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Galway's top scorer Jessica Gill heads towards the Cork posts during the opening-half of Sunday's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. PHOTO: STEPHEN MCCARTHY/SPORTSFILE



# Galway attack fails to fire in final

Gallant effort by Tribeswomen undermined by forward struggles against Corkery inspired Cork

Cork 2-10  
Galway 1-8

STEPHEN GLENNON  
AT CROKE PARK

IN the end, that eighth and final step proved the longest stride of all – as Galway's bid to land a second All-Ireland senior camogie title fell just short against a Cork outfit still hurting from the pain of decider defeat 12 months previously.

Having negotiated almost every other obstacle in senior camogie this year – and successfully mastered the seven steps on route to the 2008 All-Ireland final – Galway discovered that when it comes to taking that eighth step you need pretty big boots.

When they finally pluck up the courage to look back at this fiercely competitive decider – played in front of a modest Croke Park attendance of 18,727 last Sunday – the Galway ladies will realise the outcome of this game could have been so different.

For how many times have we seen it, that old adage of goals win matches? And that's what this contest really came down to at the final whistle. Simply, Cork made the most of their chances, while Galway both spurned and were denied gilt-edged opportunities at the other end, particularly in the second period.

The first of a trio of chances arrived on 36 minutes when a Jessica Gill sideline cut was fielded brilliantly by her Athenry team-mate Therese Maher in the Cork penalty area. Within moments, Maher was on the deck and referee Eamon Browne had his arms outstretched for a penalty.

On most days, Gill would have blasted the effort to the back of the Cork net and

beyond. However, in keeper Aoife Murray, Gill found an equal, with the Cork custodian repelling the dead ball strike to keep her side's 2-5 to 1-6 advantage intact.

By the 56th minute, Cork had nudged a little further ahead, 2-9 to 1-8, but Galway could and should have cut this four-point lead to a single point when wing-back Niamh Kilkenny, now operating at midfield, cut like a scissors through fine silk and dissected the Leesiders rearguard.

A deft touch inside found Veronica Curtin in front of the posts, but at the last second the ball spilled from her grasp and the opportunity was lost to her – but not to Galway. In the ensuing play, Gill was onto the breaking ball, however she was unable to guide her subsequent effort between the posts – her blistering shot tearing up the side netting.

While Cork sharpshooter Rachel Moloney converted a free on the stroke of full-time to put the victors into a 2-10 to 1-8 lead, Galway still didn't lose heart. Two minutes into the four of injury-time, substitutes Catriona Cormican and Deirdre Burke combined, with Burke's strike looking net bound.

Again, though, Murray was equal to the task with the Cork 'keeper pulling out a top-drawer save to deny the St. Thomas' attacker.

Three gilt-edged opportunities and no score to show for it. In many respects, this was the tale of woe of the Tribeswomen's attack on a whole, with not one Galway forward raising a flag of any description from play on the day.

In contrast, the Cork offensive unit made the most of their opportunities, especially in the first half. Although the Tribeswomen began well, with



Galway corner forward Brenda Kerins comes under pressure from Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan at Croke Park on Sunday.

Gill converting four placed balls in the opening nine minutes, Cork had secured a 1-3 to 0-4 lead by the 19th minute. The Leesiders' opening goal arrived midway through the half, when Sile Burns raced onto a breaking ball and placed her shot superbly beyond Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner.

Within five minutes, hero Burns pounced for her second after the Galway defence – which otherwise had a very solid afternoon – failed to clear their lines. The wily corner forward made no mistake in bringing her championship

total to 5-10.

No doubt, these two goals ultimately proved the difference, although credit to the Galway girls for bouncing right back into contention before the half-time break. Trailing 2-3 to 0-5, the Tribeswomen certainly needed something to haul themselves back into the contest.

They got the break they so badly yearned for four minutes before the interval when a speculative long range shot from midfielder Aine Hillary eluded 'keeper Murray and dropped to the back of the Cork net. This left just the min-

imum between the two finalists at the break – 1-5 to 2-3 – and Galway were still very much in the hunt for their first All-Ireland senior title since 1996.

In truth, this scoreline reflected the nature of the first half. For the most part, Galway had kept the exchanges tight, with the likes of Ailbhe Kelly, Ann Marie Hayes, Sinead Cahalan and Kilkenny handling a great deal of ball in this period. Sandra Tannion and Therese Manton were also toiling diligently in the corner back positions.

Indeed, despite the conces-

sion of two goals, both goalkeeper and defence acquitted themselves well against a Cork outfit that had players who have this amazing gift of appearing out of nowhere to get a hook, block or score.

This was underlined in the opening volley of the second half when midfielder Orla Cotter popped up to add a long range point to a Moloney 52nd minute free to put Cork 2-5 to 1-5 ahead.

Gill responded with a free, following a foul on Kilkenny, but then was unable to convert that 36th minute penalty which would have secured the

Tribeswomen the lead.

In the ensuing 10 minutes or so, Gill then traded scores with Moloney to leave the Westerners chasing a 1-8 to 2-8 deficit. That said, the Munster outfit's lead could have been greater had Earner not pulled off quality saves from the raiding Amanda O'Regan on 49 minutes and Una O'Donoghue on 52 minutes.

As it was, Cork – inspired by Murray, Gemma O'Connor and Player of the Match Brieghe Corkery – did add two points to their tally through Moloney, while Galway failed to register any further score in the final quarter.

It was a disappointing end to a Galway campaign that reached so many highs along the way. Indeed, the progress Galway has made under the management team of Liam Donoghue, Damien Coleman and Anne Broderick this year has been significant and should not be blemished by this All-Ireland defeat.

For in the space of 12 months, Galway have gone from perennial challengers to genuine championship contenders and if this squad can show the same level of improvement next season, then, the O'Duffy Cup, tied up brightly in maroon and white ribbons, will finally cross the Shannon for only the second time in the Association's history.

Certainly, the management team of Donoghue, Coleman and Broderick left no stone unturned in their preparation, while the commitment and dedication of the 25 players in returning Galway camogie to the hallowed ground of Croke Park was second to none.

All involved will also have learned a great deal from last weekend's experience. Cork have lived in Croke Park on the second Sunday of Septem-

ber for the past decade or so and this was reflected in the manner in which their more seasoned campaigners responded to the big occasion.

Remember, these were also proud players left scarred by the 2007 All-Ireland final defeat to Wexford. There was never likely to be any complacency on their part heading into this contest – particularly given Galway had already defeated them in the round robin section of the championship.

These vital attributes, namely experience and hurt, Galway can now bring to the table next year. It will still take a massive effort, but with a settled squad and the right motivation they can return and go one better.

Of course, by reaching the All-Ireland final, Galway have not only raised the profile of camogie within the county but also restored a great deal of pride in the jersey. That alone should entice a number of able players from around the county back into the Galway set-up come January.

For now is the time to drive on. This is not simply the end, but only the end of the beginning. There are happier and greater days ahead for this ever improving and youthful Galway side. And a lot more steps to stride.

Galway: S. Earner; S. Tannion, A. Kelly, T. Manton; A.M. Hayes, S. Cahalan, N. Kilkenny; A. Hillary (1-0), S. Noone; M. Dunne, T. Maher, V. Curtin; O. Kilkenny, J. Gill (0-8, 0-7 frees, 0-1'45), B. Kerins. Subs: L. Kavanagh for Dunne (H/T); D. Burke for Kerins (58 mins.).

Cork: A. Murray; L. O'Connell, C. Foley, J. O'Callaghan; G. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, S. Hayes; O. Cotter (0-1), B. Corkery (0-1); A. O'Regan, U. O'Donoghue, E. O'Sullivan (0-1); S. Burns (2-0), R. Moloney (0-7, 0-4 frees, 0-2'45), E. O'Riordan. Subs: E. O'Farrell for O'Riordan (H/T); R. Buckley for O'Connell (40 mins.); L. Dorgan for O'Regan (56 mins.).

Referee: E. Browne (Tipperary).

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# Galway camp dejected over loss to Cork

Team captain Cahalan and coach Coleman insist they will be back despite post All-Ireland gloom

STEPHEN GLENNON

THEY did their county proud, yet Galway's senior camogie players couldn't help but feel they had let the jersey down. That was the measure of belief the Tribeswomen had heading into their All-Ireland showdown with Cork. They never entertained the notion that they might lose.

Galway captain Sinead Cahalan had, understandably, a despondent look on her face. She, along with her team-mates, had given it their all, and still came up short. The post mortem began.

"I can't believe we are in this position. We never considered losing all year and it is just heartbreaking to be where we are now," said Cahalan. "I suppose, you have to take the positives out of it. We have gone a step closer than we have before and the average age of the team is quite young.



Galway goalkeeper Susan Earner is distraught after her team's defeat to Cork.

So that is on our side as well. Please God our day will come yet."

For many, Galway's championship race seemed to have been run heading into injury-

time. Cork, inspired by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, wing-back Gemma O'Connor and midfielder stroke sweeper Briege Corkery, had closed up shop. Yet, Cahalan never lost hope.

"Even down to the last minute, I was just thinking we are still going to win, we are going to get a goal from somewhere. We still thought we would get a goal like we did in the semi-final. It just didn't happen on the day and we didn't get the lucky break. It is pure heartbreak," continued the 22-year-old Mullagh player.

"I suppose, we have had our ups and downs the last few years. This year we met on the fourth of January and put in 91 training sessions this year altogether. That doesn't count all the work we put in on our own.

"It is unreal. It just shows what it takes to win it - it takes everything - and still

when you give it everything you still have to come out feeling like this. People are telling us we have to lose one to win one. I suppose so. I think we are definitely a step closer to achieving our goal."

Indeed, that has to be the greatest positive of all. Galway now know what it takes to get to Croke Park and, to be honest, this side was not all that far away from the winning post last Sunday.

"It was brilliant to play on the big day," said Cahalan. "I would give anything to play again on the big day in Croke Park - to get to another All-

Ireland final. So would all the rest of the girls.

"There are some unbelievable players on this team and some may feel they did not play to their full potential, even though everyone gave a good display. Some of them do feel like that, however, and they will want to right that again next year. They want to get it right for next year."

Coach Damien Coleman expressed similar sentiments, noting the management and players did believe they left the game behind them to a certain extent. "There are no blame games, though. Those

players are serious girls and they gave us a massive commitment all year.

"The whole county got behind them and they have given the clubs and the County Board something that hasn't happened in our county for so long. So they deserve every credit for their efforts. Maybe, sometimes you have to feel these feelings before you come out the right side. So this will harden our group of players. They are a young panel, they are very self-motivated and they will be back.

"It didn't happen for some of our players out there today and, naturally, they are going to be very disappointed. Nobody, though, goes out in an All-Ireland final to underperform. So we will stick together. It is easy to stick together in victory but it is a real test of character to stick together in defeat. This will define this team," believed Coleman, who also wished to pay tribute to the County Board and the clubs for their support.

Meanwhile, Cork captain Catriona Foley said her side had paid heed to the lessons they had learned in their All-Ireland final defeat to Wexford last year, insisting that the pain and hurt of that loss was the primary motivation behind their successful bid for a 23rd O'Duffy Cup title on Sunday.

"We all knew what had to be done," beamed Foley. "We were in the same situation last year. We were up against an inexperienced team in that it was Wexford's first time in Croke Park and it was the same with Galway this year.

"Also, Galway had beaten us earlier in the championship as well, with a late goal in that one, and that wasn't going to happen today. We made sure of it," insisted Foley.

Indeed, the Rockbawn full-

back said they felt nothing but relief at the final whistle, Foley highlighting that with players of the calibre of Veronica Curtin, Therese Maher and Jessica Gill - who finished the championship with an impressive total of 6-48 - the Cork defence could not afford to relax at any time.

"It was so tense there for the last 10 minutes. Then, when you have four minutes of injury-time left, with the likes of Jessica Gill and Veronica Curtin inside, you can't take your eye off the ball for a second.

"Jessica has been a very good asset to Galway all year, but she didn't score from play today. I think that is credit to the awesome defence of the Cork backline," stressed the Rebel.

Cork manager Denise Cronin also paid tribute to the defence, and particularly goalkeeper Aoife Murray. She exclaimed: "Aoife Murray was outstanding. She had put her hand up in the dressing-room at half-time and was very disappointed with the (Galway) goal that went in.

"We know she is one of the best players in the country; she is one of the best keepers around. I think she proved that out there. She brought off three point blank saves. You might talk about a lot of people, but the only reason we are celebrating today is because of Aoife Murray.

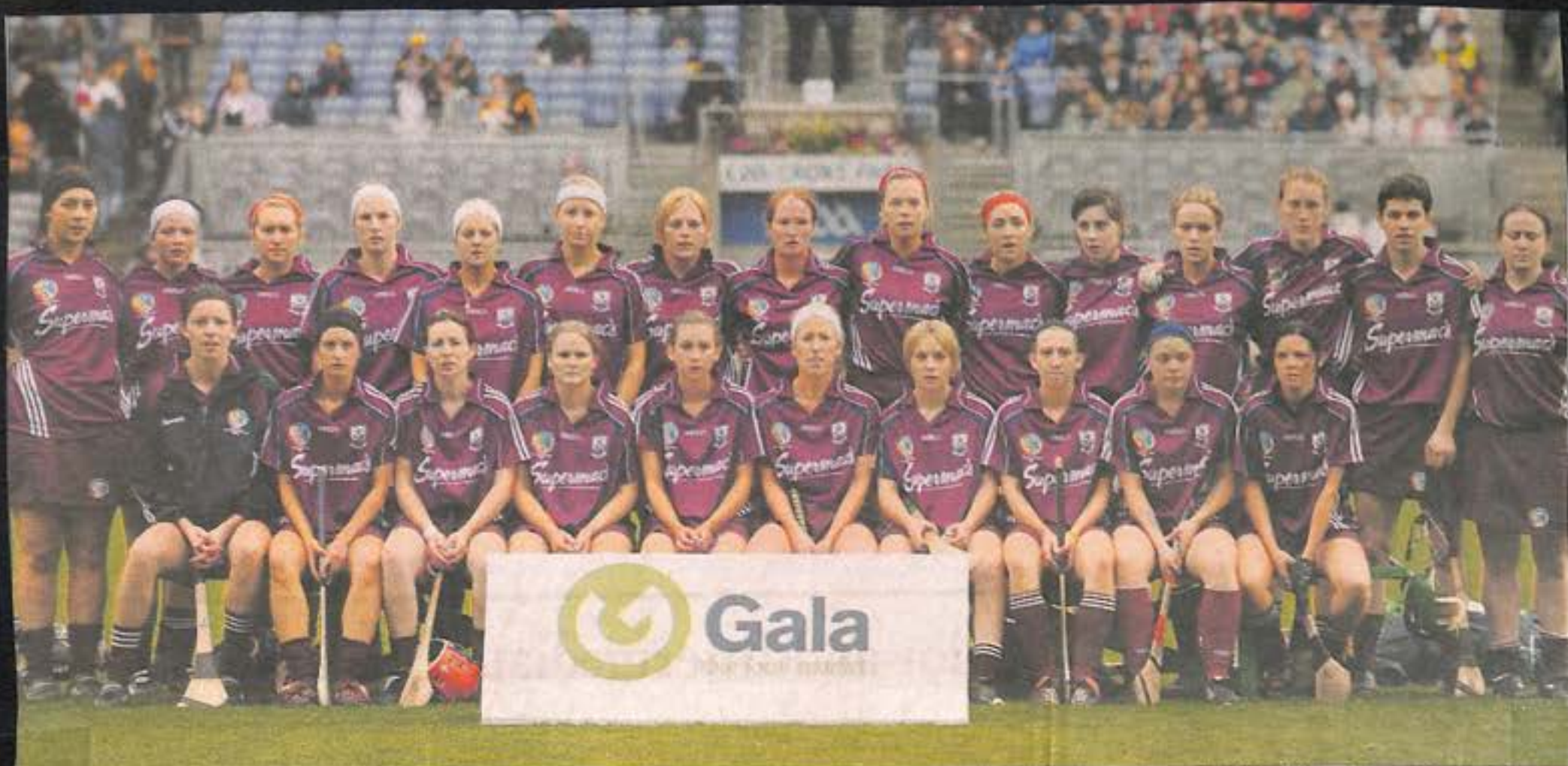
"Galway, though, were always going to be very tough. We played them earlier on in the year and they have some exceptional players. You could see that out there today. They have great team play and a great team plan. I suppose, once Cork got into the swing of things, we took over and got two goals very quickly, which knocked them back on their feet," concluded the Cork manager.



Galway defender Sandra Tannion contests this high ball with Cork's Sile Burns during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

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The Galway senior camogie squad which lost to Cork in Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. Back row, left to right; Jessica Gill, Clodagh Glynn, Therese Manton, Therese Maher, Veronica Curtin, Aine Hillary, Susan Earner, Sarah Noone, Sarah Dervan, Catriona Cormican, Paula Kenry, Lorraine Ryan, Ailbhe Kelly, Ann Marie Hayes, Lizzie Flynn. Front row; Lourda Kavanagh, Deirdre Burke, Sandra Tannion, Brenda Kerins, Niamh Kilkenny, Sinead Cahalan, Molly Dunne, Orla Kilkenny, Caroline Kelly, Susan Keane.

# Lack of cutting edge proves Galway's downfall as noble showing goes unrewarded

JOHN MCINTYRE

MIDWAY through the opening-half of Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final, Galway were four points to one ahead, enjoying the lion's share of possession and carrying the battle to Cork, but already you could sense that they wouldn't be quite good enough in the end.

Apart from Cork gradually finding their stride, it was Galway's utter inability to make their territorial advantage count which was most alarming. Four points from Jessica Gill's placed balls were poor reward for their dominance and ambition... and it would come back to haunt them.

The Galway attack failed to make any real headway and their failure to land a solitary score from play was nothing short of disastrous. It was bad enough that such key forwards as Veronica Curtin, Therese Maher and Gill -

apart from her wonderful accuracy from frees - were below form, but three clear-cut goal chances in the second-half weren't availed of either.

Of course, the tenacity, tackling and covering of the Cork rearguard was exceptional with wing back Gemma O'Connor leading their resistance, but Galway for all their industry and commitment just didn't possess the necessary cutting edge and penetration up front.

Two opportunist goals from Sile Burns not alone wiped out Galway's early advantage, but powered Cork into a four point lead by the 20th minute. That must have been a devastating turn of events for the Tribeswomen, especially as their half-back line of Ann Marie Hayes, Sinead Cahalan and Niamh Kilkenny had started the match with real conviction.

In fact, only for a somewhat

fortunate goal from Aine Hillary in the 26th minute, Galway would have been in dire trouble, but that score kept the destination of the O'Duffy Cup up for grabs and also gave them a platform from which to build on the resumption.

Cork, however, were now forcing the pace. Briege Corkery was a real dynamo around midfield, but they had an escape in the 36th minute when Gill's well struck penalty effort was expertly parried by their fearless goalkeeper, Aoife Murray.

The Athenry teenager had a second goal chance when the ball fell to her after Curtin took her eye of a perceptive Niamh Kilkenny pass, but Gill blazed her effort wide of the near post in the 56th minute at a stage when Cork had forged 2-9 to 1-8 ahead.

Basically, that was game over for Galway, but they admirably, but they kept driv-

ing forward and only a breath-taking reflex save from Murray denied substitute Deirdre Burke a consolation goal in injury time. Five points they fell short at the finish, but Galway can be proud of a noble effort.

Obviously, a number of players will be disappointed that they didn't exert a bigger impact on the game, but that may have something to do with the quality of opposition. Niamh Kilkenny was probably their top performer, but goalkeeper Susan Earner and Therese Manton were both excellent too.

Galway camogie has come a long way in the past few months and at both senior and intermediate level, their teams weren't far away from ultimate honours. Naturally, the final part of the journey and capturing silverware remains the most difficult but, at least, the organisation, pride and spirit is back at local level.



CHAMPIONS: Cork captain Catriona Foley

RIGHT: On the double... Cork ladies footballers Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery and Rena Buckley, who also won an All-Ireland camogie medal two weeks ago, during their homecoming on the South Mall last night.



Cork ladies footballer Rena Buckley with her cousin Bishop John Buckley during their homecoming on the South Mall. Picture: Eddie O'Hare





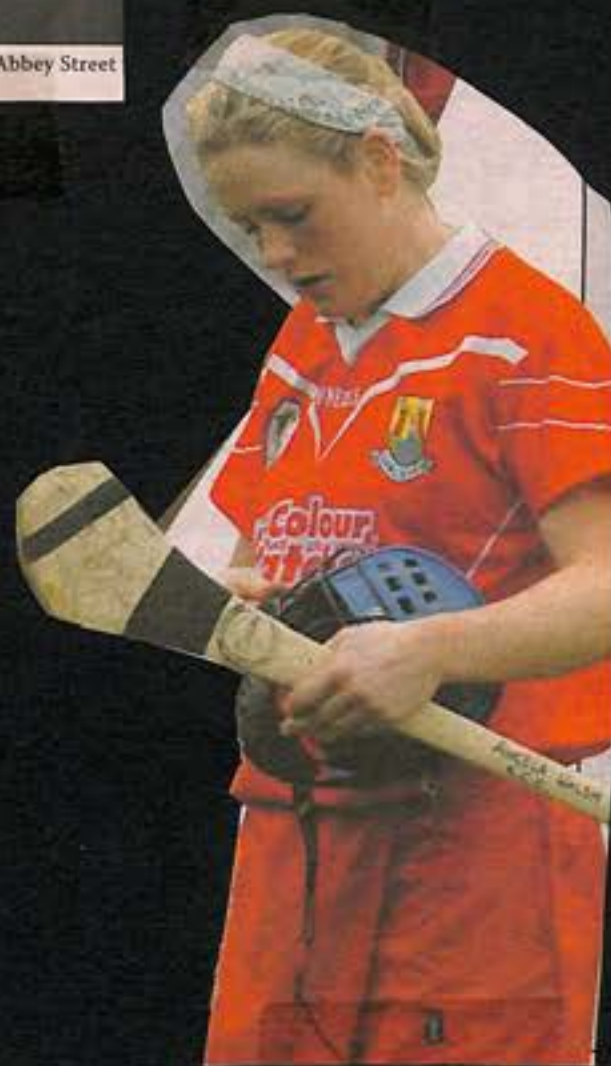
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All-Ireland Junior camogie winners from left: Laura Linnane, Deirdre Murphy, Sharon McMahon, Aine O'Brien and Claire McMahon parade up Abbey Street homecoming reception at the Square on Monday night. Eamon Ward



Sile Burns and Catriona Foley in jubilant form in their home town of Carrignavar as the Cork senior camogie team arrive following their All-Ireland Final win over Galway in Croke Park on Sunday.

PICTURE: DAN DEARY



Angela Walsh

#### Down Senior camogie final replay

Ballycran 0-14 Clonduff 0-11

Ballycran bridged a 39 year gap to collect only their third Down Senior camogie title in sunny Portlaffery on Saturday – but they needed extra time in an exciting replay to see off holders Clonduff. With Liatróin Fontenays dominating Down Camogie with 16 straight victories 1991-2006, both these teams had tasted constant frustration in county finals and neither wanted to waste the opportunity presented by Clonduff's semi-final win over the 26 times champions.

The Ards' side played with the aid of the first half breeze and led by 0-7 to 0-2 at the break with two points each from their most influential players on the day Jenny McHugh and Catherine McGourty. Clonduff edged their way back into contention and five unanswered points – two frees from Fionnuala Carr and three in a row from Paula Gribben – put them a point up with five minutes to play.

Nicole Braniff held her nerve to equalise and, after Lorraine Maginn had hit a late Clonduff point, she brought the tie to extra-time with an injury-time free.

Niamh Birt and Fionnuala Carr exchanged points on the re-start, but two McGourty frees and another free from Braniff triggered great scenes of celebration for the Ards' team.

Ballycran: Clara McCarthy, Sabrina McCullagh, Brid McGratten, Audrey Kelly, Charlene Fitzsimons, Nuala Mallon, Emma Keith, Jennifer McHugh 0-2, Naomi Morgan, Niamh Birt 0-2, Catherine McGourty 0-5, Suzelle Johnston, Mary Gilmore 0-1, Nicola Branniff 0-4, Laura Hughes.

Subs: Jenny Fowler for H Gilmore, Paula Hughes for C Fitzsimons, Danielle Toner for N Mallon.

Clonduff: Guineira McGiligan, Grace Brown, Moya Maginn, Andrea McCuskey, Debra Murray, Fionnuala Carr 0-3 frees, Lorraine Maginn 0-1, Leah McParlan, Clara Havern, Lisa McPolin 0-1, Sara Louise Carr 0-2, Orla Maginn, Megan O'Reilly, Paula Gribben 0-3, Kitty Fegan 0-1.

Subs used: Orla Gribben, Karen Gribben.

St Patrick's Maghery and St Maclessa's Garron Tower are the first winners of the new Ulster Colleges' season. Both made it through to represent the province at the All-Ireland Sevens' Tournament in Dublin on October 11th as a result of their victories at the MUSA blitz at the weekend.

Holders Maghery got off to a slow start with a draw against Cross & Passion Ballycastle, but improved to win their remaining games, while Ballycastle slipped up to St Mary's Magherafelt in their final game.

Garron Tower were impressive in winning through at their first attempt, with captain Maeve Connolly and top-scorer Ashling Ward catching the eye.

Meanwhile in the Fr Davies' Cup St Patrick's Keady and Assumption Ballynahinch played out an entertaining draw 2-7 to 3-4.



# Briege adds another title to her collection



Finbarr McCarthy presents the 96FM & C103 FM GAA Sports star of the Month award to Briege Corkery, Cork camogie and ladies footballer in the company of L to R: Jerry O'Sullivan vice-chairman, Cork Co Board, Mick Dolan, chairman do, Shay Livingstone, GM Rochestown Park Hotel, Kieran McGeary, CEO Cork 96FM & C103FM, Marion McCarthy, chairperson Cork camogie board, Frank Murphy secretary, Cork Co Board, Gobnait Ni Laoi, camogie board, Tom Luddy, Cork ladies football and Gina Reidy at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Tony O'Connell

**CORK CAMOGIE and Ladies Football dual star Briege Corkery** was presented with the 96FM/ C103 Cork GAA Sports Star of the month award for August in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel this week.

It was an exciting month for the live wire dual star, as Briege helped both Cork teams into their respective All-Ireland finals, in fact the two semi-finals were played within 24 hours of each other, and Briege was

excellent on both days.

Since then of course the Camogie title has been won and Briege was named player of the match in that great win over Galway and next Sunday she will play in the Ladies Football Final against Monaghan.

Mick Dolan, chairman of the Cork County Board congratulated Briege.

"I was privileged to be in Croke Park last Sunday to witness that great display by Briege and her colleagues and hopefully that they can go on now to complete the double on Sunday."

Shay Livingstone General Manager

of the Rochestown Park Hotel said: "We are delighted to be honouring such a wonderful exponent of both camogie and ladies football as Briege is an exceptional talent and hopefully before the year is out many more honours will come her way."

Briege took it all in her stride and said she was delighted to be honoured and hoped that next Sunday would go well and complete an exciting few months for all involved.

Frank Murphy and Jerry O'Sullivan represented the Cork County Board while Kieran McGeary and Leah

Fagan of 96 FM were in attendance along with Marion McCarthy, chairwoman of the Cork Camogie Board. Tom Luddy chairman of the Ladies Football Board was also present.

Jim McCarthy coach to the camogie team was in attendance along with stars of that great victory Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray, Rosalie Holland, Linda O'Connell and team captain Catriona Foley with the O'Duffy Cup, while Eamonn Ryan and Jim McEvoy of the Ladies Football management were on hand to congratulate Briege.

## BALLINSPITTLE LADIES WITH CAMOGIE CUP



Cork camogie player Rachel Moloney, Courcey Rovers, who was the Rebels' top scorer in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday, pictured with her sister Ashling Moloney and Jane Louise Condon of Ballinspittle, when they returned to Cork with the O'Duffy Cup this week.

(Photo: Donagh Glavin)



# Barrs make it three finals on trot



St Finbarr's Rachel Myers and Ballygarvan's Susanne Lynch tussle for the ball in their Evening Echo Senior Camogie semi-final in Ballinlough.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

St Finbarr's  
Ballygarvan

5-12  
2-8

ST FINBARR'S are through to their third final in as many years after disposing of Ballygarvan in Ballinlough yesterday.

The winning margin doesn't do justice to Ballygarvan's endeavours but five goals sealed their fate, three of which came in the first half.

It was a thundering opening 15 minutes. Ballygarvan were rampant and had three points on the board inside seven minutes. Players such as Suzanne Lynch and Christina Murphy assumed a leadership mantle up front where typically it would have been left to Catriona Kelly.

Emer Dillon was winning and sending in a lot of ball from the middle of the field. Leading 0-4 to 0-1 after nine minutes Ballygarvan had St Finbarr's on the rack.

But how long would Ballygarvan would be able to sustain such intensity? They were rocked in the 13th minute when, after working so hard, they found their lead wiped out with an Orla O'Sullivan goal.

Gemma O'Connor ran 50 metres, her long high delivery was collected by O'Sullivan who turned her marker and there was goal written all over this before the ball was even struck.

A Vivienne Harris free had the Barrs in front against the run of play midway through.

Suzanne Lynch hit her third point to draw level again but the next five



LINDA MELLERICK

minutes almost sealed Bally's fate as the Barrs struck for another two goals and Trish Doyle cleared off her line to deny Bally a certain comeback.

It was Harris who hit the Barrs second, a pass across the square bypassing several players before it fell into her path only metres from goal. Next was Bally's miss before Orla

O'Sullivan again hit the net. A long Harris free was batted out and O'Sullivan picked and blasted past the crowded goalmouth.

Trailing by six points at the break 3-4 to 0-7 was harsh on Ballygarvan but goals win games and St Finbarr's were getting them in abundance.

While Emer Dillon pointed within 30 seconds of the restart the Barrs grew stronger in general play. Jenny Duffy played well throughout, Gemma O'Connor once again was a driving force and Vivienne Harris had the proverbial blinder both from play and placed

balls, finishing with a personal tally of 2-10.

The Barrs pushed into a 3-8 to 0-8 lead after 10 minutes. When Catriona Kelly goaled with 18 minutes remaining one felt that Bally might just make a game of it but three Harris points, two from play, put three goals between the sides again and time was running out.

Substitute Aishling Byrne goaled again for Ballygarvan 24 minutes in, but it was to be their final say for the afternoon.

St Finbarr's weren't taking any chances even with a substantial lead. A Jenny Duffy clearance, caught by Natasha Varian, was passed perfectly to the running Harris. Racing 40 metres into a one on one situation with O'Neill she finished to the net. From the puck out the Barrs won a 60-metre free and O'Connor's drive went all the way to the net to record their fifth goal and a gruelling finish for Ballygarvan.

**Scorers for St Finbarr's:** V Harris 2-10 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), O O'Sullivan 2-0, G O'Connor 1-1 (1-0 f), J Duffy 0-1.

**Ballygarvan:** C Kelly 1-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), S Lynch 0-3, A Byrne 1-0, E Dillon 0-2, C Murphy 0-1.

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Clifford; C Myers, M McCarthy, T Doyle; R Myers, L O'Connell, C Barrett; G O'Connor, J Duffy; N Goulding, V Harris, B Maher; N Cooke, O O'Sullivan, C Spellman.

**Subs:** N Varian for N Cooke (45).

**BALLYGARVAN:** A O'Neill; M Hallahan, A Moynihan, S A O'Halloran; J Browne, S O'Donovan, N Hallahan; E Dillon, V Browne; C Murphy, C Kelly, S Lynch; D Daly, A Murphy, L Browne.

**Subs:** K O'Sullivan for M Hallahan (27), A Browne for D Daly (41), A Byrne for K O'Sullivan (45).

**Referee:** John O'Leary (Mallow).



St Finbarr's Gemma O'Connor holds off Ballygarvan's Valerie Brown during their game semi-final in Ballinlough.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

## Bishopstown just run out of steam

and Luby fired home 2-3 without reply.

Rockbán were grateful for the accuracy of Burns who pointed two frees to put four points between the sides.

Then Burns' long-range effort ended up in the net to extend the Rockbán lead they looked to have weathered the storm.

The Glen girls rallied again and two Luby frees kept them within striking distance with four minutes remaining. However, Rockbán finished the stronger with Ciara Colman grabbing an injury time goal to seal victory.

● An Aisling O'Brien goal on the stroke of full-time gave Ballinhassig the points in close fought battle

with Valley Rovers in Belgooly.

Never allowing Valleys settle, Ballinhassig led 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval.

Valleys began to gain a grip but Ballinhassig never allowed them out of sight and a Deirdre Coomey effort helped Ballinhassig stay in contention.

Clodagh Fleming kept them in the

game with a superb last-minute save to deny Valleys before O'Brien struck for the winning score in the final moments.

● In the junior B championship semi-final, Brian Dillon's booked their place in the final against Douglas when they overcame the challenge of a gallant Grenagh outfit.

## Walsh seals victory for Killeagh as

THERE were three games in the round-robin series of the Evening Echo B Championship over the weekend with Killeagh, Rockbán and Ballinhassig emerging winners.

● Killeagh and Bishopstown played out an entertaining opening half at the excellent Castle Road Camogie grounds pitch in Blackrock but

By MARY NEWMAN

Evening Echo Senior B Championship round-up

Killeagh led 2-5 to 0-6 at the break thanks to goals from Angela Walsh and Gillian Cunningham.

Bishopstown kept in touch through the accuracy of Maebh Scannell and Eileen Foyle but

Killeagh upped the pace after the re-start. Noelle O'Donovan, Claire Keohane and Stephanie Beausang added points and a third goal from Angela Walsh sealed victory as Bishopstown failed to add to their first half tally.

● Rockbán made all the early running and led by 2-4 against the Glen, thanks to goals from Elaine Casey.

Sinead O'Halloran grabbed a Glen goal with Denise Luby adding a point but it was Rockbán led 3-7 to 1-2 at the break, with Sile Burns and Sarah Coleman also on target.

The Glen girls began the second half in determined mood and inside 15 minutes had eaten into Rockbán's lead. Just two points separated the sides as Sinead O'Halloran

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## Falvey is on song as Magner clinch title

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Castlemagner 1-9  
Castleyons 2-3

CASTLEMAGNER are the first club to lift a county camogie title at the county board's new grounds in Blackrock after their Evening Echo Junior C win over Castleyons.

Captain Susan Falvey led by example, scoring 1-4 of her side's total, but it was by no means a one player show as Rose Twohig, Eibhlin Gaynor and Eleanor Twohig all worked hard to ensure success.

Their defence were superb, particularly in the second half as they held Castleyons scoreless despite numerous attacks.

Seventeen minutes into the contest Marie Wilson kicked Castleyons into a two-point lead after a close opening quarter where the sides were evenly matched.

Five minutes later Emily Sexton goaled and Castleyons were five ahead. Castlemagner kept the pressure on and two pointed frees from Falvey cut the deficit before Emily Sexton pointed on the half-time whistle for a 2-3 to 0-5 lead.

The opening quarter of the second half saw both defences on top and we had to wait 11 minutes before Falvey pointed a free to cut the Castleyons' lead to three and Rose Twohig had two between the sides on the 20th minute.

Castlemagner won a sideline ball with four minutes left, Cliona Healy found Falvey who got her goal to give them a one-point lead.

Now a point ahead they set about consolidating their lead. Then First half sub Imelda Vaughan struck an excellent point before Rose Twohig pointed deep into injury-time.

**Scorers for Castlemagner:** S Falvey 1-4 (0-2f, 0-1 45), R Twohig 0-2, L Coughlan, I Vaughan, G Finn 0-1 each.

**Castleyons:** E Sexton 1-2 (0-1f) M Wilson 1-0, N Barry 0-1.

**CASTLEMAGNER:** K O'Callaghan; U Twohig, J Twohig, M Keefe; C Healy, E Gayer, R Twohig; M Twohig, M Finn; G Finn, Eleanor Twohig, L Coughlan; Y Coleman, S Falvey, C Kiely. **Subs:** I Vaughan for C Kiely (25), Ella Twohig for Y Coleman (50).

**CASTLEYONS:** Michelle Barry; Mairead Barry, E Phelan, S O'Connell; A O'Sullivan, N Barry, M O'Sullivan; C Carroll, M Murphy (c); M Mc Atter, A O'Brien, S O'Shea, M Wilson; E Sexton, I Fenton.

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





St Finbarr's Orla O'Sullivan closes down Ballygarvan's Jennifer Browne in their Evening Echo Senior Camogie semi-final in Ballinlough. Picture: Cillian Kelly

Douglas 1-20  
St Catherine's 1-10

**FOREWARNED** is to be fore-armed.

Anyone thinking debutants Douglas are not serious title contenders this season could not possibly have been in Ballinlough yesterday.

St Catherine's settled quicker than they did in the drawn encounter. They matched Douglas for intensity and with both sides launching attacks the defences were busy. It was the Douglas back six who had the lion's share of the work to do, testament to Catherine's good start. But Louise O'Regan was in the thick of the action and eased the pressure for the City side.

Katrina Mackey, who was outstanding over the hour, opened and finished the day's scoring. Her first point after two minutes was matched with an Orla Cotter free. The resultant puck out went straight to Cotter again and delivering inside to Denise Twomey Catherine's went ahead.

Two Douglas free's, one a magnificent Amanda O'Regan trade mark from 80 metres, and another Cotter free had the side's level again eight minutes in.

A minute later Julia White gave Douglas a lead they would never relinquish. Flicking the ball from a crowded melee White pulled fast and sharp giving goalkeeper Denise Leahy no chance.

# Douglas show championship credentials

By LINDA MELLERICK  
Cork Co Senior Camogie

While Cotter pointed again the remainder of the half belonged to Douglas. They dominated most sections of the pitch. While Catherine's did create opportunities they were regularly crowded out by a disciplined defence in which Moira O'Donovan controlled.

Point after sweet point was struck by Douglas, some of the striking sublime. Douglas's speed, epitomised by a superb Pamela Mackey run, their vision and intelligent team work on showroom display!

Two minutes to the break, with the score standing at 1-10 to 0-5, Orla Cotter won two important high balls at midfield yielding two points and it gave Catherine's hope. But these were cancelled out with another Mackey special and

Rachel O'Sullivan point.

Catherine's got a good start to the second half, Orla Cotter again pointing. But they just couldn't contain Douglas. Amanda O'Regan had a storming second half and broke Catherine's hearts.

They didn't have enough firepower up front and throughout the pitch found it difficult to halt Douglas's running game.

Katrina Mackey ran riot scoring a further six points, four from play, to add to her first half tally of six. Julia White once again caused havoc as the game became shooting practice.

St Catherine's never gave up and a good individual Finola Neville goal two minutes from time was justly deserved.

In truth Catherine's can have no complaints. They were beaten by a better team and that is that bit easier to take rather than leaving the

game behind you.

Douglas march on to the semi-final while St Finbarr's, already through to their third final in a row, await the winners.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-12 (0-11, 0-2 45), J White 1-2, A O'Regan 0-2 (0-1), E Morgan 0-2, M Harkin, R O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-6 (0-3), 0-1 45), F Neville 1-1, Denise Twomey 0-3.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney, E Morgan, A O'Regan, L O'Regan, P Mackey, H O'Mahony, J White, M Harkin, K Mackey, A O'Donovan, E Jordan, R O'Sullivan.

**Sub:** S Long for F McSweeney (45).

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, H Lane, Y O'Neill, L Power, O Neville, O Cotter, F Cotter, L Higgins, M Daly, M O'Keefe, F Neville, D Twomey, Deirdre Twomey.

**Sub:** J Hurley for L Higgins (44).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).

## LADIES IN RED Cup of joy



Mallow mayor James Kennedy greets Michelle Brown, member of the All Ireland Winning Cork Camogie Team on the platform of Mallow Railway Station on Monday evening with her sister Lauren, Regina Curtin and Elaine Riordan from Milford, members of the victorious Cork Team. Photos by Gerry Murphy

## Championship round up

DOUGLAS booked their place in the Evening Echo senior championship semi final as they defeated St Catherine's in their re-played quarter final clash on Sunday last, St Finbarr's advanced to the final when they proved to strong for Ballygarvan when the side met in the semi final at the same venue on Sunday last. In the Senior B championship a strong second half display earned Killeagh the points at the expense of Bishopstown, Rockban had to withstand a strong sec-

ond half comeback from Glen Rovers before they secured the points in their clash while a goal with the second last puck of the game gave Ballinhassig the points in their outing against Valley Rovers. In the Evening Echo Junior "A" section play off Newtownshandrum recorded a victory over Tracton, while in the Evening Echo Junior B championship Brian Dillon's advance to the final with a victory over Grenagh.

## Semi final clash

**CHAMPIONS** Muskerry meet Douglas in the second semi final of the Evening Echo Senior county championship on Saturday at 12 noon a venue to be confirmed, on the same evening in the Senior B

championship a vital game for Ballinhassig and Carrigaline at 5pm in Ballygarvan. In the junior shield semi final Ballygarvan and Ballincollig met at 5.30pm on Saturday a venue to be confirmed here.





St Finbarrs Rachel Myers and Ballygarvan's Susanne Lynch face off in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie semi-final in Ballinlough. Picture: Cillian Kelly

## Barrs have the edge

**St Finbarrs** 5-12  
**Ballygarvan** 2-8

ST FINBARRS booked their place in the Evening Echo senior champions final as they defeated Ballygarvan in an exciting contest. Ballygarvan led by three points inside seven minutes and with Emer Dillon dominant around mid-field they had opening up a 0-4 to 0-1 inside 10 minutes. Thirteen minutes in Orla O'Sullivan had the St Finbarrs girls on level with a goal and a Vivienne Harris pointed free had the Barrs in front against the run of play by the midway stage. Suzanne Lynch had the sides level before the Barrs hit a purple patch.

Inside five minutes they struck for two goals, Vivienne Harris finding the net before Trish Doyle denied Ballygarvan a certain goal before Orla O'Sullivan blasted past the crowded goalmouth to the net. Barrs led 3-4 to 0-7 at the break.

Emer Dillon pointed within 30 seconds of the restart, but the Barrs extended it to 3-8 to 0-8 inside 10 minutes. Ballygarvan gave it everything, and when Catriona Kelly goaled with 18 minutes remaining they were granted a lifeline but three Harris points again put three goals between the sides.

Substitute Aishling Byrne goaled for Ballygarvan but St

Finbarrs finished stronger with goals from Vivienne Harris and Gemma O'Connor to march on to the final where they will Muskerrey or Douglas

**St Finbarrs:** E Clifford; C Myers, M McCarthy, T Doyle; R Myers, L O'Connell, C Barrett; G O'Connor, J Duffy; N Goulding, V Harris, B Maher; N Cooke, O O'Sullivan, C Spellman. Subs: N Varian for N Cooke (45). Scorers: V Harris 2-10 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), O O'Sullivan 2-0, G O'Connor 1-1 (1-0 f), J Duffy 0-1.

**Ballygarvan:** A O'Neill; M Hallahan, A Moynihan, S A O'Halloran; J Browne, S O'Donovan, N Hallahan; E Dillon, V Browne; C Murphy, C Kelly, S Lynch; D Daly, A Murphy, L Browne. Subs: K O'Sullivan for M Hallahan (27), A Browne for D Daly (h-t), A Byrne for K O'Sullivan (45). Scorers: C Kelly 1-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), S Lynch 0-3, A Byrne 1-0, E Dillon 0-2, C Murphy 0-1.

**Referee:** John O'Leary (Mallow).

## Douglas edge out St Catherines

**Douglas** 1-20  
**St Catherines** 1-10

DOUGLAS advanced to the semi-final of the Evening Echo senior championship and set themselves up for a meeting against holders Muskerrey as they defeated St. Catherines in this quarter final replay.

This time Douglas made no mistake with their 1-16 from play telling the story of a superb display. Katrina Mackey and Orla Cotter swapped early points, but it was Julia White who gave Douglas a lead they held to the finish

when she whipped the ball quickly past the St Catherines defence to finish to the net. Orla Cotter replied with a point, but Douglas took over and they were full value for their 1-12 to 0-7 interval lead.

Catherines got a good start to the second half as Orla Cotter pointed, but they failed to match a rampant Douglas who had Amanda O'Regan in superb form, while Katrina Mackey stood tall striking six points four from play, to add to her first half tally of six, while Julia White was also dominant.

St. Catherines never gave up Finola Neville grabbed a goal with two minutes remaining but it was Douglas who triumphed.

**Douglas:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney; E Morgan, A O'Regan, L O'Regan; P Mackey, H O'Mahony; J White, M Harkin, K Mackey; A O'Donovan, E Jordan, R O'Sullivan. Subs: S Long for F McSweeney (48). Scorers: K Mackey 0-12 (0-11 f, 0-2 45), J White 1-2, A O'Regan 0-2 (0-1 f), E Morgan 0-2, M Harkin, R O'Sullivan 0-1 each. **St Catherines:** D Leahy; F Noonan, N Mulcahy, H Lane; Y O'Neill, L Power, O Neville; O Cotter, F Cotter; L Higgins, M Daly, M O'Keefe; F Neville, D Twomey, Deirdre Twomey. Subs: J Hurley for L Higgins (44). Scorers: O Cotter 0-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), F Neville 1-1, Denise Twomey 0-3. **Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).

## Muskerrey hold slight advantage

**TOMORROW**  
Evening Echo Senior Camogie  
Championship semi-final  
Muskerrey v Douglas  
Castle Road, Blackrock, noon

THE LATTER stages of a championship season is always exciting because the best are left and the clashes typically excellent, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

Expect nothing more than a truly exciting hour of camogie in the Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Blackrock tomorrow as championship newcomers Douglas take on title holders Muskerrey in this year's semi-final.

Muskerrey's scoring tally throughout the championship is daunting — 12-43 in just three outings. Their toughest assignment was against Milford in the quarter-final where many felt they might get caught.

However, they answered the doubters and weathered a tough challenge to advance 3-13 to 1-12.

Of course Sile Burns and Catriona Foley are the backbone of this team and big displays from them will be required. But Linda Dorgan revels in club championship and will also prove troublesome for Douglas. Add in Denise Cronin, Margaret O'Herlihy, Elaine Casey and Alana McKenna and Muskerrey are well poised.

This will be a running game, dictated by Douglas. Amanda O'Regan should be given the task of marking Burns. If Sile gets two goals in two minutes, as she is very capable of doing, then Douglas will fight an uphill battle.

The Douglas defence is strong and hunt in packs. Louise O'Regan and Moira O'Donovan are having a good season.

At the other end of the field Siobhán Gleeson and Leah Weste will have to work hard and assist Catriona Foley in stemming the onslaught from Julia White and Katrina Mackey, who are in riveting form. Pamela Mackey at centre-field will also drive forward.

Muskerrey possibly have the greater physical strength throughout and have the experience of last year's County championship title behind them.

However, if Burns is contained I feel this could be Douglas's greatest hour.

I'm not comfortable making a prediction on this one, but all elements considered, I'll tip Muskerrey to advance. But only just!

**Verdict:** Muskerrey.

## Douglas decisive in divisional downfall

**Douglas** 4-6  
**Muskerrey** 1-7

THE fairytale continues, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

Douglas dethroned holders Muskerrey and advanced to their first senior county camogie championship final in an enthralling encounter in the Camogie Grounds, Blackrock on Saturday.

The game met expectations, and a 60-second spell in the first half saw two Douglas goals finally seal holders Muskerrey's fate.

The game began at an immense pace with Muskerrey stronger.

Catriona Foley and Leah Weste started well for the divisional side. Jessica Kavanagh looked confident in the Douglas goal and Pamela Mackey did well in battles with star forward Sile Burns.

Margaret O'Herlihy scored Muskerrey's opening point on three minutes. Scores were scarce but it was end-to-end hurling.

With 13 minutes gone Amanda O'Regan hit a huge long-range free into the Muskerrey goalmouth. The defending block was met by Maria Harkin, who pulled first time to the net.

Within a minute a second goal came, almost a mirror image of the first. Another long range torpedo from O'Regan looked to be sailing to the right of the post.

Muskerrey defenders stood back to let it wide but Emma Jordan blocked on the end line and guided the ball into net.

At this point Douglas were gaining momentum. Amanda was excellent and it was noteworthy that Muskerrey moved Sile Burns to half-forward in a bid to escape Pamela Mackey.

Douglas's Jessica Kavanagh was having a stormer. Two Katrina Mackey points (one a free) were matched by Margaret O'Herlihy and a Burns free. Douglas led 2-2 to 0-3 at the break.

Catriona Foley did all she could to revive Muskerrey in the second half, scoring two great points. However with 13 minutes gone Douglas stretched their lead to six points. There seemed no way back for Muskerrey after an fine effort from Rachel O'Sullivan hit the net a minute later.

Muskerrey continued to persevere. Sile weaved through to goal and Foley hit a second point. But when Kavanagh burst off her line to deny Linda Dorgan a certain goal it signalled the end.

The final say fell to Julia White who rocked the net a minute into injury time. Douglas now meet St Finbarr's.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-5 (0-2 f), M Harkin 1-1, E Jordan, R O'Sullivan, J White 1-0 each.

**Muskerrey:** S Burns 1-2 (0-2 f), M O'Herlihy 0-2, C Foley 0-2, L Dorgan 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney; E Morgan, A O'Regan, L O'Regan; P Mackey, H O'Mahony, E Jordan, R O'Sullivan, A O'Donovan.

**Sub:** J O'Donovan for S O'Regan (h-t).

**MUSKERREY:** C O'Connell; K McCarthy, S Gleeson, L Murphy; C McKenna, C Foley, L Weste; M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan; D Cronin, A McKenna, E Casey; S Burns, M Howard, M O'Herlihy. **Sub:** C McNeely for M O'Donoghue (20).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyheal).



Galway defender Therese Manton is pursued by Cork's Amanda O'Regan during the opening-half of the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday. PHOTO: STEPHEN MCCARTHY/SPORTSFILE.



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Cork camogie captain Catriona Foley, Cork ladies football captain Angela Walsh, and dual players Mary O'Connor and Briege Corkery, four of the seven dual stars who won the double-double in 2006. Picture: Ger Bonney

## Douglas reach first final

**Douglas** 4-6  
**Muskerry** 1-7

DOUGLAS booked their place in the Evening Echo senior championship final when they proved too strong for champions Muskerry.

Two goals from Douglas set the foundations for their victory and advance to their first senior county final, but it was Muskerry's Margaret O'Herlihy who opened the scoring with a point after three minutes.

On 13 minutes, Amanda O'Regan's long-range free into the Muskerry goalmouth was put into the back of the net by the former Tipperary star Maria Harkin. A minute later they struck for a second

goal as another long-range ball from O'Regan deceived the Muskerry defence and looked to be going wide before Emma Jordan blocked on the end line and found the net. Two Katrina Mackey points were replied to by Herlihy and a Sile Burns' free as Douglas led at the break 2-2 to 0-3.

With 13 minutes gone Douglas had stretched their lead to six points, and a goal from Rachel O'Sullivan looked to have the result sealed but a Burns goal and a point from Catriona Foley had them back in the game. Jessica Kavanagh denied Linda Dorgan a certain goal with a great save and when Douglas swept up field Julia White

blasted to the net a minute into injury time to see Douglas through to meet St Finbarrs in the county final, which will be played under lights in Páirc Uí Rinn on October 10.

**Douglas:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, P Mackey; F McSweeney, A O'Regan; L O'Regan; H O'Mahony, E Morgan; J White, M Harkin, K Mackey; E Jordan, R O'Sullivan, A O'Donovan. **Scorers:** K Mackey 0-5 (0-2 ft), M Harkin 1-1, E Jordan, R O'Sullivan, J White 1-0 each. **Subs:** J O'Donovan for S O'Regan (h-t).

**Muskerry:** C O'Connell; K McCarthy, S Gleeson, L Murphy; C McKenna, C Foley, L Weste; M O'Donoghue, L Dorgan; D Cronin, A McKenna, E Casey; S Burns, M Howard, M O'Herlihy. **Subs:** C Meeney for M O'Donoghue (20). **Scorers:** S Burns 1-2 (0-2 ft), M O'Herlihy 0-2, C Foley 0-2, L Dorgan 0-1.

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyhea).

## Douglas book final spot

A FIRST for Douglas as they confidently brushed aside defending champions Muskerry to booked their place in the senior camogie championship.

The game was played at the county boards magnificent new camogie grounds at Castle Road Blackrock. Goals proved crucial in this clash and it was Douglas who grabbed them as they set the foundations for their victory.

Muskerry's Margaret O'Herlihy opened the scoring with a point after three minutes but Douglas struck back in the thirteenth minute when Amanda O'Regan's long range free into the Muskerry goalmouth was connected on by former Tipperary star Maria Harkin lining out this season with the Douglas club and she made no mistake sending the ball to the net. A minute later Douglas struck for a second

goal again a long range ball from O'Regan deceived the Muskerry defence and looked to be going wide but Emma Jordan blocked on the end line and found the net. Two Katrina Mackey points were replied to by Margaret O'Herlihy and a Sile Burns free as Douglas led at the break 2-2 to 0-3.

With thirteen minutes gone Douglas had stretched their lead to six points and a goal from Rachel O'Sullivan looked to have the result sealed but a Sile Burns goal and a point from Catriona Foley had them back in the game. Jessica Kavanagh denied Linda Dorgan a certain goal with a great save and when Douglas swept up field Julia White blasted to the net a minute into injury time to see Douglas advanced to meet St. Finbarrs in the county final.

## Historic county final

HISTORY will, be made on Friday October 10th when for the first time a senior camogie county final will be played under lights in Páirc Uí Rinn on Friday October 10th. This will be a historic night for Cork camogie and certainly if

the camogie served up in all the games in what has been a superb senior championship to date continues we will be in for a treat. Followers are urged to come along on the night and support the final and make it a night to remember.



Pupils at Scoil Iosagain, Blarney gave Cork Senior Camogie players Amanda O'Regan and Sile Burns a great welcome when they brought the O'Duffy Cup to the school. Picture: Mike English

## Cats look to young stars

by Therese O'Callaghan

ANN DOWNEY is offering her younger players the opportunity to step up to top grade camogie in Kilkenny by naming a relatively young team to play Cork in the Gala All-Ireland intermediate championship final in McDonagh Park tomorrow. The 12-times All-Ireland winner, who will be patrolling the sidelines in Nenagh, says "the door is always open" to join the senior panel.

The Cats won the senior National League earlier this year, but it is their all-conquering minor team (completed three-in-a-row All Ireland titles) that grabbed most of the headlines.

Leann Fennelly, Collette Dormer and Ann Marie Phelan starred on those teams and will feature in the Kilkenny defence, while Lucinda Gahan and Laura Kavanagh will spearhead the attack.

Downey says: "The two games in the semi-final against Galway were very tough. We showed great character to come back in the replay. However, we can't let ourselves fall six points be-

hind Cork. This is going to be a battle where we will have to win every position."

Meanwhile, Cork's Lucy Hawkes and Julia White are seeking double All-Irelands having picked up senior medals as panellists three weeks ago. Cork, who lost to Limerick in last year's decider, can call upon the experience of many of these players — Gillian Harrington, Regina Curtin, captain Marie Corkery, Marion Jagoe and Maria Watson.

Corkery is high-flying Briege's older sister. "I'm very proud of her, and her achievements. I suppose what I admire most about her is how she takes it all in her stride."

Cork defeated a highly-rated Derry side in the All-Ireland semi-final. If they can re-produce that form they will be hard to beat.

**KILKENNY:** A M Lennon; L Phelan, E O'Shea, L Fennelly; S Long, C Dormer, A M Phelan; D Gaulie, J Reddy; L Kavanagh, L Gahan, C Ryan; M Brennan, A Fahey, C Aylward.

**CORK:** G Harrington; A M Fleming, S Gleeson, C O'Neill; M Walsh, L Hawkes, R Curtin; J Lynch, M Corkery; J White, N Dithworth, M Watson; C Kearney, M Browne, M Jagoe.

## Championship finals

COMPETITIONS are drawing to their conclusion and on Saturday Castleyons and Castlemagner contest the Junior C championship final at 4pm venue to be decided also on Saturday Clonakilty and Sarsfields meet in Brinney in the Evening Echo junior A championship semi final at 3pm. At under age level on Saturday in Coachford at 2pm Courcy Rovers

meet Ballygarvan in the Under 16 B championship semi final while Eire OG or Kilbrittan meet Ballinas-carty in the Under 16 C final. On Sunday at the same venue Douglas and Valley Rovers meet in the Under 14 A league final at 10.30 and this is followed by the Under 14 D final between Barryroe and Castleyons at 12.30.





Cork camogie intermediate players Jennifer Lynch, Marion Jagoe, Ann Marie Fleming and Evelyn Ronayne with Kieran Barry of their sponsors, the New Furniture Centre.

# Cork aim to top a great season

**SUNDAY**  
McGrath Cup All-Ireland  
Intermediate final,  
Cork v Kilkenny,  
McDonagh Park, Nenagh, 2pm  
**IT'S the grand-finale on Sunday as the curtain comes down on the inter-county camogie scene, and it is another big day for Cork.**

The intermediate team will be striving to make it a double by bringing the McGrath Cup to Leeside when they take on Kilkenny in McDonagh Park Nenagh.

It has been a good campaign for the Cork girls who lost just one game in the round-robin series to last season's All-Ireland junior champions Derry, but Cork showed their class three months later when the sides met at the semi-finals stage.

