points on offer in this game which doubled as the opening round of the All-Ireland championship round-robin series.

From the throw in the Davy Fitzgerald coached home side were up for the challenge and closed Cork down.

The Cork girls cannot be faulted for their effort but after a straight red card for a Cork defender from the field of play after just 16 minutes it was always an up hill struggle.

Cork forced to reshape their team opted to play minus a full-forward and with Clare enjoying the luxury of an extra defender scores were hard to come by.

In a close opening half a Carina Rosengrave ninth minute goal gave Clare a dream start and it was that goal which separated the sides at the interval as Clare led 1-3 to 0-3.

The loss of defender Christine O'Neill was huge and certainly it was the talking point of the game. The referee's attention was drawn during a stop in play and after consulting with his umpires he dismissed the Cork defender.

Cork came out in determined fashion for the second half and with Catriona Collins firing over two points without reply inside within four minutes the margin was down to one.

Chloe Morey put two points between pointing a penalty and Shona Enright converted a free from the puck-out before Corina Rosengrave stretched the lead to three as the Cork defence began to feel the pressure.

Niamh Dilworth pointed a free on the seventeenth minute to again put three between the sides and Cork were unlucky not to grab a goal with Sinead O'Callaghan forcing a good save from keeper Susan Vaughan.

With the legs beginning to feel the strain an overworked Cork began to lose ground as Clare pressed to put the game out of reach and denied Cork a historic clean sweep of six Munster titles.

Scorers for Clare: C Rosengrave 1-1, S Enright 0-3 (0-14, 0-2 pen), S Moloney, R O'Brien, C Kaiser 0-1 each.

Cork: N Dilworth 0-2 (f), C Collins 0-2, S O'Callaghan, A Thompson (f) 0-1 each.

CLARE: S Vaughan; C O'Leary, K Lynch, N Martin; S Reidy, R McMahon, A O'Shea; C Kaiser, S Enright, N Corry; A Griffin, R O'Brien, C Rosengrave (c). **Subs:** E Considine for S Reidy (35), S Morey for N Corry (inj 43).

CORK: M Gleeson; M A Hawkes, S O'Brien, S Cotter; M Walsh, L Cunningham, C O'Neill; J Lynch, A Thompson; J White, N Dilworth; R de Faoite, D Luby, S O'Callaghan. **Subs:** C Collins for D Luby (10), A Sheehan for S O'Brien (46), G O'Keefe for S O'Callaghan (53 inj).

Referee: D Connolly (Galway).

MAY 2008

Camogie

HALIFAX
Always giving you ext



CHARGE OF THE LUCAN BRIGADE: Sarsfields celebrate after claiming their first Féile na nGael Division 1 title.

THE ERIN GO BRAGH 'SUPER 12s' TURNING HEADS IN LITTLEPACE

NEW Kids on the block, Erin Go Bragh, keep on winning friends... and matches. Down around Littlepace, the locals are calling them The Super 12s. They are doing brilliantly for their first season. Training is every Tuesday and Thursday at Huntersrun (6.0pm). New players, of all standards, are most welcome. Call 087 932 3084.

PAT'S HATS... former Dublin player, Pat Rafferty, is now the Secretary of the Ulster Camogie council. Back in 1967 she won the All-Ireland Camogie Club Championship with the famed Eoghan Ruadh.

There were two future Camogie President's on that side, Phyllis Breslin and Pat herself, who also served as Chairperson of the Dublin Camogie Board.

CAMOGIE BORD NOTES

► Sincere appreciation to Lucan Sarsfields, Faughs/Celtic and St Finians Swords on superbly hosting Féile na nGael. Many thanks to all referees, 28 teams and over 500 players for a magnificent event. Best of luck to Lucan Sarsfields who will represent Dublin for the first time in the All-Ireland finals. Check www.dublincamogie.ie for report and photographs.

► Please support sponsorship of Clare Scally and Liz O'Brien in Mini Marathon. Cards sent to all club contacts.

► Current league positions in the Senior B Div 1, Senior B Div 2 and Junior Div 1 are as follows:

SENIOR B DIV 1	P	W	D	L	P
N Bred	5	5	0	0	10
St Jude's	5	4	0	1	8
Ballyboden	5	3	0	2	6
Skerries Harps	5	3	0	2	6
Oliver Plunkett's	5	2	0	3	4
N Fionnbarra	3	1	0	2	2
N Peregrine's	4	0	0	4	0
St John's	4	0	0	4	0

SENIOR B DIV 2	P	W	D	L	P
Lucan Sarsfields	5	5	1	0	9
St Vincent's	4	2	1	1	5
Portobello	4	3	3	0	5
Good Counsel	5	1	2	2	4
Thomas Davis	3	1	1	1	3
Kilmacud	5	1	1	3	3
N Padraig	3	1	0	2	2
Nia Fionna	3	0	1	2	1

JUNIOR DIV 1	P	W	D	L	P
N Mearnóg	4	3	0	1	6
Coala	4	2	1	1	5
Setanta	4	2	1	1	5
Oliver Plunkett's	4	2	0	2	4
St Mark's	3	2	0	1	4
Nia Fionna	3	0	0	3	0
St John's	2	0	0	2	0

Super Sars lap up sweet glory

By Niall Scully

A DAY made in heaven by the banks of the Griffeen. The 12th Lock overflowed with joy. History for the club. In their 122 year existence, the first ever Dublin Division 1 Féile na nGael title (hurling or camogie) to come to Lucan Sarsfields.

The sun shone. The Lucan brass band played sweet music. A piper led the teams onto the pitch for the final, and the National Anthem was played.

The scent of hotdogs, and success, was in the air.

It was as near to Croker as you could get, and at the end, a commanding victory for the hosts

against St. Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan Ruadh, 3-5 to 0-2.

"It's just fabulous. We just can't believe it, and it will take a while for it to sink in," stated Lucan manager, Martina Twomey, who runs the side with Liam Ryan, Dave Keenan and Eoghan Williams.

"The squad are three years together, and they are such a super bunch. They wanted this so badly, and they worked ever so hard.

"They trained all during the winter without a break. They were so focused and it was just marvellous to watch them. The scenes at the end were so unreal.

"There's a wonderful spirit in the squad. Last year we won the

Division 2 Féile, so this was a step up."

Lucan had a 100 per cent record over the festival weekend. They inched past St. Vincent's by a point before beating Erin's Isle, Ballyboden St. Enda's and last year's champs, Plunkett's.

"We had a bit to spare in the final, but I felt Plunkett's were unlucky. So many of their shots were just a hairline away," noted Martina.

Indeed they were. Plunkett's had eight wides. All of them by a lick of paint.

Lively corner-forward, Ellen Ahern, came so close to a goal or two for the Navan Road team.

The match began at a frantic

pace. The huge crowd were enjoying it so much. Pure Sunday afternoon theatre.

Crucially, Lucan captain, Laura Murtagh, hit the first goal after just four minutes.

Lucan midfielder, Lyndsey Jordan, was superb. She got three points.

Sarah Courtney knocked in the second goal, and when Murtagh got her second goal, the Lucan ribbons were on the Cup.

Lucan's Ali Twomey got the Player-of-the-Match accolade, and the hosts got a thousand thanks for opening their doors in such style.

For the Super Sars, it was the perfect result, on and off the pitch.

Mearnóg snatch dramatic victory

NAOMH MEARNÓG were depending on a result from elsewhere to make the Dublin Féile Division 2 final. They got it.

Then in the semi-final they beat St. Jude's. In the final, they were 1-1 down to Good Counsel before they could draw breath.

Shannon Fitzpatrick's goal and a charming Laura Heeney point granted the Drimnagh side their advantage.

Portmarnock's magnifi-

cent captain, Emma Ahern, tied it up at the break with a goal and a point, both coming from placed balls.

Eva Nolan's second goal seemed to have set the Galtymore girls on their way. But the last six minutes will go down in Mearnóg history.

In a sensational closing chapter, Mearnóg scored three goals to take the crown.

Alanna Farrelly got the first of them, Sarah

Hawkins got the second before Farrelly rocked the net again. 4-1 to 2-1 for Mearnóg.

Mearnóg's skipper, Ahern, received the Player-of-the-Match distinction, and goal-scorer Hawkins declared: "We won this for our coach, Damian Forde. He has been just so good to us."

IT WAS no Teddy Bear's Picnic for 'Brigid', the giant Teddy from Russell Park.

Teddy looked as anxious as the rest of the Blanch Brigade as Naomh Brid hung on by their fingernails in a thrilling Division 3 Féile Final.

They got there by a point in the end, 3-1 to Lucan's 3-0, and 'Brigid' was hoisted towards Cloud Nine.

Brigid's were 1-1 to the good at the recess - thanks to Megan Maher's goal and a point from Sarah Hawshaw.

Back stormed Lucan. They got three cracking goals from Laura Morrissey, Juliet Sjean and Eimear Moloney.

Anisha Namugere, Anna Ryan and Aoife Flynn also made generous offerings for the hosts.

Yet two goals from Ruth Dargan proved golden for Brigid's, as did the contribution of the Player-of-the-Match, Sinead Farrell.



CUDDLY BEAR: St Brigid's team and mascot, Féile Division 3 winners.

NIALL SCULLY

Cork title for Mallow

Winning start for Cork

Mallow 5-3
Na Piarasigh 1-0

MALLOW took the Division 2 Cork Féile na nGael title when they defeated Na Piarasigh in Ballinlough on Friday. They led 3-3 to no score at the half time whistle — two Jessica Murphy goals and one from Tilly Downes setting the foundations for victory as Piarasigh strove to get into the game. Bronagh Ganley hit two first half points while Jessica Murphy added to her with a point to end a productive opening thirty minutes for Mallow.

Inside 10 minutes of the restart Lynn O'Sullivan stretched the Mallow lead but credit to Na Piarasigh who battled on and they were rewarded with a goal from substitute

Katie Cooke. The strength of Mallow was evident as they took every chance that came their way, a Lynn O'Sullivan goal to ensure no way back for Na Piarasigh after an exciting contest.

Mallow's Bronagh Ganley was named as Player of the Match following an excellent performance.

Mallow: C O'Donoghue, O Crowley, A Neenan, Hennessey, A Barry, Healy, O Hanlon, M O'Connell, S Glynn, R O'Callaghan, B Gamley, T Kelleher, T Downes, L O'Sullivan, J Murphy. Subs: I Harlihy for L O'Hanlon (40), C O'Connor for J Murphy (45), C Long for L O'Sullivan (50). Scorers: J Murphy 2-1, L O'Sullivan 2-0, T Downes 1-0, B Ganley 0-2.

Na Piarasigh: C Wise, R Sheehan, R Rourke, N Connery, V O'Connor, A Moynihan (C), E Kelly, A Hannon, A Lee, E Mc Elhinney, A O'Connor, O Connolly, C O'Keefe, N Connolly, L Connery. Subs: K Cooke for L Connery (40). Scorers: K Cooke 1-0.

Referee: Ger Sheehan, Douglas.

Cork 2-19
Galway 2-10

IT WAS a winning start for Cork as they defeated Galway in the opening game of the round robin series of the under-16 championship at Turloughmore on Saturday.

At the close of the opening half, the sides were evenly matched, Cork leading 0-8 to 0-6, with Niamh McGrath and Niamh Fox on target for Galway as Katrina Mackey pointed a Cork free and the sides swapped points as Cork edged ahead by the break. Fiona Neville had the game's first goal from the restart and with Joanne Casey and Mariah Reidy adding points, Cork took control but back came Gal-

way's Niamh McGrath finishing a penalty to the Cork net.

Cork responded with three points in a row from Katrina Mackey, Joanne Casey and Katie Buckley restoring the lead to seven points. Galway pressed and a Deirdre Ward goal on the three-quarter stage was followed by a Mairead Linnane point and the gap at three points.

Cork showed their class in response, firing over two points but twice Galway hit back, Niamh McGrath pointed on 25 minutes to bring it down to three points as they battled to find an equaliser.

Cork upped their game with a Katrina Mackey goal with five minutes remaining, and a Mackey

point and two from Joanne Casey ensured victory for Cork.

Cork will now look forward confidently to their next game at home to Clare on Saturday next.

Cork: T Hawkes, S Harrington, A Coughlan, K McCarthy, R O'Mahony, P Mackey (C), C Lynch, E Kingston, K Mackey, J Casey, M Reidy, S Coomey, F Neville, K Buckley, A O'Donovan. Subs: S O'Halloran for S Coomey (40), F Cotter for K McCarthy (50), J Fitzpatrick for K Buckley (56), K Harrington for F Neville (57). Scorers: K Mackey 1-5 (0-2f, 0-1 45", 1-2p), J Casey 0-6, F Neville 1-2, A O'Donovan, M Reidy, and K Buckley 0-2 each.

Galway: O Lane, K Kenny, K Brien, L Reynolds, N Murphy, M Connoughton, L Mitchell, C Ryan, T Murray, F Keeley, S Kelly, M Linnane, N Fox, N McGrath, D Ward. Sub: N Muldoon for N Murphy (38). Scorers: N McGrath 0-6 (0-2f 1-0 pen 0-4 p), D Ward 1-0, M Linnane 0-2, N Fox 0-1, L Mitchell 0-1f.

Referee: Una Kearney, Antrim.

Douglas are Cork Féile na nGael champions

Douglas 8-5
Courcey Rovers 2-1

DOUGLAS took the Cork Féile na nGael Division 1 camogie title and will represent Cork at the National Féile na nGael as they swept aside the challenge of a gallant Courcey Rovers side on Friday last in Ballinlough.

Claire Shine had an early point but Douglas found the going hard against a Courcey defence, who worked hard to hold them at bay. Eleven minutes into the game, Alex Hourihane first-timed to the net in a crowded goal mouth to stretch the Douglas lead. Courceys settled and created plenty of chances, but failure to convert proved costly as they battled for an opening score. With Julie Mulcahy and Aoife Keating working hard, they enjoyed plenty of possession but they lacked the killer touch as Douglas weathered several attacks to hold their lines.

With the half-time whistle looming, Aisling Fox and Shine grabbed Douglas goals but Courceys' Hannon kicked the ball past the Douglas keeper Siobhán O'Mahony two minutes into injury time to boost

Nicole O'Brien to represent her county

NICOLE O'BRIEN from Glen Rovers was crowned Cork Féile na nGael skills champions for 2008 and will represent Cork at the All Ireland Féile na nGael skills competition to be held in conjunction with National Féile na nGael being held in Laois / Offaly.

A pupil in Glanmire Community College, where she plays on the school team, Nicole is a past pupil of New Inn Primary school, where she played camogie and hurling in Sciath na Scol. She is a member of the Cork colleges under-14 team.

Nicole lines out with her club under-age teams from 14 to 18 and lined out last season with the club's junior team.

With family ties to Glen Rovers/ St Nick's on her father Jim's side, she is a cousin to St



Nicole O'Brien (Glen Rovers) and Gráinne Sheehy (Milford), winner and runner-up respectively, in the skills title at Féile na nGael.

Nick's senior football captain Paul O'Brien, while her cousin, Shane O'Sullivan, from the Na Piarasigh club, was a Cork

hurling skills winner in 1995.

In a tight contest, Gráinne Sheehy from the Milford club and Rebecca Murphy from Ballygarvan tied for second place with Gráinne winning a play off to take the second place spot, Rebecca coming in third. Well done to the three girls; their clubs can certainly be proud of their achievements.

Nicole O'Brien will travel alongside the Cork champions Douglas to represent the county and hopefully bring back further honours to her club and county.

her side as Douglas lead 3-1 to 1-0 at the break.