Cork enjoyed a good league campaign, missing out narrowly on qualifying for the final, but they bounced back to take the Munster intermediate crown and went on to turn in excellent displays in the championship against Wexford Galway, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

The opponents on Sunday lost only one game in the round-robin series and that was to Cork, while

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

they drew with Galway, they went on to have two further meetings with Galway in the semi-final. In the replay, they were five points down at half-time but showed plenty of character and fought back and outscored their opponents 2-3 to 0-2 in the second half.

No doubt the two games against Galway will stand them in good stead but they will be concerned that just two players Aine Fahy and Claire Aylward contributed all of their scores on the day. They will be looking for a greater return from their inside line against the Cork defence.

The Cork side have gone about their business quietly and without fuss living in the shadows of the senior team and the excitement of the O'Duffy Cup success. Now that the senior title is secured the lime-light is on the intermediate side and the pressure is on to make it a historic double.

Their semi-final meeting against Derry was a tough hard-fought battle, but in the finish they did enough to secure their place in the final.

Trailing at the interval 1-2 to 0-2 they also had to come from behind

to ensure victory and they had to dig deep to get a result, but lifting their game with an excellent second half display they shook off the Derry challenge.

Again the accuracy of Michelle Browne was vital to Cork, and the Mallow freetaker has been very much to the fore throughout the campaign, while players such as Marie Watson Marian Jagoe and Julia White have performed well.

When the sides met in the round robin series, the outcome of the game was of little consequence as both sides had their places in the semi-final secured before a ball was struck.

While Cork held the upper-hand from the throw-in and picked off early scores, they will be wary reading too much into the performance by Kilkenny, as certainly they did not play to their full potential, which was very evident from their subsequent semi-final displays.

On the day Kilkenny simply looked to be just going through the motions as their challenge faded early in the game. Cork never took their foot off the pedal and one has to wonder if this was a true reflection of the home's strength, or were they holding something in reserve safe in the knowledge that their semi-final spot was secured?

Earlier in the round-robin series

the Cats had been clocking up huge scores in all their outings, but a determined Cork side held Kilkenny to just 0-4.

The Cork defence has been superb all through and players of the caliber of Regina Curtin and Lucy Hawkes have shown tremendous leadership while young minor players Christine O'Neill and Maria Walsh have grown in stature as the season progressed.

Down through the years Cork and Kilkenny have been huge rivals.

In recent years Kilkenny have returned to the top at underage level, their annexing of four All-Ireland U16 and three minor titles in a row speaks volumes for the work being put in, but still they strive to take an adult championship.

Their senior team were crowned national league champions, but the disappointment at their failure to make it to the senior semi-finals was huge.

They will be determined to stop Cork bid for the double, but given the form to date from both sides Cork will go in as favourites.

They will need to stamp their authority on the game from the throw-in and set the pace from the start and not allow Kilkenny time to settle if they can do this victory is well within their reach.

Verdict: Cork

## Thornhill eager to stand by guarantee

By MARY NEWMAN

Coach talk

**EARLIER** in the season, on June 1 to be precise, new Cork coach Bobby Thornhill refused to lose hope after his side had lost narrowly to Derry in the first game of the round-robin series.

"Watch this space and watch this team," he commented at the time, "We have a long way to go and we will be ready and there come All-Ireland final day, I can guarantee you that."

Four months on, and with just three days to go, his charges have indeed made it to the final and Thornhill is maintaining his confident outlook.

"At the start of the championship campaign we set out to win every game in our group and despite losing the first game we settled down, and went on to win all of our remaining games. The girls have done everything we have asked of them, preparations have gone well and we are ready and looking forward to Sunday."

Bobby feels the Kilkenny side that Cork defeated earlier in the season will be a changed one this weekend. "The day we played them in Kilkenny it definitely was not a true reflection of the strength of their team and we know they will be way stronger for the final. "It will be a 50-50 game and the team that wants it most will win it."

He was impressed by the Kilkenny fightback against Galway as they booked their place in the final. "Kilkenny stood up to a strong Galway challenge and booked their place in the final after a replay and they will be up for this one have no doubt."

Bobby knows Kilkenny will be determined to create their own bit of history by taking their first intermediate title. "We know Kilkenny well and the fierce tradition they have. Having defeated us in the minor and U16 championship they will be out to stop Cork doing the double, but we are equally as determined and it will take a good team to deny us this one."

## PATHS TO THE FINAL

### CORK

Cork 3-6 Derry 1-16  
Cork 2-10 Wexford 1-5  
Cork 3-17 Tipperary 0-0  
Cork 1-17 Galway 2-4  
Cork 2-12 Kilkenny 0-4

### KILKENNY

Kilkenny 1-11 Tipperary 1-9  
Kilkenny 3-12 Derry 1-9  
Kilkenny 4-12 Wexford 2-7  
Kilkenny 3-8 Galway 3-8  
Kilkenny 0-4 Cork 2-12

### SEMI-FINALS

Cork 2-8 Derry 2-4  
Kilkenny 1-11 Galway 1-11  
Replay Kilkenny 2-5 Galway 0-9







OCT. 2008

# CUMANN CAMÓGAÍOCHTA NA NGAEL



## CLUICHE CEANNAIS NA HÉIREANN IDIRMHEÁNACH 2008

### CILL CHAINNIGH V CORCAIGH

MC DONAGH PARK, NENAGH. 2PM  
SU DEIREADH FÓMHAIR. 2008  
CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL • LUACH €3

*Sinead Ní Chonchúir*  
ARDSTIURTHÓIR GNÍOMHACH

## Corcaigh

Deary agus Binn



Back row (l-r): Katrina Mackey, Regina Curtin, Jennifer Lynch, Roisin de Faolte, Christine O'Neill, Michelle Browne, Marion Jagoe and Sinead O'Callaghan. Middle row (l-r): Noreen Mulcahy, Aisling Thompson, Claire Spellman, Julia White, Siobhán Gleeson, Charlotte Kearney, Maria Walsh, Liz Bugler, Rebecca Finn and Evelyn Raynane. Front row (l-r): Gillian Harrington, Marie Corkery (Capt), Denise Leahy, Maria Watson, Lucy Hawkes, Leah Weste, Ann Marie Fleming, Caroline Motherway and Trisha Murphy.

- (16) Denise Leahy  
D. Ní Laocha  
St. Catherine's
- (17) Noreen Mulcahy  
N. Ní Mhaolchathaigh  
St. Catherine's
- (18) Leah Weste  
L. Weste  
Ballincollig
- (19) Claire Spellman  
C. Ní Spealáin  
St. Finbarr's
- (20) Aisling Thompson  
A. Ní Thomáis  
Milford
- (21) Sinead O'Callaghan  
S. Ní Cheallaigh  
Ballinhassig
- (22) Katrina Mackey  
C. Ní Mhaca  
Douglas
- (23) Trisha Murphy  
T. Ní Mhurchú  
Janniscarra
- (24) Roisin de Faolte  
R. de Faolte  
Blackrock
- (25) Caroline Motherway  
C. Madaitha  
Dungourney

(1) Gillian Harrington G. Ní hArracháin Valley Rovers		
(2) Ann Marie Fleming A. M. Ní Fheicheallaigh Barryroe	(3) Siobhán Gleeson S. Ní Ghliassáin Éire Óg	(4) Christine O'Neill C. Ní Neill Courtney Rovers
(5) Maria Walsh M. Breathnach Ballyhea	(6) Lucy Hawkes L. Hawkes Valley Rovers	(7) Regina Curtin R. Ní Churtin Milford
(8) Jennifer Lynch S. Ní Loingsigh Traction	(9) Marie Corkery M. Ní Chorrora (Capt.) Cloughduv	
(10) Julia White S. de Faoite Douglas	(11) Niamh Dilworth N. Ní Dhúlaichra Iniscarra	(12) Maria Watson M. Ní Uall Milford
(13) Charlotte Kearney C. Ní Chearnaigh Na Piarasigh	(14) Michelle Browne M. Ní an Bhreithiún Mallow	(15) Marion Jagoe M. Jagoe Traction

Management Team: Sile Golden, Kathleen Healy, Willie O'Regan,  
Bobby Thornhill, Lillian Zinane.

## Cill Chainnigh



Front row (l-r): Emma Staunton, Sinead Kelly, Michelle Brennan, Jenny Reddy, Claire Ryan, Collette Dormer, Alison Walsh, Sinead Long, Hannah Maher. Middle row (l-r): Claire Aylward, Lynda Cotterall, Michelle Farrell, Mairéad Nolan, Laura Kavanagh, Leann Fennelly, Lisa Phelan, Sinead Brennan (Captain). Back row (l-r): Aine Fahey, Bronagh Neary, Grace Dunphy, Ann Marie Phelan, Elaine O'Shea. Missing from photo: Denise Gaule, Ann Marie Lennon and Lucinda Gahan.

(1) Ann Marie Lennon A. M. Ní Leannáin Blacks & Whites		
(2) Lisa Phelan L. Ní Fheolaigh Windgap	(3) Elaine O'Shea E. Ní Shé Windgap	(4) Leann Fennelly L. Ní Fhionnalaigh Mullinavat
(5) Sinead Long S. Ní Longáin Piltown	(6) Collette Dormer C. Ní Dhoráin Poultown	(7) Ann Marie Phelan A. M. Ní Fheolaigh Windgap
(8) Denise Gaule D. Ní an Chail Windgap	(9) Jenny Reddy S. Ní Roidigh Thomastown	
(10) Laura Kavanagh L. Chaoimhánach Uringford	(11) Lucinda Gahan L. Ní Ghacháin Mullinavat	(12) Claire Ryan C. Ní Riain Uringford
(13) Michelle Brennan M. Ní Bhraonáin Poultown	(14) Aine Fahey A. Ní Fhaothaigh Uringford	(15) Claire Aylward C. Aighleart Mullinavat

Manager: Ann Downey. Trainer: Paul Murphy.  
Selectors: John Lonergan, Noel Ryan, Marina Downey.

- (16) Emma Staunton  
E. Ní an Mhíle  
Poultown
- (17) Sinead Brennan  
S. Ní Bhraonáin (Capt.)  
Poultown
- (18) Bronagh Neary  
B. Ní Níoraigh  
Ballycallan
- (19) Hannah Maher  
S. Ní Mheachair  
Muckalee
- (20) Michelle Farrell  
M. Ní Fhearaill  
Thomastown
- (21) Sinead Kelly  
S. Ní Cheallaigh  
Blacks & Whites
- (22) Mairéad Nolan  
M. Ní hUalláin  
Freshford
- (23) Grace Dunphy  
G. Ní Dheanchaigh  
Ballycallan
- (24) Alison Walsh  
A. Breathnach  
Windgap
- (25) Lynda Cotterall  
L. Cotterall  
Tullagher



# Cats take crown as battling Cork denied

Kilkenny  
Cork  
by Therese O'Callaghan  
Nenagh

THIS was a gripping Gala All Ireland Intermediate camogie championship final at McDonagh Park in Nenagh yesterday, with victory eventually going Kilkenny's way after an extraordinary hour's action.

A devastating first-half performance which yielded four Kilkenny goals catapulted them into a seven-point lead at the break, 4-3 to 1-5. However, Cork powered their way back into contention to draw level

with five minutes left to play. But a goal two minutes into stoppage time from classy full-forward Collette Dormer decided gave Kilkenny their first McGrath Cup.

Full marks though to Ann Downey and her management team. They completely re-jigged their lineup from their semi-final replay over Galway, and it was these switches that effectively squeezed the life out of Cork. The Cats hit early and often, and with Dormer playing at full forward, instead of in her usual centre back berth, she bagged the Black and Amber's first goal on 10 minutes following a perfect pass from Michelle

Farrell.

Aine Fahy, who played at number 14 in the semi-final, started at corner back and this defensive area certainly weighed in denying the Cork attack time and time again. But it was their finishing that lit up the first period, underlined when top-scorer Claire Aylward struck after being set up by Michelle Brennan.

Lucinda Gahan established her foothold in the match five minutes after the break, sidestepping her way through for Kilkenny's third goal. And soon afterwards when Aylward again was alert to Gillian Harrington's rebound, Cork were

rocked and reeling. To their credit, though, they regrouped magnificently. Regina Curtin, who had a superb game, reverted to corner-back, and succeeded in tightening up this line.

When Niamh Dilworth netted Cork's goal a few minutes before the break, they had something to hang onto. In fact, if Cork had completed the astonishing comeback, a candidate for player-of-the-match would have been Michelle Browne, whose long range free taking was simply awesome — ten out of eleven placed balls. Unfortunately for the Mallow girl, the only one she missed —

albeit from a difficult angle — would have given her team the lead three minutes from time.

Cork had left themselves with a massive mountain to climb after conceding four goals in the opening half. But, it looked as if they might have won the battle striking nine points to Kilkenny's two during the second half. Julia White and Charlotte Kearney helping Browne with that tally.

But when the game was there to be won or lost, it was Kilkenny who excelled. A free from Denise Gaule 50 metres out on the touchline landed in the square, and when Dormer got her stick to the flight of the

sliothar, there was no more time for answers.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** C Aylward 2-3 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45m), C Dormer 2-0, L Gahan 1-0, D Gaule (free) and M Brennan 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Cork:** M Browne 0-10 (0-9 frees, 0-1 45m), N Dilworth 1-1, J White, M Watson and C Kearney 0-1 each.

**KILKENNY:** A M Lennon; L Phelan, E O'Shea, A Fahy; S Long, L Fennelly, A M Phelan; J Reddy, L Gahan; C Ryan, D Gaule, M Farrell; M Brennan, C Dormer, C Aylward.

**Subs:** L Kavanagh for S Long (40 mins), S Kelly for L Gahan (45), H Maher for C Aylward (50).

**CORK:** G Harrington; A M Fleming, S Gleeson, C O'Neill; M Walsh, L Hawkes, R Curtin; J Lynch, M Corkery; J White, N Dilworth, M Watson; C Kearney, M Browne, M Jagoe.

**Subs:** K Mackey for N Dilworth (48), L Weste for J Lynch (50), A Thompson for J M Jagoe (53).

**Referee:** A Lagrue (Kildare).

## Poor start proves to be costly for Cork

Kilkenny  
Cork  
5-5 By MARY NEWMAN  
1-14 Intermediate Final

**A DISASTROUS first-half display which saw them trail by seven points at the interval was the main factor in Cork's downfall yesterday in McDonagh Park, Nenagh.**

Kilkenny took advantage and captured their first Gala All-Ireland Intermediate championship title with a last gasp goal, two minutes into injury time.

In doing so they denied Cork a historic double of adult titles.

Kilkenny dominated in all sectors through the opening 30 minutes, but a brave Cork fight-back saw them control the second half to claw their way right back into contention to draw level with seven minutes remaining.

Again Kilkenny edged ahead, but Cork struck back and indeed had a chance to take the lead, but it was Colette Dormer who had the final say finishing Ann Marie Phelan's long range free to the net to give the Cats their third All-Ireland camogie crown in 2008 with the minor and U16 titles secured earlier in the season.

Goals win games and this was never more obvious than yesterday as Kilkenny availed of the chances they created.

Cork never looked to have enough strength up front to grab that crucial score when needed.

Also an over-reliance on the accuracy of Michelle Browne, who struck a superb tally of ten points from placed balls was never going to be enough and Cork needed more of an input from their forward division.

In the end they paid the price, but ultimately it has to be said their downfall was mainly due to a disastrous first-half defensive display.

Kilkenny were aided by the stiff breeze for the opening half and from the throw-in a physically stronger Kilkenny side used their

strength and never allowed Cork settle.

With their half-forward line drawing the Cork defence all over the place it allowed space inside for the lively Michelle Farrell and Michelle Brennan to cause problems.

It was young minor star Farrell who set up Denise Gaule for the games opening goal inside ten minutes.

Cork had made a good start with points from Marie Watson and Michelle Brown to lead 0-2 to 0-1, after Claire Alward opened the games scoring with a Kilkenny pointed free.

Farrell showed her pace as she drew the Cork defence before parting to the in running Denise Gaule, who made no mistake from close range.

Cork were justifiably aggrieved at having what looked a point from Niamh Dilworth long range strike disallowed by the referee after both umpires signalled a point, but Niamh Dilworth was on target with her next strike to which Claire Alward replied before Michelle Brennan set up the unmarked Claire Alward for Kilkenny's second goal.

As the Cork inside line lived on scraps Michelle Browne and Claire Alward exchanged points, but with their defence continuously under enormous pressure Cork conceded a third goal six minutes from the break.

Lucinda Gahan's long range effort deceived the Cork defence and finished in the net.

Cork struck back with a Niamh Dilworth goal, but from the puck out the Cork defence were again caught out as Claire Alward slipped inside to grab Kilkenny's fourth goal.

Michelle Brown pointed a Cork free on the half time whistle as Kilkenny led a 4-3 to 1-5 interval lead.

From the start of the second-half Cork showed marked improvement.

Two points inside the opening few minutes



Cork's Julia White shows her disappointment at the final whistle of the Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final against Kilkenny.  
Picture: Sportsfile

cut the lead.

Denise Gaule had a Kilkenny point in the fourth minute and from her on in it was all Cork and as their defence now beginning to get on top they began to play with more confidence.

Michelle Brown pointed four frees between the sixth and 12 minute as Cork's pace troubled a Kilkenny defence that were now struggling.

Continuing to apply enormous pressure Cork were on level with seven minutes remaining after Charlotte Kearney and Browne pointed.

Cork had chances to push ahead, but weakness in front of goal and a hesitance to shoot proved costly as the Kilkenny defence weathered attack after attack.

Ann Marie Phelan gave them breathing space with a pointed free, but Michelle Browne did likewise from the puck out for Cork to tie the game up for the second time in five minutes.

Again Cork searched for a winner and won a long range free, but heartbreakingly for Browne, who was superb all through her effort sailed narrowly wide.

With the game entering injury time a draw looked on the cards as referee Alan Lagrue signalled one minute to be added on.

Both sides battled for a winner and as the

game entered the second minute of added time we awaited the final whistle.

Cork battled to win possession but were penalised harshly 60 metres out on the wing.

Up stepped Ann Marie Phelan to strike the free and float a huge effort into the Cork square for Colette Dormer to pluck from the air and blast to the net.

The puck out brought the full-time whistle signalling heartbreak for a Cork side, who despite a disastrous start deserved at the very least a second bit of the cherry.

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** C Alward 2-3 (0-2 0-1 45), D Gaule 1-1, L Gahan, C Dormer 1-0 each, A M Phelan 0-1(f).

**Cork:** M Browne 0-10 (0-8f, 0-2 45), N Dilworth 1-1, M Watson, J White, C Kearney 0-1 each.

**KILKENNY:** A Lennon; L Phelan, E O'Shea, L Fennelly; S Long, C Dormer, A M Phelan; D Gaule, J Reddy, M Farrell, L Gahan, C Ryan; M Brennan, A Fahy, C Alward.

**Subs:** L Kavanagh for S Long (40) S Kelly for L Gahan (45) H Maher for C Alward (51).

**CORK:** G Harrington; A M Fleming, S Gleeson, C O'Neill; M Walsh, L Hawkes, R Curtin; J Lynch, M Corkery (c); J White, N Dilworth, M Watson; C Kearney, M Browne, M Jagoe.

**Subs:** K Mackey for N Dilworth (46), L Weste for J Lynch (50), A Thompson for M Jagoe (58).

**Referee:** Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

## Thornhill and Corkery are gutted after final loss

THE disappointment at losing an All-Ireland final was written all over the faces outside the Cork dressing room.

No more so than on the face of Cork trainer Bobby Thornhill.

"We are simply gutted to have lost out, I think we deserved at the very least a draw."

"We fought back superbly and were totally dominant in the second-half."

"We clawed our way back into the game after giving them a sev-

en point interval lead.

"To be honest we never played for the first half at all."

"I don't know was it nerves or what, but once we came in at the break we calmed down and said we were not going to go down like this."

"They played great in the second half, we drew level only for them to go back ahead, but again we came at them to level it once more."

"We were unlucky not to take

the lead with a minute to go and maybe if we got it we could have held out."

"We would have settled for a draw and to be honest I thought the time was well up when he signalled a free."

"It seemed a harsh call and they seized the opportunity and it was very unfortunate."

"We worked so hard for it to lose like this is a disaster, but I must thank our girls for the wonderful effort they put in all year."

"They certainly deserved more here today and really they deserved a second chance."

Cork captain Marie Corkery was also shattered by the loss.

"We are all shattered to be honest, we never played in the first half, but once we settled and began to play in the second half we had them under pressure," said Corkery.

"To be honest to score 1-14 and lose is so very disappointing, but goals are vital."

"They grabbed five today and really that sums it up they took every chance they got."

"When it was level and they went ahead and we levelled again I thought that was it, a draw would have been a fair result."

"I know we would not have allowed them the same start as we gave them today, but it was not to be and we are so disappointed after the huge effort put in by both the players and management to try and win it."



OCT 2008

## CLUB NEWS

### ST CATHERINE'S

ON SUNDAY last we travelled to Ballinlough to take on Douglas in the replay of our quarter-final championship game.

Having been lucky to gain a draw on the previous occasion we were hopeful that we would be successful this time. However, our hopes did not materialise as Douglas produced a powerful performance and beat us comfortably.

We started reasonably well and were just two points adrift after 15 minutes, however Douglas hit a purple patch and were to add nine points between here and half time while we pointed on three occasions. Douglas were again to dominate the second half and try as we might we had to give best to an excellent performance from the city side.

While our players were disappointed after the match they must be commended for their effort as they played to the best of their ability. Congratulations to Douglas on their victory and best of luck in their next game.

Team: D Leahy, F Noonan, N Mulcahy, H Lane, Y O'Neill, L Power, O Neville, O Cotter, F Cotter, L Higgins, M Daly, M O'Keefe, F Neville, Denise Twomey, Deirdre Twomey.

Subs: J Hurley for L Higgins, S Noonan, D Mulcahy, A O'Keefe, K Higgins, T Fitzpatrick, A Fitzgerald, A Mangan, C Hurley.

Scorers: Orla Cotter 0-6(4f), Denise Twomey 0-3, Finola Neville 1-1.

Our U16 team will play Ballinascorthy in the county semi-final of this competition. This game is scheduled to take place today in Coachford at 2pm.

The Aghern Graveyard Restoration Fund Duck Derby will take place tomorrow. We are delighted to be involved with this event again this year and we urge you to be as generous in your support as you always are.

### ST FINBARR'S

Congratulations to our senior team who played some great camogie to overcome Ballygarvan and reach the final of the Cork County Championship.

Scorer of 2-10, Vivienne Harris gave a virtual master class in the skills of the game.

The athletic Gemma O'Connor waltzed effortlessly through the opposition to clear ball and drive her team forward.

Orla O'Sullivan found the back of the net twice in the opening half to put the Barrs on the road to victory. Many others contributed significantly to the win. We stood at this point last season a good semi-final win over Cloughduv augured well for retaining our county title.

But there is no carry over from one game to the next we have to start at zero and build up for the next challenge. We learned to our cost that an impressive semi-final does not mean a good final. The work has to be put in and the attitude got right.

Our U11 team played Na Piarasigh in the final of the Seandún U11A last Saturday. Camogie's new grounds looked lovely in the sunshine as the sides took the field.

The Na Piarasigh side set about their business and went into the lead with some well taken goals. The Barrs improved in the second half and held their opponents to a single score.

While we had to concede to a better side, it was no fault of Kevea McCarthy, Clara Keating, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Haley O'Byrne and Sarah Robinson that victory did not come our way. The girls will learn from the experience and were delighted to receive runners-up medals.

### GLEN ROVERS

Our senior team turned in a great display against Rockban on Sunday last despite our opponents running out winners at the finish, the game was an exciting one where our girls battled to the finish to get themselves right back into the game with a whole hearted effort.

Our U14 team lost out to Valley Rovers in the county U14 "A" semi-final in a game where they never really got in to the swing of things, however with all of this team involved in either our first or second U16 team thoughts now turn to preparations for both league semi-finals. Our U13 team also get their games under way this weekend with games versus Blackrock and Na Piarasigh.

Our minor (U18) team have two games to play in their championship and we hope to play Killeagh on either Tuesday or Wednesday evening under lights in our own pitch players will be advised of this fixture when the time is finalised. On Saturday Oct 4th we will play Mallow in the Glen field in this competition.

Anybody that is available to help out with the county board collection tomorrow Sunday is asked to be in Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 2.30pm by the covered stand entrance.

Congratulations to the junior hurlers on winning the city championship on Tuesday last.

Well done to all our camogie girls who were recently on the television when they visited the RTE studios to participate in the 'Satellite' programme, thanks to Karen Kelly who organised the day and well done to all our participants who enjoyed the experience.

### TRAINING TIMES

Our young academy for beginners from age 6 upwards is on Sunday mornings at 11.45am and Tuesday nights at 5.45pm new members welcome to come along and join.

Compiled by MARY NEWMAN



## Linda Mellerick

# Douglas are the real deal this year

THE Cork County Senior championship is speeding towards its conclusion.

St Finbarr's are already through to their third final in-a-row while Muskerry and Douglas battle it out today to see who will pair them in this year's county final.

Everyone is aware of Douglas's phenomenal success at underage level, the club picking up All-Ireland Féile and underage championship medals like street league trophies.

Rarely does this success transform itself onto the senior stage, particularly in such a short period of time.

After a plethora of underage success Douglas won their first senior title in 2007, the Senior B championship.

With any club which makes the step up to the top flight, few took any real notice. Were Douglas tipped as serious title contenders last January? Not a chance!

Eight months later they appear in the semi-final facing champions Muskerry at noon today in the Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Blackrock.

Can they advance? Yes! I didn't see Douglas in action during their 2007 season. I didn't witness their defeat of Aghabullogue earlier in the championship.

But I was at their drawn quarter-fi-

nal game with St Catherine's in August. I was impressed that day but nothing prepared me for what I thought was a magnificent display in the replay last Sunday.

The standard was of a really high quality throughout. There are always players on club teams that will stand out, but Douglas have more than their fair share.

The quality of striking at times was out of the top drawer.

Their tally of 1-20, 1-16 of which was from play, is great scoring. The vision, teamwork and confidence on display were something you'd expect from seasoned campaigners. Douglas are seasoned campaigners, maybe not at senior level, but they are used to winning. And without the cockiness they have the swagger!

Even if 2008 isn't to be the year that Douglas place their club name on the 'Punch' Cup, it's not too far away.

We've said that before about various clubs who've enjoyed exceptional success at underage, but Douglas are different. They won't let up, the training won't stop. The cycle of players is continuing.

Mick O'Regan approached me after last Sunday's quarter-final triumph and jokingly told me to keep the lid on Douglas's talent. But I'm too impressed to keep quiet. And I can guarantee you that, even without assist-



Vivienne Harris was impressive for the Barrs in her side's semi-final win over Ballygarvan.

ance from me, word has already spread.

St Finbarr's were impressive in their semi-final win over Ballygarvan last Sunday.

Orla O'Sullivan is a serious goal scorer and if Vivienne Harris gets the ball and the room, she'll thrive. No doubt there will be a large contingent of Barrs players in Blackrock today.

The Cork Intermediate side play Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final next Sunday, October 5.

The Cork County Champions have to be formally notified to Munster Council by October 12th and this could prove tricky.

Twelve months ago Cork weren't represented in Munster as our County semi-finals didn't take place until October 21; due mainly to the Intermediate team's involvement in the All-Ireland final which went to a replay.

That was a catastrophe and can't happen again.

If Muskerry defeat Douglas today then the panic is over as St Finbarr's will represent Cork. If however

Douglas emerge victors then the final must go ahead by Oct 12.

Not an issue provided Cork don't draw the All-Ireland final and the replay is fixed for the 12th.

If we avoid such a scenario there is the added headache of players having booked holidays commencing Oct 9.

We could well have the county final midweek, but that is never good with players working. Depending on the weather you might not get long after 7pm in a couple of weeks time.

Playing under floodlights is a solution, but I'm quite sure both clubs will be cautious about that unless they have experienced it to date.

With reference to the Camogie Grounds in Blackrock, it is a wonderful pitch and ideally located.

Fundraising is ongoing and will intensify in a bid to build the necessary amenities. If every camogie follower gave or helped a little when the call comes then it won't be such a massive burden for the committee.

The very best of luck to the Cork Ladies Footballers tomorrow as they bid for four-in-a-row!

## Carrigaline to beat 'Hassig

TODAY  
Evening Echo Senior B Camogie Championship  
Carrigaline v Ballinhassig,  
Ballygarvan, 5pm

A CRUCIAL GAME for both Ballinhassig and Carrigaline when the sides meet in what is the final game for both clubs in the round robin series of games in the Evening Echo Senior B championship, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Carrigaline come into the contest with three points to their credit following their victory over Bishopstown and a draw with Killeagh. Ballinhassig recovered from a bad start and got their campaign back on track putting defeats at the hand of Bishop-

stown and Killeagh behind them to record a victory over Valley Rovers.

With just two teams to qualify from the group the five participants still have a chance of making it to the semi-finals. Killeagh and Valley Rovers will be the last game in the group to be played and the semi-final spots are very much up for grabs.

Killeagh lead the field with five points, Valley Rovers are on three, Bishopstown are also on three as are Carrigaline. A win over Ballinhassig would put Carrigaline in good position. And were Killeagh to defeat Valley's it would see Carrigaline through. Were Valley's to defeat Killeagh it would force a three way play-off. A Ballinhassig victory would keep

them in the hunt and were Killeagh to beat Valley's, Ballinhassig could snatch the spot. However, if any of the games end in draws this would put a different completion on things so it is really still everything to play for.

Cork senior Eimear O'Sullivan will lead Carrigaline's challenge and she is ably assisted by Catriona Collins, Deirdre Coomey and Katie McCarthy.

Carrigaline will be determined to get their campaign back on track and book the semi-final place that looked to be within their grasp. Laura Thompson has been their scorer in chief in all games to date and they will be looking to players such as Jan Kiernan, Sarah Cotter and Ann Kiely to help them win.

Verdict: Carrigaline

## Collectors needed for county final day

SUNDAY is a very important day for the camogie board as the annual collection takes place at half time in the county senior hurling final, writes MARY NEWMAN.

As in previous year collectors are urgently required to come down and help the board and this year more than ever with the new pitch development how having to fruition there is on going expense to help maintain the facility.

Already the many clubs who have played on the pitch have had nothing but praise for the facility.

All the future development plans of the facility need to be financed and while the fund raising is ongoing the annual collection is a major fund raiser for the county board.

Players, former players, mentors and supporters are urged to come along and give up just 10 minutes of their time to help in the venture.

Collectors are asked to meet at 2.30pm at the covered stand side of Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



# Camogie final will be a cracker

**THERE** are just two teams left.

St Finbarr's and Douglas face each other on October 10 in this year's Cork senior championship final to determine who will be crowned Cork camogie champions for 2008.

The final promises to be a cracker.

For now let's reflect on the season gone by.

Imokilly took on Carbery in the Preliminary divisional round on June 15th and had a facile victory of 5-10 to 2-6. With no second chance for provisional sides Carbery exited on day one of the new season.

Just two weeks later the East Cork divisional side were themselves on the receiving end of a comprehensive defeat, inflicted by County champions Muskerry.

Seandun lost out to Carrigdhoun 2-4 to 1-13 leaving just Muskerry and Carrig the last two divisional sides standing.

Carrig almost caught the champions when they met in July.



**LINDA MELLERICK**

Courcey Rovers were the first club side to suffer defeat when they just didn't show up at all the day they played Milford, who ran them ragged. With the back door system available to them, Courcey's were a different side when they faced Ballygarvan six weeks later.

The most bruising and talked about game throughout the championship season was the round 1 clash of St. Finbarr's and Ballygarvan.

Three points separated the sides at the finish with Ballygarvan, spearheaded by Emer Dillon, putting it up to the 2006 County champions. Gemma O'Connor played a storming role in ensuring the City side won through.

Douglas recorded their first impressive scoring tally of the championship defeating Aghabullogue 1-17

to 1-4. Inniscarra accounted for Barryroe while a last minute Deirdre Twomey goal, a trademark of Catherine's during the championship, saw them produce one of the surprises of the season in defeating Cloughduv.

All winners of round 1 went straight into the quarter final while the losers moved on to round 2 where they were matched against each other and the remaining divisional sides.

Cloughduv made amends and had a good victory over Aghabullogue. Muskerry continued their unbeaten run, destroying Barryroe 5-16 to 1-2 and Ballygarvan won out by 6 points against a much improved Courcey Rovers side.

The quarter finals and things were hotting up! An excellent game between St. Catherine's and Douglas surprisingly served up the only draw of the championship thus far. Once again a last minute Catherine's goal, compliments of Jill Hurley, gave them another bite of the cherry. The game will go down as

one of the season's best. Unfortunately for Catherine's there was nothing they could do to stem the onslaught inflicted by Douglas in the replay. It was a perfect performance from the senior debutants and it will be marked as the day followers realised that we had a serious team on board.

1-10 from Sile Burns saw off Milford's challenge for another year as Muskerry marched on. Cloughduv exited at the hands of St. Finbarr's and Ballygarvan set up a semi-final repeat showdown with the Barrs when they accounted for Inniscarra.

Despite being underdogs Ballygarvan raced out of the traps and gave it their all in a bid to reach their first final but a plethora of goals by Orla O'Sullivan, Vivienne Harris and Gemma O'Connor couldn't be matched and the Barrs deservedly marched on to their third final in three years.

They awaited the outcome of Muskerry and Douglas. Could the new kids on the block really defeat the

all conquering champions?

This they did in emphatic style and has to be the South side club's greatest hour to date. But is their greatest hour yet to come?

All will be revealed in a week's time.

This one has all the ingredients a final should have. I hope and believe it won't disappoint.

## **Cork Senior Camogie Championship 2008 results.**

**Preliminary Divisional round:** Imokilly 5-10 Carbery 2-6.

**Divisional Preliminary round:** Muskerry 4-14 Imokilly 0-3, Carrigdhoun 1-13 Seandun 2-4.

**Divisional Section play-off:** Muskerry 3-9 Carrigdhoun 3-7.

**Round 1:** Milford 3-25 Courcey Rovers 1-8, St. Finbarr's 0-14 Ballygarvan 0-11, Douglas 1-17 Aghabullogue 1-4, Inniscarra 2-10 Barryroe 0-7, St. Catherine's 1-7 Cloughduv 0-9.

**Round 2:** Cloughduv 2-11 Aghabullogue 0-3, Muskerry 5-16 Barryroe 1-2 Ballygarvan 3-13 Courcey Rovers 2-10.

**Round 3, quarter-final:** Douglas 0-14 St. Catherine's 1-11 (draw), Douglas 1-20 St. Catherine's 1-10 (replay), Muskerry 3-13 Milford 1-12, Cloughduv 1-9 St. Finbarr's 2-13, Ballygarvan 2-14 Inniscarra 1-3.

**Semi-final:** St. Finbarr's 5-12 Ballygarvan 2-8 Douglas 4-6 Muskerry 1-7.

**Final:** St. Finbarr's v Douglas.



The victorious Cork camogie team on a recent visit to St Aidan's Community College with camogie players from the school's team. Emer O'Farrell, a past pupil of St Aidan's holds the cup. Also included are captain Cáitríona Foley, two-goal hero Sile Burns, both of Rockbán, and manager Denise Cronin.

## Victorious camogie team visit St Aidan's

CORK'S victorious camogie champions made a special visit to Dublin Hill recently to celebrate their recent All-Ireland win.

Students at St Aidan's Community College welcomed team members, including

captain Foley and Sile Burns, both of the Rockbán club.

Sile scored the team's only goals in the match within five minutes of each other in the first half.

For fellow teammate Emer O'Farrell, it was a case of re-

turning to the corridors of a building she knows very well, as a past pupil of the school.

Particularly excited by the visit were the school's camogie team, who have hopes to follow in the footsteps of the team and line out for Cork.

Also making a guest appearance was the O'Duffy Cup, which is back on the Leaside once more, following the Rebels' win over Galway at Croke Park last month.

The team won the match on a scoreline of 2-10 to 1-08 in a

thrilling All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

It is the 23rd time the cup has rested in the county and students at St Aidan's were delighted to welcome the shiny cup and members of the team to the school.



# Cork Camogie Senior Final

*Douglas*

**V's**

*St. Finbarrs*

parc tuí rín

**Friday 10th Oct.**

**8pm**





## Disappointment

THE curtain came down on the inter county scene on Sunday last.

It was a disappointing end for Cork who saw Kilkenny snatch the Gala Intermediate title with a gold two minutes into injury time and in doing so denied Cork a double of All Ireland camogie championship titles.

Cork trailed by seven points at the interval after Kilkenny had dictated matters in the opening half. It was a different story from the restart as Cork fought back and made the second half their own drawing level with seven minutes remaining.

Again Kilkenny edged back in front but Cork levelled once again before a long range free deep in added time found Colette Dormer who made no mistake to give her side their first title in the grade.

Kilkenny aided by the stiff breeze for the opening half had a goal from Denise Gaule inside ten minutes to lead 1-1 to 0-2. Niamh Dilworth long range strike was disallowed by the referee after both umpires signalled a point but Dilworth was on target with her next strike to which Claire Alward replied before Michelle Brennan set up the unmarked Claire Alward for Kilkenny's second goal.

Michelle Browne and Claire Alward exchanged points but with the Cork defence under enormous huge they conceded a third goal six as Lucinda Gahan

long range effort found the net. Niamh Dilworth grabbed a Cork goal but from the puck out Claire Alward slipped inside the Cork defence to strike Kilkenny's fourth goal. Michelle Brown pointed a Cork free on the half time whistle as Kilkenny led a 4-3 to 1-5 interval lead.

From the start of the second half Cork improved two points inside the minutes cut the lead as Denise Gaule pointed in reply but with the Cork defence gaining control they came into the game, Michelle Brown pointed four frees as Cork troubled Kilkenny.

Cork were on level with seven minutes remaining as Charlotte Kearney and Browne pointed Ann Marie Phelan pointed a free but Michelle Browne replied to again level matters. Cork searched for a winner and won a long range free but heartbreakingly for Browne who was superb all through her effort sailed narrowly wide.

Entering injury time a draw looked on the cards as one minute of injury time was signalled. Cork battled to win possession but were penalised harshly Ann Marie Phelan struck the resulting long range free into the Cork square where Colette Dormer won possession and blast to the net the puck out brought the full time whistle and heartbreak for a Cork side who despite a disastrous start deserved another day out.

## County final thriller in store

ST. FINBARRS and Douglas will make Camogie history on Friday when they light up the skies of Pairc Uí Rinn to face each other in the final of the senior camogie championship at 8pm.

It's been a hectic season with inter county games at national league and championship level all year and with the Cork champions down to play Limerick representatives Killeady on Sunday in the Munster club championship the decision to play the game under lights was taken.

For the third year in a row the Barr's are in the final, in 2006 they took their first title defeating Imokilly and last year they had to give way to divisional side Muskerry.

Douglas have had huge under age success sweeping all before them and now in their first year at senior level they are just sixty minutes

from creating history. They confidently brushed aside the challenge of the county champions in their semi final meeting and the confidence shown by youngsters such as Katriona and Pamela Mackey Julia White and Emma Jordan was superb while experienced campaigners such as Amanda O'Regan, Fiona Mc Sweeney and Louise O'Regan also performed well.

The Barrs had too much strength for Ballygarvan in their semi final meeting and they have talented performers in Cork seniors Gemma O'Connor and Lynda O'Connell, while Maria McCarthy Ber Maher and Rachel Myers will give it everything in quest of their second title.

Ellen Clifford captains the Barrs in their quest for honours while Cork senior Amanda O'Regan leads Douglas in their quest for their first crown.

## 'Special day' for captain Amanda

CAPTAIN for Douglas is Cork senior star Amanda O'Regan, right.

Unassuming and shy in person, the centre-back is a colossus on the pitch, her striking and long-distance free-taking almost legendary.

Daughter of coach Mick and former Cork All-Ireland medal holder Christine, and sister to Louise, who flanked her on the left in the county semi-final, Friday is the biggest day in Amanda's career to date.

She has seen at first hand the incredible achievements over the past few years.

"It started when I was coming out of primary school. My mother went in and starting coaching and our numbers shot up.

"We got a very strong U16 and 18 batch and now they are up to senior."

St Columba's National School, with close to 1,000 pupils, has helped nurture the talent from a young age for Douglas Camogie Club.

"Mam and Dad were always involved in the club.

"Then Jimmy Mahony and Finbarr Donovan came in with the U10s when their daughters began playing and they stayed with the team the whole way up," said Amanda.

She also praised Mary Harrington (nee Maher) for her work with the club.

Amanda doesn't feel any additional pressure being captain as well as being one of the older member of the squad at just 26.

"I was always on my own really in my age group and have always played with younger players so I'm used to it," she explained.

On Friday Amanda leads Douglas into their first senior county final.

"This is the biggest day in my career. Club is always special. I know these girls since they were playing underage. I coached a lot of them in street leagues and summer camps so Friday is very special."



# Modest Mick hails players

How many men playing nor with Cork would get involved with a camogie team?

None? Well, I know one who did. Mick O'Regan of Douglas did 34 years ago and he hasn't stopped since. On Friday he leads Douglas into their first Cork County Senior Camogie Championship Final and few would begrudge this dedicated sportsman, his wife Christine or his two daughters, Amanda and Louise, who line out in the half-back line, their moment of glory.

There is no doubting Mick's knowledge of camogie. Though it took Douglas 25 years to win the Junior A Championship, Douglas's rise to senior status over the past few years has been phenomenal.

Mick said: "Over eight or nine years we were unlucky to be beaten a few times. We eventually got the breakthrough and in the last three or four years the younger girls have come through and that's made a big difference."

Douglas's underage success has been so remarkable that other clubs have been asking what their secret is. Mick is quick to give credit to the local school, St Columba's.



LINDA MELLERICK

"I would have to say that it would go back to when the girls, Amanda and Louise, were playing in Sciath Na Scoil. Christine went down and started to give a hand with the school. They started to do well and it gave us our bedrock. The kids developed an interest. That for me was the big turning point."

Good players now keep on coming though the underage system for Douglas, meaning there is always a healthy competition for places.

"We've a good crop of coaches which keep things moving. Jimmy Mahony is involved with the juniors and U18s. As you know you can lose a lot of players between 16 and 18 but Jimmy has managed to keep those."

"One of the philosophies of the club is to give players games. Recently we had 25 U11s at a match and all 25 got a game," explained Mick.

Douglas won the senior B title 12 months ago and took the step up to senior. To reach the county final in their first year is quite remarkable.



Mick O'Regan leads Douglas into their first Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final.

So, did Mick think back in January they would be in such a position?

"Not the slightest! I had no concept of where we would be at the end of the year. Philip Kavanagh and Paul Lynch came on board with me this year. They gave it a new lift. Mary Harrington is selector and Christine also helps out. We started working on the players, keeping their enthusiasm going and it's worked out."

The team have certainly handled the step-up well this season.

"We had a good run in the league and that helped because it gave us a base but a lot of clubs would have

been struggling a bit back then with players unavailable. That gave us confidence but the players haven't been overawed by it. I think, with playing in so many féiles, the players just go with the flow," said Mick.

Though a young team, the Douglas players possess an awareness far beyond their age, something their modest coach doesn't take credit for.

"The girls are very astute — you can't coach some things. Natural ability comes through and there is a lot of natural ability in the side," explained Mick.

Douglas face the might of St Finbarr's and Mick is under no illusion as to the task facing his charges.

"It's our first county final, under lights which is an added burden. We'll see how it goes. We started out with no major ambition but if we play to our potential we can win."

"But it's all about playing to potential and I'm quite sure the Barrs will have something to say about that."

"You just think about Gemma O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, Lynda O'Connell and even the non inter-county players like Rachel Myers. They have been on the go a long time and they're very cute."

"But we're going to go out and give it one hell of a shot."

## Tributes to hurling star after tragic death

■ **GAA:** Young Galway player Paul Flynn, who died in an accident at the weekend, was yesterday described by GAA President Nicky Brennan as 'an excellent hurler and wonderful sportsman,' who had shown a great commitment to his club and county.

On behalf of the Association he expressed his condolences to the player's family and friends, his Garda colleagues and team-mates in the Tommy Larkins club and the Galway U21 and intermediate sides he played with.

A member of the senior panel, he won an All-Ireland U21 medal in 2005 and last year he helped Tommy Larkins to win the county intermediate championship.



## Jenny has taken the long road to decider

ST FINBARR'S Jenny Duffy is not complaining, despite having to spend hours on the road travelling back and forward between Cork and Leinster.

The camogie regional development officer for South Leinster can't wait for Friday night's county final.

"It is very hard really as I am on the road a lot. I am covering six counties and I could be in Laois or Wexford and then have to come down for training, but to be honest Derek McCarthy, the Barrs' coach, is very understanding and I try to come down to every session.

"I come down for Cork training as well so I try to work my schedule around both. It's tiring always in a car but sure I love it and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Combining her job with the sport she loves has worked well for the Togher lady.

"My job is all about meeting people and I love that. I have huge admiration for the people who are volunteers they are doing all the work and holding down day jobs as well. I have to accommodate them and meet them at 7pm or 8pm and I really don't mind that."



Barrs' inter-county player Jenny Duffy.

It has been a long year with Cork and the club, something Jenny readily agrees.

"To be honest I found it hard to motivate myself at the start of the year and I suppose I was thinking about camogie all the time but, thankfully, I found a happy medium and once championship time came around the buzz was back.

"It's been great since we began in February. Derek came on board this year and we all really want to make amends for losing last year's final and we all said we would give it everything; hopefully it will pay off for us on Friday night."

Playing with the Barrs since she was nine years of age, Jenny comes from a strong club background.

"My brother Colm played senior hurling with the club and won a county medal while my cousins were all involved.

"I started playing by accident, my cousin Janice Duffy saw me playing tennis in the courts in Togher and she dragged me down to the Barrs — and the rest as they say is history."

Definitely Wimbledon's loss is Togher's gain.



LINDA MELLERICK

**TONIGHT**  
**Evening Echo Cork County**  
**Senior Camogie**  
**Championship Final:**  
**St Finbarr's v Douglas,**  
**Páirc Uí Rinn 8pm**

**WEATHER permitting:** this year's County Final between St Finbarr's and Douglas has the potential to be the greatest final in a number of years.

Both sides have an abundance of skill. The Barrs look to have the greater all round physical strength, but Douglas have the runners. Expect the game to be fast and open. The only concern is the fact that the game will be played under lights and without question this will impede the game. Douglas have never played under lights before. No doubt they will try to address that this week, but is it enough?

The Barrs have the advantage of having lights in Togher, but have they utilised this facility as much as they could have?

Possibly not as no one expected the final to be under lights, this is a first.

But you must face the obstacles and get on with the game.

St Finbarr's have to go in as favourites as they appear in their third final in a row. The pain of last year's defeat is still evident and the side clearly want to make amends. But the pressure is all on them.

Douglas have nothing to lose. It has been an incredible year for them regardless of the final outcome.

Key players for the Barrs are of course Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell, Jenny Duffy, Viv Harris and Orla O'Sullivan.

Ber Maher and Rachel Myers will also have a big say. The Barrs have had tough physical encounters in their path to the final and this will stand to them.

Their 5-12 to 2-8 victory over Ballygarvan in the semi-final emphasised that they can get goals.

Orla O'Sullivan will finish if she finds herself inside the full back line and Viv Harris will relish the opportunity to punish Douglas if they give away frees.

Jenny Duffy and Lynda will remind Douglas very early on that they are playing in the big league now.

All eyes will be on Gemma and how Douglas will handle this powerhouse. Gemma is too big a player to ignore and will control this game if allowed.

One feels that Pamela Mackey may be brought out of corner back, where

she marked Sile Burns in the semi-final, to midfield to face the might of O'Connor.

The Douglas dressing room will be relaxed. Rumours have it that the banter before big games is so loud that you almost emerge with a headache.

This team are too young to be nervous, they show no fear.

This was clearly evident when the side withstood an early onslaught from Muskerry in the semi-final.

Far from panicking they stuck to their guns and eventually got into their stride before dethroning the champions 4-6 to 1-7.

Jessica Kavanagh was immense between the nets in the semi-final. Extremely confident under the dropping ball and quick off her line, the Barrs will find her harder to pass than most.

It is hard to believe that Pamela

Mackey is still U16. Apart from her man-marking capabilities her long bursting runs up the line are inspiring.

Moira O'Donovan at full-back has controlled her square this season. Amanda at centre back is to Douglas what Gemma is to the Barrs. Her battle with Viv Harris, if the teams line out as expected, is the one to watch.

Julia White has a glittering career ahead. Her ability to pick the ball while surrounded by players is joyful while her darting runs and accuracy will cause the Barrs problems.

Katrina Mackey is almost scoring points at will with Maria Harkin strong and dangerous if given half a chance.

Last year St Finbarr's amazingly scored only a single point from play in the final and this with four minutes remaining.

They are in better scoring form this year. Playing Viv Harris in the half-forward line is paying dividends, but the Barrs need more than Viv, Orla and Gemma scoring against a very tight marking Douglas defence who will hunt in packs.

Many will expect it to be St Finbarr's day.

Their expertise and the fact that they can boast three current senior inter-county players, Vivienne Harris (who could still be playing inter-county) and former inter-county players Ellen Clifford and Orla O'Sullivan will be weighed against the inexperience of Douglas who have yet to become household names.

But the aforementioned players will have to give big performances for the Barrs or they will succumb to a team who have talent in every line.

# Cracking final in store



Barrs' Vivienne Harris will punish Douglas from place balls if given the chance.



Douglas' Pamela Mackey may be given the job of curtailing the influence of Barrs' star Gemma O'Connor.

Picture: Larry Cummings

## Morgan is on a mission to write Douglas history

ON MONDAY last Eileen Morgan was photographed on the front page of the *Evening Echo* wrapped in a Nemo Rangers flag cheering the club to four-in-a-row as they defeated Douglas.

Fast forward to Friday night and Eileen will be sporting the same colours, but this time it will be a Douglas jersey as she

strives to pick up her first senior county camogie championship medal.

Steeped in Nemo tradition, her father Noel and Uncle Billy are synonymous with the club, while brothers and cousins have all sported the club colours, camogie comes from her mother Sheila's side.

Sheila is the holder of All-Ire-

land senior championship honours with Cork.

Sheila proudly wore the Canovee and Muskerry colours as did her brother Noel.

Strange then for a Nemo girl to be wearing the Douglas colours this week.

"Well we had no camogie in Nemo and when I was 16 a lot of the girls in school in Christ

the King were joining Douglas so I tagged along."

Having experienced the disappointment of losing an Ashbourne cup final to UCD in 2003 Eileen knows how disappointing losing can be.

"It's hard after all the efforts to come out second best but hopefully that won't be an issue on Friday night."

Playing with Douglas 13 years Eileen is one of the clubs experienced players.

With four brothers who play hurling and football for Nemo and first cousins Tipperary senior camogie stars Eimear and Deirdre McDonnell the only daughter in the Morgan household will have plenty of support on Friday night.



OCT 2008

HAVING tasted both heart-break and joy on county final day, St Finbarr's captain and goalkeeper Ellen Clifford hopes her fourth final appearance will yield her a second county medal.

Clifford can recall the bitter taste of defeat from her first final to Cloughduv in 2002, and also of last season when the Barrs relinquishing their title to Muskerry.

"Last year we were going for back-to-back titles and losing to Muskerry really hurt us.

"At the start of the year we said we would make a huge effort to reverse that and we have worked very hard to get to this final.

"There is a fierce determination in everybody because we know we didn't do ourselves justice last year."

The start of the season brought new coaching staff and the commitment from the girls has been fantastic the Barrs with Derek McCarthy and John Sweeney coming on board as selectors.

"This year both John and Derek have been great they came into the job new and brought freshness to everything. I must pay tribute to Jerry Murphy who this year took over the junior team.

"Jerry had given 10 years to senior camogie in our club and the amount of work he did was just unreal and I cannot praise him enough for all his work."

It's hard to imagine that Ellen has been playing camogie 20 years. She started out as a 10-year-old when still a pupil at St Vincent's convent and joined the underage section in Na Piarsaigh, where coaches such as Jean Paula Kent made a huge impression.

Going on to join the Barrs and playing alongside players such as Colette O'Mahony had an impact on Ellen.

"Playing alongside Colette was a wonderful experience she was a superb player; she was inspirational to play with.

"I have huge respect for people such as Gerald McCarthy, Jerry Murphy, Seanie Fitzpatrick and Donie Doolan all coaches I would have learned such a lot from here in the Barrs."

Ellen has huge praise for her family and especially her mother Mary and her late father Donal, who sadly passed away a number of years ago.

"Nobody in my family had played GAA so I suppose it was a first for one of us to take it up and I got huge support at home and I still do."

The years have flown by and Ellen has annexed Junior, Senior B and Senior county championship honours with St Finbarr's.

Indeed when the Senior B title came to the club in 2001 after years of trying, Ellen captained the side — a lucky omen maybe?

"When we won it that day I was thrilled to be captain and when I was chosen again this year I deemed it a huge honour to captain the club.

"There are so many players who are deserving of it and really we have 15 captains out on the field.

"I hope that maybe it is a lucky omen that I am captain again and that I will lead us to our second senior championship title."

Ellen has huge respect for their



St Finbarr's goalkeeper and captain Ellen Clifford is looking to add to her one county senior camogie medal when they face Douglas next Sunday.

# Ellen looks for happy memories

By MARY NEWMAN

St Finbarr's captain

opponents on Friday and is not surprised to see them in the final.

"A few months ago we played them in a league game and I said they were a team to watch.

"The Douglas club is a role model for every club.

"They have a hugely successful underage set-up which is the envy of every club not just in Cork but through the country. Their back-up is unreal and every one of their teams have different mentors.

"They have enjoyed huge underage success and they have a huge pool of players all of whom have won so much.

"We know they will be very determined just as we were in 2006 when we faced Imokilly.

"It is their first final and they will be really very determined, they are a young lively side that are used to winning and they are in this final on merit"

In another twist of fate Douglas coach Mick O'Regan is a former

work mate and inter-county coach of Ellen's.

"I know Mick O'Regan well and every team he is involved with are excellently prepared. I would have played under him at inter-county level and his attention to detail is second to none.

"We are also former work-mates and we worked side by side in IT in the former TSB days and when we were bought into the group of Irish Life and Permanent plc we would have both worked in group IT together before he retired.

"I would consider Mick and his daughter Amanda the Douglas captain good friends, she brings her own professionalism to the game and certainly she is a wonderful player."

Ellen has made many friends in camogie and she acknowledges this.

"Sport brings people together sometimes the people who are rivals on the field are friends off it and I think that's good for the game, a healthy rivalry is how it should be I would hope on Friday

that we have a good final."

With both clubs creating history playing in the first county final under lights Ellen thinks that there is a slight disadvantage playing under lights.

"We are lucky that we have the facilities here for training, definitely looking up for a ball it's like a constant sun shining but it just takes adjusting to and hopefully it will go ok for us."

What about Barrs' status as raging hot favourites, against a Douglas side only just up to the senior ranks?

"I don't think there is a raging favourite here and I think it will come down to who ever really wants it most and maybe the fear of losing will drive the eventual winners on just that little bit.

"On the night I have a feeling it will come right down to the wire."

One thing is sure, Ellen Clifford will be doing everything in her power to drive her players on in the hope that she will be the one lifting the Punch Trophy tomorrow night at Páirc Uí Rinn.

## Barrs no longer new kids on block

By MARY NEWMAN

St Finbarr's camogie

TWO years ago it was St Finbarr's who were on the verge of taking their first senior county title — now it is they who find themselves cast in the role of old hands as new kids on the block Douglas come in search of title number one.

For Barrs coach Derek McCarthy 2008 has been a hectic year. Now as he stands on the threshold of emulating his father, Gerald McCarthy, who guided the club to their first senior camogie title, he is calm and focused.

"This final is not about me, it is about the players they got themselves this far and they are the one who can win it," he said.

Reared on a tradition of Barrs hurling and football, McCarthy coached St Finbarr's camogie teams at under age level and this year, when asked to take up the mantle of senior selector, he was more than willing.

"When I was asked by the girls I was delighted to step in and lend a hand. Previously I was involved with the camogie club at underage level for many years. Many of the current players would have played on the U18 team which I coached. We got to the final but lost out that year.

"I was involved with the senior B team and then I took a break from camogie and got involved with the boys underage and junior teams but this year I decided when asked to give it a go," he said.

McCarthy is joined on the selectors panel by captain Ellen Clifford and Johnnie Sweeney who coached a Barrs camogie team to a junior championship title, as he said himself, "many years ago when most of the current squad were not even born".

McCarthy and his selectors are fortunate to have a good back-room team and he acknowledged the help of Harriet Carey, Dolores O'Sullivan Ger O'Connor and Darragh Sargent and others for their efforts in helping out with the team.

The Barrs coach is thrilled with his side's progress to the final.

"We worked hard to reach this final. The first game against Ballygarvan we were lucky to win and we worked hard to come through all of our games.

"We are under no illusions about Douglas. We know they are a very good side and I think they will dominate this senior championship for the next 10 years.

"They beat the champions and you cannot ask for anymore than that. We are up against it but we will give it our best shot and hopefully we will be victorious."



# Evening Echo

## Camoogie County Final SENIOR



### DOUGLAS v ST. FINBARRS

at 8 p.m.

Friday 10th October 2008  
Páirc Uí Rinn

Referee: John O'Leary

OCT 2008

#### ST. FINBARR'S



1. Ellen Clifford



2. Catriona Myers



3. Maria McCarthy



4. Trish Doyle



5. Rachel Myers



6. Jenny Duffy



7. Catherine Barrett



8. Lynda O'Connell



9. Bernadine Maher



10. Valerie Maher



11. Gemma O'Connor



12. Claire Spellman



13. Orla O'Sullivan



14. Vivienne Harris



15. Niamh Goulding

16. Aileen Clarke  
17. Niamh Cooke  
18. Natasha Varien  
19. Claire Harrington  
20. Ciara Sargent

21. Valerie Hesford  
22. Aoife McCarthy  
23. Mary Collins  
24. Susan Kennifick  
25. Jennifer Mehigan

26. Katie Leisk  
27. Heather Morgan  
28. Ellen Crowley



Ellen Clifford (Captain)



#### Douglas



1. Jessica Kavanagh



2. Sarah O'Regan



3. Louise O'Regan



4. Fiona McSweeney



5. Eileen Morgan



6. Amanda O'Regan



7. Pamela Mackey



8. Helen O'Mahony



9. Katrina Mackey



10. Julia White



11. Maria Harkin



12. Aileen O'Donovan



13. Emma Jordan



14. Moira O'Donovan



15. Rachel O'Sullivan

16. Siobhan O'Brien  
17. Ashling Barnett  
18. Ciara Lynch  
19. Marie Cullinane  
20. Tracey McCarthy

21. Semma Long  
22. Clodhna Murphy  
23. Sinead O'Leary  
24. Jenny O'Donovan  
25. Danielle Connolly

26. Clara Kavanagh  
27. Orla Curtin  
28. Hilary O'Connor  
29. Ciara Clarke



Amanda O'Regan (Captain)





# Mackey masterclass gives Douglas first title

Douglas  
St Finbarr's

3-16  
3-6

by Therese O'Callaghan

DOUGLAS are Cork county senior camogie champions for the first time after seeing off St Finbarr's in a cracking game last evening in Páirc Uí Rinn.

This predominantly young, but star-studded side, sunk the champions of 2006 who had high hopes of regaining the trophy. Their speed, agility, support play and superb point-taking ability was simply awesome, and although Orla O'Sullivan bagged a hat-trick for St Finbarr's, it wasn't enough to prevent a Douglas victory.

Douglas had some wonderful performances all over the field; from captain Amanda O'Regan and Pamela Mackey who controlled in defence, the outstanding Katrina Mackey at midfield who returned a remarkable 1-9, and attackers Julia White and Aileen

O'Donovan whose surging runs broke the hearts of the Barrs rearguard.

Douglas set out their stall early, when Maria Harkin was alert to Ellen Clifford's rebound to tap to the net. On the quarter hour, they led 1-4 to 0-1, before hat-trick hero Orla O'Sullivan linked up with the untiring Vivienne Harris for the Barrs' opening goal. Still, with Aileen O'Donovan, White and Katrina Mackey taking their points, the gap at the break was 1-7 to 1-2.

Douglas pressed on after the break and when Eileen Morgan goaled seven minutes in, the new troops were well on their way. However, two goals in 11 minutes from O'Sullivan brought the Barrs right back into contention, and the margin was down to three points with 10 minutes remaining. The Blues were moving along, and finding the target up front a little easier.

However, Douglas never panicked and a trio of white flags from White and Katrina Mackey stretched the lead

to six points before Mackey bagged the decisive score, finding the net from a goalmouth melee. They were now in front 3-14 to 3-5. Fittingly, Mackey finished in style with another pair of brilliantly-taken points to cap a wonderful performance.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 1-9, M Harkin and E Morgan 1-0 each, A O'Donovan and J White 0-3 each, A O'Regan 0-1.

**Scorers for St Finbarr's:** O O'Sullivan 3-1, V Harris 0-4, N Goulding 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, L O'Regan, F McSweeney; E Morgan, A O'Regan (Capt), P Mackey; H O'Mahony, K Mackey; J White, M Harkin, A O'Donovan; E Jordan, M O'Donovan, R O'Sullivan.

**Subs:** H O'Connor for R O'Sullivan (43 mins), J O'Donovan for E Morgan (60).

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Clifford (Capt), C Myers, M McCarthy, T Doyle; R Myers, J Duffy, C Barrett; L O'Connell, B Maher; V Maher, G O'Connor, C Spellman; O O'Sullivan, V Harris, N Goulding.

**Subs:** N Cooke for N Goulding (49), N Varian for V Maher (55).

**Referee:** J O'Leary (Mallow).

● Douglas go straight into Munster club action tomorrow against Killeady of Limerick.

## Douglas crowned camogie champs

THERE were big celebrations in Douglas last night after Amanda O'Regan led the Douglas camogie team to the Cork County Senior championship for the first time at Páirc Uí Rinn. The Douglas girls had only come up from Senior B last year, so to win the top grade county immediately was a tremendous achievement. The score was 3-16 to 3-6 as they beat near neighbours and reigning champions St. Finbarr's. The team and supporters repaired to Douglas GAA club in the village afterwards but the festivities could not go on too late as the team go straight into Munster club action tomorrow against Killeady of Limerick.

There were celebrations for basketball's UCC Demons as well as they beat local rivals Neptune 87-58 in the Nivea for Men Superleague before a capacity attendance at the Mardyke Arena. And supporters of embattled soccer team Cobh Ramblers were celebrating after their side won 3-0 away to St. Patrick's Athletic.

Munster's rugby supporters were relieved rather than delighted as the reds had to rely on a late Ronan O'Gara penalty to beat 33/1 outsiders Montauban.

● Reports on all the games in Evening Echo Sport.



Douglas Captain Amanda O'Regan (right) and her sister Louise holding up the cup after they beat St. Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Camogie County final at Páirc Uí Rinn last night. Picture: Richard Mills



Alanna Barry sets up a Millstreet attack in the Co U14 Camogie final against Enniskeane.

## Millstreet overwhelm Enniskeane

Millstreet  
Enniskeane

7-3  
2-3

MILLSTREET comfortably disposed the challenge provided by Enniskeane in the County U14C Camogie Final played in Coachford. Apart from a competitive opening 20 minutes, Millstreet imposed their authority on the proceedings.

Enniskeane had held their own but at the end of the hour, Millstreet swarmed all over and overwhelmed them with a level of industry and tenacity that Enniskeane hadn't reckoned with.

Early on, the exchanges were keen and the lead changed hands.

Enniskeane served notice of their intentions on a goal netted by Anna O'Driscoll. Millstreet dragged themselves right back into contention from a green flag raised by Aileen Buckley.

Enniskeane regained the initiative, O'Driscoll again on hand to find the net. However Millstreet upped their skill and workrate levels on a trio of goals netted by Kayleigh Sheahan, Shauna O'Sullivan and Lydia O'Reilly to forge a 4-1 to 2-0 interval advantage.

Millstreet enjoyed a monopoly of the possession upon the restart, the speed and first touch play underlined by Laura Dennehy, Kelly Murphy, Alanna Barry, Kayleigh

Sheahan and Kate O'Keeffe put Enniskeane on the backfoot.

Such dominance was reflected on goals netted by Shauna O'Sullivan, Muireann Murphy, Barry and Sheahan.

**Millstreet:** E Twomey, E Cronin, L Dennehy, S O'Leary, J Dunne, K Murphy, O Kiely, K Sheahan, A Barry, L Murphy, M Murphy, K O'Keeffe, S O'Sullivan, A Buckley, L O'Reilly. Subs: M Buckley, M E O'Connor. Scorers: K Sheahan 2-1, S O'Sullivan 2-0, A Barry 1-1, A Buckley 1-0, L O'Reilly 1-0, M Murphy 0-1.

**Enniskeane:** J O'Donovan, N Mulcahy, K McCarthy, A Duggan, P Healy, A McCarthy, A Buttner, C Harrington, S Curtin, O Cronin, S Murphy, A O'Driscoll, J Lawton, C Mannix, M O'Regan. Subs: A Everard, J Hayes. Scorers: A O'Driscoll 2-0, O Cronin 0-2, J Hayes 0-1.

**Referee:** G Sheehan (Douglas).





Douglas coach Mick O'Regan is thrilled with result.

## Mick pays tribute to 'awesome' players

By MARY NEWMAN

What they said

### MICK O'REGAN DOUGLAS MANAGER

THE euphoria outside and inside the victorious Douglas dressing room resembled a classroom at break time in any secondary school around Cork.

It was understandable given the youthful charges Douglas coach Mick O'Regan had just led to an historic first Evening Echo Senior County Championship title. Mick, who has given 34 years of service to camogie in Douglas, finally saw a dream realised when his side lifted the Punch trophy for a historic first time last evening.

He gave me his reactions in his usual quiet and unassuming way.

"I am absolutely thrilled, words cannot describe what it means to me to be county senior champions," Mick O'Regan said.

"Conditions were very wet and slippery but the hurling from our girls was awesome.

"The younger girls came through for us while the older girls that we were looking for leadership came good as well."

Mick paid tribute to his players for all their hard work.

"This evening we had several players who are U16, and they hurled superbly. This is a tribute to their coaches, their families and indeed to themselves. All of our panel worked very hard to win this title.

"We were training two or three night a week, many of the girls were involved with Cork right up to last weekend, but they never once gave excuses or missed a session.

"They wanted to do well and they have got their reward.

"I am thrilled for each and every one of them."

I put it to Mick that his side showed a tremendous skill level in such bad weather conditions.

"Yes, to be fair they were excellent, they made all the running and showed great skill.

"They carried the ball and showed great pace and they made life very difficult for the Barrs.

"Their performance was superb and they did everything we asked of them.

"We simply cannot praise them enough and I am just so delighted for every one of them."

# Douglas

## Debutants too strong for Barrs



LINDA MELLERICK

Douglas  
St Finbarr's

3-16  
3-6

**THIS was absolutely superb.**

It's hard to find the adjectives to describe Douglas' marvellous display in last night's Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final victory in floodlit Páirc Uí Rinn.

They are champions for the first time in the club's history and they claimed their title in style.

But spare a thought for a gallant St Finbarr's team, who more than played their part in a tremendous final in the poorest of weather conditions.

The difference between the sides was that Douglas have talent all over the pitch.

The Barr's, however, rely too heavily on a few key players and against the might of Douglas they just didn't have enough of them.

The opening half was played at a great pace. Referee John O'Leary played his part, keeping his whistle in his pocket unless absolutely necessary.

Niamh Goulding opened the Barr's scoring with a point three minutes in, but the Togher side weren't to score for another 13 minutes.

Despite enjoying a nice amount of possession, the Barr's opted to play two players inside.

As a result, Douglas mopped up the majority of what came in.

Amanda O'Regan was clearing a huge amount of ball and the new kids on the block were more than holding their own.

By the 15th minute, Douglas had raced into a 1-4 to 0-1 lead and the winning signs were there. Aileen O'Donovan was winning everything at left half forward and when her sixth minute strike hit the upright Maria Harkin was on hand to hit home.

Douglas were now controlling the game.

Vivienne Harris moved out and played extremely deep in an effort to get a supply in.

Her excellent low ball found Orla O'Sullivan, who got round Moira O'Donovan, and clinically finished to the far corner of the net to narrow the gap to three points.

Still Douglas were growing in confidence, despite the efforts of Jenny Duffy who was giving it all she had for the Barr's.

Katrina Mackey was causing havoc. Aileen O'Donovan, Julia White and Mackey picked off further



Jubilant for Douglas players after they beat St Finbarr's to win the Evening Echo Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final in Páirc Uí Rinn last night.

Picture: Richard Mills.

### Player of the Match

AT 16 years of age Katrina Mackey gave the performance of a seasoned campaigner. To score 1-9 in your first Senior County Final is something really special.

### Score of the game

IT MAY be of little consolation to Orla O'Sullivan but each of her three goals were of the highest quality and won the admiration of both sets of supporters.

### Turning Point

DOUGLAS led from the sixth minute of this game but Julia White's point with eight minutes remaining was crucially important in steady-ing the winning side.

### Ref Watch

JOHN O'LEARY from Mallow had an excellent game. In poor conditions he let the game flow particularly in the first half. He blew that bit more in the second but with players tiring, the fouls were genuine.



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# delighted



Douglas celebrating their win over St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final in Páirc Uí Rinn last night. Picture: Richard Mills.

## O'Regan finds it all hard to believe

By MARY NEWMAN  
What they said

Amanda O'Regan  
Douglas captain

DOUGLAS captain Amanda O'Regan found it hard to sum up her feeling at the final whistle.

"It's hard to believe we are county senior champions," Amanda O'Regan said.

"At the full time whistle I was nearly crying, it is just a dream come true for me.

"I don't think it will really sink in for a while maybe when I read the Echo tomorrow night and settle down I will really believe it."

I put it to Amanda that despite the youthfulness of the side the Douglas girls had plenty of experience and even before the game they showed little nerves at all.

"Most of them have won so much and they are very relaxed. They might be young but they are not inexperienced.

"The majority of them have county and All-Ireland medals and to them it was just another final.

Reaching their senior county final in their first year in the grade was something which they never expected.

"We won the senior B championship last year and we just took it one game at a time this year.

"We just saw how the season panned out, to be honest we never envisaged it would happen so fast, but we are delighted and really it's beyond our dreams."

The captain paid tribute to all of her side, but she signalled out Katrina Mackey for special mention.

"She has an incredible engine and covers acres of space.

"To be honest, all of the young players were superb tonight, and they really showed a maturity beyond their years."

The victory was a fitting tribute to everybody in the Douglas club.

"All over the pitch our girls were superb and we worked really hard taking the pressure off each other and helping each other out.

"It's a great night for everybody in the club, a few years ago we struggled in the junior grade and we made a decision to stick with it and not drop down to junior B.

"It took a few years but the players are starting to come through now from the underage section and we are reaping the rewards."

Amanda paid tribute to their opponents St Finbarr's.

"It was tough out there tonight and the conditions were hard, but fair play to the Barrs, they gave it everything and made us work for everything we got.

"I know they must be heartbroken to lose two finals back-to-back, having been on losing teams myself, it's not easy and I want to pay tribute to them for their contributions to a wonderful final."

## THREE REASONS WHY DOUGLAS WON

**1 TEAM DISPLAY**  
Douglas have talent in every line of the pitch. While certain players will always stand out this victory was an heroic team effort. All played their part with outstanding contributions from the likes of Katrina Mackey, Julia White and Louise O'Regan, to name a few.

**2 SCORING ABILITY**  
Seven players got on the scoreboard for Douglas compared to just three for St Finbarr's. The quality of scores taken at times was remarkable. They ran at the Barrs' defence before coolly slotting over the bar, adding to confidence of the winners as they went along.

**3 SISTER ACT**  
The O'Regan's (Louise and Amanda), the Mackey's (Katrina and Pamela) and the O'Donovan's (Aileen and Moira) are all inspiring figures for Douglas. How they contributed last evening, with Katrina deservedly getting player of the game as she scored 1-9, was magnificent.

points. Viv Harris got one back but St Finbarr's found themselves five points behind at the break, 1-7 to 1-2 and with it all to do.

The second-half was as good a scoring contest as you'll see; four goals and 13 points in 34 minutes play.

There looked to be no way back for St Finbarr's, when within two minutes Mackey and O'Donovan hit points, and when Rachel O'Sullivan goaled after a Pamela Mackey run the game was surely over, Douglas were now leading 2-9 to 1-3.

But Jenny Duffy continued her passionate play and Viv Harris came thundering into the game.

Orla O'Sullivan jumped high to catch a dropping ball and spinning

around hit a rocket to the net giving Jessica Kavanagh no chance.

There were six points in it. Mackey calmed matters with her fifth point and Julia White added another.

But the Barr's were always going to dominate for a period.

This they did, hitting 1-2 inside three minutes, Orla O'Sullivan getting her hat trick of spellbinding goals.

Louise O'Regan was playing a great game; her calmness under pressure and timely flicks the reason the mentors now switched her to full back in a bid to hold O'Sullivan.

The true test of Douglas's maturity would now unfold.

The gap was down to three points.

The Barr's sensed a comeback. They pushed, Douglas pushed back.

Douglas hit two wides. Had they lost their nerve?

The next score was going to be crucial in determining the outcome.

Julia White hit the steadying point with eight minutes remaining and thereafter there was only one team in it.

In fact, there seemed to be only one person in it as Mackey, who was a colossus throughout, hit 1-4.

Harris struck one for St Finbarr's but she knew herself that at that point it was only a token score for her side.

The game was over. The large vocal Douglas support went wild.

The fairytale year had a fairytale

ending. Douglas had their stars on the night but this was an incredible team performance.

Their tally of 3-16 of which 3-13 came from play epitomised the scoring ability they have displayed all season.

The Mackeys, O'Donovan's, O'Regans and Julia White always stand out, but Emma Jordan, Rachel O'Sullivan, Jessica Kavanagh and each and every one of the players who took to the field gave it all they had on a day when Douglas entered the history books and took their first of what is possibly many more senior county titles to come.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 1-9 (0-2 ft), J White 0-2, M Harkin, R O'Sullivan 1-0 each, A O'Donovan 0-3, A O'Regan 0-1 (ft), R O'Sullivan 0-1.

**St Finbarr's:** O O'Sullivan 3-1, V Harris 0-4 (0-1 ft), N Goulding 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney; L O'Regan, A O'Regan, P Mackey; H O'Mahony, K Mackey; J White, M Harkin, A O'Donovan; E Jordan, E Morgan; R O'Sullivan.

**Subs:** H O'Connor for R O'Sullivan (44), J O'Donovan for E Morgan (62).

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Clifford; C Myers, T Doyle, M McCarthy; C Barrett, L O'Connell, R Myers; J Duffy, B Maher; N Goulding, G O'Connor, V Maher; V Harris, O'Sullivan, C Spellman.

**Subs:** N Cooke for N Goulding (48), N Varian for V Maher (58).

**Referee:** John O'Leary (Mallow).



# Too many are doing too little



LINDA MELLERICK

**THERE** is often much criticism directed at camogie.

So many crib about the lack of PR work done at national level. Those who are complaining don't realise the work that is being undertaken.

PR isn't just about having match previews and reports in every national and local newspaper.

A huge part of PR/marketing is about developing the brand.

There is a huge amount being done at national level and great strides are being made. But they won't achieve success overnight and that's why perseverance is crucial.

I'm quite sure those making such a huge effort become dismayed and disheartened with all the negativity.

Five years ago I'd have agreed with most, that we had a long way to go. But with the appointment of personnel such as the regional development officers and director of development there is an acknowledgment and steady progression towards nurturing the game in non playing counties and strengthening it in others.

Our relationship with the Irish Sports Council has flourished, leading to the availability of further grants, which is put back into the game. Would the Sports Council offer such assistance if they didn't feel their funds were being put to good use?

The attendance at this year's camogie final was disappointing, in and around 18,000.

Considering that six teams took to the field that day it was extremely poor. The Tipperary v Kilkenny U21 hurling final drew a small crowd and it was envisaged that the staging of



Cork 96FM GAA Sports Star of the Month, Briege Corkery with her Cork camogie and lady footballer colleagues, left to right, Rosarie Holland, Aoife Murray, Catriona Foley, Jim McCarthy, coach, Linda O'Connell and Joanne O'Callaghan pictured in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

this final on All-Ireland camogie day would enhance the crowd needed to make 'hiring out' Croke Park viable.

Not so! I would have expected a great turn-out from Kilkenny as they sought their third All-Ireland title of 2008.

Wexford brought an incredible crowd to Croke Park last year when the attendance was over 30,000. I was hoping in some part that they would reach it again because they always bring a large vocal support.

Maybe that's down to lack of success. If Wexford were in All-Ireland finals year after year would the support hold?

It may seem that Irish

people don't travel to GAA matches as much as they used to. I don't feel that is the case. I think there are just too many matches now and to get to them all, particularly with a family, is impossible. So people pick and choose.

Despite the best efforts of the association to hold a National Club Forum today in Croke Park, the event had to be cancelled due to a lack of take up from clubs across the country. There are over 540 camogie clubs in Ireland and throughout Britain, Europe, US, Australia and Dubai.

Among others, the National Forum was to provide the opportunity to give clubs a voice

in the development of camogie, recognise the role of camogie in building local communities, identify emerging issues for the development of the game, hear about new initiatives to promote camogie.

There were a lot of activities planned as well as a tour of Croke Park Stadium and camogie promotional material.

Unfortunately those involved in club camogie are already doing more than their fair share, so a trip to Croke Park is possibly viewed as an additional burden rather than a nice day out.

Too few are getting involved in underage, but for many who don't have an 8-4.30pm or sim-

ilar working life, getting to the ground in time for early evening training sessions or matches, particularly away games, is difficult.

A burden shared is a burden halved, but it is amazing how the same people are doing it all year after year.

I do believe that if you ask many to do a little it will succeed rather than asking a few to do a lot.

The National Forum is re-scheduled for February. Maybe it will have a greater chance of success at the beginning of a season when volunteers are fresh and eager rather than the end when they are tired and need a break.

**Courcies hold on to book final spot**

By JOE KENNEFICK  
U16B Championship

**Courcey Rovers 1-7**  
**Ballygarvan 1-5**

**COURCEY ROVERS** qualified for the final of the U16 B Cork Camogie Championship after a hard fought victory over Ballygarvan in good conditions at Coachford last Saturday. Ballygarvan opened the scoring with a point from Ashling Byrne in the first minute, but Courcies aided by the breeze hit back with a goal from Julie Mulcahy in the ninth minute. Points from Mulcahy (2), Edel Moloney, and Caron O'Reilly left Courcies in a strong position, before three pointed frees from Byrne left Courcies in front at the Interval 1-4 to 0-4.

Ballygarvan had two goal chances in the opening minutes of the second half, but missed both, and Courcies with points from Moloney, O'Reilly, Mulcahy, and Naomi McCarthy were seven points in front with ten minutes remaining.

However, Ballygarvan rallied and a goal and a point from Byrne, left just a goal between the sides with five minutes remaining. Ballygarvan laid siege to the Courcies goal, but a shot from substitute Caitriona Keohane just went over the crossbar. Ballygarvan powered forward but just could not get the goal they needed, and Courcies held out for the win.

**Scorers for Courcey Rovers:**  
J Mulcahy 1-2, E Moloney 0-2, C O'Reilly 0-2 N McCarthy 0-1.

**Ballygarvan:** A Byrne 1-4, C Keohane 0-1.

**COURCEY ROVERS:** J L Condon, L O'Donovan, E Hegarty, J Ryan, P Collins, C O'Driscoll, R Moore, J Crowley, N McCarthy, C Collins, C O'Reilly, A Keating, E Moloney, J Mulcahy, A Moloney. Subs: A O'Sullivan for C Collins. Not used A O'Sullivan, T Collins, E Hannon, J McCarthy, F Ryan.

**BALLYGARVAN:** K O'Donovan, M Coveney, L O'Callaghan, A Keohane, L Kennedick, L Browne, C White, M Moynihan, C Murphy, A Byrne, R Keohane, S Quilligan, R O'Halloran, R Murphy, A Walsh. Subs: C O'Sullivan for R O'Halloran, C Keohane for C White.

**Referee:** G Sheehan (Douglas).

## Sheehan impressive for Blarney college

**Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal 3-4**  
**Coachford 1-5**

**SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL** and Coachford played out an exciting contest in the Munster Colleges Intermediate league recently. Coachford's centre back Sarah Dineen had converted a free be-

fore Blarney got their opening score from Aileen Sheehan. Michelle O'Sullivan edged Coachford ahead with play swinging from end to end both defences had to be at their best. Twenty minutes into the first half Blarney were back on level terms before Sheehan grabbed Blarney's first goal five minutes later

By MARY NEWMAN

Munster Colleges camogie

the same player set up Deirdre O'Callaghan to finish to the Coachford net and it was Blarney who led 2-3 to 0-2 at the break. Dineen cut the deficit with a Coachford point but Blarney responded with a point from Alan-

nah Twohig. Michelle O'Sullivan converted a Coachford free and when Rachel Manley found the net the lead began to whittle away. Eileen O'Riordan added a point but it was too little too late as Blarney ran out winners

**COACHFORD COLLEGE:** Grace Fitzpatrick; Laura O'Mahony; Louise Stack (C); Eimear Murphy; Rachel Mc-

Carthy; Sarah Dineen; Claire Finnegan; Edel O'Sullivan; Elaine O'Mahoney; Marie Corkery; Jennifer Healy; Nicola Doherty; Maeve Hennessey; Michelle O'Sullivan; Lynn O'Leary.

**SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL:** Meg O'Regan; Megan Alo; Amanda Twohig; Mairead Jones; Michelle Sexton; Ellen O'Sullivan-Barrows; Claire Crenin; Aileen Sheehan; Tara O'Keefe; Grace Lynch; Alannah Twohig; Deirdre O'Callaghan; Olivia Worth; Niamh Duloher; Claire Sands.



## Double celebrations in school as Hurling and Camogie champions come for a visit



There was a double celebration at St Joseph's NS in Glanmire recently when Cork Camogie captain Emer O'Farrell and Sarsfields captain Kieran Murphy came visiting. The two winning sportspeople got a great reception and a guard of honour when they arrived brandishing their recently-won trophies — the O'Duffy Cup and Seán Óg Murphy Cup respectively. Picture: Ger Bonus



Cork's Regina Curtain seen here in action against Sinead Kelly (left) and Jenny Reddy of Kilkenny during their Gala All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final at McDonagh Park, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, on Sunday last.

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## Playing sports shaped leader Linda as a person

**KAREN O'CONNELL** meets former St Patrick's pupil and ex-Cork All-Ireland camogie team captain Linda Mellerick, pictured.

**When did you start playing camogie?**  
When I went into first year in St Patrick's College. I had never heard of camogie before then. I was soccer crazy. So I suppose I must have been 12 or 13 years old. I remember principal John Ring coming into the class and asking us if we would play. I put my hand up and went home and told my parents I was going to play hockey with St Patrick's. My dad said: Are you sure it's not camogie? I'm sure that's what they play in St Patrick's. Of course, he was right.

**What are your proudest memories?** I was extremely proud to be made captain of the school team in sixth-year. Obviously, captaining Cork was a proud moment too. But some of my greatest memories are of specific matches. I would place



winning the All-Ireland title in 1995 against Kilkenny in the dying moments, at the top of the list. But no matter what jersey it was, I felt tremendous pride. I always went out every time to do it justice. I might not have always achieved this, but I tried.

**Have you any advice for young players?**

I would encourage all youngsters to play sports. It doesn't have to be camogie, but I would be pushing that it is. It's healthy and enjoyable but, most of all, it develops you as an individual. Both physically and emotionally, one develops through sport. Learn to listen and take advice, improve on your weaknesses and play to your strengths, display a

commitment to your teammates, learn to take the highs with the lows, and adapt to whatever is needed for the team. All these characteristics you will need in life. Whether it's on the pitch in school, in the workplace or at home, you will need to call upon these traits in your personality at some stage.



Cork's Gemma O'Connor and Mary O'Connor had a red letter day at the senior All-Ireland camogie final.

Picture: Dan Linn



Veronica Curtin of Galway tackles Cork's Gemma O'Connor.



## St. Finbarr's Camogie Club

The present St. Finbarr's Camogie Club was formed in 1972 under the guidance of Frances Barry-Murphy. Our first championship success came in 1981 when Marie O'Sullivan captained her team to victory in the Cork Junior Championship. The Club climbed another step up the ladder in the following year when Louise Cosgrove led the Barrs to glory in the Intermediate Championship.

Ellen Clifford was skipper when the Barrs captured the Cork Senior B title in 2001. The Barrs contested three County Senior finals, 1990, 1992 and 2002, and endured the pain of defeat before achieving their goal. Linda O'Connell accepted the Science Cup, symbol of supremacy in Cork Camogie, on a historic day in 2006. The Barrs were Cork Senior A Camogie Champions.

The Barrs have produced many outstanding camogie players. At the height of their careers, Clare Cronin, Colette O'Mahony and Gemma O'Connor equalled the best in the country. In a golden era in the Eighties, the Barrs gave Cork three All-Ireland Minor captains, Paula Carey, Colette O'Mahony and Deirdre Christie.

Off the field, the Barrs have contributed significantly to Cork Camogie. The Club has given Cork an outstanding administrator in the present Cork Chairperson, Marion McCarthy.

Today, the Barrs hope to add another chapter to their history. Fresh from their All Ireland success, Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell and Jenny Duffy, will lead the charge. The panel has prepared well under the direction of Derek McCarthy and will give of their best to bring the coveted trophy back to Neenan Park.

## Douglas prove too strong for Killeedy

**CAMOGIE:** Fresh from their inaugural Cork county senior camogie championship final win on Friday night, Douglas overcame Limerick champions Killeedy by nine points — 1-14 to 0-8 — in yesterday's Munster club championship at Douglas. Goalscorer Helen O'Mahony was assisted by 0-7 from 16-year-old Katrina Mackey, while five points from another rising star Julia White ensured the victory.



**W**hat's another year? Beaten by Wexford last year in the final defence of their All-Ireland senior camogie title, Cork are back again as proud national champions for 2008.

A slow start, some top class individual displays and scores—that briefly sums up how they regained the All-Ireland senior camogie championship at the expense of Galway in a splendid final before an attendance of 18,727 at Croke Park to boost their record to an impressive 23 titles.

They went into that game under the shadow of a defeat by the Western County earlier in the group series of games in the championship. Early in the decider it looked as if that win over the Leesiders had given a good all round Galway side a real boost in confidence as they took the game in splendid fashion to their opponents.

It took the more experience Cork outfit ten minutes to open their scoring. By then Galway had rifled over four points and were playing with poise and plenty of skill.

The Southerners came more into the game after that and right full forward Sile Burns stepped into the picture in a big way.

The Rockban club player hit the first goal of the game after seventeen minutes and three minutes later was back again to find her way through to the Western net.

However, Galway, to their credit, did not flinch and coming up to the interval they received a real boost when a long range shot from midfielder Aine Hillary ended up in the Cork net.

That score left the Westerners well in the hunt at the interval when they trailed by just a point—2-3 to 1-5.



*Sile Burns celebrates*

Galway continued to strive valiantly in the second half but found Aoife Murray in tremendous form in the Leaside goal. She brought off three magnificent saves during the half.

Cork, powered by the tireless and accomplished Briege Corkery, continued to play with purpose and flair in the second half and eventually finished deserving winners by 2-10 to 1-8 to complete a splendid come-back from that defeat by Wexford in last year's showpiece game.

Cork were particularly well represented in the middle of the park where Corkery and Orla Cotter did much with their tireless play and skills to orchestrate the success.

Rachel Moloney was another ace in the Leaside pack, finishing their leading scores with seven points, four from frees, and two from 45's.

Cathriona Foley played a real captain's role with her leadership and reliable hurling at full back, while left half back Sara Hayes was another stalwart in a disciplined rearguard that gave little away easily.

Over-all it was a good team performance by Cork. However, credit must also go to a gallant Galway side, which contributed in rich measure to one of the best finals in years.

On the scoring target for Cork were:

Rachel Moloney, 0-7, Sile Buns 2-0, Orla Cotter 0-1, Briege Corkery 0-1, Eimear O'Sullivan 0-1.

## TOP SCORERS MOLONEY LEADS THE WAY IN CORK CHART

Rachel Moloney strengthened her position as Cork's most prolific scorer by helping herself to seven points in the All-Ireland senior final. That returned boosted her record for the entire championship season to a splendid 2-49 (55 points).

Jessica Gill, who is only 18, finished the leading scorer for both teams with 0-8 for Galway, 0-7 from frees and a point from a 45.

She comfortably finished the leading score-getter for the entire championship season nationally with a superb 6-48 (66 points).

That's excellent finishing by any standard.

## THE MARCH TO THE TITLE

Cork had eight games on the way to the All-Ireland senior camogie title.

They lost once in seven appearances—ironically to Galway. The

early rounds were played on a Group system.

This is how the Rebel County regained the title after two years:

**Cork 1-13; Dublin 0-5.**  
**Cork 3-6; Wexford 0-5.**  
**Cork 1-16; Tipperary 0-10.**  
**Cork 0-9; Galway 1-9.**  
**Cork 2-21; Limerick 1-5.**  
**Cork 5-11; Kilkenny 0-7.**  
**SEMI-FINAL**  
**Cork 3-14; Tipperary 0-10**  
**ALL-IRELAND FINAL**  
**Cork 2-10; Galway 1-8.**



Cork camogie players Sile Burns and Cathriona Foley at the Fota Island Spa corporate membership event. Picture: Gerard McCarthy

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# Derry capture historic three in a row - 16B Championship Final 2008

Derry maintained their hold on the All-Ireland U16B competition on Sunday, defeating Offaly in impressive style in the final. The Derry fans were treated to a fine display of camogie from start to finish, played in glorious conditions in Ashbourne. While the entire team are to be commended, right half forward Karen Kielt deserves a special mention, notching up an outstanding individual tally of 2-12.



Winning Derry Team - All Ireland Champions 2008

Derry raced ahead early in the game against a team who were very much an unknown quantity. While Kielt, Grainne McNicholl and

Mary Kelly bagged goals apiece, Offaly struggled to get into the game and were given little room by a tight Derry defence. Derry were in the ascendancy, going in 3-8 to 0-2 ahead at the break.

In the second half, the Oak Leaf side continued where they had left off, with further goals from McNicholl, Kelly and Teresa McElroy. Derry scored at will while Offaly could only manage 2 points from play in the entire game.

This is a very strong Derry side who have made effective use of players with the experience from the previous All-Ireland campaigns, peppered with exciting talent such as Kielt and McNicholl. Congratulations to all the players and to the management team of Eugene Burns, Maura McCloy, Pamela Frizelle and Gearalt Ó Mianáin.

The girls will enjoy their win but will look to top it off with an Ulster title. Derry now face Down in the Ulster Final (date to be confirmed).

**Derry Scorers:** Karen Kielt 2-12 (1-8 from frees), Grainne McNicholl and Mary Kelly 2-0 each, Teresa McElroy 1-3, Eimear Mullan 0-2, Aine McElwee 0-1.

**Derry:** Niamh McQuillan, Grace Kelly, Grainne O'Kane, Maria Mooney, Danielle McCrystal, Mary Jo McCullagh, Kelly Marie Hegarty, Rachel Kelly, Eilis Cassidy, Karen Kielt, Eimear Mullan, Dania Donnelly, Mary Kelly, Grainne McNicholl, Teresa McElroy.

**Subs.** Mairead Walsh for Maria Mooney, Aine McElwee for Teresa McElroy, Mary T Scullion for Kelly Marie Hegarty, Shauneen Donaghy for Karen Kielt, Samantha Rodgers for Niamh McQuillan.

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Right: Claire McMahon, Clare, in action against Michaela Morkan, Offaly in the 2008 All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park

## Killeagh and Eire og record victories

KILLEAGH and Eire Og recorded victories in the Senior B Championship at castle Road last weekend. Eire og ensured they booked themselves a semi final place when they hung on with two points to spare over Glen Rovers, Killeagh already with their semi final; secured defeated Valley Rovers with eight points to spare and in doing so ended Valley hunt for a semi finals spot and ensured its Ballinacorney who advance.

## Junior finals

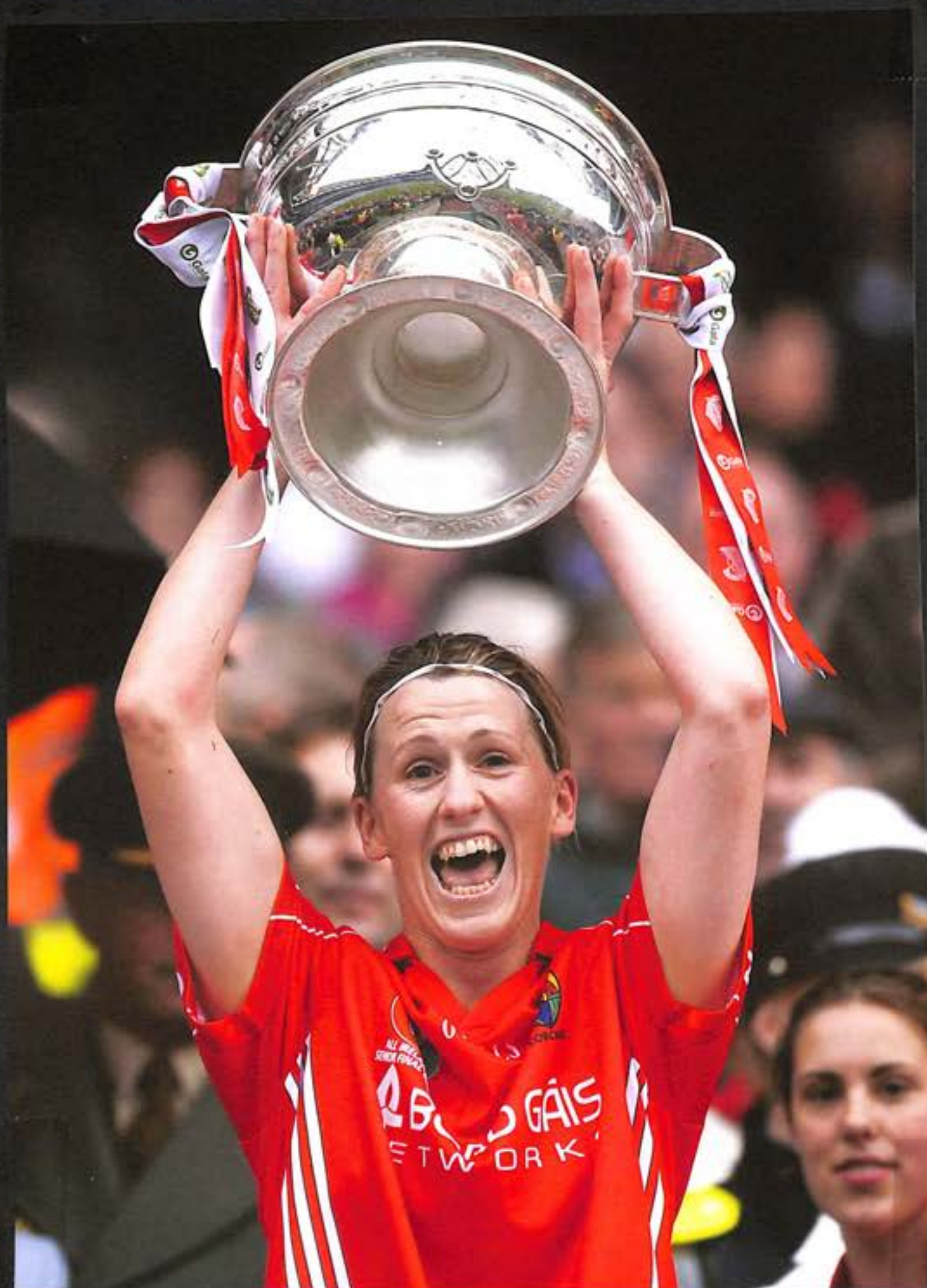
THE Junior Championship finals on Sunday in Castle Road Blackrock at 2pm it's the junior "B" final Brian Dillon's meeting Douglas followed by the junior "A" final Clonakilty against Ballincollig at 4pm. The junior shield semi-finals St Finbarrs versus Valley Rovers also on Sunday at 11am and the junior C league final between Castleyons and Ballinacorney at 12 noon

## Under age updates

THE semi final draws are as follows Eire Og v Ballinacorney Rockban v Killeagh. Eire OG took the Under 16 C championship title recently when they had a 3-13 to 2-9 victories over Ballinacorney well done to Claire Meeney who was named player of the match. Down for decision on Saturday are the Under 16 "A" Championship Semi Final Douglas v Inniscarra and Mallow v Milford venues and times to be arranged. Tonight Thursday the Under 16 "B" Championship Semi Final Valley Rovers v Ballinacorney is at 7.30 in Cloughduv.



# Red September





# Cork close gap

Words: Gerry Slevin  
Photos: Sportsfile  
Thomas Sheehan

Cork are now just 3 short of Dublin's magnificent 26.

Cork's day it was and deservedly so. So able in all departments, oozing confidence and far sharper in attack, they clipped Galway's wings thus making Sunday September 14th a truly red-letter day for the Rebel County.

There's nothing like defeat to spur on a team, especially when that defeat was not expected. It happened to Cork twice in just over twelve months. The 2007 Gala senior camogie All-Ireland final saw underdogs Wexford break back for the first time since 1975, thereby claiming the new O'Duffy Cup.

Came the '08 campaign and having been deprived of a three-in-a-row achievement Cork set out to start another bid for that marvellous exploit, one that had visited them in 1934-37, '39-'41, and '70-'72 to which was added '73 for good measure. New team management, the need to introduce some new players because of retirements, leaves of absence etc presented Cork with a huge challenge

and how they rose to it. Wexford were handed a ten point thrashing in the round robin series but Galway stepped in to inflict the only defeat in the campaign. Unexpected, to say the least, especially on their home patch. When Tipperary fell in the semi final and champions Wexford bowed out to Galway's blistering finish, the scene was set for an opportunity to set the record straight.

Galway were back in the final for the first time since 1998 when they suffered defeat to Cork in the first ever live televised final. Two years earlier they had won their one and only title, beating Cork. So, back in Croke Park after such a lengthy absence, it had to be Cork again. A serious mission for both. Revenge for '07 and for that round robin defeat by Galway firmly



Sile Burns and Cork Captain Cathriona Foley proudly display the O'Duffy Cup to their supporters in Carrignavar after their success over Galway in the 2008 All-Ireland Final.

in Cork's minds; Galway so anxious to add to that solitary title victory of '96.

Cork's day it was and deservedly so. So able in all departments, oozing confidence and far sharper in attack, they clipped Galway's wings thus making Sunday September 14th a truly red-letter day for the Rebel County. Their 2-10 to 1-8 victory brought them their 23rd title, thus leaving them but three behind Dublin's proud tally of twenty-six in camogie's roll of honour.

It was a good championship, with Cork always setting the pace. Five of the seven teams were there with a shout of making it to the semis. Dublin and Limerick seen as having some way yet to go before breaking through. The first shock came in the opening series when newly crowned league champions Kilkenny fell to Tipperary in Nowlan Park but Tipp's hopes were rudely dashed when facing up to Cork down in Ballincollig. There, they lost a four point interval lead to succumb to a nine point defeat. But the main talking point in the early rounds was the failure of Wexford to capitalise on their '07 success. Did they celebrate too well or had the appetite left them? Following defeats to Cork and Galway they pulled themselves together, beat Kilkenny and Dublin and edged out Tipp with a late goal in Semple Stadium before ensuring their renaissance with a big victory over Limerick. Kilkenny's first series defeat by Tipp, coming so soon after their league final victory over Galway seemed to set them back quite a bit and they found themselves struggling thereafter, eventually losing out on a last four place.

Nevertheless, they are hardly too worried about the future in Kilkenny. Their under 16 side claimed national honours for the fourth successive year. Cork their victims for the third time running. All-Ireland minor honours were also theirs and their Intermediates have a final date with Cork. Like their male counterparts, there's a steady stream of talent on the verge of development and sure to cause problems for all others quite soon.

When the disappointment of this year's final defeat subsides Galway will be there again next season, more determined still

Tipp are somewhat in transition but it has to be a worry for the Premier County that the talent pool is not as productive as might be expected in the light of what was achieved in 1999-2004. Wexford need only to get into the mood. They have the players. Dublin and Limerick are indeed finding the going tough at the top. For all that, they are fiercely determined and perseverance can pay off eventually. But of course, it will be Cork they all have to beat. Always there or thereabouts they appear to have an endless pool of up and

coming talent. So many are vying for places and competition is never less than intense.

Great too to see Clare stepping up a grade after a series of heartbreaking junior final defeats. Their victory over Offaly might have been very late in coming and the Faithful girls were so unlucky but Clare's persistence paid off in the end. Both Clare and Offaly are doing magnificent work for camogie and they will soon be up to challenge the top teams just as their hurlers did not so long ago.



Gemma O'Connor, Cork, in action against Aine Hillary, Galway in the 2008 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final, in Croke Park.



# Big weekend in Burns' household

Words: Finbarr McCarthy  
Photos: Sportsfile  
Thomas Sheehan

6.40pm Síle's phone beeps with a text message in the Red Cow Hotel, Cork's base for the weekend, and it's encouraging news, half-time in the junior final Carrignavar ahead by 1-6 to 0-5, so far so good.

Hurling and camogie have equal billing in the Burns household

**S**aturday September 13th the Burns household is a hive of activity as father and daughter prepare for big games.

Síle is busy packing her gear and preparing to travel to Dublin as a member of the Cork camogie team who face Galway in the All-Ireland final on Sunday.

Denis her father, has his own big game to think about as the local club Carrignavar get ready to face Killeagh in the East Cork Junior hurling Championship final, and as coach to the team he has a lot of planning to do.

Hurling and camogie were always going to be priorities in the house, Síle's brother Con is also on the Carrignavar team, as Denis was reared on the game from a very early age, in the famous blue jersey of St Finbarrs on the southside of Cork City.

Having learned the skills of the game in the under-age section and in their renowned street leagues, it was obvious that Denis was going to 'make it' at the highest level, and those knowledgeable men were spot on.

In a glittering career Denis a corner-back of exceptional talent picked up four county senior hurling medals in a glorious era for the 'Barr's, as well as captaining the club to the All-Ireland title in 1978.

On the inter-county front he was a member of the Cork three in a row winning squad of 1976/77/78.

As a hurling man Denis had a 'grá' for coaching, placing great emphasis on the basic skills of the game. In tandem with others he produced a fabulous hurling manual for Croke Park one of the first of its kind that the GAA sanctioned.

Denis also coached the Cork Minor Hurlers to win the All-Ireland title in 1998, the team was captained by Cathal Mc Carthy, son of another legendary Barrs and Cork Hurler Charlie.

Carrignavar has been home for the North Monastery teacher for sometime now, so it was no great surprise that his coaching skills would be sought by a club, whose burning ambition was to lift the East Cork Championship, a feat that has eluded them in their 100 year history, but this Saturday all that could change.

Before that joust with Killeagh, it was time to impart some advice to Síle as she headed off to meet up with her colleagues for their clash with Galway, as always it was simple, do your best and the rest will happen. Denis was never one to complicate matters, hurling and camogie, were and always will be simple games and should be kept that way.

At 2.30 the train taking the Cork team



Cork's Síle Burns celebrates after scoring the first of her two goals against Galway in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final 2008

to Dublin left Kent Station with the good wishes of many ringing in their ears, but for Síle her thoughts drifted to Ballynoe, where at 6 pm Carrignavar and Killeagh would go head to head for the East Cork Title.

Síle is eagerly looking forward to the final, having been a panel member for a few years but travel and study meant she missed out on a couple of wins and then had to endure the defeat to Wexford in last year's final.

2007 did end well; a county senior medal with divisional side Muskerry and qualification as a physiotherapist, she recently took up a full time position in Skibbereen Community Hospital so she could fully concentrate on Cork and her club Rockbawn, and now the final beckoned.

A short few hours later Denis is once again imparting his knowledge this time to a group of committed hurlers who were huddled together in the middle of the

field, their destiny in their own hands.

6.40 pm Síle's phone beeps with a text message in the Red Cow Hotel, Cork's base for the weekend and it's encouraging news at half-time in the junior final Carrignavar ahead by 1-6 to 0-5, so far so good.

40 minutes later it beeps again, the long wait is over as Carrig are crowned East Cork Junior Champions and the Jamesey Kelleher Cup is bound for a new home.

Denis is thrilled with the win, son Con



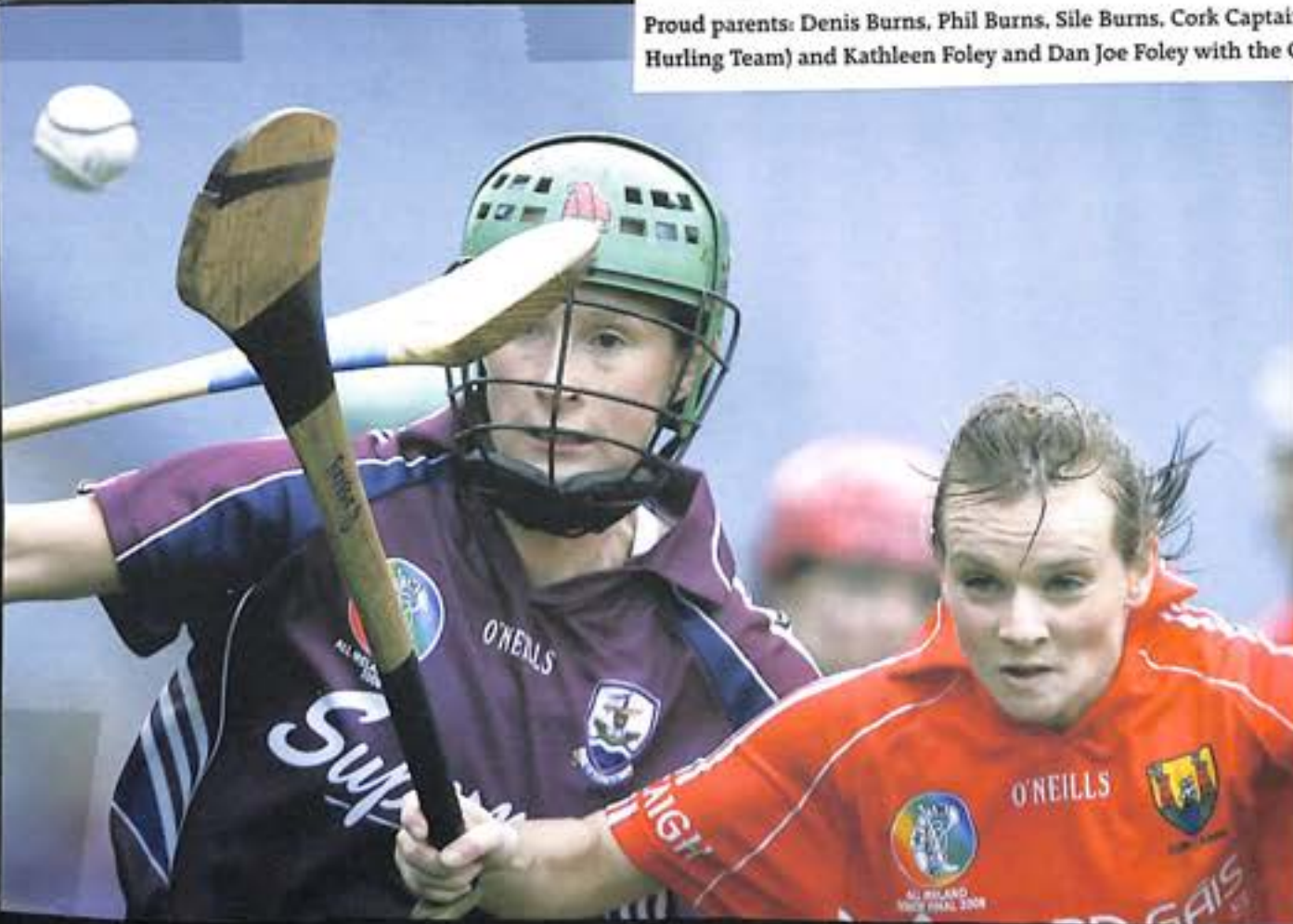


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Above: Chloe Morey, Clare, in action against Karen Nugent, Offaly in the 2008 All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park.



Proud parents: Denis Burns, Phil Burns, Sile Burns, Cork Captain Cathriona Foley, Timmy Geaney (captain Carrignavar Junior Hurling Team) and Kathleen Foley and Dan Joe Foley with the O'Duffy Cup in Carrignavar in 2008





# Liz – tailor made for camogie's top job

Words: Gerry Slevin  
Photos: Sportsfile

Miriam O'Callaghan had opened the gates to progress and a sense of adventure during her three years in office. Liz was all for progress, for heightening camogie's image.

It took Tipperary until 1999 to win the All Ireland senior camogie title for the first time. It was a further seven years before a native of the county acquired the reins of leadership of the Camogie Association. Saturday March 25th 2006 saw that achievement come about in the Tullamore Court Hotel. Appropriate it was that the woman chosen to lead the Association for a three year period should be one who is steeped in GAA tradition and who over several years has become one of the most voluble and easily recognisable female faces in a predominantly male domain.

LIZ HOWARD is indeed better known for her GAA rather than her camogie involvement, in spite of the fact that she did line out for Tipperary and had the distinction of being on the Tipp team that won the inaugural National League title back in 1977. She also played for Dublin and was instrumental in the revival of the game in Clare.

However, her personnel work with Aer Lingus provided her with the ideal backdrop against which to apply her excellent communications skills, skills that worked a treat during a long involvement with the Tipperary County GAA Board as its PRO. Those skills were also extended to a broader scene when she was an analyst on the inaugural 'Sunday Game' television programme with presenter Jim Carney.

So, how come the move to camogie at administrative level and the somewhat rapid rise to the office of National President?

Liz readily attributes her promotion from the peripheral side of camogie to the inner sanctum, to the influence of the woman she succeeded in 2006. Miriam



Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association

O'Callaghan. Miriam and Liz met for the first time on the 'Forum for Women in Gaelic Games' group, a body set up in 2000 and which Liz chaired. Miriam invited Liz on to camogie's Management Committee, a timely invitation indeed because of the lead-in to the Camogie Association's centenary celebrations in 2004.

Certainly a case of being thrown in at the deep end, but nothing could have pleased the Youghal woman more because of her penchant for hard work and for getting stuck in, as was indeed the case when it came to the centenary celebrations. Liz left her mark quite emphatically in the organisation of much of what went on during centenary year, notably the celebration banquets and the arrangements for All Ireland final day itself.

CCIA (Third Level Colleges) nominated Liz for the presidency of the Camogie



President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard who was presented with the Tipperary Association Dublin Person of the Year award shares a joke with former Tipperary hurler Tony Wall who was presented with the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Hall of Fame award at the 2008 Tipperary Association Dublin Awards in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin.

Association and she entered the race at the 2006 Congress, facing into a contest with Pat Rafferty from Fermanagh, who had held the office immediately prior to Miriam O'Callaghan.

For one who invariably sets high standards in everything she seeks to accomplish, this was one venture, about the outcome of which she had grave doubts. Apart from the fact that she was a relative newcomer to the camogie big time scene, she felt that the Association was only gradually awakening into the 21st century, having been mired in traditional values for so long.

Miriam O'Callaghan had opened the gates to progress and a sense of adventure during her three years in office. Liz was all for progress, for heightening camogie's image. Old ways were still highly valued among many of the rank and file members and Liz genuinely felt that she would have a really tough struggle on her

hands if she was to emerge with the confidence of delegates in her favour.

To say she was surprised when Miriam O'Callaghan announced the result would be an understatement. The voting was not revealed but word was that the margin was decisive and it was an emotional Liz Howard who addressed the delegates but who immediately announced that although she would follow excellently drawn footprints to a degree she would also create her own. A clear indication, even at that early stage, that she would be her own person.

And that she has been throughout a busy and eventful reign which comes to an end next March when she will be succeeded by the Kildare-based Cork native Joan O'Flynn. Earlier, Liz had been one of those who had helped to draw up the Association's Strategic Plan, a document in which she firmly believes and which she sees as being the only way

forward for camogie. She will also admit to having stepped on toes in the way in which she has set up various sub-committees and in what she expected them to produce, along with her attitude to other organisational and administrative matters.

Unfortunately, Liz didn't have the opportunity while President of presenting the O'Duffy Cup to a Tipperary captain on All Ireland final day. That aside, her years in office have been hugely gratifying and without a doubt when she hands over to Joan O'Flynn in March Liz Howard will have the satisfaction of having led her organisation with incisiveness, imagination, dedication and courage.

Last April the honour her election as Camogie President brought to her native county was reflected in her being chosen as the Tipperary Person of the Year by the county Association in Dublin.





Diarmuid O'Donovan, Evening Echo, presents the Player of the Match award to Douglas's Katriona Mackey after they beat St Finbarr's in the Evening Echo Camogie County final in Páirc Uí Rinn on Friday night. Picture: Richard Mills

By MARY NEWMAN

Douglas's county win

STILL drenched to the skin after capturing her first senior county championship medal in a rain-soaked Páirc Uí Rinn on Friday the smile on the face of *Evening Echo* Player of the Match Katriona Mackey was enough to light up a stadium.

Her player of the match contribution of 1-9 of the Douglas tally was crucial to their cause and ended the Barrs' dream of winning their second senior title.

Afterwards she found it all very entertaining and enjoyable as she giggled her way through our interview.

"Oh my God, I am just shocked," she said. "I never imagined I would be standing here doing this tonight."

"Everybody on the team played their part and every player backed each other up and just gave it everything."

"I am delighted to be player of the match but to be honest any

## Young Mackey makes a mark

one of the girls could have got it.

"They were all excellent. I thought it was a mistake when they announced my name, I still can't believe it."

Lining out in a senior county final at just 16 years of age is a daunting task, but for Katriona Mackey it was just another game that she took in her stride.

"We just focused on the match and while it was the county final we knew we had to perform to the very best of our ability if we were to win it. Once the game started the nerves disappeared. We knew we had a chance if we played well."

"We had already beaten Muskerry in the semi-final and they were the champions, so we knew we were good enough to win it

and I am just so happy we did."

Katriona still played down her role in the historic capturing of their first senior title heaping huge praise on the club's back-room team and her team-mates.

"Everybody is very helpful. The older girls on the team really encourage the younger ones and the selectors and mentors all worked very hard to make this happen."

Earlier in the season Katriona suffered the disappointment of losing in the U16 All-Ireland final to Kilkenny and again last Sunday when she came on as a substitute as Cork lost out to Kilkenny in the Intermediate final.