Courcey cut the deficit early in

the second half, Aisling Moloney finishing a free to the roof of the Douglas net inside three minutes of

the restart and now just four points separated the sides. Courceys came in search of more but Douglas stood

firm, Aoife Downey grabbing a point before a goal from Aisling Fox saw them open up an eight-point advantage.

Courceys found it hard to match the physical strength of Douglas up front, mid-fielder Shannon Dempsey was now operating at full forward after receiving a hand injury and as she helped herself to 3-1 the Courcey challenge began to fade.

Laura Cooney struck a Douglas goal to which Courceys replied with an Aoife Keating point and now with the Douglas defence in total control Courceys could not find way through.

Douglas: S O'Mahony, D Bevan, A Peate (C), M Mulrooney, J Leo, F Sexton, S Kavanagh, S Dempsey, C Hickey, C Shine, A Birmingham, C Duggan, A Hourihane, A Fox, A Downey. Subs: L Cooney for A Hourihane (45), B Butler for A Birmingham (53), R Cotter for A Fox (56), R Butler for M Mulrooney (57). Scorers: S Dempsey 3-1, A Fox 2-0, C Shine 1-1, L Cooney A Hourihane 1-0 each, A Downey 0-2, A Birmingham 0-1.

Courcey Rovers: S Keating, C Crowley, L O'Donovan, J Ryan, L Collins, A Keating, J L Condon, J Mulcahy, E Moloney, A Reilly, A O'Sullivan, E Crowley, T Collins, A Moloney (C), E Hannon. Subs: I Lordan for C Crowley (36), E Wright for T Collins (48), L O'Sullivan for E Crowley (48). Scorers: C Hannon 1-0, A Moloney 1-0f, A Keating 0-1.

Referee: Cathal Egan, Glen Rovers

Connacht shade Munster in thrilling interprovincial decider

by Jackie Cahill

CONNACHT captured the prestigious Interprovincial Gael Linn camogie title for the first time since 2000 with a thrilling one-point victory against Munster yesterday.

The girls from the west ended an eight-year wait for glory as they hung on in a gripping finish for a 1-14 to 2-10 victory at Donaghmore Ashbourne, County Meath.

Connacht led 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time but the game sprung to life two minutes after the restart when Tipperary's Geraldine Kinnane goaled to open up a 1-7 to 0-6 lead for Munster. Midway through the half, the sides were deadlocked as Connacht rallied brilliantly to draw level at 0-10 to 1-7 before the outstanding Jessica Gill found the net from a free with seven minutes of normal time remaining.

Cork's Sile Burns netted with a last-minute goal for Munster but Connacht, secured with the aid of superb individual performances from Galway stars Gill and Veronica Curtin, hung on for victory.

Munster had fine displays from Tipperary pair Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan.

Munster had booked their place in the final with a nail-biting 3-14 to 2-14 victory against Leinster, who

were backboned by Noleen Lambert and Clare O'Connor in the full back line, along with the free-scoring Louise O'Hara and goalscorers Sarah Ryan and Una Lacey.

In the other semi-final, Connacht had a 1-28 to 0-7 victory over Ulster.

There was some consolation for the southern province with a comprehensive 3-17 to 0-3 victory against Ulster in the junior decider.

Ulster had recorded a 2-11 to 1-6

semi-final victory against Connacht while Munster were narrow 4-6 to 1-12 winners over Leinster.

In the All-Ireland minor A championship last Saturday, Wexford defeated Derry by 4-20 to 1-9 and in the minor B, Waterford ran out 5-10 to 0-5 victors against Armagh while Offaly defeated Down 5-9 to 3-7. In the U16 A championship, there were victories for Dublin and Cork against Antrim and Clare respectively.

Connacht Capture the Interprovincial Gael Linn

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Midway through the half, the sides were deadlocked as Connacht rallied brilliantly to draw level at 0-10 to 1-7 before the outstanding Jessica Gill found the net from a free with seven minutes of normal time remaining.

Cork's Sile Burns netted with a last minute goal for Munster as Connacht were left hanging on for the victory, secured with the aid of superb individual performances from Galway stars Gill and Veronica Curtin.

Munster had fine displays from Tipperary pair Philly Fogarty and Claire Grogan, who exerted a huge influence on the game when she was moved from full forward to a roving commission out around the half forward line.

Munster had booked their place in the final with a nail-biting 3-14 to 2-14 victory against Leinster, who were backboned by Noleen Lambert and Clare O'Connor in the full back line, along with the free-scoring Louise O'Hara and goalscorers Sarah Ryan and Una Lacey.

In the other semi-final, Connacht enjoyed a facile 1-28 to 0-7 victory over Ulster but they were made to fight to the very end in a memorable tit-for-tat final against Munster.

There was some degree of consolation for the Southern province with a comprehensive 3-17 to 0-3 victory against outclassed Ulster in the junior decider.

Waterford star Áine Lyng was voted player of the match after weighing in with an individual haul of 2-7, with 2-5 of that total contributed from play.

Clare's Roisin O'Brien was also in scintillating form as she bagged 1-5, the goal scored in the second half after Lyng's first half double, in the space of three minutes, helped to open up a 2-6 to 0-3 interval lead.

Ulster had recorded a 2-11 to 1-6 semi-final victory against Connacht while Munster were pushed all the way by Leinster before emerging narrow 4-6 to 1-12 winners.

In the All-Ireland minor A championship last Saturday, Wexford defeated Derry by 4-20 to 1-9 and in the minor B, Waterford ran out 5-10 to 0-5 victors against Armagh while Offaly defeated Down 5-9 to 3-7.

In the U16 A championship, there were victories for Dublin and Cork against Antrim and Clare respectively.

by JACKIE CAHILL



MAY 2008

Derry capture All-Ireland U16 B camogie title

Karen Kelt produced a quite sensational individual performance as Derry captured a third successive All-Ireland U16 B camogie title in Ashbourne on Sunday.

The Kiltara starlet bagged an incredible individual haul of 2-13 as the Oak Leaf County ran out comprehensive 6-18 to 0-6 winners against outclassed Offaly.

Kelt bagged 1-7 in the first half and 1-6 in the second period to help ensure that team captain Danielle McCrystal from

Haghers got her hands on the prized silverware after the game.

Gráinne McMichol was also in fine scoring form for Derry with a brace of goals.

McMichol, daughter of former Derry ace Sarah, raised a green flag in each half as the winners completed an historic hat-trick of titles at this grade.

Derry's other scorers were Teresa McElroy, who chipped in with 1-3, Mary Kelly scored a goal and Eimear Mullan contributed two second half points.

Kelt, McMichol and Kelly scored the first half goals as Derry opened up a decisive 3-9 to 0-2 half-time advantage.

Kelt and McMichol were at it again in the second half while McElroy also got in on the act as Offaly struggled to keep the score down.

The faithful County kept fighting to the finish but just two of their players made scoring contributions as Derry ran riot at the other end.

Orla Murray scored 0-5 for Offaly, including four frees, while Debbie Flynn contributed a second half point from play.

Meanwhile, in the minor B championship last Saturday, there were comprehensive wins for Offaly, Down and Waterford against Meath, Armagh and Laois respectively.

In the U16A championship, Tipp defeated Limerick 3-13 to 1-10 while Cork ran out 2-19 to 2-10 victors against Galway.

In the minor A championship on Sunday, Clare defeated Cork by 1-8 to 0-6 in a game which also doubled up as the Munster minor championship decider.

And in the Gala Junior championship, Westmeath enjoyed a 5-8 to 1-9 victory against Leinster rivals Carlow.

by JACKIE CAHILL



Another victory for Cork Under 16s

Cork
Clare

5-17
1-2

THE Cork Under 16 team had back-to-back victories as they continued their programme with a second victory in the round robin series of games in the All Ireland championship at Ballinlough on Saturday last.

Long before the full-time whistle the results was beyond doubt as Cork had some excellent performances. Katrina Mackey again unerring from frees showed her accuracy, while Sinead O'Halloran, Emma Kingston, Katie McCarthy, Aileen O'Donovan and Joanne Casey turned in excellent performances as Cork forged ahead from the throw in.

The pace of the Cork forwards was evident from early in the game. Aileen O'Donovan, Sinead O'Halloran and Joanne Casey all showed their skill with some excellent scores as the Clare defence found the going tough. Joanne Casey and Finola Cotter grabbed Cork goals inside the opening quarter and it was all Cork. Two minutes from the interval Cloe Morey opened the Clare account, pointing a 45 metre free, and they struck again when Vera Loughnane had the ball in the net a minute later.



Rival U16 captains Pamela Mackey (Cork) and Chloe Morey (Clare) with referee Eamonn Browne.

In response Sinead O'Halloran outpaced her marker to gather the puck out, and turning in a flash struck over a sweet point in reply. Clare's Cloe Morey struck a superb long range free from inside her own half two minutes into injury time as Cork led 2-7 to 1-2.

A Joanne Casey point stretched the Cork lead inside a minute of the restart, and any hopes Clare had of a revival were gone two minutes later when Sinead O'Halloran first timed a ground stroke to the net for Cork's third goal.

Clare battled hard but met stern resistance from a Cork defence where Rosie O'Mahony, Ciara Lynch and Alison Coughlan were superb. At midfield the hard working Emma Kingston and Katrina Mackey dominated as Cork moved further ahead.

With Finola Neville, Sinead O'Halloran, Jane Fitzpatrick, Aileen O'Donovan and Katrina Mackey picking off points it was all one way traffic. Two well taken goals from Aileen O'Donovan in the closing minutes saw Cork finish on a high as they held their opponents scoreless for the second half.

Cork's next outing will be on June 19 against Tipperary.

Cork: T. Hawkes; S. Harrington, A. Coughlan, K. McCarthy, R. O'Mahony, P. Mackey, C. Lynch, E. Kingston, K. Mackey, J. Casey, S. Coomey, A. O'Donovan, F. Neville, M. Reidy, S. O'Halloran Subs: J. Fitzpatrick for S. Coomey (28), N. O'Brien for C. Lynch (50), C. Meaney for S. O'Halloran (50), M. Moynihan for E. Kingston (53), F. Cotter for S. Harrington (53).
Scorers: A. O'Donovan 2-4, S. O'Halloran 1-3, K. Mackey 0-5 (0-41 0-1 45*), J. Casey 1-1, F. Cotter 1-0, F. Neville and J. Fitzpatrick 0-2 each.

Clare: M. Bell; M. Vaughan, M. McGrath, J. O'Neill, J. Walsh, C. Morey (c), P. Fall, J. Kelly, C. Glynn; O. Duggan, S. Tuohy, G. O'Brien; M. Hyland, A. Considine, V. Loughnane. Subs: R. O'Brien for M. Hyland (38), S. Hyland for M. Bell (55), O. Scanlon for A. Considine (56), E. Meade for M. Vaughan (56).
Scorers: V. Loughnane 1-0, C. Morey 0-2 (0-1 45*).
Referee: Eamonn Browne Tipperary.

Disappointment

Clare
Cork

1-8
0-6

A DISAPPOINTING start for the Cork minors as they lost out in the opening round game in the round robin series of the All Ireland championship, and also lost the Munster minor title in a game which doubled for both in Ennis recently.

Cork, playing with 14 players for three quarters of the game, lost out by five points to a Clare side coached by former inter-county hurler Davey Fitzgerald.

Clare were very focused and determined to put one over on Cork and they had strength all over the field. Cork battled hard and made every effort, but at the finish they ran out of steam, the huge effort battling to contain 15 players taking its toll in the run in at the finish.

Reshaping their team they played minus a full forward, and with Clare playing their extra player as a defender scores were in short supply. Cork did have plenty of possession, and indeed could have won the game, but weakness up front, especially in the second half, was evident as chances went begging.

In a close opening half a Carina Rosengrave ninth minute goal gave Clare a dream start and it was that goal which separated the sides at the interval as Clare led 1-3 to 0-3.

In the opening half Cork had one score from play a point from Sinead O'Callaghan in the 12th minute, relying on the accuracy of Niamh Dilworth and Aisling Thompson from frees to keep in touch as Roisin O'Brien, Carol Kaiser and Shona Enright were on target for Clare.

The loss of defender Christine O'Neill was huge, and certainly it was the talking point of the game. The referee's attention was drawn to something during a stop in play for a line ball, and while he didn't seem to witness anything, after consulting with his umpires — and to everybody's amazement — he dismissed the Cork defender who left the field stunned, the consensus being a yellow card would have sufficed.

Cork came out in determined fashion for the second half, and with Catriona Collins firing over two points without reply within four minutes the margin was down to one, and at last it looked as if we

Gill strike vital in Connacht victory

CONNACHT captured the prestigious Interprovincial Gael Linn Camogie title for the first time since 2000 with a thrilling one-point victory against Munster on Sunday.

The girls from the West ended an eight-year wait as they hung on in a gripping finish for a 1-14 to 2-10 victory in Ashbourne, Co Meath.

Connacht led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time but the game really sprung to life two minutes after the restart when Tipperary's Geraldine Kinnane goaled to open up a 1-7 to 0-6 lead for Munster.

Midway through the half, the sides were deadlocked as Connacht rallied to draw level at 0-10 to 1-7 before Jessica Gill found the net from a free with seven minutes remaining.

Sile Burns netted with a last-minute goal for Munster as Connacht hung on for the victory, thanks to superb displays from Galway stars Gill and Veronica Curtin.

for cork minors



Charlotte Kearney and Aimee McInerney in action during the Clare V Cork National League Division 2 Camogie match at Tulla on Saturday.

might be in for a cracker of a contest the game now began to show signs of opening up. However, it wasn't to be as what followed could only be described as frustrating, especially from a Cork point of view. From the eighth to the 32nd minute of the second half we had constant stoppages in

play, the referee pandering to every whim. Granted players must be treated when injured, but when play is being stopped constantly by players over-reacting it's time to call a halt.

Chloe Morey put two points between pointing a penalty, Shona Enright converted a free from the

puck out before Corina Rosengrave stretched the lead to three as the Cork defence began to feel the pressure.

Niamh Dilworth pointed a free on the 17th minute to again put three between the sides, and Cork were unlucky not to grab a goal with Sinead O'Callaghan forcing a good save from keeper Susan Vaughan from long distance. With the legs beginning to feel the strain an overworked Cork began to lose

ground as Clare pressed to put the game out of reach. Shona Enright and Stephanie Moloney with two late points sealed victory for the home side and denied Cork an historic clean sweep of Munster titles.

While events on the field were disappointing for Cork it would

be remiss of me not to comment on an appalling incident which those of us in the press box witnessed. As the Cork substitutes sat in their allotted spot in the stand a section of Clare supporters sitting directly opposite proceeded to hurl constant verbal abuse in their direction, and in particular one Cork player who had earlier in the game been substituted came in for severe hurtful comments. This carry on has no place in sport and should be stamped out.

Cork selector Ann Marie Healy was disappointed at the end of the game.

"Our girls battled to the finish and we are proud of them. We lost by five points, but forced as we were to play minus a player for three quarters of the game, we showed great character. We are annoyed at a lot of things that went on today, the showing of a red card was harsh and it upset our girls. We have three games to go against Dublin, Antrim and Galway, and we will knuckle down once the exams are over."

Clare Scorers: C. Rosengrave 1-1, S. Enright 0-3 (0-11 0-2p), S. Moloney, R. O'Brien, C. Kaiser 0-1 each.

Cork: M. Gleeson; M. A. Hawkes, S. O'Brien, S. Cotter, M. Walsh, L. Cunningham, C. O'Neill; J. Lynch, A. Thompson; J. White, N. Dilworth; R. de Faoite, D. Luby; S. O'Callaghan; Subs: C. Collins for D. Luby (10), A. Sheehan for S. O'Brien (46), G. O'Keefe for S. O'Callaghan (inj 53).
Scorers for Cork: N. Dilworth 0-2(p), C. Collins 0-2, S. O'Callaghan 0-1, A. Thompson 0-1(p).



Tracy Sheehan presents player of the match award to Bronagh Ganley (Mallow) after the Féile na nGael Division Two final with county chairperson Marion McCarthy, centre.



Cork under 16 team who defeated Clare last weekend

MAY 2008



Joan O'Flynn (centre) at a special celebration held in Ladysbridge to mark her election as president of Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, a role she will take up in 2009, with from left, Carrie Higgins, chairperson Fr O'Neill's Camogie Club, Michael Holland, chairman Fr O'Neill's GAA Club, Christy Cooney, president-elect of the GAA and Séamus Joyce, chairman Fr O'Neill's Juvenile GAA Club.

Picture: Kieran Boyde

Dream come true for Joan

By CHRIS DUNNE

Camogie

WHEN Joan O'Flynn fell in love with camogie, she never dreamed she would one day be on the verge of becoming president of the Camogie Association.

The Ladysbridge woman was made president-elect at the recent annual congress in Athlone.

"I am deeply honoured to get this wonderful opportunity," says Joan, who lives in Kildare.

"My goal is to give all young girls the chance to play camogie. I hope to promote and introduce the game to the 10% of the population who are non-Irish," she says.

"Camogie is in a good place now with new clubs springing up all over the country, in counties Mayo, Donegal and Kerry, and of course in Cork, the tradition is strong."

The O'Flynn household was a GAA one.

"When you walked into our hall, you'd trip over a load of hurleys and sliothars," says Joan.

"As soon as I got home from school it was essential to get out in the evenings as fast as possible and puck around on the street with all the neighbours' kids. We'd have hours of enjoyment and fun."

When Fr O'Neill's was formed in 1976, Joan and her buddies left the street temporarily to go to a real



Joan O'Flynn accepts a presentation from, from Carrie Higgins and Deirdre Finn, vice-chairperson of Fr O'Neill's Camogie Club.

pitch and learn the rules.

"I recall being picked up in the back of a car with a bunch of giggling youngsters and wondering what was going to happen next," remembers Joan.

Joan played camogie throughout her teenage years. As a young adult she travelled to London and became a member of London Irish.

"I worked with an Action Youth Group who provided information and support to young people who had emigrated.

"The agency helped them to adjust and settle in."

"My association with camogie proved to be a great bond with other young Irish people."

When Joan returned to Ireland she settled in Celbridge.

As well as her career with Combat Poverty, Joan immersed herself in the game and gained experience at county, provincial and national level.

"I have been involved in the future development for the game since 2003 when I served on the National Strategic Planning Committee," says Joan.

Joan is the current Kildare Camogie Board PRO and has served as the county secretary, chairperson and has managed the county's minor team.

She also documented the history of camogie in Kildare when her

book *Soaring The Sliothar* was published.

Joan was gobsmacked that her native village of Ladysbridge recently acknowledged her huge achievement when they hosted an evening for her.

"The whole village turned out," says Joan.

"I couldn't believe it. It is an occasion that myself, my family and my partner Jim, will never forget."

"The lovely thing was that there were three of the founders of the Fr O'Neill's Camogie Club present, Hannah Aherne, Bridie Finn and Mary Kenifick, who all chauffeured us to venues decades ago!"

"Seeing these ladies brought back fond memories."

"Christy Cooney, my opposite number in the GAA, was there, too, which was nostalgic in a way, because both our dads served on the county board."

So are there any perks going with the presidency, which Joan will take up for a three-year tenure in 2009, like maybe a wardrobe allowance for instance?

Joan laughs out loud.

"No. The perks include being on the sideline for every game I can possibly attend, from U14 matches to All Irelands."

Joan also admits a major perk is that her pride belongs to everybody who supported her and guided her on the way.

"You could say it was real team effort," she says.



Linda Mellerick

WE CAN all associate with legendary mentors and administrators in sport.

Almost every club and association has special, unique members.

Cork Camogie has many such legends: Mary Newman of Glen Rovers and Liz O'Mahony (nee O'Sullivan) of Brian Dillon's are just two who immediately spring to mind.

However they'll have to stay on another few years to match the feats of Cork camogie president Kay Dunne.

Involved in camogie an incredible 53 years, Kay was elected president last December.

While Kay played and coached for many years, it is for her administrative roles for which she is renowned.

Kay always had a hurley in her hand. She played her early years with South Pres and even at a tender age showed a willingness to get involved in the often thankless side of sport when she became the schools delegate at board level.

As a past pupil, Kay coached the school side before moving to Mount Mercy where she coached for seven years. Having played with St Finbarr's, Kay nipped back again to Pres, her first love, where she won three senior county titles in a row: 1969-71.

Bishopstown were the next club to benefit from Kay's experience and as well as coaching the side she became their board delegate.

Kay returned to coach Blackrock before finally joining Ballincollig where she remains a member today.

Returning to the position of treasurer from 1987 to 1990, Kay became registrar of the board in 1996, a post she held for 11 years before stepping down in 2007 only to step up to presidency.

Was Kay surprised to be elected to such a prestigious role?

"Well, I was hoping," she admits.

Kay has got plenty of drive

"I'm following in the footsteps of legends like Nora Newman, Mary Moran, Lil O'Sullivan and Sheila Golden."

What does she envisage will be the high points for her in the year ahead?

"Firstly the opening of our own grounds," says Kay, referring to the acquisition of Cork's own playing field in Ballinure, Blackrock.

"That is a major milestone for Cork camogie. To be self-reliant will take a lot of the pressure off. But it's from hereon in that sponsorship is really needed to maintain the grounds itself and build the dressing rooms, stand, meeting rooms, etc."

Well, no better woman to help bring the funds in. Kay is so 'brazen' at asking for sponsorship that it's surprising people don't run to the other side of the street when they see her coming.

She laughs: "If I think you have a bit of money to give away, I'll ask for a donation. Every bit helps."

Having acted as a selector with Cork at all levels and winning the All-Ireland title in each, Kay has a proud record. I wonder if Kay holds the record for the longest number of years serving as a selector with a particular

side. She won the inter-provincial junior title last weekend in her 32nd year as a selector at inter-provincial level.

So what of Cork camogie? Kay is adamant that it is as strong as ever.

"I think it's thriving. I hate meeting people who say that there is nothing coming up. These are the people who never go to the games to see what actually is coming."

"We have a great board who work very hard. Marian McCarthy is a pleasure to work with. She is a great chairperson."

Despite not possessing a car, Kay travels to hundreds of games and it doesn't matter who is playing. The lack of wheels doesn't deter Kay.

"There's always a bus or someone who'll give you a lift. I have made wonderful friends all over the country and I love going to all kinds of matches whether its Sciath Na Scol or senior inter-county. Camogie is a fantastic sport."

As I attempted to praise Kay for her wonderful endeavours over the years she brushes me off, stating: "There are loads like me."

Are there though?



Kay Dunne, president of the Cork Camogie Board, presents Sarah Cotter with a championship medal for Brian Dillon's.

Spirited display but Galway claim the spoils

All-Ireland Under 16 "A" Camogie Championship

Tipperary 1-9 Galway 4-14

Report and photograph by Rose Mannion at Toomevara

A spirited Tipperary performance from the county's under 16 squad just wasn't enough to claim a further two points in the All-Ireland series when the side came up against a good Galway side in Toomevara on Saturday.

Galway got a real boost when they bagged their first half opportunistic goals which left them a strong force on the day, the first goal coming just two minutes into play. Their speed and skill unsettled Tipp who were finding it hard to settle.

They were helped by a sharper forward line with key performers in Laura Mitchell, Niamh McGrath, Siobhan Kelly. Tipp on the other hand relied on midfielders Cait Devane and Laura Power both of whom gave great performances as did Sheila Ryan in the backline. Caitriona Shortt, Amy Kennedy and Niamh O'Donoghue in the forwards.

Noirin Stapleton was settling in well until a hand injury forced her out early in play. Key players who shone last week were pinned down in this game as Galway applied the pressure from the throw in. Kept out of the

game for long periods at a time, Tipperary were in trouble as play swung into the second quarter, their only goal coming one minute into injury time in the first half when a sea of players around the goal mouth were scrambling for possession but it was Aoife Ryan who palmed the sliothar to the net and to leave the half time score Galway 3-6 Tipperary 1-3.

While Tipp upped their performance in the second half and enjoyed longer spells of possession, they were not found wanting when trying for goals, but the Galway keeper Olivia Lane denied on more than one occasion.

Tipp were under huge pressure before Galway bagged their fourth goal ten minutes into the second half and while they too were hoping to find the Tipp net again, sub goalie Aine Lucy was in outstanding form.

Player of the Match: Niamh McGrath (Galway).

Scorers: Tipperary: Cait Devane 0-5, 3 frees; Aoife Ryan 1-1; Amy Kennedy 0-2; Niamh O'Donoghue 0-1.

Galway: Niamh McGrath 2-7, 0-3 frees, 0-1 45; Deirdre Ward 2-2;



Tipp Captain Amy Kennedy shoots for a point during the Galway under 16 championship on Saturday last in Toomevara.

Siobhan Kelly, Finola Keely, Claire Ryan, Aoife Donoghue, Michelle Skehill 0-1 each.

Tipperary: Kate Aherne; Deborah Fogarty; Sheila Ryan, Noirin Stapleton; Emma Spillane; Mairead Barry, Laura Power; Cait Devane, Caitriona Shortt; Amy Kennedy, Shauna Butler, Aoife

Ryan; Niamh O'Donoghue, Emma Carey, Nichola Walsh. Subs: Sinead O'Meara for N Stapleton (inj); Aine Lucy for K Aherne; Lisa

Shoer for E Carey; Alice Fogarty for A Ryan; Brid Quinn for M Barry. **Galway:** Olivia Lane; Tanya Kenny; Karen Brien, Lorraine Reynolds; Noirin Murphy, Mairead Linnane,

Maura Connaghan; Tracy Murray, Laura Mitchell; Claire Ryan, Niamh McGrath, Siobhan Kelly;

Deirdre Ward, Finola Keely, Michelle Skehill. Subs: Niamh Fox for M Skehill, Caoimhe Mahon for C Ryan, Aoife Donoghue for F Keely; Aine Mannion for S Kelly. Referee: Cathal Egan (Cork)

MAY 2008

A GREAT victory for the Munster junior team, who captured the Gael Linn interprovincial title at the expense of holders Ulster in an exciting weekend of camogie on Saturday last in Ashbourne, Co Meath.

Munster had to be at their best to advance to the final as they met stern resistance from strong Leinster side in their semi-final clash.

In what was an excellent game of camogie, it went down to the wire and could have gone either way. In the finish it was Munster who advanced with three points to spare on a 4-6 to 1-12 scoreline.

It was nip and tuck through the hour but it was Munster who held on to win with Cork's Denise Leahy outstanding in goal. Denise Luby notched up an impressive 2-4, ably assisted by Kate Marie Hearn, Róisín O'Brien and Aine Lyng.

In the second semi-final, Ulster had recorded a 2-11 to 1-6 over Connacht and so the stage was set for the final.

From the throw-in, Munster were focused and with Waterford's Aine Lyng in scoring form, contributing 2-7, and with Róisín O'Brien getting 1-6, it was all one-way traffic.

Lyng grabbed two first-half goals in the space of three minutes as Munster led 2-6 to 0-3 at the interval.

Through the second half, the Munster girls were magnificent, never taking their foot off the pedal and selector Kay Dunne was delighted with the result.

"The girls had a tough first game against Leinster but they showed tremendous character to record a victory," she said.

"In the final we asked them to give the same performance and they came up trumps. It ranks as one of the finest displays from a Munster junior team and it is a privilege to be involved with them as a selector."

While all the Munster counties can be very proud of their girls, Cork president Kay had a special word for the Rebel contingent.

"Our six Cork girls were magnificent and gave it their all. They are six very young players, all of them either Leaving Certificate or college students.

"They are all extremely busy at this time of year with exams but they lined out and were proud of their provincial jersey and each one of them contributed superbly to two great performances.

"My fellow selectors, Morgan Conroy



Christ King School's camogie team, winners of the All-Ireland B final pictured at Cork's City Hall, where the Lord Mayor Cllr Donal Counihan hosted a reception in their honour.

Juniors win the interpros

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

of Waterford and Fintan McNamara from Clare, must be praised for their role in the victory.

"They worked very hard to ensure everything was right on the day and the victory is a tribute to them as well."

Waterford's Aine Lyng won the player of the match award to round off a great day for her and the Munster junior side.

MUNSTER JUNIOR TEAM: Denise Leahy (Cork), Amy Tierney (Clare), Caroline Motherway (Cork), Aisling Kelly (Waterford), Jenny O'Grady (Waterford), Fiona Lafferty (Clare), Leah West (Cork), Ruth Kaiser (Clare), Louise Hayes (Clare), Róisín O'Brien (Clare), Aine Lyng (Waterford).

capt), Evelyn Ronayne (Cork), Carina Rosengrave (Clare), Denise Luby (Cork), Kate Marie Hearn (Waterford), Aisling Treacy (Clare), Aine Breathnach (Waterford), Sharon O'Loughlin (Clare), Annette Maher (Waterford), Lydia Cunningham (Cork), Sally O'Grady (Waterford).

It was not such a good day for the Munster senior team, who were edged out in an exciting final by Connacht, who took the Gael Linn title for the first time since 2000 with a one-point victory in a gripping finish, 1-14 to 2-10.

Munster had booked their place in the final with a 3-14 to 2-14 victory over Leinster in an exciting semi final against a strong Leinster side that contained Louise O'Hara, Sarah Ryan and Una Lacey.

In the other semi-final, Connacht en-

joyed a facile 1-28 to 0-7 victory over Ulster but they were made to fight to the very end in a memorable tit-for-tat final against Munster.

Connacht led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time in the final but Geraldine Kinnane goal early in the second half to edge Munster into a 1-7 to 0-6 lead.

Deadlocked midway through the second half, 0-10 to 1-7, a Jessica Gill goal from a free with seven minutes of normal time remaining edged Connacht ahead.

A Sile Burns goal saw the game go down to the wire but Connacht managed to hang on and secured victory thanks to a strong finish from Jessica players such as Gill and Veronica Curtin.

Denise in long puck contest

SEVENTEEN-year-old Denise Luby from Glen Rovers will represent Cork in the Munster Camogie Long Puck Competition next Wednesday after she retained the title she won last year at the Farm on Thursday night last, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Denise has enjoyed a busy season to date, winning Munster championship medals with the Cork junior and intermediate teams, while she also contributed to Munster's victory in last weekend's Gael Linn interprovincial finals.

A Leaving Certificate student at Colaiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear where she won camogie championship and league honours.

Denise also won Sciath na Scol honours with Scoll Oilibhéir, Dublin Hill.

She was a member of the Cork U16 team last season while she also lined out with the Cork Colleges U14 side. She is currently a member of the Cork minor panel and lined out in the senior B national league with Cork earlier in the season.

Denise captained divisional side Seandún to the U16 interdivisional title in 2007 and is a member of her club's senior team for the last three years.

Daughter of Brigid and Tom, she comes from a strong Gaelic games background of Tipperary and Kilkenny parents and she will represent the Rebel county with pride as she seeks to bring the first camogie long puck title back to Cork.

ST CATHERINE'S U12 League

ON THURSDAY last our U12 team travelled to Charleville to fulfil a league fixture. Charleville were dominant in the early part of the game scoring 1-1 in the first 10 minutes but they failed to add to this early tally. Charleville pointed at the start of the second half but then we struck back with Emer O'Brien scoring a good goal for us, unfortunately we were not able to add to this. Charleville added a further goal near the end to run our victory on a 2-2 to 1-0 winning margin.