"It is hard to lose an All-Ireland final and it was very disappointing, but we had to just put it behind us and get on with it and this

really makes up for it."

Katriona felt their good start was crucial to the final outcome.

"We got the first goal after just six minutes and it helped settle us. From there on we were in the lead. With eight minutes to go, when they got it down to three points we had to fight back, but Julia got a great point and we settled again and it was just great to hear the full time whistle."

"Then all the excitement started and I still can't believe it to be honest."

Whether she believes it or not does not matter.

She was superb on the night and she put in a wonderful performance. She is a player who is destined for greater things to come in the years ahead.

## Éire Óg show grit to advance

By MARY NEWMAN

Evening Echo Senior B championship

Éire Óg	2-5
Glen Rovers	2-3

ÉIRE ÓG hung on to claim their place in the semi-final of the *Evening Echo* Senior B championship after a close contest as they held off a late Glen Rovers rally at Castle Road, Blackrock yesterday.

Karen O'Connell and Alanna McKenna swapped early points early on.

McKenna hit the first goal when she battled her way past the Glen defence to finish to the net.

The Glen struck back from the puck-out with Sinead O'Halloran firing home from close range to tie the game up again.

It was nip and tuck as Margaret O'Herlihy and Denise Luby swapped

points, but with on the half-time whistle Margaret O'Herlihy gave Éire Óg the advantage when she sent a free to the roof of the net to leave her side 2-2 to 1-2 ahead at the break.

Margaret O'Herlihy stretched soon stretched Éire Óg's lead to four.

The same player pointed a 45 before Ciara McKenna's point looked to have the game secured for Éire Óg as they went six clear.

The Glen girls were not going out of this championship without a fight.

Denise Luby sent a free to the net.

From the puck out Sinead Gallen pointed, but that was as close as they got as Éire Óg hung on against strong pressure to secure their semi-final spot.

**Scorers for Éire Óg:** M O'Herlihy 1-3 11-11 0-145; A McKenna 1-1.

**Glen Rovers:** D Luby 1-1 (1-0), S O'Halloran 1-0, K O'Connell, S Gallen 0-1.

**ÉIRE ÓG:** M Gleeson, L Murphy, C McKenna, K McCarthy, C McCarthy, S Gleeson, E Kelleher, C McKenna, R Murray, A Mc

Carthy, C Meeney, M O'Herlihy, A McKenna, C O'Leary, C O'Keefe.

**GLEN ROVERS:** K Newman, L Kelly, A Gulton, Z Buckley, M Hegarty, L Cunningham, B Walsh, A Keating, E Riordan, S Gallen, C Shortt, K O'Connell, S O'Halloran, A Walsh, D Luby. **Subs:** N O'Brien for A Walsh (41), S Fahy for B Walsh (49).

**Referee:** Barry Day (Aghada).

Killeagh	2-7
Valley Rovers	0-5

DESPITE having their place in the semi-final secured before a ball was struck, Killeagh recorded a good victory in this highly entertaining contest at Castle Road yesterday.

Their win ensured it will be Ballinhassig who join them as the second team from their section.

Valley Rovers started well and were on the scoreboard quickly thanks to Claire Duggan's early point.

Angela Walsh replied for Killeagh before Stephanie Beausang fired a shot to the net to give Killeagh the lead.

Killeagh quickly tacked on two further points before the break.

Killeagh had stretched their advantage to five points by the three-quarter stage before Angela Walsh struck for Killeagh's second goal to end the game as a contest.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** A Walsh 1-4, S Beausang 1-0, N O'Donovan 0-2 (0-1 45), AM Walsh 0-1.

**Valley Rovers:** MA Hawkes 0-2 (0-1), L Hawkes 0-1(f), C Duggan, C Deasy 0-1 each.

**KILLEAGH:** C Deane, S Smiddy, M Smiddy, K Kelleher, A M Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill, L O'Connor, K Rohan, S Beausang, A Walsh, J O'Shea, L Kelly, N O'Donovan, G Cunningham.

**VALLEY ROVERS:** G Harrington, A Coughlan, A Murphy, S O'Shea, J Hawkes, L Hawkes, E Coughlan, C Deasy, M Forde, C Duggan, MA Hawkes, M Cottrell, C Foley, L Supler, O'Deary. **Subs:** E O'Mahony for C Foley (41), L Davis for M Forde (50).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).





The Douglas U11 camogie team who won the Seandun League final recently.

## Underage camogie stars show seniors the way

**LAST Friday night the Douglas senior camogie side won their first ever senior championship, in their first year in the top grade.**

A marvellous achievement for this team and no doubt they will be hoping for may more in the years ahead.

But they are not the only camogie side who have enjoyed success recently. The U11 got the better of St Vincent's in the Seandun Premier Camogie League final in the last few weeks.

This final was played in ideal conditions on the camogie board's impressive new pitch in Mahon. Both teams played to a high standard with defences on top in the early stages.

The Douglas goalkeeper Niamh Ni Cuana-

cháin was very dependable while the full back line of Aisling Martin, Kate Scannell and Aoife Costello offered very little room to the opposing forwards.

Gradually Evelyn Cotter, Emma Peate, Lorna Hourican and Aisling O'Herlihy began to gain the upper hand around the middle of the pitch and both Aisling McCarthy and Sorchia Conway were deprived of goals by some good goalkeeping.

Douglas were eventually rewarded with a fine goal from Chloe Nason who tormented the Vincent's defence throughout the game.

At half-time Douglas introduced Orla Jeffries and Sandra Panzavecchia who, following a period of sustained pressure, netted twice in the first 10 minutes of the second-half. To their credit St Vincent's responded magnificently to score a goal and a

point raising the excitement and tension for the spectators.

Both teams dug deep and the game flowed from one goal to the other with both sides failing to take their chances. Following some good defensive work from the player of the match Ciara Harnett, Sarah Kelly and team captain Roisin Clarke the ball broke to Jade Fox who goaled for Douglas. However from the resulting puck out St Vincent's again goaled to leave just five points between the sides with five minutes remaining.

Up stepped the Douglas quartet of Harnett, Nason, Kelly and Hourican who took a strangle hold on the game bursting onto every ball and urging their team forward. In the final minutes both Nason and Harnett goaled giving Douglas a deserved victory.

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## Douglas are champions

DOUGLAS annexed their first senior championship title when they proved too strong for St Finbarr's in an exciting final on Friday last.

Both clubs made history as they participated in the first final under light and they certainly didn't let the large crowd down as they served up a great game. Douglas led by four points at the break and through the second half kept their noses in front.

The Barrs battled back thanks in the main to Orla O'Sullivan who struck three fine goals and they had the lead down to three points with ten minutes remaining but Douglas showed they weren't going to be denied Julia White striking a superb point before Katrina Mackey finished the game as a contest striking two magnificent points before having the final say of the evening finishing the

ball over the line for the last score in one of the best county finals for years.

Katriona Mackey was named the player of the match and presented with her trophy by Diarmuid O'Donovan, a fitting reward for the sixteen year old schoolgirls who struck 1-9 of her sides tally.

Credit to both clubs who served up a classic, well done to Douglas and to their long time coach Mick O'Regan who has continued down through the years to have faith in his charges.

On Sunday Douglas contested the Munster club championship and they showed little signs of tiredness as the brushed aside the challenge of Limerick side Kilmaley so it's upwards and onwards for Douglas as they continued their quest for a Munster club title.

# Champs Douglas sweep aside Kileady

Douglas  
Kileady

1-14  
0-8

**AN UNDERSTANDABLY tired looking Douglas team were never in danger of losing this Munster Championship first round clash in their own grounds yesterday afternoon.**

Crowned Cork County senior champions for the first time only 42 hours, previously Douglas did what they had to do to advance to the semi-final.

Julia White did most of the early running and had two points on the board inside six minutes. Maria Harkin, a Pamela Mackey 45 and Amanda O'Regan free had the home side five points in front with 13 minutes played.

Kileady created a few chances but corner-forward Dymyna O'Brien opted on too many occasions to hand-pass to a teammate

when the wiser option would have been to shoot.

Full-back Catriona Davis started well for the Limerick side and Orla Curtin at full-forward was getting in front and winning good possession. Two points in the 18th and 19th minutes by Michelle Casey and O'Brien got Kileady off the mark but their hard work was nullified when a Helen O'Mahony delivery rebounded off the crossbar, struck the ground and hit the net to give Douglas a seven-point lead. Further points from both sides left the score at 1-7 to 0-4 at the break.

Louise O'Regan switched to full-back to curtail Curtin. Kileady upped the tempo and pressurised Douglas. Yet the scores didn't



LINDA MELLERICK



Douglas right half-forward Julia White in action against Kileady yesterday.

match the effort and 11 minutes in both sides had hit a further two points.

It was Douglas's ability to put together some slick moves and split Kileady before converting which saw the home side pull further away.



Douglas selector Mary Harrington holds the Punch Shoe Care Cup with victorious captain Amanda O'Regan, following their team's 3-16 to 3-6 final win over St Finbarr's on Friday.

Three points between the 12th and 15th minute stretched the gap to nine points and there was no way back for the spirited Limerick side.

Pamela Mackey and Julia White had the final say for Douglas as Edwina Mullane struck for Kileady.

Douglas now have a two-week break before taking to the field for their next Munster championship encounter.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-6 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), J White 0-5, H O'Mahony 1-0, A O'Regan 0-1 (f), M Harkin, R O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**Kileady:** M Casey 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-2 45), D O'Brien 0-2, O Curtin, E Mullane 0-1 each.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh; S O'Regan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney; L O'Regan, A O'Regan, E Jordan; P Mackey, H O'Mahony; J White, M Harkin, K Mackey; E Morgan, R O'Sullivan, A O'Donovan. **Subs:** H O'Connor for S O'Regan (16), J O'Donovan for R O'Sullivan (42), S Long for M Harkin (56).

**KILEADY:** C Scanlon; N Barry, C Davis, B Downes; M Hunt, M Casey, M O'Connor; E Foley, D Fitzpatrick; K Mullane, E Mullane, N Barry; D O'Brien, C Hayes, O Curtin. **Subs:** M Kinsella for C Davis (52), B Keating for D O'Brien (57).

**Referee:** Eamonn Browne (Tipperary).



# Dormer goal at the death gives Cats first title

**CÓILÍN DUFFY**

**Kilkenny .....5-5**

**Cork .....1-14**

**GOALS** win games, and a 62nd minute injury-time strike by Collette Dormer proved crucial when Kilkenny captured their first Gala All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship title on Sunday at McDonagh Park in Nenagh.

Despite holding a seven-point interval lead after strong work by the likes of Claire Aylward, who amassed 2-3 in the opening half, Kilkenny were forced to dig deep to carve out this victory after Cork free-taker Michelle Browne kept her side in contention. She amassed a huge 10 points, with seven of those coming in the second half.

Cork held a 0-2 to 0-1 lead after eight minutes, but once Collette Dormer con-

verted the first of her two goals a minute later Kilkenny wouldn't be led again in the game.

However, Ann Downey's charges were forced to dig deep in the final minutes of the second half. The sides were level on two occasions before Dormer's match-winning strike ensured Kilkenny captain Sinéad Brennan accepted silverware after the game.

## Responded well

A Niamh Dilworth point for Cork ensured just two points separated the sides at the end of the opening quarter on a 1-2 to 0-3 scoreline. Kilkenny responded well, with Claire Aylward taking the first of her two goals after a pass from Michelle Brennan in the 17th minute.

Browne was then on target for her second point of the game in the 21st minute. Kilkenny were

firmly in control and they held a double-scores (2-2 to 0-4) lead at this stage.

Aylward was again on target. She cancelled out Browne's point before a flourish of goals during an all action two minute spell.

It was helter-skelter stuff as both teams got a taste of the goal scoring action. However, it was Kilkenny who came out best from this spell with Lucinda Gahan and Claire Aylward taking goals for the Cats either side of a Niamh Dilworth goal.

Aylward's goal ensured an eight-point gap with three and a half minutes left in first half normal time. An injury-time point from Michelle Browne ensured a 4-3 to 1-5 interval scoreline.

## In firm control

Although Kilkenny were in firm control during the opening half, it was Cork

who turned the tide on the restart as they out-scored their opponents by seven points to one during a determined 13-minute spell.

Browne (3), Julia White and Charlotte Kearney were the scorers for the Rebelettes during that period. Those points were interspersed with a lone Kilkenny score from Michelle Brennan which ensured the Cats still held the lead.

Cork had now managed to reduce the gap to a point, but defences held firm and it took a further 10 minutes for either side to produce the next score. Browne was again on target for Cork to level the contest in the 54th minute.

## Great composure

Player of the match Denise Gaule showed great composure in the closing stages of the game and calmly slotted over a long-

range point in the 55th minute to put this Ann Downey managed Kilkenny side back in front.

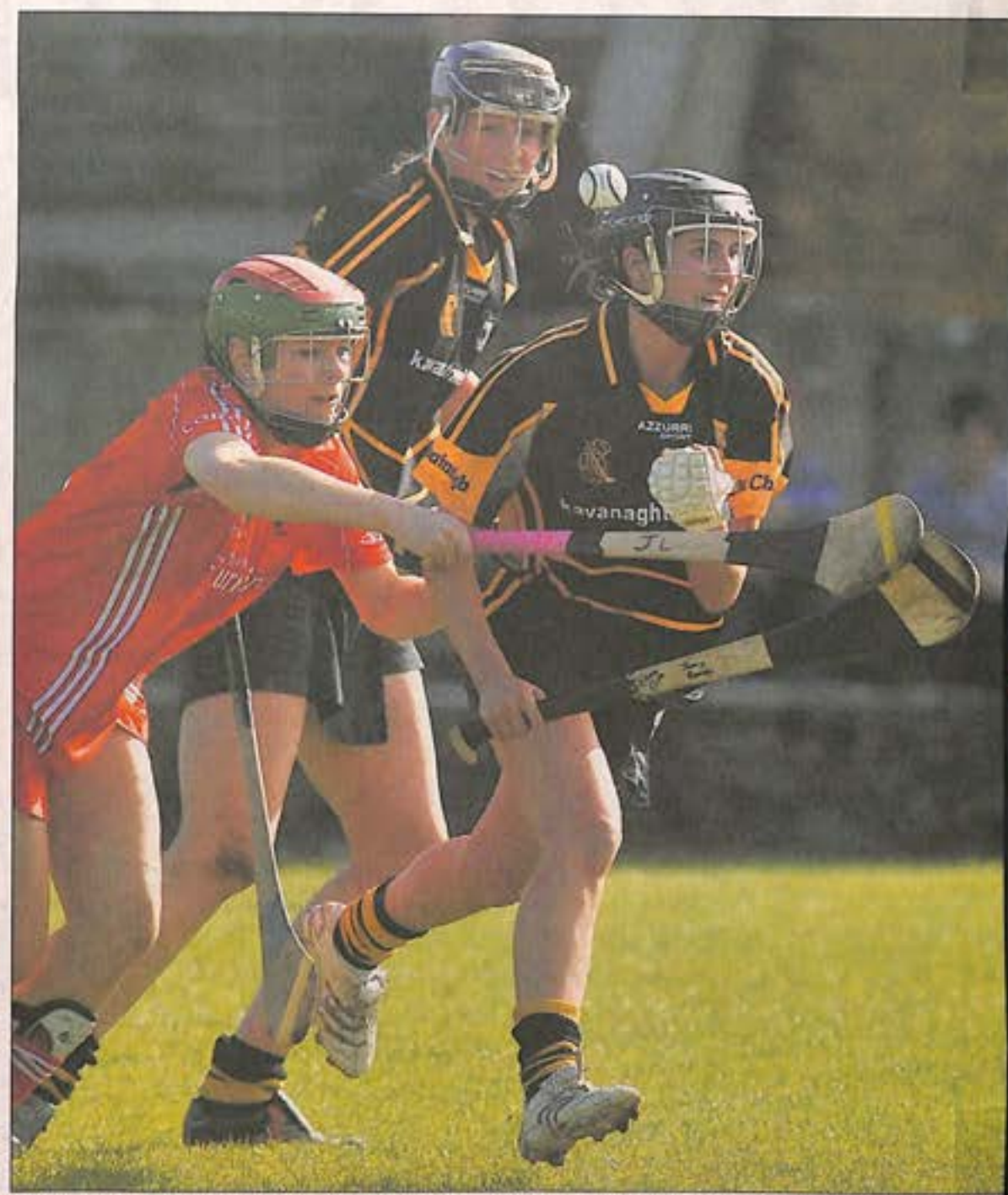
Although Browne equalised within a minute for Cork, Kilkenny remained firm. Again Gaule was in the thick of the action. She sent a long range dead-ball effort in towards the edge of the square. Dormer gathered the sliotar with authority and dispatched it to the back of the net to clinch the title.

**Scorers:** Kilkenny - C. Aylward (2-3, two frees, one 45); C. Dormer (2-0); L. Gahan (1-0); M. Brennan, D. Gaule, free (0-1 each). Cork - M. Browne (0-10, eight frees, two 45s); N. Dilworth (1-1); J. White, M. Watson, C. Kearney (0-1 each).

**Kilkenny** - Ann Marie Lennon, Lisa Phelan, Elaine O'Shea, Aine Fahey, Sinéad Long, Leann Fennelly, Ann Marie Phelan, Lucinda Gahan, Jenny Reddy, Claire Ryan, Denise Gaule, Michelle Farrell, Michelle Brennan, Collette Dormer, Claire Aylward. Subs - Laura Kavanagh for Long (41st min); Sinéad Kelly for Gahan (46th min); Hannah Maher for Aylward (52nd min).

**Cork** - Gillian Harrington, Ann Marie Fleming, Siobhán Gleeson, Christine O'Neill, Maria Walsh, Lucy Hawkes, Regina Curtin, Jennifer Lynch, Marie Corkery, Julia White, Niamh Dilworth, Maria Watson, Charlotte Kearney, Michelle Browne, Marion Jagoe. Subs - Katriona Mackey for Dilworth (47th min); Leah Weste for Lynch (52nd min).

**Referee** - Alan Lagrue (Kildare).



Jenny Reddy, Kilkenny, in action against Jennifer Lynch, Cork during the Gala All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final in McDonagh Park, Nenagh. Picture: Brian Lawless/SPORTSFILE



The Kilkenny squad celebrate with the cup following victory in the Gala All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final against Cork. Picture: Brian Lawless/SPORTSFILE

Oct. 2008



# Mary Golden (O'Sullivan) 1908 - 2008

Mary Golden (O'Sullivan), who came from generations of Kilkenny forebears, was born in 1908 in Kilkenny city, where she lived her entire life until her death on 27th September, 2008.

Having been educated in the Presentation Convent primary and secondary schools, Mary went on to become a primary teacher and taught in Muckalee, Revanagh, Danesfort, Sheestown and the John of God Convent.

Mary met her husband, Joe Golden, an Abbeyfeix man, while she was in Muckalee and while he was teaching in Revanagh. They married on December 29, 1930, and had six children. Prior to having a car, they cycled daily from the city to Muckalee and Revanagh. Because of petrol rationing during the war years, they again resorted to the bicycles. Mary and Joe taught together for many years in Sheestown two-teacher school where Joe was principal, until the smaller country schools were amalgamated with Kilkenny city schools.

While in Sheestown, Mary and Joe were in school very early every morning to have the old, smoky, pot-bellied stoves lighted so that the school would be warm when the children arrived. Together they imparted to their pupils their great love of learning and created an environment in which the children were encouraged to reach their full potential.

For singing and music lessons, Mary cajoled a remarkably melodious tone from an ancient harmonium in the school. Both Mary and Joe were passionately interested in giving both the girls and the boys every opportunity to pursue further education. Many of their pupils won schol-



The late Mary Golden

arships to secondary school. All of the children played hurling during the soss and lunch times and many of them later won All-Ireland camogie and hurling medals with Kilkenny.

Their past-pupils remember Mary and Joe for their excellent teaching abilities, their kindness, sense of humour and gen-

uine interest in them and in their families.

Mary continued to teach, as was permitted at the time of her retirement, until she reached 67 years of age and, even after that, was in demand as a substitute. Her love of children and her innate affinity with them was evident throughout her career

and in her relationship with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On her instructions, her great-grandchildren addressed her as May.

Both Mary and Joe were members of Conradh na Gaeilge, of the I.N.T.O. and of the Retired Teachers' Association.

In speaking about Mary during her funeral Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, Fr. Mark Condon referred to the changes that had taken place during her lifetime of over 100 years. He remarked that in 1908, when Mary was born, Kilkenny had only three All-Ireland Senior Hurling titles and that she had cheered the county on to another 28.

She had witnessed two world wars, troubled times and peace in her own country, and enormous technological advance. She had begun teaching 80 years previously and had experienced and managed radical changes in teaching methods and syllabi during a career which spanned six decades.

Given her love of the Irish language and of traditional liturgical music, Mary would have appreciated, during her Mass, the singing of Owen Gilhooly, the organ-playing of Ger Lawlor and the music arrangements by David Agler - each of whom is associated with the Wexford Opera Festival, as well as the ethereal quality and beauty of Virginia Kerr's singing on the previous evening.

Last March Mary celebrated her 100th birthday in Archers-rath Nursing Home in which, with the loving and kind care of Anna Maher and her staff, she found a home-from-home during her recent years.

She enjoyed the company of

the next three generations of her own family, her extended O'Sullivan and Golden family, her friends, neighbours, her next-door neighbour and friend of seventy years, Nancy Langton, past-pupils, former colleagues, former camogie players and hurriers, and those who enabled her to live in her own home for almost 98 years.

Fr. Ollie Maher presented her with a letter and cheque on behalf of Uachtarán na hÉireann, Máire Bean Mhic Giolla Iosa.

Mary was delighted to also welcome on that occasion the Mayor of Kilkenny, Marie Fitzpatrick, the Ardstiúrthóir of Cumann Camógáilochta na nGael, Síle de Bhailis, and former Camogie Presidents and, during the following days, the President of the I.N.T.O. and representatives of the Kilkenny branch of the Retired Teachers Association.

They, together with many more from all over Ireland, joined Mary's family in St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate her long and productive life. Mary was pre-deceased by her husband Joe, her sons Frank and Paddy, her sons-in-law Naise Briscoe and Kevin O'Grady, and her great-grandson James Treacy.

A loving and generous mother, Mary is survived by Noreen (Briscoe), Marett (O'Grady), Jim and Jo, her daughter-in-law Betty, her eight grandchildren and her sixteen great-grandchildren in Ireland, England and Canada.

Suaibhneas slorai go raibh ag an mbean uasal, cróga seo.

Mary Golden (O'Sullivan): March 18, 1908 - September 27, 2008.



## We are the champions.....

Kilkenny captain Sinead Brennan and team manager Ann Downey proudly show off the winners trophy following the victory in the Gala All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final against Cork on Sunday. This season the county also won the senior National League, plus the under-16 and minor All-Ireland titles. Picture: Brian Lawless/SPORTSFILE



Kilkenny players, from left, Collette Dormer, Michelle Brennan, Ann Marie Lennon, Sinead Kelly and Emma Staunton celebrate with the cup following Kilkenny's victory in the Gala All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final against Cork.



Ciara Holden, Mullinavat, who beat off competition from other counties to win the Under 15 long puck competition in Meath last Saturday.



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# Duracell bunny gets set



**MARK WOODS**

**IMAGINE** Cathal Naughton and Briege Corkery on the one hurling team.

You'd certainly wouldn't lack pace, that's for sure.

There's many a defender who gave up the chase in attempting to track the Cork and Newtownshandrum flier.

And there are camogie players up and down the country who'd echo the same sentiments about trying to reel Corkery in.

The pair actually did cross paths on one occasion, when the Cork camogie team played an underage Newtown team as part of their All-Ireland final preparations.

"Fiona O'Driscoll was in charge of us at the time.

"I mean how can anyone try to keep up with Cathal.

"We couldn't even get close enough to trip him with our hurleys," Corkery remarked, followed by her infectious laugh.

It's not that outrageous a suggestion because the 21-year-old multi-All-Ireland winner is a self-confessed tomboy, or rather was.

"Sure I was always kicking a football out the back garden, when I was growing up."

And Corkery has had plenty of opportunities to show what she's made of against the boys.

"We often play against boys' teams coming up to major finals, like this season at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, when the camogie team took on the U16s or the minors from Glen Rovers.

"It was a super match.

"Jim McCarthy, our trainer, organised the match, because he's from the Glen and it worked out brilliantly.

"We've done it a good few times as well with the footballers.

"Last season before the All-Ireland final against Mayo we played the Macroom boys.

"Boys are physically stronger and faster and that bit better than girls.

"The games were always full-on. There was no holding back, though, in fairness to some of the boys they wouldn't be blowing you of the way.

"The games are still competitive. The boys take them seriously.

"I mean they wouldn't be laughing into our faces or making a joke out of it which is nice for us.

"They were definitely beneficial to us in preparing for All-Ireland finals.

"The closest we got to winning a game was against Macroom, who beat us by a few points."

All that's in the past now.

Corkery's season is over. Now it's time to plan one of her favourite hobbies, travelling.

"We were knocked out by the Barr's in camogie before the All-Ireland camogie final and we lost to



Briege Corkery demonstrating her pace and power as she gets away from Brenda Kerins during the All-Ireland senior camogie final against Galway.

Picture: INPHO

Donoughmore in the football and that was before the camogie final, as well.

"It's nothing but relaxing and socialising now, which is great, too. It's my number one hobby."

At the start of the year Corkery took herself to San Francisco and had a ball.

Now she's getting ready for her next adventure.

"I'm going to Vancouver next month for three months.

"It means I'll be away for Christmas for the first time, so I'll miss mam's dinner (laughter).

"My best friend, Marie Lucey, or Luce, as she is known, is coming, too.

"It's their winter as well, so it's going to be freezing over there. We're looking to go skiing and stuff like

that.

"It's supposed to be a gorgeous place. We'll tour around, pick up a bit of work as well to keep the money coming in.

"I might have a landscaping job set-up by the time we get over there.

"The reaction at home to missing Christmas wasn't too bad.

"My younger sister, Mairead, who was 12 last week, did tell me that I couldn't go away for Christmas.

"She said she'll miss me, but I guess it's more the presents she'll be missing than me (laughter).

"I'm the second youngest in a family of 10 boys and girls, so they'll hardly miss one.

"It's the end of the season for me, but the talk is good about next year.

"I'll go back training at the end of January. Once I have the break out

of the way I'll look forward to going back.

"Going away is something to get excited about.

"I'm lucky in a way that I'm half naturally fit anyway.

"Mind you I did put on a stone and a half last year after my trip.

"That was down to purely doing nothing. The key thing is to step back from the table.

"I'd be eating a lot of the wrong stuff."

Corkery added two more medals to her amazing collection by helping Cork defeat Galway 2-10 to 1-8 in the camogie final.

Her performance was such that she ran-away (no pun intended here) with the Player of the Match award.

Corkery must have covered every blade of grass on Croke at least

twice in her starring midfield performance, chipping in with an important point, as well.

"They probably gave it to me for falling on the ground so many times."

Celebrating comes easy for her, too. She thrives on the craic, but knew she couldn't go overboard following the latest triumph.

Just a small matter of another All-Ireland final and the possibility of four-in-a-row.

"After the camogie final we celebrated on the Monday and the Tuesday, but I was back training with the footballers on the Wednesday to prepare for the Monaghan game.

"It wasn't hard going back. My attitude was that it's only for the sake of two weeks and it wasn't going to kill me, knowing I could do



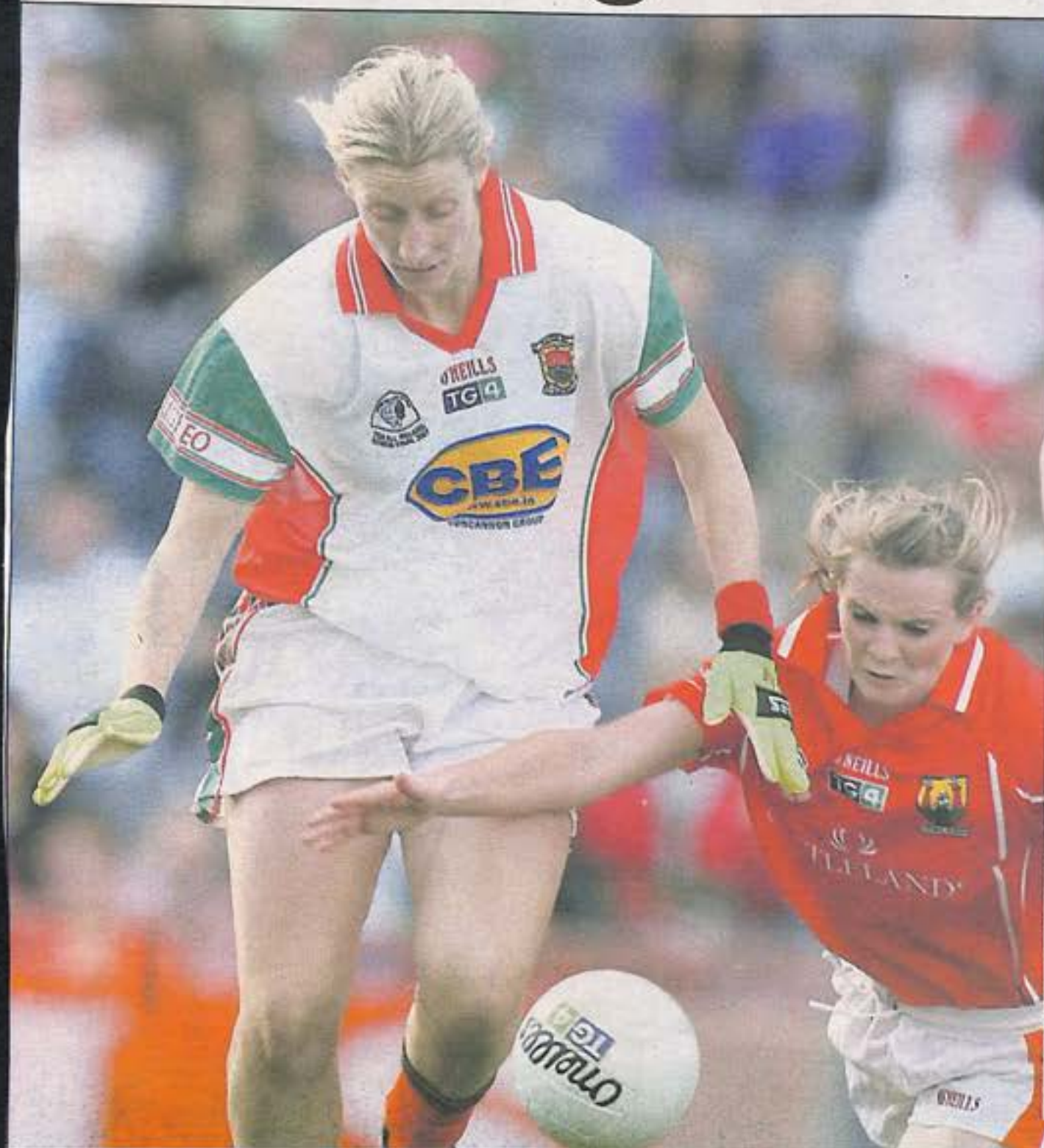
Evening Echo

**LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS**





# to recharge her batteries



## Brieghe Corkery Factfile

**Date of birth:** 16-12-1986.

**Born:** Cork.

**Home:** Drombeg, Aghinagh.

**Schools:** Rusheen NS, St Mary's, Macroom.

**Occupation:** Stone mason.

**Sports:** Ladies football, camogie.

**Clubs:** St Val's (Ladies football), Cloughduv (camogie).

**Hobbies:** Socialising, swimming.

**Pet hates:** People hugging me for no reason!!

**Favourite drink:** Heineken, coffee.

**Favourite places visited:** San Francisco/ Dubai.

**Favourite ground:** Carrigrohoid.

**Ambitions:** Travel, enjoy life.

**Honours (Ladies football):** All Star (2005, 2007), four All-Ireland senior, five Munster, three League, one U14, one U16, two minor, one Munster club intermediate, one Cork Co Junior A championship, one Junior A Schools.

**(Camogie):** All Star (2006), three All-Ireland senior, two Munster, one League, five Munster minor, one All-Ireland Colleges U14, two All-Ireland Colleges U16, three Cork Co senior championship.

**Favourite camogie memory:** "That would have to be winning the U16 county title in 2002, when

we beat Ballygarvan and I was captain.

"It was a great feeling to win a match with all your friends and buddies.

"A brilliant club moment that I'll never forget."

**Favourite ladies football memory:** "Playing on the Cork team that beat Mayo in the All-Ireland final last year.

"They were moaning after we beat them in the 2005 quarter-final and the 2006 semi-final, saying we didn't deserve either of them.

"Beating them well last year helped shut them up."

**Funniest moment:** "We used be great friends with the nuns in school.

"Two pals used do the readings in Macroom and I'd to the same in Rusheen. "Sister Peter called us down to the chapel one day to practice the readings at about 10am.

Naturally, we were thrilled to be missing class.

"Later we were in piano room awaiting for Sister Columba, who we used do Feis Maitu with.

"She wanted to show us something and left the room to get it, only she forgot to come back.

"Noon came. 1pm came. 2pm came. 3pm came and we're still waiting.

"At 3.30pm we left to go home, delighted with ourselves."

Mayo's Cora Staunton tackled by a committed Brieghe Corkery, during Corkery's favourite match in football when Cork beat Mayo for three-in-a-row last year.

Picture: INPHO

whatever I wanted after that.

"Playing two All-Ireland finals in a fortnight is nothing really, considering we'd often play games within three days of one another.

"We're well used to playing matches.

"The one strange thing about playing in All-Ireland finals at Croke Park is that you definitely feel a lot sorer the following morning.

"I can't explain why. Maybe it's the pitch, I don't know. Or it could be the fact it's an All-Ireland final, the biggest day of the year, and you can't afford to let an opportunity like this slip by.

"For camogie players and ladies footballers the All-Ireland finals are the only days in the year to shine.

"Nobody else really sees the rest of the year. They're the only games

that are televised live in front of big crowds, so you want to give it everything.

"And that's probably a mental thing, instinct, I suppose. You just want to give it your best shot.

"It's the way the body and mind works."

Corkery's sporting philosophy is pure and simple.

"I'm there for the craic. If I'm not enjoying it I play badly, but I don't take it ultra seriously.

"I don't like when things get too serious because I'm not enjoying it, when the fun is driven out of it.

"I suppose on the pitch I'm a completely different person.

"When it comes to a match I do get serious. Out of that though I do take things more lightly.

"It's called sport for a reason. If we

lose a game I try not to let it get me down.

"My attitude is that it's just life. There has to be one loser, so get over it.

"Playing, I expect to give it 100% and after that I can't do anymore.

"If I don't give 100% I would be disappointed as that's what I want to give every time I go onto the pitch."

She can take or leave the sideshows surrounding All-Ireland finals and the like.

Undertaking media interviews is something she wouldn't crave or seek, but she doesn't shy away either.

Corkery, I suspect, doesn't do shy.

"I did a documentary for RTE tv all right, but that had more to do with my work as a stone mason.

"I actually stayed away from the

press nights for the two All-Ireland finals.

"I don't like doing interviews as such.

"But if people ask me to do an interview I'll do it okay. There were a few phone calls all right after the finals.

"I suppose it's great on one hand to have the opportunity to do the interviews, because it meant we were successful."

Ladies football coach Eamon Ryan once described Corkery as the bunny in the Duracell ad you'd see on tv.

Naturally it's stuck. Recalling it prompted one of those looks, the 'tell me something I haven't heard before' look.

Like most things she takes it in her stride.

"Sure, it's all they can say. I took it as a compliment.

"I suppose I knew where they're coming from, because I'm always up and down even off the pitch.

"I'm not one for sitting down watching tv or just hanging around.

"I always have to be doing something.

"I would rarely watch television and if I start watching a dvd I fall asleep.

"I usually find myself talking to someone on the phone or out chatting with my friends.

"My mam and dad are always saying will you ever stay at home for just one night anyway."

By the way, the exclamation marks on her fact-file are at Brieghe's request. Done!



Evening Echo

LADIES SPORTSTAR AWARDS





OCT. 2008

# Evening Echo **LADIES SPORTSTAR**



Roskstown Park Hotel



## AWARDS

October 14, 2008

# Briege is the dual in Cork's crown

See pages 4, 5



Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the Month winner for September, Briege Corkery shows off her ball skills in camogie, left, and football, right, while above Briege is busy at work as a stone mason.





Cork player Brieghe Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the month award.  
Picture: Richard Mills

# Ladies award winner is a real Corker

**CORK** dual ace Brieghe Corkery was yesterday honoured with the *Evening Echo* Ladies Sports Star Award for September after an epic month.

The Mid Cork ladies football and camogie star won her seventh senior All-Ireland, and third double, in four years recently and delivered awesome displays as Cork beat Galway and Monaghan.

Her exploits made her the unanimous choice of the judges and Brieghe was joined by her family at the newly refurbished Rochestown Park Hotel yesterday for a luncheon to celebrate her award.

Sports Editor John McHale paid

tribute to her talent and achievements.

"There is no doubt that Brieghe is one of the most gifted GAA stars the county has ever produced and at 21, she will no doubt go on to win even more," he said.

The monthly awards are sponsored by the *Evening Echo*, the Rochestown Park Hotel and Newbridge Silverware.

Brieghe received a day in the spa at the Rochestown Park Hotel and a Newbridge Silverware bracelet as a monthly winner.

The Cork wing-back will now go forward to contest the overall prize next January at a glittering ceremony in the hotel.

Last year's winner was Jessica Scannell, Glanmire basketballer.

## Ballyboden snatch dramatic Leinster win

**CAMOGIE:** Dublin's Ballyboden St Endas were crowned Leinster camogie club champions for the first time in their history with victory over Rathnure of Wexford yesterday (3-3 to 1-7). They now face Ulster and Antrim champions O'Donovan Rossa in the All-Ireland semi-final on November 1.

The Dublin champions failed to score in the first half and trailed by nine points at the break with Sandra Carr goaling for the Model County side. But the Dublin outfit mounted a sensational comeback to win the title with the very last puck.

## Eight receive ISC scholarships

**CAMOGIE:** The annual Camogie scholarships in association with the Irish Sports Council were announced yesterday.

The scholarships, which were presented by Camogie Association president Liz Howard, will see €7,000 distributed between this year's eight recipients.

The scholarships are given to those who have helped the development of camogie within their own clubs, counties and colleges.

Each recipient will be required to contribute time to development of the game within their county and college over the next 12 months including skills training and coaching camps to research of participation in camogie within their region.

Howard said: "It is important that camogie is vibrant in third level colleges. On graduation many players will be leaders in business, commerce and other fields where their influence will ensure that camogie is to the forefront."



Shay Livingstone, general manager of Rochestown Park Hotel, presenting the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the month award to Cork player Brieghe Corkery at the award luncheon in the Rochestown Park Hotel.  
Picture: Richard Mills



Cork player Brieghe Corkery with her younger sister Mairéad.  
Picture: Richard Mills



Cork player Brieghe Corkery with her parents Kitty and Michael and sister Mairéad.  
Picture: Richard Mills



Brieghe Corkery met with Diarmuid O'Donovan and Éamonn Murphy of the Evening Echo at the awards luncheon.  
Picture: Richard Mills



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Shay Livingstone, general manager of the Rochestown Park Hotel, Mick O'Regan, manager of Douglas camogie team and Amanda O'Regan, captain, with the Punch Cup.



Emma Jordan, Amanda O'Regan, captain and Louise O'Regan.

# Douglas celebrate senior win

By RORY NOONAN  
Douglas camogie

THE celebrations continue for Douglas Camogie Club as their senior side were accorded a reception by the Rochestown Park Hotel last night.

The squad won their first senior county title last Friday night as they got the better of St Finbarr's by 3-16 to 3-6.

Despite the poor weather conditions both sides played some great camogie with

Katrina Mackey in great form at midfield as she scored 1-9 from there.

There were many other stars on the night for Douglas and special mention must be made of captain of the side, Amanda O'Regan.

It was a family affair for the O'Regan family with her sister, Louise, also playing and their dad, Mick, the manager of the side.

The family ties go on with Pamela Mackey also starring as did the O'Donovans, Aileen and Moira.

But they didn't get too much time to celebrate as they were back in action last Sunday in the Munster championship as they got the better of Kildare.

But last night they got the chance to relax and after the reception toured the village on an open-top bus.

They came up from senior B ranks this season and they will be hoping this is the start of a new and glorious era for the club at senior level, to go along with the underage success they have.



The Douglas senior camogie team with Shay Livingstone and Mick O'Regan.

Picture: Ger Bonus



Philip Cavanagh, Mary Harrington, Amanda O'Regan with the Punch Cup, Mick O'Regan, Shay Livingstone and Paul Lynch.



Shay Livingstone of Rochestown Park Hotel and Amanda O'Regan with the Punch Cup.

Picture: Ger Bonus



# All-Ireland Sevens

Two of the undoubted stars of Ulster Camogie over the past decade paraded their skills in the 35th Annual Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Sevens – and helped their clubs to the two main titles.

Player of the Tournament went to Jane Adams. She was instrumental in guiding Rossa to the Division 1 title for the second time, and her personal contribution of 2-11 from Rossa's 3-14 to 3-4 win over Gaultier of Waterford in the final ensured that the selectors gave her the nod for yet another individual award.

The three times Ulster GAA Writers' Player of the Year was in scintillating form all day, as Rossa packed the bags of quite a few clubs with big reputations.

The key game was probably their 4-8 to 3-8 semi-final victory over a St Ibar's team consisting of five of the Wexford side that collected All-Ireland senior medals last September.

Jane shot 2-5 in that game with 1-1 from her forward partner Mariosa McGourty.

And Down's former All-star Mairin McAleenan, twice Ulster GAA Writers' Player of the Year, rolled back the years as she help Liatroim Fontenoy's to another Division 2 title with a narrow 7-4 to 5-9 victory over Loughgiel.

Máirín stepped down from the inter-county scene at the start of the year after over two decades of service, but she let it be known on Saturday that she still possesses the skill and speed to destroy plen-

ty of club defences.

She shot 4-4 in the final bringing the Fontenoy's some measure of revenge as Loughgiel had beaten them in June to claim the Ulster Premier League title.

And a new Ulster star was revealed to the Glenalbyn regulars with 17-year-old Loughgiel forward Racquel McCarry almost taking the title to north Antrim for the first time.

Racquel fired home 3-5 in the final and really tortured Naomh Brid of Carlow in a one-sided semi-final.

Liatroim defeated Castledawson in their semi-final 2-12 to 2-1 but there was some joy for Derry as Lorraine Diamond from Bellaghy was crowned Poc Fada champion.

Completing a good All-Ireland weekend, Armagh's Una Kearney had a good game as referee of the New Ireland Cup final on Sunday.

The Ballymacnab whistler's third time in charge of an All-Ireland final at head-quarters saw Clare snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with a goal right at the death to win 2-8 to Offaly's 1-10.

Last year Bellaghy's Aisling Diamond denied Clare victory in similar circumstances shooting a goal in the third minute of injury time for Derry to win by 3-12 to 2-14.

Clare's victory means they are now tied with Derry on four victories each in the competition, one ahead of Down.

## KILMACUD SEVENS RESULTS : CUP SEMI-FINALS

Gaultier, Waterford 4-8,  
Shannon Rovers, Tipperary 2-6

O'Donovan Rossa 4-8,  
St. Ibar's, Wexford 3-8

## CUP FINAL

O'Donovan Rossa : 3-14 (J Adams 2-11, M McGourty 1-1, B Orchin 0-1, N McGuinness 0-1).

Gaultier : 3-4 (A Lyng 2-3, P Jackman 1-0, J O'Grady 0-1).

## SHIELD SEMI-FINALS

Loughgiel 5-11, Naomh Brid,  
Carlow 0-4

Liatroim Fontenoy's 2-12,  
Castledawson 2-1

## SHIELD FINAL

Liatroim Fontenoy's 7-4 Loughgiel 5-9

## PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Jane Adams

## POC FADA CHAMPION

Lorraine Diamond, Bellaghy

There were great scenes of celebration at the final whistle as the players and spectators mobbed each other, but Jenny McHugh could only briefly join them.

Jenny had been due to fly out on holiday earlier on Saturday morning, but had managed to get the flights changed to late afternoon.

Extra time though meant that she would be cutting it fine. As she rushed off for the airport, her teammates launched into a long night of celebration.

"We have to play Keady in the Ulster semi-final this Sunday, so heavy celebrations are not the ideal preparation," said Sean.

But what could we do in the circumstances? It

was something some of them had been denied for more than a dozen years, the first senior title for the club in 39 years.

"I believe that we can re-focus this week at training and be ready for Keady. We couldn't dare to look beyond Clonduff, but now we are here, we'd like to go further."

It was an unforgettable experience for the club, but further progress is surely within their grasp.

**BALLYCRAN:** Clara McCarthy, Emma Keith, Brid McGrattan, Audrey Kelly, Charlene Fitzsimmons, Sabrina McCullough 0-1, Nuala Mallon, Naomi Morgan, Nicola Braniff, Niamh Birt 0-1, Jennifer

McHugh 0-2, Catherine McGourty 0-6, Laura Hughes 0-2, Mary Gilmore 0-1, Suzelle Johnston.

**Subs:** Jennie Fowler 0-1 for Mary Gilmore, Paula Hughes for Charlene Fitzsimmons, Danielle Toner for Nuala Mallon, Michele Dorian for Suzelle Johnston.

**CLONDUFF:** Guinevra McGilligan, Grace Brown, Moya Maginn, Andrea McCluskey, Debra Murray, Fionnuala Carr 0-3 frees, Lorraine Maginn 0-1, Lean McParlan, Ciara Havern, Lisa McPolin 0-1, Sara Louise Carr 0-2, Orla Maginn, Megan O'Reilly, Paula Gribben 0-3, Kitty Fegan 0-1.

**Subs used:** Orla Gribben, Karen Gribben

# All-Ireland Junior Development Blitz

Tyrone recently won the All-Ireland Junior Development Blitz held at Ardboe and involving Tyrone, Cavan, Wicklow, Monaghan and Donegal.

Wicklow and Tyrone came through the round-robin system to contest the final and the Red Hands won 4-11 to 0-2.

Susan McCann, Emma McAliskey, Maria Jordan, Shauna Jordan and Maeve McGurk were the main scorers for the winners while Monaghan goalkeeper Roisin McKenna from Castleblayney was selected Player of the Tournament.

## THE TYRONE PANEL WAS :

1. Paula Neill (Eglish)
2. Siobhan Hughes (Eglish)
3. Maeve McKearney (Eglish)
4. Colette Donnelly (Derrylaughan)
5. Frances Bigley (Eglish)
6. Julie Lagan (Eglish) CAPTAIN
7. Rionach Lavery (Eglish)
8. Aisling Corr (Doiretreasc)
9. Emma McAliskey (Derrylaughan)
10. Emma McElrean (Doiretreasc)
11. Susan McCann (Eglish)
12. Maeve M Gurk (Ardboe)
13. Shona Hagan



- (Derrylaughan)
14. Leona Gallagher (Eglish)
  15. Annette Jordan (Eglish)
  16. Shauna Jordan (Eglish)
  17. Maria Jordan (Eglish)
  18. Grainne O Neil (Eglish)
  19. Ciara Rocks (Ardboe)
  20. Elis Devlin (Ardboe)

With the management of:  
Ursula Jordan & Ursula Doyle



Victorious Tyrone

# Down Senior Camogie Final Replay

Ballycran 0-14 Clonduff 0-11 aet

Noel Keith and Sean McGourty have experienced the highs and lows of Ulster finals in the past, but Saturday afternoon's success in jointly guiding Ballycran to their first Down senior Camogie title since 1969 must rank very high on the satisfaction scale.

The pair have daughters on the team and they weighed in as a management team last year.

"The Down championship has been dominated for so long by Liatroim Fontenoy's," said Sean, who won Ulster club football medals with St Gaul's in the 1960s.

"Last year Clonduff beat them and claimed their first title. At the start of this year then we felt that if

Clonduff could do it – then why couldn't we."

"The girls have worked very hard – every one of them – a super effort."

High in the management team's thoughts on this point has to be Jenny McHugh.

Jenny gave birth to her first child at the start of the season, but was out training again within a short period of time and was a regular in the team once more from around June time.

On Saturday Jenny had a superb game in the replayed final against Clonduff, a game that went to extra-time before the Ards' side triumphed 0-14 to 0-11.

Also to the fore was Catherine McGourty, Sean's

daughter, who dropped back to sweep behind her half-back line as Clonduff looked like snatching victory with wind-assistance in extra time.

"We used the breeze at the start and got a 0-7 to 0-2 half-time lead," recalled Sean.

"That didn't look significant given the strength of the breeze. We held out for a while but they went ahead 0-9 to 0-8 with 5 minutes left."

"Nicola (Braniff) managed to hit over a couple of frees that brought it into extra time. We brought on a couple of young players during extra time and the fresh legs seemed to help. However it was simply the sheer determination of the whole team that brought us through."



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## CLUB NOTES

### ST CATHERINE'S

#### Club Sponsor - Cork Builders Providers

**U18B Championship:** We travelled to Ballinhassig to take on the home side in our final group game in this championship. We were well beaten by a very strong Ballinhassig side.

**Team:** M Kirby, E Murphy, C Clancy, F Feeney, S Barry, A O'Keefe, N O'Donoghue, J Hurley, R O'Callaghan, L Bumster, F Cotter, K England, A Burke, F Neville, A Doyle. **Subs:** M Galvin for K England, G Walsh.

**All-Ireland Intermediate final:** Commiserations to Cork players and management on their three point defeat by Kilkenny in the above competition, our club members involved in this panel were Denise Leahy, Noreen Mulcahy and Orna Neville.

**GAA and camogie social:** The annual GAA and Camogie social will take place on Saturday, November 1; we have a change of venue this year with the social taking place in Garryvoe Hotel. Music is by Skas and tickets cost €35, available from Ann Galvin, Edmund Galvin, Neville's shop, Babs Sheehan.

**GAA minor county champions:** Well done to St Catherine's minor team who defeated Kibree last Saturday in Carrigaline to take their County title.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Emer (O'Keefe) and James Leahy on the recent birth of their baby girl.

**O'Duffy Cup:** Plans are afoot to bring the O'Duffy Cup to the parish within the next few weeks.

### BRIAN DILLON'S

**U12 B final:** We played Courcy Rovers in Coachford a few short weeks ago in the county final. There was great camogie played by both sides. Our girls never gave up and worked hard until the final whistle. Despite the fact that we were beaten, the girls gained experience from this tough game. Thanks to John Ring for his continuous commitment and to the girls for all their hard work and effort.

**U14 B semi-final:** This game was played in Coachford in great conditions and a big thank you to the Coachford club and to all county juvenile board for all their effort and time. Unfortunately we were beaten by a very good Courcy's team who eventually went on to win the final.

**U16B Championship:** We played Ballinhassig at the tank field and were beaten by four points, but again we came up a grade from last year so playing at a higher level proved difficult for the girls. We are in the U16 league semi-final against Ballincollig, but no date or time fixed yet. Well done to all the girls and to Theresa Drummond and Claire O'Mahony who have done great work.

**U13 Seandún:** These games started last week. We played Douglas who ran out winners. Well done to Eilis Porter, Sadhóh Shannon, Chloe Lynch and Niamh O'Leary. Na Píarsaigh also beat us, but it was a great game and the girls did very well. Well done to Emma Carroll, Nicole Malone, and Niamh Cotter. We played Glen Rovers who we beat at the tank field. Well done to Shauna Ring who was brilliant at centre-back and Jessica Aigbolola, Kayleigh Luby, Chloe O'Mahony and Deirdre Keane.

We are to play our last remaining game to Blackrock away next week. Best of luck. We are to play the Seandún U15 in the next few weeks, so best of luck girls. Just a reminder that training for U7 to U12 every sat at 11am; U14 to U16 at 12pm; and U18 training and junior training, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. All new and past players welcomed.

**Junior B final:** Best wishes to the Junior B team who will take on Douglas tomorrow in the county final, 2pm in Mahon. All support would be greatly appreciated. Good luck girls.

### ST FINBARR'S

Another senior championship has come and gone. It was very disappointing to lose two county finals in three years. Last Friday night, a fast, skilful and well-trained Douglas outfit highlighted several shortcomings on our side. They raced into a 1-4 to 0-1 lead while we struggled to come to grips with the pace of the game.

Full credit to the Barrs for making a great comeback in the second half. Three fabulous goals from Orla O'Sullivan and a few points from Vivienne Harris closed the gap.

The Barrs supporters could smell victory. They believed that their experienced players would close down the game and get the vital scores to ensure a win. But it was Douglas who stepped up a gear and drove forward.

All the players and the management team put in a huge effort over the past few months. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to better days.

Our junior's field against Valley Rovers in the semi-final of the Junior Shield on Sunday morning. Our hopes of some silverware for the season rest with this team. We have fine players in Clara Sargent, Chloe O'Sullivan, Katie Leisk, Heather Morgan, Aoife McCarthy and Susan Kennelick. A big performance will be required to secure a place in the final against Ballincollig.

### GLEN ROVERS

**Minors:** A superb performance from our very young minor team saw them annex the points in their third game of the round-robin series of championship games as we defeated visitors Mallow. From the throw in, captain Lydia Cunningham led by example from her position at centre-back and playing a leading role she ensured our inside line had a plentiful supply of ball. Up front Sinead O'Halloran, Aisling O'Keefe and Sinead Fahy grabbed the scores while Denise Leahy again showed her class both from play and frees, her accuracy again 100% as she struck long range frees and 45s with ease.

In defence Claire Walsh, Lorna Crowley, Clara O'Keefe and Zoe Buckley were solid and reliable while Alice Keating, Sinead Gallen, Emma Dunlea, Alison Rea and Nicole O'Brien worked hard.

A feature of the game was the superb skill shown by Karen O'Connell as she sent a side-line ball sailing over the bar, substitute Leeann O'Sullivan helped her self to 1-2, while Aisling Noonan and Alison Dowling contributed to a superb victory.

Our last game in the section was a historic one as we played the first camogie game under lights at the Glen Field on Wednesday night.

Again the performance was second to none and we turned in a superb performance to run out winners and book our place in the semi final.

CONTINUED ON OPPOSITE PAGE

# Douglas can

## New county champions



LINDA MELLERICK

**CORK CAMOGIE has to be strong when you consider we've had six different Evening Echo county champions in eight years.**

Since 2001, the roll of honour lists as follows: 2001 Cloughduv; 2002 Cloughduv; 2003 Fr O'Neill's; 2004 Carrigdhoun; 2005 Cloughduv; 2006 St Finbarr's; 2007 Muskerry; 2008 Douglas.

The Barrs have won one and lost three finals since 2000. You had to feel for them at the final whistle last Friday night. To lose a county final is hard enough without it being the second final loss in two years.

Every neutral supporter was possibly willing Douglas on but the Barrs shouldn't take that personally. Everyone loves to cheer the underdog.

Next year and the year after, if Douglas are back in the final, you'll find people hoping they are dethroned. That's just the way sport is.

Playing on the successful Glen team of the '90s I've been on the receiving end of that. When we were defeated by Fr O'Neill's in 1997 there was euphoria around the county.

It hurt to lose, it was the end of an era, but it had to happen sometime and full credit to O'Neill's, they applauded us off the pitch and that was nice.

Orla O'Sullivan was tremendous for the Barrs last Friday evening. Her two goals in the semi-final against Ballygarvan were equal in quality to her three magnificent strikes eight days ago.

Orla will surely be approached by the 2009 Cork selectors again but whether she feels that inter-county camogie is for her remains to be seen.

Jenny Duffy tried her heart out on the night, so too did Viv Harris.

Unfortunately for Gemma O'Connor, she has raised her

own bar so much, that unless she personally dominates games, it is felt she had an off day.

The Barrs at this stage are going to need something different for 2009. The nucleus of a good team is there but they need more of an even spread.