Team: E. Spillane, L. Hartnett, M. Galvin, L. Ahern, A. Fitzgerald, J. O'Keefe, C. McCarthy, M. Mulcahy, E. O'Brien, B. O'Keefe, K. England, K. Mulcahy, M. Walsh, K. Norman, N. Coughlan. **Subs:** A. Hegarty, N. Clohesy, M. Leahy, F. Leahy. **Scorers:** Emer O'Brien 1-0.

U14 Leagues

On Sunday last our U14 team travelled to Watergrasshill to take on the home side. They got off to a great start with Leanne Bumster and Karen Mulcahy goaling in the first few minutes of the game. Watergrasshill replied with a goal but we finished the half the stronger adding two points. We started the second half in flying form with a goal a piece from Katie England and Helen Leahy. Watergrasshill dominated for the remainder of the game and added 3-1 leaving them one point in front but we earned a draw when Bumster scored a point in the last minute of the game which finished St. Catherine's 3-4 Watergrasshill 4-1.

Team: E. Spillane, K. Mulcahy, A. O'Brien, E. Murphy, M. Kirby, C. McAuliffe, L. Ahern, R. O'Callaghan, M. Mulcahy, M. Galvin, L. Bumster, E. O'Brien, M. O'Connor, K. England, G. Walsh.

Subs: H. Leahy for G. Walsh, L. Leahy for M. O'Connor. **Scorers:** L. Bumster 0-3, E. O'Brien 0-1, K. Mulcahy 1-0, K. England 1-0, H. Leahy 1-0.

Interprovincial

Finola Neville and Fiona Cotter were involved with the U16 team which defeated Clare at the weekend while Orla Cotter and Denise Leahy were involved with Munster in Gael Linn interprovincial competition.

GLEN ROVERS

Our U14 team bounced back from the disappointment of losing out narrowly to Milford in the third game of the league series as they recorded a superb victory over a strong Ballinhassig side last weekend. The first half belonged to Ballinhassig who led 3-0 to 0-2 at the half time whistle our scores coming from Nicole O'Brien and Edel O'Connell. Ballinhassig were fast off the mark and had added a point to their tally before we began to claw our way back. Points from Nicole O'Brien and Leann O'Sullivan cut the deficit before Captain Aisling O'Keefe led by example firing the ball to the Ballinhassig net. Keeping on the pressure we had a Lee Ann O'Sullivan point before Edel O'Connell gave us the lead with a goal, points from Nicole O'Brien and Leann O'Sullivan had us in control before Barbara O'Mahony struck for our third goal. Finishing stronger we had points from Aisling O'Keefe Nicole O'Brien and Edel O'Connell to which Ballinhassig replied with a point. Well done to our girls who showed tremendous character to fight back from being eight points down to secure them a victory.

Team: Niamh Gowen, Shauna Busteed, Shauna O'Sullivan, Katie Arnold, Leann O'Sullivan, Clara O'Sullivan, Claudia Hogan, Aisling O'Keefe, Lauren Callanan, Maria Sheehan, Edel O'Connell, Barbara O'Mahony, Kay Lynn Lee, Jennifer Hosford, Nicole O'Brien.

Camogie club notes

en Sub Natalie Murray for Kay Lynn Lee.

U16

On Sunday it was the turn of our second U16 team to take this field for the first game in their league campaign and here we welcomed old friend Aghabullogue to the Glen Field.

From the throw-in we were determined a point from Leann O'Sullivan had us in the lead before Sarah Hourigan struck for the games opening goal. Young Lauren Callanan again showed her skill striking a superb point to which Aghabullogue replied but a goal blitz before the break which saw Natalie Murray grab two and Sarah Hourigan her second had us in control before Aghabullogue struck back for their opening goal as we led 4-2 to 1-1 at the break.

On the turn over Aghabullogue showed plenty of improvement but a goal from Leann Sheehy ensured we stayed in front however a two goal strike from Aghabullogue caused some hearts to miss a beat before referee Jack McGrath blew the final whistle to see us run out winners on a 5-2 to 3-1 score line. Well done to everyone for a superb display.

Team: Kay Lynn Lee, Shauna O'Sullivan, Clara O'Sullivan, Claudia Hogan, Leann O'Sullivan, Katie Arnold, Nicola Curran (C), Lauren Callanan, Leann Sheehy, Jennifer

Hosford, Danielle Noonan, Clara McCarthy, Barbara O'Mahony, Claire O'Connell, Sarah Hourigan.

Subs: Natalie Murray for Leann Sheehy, Leann Sheehy for Claire O'Connell, Claire O'Connell for Nicola Curran.

Back to the action on the double for our U12 teams with two games down for decision. Killeagh will have visited us on Friday when our first team play a league game. Today our young U11 team travel to Banteer to meet the home side bus leaving club at 9.15am, as our second U16 team are also down to play Banteer we have decided to make it a double outing and play the two games at the same time as Banteer have two pitches U16 players to meet also at 9.15am.

Congratulations

A great week for several of our club members on the playing fields in the week gone by; well done to Sinead O'Halloran who turned in a superb hour with the Cork.

The U16 team recorded their second victory with a win over Clare as Sinead contributed 1-3 of the Cork tally. Denise Luby and Lydia Cunningham were to the fore as the Munster Junior team wrestled the Gael Linn interprovincial title for Ulster, well done to both girls who played their part in Munster's success. It was a busy week for Denise as she went on to win the Cork long puck competition for the second year in row. She now goes on to represent Cork in the Munster final next week and we wish her continued success. Lastly, well done to our senior hurlers who recorded superb victory over Clonyne in the first round of the senior county hurling championship well done to all concerned.

Sympathy

On a sad note we extend our deepest sympathies to the Conway family on the recent

death of Paul who was very well known to all of us in Glen Rovers. Paul's daughters Alison and Niamh are former players while his grand daughter Lorna is involved with our under age section and his sister in law Ann Delaney is a former player and officer with our club. Paul was a total gentleman who always had a word and a smile and was someone who always showed interest in how our camogie teams were getting on and how all the teams in the club were progressing. Many a night he entertained us with his music and song, to Alice, Alison Paul Junior and Niamh and his extended family we extend our sincere sympathy.

Insurance and membership

A reminder to players and parents to return the insurance forms and fee as soon as possible as same is overdue for payments.

Summer camp

Also the Vhi Cúl Camp will be held in Glen Rovers on the week starting July 7. Application forms are available at the club shop Monday and Friday nights from 7.30pm for anybody who wishes to take part in the camp.

DOUGLAS

Well done to our U14C team who played against Bishopstown last week Douglas won with a score of 1-3 to 0-0. A great performance from Ellen Martin and a fine display from our back line kept Douglas to the fore throughout this game. The Douglas v Ballinhassig U14 A league game was called off due to bad weather on Wednesday night last. Douglas U16A will play Ballinhassig on Saturday in Douglas community pitch kick-off is 11am.

“Always enjoy your sport, whatever it is. Be committed and give it your all”



STAR FILE!

Name	Aisling Diamond
Team	Derry
Age	20
Debut	2007 v Carlow
Position	Half-Forward
Honours	1 All-Ireland Junior title, 1 Féile na nÓg All-Ireland title, 4 U-14 Ulster titles, 2 U-16 County titles, 1 All-Star Award, 3 Colleges All-Star Awards.
Club	Bellaghy
Fav Food	Potatoes with fried turnip and cabbage
Fav Read	Katie Price books
Fav Music	Dixie Chicks
Fav Film	Bring It On
Fav TV	Home and Away
Hobbies	Swimming
Occupation	Student

AISLING DIAMOND

DERRY

Aisling Diamond is one of the top players on the inter-county camogie scene. Since bursting onto the panel in 2006, it has been a meteoric rise for the Bellaghy star. Her outstanding performances have been the difference between winning and losing on many occasions. 2007 was a landmark year for Aisling and her Oak Leaf County teammates. After defeat to the Dubs in 2006, they finally captured the All-Ireland Junior Championship last September, beating Clare in a sensational game. It was extra special for Aisling, who scored 3 crucial points from play and added a goal in injury-time to win the day for Derry. To top off a fantastic year, she was picked on the All-Star camogie team at half-forward. 2008 sees Derry stepping up a level to play Intermediate camogie. “We want to compete at a higher level now” says Aisling. Having reached the National League Div 2 final already this year, their prospects look bright.

What has been your greatest moment in sport?

Winning the All-Ireland Junior title with Derry last September was by far the highlight for me. I scored 1-03 on the day so it was extra special. Also, to win Derry's first camogie All-Star Award was a great honour.

Who are the toughest teams in camogie?

At our level I'd have to say that Clare are the toughest team. We got the better of them in the Junior final last year but they beat us this year in the National League Div 2 final. In Ulster, it would have to be Down.

Who are the toughest players you have played against?

Down's Fionnuala Carr and Derry midfielder Gráinne McGoldrick.

Which player do you admire the most?

I'm a big fan of Antrim's Jane Adams - she is an all-rounder with buckets of talent.

Who was your childhood hero?

I was a big fan of Karen Rafferty and Elmea Lee. They both played for Derry, and Karen was the Player of the Match when they beat Cork to win the All-Ireland Junior title back in 2000. My mum also played camogie and she inspired and helped me a lot to be the player I am today.

What club do you play for and who are your biggest rivals?

I play with Bellaghy and Lavey would be our biggest rivals on the Derry scene.

What's the most important skill, in your opinion?

Blocking and hooking. That is the bread and butter of camogie and is the foundation that success is built upon.

What advice would you give to young players?

Always enjoy your sport, whatever it is. Be committed and give it your all.

What are your hopes for the future?

After winning the Junior last year we are stepping up to Intermediate level this year. We are really looking forward to competing with the best teams in the land. I would also love to win something with my club as we haven't won a County title since 1993.

Cul Fact!

Aisling not only became Derry's first All-Star Award winner but she had the honour of being only Ulster's 2nd ever All-Star alongside Antrim's Jane Adams.

BLACKWATER MAKE WAVES

Generally there is a settling in period when a new school is opened as teachers and students alike take time to adjust to their new surroundings, but for all involved in Blackwater Community School, Lismore, Co Waterford the transition has come with great ease.

The same could be said for the schools' sports teams as they have been winning title after title for the last few years, even though the school was only opened in September 2003.

Blackwater Community School is the amalgamation of three schools; Lismore CBS, Presentation Secondary School, Lismore and St Anne's Secondary School in Cappoquin.

At present there are 570 boys and girls attending school and the headmaster is Cork native Denis Ring who spoke to Hogan Stand about their success on the playing fields.

The Waterford based school can boast of Munster senior camogie titles: Munster under-16 hurling championship, provincial under-15 hurling honours and a Rice Cup shield title in their roll of honour and the schools' latest achievement is its biggest yet as they claimed the All-Ireland 'C' camogie title and the All-Ireland Colleges B hurling title this year.

It has been an amazing year for the School and one that

from both sets of players was a joy to watch throughout the game, which was very encouraging.

"I've great help from the likes of Fintan O'Connor, who is a great trainer, while Tina Maher looks after all the administration and organises everything."

The Cork native has many years experience in coaching teams and was involved with the renowned St Colman's school where he helped the side to six Dr Harty Cup wins.

"We won six Munster titles during my time involved with St Colman's while we won the All-Ireland on three occasions. The Munster wins came in 1992, '96, '97, 2000, '01 and '02, while the All-Irelands were won in 1997, 2000 and 2001. We were going for a three-in-a-row in 2002, only to be beaten by St Kieran's, Kilkenny in the semi final."

Denis' management and coaching career does not stop there as he has also been involved with Cork minor and

will go down in the annals of history for Blackwater Community School. Denis revealed that the school places a great emphasis on sports and has invested heavily in sporting facilities for the pupils.

"The most recent of these valuable additions to our school include a new pitch with an elaborate drainage system, a massive Olympic standard sports hall, a gymnasium and a floodlit astroturf Pitch," said Denis.

"However, we are not just all about sport and the studies obviously come first, while the sport does play a big part in the school, it's not the most important aspect."

This year has seen the emergence of the camogie side, which resulted in an All-Ireland title and Denis admitted that the success they had was the end result of much hard work and endeavour.

"The camogie team have been a breath of fresh air. Their commitment would put many teams to shame. They train after school without any problems and they also trained during the school holidays, which is a testament to their

under-21 sides down through the years. He managed the minor side to two Munster titles, while was a selector with the under-21's and this year he is trainer/selector with the defending All-Ireland champions.

"It leaves me with a hectic schedule, but I don't mind. The under-21's play Clare in the Munster championship on July 21st, so we are planning ahead for that."

The final was fixed for March 8th at Drom Inch, Co Tipperary and the wind swept conditions were to play a part in the outcome of this exciting encounter.

The Blackwater defence had to be at their best to repel the Tullamore girls and indeed full back Jackie Forbes, captain Sandra Prendergast & centre back Shauna Kiernan were not found wanting. When ever Blackwater midfielders Marie Russell and Michelle Tobin attempted to penetrate the Sacred Heart defence they were met with stout defence

dedication.

"We even trained on a Sunday morning at 9am and had 36 players on the field. We are fortunate that we have an Astro turf pitch and never had to cancel a training session due to the bad weather or anything like that."

Denis was massively impressed by the reception the squad received when playing St. Macnissi's in Antrim and stressed that the hosts could not have been more facilitating.

"We were put up in a boarding school and I have to say it really restored my faith in humanity. They did everything possible for us as we travelled up the night before the game and then after the game also, it was just amazing to see."

Denis has massive help in running the team and the various other teams in the school. He acknowledges the fact that it wouldn't be possible without the help of others.

The omens were on the side of the Waterford school in the All-Ireland semi final as an Ulster side never won a semi final, while a Munster side never lost one.

It took two goals to deny the Ulster champions victory with champions Blackwater pulling clear in the last five minutes. A Michelle Tobin goal early on settled the nerves for the Munster kingpins.

Aoife Hannon lobbed in a goal to tie the sides and with the breeze picking up force; Lismore looked the better placed team to make it through.

They added two quick points in the third quarter, but Garron Tower dug deep and fought back, while they were unlucky on a number of occasions when a goal could have won the day.

However tiredness set in close to the end and two Lismore goals saw the Waterford school through to the All-Ireland final, where they would meet Sacred Heart Tullamore in the decider at Drom-Inch, Tipperary.

"The standard of play was very high and the skill level

make their dominance of possession count.

A Hannon point on the 48th minute levelled the game but it was then that the match turned. Blackwater got a free on the 45m line and as Marie Russell struck long and high the ball appeared to be going wide. With the Tullamore keeper appearing to guide the sliothar wide it crept inside the top right hand corner and Blackwater were suddenly in the ascendancy. Orla Aherne made it a two point game in the 53rd minute with a close in free but Kate Heneghan took the point of the game when she collected a pass from centre back

Shauna Kiernan and with her back to goal turned and slotted the sliothar between the posts. Never say die Sacred Heart refused to give up and roared on by their big following Ailsha Hughes pointed on the 58th minute. With literally the last puck of the game Orla Aherne had a chance to achieve fame but drove her free narrowly wide of the goal.

The final whistle was greeted with great hysteria by the

Waterford following and this was another chapter in the emergence of Blackwater Community School on the playing field.

For the record the Blackwater C.S Lismore camogie side was: T Kiely, N Prendergast, J Forbes, J Walsh, E McCarthy, S Kiernan, S Prendergast (Capt), M Russell, M Tobin, S Fenton, S O'Gorman, J Gavin, Johnson, A Hannon, A Heneghan, C McGlone



All-Ireland senior camogie winners, Blackwater C.S



CROSSING THE LINE



Celebration time following the Ulster final defeat at St Pat's

It's been a momentous year for Cross and Passion College in Ballycastle, who collected an historic Ulster junior and senior colleges camogie double, before going on to add the All-Ireland junior championship. Hogan Stand caught up with two members of the successful backroom team - former hurling All Star Paul McKillen and Antrim camogie player Elaine Dowds - to reflect on the magnificent campaigns.

The 2007/08 Ulster senior colleges camogie final was played at Ballycastle and Cross and Passion claimed the 'A' title for the first time in 44 years with a thoroughly-deserved 3-9 to 2-7 defeat of defending All-Ireland champions St Mary's, Magherafelt. The victory was made all the sweeter by the fact that the Marys had thwarted the CPC

girls at the same stage in each of the two previous campaigns.

Four days earlier, on February 5, Cross and Passion retained the junior crown (Corn Eimhear) with a thrilling 3-2 to 1-4 victory over St Patrick's, Maghera. Current colleges All Stars Emma Connor and Louise McKeown were among ten girls who lined out in both deciders.

Both sides progressed to their respective All-Ireland series and it was the juniors who would make history by defeating St Brigid's of Loughrea in the national decider at St Peregrine's in Dublin on Saturday April 5. The astonishing 2-8 to 2-5 win represented a magnificent climax to a stunning year for the Ballycastle college. They were playing in their first All-Ireland final and became only the second school from Ulster (and first in twelve years) to win an All-Ireland junior camogie championship.

Cross' settled quickly into the match and were troubling Loughrea netminder Cathriona Daly in no time. They had the ball in the net within ten minutes: Aisling McFadden's pass picked out Louise McKeown and the Player of the Match made no mistake as she goaled. McFadden added a brace of points to give the would-be winners a slender 1-4 to 0-3 advantage.

The Loughrea girls managed only one more point in the first half, but they seemed destined to take control of the match when striking two goals in as many minutes at the midway stage in the second half, to lead 2-4 to 1-5. This would be a stern test of Cross and Passion's heart and determination ... and the Ballycastle students would pass with flying colours!

Irrepressible Loughgiel attacker McKeown clipped over a point to keep her team in touch and, even though the Connacht champions were doubling up on her, continued to cause all manner of problems. Four minutes from time, the

dramatic denouement was conceived: McFadden tore down the right wing and this time picked out Orla O'Hara, who kept cool to slam home the decisive goal. Loughrea had a late free from 20 metres but outstanding midfielder Emma Connor diverted the danger and McKeown tagged on another point to seal the deal.

And so to Rebecca Walsh went the honour of raising the All-Ireland cup on behalf of her school, Ballycastle, Antrim and Ulster. A truly landmark win for an exception bunch of girls.

Cross & Passion, 2008 All-Ireland junior colleges camogie champions: L Watt; J McIlhatton, A Connolly, A Lavery; M Beattie, L Connolly, C Neill; E Connor, R Walsh (0-1); S McKillen (0-1), K Smyth, A McFadden (0-3); N Donnelly, L McKeown (1-3), O O'Hara (1-0). Subs: L Dallas, M Donnelly.

Cross and Passion College (CPC) was designated as a Specialist School For Sport in September 2007 in line with a new concept recently introduced to the education system in Northern Ireland. Designation in the school's chosen specialist area (i.e. sport) was awarded in recognition of their commitment to excellence and success in promoting achievement in this area, but also right across the entire spectrum of school life.

Extra-curricular activities in the school take place at lunchtime and after school, in accordance with programmes led by the teaching staff but also occasionally with the guidance of visiting coaches. Participation in a range of team and individual sports is encouraged, including: hurling, camogie, netball, basketball, soccer, gaelic football, golf, handball, skiing, athletics, trampolining, gymnastics, badminton, table tennis, tennis, swimming, bowls, orienteering and cross country.

CPC is also a centre of excellence for learning and



Cross & Passion College, Ballycastle - 2008 All-Ireland junior colleges champions





Emma Connolly with the Ulster senior colleges cup

teaching. The North Antrim academy of sporting and educational excellence is a mixed school, with approximately 700 pupils.

Former Antrim hurling midfielder Paul McKillen, who is caretaker at CPC and whose daughter Samantha stars on the camogie team, was delighted by the performances of the senior and junior camogues in annexing the provincial double this term – not to mention the small matter of an All-Ireland triumph! "It panned out well for them. I knew the talent we had because most of them are from my own club [Ballycastle] or our neighbouring club [Loughgiel], who always give us very close matches. Those have been the two most successful juvenile clubs in Antrim these past two years, so I knew there was a lot of good talent there to work with. About nine or ten of the team would have represented Antrim at U16 level last year."

So confidence must have been high then? "Well, I knew it would take a good team to beat them in the junior, but we were a year early in the senior, as ten of them are on both teams. They did brilliantly to win the Ulster senior title with such a young team and we'll hope to be competing for further success at senior level in the next couple of years."

The former All Star was very impressed by the standard of stickwork in the senior provincial decider. "I've been

looking after teams for over ten years now and the senior final against St Mary's was one of the best underage games I've seen in a long time," he enthuses. "They were 2-8 to 0-1 up at half time after playing with a very strong breeze and had to show incredible spirit and battling qualities to hang on in the second half. This is an exceptional bunch of girls. It's the first time Cross and Passion won the Ulster senior colleges title since 1964 and the first time the school ever won the double."

What can Paul tell us about the overall standard of camogie in the county? "Juvenile level is very strong. Antrim won an Ulster U16 'B' championship two years ago and lost to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final. Myself and Seamus McEllanor also took the Antrim U14s two years ago and that was a very good team as well."

Paul McKillen would certainly recognise talent when he sees it. He hurled for Antrim for 15 years, playing in the 1989 All-Ireland final and winning an All Star at centrefield in 1993. He won three SHCs with Ballycastle and was manager of the club's first team last year. He was also county selector when Antrim won the 2006 Christy Ring Cup.

"I have no doubt that nine or ten of these girls will go on to represent Antrim at senior level," he says. "Senior

captain Emma Connolly is an All Star and her two sisters are also very talented, one of whom is still U14. Emma Connor – another All Star – and (junior captain) Rebecca Walsh form a great midfield partnership. They just have a number of great players all over the field and they have a big future in the game."

The future is equally bright for the Ballycastle club. As Paul explains: "Ballycastle have been down at the last four Feiles. They won the Division Three title in Navan and followed up by winning the Division Two Feile the following year with most of this team we're talking about now. They then played in Division One and went out on points difference without losing a game. They have put it up to the best teams in the country and that gives us every reason to be optimistic. If this group continues to develop, then the future should be a successful one for Antrim



Goalpoacher supreme Louise McKeown claims possession



Captain fantastic Emma Connolly leading by example during the Ulster senior final win over St Mary's

camogie teams – at colleges, club and intercounty levels."

Everybody at Cross & Passion got 100% behind the camogie teams all year and contributed to what was a remarkable odyssey. The manager of the teams concludes: "The principal [Barbara Ward] and everybody else in the school – teaching staff and pupils alike – backed us to the hilt. That's a big help and I'm sure the support spurred the girls on. They trained twice a week from September and three times a week since Christmas. Their commitment was incredible and the success that came was richly deserved by all the girls on both panels."



The CPC side that captured Corn Elmhear (Ulster U16 Colleges)

MAY

2008

The management team at Cross and Passion is completed by Una Kelly and Elaine Dowds. The latter is a celebrated Dunloy, Antrim and Ulster camogie star who describes the school's All-Ireland win as "the best day of my life." This is quite something considering that Elaine has won four All-Irelands as a player!

The science teacher continues: "Everybody is just on a high after the All-Ireland win and we're hoping to take it on from here. We won the Ulster junior last year and came close to winning the senior, so I knew we could win the Ulster senior this time and felt we had a great chance in the All-Ireland junior. They are a great bunch of girls and I knew those victories were in them."

"We had 30 players between the two squads and at the peak of the season we were training four times a week, including a game or a work-out on Sundays. A lot of this group will move up to senior now and my aim for next year is to win another Ulster senior and to push for the senior All-Ireland. We have a very talented, committed and focused bunch here, so why not set our sights high? A group of players like this will only come along once in a lifetime, so we have to get the best out of them."



Louise McKeown rounds her marker during the historic All-Ireland final defeat of Loughrea

them."

Elaine also looks after the Antrim U16 squad and believes these players will continue to impress at intercounty level: "Twelve of the juniors were with me with Antrim and they gained a lot of experience from that. They'll play U16 for their county again this year and will benefit from games against the likes of Kilkenny, Wexford and Dublin."

"Antrim won an U18 'B' last year and were only narrowly beaten by Kilkenny in the 'A'. We are strong at underage right now and I'm hoping to help put the structures in place that'll take these young girls through to senior intercounty level. If we look after these girls, the sky is the limit for Antrim camogie."



Junior captain Rebecca Walsh with the spoils of battle



Samantha McKillen - daughter of former hurling All Star Paul - striking a point in the Ulster U16 final

CAMOGIE world

TYRONE CAMOGS ARE ULSTER JUNIOR QUEENS

A classic display of camogie was showcased in An Port Mór Armagh between Monaghan and Tyrone in the Ulster Junior Camogie Championship final, with Tyrone winning out by 3-12 to 2-6.

Emma Fitzgerald who picked up an Ulster Colleges medal earlier this year put the first score on the board with a crafty point for Tyrone after 2 minutes. Monaghan's Marie Greenan retaliated within minutes with a superb goal into the left hand corner of the net. Both teams rallied from end to end. The Farney camogs added another two points from Eleanor McQuaid and Marie Greenan.

Francis Bigley connected on a pass from Eglis team mate Leona Gallagher and bagged the first goal for the Red Hands. A fine pass from Emma Fitzgerald resulted in a Leona Gallagher point to level the scores after only ten minutes of play. Roisin McKenna was outstanding in the Monaghan nets and pulled off some magnificent saves.

Tyrone dominated for the following ten minutes and surged ahead with a goal from Emma Fitzgerald and a point from a free taken by Doiretreasc's Aisling Corr. Monaghan's defence held out to the severe pressures from the speedy Tyrone forwards. Marie Greenan made no mistake in dodging the Tyrone keeper to score her second goal in the game. There were excellent displays of individual skill and teamwork in the game including some fine solo runs from Maeve McGurk and the very skilful Aisling Corr.

The score of the match was a superb long range point from Ulster College Allstar Shauna Jordan for Tyrone. The final ten minutes of the first half belonged to Monaghan. Two consecutive points from play by Edel Kieran Monaghan brought the sides level for the second time. Tyrone's Shauna Jordan pointed in injury time to leave her side in control at the interval. Half time score: Tyrone 2-5 Monaghan 2-4.

Shauna Jordan Tyrone was in scoring form from the resumption of play with two quick points to give the Purcell Cup medalist a hat trick. Monaghan gallantly fought to the final whistle but scores eluded them. Marie Greenan converted two well taken frees to finish their scoring in the 2008 Ulster Junior Final. Tyrone



Tyrone celebrate their Ulster junior camogie championship win

drifted ahead with a long range point from Leona Gallagher 0-1, an Aisling Corr free and a fine point from play by Emma McErlean 0-1. Shauna Jordan was on scoring form again after a fine Brenda Horsefield long range free. Maeve McGurk registered another point for Tyrone after excellent defense work from Brenda Horsefield and industrious captain Julie Lagan.

Monaghan kept the pressure on and superb defence work from Rionach Lavery and goalkeeper Paula Neill kept the scores at bay. The final score of the game came from former county chairperson Leona Gallagher. She blasted a fine pass from her Eglis team mate Maria Jordan to the back of the net. Final score Tyrone 3-12 Monaghan 2-6.

Ulster Council Chairperson Catherine O'Hara thanked both counties for their continuous efforts in promoting Camogie on presenting the cup. She congratulated both teams on a magnificent display of camogie throughout the game. On receiving the Ulster Cup an elated Julie Lagan spoke of her delight of accepting the Cup on behalf of her team in a very special Ulster Final.

At the interval young camogs from Tyrone and Monaghan, and local U-10 camogs from host club Port Mor and neighbours Tullysarron took to the field. Well done to all the mentors of the underage for organising and taking the girls to the game. Special word of thanks to Port Mor camogie and GFC and to St. Jarlath's Pipe Band for hosting an exceptional Ulster Junior Final.

Tyrone - Paula Neill, Lorna Canavan, Maebh McKearney, Siobhán Hughes, Máiread McGuckin, Julie Lagan, Rionach

Lavery, Aisling Corr, Shauna Jordan, Emma McErlean, Maeve McGurk, Maria Jordan, Frances Bigley, Leona Gallagher, Emma Fitzgerald. Subs: Maggie Conway for Lorna Canavan, Michelle Fitzgerald for Siobhán Hughes, Brenda Horsefield for Máiread McGuckin.

Tyrone Scorers: Leona Gallagher 1-2, Shauna Jordan 0-5, Emma Fitzgerald 1-1, Frances Bigley 1-0, Aisling Corr 0-2, Emma McErlean 0-1, Maeve McGurk 0-1. Tyrone Management: Ursula Jordan, Ursula Doyle, Sinead O'Neill.

Referee: Paddy McQuillan, County Antrim.

Tyrone U10 Team: Allie Martin, Aoibheann McArdle, Aoibhinn Hughes, Catherine Casey, Rona Mallon, Caoimhe Goodfellow, Seana Ní Ghrúagain, Clare O'Neill and Cadhla McLaughlin.



Catherine O'Hara, Ulster Council Chairperson, presents the junior trophy to Tyrone captain Julie Lagan

MAY 2008

Hurley U14 camogie blitz next weekend

by Mary Newman

BANK holiday weekend will be a busy one for the Cork Colleges when they host the ninth annual James Hurley memorial under 14 inter county camogie blitz on Saturday in Mallow.

Starting at 11am, 12 teams will travel to participate in a competition which has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration when the then chairman James Hurley came up with the idea. When James died at a very young age just 12 months later his colleagues in the Cork Colleges decided to name the competition in his memory.

There will be two competitions with teams representing Galway A and B, Clare, Tipperary A and B, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford A and B, Cork Colleges A and B, Dublin and Kerry. The event will be played in a round robin series of games. Four pitches will be in operation during the day with games ongoing to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Over 360 girls will be representing their county vying for honours and it promises to be an enjoyable day for the young players.

Rebecca Murphy from Christ the King captains the Cork Colleges A side, with Jennifer Cahill of Fermoy

captain of the B panel. The strength of the game in the county is very obvious with two strong teams participating in the competition.

Amongst the players in the Cork line out will be Cork Feile Gael skills winner Nicole O'Brien from Glanmire Community College and Glen Rovers. Also amongst the Cork players is Alison Peate, who will lead Cork Feile champions Douglas in the hunt for Feile national honours. Julie Mulcahy, Claire Shine Tessa Crowley, Shauna Keniry and Edel O'Connell will help the challenge by the Cork A sides, whilst Chloe Kelleher, Amy Murphy, Aisling O'Keefe Leeann

O'Sullivan, Aoife O'Neill and Kate Donovan have been consistent performers for the B panel.

Games commence at 11am with the finals scheduled for 2.30pm. A visit to Mallow is a must for camogie followers, with prospective future stars battling it out through the day for ultimate honours.

Cork Colleges A Panel: Saoirse Rodgers (St. Patrick's), Tessa Crowley, Emma O'Donovan (Bandon), Roberta Harrington (Buttevant), Emily Phelan (Carrigaline), Shauna Keniry (Carrigrohilly), Sinead Dennehy, Katie Galvin, Aoife Twohill (Charleville), Shannon Dempsey, Ciara Hickey, Rebecca Murphy (Cl. Alison Peate (Christ King), Laura O'Callaghan (Clonakilty), Grace McDonnell (Cl. Choilim), Katie Healy (Davis College), Sarah Moloney (Dromcollogher), Jennifer Barry (Fermoy), Nicole O'Brien (Glanmire), Aisling Moloney,

Julie Mulcahy, Chloe O'Callaghan (Kinsale), Alana Barry (Millstreet), Tia McMahon (Passage), Claire Shine (Regina Mundi), Edel O'Connell (St. Aidan's), Ann Keohane (St. Angela's), Donna Carroll (St. Patrick's), Nicole Crean (St. Vincent's).