I'm not sure if they have anything coming up but they are carrying a few and changes are

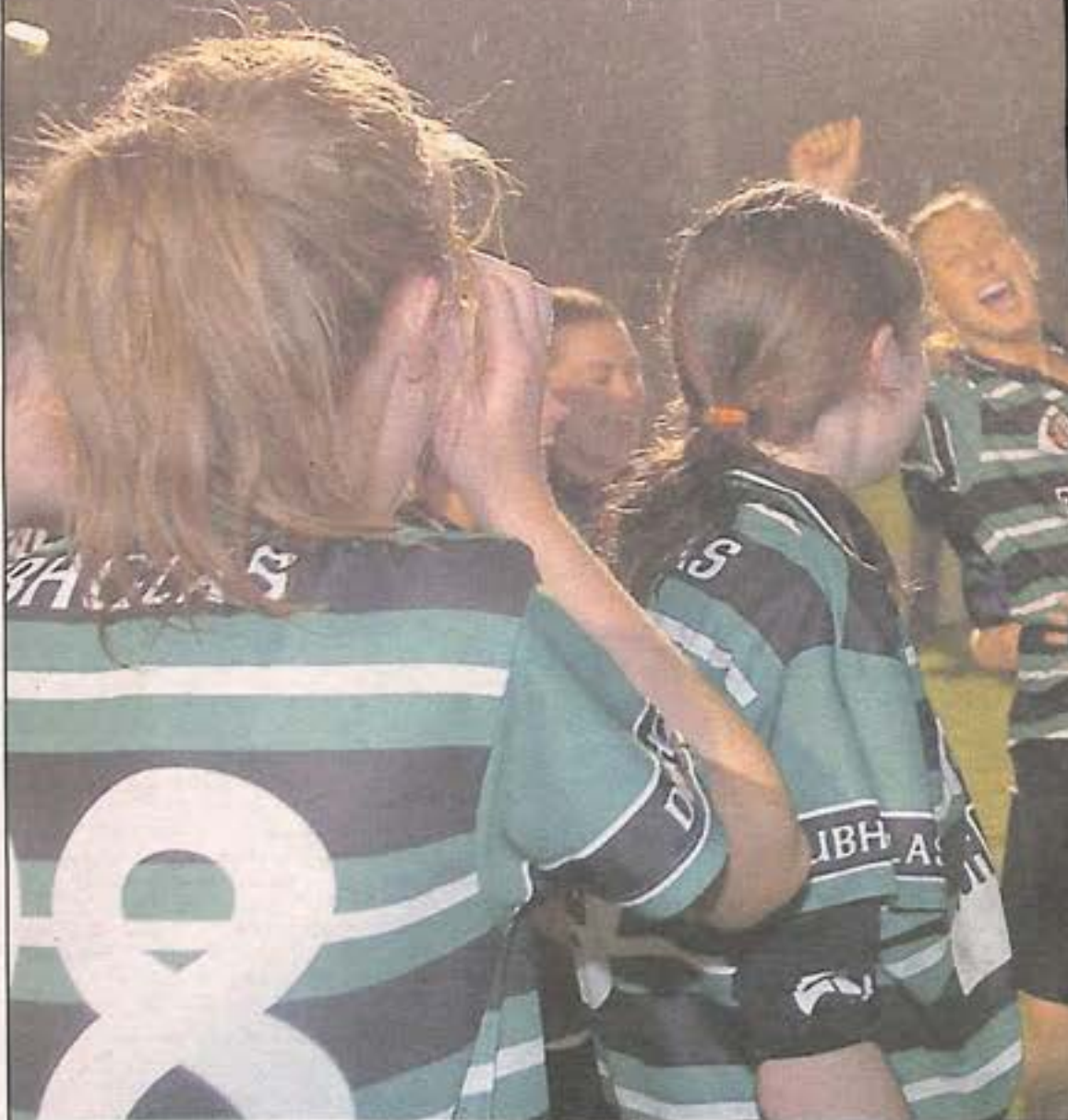
needed. O'Sullivan and Harris are the only freely scoring forwards the Barrs have, they need more.

The world looks a beautiful place through Douglas's eyes at the moment. They can do no wrong. Already comparisons are being made to the Glen; the talk is that this team will dominate the next 10 years.

Time will tell but Douglas are not looking that far ahead. At the beginning of 2008 they didn't look to a county final. They just took each match as it came.

Last Friday night was as complete a team performance that you'll get.

Next year should be harder for them. They're the champions now and they'll find a different



# Ballincollig and Brian Dillon's can

**TOMORROW Evening Echo JA final: Ballincollig v Clonakilty, Castle Road, Blackrock, 4pm**

ATTENTION turns to junior finals this weekend as the Evening Echo Junior A and B finals form a double header at the Camogie Grounds in Blackrock, while the C league final is also down for decision, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The afternoon's championship action gets underway at 2pm when

Douglas and Brian Dillon's meet in the Junior B decider. But first we will focus our attention on the A final and the meeting of Clonakilty and Ballincollig.

The latter, 2007 runners-up, will be hoping to go one better as they strive for their first junior crown.

Last season they lost out to a strong Killeagh outfit in a final on their home pitch, which was marred by awful December weather.

It been a tough campaign since the first ball was struck

on June 28 in the two sections of the round-robin series in this championship and we have finally reached the decider.

Clonakilty recorded victories over Tracton, Enniskeane and Mallow before they lost out to a strong Newtown side in the group stages. But they ended up in a three-way play-off before their semi-final spot was secured as Tracton lost out.

Ballincollig defeated Fr O'Neill's, Blackrock and Watergrasshill to qualify from

their group with Sarsfields. In a close semi-final, Ballincollig had to be at their best to deny Newtown, just a goal separating them at the final whistle.

They will go into Sunday's clash in confident mood given that several of their side already have senior county championship medals to their credit won last season with Muskerry.

Leah Weste, Tina O'Donnell, Denise Cronin, captain Aoife Cotter, Maria O'Donoghue and Brea O'Callaghan are

the players whom Ballincollig will look to as they battle to secure the title.

Two years ago Clonakilty took the Junior B title, beating Ballincollig along the way, though both sides came up to A.

They have worked away to establish themselves in the junior A grade. They recorded that semi-final victory over Sarsfields with two points to spare.

Earlier in the season the sides met in the 2007 league semi-final with victory going



# build on win to go from strength to strength



attitude towards them on the pitch.

Every team will be fired up to play them whereas their own hunger might wane a little.

However, I have a feeling this title will open the floodgates for Douglas and they'll go from strength to strength. The team are very talented and in truth it's hard to see anyone defeating

them in the next couple of years. Their desire will determine their silverware.

I'm quite sure that's the last thing on their minds at present. They are basking in well-deserved plaudits.

As a neutral you couldn't help but feel a tingle of emotion watching the scenes after the game. For the incredible work

that many in Douglas have undertaken over the years, Friday was the pinnacle.

It now remains to be seen if Douglas can take a Munster title. The last club side to take Munster club honours was the Glen in 1994, far too long ago.

Douglas defeated Killeady of Limerick last Sunday but have yet to face a Tipp team. They are

the one club side who have the potential to take Munster and All-Ireland club honours in the coming years and it would be great to see Cork back on the national club stage.

The Tipperary County final is on today, Toomevara face Drom & Inch. The winners of this will play Douglas in the Munster final next Saturday.

## take the spoils in junior deciders

to Ballincollig, but since then Clonakilty have improved enormously. They have excellent players in Juanita Brennan, Ciara O'Flynn, Sinead O'Brien, Hazel O'Regan and Clare O'Mahony. Their side has experience, with several of last season's minor side who took the B championship title in their line-up.

Given the experience gained from last season's final defeat at the hands of Killeagh, Ballincollig get the slight nod to just about

shade it but don't rule out a Clon victory either. There is a real rivalry between these sides, so expect a close and hard-fought encounter.

**Verdict:** Ballincollig  
**Evening Echo JB final**  
**Douglas v Brian Dillon's,**  
**2pm**

First up though, Douglas's second string will be hoping to continue their club's run of success when they meet Brian Dillon's in the junior B decider.

The B championship, which

is played on a straight knockout basis, saw Brian Dillon's record victories over Dungourney and Grenagh to book their place in the final, while Douglas beat Erin's Own, St Catherine's and Bride Rovers. Douglas will have used their stronger players in their senior county championship campaign, but nevertheless they have enjoyed huge success underage and they have an abundance of talent at their disposal. Players such as Ciara

Lynch, who led the club to All-Ireland Féile na nGael honours, LeeAnn O'Shea, Aine O'Donovan, Nicola Leo and Tracy McCarthy will feature prominently as they strive to make it a double for their club. Brian Dillon's have prepared well for this clash and they will be confident of annexing the title. Anthea O'Brien, Therese Drummond and Therese Deane have been there before and are experienced players. They will be hoping for big

performances from younger players such as Susan Kate Brosnan and Claire and Jane Dooley.

**Verdict:** Brian Dillon's  
● In the Junior C league final, Castletyons will be hoping to put their defeat in the championship decider behind them when they take on Ballinascorthy in Ballinlough at noon on Sunday.

● In the junior shield, semi-final Valley Rovers and St Finbarr's meet in Castle Road at 11am.

## CLUB NOTES

CONTINUED FROM OPPOSITE PAGE

**Underage:** On Sunday last Carol Bridgemans' underage players from 6 to 10 year olds played a series of friendly games when Inniscarra were visitors. Everybody enjoyed the day and we hope to have more of the same in the weeks ahead.

**Senior:** Our senior team play their last game in their section in the round-robin series of the championship when they meet Eire Og in a close game. We lost out by just two points. Well done to the girls for the huge effort and commitment shown.

**GAA draw:** The new series of the GAA draw will begin on October 31 and by now everybody who has joined the draw with the camogie section should have been notified.

Within the next week we will be collecting the first instalments of the draw. Anybody not participating this year is asked to contact Mary Newman or Deirdre Sutton as soon as possible while those staying in are reminded to get their money in as soon as possible.

**Sympathy:** We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the Noone family on the death of Gillian who is the aunt of our players Karen and Edel O'Connell and sister-in-law to Dave, our selector and mentor. Our thoughts are with Jackie and her parents and brothers at this time. May Gillian rest in peace.

### COLLEGES ROUND-UP

St Mary's Charleville recaptured the Munster A sevens title with a nail-biting victory over the reigning champions, St Caimin's, from Shannon.

St Mary's Charleville started their day against a spirited St Flannan's, from Ennis. Louise O'Flynn was first to score with a point from play, but Flannan's replied with one of their own.

The defences on both sides were well on top with Fiona Moloney in particular putting in a powerhouse display at full-back for Charleville. Flannan's took the initiative with a goal from play, but young Katie Galvin replied with a trademark solo run and hand-pass goal.

Captain of St Mary's, Sinead O'Flynn led the way and set up Katie with another well taken goal and although Flannan's replied, Charleville held on for a deserved victory.

The second game saw Charleville take on St Caimin's in a repeat of last year's Munster final. Indeed Caimin's retained all but one of last year's team and were raging hot favourites. Charleville led by two points at half-time thanks to points from Sinead O'Flynn, Louise O'Flynn and Katie Galvin.

Caimin's controlled the second half and despite the best efforts of Megan McCarthy, Catriona O'Keefe and Sinead Dennehy, Caimin's came out on top by 10 points.

St Mary's Charleville needed Caimin's to beat Flannan's in the final round-robin game and thankfully for the North Cork side they did.

The final turned out to be an epic contest that ebbed and flowed all the way through. Sinead O'Flynn revelled in her new full-forward role and started off on fire, causing a lot of problems for a quality full-back in Máire McGrath.

Rebecca Sheehy had the unenviable task of putting the shackles on Chloe Morey and did very well to set up Sinead O'Flynn for the opening goal.

Fiona Moloney and Sharon Curtin were majestic in the backline for Charleville and Caimin's were finding it hard to get opportunities for scores.

Captain, Niamh Corry, got a great goal to level it up but just before half-time.

Charleville's inspirational captain, Sinead O'Flynn, scored a point from play to give St Mary's the lead. Kate Keane came out of goal in the second half in a straight swap with Katie Galvin and proceeded to play a very important role and was instrumental in setting up the play around the middle of the pitch.

Louise O'Flynn also stormed into the game and got a great point from play. Niamh Corry then goalied for Caimin's and it was game on again.

Sinead O'Flynn, playing a real captain's role, scored a goal and a point in quick succession to give Charleville breathing space.

Rebecca Sheehy put the icing on the cake with a pointed free. St Mary's now go forward to play the All-Ireland 7s in Dublin this coming weekend.

**ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE:** Kate Keane, Fiona Moloney, Sharon Curtin, Louise O'Flynn, Rebecca Sheehy, Katie Galvin, Sinead O'Flynn, Sinead Dennehy, Catriona O'Keefe, Megan McCarthy, Karen Biggane, Aoife Twohill.

**Round Robin:** St Mary's Charleville 2-1 St Flannan's 1-3; St Mary's Charleville 1-5 St Caimin's 5-3; St Caimin's 4-5 St Caimin's 2-4.

**Final:** St Mary's Charleville 2-4 St Caimin's 2-1.

<b>St Mary's Charleville</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>Christ King</b>	<b>1-4</b>

The much delayed First Year A County final of 2007/2008 was played recently. Charleville qualified with wins over Bandon, Kinsale and Lismore and faced Christ King who boasted a team full of Douglas Féile stars.

Earlier in the year the Charleville first years won the Munster A title and hoped to achieve the double. Captain, Kate Galvin, was once again the star of the show for St Mary's and ended up scoring three goals from play with each one truly magnificent efforts.

However, there were loads of outstanding performances from players on both sides.

Clodagh Duggan, Allison Peate and Shannon Dampsey shone for Christ King while Aine Noonan, Elaine Crowley, Sinead Mulcahy, Christine Watson and Gráinne Hanley were to the fore for St Mary's.

The goal of the game came from Sinead Mulcahy who followed the top corner of the Christ King net. The hard-working Gráinne Hanley also got her name on the scoresheet, after a mistake by the oppositions goalkeeper.

This win sets up Charleville nicely for the coming year and hopes are high that this bunch of players will be the backbone of the school's junior team over the next two years.

**ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE:** Siobhán Slattery, Aine Noonan, Niamh Brady, Gráinne Noonan, Elaine Crowley, Christine Watson, Joanne Curtin, Denise Daly, Jacinta Reidy, Sinead Mulcahy, Gráinne Hanley, Katie Galvin, Geraldine O'Connor, Anna Sheehan, Aoife O'Connor, Aoife Byrnes, Sharon Geary, Helen O'Sullivan, Emma Louise Power, Aoife Renshaw, Aine Gould.



OCT 2008

**FINBARR BUCKLEY** spoke to Douglas camogie coach, Mick O'Regan following the club's recent success in the Evening Echo Cork County Senior Camogie and ahead of Saturday's Munster final against Drom and Inch at Cappagh White, Tipperary (2.30pm).

**MICK O'REGAN** has been coaching camogie in Douglas for the past 34 years.

He was a very prominent young player in his time. He won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal and was destined to have a long career at the top of the sport in this county until a knee injury meant a sudden rethink to his future career plans and he was forced to turn to coaching to stay involved with the sport.

"I attended Scoil Chríost Rí in Turner's Cross in the middle to late 60s and came under the tuition of the late former Clare senior footballer, Br Fabian, who would have coached a host of players who would go on to represent Cork at minor and senior level.

"I believe the Cummins', Cogan brothers, Dinny Allen and many more benefitted from his coaching.

"He was a fabulous player and instilled in us the skills of the game, such as kicking left and right and of course fielding.

"From there I moved to Coláiste Mhuire, now Douglas Community School, playing alongside future Blackrock and Cork senior hurler Danny Buckley while playing club hurling and football with Douglas and Seandún.

"We both tried our hand at playing rugby for Sunday's Well, but I was fortunate to win an All-Ireland minor football medal in 1974 until a knee injury curtailed my career.

"I continued to play intermediate until the early 90s."

So where did camogie fit in to all this?

"My involvement with camogie came completely by accident.

"I was asked when I was a minor player to help out in training.

"As far as I know, camogie was played in the early part of the century at the club.

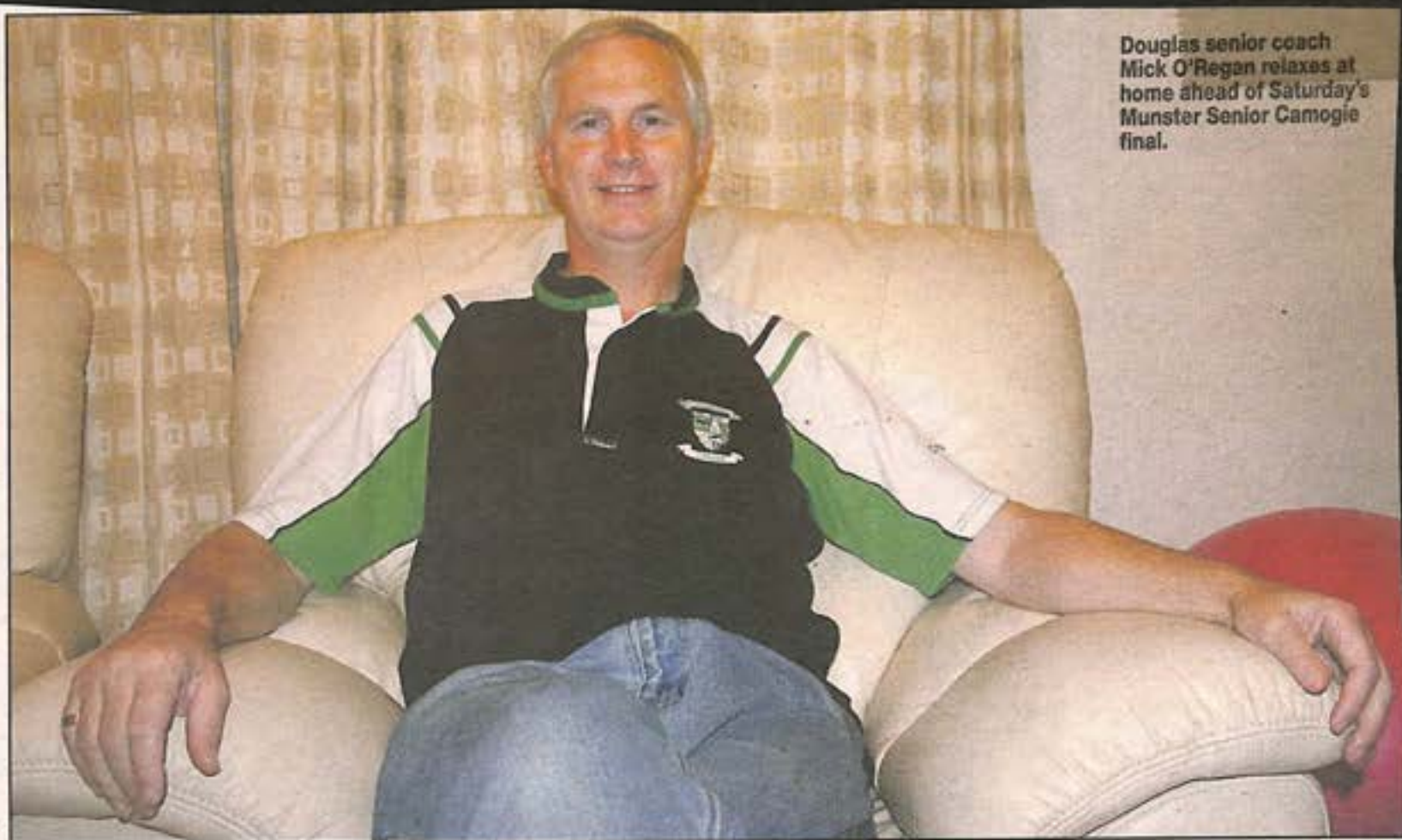
"However, the game was only revived again in the early 70s thanks to the trojan efforts of Pauline Downey, Mary Dineen, Ann Drinan, Jim Daly (RIP) and Imelda Slavín.

"The club would have played in the main in the junior category until our breakthrough in winning the senior B league and championship last season with respective victories over Rockbáin and Valley Rovers."

Douglas' progress has been very gradual over the years.

Most of the girls on the current senior panel began winning national competitions from the age of 14 onwards and Mick is quick to praise the coaching they received at primary school level in St Columba's and believes it played a huge part in making his team the side they are today.

"The start of the modern era was



Douglas senior coach Mick O'Regan relaxes at home ahead of Saturday's Munster Senior Camogie final.

# Mick praises underage drive

the commencement of the Sciath Na Scol competition.

"The girls (his daughters Amanda and Louise included) going to school below in the early 90s and Christina (his wife) giving a hand brought a lot more interest into things, along with the street league 10 years later, which allowed players to begin playing at a younger age.

"My belief is that if you don't catch them at primary school level, you wouldn't catch them at all.

"If a player isn't playing coming out of primary school you won't get them in secondary school.

"I was fortunate that the majority of the present team came through with coaches such as Jimmy O'Mahony and other dedicated mentors."

"It's indeed a family affair in the O'Regan household and I was interested to know what influence his daughters Amanda and Louise have had on the present team.

He was quick to point out that all 29 panel players played a part in this season's campaign so far.

"Amanda (the present captain), obviously, from a Cork point of view has had a huge influence.

"She could have gone to any club really."

So why did she not join another club?

"Her involvement and loyalty to the club along with parish spirit are probably the main reasons.

"After all, she's being playing adult level since she was 12, starting off in goal.

"From a club point of view she's fantastic and as captain she sees the positives in everyone.

"The weakest player on the team means the same to her.

"She encourages everybody. On the other hand, Louise's match intelligence is incredible.

"She can see what's going on and that's something you can't coach."

As we spoke his mobile phone went off and he indicated the missed call was a club contact relaying news on floodlit training facilities at Moneygourney.

This led us nicely to speak about the up and coming Munster final.

"We really did very little last week in view of the county final and the Munster semi-final being so close together last weekend.

"From now on everything is a bonus and we'll have the upmost respect for Drom and Inch in Saturday's final."

He was also philosophical in accessing his young charges' chances.

"It gave me immense pleasure with the many compliments we received following the county final win over St Finbarr's.

"People were highly impressed with the standard of play from both teams and from a manager's point of view to win when you had to dig deep shows the best of character in any team.

"In the drawn quarter-final clash with St Catherine's we led by a goal three minutes into injury time.

"Catherine's forced the goal and brought the match to a replay.

"What if we had only led by two points?

"In the county final, a sterling comeback by the Barrs reduced the deficit to three midways through the second half when a loose ball, which could have ended up in our goalmouth, was pounced upon by Julia White, who to our relief scored what proved to be a vital point.

"We'll approach the match on its merits and as a coach my job is to make whatever positional switches are necessary.

"I am extremely fortunate to have in our backroom team Mary Harrington, Paul Lynch and Philip Kavanagh."

Douglas camogie has come a long way under the direction of Mick O'Regan and his family over the years.

Many new memories have been invoked following their thrilling county final win.

One thing is for sure; Douglas are here to stay and who knows what this year still

**Mick O'Regan's daughters Amanda, right, and Louise raise the senior camogie trophy.**





Gala All-Ireland Camogie champions Cork dominate the nominations for this year's Camogie All-Stars with nine players in contention for awards. The awards will be presented at the Camogie All Stars banquet, in association with O'Neills, on Saturday, November 8th in CityWest Hotel.

2007 Cork captain, Gemma O'Connor, is in the running for an unprecedented fifth consecutive All-Star. The St. Finbarr's dubwoman won her previous four awards from midfield and following a positional switch to the half back line, she has again been instrumental in the county's success.

Cork's other nominations are goalkeeper, Aoife Murray, Captain Cathriona Foley and Mary O'Connor in the backs, middle duol, Orla Cotter and Breige Corkery, while Sile Burns and Rachel Moloney were named among the forwards.

The beaten All-Ireland and National League finalists, Galway, have been handed eight nominations for their efforts in 2008 including Captain Sinead Cahalan and 2008 Championship top scorer Jessica Gill who was last year's Connaught Young Player of the Year.

2007 Gala All-Ireland Champions, Wexford, are next in line with six nominations. Tipperary who were beaten in the semi-final by the eventual All-Ireland Champions have three nominations including three time All-Star, Claire Grogan. Although they failed to make the last four of this year's Championship, National League Division One winners, Kilkenny, also have three players nominated.

Clare have been rewarded with four nominees following their Division Two League and Gala All-Ireland Junior Championship double. Captain Deirdre Murphy is joined by centre half back, Kate Lynch, goalkeeper Denise Lynch and young forward, Carina Rosengrave.

Offaly, who lost out to Clare in the Junior final, have their first ever nominations in Michaela Morkan and Tina Hannon while Dublin also have two players nominated. Roscommon, Laois, Limerick, Tyrone, Waterford, Antrim, Derry and Meath have a nomination each to complete the list for this year's All-Stars.

Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, congratulated this year's nominees: "I am delighted that players from sixteen counties are nominated for All Star Awards. The emphasis is on acknowledging excellent performance at all levels in the Gala All Ireland Camogie Championships and national leagues. Congratulations to all nominees."

The Camogie All-Star Awards, in association with O'Neills, will take place on 8th November at the CityWest Hotel in Dublin where the winners will be announced.

## Camogie All-Stars 2008 in association with O'Neills

## Nominations -

## Goalkeepers

Susan Eamer (Galway)

Aoife Murray (Cork)

Denise Lynch (Clare)

## Backs

Cathriona Foley (Cork)

Gemma O'Connor (Cork)

Mary O'Connor (Cork)

Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork)

Anne Marie Hayes (Galway)

Sinead Cahalan (Galway)

Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)

Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary)

Paula Buffin (Tipperary)

Michaela Morkan (Offaly)

Noelleen Lambert (Wexford)

Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford)

Mary Leacy (Wexford)

Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny)

Andrea Fitzpatrick (Dublin)

Rachel Ruddy (Dublin)

Kate Lynch (Clare)

Julie Lagan (Tyrone)

## Midfield

Breige Corkery (Cork)

Orla Cotter (Cork)

Aine Hilary (Galway)

Michelle O'Leary (Wexford)

Grainne McGoldrick (Derry)

Deirdre Murphy (Clare)

## Forwards

Jessica Gill (Galway)

Therese Maher (Galway)

Veronica Curtin (Galway)

Rachel Moloney (Cork)

Sile Burns (Cork)

Claire Grogan (Tipperary)

Aoife Neary (Kilkenny)

Sinead Miles (Kilkenny)

Ursula Jacob (Wexford)

Kate Kelly (Wexford)

Eileen O'Brien (Limerick)

Jane Adams (Antrim)

Tina Hannon (Offaly)

Annette McGeeney (Roscommon)

Louise Mahony (Laois)

Carina Rosengrave (Clare)

Aine Lyng (Waterford)

Jane Dolan (Meath)

# Humphreys double sets Dillons on way to victory

Brian Dillons  
Douglas

3-4  
1-6

by Mary Newman  
Camogie

BRIAN DILLONS hit three first half goals to secure the Evening Echo Junior B Championship title. Douglas were on top in the opening half but they failed to capitalise on their possession when playing with the aid of the gale force wind in the opening half.

Claire Dooley opened the scoring with a point before Jane Dooley had the games opening goal. Douglas had two points from Jill Kelleher and they began to dominate winning plenty of possession, but they failed to convert as the Brian Dillon's defence held firm. Brian Dillons grabbed two vital goals with forward Louise Humphreys flicked the ball to the net after Emma Lane had evaded tackles and made a huge run from midfield to the edge of the 13 metre line before sending a dropping effort into the square where Humphreys connected.

Douglas again applied pressure and were denied a certain goal by Dillons keeper Saoirse Rodgers and Brian Dillons stretched their advantage with Louise Humphreys finishing to the net in a goalmouth scramble. Jill Kelleher kept Douglas in touch, pointing a free on the

half-time whistle where Brian Dillons led 3-1 to 0-3.

Douglas, despite playing against the driving wind and rain, showed improvement on the restart with the introduction of half time substitutes Ciara Lynch, Aisling Barrett and Leeann O'Shea. Pinning Brian Dillons in their own half they whittled down the lead thanks to Siobhan O'Brien, Jill Kelleher and Leeann O'Shea, they were soon within two as the Brian Dillons defence were under threat. Therese Drummond struck a point to steady her side and get their lead back to three points. The final say was with left to Claire Dooley who pointed to stretch the lead to four points.

Susan Kate Brosnan was named as player of the match after giving a superb display for Brian Dillons.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: L Humphreys 2-0, J Dooley 1-0, C Dooley 0-2, T Drummond 0-2 (0-10), Douglas S O' Brien 1-0, J Kelleher 0-5 (0-21), L O Shea 0-1.

BRIAN DILLONS: S Rodgers, S Cotter, A O'Brien, A Russell, K Kearney, A Dorgan, D Ring, L Bradfield, S K Brosnan, C Dooley, T Drummond (c), E Lane, T Deane, L Humphreys, J Dooley.

DOUGLAS: A O'Donovan, N Leo, D Connolly, L Nason, T Mc Carthy, C O'Driscoll, Cioe Murphy, M O'Mahony, J Kelleher, C Clarke, Cliona Murphy, S O'Leary, S O'Brien, C Kavanagh, M Cullinane (c).

Subs: L O'Shea for S O'Leary (h/t), C Lynch for L Nason (h/t), A Barrett for Cioe Murphy (h/t), O Curtin for S O'Brien (h/t).

Referee: Mick Sheehan (Liscarroll).

## 'Collig too strong for Clon

Ballincollig  
Clonakilty

4-13  
1-3

by Mary Newman  
Camogie

BALLINCOLLIG annexed the Evening Echo Junior A championship title at a rain-swept Castle Road Camogie grounds as they proved too strong for Clonakilty.

Aided by the gale force wind for the opening half, Clonakilty failed to avail of several chances that came their way as the Ballincollig defence worked hard to contain them. Ballincollig led 0-5 to 0-2 at half time, just one point coming from play in the opening 30 minutes.

Ballincollig, with the elements in their favour for the second half, stretched their lead inside 12 minutes.

With 13 minutes played in the second half, Sharon Whelton sent a 25 metre free to the net, but Ballincollig responded inside two minutes. Denise Cronin's long range effort dropped to the net and this was followed up by Maria O'Donoghue who struck two goals in as many minutes.

Sharon Whelton pointed for Clonakilty but Ballincollig marched on with Leah Weste sending a long range effort to the net. Denise Cronin pointed two frees to seal a superb day for Ballincollig and give them the championship crown.

Denise Cronin, who contributed 1-10 to Ballincollig's tally (1-2 from play and 0-8 from frees) was named as player of the match.

Scorers for Ballincollig: D Cronin 1-10, M O'Donoghue 2-1, L Weste 1-0, P Buttiner, H Coomey 0-1 each. Clonakilty: S Whelton 1-3 (1-2).

BALLINCOLLIG: T O'Donnell, B O'Callaghan, A Kiely, A Coughlan, E Nolan.

K O'Donoghue A. Cotter(c); L Weste, S Buckley, P Buttiner, M O'Sullivan, A Lovett; M O'Donoghue, H Coomey, D Cronin.

E O'Sullivan for P Buttiner (51), P Buttiner for L Weste (61).

CLONAKILTY: C O'Flynn, N O'Donovan (c), S O'Brien, H O'Regan, C O'Regan, C O'Mahony, L O'Flynn, S Forristal, J Brennan; M O'Donovan, E Jennings, S O'Neill, S Whelton, A Deasy, J O'Donovan.

Subs: H Coughlan for J O'Donovan, A Mc Carthy for C O'Mahony, AM Moyles for L O'Flynn. Referee: Oliver Webb (Tracton).

## Éire Óg see off last-gasp revival by Ballinascorthy

Éire Óg  
Ballinascorthy

3-13  
2-9

by Mary Newman  
Camogie

A HIGH-scoring contest saw Éire Óg take the 16 C champions title as they defeated Ballinascorthy.

Siobhan Hutchinson and Roisin Murray helped Éire Óg race into a 1-8 lead by the first quarter, with Caroline Sugrue striking three points in return for Ballinascorthy. Cork under-16 player Katie McCarthy lorded matters at centre back for Éire Óg, ensuring plentiful supply to her forward division who added 1-4 to leave them ahead 2-12 to 0-3 at the break.

On the changeover Éire Óg continued their dominance and stretched their lead with a further goal. Ballinascorthy battled on, with Caroline Sugrue adding four points helping them stay in touch. A spirited revival from Ballinascorthy saw them grab two goals inside a minute by Kelly Hennessy and Lorraine O'Brien as well as two points by Sugrue from frees.

Éire Óg refused to panic and held their composure as their defence held solid under

pressure. Siobhan Hutchinson linked up with Alanna Murphy to strike a point as Ballinascorthy again pressed hard to break down the Éire Óg defence.

With rain making conditions hard on both sides they battled on but Éire Óg, thanks to their superb opening half display which was a cushion in times of pressure, ran out worthy winners.

After the game, chairwoman of the Juvenile Board, Tracy Sheehan, presented the trophy to Éire Óg Captain Katie McCarthy. Claire Meeney of Éire Óg was named player of the match and was also presented with her award by Tracy Sheehan.

Scorers: Éire Óg: Siobhan Hutchinson 0-9, Claire Meeney 2-2, Roisin Murray 1-2, Ballinascorthy: Caroline Sugrue 0-9, Lorraine O'Brien 1-0, Kelly Hennessy 1-0.

ÉIRE ÓG: Meabh Corkery, Aoife Hennessy, Aisling O'Keefe, Aisling Gleeson, Aine Barry, Katie McCarthy, Orlaith Meeney, Eadeoin Forde, Emma Crowley, Roisin Murray, Orla Boyle, Claire Meeney, Siobhan Hutchinson, Meabh Hennessy, Alanna Murphy. Sub: Grainne Hutchinson for Aisling Gleeson (inj), Sarah Murray.

BALLINASCORTHY: Elizabeth Hurley, Kate O'Donovan, Louise Jordan, Ella Kate Murray, Niamh Foley, Rachelle Nyhan, Siobhan Hennessy, Rachelle Nyhan, Laura Hegarty, Mary Caroline Sugrue, Elaine O'Brien, Kelly Anne McCarthy, Elaine O'Brien, Claire Hennessy, Katherine Condon, Claire Louise Condon, Aoife Connor. Sub: Lorraine O'Brien.



Ballincollig players celebrate with the Cork Camogie Junior A trophy after they defeated Clonakilty in the final at the Cork Camogie grounds in Mahon.

Picture: Damien Quirke

## Deserved Castlelyons title

Castlelyons  
Ballinascorthy

1-5  
1-0

by Mary Newman  
Camogie

CASTLELYONS took the junior C league title by defeating Ballinascorthy in Ballinlough. Weather conditions were not kind, but did not deter two determined sides. Castlelyons' Mary McAteer scored an early goal; Emily Sexton pointed a free to stretch their lead. Ballinascorthy battled for their opening score, but had to contend with a strong Castlelyons defence. Mary McAteer and Emily Sexton pointed to stretch the Castlelyons advantage, as they led 1-3 to 0-0 at the break.

The second-half was tough for both defences; Ballinascorthy applied the pressure, but the Castlelyons defence held firm. With their

defence tightening up considerably, Ballinascorthy held their lines and kept the Castlelyons attack at bay. Emily Sexton converted two Castlelyons frees to stretch their lead, and give them breathing space. Ballinascorthy battled to get something from the contest, and they were rewarded with a goal from Ella Ryan. It failed to upset Castlelyons, who were not going to be denied a second time, as they ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Castlelyons: M McAteer 1-1, E Sexton 0-4 (0-3), Ballinascorthy: E Ryan 1-0.

CASTLELYONS: M Barry, S O'Connell, E Phelan, M Howard, M O'Sullivan, N Barry, A O'Sullivan, C Carroll, M T Murphy, S O'Shea, M McAteer, T O'Connor, A O'Brien, E Sexton, M Wilson.

Subs: I Fenton for A O'Brien, C O'Brien for M Wilson.

BALLINASCORTHY: Martina O'Brien; K Keohane, D Carroll, K O'Donovan; L Collins, R Nyhan, M A McCarthy; Maura O'Brien, M Condon; C Sugrue, E O'Brien, E O'Donovan; Eva Ryan, Ella Ryan, M Keohane.

Sub: E Murray for L Collins (24).

Referee: Jack McGrath



OeT 2008

## League title for Castlelyons

CASTLELYONS took the Junior C league title as they defeated Ballinascarty in a game where both sides battled it out to the full time whistle in appalling weather conditions. Castlelyons Mary Mc Ateer grabbed an early goal before she added a point and with Emily Sexton pointed their stretched their advantage and led 1-

3 to no score at the break. The second half was tough as both defences came under pressure Emily Sexton converted two Castlelyons frees to stretch their lead before Ballinascarty's Ella Ryan grabbed a goal but Castlelyons were not going to be denied as they hung on to ran out deserving winners.

## Manager snub for Cork

THE nominations for the manager of the year were greeted with amazement when it was announced that there was no mention of Corks Denise Cronin, the naming of two junior managers and one under 16 manager make a mockery of the awards and to have

no senior nominee for the most prestigious award is an amazing one Denise and her backroom team of selectors can rest assured that in Cork's eyes their management team was most defiantly the "management team of the year".

# Rebelettes selector blasts Cronin manager snub

by Colm O'Connor

A SENIOR Cork camogie official last night admitted to being "astonished and disgusted" at the nominations for the sport's manager of the year award.

Pat Murray, a selector on the side which won the All-Ireland last month, is furious that Cork boss Denise Cronin failed to make the list.

He is also aggrieved no females are included in the category. Instead Colm and Eoin Hanley (Clare), Joachim Kelly (Offaly) and Liam Dunne (Kilkenny) secured the nominations, which will be announced at the All Stars awards dinner in the CityWest Hotel.

Said Murray: "I am astonished and disgusted. What sort of message is it sending out by ignoring female managers at the highest level? Denise Cronin led Cork to a Munster and All-Ireland title; Ann Downey led Kilkenny to a league and All-Ireland intermediate title, both legends of the game, yet neither even managed a nomination. As far as I am concerned they should be battling for the award!"

"I have never heard of some of these people nominated. I'd like to question who came up with these nominations. With their male counterparts, the media or players who decide the teams and players of the year. But this is all top secret. I've been involved in camogie for years and I have no idea who is involved in picking these people."

He continued: "I think this is sending out a message that women are second class citizens. This is not an isolated incident. The final for the last couple of years have been refereed by men. Why? Camogie President Liz Howard is saying women should have more involvement. I'd like someone to explain how Joachim Kelly, who managed Offaly to an All-Ireland Junior final and lost, is more deserving of a nomination than Denise, who took Cork to an All-Ireland senior final and won."

Camogie's acting Ard Stiurthoir, Sinead O'Connor, last night defended the selections: "It was about what they achieved with the resources available to them. Liam Dunne was in charge of the Kilkenny U-16 team that won their fourth successive All-Ireland title. This is an extremely difficult age category as it is always hard to keep a good and strong panel but this team are feeding through to minor level."

"Joachim brought Offaly camogie to within a whisker of an All-Ireland title while Clare won the All-Ireland Junior at their fourth attempt."

"Counties like Cork have a huge amount of talent, huge base of players, massive experience and leaders. You have to put things into perspective."

■ The nominations were:

**Camogie Young Player of the Year Award:** Catriona O'Regan (Connacht, Roscommon); Edwina Keane (Leinster, Kilkenny); Carina Rosengrave (Munster, Clare); Karen Kiehl (Ulster, Derry).  
**Camogie Manager of the Year Award:** Colm and Eoin Hanley (Clare); Joachim Kelly (Offaly); Liam Dunne (Kilkenny).



Finbarr and Patrick Cotter, Newbridge Silverware, presenting a bracelet to Cork player Brieger Corkery, winner of the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the month award at the award luncheon in the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Richard Mills

# Nine make it to All-Star shortlist

CORK DUAL icon Brieger Corkery is in line for another double this season.

The powerful camogie and ladies football ace, who this week landed the Evening Echo Ladies Sports Star of the Month award for September, is among nine Rebels nominated for camogie All-Stars.

Corkery was already nominated for a football All-Star and looks certain to match her All-Ireland final double with an All-Star double.

Another player who appears certain to win an All-Star is Gemma O'Connor, and the Barrs player is in line for a remarkable fifth consecutive award.

Gemma was Rebel captain last year, but this season successfully made the switch back from mid-field to wing-back.

Cork's other nominations are goalkeeper, Aoife Murray, captain, Catriona Foley, Joanne O'Callaghan and Mary O'Connor in defence; midfielder, Orla Cotter and Sile Burns, a two-goal hero in the final and Rachel Mo-



ÉAMONN MURPHY

loney up front.

Cloughduv keeper Murray pulled off some blinding saves in the All-Ireland final against Galway, and it would be a major shock if she doesn't bag the number one spot in the team.

Burns crashed home a pair of powerful goals in the Galway match, and was a consistent scorer all year, so she would also seem certain to get an award.

Given Cork's supremacy on the biggest day of the season, they're likely to land six or seven All-Stars from their nine nominations when the awards will be presented at the Camogie All-Stars banquet, in association with O'Neill's, on Saturday, November 8, in the CityWest Hotel.

The beaten All-Ireland and National League finalists, Galway, have been handed eight nomina-

tions for their efforts in 2008 including championship top scorer Jessica Gill, who was last year's Connaught Young Player of the Year.

2007 Gala All-Ireland champions, Wexford, are next in line with six nominations. Tipperary who were beaten in the semi-final by Cork have three nominations including three-time All-Star, Clare Grogan.

Although they failed to make the last four of this year's championship, Kilkenny, also have three players nominated.

Junior players are also eligible, so players from Clare, Offaly, Dublin, Roscommon, Laois, Limerick, Tyrone, Waterford, Antrim, Derry and Meath complete the list for this year's All-Stars.

The fact both senior and junior players compete to make it on the one team has proved controversial in the past, with a strong argument to be made there should be senior and junior All-Star sides given the gulf in standard between the two grades.

Liz Howard, president of the Camogie Association, congratulated this year's nominees: "I am delighted that players from 16 counties are nominated for All-Star Awards."

**Camogie All-Stars 2008 nominations in association with O'Neill's:**

**Goalkeepers**

Susan Eerner (Galway), Aoife Murray (Cork), Denise Lynch (Clare)

**Backs**

Catriona Foley, Gemma O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork), Anne Marie Hayes, Sinead Cahalan, Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Trish O'Halloran, Paula Buffin (Tipp), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Noeleen Lambert, Catherine O'Loughlin, Mary Leacy (Wexford), Elaine Aylward (Kilkenny), Andrea Fitzpatrick, Rachel Ruddy (Dublin), Kate Lynch (Clare), Julie Lagan (Tyrone)

**Midfield**

Brieger Corkery, Orla Cotter (Cork), Aine Hillary (Galway), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Grainne McGoldrick (Derry), Deirdre Murphy (Clare)

**Forwards**

Jessica Gill, Therese Maher, Veronica Curtin (Galway), Rachel Moloney, Sile Burns (Cork), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Aoife Neary, Sinead Milles (Kilkenny), Ursula Jacob, Kate Kelly (Wexford), Eileen O'Brien (Limerick), Jane Adams (Antrim), Tina Hannon (Offaly), Annette McGeehey (Roscommon), Louise Mahony (Laois), Carina Rosengrave (Clare), Aine Lyng (Waterford), Jane Dolan (Meath)

## Junior a title for Ballincollig

BALLINCOLLIG were crowned Junior "A" champions when they defeated Clonakilty in game where weather conditions made it hard for both sides.

Aided by the gale force wind for the opening half Clonakilty failed to avail of several chances that came their way. Ballincollig led 0-5 to 0-2 at half time and with the elements in their favour for the second half they stretched their lead striking six points without reply one each from Maria O'Donoghue and Patricia Buttiner and Denise Cronin with four.

Sharon Whelton rallied Clonakilty as she sent

twenty five metres free to the net but Ballincollig responded with three goals one from Denise Cronin and two from Maria O'Donoghue.

Sharon Whelton pointed for Clonakilty but Ballincollig's Leah Weste sending a long range effort to the net before Denise Cronin pointed two frees to seal a superb day for Ballincollig and give them their first ever championship crown. Denise Cronin who contributed was named as Player of the Match and presented with a suitable memento of the occasion by county secretary Sile Golden.

## Brian Dillons take B title

THREE first half goals against the gale force wind helped secure the Junior B Championship title for Brian Dillon's against Douglas, Claire Dooley opened the scoring with a point before Jane Dooley had the games opening goal, Douglas had two points from Jill Kelleher as they began to get on top but they failed to build on their lead as the Brian Dillon's defence held firm.

Two goals from full forward Louise Humphreys the first after good work by Emma Lane ensured Brian Dillon's kept their lead. Douglas applied pressure and were by Dillon's keeper Saisire Rodgers but Jill Kelleher them in touch

pointing a free on the half time whistle as Brian Dillon's led 3-1 to 0-3.

The Brian Dillon's defence came under severe pressure through the second half and with Siobhan O'Brien grabbing a goal and points from Jill Kelleher and Leeann O'Shea the lead was down to two points.

Therese Drummond had a point before converting a free as Jill Kelleher replied for Douglas Claire Dooley pointed to stretch the lead to four points as the Brian Dillon's defence held firm to take the title.

Susan Kate Brosnan was named as Player of the Match.





Sinead O'Connor, a native of Moycullen, Co Galway who plays camogie with the Portobello Club in Dublin, after being unveiled as the Ard Stiúrthóir of Cumann Camogaiachta na nGael at Croke Park yesterday. Brian Lawless/Sportfile

## Galway's O'Connor new camogie chief

by Brendan O'Brien

GALWAY native Sinead O'Connor was yesterday confirmed as the new Ard Stiúrthóir of the Camogie Association. She replaces, with immediate effect, Sile Wallace who stepped down after 22 years in the role last August.

A chartered accountant by profession, Ms O'Connor is a graduate of the University of Scranton and the Smurfit School of Business. Prior to joining the Camogie Association she

was with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dublin and was seconded to PWC in San Jose, California.

Formerly the association's Finance and Sponsorship manager, Ms O'Connor yesterday described the task ahead of her as both exciting and daunting.

"There is so much to be done and so much potential," she said.

The Association has made significant strides this century. A Junior All-Ireland was inaugurated five years ago, a National Development Coor-

dinator and Director of Development have been appointed and the number of clubs is at an all-time high.

Spreading the gospel remains priority number one however. With Wexford the only county aside from Cork or Tipperary to win the senior All-Ireland in the last dozen years.

"Participation is the driving focus for us, as it is with any sport. We have very good saturation levels in the traditional counties. We need to remain strong in those areas but we also want every girl in Ireland to have the

chance to play the game."

O'Connor cited the work being done in the Connacht counties of Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo as an example of efforts being undertaken to lengthen the game's reach, while also pointing out that there are still areas in traditional counties with no camogie clubs.

The association's four-year Strategic Plan expires this year and further plans are already being put in place. A strategic review of the association's structures are currently ongoing.



The Cork camogie team on the way to Belfast for the All-Ireland semi-final v Antrim in the early 50s. Back: Eily Keating, Chrissie Dunne, Siobhan O'Brien, Mary Delea, Betty Walsh, Breda Buckley, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Eily Lyons, Noreen Duggan, Sheila Cronin. Front: Betsy Lucey, A N O'Leary, Anna Crotty, Peg Lucey, Sheila Cahill, Bridie Lucey, Mary O'Connell. Picture: Exam Photo





Douglas' Julia White (left) is keen to get a Munster club championship title back to Cork for the first time since 1994.

# Julia is ready for tough test

**DOUGLAS** star Julia White and her team-mates face a new challenge tomorrow as they go in search of their first Munster club championship title.

It is hard to imagine that Julia was only just three when the Munster club title last rested in Cork in 1994.

Tomorrow, she is hoping to end that famine when Douglas take on Tipperary champions Drom an Inch in Cappawhite.

It has been somewhat of a mixed and busy season for the Sacred Heart, Turner's Cross, fifth year schoolgirl.

"The year got off to a great start when we won the colleges All-Ireland senior B title defeating New Inn, Galway.

"I was also picked on the Cork minor team and the intermediate team, so I was fairly busy all year.

"I was brought onto the senior panel as the year progressed, so yes it's been non-stop since January."

A past pupil of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballinlough it's a surprise to learn she never played camogie at primary school level.

It was through her neighbour Louise Sheehan that she first took up camogie.

"I really didn't know much about camogie at that time.

"We didn't play at all in our school but Louise was always playing and she brought me down to join Douglas when I was about seven."

The White family have become

By MARY NEWMAN

Munster Senior Camogie final

hooked on camogie since Julia began playing.

Mum, Gráinne, and Dad, Garry, are big supporters, going to every game, while granddad Michael Heapes and aunt Deirdre are also huge fans.

"My granddad loves camogie and won't miss any game, no matter what the weather is like.

"It was lashing the night of the county final, but no way was he going to miss it.

"He organises everything around our matches now and he really loves all the excitement and it is great having him there."

Brother, Charlie, plays U13 and U14 with Douglas, but unlike the rest of the family he seldom has time to see big sister in action.

"He goes if he has to, but other than that he is not really interested in camogie.

"He is more interested in his own games and rightly so I suppose."

The challenge which Drom an Inch will pose to Julia and her team-mates is a serious one.

"We know they are tough and strong, but we won't fear them.

"We are not too nervous and we think we have a good chance of winning."

The clash of the Harkin sisters is one which Julia thinks is funny.

"When we heard Drom an Inch beat Toomevara in the Tipperary final we were laughing, thinking about Maria and her sister and how funny it would be with her

Dad and Mam also involved with the club.

"She joined us this year and we are kept up-to-date with what was happening in the Tipperary championship.

"It is very funny to have sisters on either team, but once the game gets going it will be just another game to them."

Douglas captain, Amanda O'Regan is a player Julia holds in high esteem.

"Amanda is an inspiration to us all and to be fair the older girls on the team all look after the younger ones.

"Our selectors are a great help also. Philip Kavanagh and Paul Lynch have been with us since our underage days, and people such as Mick O'Regan, Jimmy O'Mahony, Mary Harrington and Christine O'Regan do so much work for us. They are superb."

Looking forward to playing in her first Munster club final on Saturday Julia is ever conscious of what lies ahead in the winter months.

"Already the colleges games have begun, but we have put off our games until the clubs championship games are finished.

"So really for a lot of us we will have little or no break.

"Hopefully, we will be playing with Douglas up to the club finals and then its colleges games until next March.

"Then the leagues begin again."

A tough schedule for one so young but one gets the impression Julia wouldn't have it any other way.

## Harkin's set to have a big say in the Munster final

**TOMORROW**  
Munster Senior Club  
Championship final  
Douglas v  
Drom an Inch,  
Cappawhite, Co  
Tipperary, 2.30pm

IT'S GOING to be an emotional rollercoaster in the Harkin household this weekend.

Douglas and Drom an Inch meet in this year's Munster senior club championship final. Johnny Harkin is manager of the Tipperary club side and his daughter Niamh plays on the team at full-back. Meanwhile, her sister, Maria, working in Cork and living in Douglas, will line out for Douglas in their first Munster final appearance.

The Tipperary county championship can be physically demanding. Drom defeated Toomevara last weekend in a closely fought final after Toomevara had accounted for the 2007 champions, Cashel.

The Drom defence had a superb outing in their county final triumph. The Toomevara forwards found it difficult to deal with the disciplined de-

By LINDA MELLERICK

Senior camogie

fence who soaked up every attack that came their way. Toomevara only managed to score three points in the second half, all from Noelle Kennedy frees. Rather than this being a criticism of Toomevara it is an acknowledgment of the quality of the Drom defence. Towards the end of the game, Toomevara did get one last chance of equalising with a free, but it fell short and the safe hands of Niamh Harkin lifted the siege.

Joanne Ryan, Geraldine Kennedy, Therese Shortt, Rosie Kennedy and Michelle Short are all senior inter-county players for Tipp.

Whilst Douglas may not equal the senior inter-county tally of players that Drom possess, due mainly to youth, they have more than their fair share of players on intermediate and minor teams and are more evenly balanced than most.

That proved the winning formula for Douglas in this year's county championship.

## Harkin sisters face off in battle for Munster club glory



**Therese O'Callaghan**

**SISTERS** Niamh and Maria Harkin provide an interesting subplot to today's Munster camogie senior club final in Mahon, Niamh a full back for Drom an Inch and Maria a centre forward for Douglas.

Up to this year, Maria lined out with her native club in Tipperary. But, a career move to Cork followed and she put down roots with fiancé Eddie in Douglas. Tired from the travelling up and down to Tipperary for training, Maria decided to throw in her lot with the local club.

The likelihood of them clashing on the playing field never entered the equation.

But the story doesn't stop there. Father John is manager of Drom an Inch, while mother Joan is club chairperson and a selector.

Maria says, "There is a great bit of slagging going on. I'd be very friendly with all the girls in Drom. I was at the county final and we had the banter then. But, Douglas is my club now and we will have to wait and see what happens. Either way there will be a Munster medal in the Harkin house."

Niamh, who works in Clonmel, agrees it is unique. "It will be awkward playing against each other but we both have to get on with it."

"We never thought this would happen. Especially at the beginning of the season because both our clubs would have been ranked outsiders to win the county championship. But, as the year wore on, we kind of thought, maybe we might meet."

The two clubs are attracting a lot of attention. Not alone because of the interest-



# Douglas' Harkin must face her family in camogie final

By FINBARR BUCKLEY

Camogie

DOUGLAS camogie centre-forward Maria Harkin has the unenviable task of facing her former club, her sister, Niamh, and her dad in Saturday's Munster senior camogie final at Cappawhite (throw-in 2.30pm).

The experienced forward of Cork County Champions Douglas, is in no doubt who she wants to see winning the coveted trophy.

"Once the jersey goes on you only want one winner, despite the fact I am playing against my sister and my dad.

"I played with Drom-Inch (Tipperary) for more than 14 years with my sister and enjoyed every minute of it," said Maria.

Maria, who works in the passport office in Cork City said:

"Working in Cork for the last four years meant I had to travel to Drom for training three nights a week. I had to leave work at four in the afternoon and didn't get back until after midnight.

"Joining Douglas this season made things a whole lot easier, but little did I think we'd come face to face so soon with my native club, sister and dad in such a prestigious match."



Niamh Harkin, who plays for Drom-Inch, Co Tipperary will contest the Munster Camogie final against her sister Maria, who play for Douglas, at Cappawhite this Saturday.

Picture: Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision

## Cumann Camógaíochta na Mumhan 2008



**Craobh Sinsear Club na Mumhan**  
Dubhglas(Corcaigh)  
In Aghaidh  
An Drom/An Inis (Tiobraid Arainn)  
Reiteoir: Fintan McNamara(An Chlár)



### Drom/Inch An Drom/An Inis



### Douglas Dubhglas

1. Rosie Kennelly
2. Catriona Kennedy
3. Niamh Harkin
4. Patricia McGrath
5. Sinead O'Meara
6. Michelle Shortt
7. Triona Butler
8. Therese Shortt
9. Norma Harrington(C)
10. Geraldine Kinnane
11. Mary Looby
12. Joanne Ryan
13. Siobhan McGrath
14. Eimear Shanahan
15. Catriona Shortt

1. Jessica Kavanagh
2. Sarah O'Regan
3. Louise O'Regan
4. Fiona McSweeney
5. Eileen Morgan
6. Amanda O'Regan(C)
7. Pamela Mackey
8. Helen O'Mahony
9. Katrina Mackey
10. Juila White
11. Maria Harkin
12. Aileen O'Donovn
13. Emma Jordan
14. Moira O'Donovan
15. Rachel O'Sullivan

Mná Ionaid: 16. Kristina Kennelly 17. Sinead Corcoran 18. Eileen Harty  
19. Antoinette Kennedy 20. Maria Eviston 21. Ashling Butler 22. Theresa Kinnane 23. Niamh Butler 24. Naomi Tracey

Mná Ionaid: 16. Siobhan O'Brien 17. Ashling Barrett 18. Ciara Lynch  
19. Marie Cullinane 20. Tracey McCarthy 21. Semma Long 22. Clíodhna Murphy 23. Sinead O'Leary 24. Jenny O'Donovan 25. Danielle Connolly 26. Clara Kavanagh 27. Orla Curtin 28. Hilary O'Connor 29. Ciara Clarke

Bainisteoir: John Harkin  
Roghnoirí: John Lillis, Jimmy Kennedy, Joan Harkin  
Physio: Rita O'Dwyer

Bainisteoir: Mick O'Regan  
Roghnoirí: Mary Harrington, Philip Kavanagh, Paul Lynch  
Co-ordinator: Christina O'Regan



# Douglas fall to Drom and Inch

Drom and Inch  
Douglas

2-8  
1-5

by Brendan Larkin

DROM and Inch created history by winning the Munster senior camogie title for the first time at Mahon on Saturday.

Appearing in their fourth final, the Tipperary girls built the foundation for victory in the opening half when aided by the driving wind and rain they built up a 1-5 to 0-3 lead by the break. And when Eimear Shanahan blasted home a second goal just after the break, there was no way back for Douglas. While this was essentially a team effort the magnificence of centre back Michelle Shortt, was hugely important.

Douglas were appearing in their first final and certainly lost no face in this defeat, but the 15 wides they struck will haunt them for some time. Forced to play into the elements in the first half, they hit eight wides, but given the strength of the wind and rain, the half time deficit of five points wasn't

insurmountable. However they continued to chalk up the wides and had a goal disallowed for a square infringement which would have left just a point between the teams with 10 minutes to go.

The driving wind and rain was clearly a factor and the Tipperary girls used the elements well in the opening half. With Shortt dominant at centre back, they stormed into a 0-4 to 0-1 lead after 15 minutes and when Eimear Shanahan

scored two minutes later, Drom and Inch were seven ahead. However they weren't to score again for the remainder of the half as Douglas began to get a grip. Amanda O'Regan and Pamela Mackey got on top in the half back line and with Julia White and Katrina Mackey giving the Drom and Inch defence a torrid time, they hit three points to trail by five at the break, 1-5 to 0-3.

Drom and Inch threw the gauntlet down to the Cork champions seconds after the restart when Shanahan billowed the net after a great run by

Siobhan McGrath.

But the cheering had hardly died down when Douglas struck for their opening goal. A long delivery into the Drom and Inch defence caused panic and Rachel O'Donovan forced the sliothar over the line.

From there to the final whistle Douglas pinned Drom and Inch in their own half as Amanda O'Regan drove her side forward with some great clearances. Only some great play by Niamh Harkin and Michelle Shortt kept the Douglas forwards at bay. Julia White looked to have given the Cork champions a second goal when she rounded the Drom and Inch keeper but her shot to the empty net was taken off the line by the magnificent Shortt.

Undeterred Douglas came again and when Joan White first timed Julia

White's cross to the net with five minutes to go, it looked as if it was going to be their day. But the referee blew for a square infringement and Douglas weren't given any more chances as Drom and Inch finished with a brace of points by Joanne Ryan to claim victory at the fourth attempt.