CORK COLLEGES B PANEL: Kate O'Donovan (Carrigrohilly), Julie Callanan, Orla Murray (Bandon), Emma Madigan, Karen Spratt (Buttevant), Shauna Bricli (Carrigrohilly), Clodagh Duggan (Christ King), Claire Condon, Treasa O'Brien, Aoife O'Neill (Clonakilty), Edel O'Sullivan (Coachford), Laura Barry, Fiona Fitton (Cl. Choilim), Jennifer Cahill (Cl. Fermoy), Aoife Keating, Chloe Kelleher, Jenny McAuliffe (Kinsale), Marie O'Connell (Mallow), Roisin Culligan, Shauna Landers (Middleton), Kayleigh Sheahan (Millstreet), Amy Murphy (Mount Mercy), Amy Wilson (North Pres), Aoife Cummins (Scoil Mhuire), Aisling O'Keefe, Leanne O'Sullivan (St. Aidan's), Clodhna Byrne (St. Als), Sarah Attridge, Rebecca O'Mahony (St. Patrick's).

Cork juniors triumph, but seniors fall at last hurdle

Luby keeps long puck crown

DENISE LUBY from Glen Rovers will represent Cork for the second year in a row at the Munster Camogie long Camogie Long Puck competition after she retained the title she won last year in the Cork competition at the Farm UCC last week.

A Leaving Certificate student in Colaiste an Chroí Naofa, Carrignavar, Denise has already this year been a member of the Cork Junior and Intermediate teams who took provincial honours, and she will be hoping to add another provincial crown to her every growing collection.

Last weekend she played her part in helping the Munster junior side win the Gael Linn inter provincial title as they defeated Ulster.

Denise won Scith na Scoil honours with Scoil Oilibeir, Dublin Hill, before going on to win honours with Colaiste an Chroí Naofa. She was a member of the Cork under 16 team last season while she also lined out with the Cork colleges under 14 side. She is a member of the Cork minor panel and lined out in the senior B national league with Cork earlier in the season.

Denise captained divisional side Seandun to the under 16 inter divisional title in 2007 and is a member of her club's senior team and she will be hoping to bring a title back to Cork when she travels to Tipperary to represent the Rebels later in the year.

by Mary Newman

THERE was a strong Cork representation as the Munster Junior team captured the Gael Linn inter provincial title at the expense of holders Ulster in an exciting weekend of camogie on Saturday.

In a tough opening game Munster had to battle to the finish before booking their place in the final, through the semi final a strong Leinster side battled hard to knock out the Munster girls, but they held their nerve to make it to the final in a game that could have gone either way.

Cork's Denise Leahy was inspirational in goal, while Denise Luby notched up an impressive 2-4, ably assisted by Kate Marie Hearn, Roisin O'Brien and Aine Lyng.

In the second semi-final Ulster had a 2-11 to 1-6 win over Connacht. Munster showed fierce determination again in the final, Aine Lyng notching up 2-7, and with O'Brien adding 1-6 Munster were on their way, with Aine Lyng grabbing two first half goals in three minutes as Munster led a 2-6 to 0-3 interval.

Through the second half the Munster girls were magnificent and selector Kay Dunne was loud in her praise for her charges.

"Our girls showed fierce determination to record a famous victory. In the semi-final they had to battle hard, but they showed great character, and again in the final they came up trumps. It was one of the finest displays from a Munster junior team and it was a great honour to work with such a dedicated bunch of player."

Waterford's Aine Lyng won the player of the match award to round off a great day for the Munster Junior side.

MUNSTER JUNIOR TEAM

Denise Leahy (Cork), Amy Tierney (Clare), Caroline Motherway (Cork), Aisling Kelly (Waterford), Jenny O'Grady (Waterford), Fiona Lafferty (Clare), Leah West (Cork), Ruth Kaiser (Clare), Louise Hayes (Clare), Roisin O'Brien (Clare), Aine Lyng (Capt.) (Waterford), Evelyn Ronayne (Cork), Carina Rosengrave (Clare), Denise Luby (Cork), Kate Marie Hearn (Waterford), Aisling Treacy (Clare), Aine Breathnach (Waterford), Sharon O'Loughlin (Clare), Annette Maher (Waterford), Lydia Cunningham (Cork), Sally



Munster captain Aine Lyng receiving the Gael Linn Junior trophy from Liz Howard President Camogie Association.

O'Grady (Waterford).

SENIORS PIPPED AT POST

Not such a good day for the Munster senior team who were edged out in an exciting final by Connacht who took the Gael Linn title for the first time since 2000 with a one-point victory in a gripping finish 1-14 to 2-10.

Munster had booked their place in the final with a 3-14 to 2-14 victory over Leinster.

In an exciting semi-final against a strong Leinster side that contained Louise O'Hara, Sarah Ryan and Una Lacey. In the other semi-final, Connacht enjoyed a 1-28 to 0-7 victory over Ulster.

Connacht led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time, but Geraldine Kinnane goaled early in the second half to edge Munster into a 1-7 to 0-6 lead. Deadlocked midway through the second half a Jessica Gill goal from a free with seven minutes of normal time remaining edged Connacht ahead. A Sile Burns goal saw the game go down to the wire as Connacht secured victory thanks to a strong finish from Jessica players such as Gill and Veronica Curtin.

In the other semi-final Connacht enjoyed a 1-28 to 0-7 victory over Ulster, but they were made to fight to the very end in a memorable tit-for-tat final against Munster.

O'Sullivan points way to title win

Colaiste Choilm 1-6
Coachford Colloge 2-2

by Mary Newman

A LATE point from Sinead O'Sullivan gave Colaiste Choilm a narrow victory in the Cork Colleges first Year B final played in Ballincollig recently. It was nip and tuck from the throw in as the sides battled for control. Coachford took an early lead thanks to Edel O'Sullivan pointing a free.

Coachford struck back with a goal from Ann Kelleher, but the Ballincollig reply was instant, with Fiona Fitton striking for a point, and with Sinead O'Sullivan striking two just a point separated the sides at half time.

Edel O'Sullivan converted a Coachford free on the restart but Colaiste Choilm responded with points from Fiona Fitton and Sinead O'Sullivan to tie the game up.

It took strong defending from Coachford to keep the Colaiste Choilm attack at bay, but Orla Murphy found a way through, blasting a ground stroke to the Coachford net. Coachford struck back with a Jennifer Healy equaliser with just two minutes remaining.

Sinead O'Sullivan converted a late free to hand the title to Colaiste Choilm.

Scores Colaiste Choilm: S. O'Sullivan (0-4), O. Murphy (1-0), F. Fitton (0-2), Coachford: E. O'Sullivan (0-2), J. Healy (1-0), A. Kelleher (1-0).

COLAISTE CHOILM: A. Hennigan, N. Stanton, L. Barry, K. Daly, C. Hennigan (Cl. L. Moloney, O. Murphy (1-0), E. Coughlan, K. Murphy F. Fitton (0-2), S. O'Sullivan (0-4).

COACHFORD: G. Fitzpatrick, E. O'Connell, E. Murphy, M. Murphy, S. Crean, K. Hartnett, E. O'Sullivan (0-2) (Cl. J. O'Riordan, C. Lynch, A. Ring, J. Healy (1-0), A. Kelleher (1-0).

Subs: E. Dornay, N. O'Connor Referee Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers)



John Barry, managing director of the Bord Gáis Networks, with Cork camogie captain Catriona Foley and vice captain Sile Burns at the announcement that Bord Gáis Networks is to sponsor the Cork senior camogie team.

Picture: Donagh Glavin

Bord Gáis to fuel passion for camogie

A MAJOR boost for Cork camogie ahead of next Sunday's All-Ireland Senior Championship opening-round game against Dublin came with the announcement last evening that Bord Gáis Networks will be the sponsor for the Cork senior camogie team for 2008.

Last evening's launch was held at the team's final training session at the UCC Farm, where the Cork girls, led by team captain Catriona Foley and manager Denise Cronin, herself a former All-Ireland winning captain, sported the Bord Gáis Networks logo for the first time on their training and playing gear.

The sponsorship was announced at a pre-match dinner hosted by Bord Gáis Networks for the team at the Kingsley Hotel, attended by the players, management, county board officials, media and a number of Bord Gáis staff.

Amongst the attendance was the company's CEO John Mullins, a native of Bishopscourt, where he played with the local club. John is now an active member of the underage section of the hugely-successful Kilmacud Crokes GAA club in Dublin.

Also in attendance was the company's commercial manager, All-Star hurling legend and current coach to the St Flinbarr's senior hurl-



"We are delighted to support the Cork senior camogie team as they embark on the 2008 Championship campaign," said John Barry of Bord Gáis.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

ing side, Ger Cunningham.

Bord Gáis Networks is the business unit within Bord Gáis that owns, builds, operates and maintains the 12,375km national natural gas network and speaking at the launch John Barry, managing director of Bord Gáis Networks, said:

"We are delighted to support the Cork senior camogie team as they

embark on the 2008 championship campaign. Bord Gáis Networks has always supported the communities in which it operates, particularly in Cork where the company's headquarters is based, and we are looking forward to building on this partnership also.

"The profile of Cork camogie and the game in general is continuously gaining momentum following an outstanding record of wins and years of dedicated voluntary effort.

"In partnership with Bord Gáis Networks, we hope to be able to fuel the passion for camogie and drive the team's profile, and the game, to the forefront of Irish sporting life.

"Cork camogie and Bord Gáis are both preparing to take on stiff competition in their respective fields but with this level of energy and passion fuelling each team, I believe we will both succeed."

Cork County Board chairperson Marion McCarthy, in welcoming the sponsorship, said:

"Cork Camogie Board welcome our new sponsors Bord Gáis Networks. It is a huge boost and honour to our senior team that such a prestigious company such as Bord Gáis Networks are willing to help us as we face the challenges which lie ahead in our championship campaign, we will do everything in our power to ensure success."

With a new sponsor on board and their a new and vibrant management team under the guidance of former great Denise Cronin, now well settled into the job. Cork are looking ahead with enthusiasm to the championship campaign, which gets under way on Sunday next when they take on Dublin at the Naomh Mearnóg grounds in the first game. As their advertisement logo told us at last night's launch Bord Gáis Networks will be fuelling Cork's passion for Camogie.



Cork coach Bobby Thornhill will be under no illusions as to the task facing his charges when they take on Derry.

Cork face a tough opener on Sunday

SATURDAY,

Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Championship,
Cork v Derry,
Ballinlough 1.30pm

IT'S A tough opening game for the Cork intermediate team on Saturday when they face All-Ireland junior champions Derry in the first game in the round robin series of matches in the Gala Intermediate Championship at Ballinlough, writes MARY NEWMAN.

With seven of their Munster championship-winning squad exempted due to the Leaving Certificate, which starts on Wednesday and with several of the squad travelling with the senior team to Dublin, the selectors are faced with a major headache.

However the show must go on and with Derry pencilled in as one of the favourites for championship honours, Cork could not have got a tougher first-round game.

Defeated in the Division 2 League final by Clare, this Derry side are very focused on tasting All-Ireland glory in 2008, having made the step up to Intermediate following the capturing of last season's junior All-Ireland crown, they mean business.

Gráinne and Niamh McGoldrick, Jane Carey are amongst the players who will line out in a squad that is under the guidance of the husband and wife co-management team of Susan and Padraig Ó Mianáin.

Another All-Ireland medallist from last year, Sinead Cassidy showed tremendous form in the national league campaign while Oonagh Mullen showed up well.

Cork enjoyed a good league campaign missing out narrowly on qualifying for the final but they bounced back to take the Munster intermediate crown. While short several regulars for Saturday's clash, the side will still have plenty of experience with Marion Jaego, Liz Bugler, Marie Watson Lucy Hawkes, Michelle Browne and Ann Marie Fleming in their line-out.

Coach Bobby Thornhill will be under no illusions as to the task facing his charges but this side has always shown remarkable fighting spirit and they will not be lacking in determination, a huge task awaits but one which the Cork girls will face head on in the hope of securing the vital two points on offer.



At the launch of the Gala All Ireland senior and junior camogie championships at Croke Park yesterday were: Front row, from left: Gary Desmond, CEO Gala; Claire O'Kane (captain), junior All-Ireland champions Derry; Mary Lacey (captain) senior All-Ireland champions Wexford and President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard. Second row: county captains Sinead Cahalan, Galway; Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Limerick; Sheila Burns (vice captain), Cork; Louise O'Hara, Dublin; Emily Hayden, Tipperary; Eimear Farrell, Roscommon and Marion Cean, Offaly. Third row: Marie O'Connor, Kilkenny; Margaret McBride, Cavan; Emma Farrell, Armagh; Mary Coady, Carlow; Nicki Keddy (vice captain), Wicklow; Deirdre Murphy, Clare and Stephanie Carthy (junior captain), Dublin. Fourth row: Louise Mahony, Laois; Julie Lagan, Tyrone; Moya Maginn, Down; Isabel Kieran, Monaghan; Meath player Louise Donoghue. Back row: Claire Charlton, Mayo; Sandra Greville, Westmeath; Charlotte Rahe, Waterford and Niamh Brady, Donegal.

Picture: Paul Mohan / Sportsfile

Launch clash annoys camogie president

by Therese O'Callaghan

CAMOGIE president Liz Howard expressed her disappointment yesterday with the GAA, who went head-to-head with the launch of the Gala All-Ireland camogie championships at Croke Park.

Not too far away, and at the same time, the St Vincent's club was the venue for the GAA/Adidas launch.

"I'm unhappy that the Gala All Ireland championship and the GAA launches clashed.

We have discussed this matter before, and I have been in conversation with Nicky Brennan about it, because it happened again last year when Guinness' launch of the hurling champi-

onship was on the same day as our camogie championship.

"We are all the one family and clashing is not good for either's profile," claimed Ms Howard.

"We are very particular here in the Camogie Association to make sure we do not clash with the GAA, we would be in regular contact with the press office. A clash of this magnitude should not be happening."

Nonetheless, Howard said there were many positives to be taken from their day.

"Gala have pledged their support for the senior, intermediate and junior championships for another three years until 2010. We were joined by captains and managers of all 27 counties

competing in this year's championships, together with Gary Desmond, CEO of Gala. We had the best Gaelic finals of 2007 in both the junior and senior All Ireland finals."

Gary Desmond, CEO of Gala, added "Our partnership with the Camogie Association and extended sponsorship, including both the senior and junior championships, represents the success and growth of this relationship over the past few years. The six-figure sponsorship sum firmly cements our partnership with the Camogie Association for the foreseeable future."

The Irish Sports Council was represented by John Treacy and Ossie Kilkenny, who said they

were extremely happy with the direction camogie was going and the profile it was building. The Gala All-Ireland senior championship action begins this weekend. Last year's champions Wexford have the weekend off but runners-up Cork will travel to Dublin in the hope of getting their campaign off to a winning start. National League champions Kilkenny will host Tipperary, while Limerick, who are new to the senior championship after their All-Ireland B Final win last year, will travel to take on Galway. Meanwhile, Dublin will be without top player Emer Brannigan for their opening fixture after she broke bones in her hand in a recent club game.

Colleges take centre stage

MALLOW hosts the ninth annual James Hurley memorial under 14 inter county camogie blitz on Saturday as twelve teams participate in a competition which has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration.