**Scorers for Drom and Inch:** E Shanahan 2-1; J Ryan 0-3 (0-1f); M Looby, C Shortt, G Kinnane, T Shortt (45) 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-3 (0-2f); R O'Donovan 1-0; J White, M Harkin (f) 0-1 each.

**DROM AND INCH:** R Kenneally, C Harkin, P McGrath, S O'Meara, M Shc, T Shortt, G Kinnane, J Ryan, N McGrath, E Shanahan, A Kennedy, C

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, F McS O'Donovan, E Jordan, P Mackey, A O'Regan, H O'Mahony, H O'Connor, Harkin, K Mackey, E Morgan, R C O'Donovan.

**Sub:** A Barrett for O'Connor.

**Referee:** F McNamara (Clare).

Douglas forward Julia White breaks away in the Munster Club camogie final against Drom/Inch in Mahon, Cork.

Picture Des Barry



## Douglas CC Cork Senior Camogie Champions 2008



### Douglas Camogie Club - Senior progress

Douglas won the Junior A championship in 2005, Senior B championship in 2007 and thus graded Senior A for the championship in 2008. On the way to the county final Douglas defeated Aghabullogue, St. Catherine's (after a replay) and Muskerry. In the final we faced St. Finbarrs under lights in Paric Uí Rinn. This was a closely contested game with Douglas emerging victorious. The Munster semi-final was played on the following Sunday against Killeady (Limerick). The Douglas girls showed great character to turn out for a 2nd time just 40 hours after our county final and won a great game. The girls are now eagerly awaiting the Munster final.

### Club Background

Douglas camogie club was formed in 1974 and had limited success winning a junior B championship and league in 1980 as well as a number of under-age competitions. Since the year 2000 the club has been very successful at under-age level winning the Cork Feile for the 6 out of the past 7 years going on to contest 4 All-Ireland finals winning 3 of these. This success filtered through to the U16 and U18 teams who went on to win county honours. This success has now filtered through to the Adult teams in the club. Douglas is fortunate to have a good number of mentors who cater from girls as young as 8yrs up to adult level.



### Douglas Captain - Amanda O'Regan

Amanda has played at adult level since she was under 12. Her role of honour includes 3 senior, 1 Junior and U16 All-Ireland medals, National League titles, 3 Asbourne Cup (3rd level colleges) with UL, Inter-provincial medals at Junior and Senior, plus a number of club titles at various grades. Amanda has also won a number of All-Ireland titles in basketball and was selected for the Irish senior ladies team. She is a qualified PE & Maths teacher



LINDA  
MELLERICK

Drom an Inch  
Douglas

2-8  
1-5

WHEN it's not your day, it's not your day.

14 wides, a disallowed goal and a certainty cleared off the line were the hallmarks of a disappointing result for Douglas in this highly entertaining Munster Club Championship final in Castle Road last Saturday.

With the game switched to Cork at the eleventh hour it is a credit to Drom an Inch that they served up such a performance on away soil.

Player of the Match Michelle Shortt at centre back and Joanne Ryan and Geraldine Kinnane up front gave splendid performances throughout and while Douglas could have won this final the entire Drom defence wore their heart on their sleeve and denied them.

A fiercely strong wind blew mostly cross field but did favour the team facing the dressing rooms and Drom had the advantage of it in the opening period.

The game started at a very lively pace despite the elements. Julia White was in the thick of the action making long surging runs while Ryan and Kinnane were doing likewise at the other end. Mary Looby and Katrina Shortt hit two points inside three minutes as Drom endeavoured to build up a lead with the wind. It was evident from an early stage that Drom had strength and some good strikers.

Julia White opened the scoring for Douglas after 10 minutes. By the 15th Drom had increased their lead to three with points from Ryan and Eimear Shanahan. Jessica Kavanagh was extremely busy in the Douglas goal and coped well. She was finally beaten with 16 minutes played. A long ball in from Ryan rebounded off the post as Kavanagh acrobatically dived. It was met by Shanahan who pulled to the net and the visitors lead was stretched to six.

Douglas uncharacteristically hit a number of poor wides, yet so too did Drom, the statistics reading six to four in favour of Drom an Inch with twenty minutes gone.

Michelle Shortt and Triona Butler stood tall in a strong half back line and when Kinnane pointed it was clear that Douglas needed to limit the damage to half time to ensure the gap was surmountable in the second period.

Two Katrina Mackey points, one from a free narrowed it to five points and holding Drom scoreless for the remainder of the half, the outlook for Douglas at half time was good.

### Score of the game

DROM AN INCH'S goal from the second half throw in. Siobhan McGrath had only one thing on her mind from the moment she got possession.

### Referee watch

FINTAN McNAMARA had a good game. Both sides contributed to that. In poor weather conditions the game was skilful, dogged and clean.

### Player of the Match

MICHELLE SHORTT was inspiring at centre back throughout. Her save off the line denied Douglas a certain comeback.

### Turning Point

WITH five points separating the sides a Douglas goal would have changed the outcome of this game. Michelle Shortt denied them on the line.

**CAMOGIE**  
MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB Final: Drom an Inch Tipperary 2-10 Douglas Cork 1-5.  
Junior Final: Kilmaley 2-10 (5 Enright, H. Mc Mahon 1-1 each, C Mc Mahon 0-5 (0-3f), D Lynch 0-2f, K Cahill, E O'Driscoll 0-1 each) Gaultier, Waterford 3-3 (7 Jackson 2-3 (0-2f), F O'Leary 1-0)

Oct 2008



# Douglas are wide of mark

## O'Regan: The girls gave it their best

A DISAPPOINTED Douglas coach Mick O'Regan was very gracious after the final whistle, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

"It is disappointing to lose but we gave it our best shot and to be honest we could not have asked for any more from the girls."

"They were superb, the game could have gone either way, we had plenty of chances."

"They are a very good side and they have a few inter-county players and it showed today. They have plenty of experience and on a day like today when conditions were bad, that stood for a lot."

Mick reflected the goal that was disallowed with just minutes remaining.

"That would have brought their lead down to a point and at that time we were very strong and applying a lot of pressure but it was deemed to be a square ball and we just have to accept the decision, it was tough but sure that's the way it goes."

Though disappointed Mick reflected on a great year for his charges. "We won a great county championship and to make it to the Munster club final at the first attempt was a great achievement. I cannot praise our team enough they have had a great year and I am very proud of each and every one of them."

The elation on the face of Drom-Inch trainer John Lillis was understandable given his side had just created history.

"It's a first Munster club title for our club and to be honest we are thrilled, last year was a disaster for us and we lost a good number of players. At the start of this year our aim was to win a game and to be honest we just kept plugging away and the confidence grew."

It's been a hard few weeks, we have played for about eleven weeks in a row but we played our county final last week in similar conditions to today so the weather was not a problem for us.

"It was a hard game and Douglas really put us under pressure. Our defence was excellent and I think that was borne out by the fact that our centre back Michelle Shortt was named player of the match, she had a super game and she is a hugely influential player in our team."

John is now looking ahead to the All-Ireland club series.

"To be honest we are shocked to win Munster it is beyond our dreams but we will do our best and everything from now on is a bonus for us."



Douglas' Katrina Mackey about to take a shot as she is chased by Drom an Inch's Triona Butler.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

## THREE REASONS WHY DOUGLAS LOST

**1** **WIDES**  
DOUGLAS will be the first to admit that their tally of 14 wides denied them a Munster title. On another day the majority of those would have gone over.

**2** **DROM DEFENCE**  
DROM'S entire defence, in particular Michelle Shortt, were under immense pressure for the entire second half yet only conceded a point from play.

**3** **EXPERIENCE**  
THE experience of Shortt, Joanne Ryan and Geraldine Kinnane, all Tipperary senior inter-county players, was evident. They all had fine games.

The second half was tension filled, action packed and full of drama. Two goals within a minute instigated proceedings. The speedy Siobhan McGrath collected from the throw in. Her great run up the wing and inch perfect pass to Shanahan saw the latter billow the net and it looked to be the killer blow for Douglas.

But the perfect goal was met with the perfect response. From the puck out Katrina Mackey took off. Her delivery was met by advancing keeper Rosie Kennelly who had been faultless to that point.

Her attempt to meet the ball with a mid air strike was misjudged and with the ball now on the goal line

Rachel O'Sullivan got the final touch.

Douglas were re-energised and play intensified. Therese Shortt pointed a free to calm matters for the visitors. Maria Harkin came powering into the game and Douglas began to dominate.

10 minutes in Douglas switched Julia White to full forward. One on one inside with plenty of open space it was a good move and almost paid off immediately. Firstly winning a free, which Harkin converted, an O'Regan delivery was again gathered by White.

She beat the advancing Kennelly as the entire Douglas bench jumped

for joy. Their delight was stripped from them as Michelle Shortt somehow managed to get across and clear her line.

Despite this setback it was now all Douglas but wide after wide cost them dearly.

As Douglas pressurised Drom fouled but Douglas failed to convert many of their frees. The clock ticked away and Drom were defending to save their lives.

With three minutes remaining Douglas again had a scorable opportunity from a free to narrow the gap to three points with a goal always on the cards. Once again they struck wide and one could feel the game

slipping away.

A minute to go and a cross ball in from Pamela Mackey was superb met by White who hit the net but Douglas were agonisingly denied as the umpires signalled a square goal.

Despite not scoring since the third minute the last three belonged to Drom, in particular Joanne Ryan who struck two points, her final point out of the top drawer.

The final whistle blew and Douglas' magnificent year in which they defied all the odds came to an end, a year which they can be extremely proud of.

**Scorers for Drom an Inch:** E Shanahan 2-1, J Ryan 0-3 (0-1 f), M Looby, C Shortt, G Kinnane, T Shortt 0-1 each.

**Douglas:** K Mackey 0-3 (0-2 f), R O'Sullivan 1-0, M Harkin 0-1 (f), J White 0-1.

**DROM AN INCH:** R Kennelly, P McGrath, N Harkin, C Kennedy, S O'Meara, M Shortt, T Butler, T Shortt, G Kinnane, S McGrath, M Looby, J Ryan, E Shanahan, A Kennedy, C Shortt.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, E Jordan, M O'Donovan, F McSweeney, L O'Regan, A O'Regan, P Mackey, H O'Mahony, Hilary O'Connor, J White, M Harkin, K Mackey, E Morgan, R O'Sullivan, A O'Donovan.

**Subs:** A Barrett for H O'Connor (38).

**Referee:** Fintan McNamara (Clare).



OCT. 2008



Ballincollig players and supporters show their delight after they defeated Clonakilty to win the Cork Camogie Junior A final at the Cork Camogie grounds in Mahon.

Picture: Damien Quirk

# Collig after a junior double

AFTER destroying Clon in last weekend's *Evening Echo* Junior A final, Ballincollig Camogie Club will now focus on completing a unique double.

After going unbeaten all season using just 16 players with their first team, they'll fancy their chances of landing a second adult county in next weekend's Junior Shield final against Valleys.

Landing an elusive first junior title will give Ballincollig a substantial lift and justifies their youth policy in recent years, after putting in huge work underage



**EAMONN MURPHY**

this decade.

The likes of Maria O'Donoghue, Leah Weste, Denise Cronin and Alison Coughlan have all played for Cork.

While only two of Ballincollig's starters last weekend are in their 20s, with the rest either still, or just out of, minor.

The club actually came up Junior A without winning the Junior

B, Clon twice foiling them in semi-finals. But reaching last year's Junior A final and winning the league stood to the side this year.

As did Muskerry's senior county success, which featured four Collig players.

The style in which they won last Sunday was a tribute to the guidance provided by Dave Collins, Sarah Kidney and Pat Murphy on the sideline, and the back-room team of June Buckley, Martin Sisk and Kilkenny native Gareth Irish.

The team are also still in contention to retain the 2007 league title, before moving up to senior B.



Chairperson of the Cork camogie board, Marion McCarthy, presents the Cork County Junior A camogie trophy to Ballincollig's captain Aoife Cotter.

Picture: Damien Quirk



Ballincollig players celebrate with the Cork Camogie Junior A trophy after they defeated Clonakilty in the final.

Picture: Damien Quirk



Aoife Cotter raises the cup after Ballincollig's win.



Ballincollig's Margaret O'Sullivan, Leah Weste and Ashley Lovett celebrate after they defeated Clonakilty.

Picture: Damien Quirk



## Club notes

### ST CATHERINE'S

Club sponsor: Cork Builders Providers

**U16 C League play-off:** Our U16 team will play Eire Og in this play-off next Wednesday. This game is scheduled to take place in either Cloughduv or Ballincollig under lights.

**U15 Imokilly blitz:** This tournament is scheduled to take place next Monday at a venue yet to be fixed.

**Social tickets:** GAA and camogie tickets are still available for this year's social on November 1st in Garryvoe Hotel.

**All star nomination:** Congratulations to Orla Cotter on being nominated for a camogie All Star for 2008.

### NA PIARSAIGH

Our U11 team played St Finbarr's in the Seandun final recently.

From the start our girls showed great skill and heart and scored within a few minutes.

The Barrs didn't give up and fought to the end.

Our captain Rebecca Sheehan led by example with a great display. Other players who impressed were Sinead Simpson, Erin McElhinney, Louise Dorgan and Saoirse O'Sullivan.

We won on a score of 5-1 to 2-1.

Our scorers were Carmel Kelly and Louise Dorgan with two goals each, Lauren Twohig got one goal and Erin got a point from a free.

Our team: Teaghan Ryan, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Amanda O'Leary, Niamh Ryan, Emma Buckley, Sinead Simpson, Elizabeth Guinnane, Erin McElhinney, Rebecca Sheehan, Niamh O'Sullivan, Louise Dorgan, Amy Leahy, Niamh Conway, Carmel Kelly, Lauren Twohig. **Subs:** Eimear Guest, Chloe Murphy, Laura McCarthy, Ciara O'Mahoney.

### GLEN ROVERS

Our U15 team met St Finbarr's in the Seandun championship on Wednesday.

We had excellent displays from captain Nicola O'Sullivan, Maria Sheehan, Aisling O'Keefe, Edel O'Connell, Maria Sheehan and Lauren Callanan and we ran out winners.

Our next game is on Wednesday when we play hosts to Brian Dillon's at the Glen field at 3pm.

Players are to meet at 2.15pm.

**GAA draw:** Members are reminded that the first two draws take place on Friday night next.

Payments are to be made out to the camogie co-ordinators, treasurer Deirdre Coleman or Mary Newman.

Compiled by MARY NEWMAN

## O'Connor appointed as new Ard Stúirthóir

THE Camogie association have announced the appointment of Sinead O'Connor as Ard Stúirthóir of the Association, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Having previously held the position of finance and sponsorship manager she takes over from the recently retired Sile Wallace, who served 22 years in the position.

A native of Galway, Sinead expressed delight to be taking up such a prestigious role.

"I look forward to taking on the role of Ard Stúirthóir," O'Connor said.

"Without doubt, it is an exciting time for camogie, with unprecedented growth in the numbers playing the game.

"The ultimate aim of the association is to bring Camogie to as many young girls as possible.

"It is vital to foster a good working relationship between our thousands of volunteers and the dedicated full-time team working for Camogie in Ireland."

On announcing the appointment, Liz Howard, president of the Camogie Association said: "Sinead O'Connor is the ideal person to lead a very vibrant and focused full-time team, together with the many committed volunteers, who will further develop and grow camogie in a challenging environment."

"She has many skills, a fantastic work ethic and the potential to make a significant contribution in her new role."



## Linda Mellerick

# Denise snub is an absolute disgrace

IT'S All-Star time again and in this case the controversy has started even before the event commences.

How, after leading Cork to All Ireland success in her first year as manager of an inter-county team, can Denise Cronin not even be nominated for the 'Manager of the Year' accolade?

The nominees are Colm and Eoin Hanley of Clare, Joachim Kelly of Offaly and Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer of Kilkenny.

There is not a single senior manager nominated.

Clare and Offaly contested the junior final, while Liam and Stephen manage Kilkenny's U16 side.

Colm and Eoin Hanley have enjoyed a very successful 2008 as joint managers of the Clare team.

Joachim Kelly the former All-Ireland hurling winner and All-Star guided the county to their first All-Ireland final since 2001 but narrowly lost to Clare in the decider.

Joint managers Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer have been rewarded with a nomination following their continued success with Kilkenny U16s.

Dunne and Dormer have been instrumental in Kilkenny's success at underage level, leading the Cats to their fourth consecutive All-Ireland U16 A title in May.

There is no doubt that those named above are great managers and deserve recognition, but not to have even one senior manager nominated really is questionable.

With the association's desire to spread the game of camogie, I feel they want to give awards to as many counties as possible.

That's ok too, but you have to be fair to senior successful counties.

You can't penalise or deny them just because they are at the top.

All-Ireland champions Cork dominate the nominations for this year's All-Star selection with nine players in contention for awards.

Unsurprisingly, Gemma O'Connor is in the running for an unprecedented fifth consecutive All-Star.

Gemma won her previous four awards from midfield and following a positional switch to the half-back line this year she has again been nominated, this time in defence.

Cork's other nominees are goalkeeper Aoife Murray, Captain Catriona Foley, Joanne O'Callaghan and Mary O'Connor, midfield duo Orla Cotter and Breige Corkery, while Sile Burns and Rachel Moloney were named among the forwards.

The beaten All-Ireland and national league finalists, Galway,

have been handed eight nominations for their efforts in 2008 including captain Sinead Cahalan and 2008 Championship top scorer Jessica Gill, who was last year's Connaught Young Player of the Year.

2007 Gala All-Ireland Champions, Wexford, are next in line with six nominations.

Tipperary who were beaten in the semi-final by Cork have three nominations including three-time All-Star, Clare Grogan.

Although they failed to make the last four of this year's championship, national league division one winners Kilkenny also have three players nominated.

Clare have been rewarded with four nominees following their division two league and Gala All-Ireland Junior Championship double.

Captain Deirdre Murphy is joined by centre half-back Kate Lynch, goalkeeper Denise Lynch and young forward Carina Rosengrave.

Offaly, who lost out to Clare in the junior final, have their first ever nominations in Michaela Morgan and Tina Hannon, while Dublin also have two players nominated.

Roscommon, Laois, Limerick, Tyrone, Waterford, Antrim, Derry and Meath have a nomination each to complete the list for this year's All-Stars.

The awards will be presented at an All-Star banquet on Saturday, November 8 in the Citi West Hotel.

**The All-Star nominations are as follows:** Goalkeepers: Susan Earner (Galway) Aoife Murray (Cork) Denise Lynch (Clare) Backs: Catriona Foley (Cork) Gemma O'Connor (Cork) Mary O'Connor (Cork) Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork) Anne Marie Hayes (Galway) Sinead Cahalan (Galway) Niamh Kilkenny (Galway) Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary) Paula Biffin (Tipperary) Michaela Morgan (Offaly) Noleen Lambert (Wexford) Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford) Mary Leacy (Wexford) Elaine Alyward (Kilkenny) Andrea Fitzpatrick (Dublin) Rachel Ruddy (Dublin) Kate Lynch (Clare) Julie Lagan (Tyrone) Midfield: Breige Corkery (Cork) Orla Cotter (Cork) Aine Hillary (Galway) Michelle O'Leary (Wexford) Grainne McGoldrick (Derry) Deirdre Murphy (Clare) Forwards: Jessica Gill (Galway) Therese Maher (Galway) Veronica Curtin (Galway) Rachel Moloney (Cork) Sile Burns (Cork) Claire Grogan (Tipperary) Aoife Neary (Kilkenny) Sinead Millea (Kilkenny) Ursula Jacob (Wexford) Kate Kelly (Wexford) Eileen O'Brien (Limerick) Jane Adams (Antrim) Tina Hannon (Offaly) Annette McGeeney (Roscommon) Louise Mahony (Laois) Carina Rosengrave (Clare) Aine Lyng (Waterford) Jane Dolan (Meath).

After a terrific season with Cork, in her first year in charge of an inter-county team, the least Denise Cronin deserved was recognition for a job well done.







The Ballincollig team — and selectors — that defeated Clonakilty in the Cork Camogie Junior A final at the Cork camogie grounds on Castle Road in Blackrock.

Picture: Damien Quirk

# Camogie girls celebrate

**BALLINCOLLIG** Camogie Club made history recently as they won the *Evening Echo*-sponsored Junior A final for the first time, overcoming Clonakilty 4-13 to 1-3.

The game was played at the camogie grounds on Castle Road in Blackrock.

With great defending from Alison Coughlan and Aoife Cotter, and with Tina O'Donnell pulling off superb saves in goal, Clon stood no chance.

Denise Cronin was in flying form scoring 1-10 and deservedly picked up the player of the match award.

Captain Aoife Cotter proudly accepted the cup.

It was a thriller of a match; however, Ballincollig are not finished yet.

They have already made history by having two adult teams reach county finals, and this Sunday they will be going for the double as the Junior Shield team take on Valley Rovers at 3.30pm at Castle Road, Blackrock, on Sunday.

With the Junior A team only using 16 players it leaves the club's second adult team with a very strong side.

The Shield girls are competing

against a senior side, but have had an excellent campaign so far and a great semi-final win over Ballygarvan.

Special mention must go to the girls' management team of David Collins, Sarah Kidney and Pat Murphy, and their back-room team of Garrett Irish, Martin Sisk, Mary Weste and June Buckley, who have guided the girls tremendously

throughout the year and helped the club to break all records with having two adult county finals this year.

The Junior A team now move up to Senior B, while the Junior Shield team will be hoping to win their county final and move up to Junior B.

Congratulations to all the girls involved with both teams, the club is proud of each and every player.

## Munster Camogie Club Final Big Win for Drom in Cork Drom-Inch 2-8; Douglas (Cork) 1-5



The Harkin sisters (left) Niamh who won her Munster medal with Drom and Maria who plays with her adopted club Douglas.

Left: Michelle Shortt (Drom) is presented with the trophy for player of the match by Mary Newman who was representing the judging panel. Michelle was complimented for her outstanding defending performance throughout the game.



The tornado that is Drom & Inch Camogie continues to wreak havoc wherever it hits land, and last weekend was no exception when Douglas suffered at the might of the Drom girls. The fact that Drom had to give up home advantage due to the unavailability of a pitch in the county because of weather conditions surely made this win all the sweeter.

Both teams had a good sprinkling of Inter County players, so a good hard battle was expected, and that is what the spectators got. Weather conditions were bad and Drom had the advantage of a diagonal wind in the first half and with 20 minutes gone were leading by 1.05 to 0.01, thanks to a goal by Eimear Shanahan.

Douglas battled hard to

reduce the deficit at half time when the sides went in Drom 1.05 to 0.03.

As was the case last week in the County Final last week the big question was if Drom had enough done to hold the advantage or were Douglas going to adapt to the conditions better in the 2nd half.

Douglas got the start they wanted when just 3 minutes in the 2nd half Rachel O'Sullivan found the back of the net, thus setting the game up for a real ding dong battle.

However, try as they might, Drom were not going to budge and when Eimear Shanahan struck for Drom's 2nd goal midway through the half it signalled the end of the road for Douglas' dream of Munster glory.

Great credit to the panel

who had to line out without their captain, Norma Harrington for this clash. Drom will now face Galway Champions Athenry in the All Ireland Semi Final next weekend. Drom have home advantage for this game but a venue or time has yet to be confirmed. Details will be announced on the local radios and will be on the Tipperary GAA website as soon as is available.

We wish everyone associated with Drom Camogie the very best of luck as they carry the hopes of both club & County into this game.

### CAMOGIE COACHING WORKSHOP

The Munster Camogie Development officer, Deirdre Murphy in association with Croke Park are setting up workshops in all the Munster Counties aimed at introducing Camogie to girls

aged between 4 & 8yrs. This workshop is aimed at introducing all the basics skills of Camogie & will help develop the child's motor skills & co-ordination skills, as well as introducing the basics of Camogie in a fun environment.

Tipperary's night will take place in St. Mary's Secondary School Nenagh on Tuesday November 24th from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. This course is coming highly recommended & is open to all clubs, parents & Coaches. Participants must be over the age of 16, & clubs must book in advance, as places are limited. Cost per person is £10. To book, clubs can contact deirdre@camogie.ie or contact the County PRO for application form details.

COUNTY PRO: tipperarypro@camogie.gaa.ie (087) 7934071



Joanne O'Callaghan, Cork senior

### Club pair set for final bow

**CAMOGIE:** There will be a new name inscribed on the Bill Carroll Cup when Antrim outfit O'Donovan Rossa take on Tipperary side Drom & Inch in the All-Ireland senior camogie club final on Sunday, November 16.

Rossa proved too good for Dublin's Ballyboden St Enda's in Saturday's semi-final as they ran out comprehensive 3-18 to 0-6 winners at Casement Park in Belfast.

Inspired by Therese Shortt and Siobhán McGrath, Drom & Inch overturned a 0-7 to 0-4 half-time advantage to defeat Athenry and reach the decider for the very first time.

Clare outfit Kilmaley will attempt to stop Laois side Harps capturing a third successive crown when the teams contest the junior final.





Douglas' Maria Harkin is stopped in her tracks as Drom's Michelle Shortt wraps her up.

Picture: Gerard Burns

OCT 2008

**Camogie: Saturday: All Ireland Junior Club Championship semi-finals:** Lavey (Derry) v The Harps (Laois), Casement Park, 1pm; Kilmaley (Clare) v Four Roads (Roscommon), TBA

**All Ireland Senior Club Championship semi-finals:** O'Donovan Rovers (Antrim) v Ballyboden St Enda's (Dublin), Casement Park, 2.30pm; Drom and Inch (Tipperary) v Athenry (Galway), TBA



The Mount Mercy camogie team, Mairéad O'Donoghue, coach, Joanne O'Callaghan, Cork senior with Mairéad O'Donoghue, coach.

## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

### Douglas disappointment

**DISAPPOINTMENT** for Cork champions Douglas as they failed in their efforts to lift the Munster club championship crown defeated a strong Drom-Inch side from Tipperary.

Player of the Match Michelle Shortt at centre back was a tower of strength for Drom while in attack Joanne Ryan and Geraldine Kinnane were constant threats and made life difficult for the Douglas defence but it was their own defence who stood tall against the Douglas second half onslaught time out of number breaking up attack after attack.

Mary Looby and Catriona Shortt hit two points inside three minutes as Drom aided by the wind made good use of possession, Julia White replied for Douglas after ten minutes but Drom had increased their lead to three with points from Joanne Ryan and Eimear Shanahan. Jessica Kavanagh had to be at her best to deny Drom but they finally got through with sixteen minutes played a long ball in from Ryan striking the post as but were connected on by Shanahan who finished to the net.

Douglas battling to get into the game hit a

number of poor wide's but so did Drom, Ger Kinnane stretched their lead but two Katrina Mackey points narrowed the lead to five points at the half time whistle.

We had two goals inside a minute of the restart one for each side Siobhan McGrath raced up the wing and found Eimear Shanahan who blasted to the net but Douglas responded from the puck out Katrina Mackey's floating shot was misjudged by the Drom keeper and finished over the line by Rachel O'Sullivan.

Therese Shortt pointed a free to give Drom breathing space and with Drom native Maria Harkin powering into the game for her new club Douglas they began to dominate.

Douglas now camped in the Drom half kept the pressure on but wide after wide cost them dearly, they looked to have grabbed a life line with a minute to go as Pamela Mackey cross was superb met by White who hit the net but the umpires and referee signalled a square goal.

With the siege lifter Drom raced up field two points from Joanne Ryan sealed victory giving them their first club title.



Deckie and Dell Guckian, Glen Heights Road, with Cork Camogie manager Denise Cronin and players Sile Burns, Emer O Farrel and Catriona Foley

## Busy weekend ahead

**ANOTHER** busy weekend ahead as Eire Og and Ballinhassig meet in the Evening Echo senior B championship semi final on Sunday in Castle Road at 1.30pm, this will be followed by the junior shield final at 3.30 where Valley Rovers meet Ballincollig.

The county board organised two plate competitions for teams defeated in

the first round of the Junior B and C championship in B Buttevant and Na Piarasigh meet in the final on Saturday in Mallow at 11.30am, the C final has Delaney's meeting Millstreet on Sunday.

In under age competitions on Saturday in Castle Road Douglas meet Milford in the Under 16 "A" championship final, in the

Under 16 B league semi final Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers meet at 12 noon in Castle Road.

On Sunday Barryroe and St Marys meet in the Under 16 D league final at 3.30 in Cloughduv and this is preceded at 2pm by the Under 16 "C" League Semi Final Douglas "2" against Ballinascorthy.



# Eire Óg edge victory to claim final place

**Eire Óg** 2-7  
**Ballinhassig** 1-9

EIRE ÓG booked their place in the Evening Echo Senior B champions final, defeating Ballinhassig in a close contest at the camogie grounds Castle Road.

Ballinhassig led at the break by two points, but Eire Óg dug deep to fashion a splendid victory, led in no small way by their captain, full back Siobhán Gleeson, who steadied her side with some excellent defensive play, while Ella Kelleher and goalkeeper Marie Gleeson were also excellent under pressure.

Claire Purcell had Eire Óg level with eight minutes to go to the half-time whistle, finishing the ball to the net after Margaret O'Herlihy's attempted point bounced back into play.

Ballinhassig, aided by the wind, took an early lead, Eimear O'Sullivan striking two points. Margaret O'Herlihy replied for Eire Óg, but with Catriona Collins and Aisling O'Brien pointing, Ballinhassig stretched their lead. O'Herlihy and Sinead O'Callaghan swapped points as Ballinhassig held their lead. Claire Purcell made no mistake from close range to level the game, but Ballinhassig responded, Eimear O'Sullivan and Sinead O'Callaghan pointing two frees to edge them ahead 0-7 to 1-2 at the break.

The sides swapped early second half point as Ballinhassig held the advantage, but when Margaret O'Herlihy floated a free to the Ballinhassig net Eire Óg edged ahead. Catriona Collins levelled, but Eire Óg fought back, Margaret O'Herlihy pointing two frees before

Ciaira O'Connor and Claire Meaney struck two excellent points under pressure. Ballinhassig's Sinead O'Callaghan took on the Eire Óg defence before the ball was scramble over the line for a goal. However, Eire Óg hung on and face either Rockban or Killeagh in the final.

**Eire Óg:** M Gleeson; L Murphy, S Gleeson (c), C McKenna; C McCarthy, K McCarthy, E Kelleher; C McKenna, C Purcell; C O'Leary, A McCarthy, C Meaney; A McKenna, C O'Connor, M O'Herlihy. **Scorers:** M O'Herlihy 1-5 (1-2f), C Purcell 1-0, C O'Connor and Claire Meaney 0-1 each.

**Ballinhassig:** G O'Callaghan; C Holland, A O'Riordan, D O'Brien; L Jordan, M O'Riordan, H Cullinane; M Kelleher, E O'Sullivan, K McCarthy, S O'Callaghan, J Cullinane; D Cooney, C Collins, A O'Brien. **Subs:** T Finn for S O'Brien (11), B Coleman for M Kelleher (50), S Coffey for A O'Brien (51). **Scorers:** E O'Sullivan 0-3 (0-1f), S O'Callaghan 1-2 each (0-1f), C Collins 0-2, D Cooney and A O'Brien 0-1 each.

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

## Valley and Ballincollig must face replay

**Valley Rovers** 1-2  
**Ballincollig** 0-5

VALLEY ROVERS and Ballincollig will have to do it all again after a last-gasp point from Bernie Shields tied the sides up in a closely fought Evening Junior shield final.

It was a tough encounter as both sides battled for supremacy, the low scoring giving an indication of the supremacy of both defences who marked tight through the hour.

Ballincollig held a slender 0-2 to 0-1 interval lead, Jennifer Ryle and Ciara Mc Sweeney edging them ahead with points before Majella McCarthy found the range with a Valley Rovers pointed free.

Again through the second half both defences stood out as the bat-

tled to gain control continued, Jennifer Walsh and Jennifer Ryle had Ballincollig three points ahead inside three minutes of the restart and they looked as if they were about to take over, but Valley Rovers continued to pressurise Ballincollig goalkeeper Aisling Sheehan, denying them on the line before they finally grabbed a goal Eiblish Butler first timed the ball to the net to level matters inside nine minutes.

There followed a frantic 14 minutes without a score as play swung from end to end. Valley Rovers had three chances to take the lead from frees, but failed to avail of the opportunities and it was Ballincollig's Aoife O'Neill who pointed a free with seven minutes remaining to edge her side back in front.

Ballincollig worked to extend their lead, but Tessa Hawkes in the Valley's goal was in excellent form, confidently handling and clearing to safety on four occasions. Valley got their reward when Bernie Shields pointed with the second last shot of the game.

**Valley Rovers:** T Hawkes; N Murphy, J O'Mahony, C O'Riordan (c); C Ryan, E O'Regan, A Glavin; E Cottrell, M McCarthy; E Butler, C O'Mahony, K Richardson; B Shields, T Tierney, E Forde. **Subs:** C Hawkes for T Tierney (28), R O'Regan for E Forde (39), E Looney for N Murphy (49). **Scorers:** E Butler 1-0, M McCarthy, B Shields (f) 0-1 each.

**Ballincollig:** A Sheehan; L O'Donoghue, E Murphy (c), R O'Callaghan; C Irish, O Ni Cathasaigh, A Barry; C Ryan, J Walsh; L O'Callaghan, A O'Neill, J Ryle, K Sheehan, C McSweeney, A Duff. **Subs:** S Cooney for K Sheehan (11). **Scorers:** A Ryle 0-2, C McSweeney, J Walsh, A O'Neill 0-1 (f) each.

**Referee:** Pat Moran (Carrigaline)

## Douglas retain title against battling Milford

**Douglas** 1-14  
**Milford** 1-6

DOUGLAS retained their U16 A championship title when they proved to strong for Milford on Saturday at Castle Road. The holders always had that little bit extra in reserve and with several of their senior county championship winning side in action. However, Milford will rue the fact that they allowed Douglas dictate matters in the opening 30 minutes and really only began to get into the game themselves in the second half themselves.

Douglas led 1-5 to 0-3 at the half-time whistle after playing against the strong wind. Pamela Mackey opening the scoring with an early Douglas goal after Niamh O'Brien had pointed a Milford free. Douglas dictated matters with Katriona Mackey, Aine O'Donovan and Claire Shine extending their lead with points as the Milford defence struggled to come to grips. Louise O'Flynn and Niamh O'Brien had Milford points to narrow the gap before the break.

On the resumption Douglas fired over three points in row before Milford began to come more into the

game. Katie Galvin pointed as they battled to get into contention but again the strength of Douglas came through Aileen O'Donovan, Claire Shine and Katriona Mackey adding four points to the tally as they stretched their lead 1-12 to 0-5.

Milford began to come into the game and a Caroline Watson goal cut the deficit to seven points. Sensing a revival in Milford, Douglas dug deep. Katriona Mackey and

Aileen O'Donovan struck points to ensure the title was secured for another year. Milford's Sinead O'Flynn was named as player of the match following a superb effort in her side's quest for glory.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 0-5 (0-2f), P Mackey 1-1, Aileen O'Donovan 0-3, C Shine 0-3 (0-2f), Aine O'Donovan 0-2.

**Scorers for Milford:** C Watson 1-0, L O'Flynn 0-3, N O'Brien 0-2 (0-1f), K Galvin 0-1.

**Referee:** Mike O' Kelly (Ballyheal).



Marion McCarthy Camogie Board chairperson presenting Brian Dillons Captain Therese Drummond with the Junior B championship trophy following their victory over Douglas recently.

## All Ireland Club Semi Finals Report

By Jackie Cahill

ANTRIM outfit O'Donovan Rossa will meet Tipperary's Drom & Inch in the All-Ireland senior camogie club final on Sunday November 16.

O'Donovan Rossa defeated Dublin's Ballyboden St Enda's 3-18 to 0-6 while Drom & Inch edged past last season's beaten finalists Athenry by just a single point, 1-8 to 0-10, in Saturday's semi-finals.

Jane Adams was the scoring heroine for O'Donovan Rossa, weighing in with a massive 2-11 haul as the Ulster Kingpins raced away in the second half, having led 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time. Ballyboden spurned a glorious goal chance just before half-time and were made to pay by Adams just 38 seconds after the restart when she scored the game's opening goal.

Seven minutes from the end, Adams netted again before Maureen Stewart added a third goal in stoppage time for the 2006 runners-up.

This was an impressive attacking performance from O'Donovan Rossa as corner forward Clara Armstrong also sparked with four points from play.

In contrast, outclassed Ballyboden could only manage a solitary point from play during the second half at Casement Park in Belfast.

Meanwhile, Therese Shortt and Siobhán McGrath led the scoring charge as Drom & Inch qualified for their very first final with that slender victory against Galway's Athenry at Cloughjordan.

A new name will be inscribed on the Bill Carroll Cup in a fortnight's time after Drom & Inch overturned a 0-7 to 0-4 half-time deficit.

Shortt scored 0-4 from placed balls while McGrath's second half goal proved crucial for the Tipperary and Munster champions, who will now look to emulate county colleagues Castlet, last year's All-Ireland champions.

Athenry, heavily reliant on eight points from Galway ace Jessica Gil, were caught by Ryan's goal nine minutes from time, a score which sent Drom & Inch 1-7 to 0-8 in front.

Drom held off a late Athenry charge and breathed a huge sigh of relief when Nicola Hally shot over the crossbar in stoppage time as the Galway girls threatened to score a winning goal.

Meanwhile, Clare outfit Kilmaley will attempt to stop Laois side Harps capturing a third successive crown when the teams contest the Junior final on November 15.

Emma O'Driscoll (2), Katie Cahill and Helen McMahon scored the Kilmaley goals as they ran out 4-11 to 0-3 winners against Roscommon's Four Roads at the grounds of St. Joseph's Doora-Barefield, having led 1-5 to 0-2 at half-time.

Four Roads faced an uphill task from the 18th minute after full-forward Donna Kelly was sent off.

At Casement Park, Harps recorded a 1-10 to 1-8 victory against Lavey of Derry as Allstar nominee Louise Mahony scored 1-9 for the reigning champions.

Harps had built up a commanding lead at half-time, 1-7 to 1-2, but Lavey remained in contention as Paula McCloy replied to Mahony's goal in the opening half.

\*\*\*\*  
**Scorers for O'Donovan Rossa:** J Adams 2-11, C Armstrong 0-4, S Daykin, K O'Neill & O McCall 0-1 each.  
**Scorers for Ballyboden:** C Lucey & D Dolan 0-2 each, E Lucey 0-1, S Nic Collin 0-1.

**Scorers for Drom & Inch:** T Shortt 0-4, S McGrath 1-1, J Ryan 0-2, N Harrington 0-1.  
**Scorers for Athenry:** J Gil 0-8, T Maher & N Nally 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Kilmaley:** E O'Driscoll 2-0, H McMahon 1-2, K Cahill 1-0, S Enright & C McMahon 0-4 each, M Hehir 0-1.  
**Scorers for Four Roads:** N Coyle 0-2, E Gannon-Tully 0-1.

**Scorers for Harps:** L Mahony 1-9, E Mahony 0-1.  
**Scorers for Lavey:** P McCloy 1-2, C McCloy 0-4, H O'Neill & M O'Kane 0-1 each.



The presence of Cork senior player Eimear O'Sullivan is a big asset for Ballinhassig.



Dual Cork GAA star, Briege Corkery helps Michael Martin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, launching the Bord Gais Power Plant project at Whitegate. Picture: Diane Cusack/Provision





# Linda Mellerick

## Camogie is far more skillful than hurling

**BRENDAN CUMMINS**, the Tipperary netminder, is guest of honour at the Camogie Association's All-Star Awards in the Citywest Hotel next Saturday.

It was nice to hear Brendan express his delight to be associated with such an event during the week, while also stating his belief that 'the skill level in camogie is an awful lot higher than hurling'.

"There is less wallop off the ball in camogie. It is hurling at its purist. It is all pulling and dragging in senior intercounty hurling but you don't see that in camogie. I have watched the All-Ireland camogie finals down the years, and the skill is phenomenal.

Every year the finals are very good and very close. Wexford stand out from last year, proving what can be achieved if you are determined enough. The old guard (Cork) returned this year.

"Tipperary's journey, which started in 1999, was massive. We (Tipperary hurlers) used to train in the running track in Dr Crokes and the county camogie team trained there too. We saw how seriously they took it and were amazed at their training.

"The profile of camogie is much higher now. And that is only right because of the amount of effort they put in. It is attracting big audiences. RTE would not be giving it lip service if they didn't have the viewership."

As I stated last week the All-Star Awards in camogie isn't about picking the best 15 players in the country during a particular season.

### Tipperary keeper says ladies' more talented than men

While the star players will be selected, other senior intercounty players, who had solid seasons, will not, as the association endeavours to recognise junior and minor playing counties as well. At least two, if not three, positions will go to Clare, the All-Ireland junior champions, and beaten finalists Offaly.

Next Saturday, the day of the event, I'll have a go at picking my All-Star selection based on the senior intercounty championship.

● The All-Ireland Senior Club Championship semi-finals take place today.

Unfortunately Douglas won't figure after last week's defeat by Drom and Inch. Douglas must be disappointed because if things had gone right for them on the day they would be lining out again. But fair play to Drom, they fought a hard battle and came out on top. As Brian Cody says, 'the best team always wins the All Ireland' and I agree with him.

Drom and Inch play Athenry of Galway while O'Donovan Rossa of Antrim take on Ballyboden-St Enda's.

Douglas might not like me saying this and they might not feel it now but last Saturday's defeat won't do them any harm.

They are an extremely young side. Had they gone on and won the club title it would possibly have been too soon.

Riding on the build-up and euphoria that they have enjoyed over the past six



Brendan Cummins of Tipperary is presented with his GAA All-Star by Nickey Brennan, GAA President, last month. He says camogie is hurling at its purist.

weeks or so can be too much on young shoulders. Feeling a little pain won't do any harm and they will be all the better for it. Douglas are here to stay.

● Sinéad O'Connor's appointment as Ard Stiúrthóir of the Camogie Association came as no surprise. Those in the know predicted she would. Sinéad previously held the position of Finance and Sponsorship Manager with the Association. She was a breath of fresh air in this role as it quickly became more than just a job. She is passionately involved in camogie now and the role of

Ard Stiúrthóir demands that. You couldn't do this job unless you are emotionally involved in the game.

With the association more vibrant than ever on developing and promoting camogie it was a big decision.

The temptation to go for a 'big shot' with huge credentials on business development and marketing must have been there. But then the personal touch would have disappeared and while sport can be big business, it must remain sport after all and for that reason the association made the right choice.

### Millstreet come up against Delanys

THE county board organised two plate competitions for teams defeated in the first round of the Junior B and C championship, in the B grade Buttevant and Na Piarraigh meet in the final today in Mallow at 11.30am.

The C grade final has Delanys meeting Millstreet on Sunday at 1pm in Inniscarra.

In underage competitions are on today in Castle Road.

Douglas meet Milford in the U16 A championship final. In the U16 B league semi-final, Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers meet at noon in Castle Road.

Tomorrow, Barryroe and St Mary's meet in the U16 D league final at 3.30 in Cloughduv and this is preceded at 2pm by the U16 C League semi-final. Douglass second team against Ballinascahy.

## St Mary's are league champions

St Mary's  
Barryroe

1-3  
1-1

By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

IN A close encounter St Mary's (a combination of Charleville/Ballyhea) and Barryroe served up a tremendous game of camogie in this U16D league final played in perfect conditions at the splendid Cloughduv venue.

Barryroe settled quickly and took the lead when Sarah O'Dwyer converted a 45' metre free.

St Mary's battled hard and were soon level when Kate Keane pointed from play.

Now applying strong pres-

sure St Mary's hit the front mid-way through the half with Sinéad Dennehy hand-passing to the net for the games opening goal.

Responding with determination Barryroe regained the initiative and were back in front with a long range free from Denise O'Sullivan found the net just before the break to let the sides level at the interval.

The second-half was a battle for supremacy and scores were at a premium as both defences held the upper hand.

Kate Keane pointed a free early in the half to edge St Mary's in front and this was all that separated the sides for of the half and as play swung from end to end.

Barryroe battled hard to try get on level terms and the St Mary's defence had to be at their best to hold firm.

At the other end St Mary's strove to extend their lead but a brave Barryroe defence held firm until finally with the last puck of the game Kate Keane pointed a 45 to give her side breathing space and the title.

Both teams must be complimented for their performances and for the superb display of camogie.

play of camogie.

Tracey Sheehan presented the trophy to team captain Mary-Claire Waters, while Castriona O'Keeffe, St. Mary's was named as player of the game following a superb display.

**ST MARY'S:** D Daly, M C Waters, A Noonan, J Reidy, A O'Connor, M McCarthy, L Kelly, T Cagney, C O'Keeffe, E O'Brien, K Keane, G Crowley, F Barrett, S Dennehy, L Sheehan.

**Sub:** E Carroll for A O'Connor (inj h/t)

**Barryroe:** J Madden, A O'Donovan, L Delea, N Madden, M O'Regan, C O'Dwyer, U O'Donovan, T McCarthy, K O'Sullivan, P O'Donovan, R McCarthy (C), A Weldon, C Lordan, D O'Sullivan, O O'Regan.

**Subs:** F O'Regan for O O'Regan, (h/t), S O'Leary for C Lordan (40).

**Referee:** C Egan (Glen Rovers).

## Camogie workshops

THE camogie association is organising a series of workshops in all counties on coaching the fundamentals of camogie for girls aged between four and eight, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The workshop is aimed at parents, new and existing coaches and helpers.

The workshops will include a variety of fun activities appropriate to the children's age group which will aid in developing the child's coordination and skills and will also help to introduce the young players to the basic skills of camogie in an enjoyable way.

The duration of the work-

shop is one and a half hours and there is a fee of €10 per person. The only stipulation is that participants must be over 16. Each coach will receive the 'Ready to Play' coaching booklet by Ger O'Connor.

The Cork course takes place on Tuesday, November 18, and it is being hosted by St Finbarr's club in Togh.

In order to book your place at the workshop clubs or individuals must send their application form and fee to the Munster Camogie Development Co-ordinator, Deirdre Murphy, c/o The Sports Office, Limerick Institute of Technology, Limerick.



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The camogie All-Stars. Back row, from left: Mike Joe Corkery accepting on behalf of Briege Corkery, Cork, Aoife Murray, Cork, Orla Cotter, Cork, Jessica Gill, Galway, Therese Maher, Galway, Aoife Neary, Kilkenny, Sile Burns, Cork, Rachel Moloney, Cork, and Jane Adams, Antrim. Front row, from left, Cathriona Foley, Cork, Liz O'Loughlin accepting on behalf of Catherine O'Loughlin, Wexford, Trish O'Hallaron, Tipperary, Tony Towell, Managing Director of O'Neills, Sinead O'Connor, and sturthoir of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, Guest of Honour — Tipperary hurler — Brendan Cummins, Michaela Morkan, Offaly, Sinead Cahalan, Galway and Gemma O'Connor, Cork.

Picture: Ray McManus



Galway's Jessica Gill is presented with her All-Star award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and Guest of Honour, Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins.

# Cork claim seven awards



Gemma O'Connor of Cork received her fifth All-Star from Brendan Cummins.

**THIS** year's All-Ireland champions Cork were the big winners at the Camogie All-Stars in the City West Hotel taking home seven awards over the weekend.

Gemma O'Connor has been rewarded with an unprecedented fifth consecutive All-Star following an impressive 2008. O'Connor won her previous four awards at midfield but collects her fifth award from the half-back line.

She is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full-back and captain, Cathriona Foley, mid-field pair of Briege Corkery and Orla Cotter as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns who scored two goals in the Gala All-Ireland final.

Championship and National League runners-up, Galway, received three awards.

The 2008 Championship top scorer, Jessica Gill, has been rewarded with her first All-Star. The 18 year old sharpshooter amassed a total of 6-48 over the course of the Championship. Gill is joined by captain Sinead Cahalan and forward Therese Maher.

Beaten semi-finalists, Wexford and Tipperary, have both been given one award each as has National League Champions, Kilkenny. Wexford's full-back, Catherine O'Loughlin, claims her second award while Tipperary's Trish O'Hallaron and Kilkenny's Aoife



**SARAH O'DONOVAN**

Neary pick up their first awards.

Antrim and Offaly, won their first ever All-Stars. Michaela Morkan, who was part of the Offaly team that reached the Gala Junior All-Ireland final, has been named in the half-backs while free scoring Antrim forward, Jane Adams, took home Antrim's first All Star.

Mary Moran from Cork also made it on to the winners' podium, winning the McNulty Award for the top administrator.

She had a prolific year in front of the posts, most notably her three goals in the All Ireland Junior semi-final against Waterford as well as the 1-1 she scored in the Gala All-Ireland final win over Offaly.

Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer have been rewarded with the O'Neill's Manager of the Year All-Star following their success with the Kilkenny underage setup.

Dunne and Dormer led the Cats to their fourth consecutive All-Ireland U16 A title in May.



Rachel Moloney with Brendan Cummins.



Sile Burns with Brendan Cummins.



Orla Cotter with Brendan Cummins.





Camogie All Star nominees Anne Marie Hayes (left), Niamh Kilkenny, Therese Maher, Jessica Gill, Susan Earner, Sinead Cahalan, Veronica Curtin and Aine Hillary at the awards banquet at the CityWest Hotel, Dublin, on Saturday. Picture: Stephen McCarthy/SPORTSFILE

## Cork's magnificent seven dominate All Stars

by Therese O'Callaghan

ALL-IRELAND champions Cork dominated this year's Camogie All Stars with seven of the team picking up awards at the CityWest Hotel on Saturday night.

Five senior counties and two junior counties were represented on the selection, with beaten All-Ireland finalists Galway picking up three.

Speaking at the banquet in Dublin, Camogie President Liz Howard praised the recipients: "I want to congratulate them for their commitment, skill and contribution to the game."

She added: "It is one of my remaining ambitions to get some tangible recognition for the All Stars, like a trip to Dubai. It is lovely to get an All Star, but it would be good for the profile of the game if we had a trip to follow on. We still haven't given up hope of organising something. There is a wonderful audience for Gaelic Games in Dubai."

"If there is any wealthy, generous person out there, it would be tremendous for the Association if somebody did come on board."

Meanwhile, Cork wingback Gemma O'Connor stole the limelight with an unprecedented fifth consecu-



Cork's Cathriona Foley (picture left) receives her All Star award from Liz Howard, while Clare's Carina Roseingrave is presented with the Young Player of the Year award by Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins. Pictures: Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE



Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer are the O'Neills Managers of the Year following their continued success with the Kilkenny underage setup. Dunne and Dormer led the Cats to their fourth consecutive All-Ireland U16A title in May.

tive All Star. She is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back and captain, Cathriona Foley, midfielders Brieghe Corkery and Orla Cotter as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns who scored two goals in the Gala All-Ireland final.

Galway's top scorer, Jessica Gill, secured her first All Star. The 18-year-old hit 6-48 during the championship and was joined on the team by captain Sinead Cahalan and Therese Maher.

Beaten semi finalists, Wexford and Tipperary, got one award each did National League Champions, Kilkenny. Wexford full back, Catherine O'Loughlin, claimed her second award while Tipperary's Trish O'Halloran and Kilkenny's Aoife Neary

picked up their first awards.

So too did Michaela Morkan, who was part of the Offaly team that reached the Gala Junior All-Ireland final, and free scoring Antrim forward, Jane Adams.

Adams was thrilled to receive a rare award on behalf of Antrim and the O'Donovan Rossa captain will be hoping to add another piece of silverware this weekend, when they take on Drom & Inch in the All Ireland senior club final in Ashbourne.

The O'Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year award went to Clare's Carina Roseingrave who had a prolific season in front of the posts, hitting three goals in the All Ireland Junior semi-final against Waterford as well as 1-1 in the All-Ireland final.

**ALL STAR TEAM Goalkeeper:** Aoife Murray (Cork)  
**Backs:** Cathriona Foley (Cork), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork)  
**Midfield:** Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork)  
**Forwards:** Jessica Gill (Galway), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Sile Burns (Cork), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Jane Adams (Antrim).  
**O'Neills Camogie Manager of the Year:** Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer (Kilkenny).  
**O'Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year:** Carina Roseingrave (Clare).  
**Administrator Award:** Mary Moran (Cork).

### All-Ireland Champions Cork Dominate Camogie All-Star Team

This year's All-Ireland champions Cork were the big winners at the Camogie All-Stars in the Citywest Hotel taking home seven awards. Gemma O'Connor has been rewarded with an unprecedented fifth consecutive All-Star following an impressive 2008. O'Connor won her previous four awards at midfield but collects her fifth award from the half back line. She is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back and captain, Cathriona Foley, midfield pair of Brieghe Corkery and Orla Cotter as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns who scored two goals in the Gala All-Ireland final.

Championship and National League runners-up, Galway, received three awards. The 2008 Championship top scorer, Jessica Gill, has been rewarded with her first All-Star. The 18 year old sharpshooter amassed a total of 6-48 over the course of the Championship. Gill is joined by Captain Sinead Cahalan and forward Therese Maher.

Beaten semi finalists, Wexford and Tipperary, have both been given one award each as has National League Champions, Kilkenny. Wexford's full back, Catherine O'Loughlin, claims her second award while Tipperary's Trish O'Halloran and Kilkenny's Aoife Neary pick up their first awards.

Antrim and Offaly, won their first ever All-Stars. Michaela Morkan, who was part of the Offaly team that reached the Gala Junior All-Ireland final, has been named in the half backs while free scoring Antrim forward, Jane Adams, took home Antrim's first All Star.

The O'Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year award went to Clare's Carina Roseingrave. 2008 has been a fantastic year for the Clare forward. She had a prolific year in front of the posts, most notably her three goals in the All Ireland Junior semi-final against Waterford as well as the 1-1 she scored in the Gala All-Ireland final win over Offaly.

Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer have been rewarded with the O'Neills Manager of the Year All-Star following their continued success with the Kilkenny underage setup. Dunne and Dormer have been instrumental in Kilkenny's success at underage level, they led the Cats to their fourth consecutive All-Ireland U16 A title in May.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association said "I want to congratulate the 2008 All Star recipients. Their commitment, skill and contribution to the game during 2008 was phenomenal. 2008 was a great year for Camogie and it is important that we recognise the contribution of our top players."

Camogie All-Stars 2008 in association with O'Neills:

**Goalkeeper**  
Aoife Murray (Cork)  
**Backs**  
Cathriona Foley (Cork)  
Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford)  
Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary)  
Michaela Morkan (Offaly)  
Sinead Cahalan (Galway)  
Gemma O'Connor (Cork)  
**Midfield**  
Brieghe Corkery (Cork)  
Orla Cotter (Cork)  
**Forwards**  
Jessica Gill (Galway)  
Therese Maher (Galway)  
Aoife Neary (Kilkenny)  
Sile Burns (Cork)  
Rachel Moloney (Cork)  
Jane Adams (Antrim)  
**O'Neills Camogie Manager of the Year**  
Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer (Kilkenny)  
**O'Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year**  
Carina Roseingrave (Clare)



# Galway seniors can have no issue with camogie championship draw

STEPHEN GLENNON

ALL-Ireland senior camogie finalists Galway have been drawn against reigning junior champions Clare, Limerick and 2007 title holders Wexford in a re-structured 2009 championship.

Unlike this year – where every senior side played against the other in a round-robin system – the Camogie Association have opted to divide the senior teams into two groups for the coming year.

Clare had requested that, instead of progressing into the intermediate grade, they be allowed to compete in the All-Ireland senior championship in 2009 and after giving the matter some thought, the national camogie body agreed.

This has allowed the Camogie Association to formulate two groups of four in the senior championship, with Galway drawn in arguably the easier of the two. Indeed, the Tribeswomen have to be favoured to progress to the knockout stages again in 2009. In the other group, All-Ireland champions Cork have been drawn with Tipperary, Kilkenny and Dublin.

Galway have a slightly tougher draw in the National Camogie League where they will renew their rivalry with Cork, Wexford and Limerick. Dates for both the National League and championship will be released in the coming weeks.

Galway's intermediates – who were denied a place in the All-Ireland decider after Kilkenny struck for a late goal in their semi-final replay – should be happy with their respective league and championship draws for 2009. In the spring, they will face Cork, Wexford and Waterford in Division 2 while, later in the year, they will meet Clare (second team), Wexford and Derry.

In the minor championship, which will now be played after the Leaving Cert. exams, Galway have been drawn against Antrim, with the winners facing the losers of the Cork v Clare opening round clash.

Meanwhile, Athenry's Jessica Gill – top marksman in the All-Ireland senior championship – celebrated her 19th birthday by collecting her first Camogie All-Star at the awards ceremony in the City West Hotel, Dublin last Saturday night. Her Athenry team-mate Therese Maher and Galway captain Sinead Cahalan both collected their second All-Star

awards.

The All-Star selection, though, was not without controversy, with many feeling that Pearse's Niamh Kilkenny – arguably Galway's most consistent player in 2008 – should have featured.

Indeed, a number of other counties also felt aggrieved,

none more than reigning All-Ireland junior champions Clare, who although securing the Young Player of the Year through Carina Roseingrave, did not feature on the All-Stars team.

However, Offaly – who they defeated in this year's decider – were represented, with defend-

er and NUI Galway student Michaela Morkan being named in the left half-back berth. This was Offaly's first ever All-Star recipient; Antrim also secured their first ever award through free scoring forward Jane Adams.

There were also glaring omissions from the nominees

selected for the Camogie Manager of the Year, with neither management team from the All-Ireland senior final, Cork or Galway, or, indeed, Kilkenny intermediate manager Ann Downey, up for the award, which went to the Kilkenny U-16 management pair of Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorrner.



Galway Camogie All-Stars, from left, Jessica Gill, Sinead Cahalan and Therese Maher with President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard, Guest of Honour, Tipperary hurler, Brendan Cummins, and Sinead O'Connor, Ard Stiurthoir of the Camogie Association, at the Camogie All-Star awards in the Citywest Hotel on Saturday night.



## SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Galway senior camogie star Niamh Kilkenny is presented with the First Active/Connacht Tribune Sports Personality of the Month award for September by First Active's Audrey Wynne. The Pearse's player was one of the Tribeswomen's most consistent performers in the All-Ireland series, playing a vital role in guiding her county to the final. Also included are Stephen Glennon of the Connacht Tribune and Niamh's mother, Mary.

## Fifth All-Star for O'Connor

### Camogie

THIS year's All-Ireland champions Cork were the big winners at the Camogie All-Stars in the Citywest Hotel at the weekend when they took home seven awards.

Gemma O'Connor has been rewarded with an unprecedented fifth consecutive All-Star following an impressive 2008. O'Connor won her previous four awards at midfield but collects her fifth award from half-back.

The versatile star is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full-back and captain Cathriona Foley, midfield pair

of Brieghe Corkery and Orla Cotter as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns who scored two goals in the All-Ireland final.

All-Ireland and National League runners-up Galway received three awards. Championship top scorer Jessica Gill has been rewarded with her first All-Star. Gill is joined by her captain Sinead Cahalan and forward Therese Maher.

Wexford's Catherine O'Loughlin claims her second award while Tipperary's Trish O'Halloran and Kilkenny's Aoife Neary pick up their first.

Michaela Morkan, who was part of the Offaly team that reached the Junior final, has

been named while Antrim forward Jane Adams took home Antrim's first All-Star.

The Young Player of the Year award went to Clare's Carina Roseingrave.

Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorrner have been rewarded with the Manager of the Year All-Star following their continued success with the Kilkenny underage setup.

**CAMOGIE ALL-STARS 2008**  
Goalkeeper – Aoife Murray (Cork).  
Backs – Cathriona Foley (Cork), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork).  
Midfield – Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork).  
Forwards – Jessica Gill (Galway), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Sile Burns (Cork), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Jane Adams (Antrim).  
Camogie Manager of the Year – Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorrner (Kilkenny).  
Camogie Young Player of the Year – Carina Roseingrave (Clare).

## Cork rewarded for vintage year

THIS YEAR'S All-Ireland senior champions Cork were the big winners at the Camogie All Stars in the Citywest Hotel at the weekend, taking home seven awards at the weekend.

Gemma O'Connor has been rewarded with an unprecedented fifth consecutive All Star following an impressive 2008. O'Connor won her previous four awards at midfield, but collects her fifth award from the half-back line.

She is joined by goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back and captain, Cathriona Foley, midfield pair Brieghe Corkery and Orla Cotter, as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns, who scored two goals in the final.

The Camogie Young Player of the Year award went to Clare's Carina Roseingrave.

Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorrner have been rewarded with the Manager of the Year All Star following their continued success with the Kilkenny underage set-up.

**2008 All Stars:** Aoife Murray (Cork), Cathriona Foley (Cork), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork), Jessica Gill (Galway), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Sile Burns (Cork), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Jane Adams (Antrim).

Manager of the Year: Liam Dunne and Stephen Dorrner (Kilkenny).  
Young Player of the Year: Carina Roseingrave (Clare).



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Edwina Keane, Kilkenny, is presented with her Leinster Young Camogie Player of the Year award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and guest of honour, Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins at the All-Star awards ceremony run in association with O'Neills.



Aoife Neary (right), Kilkenny, is presented with her camogie All-Star award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and guest of honour, Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins at the 2008 awards ceremony which was run in association with O'Neills.



Carlow managers Stephen Dormer (left) and Liam Dunne, who hails from Kilkenny, receive the Manager of the Year award from Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, in the company of Guest of Honour, Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins (left) and Tony Towell, Managing Director of O'Neills at the Camogie All-Star awards 2008 in association with O'Neills.



Catherine O'Loughlin's sister, Liz, receives her All Star award on her behalf from Liz Howard, Camogie President, and special guest Brendan Cummins, the Tipperary hurling goalkeeper.

## CAMOGIE WEXFORD'S SOLE RECIPIENT IN THAILAND

# Catherine's a star!

CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN was a long way removed from the Citywest Hotel in Dublin on Saturday last when her name was called out as the camogie All Star full-back for 2008 - as far away as Thailand in fact where she is embarking on the first leg of a six-month around-the-world trip!

The Monageer-Boalavogue stalwart brought some joy to the county at the end of a frustrating year when she was selected on the edge of the square on the prestigious team for the third time, following previous awards in 2005 and 2007.

It's a marvellous achievement for the popular defender who was one of six Wexford players nominated. The other five were all present and thoroughly enjoyed the night despite not making the chosen 15, namely Catherine's fellow defenders, Noeleen Lambert and Mary Leacy, midfielder Michelle O'Leary and forwards Kate Kelly and Ursula Jacob.

Catherine's award was accepted on her behalf by her proud sister, Liz, and family members quickly relayed the good news to her in

far away Thailand. She only missed out on attending the event by eight days, having booked her plane ticket for October 31, many months before learning she was nominated.

The good news for all camogie followers is that the U.C.D. graduate and former Coláiste Bride starlet will be back in Ireland next April and will resume training immediately with the county team.

Herself and Kate Kelly are now the most-honoured Wexford players in the five-year history of the camogie All Stars, with three awards apiece.

One of their fellow nominees, Noeleen Lambert, will be travelling abroad for a few months starting in January but, like her colleague in the full-back line, she will miss the league but will be back in plenty of time for the championship.

A third member of this year's team, Bridget Curran, is in Australia at present and may be out of the country for a little longer than the others, although it's expected that her St. Ibar's-Shelmalier

team-mate, Michelle Hearne, will be back in action for 2009.

The sub-committee given the task of talking to potential mentors has yet to make its recommendations to the County Board, and it remains to be seen if the outgoing quartet of Stellan Sinnott (manager), Alan Aherne, Noel Ryan and Eddie Flynn will be in charge for a third successive year.

Returning to the All Stars, the full team announced was: Aoife Murray (Cork); Caitriona Foley (Cork); Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford); Trish O'Halloran (Tipperary); Michaela Morkan (Offaly); Sinéad Cahalan (Galway); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Brieger Corkery (Cork); Orla Cotter (Cork); Jessica Gill (Galway); Therese Maher (Galway); Aoife Neary (Kilkenny); Sile Burns (Cork); Rachel Moloney (Cork); Jane Adams (Antrim).

Stellan Sinnott's successors as manager of the year are Kilkenny Minor bosses, Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer, while the young player of the year was won by Carina Roseingrave from Clare - All-Ireland Junior champions and All-Ireland Minor finalists.



Wexford nominees Michelle O'Leary, Noeleen Lambert, Mary Leacy, Ursula Jacob and Kate Kelly.



Clare camogie stars, from left, Deridre Murphy, Denise Lynch, Carina Roseingrave and Claire Commune at the Camogie All-Star Awards 2008 in association with O'Neills, Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure and Golf Resort, Dublin.



# MAGNIFICENT SEVEN Cork camogie players with their All Star awards



Cork Camogie All-Stars with Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, and Guest of Honour - Tipperary hurler - Brendan Cummins, from left, Mike Joe Corkery accepting on behalf of Brieghe Corkery, Orla Cotter, Cathriona Foley, Sile Burns, Gemma O'Connor and Aoife Murray at the Camogie All-Star Awards 2008 in association with O'Neills, Citywest Hotel in Dublin. PICTURE: RAY MCMAHON



**Sighle Nic an Ultaigh Administrator of the Year Award**  
 Mary Moran has served Camogie as a player, referee, selector, administrator and historian. She was chairperson of the Cork Camogie board, treasurer of Hurler Council and served as Uachtarán of Cumann Camógachta na nGael from 1979 to 1981. Mary gave tremendous service to 2nd Level Colleges Camogie and has held various positions in Cork, Munster and at All Ireland level.  
 A well known author she has written "Cork's Camogie Story", "Munster Camogie Story", "A Resounding Success", "Gymrocks to Headbands" and "Camogie Champions". Mary was a sport correspondent covering club and college games. In 2005 she was honoured with a GAA Presidents Award in recognition of her services to Camogie.  
 She is currently club secretary of the St. Finbarr's Club in Cork. She is a trustee of the Association and meticulous secretary of the Management Committee.  
 She is the holder of All Ireland Senior medals at county and club level.  
 Mary was honoured for her enormous contribution to Camogie. Her wisdom, her integrity and her dry wit are much admired by all. She is one of the finest administrators who continues to serve the Association in a quiet and unassuming manner.  
 The award was presented to her by Ossie Kilkeny, Chairperson of the Irish Sport Council and President of the Association Liz Howard.





Carina Roseingrave, of Clare, is presented with her Young Camogie Player of the Year Award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and guest of honour, Tipperary All-Ireland medal winner and current All Star goalkeeper Brendan Cummins at the Camogie All-Star Awards 2008 at the Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure & Golf Resort, Dublin. Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



Galway's Therese Maher is presented with her All-Star award by President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and Guest of Honour, Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins.

## Successful Galway camogie teams to be honoured at end of year banquet

**GALWAY'S** senior and intermediate camogie teams will be honoured for their Gael Linn and Connacht final wins respectively at a Camogie Banquet in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa on Saturday, November 22.

Although both teams narrowly missed out on All-Ireland glory, it has still been a relatively successful year for Galway camogie, with great strides being made in both grades.

As a result, Galway Camogie Board will host a presentation night to celebrate the senior team's Gael Linn

inter-provincial final victory over Munster in May and the intermediate side's win over Roscommon in the Connacht decider in June.

Speaking at the November monthly meeting of Galway Camogie Board recently, Secretary Anne Kearney said: "These girls deserve a night out; they have trained so hard all year. It is also important to celebrate the wins we have had, such as the Gael Linn and the Connacht final."

In addition to the presentation of medals, the Player of the Year awards at senior, intermediate, minor and U-16

grades will be presented, while the Camogie Person of the Year will receive the Johnny Keane Memorial Trophy.

There will also be a number of special guests on the night, including President of the Camogie Association Liz Howard and newly appointed Ardstiúrthóir Sinead O'Connor, who is a native of Moycullen.

Tickets for the evening, which gets underway at 8 pm, cost just €40. They are available from Galway Camogie Board Officers or by contacting Treasurer Angela Moran at 087-9604564.

## All-Ireland victory means no All Star

**HEADY** days for Clare camogie, what with senior hurling beckoning for 2009 after Clare's last-gasp All-Ireland junior final win over Offaly in September and Kilmaley taking their chance in Sunday All-Ireland junior club final full of confidence in their ability to take the crown from the Harps of Laois. And, there's more! Carina Roseingrave was named Young Camogie Player of the Year at the Camogie All Stars in City West at the weekend. That's where *From The Ditch's* smile ends though. All because, Clare were overlooked when it came to representation on the All Stars team. Not good enough! Deirdre Murphy (pictured below) should have won an award three years ago, but was again left disappointed by the selectors. That's bad, but when you consider that Offaly, who were beaten by Clare in the All-Ireland junior final had a player on team and another junior side Antrim also had representation, it smacked of bias by the selectors against the Banner County. Not good enough!



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# Portroe's Trish is Tipp's sole award winner

By Gerry Slevin

Portroe's Trish O'Halloran who lines out with the Duharra team became Tipperary's only member of the 2008 Camogie All-Stars selection when the top fifteen players of the year were announced on Saturday night. Given one of the six defensive positions, Trish had been nominated along with seventeen others to slot into those areas and the announcement at Camogie's big celebration and glamour night in Dublin's City West Hotel in association with O'Neill's was greeted warmly by the large attendance.

Her selection was announced by Evanne Ni Chuallain who with her RTE colleague Michael Lyster compered the evening's event. The citation stated that Trish had played in a number of positions over the years but in 2008 she played the best camogie of her career in defence being fully deserving of her first All-Star.

First to congratulate her when she left the podium was her sister Jenny who was a member of the All-Ireland junior winning team of 2001 which Trish captained against Offaly. Indeed, Trish won two All-Ireland medals that day being a sub on the senior team that went on to defeat Kilkenny and bring Tipp a three-in-a-row achievement. Trish has been on the senior team since, lining out in several positions. This year team manager John McGrath slotted her into the centre back berth and she made it her own throughout the season.

Unsurprisingly, Cork as All-Ireland champions took the lion's share of the honours, seven of the team taking home a magnificently sculpted piece of bronze. Galway came next with three players honoured, Tipp, Wexford, Kilkenny, Offaly and Antrim getting one award each.

There were two other Tipp girls nominated, the Cashel duo of Paula Bulfin and Claire Grogan and indeed there was a very strong Tipperary influence prevailing, with the host for the evening being Camogie's National President, Liz Howard from Burgess, in her final



Tipperary Senior hurling goalkeeper Brendan Cummins presents Trish O'Halloran (Portroe) with her first All-Star award in the City West Hotel Dublin on Saturday night last. Also in the photo is Liz Howard National Camogie President. Photograph: Rose Mannion.

year in office, while guest of honour for the night was Tipp's hurling goalkeeper Brendan Cummins from Ballybacon-Grange. The awards themselves were sculpted by another Tipp native, Jarlath Daly from Tipp town.

This event sits right up there with the Vodafone hurling and football annual awards at the same venue and an attendance of around seven hundred people from all over the land provided a tremendous atmosphere. Unlike the other awards, however, nominees and recipients are not necessarily from senior teams and quite a number were included from junior counties such as Clare, Offaly and Antrim. Rather surprisingly, Clare as All-Ireland junior champions who might well have expected to be given representation in the final shake-up failed, whereas Offaly, the team they defeated in the All-Ireland final was honoured with its first All-Star. There was ample compensation for Clare, however, when Carina Roseingrave received the award for Young Player of the Year.

By far the biggest representation present came

from Offaly and they had plenty to shout about when Michaela Morkan from Shinrone joined Trish O'Halloran as a member of the team's back division. Michaela is a past pupil of Borrisokane Community College and played camogie there, winning a Munster medal two years ago. County Board chairman Lar O'Brien led a strong Tipp representation that included secretary Lisa Carroll, treasurer Rose Mannion, team manager John McGrath and selectors Marion Graham and John Ryan.

When introducing Brendan Cummins Liz Howard described him as the outstanding hurling goalkeeper for the past number of years with an impressive list of honours including four All-Star awards won. But, she added, it was Brendan the man that was much more important.

"Last year when Brendan was dropped (from the Tipp team) sensationally and indeed unfairly, then I saw the measure of the man that he was. He never went to the papers. Then we saw his dignity, his support for the blue and gold, his sup-

port for the man who took his place in goals and never did I admire anybody more than I admired Brendan Cummins. He won the admiration of people throughout the country," she said.

In his address Brendan congratulated all nominees and award recipients and spoke of the power that existed in all players to inspire a community, a county and, on the big stage in Croke Park, a country. This was something players should never underestimate. It was what they all strove to do when they put on the county or club jersey. While success, however, could only be achieved by team work and collective effort, occasions like this All-Stars night were very special. They recognised the place of individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty in any given year. If there was any advice he could give to the young players among them it might be to use that night as a stepping stone to their career and as a confidence boost to go on to bigger and greater things.

Brendan said team managers also had an important part to play and

he cited the fact that some hurling managers throughout the country had found themselves in difficulties.

"Players, be they hurlers or camogie players put so much into the games and we expect so much professionalism. Managers who can bring discipline to the environment, who help to develop our skills and allow a team to be the best it can be, are so important.

The reality of our games is that only one team can win but there is great satisfaction as players, if you can cope with your manager and the squad throughout the year and at the end of the year say, yes, I'm a better player. I think that's all any of us can ask for" he said.

The 2008 Camogie All-Stars line up is: Goals - Aoife Murray (Cork); Backs - Cathriona Foley (Cork) Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), TRISH O'HALLORAN (TIPPERARY), Michaela Morkan (Offaly), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Mid field - Briege Corkery (Cork), Orla Cotter (Cork); Forwards - Jessica Gill (Galway), Therese Maher (Galway), Aoife Neary (Kilkenny), Sile Burns (Cork), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Jane Adams (Antrim).

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## Camogie Chat

by Mary Newman

### Seven all stars for Cork

MAGNIFICENT seven Star awards. Corks Mary Moran was honoured with the Sile McNulty award for her work in administration over a long number of years an honour richly deserved.



The Cork Camogie All-Stars with Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association, and Guest of Honour - Tipperary hurler - Brendan Cummins, from left, Mike Joe Corkery accepting on behalf of Briege Corkery, Orla Cotter, Cathriona Foley, Rachel Moloney, Sile Burns, Gemma O'Connor and Aoife Murray at the Camogie All-Star Awards 2008 in association with O'Neills, Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure & Golf Resort, Dublin. Picture: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE





# Linda Mellerick

## Sun is setting on another great year

NOW that the All-Star team has been announced and with the All-Ireland club finals on this weekend, 2008 is almost at a close.

It's hard to believe that O'Donovan Rossa of Antrim and Drom and Inch of Tipp contest the senior club final.

Who'd have thought that at the beginning of the season?

The Harps (Laois) and Kilmaley of Clare contest the junior and it just goes to show how the development of camogie in typically football counties can pay off. Antrim and Laois in an All-Ireland camogie final is a great success.

The All-Star selection didn't really throw up any major surprises. I was a little surprised though that Ann Marie Hayes of Galway failed to gain a place. Michaela Morkan of Offaly possibly took that from her. As expected, two awards went to junior playing counties.

Joanne O'Callaghan didn't manage to gain selection this year, but I did say previously that she didn't see a huge amount of action in Cork's championship games leading up to the final.

As a corner back, if the ball doesn't come in there's not very much you can do about it. I'm quite sure it was more frustrating for the forward than it was for Joanne.

If the ball doesn't come in you can't score and that was epitomised by the few goals scored against Cork this year (as well as Cork's strong half-back line).

Mary O'Connor lost out, but that's the way it goes when there are a few going for the one position.

It's only a matter of weeks before Convention on December 8 and let's hope the selection process for the 2008 managerial teams isn't such a talking point or worrying factor this time around.

Let's be honest, all the preparatory



Cork's Aoife Murray is presented with her camogie All-Star by Camogie Association president, Liz Howard and Guest of Honour, Tipperary hurler, Brendan Cummins at the 2008 All-Star Awards at the Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure & Golf Resort in Dublin recently. Picture: SPORTSFILE

work, phone calls and canvassing is and should be done well in advance. But, unless you make it known that you are interested in a position no one will vote for you.

There was only one nominee last year, Pat Murray, and he became the sole selector elected on the night. Muskerry held a position based on their county final triumph even though the name had not been submitted at that stage.

The County board and some players then spent the winter trying to find a third selector/manager and coach.

Denise Cronin and Jim McCarthy

joined Con Malone and Pat at the eleventh hour and despite such initial turmoil the year was a major success. But let's not leave that to chance again shall we.

Douglas has the automatic selector now, so other than that it depends on who puts their name forward.

Nominations close on November 28.

The remaining two selectors will be elected from the floor and the three will then select a manager which is typically one of the three.

A coach is recruited and while he or she doesn't have an official say in the selection of the team, they do

have an input. It leaves an awful lot to chance and the system doesn't necessarily allow the best candidates to be elected.

It was rumoured that 2008 would be Marian McCarthy's final year as chairperson of the County Board, but she appears to be staying put for another year at least. It is a welcomed decision. Extremely hard-working and approachable, Marian has a very good rapport with her board members, team management and players alike.

She is right to stay. 2009 should be that little bit easier to manage, well on the fixture front anyhow.

The fact that Cork Camogie now has its own magnificent pitch in Castle Road, Blackrock, will ease the pressure significantly.

Relying on the goodwill of GAA/camogie clubs, and the goodwill was immense, takes its toll.

Clubs just don't have the facilities to provide when their own teams are in action.

The pitch is one of Cork Camogie's success stories. It is a credit to those who made it possible.

It has been a dream of former greats for years and they too deserve the plaudits for the efforts they made in the past.

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

### BALLINHASIG U18 CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

WE PLAYED Newtownshandrum last Sunday in the Tank field in the quarter-final. The conditions were terrible and great credit is due to both teams for their effort and sportsmanship. Newtownshandrum went ahead by a goal and two points early on in the game. However, a great save by Saoirse Rodgers denied them a second goal. Jane Dooley put us on the score-board with a point, which was soon followed by a great goal. The half-time score was 1-2 to 1-1. We got off to a great start in the second-half as the girls began to put pressure on the Newtown defence. Claire Dooley scored a point followed by a great goal by Michelle Ring. Susan Kate Brosnan continued

this trend with a superb point and did Trojan work all over the pitch throughout the game. The back line was superb, limiting Newtown to just a point.

Jane Dooley flicked another point over the bar, which was followed by an effort for a goal.

We were unlucky, however, as the Newtown defence proved solid. We emerged winners on the day with a final score of 2-5 to 1-3. Well done to all the girls for a great display and we look forward to the semi-final against Barryroe this weekend.

The following was the team:  
Saoirse Rodgers, Susan Kate Brosnan, Deirdre Ring, Claire Dooley, Eadaoin Kelly, Jane Dooley, Donna Carroll, Denise O'Flynn, Sarah Cotter, Aisling Russell, Amanda Dorgan, Michelle Ring, Orlaith Ni Shuille

abhain, Lucy Bradfield, Emma Burns and Rebecca O'Mahony

### JUNIOR LEAGUE

We are in a three-way play-off in our section against Buttevant and St Catherine's. We are to play Buttevant first and then the losers of that game go on to play St Catherine's. These games have yet to be fixed.

### U10 BLACKROCK BLITZ

We would like to thank Blackrock for inviting us to play in the U10s. A great day was had by all our young players who played really well. Thanks to Niall and Karen for travelling with the girls to ensure all had an enjoyable day, we would like to remind everyone that training still continues every Saturday age 6 yrs

to 12 yrs at 11am to 12; Age 12 yrs to 16 yrs at 12 till 1pm and junior training every Wednesday and Sunday. New members are always welcome.

### NA PIARSAIGH

Carrigtwohill travelled up to us last Saturday to play our U6, 7 and U8's. This was our first match as they only started in September.

We had excitement and tears as many couldn't wait to play while others didn't want to play. Carrigtwohill were winners on day.

The girls enjoyed the day as did their parents. Ours did well for their first match.

Names to look out for in future are Kayleigh Clarke, Aine O'Sullivan, Laura Carroll, Emily Buckley, Megan

Burns, and Ciara Buckley.

### ST CATHERINE'S

Club Sponsor: Cork Builders Providers

### ALL STAR AWARDS

Congratulations to Orla Cotter, who is one of the seven Cork players to receive a 2008 Camogie All Star Award. This creates a bit of history in our club as Orla is the first ever club member to receive this accolade. Well done to Orla and her Cork team mates.

### CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Liz Power who became the recipient of the above award for 2008. Well done to Liz as it is indeed a great honour to be selected by your own team mates as their outstanding player of the year.

### GLEN ROVERS

Our U15 team lost out to Douglas in the Seandún final on a horrific day

last Saturday. Torrential wind and rain made conditions miserable for two teams who must be complimented on performing on such a day.

Douglas made good use of the gale force wind in the first-half and laid the foundations for victory, despite a spirited performance we failed to catch up, well done to everyone on a great display in atrocious weather conditions.

Bad weather saw our minor teams quarter-final game with Mallow postponed. It will now take place tomorrow Sunday at noon in Glen Rovers and we look forward to a big support for the girls.

Best of luck also to our U21 hurlers who replay their county final against Duhalloon on Sunday afternoon.



# All Star Adams bids to lift Rossa's in All-Ireland decider



**Therese O'Callaghan**

**J**ANE ADAMS aims to become the most recognised name in her family tree this weekend. Better known as the niece of MP Gerry, Antrim's only camogie All Star tomorrow leads O'Donovan Rossa into the All-Ireland club final against Tipperary and Munster champions Drom and Inch (Ashbourne, 2pm). The northerners are appearing in the decider for the second time — they lost to Freshford in 2006 — while this is new territory for the Premier County girls.

Last weekend, Adam picked up the Saffron's first All Star award, and hopes the success will boost her team.

"I was thrilled with the All Star, to be among so many elite athletes. I love playing team sports and it would be the pinnacle if we were to win tomorrow."

"We are fully fit, have worked hard, even in difficult circumstances. We don't have floodlights and last week we travelled to Clonoe in Tyrone to train under lights. Our manager is the Tyrone hurling development officer (Mickey McCullough) so he was able to arrange that."

"That is the type of commitment we are getting from the girls. University of Jordanstown have been very good allowing us use their facilities."

"Against Ballyboden we really clicked. Maorisa McGourty whose brother is a county footballer made her own name. She is just turned 16 but she scored magnificent points."

Away from sport, Adams is also making a name for herself as a busi-



**Jane Adams (right) with Drom and Inch captain Norma Harrington.**  
Picture: Donall Farmer/INPHO

ness woman in her native city.

"I own two fast-food outlets in the Falls Road and Antrim Road in Belfast," she revealed.

"I went to college and studied Sports Science but left after two years when this business opportunity arose."

"Now five years later, I have a second chip shop and I am back in college finishing my degree."

Whatever about O'Donovan Rossa getting to the final, fewer could have predicted the progression of Drom & Inch.

"We lost a lot of players from 2007 due to one thing or another," explained skipper Norma Harrington, a primary school teacher in Cashel.

"This is very exciting for us. To win in Tipperary was a huge achievement because there is great camogie tradition. There are big clubs like Toomevara and Cashel (last year's All-Ireland club winners) so we were thrilled. We took each match at a time and that has worked out well for us."

"We won our first Munster title and

went in as complete underdogs against Athenry in the All-Ireland semi-final. They have been knocking on the door for awhile. If we can repeat that performance, we would be confident."

"There is a massive buzz around, and while O'Donovan Rossa are quite a strong team, it will come down to whoever wants it the most. I know we have the determination and heart to do it."

Meanwhile, McDonagh Park, Nenagh will house the All-Ireland junior final between The Harps of Laois going for a third successive title and Clare side Kilmaley.

**DROM & INCH:** R Kennelly, C Kennedy, N Harkin, P McGrath, S O'Meara, M Shortt, T Butler, T Shortt, N Harrington, G Kinane, M Looby, J Ryan, S McGrath, E Shanahan, C Shortt.

**O'DONOVAN ROSSA:** T McGowan, T Adams, P Green, M Quinn, A McCall, N McGuinness, B Orchin, C Doherty, S Daykin, K O'Neill, G Connolly, O McCall, M McGourty, J Adams, M Stewart.

# Rossa on verge of living out a dream

By Niamh Archibald

**H**ISTORY will be made in Ashbourne on Sunday as O'Donovan Rossa battle it out with Drom & Inch for All-Ireland club glory. Both teams are aiming to secure their first title and for Rossa it would cap off an impressive season, with the Belfast club having become Antrim and Ulster champions for the fifth time.

Rossa midfielder Seanin Daykin is looking forward to Saturday's final and she feels that her side is more focused this year: "This is our fifth time going for an All-Ireland and I think we're well prepared for the match."

"A lot of the girls are fed up of training hard and putting in that effort without what we feel is proper reward."

Seanin knows that Saturday's opponents will not be an easy force to overcome: "I don't know much about Drom & Inch but I know their game against Athenry was a really physical and tough game and I'm sure they'll give us a good hard match."

Seanin, along with the rest of the Rossa team, has been dreaming of All-Ireland success and she believes that it would be the highlight of her camogie career.

"It would mean everything to me. It's our fifth time going for it and it would honestly be a dream come

**"It would mean everything to me. It's our fifth time going for it and it would honestly be a dream come true for all of us"**

**Seanin Daykin**

true for all of us," she added.

Rossa's prolific scorer and captain Jane Adams has enjoyed a fine season as well, having been

awarded Player of the Tournament at the Kilmacud Sevens, Antrim Senior Player of the Year, Ulster GAA Writers' Annual Award and the highest accolade of them all, the prestigious Allstar.

"We're all over the moon for Jane — she really deserves it," said Seanin, but she was keen to stress that Jane and the rest of the Rossa team are not getting carried away with celebrating.

"Obviously, while we're all really happy for her, we're trying to concentrate on the game and hopefully it'll be a double celebration on Saturday."

"I feel that an All-Ireland is an attainable dream and we'll be giving it our all."

## Valley Rovers and Ballincollig to meet again

VALLEY Rovers and Ballincollig will have to meet again after a last gap point from Bernie Shields tied the sides up in a closely fought Evening Echo Junior shield final.

## Douglas retain title

DOUGLAS retained their under 16 A championship title when they proved to strong for Milford, the holders always had that little bit extra in reserve and led 1-5 to 0-3 at the half time whistle after playing against the strong wind and on the resumption Douglas maintained their advantage to secure the title.

Milford's Sinead O'Flynn was named as Player of the Match following a superb effort in her side's quest for glory.

## Eire og book final spot

EIRE Og booked their place in the Evening Echo Senior B champions final defeating Ballinhassig in a splendid contest where the sides battled it out to the finish in a thrilling game which could have gone either way in the finish Eire Og defended with all their might to book themselves a deserved place in the final against either Rockban or Killeagh.

# Drom-Inch can go the extra mile

By Gerry Slevin

A year ago, very few if any would have visualised the senior camogie girls from Drom-Inch, making a decent stab at county honours while to see them as provincial champions and then All-Ireland finalists didn't enter the equation at all. To be quite blunt about it, all was not well within the Drom-Inch camp.

But what a difference a year makes!

The club pulled itself together, surprised everyone in Tipperary and next Sunday up in Ashbourne in the plains of Meath they will compete against O'Donovan Rossa's from Antrim for the right to be called All-Ireland senior club champions.

It's a great day for the Tipperary club as they seek to emulate the feat of Cashel and keep the title in the county. Their Antrim opponents fell to Cashel at the semi final stage a year ago and, understandably, won't want to experience a similar fate at the hands of another Tipp club this time around.

Athenry, Cashel's final

victims in Limerick's Gaelic Grounds last year came to Cloughjordan last Saturday week, fully intent on making it to their second successive final and then making up for the 2007 loss. For a long time it looked as if that might well happen but at the end of a great hour it was the mid Tipp girls who had earned the right to the honour and glory of an All-Ireland final appearance, and an opportunity to make it the most memorable occasion in the history of the club. Athenry had in their line-out Jessica Gill and Therese Maher, both of whom would be honoured as All-Stars just a week later. It was to be Drom-Inch's day, though, and when they line out on Sunday (2pm) they will face another of that All-Star team, Jane Adams, Antrim's most prolific scorer.

While Drom were getting over the Athenry hurdle, O'Donovan Rossa's were having a much easier time against Leinster champions Ballyboden-St Enda's from Dublin. They won't be expecting to get it as easy

on Sunday, nor indeed will they as the Tipp champions travel totally fired up and committed to the task that is facing them. Little would be known about Rossa's, though Cashel could help out in that regard following their victory over them at last year's penultimate hurdle.

It took Drom-Inch a while to get into their stride against Athenry and it was to their credit that they never allowed the Galwegians to move too far ahead and, in the second half, managed to contain them so well before the 'killer blow' came in the shape of Siobhan McGrath's goal. The defence proved to be such a vital sector from there on and how they stood up to the intense pressure imposed upon them by an Athenry attack that became more and more frustrated as the closing minutes loomed ever so alarmingly and unavailingly.

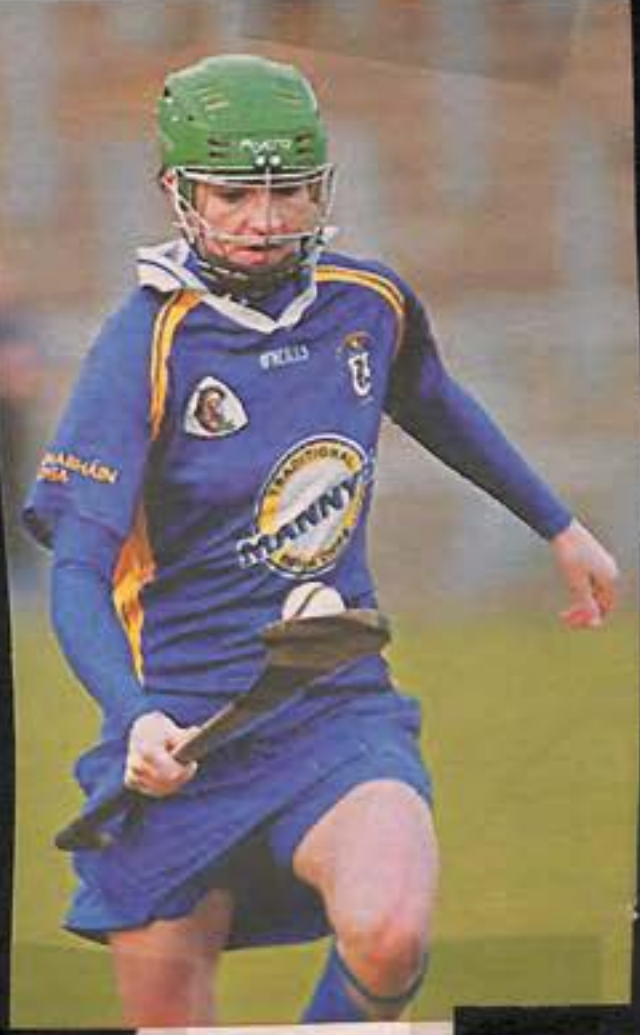
John Harkin's charges know only too well that each and every player will have to be at her very best on Sunday and that every



**Catherine Shortt will be shooting for All-Ireland glory for Drom-Inch on Sunday. Photograph: Rose Mannion.**

scoring opportunity will have to be availed of if they are to come away with the honours. The confidence gained from the Athenry match will stand to them and they are quite capable of responding positively to whatever threat

will emerge from the Antrim lasses. More than adequate in all departments, Drom-Inch have what it takes to go that extra mile and strike a morale boosting blow for Tipperary camogie.



**■ DEIS IONTACH:** Rossa camóg Jane Adams breaks away from St Enda's Rachel Ruddy in an All-Ireland Camogie Semi Final at Casement Park. Can the Belfast team take camogie's big prize on Sunday?



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## CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND FINAL PREVIEW



Louise Mahony will be hoping to lead The Harps to All Ireland glory

Photos: Alf Harvey

# Harps looking to make history

By Pat Delaney

FOUR years ago the Harps lost a county final meeting with St. Brigid's and then lost when the teams met again. This time it took three hours to separate the sides. Harps players must have felt then that their chance of championship glory had passed them by.

Many of this team had been successful at under age level and there was no reason to believe they did not have the ability for greater things.

Aiden Franks, a native of Ballyskenach, was approached with a view to coaching and he accepted the position. With basically the same players at his disposal he set about lowering the colours of the reigning champions.

The Harps looked the same and for the second year in a row faced St. Brigid's in the championship final. This time they pledged to go one better and at the final whistle Denise Quigley from Dairyhill stepped up to accept the trophy amidst scenes of great excitement. Their predecessors had reached the Leinster final and now the Harps were anxious they would equal that achievement.

They got their first taste of provincial competition facing Myshall of Carlow, a very experienced side, but with home advantage the Laois club overcame their first hurdle. A place in the Leinster final was achieved defeating the Westmeath champions

and as luck would have it the venue was on their own doorstep.

Celbridge of Kildare provided the opposition and it was the Kildare champions that had halted the progress of their predecessors. This was a thrilling encounter and the visitors threw all their experience at the first timers but two great second half goals ensured victory for the Laois champions.

With their first two titles on the sideboard the team were anxious to go one better. Their first excursion outside Durrow led them to McDonagh Park in Nenagh facing the Queens of the Deise, Gaultier. This was an opportunity for the Laois champions to match their skills against the best of the Golden Vale.

In the opening half the Munster champions were the superior outfit but a great second half saw the Laois side pull away and claim a place in their first all-Ireland final. If they had been lucky with home venue in Leinster then they could hardly believe their good fortune when O'Moore Park was the venue for the all-Ireland final on a bitterly cold and wet November day. Keady of Armagh were the Ulster champions for a second year in a row and despite travelling carried the favourites tag. The Harps had prepared well and with time running out clung on to a narrow lead. Their defence was superb and at full time Denise Quigley entered the history books by becoming the first Laois camogie player to lift an all-Ireland

trophy.

Winning an all-Ireland title is great but defending successfully takes a supreme effort but that is what the Harps did after retaining their county and provincial titles last year. They faced Keady again in better conditions but this time they were even more impressive.

This year they received a severe test from St. Brigid's in the county final but retained their crown. Shinrone did test their resolve in the provincial final but at the Offaly venue the Laois champions collected a third Leinster title.

Casement Park, Belfast was their next port of call for a third all-Ireland semi-final appearance. New champions across the border, Lavey of Derry, had stepped down a grade and in a bone crunching battle Louise Mahoney led by example and the Laois side were in a third final.

Kilmaley of Clare include a number of girls from the Banner all-Ireland winning team. They were impressive in Munster and experienced little difficulty in overcoming the Connacht champions in the semi-final.

The venue for Sunday's final sees the Harps return to McDonagh Park in Nenagh, the scene of their great first semi-final victory over Gaultier. If they play as well as they have played all year then history is in the making but one wonders if Louise is contained will they be in trouble. The Laois girls will have one major advantage - experience and that will be vital in an all-Ireland final.

## Louise hoping to make it a hat trick of All-Irelands

By Pat Delaney

THIRTY-FOUR years ago Kilkenny won their first ever all-Ireland senior camogie title and in doing so denied Cork five titles in a row. With a minute remaining Cork led by two points but Helena O'Neill struck twice in as many minutes to force a draw.

In the replay Kilkenny made no mistake and earned a first crown thanks mainly to the efforts of Anne Carroll who had played in three losing all-Irelands, once with Tipperary and twice with Kilkenny. That successful Kilkenny team included Lidowney native Anne Bowden who would later marry Jimmy Mahoney of Cullohill and move across the border.

On Sunday next their is a connection with that Kilkenny team when four of Anne's daughters will strive to bring a third all-Ireland title to south Laois. The opposition will be provided by a Clare team seeking a first all-Ireland in the grade. Earlier this year they added their fourth junior title but Kilmaley will be hoping to become the first Clare team win this particular title.

Louise Mahoney is the Harps

captain and she is certainly looking forward to adding to her enormous medal collection. Speaking with the *Laois Nationalist* she talks of the three years on the road and of her toughest opponents. Louise believes their only previous meeting with Munster opposition was the team's best in three years but says Lavey of Derry in this year's semi-final also provided a stern opposition. Louise is the team's leading scorer and has already suffered defeat against Munster opposition when she lined out with Leinster in the Gael Linn final.

She believes their team manager, Aiden Franks, has played a major role in all their success to date pointing out that he has adopted different preparations every year and the players response has been very positive.

Louise has been the score getter in chief but believes all 15 players have contributed and is delighted her sister has returned from Australia to help out. Her greatest critic, she says, is her father, Jimmy, winner of two county medals with Cullohill. On Sunday she hopes to go one better winning a third all-Ireland medal.



Denise Quigley whose defensive play has inspired The Harps this year



# Harps a mountain too far for Kilmaley

Kilmaley (Clare)

Harps (Laois)

@ McDonagh Park Nenagh,  
Sunday 2pm

Orla Considine

KILMALEY will be hoping to keep the good form that they have shown since winning the county title and they've had good wins recently in the Munster Final over Gaultier of Waterford, and Four Roads of Roscommon. But their toughest test will come though this Sunday when they line out against Harps, the Laois club who will be looking to earn their third All-Ireland title in a row.

Kilmaley have had a hectic schedule of games in recent weekends but far from hindering them they have prospered with each outing. They justly completed a rest weekend and will be hoping this will come to good use for them as they wind down now and put the finishing touches to preparations.

The Clare side will be hoping to go one further than Newmarket when they reached the final three years ago as they have already taken a step further than last years Clare and Munster winners Kilnamona.

Kilmaley have also been boosted with the venue announcement during the week. In a year that has seen Clare being brought to venues that have made travel a huge part of the year with games in Antrim twice, Offaly and Athy they are happy that this game is being played in a venue that will be easily accessed.

But the team and management will know well the task ahead of them.



Harps have a strong line up with 11 from the club making up part of the County Junior team that gave Clare a real shock in the Junior Semi-final earlier this year. Kilmaley's biggest

task on the day will be to keep scoring chances limited for the Laois outfit and their full forward Louise Mahony. The All-Star nominee captained the Laois county team

this year and in the Club semi-finals almost two weeks ago Mahony accounted for 1-8 of the teams 1-10.

The prolific scorer has the ability to convert from play and frees. To keep

frees to a minimum is a must for Kilmaley on Sunday, this will be essential in coping with the job at hand as Mahony will convert from anywhere inside her own half.

Harps will also have the Mahony sisters Aine and Elaine in their up. Aine plays on the full forward for the county team and has great speed and will be a threat in front of goal, while Elaine takes up a position in the half forward line where she is a strong influence in setting up scores but also has the ability to convert them herself.

Along with these Aoife Donoghue, Caitriona Phelan who lines out at center back are on the starting line for the Laois county team while Denise Quigley and Angela Hanlon were introduced during the Semi-final against Clare.

But Kilmaley won't fear this challenge. While they will go into the tie as underdogs they have often used this to good effect, as seen in the county final. One thing that will not be questioned will be their character. They are able to grind out performances, as they had to do against Clooney, Kilnamona and Newmarket.

The entire outfit is working together and in the semi-final only conceded 0-3 in the 63 minutes of play while the Kilmaley forwards could be key to the Clare challenge next Sunday.

Though Harps will be expected to have enough experience and strength to win out, don't rule out a Kilmaley win on Sunday evening.

Verdict: Harps (Laois)

Above: Kilmaley's Maria Hehir in action.



John Carmody (Manager)



Patrick Lynch (Selector)



Tommy Keane (Selector)



Dymrna Killeen



Lisa Kennedy



Denise Lynch



Orla Keane



Sarah Reidy



Sinéad O'Halloran



Siobhán Maher



Alda Griffey



Helen McMahon



Emma O'Driscoll



Shona Enright



Christ King Secondary School pupils Ciara Corbett, a member of Tir na nÓg Youth Club Togher; Julia White, Douglas Ladies Football Club; and Sarah Carroll, Blackrock Camogie Club at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Nov. 2008



# Gods smile on captain O'Driscoll

Eoin Brennan talks to Kilmaley's Emma O'Driscoll about what has been a dream year to date, as she looks ahead to the biggest game of the season.

KILMALEY captain Emma O'Driscoll must be thinking the Gods are certainly smiling on her. Only 22, her first year in the leadership role has yielded Kilmaley's first senior county success after being defeated in the last two deciders as well as a first Munster Junior title, and now on the eve of an All-Ireland Junior final, she is counting her blessings in what has been a rollercoaster few weeks for the club.

"It's unbelievable. This year has been a year of firsts for the club with the county final and the Munster final so to get to the All-Ireland final is just an amazing feeling to be honest."

"Our goal at the start of the year was just to win the county championship. It was our third crack at it so really that was our only target. So when we finally won that, we took anything that came after that as a bonus and everytime, you win one match, you begin to think 'What would it be like to win the next one?' We have been steadily improving I think in every game so we just took one match at a time and just went out determined to give it a good lash."

A feature of Kilmaley's success this year has been the almost seamless blend of youth and experience that runs throughout the side, particularly county experience from both the minor panel who reached their first All-Ireland minor A final this year (Sarah Reidy, Eimear Considine, Shona Enright and Sinead O'Halloran) and the Junior panel who won the All-Ireland junior title in September (Den-



ise Lynch, Shona Enright and Claire McMahon), with Helen McMahon also having a wealth of county experience.

"We gel really well together. We have the younger players like Katie Cahill, Deirdre Kelleher and Lisa Kennedy who have just joined us this

year and then we have plenty of experience in Denise Lynch, Claire McMahon, Helen McMahon, Siobhan White and Dymna Killeen, players who have given plenty of service to the club without ever receiving constant success and now we are all going forward together."

"I think for any club to come up to senior, while we did get to finals fairly quickly, it is very hard for any team to win a senior championship, not having been in one for a couple of years. I really think it takes a lot of experience in county championships to win one. Since 2004, when we

won the intermediate championship, we were experiencing senior finals but to finally get over the line, you have to be competing at senior level for a number of years. This year, the amount of work we have put in, it just had to be our year."

Still, Kilmaley for all their momentum and confidence gained over the last few weeks are up against it on Sunday against Harps who are bidding for their third successive All-Ireland championship. O'Driscoll admits to not knowing too much about the Laois champions but also confesses that perhaps that could suit Kilmaley.

"We know very little about Harps and really I would prefer that. Any match we have played as an underdog, we have done much better. All we can do is go out and give it everything and hope to God we can do it because we have avoided predicting anything this year. Everything that has come, has been an unbelievable bonus so it's just fingers crossed for this match and hopefully our best is good enough."

Despite captaining her side to two cups already, the opportunity to lift a national trophy would be the pinnacle of a tremendous year for Emma O'Driscoll. The final hurdle is in the lap of the Gods but they have certainly been good to her so far.

Above: Kilmaley captain Emma O'Driscoll. Yvonne Vaughan



## ROUND UP OF OTHER GAMES

IN the specially organised Junior B and C plate competitions for teams defeated in the first round of their respective junior championship's Delaney's overcame Millstreet in a close contest in the C plate final. Millstreet led 1-2 to 1-0 at the interval and extended their advantage to four points early in the second half Delaney's rally with Orla Collins striking a goal before getting them back on level with a point a goal from Gillian Morrissey with five minutes to go gave Millstreet no way back.

The B plate final be-

tween Na Piarsaigh and Buttevant will have to be rescheduled after an injury to a Buttevant player forced the game to be abandoned in extra time.

In the Under 16 D league final St Mary's edged out Barryroe in a close contest on a 1-3 to 1-1 score line, in the Under 16 B league semi-final Glen Rovers proved to strong and advanced to the final on a 2-13 to 2-4 score line as they defeated Valley Rovers, in the Under 16 D league semi-final Douglas "2" booked their place in the final as they defeated Ballinascarty 1-7 to 1-3. In

the minor B championship Ballinascarty defeated Fr O'Neills to advance to the semi final, in the minor C championship Brian Dillon's had a quarter final victory over Newtownshandrum, Tracton booked their place in the Junior A league final defeating Sarsfields.

Douglas took the premier Seandun under 15 defeating Glen Rovers in monsoon like conditions on Saturday last where both teams must be complimented on their performances in dreadful conditions.

### All Star Adams leads O'Donovan Rossa in Club Final

The Belfast based club had a comprehensive victory over Ballyboden St. Enda's in the semi final on the score line of 3-18 to 0-06 points with captain Jane Adams putting on a scoring master class. Adams hit an amazing total of 2-11 that gave the northern kingpins the victory.

Adams' side now face an experienced Drom & Inch team, who had much tougher path to the final. The Tipperary side had to overcome both of last year's finalists to make it to the final. They dispensed of fellow Tipperary team, and last year's winners, Cashel and also had a narrow two point victory over last year's beaten finalists, Athenny, in the semi final.

Adams knows that her side will have to be on top of their game to walk away as champions on Sunday: "Drom (& Inch) are an amazing team that have players with mounds of experience. They have players who have been playing at the highest level with Tipperary for a long time so we know just how tough this is going to be. It's an old cliché but it really is 50-50 on the day."

The free scoring forward collected her, and her county's, first ever All-Star on Saturday night and believes this will have a positive impact on her club going into Sunday's final: "Getting an All-Star is absolutely brilliant. I honestly couldn't believe that I had won. It will be a huge benefit to camogie in the county and I just hope it can also lift the girl's game for the final."

The All Ireland senior camogie club Championship final takes place this Sunday in the Donaghmore, Ashbourne grounds, Ashbourne, Co. Meath with throw-in at 2pm.





Nov 2008

# 51st Texaco Sportstars of the Year 2008

SO no room at the Texaco inn for soccer this year. However, on the face of it, the omission wasn't entirely surprising when the top eight Irish sports stars were yesterday chosen to receive 2008 Texaco Sportstars Awards. On the international front, it's still too early in the Giovanni Trapattoni era for sainthood to be bestowed on the Italian, even if he has gotten Ireland off to an unbeaten start in their World Cup qualifying campaign. A case could have been made for recognition of the achievement of Pat Fenlon, whose stewardship of Bohemians to the league title with a massive points haul was but the latest and, arguably, most admirable of his many successes as a player and manager. Failing that, the judges could have looked to England where one Irish player, above all others, has put in some sparkling performances in the Premiership. But then, I don't suppose they could have felt certain that Stephen Ireland would actually show up on the night.

## ATHLETICS JASON SMYTH

In the same manner that Usain Bolt astonished the world during the Olympic Games in Beijing with a record-breaking, double-gold sprint double, Derry's Jason Smyth replicated the successes in the Paralympics in the same city some weeks later. 21-year-old Smyth was not on everyone's lips before the Paralympics, his talent had been noted in the athletics world when he went to the Irish Schools Championships in Tullamore two years ago and won the sprint double. And it was only afterwards that his coach, Stephen Maguire, explained that Smyth was suffering from Stargardt's Disease, a hereditary degenerative visual impairment that can affect central vision, though not always peripheral vision.



## BOXING KENNY EGAN

The Dubliner had a goal early this year. He wanted to be at the Beijing Olympics in August, mixing it with the cream of the world's boxers. And as the country willed him on, he disposed of Jackson of the Virgin Islands, Muzaffer of Turkey, Silva of Brazil and Jeffries of Britain. The dream of winning a medal had changed to winning gold. And while this eluded him, he became a national hero in defeat, in the gracious way he accepted a tight result that might well have gone his way. "Deep down in my heart of hearts", he said later, "I feel I won the fight, but that's sport at the end of the day." But in defeat, Egan's stature had soared, nationally and internationally, the man and the boxer.

Croke Park on September 21 with the Sam Maguire Cup is testament to Mickey Harte's managerial magic and an outstanding squad of players who believed in themselves as few teams have in the history of the game. But it took a supreme performance from one player to see them through. Having scored 1-14 in the four games before the final, Sean Cavanagh epitomised all the qualities that have put him on a pedestal with the game's greatest in a period of 26 minutes, when Kerry were threatening to rescue the game. In October, he was again instrumental in a major success, this time in Australia, where he captained the International Rules side to an outstanding win over Australia.

## GOLF PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON

Padraig's game moved onto a higher plateau this year and he showed the steel required to win a major was present in abundance on the back nine on the final day of the British Open.

Locked in battle with Greg Norman and Ian Poulter at Royal Birkdale, Padraig moved to the top of the leaderboard with birdies on the 13th and 15th holes on the Sunday before a piercing five wood to the par five 17th landed perfectly and rolled to within three feet of the cup to set up an eagle. Not satisfied with back-to-back British Opens, he produced a stunning final 36 holes at Oakland Hills in the USPGA Championship with two rounds of 66, the culmination of which was a superb final nine holes of 32 which saw off the challenge of his Carnoustie rival, Sergio Garcia and Ben Curtis.

## HORSE-RACING AIDAN O'BRIEN

Aidan O'Brien was tutored by Jim Bolger for nearly four

came to depart, to move on to another challenge, Jim was sorry to see him leave, so much so that he subsequently said: "I would have done anything to hold on to him, short of marrying him". Those words have a certain irony this year as Jim Bolger had outstanding claims to be the Texaco award winner. O'Brien made a clean sweep of all the classics with Halfway to Heaven, Henrythenavigator, Frozen Fire, Moonstone and Septimus. And after Henrythenavigator went on to win the English 2,000 Guineas, he then took a raiding party to Royal Ascot and won five of the prestigious purses, and that included Yeats winning the Gold Cup for the third successive year, only the second time this has been achieved in the history of the sport. After a few disappointments, came the indomitable Yeats again to take the French St Leger and round off a remarkable season of 22 Group victories for Ballydoyle.

## HURLING EOIN LARKIN

Now 24, Eoin Larkin joined the Kilkenny panel in 2005 and has been a steady work in progress since. Three All Ireland senior medals to complement his Under 21 and minor successes suggests he has absorbed Brian Cody's training manual like a Grade A student. But the flying half-forward really came into his own this season, laying down an early marker in the All Ireland final by cutting through the Waterford defence and picking out an unmarked Eddie Brennan to drive home a goal. It was the beginning of the end. Kilkenny romped home and Larkin got a well deserved goal in the second half, in fact ever since he came back from a six-month stint of UN peace-keeping duties in Kosovo, he has been creating and scoring at will.

## LADIES GAA BRIEGE CORKERY

Although a youthful 21, Briega has played for her county in

the last four All Ireland senior camogie finals, winning in 2005 and 2006, and again this year. But that is only half the story. In those same four years she has been an outstanding performer for the county's football team - during which they have won four consecutive All Ireland senior titles. Briega had to play camogie and football semi-finals within the space of 24 hours, and the finals within a fortnight. A yearly schedule that would have many a professional sports person complaining of the demands on their mind and body is taken in her stride.

## RUGBY RONAN O'GARA

To define Ronan O'Gara by numbers would alight on things like he is Ireland's most capped out-half, that he requires 21 points to reach 1,000 in the Heineken Cup, that on three occasions he has been voted the Rugby Writers of Ireland Player of the Year - or maybe even that he was the first Irishman to score a try at Croke Park. Those statistics only touch the surface of the qualities he has brought to Presentation College Cork, Cork Constitution, UCC, Munster, Ireland and the Lions in a wonderful career with hopefully a few more chapters to pen, despite his decision to write an autobiography without a fleck of grey in his hair. This year he stood alone in Irish rugby for many reasons, primarily his role in Munster's Heineken Cup match, which was crowned with 11 of the 16 points in the final against Toulouse. Equally important, though, was his guiding influence throughout the series, in particular the two games against Wasps and the away match in Llanelli. And if further confirmation of an outstanding year is required, well, just ask Munster's Red Army.



RACHEL RUDDY  
DUBLIN

Mallow: L. Curtis, N. Buckley, L. O'Sullivan, P. Buckley, E. Meaney, C. Blake, R. Neenan, E. Fitzpatrick, S. Heneghan, L. Willis, E. O'Connell, O. Cremin, S. O'Shea, S. O'Leary, R. Sheehan. Scorers: E. Fitzpatrick 2-1, L. Willis 1-1, A. O'Shea 0-1.

Millstreet: C. Sheehan, S. Dennehy, L. O'Reilly, M. Murphy, N. Scott, L. Kelleher, D. O'Reilly, K. O'Keefe, A. McSweeney, C. Collins, M. E. O'Connor, E. Breen, C. O'Keefe, S. O'Sullivan, A. Barry. Sub: D. Murphy. Scorers: S. O'Sullivan 2-1, K. O'Keefe 1-1.

Referee: M. Sheehan (Liscarroll).

Mallow 3-3  
Millstreet 3-2

MALLOW shaded matters over Millstreet in a gripping North Cork U11 Camogie Championship final played in Mallow.

Neither side disappointed, serving up an enthralling encounter, packed with skilful play, great scores and an exciting conclusion. Mallow just about deserved their victory to a memorable encounter.

Both sides took a time to adjust to the stiff breeze in the opening half.

Though Millstreet threatened, Mallow were thankful for the outstanding vigilance of goalkeeper Lauren Curtis, in addition to the solid workrate of Lisa O'Sullivan, Catherine Blake, Emily Fitzpatrick and Shannon Heneghan.

Points from Ali O'Shea and Laura Willis swept Mallow ahead, but Millstreet were back in the hunt with a goal by Shauna O'Sullivan to tie matters 1-0 to 0-3 at the break.

Though Mallow resumed in a positive mode, Willis adding a goal, Millstreet stood up to the challenge. The visitors were inspired by the play of Lydia O'Reilly, Leanne



Millstreet's Kate O'Keefe attempting to break through the Mallow defence in the North Cork Camogie U11 Championship final.

## Fantastic finish earns Mallow girls a narrow win over brave Millstreet

Kelleher, Kate O'Keefe and O'Sullivan. A goal from an O'Sullivan free handed Millstreet the initiative.

However, the game swung back to Mallow and two goals from Fitzpatrick altered the outcome in a game of swaying fortunes.

Millstreet managed a late comeback and a goal, but the full-time whistle came too soon to save the day as Mallow rejoiced.



## St Mary's win under-16 league in close game

St Mary's  
Barryroe

1-3  
1-1

ST Mary's, a combination of players from Charleville and Ballyhea, took the under-16, D league title, defeating Barryroe in a close contest. Played in perfect conditions in Cloughduv, both sides gave it their all in the quest for honours. In the end, just two points separated the sides, as St Mary's added the league title to the championship they won earlier in the month.

Barryroe settled quickly and took the lead when Sarah O'Dwyer converted a 45-metre free. St Mary's settled and went level, thanks to Kate Keane, who struck a point from play. Now applying strong pressure, making the Barryroe defence work hard, St Mary's hit the

front mid-way through the half, with Sinead Dennehy hand-passing to the net for the games opening goal. Responding with determination, Barryroe regained the initiative and were back in front with a long-range free from Denise O'Sullivan, finding the net to level the sides at the interval.