Teams will battle it out for the trophy which commemorates a wonderful worker for Colleges camogie the late James being a former chairman of the Cork colleges committee.

There will be two competitions with teams representing Galway A and B, Clare, Tipperary A and B, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford A and B, Cork Colleges A and B, Dublin and Kerry

games will be played on a round robin series.

Games will be ongoing from 11am with four pitches in use and over 360 girls will represent their county in the hope of taking honours, it promises to be an enjoyable day for the young players.

Rebecca Murphy from Christ the King Captains the Cork Colleges A side with Jennifer Cahill of Fermoy Captain of the B panel. Games commence at 11am with the finals scheduled for 2.30pm a visit to Mallow is a must for Camogie followers with prospective future stars battling it out through the day for ultimate honours.

CORK COLLEGES A PANEL:

Saoirse Rodgers (St. Patrick's), Tessa Crowley, Emma O'Donovan (Bandon), Roberta Harrington (Buttevant), Emily Phelan (Carrigaline), Shauna Keniry (Carrigtwohill), Sinead Dennehy, Katie Galvin, Aoife Twohill (Charleville), Shannon Dempsey, Ciara Hickey, Rebecca Murphy (C), Alison Peate (Christ King), Laura O'Callaghan (Clonakilty), Grace McDonnell (Col Choim), Katie Healy (Davis College), Sarah Moloney (Dromcollogher), Jennifer Barry (Fermoy), Nicole O'Brien (Glennire), Aisling Moloney, Julie Mulcahy, Chloe O'Callaghan (Kinsale), Alana Barry (Millstreet), Tia McMahon (Passage), Claire Shine (Regina Mundi), Edel O'Connell (St. Aidan's), Ann Keohane (St. Angela's), Donna Carroll (St. Patrick's), Nicole Cean (St. Vincent's).

CORK COLLEGES B PANEL:

Kate O'Donovan (Carrigrohane), Julie Callanan, Orla Murray (Bandon), Emma Madigan, Karen Spratt (Buttevant), Shauna Bricli (Carrigrohane), Clodagh Duggan (Christ King), Claire Condon, Treasa O'Brien, Aoife O'Neill (Clonakilty), Edel O'Sullivan (Coachford), Laura Barry, Fiona Fitton (Col Choim), Jennifer Cahill (C) (Fermoy), Aoife Keating, Chloe Kelleher, Jenny McAuliffe (Kinsale), Marie O'Connell (Mallow), Roisin Culligan, Shauna Landers (Millstreet), Amy Murphy (Mount Mercy), Amy Wilson (North Pres), Aoife Cummins (Scoil Mhuire), Aisling O'Keefe, Leanne O'Sullivan (St. Aidan's), Clodhna Byrne (St. Als), Sarah Attridge, Rebecca O'Mahony (St. Patrick's).

Quest for All Ireland honours begins

CORK senior and Intermediate teams get their All Ireland campaigns under way this week when the intermediate team host Derry on Saturday in Ballinlough at 1.30 pm while the senior team make the journey to Dublin as they begin their campaign in the Gala All

Ireland championship.

With games played on round robin basis every match is vital with two points on offer for the victors and managers Denise Cronin and Bobby Thornhill will be hoping for a good start for their respective charges.

WELL DONE DENISE

WELL done to Denise Luby from Glen Rovers who retained her Cork long puck title on Thursday

last she will now go on to represent the county at the Munster finals in July.

Cork name strongest side for the opener

SUNDAY, Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship first round, Cork v Dublin, Naomh Marnog Grounds, Portmarnock @ 1pm

THE journey begins again for Cork on Sunday as they attempt to retrieve the cup they lost last September in heartbreaking defeat to Wexford in the All-Ireland final writes LINDA MELLERICK. As always, the road will be long and winding but Cork should be there or thereabouts at the finishing line. In what was a disappointing league campaign for the Rebels, where they failed to qualify for the final stages, the side has settled somewhat and reports from the camp are that the team are looking forward to getting the championship under way. Cork are hot favourites on Sunday, of that there is no doubt. Despite all

the familiar warnings of 'not taking things for granted' and 'ensuring the team are mentally prepared' it will be hard to psyche the players up for this one.

Cork met Dublin in the final group game of last year's championship and despite the Dubs needing to get something out of the game if they were to have any hope of advancing to the semis, the outcome was never in doubt. The gap in standard was clearly evident as Cork ran out convincing winners; 3-10 to 1-3. To their credit, Dublin manager David Kennedy has instilled a renewed vigour into the team this year and they have made strides. When the sides met just last March in the second round of the National League Cork raced into a 1-8 to 0-1 lead after 24 minutes. Dublin staged a rally in the second half but once Cork sensed the threat they stepped

up a gear and the outcome really was never in doubt. After a couple of excellent seasons with the intermediate squad and reported to be 'flying' at training, Emer O'Sullivan deservedly gets a starting position at right-half forward on Sunday. Lean and strong with a good delivery, O'Sullivan starts at right half-forward despite her more familiar roles of half-back and midfield. She is versatile though, knows where the posts are and will be a welcome addition to the inside six. Mary O'Connor returned from injury in the Munster final against Tipperary, lining out at full-forward. With a number of weeks training behind her she finds herself in more familiar territory, lining out at right half-back. Linda O'Connell seems to have pinned down the right corner-back

position as her own at this point with Joanne O'Callaghan having moved to the left. Captain Catriona Foley slots into full-back in place of Rosalie Holland, who is out with a broken collarbone. Gemma O'Connor also returns from her recent injury and takes a step back to right half, completing a strong half-back line. Linda Dorgan's performance against Tipperary secures her a starting position in the centre alongside Breige Corkery with O'Sullivan the new recruit.

CORK TEAM: A Murray, L O'Connell, G Foley, J O'Callaghan, M O'Connor, R Buckley, G O'Connor, L Dorgan, B Corkery, E O'Farrell, U O'Donoghue, E O'Sullivan, S Burns, R Moloney, O Cotter.

FIXTURES SATURDAY MAY 31 Eagle Star Life Junior 'a' Football Championship: Ballymartle v Ballynashag, Inishannon, at 7.45pm; Shamrocks v Belgooly, Carrigaline 8.30pm; Tracton v Ballygarvan, Carrigaline, 7.45pm.

Bord Gais in Cork deal

GAELIC GAMES: Bord Gais Networks has announced that it will sponsor the Cork Senior camogie team for the 2008 All-Ireland championship. Speaking at the launch, John Barry, managing director of Bord Gais Networks, said: "We are delighted to support the Cork Senior camogie team as they embark on the 2008 Championship campaign. Bord Gais Networks has always supported the communities in which it operates, particularly in Cork where the company's headquarters is based."

JUNE 2008



Emma Kavanagh and Joy Leo, St Columba's captain and vice captain, show their delight following their Sciath na Scol Camogie win. Picture: Mike English

St Columba's hang on in the second half to do the double

St Columba's GNS 3-2
Cloghroe 3-0

ST COLUMBA'S girls completed the double for the Douglas school when they held on to take the C1 title, writes SARAH O'DONOVAN.

This was despite Cloghroe's second half fightback, which saw star forward Niamh McCarthy rocket two goals to the net in quick succession, to leave just two points between the sides.

St Columba's got the perfect start when Emma Kavanagh goalied after three minutes.

A second goal followed when Emer Harrington was on hand to put the ball past Cloghroe goalkeeper Emer Coleman.

Cloghroe's Niamh McCarthy grabbed the ball at midfield and surged forward, setting up Meg Fitzgerald for a goal to pull back the deficit to one goal.

Erin Lynch pointed twice for Douglas but staunch defending from Jessica Manley and captain Erin Looney kept Douglas otherwise at bay.

Immense pressure was placed on the Cloghroe backs before half-time but Megan Kenneally

and Megan Fitzgerald stood firm. Joy Leo, Ellen Martin and Mairead Mulrooney were undeterred and St Columba's grabbed a goal through Harrington again to leave the score at 3-2 to 1-0.

Cloghroe keeper Coleman was called upon a number of times after, and with the help of her backs was impenetrable.

McCarthy ensured a nail-biting finish with her two magnificent strikes with just five minutes remaining but St Columba's defense broke up the Cloghroe threat thereafter.

Scorers for St Columba's: E Harrington 2-0, E Cotter 1-0, E Lynch 0-2.

Cloghroe: N McCarthy 2-0, M Fitzgerald 1-0.

ST COLUMBA'S: C Noonan; L Maher, A McDonald, E O'Geran; L Barber, E Lynch, A Shanahan; E Martin, J Leo; E Kavanagh, M Mulrooney, L O'Brien; M Cleary, E Cotter, E Harrington.

Subs: Rachel Swanton, T Murphy, D Callanan.

CLOGHROE: E Coleman; M Beamish, J Manley, A O'Connell; M Kenneally, E Looney, A Singleton; N Byrne, G Heffernan, R Harrington; N McCarthy, J Walton; M Fitzgerald; S Daly, K Walton.

Subs: R Hennessy, C Cooke.



Members of the primary game camogie team who will play Tipperary at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Munster Championship day photographed with Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Education when he dropped in on a training session at Páirc Uí Rinn. Included are Claudia O'Donoghue (Scoil Ghobnatan, Mallow), Caroline Watson (Milford), Amy Ryan (Newtownshandrum), Nora Walsh (Inch), Siobhan Hutchinson (Ovens), Joy Leo (St Columba's, Douglas), Niamh McCarthy (Cloghroe), Lauren Callinane (Scoil Oilibheir, Ballyvolane), Edel Moloney (Ballinspittle), Cliona O'Callaghan (Dromina). Picture: Mike English



Christ King School's camogie team, winners of the All-Ireland B Final pictured at Cork's City Hall where Lord Mayor, Cllr Donal Counihan hosted a reception in their honour.



Victory lap of honour for Carrigaline Gaelscoil girls.

Picture: Mike English

Aoife seals it for Carrigaline

GS Carrigaline 1-0
St Catherine's MFR 0-0

A GOAL from Aoife Ni Raghnaill in the second half of extra-time finally gave GS Carrigaline the edge in this C3 Allianz Sciath na Scol final at Páirc Uí Rinn writes SARAH O'DONOVAN.

The sides played out a thrilling contest with both goalkeepers turning in top drawer performances to ensure that this game went to extra-time.

In the opening exchanges, Carrigaline players Aoife Ni Mhaolagáin and Emer Ni Dhúill were prominent but the St Catherine's defence was well marshalled with Julie Shanahan, Niamh O'Connor, Eadaoin O'Callaghan McCarthy and goalkeeper Ellen O'Donovan standing firm.



Gaelsscoil Carrigaline captain and vice captain Cara Ni Chreimin and Niamh Ni Mhaolagáin. Picture: Mike English

The play continued to swing from end to end, providing the spectators with plenty of entertainment.

The St Catherine's captain Laura Cull, who showed great skill throughout, drove at

the Carrigaline defence time and again but a steely resolve shown by Carrigaline backs Fiona Ni Dhonnabháin, Fiona Ni Chruaí and Emma de Paor ensured she was unable to make the breakthrough.

Both sides had chances near the end of normal time with the best opportunity falling to Carrigaline's Cara Ni Chreimin but again the St Catherine's goal-keeper stood firm and brought off a great save to send the tie into extra-time.

In extra-time, Carrigaline's Aoife Ni Mhaolagáin skimmed the post with a well-struck effort before Aoife Ni Raghnaill struck the ball beyond O'Donovan to finally settle a highly entertaining contest.

Scorer for GS Carrigaline: Aoife Ni Raghnaill.

GS CARRIGALINE: O Ni Chruaí, F Ni Dhonnabháin, F Ni Chruaí, E de Paor, N Ni Mhaolagáin, S Ni Fhathaigh, A Breathnach, A Ni Mhaolagáin, E Ni Dhúill, A Ni Raghnaill, N Ni Chreimin, Cara Ni Chreimin.

ST CATHERINE'S MFR: E O'Donovan; J Shanahan, N O'Connor, E O'Callaghan McCarthy, S Whelan, L Cull; C Cronin, A Leisk, D O'Keefe, A Cronin, J Fennell.



Ballinora N.S. players celebrate their victory over Inch N.S. in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C4 final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Dermot



LINDA MELLERICK

Cork
Dublin1-13
0-5

THE SCENE was set for a great day's hurling. The sun bore down creating a blistering heat; the pitch was wide and open and in the pre-match warm up both teams looked to have a spring in their step.

The game didn't disappoint and while Cork may have pulled away from Dublin in the second half, this was a highly entertaining All-Ireland Championship first-round clash in the Naomh Mearnóg GAA Grounds in Portmarnock yesterday.

The Portmarnock grass could have done with a cut before the game, but such was its spacious nature it did little to hamper the fast, open play evident from the throw-in.

A fast wide ball into the speedy Jolene Hoary saw Dublin register their first score after three minutes. Una O'Donoghue responded well with her first of five magnificent points throughout the hour and for the next 20 minutes Cork were in the driving seat.

Linda O'Connell had her hands full initially with Hoary but settled well thereafter. Dublin played a faster brand of hurling than is typical and Cork had work to do.

But they more than matched their opponents for fitness and their half-back line of Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley and Gemma O'Connor, while playing that bit loose at times, controlled the game.

Gemma O'Connor, in particular, was excellent and with her namesake also returning from injury, their contribution was highly commendable.

Briege Corkery once again covered miles, falling back regularly to assist her defence.

Newcomer Emer O'Sullivan, lining out at left half-forward, had a dream championship debut. Showing great confidence, she struck Cork's second point on five minutes after good defensive work by corner-forward Sile Burns.

The huge pitch, rumoured to be longer than Croke Park, proved to be the key for Cork. Orla Cotter, Rachel Moloney, O'Sullivan and above all, Una O'Donoghue, thrived in the open space and once their first touch was good, they got away from their marker every time.

Three points from Moloney in the seventh, 12th and 14th minutes gave Cork a four-point advantage.

It wasn't all plain sailing for the visitors. Dublin were pressing hard. When Cork took their foot off the pedal, the home side punished them and they had the gap narrowed to just two points by the break. It could have been more as a number of shots fell short into the capable hands of Aoife Murray.

Louise O'Hara, Dublin's best player, hit over two stunning points from 65 metres in the 22nd and 25th minutes. O'Donoghue struck a similar score before Ciara Lucey added a free, leaving it all to play for in the second half.

It was the Rebels who stole the

John Barry, Managing Director Bord Gáis Networks, with Cork Camogie vice-captain Sile Burns (left) and captain, Catriona Foley at the announcement that Bord Gáis Networks is to sponsor the Cork Senior Camogie Team.

Donagh Glavin Photography



Cork get off to a good start

McCarthy: We let Dubs back into it

AS every good coach should, Jim McCarthy took in both the negatives and pluses from yesterday's championship win and will no doubt work on both.

"Regarding the negatives, after a good start we took our foot off the pedal. We allowed Dublin back into the game. With a team who are inferior to you what you don't want in any game is what I call a scrum," said McCarthy.

"When our first touch wasn't right it came into the physical stuff. There were four or five into the ball. A lot of our players are what I call 'touch players'."

"We led five points to one. Our first touch starting to deteriorate and then it became more of a contact game. The plus side of the game was our point scoring."

"We scored 1-13 and 1-12 of that came from play. Apart from that it was the quality of our scores more so than the totality which was rewarding."

show for the next 34 minutes. Six points, each more magical than the last, saw Cork take an eight-point

WHAT THEY SAID

"The second plus is that the likes of Gemma O'Connor, Mary O'Connor and Sarah Hayes have been out injured for a bit and they now have game time under their belts."

Despite the win Jim is not going to get carried away by any means.