The second half was a battle for supremacy, and scores were at a premium as both defences held the upper hand. Kate Keane pointed a free early in the half, to edge St Mary's in front, and this was all that separated the sides for most of the half, and, as play swung from end to end, Barryroe battled to get on level and the St Mary's defence had to be at their best to hold firm. At the other end, St Mary's strove to extend their lead, but a brave Barryroe defence

held firm, until, finally, with the last puck of the game, Kate Keane pointed a 45 to give her side breathing space and the title.

Both teams must be complimented for their performances, and for the superb display of camogie. Tracey Sheehan presented the trophy to team captain, Mary-Claire Waters, while Cathriona O'Keeffe, St Mary's, was named player of the game, following a superb display.

**St Mary's:** D Daly; M C Waters, A Noonan, J Reidy; A O'Connor, M McCarthy, L Kelly; T Cagney; C O'Keeffe; E O'Brien, K Keane, G Crowley; F Barrett, S Dennehy, L Sheehan. Sub: E Carroll for A O'Connor (inj h/t).  
**Barryroe:** J Madden; A O'Donovan, L Delea, N Madden; M O'Regan, C O'Dwyer, U O'Donovan; T McCarthy, K O'Sullivan, P O'Donovan; R McCarthy (C), A Weldon, C Jordan, D O'Sullivan, O. O'Regan. Subs: F O'Regan for O. O'Regan, (h/t); S O'Leary for C Jordan (40).  
**Referee:** C Egan (Glen Rovers).



Cork colleges camogie players with the All-Ireland Camogie Cup, on its visit to St Aidan's, Dublin Hill; left to right, Leeann O'Sullivan, Ailing O'Keeffe, Edel O'Connell, Jennifer Hosford, Lauren Callanan.

## Seven All-Stars for Cork

CORK were to the fore at the Camogie All-Stars taking seven awards Gemma O'Connor picked up her fifth consecutive All-Star following an impressive 2008 being named in the half back line for the first time having picked up four awards at midfield. Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray, full back and captain Cathriona Foley, midfield pair of Briege Corkery and Orla Cotter (who picked up her first award) as well as forwards Rachel Moloney and Sile Burns (also a first).

Championship and National League runners-up Galway received three awards, with Jessica Gill joined by captain Sinead Cahalan and forward Therese Maher. Beaten semi-finalists Wexford and Tipperary both received one award each, as did National League champions Kilkenny.

Wexford's full back Catherine O'Loughlin claims her second award, while Tipperary's Trish O'Halloran and Kilkenny's Aoife Neary pick up their first awards. Antrim and Offaly won their first

ever All-Stars. Michaela Morkan of Offaly has been named in the half backs, while Antrim forward Jane Adams took home her country's first All Star. The O'Neills Camogie Young Player of the Year award went to Clare's Carina Rosengrave while Liam Dunne and Stephen Dormer from the Kilkenny under 16 managers took the O'Neills Manager of the Year All-Star. Cork's Mary Moran was the recipient of the Sile Mc Anulty award in recognition of the work as an administrator.

## Delaney's overcome Millstreet in plate final

IN the specially organised Junior B and C plate competitions for teams defeated in the first round of their respective junior championships, Delaney's overcame Millstreet in a close contest in the C plate final in Ballyanley. Susan Collins had a first

half Delaney's goal, but it was Millstreet who led 1-2 to 1-0 at the interval and they extended their advantage to four points early in the second half.

Delaney's rallied with Orla Collins striking a goal before getting them

level with a point and a goal from Gillian Morrissey with five minutes to go gave Millstreet no way back.

The B plate final between Na Piarasigh and Buttevant will have to be rescheduled after an injury forced the game to be abandoned.

## 40th anniversary of St Fanahan's Camogie Club

ST FANAHAN'S Camogie Club in Mitchelstown will celebrate its 40th anniversary tomorrow. The club will mark four decades of significant development and achievement, including the winning of a Co Junior B title in 1997 with a blitz-type promotion in St Fanahan's Hall from 7pm to 8pm.

After that there will be an informal gathering at the Firgrove Hotel around 8.30pm where medals will be presented to all members of the club by Una Toomey, one of the founding members of the club.

There is an open invitation to everyone to attend the celebrations and club players and members are also reminded that the AGM will be held on November 26.

Also on Sunday Ballinacorney and Carrigaline meet in the Senior B league semi final, Na Piarasigh and Buttevant meet at 11.30 in the Junior B plate final. On Monday at 7.30pm in Cloughduv Eire Og meet Douglas "2" in the Under 16 C league final.

## LAOIS COUNTY



Camogie  
Player  
of the Year

Louise Mahony

The Harps



Swatragh: Captain Noeleen McKenna accepts the All-Ireland Felle trophy

## Minor championships continue

MINOR championships at all grades dominated last weekend's fixture sheet as Glen Rovers recorded a victory over Mallow in their quarter final meeting at the Glen field Denise Luby, Sinead Gallen, Lorna Crowley and Stephanie

Callanan all impressing for the home side while Jane Fitzpatrick and Katie Buckley worked hard for Mallow.

In the minor C championship Jane Dooley Donna Carroll Denise Flynn and Michelle Ring were to the

fore for Brian Dillon's as they defeated Barryroe to book their place in the final, in the section play off in the same championship Na Piarasigh accounted for Sarsfields as they advanced to the semi final where they will meet Tracton.

## Busy weekend ahead

SATURDAY and Sunday are again busy days as competitions continue to draw to their concluding stages the Tower View Developments Minor B championship semi finals are both down for decision with Eire Og and Ballinacorney meeting on Saturday at

11am in Ovens, on Sunday Glen Rovers and Ballygarvan meet in Ballygarvan at 2pm.

Douglas and Ballinacorney will contest the Tower View Developments Minor "A" championship final on Sunday next in Castle Road at 2pm.

Also on Sunday Ballinacorney and Carrigaline meet in the Senior B league semi final, Na Piarasigh and Buttevant meet at 11.30 in the Junior B plate final. On Monday at 7.30pm in Cloughduv Eire Og meet Douglas "2" in the Under 16 C league final.



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■ **IN PURSUIT:** Geraldine Kinane of Drom and Inch is pursued by Rossa's Grainne Connolly during yesterday's All-Ireland Club Senior Camogie Championship final in Donaghmore Ashbourne, Co Meath. Picture: Sportsfile

**All-Ireland Club Senior Camogie Championship final:**  
O'Donovan Rossa (Antrim) 2-15 Drom and Inch (Tipperary) 1-12

# Rossa roll to first All-Ireland victory

From Niamh Archibald  
in Donaghmore Ashbourne

"I KNEW we could do it," beamed a proud Rossa captain. It seems that Jane Adams's star is on the ascendancy as she is finally getting the reward for her remarkable talents.

The worst kept secret in camogie, Adams has been an inspiration to many of her team-mates and indeed to other players. Yesterday in Ashbourne, she helped lead her club to their first ever All-Ireland title.

"I once said that coaching Jane Adams must be what it's like to coach Ronaldinho," Rossa manager Mickey McCullagh said afterwards.

Her two goals in the first half were the springboard for Rossa's victory as the girls from the Falls Road seemed buoyed by their captain's belief.

A diagonal ball played in by Seanin Daykin seemed to be lost as Drom and Inch keeper Rosie Kennelly collected it, but persistent pressure from Adams and Maureen Stewart forced her into dropping the ball and it was Adams who was on hand to strike the ball into the back of the net.

The Allstar forward netted again when Kerry O'Neill played her in and she fired low across the net to give Rossa a telling advantage. Drom and Inch midfielder Therese Shortt kept them in the game with some fine free-taking, but a five-point margin at half-time was just reward for the Belfast side.

The second half started much like the first, as Rossa added to their lead with a superb individual point from Maorisa McGourty, who was quick onto another diagonal ball from Daykin before slotting between the posts. McGourty added to her tally again after chasing down yet another seemingly lost ball.

A great point from Kerry O'Neill eased the worries of the Rossa fans after

## STAR PLAYER: JANE ADAMS

WHAT more could be said about this player? From yesterday's performance's easy to see why she received her Allstar and why Rossa are enjoying so much success. Her individual tally of 2-9 certainly put her in contention, but it was the way she rallied her team and inspired those around her that really made her the stand-out player.

constant pressure from Drom and Inch. Stout defending from Bronagh Orchin, Natalie McGuinness and Teresa Adams kept the Tipperary girls at bay and the deployment of Grainne Connolly as a sweeper seemed to ease Rossa nerves after Mary Looby netted to bring Drom and Inch within four points.

It seemed fitting that Adams scored the final point of the game to ensure the Bill Carroll Cup was heading northwards to the Falls for the first time.

"Looking down at all of you in blue and gold makes me proud to be captain of this Rossa side. This team was united in the belief that we were going to bring the Bill Carroll Cup back to Rossa, well done girls," said Adams in her post-match address.

President of the Camogie Association, Liz Howard, presented the player of the match award to the winning captain saying: "Goals win matches and they make a big difference. It has been a big week for this lady here beside me as she brought the first Allstar back to Antrim, she's a real iconic figure in the world of camogie."

A delighted Mickey McCullagh paid tribute to all his players saying: "They're an unbelievable bunch of girls. They'll fight for everything and really put it in at training and that paid off today."

"It was reported in the press earlier in

the week that Drom and Inch thought they were a more balanced team who didn't rely on one player, although when it comes to Jane you'd rather have her than not and they found out today that we're a lot more than a one player team.

"Jane is world class and people don't see what she puts in to get that good. She has God-given natural talent, but she's up at the pitch on her own working on frees. She doesn't get it easy in training and Teresa especially doesn't give her an inch. Jane herself would say that she's taken some of the toughest beatings and tackles from the rest of the girls," Mickey added.

It seemed a fitting way to end the season for Rossa. They collected their fifth Ulster and Antrim titles and an All-Ireland at the fifth time of asking.

■ A SECOND half surge completed a hat-trick of All-Ireland junior titles for Laois side Harps, who outdid Kilmaley of Clare by 1-11 to 3-2 at Nenagh. The sides were level at half-time, 1-7 to 3-1, after two goals shortly before the break from Claire McMahon had put Kilmaley briefly ahead, only for star performer Louise Mahony to equalise from a 45.

Harps had been in control early on and remained so as Aine Mahoney netted to cancel out Maria Hehir's goal, but were rocked by that brace from McMahon. However, the holders regained command in the second half, outscoring Kilmaley by four points to one for a title treble.

## MATCH STATS

**O'Donovan Rossa:** T McGowan; T Adams, P Green, M Quinn; A McCall, N McGuinness, B Orchin; C Doherty, S Daykin; K O'Neill (0-1), G Connolly (0-2), O McCall; M McGourty (0-2), J Adams (2-9), M Stewart (0-1)  
**Drom and Inch:** R Kennelly; C Kennedy, N Harkin, P McGrath; S O'Meara, M Shortt, T Butler; T Shortt (0-7), N Harrington, J Ryan (0-3), M Looby (1-2), G Kinane; C Shortt, E Shanahan, S McGrath

## Pic of the action...



■ **HAPPY DAYS:** Roisin McNulty and Roisin Walsh celebrate after the final whistle. Below: Rossa's Maureen Stewart and Norma Harrington challenge for the ball. Pictures: Sportsfile



■ **PARTY TIME:** Maorisa McGourty and Bronagh Orchin celebrate after winning the All-Ireland final. Below: Rossa's Sinead O'Neill keeps tabs on Michelle Shortt of Drom and Inch. Picture: Sportsfile







Cork's Sile Burns, (Rockbán) gets past a tackle from Limerick's Janet Garvey in the Gala All-Ireland Camogie Championship game at Ballinlough on Saturday July 19.

## Senior B semi final

THE long awaited Evening Echo senior B championship semi final goes ahead on Tuesday night next at 8pm when Killeagh and

Rockban battle it out for a place in the final against Eire Og a venue is to be confirmed for this game.

## Juvenile convention

THE juvenile board convention goes ahead on Tuesday next at Glen Rovers at 8pm.



**NO JANE, NO GAIN:** O'Donovan Rossa captain Jane Adams lifts the Bill Carroll Cup after the club's win over Drom and Inch of Tipperary in yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie Championship final in Donaghmore Ashbourne, Co Meath. Allstar Adams led by example, scoring 2-9 of Rossa's 2-15 total in reply to the Tipperary side's 1-12. See report and reaction P59  
Picture: Sportsfile

# CAMOG

## O'DONOVAN ROSSA AND DROM & INCH TO CONTEST SENIOR ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL

By Jackie Cahill

**A**ntrim outfit O'Donovan Rossa will meet Tipperary's Drom & Inch in the All-Ireland senior camogie club final on Sunday November 16. O'Donovan Rossa defeated Dublin's Ballyboden St Enda's 3-18 to 0-6 while Drom & Inch edged past last season's beaten finalists Athenry by just a single point, 1-8 to 0-10, in Saturday's semi-finals.

Jane Adams was the scoring heroine for O'Donovan Rossa, weighing in with a massive 2-11 haul as the Ulster kingpins raced away in the second half, having led 0-7 to 0-3 at half-time.

Ballyboden spurned a glorious goal chance just before half-time and were made to pay by Adams just 38 seconds after the restart when she scored the game's opening goal.

Seven minutes from the end, Adams netted again before Maureen Stewart added a third goal in stoppage time for the 2006 runners-up.

This was an impressive attacking performance from O'Donovan Rossa as corner forward Ciara Armstrong also sparkled with four points from play.

In contrast, outclassed Ballyboden could only manage a solitary point from play during the second half at Casement Park in Belfast.

Meanwhile, Therese Shortt and Siobhán McGrath led the scoring charge as Drom & Inch qualified for their very first final with that slender victory against Galway's Athenry at Cloughjordan.

A new name will be inscribed on the Bill Carroll Cup in a fortnight's time after Drom & Inch overturned a 0-7 to 0-4 half-time deficit. Shortt scored 0-4 from placed balls while McGrath's second half goal proved crucial for the Tipperary and Munster champions, who will now look to emulate county colleagues Cashel, last year's All-Ireland champions.

Athenry, heavily reliant on eight points from Galway ace Jessica Gill, were caught by Ryan's goal nine minutes from time, a score which sent Drom & Inch 1-7 to 0-8 in front.

Drom held off a late Athenry charge and breathed a huge sigh of relief when Nicola Nally shot over the crossbar in stoppage time as the Galway girls threatened to score a winning goal.

Meanwhile, Clare outfit Kilmaley will attempt to stop Laois side Harps capturing a third successive crown when the teams contest the junior final on November 16.

Emma O'Driscoll (2), Katie Cahill and Helen McMahon scored the Kilmaley goals as they ran out 4-11 to 0-3 winners against Roscommon's Four Roads at the grounds of St. Joseph's Doora-Barefield, having led 1-5 to 0-2 at half-time. Four Roads faced an uphill task from the 18th minute after full-forward Donna Kelly was sent off.

At Casement Park, Harps recorded a 1-10 to 1-8 victory against Lavey of Derry as Allstar nominee Louise Mahony scored 1-9 for the reigning champions.

Harps had built up a commanding lead at half-time, 1-7 to 1-2, but Lavey remained in contention as Paula McCloy replied to Mahony's goal in the opening half.

Scorers for O'Donovan Rossa: J Adams 2-11, C Armstrong 0-4, S Daykin, K O'Neill & O McCall 0-1 each.

Scorers for Ballyboden: C Lucey & D Dolan 0-2 each, E Lucey 0-1, S Nic Coitir 0-1.

Scorers for Drom & Inch: T Shortt 0-4, S McGrath 1-1, J Ryan 0-2, N Harrington 0-1.

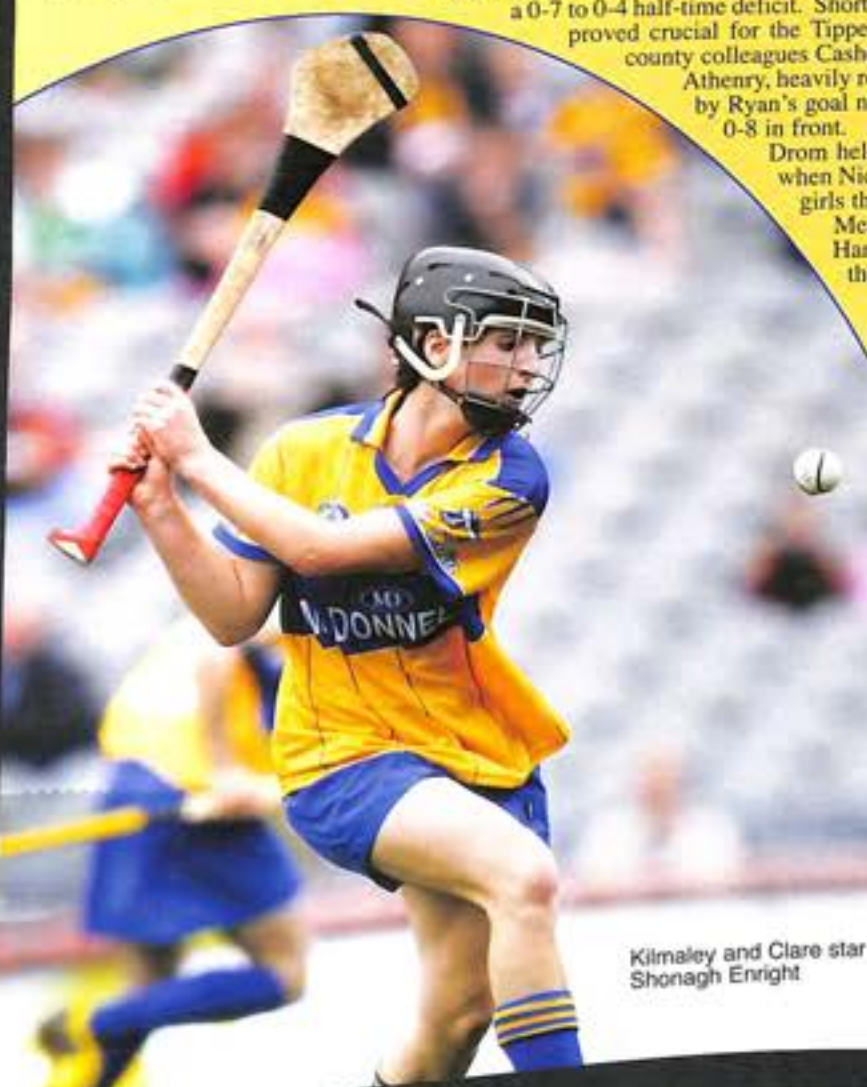
Scorers for Athenry: J Gill 0-8, T Maher & N Nally 0-1 each.

Scorers for Kilmaley: E O'Driscoll 2-0, H McMahon 1-2, K Cahill 1-0, S Enright & C McMahon 0-4 each, M Hehir 0-1.

Scorers for Four Roads: N Coyle 0-2, E Glennon-Tully 0-1.

Scorers for Harps: L Mahony 1-9, E Mahony 0-1.

Scorers for Lavey: P McCloy 1-2, C McCloy 0-4, H O'Neill & M O'Kane 0-1 each.



Kilmaley and Clare star Shonagh Enright



Nov 2008

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

# Harps complete All Ireland treble in nerve-wracking game

THE HARPS  
KILMALEY

1-11  
3-2

by Pat Delaney

THIS game was proof, if proof was needed, that this Harps team are an exceptional bunch of players and that camogie, if played like these two teams play it, is equally as attractive as the men's game. The Laois champions entered this contest as slight favourites, because they were the champions and when the pressure would come on in the final quarter they would have the greater resolve and that was how it worked out.

Thomas McDonagh Park Nenagh was the setting for this eagerly awaited clash of two evenly matched teams and despite some early morning drizzle the pitch was in good condition but the grass was a little long for ground hurling.

The Harps were first to score, full forward Aishling Phelan delivering a great point from play. Denise Quigley, their winning captain of three years ago, sent a magnificent line ball into the goal area and the full forward applied the finish. Two minutes later Louise Mahoney delivered a free into the square and the full forward repeated the dose. When Phelan made it three after seven minutes the much vaunted Clare full back line looked in trouble.

Untypically Louise Mahoney was wide but in the tenth minute a great move saw Angela Hanlon place Joanne Prior for a well taken point. At the end of the quarter the Laois champions led by four points and the Munster champions had not ventured into the opposition half at all. But a minute into the second quarter they forced a free and full forward Claire McMahon sent over a fine point.

Aine Mahoney responded with a Harps point after 17 minutes. Kilmaley attacked from the puck out but the Harps keeper, Maeve Brophy made a fine save. The Clare girls were now playing with more confidence and when Helen McMahon won possession she fed a great pass across the goalmouth and corner forward Maria Hehir hand passed to the net from close range. This score stunned the Harps and boosted the confidence of the challengers.

However, Louise Mahoney got the show back on the road with a point from a free. Twenty-one minutes into the game the champions produced a defence splitting move, the ball arriving courtesy of team captain Louise Mahoney and she directed it towards Elaine Mahoney and she spotted another sister Aine and from close range she hit the



The Harps captain Louise Mahoney raises the trophy after winning their third in a row All Ireland Club Junior Camogie final at Nenagh

Photos: Alf Harvey

net. If the Harps thought that would put the challengers away then they got a rude awakening. The next five minutes were scoreless as both teams were denied by great defending then three minutes from the break the Harps defence conceded a close in free and Claire McMahon delivered a beauty to the roof of the net.

Two minutes later the Harps were under pressure again. A great effort by Shonagh Enright was stopped by the Brophy but the ever alert McMahon whipped the rebound to the net and incredibly the Harps trailed.

From the puck out a free in was awarded and captain Louise Mahoney steadied the ship with a point leaving matters all square as the teams retired to the dressing room, 1-7 to 3-1. It was a long time since the Harps conceded three goals inside 30 minutes and now they faced a very determined Clare side on the restart.

When the Munster champions returned they received a rapturous reception from their huge following. From the throw in they forced a line ball and put the Harps under pressure two minutes later. The Clare girls should have regained the lead but from right in front of goal Emma O'Driscoll finished wide and from the puck out the reliable Claire McMahon also finished wide.

The Harps won a free on their first attack but Louise Mahoney finished



Aine Mahoney, The Harps looks for a way past Orla Keane and Denise Lynch, Kilmaley in the All Ireland Club Junior Camogie final at Nenagh

wide. Kilmaley again won the puck out but the ball finished over the line. The Harps won another free and this time Louise Mahoney's shot dropped short and was cleared to safety. After a great opening ten minutes the Harps full forward, Aishling Phelan was winning precious little ball but she did open the second half scoring when Louise Mahoney fed her a great pass and she scooped it over the bar from 20 metres.

Ten minutes into the half McMahon should have levelled but close marking saw her finish wide

again. Louise Mahoney put two between the sides with a great point from play. Shonagh Enright now brought her side's second half total of wides to four and a great goal chance was denied and the Harps won a very valuable free out.

Kilmaley rang the changes and a free in the 48th minute, converted by Claire McMahon, reduced the deficit to the minimum. Urged on by the big crowd Kilmaley went all out but the Laois girls denied them time and time again and at the other end the Clare defence conceded two

close in frees both converted by top scorer Aine Mahoney, the second for a heavy tackle on herself.

In the closing minutes Catriona Phelan of Tubberdoe made two excellent interceptions to deny the Clare girls chances of goals before the final whistle was greeted with massive cheers from the huge Laois following.

**Scorers:** The Harps - Aine Mahoney 1-3, Aishling Phelan 0-4, Louise Mahoney 0-3, Joanne Prior 0-1. Kilmaley - Claire McMahon 2-2, Maria Hehir 1-0.

**THE HARPS:** Maeve Brophy; Elaine Cuddy, Aoife Donohue, Catriona Phelan (Tubberdoe); Denise Quigley, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Claire Walsh; Caitriona Phelan (Abbeyfeix), Louise Mahoney; Joanne Prior, Angela Hanlon, Laura Mahoney; Elaine Mahoney, Aishling Phelan, Aine Mahoney. Subs: Laura Saunders for L. Mahoney (47mins), Denise Cuddy for Prior (55mins). **KILMALEY:** Dymphna Killeen; Lisa Kennedy, Denise Lynch, Orla Keane; Eimear Considine, Sarah Reidy, Sinead Maher, Aida Griffey; Helen McMahon, Emma O'Driscoll, Shonagh Enright; Maria Hehir, Claire McMahon, Katie Cahill. Subs: Lorna Higgins for Keane (40mins), Aishling O'Halloran for Griffey (50mins). **REFEREE:** Dermot Connolly (Galway)





The All-Ireland winning Swatragh squad. Front, Lr: Naomi O'Kane, Maive Quinn, Niamh McFerran, Eimhear O'Kane, Noelleen McKenna (captain), Shannon Kearney, Catherine McKeefry, Rachel Donnelly, Niamh O'Kane. Middle, Lr: Sarah Anne McNicholl (manager), Aoife Coyle, Bronagh McKeefry, Roisin O'Kane, Cara Dillon, Rebecca McKeefry, Paula McElwee, Aoife Quinn, Sarah Grant, Bronagh McKeown, Maureen Quinn (manager), Patsy McElwee (manager). Back, Lr: Dervla O'Kane, Claire McGuigan, Niamh Quinn, Anna Shiel, Katie Bradley, Katie McGuckin, Megan McGusker, Mairead McNicholl.

## AN ELUSIVE JEWEL IN THE CROWN FOR SWATRAGH

June of this year saw the Michael Davitts camogie club of Swatragh make their long trip to the counties of Offaly and Laois worth the while as the Derry club captured their first ever All-Ireland Féile title.



The coveted crown came after Swatragh's first involvement in the national Under 14 competition in the club's history and with it they ended a lengthily wait to match the success that fellow Oak Leaf club Ballinascreen boast in the All-Ireland Féile Championship. "We have been growing at underage level for some time now," admits team mentor and joint-manager Sarah-Ann McNicholl.

"Ballinascreen represented Derry in last year's competition and won it, but we beat them this year to go on and represent the county which was a great achievement for a small club like us."

After raising the club had raised the sufficient funds to travel, the management trio of McNicholl, Patsy McElwee and Maureen Quinn all made their way south with their players to compete in the Championship on the weekend of June 23-24.

"We travelled down on the Thursday night and stayed in the Midway Park Hotel in Tullamore."

"We went to Portlaoise and took part in the Féile parade on the Friday, which was great occasion with brilliant banners and every team that took part in the festival was represented at it."

Present at the parade in Portlaoise were GAA president Nicky Brennan and Camogie president Liz Howard, who congratulated all teams involved for their progression to the national competition, but for McNicholl her club's involvement in the Féile was something to really savour for such a small parish.

"We lie on rural area in the county and we don't have many other activities within the parish to entertain the kids. We have Gaelic Games and it's the only real outlet for them," she admitted.

"There is no Ladies football in the club and it's five or six





Sile Burns celebrates a Cork goal against Galway in the camogie final

## Hassig blast their way through to minor decider

Ballinhassig  
Éire Óg

4-6  
1-2

BALLINHASSIG booked their place in the Tower View Developments Minor B championship final as they defeated Éire Óg in Ovens, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Played in ideal weather conditions on a superb pitch, the Ballinhassig girls laid the foundations for victory in the opening 30 minutes.

Two goals mid-way through

the contest gave them the upper hand.

The opening half was close as Ballinhassig, playing with the aid of the stiff breeze, opened the scoring with an Aileen O'Leary point.

Éire Óg battled back as Siobhán Hutchinson struck a superb goal to edge her side ahead and with their defence coping well with the Ballinhassig attack, they held the lead.

Sinead O'Callaghan had one back for Ballinhassig before

Katie McCarthy grabbed the game's opening goal to give Ballinhassig a lead they never relinquished.

Siobhán Hutchinson pointed for Éire Óg but they were dealt a killer blow when Ballinhassig's Orla Murray and Catriona Collins found the net before the break to give them a 3-3 to 1-1 interval advantage.

Éire Óg failed to take advantage of the strong wind which blew in their favour for the second half as Sinead

O'Callaghan's two points extended the Ballinhassig lead.

Roisin Murray pointed an Éire Óg free but they found the going hard against a strong Ballinhassig defence who dealt comfortably with what ever was thrown at them.

With Catriona Collins, Katie McCarthy and Hayley Cullinane keeping the pressure on, they picked off the vital scores — Orla Murray grabbing her second goal before Sinead O'Callaghan pointed to ensure their passage

to the final was secured.

**Scorers for Ballinhassig:** O Murray 2-0, S O'Callaghan 0-4, K McCarthy, A O'Riordan 1-0 each, C Collins, A O'Leary 0-1 each.

**Éire Óg:** S Hutchinson 1-1, R Murray 0-1.

**BALLINHASSIG:** G O'Callaghan; E O'Donovan, A O'Riordan (c), A Walsh; L Jordan, M Riordan, H Cullinane; M Kelleher, C Collins; K McCarthy, S O'Callaghan, A O'Leary, O Murray; E Jordan.

**Sub:** S McCarthy for A Walsh (32).

**ÉIRE ÓG:** L Stack; M Gleeson, D Twomey, M Hennessy; E Kelleher, K McCarthy, A Hennessy; C Meaney, E Crowley; C O'Connor, R Murray, A McCarthy; S Hutchinson; C O'Keefe, K McCarthy.

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



# Minor A final will go right down to the wire

SUNDAY.  
Minor A final,  
Ballincollig v Douglas,  
Blackrock, 2pm

**MINOR** championship competitions are centre stage this weekend with the Tower View Developments minor A final and the minor B semi-finals all down for decision.

So far it has been a successful season for both Douglas and Ballincollig and both will be hoping to add to their haul of trophies on Sunday.

Douglas the holders will be battling to retain their crown and add to their senior and under 16 championship successes while Ballincollig with the junior A championship crown already tucked away will be fully focused on upsetting the odds. It's a repeat of last years final where Douglas recorded a narrow victory after an exciting contest and Ballincollig will be hoping to reverse that result this time out.

Douglas came through their section topping the group while Ballincollig had to go to a play-off with Inniscarra before their final spot was secured. Douglas will field several of the senior championship winning side amongst them goalkeeper Jessica Kavanagh, the Mackey twins Katrina and Pamela and Julia White.

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

Ballincollig will not be lacking in experience Brea O'Callaghan, Alison Coughlan

Kate O'Donoghue, Samantha Coomey and Sarah Buckley all vital players for them in their quest for this crown and certainly they will not be lacking in determination.

It's a hard one to call, Douglas will go in as slight favourites but Ballincollig with memories of last years decider still lingering could very well add to their trophy haul.

**SATURDAY,  
Minor B semi-final,  
Éire Óg v Ballinhassig,  
Ovens, 11am**

Éire Óg with their place in the Evening Echo Senior B final secured turn their thoughts to the minor B championship and they face a tough hour as they bid for a final spot against a strong Ballinhassig side in Ovens on Saturday at 11am.

Ironically it was Éire Óg who ended Ballinhassig's senior championship aspirations with a superb semi-final display and this time out the Ballinhassig girls will be determined to reverse that result. Re graded this season from A to B grade Ballinhassig have confidently advanced to semi-final stage. Catriona Collins, Sinead O'Callaghan and Katie McCarthy and Grace



Patricia Buttimer, who will play with Ballincollig on Sunday.

O'Callaghan are strong performers and they will make Éire Óg earn their place in the decider but the Ovens girls will look to Katie McCarthy, Roisin Murray and Claire Meaney to help them progress.

**SUNDAY,  
Minor B semi-final,  
Glen Rovers v Ballygarvan  
Ballygarvan, 2pm**

The second semi-final has Ballygarvan and Glen Rovers meeting on Sunday in Ballygarvan at 2pm the sides met two years ago in the under 16 league final and served up a

cracker of a game with the Glen girls taking the title by a narrow margin and on this occasion we can expect as good a contest from two committed sides.

Ballygarvan have excellent players in Ann Keohane Maebh Moynihan, Aisling Byrne and Rosanne Byrne but equally so Glen Rovers who have fine performers in captain Lydia Cunningham, Alice Keating Stephanie Callanan and Lorna Crowley it promises to be a close contest as they battle it out for a place in the decider.

## Douglas retain the crown in fine style

Douglas 5-7  
Ballincollig 1-5

DOUGLAS retained their Tower View Developments Minor A camogie championship title at Castle Road yesterday, but they were made fight all the way by a determined Ballincollig side, writes MARY NEWMAN.

The holders led by two points at the break after playing against the strong wind and they would have been reasonably happy with the performance from the defence who stood firm under strong Ballincollig pressure.

Indeed they were lucky not to be trailing at the break, goalkeeper Jessica Kavanagh bringing off a superb save mid-way through to deny Ballincollig a certain goal.

20 minutes in Douglas held a slender one-point lead and when Jill Kelleher finished to the net they extended their advantage. Ballincollig replied with Sarah Buckley hitting three points. Aileen O'Donovan got one back for the Douglas girls to leave it 1-3 to 0-4 at the interval.

It was always going to be tough for Ballincollig with the wind in their face for the second-half, but they narrowed the gap with a Sarah Buckley point inside four minutes of the restart.

Leeann O'Shea found the net as Douglas extended their lead, but Ballincollig replied inside a minute when Lisa O'Callaghan finished Sarah Buckley's long range free to the net to leave just two points between the sides.

With the elements taking their toll the sides battled it out on the excellent surface which made life that little bit easier and Douglas effectively put the game beyond their opponents with a double goal strike Clara Clarke and Julia White grabbing one each.

With their defence handling anything Ballincollig threw at them Douglas were in control. Katrina Mackey struck three points and Julia White one before Mackey finished to the net to ensure the title was retained.

Cork senior panellist Julia White was named as Player of the Match following a superb display on a day credit must be given to both sides in horrendous conditions.

**Scorers for Douglas:** K Mackey 1-5 (3-1), 0-1 (45), C Clarke, J Kelleher, L O'Shea 0-1 each, J White 0-2, A O'Donovan 0-1.

**Ballincollig:** S Buckley 0-4 (0-20), L O'Callaghan 1-0, J Ryle 0-1.

**DOUGLAS:** J Kavanagh, C Clarke, M O'Donovan, S Long, T McCarthy, C Driscoll, P Mackey, M O'Mahony, C Murphy (capt), J White, J Kelleher, K Mackey, A O'Donovan, L O'Shea, E Jordan.

**Subs:** C Kavanagh for C O'Driscoll (56).

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A Sheehan, B O'Callaghan, A Coughlan, R O'Callaghan, C Irish, K O'Donoghue, E O'Sullivan, S Buckley, O Ni Chathasaigh, S Coomey, C Ryan, P Buttimer, L O'Callaghan (cl), H Coomey, J Ryle.

**Subs:** G McDonnell for C Ryan (40), L O'Donoghue for R O'Callaghan (45), A Walsh for L O'Callaghan (46), L Barrett for P Buttimer (58).

**Referee:** Mike O'Kelly (Ballyhea).

## CAMOGIE CLUB NOTES

### NA PIARASIGH

We are starting our Josie Mac Donnell tournament today Saturday November 22 this is run on street league basis we will have six teams each playing two matches each Saturday. Every girl will get a chance to play and for the older girls we have a skills competition also run off every week this will take us up to the Christmas break. On the last day we have the final the girls look forward to this tournament every year and it is eagerly awaited.

### BRIAN DILLONS

We took on Barryroe in the semi-final of the Under 18 C-Championship last Sunday, matches this late in the year are always going to be tough and great credit is due to both teams for their effort and heart. Our backline was steady throughout the game, particularly the half backs, Aisling Russell and Sara Backs. Aisling worked hard on the Attridge worked hard on the wings, while Amana Dorgan dominated at centre back Susan Kate Brogan was fantastic at midfield and worked tirelessly from start to finish. She was helped by Deirdre Ring and they both sent some great balls into the full forwards. Jane Dooley was superb at corner forward and added nicely to the

scoreboard. Donna Carroll followed this trend on the other corner and picked up some great scores. Full forward Denise Flynn fought hard to get the ball into the back of the net and indeed contributed to our 10-5 to 0-1 win. Barryroe battled hard until the end but we proved to be the stronger team. Well done to the girls on their excellent performance and we wish them well in the final, which has yet to be fixed.

All support would be greatly appreciated. Underage training continues on Saturday mornings from 11am and junior training takes place Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7pm. New and old members are always welcome.

**Team:** Saoirse Rodgers, Emma Burns, Sarah Cotter, Lucy Bradfield, Aisling Russell, Amanda Dorgan, Sara Attridge, Deirdre Ring, Susan Kate Brogan, Michelle Ring, Orla Ni Shuilleabhain, Claire Dooley, Donna Carroll, Denise Flynn, Jane Dooley.

**Subs:** Kate O'Brien for Lucy Bradfield, Rebecca O'Mahony for Donna Carroll, Rebecca Myers for Emma Burns.

**Dooley 5-1, Denise Flynn 4-0, Michelle Ring 1-0, Donna Carroll, Claire Dooley 0-2 each.**

### KILLEAGH

On Sunday last Vera's Under 13 team went out to play the Imokilly B final against Dungourney and was played in Ballymacoda. The game was played in terrible wet conditions. Killeagh played very well and came out on top. Killeagh 5-1 to Dungourney 3-1.

**Killeagh Panel:** Louise O'Neill, Emma Fitzgerald, Anne Marie Geary (Gortree), Ann Marie Geary (Killeagh), Ellen Benaim, Clara Daly, Orla Daly, Aisling Daly, Katie Manning, Elaine Terry, Hope Lane, Zoe Mc Evoy, Leah Mc Evoy, Clara O'Connor, Clara Motherway, Niamh O'Farrell.

**Leah Bashford, Orla Tyrell, Hannah Looney, Aisling Lenders, Jessie Daly, Rachel Galvin, Taylor Kruscel.**

Killeagh Senior B Team are playing the semi-final of the championship on Tuesday November 25 at 7.45 pm under lights in Pairc Uí Rinn. Come and give the girls your support it's much appreciated.

### GLEN ROVERS

Well done to our minor team who turned in a superb display on our home pitch on Sunday last to book themselves a place in the championship semi-final where we will meet Ballygarvan tomorrow Sunday in Ballygarvan at 2pm. A close opening quarter saw it level on two occasions before an Aisling O'Keefe goal helped us settle and with Denise Luby showing her accuracy we led at the break 1-8 to 0-2. On the resumption we upped our game and with Alice Keating, Sinead Gallen and Denise Luby in superb form up front we piled on the scores. Karen O'Connell, Sinead O'Halloran and Nicole O'Brien all keeping the pressure on. In defence captain Lydia Cunningham was solid and reliable and she had plenty of help from Emma Dunlea, Clara Walsh, Clara O'Keefe, Stephanie Callanan, Lorna Crowley, Zoe Buckley and Sinead Fahy, all in all a great team performance as we ran out winners. On Sunday Ballygarvan will provide strong opposition this will be a repeat of the under 16 final of 2006 where both

sides served up a tremendous game.

**Team:** E Dunlea, C O'Keefe, C Walsh, Z Buckley, S Callanan, L Cunningham (cl), L Crowley, S Fahy, S Gallen, A Keating, K O'Connell, N O'Brien, S O'Halloran, D Luby, A O'Keefe.

**Subs:** A Rea for A O'Keefe, L O'Sullivan for S O'Halloran, E O'Connell for S Callanan, S Busted for C Walsh, A Dowling for D Luby.

### WELL DONE

Congratulations to our under 21 hurlers who were crowned county champions on Sunday last after a thrilling replay with Duhallog, well done to all the players and mentors who we know worked so hard all year to achieve their goal, congratulations also to Patrick Horgan who was fittingly named man of the match with another superb display.

### CORK FUND RAISER

In a fund raising effort for the new pitch in Castle Road the camogie board have published a superb recipe book and they are asking all camogie players and friends to row in and buy the book which is on sale at €20, anybody in our club interested in supporting the board can get the book from Mary Newman or Deirdre Sutton.

# Luby fires the Glen to the final

Glen Rovers  
Ballygarvan

1-8  
1-2

**EVEN** though the scoreline might suggest otherwise, Glen Rovers had to dig deep to fashion out a victory over Ballygarvan before advancing to the final of the Tower View Developments Minor B Championship yesterday in Ballygarvan, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Heavy underfoot conditions took their toll on both sides who had to drive through wind and rain

through the opening half. Denise Luby gave the visitors an early lead with a superb goal before tacking on four points for the Glen girls before Aisling Byrne pointed for Ballygarvan.

Glen Rovers led 1-4 to 0-1 at the break, but despite turning to play with the aid of the wind for the second-half, they struggled to get into the game as Ballygarvan threw everything at them.

Lorraine Brown pointed a Ballygarvan free before Rebecca Murphy finished to the net to put

just two points between the sides. Sensing a Ballygarvan revival the Glen girls upped the pace and with Alice Keating, Stephanie Callanan and Lydia Cunningham doing Trojan work they held their lines.

Up front, Denise Luby pointed a long range free to stretch the lead to three points and continuing to absorb the pressure at the back, Glen Rovers pushed for home.

Nicole O'Brien and Sinead O'Halloran pointed before Denise Luby converted a 45 to see them through after a tough battle.

**Scorers for Glen Rovers:** D Luby 1-6 (0-4), 0-1 (45), N O'Brien, S O'Halloran 0-1 each.

**Ballygarvan:** R Murphy 1-0, L Browne 1, A Byrne 0-11 each.

**GLEN ROVERS:** E Dunlea, Z Buckley, C Walsh, C O'Keefe, S Callanan, L Cunningham (cl), L Crowley, S Gallen, A Keating, K O'Connell, N O'Brien, S Fahy, S O'Halloran, D Luby, A O'Keefe.

**Subs:** L O'Sullivan for A O'Keefe (50), E O'Connell for S Fahy (53).

**BALLYGARVAN:** K O'Donovan, L O'Callaghan, F O'Halloran, R Ni Shé (cl), L Kennelick, L Browne, K O'Sullivan, C Murphy, M Moynihan, A Byrne, A Keohane, S Quilligan, R Keohane, A Walsh, R Murphy.

**Sub:** M Coveney for A Walsh (35).

**Ref:** Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).



# O'Connor dreaming of perfect return

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

IT READS like the script of an Emilio Estevez movie. Team comes from nowhere to win Vhi Healthcare All-Ireland Ladies Club Intermediate Football final. Raucous celebrations ensue.

All they think about in their debut season at senior level is consolidation. Then they lose one of the generation's most gifted forwards, hobbled by a cruciate knee ligament. They have no hope.

But against all the odds, they slay the giants of their county. Then they claim provincial honours. And crazily, they reach the All-Ireland final. Hail the Mighty Ducks! It was fairytale stuff for Inch Rovers, alright, but the emotions were more complex for the east Cork side's absent star, Mary O'Connor. It was a nightmare feeling so helpless, and making it back to the decider against Carnacon again tomorrow represents a shot at redemption for her and her team-mates, following last season's one-sided defeat.

"A good friend of mine told me last year that 12 months wouldn't be long coming around but at the time, it didn't feel like it," she says.

"When we won the intermediate, the whole parish was on a high after that. We said we'd take each game

as it comes at senior level. But the players were in good form, they get on really well with each other and they'd play all year for you. It's a very young panel as well, apart from myself. But our aim was just to do ourselves justice.

"We probably caught Donoughmore on the hop in the semi-final last year and it just snowballed from there. I have to say it was very difficult to watch but obviously you were glad for the girls."

O'Connor is one of the most successful Irish sportswomen of the current era. A quick glance at her resumé reveals four All-Ireland football medals with Cork, six in camogie.

A football All-Star in 2006, she was named camogie's Player of the Year that same season and has two All-Stars for her exploits with the camán. Add nine camogie league medals, three in football and a plethora of club mementoes, and you get a pretty decent picture.

It would have been easy given such a high level of achievement to pack it in after suffering such a serious injury at 30, but O'Connor is much too stubborn for that. As it happens, she hasn't decided if she'll continue with Cork next year, but reading between the lines, it's more than likely.



Mary O'Connor: a shot at redemption for the Inch star after missing last year's decider.

"It's been a long enough year. At the moment I'm happy, I'm injury free. I came back because I wanted to end my inter-county career on my own terms and not be forced into it by injury.

"I often say I'll be watching it long enough and I've been so lucky. I was playing inter-county football for Cork for 11 years without winning anything, so the last four years have been a fairytale.

"At the moment I'm enjoying playing both football and camogie with Cork but I just don't know yet. And I'm not arrogant enough to presume that I'll be asked back anyway, or to say that I'm needed. We'll just have to see."

As Games Development Officer with the Camogie Association, O'Connor spends a lot of time on the road and has tried to cut down on the mileage in the lead-up to Sunday. Just last week she was in Donegal, Galway, Dundalk, Dublin,

Cork, Dublin and Cork from Tuesday to Sunday. It can be draining but it will be all systems go in Tullamore tomorrow, when it's time to meet a Carnacon side powered by Cora Staunton, Martha Carter, Fiona McHale and the McGings; a Carnacon side that made light work of Inch in last year's final.

"We knew people were saying we were only a flash in the pan last year. To be honest, we set out to win Cork this year and had nothing else in our minds. To win back-to-back in Cork is a big achievement.

"Now we're here in an All-Ireland again. Last year we were beaten by a far superior Carnacon team. They have so much experience and have probably been the best club in the country of the last seven years.

"It's a huge task but we're gonna try to go out and play because last year we were wiped away. We also want to come out with no regrets."

## Rockbán to reach elusive decider

TONIGHT  
Evening Echo Senior B  
Championship  
semi-final

Rockbán v Killeagh  
Páirc Uí Rinn, 7.45.

The long awaited Evening Echo Senior B camogie championship semi-final takes place this evening under the lights of Páirc Uí Rinn when Rockbán and Killeagh battle it out for a place in next Saturday's final where the winners meet Éire Óg, writes Mary Newman.

Killeagh topped their group in the round robin series to book their place in this evening's semi-final and they meet a Rockbán side who did likewise in their group. From the start of the season both have been mentioned as potential finalists, but with Éire Óg safety through to the final, one of these must go.

Killeagh had several players involved with Inch Rovers on Sunday last and they will be hoping that players such as Mary O'Connor and Angela Walsh will have emerged injury free.

They were crowned Junior A champs last year and they'll be keen to book themselves a place in the final in their first year at Senior B. Young players like Claire Keohane, Noelle O'Donovan, Stephanie Beausang and Carmel Deane have been superb for Killeagh and they will battle hard to reach the decider.

Rockbán were fancied by many to make it to last year's final, but they fell at semi-final stage to Valley Rovers, this time out they will be wary of this as they seek to reach their first senior final. They are backed by Cork seniors Cathriona Foley and Sile Burns while Máiréad Foley, Elaine Casey and Claire Conway are excellent performers.

Given the time of year a prediction is hard, the sides are evenly matched, but Rockbán look to have just that little bit extra in reserve that could carry them over the finishing line.

## Slick-starting Rockbán book place in decider

Rockbán 3-13  
Killeagh 0-11  
By MARY NEWMAN  
Camogie

ROCKBÁN secured their place in the Evening Echo senior B Camogie Championship final under light at Páirc Uí Rinn last night.

They proved far too strong for a Killeagh side, who only really performed for 30 minutes of this contest.

Rockbán dominated the opening half and led by 14 points at the interval.

Credit to Killeagh who dusted themselves down and shook them selves in to action after the restart.

For long passages of the second-half they were on top, matching Rockbán in every department, limiting them to just

four points in total.

However, it was too late to salvage the game and it was Rockbán who marched on to set up an all-Muskerry final on Sunday.

Goals win matches and Rockbán grabbed three in the opening half.

Elaine Casey was very much to the fore, firing to the net after just four minutes.

She then set up Sile Burns for Rockbán's second as they opened up a seven points advantage.

As Killeagh struggled to keep in touch, Jessica O'Shea and Claire Keohane had

points, but they failed to match the sharp shooting of Rockbán, who notched up eight unanswered points before Elaine Casey grabbed their third goal two minutes into first half injury-time.

Rockbán led by 3-8 to 0-3 at the interval.

Rockbán looked to be home and dry, but it was a much improved Killeagh who took to the field for the second half.

They contested every ball with a renewed energy and pegged Rockbán in their own half for much of the half.

Burns pointed an early free for Rockbán, but it was to be 17 minutes before they registered their next score, with Killeagh picking off five points in between.

Twice the side's exchanged points in

the remaining minutes, but it was Rockbán who ended the scoring when Burns pointed a free.

**Scorers for Rockbán:** S Burns 1-6 (0-4f), E Casey 2-1, V Mulcahy 0-2, S Coleman, L Crowley, M Howard, C Foley 0-1 each.

**Killeagh:** C Keohane 0-5 (0f), A Walsh, N O'Donovan 0-2 each, M O'Connor, J O'Shea 0-1 each.

**ROCKBÁN:** E Harte, M O'Keefe, S Ryan, M Burns, M Foley, Cathriona Foley, Colleen Foley, D Foley, L Crowley, V Mulcahy, T Howard, M Howard, E Casey, S Burns, S Coleman.

**KILLEAGH:** C Deane, K Kelleher, M Smiddy, S Smiddy, A M Walsh, M O'Connor, E O'Neill, C Keohane, K Rohan, G Cunningham, A Walsh, L O'Connor, J O'Shea, N O'Donovan, S Beausang.

**Subs:** K Walsh for K Kelleher (28), L Kelly for S Beausang (35).

**Referee:** Walter Cole (Buttevant).

## Camogie goes back to round robin system

**CAMOGIE:** There is an interesting change to the Gala senior championship format for 2009, with the structure reverting back to two groups of four to be played in a round-robin system.

The top two teams from each section will qualify for the semi-finals of the O'Duffy Cup.

The 2008 championship saw just one group of seven with each county playing one another.

All-Ireland champions Cork will have home advantage against Dublin in their opening round game, while Clare in their first outing in senior ranks after their memorable victory over Offaly in the junior final face a tough championship opener against beaten All Ireland senior finalists Galway.

Meanwhile, March 1 signals the commencement of the National senior league.

Again, similar to the championship format, two groups will vie for honours.

**All-Ireland Championship Group One:** Tipperary, Kilkenny, Cork, Dublin.

**Group Two:** Galway, Clare, Limerick, Wexford.

A full list of fixtures can be found on [www.camogie.ie](http://www.camogie.ie).

## CAMOGIE

**Cork Senior B final:** Rockbán 1-8 Éire Óg 0-6.  
**Minor B final:** Ballinhassig 3-8 Glen Rovers 1-6  
**Minor C final:** Brian Dillon's 6-8 Na Piaraisigh 0-4  
**U16 B League final:** Glen Rovers 2-6 Ballincellig 1-3.  
**Senior League final:** Douglas 4-12 Ballygarvan 1-3.

St Catherine's Camogie Club, Ballynoe, has no shortage either of members with plenty of get-up-and-go, people such as Ann Galvin, who's been instrumental in making a club trip to Dubai a reality. When Mary O'Connor, Munster regional sports coordinator, mooted the idea of St Catherine's playing in the Dubai Celts Sevens competition, club PRO Brigid Cotter wasn't too hopeful that anything would come of it. "I said that'll never happen.

Who's going to go out to Dubai? Then, all of a sudden, I got a text from Ann Galvin to say 'we're going to Dubai on January 18. I have 10 names down — are you interested?' Before we knew it we had 22 going altogether."

By all accounts, the girls are gearing up for the competition — when the O'Duffy Cup came to

McAuliffe's Bar, Ballynoe after the Cork all-Ireland camogie win, they were heard singing in full voice 'We're all off to Dubai on the Green'. And, undoubtedly, the teams who meet the St Catherine's girls in the seven-aside tournament, run by Dubai's Irish community, will have their work cut out for them — this is a club, which in recent years, has

seen 12 of its players, among them four sets of sisters, play for their county.

Vice-chair of the club Orla Cotter came on as a sub when Cork beat Tipperary in all-Ireland 2006, while she was on the winning team against Galway this year and won an All-Star award for her midfield performance.

Ask some key officers of St



# Rockbán can take the title

Nov. 2008

By MARY NEWMAN

**SUNDAY,**  
Evening Echo Senior B Championship final,  
Rockbán v Éire Óg,  
Blackrock, 2.30pm

**LAST YEAR** the players from Rockbán and Éire Óg soldiered side by side as Muskerry breached a 72-year gap to take the division's second senior county championship title.

12 months on its swords drawn as they are in opposite corners as they battle it out for the right to be crowned *Evening Echo* Senior B championship winners.

Ironically, both teams emerged from the same group of the round-robin series.

Éire Óg recorded a superb semi-final victory over Ballinhassig, while Rockbán defeated Killeagh on Tuesday last.

This final pairing would not have been predicted at the start of the campaign.

Rockbán have from the outset been pencilled in as potential title contenders, but Éire Óg would be considered outsiders.

However, they are in the final on merit and having contested the last two semi-finals they will feel their time has come.

They confidently defeated a strong Ballinhassig side where they showed tremendous character to fashion out a superb victory.

They have worked hard to reach their goal and they will not be deterred by the strength of their opponents.



Rockbán's Sile Burns is a potential match-winner for her side.

They have built on their successful underage teams, who over the last few years have taken titles at U16 and minor level.

Their improvement has been steady and consistent under the watchful eye of long serving mentor Con Malone.

Margaret O'Herlihy is one of their top performers and she is ably assisted by the hard-working Alanna McKenna, Claire Meeney and captain Siobhán Gleeson.

Last year Con Malone helped guide the fortunes of Muskerry to a senior county title.

Already this year he was a vital member of the Cork senior selection committee that masterminded Cork's

victory over Galway.

A win for his charges on Sunday would be the icing on the cake for somebody who has given a lifetime of service to camogie in Éire Óg.

Rockbán gave an indication of their strength on Tuesday last when they had 11 points to spare over Killeagh.

In Cork senior inter-county duo Cathriona Foley and Sile Burns they have potential match winners, while Elaine Casey will prove a handful for the Éire Óg defence.

Last year they were tipped as potential winners, but they came a cropper at semi-final stage.

This time out they made no mistake and based on their form to date

they will be hard to stop.

Goalkeeper Elaine Harte is solid and reliable, while Mary O'Keeffe, Sarah Ryan and Mairead Burns will give little away in defence.

The sides met in the round robin stages with victory going to Rockbán, however, as both were already qualified for the semi-final stages the result was irrelevant.

Rockbán will be favourites on form.

Éire Óg will close Rockbán down from the throw in and while the end result may be the same, it will be a lot closer than many predict.

Rockbán to take the title, but only after a tough hour from a determined and spirited Éire Óg side.

## Ballinhassig won't find it easy against Glen

**SUNDAY,**  
Tower View Developments Minor B Championship final,  
Glen Rovers v Ballinhassig,  
Blackrock, 12.45pm

**GLEN ROVERS** and Ballinhassig will open proceedings in Castle Road on Sunday as the curtain raiser to the Senior B decider when they battle it out for the Tower View Developments Minor B title.

Both clubs have put in trojan work at underage over the last number of years and are in the final on merit.

Ballinhassig having re graded from minor A to B this year will go in as favourites given that they have that little bit more experience than their opponents.

Five of their starting 15 are in their last year in the grade and they showed plenty of strength as they defeated Éire Óg with 13 points to spare in their semi-final outing.

Players such as Cork inter-county minor stars Sinead O'Callaghan and Cathriona Collins will spearhead their challenge on Sunday.

Already this year they have annexed

the U16B championship crown and they will be going all out to make it a double.

They have excellent players in Hayley Cullinane, Orla Murray, Aileen O'Leary and Emma Jordan and they will battle to the finish to secure the title.

Glen Rovers have lost out at semi-final stage in the last two years.

They will be hopeful that now they have reached the final they will acquit themselves well.

They are a young side with just one player, captain Lydia Cunningham a minor star.

Nine of their starting 15 will line out in the U16B league final against Ballincollig, but they have shown plenty of maturity and determination in their path to the final.

Their more experienced players Alice Keating, Karen O'Connell, Denise Luby and Emma Dunlea will not be found wanting as Glen Rovers battle to take the crown.

They will be wary of the strength that their opponents possess and this game could go to a replay if they both play well.

## Valley can shade it second time around

**SUNDAY,**  
Evening Echo Junior shield final replay,  
Valley Rovers v Ballincollig,  
Coachford, 2pm

**FOUR** weeks after their drawn encounter Valley Rovers and Ballincollig renew rivalry as they battle for the Evening Echo junior shield title on Sunday writes **MARY NEWMAN.**

The second teams from junior and

senior clubs are the only participants in this competition and it is a most competitive affair.

Bernie Shields was the hero first time out giving Valley a second chance with a last gasp point to force a replay.

Ballincollig, with the junior A championship title already secured will be hoping to make it a double, but Valley Rovers will be equally determined, as they feel they had enough chances first

day out to take the honours.

Tessa Hawkes, Majella McCarthy and Elmarie Cottrell will again be to the fore for Valleys', but they can expect a strong challenge from a Ballincollig side that includes Aisleen Sheehan, Orla Ni Chathasaigh and Claire Ryan.

Valleys' have plenty of experience.

Former senior players Bernie Shields, Majella McCarthy and Caroline O'Riordan will help guide the fortunes of their

younger players.

Ballincollig, although a young side, showed plenty of maturity and commitment as they stood up to the challenge posed last time out.

For the first clash I predicted a draw and was proved correct.

This time out it will be another close affair and maybe having got out of jail the last day Rovers may just have enough strength to edge it.



Siobhán Gleeson and Margaret O'Herlihy from Éire Óg.



Esther O'Leary, Mary Newman and Tracey Sheehan.



Pictured with the 'Celebrity Cookbook' at the Cork camogie victory dinner in the Rochestown Park Hotel were Leah Weste, Denise Cronin and Aishley Lovett from Ballincollig with Michelle Browne from Mallow.