"We're not the finished article, I'm not going to pretend we are but we're moving in the right direction."

Elsewhere in the opening round of the championship Tipperary took an important two points from National League holders Kilkenny winning 2-12 to 2-10. It's a sign once again that championship is a different ball game altogether and Kilkenny needed a win to rubber stamp their arrival back on the big stage. Not surprisingly Galway had a comfortably 3-08 to 0-3 victory over Limerick.

Cork's next outing is away to Wexford on June 22.

10th, 18th and 34th minutes, thus reinforcing the point that when she has space she is hard to equal. Alongside her, Cotter, O'Sullivan and Moloney had fine games.

Dublin persisted and while Cork thoroughly deserved to win this game, had Dublin a stronger full-forward line, the gap may not have been so wide.

Cork began to empty the bench and made use of their five substitutes. It was game over long before Cotter plucked a high ball out of the sky and handpassed over advancing keeper Eimear Butler to the net with six minutes to go.

After their disappointing league campaign, Cork needed an impressive performance to shake the monkey off their back. They succeeded yesterday.

Scorers: Cork: U O'Donoghue 0-5, O Cotter 1-1, R Moloney 0-4 (0-1f), E O'Sullivan 0-3.

Dublin: L O'Hara, C Lucey (0-2f) 0-2 each, J Hoary 0-1.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Connell, C Foley (capt), J O'Callaghan, M O'Connor, R Buckley, G O'Connor, B Corkery, L Dorgan, E Farrell, U O'Donoghue, E O'Sullivan, S Burns, R Moloney, O Cotter.

Subs: S Hayes for E Farrell (48), A O'Regan, J Duffy, M Murphy for R Moloney, S Burns and R Buckley (60), E O'Riordan for L O'Connell (62).

DUBLIN: E Butler, D Smith, J Murphy, R Ruddy, A Fitzpatrick, A Cullen, C Power, C Lucey, L O'Hara (capt), C Burgess, F Corcoran, S Ryan, N Taylor, A Jordan, J Hoary.

Subs: C Donnelly for C Burgess (40), A Maguire for N Taylor (48).

Ref: F McDonald (Armagh).



Cork Colleges Under 14 players, Ann Keohane and Rebecca Murphy, with the Hurley Memorial Cup, after winning the recent All-Ireland Under-14 Blitz held in Mallow recently. Both girls are members of Ballygarvan camogie club.

Rebels look ready to reclaim crown

CAMOGIE: There had been some doubts surrounding the challenge of Cork in this year's Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship. New management and the loss of several key players including All Star forward Jennifer O'Leary and half-back Anna Geary has meant big changes in the Cork dressing room.

However, an 11-point victory over Dublin last weekend has signalled the Rebel County's intention to be among the contenders for this year's Championship and reclaim the title they lost to Wexford last September.

Next up for Cork in the Championship is Wexford, the side who relieved them of their All-Ireland crown in 2007. This will be Wexford's first game as they were not in action in the first round of games last weekend.

Rebelettes make case for the defence against Dubs

by Jackie Cahill

THERE were victories for big guns Cork, Galway and Tipperary as the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie championship roared into life yesterday.

2006 winners Cork produced a strong second-half performance against hosts Dublin at Naomh Mearnóg to record a 1-13 to 0-5 win. Dublin were

very much in contention at half-time, trailing by 0-6 to 0-4, but Cork upped a gear after the break and clinched a comfortable 11-point victory.

With Allstar Eimear Brannigan ruled out of the Dublin full-back line, Jean O'Connor stepped in and acquitted herself well as the Sky Blues rearguard performed impressively, despite the losing margin.

The star-studded Cork half-back line trio of Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor and Rena Buckley provided the platform for this Rebelettes success as the Dublin attackers struggled to make use of the possession that came their way.

The Cork midfield gained a firm stranglehold while Joanne O'Callaghan also excelled in defence as Dublin were restricted

to just one Ciara Lucey free in the second half.

Una O'Donoghue scored 0-5 for last year's beaten All-Ireland finalists. Rachel Maloney chipped in with 0-4 after making the move from wing forward to full forward and Emer O'Sullivan bagged 0-3. Orla Cotter scored Cork's goal two minutes from time to add gloss to the final scoreline.

Meanwhile, beaten Division 1 league finalists Galway recorded a 4-18 to 1-6 victory against newcomers Limerick.

Tipperary got their Gala championship campaign off to a perfect start with a 2-12 to 2-10 victory against Division 1 league champions Kilkenny.

Meanwhile the Cork intermediate side fell 3-6 to 1-16 to a stronger Derry side.



Una O'Donoghue: five-point tally for Cork.

Blitz is the perfect way to honour the late James Hurley

TWELVE teams head to Mallow this bank holiday weekend as the Cork Colleges host the ninth annual James Hurley Memorial U14 intercounty camogie blitz, which gets under way at 11am today (Saturday).

Teams representing nine counties will participate in a competition which commemorates the memory of the late James Hurley, who was a former chairperson of the Cork Colleges Committee and worked hard to promote colleges' camogie.

He sadly passed away seven years ago and the Cork Colleges Committee fittingly decided to honour his memory in the best way possible by promoting the game at the level where he worked so hard.

The competition is one which is looked forward to eagerly by players the majority of whom are secondary school pupils and they pencil in June weekend in their diaries for this prestigious event as it invariably signals the start of the school break.

The event has gone from strength to strength since its inauguration, when the then-chairman Hurley came up with the idea of organising a blitz and inviting teams from other counties.

When James passed away just 12 months later, after the first event had been such a success, his colleagues decided to honour his memory and name the competition after their former chairman. The trophy which the sides will compete for was presented to the colleges by the Hurley family and it commemorates a wonderful contribution for colleges camogie.

There will be two competitions, with teams representing Galway A and B, Clare, Tipperary A and B, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford A

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

and B Cork Colleges A and B, Dublin and Kerry all participating in games which will be played on a round-robin series. In total, four pitches will be in operation during the day with games on going to ensure the smooth running of the event. Over 360 girls will be representing their counties as they battle it out for honours and certainly it promises to be an enjoyable day for the young players.

Who will forget last year's epic event where Galway took the title, defeating Tipperary in an exciting final which went to extra-time to find a winner. Cork Colleges B team were victorious, defeating Galway B in the second final, while Carlow beat Kerry to take the plate.

Secretary of the Cork Colleges Board Rob Lott is eagerly looking forward to the event.

"It's hard to imagine another season has gone by and we ready again for this year's blitz. We have a change of venue as we head to Mallow for the first time and I know all participants are eagerly looking forward to a great day's camogie. A lot of hard work has gone into preparing all the teams and to our own Cork teams and their mentors goes a huge thanks for the many months of preparation they have put in. I have no doubt that they will be in the running come the final shake-up."

Rebecca Murphy from Christ the King captains the Cork Colleges A side with Jennifer Cahill of Fermoy captain's of the B panel. With the strength of the game in Cork, the county is fielding two strong panels and amongst the players in their line-out is Cork Féile na nGael skills winner Nicole O'Brien from Glanmire Community College and Glen Rovers.

Later in the month Nicole will represent

Cork at the National Féile Skills finals. Also on the Cork panel is Alison Peate, who will lead Cork Féile champions Douglas in the hunt for Féile national honours. Julie Mulcahy, Claire Shine, Tessa Crowley, Shauna Keniry and Edel O'Connell while Chloe Kelleher, Amy Murphy, Aisling O'Keeffe, Leeann O'Sullivan, Aoife O'Neill and Kate Doherty will be to the fore as the B panel battle it out to take honours.

Games commence at 11am with the finals scheduled for 2.30pm and certainly there will be plenty of future stars battling it out through the day.

Cork Colleges A panel: Saoirse Rodgers (St Patrick's), Tessa Crowley, Emma O'Donovan (Bandon), Roberta Harrington (Buttevant), Emily Phelan (Carrigaline), Shauna Keniry (Carrigtwohill), Sinead Dennehy, Katie Galvin, Aoife Twohill (Charleville), Shannon Dempsey, Ciara Hickey, Rebecca Murphy (C), Alison Peate (Christ King), Laura O'Callaghan (Clonakilty), Grace McDonnell (Col Choilm), Katie Healy (Clonakilty), Sarah Moloney (Dromcollogher), Jennifer Barry (Fermoy), Nicole O'Brien (Glanmire), Aisling Moloney, Julie Mulcahy, Chloe O'Callaghan (Kinsale), Alana Barry (Millstreet), Tia McMahon (Passage), Claire Shine (Regina Mundi), Edel O'Connell (St Aidan's), Ann Keohane (St Angela's), Donna Carroll (St Patrick's), Nicole Crean (St Vincent's).

Cork Colleges B panel: Kate O'Donovan (Carrigrohane), Julie Callanan, Orla Murray (Bandon), Emma Madigan, Karen Spratt (Buttevant), Shauna Bricli (Carrigrohane), Clodagh Duggan (Christ King), Claire Condon, Tessa O'Brien, Aoife O'Neill (Clonakilty), Edel O'Sullivan (Coachford), Laura Barry, Fiona Fitton (Col Choilm), Jennifer Cahill (Capt, Fermoy), Aoife Keating, Chloe Kelleher, Jenny McAuliffe (Kinsale), Marie O'Connell (Mallow), Roisin Culligan, Shauna Landers (Midleton), Kayleigh Sheehan (Millstreet), Amy Murphy (Mount Mercy), Amy Wilson (North Prest), Aoife Cummins (Scoil Mhuire), Aisling O'Keeffe, Leanne O'Sullivan (St Aidan's), Clodhna Byrne (St Aloysius), Sarah Attridge, Rebecca O'Mahony (St Patrick's).

Schedule of Games as Follows

Section 1: 11am, Cork A v Galway A; 11.30am, Wexford A v Galway A; 12.10pm, Wexford A v Cork A.

Section 2: 11am, Tipperary A v Clare; 11.30am, Clare v Dublin; 12.10pm, Tipperary A v Dublin.

Section 3: 11am, Cork B v Waterford; 11.30am, Waterford v Kerry; 12.10pm, Kerry v Cork B.

Section 4: 11am, Tipperary B v Galway B; 11.30am, Galway B v Wexford B; 12.10pm, Wexford B v Tipperary B.

Great day for Cork colleges in James Hurley event

A SUPERB double for the Cork colleges U-14 teams as both A and B sides took the honours at the James Hurley memorial tournaments in Mallow on Saturday last. All through the day 11 teams battled it out on the four pitches in the magnificent new Mallow complex.

In the A final, the Cork girls held the upper hand against a Tipperary side who battled hard but could never match the pace of the Cork girls. On a sun-drenched day that sapped the energy of the players, Cork recorded a quarter-final victory over Clare 3-5 to 0-3 before defeating Dublin to book their place in the final, while Tipp had a 2-7 to 1-11 quarter final win over Wexford before disposing of Galway in a tight semi-final with just

two points to spare, 3-4 to 2-5, and so the scene was set for the decider.

It was nip and tuck through the early stages as the sides battled it out in the glorious sunshine. Cork led 1-2 to 0-2 at the interval, a long range free from Clare Shine went

into the back of the net giving Cork the advantage after Shauna Keniry and Shine had pointed for Cork.

Tipperary kept in touch though with points from their midfield duo of Mikaela Graham and Teresa Ryan as through the

opening half they matched Cork stride for stride.

From the start of the second half Cork were focused and determined, and they stretched their lead thanks to points from Claire Shine, Julie Mulcahy and Shauna Keniry and a

superb goal from the impressive Shauna Keniry who took on the Tipp defence in an impressive solo run before billowing the net for Corks second goal.

Tipperary battled on with Mikaela Graham and Moira Ryan working hard, but they could find no way through the Cork defence where Tessa Crowley and Shannon Dempsey impressed.

Cork: S. Rodgers; E. O'Donovan, A. Peate, C. O'Callaghan; A. Barry, S. Dempsey, T. Crowley; J. Barry, J. Mulcahy; A. Twohill, R. Murphy. © S. Moloney; S. Keniry, K. Galvin, C. Shine.

Subs: A. Moloney for J. Mulcahy, S. Dennehy for K. Galvin, G. McDonnell for A. Twohill, E. O'Connell for S. Moloney, R. Harrington for T. Crowley.

Tipperary: A. Ryan, S. Gleeson, A. Cremin, G. Kelly; A. Darcy, C. Maher, C. Quirk; M. Graham, T. Ryan; Moira Ryan, M. King, R. Hanniffin, L. Mulqueen, M. Murphy, S. Friday.

Referee: John O'Leary, Mallow.

A SECTION

Cork 2-6 Wexford 1-2
Galway 3-3 Wexford 1-2
Cork 3-4 Wexford 0-3
Tipp 0-6 Clare 1-1
Dublin 1-5 Cork 1-1
Dublin 0-3 Cork 0-2
QUARTER-FINALS
Tipp 2-7 Wexford 1-1
Cork 3-5 Clare 0-2
SEMI-FINALS
Tipperary 3-4 Galway 2-5
Cork 3-5 Clare 0-3

B SECTION

Cork 0-2 Waterford 1-6
Waterford 3-7 Kerry 0-0
Cork 2-5 Kerry 0-2
Galway 2-4 Tipperary 2-2
Galway 2-4 Wexford 0-2
Tipperary 3-8 Wexford 0-3
SEMI-FINALS
Waterford 3-6 Tipperary 1-2
Cork 1-2 Galway 0-2

Cork B Waterford

4-4

3-3

DESPITE the scoreline, which suggests a tight finish, the Cork B side always held the upper hand in this B final with excellent displays from Orla Murray, Clodagh Duggan, Aisling O'Keeffe, Kate O'Donovan and Edel O'Sullivan they were always in control. Cork led at the interval 1-4 to 0-1 as Waterford found the going tough against a strong Cork defence who never put a foot wrong.

Cork had to endure anxious moments before securing their place in the final as they edged out Galway with just a goal to spare on a 1-2 to 0-2 scoreline, while Waterford had a good victory over Tipperary 3-6 to 1-2. Through the second half Cork kept the pressure on Waterford with Orla Murray and Amy Murphy bagging goals. Cork controlled proceedings, Waterford never gave up and battled hard. Zoe O'Donoghue impressing with three goals, while Clodagh Murphy was on hand picking three points, but despite their challenge Cork marched

with captain Jennifer Cahill as her side never relented in their quest for ultimate honours.

Cork: K. O'Donovan; A. O'Keefe, O. Brien, C. Duggan; A. Keating, S. Attridge, M. O'Connell, C. Condon, A. Cummins, E. O'Sullivan; J. Cahill (C), K. Sheehan, A. Murphy, O. Murray, K. Spratt.

Subs: J. Callanan for K. Spratt, E. Madigan for K. Sheehan, E. Barry for T. O'Brien, F. Fitton for A. Murphy, C. Kelleher for J. Cahill, R. Culligan for E. O'Sullivan, L. O'Sullivan for A. Keating, C. Byrne for A. Attridge, R. O'Mahony for A. Cummins, A. Wilson for C. Condon, A. O'Neill for A. O'Keefe.

Waterford: O. McAuliffe; R. Flood, K. Reddy, H. Lehan, M. Glavin, S. Prendergast, C. Murphy, S. Hallahan, C. Murphy, R. Tahery, A. Hannon, H. Drohan, A. Mc Carthy, R. Geoghegan, Z. O'Donoghue, C. Mc Carthy.



27 May 2008; President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard with Gary Desmond, CEO Gala and captains, from left, Emily Hayden, Tipperary, Marie O'Connor, Kilkenny, Louise O'Hara, Dublin, Mary Lacey, Wexford, Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Limerick, Sinead Cahalane, Galway and Sheila Burns, Cork, at the launch of the Gala All Ireland Senior & Junior Camogie Championships.